

# THE MILITANT

SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY/PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

## NAACP backs AFL-CIO march against budget cuts

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### Defending Bill of Rights

Rallies back socialist suit against secret police

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Lester Cole, one of Hollywood Ten, addresses San Francisco rally sponsored by Political Rights Defense Fund.

Militant/Tom Kirkpatrick

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workers  
vow:  
'We  
won't be  
divided'

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## How miners pushed back bosses, gov't

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Militant/Stu Singer



## A woman on the Supreme Court

If she's approved by the Senate, Sandra O'Connor will become the first woman ever appointed to the Supreme Court in its 191 years of existence.

That tells you something about the reactionary nature of the institution right off the bat.

The media have called O'Connor's nomination a "milestone" and a "breakthrough" in the fight for women's rights.

It's nothing of the kind.

The decision by the rulers of this country to nominate a woman does reflect their recognition that giant changes have occurred in women's role in U.S. society. These changes have produced a deep sentiment against the pervasive sex discrimination women face.

The exclusion of women from the Supreme Court has stood as a glaring contradiction to the myth that women have all the equality they need.

So, just as they added a Jewish judge to the court in the early part of this century; just as they added a Black judge, Thurgood Marshall, when the civil rights movement exploded in the 1960s; they decided it was time to appoint a woman.

From the standpoint of the ruling rich, O'Connor's appointment will enhance the image of the Supreme Court so it can better serve their interests.

They consciously foster the idea that the court is an independent wing of the government—that it stands above class conflicts. It's supposedly immune from the corruption of the Democrats and Republicans, from corporate control. It's the last resort of those seeking justice—the last court of appeals.

The reality is that the Supreme Court is one of the three institutions through which the wealthy maintain their rule. It—along with the president and Congress—exists to protect the profits of the bosses and restrict the democratic rights of the masses.

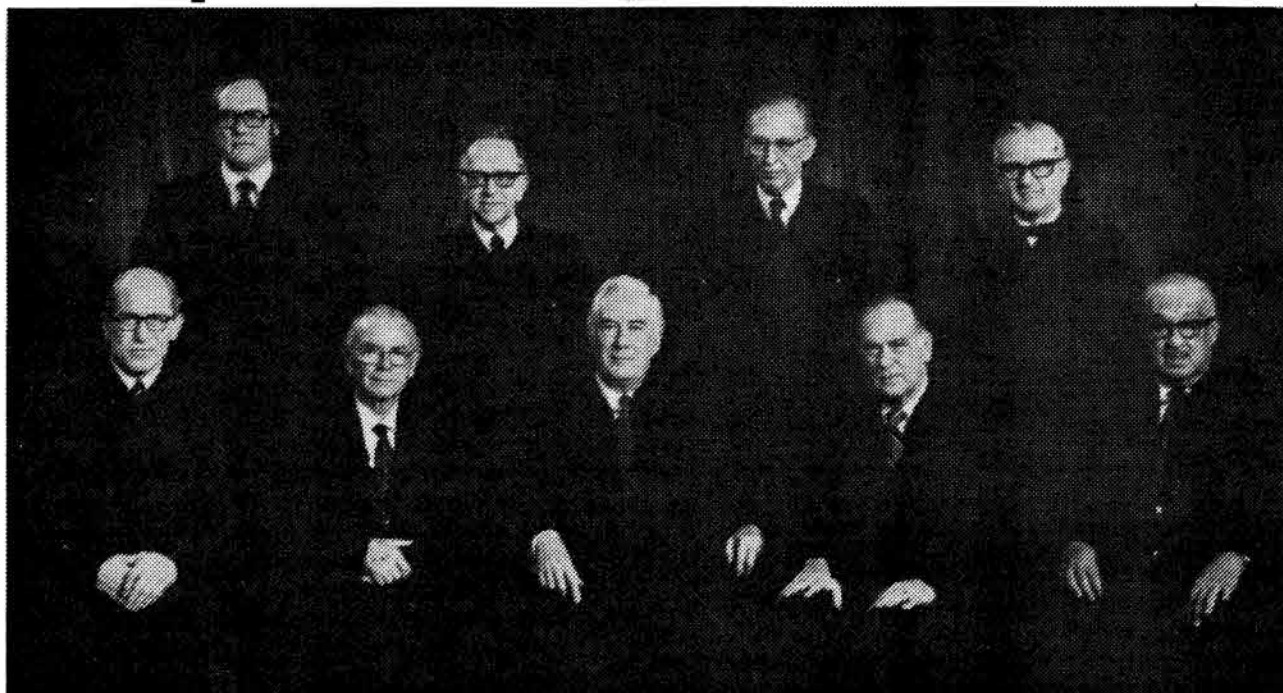
These nine robed reactionaries of the ruling rich—in particular—have the job of giving legal sanction to attacks on working people's rights.

Although some Moral Majority spokespeople have criticized O'Connor's nomination, Reagan and his supporters are clearly united on the choice.

Reagan said, "I am completely satisfied with her."

Sen. Barry Goldwater of Arizona, O'Connor's home state, said the president couldn't have found a woman more qualified for the job.

Sen. Dennis DeConcini, the Democrat from



Supreme Court. Adding a woman won't alter its reactionary character.

Arizona, praised her as a "conservative jurist. . . . She has not been an advocate of the pro-choice people."

Liberal Democrats joined in. Sen. Edward Kennedy said: "Every American can take pride in the President's commitment to select such a woman for this critical office."

O'Connor's political record helps explain the praise she's receiving.

She assured Reagan that she finds abortion "personally abhorrent."

As an Arizona state senator, she introduced the Equal Rights Amendment into that body in 1974, but later withdrew her support for the measure.

She helped draw up death penalty laws as a state senator. On the bench, she's known for meting out the death sentence.

This hanging judge also supported a resolution urging Congress to stop busing for school desegregation.

And she's a staunch supporter of "state's rights"—the racist code word for rolling back civil rights legislation.

O'Connor will fit right in with the current Supreme Court and its recent decisions.

On June 25, the court ruled that registration and the draft are constitutional, opening the door to reinstituting conscription and arresting draft resisters.

The next day, the court ruled that divorced spouses of military personnel are not entitled to any of their military pension, a big economic blow to thousands of women.

And on June 29, they upheld the revocation of Philip Agee's passport, ruling that the State Department has the right to decide who can and cannot travel abroad.

The Supreme Court has also consistently cut away at abortion rights over the past few years, undermining its own 1973 decision legalizing abortion.

O'Connor's nomination comes at a time when women are increasingly angry at government moves against their rights. Liberal Democrat Morris Udall heaped praise on Reagan for selecting a woman. "This is incredibly smart politics," the Arizona congressman said. "It's a real strike. You take all the groups in America, and there has been none more distrustful of Reagan than the women's movement. This just cuts the ground out from under them."

Indeed, National Organization for Women President Eleanor Smeal immediately issued a statement calling O'Connor's nomination "a victory for the women's movement."

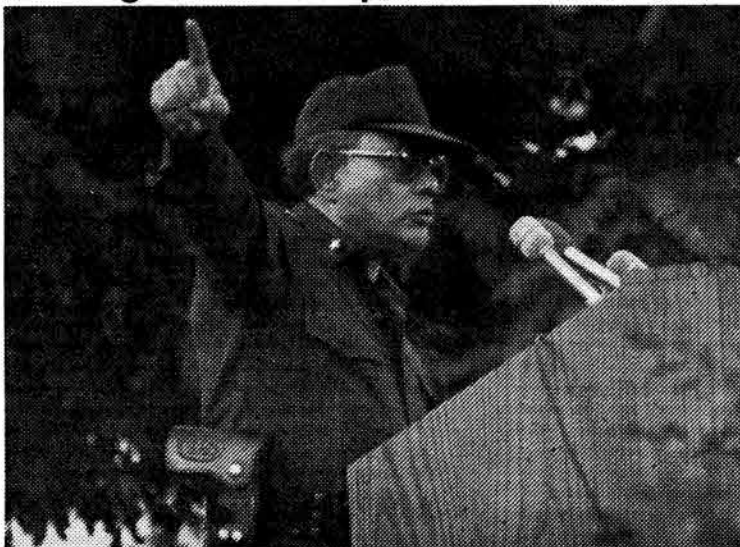
But the presence of a woman on the Supreme Court—regardless of her politics—doesn't change in the least the purpose of that reactionary institution. Witness the unemployment, discrimination, and racist violence suffered by Blacks more than a decade after Marshall was appointed to the same post.

For 191 years, the Supreme Court has faithfully served those who profit from the exploitation of the great majority in this country. Adding a woman's face will not alter that record one bit.

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### Nicaraguan leader speaks out



Tomás Borge is interviewed about the church, U.S. threats, Nicaragua's relationship with Cuba and the Soviet Union. Page 14.

### The Militant

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# Fifth Irish hunger striker dies

## Belfast councilman appeals for U.S. support

By Steve Bride

H-Block prisoner Joseph McDonnell is dead.

McDonnell died July 8 in Northern Ireland's Maze Prison, on the sixty-first day of his hunger strike.

He is the fifth inmate to die at Maze since hunger strikes began March 1 to protest British refusal to grant political status to H-Block prisoners.

On July 3, as McDonnell was nearing death, a Belfast city councilman and the relatives of two other hunger strikers went before the cameras and microphones in New York City to appeal for support from the American people.

"The people of America have shown clearly in recent demonstrations that a large section of the population is prepared to act," Belfast Councilman Fergus O'Hare told a packed news conference.

"Now we are asking that you take whatever action you can to further isolate Britain, to show Britain that she is a leper in the world" for refusing to meet H-Block inmates' demands.

O'Hare, a member of America's Democracy, the Irish Trotskyist group, was recently elected to the Belfast City Council on a platform that centered on support for the prisoners.

O'Hare's words came the day after last rites were administered to McDonnell.

Joining O'Hare at the July 3 news conference was Oliver Hughes, brother of the late hunger striker Francis Hughes. Oliver Hughes recently won election to the Derry City Council, also



At July 3 New York press conference, from left: former Attorney General Ramsey Clark; Oliver Hughes, brother of late hunger striker Francis Hughes; former New York City Council President Paul O'Dwyer; Belfast City Councilman Fergus O'Hare; Alice McElwee, mother of hunger striker Thomas McElwee.

on an H-Block platform.

Alice McElwee, mother of current hunger striker Thomas McElwee, also spoke.

O'Hare pointed to the election of hunger striker Bobby Sands to the British Parliament, two hunger strikers to the Irish Parliament, and others like himself and Hughes to local elected bodies as proof that British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is lying when she says the prisoners have no support in Ireland.

The elections, he said, combined with "the mobilizations of tens of thousands in the streets," have dealt "massive body blows against the British."

In fact, Sands's election so damaged Thatcher's pretense that the hunger strikers are common criminals that the British government has introduced a bill in Parliament that would bar "convicted felons" from entering elections to that body.

U.S. supporters of the hunger strikers were represented at the news conference

### O'Hare to speak at solidarity rally

Belfast City Councilman Fergus O'Hare, currently on U.S. tour, will next appear in New York City at a July 11 solidarity rally for Ireland's hunger strikers.

The rally, which is sponsored by the New York H-Block/Armagh Committee, will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Irish Institute, 326 W. 48th St., near Ninth Avenue. For more information call (212) 777-2528.

by former New York City Council President Paul O'Dwyer, former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, and Father Daniel Berrigan.

Responding to a question from reporters, O'Hare said the recent U.S. demonstrations against Prince Charles "boosted the morale of people in Ireland immensely."

"We've had a long period of intense struggle," he continued. "People are weary but determined. Any activity such as the Prince Charles 'welcome,' as well as having vital importance internationally, lifts people's morale in Ireland. It gives us more determination and courage to carry on."

# New York's 75-cent ride to death

By Nelson González

NEW YORK—On July 2 New York commuters had a fifteen-cent fare hike shoved down their throats.

Just fourteen hours later, one subway train crashed into another in Brooklyn, crushing Black motorman Jesse Cole to death and injuring 135 passengers.

The cause of the accident was reportedly a faulty signal light system.

It turns out the system was installed in 1918.

The Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA), while acknowledging the antiquated nature of the signal system, has tried to blame the dead motorman for the crash. MTA President John Simpson said Cole failed to stop when he saw the faulty signal, and thereby "created an unsafe condition."

Transit workers are outraged at the charges against Cole. More than 500 people came to his funeral on July 8. Trains passing by on a nearby elevated track stopped and sounded their horns in solidarity.

Local 100 of the Transport Workers Union called for a July 9 picket line in front of MTA offices.

Full responsibility for the crash, Cole's death, and the horrendous deteri-

oration of the New York transit system falls squarely on the city administration and the banks who have let the system fall into total decay.

The MTA has even admitted that signals like the one that killed Cole are being replaced on such a gradual schedule that some parts are kept in service up to thirty-five years longer than they should.

And at the same time they have the gall to raise the fare to seventy-five cents, with a \$1 fare hanging over commuters' heads!

Since 1978, there have been eight major subway accidents in New York. Trains have jumped tracks, motors have fallen off, fires have broken out in tunnels. Hundreds of people have been injured, thousands evacuated.

But even a "normal" ride on the train is torture. It requires football techniques to board the already overcrowded cars, for which one is rewarded by suffocation in the summer, freezing in the winter, and late arrivals all the time.

No one pretends the new seventy-five-cent fare will mean any improvement in these conditions. Mayor Koch, Governor Carey, and the bankers they serve have made it clear New Yorkers should ex-

pect less and less service for higher and higher prices.

Koch and Carey have been shadow boxing for weeks over how to make up the transit deficit. But the only real difference between their plans is which tax scheme will better make working people foot the bill.

Both are also trying to make transit workers the scapegoat. In addition to blaming the latest accident on the worker who was the victim, the city and state officials are setting the stage to blame a fare hike to \$1 on transit workers' demands in their upcoming contract negotiations.

The Transport Workers Union, which supports free mass transit and is fighting for safer subways and a decent contract, deserve the full support of all working people.

If we could inspect the books of the MTA and the banks, we could find out the truth about where the deficit comes from. Those books would show that the funds aren't being squandered on workers' wages or repairs, but on exorbitant interest payments to the banks that hold the transit bonds.

A moratorium on the interest payments and taxing the big corporations

that benefit from mass transit would provide plenty of money to run a safe, efficient transit system.



## Special offer to new readers

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# Postal Workers Solidarity Day hits gov't stalling on contract

By John Olmsted

HARRISBURG, Pa.—Postal workers here joined thousands of their co-workers across the country picketing the post offices on June 25 to demand that the government get down to serious bargaining for a new contract.

"Postal Workers Solidarity Day" was called by the American Postal Workers Union and the National Association of Letter Carriers, unions that represent 500,000 of the 600,000 postal workers. The current three-year contract with the Postal Service expires July 20.

The mood on the picket lines was one of anger and a determination to do whatever is necessary to gain a decent contract. Postal workers are barred by law from striking.

Much of the anger was focused on Postmaster General William Bolger, with signs like "Bungle-it-Bill is not going to Buffalo us!"

The *Militant* asked the local president of the APWU what were the biggest issues postal workers faced. Speed-up and mandatory overtime, he answered. The workers can be forced to work eleven hours a day and some are reported to be doing that seven days a week.

This is coupled with a speed-up that affects all the workers. The routes for the letter carriers get longer, workers inside are forced to process mail at faster and faster rates. USPS figures show a 5.5 percent increase in productivity in 1980 alone.

One picketer commented "I quit the Marine Corps to get away from harassment; things haven't gotten better since I came to the post office."

While automation and productivity have increased, working conditions have deteriorated. Hazardous conditions in post offices have cost three lives and hundreds of injuries in the past eighteen months.

Michael McDermott, a mailhandler at the New York Bulk and Foreign Mail Center, was mangled by a sorting machine in December 1979. Reymundo Lara was smashed by a half-ton roller bar on a conveyor belt at a mail sorting center in Los Angeles last November. And a week after Lara's death, Joseph

Hache died at a Portland post office when his skull was crushed between a low-hanging ceiling and a lift platform.

An investigation by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and a DuPont de Nemours and Company report showed that the Postal Service delayed safety improvements on equipment and failed to provide safety guidelines to the workers. Because of the emphasis on speed-up and cutbacks in federal subsidies, the Dupont report said, "Safety in the United States Postal Service is not managed now."

In response to the increasing hazards, the postal unions are demanding the right to refuse to work under unsafe conditions.

Picketers also expressed fear that the government will go after the cost-of-living clause in the present contract. The Reagan administration has already announced its desire to cut wages for most federal employees.

With further mechanization on the horizon, the nine-digit zip code and electronic mail, postal workers fear for their jobs. Workers must have six years of seniority to be covered by the contract's no-layoff clause.

The frustration against the Reagan administration is fur-

ther fueled by the fact that postal workers' political activity is limited by the reactionary Hatch Act.

By George Kontanis

NEWPORT NEWS, Virginia—More than 100 members of National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 609 picketed outside the downtown and Denbigh post offices on June 25. They were part of a day of solidarity with postal workers across the country who are fighting for a decent contract.

In an interview with the *Militant*, John Reeder of the Letter Carriers said, "We want Postmaster Bolger to negotiate in good faith. We are here to let our president, Vincent Sombrotto, know we are solidly behind him."

"A fighting issue is retention of our cost-of-living clause. With today's inflation rate, we must have a COLA in our contract," Reeder said.

The American Postal Workers Union also participated in the national day of solidarity with informational picket lines at the Riverdale Shopping Plaza and at the Bulk Mail Center in Hampton, Virginia.



Scene from March 1970 postal strike

## Sheriff's deputies implicated in drowning of 3 Texas Blacks

By Floyce White

DALLAS—The small town of Mexia, Texas, is suspicious and angry following the June 19 deaths of three Black youths.

The three—Steven Booker, nineteen, of Dallas; and Carl Baker, nineteen, and Anthony Freeman, eighteen, both of Mexia—were drowned while in the custody of sheriff's deputies.

The young men were being taken across a lake in a small boat after having been arrested for possession of marijuana.

