

On to Solidarity Day Sept. 19!

Solidarity Day—the AFL-CIO sponsored march on Washington on September 19—could be one of the largest demonstrations this country has ever seen.

An editorial

Working people will take to the streets

that day to march for jobs and justice. To expose Reagan's "mandate" for the fraud that it is.

Civil rights groups, antiwar organizations, senior citizens, women's groups, and virtually every union have made plans to march.

The Solidarity Day action was called in July as the Democrats and Republicans

in Congress joined forces to push through massive cuts in the 1982 budget.

Today the demonstration is more urgent than ever.

On September 8 Reagan announced that an additional \$10 to \$15 million would be chopped. Social Security, Medicaid, and nutrition programs are likely targets.

The news came one week after Reagan proposed that our tax dollars be used to

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THE MILITANT

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

Huge N.Y. labor march answers Reagan

—PAGE 3



Amalgamated Clothing Workers Labor Day contingent

Militant/Lou Howort

...September 19

Continued from front page

hire snoops to spy on welfare recipients. Even burial plots would have to be sold before the poor in this country could be eligible for the starvation-level benefits!

Another new target is school lunches. On September 4 the Agriculture Department proposed reducing the amount of food served to children receiving federally subsidized lunches.

Reagan—who poses as a champion of the family—is literally taking food out of the mouths of children. If his plan goes through, school lunches will no longer provide even one third of the daily nutrition needed—a goal of the lunch program since it was established thirty-five years ago.

Meanwhile, more than seven million people are out of work. For Black youth the depression has been here for some time. In August, by government figures, unemployment for Black youth soared by 10.7 percent to a record high of 50.7 percent. Civil rights groups assert the rate is much higher.

There is one thing that is sacred in the Reagan budget—billions for bombs. The current talk in Washington of “cutting” arms spending is designed to confuse working people. All that’s being debated is *how fast to increase* the Pentagon war chest.

Some propose “only” a 20 percent increase in the military budget over last year—a “mere” \$208 billion of our tax dollars for death and destruction, instead of the \$222 billion originally planned.

And where will the money go? For more torture of workers and peasants in El Salvador, more attacks like the downing of the Libyan planes, more covert aid to South Africa.

The real priorities of the American profit system have never been clearer, and the promises of the government never more hollow.

On September 3 Reagan addressed delegates at the carpenters union convention.

“Now the foundation has been laid for an American Renaissance which will astound the world,” he told them. “A new era of good feeling in America; a time when jobs will be plentiful and the richness of the country can be shared by

anyone who is willing to work.”

Reagan met with cold, skeptical silence from the carpenters, a traditionally conservative union.

He was barely out of the auditorium when the union president took the podium to denounce Reagan as a president who “distributes nickels and dimes in the zones where the working folks live, while it showers big bucks up there on the hills where the rich people live and admire the scenery.”

Then he distributed a statement in support of the air controllers.

On Labor Day Reagan went to New York City, to Gracie Mansion, home of a fellow labor hater, Mayor Edward Koch. A grand total of 350 people showed up to watch Reagan pass a fake \$85 million check for the Westway highway and promise jobs for construction workers.

Meanwhile 100,000 working people, including thousands of construction workers, marched up Fifth Avenue.

The spirit of the march was set by the thousands of militant striking air controllers, who led the parade chanting, “strike, strike!” They were greeted with cheers all the way up Fifth Avenue.

A sea of banners and signs expressed support for undocumented workers, the Equal Rights Amendment, and demanded no cuts in food stamps or Social Security. Slogans like “Jobs, not Jelly Beans,” made clear the crowd’s contempt for Reagan.

Contingent after contingent—some with trucks, cranes, and other tools of trade—showed the might of labor in this country, the indisputable fact that working people make our country run.

The whole demonstration was a resounding refutation of the *New York Times*, which scoffed in a Labor Day editorial, “Solidarity and purpose are words to describe labor in Poland, perhaps, but not in this country.”

There is a new solidarity in this country, the beginnings of motion to find a way out of the crisis labor faces.

Marching against Reagan’s antihuman policies points to the next step we need to take.

Not one politician in Washington today is speaking for the program unionists put forward on Labor Day in New York, a program against the cuts, in support of the air controllers, for women and Blacks, for immigrant workers, for jobs.

The two parties in Congress today are bound heart and soul to the super rich who run this country. They have endangered our right to an education, our ability to find a job or decent

housing, even the right to breathe clean air.

Our very existence is threatened by their bombs.

We need a political voice of our own. We need a labor party based on the trade unions.

It’s not a new idea. Working people in Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Canada have one. Our brothers and sisters in the Steelworkers, Auto Workers, and other international unions are members of the Canadian New Democratic Party, a party that’s based on the unions, running labor candidates.

What would a labor party look like in this country?

It would include the Latino, Chinese, Black, and white garment workers who marched in New York. The air controllers; auto and steel workers; the men and women who run the trains, and build the cities. The youth denied jobs.

A party like this would oppose war and the draft. It would champion the rights and needs of Blacks, women, the poor, the elderly, all working people.

Labor Day showed the potential power that can build such a party. September 19 will show it even more.

Solidarity Day is the next big step in marshalling our forces for this fight. We should all heed the call of our brothers and sisters who marched in New York—“on to September 19.”

Where to march

March contingents for the Solidarity Day demonstration in Washington September 19 will assemble from 10:00 a.m. to noon at the Washington Monument. The march to the Capitol will step off at noon. The rally will be from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Other Solidarity Day actions

September 18—DENVER

A 4:00 p.m. march sponsored by the Colorado AFL-CIO. From the state capitol building to the Fairmont Hotel, where President Reagan and Vice-President Bush will be addressing the National Republican Women’s Conference.

The California Federation of Labor and local Central Labor Councils are sponsoring several Solidarity Day rallies in that state on September 19.

SAN DIEGO—Assemble at Organ Pavilion at 11:00 a.m. March down Prado to noontime rally at Sixth and Laurel Streets, Balboa Park.

SAN FRANCISCO—A rally is scheduled for noon at the Villancourt Plaza at the foot of Market Street.

LOS ANGELES—A rally will be held at 11:00 a.m. in MacArthur Park.

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If You Like This Paper...



NBIPP

What Black party stands for

The National Black Independent Political Party (NBIPP) held its founding congress in August. This week we reprint the party’s platform calling for fundamental social and economic change in this country to end the racism and exploitation of capitalism. **Page 6.**

The Militant

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100,000 at N.Y. Labor Day march

Boo Mayor Koch, cheer air controllers

By Margaret Jayko

NEW YORK—At 10:50 a.m., the first Labor Day parade in this city in thirteen years stepped off up Fifth Avenue.

The march, called by the New York City Central Labor Council, marked the hundredth anniversary of the founding of the American Federation of Labor.

There were lots of marching bands, balloons, American flags, and floats.

But this was no ordinary parade.

Solidarity

It was, in reality, the biggest demonstration organized by the American union movement in decades.

And it was the biggest protest march yet by the labor movement against the anti-labor, anti-people policies of the Reagan administration.

This march of 100,000 working people dwarfed the well-heeled gathering of 350 at Mayor Koch's Gracie Mansion, where Reagan spent his Labor Day.

It was also the biggest outpouring of solidarity so far by the union movement with the striking air traffic controllers.

Driven together by the ferocity of the employer and government attacks, inspired by the example of the militant Polish workers, and proud to be marching together as workers, the day's theme was captured in the often-sung "Solidarity Forever."

The first contingents included the Black Trade Unionists Leadership Committee, the Hispanic Labor Committee, and the Coalition of Labor Union Women.

One CLUW member held a placard "Cut the Pentagon. Federally funded daycare for all."

The National Organization for Women's lead banner read "New York NOW Supports Labor."

Many contingents had placards in support of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Then came the many unions in the city's large entertainment industry.

Members of the Projectionists Local 306 had signs: "Reagan, save people not buildings; stop the neutron bomb."

PATCO

Then came the contingent everyone was waiting for, the real heroes of the day—the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization (PATCO).

The thousands of controllers and their families filled several blocks, chanting with clenched fists held high, "Strike! Strike! Strike!" and "PATCO! PATCO! PATCO!"

They were frequently applauded by onlookers, many of whom picked up their chants.

Their contingent was led by two flags—the American flag and a flag from the 1776 American revolution with a picture of a snake and the words "Don't tread on me."

There were controllers from all over the country, including New Jersey, Massachusetts, Colorado, Connecticut, Indianapolis, Boston, Cleveland, Dayton, and San Diego.

This was the largest gathering of controllers since the strike began.



Garment workers contingent

Militant/Lou Howort

PATCO people circulated throughout the crowd, selling T-shirts and buttons and distributing brochures explaining the truth about their strike.

One worker carried a placard with a picture of a chain that said "Tools for our trade." That referred to Steven Wallaert, a PATCO leader from Virginia who had been put in chains and thrown in jail. Wallaert was at the front of the contingent, marching with chains around his neck.

Many PATCO marchers wore shirts saying "PATCO, leading the nation with striking results."

Two workers held a banner with the day's theme in Polish: "Solidarnosc"—Solidarity.

One of the posters printed up by PATCO was "Union Busting or Collective Bargaining—Is Your Union Next?"

Union members in many contingents carried placards and banners expressing support for PATCO.

Robert Poli, PATCO's president, said the support of other marchers sent "a message to everyone in this country, including the administration, of our resolve and solidarity."

Several thousand marched from New York's huge garment industry. They were predominantly Hispanic, Chinese, and Black women.

A group of garment workers carried a big banner: "Amnesty for Undocumented Workers, Political Asylum for Haitian Boat People." And they had lots of placards saying "ILGWU supports undocumented workers."

Their signs also reflected the concern among many of the unions present about government moves to gut OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) and the attempts to reintroduce widespread homework in the garment industry.

The Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union contingent carried what they called a "Voodoo Economics Doll" with arrows stuck in it. On the body were signs saying "Food stamps, CETA, PATCO."

'Get a horse'

Marchers in the Transport Workers Union contingent felt a special solidarity with PATCO.

Last year, Koch tried to bust their union, just like Reagan is doing to air controllers.

The transport workers chanted: "Smash the Taylor Law," New York's union-busting, anti-strike statute. And "PATCO, yes; Reagan, no!"

They also had a horse and buggy with a sign warning "Get a horse. You might need one. More aid for mass transit, not cutbacks."

Thousands of building and construction trades workers marched, in dramatic contrast to the handful of construction workers who turned out for Reagan's speech uptown.

Local 3 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers took a solid hour to pass the reviewing stand. There were an estimated 5,000 workers and their families from that local.

One young person in the contingent marched with her parents, carrying a sign: "I'm lucky. When I'm in a union, Reagan won't be president."

Hospital Workers 1199 carried individual banners declaring "Solidarity—National health care for all."

The Central Labor Council contingent was led by young workers with a big banner: "Solidarity Day, Washington, D. C. September 19."

Lane Kirkland, AFL-CIO president and the Grand Marshal for the march, pointed out in his speech, "Struggle is the historic role of the labor movement." He declared that there's "no support for labor in this administration" and expressed labor's support for PATCO.

Reagan, Koch vs. labor

Mayor Koch joined the demonstration briefly and was roundly booed as he marched by. Chants of "Strikebreaker" rang out from the crowd, referring to his anti-union role in last year's transit strike.

He quickly scurried back to Gracie Mansion to meet with someone more to his liking—Reagan.

Since Reagan couldn't get himself invited to the march, he got Koch to invite him to the city to bring a facsimile of a check for funds to build the Westway highway in Manhattan. In his speech, Reagan promised "jobs, jobs, and more jobs."

His promise rang hollow given the previous day's announcement that there was an overall rise in unemployment, and Black youth unemployment rose to 50 percent!

The media predicted Reagan's visit and promises would undercut attendance at the march and the growing dissatisfaction in the union movement with his attacks on labor.

But even hidden away in Gracie Mansion's backyard, Koch and Reagan couldn't escape the angry demands of their victims.

Hundreds of protesters lined the streets opposite Gracie Mansion.

Supporters of the Irish freedom struggle demanded, "End U.S. silence on Ireland."

There were also opponents of Westway and nuclear power, and supporters of the Equal Rights Amendment.

As the Labor Day march dispersed, workers discussed what next.

That was best answered by the announcer from the reviewing stand as the last contingent marched by, "On to Washington, September 19."

Labor Day in other cities

In Idaho, unions got together on Labor Day and marched in support of the striking air traffic controllers.

Detroit's Labor Day parade had about 2,500 people, and support for PATCO was also the main theme.

Two to three hundred people marched in San Antonio's first Labor Day march ever. It included a PATCO contingent.

Sam Church, president of the United Mine Workers of America, led a parade through downtown Logan, West Virginia, a big coal center.

Church also spoke at two picnics in southern West Virginia. He urged miners to attend the AFL-CIO Solidarity Day protest in Washington on September 19.

Meanwhile, a group of striking air controllers spent the weekend in Morgantown, West Virginia, building support for September 19.

Read the 'Militant'

The *Militant* is a weekly socialist newspaper. Unlike the big business press, it takes the side of working people and tells the truth about workers' struggles from the U.S. to Poland to El Salvador. The *Militant* digs out the facts about the harm done by Reagan's budget and taxes. We give the strikers' side of the story from the coal miners to the air controllers.

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We have a different Labor Day message

By Cindy Jaquith

The New York *Daily News*, like all the big business press, had a message for working people on Labor Day.

Or maybe lecture would be a better word.

The economic crisis this country faces "requires a new spirit of cooperation between management and labor—an understanding that production and pay, profits and jobs are all tied together," said the *News* editorial.

"Greater productivity and better product quality are not management problems or union problems. They are problems labor and management must deal with together."

The problem with the *News's* idea of "cooperative spirit" is that it's a one-way street—working people are expected to do all the cooperating and management all the collecting.

We're supposed to cooperate with the bosses' need for profits by letting him cut our wages. Raise our taxes. Send our sons off to war. Give up our Social Security.

There is no other choice—according to

the *Daily News* and every other mouthpiece for the rich who rule this country.

The *Militant* newspaper starts from the opposite standpoint. We tell our readers the truth—workers have nothing in common with the people running this country into the ground, threatening war around the world, starving children and freezing out the elderly.

We do our best to break through the lies and mystifications of the capitalist press: telling the striking air controllers' side of the story; bringing direct reports from Poland and Nicaragua; unraveling the facts and figures to expose the devastating economic programs Reagan is instituting.

We argue that only when working people in this country take over the government will we make the world safe for humanity, free from racism, sexism, and the threat of nuclear annihilation.

There's a growing number of people who are considering these ideas, who want to find out more about socialism.

And one of the main ways of meeting these people and winning them to the socialist movement is through sales of the *Militant*.

That's why the fall circulation drive of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*, our Spanish-language sister publication, is a central activity for the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance.

The drive begins with the next issue of the *Militant*, which will be sold at the

AFL-CIO Solidarity Day March on Washington, September 19.

We consider this a very special issue of the paper. That's why we're printing it a day early so supporters around the country will get their bundles in time to sell on buses and trains headed for Washington and at sendoff rallies.

This issue will focus on the big political questions bringing the thousands of unionists, Blacks, women, and youth to Washington. Why are our unions losing so many battles? How do we stop the budget cuts? Is the problem just Reagan, or something much deeper?

We'll have a major article on why labor should get out of the Democratic and Republican parties and form its own independent party, a labor party. A complementary piece will explain the importance of the newly founded National Black Independent Political Party.

Other articles will take up such questions as: Do higher wages cause inflation? Do imports take away jobs? Which side is right in El Salvador?

There will be features on the Reagan administration's offensive against democratic rights, women's equality, Social Security, and other issues.

We'll explain what life is like in Cuba, a country where the workers and farmers have gotten rid of their bosses.

We hope to sell thousands of single copies and subscriptions at the demonstration in Washington. We'll have a special \$1 subscription offer for four weeks of the *Militant*.

The sales at the September 19 march will kick off our fall circulation campaign. Our goal is to sell 7,500-8,000 subscriptions to the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*, as well as 3,000 copies each month of the *Young Socialist*, the newspaper of the Young Socialist Alliance.

The drive will last through November 21.

Organizing a successful drive will take real work. Above all it means making circulation of the press a top priority of every activity socialists are involved in, from building demonstrations against the draft to getting out the word on the SWP and YSA lawsuit against government spying.

