

How U.S. is helping Israel's brutal aggression in Lebanon

Reagan sends bombs, tanks, 'peacekeeping' force



West Beirut. Israel unleashed worst bombing since Vietnam.

BY DAVID FRANKEL

AUGUST 18 — After 76 days of brutal war, the Israeli army has been unable to conquer the few thousand Palestinian liberation fighters standing their ground in West Beirut. But by holding hostage the lives of the city's entire population, the Zionist regime, backed by Washington, has forced the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) to agree to leave West Beirut.

The Palestinian news agency Wafa explained August 17, "In this war, the biggest losers were the Lebanese and Palestinian civilian populations. But as the Israelis saw to their amazement, as the siege drew tighter and the attacks fiercer, this same civilian population grew more determined and more steadfast."

"Ultimately the PLO decided it had to leave Beirut," Wafa continued, ". . . out of concern for the lives and property of the people of Beirut. The threat to them came, of course, not from the PLO but from the Israelis."

Worst bombing since Vietnam

In the weeks leading up to the negotiated evacuation plan, the Israelis subjected West Beirut to the most intensive bombardment suffered by any city since the U.S. bombing of Hanoi. On August 1, Israeli planes, artillery, tanks, and warships pounded West Beirut without let-up for some 14 hours. About 185,000 bombs and shells were used during this assault — more than three every second.

Nearly 200 people were known to have been killed and another 400 wounded, but hundreds more were never found, having been suffocated in basement shelters or buried in the rubble of their homes.

A new attack on August 4 lasted for 20 hours.

More than 300 people are known to have been killed in these raids. Two days later, nearly 100 more were killed when Israeli planes bombed a six-story apartment house.

On August 12, Israeli forces pounded the Palestinian neighborhoods on the southern fringe of West Beirut for 11 hours. At least 500 people were killed or wounded.

Invaders pay stiff price

The Zionists have paid a price for their ruthless determination to drive out the Palestinians. The PLO and its Lebanese allies have politically exposed the Zionist government before the world, and have inspired working people and the oppressed everywhere by the military battle they put up against overwhelming odds.

One indication of the fierce resistance the Zionists faced came August 4, when Israeli tanks and troops tried to push into West Beirut from several points. After 24 hours of fighting, the Israelis had failed to break through. They announced that 19 of their soldiers had been killed and 72 wounded — one of the highest Israeli tolls for any single day of the war.

It is this kind of resistance that the Zionist forces have tried to break by raining death on West Beirut's civilian population. The *New York Times* reported August 18, "The scope and scale of the destruction in some areas, particularly along the southern part of the city where the Palestinian camps and neighborhoods were clustered, is overwhelming. They have been leveled."

Yet the Israelis, who have repeatedly bombed and shelled the population of West Beirut, and cut off food and water from the city, have the gall to accuse the PLO of "hiding behind a civilian screen."

The fact is that the estimated 125,000 to 250,000 Palestinian civilians in West Beirut have not been allowed to leave the city. It has not been the PLO that has kept them there, but the rightist Lebanese militia units guarding the

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Nebraska meat strikers stand firm against scabs, tanks, and troopers

BY MARY NELL BOCKMAN
AND MICHAEL CARPER

DAKOTA CITY, Nebr. — "It looks like there's a war going on here. It's just like Vietnam." The young woman who said this looked around at the tanks, armed troopers, and the planes flying over us.

She doesn't live in Beirut or El Salvador but in Dakota City, Nebraska. She and the 2,450 members of Local 222 United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) on strike at Iowa Beef Processors (IBP) have learned what it's like to come up against an army.

A private army

On July 27, Governor Charles Thone sent two National Guard units to Dakota City to supplement the 100 state troopers already there. This massive show of force amounts to a private army for IBP, the largest meat processing company in the country.

At a cost to Nebraska taxpayers of \$20,000 per day, troopers have used pepper gas, mace, and clubs against union members and their supporters. On the day the *Militant* visited the picket line, 50 troopers and five tanks were deployed around the plant to "defend it" against the 12 picketers.

Thone withdrew the guard units August 16, but 100 state troopers remain.

This strike, which has received international attention, was forced by IBP when the company demanded that the workers accept a four-year wage freeze, a permanent end to all cost-of-living raises, reduction in pay for new hires, and other concessions.

UFCW Local 222, in negotiations before the strike began, agreed to a two-year wage freeze and no cost-of-living raises for three years.

As one union member said, "That two-year wage freeze, which is really a wage cut for us, would give \$25 million back to IBP." But IBP, which made \$57.8 million in profits last year, wants more. Since June 7, the day the strike began, there has been one negotiating session

between IBP and the union. Since July 30, talks have been suspended indefinitely.

Like the giant auto and steel companies, IBP, which is owned by Occidental Petroleum, contends it needs major concessions from workers to be competitive in the industry. Threats of layoffs and plant closings are being used throughout the meat processing industry in an attempt to force wage cuts. Hormel, American Stores, and John Morell, all major meat processors, are currently trying to renegotiate contracts on this basis.

Stakes for other workers

Workers and management at these companies are watching the IBP strike

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State troopers have gassed, clubbed, and arrested pickets.

AFL-CIO stand on Israeli war against Palestinian people

As Israel rained bombs at three per second on the people of West Beirut, killing thousands of civilians, a poll appeared in the August 16 *Newsweek*. It shows a dramatic rise in opposition to the Israeli-U.S. war among the American people.

Sixty percent said they disapproved of

EDITORIAL

the Israeli invasion and 43 percent favored temporary or permanent cutoff of U.S. aid to the Zionist regime.

U.S. working people want no part of an unjust war that has left thousands dead and razed whole cities to the ground, leaving hundreds of thousands homeless. A war indelibly stamped "made in U.S.A." This year alone, Washington is giving Israel \$1.4 billion in military aid.

Thus it is particularly outrageous that just at the time that the Israelis unleashed the worst bombing since Vietnam, a full-page advertisement appeared in the August 15 *New York Times* under the heading "Organized labor speaks out on Lebanon — The AFL-CIO is not neutral. We support Israel."

Run in the AFL-CIO Executive Council's name, this ad in no way speaks for organized labor or the membership of the AFL-CIO. It speaks only to the bankruptcy of the current AFL-CIO officialdom, which shamelessly parrots the reactionary line of the Reagan administration and the U.S. capitalist class on the Palestinian question.

The text of the ad charges that "for seven years, the people of Lebanon have been subjected to a reign of terror at the hands of the PLO and Syria."

This is false. There has been a reign of

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How U.S. is helping Israeli aggression

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crossing points out of West Beirut. Operating under Israeli orders, they have turned back anyone suspected of being Palestinian.

Reagan's 'outrage'

Israel's barbaric war against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples has aroused worldwide anger and protest, including within Israel itself. Here in the United States, a *Newsweek* poll found that 60 percent opposed the Israeli invasion, and 43 percent favored a permanent or temporary halt in U.S. military aid to Israel. No previous Israeli aggression has evoked such a response.

Because of this massive sentiment, President Reagan tried to disavow responsibility for some of the most brutal

WE'RE BACK: With this issue, the 'Militant' resumes publication after our two-week break.

Israeli actions. In a widely publicized phone call to Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin on August 12, Reagan expressed "shock" and "outrage" over the "needless destruction and bloodshed" inflicted by the Israelis in their attack that day.

But there is complete agreement between Washington and Tel Aviv on the immediate aims of the Israeli invasion.

In order to guarantee its economic and political domination of the Middle East

— and of its oil in particular — Washington needs to stamp out the PLO. The struggle of the Palestinian people for national self-determination is a powerful example for the Arab peoples and a challenge to the imperialist status quo in the region and the stability of the Arab regimes that collaborate with Washington.

Imperialist plans for Lebanon

The U.S. rulers are also in agreement with the Israelis on the need to reestablish a stable, proimperialist government in Lebanon.

In 1958, Washington sent 5,000 U.S. Marines into Lebanon when the discriminatory political system inherited from the days of French colonial rule there was threatened. Now the Israeli army is acting in collaboration with Washington to shore up the domination of the country by the right-wing Maronite Christian minority.

The Israelis are backing Bashir Gemayel, leader of the Christian Phalangist militia, for the presidency of Lebanon. Gemayel's forces were responsible for numerous massacres during the Lebanese civil war of 1975-76.

"If Bashir is elected, all the bloodshed that we have seen so far could prove to be just a rehearsal for the future," one Christian cabinet minister told the *Washington Post* August 17.

But before the Zionist regime can hope to impose such a regime on Lebanon, it must get the PLO and Syrian

troops out of the way. With this in mind, Israeli Defense Minister Ariel Sharon pointed out with approval August 17 to the "great progress" made by U.S. envoy Philip Habib who, Sharon said, was "trying to speed up arrangements for the uprooting of the Palestinians and Syrians."

Meanwhile, Israeli forces are reinforcing their positions overlooking Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, where the main Beirut-Damascus highway runs. Speaking of the 30,000 Syrian troops there, Sharon threatened August 11, "Either they withdraw peacefully, or face the consequences of Israeli forces coming within 25 miles of Damascus."

'We want the PLO out'

The threat of the Israeli regime unleashing a new war against Syria remains real. But up to now, the focus has remained on the PLO. As Reagan put it on July 28, "we want the exodus of the armed PLO out of Beirut and out of Lebanon."

The day after the August 4 bombings that killed more than 300 people, a "ranking official" in the White House explained, according to the *New York Times* that "by and large, the Reagan Administration had recognized that some forms of military pressures by Israel were necessary to force the P.L.O. to leave Beirut."

Part of the evacuation plan that has been agreed to involves the entry of a

2,000-strong imperialist "peacekeeping" force to oversee the withdrawal of PLO troops from Beirut. This force would be composed of 800 U.S. Marines, 800 French paratroopers, and 500 Italian troops. Some 1,800 Marines and five U.S. ships have already set sail for Lebanon.

This army has nothing to do with keeping the peace. Its job is to help prepare the way for Israel to impose the kind of government it wants in Lebanon. Working people in the United States have a particular obligation to oppose the attempts of our own government to expand its military involvement in the Middle East.

No peace without justice

Above all, it is necessary to recognize that there can be no peace in Lebanon or in the rest of the Middle East until the Palestinians win the right to return to their homeland.

A Wafa dispatch made this point August 17 in warning that the horrors of the last few months of war in Lebanon are not over.

"What guarantees can the world offer that this nightmare will not be repeated?" the dispatch asked. In light of Israel's record of aggression, "There is every likelihood that this nightmare will be repeated at another time and in another place, only perhaps more horribly."

"In order that it not be repeated, the root cause of the instability of this region, the Palestine question, must be solved justly and promptly, in accordance with the principle of national self-determination."

American working people have a big obligation in this regard. Israel could not wage this war without the military, economic, and diplomatic aid it has received from Washington. But the American people have no interest in one soldier or one cent going to back up Israel's war.

Now more than ever the Palestinian people need protests here demanding that Israel get out of Lebanon; no U.S. aid to the Israeli government; no use of U.S. troops anywhere in the Middle East.

As Dr. Hatem Hussein, director of the Palestine Information Office, said in an interview with the *Militant* at the United Nations August 18: "The war in Vietnam came to an end when the American people stood up and made their voices heard. We hope that the American people and the U.S. movement against war will continue to rally support for our cause."

Major uprising is crushed in Kenya

BY ERNEST HARSCH

After several days of fighting in Nairobi and other parts of Kenya, the government of President Daniel arap Moi was able to crush the most massive uprising since the country gained its independence in 1963. It did so at the cost of several hundred lives and thousands of arrests.

On August 1, rebel junior air force officers seized several air bases around the country and the main government radio station in Nairobi, the capital. Planes bombed the headquarters of the paramilitary General Service Unit on the outskirts of the city.

After seizing the radio station, the rebels proclaimed the overthrow of the Moi government. They accused the government of corruption by "a few greedy and irresponsible bandits — a gang of local tyrants." They denounced Moi's recent imposition of a one-party state, censorship of the press, arbitrary arrests, and a "ruthless repression reminiscent of the colonial days."

Almost the entire air force rallied to the coup attempt, as did many of Kenya's university students and thousands of the urban poor in the working-class neighborhoods that ring Nairobi.

The rebels began arming university students and other supporters, who set up roadblocks around the capital.

The announcement of the coup set off a massive response among the capital's working-class population. They directed their anger against the shops and businesses in downtown Nairobi.

Thousands surged through the streets of the city, breaking windows and walking off with the appliances and food they could not afford to buy.

According to an August 2 dispatch from Nairobi by *New York Times* correspondent Alan Cowell, "... others, predominantly ragged young men and students, put a political interpretation to their anarchy. The catchword of the day became 'power,' accompanied by a clenched fist salute waved with menace in the direction of those who seemed part of the wealthier sector of Nairobi society."

"The message, apparently," Cowell commented, "was that a revolution was under way to transfer political influence from the wealthy elite and those entrenched in power to those whose emotions had not been previously reflected in Kenya's capitalist-oriented, one-party system."

Moi answered these popular aspirations with a bloodbath. Loyal troops retook the radio station and attacked the Embakasi, Eastleigh, and Nanyuki air bases. Army units were deployed throughout the city to put down the rebellion. They moved into the working-class neighborhoods around Nairobi, gunning down scores of civilians and conducting house-to-house searches.

President Moi announced the closure of all the country's universities. A roundup of university students was launched.

On August 10, Mark Bosire, the parliamentary secretary of Moi's Kenya African National Union, announced that

145 people had been killed since the beginning of the uprising. Other officials have put the figure at more than 300.

In the midst of this crackdown, the U.S. government reaffirmed its backing for the Moi regime, which has enjoyed considerable U.S. economic and military assistance over the years. "We consider Kenya a good and close friend," a U.S. State Department spokesman declared August 2.

In the August 7 *New York Times*, Cowell pointed out, "The United States has an agreement permitting American warships to use the port of Mombasa. The United States is also training some units of the Kenyan Army, which apparently remained loyal during the coup."

The August 1 uprising has badly shaken the Kenyan government and its imperialist allies. For years, Kenya has been touted as a capitalist "showcase" in East Africa, a country with a greater degree of industrialization than any other in the region.

The uprising has now exposed the other side of this "economic miracle." While a handful of Kenyans have grown rich, most have been condemned to overcrowded living conditions, inflation, growing unemployment, and increasing shortages of basic consumer goods.

The social tensions caused by this situation have been building up for some time. Students and radical intellectuals have been becoming bolder in their criticisms of the government and of its close ties with Washington, particularly the agreement to provide U.S. ships with port facilities at Mombasa.



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Militant/Lou Howart

Rev. Ben Chavis and Joseph Lowery are slated to speak at September 4 Louisville rally against Klan.



Militant/Osborne Hart

Louisville coalition mounts challenge to KKK antibusing rally

BY CHRIS RAYSON

LOUISVILLE — The Ad Hoc Coalition Against the Klan has called for a countermobilization September 4 to protest an antibusing rally called by the Ku Klux Klan for the same day. Despite deep opposition here, the Jefferson County School Board has agreed to allow the Klan to use Valley High School for its rally. The next day, the Klan will hold a pro-segregation march down Dixie Highway. Bill Wilkinson, Imperial Wizard of the Invisible Empire, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, will be featured at both events.

The Ad Hoc Coalition's counter rally is scheduled for King Solomon Baptist Church. Dr. Joseph Lowery, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and Rev. Ben Chavis, deputy director of the United Church of Christ Commission for Racial Justice, will keynote the rally. A march demanding an end to Klan violence and protection for Black students attending desegregated schools will precede the rally.

Channel 32 TV conducted a poll recently that showed 72 percent of Louisville residents oppose the Klan holding its rally at Valley High School.

Members of Valley Station Baptist Church, most of whom are white, have spearheaded a petition drive to demand the school board cancel the rally. The church is a few blocks from Valley High School.

The petition is being circulated at the Ralston-Purina factory, among other places. Thousands of signatures have been gathered in the county.

Valley United Ministries, a group of area ministers, has passed a resolution opposing the Klan rally.

Opposition to the racist rally follows a series of Klan threats and acts of violence over the summer.

Background of Klan activity

School officials received threats from Klan members that they would bomb Central High School if the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression (KAARPR) went ahead with a planned antiracist rally there on June 10.

The school board promptly cancelled the rally, but public pressure resulted in a court injunction allowing the rally to proceed. Eight hundred people, mostly Black, filled Central's auditorium to hear Eddie Carthan, Black mayor of Tchula, Mississippi, who faces frame-up

charges of robbery and murder; Angela Davis; and other antiracist activists.

A week following the rally, two alliance activists, Susan Lewis and Myra González, were brutally beaten by Klan thugs while distributing antiracist literature in their southeastern Jefferson County neighborhood. The police refused to take a report on the attack.

The Klan's September 4 rally and march is clearly an effort to organize racist violence against Black students at Valley High School and disrupt the county's school desegregation plan.

Valley High School was a center of racist attacks on Black school children bused there under court order in 1974-75, the year school desegregation was implemented in Jefferson County. Since then the Junior Klan has been active at the school, intimidating and beating up Black students.

In the 1980-81 school year — after two attacks by the Junior Klan on Black students at Valley — a mass meeting in Louisville's Black community led to demands that the school administration protect Black students. School officials banned the wearing of KKK T-shirts and formed a student committee to find solutions to ease tensions. But racist attacks and harassment have continued at Valley and other schools.

Encouragement from school board

The actions of the Jefferson County School Board have encouraged racist violence.

First the school board tried to cancel the Davis rally. Now, after the court ruling, the officials' position is that the Klan rally is an exercise of free speech and that they are forced by the court injunction to grant the Klan use of school facilities.