Every year, about 10,000 persons celebrate "Juneteenth" at a privately-owned park at Lake Mexia. The celebration of Juneteenth, an official state holiday, commemorates June 19, 1865. That was the day Texas Blacks heard of the Emancipation Proclamation, more than two years

after it was delivered.

Three officers arrested the youths while they were parking for the event. A fourth man in the car was not arrested.

The three youths were led on to a small boat, along with the three arresting officers. The boat had no lifejackets aboard, and had a capacity of only 600 pounds. Two of the deputies each weighed more than 200 pounds.

When the boat began to take on water, the cops turned off the motor and let it capsize. The officers were able to swim to the command post on the other side of the lake.

Five hundred people witnessed the drowning, but none were able to help because it was more than 120 feet offshore. Several people say they witnessed the removal of handcuffs

from the victims' bodies after their recovery.

Dallas headlines such as "Drowning witnesses uncertain" support the local sheriff, but conflicting reports by the medical examiner and Mexia morticians indicate the Black men may have been handcuffed in the boat before they drowned.

A special public inquiry has been convened, and FBI agents will review documents to determine if the victims' civil rights were violated.

State District Judge P.K. Reiper said he hoped that only "gross ignorance" by the officers—who are now on medical leave—was to blame.

Meanwhile, the Southwest Region of the NAACP has begun their own investigation in order to make every bit of evidence available.

## Chrysler workers: 'mad, getting madder'

By Vivian Sahner

According to the June 20 *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, workers at Chrysler's Twinsburg stamping plant "are mad and getting madder."

It was adding insult to injury when the United Auto Workers members learned that the Chrysler board restored 90 percent of Chairman Lee Iacocca's \$360,000-a-year salary retroactive to last September.

"We had to give up a lot of our money to keep Chrysler open and then they turn around and do this," John Toth, a press operator and Chrysler worker for seventeen years, told the paper.

"It was a dirty trick," agreed Caswell Pearson, an assembly worker. "And I fault [UAW President Douglas] Fraser a lot. Putting him on the board was a fatal mistake."

Fraser, who sits on the Chrysler board, was among those voting to restore Iacocca's pay.

Marc Stepp, UAW vice-president in charge of Chrysler, told the press, "I didn't know it until I saw it in the papers. . . . The corporation will rue the day they did this."

According to the *Plain Dealer*, "Anger and protests are spreading throughout Chrysler's 54,000-strong U.S. hourly work force as workers become convinced they got a raw deal last January, when they voted to accept the final batch in more than a billion dollars in concessions to keep Chrysler from going under."

In a number of recent UAW elections, the paper reports, local presidents who backed the wage concessions are being booted out.

## San Jose machinists end their strike

By Roberta Frick and Kim Allen

SAN JOSE—After an eleven-week strike against the Food Machinery Corporation here, members of International Association of Machinists Local 562 ratified an improved contract offer and returned to work on June 17.

It was the first strike at FMC in sixteen years.

Benefits won in the contract include a reduction in mandatory overtime and an increase in pension benefits. Viewed by most union members as a step in the right direction, the local passed it by a three-to-one margin.

The strike had won broad support from the labor movement in San Jose. Support activities included a June 7 picnic that attracted more than 500 people.

A number of unions in the

San Jose area helped defray the costs of the rally and make it a success. They included the United Food and Commercial Workers, an International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's local here, the Santa Clara Labor Council, and International Association of Machinists locals 565 and 1101.

IAM Local 565 at Westinghouse donated \$300 and \$300 worth of food to the strikers. The Westinghouse workers had a direct stake in a victory for Local 562—the contract at 562 will set a precedent for what Local 565 can win when their contract expires in July 1982.

Local 562 went back to work with heads held high. And a few sported T-shirts that read "More in '84."

Roberta Frick and Kim Allen are both members of IAM Local 562.



## July 19 actions on Central America

Opponents of U.S. intervention in Central America will hold nationwide events on July 19, the second anniversary of the Nicaraguan revolution.

Coordinated actions on this date have been jointly called by the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES), the National Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala, and the National Network in Solidarity with the People of Nicaragua.

Activists in New York City; Washington, D.C.; Atlanta; Boston; Houston; San Francisco; Los Angeles; and Bloomington, Indiana, are busy planning a myriad of activities in solidarity with Nicaragua and to demand a halt to U.S. intervention in the region.

In New York many organizations are planning a march beginning at the Guatemalan embassy and a cultural fair at Tompkins Square Park, where all organizations are invited to set up informational booths.

A march is also planned in San Francisco, beginning at 10:30 a.m. at Precita Park, followed by a rally at Dolores Park.

The Committee for Democracy in Latin America in Bloomington is planning an evening in solidarity with the People of Central America and the Caribbean, with speakers representing different solidarity groups.

Washington, D.C., is scheduling a full week of activities starting July 19.

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## Sept. 19 budget protest

# NAACP backs AFL-CIO march

By Mohammed Oliver

DENVER—Delegates to the seventy-second national convention of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), held here June 29-July 3, endorsed the call by the AFL-CIO for a "Solidarity Day" march on Saturday, September 19 in Washington, D.C. This will be the first time since the 1963 March on Washington that the NAACP has called for a protest in the country's capital.

Benjamin L. Hooks, executive director of the NAACP, said that the demonstration is needed to "show the dissatisfaction of workers and minority members alike" with the Reagan administration's cutbacks.

"The NAACP shares a common humanity with the workers of the AFL-CIO and the basic goals and objectives that will be brought to the fore by this joint demonstration," Hooks said.

"The budget cuts for 1982, sponsored by the Reagan administration, will have an adverse effect upon the working men and women of this nation," Hooks added.

### 'Labor Luncheon'

At a "Labor Luncheon" held during the convention, the need for Blacks and the trade union movement to join together in the fightback against the Reagan budget cuts was stressed again. Evelyn Dubrow, vice-president of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union, told the delegates and observers there that the "trade union movement didn't just get started to fight for better wages and working conditions . . . but for human dignity."

Dubrow went on to say that the delegates should "go back home to our communities to build the kind of force that will show on September 19 that the American people will not tolerate a society where the rich take care of their own and the poor are made to suffer."

Also attending the luncheon was John Perkins, who is the associate director of the AFL-CIO's Committee on Political Education and the national coordinator of the Solidarity Day action.

Perkins told the *Militant* that the September 19 demonstration was called as a "counter plan to Reagan's so-called mandate. He has no mandate."



BENJAMIN HOOKS

The AFL-CIO sent mailgrams to all of its affiliates asking them to support the protest, Perkins said. He said the labor federation also sent mailgrams to about 175 organizations and groups outside of the labor movement. So far, Perkins reported, there have only been positive responses to the AFL-CIO call.

United Auto Workers President Douglas Fraser was the keynote speaker at the luncheon. His speech echoed the theme of the NAACP convention: he blasted the Reagan budget, called for an extension of the Voting Rights Act, and urged support for the September 19 demonstration.

"We're in the minority philosophical—so we're told," Fraser said. "They say that the Black leaders don't represent the Black community; the labor leaders don't represent labor. We say we do. They say we don't. We must show them we do. We must mobilize for Solidarity Day on September 19. We've got to mobilize the greatest demonstration since the March on Washington in 1963."

"This is a time to stand together," Fraser ended, "a time to fight. And if we do that, We Shall Overcome."

President Ronald Reagan also spoke before the convention. In his speech, Reagan said that his cutbacks in social services and the rest of his economic package could get the U.S. economy back on its feet. A healthy economy, the president said, will solve many of the problems confronting the Black community.

President Reagan got a very cool reception.

Margaret Bush Wilson, the chairwoman of the NAACP's National Board of Directors, and Benjamin Hooks held a news conference immediately following Reagan's speech. There they outlined the NAACP's plan for countering the new wave of attacks on Black rights. This campaign was discussed more concretely in the workshops and plenary sessions of the convention.

### Four-part plan

The NAACP plan has four parts. First, the NAACP is planning a major campaign to win extension of the Voting Rights Act.

Secondly, and coupled with the first goal, the NAACP is going to launch an effort to counter the "new conservatism." At a workshop entitled "Klan Alert—A Political Action Program," Joseph Madison, the director of NAACP's Voting Education Department, explained the need for a massive drive to register Black voters in 1982.

The third part of the NAACP plan is their alternative budget proposal. The NAACP economic proposals are in its 130-page book entitled, *Alternative Policies in the Public Interest for Economic Growth*. This budget, much like the budget proposal of the Congressional Black Caucus, claims it's possible to increase productivity and combat inflation without massive cuts in social services.

Lastly, the NAACP is urging chapters to build the September 19 Solidarity Day action.

In an important show of unity, other leaders of traditional civil rights organizations were also present at the convention. They included Vernon Jordan Jr., president of the National Urban League; Rev. Jesse Jackson, president of Operation PUSH; and Coretta Scott King, head of the Martin Luther King Jr. Center.

# Iran revolutionaries condemn Tehran bombing

The Revolutionary Workers Party (HKE) of Iran has issued a statement condemning the June 28 bombing that killed more than seventy leaders of the Islamic Republican Party (IRP).

In their statement, the HKE pointed out how these types of attacks have been carried out by U.S. imperialism against revolutions throughout the world.

"They have taken place for more than twenty years against the Cuban revolution and its leaders, with U.S. imperialism trying many times to destroy the Castro leadership," the HKE statement said. "They are doing this right now against the Nicaraguan revolution and they have planted bombs against Grenadian Prime Minister Maurice Bishop."

The HKE also pointed to the assassinations of Patrice Lumumba in Africa and of Martin Luther King and Malcolm X in the United States.

Its statement urged that the working class be mobilized to counter any moves by reactionary forces, saying that "in all the factories we call for mass assemblies of workers where the policies of U.S. imperialism would be explained. Factory guards should be elected to guard the factories against any imperialist attacks, or sabotage by their agents."

The HKE statement also opposed the government's execution of more than 100 Mujahedeen and other leftist youth. The executions, the HKE said, only help "U.S. imperialism carry out its plans."

There is opposition to these youth being executed among most working people.

In June the HKE itself came under attack by right-wing gangs known as "hezbollah." The offices of its newspaper

*Kargar* were ransacked, and HKE members were injured in a number of other attacks.

In response to protests by the HKE, the head of the central neighborhood committees sent a letter July 2 to the lo-

cal neighborhood committee where the *Kargar* offices are located. It stated that since *Kargar* is a legal newspaper and the *Kargar* office a local office, it should be protected by the local committee in the neighborhood.

## 2 socialist workers jailed in Iran

On the morning of July 4, two members of the Revolutionary Workers Party (HKE) in Iran were arrested and taken to Evin Prison.

Faranak Zahraie and Monavar Shir Ali—two young women workers at the Ray-O-Vac battery factory in Tehran—were arrested at work by order of the National Industrial Organization, which administers nationalized factories such as Ray-O-Vac.

The two women were falsely charged with starting a strike in the factory.

Both women had been active in the six-month campaign to win release from prison of Ray-O-Vac worker and HKE leader Nemat Jazayeri. This campaign succeeded in winning Jazayeri's release last March.

Zahraie and Shir Ali were also active in the factory's military mobilization and helped organize support for

the campaign of military training and first-aid instruction for the fight against the Iraqi invasion.

The two women, both pregnant, had worked at Ray-O-Vac for more than a year.

Supporters of the Iranian revolution are urgently requested to send telegrams such as the following to Iranian Prime Minister Mohammed Ali Rajai and Speaker of the Parliament Hojatolislam Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani; Majlis Building; Tehran, Iran.

As a supporter of the Iranian revolution, I call on you to release from Evin Prison two anti-imperialist fighters—Faranak Zahraie and Monavar Shir Ali.

These two women Ray-O-Vac workers, arrested July 4, were play-

ing an important part in the campaign to defeat the Iraqi military invasion.

Copies should be sent to *Jomhuri-e-Eslami*, Tehran, Iran and *Kargar*, Box #43/174, Post Area 14, Tehran, Iran.



FARANAK ZAHRAIE

Militant/José Pérez



# Coal contract 1981: miners win against bosses and gov't—stop takeback drive

By Stu Singer

On June 6 United Mine Workers members voted 69 percent in favor of a new contract, ending a seventy-two day strike. The new contract is much better than the takeaway demands the coal operators wanted. The employers failed to inflict a union-busting settlement on the 160,000 coal miners.

After the contract between the UMW and the Bituminous Coal Operators Association (BCOA) was approved, the Association of Bituminous Contractors (ABC) continued to stonewall negotiations covering 11,500 UMW mine construction workers. In solidarity, the majority of UMW miners stayed off work for almost two weeks more until a new ABC contract was negotiated. The mine construction workers approved their contract June 24.

What the miners accomplished in 1981 was to stop a campaign by the mine owners and the government planned for three years since the 111-day strike of 1977-78. The bosses intended to cripple the union and push nonunion coal.

Some of the decisive battles around this took place before the contract expired March 27. The first contract presented to the ranks for a March 31 ratification vote already represented a gain against some of the worst company demands.

When they rejected it by a two-to-one margin and went on strike for over ten weeks, the miners pushed the bosses back further.

This view of the 1981 coal contract is different than the version peddled in most of the news media.

## Black lung protest

One of the most important battles for the 1981 contract was fought on March 9 and 10, 1981, two-and-a-half weeks before the old contract expired. The miners shut down union coal mines in the United States those two days, and 8,000 demonstrated in Washington. The demonstration was to protest Reagan administration attacks on black lung benefits. Black lung is a crippling disease caused by inhaling coal dust.

Winning federal dust standards and a benefit program for victims of black lung required an enormous fight by the miners a little over ten years ago. Reagan's budget cuts threaten that historic victory. The miners' march in Washington March 9 was the first mass action by any group against the Reagan budget cuts.

It gave notice to the operators and the government that the miners were in no mood to be pushed around. They showed it would be difficult to isolate this union in order to inflict the kind of attacks that were planned.

What the operators wanted in the 1981 negotiations was made clear in black, white and gray to every working miner just a week or two before the March 9 and 10 black lung demonstration.

## The gray book

The BCOA distributed a twenty-page printed pamphlet to every miner along with paychecks in February. The gray-colored propaganda tract was titled: "UMWA National Agreement—Coal: Today's Reality vs. Tomorrow's Promise, a Presentation by the Bituminous Coal Operators Association." It was dated January 23, 1981.

The "gray book" reminded miners of the contract takebacks forced on Chrysler workers. Every page demanded more profits and more productivity—speed-up. The gray book made clear the price miners are supposed to pay for this: sacrifice pensions and benefits and jeopardize health and safety.

The most outrageous lie in it was that retired miners suffering from black lung disease earn \$28,000 a year.

Most retired miners are very poor. Those suffering from black lung have to fight the companies for every penny



Two and a half weeks before contract expired, UMW closed mines; 8,000 marched on Washington against Reagan cuts in black lung benefits. Show of strength by union pushed back bosses and government.

they get in benefits.

And no matter what the benefits are, they never replace the lungs destroyed to produce coal company profits.

The operators took credit in the gray book for the decline in mine fatalities since 1969. They did not mention how they fought the Coal Mine Health and Safety Act, which was passed by Congress in 1969 after a massive effort by miners. The companies fought it all the way.

The gray book said that miners have "more than enough provisions on safety and health."

## More and less and less

Business publications of the last few years gave a picture of the demands the operators were pushing.

They wanted a seven-day, around-the-clock production schedule; break-up of the industry-wide pension plan to a company-by-company basis; reducing government safety and environmental rules; stopping union control of safety conditions in the mines; a probation period to divide the workforce; and a number of measures to eliminate union obstacles to developing nonunion mines.

For example, the February 1980 issue of the industry publication *Coal Age* featured a big headline, "7-day work week." The magazine cover was filled with a design repeating over and over, "more production, less work, less cost."

The companies wanted to end union-won restrictions in contracting out work in and around mines. They wanted to eliminate the royalty payment that discourages nonunion coal production. They wanted an end to union restrictions on selling, leasing, or opening new mines that would be nonunion.

The attack on these issues was not limited to the contract negotiations. The operators had direct government intervention to back them up. They won court challenges against contract provisions, used decisions of the Arbitration Review Board, lobbied federal and state governments, and used the news media against the miners.

But even with all this support, the operators had to back down from their goals. They had to drop the seven-day week and the company-by-company pensions before the March contract proposal.

They did achieve one important take-back from the union. The protection in Section IA of the contract, "scope and

coverage," was restricted by a U.S. Supreme Court decision last January.

The court ruled that the union was acting like a corporate monopoly in enforcing contract restrictions on hiring nonunion contractors and in making leasing arrangements.

Even with the weight of the Supreme Court behind it, the miners forced the companies to retreat a little on this issue in the second contract. But the contract weakens the miners' ability to limit company moves to use nonunion workers.

The 1981 contract between the UMW and the BCOA covers forty months, ending October 1, 1984. Wages will go up \$3.60 an hour; shift differentials up 10 cents each; the day after Thanksgiving is added as a holiday.

Miners won a dental program, and widows of miners who retired before 1976 get a \$95-a-month pension; previous contracts had neither one.

The Arbitration Review Board, the final step in the grievance procedure that had been rewriting the contract in favor of the operators, is abolished. But its past decisions stand.

Pension and sickness and accident benefits are increased.

The contract approved June 6 has a number of gains over the one rejected March 31.

Royalty payments on coal purchased from nonunion mines are raised over the 1978 contract. In the March proposal, the union gave up the royalties.

Under the first proposal, the ARB would have continued for ninety more days. The new contract abolishes it immediately.

There is no probation period for new miners. A forty-five-day period was included in the March proposal.

A setback is that the pension for widows is cut from \$100 to \$95 a month.

It takes multi-billion dollar corporations like Conoco and U.S. Steel to take \$5 a month from a widow.

The operators weren't happy with the second contract. U.S. Steel Board Chairman David Roderick called it "inflationary."

"When you look at past productivity, it's a very expensive settlement. We're not jumping up and down over it."

## The Chrysler model

It was the gray book proposals that Roderick and his gang would have jumped up and down about. Based on re-

cent confrontations between labor and management where the bosses came out on top, they thought they could defeat the miners.