Branches of the SWP and chapters of the YSA will be stepping up sales on the job, at plant gates, and in the Black and Latino communities. We'll be visiting cities and towns where there is no SWP or YSA yet, and setting up literature tables on campuses and at political demonstrations.

Introducing people to the *Militant*, and *Perspectiva Mundial*, and the *Young Socialist*, will also be a major way of getting out the word on socialist election campaigns that wind up this fall and preparing for the major 1982 races for office in every state.

If you want to help get out the truth, you can start on September 19. See the box on this page for where to pick up your bundle of the *Militant* in Washington.

Help us Sept. 19

Join us in selling the *Militant* at the September 19 march in Washington. You can pick up a bundle at our table near Seventeenth Street and Constitution Avenue, or at the Capitol. Look for our banner.

Now Reagan's stealing our children's bread

By William Gottlieb

The Reagan economic program consists of taking bread from the mouths of children and stripping the poor of their personal possessions.

An overstatement?

Consider the following.

On September 4 Reagan's Department of Agriculture proposed a reduction of food served to children under the federally subsidized school lunch program.

Thirty-five years ago when the program was started the aim was to have the lunches provide one-third of total nutritional requirements. According to Lynn Parker, a nutritionist with the Food Research and Action Center, the program has provided up to one-half the nutrients that are consumed by children from lower-income families.

Carolyn Williams, spokesperson for the Federal Food and Nutrition Service, admits that the Reagan proposal "does essentially abandon the goal" of providing one-third of nutritional requirements.

Up till now elementary and secondary school students under the program have been entitled to eight servings of bread, biscuits, or rolls a week. This will now be reduced to one serving a day.

Previously children between the fourth and sixth grades received two ounces of meat a day. Now they will get only 1.5 ounces.

Preschool children will have their milk servings reduced to four ounces instead of six. Elementary school children will have to make do on six ounces of milk instead of eight.

The amount of fruits and vegetables will fall from three-fourths of a cup to only half a cup.

Congress has also established a more restrictive formula to determine who qualifies for free or reduced price provisions. Previously a child from a family of four was entitled to a free lunch if the family had an income of \$11,520 or less. Now the child's family has to earn \$10,990 or less.

In another move the Reagan administration is drawing up plans that will require state agencies to check on the value of the personal possessions of welfare recipients. If it is found that the value of their possessions exceeds

\$1,000 they will not be eligible for benefits.

The government plans to send spies to snoop around the homes of welfare recipients. They will check how many TVs, pots and pans, even clothes the poor have!

So much for Reagan's promise to get big government off our backs!

The Reagan administration hopes to intimidate as many people as possible from applying for welfare.

Linda McMahon, the official in charge of welfare at Reagan's so-called Department of Health and Human Services, estimates that 687,000 people will have their welfare benefits reduced or eliminated altogether.

This outrageous proposal is part of the old ruling-class ploy of painting welfare recipients as lazy freeloaders living off the wealth produced by the "productive classes."

The big-business media never explain that the real freeloaders are the multimillionaire and billionaire "investors" who produce nothing. It's considered perfectly natural that these people can live in luxury at the expense of the working class. And just as natural that millions of workers should be denied jobs and forced to subsist on ever-shrinking welfare checks.

The rich are pushing for even more cuts. The September 7 edition of *Business Week* quotes Lawrence Kudlow, chief economist for the Office of Management and Budget, as saying, "I've had calls from all my old pals on the [Wall] Street and quite a few people I didn't know urging additional budget restraint to curb the massive borrowing needs for 1982 and later."

In recent weeks the big-business press has given the impression that the war budget is also being cut.

This is untrue. However, Wall Street is nervous about the financial consequences of the rapid escalation of arms spending for the world money markets.

The administration has asked Congress for an all-time record war budget of \$222 billion in 1982. That would amount to an increase of 28 percent—after inflation—from 1980.

There is now some talk that the administration might instead ask for a \$208 billion war budget in 1982. This would still be an all-time record. In real terms it would still be 20 percent more than 1980.

All that's being debated now, however, is the rate of increasing the war budget. The administration is currently proposing a 70 percent jump in war spending by 1986. The so-called "cut" in military handouts would still result in a 70 percent increase—by 1987 instead of 1986.

TOUR NICARAGUA

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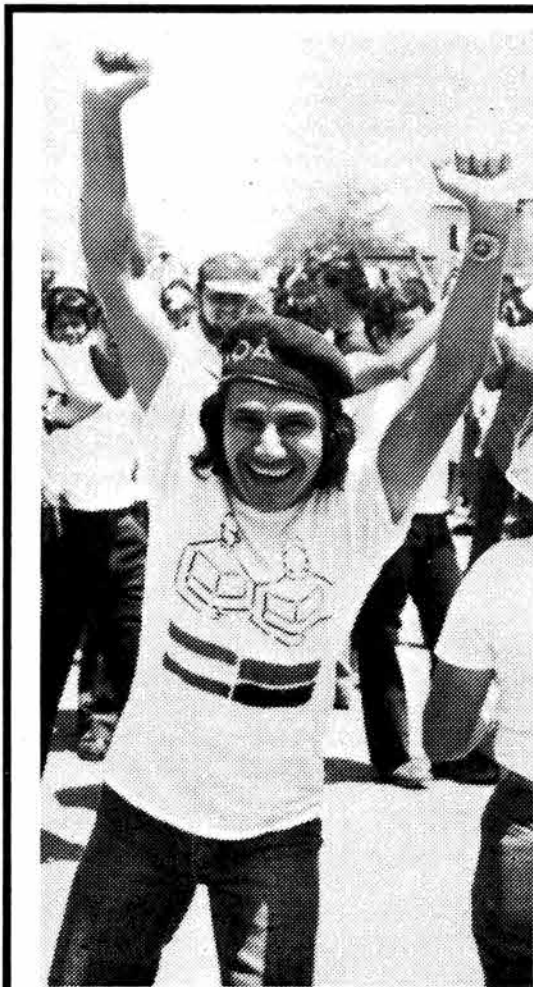
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New York socialists file for ballot spot

By Harry Ring

NEW YORK—The Socialist Workers Party filed nominating petitions for its mayoral slate here.

With 7,500 signatures of qualified voters required for mayor and other city-wide offices, the SWP filed 17,537.

They were presented to the board of elections September 8 by Wells Todd, the socialist nominee for mayor; Susan Wald, candidate for president of the city council; and Mark Friedman, the party's campaign manager.

Todd said he was particularly pleased to be turning in the petitions the morning after New York's massive Labor Day parade.

A member of the United Auto Workers, Todd saw the parade as a per-

suasive argument for the central plank in his platform, the need for an independent party of labor.

"It was really striking," Todd said, "the way the parade showed who really keeps this town running. Everyone from garment workers, to construction workers, to the people who maintain the traffic lights turned out. It underlined our point: 'Working people keep the city running. Working people should run the city.'"

Todd also explained why his campaign committee had turned in well over twice the number of signatures required to assure him a ballot spot.

"Realistically," he said, "we had to anticipate a possible move to keep us off the ballot by challenging our petitions.

Neither the Democratic nor the Republican parties have ever wanted any independent candidates to get on the ballot. Especially not Blacks or Puerto Ricans. And in this election they're even knocking off candidates in their own parties."

Todd pointed to the disqualification of Gilberto Gerena-Valentin and Ismael Betancourt, who were challenged by Mayor Edward Koch's Bronx Democratic machine.

Democrat Gerena-Valentin was running for reelection to the city council and Betancourt was contesting for the Democratic nomination for Bronx borough president.

Todd also condemned moves by those supporting mayoral candidate Frank Barbo to force other candidates off the ballot in the Democratic primary.

Legal moves by Barbo supporters succeeded in winning disqualification of Jim Smith, who had filed the necessary signatures to run for mayor in the primary.

Determined to fight any move to keep them off the ballot, the socialists have gathered an impressive list of organizations and individuals who have endorsed the right of the SWP to a ballot place.

Among the organizations supporting the SWP ballot rights are the Mobilization for Survival, Black Economic Survival, Haitian Fathers, and Communist Workers Party.

Individuals include former attorney general Ramsey Clark; city council member Gilberto Gerena-Valentin; actor Ossie Davis; rail union official Tom Pontolillo; feminist author Alix Kates Shulman; and Edith Tiger, director of the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee.

In addition to Todd and Wald, the SWP has nominated Raúl Gonzalez for

comptroller, Ray Markey and Diane Wang for city council at-large, Ken Milner for Manhattan borough president, and Young Socialist Alliance leader Miriam McCray for city council from Manhattan District 2.

Gerrymander set back in N.Y.

NEW YORK—Federal courts threw a monkey wrench into plans to further gerrymander city election districts at the expense of Blacks and Puerto Ricans.

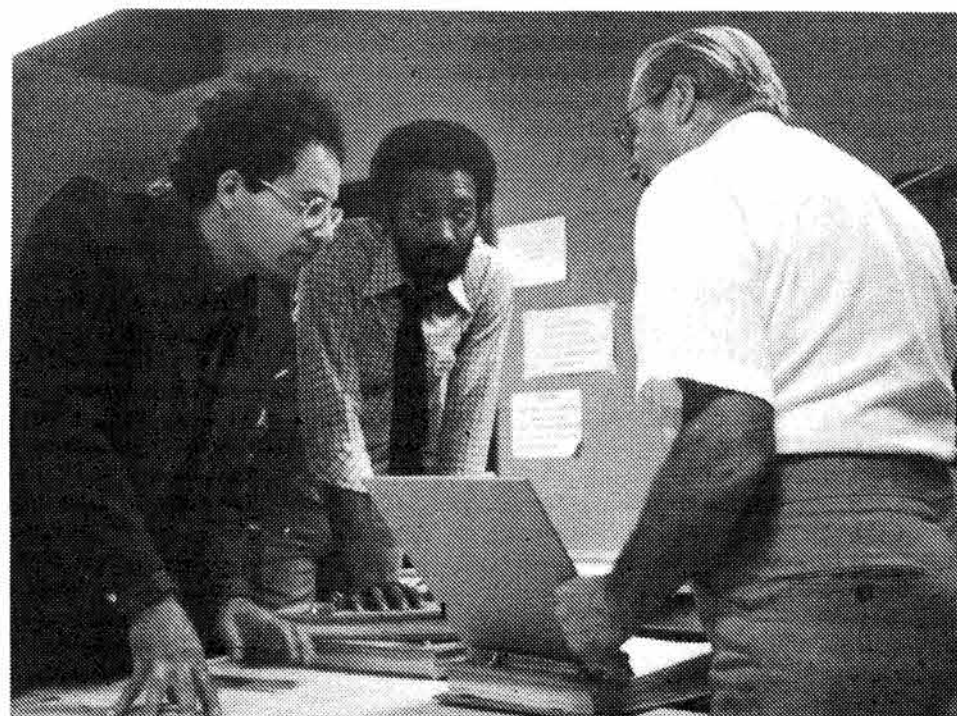
On election eve, the Supreme Court upheld a federal panel which barred a slated September 10 primary election because city officials had failed to comply with the federal Voting Rights Act.

The city's council districts had been restructured on the basis of the 1980 census. Even though the population had dropped, two new districts were created in mainly white areas.

All but eight of the proposed forty-five-member city council would be white. This in a city in which Blacks, Puerto Ricans and other minorities comprise some 50 percent of the population.

Under the Voting Rights Act, New York must obtain Justice Department approval of redistricting because less than 50 percent of eligible voters went to the polls in 1980.

The Koch administration failed to provide the Justice Department with information necessary to determine if the proposed redistricting is discriminatory.



New York mayoral candidate Wells Todd, center, and campaign manager Mark Friedman, left, file Socialist Workers nominating petitions.

Rallies support striking air controllers

By Vivian Sahner

Throughout the five-week strike by the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization (PATCO), union members across the country have continued to express their support at picket lines and rallies.

Newark

One thousand unionists held a support rally for the striking air controllers on September 3 in Elizabeth, New Jersey. Members from more than twenty unions attended the event.

"I haven't seen organized labor as united as we are tonight in a very long time," said Sam Kinsora, president of the 25,000-member United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1262.

Calling the action "New Jersey's own Solidarity Day," Archer Cole, president of the International Union of Electrical,

Radio, and Machine Workers District 3, said the rally served notice to President Reagan "that the trade union movement in New Jersey and across the nation will not allow one of its member unions to be crushed."

He added that the state's unionists would be joined by thousands of other working people in Washington on September 19 to show support for the air controllers.

Gregory Pardlo, president of the PATCO local at Newark International Airport, told the rally, "What happens now with PATCO will set a precedent for the labor movement in the 1980s."

The Reagan administration, Pardlo said, is trying to crush union members by impounding their strike funds and denying them unemployment benefits and food stamps. He urged union members not to fly during the strike.

His speech was greeted with shouts of "Strike, strike, strike," from the crowd.

Other rally speakers included Carole Graves, president of the Newark Teachers Union; Morton Bahr, regional head of the Communications Workers of America; Edward Pulver, secretary-treasurer of the New Jersey AFL-CIO; and representatives from United Auto Workers Region 9; Building and Construction Trades; American Federation of Government Employees; and International Federation of Flight Attendants.

The rally ended with a spirited candlelight march to the Newark International Airport.

Bay Area

In the San Francisco Bay Area, more than 1,000 union members picketed the three major airports there on September 4.

The largest action was at the Oakland Airport where 600 workers from dozens of unions picketed along the main freeway to the airport.

The unionists proudly marched with Larry Lindenberg, a member of Poland's Solidarity union, who joined the picket to show his support for the air controllers. Several PATCO strikers carried signs that read, "Polish workers have more rights than American workers."

Two hundred picketers were at both the San Francisco and San Jose airports.

The Bay Area central labor councils had organized an earlier round of solidarity pickets at the three airports on August 21.

Richard Groulx, secretary-treasurer of the Alameda Central Labor Council, explained "everytime we come out we're going to step it up as we did today."

Grenada condemns U.S. 'trial run' invasion

By Jim Percy

ST. GEORGE'S—"There is absolutely no doubt that the revolution today is in danger. There is absolutely no doubt that very careful rehearsals have taken place in the past week by the United States armed forces, rehearsals which undoubtedly represent a trial run for an invasion of our beloved homeland."

With these words Maurice Bishop, the prime minister of Grenada, began to explain the details and surrounding circumstances of a new provocation by the U.S. government against the Grenadian revolution. He was addressing a mass rally of thousands in the market square of St. George's, the capital of Grenada, on Sunday, August 23.

The rally—called initially to celebrate the birthday of Marcus Garvey, a fighter for Black liberation around the

world who was born in Jamaica—became a platform for repudiation and defiance of the U.S. threats and a show of strength of the Grenadian revolution.

In his speech to the rally, Maurice Bishop outlined the evidence that the U.S. was preparing an invasion of the island. He pointed out that over the past weeks the U.S. had conducted a large-scale military exercise on the island of Vieques, close to Puerto Rico. The exercise involved fourteen warships, 350 paratroopers, bombers, amphibious units, and contingents of marines—a force totaling nearly 10,000 troops. [see Sept. 4 Militant]

But Prime Minister Maurice Bishop said that the People's Revolutionary Government and the people of Grenada would not be intimidated by these hostile maneuvers.

The government has been swift to respond. It has put as the number one task of the day efforts to develop the People's Revolutionary Militia (PRM), so that any invasion would not meet just the relatively small Grenadian standing army, but an armed people. Bishop pointed out that in the final analysis, "regardless of how many friends we have outside, we are the ones who have the primary responsibility of defending what we have fought for and what we have tried to build."

With that consideration in mind, group marches in all areas of Grenada were carried out by the PRM on the day before the mass rally.

Bishop urged all those present at the rally, if not already members, to enroll in the militia and get others to do so as well. He pointed out that the militia also had need of noncombatants who would

be vital to establish supply and communications lines as well as medical and service facilities for the militia. There was no one who could not be useful in the militia in one capacity or another.

The week of mobilizations against the imperialist threat will culminate in three days of military maneuvers in Grenada. These maneuvers have been named the "Heroes of the Homeland" maneuvers.

On the platform with Maurice Bishop at the mass rally were speakers from political parties in Barbados, Dominica, and Guyana, who brought solidarity messages from their organizations, Philip Agee, a former employee of the CIA, also spoke in solidarity with the Grenada revolution.