The major newspaper, the *Courier-Journal*, supported the school board's position with an editorial titled "Klan Has Rights Too."

But with the Klan rally the issue is not free speech. The issue is the democratic rights of Black students to attend desegregated schools without fear of physical attack.

Spearheaded by the Black community, the Ad Hoc Coalition Against the Klan involves a wide spectrum of religious and civic organizations. Among the organizations represented at the founding meeting were Kentucky Southern Christian Leadership Conference, State Conference of NAACP chapters, KAARPR, National Lawyers Guild, Louisville Area Council on Peacemaking and Religion, Peace Education Project, NAACP Youth, Young Socialist Alliance, Socialist Workers Party, Newburg Neighborhood Association, and others.

Buttons with the slogan "Protect Our Children September 4 — No to the Klan" are being distributed and a ribbon campaign to express concern for the safety of Black students has been launched.

Black students

Black students attending Valley High School are taking the lead in getting signatures and distributing ribbons. A number of these students have become plaintiffs in a court action demanding that the Jefferson County School Board defend their civil rights by cancelling the Klan rally.

Louisville's Black community has served notice many times that they will not accept a return to the days of "separate but equal" Jim Crow.

The Black community and its allies in the labor movement — an ever-increasing number — are determined to protect its gains and see that those days never return.

What desegregation has meant for Louisville

LOUISVILLE — A rigidly segregated school system was maintained here in Jefferson County until the mid 1960s. Blacks could only attend one public high school, Central High School, and one private school, Catholic Colored High. Both were located in the same downtown Louisville area.

In order to bolster the "separate but equal" rationale for segregated education, the school board eventually tore down the old, dilapidated Central High School and built a modern facility a few blocks away. Token integration of the city's schools also took place.

A massive victory was won in 1974-75 when a comprehensive school desegregation plan was implemented here countywide. This completed the process of tearing down Jim Crow — a rigid system of segregation in housing, education, and public accommodations.

This was a victory for the working class as a whole, laying the basis for closer unity between Black and white workers in defense of their rights and thus strengthening the labor movement.

Yet sections of Louisville's organized labor movement actively fought against busing in 1974-75. The national AFL-CIO threatened to censure the local labor movement for this opposition.

But by 1982 deepening support for Black rights had produced a shift in the labor movement. Today, antiracist activists in the unions can get official labor endorsement for rallies against the Ku Klux Klan and in support of efforts to make Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday a national holiday.

School desegregation in Louisville has led to a deepening of other antiracist struggles, especially in housing. Reports by the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights note a dramatic increase of Black student residents in formerly all-white areas.

As of 1981, there were 1,039 more Black public school students living in white Jefferson County than there were during the 1974-75 school year, an increase of over 91 percent. Since these figures concern only Black students, they understate the actual increase. In the Shively area of southwest Jefferson County, near Valley High School, there has been a 300 percent increase in Black residents from 1970 to 1980.

New battle lines have been drawn over building low-income, predominantly Black public-housing units in Jefferson County. In public hearings, racist opposition has surfaced with cries of "forced housing," like the cries of "forced busing" earlier.

But a 1981 public opinion poll, conducted by the University of Louisville's Urban Studies Center found that 53 percent of whites in Jefferson County said their neighbors would either welcome Blacks or would not care if Blacks moved to their neighborhood.

Since school desegregation the county school board has continued to attack the rights of Black students.

Optional, "traditional" schools have been set up for "well-motivated" students. This is an attempt at setting up a dual school system, one mainly white and middle-class, the other predominantly working-class and Black.

In 1981 the then chairman of Jefferson County School Board, Anthony Gamboa, explained the racist, antilabor reasoning behind the "traditional school" concept to Sigma Delta Chi, the Society of Professional Journalists.

Gamboa said: "We have never known what to do with poor kids, because poor kids by and large do not subscribe to the same standards, and they don't have the same value systems, and they're not looking into the mores that the public educators and teachers want."

At another point Gamboa said, "We deprive some youngsters of the right to learn when their learning is infringed upon by those youngsters who don't want to learn and whose parents don't support learning."

Gamboa said he would "like to see us have other schools" for "youngsters that no regular teacher knows how to teach and allocate resources to those schools in such a way that we have some shot at teaching them."

This defense of segregated education outraged Louisville's Black community, leading to demands that Gamboa resign. Gamboa did not run for reelection, but the school board continues to carry out the same policy.

Black students are still disproportionately pushed out of the Jefferson County School System. Statistics show that Black students are three to four times as likely to be suspended from Jefferson County schools.

Two reasons cited by supporters of the school board for a new school tax in May of this year was the need for money for "traditional" schools and for "better discipline" in the schools. This tax was overwhelmingly defeated in Jefferson County.

MARCH ON WASHINGTON

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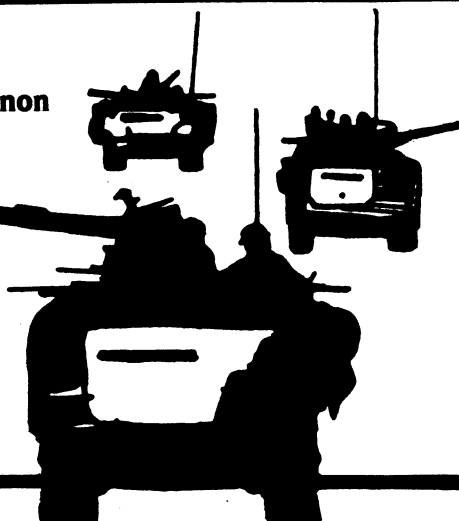
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Steel union rejects reopening of contract



Earl Dotter

Steel companies demanded cuts in wages and benefits. Many rank-and-file unionists felt such concessions would not save jobs.

BY GEOFF MIRELOWITZ

By unanimous vote July 30 the United Steelworkers (USWA) Basic Steel Industry Conference rejected a proposal to reopen the basic steel contract and refused to agree to contract concessions demanded by the companies.

In taking this action, union officials were responding to pressure from rank-and-file USWA members who increasingly do not believe that concessions will save jobs or solve the crisis facing steelworkers.

Negotiations between union and industry officials have been going on all summer. The steel companies had hoped to force workers to bear even more of the burden of the downturn in steel production and the nationwide economic crisis.

Fewer workers are actually on the job in the steel industry than at any time since the 1930s. Over 100,000 are laid off. Plant closings have become commonplace.

Companies' demands

This summer the companies demanded a package of wage and benefit concessions estimated to total between \$6 and \$8 billion.

These included:

- A one-year wage freeze including the cost-of-living allowance (COLA) to take effect immediately, cancelling a scheduled increase of about \$.48 an hour. This would have been followed by an annual \$.50-an-hour cap on COLA increases for each of the next two years.
- A drastic \$3-an-hour cut in starting pay for workers hired after Aug. 1, 1982.
- Removal of an estimated 200 "List 3" companies from the master basic steel agreement. These are steel fabricating and structural companies where workers are also covered by the basic agreement.
- Elimination of the 13-week vacation currently available to steelworkers every five years for those with more than 20 years service. Taking away these vacations would not only deprive workers of earned time off but would also allow the bosses to cut back the jobs of younger workers.

These proposals would have had the effect of further driving down steelworkers' standard of living, dividing the union membership, and beginning to break down industrywide bargaining. Far from solving any of the problems facing steelworkers, these proposals were calculated to increase profits for the companies and weaken the union. This, in turn, would have opened the union to future attacks.

Intense pressure from bosses

The union decision is significant in view of the pattern of concessions imposed on auto workers, teamsters and others over the past year. It has additional significance because of the highly organized campaign carried out by the companies to threaten steelworkers with further suffering if concessions were not granted.

Several companies prepared slide shows and videotapes documenting their position that the industry is in

trouble due to foreign imports, excessive government regulation, and steelworkers' wages. These were shown in the mills and at some union halls to step up the pressure on workers to accept concessions. Many steelworkers received pages and pages of written material mailed out by the companies to serve the same purpose.

The message was clear. If concessions were not made, more plants would be closed and more workers laid off. In Baltimore a few days before the USWA vote, one television station carried an "exclusive report" that Bethlehem Steel's giant Sparrows Point plant was considering 3,000 to 4,000 new layoffs on top of the thousands who are already jobless there.

With Supplemental Unemployment Benefit funds exhausted at many companies (for any laid-off worker with less than 20 years service) and state and federal unemployment benefits also running out for many workers, these threats could not be taken lightly.

Following the vote the threats were repeated. One of the industry negotiators, George Moore, Bethlehem Steel's vice-president for industrial relations, said, "As a result of the union's decision the plight of more than 120,000 unemployed steelworkers . . . will continue to worsen and the crisis in the industry is likely to continue unabated."

This was echoed by J. Bruce Johnston,

the industry's chief negotiator and a U.S. Steel vice-president, who said, "With the steel industry's very existence threatened, it is regrettable that the steelworkers chose to increase wages for a few at the expense of many."

Discussion among unionists

The discussion on contract concessions has been going on among steelworkers on the job, at the union halls, and on the unemployment lines for months. Every steelworker knows that we are in a crisis along with millions of other workers. What many do not agree with is the idea that concessions will solve the problems. Many point to the large profits racked up by the steel companies as recently as a year ago.

Others point to the situation of auto workers which has not improved despite billions of dollars in concessions to GM, Ford, and Chrysler. Many workers are aware that these concessions have created no jobs in auto and that working conditions have deteriorated severely.

Despite the widespread opposition to concessions, many steelworkers expected the union leadership to agree to some sort of renegotiated contract. This expectation was reinforced by the June 18 vote in the Basic Steel Industry Conference to open discussions with the companies. This decision, made on the recommendation of USWA President Lloyd McBride, came over a year before the contract is scheduled to expire.

Unlike auto workers, steelworkers have no right to vote on our contract. The power to make national contract decisions rests in the hands of the 633 local union presidents who make up the Basic Steel Industry Conference.

Union officials' attitude

Press reports on the negotiations and the vote confirm the union leadership was prepared to make concessions. "We certainly tried to take a major step," said McBride. "The things that we were willing to do far outstripped anything that had been done in any negotiations up to this point. We were willing to go further than the UAW had gone and the Teamsters had gone but it wasn't far enough."

"It's beyond me," he continued. "We

were amazed that we couldn't work it out. We don't know why they didn't take it but obviously they thought they could get more."

Clearly the top leadership of the USWA was willing to deal. But, as a report in the Hammond, Indiana, newspaper, *The Times*, said, "A rising opposition to any concessions among rank and file workers has put virtually all local union presidents under intense pressure not to accept a 'takeaway' package. . . ."

Confronted by this and the voracious appetite of the steel companies, McBride decided to reject the proposals. "We were prepared to try to recommend to our leadership some sacrifices but [the company proposal] we felt, went too far," he said.

Attacks not over

The USWA decision represents a setback to the employers' austerity drive. However, the steel industry offensive against workers is by no means over. The regularly scheduled basic steel contract negotiations will begin at the end of 1982 and the companies will certainly try again to impose concessions then . . . if not sooner. Already they are threatening to force steelworkers out on strike.

McBride said the industry told him, "If they couldn't have their way this time, they would have to take a strike in 1983. We'll certainly try to avoid it but if we can't avoid it then it will happen." The last nationwide, basic steel industry strike lasted for 116 days in 1959. For the past 10 years steelworkers have been bound by the Experimental Negotiating Agreement — or no-strike pact. The ENA has not been renewed by the industry.

The possibility of a strike is still a year away. All signs are that the steel companies will continue turning the screws on steelworkers as the economic crisis deepens. At the same time steelworkers will continue discussing what we can learn from this latest experience and how to best defend ourselves from this offensive.

Geoff Mirelowitz is a laid-off steelworker from Bethlehem Steel's Sparrows Point plant and a member of USWA Local 2609.

2 N.C. socialists face Aug. 27 trial

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — The State of North Carolina is continuing to press its frame-up of two Socialist Workers Party supporters despite a growing campaign in their defense.

The two, Steve Craine and Jeff Miller, were arrested in Raleigh at a June 6 rally for the Equal Rights Amendment after city police had banned them from petitioning to get ballot status for Socialist Workers congressional candidate Meryl Lynn Farber. Although Miller and Craine obeyed the cops' order they were arrested without warning while talking to a rally marshal about what had happened to them.

The two are charged with "interfering with a picket," which carries a maximum sentence of six months in jail.

District Attorney J. Randolph Riley has already indicated how seriously the state is treating this trial, scheduled for August 27.

In a letter to over 150 people from around the state who contacted his office demanding the charges be dropped, Riley asserts that, "Messrs. Miller and Craine have so flagrantly abused and infringed upon the rights of the rally organizers and march participants that their prosecution is required to show the public at large that harassment and intimidation of authorized marchers will not be tolerated."

The fact that the Socialist Workers Party was certified for the ballot on July 14 weakens the state's attempt to make petitioners appear to be illegal.

The right to petition for socialist can-

didates free from police harassment continues to win support in North Carolina. Terry Schooley, president of the North Carolina National Organization for Women (NOW), one of the sponsors of the ERA rally, has written to Riley calling on him to stop this prosecution. The Raleigh NOW chapter also passed a resolution demanding that the charges be dropped.

In one response to Riley's letter, attorney Lewis Pitts wrote of his "disgust at your shallow attempt to justify this wrongful prosecution based on a real concern to protect the rights to march and picket."

"Where was this concern when your office wrongfully prosecuted Attorney Shelly Blum for picketing with PATCO? Where was this concern when five demonstrators were murdered by Klan and Nazis in Greensboro Nov. 3, 1979?"

"In fact, the State has historically only been concerned with construing the 1st Amendment Rights of citizens with the most restrictive and narrow interpretation. Your treatment of Messrs. Craine and Miller is no exception."

On July 24 the Militant Labor Forum sponsored a public meeting here. Several activists who had been victimized for their political activities shared the platform with Craine, who explained what was behind the Raleigh petitioning arrests.

Sister Mary McClintock, a Winston-Salem antiwar activist, described the chilling effect of police photographers at a peaceful vigil protesting U.S. aid to El

Salvador. Draft non-registrant John Butz spoke on the arrests of demonstrators at Fort Bragg, and Lewis Pitts, Southern Regional vice-president of the National Lawyers Guild, explained how proposed FBI guidelines would victimize lawyers who defend political activists.

Messages protesting the arrests and calling for all charges to be dropped should be sent to District Attorney J. Randolph Riley, Wake County Courthouse, Raleigh, N.C. 27602. Send copies to Socialist Workers 1982 Campaign, 216 E. Sixth St., Winston-Salem, N.C. 27101.

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Int'l rally denounces U.S. warmakers

Salutes freedom fighters from Palestine to Central America



Militant/Charles Ostrofsky

Among speakers at August 6 rally were (from left): Victor Rubio, FMLN-FDR; Maria Meneses, New York Casa Nicaragua; translator Martin Koppel; Chan Bun Han, Committee in Solidarity with Viet Nam, Kampuchea and Laos; David Ndaba, African National Congress.



BY SUZANNE HAIG

OBERLIN, Ohio — Representatives of revolutionary movements around the world united at a rally here August 6 in solidarity with the struggle against U.S. imperialism in Palestine, Central America and the Caribbean, South Africa, Indochina, and within the United States itself.

The rally, attended by some 1,000 people, culminated a weeklong national educational conference at Oberlin College hosted by the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance.

Rally cochair Cindy Jaquith, an editor of the *Militant*, pointed out that the gathering was occurring on the thirty-seventh anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombing of Hiroshima.

"It is the U.S. government, first and foremost, that is the threat to world peace. And it is in the wars Washington is waging and supporting today that the danger of nuclear war lies," she said.

The world role of U.S. imperialism, she emphasized, means that U.S. workers have a decisive role to play in the struggle for peace.

Palestinian struggle

Israel's war in Lebanon was the central battle on everyone's mind.

Two days earlier, Israeli tanks had crossed into West Beirut and planes rained a torrent of U.S.-made bombs on Palestinian and Lebanese residents.

Jaquith read a telegram to the rally from Dr. Hatem Hussein, director of the Palestine Information Office. Hussein had been scheduled to speak, but had to cancel his appearance due to emergency meetings at the United Nations.

In his telegram, Hussein urged those assembled to speak to "all Americans to stop this war of genocide, to cut off U.S. weapons to Israel." His message pledged "fraternity and friendship between American working people and Palestinian people." (See full text below).

The audience responded with a sustained standing ovation, chanting with fists raised: "PLO! PLO!"

Similar chants punctuated the entire evening as speaker after speaker condemned the U.S.-backed war of terror by Israel and saluted the heroic PLO fighters. It was announced that some rally participants would be leaving that night for a demonstration in Washington, D.C., the next day against the Lebanon war.

Solidarity in common fight

A dominant theme of the evening was recognition that Washington is the common enemy of working people and the oppressed around the world.

As David Ndaba, a representative to the United Nations from the African National Congress, put it: "An act of solidarity is not an act of charity, but an act of mutual aid between the forces fighting for the same objective."

"We salute the victorious people of

Grenada, the victorious people of Nicaragua, of Vietnam, the victorious people of Iran, because we recognize that each and every victory is also a victory for those who are still struggling," he said.

Ndaba told the audience about the rising struggle against the apartheid regime in South Africa and the growing strength of the Namibian peoples' fight for independence.

"The apartheid regime has never been as isolated as it is today. The regime has never needed a friend and ally as much as it does today. And it has found that friend and ally in the U.S. administration," Ndaba said.

"This comes as no surprise to us. The U.S. corporations in South Africa are not there *despite* the apartheid system, they are there *because* of it.