The model for labor relations the bosses look to is the defeat of the United Auto Workers by Chrysler. They've really been jumping up and down over that one.

The Steelworkers agreed to sacrifice thousands of jobs in Youngstown, Ohio, and accepted a wage freeze for workers at U.S. Steel's American Bridge division.

Refinery workers conducted a long 1980 strike that ended in a stalemate and victimizations.

Right in the middle of the coal strike, the entire union movement was weakened when leaders of most rail unions signed a \$200 million wage giveaway with Conrail, hoping to placate the Reagan administration.

Public workers throughout the country have taken crippling blows—wages frozen, benefits cut, jobs eliminated, and speed-up.

Compared to these defeats, the miners' contract stands as a victory.

## Government intervention

The president of the BCOA, Joseph Brennan, commented on the 1981 contract that "there was no massive intervention by the federal government."

That is false. The intervention by the federal government—and also state governments—against the union in this contract fight was different than in the last strike, but the intervention was massive.

The government was involved through the Supreme Court ruling against part of the contract, the black lung cuts, threats against union leaders by investigating union finances, and government purchases of nonunion coal by the Tennessee Valley Authority.

State governments also intervened heavily on the side of the companies. State police guarded scab coal and attacked union pickets in Virginia, Kentucky, and Maryland. In West Virginia, Governor John D. Rockefeller IV ordered a slash in the state budget during the strike, mainly hurting school children and teachers. He blamed the miners for the cuts.

## Why UMW is different

The United Mine Workers avoided

Continued on page 12



# Poland rally commemorates 1956 revolt

By Ernest Harsch

POZNAN—By 8:00 a.m., Adam Mickiewicz Square in central Poznan was already beginning to fill up. Within several hours, more than 200,000 people had packed the square and the surrounding streets to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the June 28, 1956, Poznan uprising, the first major workers' revolt in the history of the Polish People's Republic.

Long neglected, distorted, and slandered in the official history books, the courageous struggle of the Poznan workers has at last begun to regain its proper place in Poland's heritage.

But the twenty-fifth anniversary celebrations were more than just an effort to revive a suppressed chapter of history. Coming in the midst of a new series of attacks by government and party officials against the Solidarity union movement, the June 28 rally—one of the largest held so far this year—was a powerful expression of the unity of Polish working people and their determination to continue their fight for democratic and social freedom.

Amidst thunderous applause, Solidarity leader Lech Walesa responded to recent charges by Tadeusz Grabski, a member of the ultra-Stalinist wing of the ruling Polish United Workers Party, and Stanislaw Kocielek, the party first secretary in Warsaw, both of whom accused Solidarity of harboring "antisocialist" and "counterrevolutionary" elements.

## 'Let us not be divided'

"Let us not be divided," Walesa declared. "Let us not be set against each other. Let us not allow anyone to search for 'antisocialist' and 'counterrevolutionary' forces."

Walesa indicated that the most recent charges against Solidarity were like earlier accusations of "hooliganism" and "troublemaking" leveled against rebellious Polish workers, such as those of Poznan in 1956.

"In a society like this," Walesa continued, "there are and, of course, always will be different opinions. But working people are not counterrevolutionary. They are not 'anti.' They are honest and hard working."

"So stop insulting us, stop dividing us, because we will no longer let ourselves be insulted or divided. Let those who are looking for antisocialist and counterrevolutionary forces first look for a name for those who have been slandering us."

Walesa concluded, "Victory is in our hands—if we do not let ourselves be divided and set against each other, if we march together whenever necessary to show the solidarity of working people, the solidarity of honest people against the dishonest and the dictators."

The vast crowd of people surrounding the podium was a clear expression of such solidarity, as well as living proof of Walesa's statement that "working people are not counterrevolutionary."

The memorial activities to commemorate the Poznan revolt actually began the day before, on June 27, the anniversary of the first workers strikes in Poznan. Polish flags went up by the thousands, flying from the windows and balconies of houses and apartment buildings, from the roofs of public offices, from the backs of buses. Poznan was a sea of white and red.

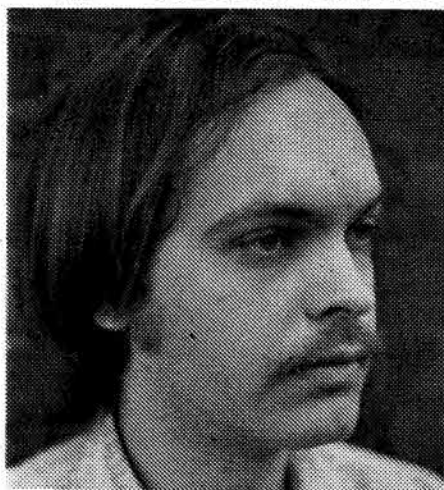
Photo displays of the 1956 revolt drew large crowds. Posters were tacked up on walls and in windows everywhere. Plays, film showings, and other cultural events were staged.

## Rallies at factories

In front of the ZNTK railway plant and the Cegielski metal factory, two of the centers of the 1956 strikes, workers and their families rallied to pay tribute to the struggle of the Poznan workers. They marched down the newly named June 28 1956 Street.

The rally on the morning of Sunday,

## 'IP' staff writer on the scene



This is the first in a series of eyewitness reports by *Intercontinental Press* staff writer Ernest Harsch.

Harsch is currently touring Poland, covering the workers' struggle there and events leading up to the congress of the Polish United Workers Party, scheduled to begin July 14.

In 1978, Harsch traveled throughout southern Africa, interviewing leaders and participants in the South African freedom struggle. One result of these travels was the book *South Africa: White Rule, Black Revolt*, published by Pathfinder Press.



Two scenes from 1956 workers' uprising in city of Poznan

June 28, was the center of the commemoration, taking place exactly twenty-five years to the hour after the mass rally of 100,000 that was held in the same square (then called Stalin Square) in 1956.

While most of the participants were from Poznan, there were individuals from other parts of the country as well. This outside participation would have been larger if the government had not adopted a policy of suppressing news of the anniversary actions in the national news media.

Workers contingents marched to the rally site behind Polish flags and banners of their local Solidarity chapters. Coal miners from southern Poland came in their black ceremonial uniforms, with plumed hats. Steelworkers came in tan uniforms, behind an elaborate embroidered Solidarity flag. Almost everyone wore Solidarity badges, many of them designating the factory or region

where they worked. Contingents from Rural Solidarity, the independent union of individual farmers, also joined in.

Some of the older participants came in the uniforms of the Polish Home Army, which fought against German occupation of Poland during World War II. At least one former inmate of the German concentration camps wore his old camp uniform.

Young people, families dressed in their Sunday clothes, and other Poznan residents turned out. Much of the city's population of 700,000 watched the rally on the local television station, which broadcast it live.

## Tribute to martyrs

At the very beginning of the rally, the sirens of nearby railway engines were sounded for one minute in tribute to the martyrs of 1956, a deafening peal that was audible throughout much of the city.

Rising up from Adam Mickiewicz Square was a huge monument that had just been completed the night before, built mainly by workers from the Cegielski factory. Comprising two giant crosses and a stylized bust of the Polish eagle, it bears the main slogan of the Poznan revolt: "For freedom, right, and bread," as well as the years 1956, 1968, 1970, 1976, 1980, all high points of the Polish workers movement.

A banner hung down from the tower of the old German castle next to the square, bearing the names of seventy-one of the known martyrs of 1956, plus three anonymous victims to symbolize the many whose names are not known (it is estimated that up to 120 were killed in June 1956). The names of the known martyrs were read out at the beginning of the rally.

Besides Walesa, other speakers included Archbishop Jerzy Stroba, Zdzislaw Rozwalak of the regional Solidarity leadership, Poznan Mayor Stanislaw Piotrowicz, and Stanislaw Matyja, a leader of the 1956 strikes.

A message from Pope John Paul II was read, and a mass followed the unveiling of the monument.

"When I look back twenty-five years," Matyja declared in his speech, "one feels a great joy in his heart, but also a great feeling of pity for the workers who were oppressed, who were simply humiliated and deprived of human dignity, and who had to turn to a demonstration to realize their own dignity."

## Organized struggle

Matyja, elaborating on a point made a few minutes earlier by Walesa, explained one of the lessons of the 1956 revolt: that more could be achieved through an organized struggle than through spontaneous, unorganized actions.

"I am here today as one of those who organized the demonstration at Cegielski," he said. "It had its roots in our inability to take any measures other than the most extreme. This outburst overwhelmed common sense and reason. The same mistake was then repeated in Gdansk in 1970."

"Today," Matyja continued, "Solidarity has achieved what we failed to achieve over all those years. We owe a great tribute to the shipyard workers (of the 1980 Gdansk strikes), whose demands were the same as ours, the Cegielski workers and the rest of the Poznan population."

Matyja also dealt with the continued difficulties facing Solidarity and the Polish people as a whole, particularly the present tense situation and the failure of the government and party leadership to carry through on its promises of a democratic "renewal."

"There is a lot of talk about a renewal," he said, "but somehow we cannot see it. . . . The people are fed up with the nervous atmosphere and the false accusations. We must do away with such things."

Matyja at the same time stressed the need to avoid another bloody police crackdown like the one in 1956.

"Let's talk, talk, and talk again, but let us never shoot at each other."

This point was underlined by one of the banners carried at the rally: "Let no Pole ever again shoot at another Pole."

There is hope for Poland, Matyja pointed out. That hope lies in the young people. "Let's give credit to the young, who are too young to have had their minds poisoned as we—the older generation—have had for the last thirty-six years."

Matyja then concluded his speech, his last words virtually drowned out by applause. "When we are united, there will no longer be any layers of privileged people. Then we will really be able to do what Poles are capable of doing. And a Pole can do things."

From *Intercontinental Press*



# Socialist wins delay of deportation hearing

By Joel Britton

Immigration Judge Joan Arrowsmith has postponed until the fall the deportation hearing of Mojgan Hariri-Vijeh. The action was taken during a July 6 conference call between the judge, Immigration and Naturalization Service trial attorney Bruce Barrett, and Shelley Davis, attorney for Hariri-Vijeh.

A deportation hearing had been scheduled for July 7.

The postponement is a victory in the fight of Hariri-Vijeh, a nineteen-year-old Iranian student at Morgan State University in Baltimore. It has fueled hopes that the INS will reconsider its denial of Hariri-Vijeh's request for reinstatement of her student visa, which expired in 1978.

Hariri-Vijeh explains that she didn't renew her student visa in 1979 or 1980 "due to the anti-Iranian hysteria whipped up in this country after the fall of the U.S.-backed shah." Hariri-Vijeh was never contacted by the INS until February 23, 1981, just two weeks after she joined the Young Socialist Alliance.

Hariri-Vijeh, who is also a member of the Socialist Workers Party, says: "I am being singled out because of my political ideas. I will fight for my right to stay in this country. The U.S. government found room for the shah, who was responsible for the torture and murder of tens of thousands of my people. Why can't I stay here to finish my education?"

Hariri-Vijeh has pledged to "appeal any deportation order within the INS and through the courts if necessary. I am confident that many, many people will come to my support."

Etta Ettlinger, who is coordinating support for her case, commented: "We plan to use this postponement to gather even more support for Hariri-Vijeh. This is an important civil liberties case, not just for her but for thousands of other non-citizens who live under threat of deportation. We will not rest until Moj-



MOJGAN HARIRI-VIJEH

Militant/Salm Kolis

gan Hariri-Vijeh's right to stay in this country is secure."

Documents disclosed through the \$40 million lawsuit by the YSA and SWP against the INS and other government agencies reveal an INS program aimed

at deporting foreign-born persons because of their political ideas and activities, while using other pretexts as a cover. Attorney Shelley Davis plans to use these documents in Hariri-Vijeh's defense.

## Petitions still needed

Petitions and other protests demanding restoration of Mojgan Hariri-Vijeh's student visa and a halt to all deportation proceedings are still needed. The postponement of her hearing allows time to gather the broad support necessary to defeat this move to deport her for her views.

Send protests to: Commissioner, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Washington, D.C. 20536.

Send copies to: Political Rights Defense Fund, 2913 Greenmount Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21218.

Already, Hariri-Vijeh's battle to stay in the U.S. has won wide support, including backing from Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich.); British Member of Parliament Tony Benn; journalist I.F. Stone; Camille Bell of the Committee to Stop Child Murders in Atlanta; Morgan State Student Government Association President Alvin Alston; Morgan State Philosophy Department Chairman Dr. Clifford DuRand; and many others.

Hariri-Vijeh had been seeking the postponement pending the outcome of the YSA and SWP suit against government spying, harassment and other disruption of the socialists' activities.

She had also been seeking the postponement pending a review of the SWP and YSA status currently being conducted by the INS. The review, according to an INS document introduced during the trial of the socialist suit, will determine whether the SWP and YSA are "proscribed" organizations whose foreign-born members would automatically be "excludable or deportable."

# Dennis Brutus fights for right to stay in U.S.

By Adam Shils

CHICAGO—An emergency campaign has been called in an attempt to stop the political deportation of Dennis Brutus.

Brutus, who was exiled from South Africa in 1966, has been ordered to leave the United States. He is well known as a teacher, poet, and South African activist. He played a central role in the movement to force universities to divest investments in South Africa and has appeared before both the United Nations and congressional committees in Washington, D.C.

Recently, Brutus was active in the struggle to boycott a Northwestern University conference on South Africa that

neither had South African Black speakers nor discussed Northwestern's own \$80 million investment in that country.

A Zimbabwean citizen, Brutus was ordered to leave this country by July 5. His request for a renewal or extension of his visa was denied. Brutus requested a visa so that he could teach African Literature at Northwestern University.

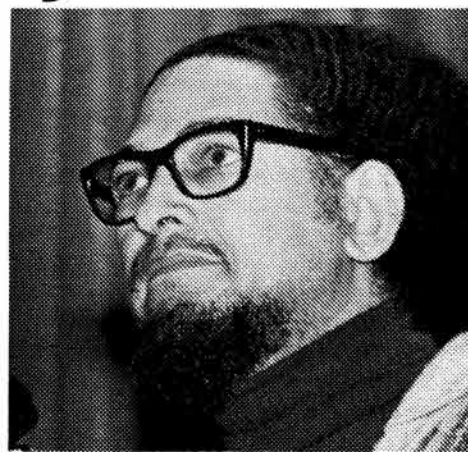
Brutus remains in the country and is fighting the order.

The decision to deny an extension of Brutus's visa may well be part of the Reagan administration's new "constructive engagement" policy toward the South African apartheid regime. This policy has included UN Ambassador

Kirkpatrick's meeting with South African military intelligence and plans to give military aid to South African backed guerrillas in Angola.

A Dennis Brutus Defense Committee has been formed to campaign for Brutus's right to remain in this country. All opponents of political deportations should immediately send protest telegrams to Joel Rogers, Acting District Director, Immigration and Naturalization Service, 219 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60604.

Copies should be sent to the Dennis Brutus Defense Committee at 2730 Hampton Parkway, #B2, Evanston, Illinois 60201. Telephone (312) 328-5935.



DENNIS BRUTUS

Militant/Charles Ostrofsky

# Justice Dept. orders new hearings for Haitians

By Andrea Baron

MIAMI—Retreating in the face of widescale publicity and pressure, the Justice Department announced July 6 that it will grant new hearings to eighty-five Haitians previously ordered deported. The eighty-five, plus eleven already shipped back, had been ordered deported in mass "hearings" that totally violated their legal rights.

The Justice Department retreat came in the face of a suit by the Haitian Refugee Center, Inc., charging that those seeking political asylum here had been denied due process of law.

Responding to the Justice Department announcement, the Haitian Refugee Center, Inc., said, "This is a step in the right direction. We hope the Reagan administration will continue to move in the right direction by granting perman-

ent status to the thousands of refugees who have INS cases pending."

Ira Kurzban, a leading attorney for Haitians, added that the government should now ensure the right of those detained to have access to attorneys. He also insisted that deportation hearings be held individually and in a regular federal courtroom, not in the prison-like "court" thrown up at the detention center here.

That was the scene of "hearings" last month where the mass deportations were ordered. Haitian Refugee Center attorneys and the media were excluded from the sessions and those being turned back over to the Duvalier dictatorship were denied legal counsel.

They faced an INS judge in batches of twenty-five.

The kangaroo hearings were marked

by false or grossly inadequate translation of the proceedings provided the Haitians.

Jocelyn Legrand, a local college teacher of Creole, studied tapes of the hearings and offered examples.

In one case when the judge asked if the refugees could return safely to Haiti, the word "safely" was omitted in the translation.

When the judge asked if they wanted to apply for asylum in the United States, the translator neglected to translate the word asylum precisely. For most Haitians it means "insane asylum."

When the judge asked if they wanted to appeal his decision to a higher court, it was translated to inquire if they wanted to move to a larger courtroom.

For the past several years, the gov-

ernment had deferred to mass pressure and permitted those arriving from Haiti to be settled in the community here. But this May, in a drive to send them back, the INS began holding those detained at the detention center. Built for 524 people, the miserable campsite soon swelled to 1,500. The INS then began releasing people faster than community agencies could resettle them. On June 23, the INS took more than a hundred refugees from the camp and dropped them off at a Miami street corner at midnight.

Attorney Kurzban charged the INS was using this tactic to turn public opinion in Miami against the Haitians.

Meanwhile, in a recent visit here, Attorney General William French Smith said the Reagan administration wanted to change the immigration laws to "streamline" the deportation procedure.



# Defending the Bill of Rights

As testimony ends in the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance lawsuit against the government, recognition grows that the trial of the FBI and other police agencies is vital to all progressive forces. On the following pages, we report some of the rallies held to back the case.



Militant/Tom Kirkpatrick

Screenwriter Lester Cole, one of Hollywood Ten witch-hunt victims, addresses San Francisco rally for socialists' lawsuit.

SAN FRANCISCO—The Political Rights Defense Fund held successful rallies in Oakland, San Jose, and here in San Francisco June 12-14. The meetings were in support of the Socialist Workers Party suit against the federal government. More than 200 people attended the rallies and contributed more than \$5,000 to help finance the suit.