From Intercontinental Press

'Organize the masses of Black people'

An important new organization, the National Black Independent Political Party (NBIPP), held its founding congress August 21-23.

The congress adopted a charter that is the most advanced program of any organization in the Black movement. It calls for opposition to 'racism, imperialism, sexual oppression, and capitalism.'

Because we think the NBIPP's formation and its charter are of great significance to Black Americans and to all working people, we are reprinting the charter in full.

Last week's 'Militant' published the first three sections of the charter, the Statement of Principles, Goals, and Principles of Unity.

This week we are reprinting the Platform section of the charter. Future issues of the 'Militant' will carry the Program sections.

The National Black Independent Political Party (N.B.I.P.P.) believes that the present socio-economic system in the U.S. severely and adversely affects the lives of Black and poor people. The disproportionate and unequal distribution of wealth and income in this society puts an unreasonable and excessive amount of power in the hands of an elite few, who, through the giant multinational corporations, dominate the economic and political life of the United States.

The society in which we live has systematically deprived the masses of our people from access to fundamental goods and services and has denied us political and social equality, as well as the right to self-determination. The twin evils of racism and capitalism (gross economic exploitation for profit) combined to force Black people to eke out a miserable, degrading, unproductive and second-class existence in the United States.

We believe that putting an end to this situation is achievable but will require a fundamental, qualitative and radical restructuring of the present socio-economic order. Otherwise it will be impossible for Black people to attain self-determination, and complete economic, social and political freedom.

THEREFORE WE CALL FOR:

- A new social and economic order where the land, natural resources, industry and technology are publicly owned, planned, and operated for the economic and social benefit of Black, poor and working people—the majority of the population. We want a society that will guarantee an adequate standard of living for the health and well-being of our people including food, clothing, housing and medical care and all necessary social services, and one that will recognize these as basic human rights. We want an end to a sys-

tem that attaches primary importance to the accumulation of private wealth and corporate profit.

We demand a just and equitable return for the fruits of our labor. We want a society that guarantees a hopeful and meaningful future for our children, and will settle for nothing less.

- An end to racism. From the days we were transported and herded like cattle from our motherland across the Atlantic to be brought here as slaves until the present, Black people have faced the daily, violent insults and indignities associated with dehumanizing racist treatment. We shall never forget the racism and murderous cruelty which encouraged the Africa slave trade for over four centuries, emptying Africa of some 20 to 50 million of her finest sons and daughters. Tens of millions of our people perished and did not survive the ghastly middle passage resulting in the world's most horrendous holocaust: an act of racist genocide on record. The legacy of that cruel experience, including the genocidal practice of slavery in North America, is the institutionalized



NBIPP

What the Black party stands for

phenomena of racism in the United States, which pervades every aspect of the lives of our people. We want a society where we will have control over our own destiny, and where we will not be subjected to the degrading and dehumanizing effects of racism.

We believe that racism and racist practices in all of its forms should be outlawed and eliminated so that we can live with dignity and respect.

Our party will focus its energies on a development strategy which stresses and encourages the building-up of economic and cultural institutions indigenous to the Black community, while at the same time demanding our community's full share of political representation and social and economic rights as a true measure of equality in the U.S.

This two-sided strategy addresses in a comprehensive way the reality of Black life in the U.S. In the economic sphere it is designed to increase the volume of capital that flows into our community nation-

wide—and also increase the amount that is retained in the community, and not allowed to flow out.

Tax monies and corporate profits are part of the National income, just as our wages and salaries. Therefore, we believe they must be continuously redirected into programs and services to better our people in our communities.

TO ACHIEVE THE ABOVE THE PARTY WILL:

- Organize the masses of Black people to build and develop independent economic, political, social, educational and cultural institutions that will serve as progressive models which mirror the type of society in which we want our people to live.

- Organize the masses of Black people to struggle for basic economic and social reforms to bring relief to our people under the present system.

- Organize the masses of Black people to struggle for a new social and economic order free of economic exploitation for profit and racist oppression.

- Organize our people around the issues identified in our program to address our basic needs, as part of the process leading towards Black liberation.

The Program of the NBIPP includes our stand on many of the critical issues affecting the lives of our people and the priority actions we will initiate and carry out at both the national and local levels to address the racial oppression and economic exploitation of our communities. Our actions will be guided by three basic mass-based strategies.

1. Community Organization and Mobilization around issues, such as the use of direct action tactics, advocacy, training, propaganda, research, political education, consciousness-raising and other actions. We will use this as a tool to develop our party, affect public policy, advocate human rights, build institutions and participate in electoral policies.

2. Institutional and Community Development, such as the designing and development of creative alternatives to deliver needed services (i.e. food co-ops, housing co-ops, and credit unions) as well as institutions which maintain and perpetuate Black culture and heritage as well as world view (i.e. the extended family, cultural centers, independent schools which promote liberation, academics and others).

3. Public Policy and Electoral Politics, such as lobbying, legislative advocacy, preparing and issuing public policy statements and studies and running and supporting candidates for elected and appointed office.

(To be continued)

500 in Miami protest attack on Haitian prisoners

By Andrea Baron

MIAMI—Five hundred people rallied outside the Krome detention camp here September 6 to protest a brutal attack by Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) guards against Haitian refugees imprisoned here.

More than twenty police cars barricaded each of two main streets leading to the camp, forcing demonstrators to proceed to the rally site on foot. At the

main access road forty border patrol cops in full riot gear faced the crowd. Despite this provocation by the police a large spirited rally was held.

The Haitians in the camp began a hunger strike the previous Monday to protest terrible conditions, attacks by guards, and refusal of medical care.

They were also protesting the inadequate food, sanitation, and housing in the camp, which is located in the middle of a swamp in West Dade county.

The prisoners were angered by the federal government's new proposal to ship them to Glasgow Air Force Base, an abandoned camp in a remote area of northern Montana, where they would be denied access to relatives and lawyers, and winter temperatures reach forty below zero.

The hunger strike grew and on September 3 all the Haitians in the camp joined it, refusing food.

At that point INS guards began throwing tear gas. As the Haitians ran from the tear gas the guards chased them and beat them. They called in the county police and a special riot team of prison guards.

More than 100 Haitians were clubbed and beaten. As the crowd rushed the fence, about one hundred escaped but were later tracked down by police and returned.

That night fifty specially trained border patrol agents were flown into the camp from Texas.

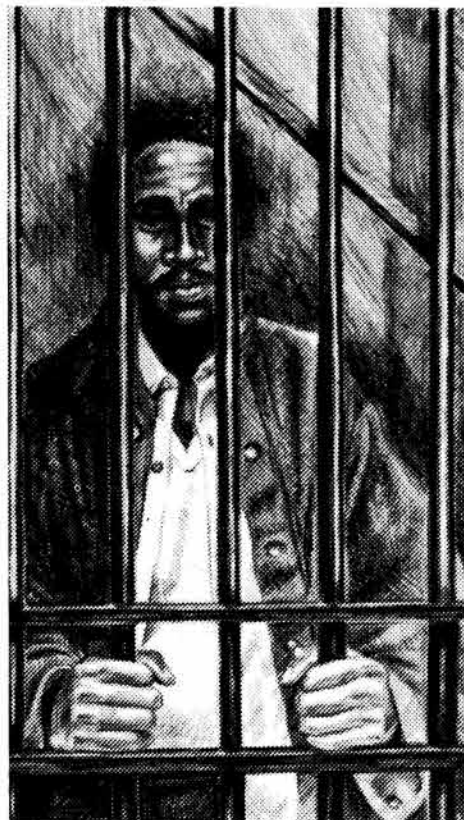
The following morning 125 Haitians, whom INS identified as leaders of the protest, were taken from the camp and flown to the Federal prison at Otisville,

New York.

Haitian groups and their supporters immediately called a press conference and a demonstration to protest the attacks. The demonstration was called by the Friends of Haitians, a support coalition, as well as the ACLU; Southern Christian Leadership Council; Haitian Refugee Center, Incorporated; NAACP; Citizens Coalition for Racial Justice; National Lawyers Guild; and Socialist Workers Party.

All visitors, including the media, have been banned from the camp ever since September 3.

INS officials have refused to respond to repeated requests by the director of the South Florida ACLU to tour the camp and have refused to allow any other delegations to enter and inspect the camp. Supporters of the Haitians plan to continue activities to protest the inhuman conditions and brutality at the Krome camp.



Militant/Diane Jacobs

Ky. socialist runs for mayor

LOUISVILLE—Chris Rayson has announced his campaign as the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Louisville. Rayson is a laborer at the Ohio River shipyard Jeffboat and is a member of Teamsters Local 89.

At a press conference attended by all three of Louisville's TV stations, Rayson zeroed in on the major political theme raised by his Democratic and Republican opponents.

"George Clark and Harvey Sloan say that the way to stop the deterioration of life in this city is to 'create an atmosphere' that is pro-business.

"I say no. It is just such a pro-business atmosphere at the expense of workers and the poor that has caused our social and economic problems.

"We need a pro-labor not pro-business environment in this city. That's why this campaign supports the air

controllers' strike. That's why we're for a labor party based on the unions—a party that would defend workers' rights against big business.

Pat Van Houten, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Jefferson County judge, also spoke at the press conference. She is a tobacco worker at Philip Morris and is a member of Bakery, Confectionery and Tobacco Workers Local 16t.

Van Houten urged an all-out effort to build the September 19 Solidarity Day demonstration called by the AFL-CIO.

"Louisville will be deeply affected by the cuts in food stamps, unemployment extensions, preventive medicine programs, and federally funded health clinics and alcoholic rehabilitation centers," she said. "The working people of Louisville should unite behind this demonstration."

Pennsylvania bill robs women of abortion rights

By Karen Ray

PHILADELPHIA—Hearings are scheduled to begin in Philadelphia on the Abortion Control Act (H.B.1725-1727) on September 9.

This bill opens the door to criminalizing abortion in Pennsylvania. It legislates that human life begins at conception.

Its provisions include the following:

- Forcing doctors to explain in detail, to the woman, the effect of abortion on the fetus, using color photos of a fetus before and after an abortion.
- A mandatory waiting period of up to seventy-two hours before the abortion can be performed.
- No public employee would be covered for the costs of an abortion under their health plan. Payments for abortion costs in existing collective bargaining agreements would be discontinued.
- The father must be notified before the abortion. If the woman can't find him, then the court can take ten days to look for him.
- Young women must have permis-

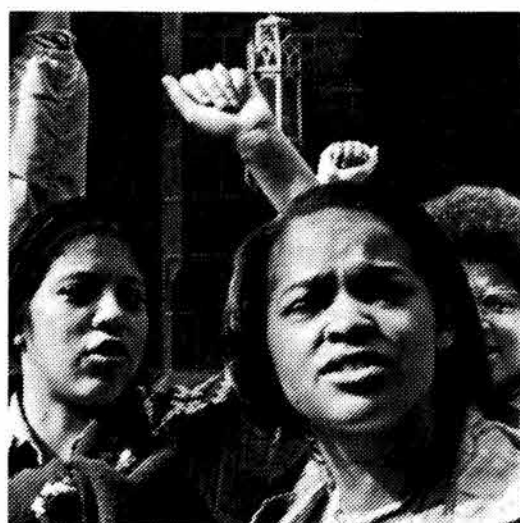
sion of both parents to have an abortion. If they refuse, she may let the court decide if she is "mature" enough to make up her own mind. If not, they can appoint a legal guardian over the fetus to make sure the woman does not self-abort.

- Birth and death certificates must be issued for each aborted fetus, and a burial or cremation held.
- The identity of abortion clinics and doctors who perform abortions would have to become public information.
- Some forms of birth control could be eliminated.
- No abortions could be performed in public hospitals except in the case of rape, incest, or danger to the life of the woman.

Over fifty organizations have called a rally for noon on September 9 in front of City Hall to protest this bill.

Hearings are also scheduled for Pittsburgh on September 17, and Harrisburg on September 24.

For more information, call the Philadelphia Reproductive Rights Organization at (215) 735-8064.



Coming
next
week...

Reagan's war on women's rights

In a new *Militant* series, Margaret Jayko analyzes the sweeping attacks on women's rights and the political challenges facing the feminist movement.

Rejects red-baiting

SF NOW urges united women's movement

By Caroline Lund

SAN FRANCISCO—The San Francisco chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW) has reaffirmed that the chapter is "open to all women's rights supporters regardless of race, religion, political affiliation, affectional preference, etc."

The chapter took this stand in response to accusations by some NOW members, printed in Bay Area papers, that the chapter has been "manipulated" by the Socialist Workers Party (SWP).

In July, San Francisco NOW Executive Board member Linda Festa resigned from the board and went to the *San Francisco Examiner* with charges that SWP members who belong to NOW are trying to take over the San Francisco chapter.

The chapter called a special membership meeting for August 24 to deal with these charges and other issues raised in the *Examiner* article.

The meeting began with Festa and five other board members—including the president and two other officers—reading a statement. Then they walked out, refusing even to participate in the membership discussion of their charges and of the political differences underlying them.

The statement by the six board members (the full board is twenty-two)

charges SWP "cooptation" of San Francisco NOW and claimed that the SWP "has a long history of infiltrating and manipulating popular movements and organizations to accomplish their own goals."

This is red-baiting. That is, labeling certain people as "communists" and raising the specter of a "communist takeover" in order to discredit the ideas of certain individuals or organizations.

Following the walkout the membership had a two-and-a-half-hour discussion of what happened. The meeting ended with the adoption of the following resolution:

"Whereas, in a pluralistic society a wide range of views and opinions existing side by side is to be expected and tolerated;

"and Whereas, SF NOW is a broad-based organization in which feminists from a diverse political spectrum are welcome to contribute;

"and Whereas, factionalism and labeling are divisive tactics that can only undermine an organization's effectiveness;

"and Whereas, in America under Reagan, progressive forces must be especially vigilant in confronting and opposing a return to the scare tactics of the 1950's;

"Be it resolved that the San Francisco N.O.W. chapter acknowledges its healthy diversity, commits itself to a democratic decision-making process, and disavows the accusations made in the *SF Examiner* on July 16, 1981 that our chapter is being manipulated by the Socialist Workers Party."

The *Oakland Tribune* contacted Pedro Vásquez, organizer of the San Francisco branch of the SWP, about the charges against socialists who belong to NOW.

An August 26 *Tribune* article quoted Vásquez explaining that SWP members "joined NOW to fight for women's issues, such as the Equal Rights Amendment and abortion rights."

He told the *Tribune* he hoped the NOW leaders who quit would return. "Let's march arm in arm and continue to build the movement."

The main dailies in the Bay Area have since printed long, prominent articles repeating and embellishing the charges of the red-baiters.

But when the San Francisco NOW leadership held a news conference to explain the chapter's rejection of the red-baiting charges, it received only six paragraphs' reportage in one of the three major dailies.

The San Francisco NOW chapter is the second largest in California, with nearly 800 members. It has doubled in size over the past year as new people have joined to protest Reagan's assaults on women's rights.

As the chapter has grown and attacks on women have multiplied, differences have arisen over perspectives for the women's rights struggle.

The board members who resigned didn't like some of the recent discussions, decisions, and activities of the chapter.

So they resorted to red-baiting.

Red-baiting is an attack not only on socialists, but on the women's movement as a whole. It aims at intimidating all NOW members from freely considering all positions on the best way to defend women's rights, and from expressing their own views.

Issues in dispute

Issues in dispute in the chapter have included the following:

- Whether to organize a march for abortion rights for October 3. The board members who resigned have opposed this march, counterposing lobbying and legislative action.
- NOW's position on the draft. At its July meeting the chapter decided by majority vote to bring a resolution to the national NOW convention in October proposing that "NOW withdraws its position advocating that women be included in the draft, in the event a draft is instituted," and that "NOW unequivocally opposes the draft and draft registration, regardless of whether it is for

You've come a long way?

A new study by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission shows that the wage gap between men and women hasn't budged in the last twenty years. Women still take home less than 60 percent of the wages men make. The majority of female workers remain segregated in the lowest-paying jobs.

males only, or for both males and females."

Rusty Cramer, one of the initiators of the red-baiting, argued and voted against this resolution.

- How important is it for NOW to ally itself with the labor movement, Black movement, and other oppressed sectors? One of those who resigned spoke out against NOW's participation in the September 19 Solidarity Day rally called by the AFL-CIO.