"Today they are closing down the steel plants in Ohio, closing down the auto

plants in Detroit, denying the American workers their jobs; whereas in South Africa they are opening up new industrial plants," he explained, to take advantage of low wages there.

"That is why we say we are facing a common struggle and a common enemy."

No bread without dignity

Maria Meneses, representing Casa Nicaragua of New York, described how the Reagan administration is trying to overturn the revolution in her country.

"In Nicaragua, comrades, aggression is a fact," she said. "It is a silent but bloody aggression," kept secret from American working people.

She detailed attacks on Nicaraguan border posts by CIA-funded counter-revolutionaries and other provocations.

"It is President Reagan that is ordering airplanes to violate Nicaragua's

airspace, ordering his destroyers to enter our territorial waters, and encouraging the Honduran government to give cover to counterrevolutionaries when they carry out incursions into Nicaragua and then flee back across the border.

"It is the U.S. government that is taking the bread away from the Nicaraguan people," she said, referring to the cutoff of U.S. aid. "But the people have responded that we do not want bread without dignity."

"We have been accused of having the largest army in Latin America, when we are only 2.5 million people. But what we really have is a people in arms determined to defend our freedom to the end."

Chan Bun Han, of the Committee in Solidarity with Viet Nam, Kampuchea and Laos, explained, "The world is in turmoil due to the economic crisis of the

Continued on Page 6

Palestinians appeal to U.S. working people

The following telegram was sent to the August 6 international rally in Oberlin, Ohio, by Dr. Hatem Hussein, director of the Palestine Information Office. The rally concluded a week-long educational conference hosted by the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance.

Dear Comrades, Sisters, and Brothers:

D.C. marchers protest Lebanon war

BY MARGARET SCOTT

WASHINGTON, D.C. — On August 7 a demonstration in support of the Palestinian people was held here. It was organized by the Palestine National Council.

Initially a crowd of about 1,000 assembled on the Capitol-end of the mall. Several buses carrying Palestinians and their supporters pulled up from as far away as Chicago.

One of the central themes of the action stressed Palestinian and Lebanese unity. Palestinian and Lebanese nationals represented a good portion of the demonstration's participants. Two huge Palestinian and Lebanese flags led the march which swelled in size as it proceeded.

Marchers kept up a steady series of loud and defiant chants: "Reagan, Begin, you should know! We are *all* the PLO!" "Reagan, Begin both the same — only difference is the name!" and "Jewish people yes! Zionism no!" Many people on the sidelines stopped to watch the marchers.

Several cars drove by, their occupants giving V-signs out the windows and honking loudly. A Black youth stretched out of the back window of a public transit bus, waving a fist and shouting enthusiastic support. A number of

On behalf of PLO Chairman Yassir Arafat and all the Palestinian and Lebanese freedom fighters, I wish to send you the warmest fraternal and revolutionary greetings.

From West Beirut — the besieged, bleeding, yet heroic and steadfast city, the new Stalingrad — the Palestinian and Lebanese people appeal to all of you

people joined the march, mostly Black youth.

The march ended at Lafayette Park directly opposite the White House, for a rally. A representative of the Palestine Information Office in New York, addressing the people of the United States, said:

"You are part of the American conscience. Israel knows that it cannot advance one inch without U.S. aid. Martin Luther King said that defeat of justice anywhere is a victory for injustice everywhere. Either it is for all or it will be at the expense of all. Long live the struggle of the Palestinian and Lebanese people!"

Next a telegram of support for the Palestinian cause was read to the audience. This telegram was signed by a number of Black leaders and organizations, headed by the Rev. Jesse Jackson.

A speaker from the Palestine Congress of North America declared: "The Beirut fighters have endured 60 days. As long as Palestine is occupied we will continue the struggle until Palestine is liberated. Palestinians have been besieged before. Israel will also tumble down, as many repressive regimes have fallen. The people of the world will fight together in revolution until victory!"

to stand with them; to raise your voices to protest the Israeli barbarism and war of genocide; to protest the use of the most modern and sophisticated American weapons against the city and its people.

In the name of humanity we urge you to speak to the American people, to members of Congress, to all Americans to stop this war of genocide, to cut off U.S. weapons to Israel.

Cluster bombs, phosphorus and fragmentation bombs — along with 2,000-pound bombs — are being used against defenseless women and children. West Beirut is a city without water, without hospitals, and without medical supplies. It is an unbelievable situation. It is happening now.

We appeal to you to stop the holocaust, to find all ways and means of moving the American conscience and the American people.

The whole world, and especially the Palestinian and Arab people, feel that the U.S. government is helping in this genocide and mass killing. Your honor, your humanity as Americans and human beings is at stake.

Finally, the Palestinian and Lebanese heroic people have withstood an unbelievable siege and survived the most massive, devastating Israeli firepower.

Please stand in memory of all those who have perished. Stand not in silence but in anger. Stand in work and action now to end this barbaric war, and to bring peace, justice, and freedom to all people in the Middle East.

Long live the struggle of the Palestinian people.

Long live the PLO.

Long live fraternity and friendship between American working people and Palestinian people.

Actions commemorate Hiroshima bombing

BY NELSON GONZÁLEZ

On August 7 thousands of protesters turned out across the country in opposition to nuclear weapons and war, and to commemorate the anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

On August 6 and 9, 1945, after Japan had already acceded to Washington's conditions for surrender, President Truman ordered the atomic bombing of the two cities. This resulted in the death of tens of thousands and the maiming of thousands more, to serve as a warning to working people and the oppressed everywhere that Washington had the bomb and would not hesitate to use it.

Hiroshima Day activities were organized this year in New York, San Francisco, Washington, Chicago, Seattle, and other parts of the country. Among the slogans chanted was, "Hiroshima never

again, nuclear war must come to an end."

In Chicago nearly 500 people turned out for a march and rally at Lincoln Park called by the Peace Resource Center.

Participating in the march was an antiwar contingent jointly sponsored by the Emergency Coalition to Stop the Holocaust in Lebanon and the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador.

As this contingent entered the rally area, carrying a banner demanding "No Hiroshimas in the Middle East" and "Israel out of Lebanon Now," a ripple of applause went up from the seated audience.

The demonstrators punctuated the remainder of the rally with such chants as "No draft, no war, in Palestine or El Salvador"; "Beirut is Hiroshima"; and "Stop the Holocaust in Lebanon Now."

While the speakers at the rally ad-

ressed the dangers of nuclear war, virtually all ignored the current wars Washington is conducting or backing in Central America and Lebanon. Many of the speakers proposed that antiwar activists focus their efforts on electing politicians who support a nuclear freeze by the Soviet Union and the United States.

In New York City 500 people marched.

In San Francisco nearly 900 people marched in a silent procession across the Golden Gate Bridge.

Meanwhile on August 12, the country's first Trident nuclear submarine sailed to its home base on Hood Canal

about 40 miles west of Seattle. It was greeted by a flotilla of boats carrying scores of anti-nuclear weapons protesters who attempted to block the submarine's path. Among the protesters was Ruth Nelson, a 78-year-old former United States Mother of the Year from Edina, Minnesota.

The protesters were met with Coast Guard ships and helicopters. Some people were swept off the decks of their boats by water cannons shooting water at 500 gallons a minute. The helicopters were used to swamp other boats. Seventeen people were arrested in the protest.

Int'l rally denounces Washington warmakers

Continued from previous page

capitalist system. But the world's people can take no more of the humiliating conditions that have thwarted their lives for generations.

"Faced with social unrest and having no definite solutions to the economic crisis for which they bear sole responsibility, imperialism and capitalism put the blame on 'communism.'"

"The U.S. government threatens socialist states with nuclear war and organizes right-wing and reactionary groups and governments to harass and attack them," he explained.

"The U.S. government, in collusion with Chinese leaders, supports the bloody gang of Pol Pot," former Kampuchean dictator, he noted. Despite this, he said, the Kampuchean people have begun to recover from the years of terror under Pol Pot.

"We believe our struggle is linked to the struggle of all the oppressed people in the world, including the American people themselves, who have been exploited by the multinational corporations and the U.S. government."

Nuclear war and U.S. intervention

Victor Rubio, a representative of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front and the Revolutionary Democratic Front of El Salvador, said that Reagan's policy of aggression in that country threatens the peace of the world.

"Right now the world is on a path of madness because of the militarization of the U.S. government, primarily," Rubio said. "The imperialist forces are attempting to prevent every liberation movement from achieving victory. The bottom line in this is to preserve the world as a safe place for U.S. corporations to invest in and reap amazing profits."

"I must remind you that nuclear madness and militarization are very closely linked with the interventionist policies of the Reagan administration. It is those interventions which can engulf much of the world in a conflagration of major proportions."

"We will achieve peace only when disarmament is coupled with internationalist respect between states, only when the interventionist, imperialist policies of the U.S. government are stopped," he declared.

Rubio told the crowd: "You must not rest until the last U.S. adviser has left El Salvador. And we will not rest until we have ended every vestige of exploitation and imperialism in our country, in Central America, and the world."

Like the other speakers, Rubio was met with a standing ovation and chants of "FMLN" and "No draft, no war, U.S. out of El Salvador!" Other chants during the evening included "Cuba sí, bloqueo no" (Cuba yes, blockade no) and "Ce n'est qu'un début; continuons le combat!" (It's only the beginning, continue the fight — chanted by Quebec socialists).

A spokesman for the New Jewel Movement of Grenada addressed the

rally. "It is very significant that this international meeting tonight is kicking right here in the belly of the imperialist monster," he said.

He called the U.S. arms buildup "a direct threat to the existence of humanity."

"The scandalous spending and squandering of the world's resources for arms is at the expense of the labor and sweat of the working people. It is taking place at a time when we are facing the worst economic crisis in 50 years. When the U.S. administration has set plans to cut back on the expenditures for social services, health care, housing."

The New Jewel representative asked the U.S. government "to do some homework, to reflect on history." Since the Russian revolution of 1917, he said, "it is clear that the march of history is a march of the people, and imperialism, no matter how strong or mighty it is, will never stop the march of the people toward victory."

U.S. workers

Rally cochair Chris Hoepfner of the Socialist Workers Party explained why the Pentagon and companies with war contracts are trying to fire trade unionists at weapons plants.

Hoepfner, who worked at Lockheed aircraft plant in Georgia, was fired along with 14 other members of the International Association of Machinists in 1980 and 1981 because of their antiwar and pronoun views.

"The U.S. rulers' attempts to stop revolutions abroad are combined necessarily with attacks on the organization and democratic rights of workers at home," Hoepfner told the crowd.

"They want to intimidate us from discussing the main topic on our minds — war — and from developing our own foreign policy, a foreign policy which would be in the interests of workers at home and our struggling brothers and sisters abroad."

"We see that our fight is against the bosses at home, not against the freedom fighters abroad," said Hoepfner.

"We pledge tonight to our brothers and sisters on the platform here, as well as to the oppressed and exploited fighters around the world, that we will help organize a powerful antiwar movement against the draft, against U.S. intervention in Central America and around the world."

"But we pledge even more than that. We American workers must use the power of our class to get rid of the threats of more Hiroshimas and Nagasakis. Of more Vietnams. We must use the power of our class to disarm the U.S. warmakers by establishing a workers and farmers government in this country. That government will place the resources of this country at the service of our brothers and sisters around the globe and workers and farmers here at home."

"This is the best and most important solidarity we can offer," Hoepfner concluded, "the American socialist revolution."



Banner at Chicago demonstration

Militant/Jon Hillson

Nebraska strikers stand firm against union-busting army

Continued from Page 1

closely. But as auto and steel workers have learned, concessions don't save jobs, only profits. The members of UFCW Local 222 understand this very well.

Theresa, who's worked at IBP for a year and a half, said, "If we lose, it's going to have an affect across the country. If they can treat us like that cattle in there, they can do it to anyone."

She mentioned UFCW workers at the Morell plant, in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Faced with the same kinds of company proposals for wage cuts, workers there believe a strike is inevitable when the contract expires on September 1.

The IBP workers expect this to be a long strike. They have been forced out on the picket line during every contract negotiation in the 20 years since the plant was first organized. The last strike, in 1977, lasted 15 months.

But all of the strikers report overwhelming support from the people in the area. A demonstration of 100 union supporters from nearby Sioux City, Iowa, was attacked by state troopers on July 20.

IBP has some pretty powerful friends in state government, illustrated by Governor Thone's role in supporting IBP with state troopers. The IBP strike has been an important lesson to union members around the state about just whose side the government is on.

Gordon McDonald, president of the state AFL-CIO, said, "Iowa Beef Processors once again is able to draw on the state treasury in order to support its side in a labor dispute with the governor's approval. Thone has placed a higher value on a corporation's property than on workers rights."

Democrats back troops

Support for IBP's union busting is not limited to Governor Thone's Republican administration. Bob Kerrey, the Democratic Party candidate who hopes to un-

seat Thone in November, has said that he supports the use of National Guardsmen and state troopers. Other so-called friends of labor in the Democratic and Republican parties have remained silent while the tanks rolled through Dakota City.

The only candidate who has spoken out is Joe Swanson, a Lincoln rail worker who is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor. Swanson has been up to the picket lines several times and issued a statement, widely covered in the state media, supporting the strikers.

Swanson said, "The governor, the state patrol, the National Guard may be against them, but the strikers have won the support of workers around the country who admire them for their fight. The workers and farmers of this state need a government that is run in our interest, not for corporations like IBP."

Rail union support

Swanson isn't the only one speaking out. The Lincoln Coalition of Rail Crafts passed a resolution in support of the strikers and sent UFCW Local 222 \$200. Other UFCW locals in Nebraska have passed similar resolutions.

The state AFL-CIO has called a tri-state rally for September 11. A food caravan and rally is scheduled in Dakota City on Saturday, August 21.

IBP is operating at about 25 percent of its capacity, having recruited scabs from South Dakota, Kansas, and Missouri.

Although IBP has managed to reopen the plant, the morale of strikers is high. They're determined to fight through the winter if they have to, they said, because they're fighting for food on the table and a decent life for their kids.

As these reporters left the picket line the words of one of the strikers never rang truer. He said, "Some people say you're crazy when you talk about revolution. But workers in this country are getting sick of this."

U.S. steps up military operations against Nicaragua

BY FRED MURPHY

U.S. imperialism's war against the Sandinista revolution in Nicaragua continues to escalate.

Towns and villages in northern Nicaragua have been beset by Somozaist terror attacks for months. Now, air raids against major cities have been attempted as well.

The most serious cases of aggression against Nicaragua since mid-July have been the following:

- On July 19 — the third anniversary of the Sandinista revolution — an unmarked aircraft flying from Honduras fired two rockets at a concentration of storage tanks holding 800,000 gallons of highly combustible fuel in the port of Corinto. The rockets failed to hit their targets; had either done so, the entire population of the city could have perished in the resulting fire. Corinto, which handles three-quarters of Nicaragua's foreign trade, would have been reduced to cinders.

- On July 27, a second aerial bombing attempt was launched, this time against Nicaragua's only oil refinery, on the western edge of Managua. The attacking aircraft was detected in time to be driven off by antiaircraft fire and planes from Nicaragua's small air force. Destruction of the refinery not only would have been a devastating blow to the country's economy, but the resulting fires and explosions could have killed thousands of Managua residents.

'Slow-motion Bay of Pigs'

Behind all these attacks stands the Reagan administration in Washington. While the full scope of Washington's collusion in the terror raids from southern Honduras remains shrouded in secrecy, a few more details have begun to emerge in the U.S. capitalist press.

Commenting on the stepped-up aggression, *Washington Post* columnist Stephen S. Rosenfeld wrote August 6 that "it is hard to avoid the impression that the Reagan administration is cranking up something like a slow-motion Bay of Pigs invasion as a part of a multifaceted plan to destabilize Nicaragua."

"The operation entails not a single dramatic assault across a beach but, it seems, a slow flow of many hundreds of former Somoza national guardsmen back and forth across the long, rugged land border between Honduras and Nicaragua."

The mounting attacks form part of a plan presented by the CIA to the U.S. National Security Council last November and subsequently OK'd by Reagan. According to an account published in the *Washington Post* last March 10, at least \$19 million was allocated, and the CIA was directed "to begin to build and fund a paramilitary force of up to 500 Latin Americans, who are to operate out of commando camps spread along the Nicaraguan-Honduran border."

It is now clear that this was but the thin edge of the wedge. Some 5,000 counterrevolutionary troops, organized in large units and possessing sophisticated weapons, are now operating out of the southern Honduras camps. Moreover, the direct U.S. military presence in Honduras has been stepped up dramatically.

It was no accident that the escalation of war against Nicaragua by the Honduran-based counterrevolutionaries at the end of July coincided with joint U.S.-Honduran military maneuvers near the Nicaraguan border.

"G.I.'s Join Hondurans in Touchy Region," said a *New York Times* headline August 5. Correspondent Raymond Bon-

ner wrote from Puerto Lempira, Honduras:

American and Honduran officers say the primary objective of the two-week exercise, which involves United States Air Force and Army units from Panama, is the establishment of a permanent Honduran base at Durzuna, some 25 miles north of the Nicaraguan border.

The base, which the officers say will be the largest in eastern Honduras, is in a pine forest some 45 miles west of this muggy, rundown port village. They say it will be home for an infantry battalion, supported by an artillery battery and an engineering unit. The Hondurans are also constructing an airstrip at Durzuna that will be capable of handling large transport planes and jet fighters, the officers say.

Asked why the base was being established in this isolated region... a Honduran Army major said it was because of its proximity to Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua.