Jack Barnes, national secretary of the SWP, was the principal speaker at each of the meetings. He was joined on the platforms by prominent figures from radical organizations and various social movements and unions.

In San Francisco, Lester Cole was given a standing ovation when he urged unity of the left against the Reaganites and declared his support for the SWP suit. "I was a survivor and you are survivors also, as long as you never stop fighting," Cole declared.

A screenwriter, Cole had been one of the Hollywood Ten jailed in the 1950s for defying the witch-hunters. He is currently a contributor to the *People's World*, the West Coast weekly reflecting the views of the Communist Party.

In San Jose, Robert Lindsay, a slated speaker, was unable to attend and sent a message of solidarity. A well-known figure in the radical movement, Lindsay is proprietor of Bread and Roses bookstore,

## Ignacio de la Fuente

Speaking at the Oakland PRDF rally, Ignacio de la Fuente, business representative of Molders Local 164, said:

"It is the obligation of everyone in labor to support the Socialist Workers Party and its suit. Imagine what will happen when the labor movement starts to build its own political party, a party that must disagree with both the Democratic and Republican parties. The government will say it has the right to disrupt this party too.

"If we can't defend the SWP's rights here, how can we call on others to defend labor's rights on the same issue?"

## Jessica Mitford

Jessica Mitford, the well-known radical writer whose book, *The American Way of Death*, became a best seller, sent a message of solidarity and a \$50 contribution to the Oakland PRDF rally. Mitford, who has long opposed the witch-hunters wrote: "A thousand congratulations on your magnificent fight against my own best enemies—the FBI, CIA and INS."

and a long-time member of the Communist Party.

The Oakland rally heard Miles Myers, representing the California Federation of Teachers. The federation was one of the earliest supporters of the socialist suit.

The meeting in Oakland was chaired by Karen Wald. She is the author of a book on Cuba's nursery schools, *Children of Che*, and a member of the Cuban Resources Center.

Wald told the meeting of what she had learned when she obtained her own government files under the Freedom of Information Act. The FBI, she said, seemed particularly interested in her collaboration with Socialist Workers Party members in the movement against the Vietnam War.

Norm Gusner of the Communist Workers Party spoke at the San Jose rally, and Floyd Huen of the CWP was heard in San Francisco. They declared their solidarity with the fight being waged around the suit and urged support to the NASSCO 3, the San Diego shipyard unionists convicted in a "bomb plot" frame-up.

In Oakland, the meeting heard Judy Shattuck, president of Local 1695 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. The local covers nonacademic workers at the University of California, Berkeley. (See box this page.)

Rail union official Seymour Cramer spoke in San Francisco.

Miguel Angel, head of the Mexican and Latin American Studies Depart-

ment at Laney College in Oakland, told the meeting there how the INS has been used over the years as an instrument of oppression against migrating *mexicanos* and against Chicanos.

The Oakland meeting also heard Ignacio de la Fuente, business representative of Local 164 of the Molders Union.

José Gutiérrez of the Guatemalan News and Information Bureau spoke at the San Francisco and Oakland meetings, while the San Jose meeting heard Peggy Handler of the same organization. The government is trying to compel Guatemalan solidarity activists in this group to register as "foreign agents."

Also on the platform in San Jose was Evelyn de Castellon, chair of the San Jose Nicaragua Solidarity Committee.

Paul Kangas of the Peace and Freedom Party was heard at the San Francisco meeting, and David Wald, 1980 senatorial candidate for Peace and Freedom, spoke in San Jose. The Brown administration is now trying to put a bill through the California legislature to strip the party of its ballot place.

John Hunter of the Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee spoke in San Francisco, as did Michael Miller, associate director of the Northern California ACLU.

Kay Wiley of the San Francisco National Organization for Women spoke at both the San Francisco and San Jose meetings.

## Dr. Owen Chamberlain

Dr. Owen Chamberlain, a Nobel Laureate in physics at the University of California, was unable to participate as planned at the Oakland PRDF meeting. He sent a message expressing his regret and added:

"History has shown us that if we want law-abiding public servants we must continually take to task those who break the law. And the law must apply equally to all. The lawsuit against the FBI and CIA is extremely important. We must all support it. I pledge my support and I hope all of you will do the same. Again, I'm sorry to be absent tonight."

Bill Mays of the National Lawyers Guild Immigration Committee spoke in San Francisco. Bill Carsen of *Covert Action Information Bulletin* was heard in San Francisco, and Steve Cook of the same magazine was heard in Oakland.

Hrair Balian, an Armenian activist fighting deportation, spoke in all three cities.

Deborah Liatos of the Young Socialist Alliance was heard at each of the rallies.

This article is based on reports by Ann Menasche, Steve Iverson and Barry Sheppard.

## Judy Shattuck

Fifteen unionists, including members of the Socialist Workers Party, have been fighting their firing by the Lockheed company in Georgia. In her speech at the Oakland PRDF meeting, Judy Shattuck, president of AFSCME Local 1695 at UC Berkeley, addressed herself to these firings. She declared:

"In this case, as in the recent past, the government's good friend is Lockheed. Together, it seems, government agencies and Lockheed have ventured out to intimidate in-

dividuals, to muffle dissent, to slow down efforts to organize against social and economic oppression.

"What kind of venture has it been? On what cynical basis is this venture run? What are we to think of an operation that can be conducted by Lockheed's Mr. Lang, the ex-FBI agent whose 'subversive' profile identifies as suspect any worker from California, any worker with a college degree, any worker whose emergency contact person is a person with a name that sounds alien."



# Wide range of speakers

## Cleveland: civil rights figure hails lawsuit

By Bob Merel

CLEVELAND—Rev. F.L. Shuttlesworth was the featured speaker at a Political Rights Defense Fund rally June 13 at Cleveland State University. A founder of the Birmingham, Alabama, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Shuttlesworth organized many of the marches in that city during the rise of the civil rights movement.

When Shuttlesworth was injured during one demonstration, Birmingham Public Safety Commissioner "Bull" Connor told the press, "I wish they'd carry him away in a hearse." Shuttlesworth's church and home were bombed.

Drawing on his experiences with police frame-ups and right-wing terror, Shuttlesworth told the rally, "There can be no civil rights without civil liberties. You cannot have one without the other."

Morris Starsky, former professor of philosophy at Arizona State University and a plaintiff in the SWP lawsuit, read from his FBI files. Starsky "spotlighted himself," according to one FBI file, by his activities in support of the anti-Vietnam War movement, free speech, and union struggles in the area. The documents outline FBI use of poison-pen letters to the university, slandering Starsky, and finally costing him his job.

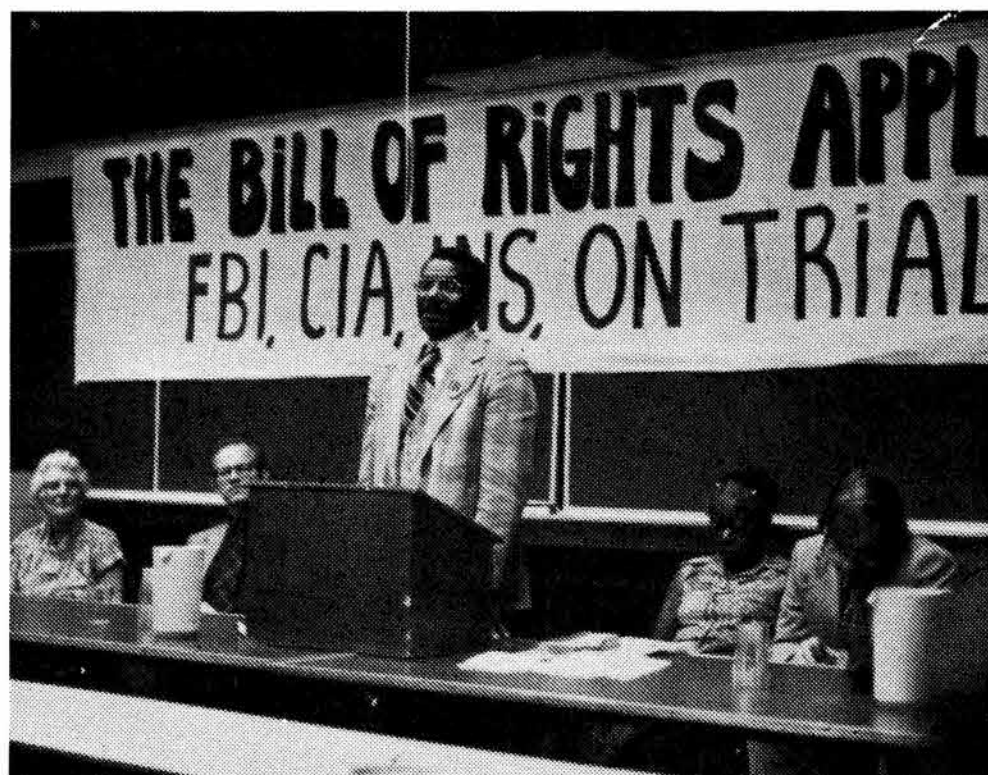
Dale Lindsey, of the Central American Solidarity Committee, said that the ideas of the SWP—opposing wars, supporting workers' rights on the job, women's rights and opposing the draft—are precisely the reason the government goes after it. The committee recently voted to endorse PRDF.

Steve Clark, a Political Committee member of the SWP, told the rally about the trial.

Other speakers included Bruce Allen, Cleveland Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee; Dorothy Spiker of Women Speak Out for Peace and Justice; Kevin Drew, director of the Cleveland United Farm Workers Boycott Committee; and Ben Sheerer, a prominent civil liberties lawyer in Cleveland.

Sheerer offered his legal opinion to the rally. "To carry out wiretaps, burglaries and all the other actions directed against the Socialist Workers Party is illegal and unconstitutional. Case closed."

The rally raised more than \$1,000 for PRDF.



Militant

## Morgantown: coal miners' stake in case

By Nancy Makler

MORGANTOWN, West Virginia—West Virginians gathered at the Ramada Inn here, two days after the close of testimony in the trial of the Socialist Workers Party suit in New York, to talk about its meaning for all political activists and especially for the labor movement. More than a dozen coal miners were present.

The June 27 rally was sponsored by the Political Rights Defense Fund.

Nelson Blackstock of the *Militant* staff reported on the dramatic last days of the trial.

Melissa Merchant, a member of the Young Socialist Alliance and the United Mine Workers, narrated a labor history slide show. It detailed the record of attacks on the UMWA by police agencies, and recalled some of the earlier attempts to weaken the unions by rounding up and deporting their foreign-born members.

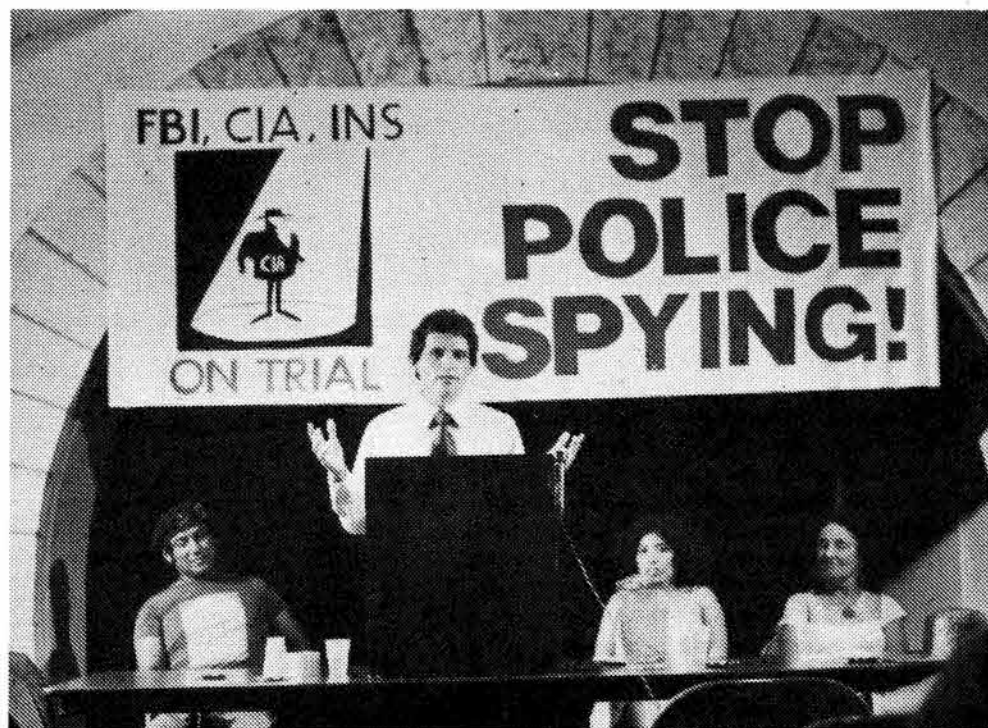
Judith Transue brought greetings from the New American Movement. Referring to the antilabor groundswell in Washington, she called this "a critical time," in which it is "both necessary and courageous" for the SWP to pursue its court battle.

John Hilsman, a Morgantown letter carrier and member of the Mon-Preston Central Labor Council, appealed to the crowd for support to the postal workers in their contract talks. He said the SWP suit is a big part of the fightback against Reagan's program, more military action abroad, less money for the poor, and fewer democratic rights.

Marian Bustin, a union coal miner, has been targeted for deportation by the Immigration and Naturalization Service because of her membership in the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance. She told the rally how she had become involved in politics in Scotland: she opposed the Vietnam War and the British occupation of Northern Ireland like thousands of others of her generation.

Bustin pointed out that anyone the government decides is "subversive" can be targeted for "investigation," and anyone who disagrees with the government about anything can be labeled "subversive." Increasingly, the cops will move their apparatus in on the union movement in general, and the UMWA in particular, she said.

Ushers collected over \$600 in pledges and contributions to PRDF at the rally.



Militant/Matthew Harvey

Political Rights Defense Fund rallies. Top, Rev. F.L. Shuttlesworth speaking in Cleveland. Below, Héctor Marroquín, witness in SWP lawsuit, speaking in San Antonio.

## PRDF needs your help

Testimony in the trial of the government's snoops is over, but the bills are still pouring in to the offices of the Political Rights Defense Fund. In order to meet the enormous costs of this trial, PRDF needs to go substantially over its goal of raising \$125,000.

Thus far, \$111,526 has been collected. Another \$28,633 has been pledged.

Why not make your contribution today to the fight to stop government spying?

If you send in \$10 or more, you'll get a free copy of the button below, designed by Jules Feiffer.

☐ Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help defray legal and publicity costs of socialist suit.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Union/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Send to Political Rights Defense Fund, Box 649 Cooper Station, New York, New York 10003.



## What they're saying

**Roger Yockey**

Director of Education and Communication, Retail Store Employees Union Local 1001, Seattle\*

Wiretaps, electronic surveillance, informers, spies have no place in a free society. Free speech and free association must remain and harassment must end.

Best wishes to you in the suit, because truly the government has targeted minority groups, labor, anti-war, and socialist movements for harassment.

**Dick Moork**

Secretary-Treasurer, International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union Local 19\*

The first settlers in what now is known as the United States were in search of freedom from political and religious harassment and oppression. The founders of our country, having been subjected to similar treatment as the FBI has given the Socialist Workers Party (and many other organizations and persons that advo-

cate change), authored the Bill of Rights.

Notwithstanding the claim by the Department of Justice that they have a right to conduct these operations, they are abrogating the Bill of Rights. The police state policies under which they operate have a debilitating effect on the rights of every American.

I support the Socialist Workers Party in their struggle to protect my rights.

**Hal Pepinsky**

President, American Federation of Teachers Local 2254, Indiana University, Bloomington

The Executive Committee of AFT Local 2254, IUB, has voted its endorsement of the efforts of the Socialist Workers Party and the Young Socialist Alliance to end FBI harassment of political activity.

Freedom from political harassment of lawful assembly, speech and petition of the Government for redress of grievances is of course a basic tenet of the U.S. Constitution.

We applaud the efforts of the SWP



# Back trial of secret police

Winston-Salem Chronicle

By Clifton E. Graves, Jr.

## FBI on Trial

For the past eight weeks, one of the most important "political" trials in this nation's history has been taking place in New York. A trial with perhaps more serious ramifications for the black American community than the trials of Joan Little, Angela Davis, and the Wilmington 10 combined!!!

On April 2nd, Judge Thomas Griesa began hearing arguments in the case of Socialist Workers Party (SWP) vs. Attorney General of the United States. In its suit, the SWP (a completely different entity than the CWP) charges the federal government—specifically the FBI—with illegally spying on its activities, and constant harassment of its members extending over a 45-year period. The SWP is seeking \$40 million in damages for the government's alleged wrongdoing.

But what is truly at issue in this case is the right of any progressive, or "unpopular" group/organization to come together without fear of licensed governmental infiltration!! For what the SWP is really challenging are programs like the FBI's infamous counter-intelligence operation (COINTELPRO)—the dastardly program instituted by the late J. Edgar Hoover to "divide and destroy" the Black civil rights movement in the 1960's and '70's.

Several lawsuits in recent years have uncovered concrete evidence that through its COINTELPRO operation, the FBI infiltrated, manipulated, and to a large extent decimated Black leadership in such diverse organizations as the NAACP, SCLC, Black Muslims, the Black Panther party, CORE, and the Urban League. The primary objective of COINTELPRO was to keep the major organizations bickering among themselves. Undercover "smear" campaigns were commonplace. Harassment by the Internal Revenue Service and imprisonment on trumped-up charges were also often utilized tactics. Further, many feel that Hoover and the

FBI had a great deal to do with the murders of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X.

Though the COINTELPRO operation itself was allegedly disbanded years ago, the mentality which created that monster is very much alive today. The Reagan Administration has already proposed giving the FBI more authority to spy on domestic groups. Reagan's recent pardon of former FBI officials (and COINTELPRO operatives) Felt and Miller (convicted for authorizing illegal break-ins) further demonstrates his bent. It is perhaps this support from the top that gave the government's lawyers the gall to make the arrogant argument: "We can spy on whomever we choose, whenever we choose."