Another member who walked out said that the kind of people NOW should be reaching out to are wealthy Democrats and Republicans, and the Junior League (a charitable organization of young women from high society) who can fill the coffers of NOW's lobbying efforts for the ERA.

These are some of the real differences that underlie the red-baiting charges and slanders. Those who resigned have not been able to win a majority of the chapter to their perspective of concentration on lobbying and post-card writing, and painting up the draft as one of the "equal rights" women should be fighting for.

The *San Francisco Chronicle* reported that board members who resigned "may ask national officials to revoke the charter of the San Francisco chapter."

The chapter is responding to these threats by redoubling its efforts to build the October 3 abortion rights march, and other activities.

"Women's fight for equal rights—under attack from the Reagan administration as never before in history—demands concerted actions from all NOW members," stated a press release from remaining NOW board members. The statement urged the six who quit to "stay, participate, and bring their opinions to the membership."

Caroline Lund is a member of the San Francisco National Organization for Women and of the Socialist Workers Party.

Equal Rights Amendment actions

The week of August 26, Women's Equality Day, was marked by rallies, walk-a-thons, and other activities demanding ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

The actions, which were sponsored by the National Organization for Women, took place in more than 100 cities in 46 states.

The ERA must be ratified by three more states by next June 30, or it will be defeated. No state legislatures have ratified it since 1977.

In Los Angeles, 6,000 people paraded down the Avenue of the Stars. After that, more than 3,000 ERA sup-

porters began a ten-kilometer walk-a-thon.

Eleanor Smeal, NOW's president, in a show of support for the striking air traffic controllers, attended the ERA march in Washington instead of flying to Los Angeles as planned.

The Washington walk-a-thon drew 2,250 people, while 300 marched in Cincinnati; 500 in Atlantic City, New Jersey; 400 in Louisville; and 500 in Cleveland.

Among those who addressed the twelve-hour "Around the Clock Watch for the Equal Rights Amendment" in New York City was a member of the air controllers union.

Socialist convention stresses solidarity with Indochina

By Steve Clark
and Fred Feldman

Schools turned into torture chambers. Rows of houses demolished. Mass graves piled with skeletons.

These were some of the chilling scenes observed by hundreds of participants at the recent Socialist Workers Party convention during special showings of slides and films about Kampuchea under the regime of Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge army.

The slides and films also told another story—the inspiring recovery of Kampuchea since the country was liberated by Vietnamese troops and Kampuchean insurgents. Cities returned to life; fam-

Films available

Cambodia: Year Zero and *Cambodia: Year One*, two fifty-five-minute BBC documentaries about Kampuchea, will soon be available through the *Militant*. The films are narrated by John Pilger of the *London Daily Mirror*. If you are interested in renting these videotape films for showing in your area, write the Militant Business Office, 14 Charles Lane, New York, New York 10014; or call (212) 242-5530.

ine overcome and agriculture restored; schools and hospitals rebuilt; art and music revived. The morale of the people and their confidence in the future has continued to recover.

All these are profound tributes to both the resiliency of the Kampuchean people and the revolutions of Indochina.

The slides and films were presented at the socialist convention by Chan Bun Han and Abe Weisburd.

Chan Bun Han, a thirty-three year old native Kampuchean, came here in the early 1970s to complete his studies. He is a supporter of the New York-based Committee in Solidarity with Viet Nam, Kampuchea, and Laos. He recently returned from a two-month visit to his homeland, where he found that more than sixty of his relatives—including his parents and all his brothers and sisters—had vanished during Pol Pot's reign.

Abe Weisburd, a leader of the movement against the Vietnam War, founded the solidarity committee in 1979.

In addition to showing the films and slide show, Chan gave greetings to the convention and to a rally in support of the Socialist Workers Party suit against government spying. He and Weisburd held many informal discussions with convention participants.

Greetings to convention

Chan's greetings sparked one of the convention's high points of enthusiasm. Met by a standing ovation, he pointed out that Kampuchea's struggle for survival, independence, and development was not over.

"There's still a group of hostile people trying to impose their will on the Kampuchean people," Chan told the conven-



Chan Bun Han, right, native Kampuchean, and Abe Weisburd, of the Committee in Solidarity with Viet Nam, Kampuchea, and Laos, hold up banner to standing ovation at convention.

tion in his greetings. "They want to reverse the just revolutionary struggle and the victory of the people of Vietnam, Kampuchea, and Laos.

"Since he was thrown out of power more than two years ago, Pol Pot and his gang of murderers have been kept alive by the U.S. and Chinese governments. In February 1979 China openly attacked Vietnam on its northern border with over half a million troops, but they were defeated and thrown back into China.

"We clearly understand the difference between the U.S. government and the U.S. people," Chan continued. "Our just struggle was supported by many anti-war activists in the 1960s and 1970s and our victories are your victories."

Denounces cutbacks

"We understand that to carry out its aggression all over the world, the U.S. has put an enormous amount into the production of arms and ammunition. And the U.S. people are also hurt by this. There are a lot of cutbacks all over your country."

Chan told convention delegates, "It is an experience to see your work in building a democratic revolutionary party in this country and your solidarity with just struggles around the world."

He appealed to the convention to continue this solidarity "so that we can defend our revolutionary victory from the aggressors and move forward to build our country.

"We hope that many friends and comrades will help carry out this work here so that the American people can understand the just struggle of our people to build socialism."

Following Chan's statement, Weisburd was introduced to the convention. To a lengthy standing ovation, he and Chan unfurled a banner in the Khmer language calling for support to the People's Republic of Kampuchea—the regime established by the victory over Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge army.

The convention voted unanimously to issue a statement directed against the

U.S. government's continuing war campaign against Indochina. The statement said in part:

"The more than 1,300 delegates and observers at the national convention of the SWP demand that the U.S. government drop its continuing war against the peoples of Vietnam, Laos, and Kampuchea.

"We demand that the U.S. government fulfill its obligations under the Paris Peace Accords of 1973 to establish diplomatic and economic relations with Vietnam and fulfill its provisions for aid to reconstruct Vietnam."

Lift embargo!

"We demand that the economic embargo against Vietnam and Kampuchea be lifted. Massive grain shipments must be sent to relieve food shortages.

"We demand an end to all support—overt and covert, economic, diplomatic and military—to the reactionary Khmer Rouge army of Pol Pot, as well as to other right-wing forces along the Kampuchean border.

"We demand that Washington end its arms shipments to the military dictatorship in Thailand, remove the Seventh Fleet from Southeast Asian waters, and dismantle its military base in the Philippines.

"We demand that the U.S. government apologize to the Laotian government and people for the recent invasions of Laotian territory, which Washington admits were organized by the CIA. The attacks on Laos show that Washington is seeking ways to escalate its military intervention in Indochina.

"We demand an end to all U.S. collusion with Peking against the peoples of Indochina.

"We demand U.S. recognition of the governments of Vietnam and the Heng Samrin government in Kampuchea.

"And we demand that the U.S. government, which brought so much death and destruction to Indochina, provide massive assistance to reconstruct these countries."

Vietnam's National Day celebrated

By Fred Feldman
and Sandi Sherman

NEW YORK—Vietnam's National Day was celebrated here September 2 by a reception and film showing attended by supporters of the Committee in Solidarity with Viet Nam, Laos, and Kampuchea, and members of Vietnam's mission to the United Nations. National Day is the anniversary of the September 2, 1945, proclamation of the independent Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

Ha Van Lau, Vietnam's ambassador to the United Nations, spoke briefly to the gathering of about fifty people held at a church near the UN headquarters.

He said that Vietnam had many problems—especially in its economy—but that recent policy changes were producing improvement.

About Kampuchea, he said that Vietnam's role in helping the Kampucheans was "our internationalist duty. And we knew that in helping the Kampuchean people, we also help ourselves.

"The Vietnamese people know a great deal about the struggle for independence and self-determination of other people."

He discussed the support that Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge army continue to get from Peking and Washington, and the continued recognition of Pol Pot's "government" by the United Nations.

"We know time is on our side," he added. "One reason for this is the irreversible nature of the changes that have occurred in Kampuchea."

A film on the life of Ho Chi Minh, *A Long Journey Home*, was shown. Produced by the Vietnamese government with substantial Soviet help, it focused on Ho Chi Minh's extensive travels, activity for the Communist International, and role in founding the Vietnamese Communist Party.

Anti-Soviet bombings in NY

By Connie Allen

Within four days there were eight bombing attempts directed against the Soviet Union in New York City. Two of the bombs exploded.

On September 3 six gasoline bombs were placed around the Soviet Mission to the United Nations, four in a trash can on the street, the other two under parked cars registered with the mission.

On September 4 a bomb was set off under a Nigerian diplomat's car parked on Second Avenue in Manhattan, near the Soviet mission.

Then on September 6, a bomb exploded at the Four Continent Book Corporation, smashing a two-foot hole in a display window. The bookstore sells a wide selection of literature from the Soviet Union.

Associated Press and United Press International reported that anonymous callers said the six bombs found September 3 had been placed by the Jewish Defense League. "Thunder of Zion," a right-wing organization said to be associated with the JDL, took credit for the September 6 bombing, according to the police.

These terrorist acts are encouraged by Washington's rising level of threats against the Soviet Union and Cuba.

The fact that the cops look the other way encourages the right-wing goons. Last September, Félix García Rodríguez, Cuban UN attaché, was assassinated. Although Omega 7, a right-wing Cuban terrorist group openly took credit for the murder, the police did nothing. To this day there have been no arrests in his case.

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the 'Militant'**

Protest Sept. 15: Oust Pol Pot from UN!

A vigil and demonstration will be held in New York City on September 15, the date on which the United Nations General Assembly opens its session. The protest will demand that the General Assembly oust the representatives of Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge from Kampuchea's seat at the UN.

The vigil will be held from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., followed by a demonstration and rally ending at 6 p.m., at Forty-third Street and First Avenue, across from the UN.

The demonstration has been called by the Committee in Solidarity with Viet Nam, Kampuchea, and Laos.

Among the groups supporting the

demonstration is the Socialist Workers Party. Its August convention issued the following statement on the UN's recognition of Pol Pot:

"The national convention of the SWP protests the conference on Kampuchea held under United Nations auspices in July 1981. This conference, which arrogated to itself the right to decide the fate of Kampuchea, was a gross violation of the right of self-determination of the Kampuchean people. The conference was nothing but a cover for attempts by Washington, Peking, and right-wing regimes in Southeast Asia to reimpose a brutal, terrorist regime on In-

dochina.

"The demands from Washington, echoed in the United Nations, that the Heng Samrin government be overturned and Vietnamese troops withdrawn, have no support from Kampucheans, who know that it is the Vietnamese army and the resistance forces led by Heng Samrin that toppled Pol Pot and ended the reign of terror.

"The convention of the SWP demands that the United Nations expel the Pol Pot mass murderers and recognize the real and legitimate government of Kampuchea headed by Heng Samrin."

By Suzanne Haig

On May 10, the Polish government officially recognized the Independent and Self-Governing Trade Union of Individual Farmers (popularly known as Rural Solidarity).

The victory came only after months of sit-ins and demonstrations, as well as active support from the independent workers' union, Solidarity.

Why did Poland's 3.5 million small private farmers want their own organization?

While *Intercontinental Press* reporter Ernest Harsch and I were in Poland in July, we talked with leaders of Rural Solidarity who answered this question for us.

Problems facing farmers

While the overthrow of capitalism in Poland after World War II benefited most farmers—as it led to the elimination of landlordism, mass unemployment,

for the state farms, many small farmers still rely on horse-power.

Bitter over discrimination

The farmers speak bitterly about the state farms and the special discrimination against small farmers.

After Edward Gierek came to power in 1970, Janowski explained, he promised to better the conditions of farmers and develop agriculture. This was mostly "just propaganda." Parliamentary acts and laws passed in the late 1970s "only strengthened the privileges of the state farms to the detriment of small farms."

A law passed in 1977 to create equality between farmers and workers, he said, actually was aimed at depriving farmers of their land by requiring that those without heirs give it up in return for a pension.

"Equipment and credits, which in most cases were available for state farms and cooperatives," Janowski explained, "were unavailable for private farms."

brought in, he comes up with an idea: 'We should keep cows,' for example.

"So he gets grants from the government that do not have to be paid back, and he invests in cows for a year. Then because of mismanagement and all kinds of things, he decides that the idea of the cows was not so good.

"Most of them are dying—except, of course for his own. Most directors have at the same time private farms which are part of the state farm.

"So after a year or two, he decides to leave and go somewhere else, taking all the money and cars with him. Directors are rarely dismissed for corruption or mismanagement. They are just sent to another place.

"Then another one comes. This one decides that raising animals for their fur is a good idea.

"So the whole place is covered with cages, and the director is talking about them all the time, like he is crazy. 'This is something incredible,' he brags. 'We'll get rich on it.'

"After one year, it turns out that all of them are dying—except his own.

"So he leaves, and the authorities send another one and this one says, 'Foxes are the thing.'

"It's the same story, and it's been going on without any changes.

"Often the state farms start growing a crop and then do not gather it, so it just starts sprouting seeds. In other cases, instead of waiting, they simply send machines before the crops are ready and destroy them. Then they try to sow something else, just to create the illusion that something is being done."

Ironically, the farmers told us, they all have to pay money every month to the so-called Fund of Agriculture Development, which is supposed to help small farmers but primarily goes for the state-owned farms.

"So actually," Kosiorski said, "we are paying money for farms which hardly produce anything."

Farmers' Defense Committee

The farmers in the Lublin area were the first to organize farmers' groups.

Many had experience in organizing and printing bulletins from their fight against the Nazis in the underground during World War II.

Socawse, Barylu, and Kosiorski, leaders of the early organization, the Farmers Defense Committee, told us how they were able to organize despite harassment and repression from the authorities.

At an initial outdoor meeting in 1978, 1,000 farmers from surrounding villages decided they needed their own organization to defend their rights.

They immediately sought aid from such opposition groups as the Committee for Social Self-Defense (KOR) and the Movement for Defense of Human and Civil Rights. *Robotnik* (Worker), a newspaper put out by KOR, was also widely read by the farmers.

Individuals from these organizations often acted as couriers, bringing the farmers' bulletins and other material to villages in other regions of Poland, so that groups could be formed elsewhere.

Father Sadlowski, a well-known priest from Zbrosza Duza, was one of several priests who also greatly aided the farmers.

From the beginning the farmers were followed and harassed by the secret police.

In one case, the political police had actually encircled several villages, whose occupants were particularly active, to prevent others from visiting them.

Dodging secret police

The farmers had one old duplicating machine hidden in an abandoned hut. When they learned that the secret police planned to search there, a farmer carried the heavy machine out of the area, running through fields and even crossing a neck-deep river with the machine held high above his head.

"When the police could not find the duplicating machine, they were desperate," Kosiorski recalled. "They were actually convinced that it was still there."

Continued on page 10

Why Polish farmers organized Rural Solidarity



Because of discrimination against small farmers by Polish government, many cannot obtain or afford mechanized vehicles. Rural Solidarity is demanding farm machinery for its members.

and near starvation in the countryside—the living standard of the rural population has not kept up with that of workers in the cities.

Gabriel Janowski, the vice-president of Rural Solidarity, told us that a great number of private farms have no running water or central heating.

"In spite of the idea of equality in education throughout Poland," he added, "a lower percent of country children are able to finish primary school, and fewer people from the villages are able to attend universities. Schools are poorly equipped compared to the towns.

"Of course, the people in the villages have a much lower access to medical treatment and hospitals."

Three-fourths of the country's food is produced by these small, private farms, which average about 12.5 acres. Yet the state farms, making up only 25 percent of the farmland, receive 75 percent of the subsidies.

Because of mismanagement and corruption, the state farms are highly inefficient, needing two and a half times more fertilizer to produce the same amount of food as the small farms.

Supplies and equipment for the small farms are so limited that some farmers have been forced to barter pigs and potatoes to get fertilizer or coal. And while enough giant tractors and harvesters are produced

"The shortage of equipment in private agriculture and the low prices paid by the state for crops have resulted in decreasing interest in agriculture. Most of the young people have moved to the cities in search of better-paying work and conditions, so only the old remain in the villages."

More than one-third of the farms today are cultivated by farmers over sixty without heirs intending to farm.