The joint maneuvers also involved the landing of 600 U.S. Marines at the Caribbean port city of Tela, Honduras, and the docking there of the big U.S. landing ship *Portland*. "Senior Honduran Army officers said that the marines who came ashore were advance party for a major exercise scheduled for November," Bonner reported.

Some 1,500 troops — nearly 10 percent of the Honduran army — are to be stationed at the new Durzuna base. The installation is adjacent to a large refugee camp at Mocerón that houses some 10,000 Miskitu Indians who emigrated from Nicaragua last year at the urging of Steadman Fagoth, a Miskitu leader formerly employed as an informer by Somoza's secret police. Fagoth is now a central figure in the counterrevolution.

In a dispatch from Mocerón published in the August 13 *Times*, Bonner cited accounts by relief workers who said that "food and supplies intended for the [Miskitu] refugees are often diverted to the Somocista guerrilla camps."

"According to the relief workers, Honduran army officers are providing arms and training for the counterrevolutionaries."

Sandinistas protest aggression

In response to the U.S.-Honduran maneuvers and the U.S.-sponsored military buildup along Nicaragua's northern border, the Sandinista government issued a note of protest to the State Department in early August. It pointed to the maneuvers and to the published accounts of the CIA's covert-action plan as "clear examples of the serious attempts to destabilize" Nicaragua.

The protest said the maneuvers "confirm the interventionist attitude of the United States toward the Central American region and further represent a clear and open provocation, which appears to be aimed at causing an unnecessary war between Honduras and Nicaragua, with unforeseeable consequences."

A Nicaraguan diplomat in Washington told the *Miami Herald*, "All of these elements have forced us to realize the inevitable. The United States is fortifying Honduras for a first strike against Nicaragua."

The mounting attacks leave the Nicaraguan people no choice but to strengthen their defenses and prepare for full-scale war. On August 14, the Sandinista government ordered militia units to report within ten days for intensive combat training. The Sandinista People's Army remains fully mobilized. Civil defense preparations are under way in all factories, schools, and neighborhoods.

The July air raids against oil installations pointed up Nicaragua's vulnerabil-



Honduran soldiers in joint military exercise with U.S. troops near Nicaraguan border.

ity in face of the Honduran air force, the most advanced in Central America with a dozen French Super-Mystère fighters. Honduras is also scheduled to receive six U.S. A-37 light-attack aircraft and is reportedly seeking U.S. F-5 fighter jets as well.

In an interview reported in the July 29 *Washington Post*, Nicaragua's Defense Minister Humberto Ortega acknowledged that his government is seeking to obtain interceptor aircraft from France, the Soviet Union, and other countries. He noted that the few planes left from Somoza's air force had been equipped for "repressing the people" and would be of little use in the event of an invasion. "This myth has to end that when we have planes here we're inciting the arms race in Central America, because we don't have planes," Ortega said.

"We can't aspire to have a large Air Force... but we have the duty and the right to have a modest Air Force."

'Gulf of Tonkin' in Caribbean?

Proceeding with its propaganda tactic of turning the victim into the criminal, Washington has openly threatened to attack Nicaragua in the event Soviet aircraft are introduced into the country. "The long-expected arrival of MIG fighters in Nicaragua would be a major escalation" and unquestionably would bring a 'major response' from the United States," correspondent Don Oberdorfer wrote in the August 15 *Washington Post*, citing "official sources" in the Reagan administration. Oberdorfer continued:

"Among the options known to have been under study are U.S. military action to destroy the MIGs, a blockade or quarantine of Cuba and/or Nicaragua, tightening U.S. economic restrictions on those two countries, temporarily stationing U.S. airmen and warplanes in Honduras and Colombia, stepped-up supply of U.S. combat aircraft to friendly countries and a political drive on the MIGs issue in the Organization of American States and other international organizations."

The *Post* article reporting these new threats came four days after the U.S. Senate adopted a belligerent anti-Cuba resolution backed by the Reagan adminis-

tration. It declared, in part, that "the United States is determined... to prevent by whatever means may be necessary, including the use of arms, the Marxist-Leninist regime in Cuba from extending by force or the threat of force its aggressive or subversive activities to any part of this hemisphere."

The resolution passed by a 68-28 vote; in arguing against it, Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Charles Percy warned that it would "be seen as a blank check from us to the President of the United States. It may be considered as a Gulf of Tonkin resolution for Cuba." (The 1964 Congressional resolution on the Tonkin Gulf was used by Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon as the legal pretext for Washington's massive intervention in Vietnam.)

From Intercontinental Press

Youth convicted on draft charges

Enten Eller, 20, was convicted August 18 for refusing to register for the draft. Eller is a conscientious objector.

The judge sentenced him to three years' probation and ordered him to register within three months or face prison.

Eller told reporters he still does not intend to sign up.

Four other youths have been indicted for refusing to register. Some 700,000 young men, by government estimates, have not signed up since registration went into effect.



Enten Eller

The record of L.A. Mayor Bradley

"Neutral" on side of big business and cops



Mayor Bradley, Democratic candidate for California governor

In the California race for governor, the Democrats have nominated Los Angeles Mayor Thomas Bradley, while the Republicans are fielding State Attorney General George Deukmejian. Running against them as an independent in the race is Seaside, California, city councilman Mel Mason, a leader of the Socialist Workers Party.

One of the issues in the race is whether California working people can find some relief from layoffs, cutbacks, and attacks on Black and Latino rights by putting Democrat Bradley in office. Is electing Bradley an effective way to counter the prowar, antilabor policies of Deukmejian and the Republicans nationally?

In the following article Dick Roberts looks at Bradley's record as mayor of Los Angeles on the issues of police brutality, union rights, the draft, desegregation, budget cutbacks, and farmers.

BY DICK ROBERTS

LOS ANGELES — On Aug. 11, 1965, a white policeman stopped a car in the heart of the Black community here. Its driver was an unemployed Black youth. An argument broke out, and people gathered to see what was happening.

More police showed up. The crowd was beaten back and several were arrested. Within hours, word of this incident spread. The next night Watts erupted.

In Los Angeles in the previous two years, 60 Blacks had been killed by the police — 27 shot in the back or side. Twenty-five were unarmed.

The Watts rebellion lasted for five days. The National Guard was called in. Hundreds of white-owned stores and buildings were burned out. Thirty-four people, mostly residents of the community, were killed. Watts was the first of the uprisings in major Black communities that swept this country in 1965-67.

It was also the Watts rebellion that most shaped the career of Thomas Bradley. The first Black mayor of Los Angeles, Bradley is the Democratic nominee for governor of California.

At the time of the Watts uprising, Bradley was a member of the Los Angeles City Council — its first Black councilman.

From 1940 to 1961, Bradley was a cop. During that time he rose to the rank of lieutenant on the Los Angeles police force.

After Watts

In Los Angeles in 1965 the rulers of the city set up a committee to assess the implications of Watts. It was headed by banker John McCone, a former chief of both the Central Intelligence Agency and the Atomic Energy Commission.

The McCone commission issued a public report entitled "Violence in the City." It absolved the police, City Hall, and business of any blame, declaring that Blacks should "shoulder a full share of the responsibility for their own well-being."

Meanwhile, then President Lyndon Johnson set up a national commission following the Detroit uprising in 1967. It was headed by the governor of Illinois, Otto Kerner.

What is significant about the Kerner commission report is its conclusion that the conditions of the Black communities in the United States would not be improved.

The study declared, "Powerful forces of social and political inertia are moving the country steadily along the course of existing policies toward a divided country."

"This course may well involve changes . . . but not enough to produce fundamental alterations in the key factors of Negro concentration, racial segregation, and the lack of sufficient enrichment to arrest the decay of deprived neighborhoods."

Beef up police

The commission consequently focused on the question of how to keep a "decaying" situation under control. Along these lines its central recommendations were to beef up the police forces and to integrate Blacks into leadership positions in the police forces and city halls.

It declared:

"Police departments should intensify their efforts to recruit more Negroes."

"Negro officers should be so assigned as to ensure that the police department is fully and visibly integrated."

"The acquisition of power by Negro-dominated governments in central cities is surely a legitimate and desirable exercise of political power by a minority group."

That, essentially, is how Los Angeles got its first Black mayor.

Who was better suited to cooling off Black anger than "Mr. Cool" himself, Thomas Bradley, the 21-year veteran of the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD)?

Bradley's election as mayor of the nation's third largest city was part of a national phenomena.

In Cleveland, Newark, Gary, and other cities, Blacks were being elected mayor, usually as Democrats.

This was the result of a conscious decision to open the way to such office for Blacks who could be relied on to support and work within the capitalist political system.

As indicated in the Kerner report, there were two basic considerations involved.

The first was to give Black people the illusion that they have a voice in the system.

Secondly, the rulers knew things were going to get worse, not better. To help shore up a badly battered profit system, it would be necessary to impose deep social service cuts and push the unions back. Schools would get worse, not better, as would hospital care, housing, and so on. Unemployment would persist and Blacks would continue to be among the hardest hit.

So Black elected officials — of tested loyalty to the system — could be put up front to take the rap for the general worsening of life.

And, the capitalists hoped, with new social explosions ahead, perhaps the Black officials would be able to keep things in check a bit longer than their white counterparts.

Attacks on radical Blacks

Unlike some Black elected officials, Bradley placed great distance between himself and the radical Black movement sweeping the country.

In a speech in April 1969, he declared, "I have sought to indicate to young people, Black, white, and Mexican-American, that the system can be made to work; that the system can respond to fill the needs of all the people."

In a thinly veiled attack on Malcolm X and the Black Panthers, he told *Ebony*, "The fanatics too often believe that change is easy, that it can be accomplished and should be accomplished by force and violence and coercion. . . . I repudiate the slogan 'by any means necessary.'"

"Bradley in fact turned down a proffered endorsement by the Panthers' Huey P. Newton," *Newsweek* reported in June 1973.

Bradley instead looked to the rulers of the city. *Los Angeles* magazine reported: "There is a crusty group of powerful corporate figures, a group that then called itself the Committee of 25. . . . During the campaign Bradley had made his way several times before the venerable elders. . . ."

The Committee of 25, later called the "Community Committee," is headed by the most powerful banking, real estate, and aerospace interests in Los Angeles.

Bradley had also won the support of the influential *Los Angeles Times*. The *Times* is the principal paper in a chain owned by the Chandlers, a family with vast southern California real-estate and agribusiness interests.

The 1970s

Bradley's tenure as mayor coincides with a period that saw prosperous growth for business in Los Angeles. New skyscrapers were rising in the downtown area. The region produced more than 10 percent of U.S. crude oil with several energy trusts headquartered here. Aerospace, entertainment, banking, and medical services all flourished in the 1970s.

But the conditions of working people worsened. The 1980 census found that after adjusting for inflation the median family income in the Los Angeles-Long Beach metropolitan area had declined in the decade, by 2.9 percent. This was exceeded only by Chicago and New York City.

For Blacks and Latinos the situation is worse. Seventeen years later, the burnt-out stores and rubble-strewn lots remain in Watts as they were after the rebellion. Unemployment is higher and schooling worse.

Busing

The tightly controlled, racist Los Angeles school board has blocked every attempt to improve the condition of minority students for almost three decades.

The U.S. Supreme Court's 1954 decision means little here. In 1971 a government survey declared that Los Angeles schools were the most segregated in the

country. In 1976 the federal government declared Los Angeles's school board in flagrant violation of the laws of the land.

Yet in November 1979, racist forces in California succeeded in pushing through ballot "Proposition 1" outlawing mandatory busing. It has been upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court, and it has been seized on in Los Angeles to bring desegregation of the schools to a virtual standstill.

In a heavily segregated school population of 542,000, about 5,000 students are bused, less than 1 percent of the total.

The United States Commission on Civil Rights issued findings in May 1977. Bradley was completing his first term in office.

The commission declared the members of the Los Angeles City Board of Education "have violated their oaths of office by refusing . . . to take any affirmative steps to alleviate the segregation and racial isolation of the students in the Los Angeles Unified School District."

Bradley offered no help whatsoever. In the midst of an intense fight by the Black community against well-organized, highly vocal racists, the mayor never lifted a hand to help the busing struggle.

A report in December 1980 found that since that September the minority schools needed more than 200,000 additional textbooks. Students were forced to share and had been delayed moving up to the next level of reading for lack of books. There were surpluses of books in the predominantly white schools.

Budget slashes

As in other cities across the nation, the people of Los Angeles have been hit by the deepening economic crisis.

Bradley has enforced cutbacks and layoffs. He faced 10 strikes by city workers in the past seven years. Bradley's strike-breaking role against firefighters, welfare workers, and others won't soon be forgotten.

Meanwhile Bradley doubled the budget of the police.

The LAPD "has the highest percentage of shooting deaths in the country," the Campaign for a Citizens' Police Review Board declared in 1981.

Examples were listed:

"1976: Barry Evans — Black community activist, shot in the back. Anthony Brown — Black mental patient, shot outside his home and left to bleed to death.

"1977: Ron Burkholder — white man, shot to death in the nude, standing with arms raised. Travis McCoy — Black man, shot while lying face down in the alley.

"1978: Reyes Martinez — beaten to death by police while in custody. David Atkins — Black man, choked to death in front of his family.

"1979: Eula Love — Black woman, shot eight times in rapid fire in front of her children. Bob Trivis — gay man, shot to death in Hollywood. Carlos Washington — 15-year-old Black man, shot while climbing a fence.

"1980: Larry Morris — Black man, strangled to death in his apartment."

When he formally announced his gubernatorial campaign last January, Bradley "relied heavily on his 21 years as a Los Angeles policeman," according to the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

"Bradley also pledged to enforce the death penalty if elected," the *Chronicle* added.

Police spying

An important aspect of repression in Los Angeles is the infiltration and spying on groups which might threaten the ruling-class status quo. In addition to federal cops, this is also carried out by the LAPD, through an arm called the

Continued on Page 10



Militant/Charles Ostrofsky
Gubernatorial candidate Mason.

BY DICK ROBERTS

A suit to force the California secretary of state to put independent gubernatorial candidate Mel Mason on the statewide ballot was filed in the California Supreme Court in San Francisco August 13.

As of July 16, Mason supporters had collected 214,699 signatures on nominating petitions. This is almost double the legal requirement of 113,600 signatures. The secretary of state's office was supposed to inform Mason within 24

Major suit is filed to place socialist on Calif. ballot

days whether he is certified for ballot status.

But they have not done this. "They are stalling," Mason's attorney Robin Maisel declared.

Antiwar, prolabor candidate

"The reason why [Secretary of State] March Fong Eu is stalling," Maisel said, "is because she is faced with a political problem. The rulers of this state do not want Mel Mason on the ballot.

"For one thing, as the tens of thousands of signatures we handed in show, Mason takes positions on questions that are popular with working people.

"Mel Mason is against the draft and U.S. intervention in Central America. This is a position the majority of Americans agree with. But not the capitalist candidates."

Mason, a leader of the Socialist Workers Party, has been campaigning for the unions to break with the Democrats and Republicans and form an independent labor party.

Maisel said, "The Democrats and Republicans do not want to give Mason a platform. They don't want Mason to be discussing issues they themselves are unwilling to discuss."

Maisel explained the tactics behind March Fong Eu's refusal to certify Mason within the 24-day legal time limit.

"The longer they wait the easier they hope it will be to persuade the court that it's too late to put Mason on the ballot. It would interrupt the election process.

"September 1 is the deadline for printing ballots, preparing booklets for voters, etc. They were hoping that they could wait until August 30, rule Mason's signatures invalid, force us into litigation lasting way over the September 1 deadline, and then they would say that there's nothing that can be done. We're sorry about breaking the deadline laws and we won't do it again, but this time it is too late."

Manipulation of election laws

The Mason suit itself is a landmark effort to expose the ways the rulers of California manipulate the election procedure in order to keep independent working-class candidates off the ballot.

In a number of California counties the election boards have arbitrarily ruled thousands of Mason signatures invalid because the name and address on petitions did not match in every way registration cards filled out months and years earlier.

People were disqualified who moved from one unit to another in the same apartment building. A reverend was disqualified who put "Rev" on the nominating petition but not on the original card. So was a person who left out their middle initial.

These examples are from investigating a tiny sample — less than one percent — of the signatures various boards have invalidated.

Additionally, several cases have been uncovered where signers were invalidated even though the information on the petitions was exactly the same in every respect as on the registration cards.

The suit notes a number of other cases where the boards violate their own laws. For example a number of people were registered to vote by Mason petitioners, who always had with them the necessary forms for people to register if they weren't already registered.

In a spot check of some of these cases in Los Angeles, it was discovered that most of the registrations had not been completed by the county clerks and that the majority of people who registered in this way had their signatures declared invalid.

Procedures followed in many of the counties are chaotic and they differ from county to county. The suit shows that thousands of petition forms printed by the state had incorrect directions. It documents that original registration forms and microfilm records are unavailable in many election board offices.

Fear of voters

The suit declares: "It is the fear that scores of thousands of voters would vote for [Mel Mason] against the candidates of the two major parties that has motivated the County Clerks, many of whom are functionaries, officials and leaders of the two major parties, to seek any means, fair or foul, to invalidate the nominating petitions of a Black socialist who stands on a program in opposition to the parties to which these clerks are beholden.

"The invalidation of signatures is motivated by improper motives rather than adherence to the letter and spirit of the law."

California law holds that verified petitions are themselves evidence that the signatures are valid. The burden of proof is supposed to rest on the secretary of state to show that they are invalid.

This means that Democrat March Fong Eu is supposed to give evidence and, if necessary, hold hearings, to disqualify signatures. In reality she is doing just the opposite.