If that be true, then who or what group is immune from FBI infiltration? Today, it is the Socialist Workers party, but tomorrow it could be the local NAACP, the Human Relations Commission, the Winston-Salem Improvement Association, or even the Baptists' Ministers Alliance!!!

Thus, it is imperative that those of us concerned with the basic rights to privacy and freedom of association follow this case closely. And don't be turned off because it's the "Socialists' Case." For the NAACP, Julian Bond, Dick Gregory, Ossie Davis, Harry Belafonte, Henry Fonda, Operation PUSH, Congressman John Conyers, Ron Dellums, Charles Rangel and Parren Mitchell are but a few of the endorses/supporters of this lawsuit.

On Saturday, June 13, at 7:00 p.m. in the Benton Convention Center, the Political Rights Defense Fund will sponsor a Rally/Discussion on this SWP lawsuit. Check it out, for it's not just the Socialists' rights that are on trial...it is the constitutional and political rights of us all!!

Above editorial appeared June 13

## ing about SWP suit

and the YSA to have this freedom upheld in the courts, lest what has allegedly happened to these groups—such as break-ins and phone taps—discourage or inhibit the expression of unpopular beliefs by any of us in this country. Absent probable cause to believe that a particular suspect has violated a law within the jurisdiction of the FBI, the FBI should refrain entirely from monitoring the activities of Americans.

Rev. B. Herbert Martin, Sr.

Executive Secretary, Chicago NAACP

The Chicago NAACP joins with our National Executive Director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Benjamin L. Hooks, in lending our support locally in your pending lawsuit to secure the constitutional rights and freedom this country is built upon.

We join with countless Americans in your efforts to rescue the sacred tenets of freedom and justice for all.

Nalani M. Ascov

President, Seattle National Organization for Women

As an organization dedicated to social change we believe that the importance of dissent and the freedom of speech are paramount to the maintenance of a free society.

For this reason the Seattle Chapter of the National Organization for Women wholeheartedly endorses the work of the Political Rights Defense Fund in the case of the *Socialist Workers Party v. United States*.

Benjamin Spock

I feel gratitude to the Political Rights Defense Fund for taking on the enormous job of defending the Constitutional rights of all the rest of us, from a government that spies illegally on its citizens, burglarizes their premises, conspires with employers to fire them, and incites violence.

Now Reagan threatens to escalate the harassment and pass laws to make it legal. Now's the time for citizens to defend the Political Rights Defense Fund with contributions, write, there is still time.

\*Organizations listed for identification purposes only.

## San Antonio: 'migra' attacks condemned

By Matthew Hervey

SAN ANTONIO—News of the Socialist Workers Party lawsuit—the case that put the Immigration and Naturalization Service on trial—was the centerpiece of a rally for political rights held at El Mercado June 20.

The rally was chaired by Antonio Cabral, vice-president of American Federation of Government Employees Local 3220 and editor of *El Pueblo*, a radical bilingual monthly paper. Cabral described the years of harassment by the FBI and *la migra* against the Chicano movement.

Solidarity with the socialists' suit is needed, Cabral said. "Today the Reagan administration is letting the dogs loose, and all of us in this room and all of those who want to see justice prevail are sooner or later going to become targets."

Ramón Valdéz, a leader of the University of Texas Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, told of numerous political attacks on the CISPES chapter. These included a police bust of a CISPES fundraiser for alleged violation of liquor laws. Three students were arrested.

Palestinian student leader Saleh Abuarisheh described how Palestinian students are targeted by the INS.

Adolfo De los Santos of the Brown Berets spoke about the FBI and San Antonio police harassment of this militant Chicano organization.

The keynote speaker, Mexican-born SWP member Héctor Marroquín, described how he was ordered deported by the INS because of his political views. Today, he said, as a plaintiff in the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance lawsuit against government spying, he is fighting back.

In response to an appeal from rally chairperson Pat Fernandez, \$355 was raised for the Political Rights Defense Fund. Fernandez spent two months in New York as part of the *Militant* trial coverage team.

On June 22, Marroquín held a press conference about the SWP case in front of the Federal Building in San Antonio. His statement was sent around the state through the Associated Press wire service.

Later that day, Marroquín spoke at an "Evening for Political Rights" at the University of Texas in Austin. Speakers included Brady Coleman, the attorney who defended SWP member Evelyn Sell when she was fired by the Austin school system because of her political views; and representatives from the New American Movement, the Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee, and the Socialist Party of Texas.

## Houston: block union-busting moves by gov't

By Susan Winsten

HOUSTON—Supporters of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance lawsuit attended a rally here June 19 sponsored by the Political Rights Defense Fund.

Oran McMichael, a Houston spokesperson for the Communist Workers Party and a member of the NASSCO 3 Defense Committee, told the rally about the three San Diego unionists at the National Steel and Shipbuilding Company who were framed by the FBI on bombing

conspiracy charges. The frame-up was part of a larger union-busting effort aimed at derailing a fight for safety in the yard.

"The struggle for working conditions and job safety is going to become a more crucial issue" in the 1980s, McMichael said. "Unless we unite and take a stand, the government is going to sense they can get away with more and more" attacks like the NASSCO Three.

Ray Hill, station manager of KPFT radio, described the attempts to bring to justice the cop who murdered gay rights activist Fred Paez a year ago.

"The laws of this state are quite frequently in conflict with the ethics of humanity," Hill said. "The laws are there to protect the rich from us. The laws are there to protect the privileged from us."

"I am here at this rally to encourage your support," he said.

Kazem Ala, an Iranian-born member of the YSA, told the rally about the case of Mojgan Hariri-Vijeh. The Immigration and Naturalization Service started deportation proceedings against Hariri-Vijeh three weeks after she joined the YSA. Born in Iran, she is scheduled for a deportation hearing on July 7.

The INS is one of the government agencies being tried in the socialists' lawsuit. SWP speaker Héctor Marroquín, who testified at the trial about the role of the INS, told the rally the latest news on the socialist suit.

Like Hariri-Vijeh, Marroquín has been threatened with deportation because of his politics. Ordered deported to Mexico, his case is now in appeals court.

Rally participants contributed more than \$800 to PRDF.

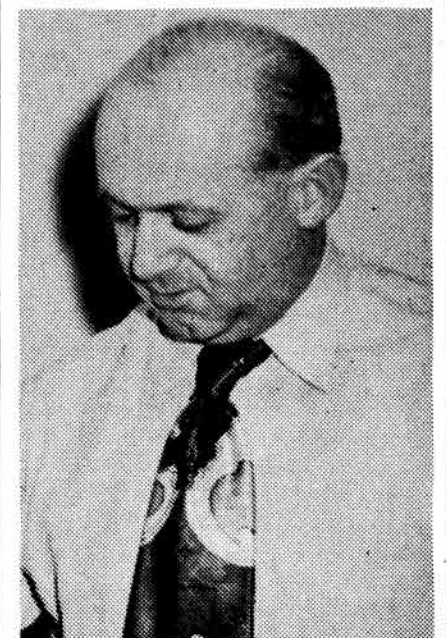
## Kutcher film opens in NYC

NEW YORK—*The Case of the Legless Veteran: James Kutcher*, is now having its first public showing here at the Joseph Papp Public Theater.

A documentary by Howard Petrick, *The Case of the Legless Veteran* tells how Kutcher was fired from a Veteran's Administration job in 1948 because of his membership in the Socialist Workers Party and how a successful fight against the witch-hunters finally won his job back.

The showing at the Papp Theater is part of a series of special weekend free admission programs.

Showings are on Saturdays and Sundays July 11 and 12, July 18 and 19, and July 25 and 26. Showings are at 2 p.m. and free tickets are distributed at 1 p.m. The Public Theater is at 425 Lafayette Street, south of Cooper Square.





# ERA countdown rallies held across country

By Priscilla Schenk

The National Organization for Women sponsored a series of ERA Countdown Rallies June 30 in cities across the country. The rallies, planned to coincide at noon, marked the beginning of the last year for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. Three more states need to pass the ERA for it to become the Twenty-seventh Amendment to the Constitution.

The rally in Washington, D.C., was held outside the White House in Lafayette Park. NOW President Eleanor Smeal addressed the 3,000 participants, as did actor Alan Alda and other prominent ERA supporters.

In New York City, 1,000 people rallied on the steps of the New York Public Library. Actress Marlo Thomas, Betty Friedan, Emogene Walker from the Coalition of Labor Union Women, and others spoke.

One of the largest gatherings was in Springfield, capital of Illinois, an unratified state. Maggie McCraw reports that the 1,500 participants included union delegations of the United Auto Workers, United Mine Workers members from



June 30 rally in Washington, D.C.

southern Illinois, and thirty-five members and friends from United Steelworkers Local 65. NOW chapters from across the state chartered buses to the event.

Addressing the rally were actress Patty Duke Astin; Addie Wyatt, vice-presi-

dent of the National Coalition of Labor Union Women; Esther Rolle, actress from the TV show "Good Times"; and others.

In New Jersey, in addition to rallies sponsored by NOW in Newark, Trenton and Jersey City, the United Auto

Workers Region 9 Women's Committee sponsored an evening rally at the union headquarters in Cranford. Nearly 600 people attended those events.

Linda Ray reports that the San Francisco NOW chapter held a rally in the financial district, where thousands of women work in clerical positions. The 200 people participating heard representatives of NOW chapters; Leslie Rainey, president of the San Francisco Coalition of Labor Union Women; Walter Johnson, a longtime women's rights supporter and president of Local 1100 of the Retail Clerks; and others.

Five hundred people in Los Angeles gathered at the federal building, many wearing green and white, the ERA colors.

In Raleigh, North Carolina, 300 supporters of the ERA gathered for a candlelight march. The Religious Coalition for the ERA has organized a vigil every Monday night since the beginning of the state legislative session. North Carolina has not yet ratified the ERA.

Other reports came from Pittsburgh, where a rally of 500 was held. There were 350 in Portland; 1,000 in St. Paul; 150 in Toledo; and 1,000 in Boston.

## ...miners push back bosses and gov't

Continued from back page

the defeat the operators had in mind this year because of their fighting tradition and the democratic control they exercise over their union.

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, the miners carried out a virtual revolution in the UMW when they threw out the entrenched bureaucracy. They democratized their union through the fight for black lung benefits and for mine safety standards.

The ranks are involved in this union more than in most others. They exercise the right to read and study a contract and then vote on it. They do not work without a contract. This makes it difficult for the coal operators to twist the arms of the miners by selling a bill of goods to the union officials.

That was proven when the miners voted down the first contract offer, even with union President Sam Church trying to sell it.

In spite of the strength of their union,

the miners face serious challenges.

The rights they maintain under this contract will be attacked by the operators at every opportunity. The main arena of attack involves production of non-union coal.

The UMW is a lot stronger than it is portrayed in the news media. In almost every article and news report about coal, the fact is repeated that UMW miners produce only 44 percent of U.S. coal, a much lower rate than in the past.

But this fact is misleading.

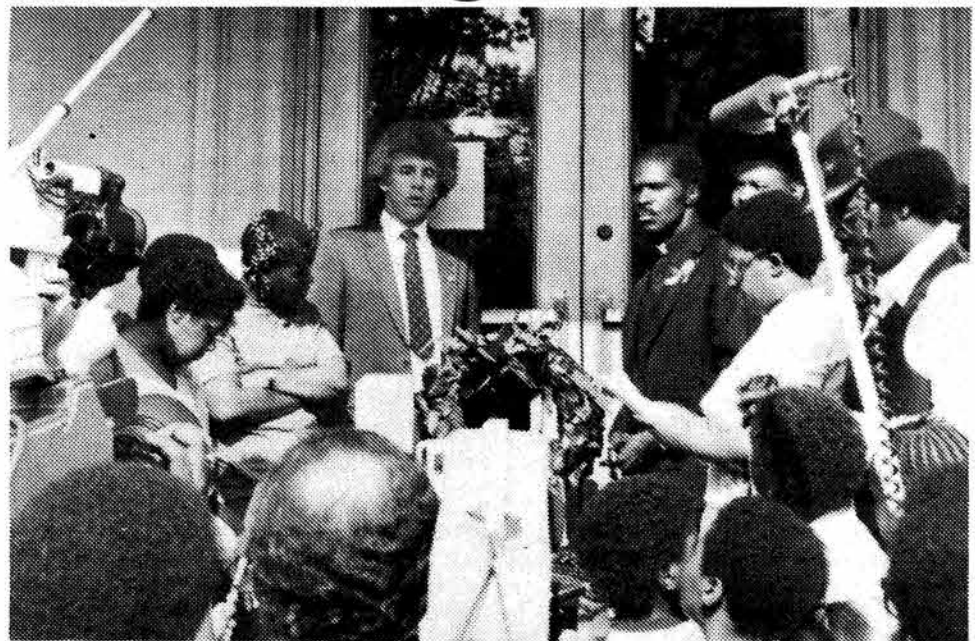
The UMW represents about 70 percent of U.S. miners. They mine almost all metallurgical coal, used to make steel. The areas where the union is strongest, Appalachia and Illinois, are much closer to the industrial and population centers where coal is most used. And the heat content of coal from the union mining areas is usually higher than that of coal from the nonunion western strip mines. In other words, it often requires transporting twice as much coal three or four times further to compete with coal from union mines.

But it is true that the percentage of nonunion coal is increasing. Organizing nonunion miners is the most immediate challenge the UMW faces.

Like all unions, the UMW faces a united opposition from the bosses and the labor-hating government.

Workers' rights are under attack. Social and economic gains won over decades are being slashed.

The UMW faces these challenges from a somewhat stronger position than oth-



Militant

Ceremony at UMW headquarters in solidarity with Black community of Atlanta May 25.

er unions. It has a powerful tradition of involvement in social battles. Every organizing victory in the past and every strike has required it.

The UMW helped organize a national demonstration against nuclear power and for full employment in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, last March 28, the day after their contract expired.

When the mothers of the murdered Black children in Atlanta demonstrated in Washington May 25, a wreath-laying ceremony to protest the killings was held at the UMW headquarters.

As the fightback develops against the employers' and government attacks, the UMW will be part of the leadership of the struggle.

The miners are now back at work. They are assessing the fight for their 1981 contract, and discussing what to do next.

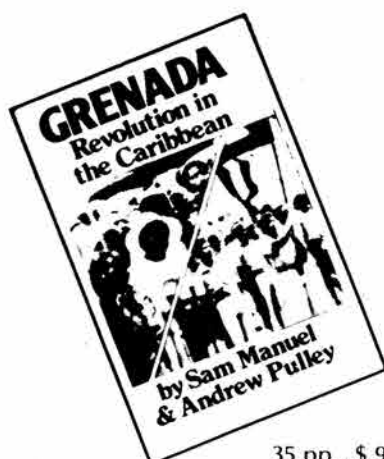
What the miners showed in this year's contract fight is that it is better to fight. It is possible to win.

Once again, the UMW has set an example for the rest of the labor movement and for working people as a whole.

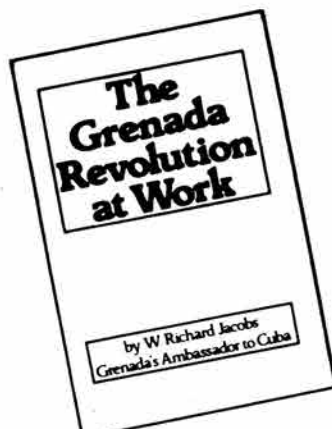
### Eric Sell dies

Eric Sell, a supporter of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance for many years, died in Carlsbad, California, on June 12. Sell, twenty-seven years old, had been a member of the YSA and SWP from 1968 to the mid-1970s. A future issue of the *Militant* will carry an appreciation of his contributions to the socialist movement.

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# Dominica coup plotters get mere slap on wrist

By John Linder

NEW ORLEANS—Two members of a mercenary army were convicted June 20 in a plot to overthrow the government of Dominica, a Caribbean island. A third defendant was acquitted on the same charges.

Stephen Donald Black, the imperial wizard of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, and Joe Daniel Hawkins, who packed a Confederate flag for the invasion, face a maximum of eight years in jail and a \$38,000 fine for their part in what has become known as the "Bayou of Pigs" case.

They were among ten men arrested April 27 in eastern New Orleans as they prepared to load a cache of explosives and weapons onto a boat that would take them to Dominica.

Seven of the men made a plea-bargain deal, reducing their maximum sentence to three years and a \$3,000 fine, in exchange for testifying against the other three, including Black and Hawkins, who pleaded not guilty.

## Grenada

The invaders' ringleader, Michael E. Perdue, of Houston, testified that he would have preferred to stage a coup against Grenada, a neighboring island where a revolution brought workers and farmers to power in March 1979. David Duke, then the Klan's imperial wizard, was supposed to get men for an invasion.

Perdue even discussed his plan with Eric Gairy, the former dictator of Grenada, but later decided that "communists were too deeply entrenched" in Grenada for an attack to succeed.

## Swastikas and cocaine

Perdue then turned his sights on Dominica, a predominantly Black island of 80,000.

In the name of fighting communism, he planned to invade the island to help Sir Patrick John, the ultrareactionary former prime minister, overthrow the elected government of Eugenia Charles.

In exchange for his services, Perdue was to receive \$150,000 and become second-in-command of the Dominica Defense Forces. He would also become exclusive agent for Nortic Enterprises—a tax-free corporation that would have the

rights to develop casinos, tourism, a lumber industry, and other businesses.

According to a federal undercover agent, Perdue also planned to develop a cocaine laboratory on the island. He expected to pocket \$3 to \$5 million within five years, then leave Dominica.

Financing for the invasion came from businessmen in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas, who wanted to "fight communism" . . . and get a cut of Nortic. The ten mercenaries, all of whom had Klan or Nazi connections, were to receive \$3,000 for a month's work, and a chance to share in Nortic.

## CIA

The three defendants all claimed they had been told by Perdue that the CIA and State Department were behind the plot. Donald Black told the court:

"The U.S. government, as is common knowledge, has been engaged in covert operations for a long time. . . . It had been very strongly stated that Mr. Reagan didn't want any more Communist takeovers in this area. From everything I knew about the government, I figured they've done this before and apparently were doing it again."