In a society where a parasitic caste of bureaucrats has usurped power from the masses and wield it to serve their own interests and protect their privileges, the state farms do not function as advanced institutions that easily and cheaply provide food for the population. Instead, they are islands of privilege, petty fiefdoms for corrupt farm directors.

State farm mismanagement

Roman Socawse, Antoni Barylu, and Zbigniew Kosiorski, three farmers from villages near the city of Lublin in the heart of a predominantly agricultural region, described a typical state farm, Lancuchow, in their area. (They have been fighting for a farmers' organization since 1978.)

"Lancuchow has had a dozen directors," Kosiorski told us.

"The usual procedure is that after a new director is

we cannot stand idly by looking on at the breakdown of the national economy," it said. "It is clear we must take into our own hands the burden of improving things and come up with constructive solutions."

The report proposed that Solidarity work jointly with the government on economic reforms, but only if the government accepts the union's program for workers' self-management, or workers' control in the country's factories and other enterprises.

In addition, the union said it would

not support any reform program that meant further decline in the living standards of the poor or would lead to greater unemployment.

Journalists from the state-run radio and television were denied admittance because the government had refused to allow Solidarity to have continuous live transmission of the convention proceedings or comprehensive daily programs over which the union would have some editorial control.

The union had made these demands because of the unfair coverage that it

has received at the hands of the state media.

The union had its own convention newspaper on hand, however, *Free Voice*.

Solidarity leader Lech Walesa drew a thunderous ovation when he said that the convention would not be carried on television "as long as we have no means of authorizing, of checking what they will say about us."

In future weeks, the *Militant* will report on the proceedings and decisions of this historic convention.

—S.H.

Solidarity holds first national convention

Nearly 900 delegates met in Gdansk September 5-8 for the first national convention of Solidarity, the independent union in Poland.

A report by the national leadership of the 10-million member union described Solidarity as having grown into a "powerful liberation movement involving human and civil rights" that has transformed the entire society.

The report proposed that the union adopt a concrete program to lead Poland out of the economic crisis.

"We have become convinced that

Should public pay for Washington nukes?

By Mary Nell Bockman

SEATTLE—The largest public corporation in the United States is involved in a multi-billion dollar con job that is threatening the public utilities and the people of Washington with financial disaster.

The culprit is the Washington Public Power Supply System (WPPSS). Formed as a result of joint construction agreements by eighty-eight public utilities, it was presented as the best method of supplying cheap electricity to the Northwest. But the primary WPPSS venture, the construction of five nuclear power plants, has proved a costly gamble that we will be paying for, for the rest of our lives.

The people of Washington, like the residents of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, were offered a deal ten years ago that appeared too good to be true: cheap energy; 25,000 construction jobs; revitalization of the communities chosen for the location of the nuclear plants; and assurances that nuclear power was the safest, cleanest and most efficient means of supplying rapidly expanding energy needs.

The entire project would be controlled by the public, we were told. It sounded great, but the only promise that WPPSS made that has been kept is that the public would foot the bill.

The current cost estimates for finishing the projects stand at \$23.8 billion, up \$6.5 billion from six months ago. On June 19 work on two of the plants was

shut down indefinitely because WPPSS ran out of funds.

WPPSS is \$5 billion in debt and the interest payments alone average \$217,000,000 per year for the next thirty-five years. Conservative projections are that at least \$9 billion more will have to be borrowed at substantially higher interest rates to finish the projects. The cost to the consumer? About \$150 billion. Or \$100,000 per household for the thirty-five-year life of the plants. If nothing goes wrong.

WPPSS is the largest seller of tax-exempt bonds in the country. Every six weeks another \$200 million worth go on the auction block. Not that you or I could ever buy one.

These bonds are sold to brokerage houses who in turn sell them to large banks and Wall Street investors. It's a good deal for them—\$13 billion return on a \$5 billion investment. The buyers are guaranteed this regardless of whether electricity is ever produced by the plants they are investing in.

Because these are public bonds, no taxes are paid on the interest earned. Even so, nuclear projects are seen as "high risk" ventures by Wall Street. The day is coming when WPPSS will have a bond sale and no customers for them.

When that happens, possibly as early as August, the public begins paying for the projects directly. A proposal is currently being studied by WPPSS that would increase utility rates across the

state immediately to pay for the plants.

The shutdowns of WPPSS Projects 4 and 5 will put 3,400 construction workers out of jobs in economically depressed communities in an industry with 25 percent unemployment. The bulk of the WPPSS Project 2 at Hanford was shut down for a year by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission because of faulty construction and falsified quality control reports in critical areas. Efficiency studies by the NRC show that 800 megawatt and larger nuclear plants, the type being built by WPPSS, are operating at only 42 percent of capacity.

As the accident at the Three Mile Island plant in Harrisburg shows, the health and safety of millions of people are also at stake.

There is a lot of discussion in Washington about how to solve the crisis at WPPSS. The proposal that has gotten the broadest support is Initiative 394, which will be voted on in the November election. The Socialist Workers Party is recommending a no vote on this initiative.

I-394 would require a vote before any major energy project, costing in excess of \$200 million, could sell bonds. A vote disallowing the sale by the public would not stop the project but would force the utilities to resort to other methods of funding, such as raising utility rates, federal loans, or shifting the bond sales to an out-of-state member of the utility

consortium.

This initiative is a smokescreen designed to smother the outrage that consumers feel at paying exorbitant utility rates for something that threatens our future. It will not allow a clear vote on nuclear power or even a vote on specific projects. It only affects the sale of bonds.

Initiative 394 is no solution and should be defeated.

The plants under construction should be converted to coal-fired or other fossil fuels immediately, putting the construction workers on layoff back to work and providing jobs for miners.

A moratorium on interest payments on the bonds currently outstanding should be put into effect. The holders of these bonds are the wealthiest institutions and individuals in the country. They continue to get rich off of working people here.

The energy industry must be nationalized and run by democratically-elected boards, whose meetings are open, and whose records and investigations are public. The huge energy corporations should be forced to pay for energy projects with the money they have extorted from the public.

Most important, regardless of the costs involved, our lives and the lives of future generations are in serious danger from the continued reliance on nuclear power. There are safer and cheaper alternatives. All nuclear plants now in operation should be shut down.

...Polish farmers

Continued from page 9

Then they gathered all the activists into one big hall and told them that the person who would tell them where the machine was hidden would get anything they wanted: the best jobs, money, the best wines and cigarettes.

"They were always trying to use such methods to make us speak."

If bribery did not work, the secret police would use force.

Kosiorski said that the police came to his house at a quarter to five one morning.

"They wanted to take me barefoot to the police headquarters. But since there were only three of them, they could not manage."

"On the next day, eight came with cars and motorcycles from ZOMO, which is connected with the political police. They wanted to put handcuffs on me, but I would not let them."

"Finally, since there were eight of them, they managed. I am sorry they were able to take me."

They took him to a car and beat him so hard around the kidneys that he could not walk for a week.

The farmers explained that the police have a special system of beating. They beat you on the body where you feel it and where it's dangerous, but a doctor cannot see anything because the damage is internal.

"The police held me for one day, trying to force me to sign a special paper promising to give up my activities. But I would not sign it."

Often the farmers would be imprisoned for forty-eight hours and then set free as the law requires, only to be re-arrested and held for forty-eight more hours, and so on.

The authorities also attempted to divide villagers. They would single out certain people and give them tractors and other privileges to get them to spy on their neighbors.

"Equipment and materials for building a barn or stable are gotten from the authorities," Barylu told us. "Those active in the movement would never get these things, and no explanation would be offered."

When the July and August workers' strikes began last year, leading to recognition of the Solidarity trade union by the government, the farmers became even more determined to win the right to their own fighting organization. So they simply began to organize as fast as they could.

Right from the beginning the farmers supported the workers. This support was reciprocated.

Brought food to workers

The village of Zbrosza Duza went on strike in support of the workers in August 1980, and farmers brought food to striking workers in many parts of the country. Later, Solidarity members participated in actions called by the farmers demanding an independent organization. A delegation from Solidarity,



Poland's economic crisis: long lines in front of nearly empty food stores

Militant/Ernest Harsch

including Lech Walesa, attended Rural Solidarity's national conference in Poznan in March.

The farmers stressed the importance of the unity of workers, farmers, and intellectuals in winning the victories of the past year.

"The regime tried to create artificial conflicts between us," a staff member of Rural Solidarity in Lublin told us, "but they have failed."

While the 1.5 million-member Rural Solidarity is fighting for the rights of small farmers, it is also concerned about solving the economic problems facing the entire nation.

Rural Solidarity believes that the prices paid by the state to farmers for their produce should be agreed upon both by the authorities and by farmers. The Lublin farmers explained why this is so important.

"The government has introduced new, higher prices for wheat and corn," Kosiorski said. "This has caused farmers to become more interested in growing corn and wheat and to forget about raising cattle and pigs since they will receive more money for the crops."

"Had the government consulted first with the trade union, we would have explained that this would only lead to a serious meat shortage."

They believe the government should lower the price of animal fodder sold to the farmers to feed their cattle, to induce them to increase their herds.

The farmers pointed to examples where state-owned land lies totally unproductive and could instead be given to small, private farmers. This would aid the farmers and also help ease the food shortage.

"There are some coal mines in the Lublin district," Kosiorski told us, "and the mines have their own large field which should be used to grow crops to feed the miners. But nothing is grown there."

End special privileges

Rural Solidarity calls for an end to the special privileges granted to state farms.

"We think that state farms are needed," Janowski

explained, "but they should be treated equally" with the private farms. "They should act according to the market, not be propped up by state financial support."

"We are for the collectivization of agriculture," he said, "but only for providing the services needed for agriculture—the supplying of raw material, tools, and repairing tractors. We are for the groups formed by families, cooperatives, but not the Russian form of collectivization of agriculture."

The farmers want greater access to farm equipment and raw materials. How can this be achieved?

If workers had a say in determining what they produce, the farmers of Lublin told us, "then we would have the tractors we need because the workers in the Ursus Tractor Factory already want to build more tractors for us."

Thus, they are strong supporters of workers self-management committees, a form of workers control in the factories and mines supported by Solidarity.

Solving food crisis

Involving workers and farmers in the questions of production and distribution is also the way toward ending the food crisis. Janowski, for example, believes that the current food shortages "result from the wrong distribution, wrong storing, and wrong processing. Food takes a long time to get from the farmer to the consumer, and it is not well stored or processed. Our farming is sometimes less efficient than it should be. Because of bad fodder, the cows give less milk, for example."

The farmers organization supports the proposal put forward by Solidarity during the mass protests against food shortages last month. Solidarity called for local commissions to be set up by the union to oversee production, storage, and food distribution.

What is emerging in Poland today is a powerful alliance of workers and farmers who are fighting to make Poland a real "Peoples Republic," a society where the decisions are made by those who produce the wealth in the country.

Virginia AFL-CIO slaps down Democrats

By Miguel Zárate

NEWPORT NEWS, Va.—“Labor repression is setback for Robb,” a “clear defeat,” a “slap in the face.” These were the headlines following the Virginia AFL-CIO convention of the Committee on Political Education (COPE) to endorse candidates for statewide office. The labor convention voted unanimously *not* to endorse Democratic Party candidate Charles Robb, or anyone else, for Governor in this year's election.

In 1977 the labor movement contributed over \$200,000 to the Democratic Party campaign for governor—30 percent of the total contributions.

Charles Robb is lieutenant governor of Virginia. His political career is based on his marriage to the daughter of former President Lyndon Johnson.

Robb went to the COPE convention at the Hotel Roanoke in the southwestern part of the state confident of winning the labor endorsement. Some labor officials had assured him everything was set. Robb had his acceptance speech ready.

Democratic politicians were booed and hooted down when they spoke. The opposition was so strong, Robb's supporters withdrew his name. They wouldn't even let Robb onto the floor of the convention. His backers told reporters it was obvious there would be a heated demonstration if he even showed his face.

Where did this rebellion against the Democrats come from?

It was led by the Newport News Steelworkers. Two years ago they went on strike for union recognition at the giant Tenneco shipyard where there are over 15,000 workers. They went up against Virginia's cops, police dogs, right-to-work laws, and the courts.

Why are they against Robb?

Because he *boasts* that he will veto any attempt to weaken the right-to-work law if he is elected.

During the recent coal miners' strike,



Cops and dogs attacking Steelworkers' demonstration for union recognition at Newport News shipyard in 1979. Steelworkers spurred decision not to endorse Democrat this year.

Robb competed with Republican Governor John Dalton in anti-union attacks. Dalton's state cops, the “Dalton gang,” organized the most brutal attacks against the striking members of the United Mine Workers of any state in the country. To win backing of the mine owners, Robb promised to go further than Dalton if elected.

Robb is against the Voting Rights Act, which he claims “discriminates against Virginians.”

Black and white workers at the Newport News shipyard know that their union victory was based in large part on

previous victories of the civil rights movement.

Teachers in Virginia are demanding collective bargaining rights for themselves and other public employees. Charles Robb is opposed to this.

The week before the AFL-CIO COPE convention, the Virginia Education Association, which represents 44,000 teachers, voted against contributing any funds to Robb's campaign. But they did endorse the Democratic Party slate.

An even more interesting development may be emerging in the southside of Virginia. A Black organization cen-

tered in Danville and Martinsville has announced it will run its own slate of candidates for statewide offices because, “We decided that it was time to stop taking some of the stuff the Democrats and Republicans dish out to Black people.”

Robb's defeat at the AFL-CIO convention is shaking up the whole Democratic Party. Party vice-chairman Ira Lechner tries to portray Robb's anti-labor platform as separate from the rest of the Democrats. “Workers in Poland have collective bargaining rights that are denied in Thomas Jefferson's Virginia,” Lechner said.

Many union officials are pushing the same line: Robb is bad, but the Democratic Party is okay.

But the union ranks aren't all buying it. Recalling the vicious attacks against the Local 8888 strike, one steelworker concluded: “If Robb loves the right-to-work law so much, what's the difference? I don't give a damn whether it's a Republican police dog or a Democratic police dog—they'll both tear your ass up.”

Miesha Patterson, a shipfitter and active member of Local 8888, is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of Virginia.

Patterson believes the discussion in the Virginia labor movement is quite significant.

“The most important thing is that all of us in the yard are starting to see that we as workers have our own needs. And the Democrats and Republicans are not even pretending to address them,” she told the *Militant*. “We need to repeal the right-to-work laws and fight for more rights for Blacks and women. To win these we need a labor party, based on our unions. We workers need to assume more control over our society. We can take some examples and inspiration from the brothers and sisters in Poland. When the workers get together to fight for their rights, we can accomplish anything.”

Oklahoma, Arkansas miners face company bullets

By Fred Stanton and Linda Loew

STIGLER, Oklahoma—Since March, coal miners along the Oklahoma-Arkansas border have been on strike against four strip mines owned by the Garland Coal and Mining Company. The miners are members of locals of the United Mine Workers of America here in District 21 of the union.

District 21 International Executive Board member Harvey Haynes told us that the 148 strikers represent 40 percent of the working membership of this district, the smallest in the union.