The secretary of state is arbitrarily invalidating signatures and attempting to make the petitioners themselves prove validity — where the law itself declares the verified petitions are evidence the signatures are valid.

Voters disenfranchised

"The election laws," Maisel explained, "are supposed to prevent 'frivolous and fraudulent' candidates from being on the ballot. In other words they require a candidate to show substantial community support in order to get on the ballot.

"Here exactly the opposite is happening. Mel Mason is being ruled off the ballot precisely because he does have substantial community support. More than 214,000 voters believe that an alternative to the Republicans and Democrats should be on the ballot.

"March Fong Eu is attempting to disenfranchise these voters. The Democrats and Republicans are utilizing the election procedure to keep an independent, working-class candidate off the ballot. Mason has met every requirement of the law. The Democrats and Republicans are breaking their own laws."

Cleve. rally protests war at home and abroad

BY HARRY RING

CLEVELAND — A rally against Washington's wars on working people at home and abroad was held here August 4. It was sponsored by the *Militant* and its Spanish-language sister publication *Perspectiva Mundial*.

The gathering heard speeches by Mel Mason, independent candidate for governor of California; American Indian Movement leader Vernon Bellecourt; and others; as well as a videotaped speech by Rev. Ben Chavis.

All the speakers were warmly received by the audience of over 1,000, which included many participants in a national educational conference sponsored by the Socialist Workers Party at nearby Oberlin College.

The rally opened with a speech by Joe Swanson, a rail worker and SWP candidate for governor of Nebraska.

Swanson described how he left the farm at age 17 to join the marines and "see the world" in 1957. Young people today, he said, "are not as naive as my generation. The majority are not interested in fighting any more of the U.S. government's wars around the world. There are plenty of wars they are fighting here at home."

He gave a firsthand account of the bitter strike being waged by members of the United Food and Commercial Workers union against Iowa Beef Processors in Dakota City, Nebraska. "Dakota City is just 60 miles north of Omaha, the birthplace of Malcolm X," he noted.

Swanson, who has visited the meat workers' picket line, urged the crowd to "leave here tonight thinking about what is the best way to unite in solidarity with these workers, going to your unions and other organizations to explain what is being done to this union, which the bosses are trying to bust like they did the air controllers' union, PATCO."

Rev. Ben Chavis, deputy director of the United Church of Christ Commission for Racial Justice, was scheduled to speak but was unable to appear because of a family emergency. In a filmed message to the meeting, Chavis said:

"This rally tonight is extremely important because we are coming together at a historical moment. You just take the war that's going on in Lebanon right now. It's a vivid reminder of the extent to which the oppressor forces will go to

maintain their economic exploitation of the rest of the world, particularly the Third World."

Chavis extended greetings to the audience from the National Black Independent Political Party, of which he is a national leader. "We see that it is time to break away from the so-called two-party system, where the Democrats and Republicans only serve the interests of the status quo, only serve the interests of the forces of oppression."

Chavis saluted the "revolutionary process" taking place in Nicaragua and Grenada. He urged all those who want to help advance the struggle against U.S. imperialism from Palestine to South Africa to Central America to "take care of business here inside the United States of America."

American Indian Movement leader Vernon Bellecourt began his speech by explaining that neither the Democrats nor Republicans have served the interests of Indians in the United States.

"Ours has been a struggle against imperialism, colonialism, and capitalism for many centuries," he said. "It's a struggle that's continuing at this time against the greed of the corporations."

He described the struggle of native peoples in this country and linked it to the fight by Indians in Central America against imperialism and exploitation. In closing, Bellecourt called for a moment of silence for the martyred people of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Lebanon.

Mel Mason, a leader of the Socialist

Workers Party, and a city councilman in Seaside, California, began by introducing Chuck Sheehan, former president of the Los Angeles local of PATCO. The audience gave Sheehan a standing ovation, chanting "PATCO! PATCO!"

Mason pointed out that the U.S. government is already at war — in El Salvador and Nicaragua. He linked the fight against war abroad to the struggles against capitalism's war at home on Blacks and women, on immigrant workers, on the labor movement.

"What the U.S. government is doing to workers and farmers all over the rest of the earth, it is also doing to workers and farmers in this country. We have a responsibility to fight back," Mason said.

He emphasized the importance of organizing opposition to the draft, U.S. intervention, and Washington's nuclear buildup.

"What we need is a labor party, an independent party based on a labor movement that will go out there and fight the warmakers, that will fight for peace."

The enthusiasm of the crowd was demonstrated in pledges of \$211,000 for a socialist publications fund announced by SWP leader Andrea Gonzalez.

The rally was chaired by Patricia Grogan, a Chicago steelworker and SWP leader. Also speaking were Claire Moriarty, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate in New Jersey; Lois Remple, SWP candidate for lieutenant governor in Colorado; and Veronica Cruz, SWP Congressional candidate in New York.

SCLC leaders support Mason fight

BY MARK CURTIS

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Black leaders attending the national convention of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) here have given Mel Mason's ballot fight important support. SCLC President Joseph Lowery, Rev. Ralph Abernathy, Birmingham Mayor Richard Arrington, and Marc Stepp, a United Auto Workers international vice-president, signed a petition urging California Secretary of State March Fong Eu to certify Mason for the ballot.

In all, 82 convention participants signed the petition, which said: "We the undersigned urge California Secretary of State March Fong Eu to certify Mel Mason for the ballot, in view of the mas-

sive number of signatures submitted on his behalf.

"By signing we are not endorsing Mason's candidacy or his political views, but we are registering our support for the democratic right of an independent Black candidate to run for office."

The petition circulated by Mason supporters was also enthusiastically signed by Julia Wilder, recently jailed for her attempt to register Black voters in Pickens County, Alabama.

Wilder, now on work release from a five-year sentence on the "vote fraud" frame-up, was not surprised that California officials would refuse to certify Mason despite his compliance with the law. "Just look at me," she said.

Nat'l Black party holds second congress

BY MALIK MIAH

RALEIGH, N.C. — The second annual congress of the National Black Independent Political Party (NBIPP) took place here August 5-8.

It was attended by 250 people, mainly delegates elected by chapters and local organizing committees. They came from California, New York, New Jersey, Indiana, Georgia, Michigan, Virginia, and North Carolina.

NBIPP was formed at a national Black political convention of 1,500 held in Philadelphia in November 1980. Nine months later 700 delegates and observers met in Chicago at the first national party congress to ratify the party's charter.

This programmatic document declares that NBIPP "aims to attain power to radically transform the present socioeconomic order, that is, to achieve self-determination and social and political

freedom for the masses of Black people. Therefore, our party will actively oppose racism, imperialism, sexual oppression and capitalist exploitation."

Under the section entitled "Electoral Politics," the charter says, "We believe that the Democratic and Republican Parties serve the interests of the ruling class and not the masses of Blacks and other oppressed and exploited peoples. These parties protect and defend the interests of the bankers and industrialists. They have sold us out. The electoral strategy of the NBIPP is independent of the Democratic, Republican and all other parties."

The second congress made no significant modifications of the charter.

One of the aims of the second congress was to evaluate the work of the party over its first year and how NBIPP has

begun to take its program to the Black community.

The congress opened with a community rally. Ninety people came to hear the Rev. Ben Chavis and Barbara Arnwine, the two national party representatives, and a representative from the Namibian liberation organization SWAPO.

Reverend Chavis, a figure in North Carolina because of his uncompromising battles for Black rights there, discussed the importance of the congress and NBIPP's potential to lead the fight to win Black self-determination. "Our struggle is a national struggle for national liberation because we are an oppressed nation," he said.

"We have the opportunity to wage an unprecedented struggle against racism and imperialism."

Internationally, Chavis explained, NBIPP is in particular obligated today

to express its strong support to the just struggle of the Palestinian people and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

The "best aid we can give the peoples of Central America and the Caribbean and the Mideast, is to take care of business here," he said.

Sister Arnwine spoke briefly. She singled out the significance of the congress taking place in North Carolina, where Blacks have a long history of militant struggles, including for independent political action. She pointed out that the first national Black political convention was held in North Carolina in 1867.

The plenary sessions opened on Friday, but were closed to the press. However, according to congress organizers, delegates, and guests that the *Militant* talked to, the major theme of the congress focused on the need to strengthen internal party organization — such as publishing a newsletter and improving local and national communications — and seeking political clarity on the state of the American economy and politics and its impact on Black America.

According to some delegates the discussion on the economy focused on NBIPP developing a jobs and income campaign. The national co-chairs, Ron Daniels and Elsa Brown, presented a discussion paper on the subject but it was referred back to local chapters for more discussion. No answers were given by the congress on how to win jobs, defend affirmative action and oppose Reagan's anti-Black policies, according to those the *Militant* talked to.

There was also some discussion, the *Militant* was told, on electoral politics. However, there was no decision made on how NBIPP should apply the charter's stance on electoral politics to the 1982 elections.

This is clearly a very important issue facing NBIPP and the Black community as a whole. Both the Democratic and Republican party candidates offer no road to win Black freedom. This is true for Black and white candidates of those parties.

During the 1980 presidential elections NBIPP's precursor, the National Black Political Assembly, called on Blacks not to vote for either Carter or Reagan. Instead they urged Blacks to cast a vote for one of the small progressive parties on the ballot or not vote at all.

Although delegates reported that this 1980 approach wasn't discussed at the congress, the issue of electoral strategy was seen as a political question facing NBIPP, other Black groups, and the labor movement. One North Carolina delegate explained that it was a question they were seriously discussing in his state. He thought NBIPP should consider running local candidates.

It is clear from all reports the *Militant* received on the discussions at the congress that NBIPP still faces the challenge of taking its radical program to the masses of Black working people and of participating in and leading fights to win its implementation.

Pathfinder Press well-received

RALEIGH, N.C. — Pathfinder Press was well-received by delegates and guests here at the National Black Independent Political Party (NBIPP) congress. Nearly \$200 in literature was purchased, including copies of the August 6 *Militant* containing an interview with Black socialist Mel Mason, who is running for governor of California, and two speeches by Rev. Ben Chavis. Pathfinder's new *Education for Socialists* bulletin, "Independent Black Political Action (1954-78)" also sparked interest. The discussions at the literature table in particular focused on the burning issues facing Blacks today — jobs, economy, desegregation, and how to advance NBIPP's program.

Record of Calif. candidate Bradley

Continued from Page 8

Public Disorder Intelligence Division (PIPD).

In 1978 a list was disclosed of over 200 organizations surveilled by the PIPD. It included the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Socialist Workers Party, National Council of Churches, United Farm Workers' Organization, National Organization for Women (20 chapters), Gay Community Services Center and many others.

The *Los Angeles Times* reported in July 1980: "Despite extensive controversy over police intelligence gathering, the Los Angeles Police Department is maintaining intelligence files on 42 percent more individuals and 74 percent more groups than in 1978, according to the first audit of the department's intelligence file since that time."

Latino population

By 1984 it is expected that Latinos will outnumber Anglos in Los Angeles County.

A growing portion are undocumented workers, perhaps as many as a half-million in Los Angeles itself. The jobs they desperately need are not easy to come by.

More and more undocumented workers are thrown into the Los Angeles garment industry. It is an industry of hundreds of small sweatshops, piece-work production, and filthy and dangerous surroundings, where workers are often paid at illegal levels far below the minimum wage.

In 1981 the Los Angeles *Herald Examiner* published a series of articles exposing the oppressive and illegal conditions of *la costura*, the garment industry.

Reporter Merle Linda Wolin, pretending to be an illegal immigrant from Brazil, was paid \$38.74 for one full week's work. It is not unusual.

Health-code violations are rampant. Wolin reported exposed live wires, frayed cords on irons, jagged holes in walls and broken windows. The dark, dirty, and stuffy environment leads to high rates of tuberculosis and other communicable diseases.

"As far as Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley is concerned," Wolin wrote, "the violations in the city's garment industry are nothing to get excited about — a belief his critics charge is part of the problem." In an interview Bradley told her, "I wouldn't want to speculate on why these violations continue."

Real-estate interests

High on the list of corporate activities in Los Angeles in the last two decades has been the redevelopment of the downtown area. It was the Committee of 25's top priority. Chicanos, Blacks, and the poor have been squeezed out of old neighborhoods.

Skyscrapers, deluxe condominiums, and luxury hotels are rising in their place. Part of this construction has been funded out of county tax revenues.

In a city council fight on rent control early in 1982, Bradley played a behind-the-scenes role on behalf of landlords and developers. The mayor helped to promote a City Council ruling which would exempt rental units from controls whenever the present tenants move out.

Recession

Los Angeles is not immune to the economic crisis which is deepening across this country. Rubber, auto, and steel plants have been shut down throughout the region.

The commercial aircraft industry is in one of its worst downturns in history. Thousands of workers have been laid off at McDonnell Douglas, Lockheed, and Boeing-subcontractor plants.

Bradley does nothing to help these unemployed workers.

What interests will Bradley serve if he is elected governor? One tipoff is his support for the Peripheral Canal. And Bradley has promised to continue to promote the Peripheral Canal despite the overwhelming rejection of the canal by California voters in the June 8 primaries.

Peripheral Canal

At first glance this might not seem like that significant an issue and hardly one that Bradley would actively promote, especially after its defeat at the polls.

Yet the truth of the matter is that California utility, construction, real-estate, and agribusiness interests have a giant stake in the proposed canal. The movie *Chinatown* was not exaggerating in its portrayal of the powerful forces involved when it comes to the question of controlling the flow of water in southern California.

The Peripheral Canal would divert water from the Sacramento River in northern California into the State Aqueduct which supplies central and southern California, including Los Angeles itself.

If this is done it would pose a grave threat to the small farmers of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The Peripheral Canal could use up to 80 percent of the Sacramento River water that presently flows into the delta.

The main beneficiaries of the scheme would be agribusiness and real-estate developers. Distribution of water in southern California is controlled by the Metropolitan Water District (MWD), a board of officials appointed by municipalities.

The MWD

The trick here is that the MWD sells water to cities, especially Los Angeles,

at very high prices. It sells the "surplus," at very low prices, to agribusiness and real-estate developers in outlying regions.

The real-estate developers with big stakes in cheap water are those building "planned communities" in countless suburbs stretching north and south of Los Angeles. Some of these condominium-type villages are among the most expensive and exclusive "housing projects" in the country.

Little wonder a lot of wealthy people like Bradley.

New York visit

The politics of California are an important part of national politics.

Bradley's ability to put over the capitalist program in the gubernatorial elections will be closely watched in U.S. ruling circles. This is especially so as the economic crisis deepens.

Three months before formally announcing his campaign Bradley put in an appearance in New York. There, according to the Sept. 17, 1981, *Los Angeles Times*, Bradley met with such prominent ruling-class figures as investment banker Felix Rohatyn; David Rockefeller, the former chairman of the Chase Manhattan Bank; and Walter B. Wriston, chairman of Citicorp and Citibank NA.

Bradley took the opportunity to reassure these bankers that he will abide by their program of cutbacks in government. "I agreed that we've got to cut, trim, and squeeze our budget," Bradley told the *Los Angeles Times*. Bradley was "borrowing Reagan's favorite phrase," the *Times* added.

Back in Los Angeles, Bradley addressed a fund-raising dinner with executives. "He said he favored the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant," the *Los Angeles Times* reported December 28.

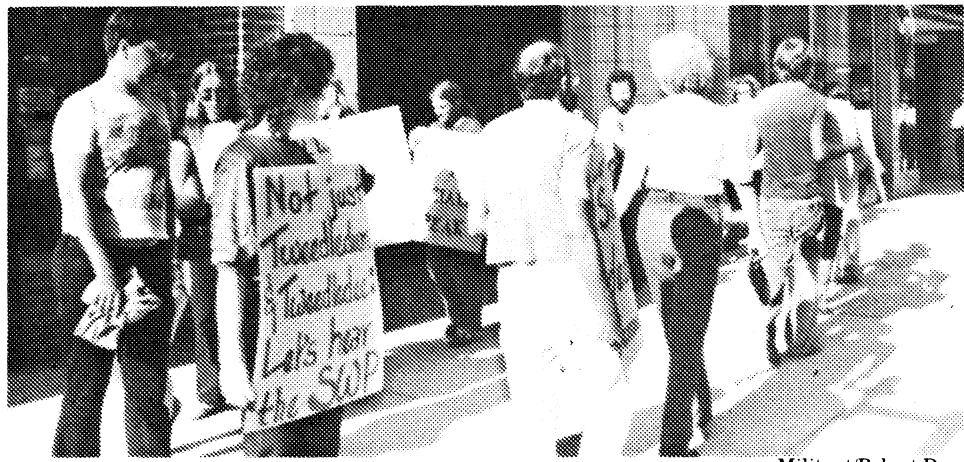
The draft

International political issues, it hardly needs be said, got short public shrift from Bradley. The antiwar demonstrations against U.S. intervention in Central America are ignored by the mayor. When pressed on the question of draft registration in a news conference at Seaside, California, in March, Bradley said he would uphold the law.

A reporter for the *San Francisco Chronicle* summed Bradley up in a few sentences January 28: "An unwillingness to be drawn into the front lines of political battle has been a hallmark of Bradley's nine years as mayor of Los Angeles and 10 years as city councilman. So polished are his skills that he even avoided being drawn into the battle over forced school busing that convulsed Los Angeles. . . ."

That doesn't mean that Bradley is neutral. It means he's "neutral" on the side of the racist, capitalist rulers of this country.

Wis. voter league bars SWP from debate



Militant/Robert Dees

Milwaukee picket line protests League of Women Voters exclusionary policy.