This argument clearly disturbed government prosecutors. When Black compared the Dominica plot to the Bay of Pigs invasion, one of the government prosecutors leaped to his feet to cut off the discussion.

During her closing arguments, prosecutor Pauline Hardin asked the jury, "Do you think we can have Americans going around overthrowing legally elected governments? Do you think Ronald Reagan wants our country involved in this way?" David Duke, sitting in the back of the room, nodded "Yes."

While there is no evidence that the government played a direct role in the Dominica coup attempt, it certainly did as little as possible to bring stiff jail terms against the Klansmen and Nazis. All ten were offered the plea-bargain deal within four or five hours of their arrest.

No charges have been brought against David Duke, who introduced Perdue to backers in Canada and the United States, including the captain of the boat chartered to take the terrorists to Dominica.

## Solidarity with Central America



## and the Caribbean

### Nicaraguan priests will serve revolution

On June 4, Pope John Paul II ordered four Nicaraguan priests holding high posts in the Nicaraguan government to resign from their posts. On June 9, the four priests refused to do so. The Conference of Nicaraguan Bishops replied that the priests participating in the government should renounce their governmental responsibilities immediately and reintegrate themselves in their priestly responsibilities.

The following are excerpts, obtained from *Latin America Press*, from a letter written by these four priests in response to the bishops' ultimatum.

"Our faith, our hope, our love: As a first response to the communication from the Nicaraguan Episcopal Conference, we say to our Nicaraguan bishops . . . the following:

"We believe in God the Father, Creator of the world and all humanity;  
"We believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our Brother and Savior;  
"We believe in the Church, the visible body of Christ, to which we belong;  
"We believe in justice, the basis for human coexistence. . . .  
"We believe in the Nicaraguan Popular Revolution, carried out by the people in order to overthrow tyranny and establish justice and love;  
"We believe in the poor who will be the ones to build a more just nation and who help to save us. . . .

"And in accordance with our beliefs, we have sought to serve our fellow citizens in the posts they have given us. We shall continue to do so anywhere that our presence and service are necessary because our positions have given us the following possibilities:

- the power to serve, not the power to dominate;
- the power to give up our comforts, not the power to get rich;
- the power to become like Christ in service to our brothers and sisters. . . .

"In order to keep us steadfast in our faith, hope and love, as well as in our purpose to serve, we count on the good will, understanding, counsel and prayers of our brother bishops, priests and laypeople.

"Finally we state our irrevocable commitment to the Sandinist Popular Revolution, in fidelity to our people, which is the same as saying fidelity to God's will."

### Doonesbury on the White Paper

Several newspapers have decided to drop the Doonesbury cartoon strip. The reason they gave was that it wasn't because of political reasons but rather because of inappropriate language—whatever that means.

Coincidentally, the same time that these newspapers were dropping Doonesbury, the cartoon strip had spent almost a week ridiculing the now-discredited "white paper" on El Salvador. Below is a sample from the June 23 issue of the *New York Daily News*. Draw your own conclusions.



—Nelson González

Please send information on activities in your area to Nelson González, 14 Charles Lane, New York, New York 10014.

## A Tour to Grenada

August 11-27

The San Francisco-Bay Area chapter of the U.S.-Grenada Friendship Society is organizing an educational and political tour of the Caribbean island of Grenada. Find out for yourself the achievements of the people of Grenada since the March 1979 revolution. Attend meetings and seminars with Grenadian leaders.

Cost is \$1,272 from San Francisco; \$932 from New York. Includes round-trip transportation, lodging, and meals. Deadline for payment is July 15. Contact: 1921 Oak View Drive, Oakland, California 94602. Telephone: (415) 530-1031.

# Dick Tussey: labor organizer & socialist

By Dennis Sweetenham

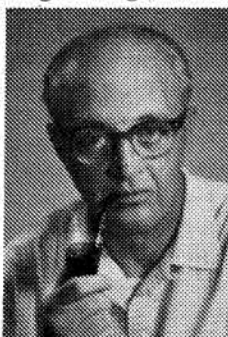
CLEVELAND—Dick Tussey died June 5 here at the age of sixty-two. In a note attached to his will he said if there was to be a memorial, "make sure there's enough to drink and labor songs to sing."

On June 10 a memorial meeting was held at the United Food and Commercial Workers District Union 427 headquarters. In attendance were veterans of four decades of social struggles. The *Cleveland Plain Dealer* ran a prominent obituary.

Tussey had come to Cleveland as a Socialist Labor Party organizer in 1940. At the onset of World War II he refused conscription on the grounds it was a capitalist struggle and his loyalty was to the working class. His draft board took

the unusual step of granting him a deferment. In 1943 Tussey defied a city statute prohibiting political speeches in the city's parks. In a precedent-setting decision, the statute was declared unconstitutional.

By 1947 Tussey had rejected the SLP position of abstention from labor union activity. He left the SLP and got a red card in the Industrial Workers of the World. The IWW local represented several metal fabricating plants in Cleveland at the time and he was to remain with this local for almost twenty years. After his local voted to affiliate with



the Mechanics Educational Society of America, Tussey became an organizer and educator for MESA. In 1958 he played an important role in the labor coalition that defeated a ballot proposal for a state right-to-work law.

In 1960 Tussey made three trips to Cuba and observed firsthand the unfolding of the revolution there. He helped organize the Cleveland chapter of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee and became its chairperson. This led to his being called before the U.S. Senate Internal Security Committee and his dismissal by MESA.

In 1965 he became a business agent and organizer for the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen.

The home Tussey shared with Jean, his companion and partner since the

early 1950s, became well known to young activists. The ideas of the civil rights, civil liberties, anti-war, feminist, and socialist movements were discussed and debated there late into the night.

While Tussey never joined another political party after leaving the SLP, he maintained his socialist principles.

As Socialist Workers Party leader Farrell Dobbs wrote in a note to Jean Tussey: "He was a capable working-class fighter wholly dedicated to the labor movement, which he served well through its trade union arm. His work in that sphere was exceptionally consistent and effective because—unlike the average union business agent—he acted in the daily class struggle with the ultimate goal of establishing a socialist society always in mind."





## 'No one tells us what to do'

# Interview with Nicaragua's Tomás Borge

The following excerpts from an interview with Tomás Borge, the only surviving founding member of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) and currently Nicaragua's minister of the interior, appeared in the May 28 and June 4 issues of 'Latinamerica Press,' a weekly news bulletin published in English in Lima, Peru.

**Question.** Let's talk about the church, Comandante. In Nicaragua the church and religion are important, especially in politics. How are Church-Revolution relations? Seemingly they have deteriorated greatly in recent months.

**Answer.** Everyone knows that there are two churches. For example, in Mexico there is the church of Bishop Mendez Arceo and that of others. In Nicaragua, the church of Fernando (Cardenal), Miguel (d'Escoto), Uriel (Molina) and of many wonderful sisters dedicated to the people, is the church of the poor. The other church is tied to the past; it is the church of the rich.

This is not something new, because Christ also, when he was 33, I believe, found that there were two churches in the Church that he was building: the church of the temple, where he went with a whip, and his own church, that of the fishermen and humble people. And He, who founded this Church of which we are speaking, fought against the other church, the one of the Pharisees, with a whip in his hand. I think that if he had had a submachine gun he would have used it! The Pharisees sacrificed this man. Now history is repeating itself; although history changes, it also has its constants.

### Great sympathy for poor

**Q.** Would you give an example?

**A.** One is that the people are divided throughout the country—the poor on one side and the rich on the other. The universal church attends the poor and the rich. Some take the side of the poor and others the side of the rich. Indeed, we have great sympathy for the church of the poor, though we also respect that of the rich and even dialogue with it, as we do with businessmen and owners of the means of production.

**Q.** It seems that the church which produces the costly ideological merchandise

is moving to the opposition in a bloc. If that should occur and the hierarchy would openly join the opposition inside the country, would it not be a heavy blow to the revolutionary process?

**A.** I think it would be a very serious blow to the church of the rich people. Revolutions are irreversible historic events; they come to stay. If the church stands against the Revolution, the revolutionaries are there. . . . It will be a matter of swimming against the current. We highly respect religious beliefs and priests. But we do not respect conspirators even if they are religious people. And I tell you that there are some religious here who are conspiring. . . .

### U.S. aid cut off

**Q.** The cutoff of U.S. financial aid is a problem for the Revolution. Washington is justifying its move by alleging that Nicaragua is giving Salvadoran insurgents military backing. What comment does this merit?

**A.** Actually what worries the United States is our revolutionary process. By its decision, imperialism tries to "punish" our "bad behavior," in other words our Revolution. Thus it is now saying that it will help us again if we behave correctly, that is, according to its criteria. To this we reply that we will not take a single step backward. We Nicaraguans announce to all the people of the world that we shall continue to behave badly in the eyes of imperialism and that we are ready to die to defend our Revolution. We are willing to fight to the last drop of blood to hold on to the conquests gained since July 19, 1979.

**Q.** You just mentioned "conquests" of the Revolution. Would you say what they are?

**A.** The principal one is that we are under way. We have also eliminated terror, won independence and national sovereignty and taken some positive cultural steps, as in the case of the literacy crusade. We have achieved a substantial reduction in infant mortality and have put the country's principal means of production at the service of the people's needs. Finally, I would mention the example of unity that we have shown for the Latin American revolutionary movement. But perhaps our most important effort is the bold experiment of creating a new society.



Tomás Borge, founding member of Sandinista National Liberation Front. Intercontinental Press/Fred Murphy

**Q.** What are the basic features or main aspects of the "bold" Sandinist revolutionary experiment?

**A.** Our model is framed in a mixed economy, and its synthesis is political pluralism. We have said many times that we are very interested in continuing with the peculiarities of our process, but everything depends on the historic circumstances of each moment. We have always had our feet firmly on the ground, and we do not want to fall into the pattern or the errors of other revolutions. Our model is intimately linked to the needs of production and national reconstruction, because the State does not have managerial talent. We do not deprecate the bourgeoisie's administrative ability nor its ability to make the means of production function.

### Dialogue with opposition

**Q.** If I have understood you, Comandante, you do not disdain the contribution of the businessmen. You do not satanize the bourgeoisie when it is willing to cooperate with the revolutionary process.

**A.** We reached the conclusion that they are necessary so that production will not have a sharp drop. Now it is up to the businessmen to see that the mixed economy—which is basic to political pluralism—does not disappear. We realize that we have to work to maintain a mixed economy, and we have a sincere interest in maintaining it. But if the entrepreneurs decapitalize the companies, if they conspire against the Revolution, they will bring an end to mixed economy and pluralism. Thus the economy depends on the businessmen.

Our interest and good will are evident. It now depends on the degree of

development of bourgeois culture and whether the entrepreneurs can go beyond the line of political savagery. Many bourgeois sectors still dream of the past and do not accept the fact that now we have power. That obstructs the national dialogue going on between the government and the opposition.

**Q.** Washington accused Nicaragua of falling rapidly into a Cuban-Soviet model. What is your reaction to charges that the Sandinist Revolution is beginning to be dependent on Cuba and the USSR?

**A.** We do not owe imperialism any explanation. But we will say to Latin Americans that we are not going to become another Cuba. Neither do we want anyone to become another Nicaragua. Every revolution has its own framework and its own style. We feel very close to the Cuban Revolution. We do not deny that nor will we ever deny it because that would be dishonest. However, we are also aware that our Revolution is different from Cuba's in many ways: we have political pluralism and a mixed economy. We have not executed anyone. We also have a collective administration.

### 'No one tells us what to do'

**Q.** Am I to interpret this as a censure of the Cuban Revolution?

**A.** No. With my comments I am not censuring Cuba; I simply point to differences between the Cuban Revolution and ours. What I mean to show is that each revolution has its own characteristics, its own manner of expression. We coincide with the Cuban Revolution on many points, for example in our anti-imperialist stance. Of course, we also have differences. Without going into detail, in international policy the Nicara-



Bottling factory in Nicaragua. Sandinista revolution is 'bold experiment of creating a new society,' says Borge. 'Our model is intimately linked to the needs of production and national reconstruction.' Intercontinental Press/Lorraine Thiebaud



guan Revolution has its own opinion about Afghanistan and Poland.

To those who say that our Revolution is a copy of Cuba's we maintain that a revolution that mechanically copies another one is finished as a revolution! We are in a position to assure all people that no one is going to tell Nicaragua what it has to do. And when I say no one, I mean exactly that: no one! Otherwise we would not have had a revolution. . . .

**Q. But, Comandante:** You said just a short while ago that within two years 100 percent of Nicaraguan revenue will be designated for servicing the foreign debt and buying petroleum. Then, even more than now, foreign financial assistance will be needed. Do you sincerely believe that socialist countries will help Nicaragua to continue upholding political pluralism and a mixed economy? Isn't it utopian to think that such sources will be interested? Do you truly think that there will be no "pressure" for Nicaragua to follow a specified course?

**A.** I am entirely certain that we will have help without restriction from socialist countries. Remember that yesterday's history cannot be the same as today's. Conditions in the world have changed. The Yankees invaded the Dominican Republic; now they would think 200 times before doing the same in Nicaragua. The Soviets likewise have had experience in Cuba where the revolution took place under specific circumstances. If the Soviets—and the socialist countries—did not understand that they would be antihistorical. We have the hope, rather the almost absolute certainty, that the Soviets understand perfectly what is going on here and would not think of trying to guide our Revolution.

#### 'Historic sense of smell'

**Q. Why are you so sure of unconditional socialist aid, Comandante? On what are you basing its assurance?**

**A.** It is a kind of historic sense of smell.

**Q. On that alone! It is a very weak base. Besides, history so far disproves what you have said.**

**A.** But history changes. And if that is not enough, I repeat that we would refuse any conditioned "aid." When I talked to Mexico's President José López Portillo he offered us aid without conditions. I told him that that gesture was what we were most grateful for. Let any one who wants to help us, do it the same way! Otherwise we prefer to die of starvation. With all honesty I can say that so far neither the Soviets nor the Cubans nor the leaders of other socialist countries have set conditions for their solidarity. In this, I might say, they have been more respectful than many others.

**Q. A problem that disturbs Latin America is the possibility of armed aggression against Nicaragua. How serious is the danger of attack by the Somoza forces that are outside of Nicaragua, especially in Central America and the United States?**

**A.** They have already attacked us several times. Last year they made dozens of attacks. The latest one was less than a week ago. We are afraid these attacks will be more frequent in the future. But the real danger is not these attacks by ex-guardsmen. More serious is the possibility of their being an element of provocation to create a conflict between Honduras and Nicaragua. Even so it would be difficult to overthrow the Sandinist Revolution. The only way to defeat us militarily would be by an invasion of U.S. troops; though even they would pay a very high price in lives, political prestige and future perspective. For us belligerency is not the main problem. We are more concerned about the war against backwardness, poverty and underdevelopment. That is what worries us more and we hope that there will not be an outbreak of warfare in the area.

# Somozaist gangs kill 16 in Nicaragua

By Arnold Weissberg

MANAGUA—A series of terrorist raids by armed counterrevolutionaries has left sixteen Nicaraguans dead in less than two weeks.

The most serious incident came in the early morning hours of June 23, when a gang of thirty Somozaists crossed the Honduran border and killed seven people in the township of Panamá, thirty kilometers from the northern Nicaraguan city of Somoto.

Another attack had come from Honduras the previous day—with an assault on the Nicaraguan border post at Guazapo. One Sandinista was wounded in that attack.

Attempting to shift the blame for the incidents onto Nicaragua, the regime of Gen. Policarpo Paz García in Honduras charged that the Sandinista army had attacked Honduras.

No proof of such attacks was forthcoming.

Earlier this year, a similar series of counterrevolutionary raids from Honduras created a tense situation between the two countries. This appeared to have been resolved after a meeting between top Honduran and Nicaraguan officials. But the attacks have now resumed.

Six persons were killed on June 14, seventy kilometers north of Jinotega, when a band of between seventy and eighty counterrevolutionaries ambushed a truck being used as a passenger vehicle.

Thousands of persons poured into the streets of Jinotega in protest. Thousands again gathered at the town's chapel when the victims were buried.

"We must be hard with these people," said Juan Pablo Corea González, father of a slain farmers' leader. "Hard with

the capitalists who are behind them. They are mocking the small and medium farmers."

At a June 15 meeting, Guerrilla Commander Alonso Porras charged that the counterrevolutionary bands were being financed by the big coffee growers in the area around Jinotega, and that they had ties with the big-business organization COSEP and with the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement, one of the capitalist political parties here.

Porras called on the Council of State to enact a law allowing the confiscation of property of those who collaborate with counterrevolutionary terrorists.

Two more militia members died in a June 21 ambush in Piedra Menuda, just twenty-three kilometers from Managua. Two others were wounded.

And on June 23 a seventy-five-year-old militia member was killed when two counterrevolutionaries claiming to be police came to his house in the evening and demanded he turn over his shotgun. When he refused and went to look for shells to hold them off, they shot him to death.

The wave of killings has aroused deep anger among Nicaraguans.

Managua's eastern neighborhoods were the scene of protest demonstrations the night of June 24 that lasted into the early hours of the morning. Residents took to the streets, held meetings, lit bonfires, and set off fireworks. In the neighborhood of Bello Horizonte, a post-midnight rally heard Commander Lenín Cerna, chief of State Security, express his satisfaction at the massive repudiation of the counterrevolutionary terrorists.

In a June 23 speech paying homage to the seven dead in the Panamá attack,

Commander Humberto Ortega, minister of defense, announced that new laws against counterrevolutionary maneuvers were under consideration.

Ortega said that decapitalization of enterprises should also be viewed as counterrevolutionary action. He declared that the government would have to find the arms necessary for the people to defend the revolution.

It was no coincidence, Ortega said, that the sixteen dead all came from Nicaragua's working classes, and that there was not a single wealthy grower or capitalist among them.