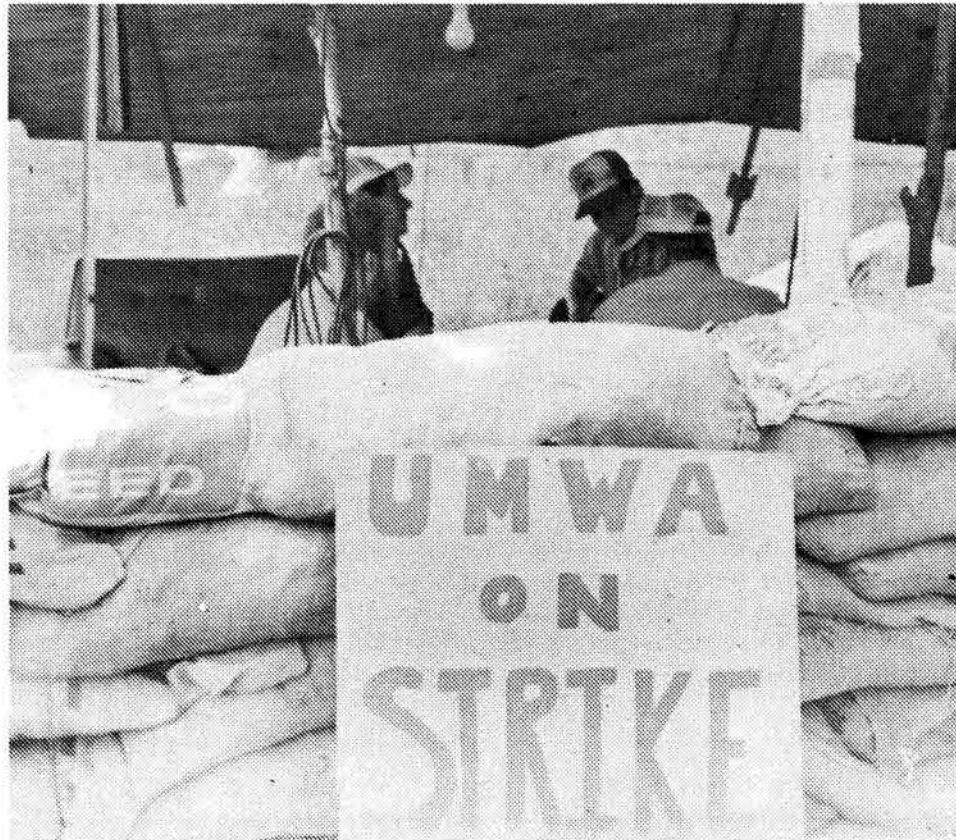
The reason these miners are still on strike, after the national contract was approved ending the seventy-two day strike throughout the country, is Garland's determination to break the union at its mines. The company bought two former UMWA officials to head up the anti-union drive. They are both part of company management now.

The company hired scabs to run the mines and is using a small army of armed guards to attack the strikers. The company's influence over the local news media and politicians has enabled them to get away with crimes and safety violations.

But they are not able to run much coal. The inexperienced scabs are only coming up with about a third of normal production. And union picket lines combined with company safety violations along the tracks leading to the mines are keeping out the trains that normally haul the coal. The company is shipping it out by truck instead. The strikers say the scabs are taking a heavy toll on the machinery.

At two Oklahoma mines in Bokoshe and Stigler, union pickets were shot at by company gunmen. We saw the bullet holes left from the attacks.

According to the *United Mine Workers*



Stigler, Oklahoma miners behind sandbags protecting them from shots by guards and scabs.

Journal, a federal mine inspector reported that the company office at one of the mines is filled with so many weapons it looks like an arsenal. But in spite of company violence, the local news media is portraying the strikers as the cause of the trouble.

We talked to strikers in both Bokoshe and Stigler, Oklahoma, and Charleston, Arkansas. They explained the company effort to break the union involves refusing to agree to pay into the national UMWA pension plan, removing the

union safety committee, and imposing a one-year probation period.

Investigations of the mines by the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) show that the company wants to operate the mines without the UMWA being in a position to enforce safety restrictions. According to an article in the July *UMW Journal*, “MSHA inspectors found that new and inexperienced employees, hired to replace UMWA members during the contract strike, were handling explosives im-

properly. MSHA wrote 21 citations and one imminent danger order.”

The *UMW Journal* has written articles about the strike in both the July and August issues. The international executive board is providing strike benefits and paying the medical insurance for strikers.

The miners we talked to emphasized that solidarity is the key to winning. They told us they have received contributions from other UMWA locals in addition to locals of the Steelworkers, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, and Teamsters.

A Women's Auxiliary is being formed in District 21 to support the strike. Women have picketed the office and house of Garland Coal head Jeff Porter. Two of the women leaders, Lou Grubbs and Joy Flynn, told us they hoped they would have enough money to send a representative to the September 19 Solidarity Day demonstration in Washington.

Many of the UMWA miners have small farms in the area. They feel that with the backing of the international union, they will be able to hold out “until hell freezes over.”

There have been a number of rallies and other activities to support the strike. In June, between 400 and 500 miners and their families from all four mines got together for a rally and car caravan.

Donnie Oldham, president of Local 1329 at Garland's Stigler mine, told us, “If we could have 500 to 1,000 miners come in here and help us, we could stop the scabs from going in there.”

These strikers need support.

Contributions and messages should be sent to: District 21 Strike Relief Fund, UMWA District 21 Headquarters, No. 5 Towson Plaza, 3610 Towson Ave., Ft. Smith, Arkansas 72901.

Unionists discuss strategy for labor today

By Jana Pellusch

DENVER—The focus of the sixteenth convention of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union, held August 10-14 in Denver, was the differing perspectives for the union and for labor political action brought out in the election for OCAW president.

Health and Safety Director Anthony Mazzocchi made his second bid for presidency of the 142,000-member union. Mazzocchi campaigned around the issues he raised during his campaign two years ago at the last OCAW convention: that the OCAW set an example for the rest of the labor movement in opposing the take-back offensive of the corporations and government. Mazzocchi, who included the call for unions to initiate a new political party, brought this issue to the convention floor.

Mazzocchi ran against Robert Goss, the incumbent. Goss and Mazzocchi were opponents two years ago when both were international vice-presidents.

A dreamer?

In the convention debates, Goss chided Mazzocchi for being "angry . . . at the capitalist system, at union leaders . . . a dreamer." He charged Mazzocchi took contributions from "outsiders," and that he took his campaign of "doom and gloom" about the OCAW to the media.

In Goss's speech, he pointed to the sophisticated union-busting tactics being used by companies; the falseness of the political mandate claimed by the Reagan administration; layoffs and plant shutdowns in the petro-chemical industry; government harassment of strikers; and the range of government agencies headed by representatives of the industries they supposedly regulate.

But his only proposal was to challenge the union membership to give \$25 instead of the standard \$2.50 to PLL (Political and Legislative League—OCAW's political action arm). Goss pronounced that "We have nothing to fear but fear itself."

Mazzocchi proposed a broader orientation for the unions to deal with the present crisis. Labor "must be in the forefront in preventing wars . . . must speak for the Polish workers. . . . [We must be] against the tyranny emanating from the White House . . . act on behalf of peasants struggling for bread and justice in Latin America."

For the OCAW specifically, Mazzocchi urged that the union join with communities that are daily polluted by industries employing OCAW members, to form alliances to fight for safer working conditions and tighter environmental standards.

In defending himself as a "dreamer," Mazzocchi invoked the memory of Joe Hill, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Karen Silkwood, all of whom, he said, had dreams of a better life for working people.

Jana Pellusch works at the ARCO refinery in Houston. She is a member of OCAW Local 4-227.

ple. "Dreams must be hammered out into reality."

Mazzocchi also called for a nationwide grassroots level discussion on "whether the existing political structure serves labor's needs." He charged labor leaders with the need to respond to any rank-and-file consensus on the formation of a labor party.

The choice before the 850 delegates was clear by the final day of the convention when the election took place. Joe Campbell, Secretary-treasurer of Houston Local 4-227, gave the nominating speech for Mazzocchi. Campbell, who nominated Goss two years ago, gave four reasons for not supporting Goss in this election:

They were Goss's 1) handling of the 1980 oil strike, 2) failure to organize the unorganized, 3) failure to mobilize the union against plant shutdowns, and 4) determination to merge with the Paper Workers Union. Campbell's statement reflected much of the basis of support won by Mazzocchi over the past two years.

Merger

The merger with the Paper Workers would have increased executive salaries, further consolidated a top-heavy bureaucracy, and axed much of the rank-and-file input that exists in the OCAW. A merger convention, planned for April, was cancelled due to opposition stimulated once terms of the merger were discussed at the district level.

Goss won the votes of delegates representing 72,856 members to 69,090 for Mazzocchi. The margin was close to that in the election two years ago. Mazzocchi's 1979 vote, however, included the

17,000 votes of the former District 9, the Canadian section, which is now autonomous and did not cast votes in this year's election.

The election at the convention by delegates does not directly represent the views of union members. Nearly all the officials backed Goss, including all eight district directors and 90 percent of the union staff representatives. Intense pressure was put on delegates from the western states, districts 1 and 2, to vote for Goss as a block. Mazzocchi pulled less than 2,000 votes from a total of nearly 23,000 out of those districts.

Union Secretary-treasurer Bob Palmer and Vice President Ernie Rousselle, incumbents and Mazzocchi supporters, were also defeated by the Goss slate. Mike Ricigliano was elected Secretary-treasurer, Joe Misbrenner and Calvin Moore vice presidents.

PATCO strike

The OCAW headquarters had sent word to delegates and officials not to fly to the convention, which began one week after the air controllers' strike began.

At the opening session of the convention, Marty Nichols, a member of the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization (PATCO) Executive Board, and a dozen members of Denver Local 516 lined the stage, receiving a standing ovation from the delegates, who had come over the road from all parts of the country.

A resolution, supporting the AFL-CIO sponsored September 19 Solidarity Day demonstration in Washington, D.C., was passed unanimously. September 19 posters were up at the entrance of the

convention hall and materials on the demonstration were included in delegates' kits.

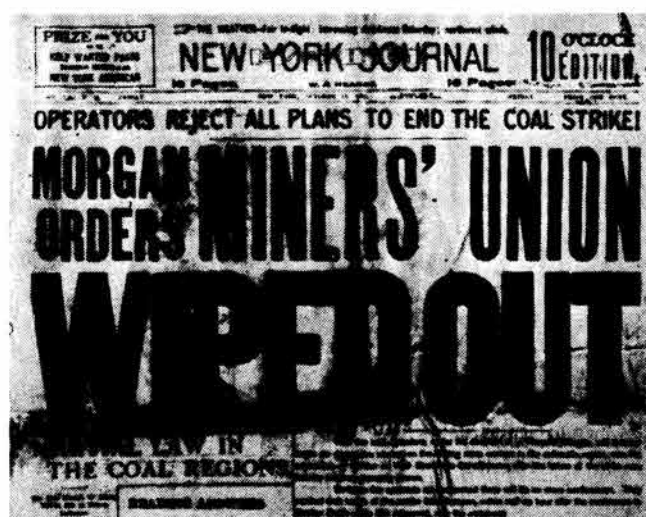
A resolution was submitted to the resolutions committee by the District 1 Council urging that the union "participate in developing a new political strategy for Labor in the 1980's that will not rely on the Republican or Democratic party for success." It was passed with the unanimous support of the resolutions committee and the convention floor (see box). The resolution had been introduced at a District 1 Council meeting in July by Mazzocchi supporter Fernando Guerrero.

Mazzocchi's defeat was a hard blow to his supporters who had hoped his election would signal the beginning of a new direction—activist and progressive—for the union. Mazzocchi's loss was in fact a setback for the union.

The union's 60,000 oil workers face contract negotiations this fall, as contracts expire in early January. The outcome of these negotiations will be a test of the Goss leadership, as well as of rank-and-file militancy and cohesiveness.

Discussion in the OCAW, as well as in other unions, will increasingly focus on the political orientation necessary for labor to begin an effective counter-offensive. The strategy of pouring millions of dollars into the campaign treasuries of phony "friend of labor" Democrats has proven its worth—zero.

Mazzocchi stated in his final speech to the convention: ". . . there is a common will, a common concern here about a new political party in this country. I would hope that this convention will begin that debate."



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Lessons from history

'Confronting the political crisis labor faces'

The following is the text of the resolution adopted at the convention calling on OCAW to 'join other unions in developing new political strategy for the '80s.'

The American Labor Movement today is being challenged on many fronts, by the corporate powers of America. Many of the economic and social gains, won by labor, through mass struggle, are being curtailed or eliminated by govt. As the assault on the Labor Movement increases, it be-

comes more evident that Labor stands alone, and must rely on its own strength to survive.

In the last few years, a growing number of prominent Labor Leaders have called for a re-examination of the political strategies that the Labor Movement has employed for the last fifty years. Furthermore, an ever increasing number of working people have become disillusioned with the political process that never requires them to choose the best, but only the lesser of two evils.

It is for these reasons that the following is submitted to the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union for consideration.

WHEREAS labor has continued to experience severe political setbacks, including defeats of all its recent legislative objectives nationally; and

WHEREAS the presidential election results indicate that the voting strength of Labor has diminished because of growing frustration by working people, voting for candidates who

do not represent their interests; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the OCAWIU join the growing numbers of labor bodies and Unions who are examining new strategies and methods in confronting the political crisis that Labor faces; and be it further

RESOLVED that OCAWIU support and participate with other Unions in developing a new political strategy for Labor in the 1980's that will not rely on the Republican or Democratic Party for success.

Shipyard worker wins back security clearance

By Harry Ring

Peter Fisher, a worker at the Electric Boat shipyard in Groton, Connecticut, has won out over government-employer efforts to victimize him.

Electric Boat, a division of General Dynamics, builds Trident nuclear submarines. Fisher had his job security clearance revoked by the Pentagon after he publicly campaigned in favor of the yard converting to nonmilitary production. On August 20, Fisher's appeal was upheld by a federal examiner and his clearance ordered restored.

The examiner found that the charge that Fisher was guilty of "poor judgment, unreliability, or untrustworthiness" was without foundation. Fisher does not anticipate the ruling will be appealed.

Fisher went to work on the nuclear submarines in 1977. In 1979 he became involved in the Trident Conversion Campaign, which is supported by the pacifist American Friends Service Committee.

A company investigator soon filed a

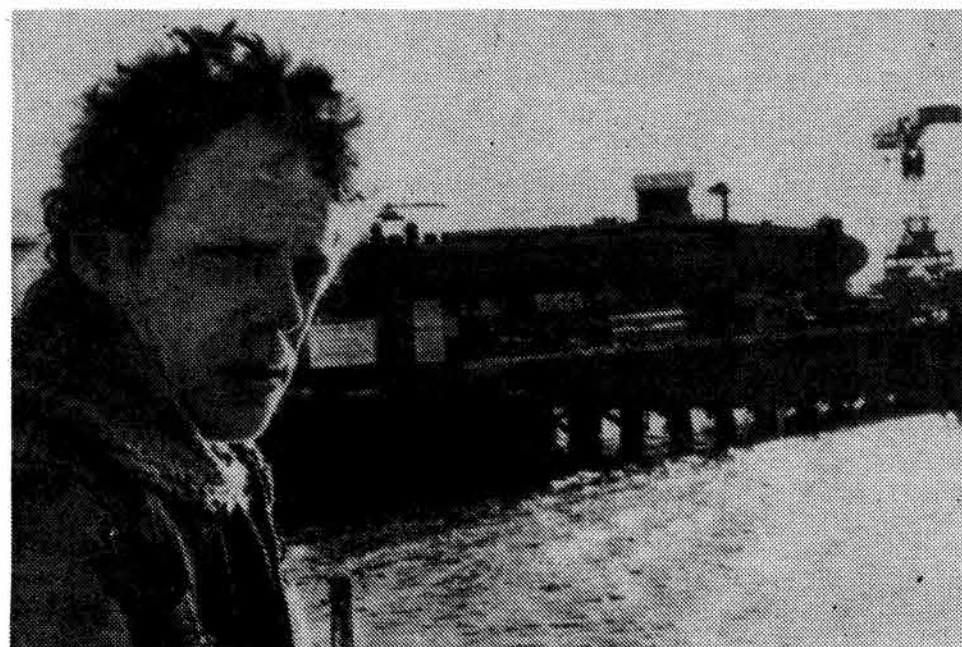
report on Fisher with the Pentagon. The report referred to the AFSC as a "communist" organization. In a later apology, an army officer assured the AFSC that the Pentagon knew it wasn't "communist."

But after an eighteen-month probe, Fisher's clearance was revoked in September 1980.

An attempt was made to build a case around the fact that in his youth, Fisher had been involved with drugs. But the company knew of this when it hired him and it was included in the records on which his security clearance was based.

Commenting on his victory, Fisher said, "There are many struggles yet to be won." He cited the case of the NASSCO Three, the militant San Diego shipyard unionists victimized for their activities, and the Socialist Workers Party suit against political spying and disruption as examples of this.

"Rest assured," Fisher said, "I will not let this personal victory make me any less sensitive to other labor and political struggles."



Peter Fisher. Pentagon didn't like his views on nuclear weapons.

M. Rodriguez

Study reveals low wages for Cuban-Americans

By Miguel Pendás

MIAMI—A newly released study shows that Cuban-Americans are no longer the privileged, pampered group they were once thought to be.