BY NANCY COLE

MILWAUKEE — At a time when Wisconsin voters sorely need political solutions, the League of Women Voters is restricting its gubernatorial debates to candidates of the two capitalist parties.

The league has refused to include Socialist Workers Party candidate Peter Seidman in its series of debates, even though he is certified for the ballot. The league justifies this exclusion with the claim that the socialists have "made something less than a significant effort" in campaigning statewide.

Three Democratic and two Republican politicians are also campaigning for governor in a race characterized thus far by

the uniformity of their stands on the issues. Even the state's business-oriented news media has repeatedly commented on this.

"Similarities between the candidates' positions on the issues prompted a questioner to ask where they differed," reported the *Milwaukee Journal* in a story on a campus "debate" July 15 between Democrat Anthony Earl and Republican Lowell Jackson.

Seidman's participation in a gubernatorial debate in Green Bay as part of a statewide conference on housing July 29 indicates why the league wants to exclude all but the Democrats and Republicans.

Not one of the Democratic or Republi-

can candidates or their representatives present had any plan to provide adequate housing for the state's working people or family farmers. Republican Terry Kohler publicly opposed Wisconsin's rent control and homestead tax-breaks for lower-income renters and homeowners.

Seidman said, "no Democrat or Republican can offer a serious plan for building new housing, rehabilitating housing, and putting construction workers back on the job while their parties are voting to spend \$1.6 trillion on war in the next five years." His remarks, which also blasted the racism of Wisconsin's landlords, were covered on two Green Bay TV stations and two radio stations.

The much publicized League of Women Voters debates begin in La Crosse on August 17. After a four-day visit to La Crosse by Seidman's campaign manager Robert Dees, the *La Crosse Tribune* ran two stories on the Socialist Workers campaign July 14.

Several days later, a letter arrived at the Milwaukee socialist campaign offices from a man in Bangor, Wisconsin.

"I almost fell out of my chair when I found the enclosed articles in the *La Crosse Tribune*," he wrote. "Typically the *Tribune* follows the lead of most major newspapers, printing only what corporate America wants the people to read. Your party appears to offer an alternative."

That idea has also occurred to many who attended the debates here among 12 candidates in the race for U.S. Congress, 5th District. The League of Women Voters invited all candidates to participate in those forums, including SWP candidate Cheryl Hidalgo.

After the debate on women's issues cosponsored by the National Organization for Women, the NOW chapter eliminated a half dozen candidates and recommended to its members that they vote for any one of five Democrats or for Hidalgo.

The socialist candidates have also spoken out on the question of war.

When Reagan proposed sending marines to Lebanon, Seidman issued a statement condemning the Israeli invasion and calling for an immediate halt to U.S. military aid to Israel. A couple of days later at a news conference in Madison, Seidman made a similar statement. Altogether, it was picked up by at least 16 radio stations plus the *Capitol Times*.

SWP candidates Seidman and Hidalgo campaigned at the state NOW conference in Eau Claire on July 17-18. In a statement to the conference — which had as its theme, "Power at the Polls" — the socialists explained why electing more Democratic "friends of women's rights" to public office would not win equal rights.

"A labor party, based on a revitalized trade-union movement, would be a major step forward for the women's liberation struggle," the candidates proposed.

Seidman was introduced to a picnic of 300 elderly people in Sheboygan Falls July 22, organized by the Nutrition Project for the Elderly. He distributed a statement offering a program around which workers and family farmers could unite to help end hunger and solve the crisis facing working farmers.

Those supporting Seidman's right to be included in the league's debates in some manner include his three Democratic opponents and one Republican. Only Republican candidate Kohler refuses to back an open debate.

Protest letters may be sent to the League of Women Voters, 625 West Washington Ave., Madison, Wis. 53703.



Louis Farrakhan

Black United Front holds national convention

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

ATLANTA — The third national convention of the National Black United Front (NBUF) was held here July 22-25. Some 200 people attended, including representatives of NBUF, Republic of New Africa, Nation of Islam, Afro-American Justice League, and National Black Independent Political Party.

The convention discussed issues confronting the Black community and the need for a united front of Black organizations. The idea of forming a Black nation in the South was taken up by numerous speakers, including Amiri Baraka.

Baraka also spoke of the danger of fas-

cism in the United States and the threat of imperialist war and nuclear war. He said what Israel is doing in Lebanon the imperialists also want to do in Angola and Mozambique.

Mayor Eddie Carthan of Tchula, Mississippi, described the frame-up case against him. Prior to his election in 1977, he said, the Tchula Black community suffered the highest unemployment rate in the town and had only dirt roads and rundown homes.

Under his administration a new medical center and daycare center were built. The streets were paved and a sewer system installed. This stepped on the toes of the white power structure and as a result Carthan was framed up on robbery and murder charges in an attempt to force him out of office.

Also speaking were A. Reginald Eaves, Fulton County (Georgia) Commissioner and former Atlanta Commissioner of Public Safety; Robert F. Williams; Louis Farrakhan of the Nation of Islam; and others. One thousand turned out for the session where Farrakhan spoke.

Workshops took up the questions of land for Black people, self-determination, voting rights, and electoral action.

The workshop on electoral politics placed major emphasis on pressuring Democratic Party politicians to work in the interests of Black people. There was some discussion of political action independent of the two-party system.

Kansas City socialist receives support from Black activists

BY JEFF POWERS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — "We've got to get this actor out of the White House, but it won't do us any good to put a Democratic actor in his place. They all act alike. They just wear different costumes," Keith Brown, president of Young Activists for Freedom, told a July 24 campaign rally for Kathie Fitzgerald, Socialist Workers Party candidate for the 5th Congressional District in Kansas City.

Young Activists for Freedom is the youth group of Freedom Incorporated, Kansas City's Black Democratic Party organization. Brown explained he had come to support Fitzgerald's campaign after going to the recent Democratic Party mid-term convention in Philadelphia. Seeing the party close-up convinced Brown that another alternative was necessary.

Brown's endorsement of Fitzgerald is indicative of the warm response the Socialist Workers campaign has been getting here.

Of the people attending the July 24 rally, several came from Fitzgerald's United Steelworkers Local 4991 at Fairbanks Morse Co. Many others were from the Black community and from antiwar groups.

The rally was chaired by Deborah

Whitley from the local chapter of the Black United Front. Also speaking were Gail Peterson, vice-president of Catholics for Justice, and Rashaad Ali, SWP candidate for mayor in the last election in New Orleans.

Fitzgerald, the featured speaker, told the audience, "We need a revitalized labor movement. Compromise is a dead end both on the shop floor and in politics."

Over \$800 was raised at the rally, and following its conclusion, two people asked to join the Young Socialist Alliance.

New from Pathfinder

Independent Black Political Action: 1954-78

The struggle to break with the Democratic and Republican parties

Edited by Mac Warren, this Education for Socialists publication includes articles on the Freedom Now Party, Lowndes County Freedom Organization, Black Panther Party, National Black Assembly, and more. 8½ x 11 format, 72 pages, \$3.50.

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Order from Pathfinder Press, 410 West Street, New York, New York 10014. Please include \$.75 for postage and handling.

Wis. insurance corp.—a revolving door of governors

MILWAUKEE — Big business pulls the strings for politicians of both the Democratic and Republican parties, but seldom are the puppeteers revealed so openly as is occurring here in Wisconsin with the Sentry Insurance Co.

Media attention here is being focused on a speech made in 1979 by Sentry chief executive John Joanis where he said he had the political clout to replace governors and state insurance commissioners.

It wouldn't look so bad except that the present governor, Republican Lee Dreyfus, has already accepted a top executive post at Sentry once his term expires at the end of this year.

And to make matters worse, former acting governor Martin Schreiber, a Democrat who lost to Dreyfus in the last election, is taking a leave from a post as vice-president at Sentry to again run for governor this year.

Joanis's boast, made at a meeting of the company's financial planning group, came to public light in legal proceedings begun by an executive fired by Joanis.

It has caused Madison's daily *Capitol Times* to call for Dreyfus's resignation for "conflict of interests."

It has prompted Schreiber to return his \$1,000 campaign contribution from Joanis because this is "too important to have any clouds in the air."

But for many state residents, it is probably just more confirmation that Democratic and Republican politicians alike are controlled by big business — only in this case it's the same business.

Polish cops step up attack on Solidarity



BY ERNEST HARSCH

As the second anniversary of the birth of the Solidarity union movement draws near, Polish riot police have stepped up their attacks against union supporters. Within just two days, on August 12 and 13, police broke up pro-Solidarity demonstrations in Warsaw, Gdansk, Szczecin, Wroclaw, and Krakow.

August is a symbolic month for the Polish workers movement. Two years ago, on Aug. 14, 1980, workers at the Lenin Shipyard in Gdansk began an occupation strike. It ended in victory on August 31, when the government agreed to let the workers form their own independent and democratically run union, Solidarity.

Solidarity fought for the workers' rights and against the material privileges and repressive actions of Poland's governing bureaucratic caste. Its activities were declared illegal with the imposition of martial law last December 13.

To demonstrate Solidarity's con-

tinued support among working people, five underground leaders of the union have issued a call for nationwide demonstrations August 31 to mark the victory at the Lenin Shipyard.

The five leaders — Zbigniew Bujak, Wladyslaw Hardek, Bogdan Lis, Wladyslaw Frasyniuk, and Eugeniusz Szumiejko — demanded the lifting of martial law, the release of Solidarity's imprisoned leaders, the restoration of the union's right to function, and the eventual establishment of a "self-governed republic."

They were calling the protests, they said, because of the government's refusal to heed the workers' demands. "The further widening of the chasm between those governing and those governed will dramatically lower chances for emerging from the crisis," they said.

In the weeks preceding August 31, they said, "the presence of our union will be exceptionally visible."

On August 1, shortly after the call for

the demonstrations was made, thousands of Poles gathered at Warsaw's main cemetery to mark the anniversary of the 1944 Warsaw uprising, in which some 200,000 Poles were killed fighting the Nazi occupation forces.

The crowd of between 10,000 and 15,000 chanted "Solidarity!" and "Free Lech!" a reference to the union's imprisoned national chairperson, Lech Walesa.

A cassette tape recorder was placed on a monument and the voice of Zbigniew Bujak told the crowd, "We shall fight for the rights of Solidarity. We shall fight for the revival of independent unions. We shall fight for the release of our colleagues."

On August 10, hundreds of union supporters marched through the streets of the northwestern port city of Szczecin, following a funeral of the son and daughter-in-law of Marian Jurczyk, one of Solidarity's jailed leaders. They chanted pro-Solidarity slogans. The police broke up the demonstration.

The next day, some 2,000 workers at the Lenin Shipyard laid a wreath at a monument to murdered workers just outside the shipyard. As the crowd grew, the police again attacked. The workers were joined by bystanders, and thousands marched through Gdansk. The police attacks led to running street battles.

The same day, in Krakow, a thousand workers at the Lenin Steelworks staged a brief march and were joined by several thousand onlookers. The police broke up the march with water cannon.

A similar demonstration was broken up in Wroclaw that day, and in Warsaw several hundred people at Victory Square were dispersed by police firing water cannon.

These police attacks were clearly designed to dissuade people from participating in the August 31 actions. Both the authorities and union activists see those protests as an important test of Solidarity's strength.

53,000 sign for N.Y. socialists

Continued from Page 16

"The first person I approached with this was an elderly white woman. She looked at me and I could see she was angry. She started to shake with rage. I figured I had made a mistake until she began to talk.

"She started to denounce Israel and she compared it to fascist Germany. She told me that she was Jewish and that she had been in a concentration camp during the war. She rolled up her sleeve to show me where the Nazis had tattooed a number into her arm. She said she'd sign anything that could help get Israel out of Lebanon."

Work-site and union petitioning has been important for the drive, especially among garment, auto, and transit workers. At the 207th St. transit barn 54 signatures were obtained and \$15 worth of socialist literature sold during a recent lunch break.

Diane Wang, a member of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, was recently at a special meeting of her union local to discuss their new contract. She took the floor to speak and the local union president recognized her name. "I've been waiting to meet you," he said. "I heard you were running for governor."

After the meeting many of Wang's co-workers signed petitions to place her on the ballot. Others volunteered to help and took petitions and literature. As one worker put it, "It's about time we got one of us up there; there are enough millionaires there already."

The Democratic and Republican parties — through the state Board of Elections — have placed obstacles in the socialists' path. In addition to the high number of signatures required the campaign must get at least 100 valid signatures from at least 17 different congressional districts to qualify.

This task was further complicated when the Board of Elections refused to supply the socialists with the newly drawn maps of the districts.

"By trying to keep us off the ballot the Democrats and Republicans are trying to maintain their monopoly in the elections," said Peter Thierjung. "Quite simply, they do not want the workers and farmers of New York to hear any voice in opposition to theirs."

"As they push forward with their attacks on women's rights, with their deportation drives, their attacks on the Black community, with their wars and their attacks on the democratic rights

and standard of living of the working class, any voice speaking out against their policies is dangerous to them."

The socialist campaign has pressed forward in spreading its ideas. Few opportunities to meet new people are missed: from county fairs, to the opening of Harlem Week, to migrant labor camps. Recently petitioning teams traveled to upstate New York where candidates and campaign supporters met with farmers, dairy operators, and Puerto Rican and *mexicano* farmworkers.

Steve Wattenmaker and Ray Parsons, a member of the Young Socialist Alliance from Schenectady, have begun a week-long fact-finding and petitioning trip to Buffalo, New York. They will be

visiting unemployment lines and steel mills.

Wattenmaker, who recently returned from a tour of Nicaragua, will be joined by Mark Zola, Socialist Workers candidate for governor of Pennsylvania, for a trip to Hamilton, Ontario, where they will speak to Canadian antiwar activists.

The final date for the filing of the socialists petitions is August 31. "As we get closer to the end of the petitioning," Verónica Cruz said, "we're building our victory rally on August 28. Our candidates will be speaking there. And Mel Mason, independent candidate for governor of California, will be there, too. We're excited about this. The joint will be jumping."

Senate OKs reactionary anti-immigrant bill

Continued from Page 16

The enormous potential consequence of this is indicated by INS Commissioner Alan Nelson, who told a congressional committee that there are currently 73,000 asylum applications pending, not including Cuban and Haitian boat arrivals.

It is known that among these are at least several thousand refugees from the U.S.-backed terrorist government in El Salvador.

According to government estimates, there are 3.5 million to six million undocumented people in this country. Less than half of these are from Mexico. An estimated 25 percent are from Central and South America and the Caribbean.

And, also contrary to the media image, only an estimated 15 percent of the undocumented are farm workers.

Industrial workers

According to Attorney General William French Smith, 50 percent of the undocumented hold service jobs and 30 percent are blue collar workers, with about 1 million in the construction industry.

In a recent speech to the San Antonio Bar Association and Chamber of Commerce, Smith emphasized these figures to show how many "well-paying" jobs the undocumented were holding down.

For example, he noted, the million construction workers were pulling down an estimated \$7 billion a year.

Check it out on your calculator. That's an average of \$7,000 a year per worker.

That one figure alone should be enough to expose the fake argument that an immigration crackdown is needed because those coming here are taking good jobs from "American" workers. This scapegoating of immigrant workers is nothing but a coverup for the failure of the capitalist system.

Immigrant workers didn't cause production cutbacks, the shutdown of big plants, and the massive layoffs in the auto, steel, and railroad industries. The profit system did.

Passage of the present bill does not mean that the rulers of this country no longer want an available supply of undocumented workers who are prey to superexploitation because they have no legal rights. The employers intend to continue taking advantage of such workers. But what they want is tighter control over them.

There are now nearly 15 million Latinos in this country. In California, they are about 20 percent of the population.

These people are systematically denied their rights. Their *barrios* have the worst housing, schooling, and medical care. Unemployment is high and the police are rightly regarded as a brutal army of occupation.

Latinos are systematically cheated out of political representation. In Los Angeles County, where they are nearly a quarter of the population, there is not a single Latino school board member or county supervisor.

Senator Simpson says more have to be kept from coming in because if they are not integrated into the society they'll be a source of "unrest." Since the rulers of the society have demonstrated by the record that Latinos won't be given the opportunity for "integration" even if they want it, Simpson's fear is not unfounded.

Carter plan

It should be recalled that the basic provisions of the Simpson-Mazzoli plan are not new. All of its essential features were included in an immigration plan which the Carter administration proposed in 1977.

At that time, Secretary of Labor Raymond Marshall candidly explained why the Carter administration wanted to draw an iron curtain across the southern border.

"I believe," Marshall said, "we are now building toward a new civil rights struggle of the 1980s by having an underclass of people coming to this country, unable to protect themselves, easily exploited, dissatisfied with their status and yet fearful of being deported."

"Their children will be even more dissatisfied and likely to revolt against such conditions, and they will demand their civil rights in the fashion of the civil rights struggles which began in the 1960s."

The Carter plan had to be shelved at that time because of the opposition that erupted among Chicanos and other Latinos.

Now that opposition must be broadened. All working people have a big stake in fighting the Simpson bill.

This is especially true of the unions, whose memberships have a growing component of undocumented workers.

In Los Angeles, several years ago, one Anglo union official explained that if the International Ladies Garment Workers Union wanted to survive, it had to organize the undocumented because they were a majority of the garment workforce. He added that organizing drives and strikes had made clear that despite the threat of deportation, these workers were courageous, devoted union fighters.

How could it be otherwise? So bitterly oppressed and exploited, they have nothing to lose and everything to gain by fighting back. In doing so, they set a necessary example for all workers.

American labor needs more of them, not less.

Labor news

The *Militant* stays on top of the most important developments in the labor movement. You won't miss any of it if you subscribe. See the ad on page 2 of this issue for subscription rates.