"The ones who were privileged in the past must learn to live with the people, with the humble, and must keep in mind that the people have hegemony in this process. But these sectors are decapitalizing their enterprises and abusing the democratic liberties conquered by the people. They are making use of their communications media to minimize the aggression by the counterrevolution."

The right wing is on a big campaign here right now to demand "elections." But as Ortega noted, the counterrevolutionaries in Honduras "are not organizing themselves to come here for an electoral process."

The Socialist International's Committee for Defense of the Sandinista Revolution, which has been meeting here, condemned the killings.

Humberto Ortega's characterization of the capitalist daily *La Prensa* hit the mark perfectly. When it reported the killings at Panamá, *La Prensa* printed the story beneath a much bigger feature on an incident at a boxing match in London, where the Nicaraguan expatriate Alexis Arguello was competing for the world middleweight title.

From Intercontinental Press

# Puerto Rico: 'U.S. Navy out!'



Demonstration June 5-6 demands end to U.S. bombing practice in Vieques.

Claridad

The following article, written by Young Socialist Alliance member Veronica Cruz, appeared in the July 13 issue of 'Perspectiva Mundial,' the Spanish-language sister publication of the 'Militant.'

The article concerns the continuing protests against the use of the island of Vieques by the U.S. Navy as a bombing target in practice exercises. Translation is by the 'Militant.'

VIEQUES, Puerto Rico—An estimated 500 Puerto Ricans marched from Río Piedras to Fajardo June 5 and 6 in the Pilgrimage to Rescue Vieques.

The pilgrimage passed through the towns of Río Piedras, Carolina, Conóvanas, Río Grande, Luquillo, Fajardo, and lastly via ferry to the island of Vieques. In addition to the wide coverage by the news media, thousands of people saw the protest directly. Also, thousands of leaflets in support of Vieques were distributed by the participants in the march.

The Pilgrimage to Rescue Vieques was organized by hundreds of political, ecumenical, and professional organiza-

tions, among them the Federation of Puerto Rican Teachers, the College of Lawyers, the National Ecumenical Movement, the Federation of University Students for Independence, the International Workers League, the Young Socialists, the Puerto Rican Socialist Party, and the National Committee in Defense of Vieques. The Crusade to Rescue Vieques organized the activities on Vieques itself.

In addition, the pilgrimage received the endorsement of various personalities, such as the ex-mayor from the National Progressive Party, Radames Tiraño; Severo Colberg, vice-president of the Puerto Rican House of Representatives from the Popular Democratic Party; Nationalist heroes such as Oscar Collazo, Irving Flores, and Rafael Cancel Miranda; as well as Juan Mari Brás and Carlos Gallisá. Leaders of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party also participated in the march. The Continental Organization of Latin American Students was represented by Elena Tejada from the Federation of Dominican Students.

The pilgrimage was organized around four principal demands: a) an imme-

diately cessation of the bombing of the island of Vieques by the U.S. Navy; b) a return of the lands taken by the Navy; c) indemnity payments to the people of Vieques; and d) an end to the repression of the people of Vieques and their supporters.

## Ultrarightist attack in Britain

On June 20 ultrarightist thugs stormed into The Other Bookshop in London, a socialist bookstore in the same building as the national headquarters of the International Marxist Group (IMG—the British section of the Fourth International).

A woman member of the IMG who was in the bookstore was severely beaten and had to be hospitalized. The goon squad vandalized the bookstore and scattered profascist material around.

Messages of solidarity should be sent to the IMG at P.O. Box 50, London N1 2XP, England.





# OAU hits Reagan alliance with apartheid

The U.S. government was strongly condemned for its "collusion with the South African racists" in a formal resolution adopted June 27 by all fifty members attending a four-day meeting of the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

The resolution denounced "the unholy alliance between Washington and Pretoria" and accused the Reagan administration of sabotaging efforts for achieving Namibian independence.

The more than one million Namibians have been struggling for an end to the South African regime's racist colonial rule. They want the establishment of a genuinely independent state.

The South African regime has occupied Namibia since the end of the First World War. Pretoria has sent in more than 60,000 troops to terrorize the Namibian population and to strike at the

main pro-independence group, the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO).

The OAU's denunciation was provoked by the Reagan administration's position that Namibia should only receive its independence after a new constitution is drawn up that would include political and economic "guarantees" for the white minority in Namibia and for Pretoria as well.

The OAU resolution also condemned the governments of Britain and France for supporting the South African regime. Washington, London, and Paris recently vetoed a move in the United Nations Security Council to impose new economic sanctions against South Africa.

Chester Crocker, Reagan's assistant secretary of state for African affairs,

told a congressional hearing at the end of June that Washington had offered to train members of the South African Coast Guard and to increase the number of military attachés and consuls each country maintains in the other.

These moves are all part of what the Reagan administration describes as its policy of "constructive engagement" with the South African regime. It is a further step in Washington's long-standing alliance with Pretoria aimed at holding back the liberation movements in southern Africa.

Washington also wants Namibian independence linked to the withdrawal of Cuban troops in Angola and to the inclusion of the South-African-backed National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) in the Angolan government.

At a June 7 rally in Zimbabwe, SWAPO leader Sam Nujoma blasted Washington's attempt to impose conditions on the Namibian people's right to self-determination. "We will not accept any other country, no matter how powerful, to draw up our constitution. That is the prerogative of the Namibian people and nobody else."

Nujoma also said that white settlers were "welcome to live side by side with us in an independent Namibia. . . . We just say we want to have a share in running the state, and we want the majority to have the final say. The wealth of the country must be shared among the people."

The OAU resolution concluded that in the absence of agreement on Namibian independence, "armed struggle remains the most effective form of action."

From Intercontinental Press

## So. Africa regime moves to halt strikes, protests

By Fred Murphy

The apartheid regime in South Africa has launched a fresh wave of repression in an effort to halt student protests and strikes by Black industrial workers.

More than forty persons were jailed under the security laws in the month of June. The laws allow detention without charge or trial, or even public acknowledgment of the victims' whereabouts.

Among those arrested was Khotso Seatlholo, former president of the Soweto Students Representative Council and one of the central figures in the Black student revolt in Soweto in June 1976.

Seven other Black student leaders were arrested at about the same time as Seatlholo.

### Strikes by Black workers

Leaders of Black trade unions have also been jailed. These include Thozamile Gqweta and Sisa Nijikelana, president and vice-president of the South African Allied Workers Union, which is based in East London; as well as much of the leadership of the Motor Assembly and Components Workers Union of South Africa (Macwusa), a new and militant Black organization in Port Elizabeth.

The apartheid rulers are especially worried by the mounting unrest among Black industrial workers. Since the beginning of 1981 there have been some fifty strikes by Black workers.

The most significant struggle was in Port Elizabeth, the center of South Africa's auto industry. When 1,500 Black workers at the Firestone tire factory there stopped work to oppose planned cuts in pension benefits, the company fired them en masse. Later all but 160 were reinstated. Nevertheless, 3,500 Blacks at three of the city's Ford plants went on strike in solidarity with those dismissed at Firestone, and 200 Black workers at General Motors did the same.

According to the London *Economist*, "This is the first time black workers have staged strikes in support of workers in other sections of an industry."

The Port Elizabeth work stoppages lasted for two weeks and ended with a partial victory on June 3. Firestone agreed to immediately reinstate twenty-one of those fired and to rehire the others as jobs became available.

The Port Elizabeth strikes were led by the Motor Assembly and Components Workers Union of South Africa. *New York Times* correspondent Joseph Lelyveld described Macwusa in a June 3 dispatch as "one of the newest and most assertive black labor unions." He said it stood out for "its refusal to play by the intricate rules of the South African system of labor relations and its insistence on its right to act on behalf of the entire black community."

In East London, the South African Allied Workers Union is playing a role similar to that of Macwusa. According to a June 25 dispatch by Lelyveld, "it insists on voicing the political grievances of black workers" and also rejects the apartheid regime's labor laws. The employers have fought the union by firing some 2,000 of its 16,000 members, but this has not dampened its militancy.

### 'Republic Day' protests

While the strikes by auto workers in Port Elizabeth were going on, the regime was facing more generalized protests against its apartheid policies. The focus was the government-sponsored celebrations of "Republic Day," the twentieth anniversary of South Africa's withdrawal from the British Commonwealth.

There were calls for a boycott of the festivities by many organizations, ranging from the banned African National Congress to the South African Council of Churches. Inkatha, the organization headed by Gatsha Buthelezi, chief minister of the KwaZulu "homeland," placed advertisements in major South African newspapers calling on Blacks to boycott Republic Day.

Also calling for a boycott was the Roman Catholic Church.

On May 27 there were student demonstrations at the Johannesburg city hall, at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, and in Cape Town. Each involved several hundred protesters.

At Chris Botha high school in the Coloured suburbs of Johannesburg, 150 students held a hunger strike. ("Coloured" refers to persons of mixed ancestry. Coloureds are part of the overall Black population, but are placed in a separate category by the apartheid regime as part of its attempt to divide the oppressed masses.)

Botha's cops broke up other university students' protest in Johannesburg and arrested forty-eight students in Cape Town. Among those jailed in Cape Town was Andrew Boraine, the white leader of the National Union of South African Students. As of June 26 Boraine was still being held under the security laws.

Police also moved against the Coloured high-school students who organized the hunger strike in Johannesburg, arresting student council president Aziz Jardine.

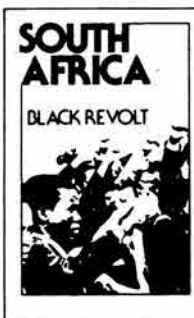
### Anniversary of Soweto

On June 9, some 6,000 Coloured high-school students in Johannesburg and Cape Town boycotted their final examinations to protest the brutal attacks and continue demanding the release of Aziz Jardine.

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# Goon squads and the Israeli elections

The recent elections in Israel provided new evidence of how reactionary the Zionist rulers of that country are. The campaign was marked by the systematic use of violence by supporters of Prime Minister Menachem Begin against the opposition Labor Party.

Despite that violence—and partly because of it—the Labor Party apparently won forty-seven seats in parliament as against forty-eight for Begin's Likud bloc.

Israeli workers and farmers had no real choice in the election.

In addition to the violence, Begin's bid for reelection was marked by strident jingoism and

calling, a worried debate has broken out on the future of the country's democratic process.

"Many Israelis who are usually not given to extreme statements are now sounding urgent alarms about antidemocratic trends, insensitivity to individual rights, governmental pressures against a free press and a rising chauvinism that sees criticism as disloyal, treacherous and unpatriotic."

The dispatch reported that Mayor Teddy Kollek of Jerusalem had charged Begin with fostering a "personality cult which arouses fears of the growth of fascism in this country."

Israel's attorney general, Yitzhak Zamir, warned that the systematic attacks on opponent rallies "pose a substantial danger to freedom of speech."

A Begin aide assured the *Times* that democracy in Israel is "so strong and so healthy."

"Nevertheless," the *Times* dispatch said, "the violence has taken on new proportions, according to most accounts, never seen here before."

"Hardly a Labor Party rally can take place now without disruption by gangs of toughs jeering Mr. Peres off the platform, pelting him with eggs and tomatoes and drowning him out with chants of 'Begin, Begin, king of Israel.'"

"After one such rally in the Tel Aviv suburb of Petah Tikvah, supporters of Mr. Begin smashed windows in a nearby Labor Party headquarters and burned Labor leaflets."

"Stores displaying Labor posters have their windows smashed, cars with Labor bumper stickers suffer shattered windshields and stolen tires."

"One automobile was spray-painted with the huge words, 'Traitor, traitor, traitor.'"

A Begin campaign aide piously advised, "We dissociate ourselves from the violence."

The vicious campaign against the Labor Party goes hand-in-hand with the continuing racist repression of Palestinians and other Arabs under Israeli domination.

The *Times* dispatch describes the situation on the West Bank of the Jordan River, occupied by Israel since its 1967 invasion.

"On the West Bank," the *Times* reports, "a few of the nationalistic, militant settlers trying to establish Jewish control have taken on a vigilante role, using their automatic rifles to terrorize Arabs, smashing windows, breaking into homes and issuing threats."

"The Government has reacted mildly, arresting rarely and punishing lightly."

"Inside Israel proper, Arabs who are Israeli citi-

zens have sometimes been confined to their hometowns and had meetings and organizations banned for political reasons.

"Last year Israel's Parliament enacted legislation banning the display of the Palestinian flag and the singing of Palestinian national songs and providing a maximum of three years in prison for violators."

"The measure was called the 'Prevention of Terrorism Law.'"

One Labor Party leader told the *Times*: "I'm beginning to detect a ring, 'Are you soft on Arabs?' Like 'Who is soft on Communism?'"

Jacobo Timerman, the exiled Argentinian publisher who was jailed and tortured by the military junta there and now lives in Israel as a Zionist, told the *Times*:

"I have seen the growing up of clandestine armies, terrorists, in Argentina. I see very clearly a repetition of what happened in Argentina here."

—Harry Ring

## As I see it

McCarthy-type red-baiting. He boasted of his sneak bombing of Iraq's nuclear power plant and promised more of the same.

His Labor Party opponents agreed with his basic program of Zionist expansionism, objecting mildly to his excessive rhetoric.

Neither offered a meaningful answer to the country's present staggering inflation rate of 133 percent and the hardships this has created.

The use of right-wing thugs by the Begin machine suggests the depth of the simmering social crisis in Israel and makes plain how the country's Zionist rulers propose to deal with the real opposition that lies ahead.

Both U.S. and Israeli papers discussed Begin's goon tactics.

One Israeli paper, *Ha'aretz* on June 15 described a meeting of 10,000 where Begin's Labor opponent, Shimon Peres, tried to speak:

"About 500 Likud supporters equipped with wooden boards, placards, bike chains and tomatoes rioted throughout the meeting. . . . After the end of the meeting, the mob continued to riot in the streets. They stopped any car displaying a Labor sticker, and if the driver refused to immediately remove the sticker he was beaten up. . . . The mob also rolled burning refuse bins into the Mapam Party headquarters. . . ." (Mapam was in a bloc with the Labor Party.)

The scope of the violence was indicated in a dispatch in the June 15 *New York Times*.

It stated: "As Israel moves through an emotional political campaign marked by violence and name-



Labor Party office trashed by Begin supporters

## Learning About Socialism

### Is society's problem 'overconsumption'?

#### Letter from a reader:

This is in response to an article on Reagan's tax plan that appeared in the June 26 *Militant*, and particularly to the line, "High prices and high interest rates limit the ability of people to buy what's produced."

While workers don't approach the excessive consumption levels of the capitalists, they still consume at high levels and in large numbers.

Capitalism is responsible for overproduction and makes a virtue of overconsumption on everyone's part.

The ethic of overproduction and overconsumption must be eliminated with capitalism. Only in this way can we conserve for as many future generations as possible the precious, finite resources of this planet upon which we depend, and only in this way can we focus on the fundamental task of building a new society—the full development of our human resources and creativity.

Brad Bohland  
Denver, Colorado

#### William Gottlieb replies:

Reader Bohland misunderstands the term "overproduction."

It is true that capitalism produces many commodities of very dubious usefulness. Modern advertising is used to excite artificial needs.

The most extreme example of wasteful production is nuclear weapons, which threaten to destroy modern civilization.

In addition, since capitalism is based on short-term gain, not long-term planning, natural resources are recklessly squandered.

"Overproduction," however, refers to something else.

Each individual capitalist firm is obliged by the competition of other capitalist firms to maximize its profits. A firm that does not maximize profits inevitably falls behind the competition and eventually goes out of business.

In order to maximize profits, the capitalists must expand production to the limit—while holding costs, including wage costs, to the minimum.

This applies not only to individual capitalist firms but to capitalist nations. As international competition heats up, each capitalist government tries to slash social benefits and hold down wages. In this way, the government hopes the competitive position of the capitalists it serves will be improved on the world market.

This is the basis of Reagan's current budget. He hopes that by slashing social benefits to working people and cutting the taxes of the American bosses, U.S. business will gain a competitive advantage over its European and Japanese rivals.

In doing so, however, Reagan is depriving whole layers of the working population of the ability to buy basic necessities. There is no overconsumption here.

The overall result is that under conditions of private ownership of modern industry, production develops faster than the ability of the great mass of people to pay for increased production.

"Overproduction" is therefore overproduction relative to the market, not relative to human needs. Because it holds purchasing power within narrow limits, capitalism is incapable of developing production sufficiently to meet the material needs of the

great majority of the people. Relative to human needs, capitalism always underproduces.

The gross inadequacy of mass transit, housing, hospitals, and schools is one glaring example.

There is unemployment in the steel industry today not because the world's need for steel is being met, but because working people of the world cannot afford to buy the housing, appliances, and transportation they desperately need.

Periodically, the contradiction between the growth of production and the more limited growth of the market leads to acute crises. Interest rates shoot up and credit dries up. Goods pile up in warehouses because they cannot find buyers.

The capitalists cut back on production because it is unprofitable. Workers are laid off and factories are shut down. Massive want and misery exist because more has been produced than capitalism allows to be consumed.

It takes years before factories are again working at anywhere near their full capacity. By the time they are, there is again so much overproduction that a new crisis breaks out. The cycle then repeats itself.

The only escape from this vicious circle is to remove the fetters of private ownership from the means of production. It is private ownership that is the root cause of overproduction crises and squandering of resources—not "overconsumption."

When the economy is geared to human needs, not private profit, society's goal will be to increase production in order to meet the material needs of every human being.

This alone will make possible "the full development of our human resources and creativity" that we and reader Bohland both look forward to.





**Dropping acid**—Pollution-created acid rain? No problem. Let the pigeons drink it up. Two steel cables on the Brooklyn Bridge snapped recently. Engineers said the acid in pigeon droppings had been eating away at the cables for years.

**The reddening of America**—The *New York Times* reported that standing in a subway token line, Spencer Burke, a real estate broker, doesn't look like a revolutionary. But asked for his opinion on the latest fare hike, he responded: "For one thing, there has to be a revolution in this country. I really believe for the first time that there has to be a violent overthrow of government. I don't think this so-called elective process works."