The study was carried out by the Cuban National Planning Council, a federally funded non-profit social service organization. Begun two and a half years ago, the study interviewed 1,568 persons it believes to be typical of the over one million Cubans in the U.S.

The study concludes that the Cuban community is characterized by low wages and inadequate social services.

A conclusion that may surprise some is that the Cuban community has a higher percentage of factory workers than the U.S. population as a whole, and fewer professionals. It won't surprise the tens of thousands who work in Miami's garment factories for minimum wage.

A higher percentage of Cuban-Americans earn less than the average national wage than the population as a whole. These transplanted Cubans also suffer a higher drop-out rate from the public schools.

Cubans in Miami were determined to have an average income of \$12,506, well below the average for all whites in Dade county of \$17,757.

Social services and medical care were concluded to be inferior as well, especially for the elderly. An important reason cited for this is the lack of sufficient bilingual personnel. Not enough day care centers was mentioned as another crucial problem in the Cuban community.

The language question for Cubans was underscored by the following statistics: on the job, 33.6 percent speak only Spanish; in the schools, 6.4 percent speak only Spanish; 40 percent listen only to Spanish-language radio; almost 50 percent read only Spanish-language newspapers; and nearly 20 percent watch only Spanish-language TV.

Hispanics form 33.7 percent of all Dade County public school students, but only 11.7 percent of the teachers, and 9.8 percent of administrators.

The Cuban communities studied in Miami; Union City, New Jersey; New York City; Los Angeles; and Chicago were formed almost entirely by immigration from Cuba after the revolution there.

In Miami only 16.7 percent of those living in Cuban-American households were born in the U.S. according to the study, and only 6.7 percent have been here more than 20 years.

It is important to keep in mind that these statistics were gathered without taking the Mariel exodus of some 125,000 Cubans into account. A very high percentage of these more recent exiles are unemployed, many work at odd jobs for less than minimum wage, some have no housing, and some are still being held in military concentration camps.

At one time in the 1960s the Cuban exiles did receive preferential treatment from the U.S. government in an effort to make anticommunist propaganda. But as one headline from *El Miami Herald* put it, "the 'fatted calf' of exile is no more."

National Picket Line



Shades of Chrysler

Teamster officials have announced they will meet September 14 to consider a request from the trucking industry to reopen the National Master Freight Agreement.

Last year the big trucking firms asked the union for a number of concessions, including a reduction or deferral of cost-of-living allowance payments, and a cut in overtime pay through a "more flexible" workweek.

Late Teamster President Frank Fitzsimmons said no, but told union officers that "in recognition of the depressed condition of the economy" union negotiators would continue to "review the problem."

Now the other shoe has been dropped. Union officials say that the number of members covered by the contract has dropped from 450,000 to 300,000, and the industry needs help.

Savatore Provenzano, a Teamster vice-president, told the August 2 *Newark Star-Ledger*, "The employers want the reopener and I understand they've assembled facts and figures showing that deregulation is hurting them badly."

Change of plans

The *Wall Street Journal* reports that the White House dropped "plans for Reagan to picnic Labor Day with a Baltimore blue-collar family. Aides figured the air-controllers strike would have brought protesters to the picnic site 'like a bunch of ants.'"

Postal contract ratified

Members of the two major postal unions have overwhelmingly ratified a three-year contract. American Postal Workers Union members approved it 147,692 to 36,595. National Association of Letter Carriers voted 124,316 to 20,856 in favor.

The government began negotiations with the two unions last May by demanding a wage freeze, a ceiling on cost-of-living-allowance payments, and other takebacks. The postal unions told the government they would strike if a better agreement wasn't offered.

On July 21, after a marathon bargaining session, the government backed down some. The new settlement includes a wage increase of \$300 in each year of the contract, a yearly productivity bonus of \$350, and an uncapped COLA.

A number of postal workers from around the country told the *Militant* that, in their opinion, the governments' attack on the striking air controllers didn't decide the vote. The contract would have passed anyway, though maybe not by such a large margin.



Need a clause for foremen too

The July *Solidarity*, newspaper of the United Auto Workers, reports that sixty hospital workers on Hudson Bay in northern Canada have won a "Polar Bear" clause in their union contract.

Because bears roam even the downtown area of the city of Churchill during migrating season, the contract says the hospital must bus employees to and from work when the bears are on the prowl.

Let us know what's happening in your area—strike news, union resolutions, local press clippings, whatever—drop us a line at the 'Militant', 14 Charles Lane, New York, New York 10014.

—Vivian Sahner



And away we go—The Navy is probing three officers who allegedly used Navy planes and boats for private purposes. An admiral is accused of ordering a naval plane to fly him to Key West for a weekend of skin diving. A captain is said to have used a Navy yacht for parties. And another captain, apparently a gourmet, was flying planes into the Bahamas to pick up spiny lobsters.

there were a death penalty."—Nancy Reagan.

By staying on their backs?—The Burlington Northern railroad reports progress in dealing with back injuries among its workers. While the number of such injuries has remained the same this year, the percentage of work days lost dropped from 27 to 23 percent.

Bouncy—About that \$85 million check Reagan brought to New York on Labor Day as a federal payment toward

the Westway highway project. An official explained the delivery was symbolic. The check, he said, was a "facsimile."

Brotherly love—One of the nicer things about capitalism is the spirit of compassion it creates. For instance, Chrysler's advertising director advised, "We've been making sales gains every month. That means we're taking business away from the competition. We're eating their lunch." To which an assistant added, "We hope they starve."

Get you to work on time—If you're

into solid gold watch cases, check out the new Swiss watches encased in U.S. gold pieces. The biggie, in a \$20 gold piece, \$8,990. Water resistant.

The Big Apple—A New York bank recently sold its headquarters building for \$161 million. For tax purposes, the city had assessed its value at \$19 million. An official explained that real estate values have been going up so fast that assessors simply haven't been able to keep pace. Yet somehow they do manage to keep up with landlord demands for rent hikes.

Our Revolutionary Heritage

Labor Day a century ago

On September 5, 1882, the first Labor Day march was held in New York City. Ten thousand marched to Union Square carrying banners with labor's slogans:

"No capitalist politician or lawyer can represent labor"; "Labor creates all wealth"; "Eight hours to count a day's work"; "Agitate, Educate, Organize."

This show of labor's strength was prefaced by a nationwide strike of rail workers in 1877. There had been local labor battles in the past, but this was the first time in the country's history when workers organized across the nation to respond to the bosses' attacks on their rights and living standards.

When on July 11, 1877, a 10 percent wage cut was announced, the Baltimore and Ohio rail workers did not sit back and accept it. They decided to strike. The *Baltimore Sun* reported:

"There is no disguising the fact that the strikers in all their lawful acts have the fullest sympathy of the community. . . . They declare for starvation rather than have their people work for the reduced wages. Better to starve outright, say they, than to die by slow starvation."

The strike spread from Baltimore to New York to St. Louis.

In St. Louis the workers turned the battle into a general strike, calling out workers in all the shops and factories. Ships were stopped on the Mississippi until their captains granted wage increases.

Vicious strikebreaking by the bosses and govern-

ment—cheered on by the press—ended the strike after two weeks.

Several years later, the Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions (forerunner of the American Federation of Labor) was founded. It took up the call for an eight-hour day. Its 1884 convention adopted a resolution stating that "eight hours shall constitute a legal day's labor from and after May 1, 1886, and that we recommend to labor organizations throughout this jurisdiction that they so direct their laws as to conform to this resolution by the time named."

This met with great and enthusiastic support. Hundreds of thousands joined the ranks of organized labor.

The capitalist press responded in its role of strike-breaker and anti-union tool of the ruling rich. The *Illinois State Register*, for example, proclaimed that "one most consummate piece of humbuggery ever suggested in connection with the 'labor question' is the so-called 'eight hour movement.' The thing is really too silly to merit the attention of a body of lunatics . . . and the idea of 'striking' for eight hours is about as sensible as 'striking' for pay without the hours."

One of the strongholds of the movement for the eight-hour day was Chicago. A week before the planned May Day, 1886, strike, a huge eight-hour demonstration was organized. Twenty-five thousand

marchers took part.

The May Day strike began there with nearly 40,000 workers walking out.

The bosses united to crush the strike, aided by armed police. On May 3 the police attacked a meeting of lumber workers, killing four and wounding many others. In response to this a mass meeting was called at the Haymarket in Chicago's West Side.

Police spies and agents provocateurs swarmed the city. Police continued attacking strikers wherever they gathered. At the Haymarket protest, 180 cops attacked the dispersing crowd. Then a bomb was thrown in the midst of the police, killing seven. Police fired into the crowd, killing several and wounding 200.

Leaders of the eight-hour movement were rounded up and accused of the bombing. Four of them were hanged, although no evidence ever connected them with the bombings.

The Haymarket Martyrs, as they came to be called, along with many other labor militants, established the great fighting traditions of the workers movement.

This Labor Day new militants marched in the ranks of labor. And, carrying on the traditions of 100 years ago, they are fighting to keep and extend those rights that have been won by labor and its allies.

—Priscilla Schenk

What's Going On

ARIZONA

TUCSON

SOCIALIST ALTERNATIVE TO REAGANISM. Thurs., Sept. 10, 12 noon University of Arizona. Student Union, room 280. Ausp: Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (602) 622-3880.

MARYLAND

BALTIMORE

REAGANOMICS: TAKE FROM THE POOR AND GIVE TO THE RICH. Panel discussion with speakers from Coalition of Labor Union Women, Solidarity Day Committee, Young Socialist Alliance, and others. Sun., Sept. 13, 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

MASSACHUSETTS

BOSTON

SOCIALIST WORKERS CAMPAIGN RALLY. Speakers: David Walsh, candidate for Boston School Committee; John Rees, candidate for Boston City Council; and guest speakers. Sat., Sept. 12, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Socialist Workers Campaign. For more information call (617) 262-4621.

NORTH CAROLINA

PIEDMONT

HEAR BETSY SOARES, SOCIALIST WORKERS CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR OF WINSTON-SALEM. Sun., Sept. 13, 8 p.m. Open house 6-8 p.m. 216 E. 6th St., 2nd floor, Winston-Salem. Ausp: Socialist Workers 1981 Campaign Committee. For more information call (919) 723-3419.

OHIO

CINCINNATI

NUCLEAR INSANITY: NEUTRON BOMB, MX, AND CRUISE MISSILE. Speakers: Rev. Maurice McCrackin; Polly Brokaw, American Friends Service Committee; Tom Carpenter, Citizens Against a Radioactive Environment; Joe Lombardo, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., Sept. 13, 7 p.m. 2531 Gilbert Ave. Donation: \$1.50. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (513) 751-2636.

OREGON

PORTLAND

A FILM: 'REVOLUTION OR DEATH.' On the struggle for freedom in El Salvador. Discussion to follow. Sun., Sept. 13, 7:30 p.m. 711 N.W. Everett. Donation: \$1. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (503) 222-7225.

A FILM: 'WITH BABIES AND BANNERS.' On the participation of the Women's Emergency Brigade in the United Auto Workers sitdown strike against General Motors in Flint, Michigan, in 1937. Discussion to follow. Sun., Sept. 20, 7:30 p.m. 5811 N. Broad. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (503) 222-7225.

PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA

TEACHERS' STRIKE. Speaker: Ray Pollard, vice-president of Philadelphia Federation of Teachers. Sun., Sept. 20, 7:30 p.m. 5811 N. Broad. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (215) 927-4747.

PITTSBURGH

REVOLUTIONARY CUBA TODAY. Speakers: Betsy Farley, Young Socialist Alliance; Rick Reaves, YSA. Thurs., Sept. 17. For information on time call (412) 488-7000. University of Pittsburgh, Student Union, Conference Room C. Ausp: YSA. For more information call (412) 488-7000.

TEXAS

SAN ANTONIO

FILM: 'LAST GRAVE AT DIMBAZA.' Fri., Sept. 18, 8 p.m. East Side Multiservice Center, 2805 E. Commerce. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (512) 736-9218.

Tour for Irish political prisoners

The New York H-Block/Armagh Committee is sponsoring a tour of two Irish activists to help get out the truth about why Irish political prisoners are on hunger strike. The two are: James Connolly Brady, who was "on the blanket" in Long Kesh prison for nearly five years and was just released last June, and Sean Flynn, recently elected to Belfast city council on a platform of support to the political prisoners. Once interned for a year by the British, Flynn is a vice-president of the Irish Republican Socialist Party.

Tour schedule
Sept. 14-16 Boston, Worcester,

Providence
17 Burlington, Vt.
18 Montreal
19 Toronto
20-21 Detroit, Toledo
22 Pittsburgh
23 Scranton
24-26 New York
27-28 Austin, Houston
Oct. 2 Miami

In New York a rally will be held for the two speakers on Friday, September 25, at 8 p.m. at the Irish Institute, 326 W. Forty-eighth Street (between Eighth and Ninth avenues).

For more information on the tour call (212) 436-4770 or (212) 788-1990.

Letters

Watt and religion

Recent weeks have seen a growing controversy over the views of Reagan's secretary of the interior, James Watt. The *Arizona Republic* and the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, to name just two examples, have prominently featured stories that raise the question of Watt's belief that the second coming is imminent. Apparently, Watt holds firmly to the view that Earth is a mere stopping-place on the way to eternal life, and judgment day is not far off.

This has some environmentalists worried that Watt, for religious reasons, will allow the environment to be exploited as if there were no future generations. Indeed, he has shown remarkable zeal in leasing the entire West Coast for oil drilling and opening public lands to energy companies. If the Millennium is around the corner, why not?

But, in my opinion, the alarm over Watt's old-time religion misses the point. Reagan, not God, appointed Watt. The new pull-out-all-the-stops development policy has very earthly origins. Its Holy Book is not the Bible, but the corporation ledger. Reagan only chose a man who could carry out the policy previously set, the one he promised to land-greedy Western capitalists.

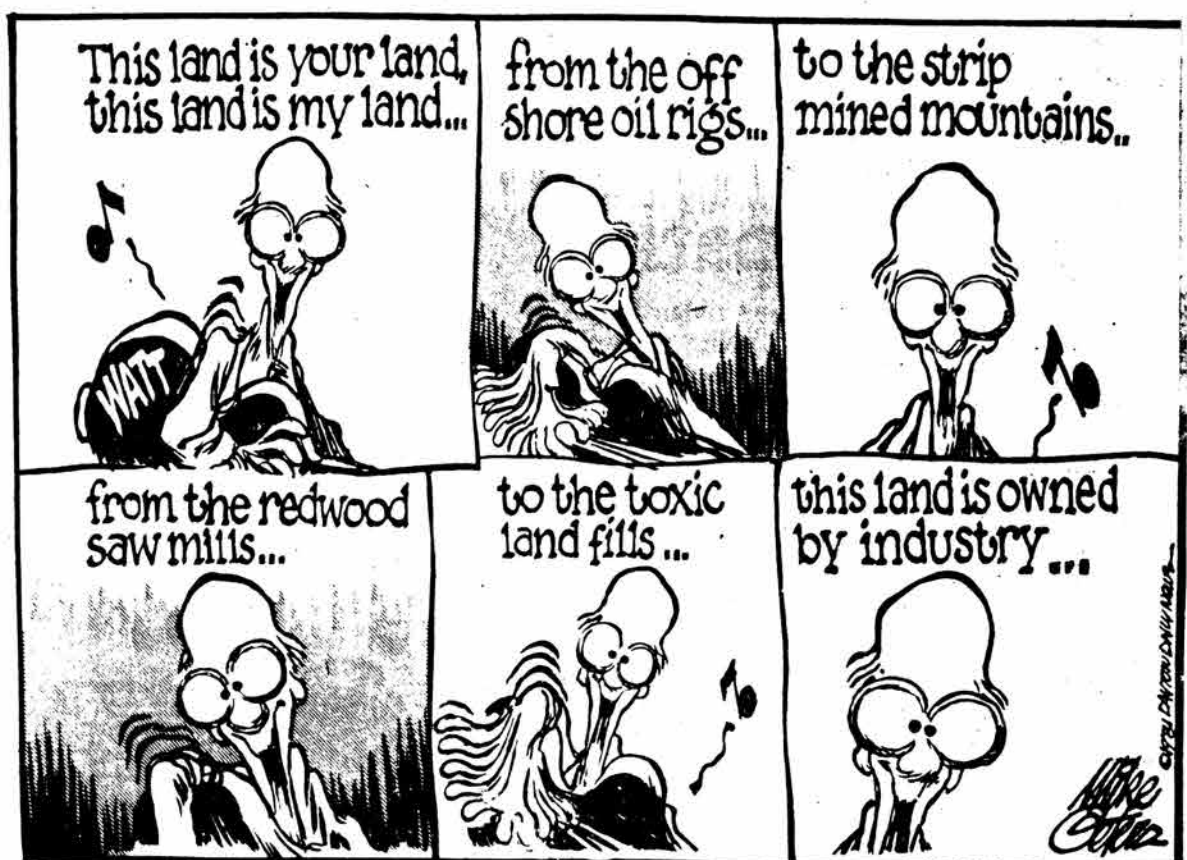
Watt's religion, however bizarre, is just a secondary issue. Divinely inspired or not, his aggression against the environment is a real threat.
Mark Chalkley
San Antonio, Texas

Chemical killers

The Council of Economic Priorities, a New York-based research group, just released a national study titled "Occupational Safety and Health in the Chemical Industry." This report, based on data obtained from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), found the rate of OSHA violations in the chemical industry to be three times the national average, and the severity of these violations to be second only to the mining industry.