Not to worry (I) — If you were worried you might be laid off after the bomb hits, relax. If you're an essential worker, you'll commute on a shift basis



Harry Ring

from the "host area," where the shelters are supposed to be, to the "blast area" where you'll help keep your industry running.

Not to worry (II) — Despite the government's best efforts, there may be a shortage of shelters at the "host area." But there are plans for this. Rear Adm. Eugene Carroll advises: "An abundance of small trees or doors will have to be readily available. . . . Evacuees should bring tools; construction materials; and at least two weeks of food, water, and medical supplies."

Not to worry (III) — And if you're concerned about making your credit card payment after a nuclear war, be advised that the Post Office has plans to ensure postnuclear mail delivery virtually as reliable as now. If

Washington is wiped out, the postal H.Q. will operate out of Memphis. If Memphis goes, it will be San Bruno, California. If you move, there will be emergency change of address forms.

Not to worry (IV) — Finally, if you've been fretting about keeping up on your income tax, be advised the IRS is developing contingency plans to collect from possible survivors of the blast.

Social note — Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt Whitney (no first name reported) threw her annual bash at Saratoga Springs. The theme was, "For the Young

At Heart." There were gumdrop trees, cotton candy and a caliope. Whitney arrived in a coach shaped like a pumpkin and pulled by six black ponies. (The black ponies may have been because there aren't any more Black slaves.)

No duck soup — If you happen to shoot down any waterfowl coming out of Montana, don't eat too much. If you're pregnant, don't eat any. The birds are contaminated with 19 toxic chemicals sprayed on crops. One official described them as "flying garbage cans full of pesticides."

Necessity and invention — After several sour grape crops,

upstate New York growers learned it was the result of ozone pollution. The growers have shown little interest in legislation relating to the issue. Instead, they're focusing on research to produce an "ozone proof" grape.

Housing shortage? — A D.C. builder is erecting four turreted French style town houses on the Potomac. Features include two kitchens, three dishwashers, a closed circuit TV system and cable hookup in each room. They're \$1.1 million each and the builder says it'll be no sweat selling them. Luxury homes, he explains, "is the safest market going."

—CALENDAR—

NEW YORK

New York City

Socialist Workers Campaign Victory Rally and Celebration. Speakers: Mel Mason, independent candidate for governor of California; Steven Wattenmaker, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate; Susan Zarate, SWP candidate for Congress; Eva Chertov, SWP candidate for Congress; Diane Wang, SWP candidate for governor of New York. Sat., Aug. 28, 7 p.m. reception, 8 p.m. rally. 79 Leonard St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Socialist Workers Party Campaign. For more information call (212) 226-8445 or 929-1668.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

Protest U.S.-Israeli War Against Lebanon. Speakers: Freedom fighter from Zimbabwe, Palestinian student, representative of Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Aug. 21, 7:30 p.m. 504 Flat Shoals Rd. SE. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

Eyewitness Report from Grenada: Slideshow. Speaker: Maurice Williams. Sun., Aug. 29, 7:30 p.m. 504 Flat Shoals Rd. SE. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

Israel's War Against the Palestinians. Speakers: Eloise Little, Socialist Workers Party, others. Sun., Aug. 22, 7:30 p.m. 510 Commonwealth Ave., Kenmore Square. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (617) 262-4621.

NEW YORK

Brooklyn

Protest U.S.-Israeli War. Speakers: Neil Saad, Palestine Congress of North America; Diane Wang, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of New York; videotape from Lebanon. Sat., Aug. 21, 7:30 p.m. 335 Atlantic Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Socialist Workers Campaign. For more information call (212) 226-8445 or 852-7922.

NORTH CAROLINA

Winston-Salem

Reagan's War on Women's Rights: How to Fight Back. Speakers: Meryl Lynn Farber, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress, 5th District; others. Sat., Aug. 28, 7:30 p.m. 216 E 6th St. For more information call (919) 723-3419.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

U.S.-Israeli War on Palestinians. Speakers: Taleb Rifai, Palestinian and member of General Union of Palestinian Students. Bill Osteen, Socialist Workers Party, member, United Auto Workers Local 834; others. Sat., Aug. 28, 7:30 p.m. YWCA, 2027 Chestnut St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Delaware Valley Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, General Union of Palestinian Students, Socialist Workers Party. For more information call (215) 927-4747.

TEXAS

San Antonio

No More Vietnams. Rally Against Washington's Wars. Speakers: Mel Mason, independent candidate for governor of California; Shirley Peña, Texas Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress, 20th District. Sun., Sept. 5, La Quinta Motor Inn, 1001 E Commerce at I-37. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Texas Socialist Workers 1982 Campaign. For more information call (512) 736-9218.

Further reading on Latin America revolution



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Speeches, writings, and interviews with leaders of Nicaragua's revolution.

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Education for Socialists

158 pp., \$5.00

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Speech by Fidel Castro to the Tenth World Trade Union Congress in February 1982.

30 pp., \$.75

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ALABAMA: Birmingham: SWP, YSA, 205 18th St. S. Zip: 35233. Tel: (205) 323-3079.

ARIZONA: Phoenix: SWP, YSA, 611 E. Indian School. Zip: 85012. Tel: (602) 274-7399. Tucson: SWP, P.O. Box 2585. Zip: 85702. Tel: (602) 622-3880 or 882-4304.

CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles: SWP, YSA, 2546 W. Pico Blvd. Zip: 90006. Tel: (213) 380-9460. Oakland: SWP, YSA, 2864 Telegraph Ave. Zip: 94609. Tel: (415) 763-3792. San Diego: SWP, YSA, 1053 15th St. Zip: 92101. Tel: (714) 234-4630. San Francisco: SWP, YSA, 3284 23rd St. Zip: 94110. Tel: (415) 824-1992. San Jose: SWP, YSA, 46½ Race St. Zip: 95126. Tel: (408) 998-4007.

COLORADO: Denver: SWP, YSA, 126 W. 12th Ave. Zip: 80204. Tel: (303) 534-8954.

FLORIDA: Miami: SWP, YSA, 1237 NW 119th St., North Miami. Zip: 33167. Tel: (305) 769-3478.

GEORGIA: Atlanta: SWP, YSA, 504 Flat Shoals Ave. SE. Zip: 30316. Tel: (404) 577-4065.

ILLINOIS: Chicago: SWP, YSA, 434 S. Wabash, Room 700. Zip: 60605. Tel: (312) 939-0737.

INDIANA: Bloomington: YSA, Activities Desk, Indiana Memorial Union. Zip: 47405. Gary: SWP, YSA, 3883 Broadway. Zip: 46409.

Tel: (219) 884-9509. Indianapolis: SWP, YSA, 4850 N. College. Zip: 46205. Tel: (317) 283-6149.

IOWA: Cedar Falls: YSA, c/o Jim Sprau, 803 W. 11th St. Zip: 50613. Des Moines: YSA, P.O. Box 1165. Zip: 50311.

KENTUCKY: Louisville: SWP, YSA, 809 E. Broadway. Zip: 40204. Tel: (502) 587-8418.

LOUISIANA: New Orleans: SWP, YSA, 3207 Dublin St. Zip: 70118. Tel: (504) 486-8048.

MARYLAND: Baltimore: SWP, YSA, 2913 Greenmount Ave. Zip: 21218. Tel: (301) 235-0013.

MASSACHUSETTS: Boston: SWP, YSA, 510 Commonwealth Ave., 4th Floor. Zip: 02215. Tel: (617) 262-4621.

MICHIGAN: Detroit: SWP, YSA, 6404 Woodward Ave. Zip: 48202. Tel: (313) 875-5322.

MINNESOTA: Mesabi Iron Range: SWP, YSA, 112 Chestnut St., Virginia, Minn. Send mail to P.O. Box 1287. Zip: 55792. Tel: (218) 749-6327. Twin Cities: SWP, YSA, 508 N. Snelling Ave., St. Paul. Zip: 55104. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI: Kansas City: SWP, YSA, 4715A Troost. Zip: 64110. Tel: (816) 753-0404. St. Louis: SWP, YSA, 6223 Delmar Blvd. Zip: 63130. Tel: (314) 725-1570.

NEBRASKA: Lincoln: YSA, P.O. Box 30209. Zip: 68503. Tel: (402) 475-2255.

NEW JERSEY: Newark: SWP, YSA, 11-A Central Ave. Zip: 07102. Tel: (201) 643-

3341.

NEW MEXICO: Albuquerque: SWP, YSA, 1417 Central Ave. NE. Zip: 87106. Tel: (505) 842-0954.

NEW YORK: Capital District (Schenectady): SWP, YSA, 323 State St. Zip: 12305. Tel: (518) 374-1494. New York, Brooklyn: SWP, YSA, 335 Atlantic Ave. Zip: 11201. Tel: (212) 852-7922. New York, Manhattan: SWP, YSA, 79 Leonard. Zip: 10013. Tel: (212) 226-8445. New York: City-wide SWP, YSA, 79 Leonard. Zip: 10013. Tel: (212) 925-1668.

NORTH CAROLINA: Piedmont: SWP, YSA, 216 E. 6th St., Winston-Salem. Zip: 27101. Tel: (919) 723-3419.

OHIO: Cincinnati: SWP, YSA, 4945 Pad-dock Rd. Zip: 45237. Tel: (513) 242-7161. 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, 803 N. 2nd St. Zip: 17102. Tel: (717) 234-5052. 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, P.O. Box 261, Annex Station. Zip: 02901.

TEXAS: Austin: YSA, c/o Mike Rose, 7409 Berkman Dr. Zip: 78752. Tel: (512) 452-3923.

Dallas: SWP, YSA, 2817 Live Oak. Zip: 75204. 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: Price: SWP, YSA, 23 S. Carbon Ave., Suite 19. P.O. Box 758. Zip: 84501. Tel: (801) 637-6294. 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: Seattle: SWP, YSA, 4868 Rainier Ave. South. Zip: 98118. Tel: (206) 723-5330.

WEST VIRGINIA: Charleston: SWP, YSA, 1584 A Washington St. East. Zip: 25311. 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.

Anti-Semitic terror in France

French Jews and opponents of anti-Semitism everywhere have good reason to be concerned over the killing of six people and the wounding of 22 in the August 9 terrorist attack on a Jewish restaurant in Paris.

The French police say the terrorist attack may be the work of the "Black June" grouping. This grouping has been held responsible for the August 4 wounding of the Israeli ambassador in London. (That shooting was used as the original pretext for the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.)

The "Black June" gang has also taken responsibility for the assassination of Palestine Liberation Organization leaders in Paris, London, and Brussels.

The Nazi experience underlined that every manifestation of anti-Semitism must be resolutely opposed. Yet we see members of the Israeli government, and others, attempting to cynically exploit the Paris shooting to try to blunt the rising international opposition to the Israeli regime's savage campaign against the Palestinian people in Lebanon.

In response to the Paris shooting, Israel's foreign minister raised again the smear charge that anti-Zionism equals anti-Semitism, and that opposition to the invasion of Lebanon "encourages extremist elements to harm Israelis and Jews."

Such a shamelessly self-serving declaration is a terrible disservice to the Jewish people and to the fight against anti-Semitism.

Television has brought the world the murderous Israeli bombardment of Beirut. Millions know of the cluster and phosphorous bombs. To equate opposition

to such crimes with anti-Semitism only gives ammunition to the genuine anti-Semites.

All opponents of anti-Semitism must be mobilized in opposition to anti-Jewish actions, in the same way that all forms of racism and discrimination must be fought if humanity is to progress.

And the opponents of anti-Semitism include a growing number of people who are being educated to the true, reactionary nature of Zionism as a result of the Lebanon experience.

Among those firmly opposed to anti-Semitism is the Palestine Liberation Organization. In an official statement issued from Beirut the day of the Paris shooting, the PLO declared:

"The principles of the Palestinian revolution specify we fight not against Jews, but against fanatic, racist Zionists who perpetrate genocide against the Palestinian and Lebanese people, against those who violate the sovereignty of an independent state and defy the international will. . . .

"As we suffer today massacres and attempted genocide, we are especially determined not to act in the manner of our aggressors."

The PLO statement declared, "We express our deep regret for the innocent victims" of the Paris shooting.

That declaration is consistent with the determined struggle of the PLO to end the oppression of the Palestinian people. Such opposition to Zionism is, in actuality, a contribution to the fight against anti-Semitism. Anti-Semitism will not be wiped out without a determined struggle against all forms of discrimination, racism, and national oppression.

AFL-CIO stand on Israeli war

Continued from Page 1

terror, but it has come from the right-wing Lebanese Phalangists, who were responsible for launching a civil war in 1975, and from repeated attacks by Israel. The PLO and Syrian troops have provided protection for the people of Lebanon against these forces, and this is why Israel and the U.S. government demand they get out.

It's true the PLO is unpopular among Lebanese businessmen and big landholders. But among the toilers of that country, the PLO fighters are heroes.

Even the *New York Times* was forced to admit this. In a July 25 article describing the exploitation of Palestinian refugees by wealthy Lebanese landowners, the *Times* said: "For many Palestinians . . . the P.L.O. was protector and benefactor. Some in the crowded camps recall the pitifully low wages the citrus-pickers once received in the south, and they credit the P.L.O. with forcing employers to improve the pay. The results were reflected in rising living standards."

The AFL-CIO ad sheds crocodile tears over the "loss of civilian life in the present conflict." It blames the PLO for "holding the civilian population of West Beirut hostage."

But it is Israel that has held the entire country of Lebanon hostage in its war against the PLO. In West Beirut itself, the civilian population has rallied behind the Palestinian fighters as the terror bombing raids increased. To its lasting credit, the PLO, despite its small forces, has done everything possible to defend these civilians against overwhelming odds.

But the AFL-CIO ad hails the blows Israel has dealt the PLO, blows it says have "advanced the interests of the Western democracies."

What kind of "democracy" has Israel been advancing? In Lebanon it is backing rightist leader Bashir Gemayel, whose Phalangist movement is modeled on the fascist Falange movement of former Spanish dictator Francisco Franco.

In the Arab territories Israel grabbed during the war of aggression it launched in 1967, the Palestinian population is not allowed to demonstrate for its rights, to form political parties, or to elect its own representatives. Palestinian school children have been repeatedly gunned down for protesting the abuses of the Zionist military occupation.

Inside Israel itself, the Palestinian population suffers brutal exploitation and discrimination. But the rights of the Israeli workers as a whole are also under attack. They have been lied to and dragged into a war that is against their interests. Their sons have been the ones sent to Lebanon to fight and die against the Palestinians. And the Israeli workers have paid dearly with their living standards as well. Recently the Israeli government cut food subsidies, sharply increasing prices by as much as 36 percent. The funds went directly to the war budget.

What about "Western democracy" right here in the

United States? The AFL-CIO ad has nothing to say about that.

Nebraska meat workers are getting a taste of that "democracy" right now. The workers at the Iowa Beef Processors plant in Dakota City agreed to accept a two-year wage freeze under enormous pressure from the company. But this wasn't enough for IBP, which then demanded a wage freeze of four years. When the union said no and went out on strike, the governor sent in an army of union busters — state troopers, National Guardsmen, even tanks.

Strikers have been maced and gassed. They've been clubbed and arrested for the crime of trying to stop scabs from entering the plant.

What's happening in Dakota City and in West Beirut is part of the same war — a war by the capitalist rulers against the workers and oppressed of the world. Today's labor movement cannot advance until that fact is recognized.

The AFL-CIO officials pursue a foreign policy that is consistent with their domestic policy — a decades-long approach of collaboration and compromise with the U.S. employers. That policy is concretized today by the union officials' stance in favor of making big concessions on wages and working conditions to help big business out of the economic crisis it faces. The officials claimed these givebacks will save workers' jobs, but as the auto workers have learned, they lead only to more layoffs and new assaults on union rights.

Just as workers and bosses have no common interests in this country, workers have no interests in common with the foreign policy of the U.S. government and the employers abroad. We need our own foreign policy, one that starts from the interests of our class.

What should U.S. labor's foreign policy be? First of all, unionists ought to be in the front ranks of the growing numbers demanding today: Israel out of Lebanon! No U.S. aid or U.S. troops to help the Israeli war! Palestine for the Palestinians!

Instead of supporting U.S. aid to Israel's war on Lebanon, the AFL-CIO ought to join the September 11 demonstration in Washington *against* this policy, and mobilize its ranks to help build this important antiwar protest.

Instead of supporting the prowar, antilabor Democrats and Republicans in the November elections, as the AFL-CIO officialdom is doing, the unions ought to break from the two parties of the employers and form an independent labor party that would campaign against Washington's war policy around the world and against its war on workers at home.

That would be a major step forward in the fight to transform the U.S. labor movement and its leadership, and advance the struggle for a government in this country that is based on the interests and needs of U.S. working people and the oppressed and exploited around the world.

History of women in the Cuban revolution

The following are excerpts from an article printed in 1961 by Vilma Espín on the history of women in the Cuban revolution. Espín is president of the Federation of Cuban Women and a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party. The article is available in the Pathfinder Press book *Women and the Cuban Revolution* for \$3.95.

"The experience of all liberation movements has shown that the success of a revolution depends on how much the women take part in it." — Lenin

There is a tradition in Cuba of women being present, together with their people, in the struggle for liberation.

A century ago, under the humiliating colonial oppression, women joined in the battles for emancipation.

After thirty years of struggle, the Cuban people ended Spanish domination but did not thereby gain true independence. The newborn republic came to be a semicolony of the powerful northern neighbor which imposed on it the Platt Amendment. The situation of the working masses did not essentially change, much less that of women and Blacks, who

OUR REVOLUTIONARY HERITAGE

were cruelly discriminated against by the socioeconomic system.