**Add it to the list**—We're not sure what can be done this side of socialism, but research indicates that most people are allergic to cockroach remains. For those with asthmatic conditions, it can trigger wheezing, coughing and choking.

**A gas**—When the Brown & Williamson tobacco company developed a cigarette with a filter that assertedly offers greater protection from a gas that may be linked to heart disease, the company ad agency wanted to feature it. The proposal was iced. A likely result of focusing on the gas problem, the company explained, "would be the escalation of the quitting rate among smokers."

**Bill of Rights man**—New Yorkers were concerned when some deranged person inflicted knife wounds on eight men sleeping on street benches. But for Bill O'Reilly of CBS, the constitutional issue was key. "One of our basic rights in this country," he declared, "is the pursuit of happiness. And for some people that means sleeping in the streets."

**Thought for the week**—"The federal Department of Energy reported that by the year 2000, the nation will be burdened with millions of tons of atomic waste. The report left unresolved how to dispose of the waste safely."—News item.



"We have a serious oil glut on our hands, gentlemen . . . we'd better declare another shortage."

## Union Talk

# What kind of union do steelworkers need?

The following column is by David Salner, a mechanic apprentice at the Eveleth Mines on Minnesota's Iron Range. He is a member of United Steelworkers Local 6860.

What kind of union do Steelworkers need? This was the issue in the recent campaign for director of United Steelworkers District 33.

Eldon Kirsch, a fourteen-year staff man, won the race with 35 percent of the total vote. During the campaign, Kirsch put out a leaflet attacking the policies of his chief contender, Local 1938 President Joe Samargia. We got a good picture of Kirsch's brand of unionism by looking at what he picked out to attack in Samargia's campaign.

Kirsch criticized Samargia for supporting a protest against Minnesota Gov. Al Quie's Reagan-style cutbacks. Kirsch said steelworkers should "respect the office of Governor." He condemned Samargia for resorting to "boycotts and picketing instead of sitting down to try and resolve issues."

Of course any responsible labor leader will negotiate with the powers that be. The real question is, where does labor's power come from? From the dead weight of a union representative's hind end as he sits across the negotiating table, or from the power of a rank and file that is willing not only to sit down and negotiate but also to boycott, picket, or do whatever

else is necessary to save its union rights?

In the same leaflet, Kirsch attacked Samargia for spending "most of his time playing up to special interests, like the El Salvadore [sic] issue." One young

steelworker answered Kirsch this way: "Damn right El Salvador is a special interest—a very special interest of mine."

In an interview following the election with the *Duluth News Tribune*, Kirsch repeated his attack by saying, "We've got to forget about special interest groups."

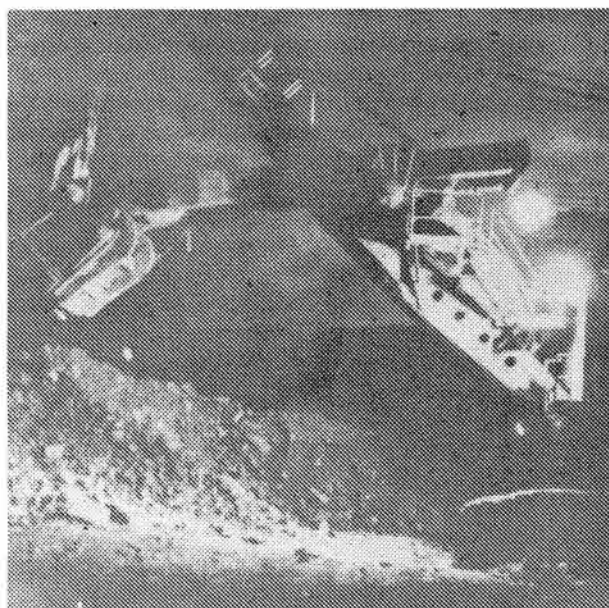
What Kirsch doesn't understand is that what he calls "special interests" are of direct concern to all steelworkers.

In addition to avoiding another Vietnam-style involvement in El Salvador, steelworkers want action against layoffs and the threat of the military draft. They want equal rights and affirmative action and a leadership willing to fight off Reagan's attacks on social security and retirement benefits.

These issues are our "special interests." They are issues that unite us and make us stronger if we act on them in an aggressive way. A retreat on these issues is like a message to the companies that we will not defend the interests of our members regardless of age, sex, or race.

The District 33 election began a useful discussion among the ranks of steelworkers on the Iron Range and throughout the district.

And we should always have an open mind. I hope District Director Kirsch will take up the fight for all our interests.



Shovel at mine on Iron Range

Militant/Stu Singer

# What's Going On

## GEORGIA ATLANTA

RALLY TO DEFEND THE BILL OF RIGHTS. Speak-

## WASHINGTON, D.C.

**RALLY TO DEFEND POLITICAL RIGHTS.** Speakers: Ben Chavis, director, Commission for Racial Justice; Rob Duncan, D.C. Committee to Defend the NASSCO Workers; Michael Gaffney, National Lawyers Guild; Mojgan Hariri-Vijeh, Young Socialist Alliance member who faces deportation; Doug Jenness, Socialist Workers Party Political Committee; Hilda Mason, D.C. City Council; Lee Perkins, D.C. National Organization for Women and Commission on Human Rights; Phil Wheaton, EPICA. Sat., July 11, 6:30 p.m. reception and entertainment; 7:30 p.m. program. Ethical Society of Washington, 7750 16th St. N.W. Donation: \$3. Aup: Political Rights Defense Fund. For more information call (202) 797-7699.

ers: Malik Miah, Socialist Workers Party National Committee; Jan Douglass, director, Community Relations Commission; Martha Gaines, president, Georgia American Civil Liberties Union; Andreé Kahlmorgen, SWP candidate for mayor; others. Sat., July 11, 7:30 p.m. Student Center, Georgia State University, Room 460. Donation: \$2. Aup: Political Rights Defense Fund. For more information call (404) 872-7640.

## MICHIGAN DETROIT

**NICARAGUA: TWO YEARS LATER.** Speaker: Jim Zelinski, Michigan Interchurch Committee for Central American Human Rights. Sat., July 18, 7 p.m. 6404 Woodward. Donation: \$2. Aup: Militant Forum. For more information call (313) 875-3522.

## MINNESOTA VIRGINIA

**RALLY TO DEFEND THE BILL OF RIGHTS.** Speakers: Tom Anzelc, St. Louis County Commissioner, 7th

District; Al Church, director, Regional Agency, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; Barbara Lamppa, director, Historical Services, Iron Range Historical Society; Peggy Metzger, National Organization for Women; Bill Ojala; Michael Paymar, Duluth City Council member; Mickie Scholtus, board member, Minnesota Civil Liberties Union; Waubun-Inini (Vernon Bellecourt), American Indian leader; Mac Warren, Political Committee member, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., July 11, reception 6 p.m., rally 7 p.m. Mesabi Community College, Commons, 9th Avenue and West Chestnut St. Donation: \$4, \$2 rally only. Aup: Political Rights Defense Fund. For more information call (218) 741-4968.

**CUBA TODAY.** An eyewitness account with slide show and special displays from Cuba. Speakers: five steelworkers who visited Cuba in May. Sun., July 12, 11 a.m. Solidarity Bookstore, 1012 Second Ave. South. Donation: \$2. Aup: Solidarity Bookstore Forum Series. For more information call (218) 749-6327.

**RADICAL LABOR TRADITIONS ON THE IRON RANGE.** Speaker: Michael Karni, coeditor of *For the Common Good—Finnish Immigration and the Radical Response to Industrial America*. Fri., July 24, 7:30 p.m.

1012 Second Avenue South. Aup: Solidarity Bookstore Forum Series. For more information call (218) 749-6327.

## NEW YORK MANHATTAN

**'THREE PLUS FOUR.'** Kampuchean film, English narration. Produced by Kampuchea Ministry of Culture. 45 minutes. Meet and hear: Chan Bun Han, the first Kampuchean to travel to his homeland since 1975 and return to the U.S. Fri., July 17, 7 p.m. Global Village, 454 Broome St., near Mercer. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Committee in Solidarity with Vietnam, Kampuchea, and Laos. For more information call (212) 624-8173.

## UTAH SALT LAKE CITY

**WINNING THE ERA IN UTAH.** Speakers: National Organization for Women's Equal Rights Amendment missionaries. Sat., July 18, 7 p.m. Militant Bookstore, 677 S. 700 East. Donation: \$1.50. Aup: Militant Forum. For more information call (801) 355-1124.



# Letters

## Mao's record

The Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party released a statement on June 30 entitled "Certain Questions in the History of Our Party." Printed in the *New York Times*, it retraces Mao's "contributions and mistakes."

Reading the resolution reminds one of the Khrushchev revelations on Stalin that were released at the 1956 Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. However, the assessment of Mao is filled with gross historical inaccuracies about the 1949 revolution, the fight against the Japanese, and the "independence" of the CCP from the Kuomintang.

Mao's heirs lead us to believe that socialist democracy was a normal part of Chinese life, but then proceed to denounce Mao for almost all mistakes that the CCP made:

"... [H]is theoretical and practical mistakes concerning class struggle in a socialist society became increasingly serious, his personal arbitrariness gradually undermined democratic centralism in party life, and the personality cult grew graver and graver." The resolution goes on to denounce the cultural revolution as mistakenly "defined as a struggle against the revisionist line or the capitalist road."

The purpose of the 35,000-word statement is to let off some steam building up inside China, to undercut some of the demands of the movements for democracy, and to vent a little

"self-criticism" while continuing to follow Mao's counterrevolutionary policies at home and abroad.

They restate that Mao "stood up to the pressure of the social-imperialists, pursued a correct foreign policy, firmly supported the just struggles of all peoples, outlined the correct strategy of the three worlds. . . ." These are all lies that seek to continue to hide the truth from the Chinese people.

Mao and the CCP played a counterrevolutionary role in their foreign policy. They courted Nixon, supported NATO, backed the repressive Mobutu regime in Zaïre, supported the capitalist Sukarno in Indonesia (who later turned around and murdered 500,000 communists), opposed the Bengali struggle against Pakistan for self-determination, etc.

The Stalinist leaders of the CCP today are no different: backing imperialist threats against Vietnam and, in fact, invading Vietnam itself to stop the development of the revolution there.

While this critique of Mao—although quite erroneous—is welcomed, it does not signal a break with Stalinist methods and theory, and a move toward democratizing China. The vicious suppression of the democratization movement in China, by the current rulers, should be proof enough.

I want to suggest that the *Militant* consider doing a major article on the recent developments in China, what



these revelations do or do not mean. Political activists can learn a lot by studying these developments and contrasting them to the unfolding political revolution in Poland.

Mark Friedman  
Brooklyn, New York

## Cotton dust ruling

On June 17, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld more stringent cotton dust standards for the textile industry, no matter what the costs of enforcement are.

Current OSHA standards state that every measure feasible must be taken to protect the health and safety of the workers.

Textile corporations wanted to be able to make "cost-benefit tests" before deciding whether to implement the standard.

Corporation executives think it's okay to allow workers to become sick and crippled, if that's cheaper than cleaning up the conditions that create the disease in the first place!

In reality, few brown lung victims ever get compensated for any lost wages, medical costs, and other expenses. Those that do receive some compensation find that it does not come close to covering all those expenses, or providing living income.

In the context of Reagan's threats to weaken or eliminate the standard, this court decision is a victory for all working people. One weakness of the ruling is the court did not believe it to be OSHA's responsibility to require companies to guarantee the right of transfer to less dusty work areas for sick textile workers.

Florence Sandlin, president of the Greensboro chapter of the Brown Lung Association, called the ruling "the best news we've had in years, because now textile workers do have stronger protection in the workplace."

Lisa Potash  
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

players could at least sell their labor power to the highest bidder, instead of being chained to the same team, thanks to the struggle Curt Flood waged against the owners. The owners were then forced to let the players get at least some of the huge profits they [the owners] were reaping.

The players realize that the only way to protect the gains they've made is by sticking together through their union. The owners also realize this, and their main purpose in not settling the strike is to crush the players' union.

The essence of the strike is not a question of money, but of the players' right to organize together in their own interests against the ruling class of baseball.

The players are demanding that the owners open up their books and reveal their profits, as all industries in this country should do. As a baseball fan and a socialist, I support the baseball strike.

Bill Frey  
San Diego, California

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## JOIN THE SWP

## Baseball strike

Even though most baseball players make more money than the average worker, the current baseball strike is essentially the same as a labor strike.

About twelve years ago, the Supreme Court ruled that the

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.

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# THE MILITANT

## Eyewitness report:

# Jobless British youth rebel against police

JULY 8—The *Militant* has received a special report from Britain where for the past five nights a youth rebellion has hit several major cities. In sections of London, in Liverpool, and Manchester, the police have been the immediate target of Black, Asian, and white youths.

In Liverpool, white youths joined with Black in driving back the cops, who have long harassed them both.

In the Southall area of London, Pakistanis, Indians, and other Asians poured out July 4 to protest an organized assault on their community the night previous by fascist youths. The fascists had arrived by bus and, while police stood by, assaulted people and attacked shops. The area had been the scene of a major confrontation with the fascists and cops a year ago.

The following report on the events in Liverpool was received by telephone. The reporter is a member of the Labour Party in the Toxteth section of Liverpool, where the eruption occurred, and a contributor to the British weekly, *Socialist Challenge*.

\* \* \*

### By Mark Turnbull

LIVERPOOL, July 7—The fighting began on Friday night after police chased and arrested a Black youth who was riding home on his motorbike. They claimed he had stolen it. But it was his bike.

That arrest touched things off. The police have been harassing people in Liverpool for years, as they have in the Brixton area of London and in Bristol, where there have also been anti-police rebellions.

Over the weekend, people here told me the same thing. "We knew this was going to happen," said Linda, twenty-two. "It isn't just the unemployment or the housing, because we've always had that. It's the police. And they just don't accept that they're to blame."

As they tried to make the arrest of the

motorcycle owner Friday night, the police issued an emergency code on their radio. Within minutes, the area was full of police cars and vans.

The weekend had begun.

Clashes broke out for about two hours that first night, then all was quiet.

The next day, police flooded the area in what was intended as a show of strength. But their display crumbled when night came on.

With their lines of riot shields, they were pushed back from the center of Upper Parliament Street and kept out most of the night. On Sunday hundreds of residents came out to watch the cleanup. Burned cars blocked the road and the streets were littered with bricks and broken glass.

### Police driven back

But that was only a lull before bigger clashes.

By 11 p.m. on Sunday night, half of Upper Parliament Street was filled with police vans. At the junction of Grove Street stood a line of police with their riot shields. Bricks and bottles were raining down on them and they were being driven back along the road.

Soon the police were forced a quarter of a mile back up the road. Their vans turned tail. Parliament Street belonged to the youths.

People began entering shops. Washing machines, fridges, and TVs were carried off. Shopping trollies loaded with groceries were moving in convoys from the Quicksave supermarket.

It was whites as well as Black people. Both proudly wore police helmets and carried riot shields, the prizes of victory in battle.

But that wasn't the end of this particular chapter.

After being driven from the immediate area, the police stood and waited for two hours. They later admitted they had been beaten and forced to retreat. They claimed that 200 of their ranks had been taken to the hospital.



Scene in Liverpool

Reinforcements were brought in.

### Use tear gas

The turning point came about 2 a.m. when for the first time ever tear gas was used on the streets of Britain. Twenty-five cannisters were fired at the crowd over a thirty-minute period.

Slowly the police moved forward. When dawn came they were back in control of the streets.

As I walked around the area Monday morning, there was anger at the reports that what had occurred was a "race riot," or that it was caused by "outside agitators."

The chief constable branded the protesters as "exclusively a crowd of Black

hooligans intent on making life unbearable and indulging in criminal activity."

All of this is a lie. They were neither hooligans nor criminals and they were by no means "exclusively" Black. At least half the crowd on Upper Parliament Street was white, as were those who entered the shops.

John Hamilton, a Labour Party city council spokesperson, replied that the chief constable's charge was "too easy an escape from facing the deep-sided nature of the social problem" in the Liverpool area.

That's for sure.

Liverpool was once an important industrial area. But many of the companies have gone bankrupt or moved. Unemployment figures are staggering.

In the Toxteth area, the unemployment rate for whites is estimated at 43 percent. For Blacks, 47 percent. Among Black youth throughout Liverpool, the jobless rate is estimated as high as 60 percent!

The extent of the racist victimization of Blacks is seen in the employment for the Liverpool city council, which is today the city's biggest employer.

Figures compiled less than a year ago show that of the 22,000 workers employed by the city, only 169 were Black.

The Liverpool Labour Party has called for emergency meetings of both the city and county council to discuss the root causes of the rebellion and declared it will set up "a labour movement defense committee."

More than seventy people were arrested over the weekend and face charges that include arson, assault, looting, and rioting.

Besides these planned victimizations, the sole response of the Thatcher Tory government to the rebellion has been to proclaim the need to provide the police with more and better equipment.

## N.Y. labor forum on El Salvador

### By Ethel Lobman

NEW YORK—About 125 people came out for a labor forum on El Salvador here June 30.

The meeting was sponsored by the New York Area Labor Committee in Support of Democracy and Human Rights in El Salvador and by the Political Action Committee on El Salvador of District Council 37 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

The labor committee was formed last April by representatives of more than thirty area trade unions.

In addition to the June 30 meeting, the committee has issued an attractive newsletter with a statement of principles and four pages of articles exposing U.S. policy in El Salvador.

The meeting was chaired by Charles Hughes of District Council

37. He denounced the waste of resources on the military when children are going hungry and medical care is denied.

John Hudson, vice-president of the United Hatters Union, outlined some tasks of the labor committee. He said it was important to urge members of Congress to support the fight of Salvadoran refugees to stay in this country. He also pointed to the need to deepen union participation in El Salvador activities.

Forums such as the one held June 30 are planned every three or four months at the headquarters of different unions.

For more information, contact Labor Committee on El Salvador, c/o Headwear Joint Board, 49 West Thirty-seventh Street, 7th Floor, New York, New York 10018.



Salvadoran refugee