The study rates the largest eight chemical companies in the nation according to health and safety performance. American Cyanamid, with the best record, was number one. The CEP report does note a few problems, though: "At Bound Brook (Cyanamid's Bridgewater, New Jersey plant), concern about long-run health risks at the plant helped precipitate a fifty-three-day strike. Fifteen of the plant's workers were found to have developed bladder cancer. Based on the strike settlement, Cyanamid agreed to furnish the union with generic lists of substances manufactured and raw materials used, and to provide workers with periodic physical exams, test results and protective equipment."

In other words, it took a fifty-three-day strike and fifteen documented cases of bladder cancer for Cyanamid's Bound Brook plant workers to win the right just to know what chemicals they are handling. Less than three weeks ago, at



this same plant, a chemical worker was killed in an explosion. It was American Cyanamid that forced women to become sterilized to work certain jobs. And last week the Department of Environmental Protection cited Cyanamid's Bound Brook plant for contaminating groundwater at its 600-acre site. The EPA ordered twenty-six lagoons containing chemicals, acids, sludges, and salts to be cleaned up. It must be little consolation to workers at American Cyanamid that their company is rated "number one."

Of course big business has been quick to respond to the

CEP report. Allied Chemical Corporation, rated fifth in the study, claims the report "draws a very broad conclusion from obviously incomplete and outdated government statistics." Allied points to National Safety Council figures that "show the chemical process industry to be the second safest of all industries."

Chemical workers know that's a lie. And they have documented cases of liver cancer, bladder cancer, eye cancer, and unexplained deaths to back them up.
Karen Newton
Jersey City, N.J.

My first thought is that Chevron is probably big enough and gutsy enough to manufacture a gasoline shortage in the middle of an oil glut, save on parking space and make gas \$2 a gallon in the process. My second thought is that Chevron ought to be taken over and run to meet the energy needs of this country, not the profit and parking needs of the oil barons. Are they sure they want us to think?

C.W.
Oakland, California

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Gas lines again?

This was the headline on a July-August news bulletin to Chevron employees in Richmond, California. The bulletin stated that unless California drivers, and Chevron employees in particular, carpooled more, gas lines would be seen soon. Complaining of lack of parking space at the refinery, we were given a choice:

"... either more long lines at the service station, odd-even days, and higher prices, or conservation and car-van pooling/public transportation. Give it some thought."

The 'Militant' special prisoner fund makes it possible to send reduced-rate subscriptions to prisoners who can't pay for them. To help out, send your contribution to: Militant Prisoner Subscription Fund, 14 Charles Lane, New York, New York 10014.

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

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tral Ave. NE. Zip: 87106. Tel: (505) 842-0954.
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OHIO: Cincinnati: SWP, YSA, 2531 Gilbert Ave. Zip: 45206. Tel: (513) 751-2636. Cleveland: SWP, YSA, 2230 Superior. Zip: 44114. Tel: (216) 579-9369. Toledo: SWP, YSA, 2120 Dorr St. Zip: 43607. Tel: (419) 536-0383.
OREGON: Portland: SWP, YSA, 711 NW Everett. Zip: 97209. Tel: (503) 222-7225.
PENNSYLVANIA: Edinboro: YSA, Edinboro State College. Zip: 16444. Tel: (814) 734-4415. Harrisburg: SWP, YSA, P.O. Box 3255. Zip: 17105. Philadelphia: SWP, YSA, 5811 N. Broad St. Zip: 19141. Tel: (215) 927-4747 or 927-4748. Pittsburgh: SWP, YSA, 1102 E. Carson St. Zip: 15203. Tel: (412) 488-7000. State College: YSA, P.O. Box 464, Bellefonte. Zip: 16823. Tel: (814) 238-3296.

RHODE ISLAND: Providence: YSA, 52 Earle St., Central Falls. Zip: 02863.
TEXAS: Austin: YSA, c/o Mike Rose, 7409 Berkman Dr. Zip: 78752. Dallas: SWP, YSA, 5442 E. Grand. Zip: 75223. Tel: (214) 826-4711. Houston: SWP, YSA, 6333 Gulf Freeway, Room 222. Zip: 77023. Tel: (713) 924-4056. San Antonio: SWP, YSA, 337 W. Josephine. Zip: 78212. Tel: (512) 736-9218.
UTAH: Salt Lake City: SWP, YSA, 677 S. 7th East, 2nd Floor. Zip: 84102. Tel: (801) 355-1124.
VIRGINIA: Tidewater Area (Newport News): SWP, YSA, 111 28th St. Zip: 23607. Tel: (804) 380-0133.
WASHINGTON, D.C.: SWP, YSA, 3106 Mt. Pleasant St. NW. Zip: 20010. Tel: (202) 797-7699. Baltimore-Washington District: 3106 Mt. Pleasant St., NW., Washington, D.C. Zip: 20010. Tel: (202) 797-7021.
WASHINGTON: Olympia: YSA, Room 3208, The Evergreen State College. Zip: 98501. Tel: (206) 866-7332. Seattle: SWP, YSA, 4868 Rainier Ave. South. Zip: 98118. Tel: (206) 723-5330.
WEST VIRGINIA: Charleston: SWP, YSA, Box 3761. Zip: 25337. Tel: (304) 345-3040. Morgantown: SWP, YSA, 957 S. University Ave. Zip: 26505. Tel: (304) 296-0055.
WISCONSIN: Milwaukee: SWP, YSA, 4707 W. Lisbon Ave. Zip: 53208. Tel: (414) 445-2076.

THE MILITANT

So. Africa, U.S. condemned at UN

By Suzanne Haig

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y.—Protests are mounting against the South African invasion of Angola and the Reagan administration's support for the apartheid regime.

Hundreds of thousands of people marched through the streets of the Angolan capital of Luanda, September 8, in opposition to both South Africa and Washington.

In the United States, Washington's veto of a United Nations Security Council resolution condemning the invasion was labeled "a dastardly act" by the Congressional Black Caucus, "an all-time low in the morality of the Reagan administration's foreign policy."

UN session on Namibia

It is no accident that the aggression comes at the same time that the UN General Assembly is holding a special emergency session on Namibian independence from South Africa.

The invasion of Angola is integrally tied to the

fight of the Namibian people against colonial domination.

For nearly twenty years, the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) has waged an unrelenting fight, including armed struggle, against South Africa. SWAPO is recognized by the UN as the "sole authentic representative" of the Namibian people, and accorded permanent observer status in the UN. The government in Angola is one of SWAPO's strongest supporters.

South Africa has justified its invasion of Angola by claiming it has a right to track down members of SWAPO.

For three years the apartheid regime has defied a UN resolution calling for a ceasefire and UN-sponsored elections in Namibia. Knowing that SWAPO would win such an election, South Africa is trying to annihilate the liberation forces and install its own puppet regime, the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance.

The U.S. government, in turn, is trying to tie the issue of Namibian independence to withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. The troops were invited by the Angolan government to protect the country against the South African regime.

The UN special session, which began September 3, took on the character of an international forum of protest. Speaker after speaker called for the immediate withdrawal of South African troops from Angola, demanded an end to South African domination of Namibia, expressed support to SWAPO, and denounced Washington's support to the apartheid regime.

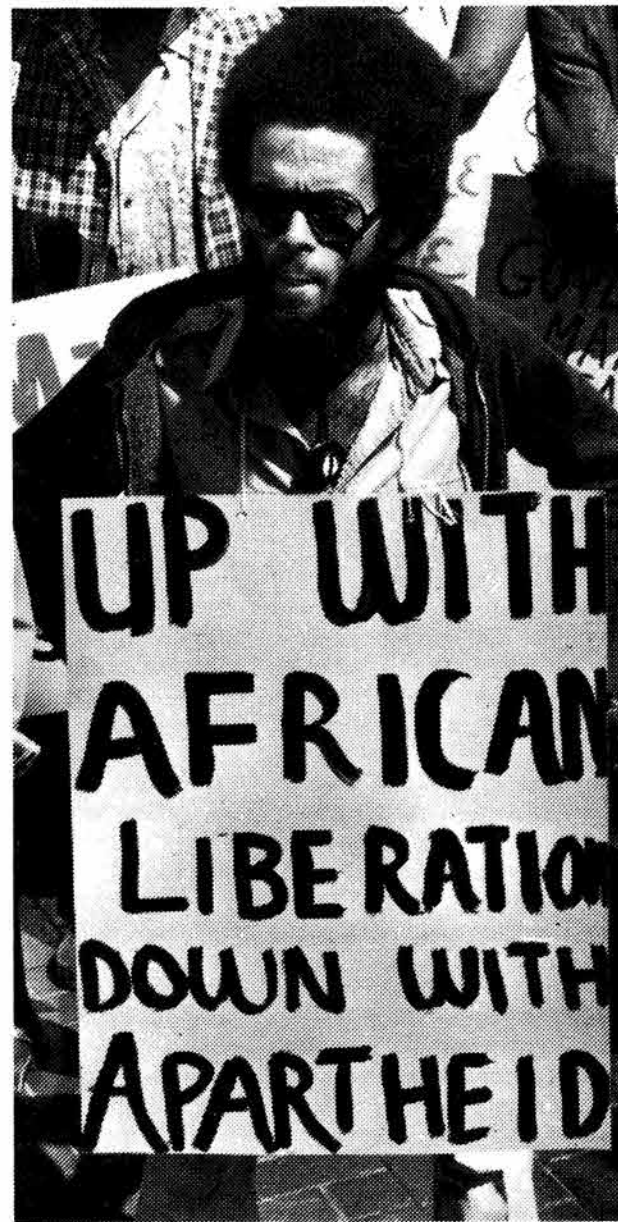
"I would like to inform the international community," said Alexandre Rodrigues, minister of the interior of Angola, "that today, the racist South African troops are not only in illegal occupation of Namibia, but also of areas in southern Angola. They continue to meet with resistance from the Angolan patriots . . . and they continue to bomb Angolan cities and massacre Angolan civilians."

Rodrigues described Pretoria's control over Namibia. It holds sham elections, fathered an illegal government structure, created artificial parties designed to foster civil war among the people of Namibia, imported thousands of racist troops and para-military and police personnel into Namibia, launched attacks on Angola and the refugee camps located in Angola, divided Namibia into zones and concentration camps, and tried to quell the total support given by the people of Namibia to their liberation movement, SWAPO.

Peter Mueshihange, the representative from SWAPO, took up arguments that South African military aggression was necessitated by "international terrorism" of the Soviet Union, which has supplied arms to SWAPO.

Last week South Africa announced that its troops had captured a Soviet sergeant major and killed several Soviet officers in Angola.

This "is an attempt," Mueshihange said, regarding the charges, "to pave the way for military intervention and destabilization against SWAPO and in particular Angola."



Militant/Barry Chan

"To add insult to injury," he said, "the representative of the United States in the Security Council went out on a limb with his cold war polemics trying to justify South Africa's armed military invasion of Angola. He was so insensitive to the sufferings of the African people of Angola, yet, his support for the racists was so generous and, no doubt, comfortable to them."

Colonialism and illegality

"The question of Namibia is one of colonialism and illegality. SWAPO was founded upon the aspirations and interests of the oppressed and colonized Namibians . . . to reconquer their land, to reestablish ownership and control over their natural resources, to liberate human labor and to create the necessary conditions for the people for the full enjoyment of their basic rights of freedom, self-determination, and genuine and unfettered independence."

Isidoro Malmierca Peoli, foreign minister of Cuba, attacked the Reagan administration as "encouraging the aggressive and gangster-like actions of South Africa."

Peoli was one of many speakers calling for military and economic sanctions against South Africa.

The Syrian representative, Dia A. El-Fattal, stated "We have a common enemy in Pretoria and Tel Aviv and we will help strengthen SWAPO."

A representative of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam also spoke.

The mass aggression in Angola, he said, made him recall "the atrocities of American troops for years in South Vietnam and in the recent past the presence of Chinese troops in North Vietnam. China, the U.S., and South Africa have employed the same terror, repression, and bloodletting."

"The American administration must bear the direct responsibility for the consequences of the act of aggression against Angola."

Anti-apartheid rally

By Mike Kozak

ALBANY, N.Y.—The September 22 national demonstration here to protest the South African rugby team tour is picking up steam.

Buses are reported to be coming from New York City, Boston, Philadelphia, and other cities. Labor support is growing here for the action, with officials and members of the United Auto Workers, Steelworkers, Electrical Workers, Communication Workers, and others organizing to bring unionists to the demonstration.

The South African rugby team will play September 22 in Albany's city-owned Bleecker stadium. This is the only game on the tour to be played in public. Demonstrators will assemble at 5 p.m. at the state capitol and march to Swinburne Park near the stadium.

The demonstration is called by SART (Stop the Apartheid Rugby Tour). Groups participating here include the NAACP, Urban League, Irish Coalition, National Black Independent Political Party, Peace and Justice Commission of the Catholic Diocese, Vietnam Vets of America, Socialist Workers Party, Young Socialist Alliance, and Citizens Party.

To help build the march in Albany, Dennis Brutus, a Black South African poet, will speak at the college of St. Rose, a state university in Albany, on September 16. Plans are also being made to bring a speaker from the African National Congress on September 16 and 17.

For information on the protests call the NAACP office at (518) 462-1823.

A capitol district wide labor meeting is planned for Saturday, September 12, at 10:30 a.m., at the NAACP offices to organize support for and participation in the September 22 demonstration.

Secret Service nabs 'security threat'

By Vivian Sahner

On August 31, the Secret Service caught up with Mary Hardman.

What was her crime?

She supposedly threatened President Reagan's life.

Hardman, sixty years old and crippled with arthritis, lives with her disabled husband in a small apartment in Newark, New Jersey. They live on \$550 a month from Social Security and disability payments. The federal budget cuts reduced their food stamp allotment from \$99 to \$51.

Recently Hardman, a former June Taylor dancer, called the Social Se-

curity office to get benefits for her hospitalized daughter. She told the office the Reagan administration is "terrible." She also says she "may have said the bullet shouldn't have been deflected last March."

"Next thing I know, about an hour later, two Secret Service agents are at my door," Hardman told the Newark *Star-Ledger*. "My husband let them in. We were congenial and they joked with us."

Then Agent Thomas Corbo asked Hardman what she would do if President Reagan came to town.

"I told him I wouldn't even walk

across the street to see Reagan," she said. "I may have repeated to him in jest that I wished the bullet hadn't been deflected because of the situation he has put the poor and elderly in, but he knew I wouldn't seriously threaten anyone."

The Secret Service didn't see it that way. For badmouthing the president, Hardman was charged with the crime of "threats and other improper influence in political matters."

"This isn't the county I once knew," Hardman told the press. "After I danced with June Taylor and the Rockettes, I performed with USO

shows beginning in 1950, entertaining the troops in Alaska and Korea," she said. "Now I feel like I shouldn't be a U.S. citizen."

"We had to move the bed into the living room here so in the winter we can shut off the heat and save money," she said. "My husband can't work and I can't work. We have to live like this. We're not asking for much, just let us survive. It's easy to kick a person when he's down."

"We just have each other. This has been such a jolt. I can't take much more of this."