Only on rare occasions were the doors of industry opened to women, generally in the textile and tobacco industries, where the bosses saw them as cheap labor.

The situation of peasant women was even more desperate.

The misery produced by lack of work threw thousands of women from the countryside and the city onto the torturous and denigrating road of prostitution.

The prejudices inherited from the feudal system of colonial Cuba, and continued under the semicolonial and semifederal regime of the republic, even discriminated against rich and middle-class women, keeping them out of professional jobs.

Starting from the vantage point of feminism, women began to demand their right to suffrage, protection on the job, and legal and economic equality with men.

In order to raise these demands, the First National Congress of Women was organized in 1923, at which there was a total absence of workers, peasants, and Blacks. However, the feminists raised the problem from the false angle of women against men, and they did not focus it as a fight of women together with men against the socioeconomic oppressor, which is the working-class point of view.

The general strike of August 1933 brought about the fall of the tyrannical government of Machado but did not succeed in eliminating the imperialist domination of our country's economic and political life.

Women participated in the vanguard of these struggles and, as a consequence, won the right to vote in 1934. They also gained a better consciousness of their position in society.

Fighting all injustices and discrimination, the working class, and especially its Marxist-Leninist vanguard, took up the banner of women's rights, understanding that this struggle was part of the general fight against the social system responsible for discrimination. And as a result, in the constitution of 1940 the principle of equal pay for equal work was consecrated, discrimination for reasons of sex was declared illegal and punishable by law, full civil rights were granted to married women, and maternity protection for working women was regulated.

The legal recognition of these rights undoubtedly constituted the first step toward the liberation of women. But in practice the law was not carried out.

With Batista's coup in 1952, a brutal and bloody tyranny began, which, hardly on being established, provoked the furious rebellion of the most valiant elements of the population.

Women were present during the first outbreak of the struggle. They also participated, actively and responsibly, in the war that the Cuban people, led by Fidel Castro, waged in the Sierra Maestra against Batista's dictatorial government that was subservient to imperialism.

Throughout this difficult process, women many times took up vanguard positions; carrying out formidable mass actions, protest demonstrations, strikes; making unheard-of efforts to obtain the unity of all the opposition forces in common action against the tyranny.

On that glorious January 1, 1959, Cuba achieved the destruction of the semicolonial and latifundist regime. The hopes of a people, embodied in more than a century of struggle for their liberty, became a reality.

Va. electrical workers: 'We're humans, not horses'

BY GEORGE KONTANIS

HAMPTON, Va. — "Profits — that's the name of this business, people. If the company doesn't make profits, the people don't have jobs." The new president of GTE-Sylvania, whose Hampton, Virginia, plant makes transformers for construction and heavy industry, spelled it out.

In sweltering heat he told the 160 assembled workers, about half of whom are members of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 1340, "There are 160 of you — I've got to have 160 horses pulling their weight all the time."

UNION TALK

While 18 workers had been laid off in May, the rest of us were working a lot of forced overtime, and we were told to expect more of the same.

Forced overtime makes for tired workers and increases the risk of injury. In the Final Assembly department, which put in 72 hours in one week, three of the nine workers on the job were hurt.

The president told us, "I called this meeting to put the grapevine to rest — the Hampton plant has problems but Hampton is alive and well. We are just

about ready to have a "reorganization." He then asked if we had any questions.

A co-worker of mine challenged this sweatshop "team of horses" idea:

"Well, I've got a question. If we are supposed to work so hard to make the company a profit, what about this counting missed forced overtime against our absent hours — you know we all get tired and this isn't fair."

The company gives us 48 hours (six days) to be absent per year before we are written up. But every hour of forced overtime we miss is counted in that total!

Another co-worker got more to the point. He whispered, "well, if he wants 160 horses, why doesn't he check out the stables, we are human beings."

Just what the president meant by reorganization was clear the next day. On 15-minutes notice (a violation of the union contract), the Encapsulation, Assembly, and Final Assembly departments were laid off "temporarily," some for six days, some for 30 days, and a few forever. Some workers welcomed the six days off to lick their wounds and rest up for next month. Others worried where the next paycheck would come from.

A few weeks later every worker in the plant was cut back to a 32-hour workweek.

As the recession deepens, what's happening here is like everywhere else. The workers get laid-up and laid-off. The ruling rich steal our jobs and drive down our standard of living. As the GTE man said, "profits," not human needs — that's what it's all about at Hampton.

That's why we working people need to pull together a team to build a stronger union that will fight back against forced overtime and unsafe shop conditions. A team that will discuss with other IBEW locals, with the powerful United Steelworkers Local 8888 at the nearby Tenneco shipyard, the need to build a labor party, independent of the Democrats and Republicans.

We need a party based on a revitalized union movement that will fight against war, for jobs, and for better working conditions. A party that will organize a struggle against U.S. wars abroad and the employers' war at home against working people.

That's the first step toward taking the whip out of the bossman's hand and putting plants like GTE under the control of those who punch the time clock and produce the wealth.

George Kontanis is a member of IBEW Local 1340 at GTE-Sylvania.

LETTERS

Begin a butcher?

I have been reading the *Militant* for several months and I have to agree with the subscriber who mentioned drawbacks to the general style of journalism.

While I agree with and am grateful for the content and analysis in the articles, I cannot but mention that the U.S. workers are long familiar with the slick media manipulation of the capitalist press. Therefore the politically uninitiated will only be alienated by such graceless use of adjectives which blatantly color your subject material.

For example, a headline calling Begin a "butcher," etc., whether it is true or not, is a sensationalist journalistic technique reminiscent of a Hearst paper. To put it in a different way, real *butchers* perform an honest occupation and in no way need to be connected with genocidal murderers. An accurate term would not be so sloppy.

My criticism is that you ought to let the facts speak for themselves. You don't want workers, some of whom have spoken to me about it, to think that you have a low estimate of their intelligence because you use such a gross persuasive technique.

You don't want someone who opens the paper for the first time, with an open mind, to simply throw it away because they are left with an impression that you, like the rest of the media, are simply trying to sell something. We know better, don't we?

Sesshu Foster
Seattle, Washington

Set-up picture

The July 18 *New York Times* ran a three-column photograph on page 3 showing Indians in Guatemala standing in a group and holding very clearly printed signs in Spanish which proclaimed their support for the Guatemalan government, a government known for its brutal treatment of the Indians as well as all other working people and peasants in the country. If you only looked at the picture and read the caption, you would assume the government was somehow gaining the support of the people.

But if you read the accompanying article, you would learn that almost none of the Indians in this village speak or read

Spanish. The Indians of Guatemala speak 23 different dialects. So how come all the signs were in Spanish? Not only that, but how come the signs were so clearly printed? Most of the hand-lettered signs I've seen in demonstrations were kind of messy.

In the last paragraph, the *Times* finally tells us why these Indians are standing there holding the signs in this obviously set-up photograph. A military officer in Guatemala explains the government's message to the Indians and peasants: "If you are with us, we'll feed you; if not, we'll kill you."

Janice Prescott
Jersey City, New Jersey

Klan in Kentucky

The recent claim by the Jefferson County chapter of the Invisible Empire of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan that Bill Wilkinson has the right to speak at Valley High School because Central High School was used for Angela Davis is a false debate. The KKK is not just another organization demanding freedom of speech, it holds responsibility for shooting, lynching, and murdering innocent people. If the rally site were moved, we would still have to oppose his ideas and condemn his actions.

The Klan alleges whites have intellectual superiority over Black people based on social Darwinism. They have organized paramilitary camps throughout the country in preparation for a race war to exterminate us like roaches. Race hatred is surfacing at a time when the public housing projects in Louisville's West End resemble Bantustans in racist South Africa. Some areas, like Eritrean refugee camps, are composed mostly of women and children, while their husbands, sons, and fathers are rounded up and sent to La Grange and Edyville, the way Africans were captured to board slave ships. Our conditions cause crime. The economics of the areas we live in are totally controlled by whites. Because of high unemployment our neighborhoods are becoming breeding colonies. An entire generation of Black youth have no future. Drugs come into our communities and get into the veins of our children. It's not an



accident we live in the worst areas of the city.

The Klan's propaganda of Black inferiority will take hold in the minds of Caucasian people and even some Blacks unless the conditions we are subjected to improve.

We've known about the Junior Klan operating in Jefferson County schools for years. The scheduled Klan rally on September 4, however, is an indication that white hate groups are being encouraged.

As Bilalian people, we must accept the challenge of unity. What we have in common is not our skin color, but our mental chains.

A mind is a terrible thing to waste.

Shirley Qahhar
American Muslim Mission
Louisville, Kentucky

Nebraska elections

I'm very glad to see a socialist running for governor of Nebraska this year. However, the statement in the July 30 *Militant* that this year's campaign is the first socialist campaign in Nebraska in more than 60 years is not true. In 1932, the Socialist Party was on the ballot in Nebraska with a slate of statewide candidates. John Paul, the Socialist Party candidate for governor, received 6,733 votes, 1.2 percent of the total votes cast.

Also, in 1934, the Communist Party candidate for governor of Nebraska was on the ballot as an independent. He was John Scheftik, and he received 3,362 votes, or six-tenths of 1 percent of the total vote.

Richard Winger
San Francisco, California

Wide-range coverage

I am a prisoner. Today was the first time I've read your paper or have ever come across it in the fifteen years I've been incarcerated. I've compared your paper to others I have read, such as the *Revolutionary Worker*, *Progressive*, *Arm The Spirit*, the *Guardian* and others.

I am very impressed by your variety and wide-range coverage, especially so because it concerns the proletariat and peoples as a whole. I wish to commend you and your publishing staff for a job well done, and I hope you spread the word so that the people will be given back the rule.

I know you probably have a lot of prisoners asking for free copies, I wouldn't ask if I had the money because your paper is worthy of payment, but I have no means by which I am able to pay. So if possible I would like to receive your paper. If not, it is understandable. But keep up the struggle.

A prisoner
California

Prison conditions

I am writing to inform you that in late July there was a gang war here at the neofascist colony at Pontiac. It resulted in one dead and 25 wounded. This was a result of the repression and harassment by the administration. They have been trying to trigger something ever since three guards got killed here in 1978.

The conditions here are deplorable. Something could jump here any day. At the present time we are on 24 hour deadlock. We wanted you to know what was going on here.

A prisoner
Pontiac, Illinois

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.

Senate OKs anti-immigrant bill aimed at Latinos and all labor

BY HARRY RING

The Senate approved a bill August 17 which deals a body blow to immigrant workers and poses a dangerous threat to the entire labor movement.

Enjoying the support of Republicans and Democrats alike, the reactionary measure was approved 81 to 18. A similar measure is awaiting approval in the House.

It is the most important — and far-reaching — piece of anti-immigrant legislation since the McCarthyite exclusion of "communists" and other "undesirables" was approved in 1952.

The present bill was introduced into Congress by Senator Alan Simpson, a Republican from Wyoming, and Representative Romano Mazzoli, a Democrat from Kentucky.

A central purpose of the legislation was described by Senator Simpson. He argued that immigrants from impoverished nations "have the potential to create here a measure of the same political, social, and economic anguish which exists in the countries from which they have chosen to depart."

To curb the entry of such "dangerous" jobseekers, the Simpson-Mazzoli measure would beef up the racist Border Patrol and other divisions of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the justly feared and hated "la migra."

The legal rights of undocumented people already here would be heavily curtailed. All Latino workers — citizen and

noncitizen alike — would face increased job discrimination.

More deportations

With passage of the bill, an estimated one million undocumented people would be threatened with deportation.

And — equally ominous — the "immigration control" measure would impose an identification card system on all American workers.

Within three years of passage of the bill, no worker — native or foreign-born — could get a job without producing a "counterfeit-proof" government identity card.

In addition to signature, fingerprints and photo, such ID cards would almost certainly include coded numbers to reveal "characteristics" of the cardholder when run through a government computer. Such an "internal passport" system could be the basis for a nationwide blacklist of political dissidents and militant unionists.

The bill would impose fines on employers who "knowingly" hire undocumented workers. The word "knowingly" is their loophole. Meanwhile, they would have an added pretext for discriminating against "foreign-looking" job applicants.

Attacks on the rights of immigrants have traditionally been used to muzzle political dissidents and keep the working class divided.



Chicago deportation raid this spring. New bill will increase roundups.

The present attempts to create such an atmosphere go hand-in-hand with Washington's war policies. It is now pushing hard for deeper intervention in El Salvador. It is promoting a secret war in Nicaragua and openly declares its determination to "get" revolutionary Cuba and Grenada.

With Latino immigrants as the immediate target, the immigration bill would surely be used as a club against the forces actively opposed to U.S. intervention in Central America and the Caribbean. The significant participation of Latinos in recent demonstrations demanding U.S. out of El Salvador, as well as their participation in the giant June 12 peace march, gives the government added reason for escalating its racist attacks on the foreign-born.

Unions targeted

The Mazzoli-Simpson bill is also aimed at blocking the union movement from moving to organize and defend the rights of undocumented workers.

The bill provides penalties for those who engage in "recruiting or referring for employment" any undocumented person.

In congressional testimony, INS Commissioner Alan Nelson specifically noted that this referred to unions.

The bill is being plugged as "generous" toward undocumented immigrants already living here. Many of these, it's said, will be granted "amnesty" and permitted to become permanent residents and, ultimately, citizens.

That's if you don't look at the fine print.

To begin with, none of the amnesty provisions apply to those who cannot prove they arrived here before Jan. 1, 1980. That means an estimated one million people would still face deportation and a stepped-up drive to get them out would be likely.

Resident status would be granted to those who come forward and prove — to the satisfaction of *la migra* — that they have lived here continuously since before Jan. 21, 1977.

People would have to think long and hard before they decided to try to persuade *la migra* of their qualification, since failure to convince them would mean deportation.

Moreover, the law provides that each

member of a family must establish their qualification.

Those who arrived here before Jan. 1, 1980, could also qualify for resident status. But such people would have to live here another three years before being granted permanent residency.

During those three years, and for another three years after, they would be legally second-class people.

Even though they pay taxes like everyone else, they would be denied federally funded housing, food stamps and medical care.

'Legalized exploitation'

Little wonder that Antonia Hernandez, Washington representative of the Mexican-American Legal and Educational Fund, flatly predicted that "no one will come forward" to bite on the "amnesty" offer. She branded it "legalized exploitation."

The law would give immigration cops unrestricted power to exclude people at the border or ports of entry.

In a move that could mean death for thousands of refugees from political persecution, the bill would "streamline" action on appeals for political asylum.

A body of special asylum officials would be established to hear such appeals. The time limit for applying for asylum would be shortened and the procedure generally tightened up to make such appeals more difficult.

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53,000 sign to put socialist ticket on New York ballot

BY RAÚL GONZALEZ

NEW YORK — The petitioning drive to place Diane Wang, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of New York on the ballot, has had tremendous success. As of August 15, after less than two full weeks of petitioning, 53,087 signatures have been collected towards the 59,000 goal.

The signatures collected also go toward placing SWP candidates Peter Thierjung, for lieutenant governor, and Steven Wattenmaker, for U.S. Senate, on the ballot.

"The actual number of valid signatures we need is 35,000," Diane Wang told the *Militant*. "But it will be necessary for us to go quite a bit over that to make sure state officials don't rule us off the ballot."

Wang also said, "People are anxious to hear our politics. And we're putting that out front. People are friendlier to our ideas than I've ever seen."

One petitioner at the Brooklyn campaign headquarters told how he collected over 100 signatures in an hour:

"The first people I approached were four young Black men standing on the corner. They all signed when I told them it was for socialist candidates who were against war and the draft."

"Then two of them started getting people in the neighborhood to come over and sign. They told people in the street, 'Reagan spends more money on neutron bombs than on jobs. Help get the socialists on the ballot.'"

"A woman walked by with her little daughter and they asked her, 'Sister, what kind of future do you want your

daughter to have? Help put these socialists on the ballot.'"

Papo Ayala, a young Puerto Rican supporter of the campaign, collected 263 signatures in one day in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn. He said he did it by just asking people to sign up to put socialists on the ballot. The people stood in line to sign.

In addition to the statewide candidates the socialists are circulating petitions for congressional candidates in four areas: for Eva Chertov in the 19th Congressional District in the Bronx; Verónica Cruz, 16th C.D. in Harlem; Susan Zarate, 11th C.D. in Brooklyn, and Patricia Mayberry, 23rd C.D. in Albany. Petitioning has gone well in each area.

When petitioners meet people who are particularly interested in the SWP campaign they ask them to fill out an "interest card" with their name and address so they can be contacted later. So far the Brooklyn campaign offices have received 152 of these cards, the Manhattan office 150, and the Schenectady office 40.

Several times a week open-house events are held at the campaign offices with a film or a speaker. The events have been well-attended with new campaign supporters coming regularly.

Petitioners have found strong opposition to Israel's war on Lebanon. A young Black campaign supporter petitioning in Brooklyn said, "My petitioning was going a little slow so I decided to lead off by saying that we were opposed to Israel's invasion of Lebanon."

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Senate attacks bilingual rights

The Senate included in its anti-immigrant bill an amendment declaring "the sense of the Congress that the English language is the official language of the United States." Introduced by S. I. Hayakawa, a right-winger from California, the amendment was approved 78 to 21.

Hayakawa declared passage of the amendment would do away with the bilingual ballot required in areas where there are numbers of people for whom English is not a first language. If Hayakawa proves right, it will be another blow to the rights of oppressed nationalities in this country.