

Israeli gov't escalates aggression in Lebanon



Washington, September 11. Some 3,500 people march to protest U.S.-backed Israeli invasion of Lebanon, and to support rights of Palestinians. See page 4.

BY ERNEST HARSCH

The war in Lebanon is far from over. On September 13, Israeli jets flew over central and eastern Lebanon, conducting the heaviest bombing raids since the end of the siege of Beirut a month earlier.

Two days later — using as a pretext the assassination of Bashir Gemayel, the pro-Israeli president-elect of Lebanon — Israeli troops pushed into part of West Beirut itself, raising the threat of another major assault against the city's Palestinian and Lebanese inhabitants.

During the all-day air strikes of September 13, the invaders hit Zahle, Shataura, and other villages along the Beirut-Damascus highway and in the Bekaa Valley. According to a Beirut radio report, between 40 and 50 people were killed in the attacks.

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Reagan takes aim at Nicaraguan revolution

BY JOSÉ G. PÉREZ

After months of suppressing news on the conflicts raging in Central America, the U.S. capitalist media has recently published a spate of reports indicating that the Reagan administration intends to provoke a war between Honduras and Nicaragua.

Such a war would qualitatively deepen direct U.S. military intervention in the region. This would represent a deadly threat not only to Nicaragua, but to the Salvadoran and Guatemalan freedom struggles and to Cuba, which Washington has repeatedly cited as the "source" of all its problems in the region.

Among the most ominous indications of the Reagan administration's drive toward a broader war in Central America are comments made by an anonymous "senior State Department official" at a press briefing at the end of August.

According to Don Oberdorfer of the *Washington Post*, "the senior State Department official . . . said there is a belief among its neighbors that Nicaragua, as presently constituted, may be incompatible with the rest of Central America. This basic question will have to be faced in the future, he said."

'War is a real possibility'

Since taking power through a popular revolution against U.S.-backed dictator Anastasio Somoza three years ago, the revolutionary government headed by the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) of Nicaragua has faced increasingly open hostility from Washington.

At the center of Washington's concern is the deepening revolutionary process within Nicaragua. The drive by the FSLN-led government to consolidate the political, economic, and social gains of the toilers has been met by mounting

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Angry Chicago steel unionists blast company demands for givebacks

BY PAT GROGAN

CHICAGO — A battle is raging in South Chicago over the remains of U.S. Steel's South Works and the future of its thousands of laid-off workers.

In a special union meeting, the biggest in the recent history of United Steelworkers (USWA) Local 65, more than 1,000 angry members jammed into the union hall on August 27. Workers filled the aisles and spilled into the corridors and the street. They wanted to prevent Local President Donald Stazak from accepting a union-busting, take-away agreement with the company in exchange for the promised building of a new rail mill and about 500 jobs.

At the next regular meeting of the union on September 8, Stazak tried to adjourn the meeting to prevent passage by the membership of a resolution opposing the giveback agreement.

Of South Works' 6,000-member work force, 80 percent are laid off, and there is little hope they will be called back soon.

Building of the rail mill has long been held out to Local 65's members as the only way to keep U.S. Steel from closing South Works.

In a September 3 letter to the members, the local's executive board and negotiating committee say South Works "is not likely to survive unless the rail mill is built."

But the company first wants concessions that would significantly lower labor costs in the form of a "Rail Mill Manning Agreement," which the negotiating committee has accepted.

The union leadership has sent a letter urging the members to accept the agreement. The letter says the agreement "will be a vital factor in the corporation's decision" on building the rail mill.

Right to run roughshod

This agreement would give U.S. Steel the right to run roughshod over seniority, to combine jobs, and gut the grievance procedure.

The plan combines production and maintenance work into a new category, "Operator Technician." Skilled millwrights and electricians would have to run the production line and rush to repair machinery when breakdowns occur.

The result would be job elimination, speedup, and brutal and dangerous working conditions.

And if the workers don't like it, too bad. Their "job functions" are "not subject to complaint or grievance." Changes in job assignment would be solely "implemented at Management's discretion with consideration for efficiency," according to an official memorandum on the agreement mailed to members by the union with the letter urging them to accept it.

One of the worst aspects of the plan is the blow it strikes against affirmative action. Top priority in hiring would be given to the skilled crafts, still predominantly white male in composition. Job chances for Blacks, Latinos, and women would be slim.

Everybody loses with this plan except U.S. Steel. As one Black worker put it, "For a couple of hundred jobs, maybe, you'll be working on your knees for the rest of your life."

At the August 27 local meeting, Stazak and other officials attempted to sell the deal, predicting doom if it didn't go through.

They were shouted at and jeered. "There'll be no tomorrow," the officials repeated.

This brought shouts and laughter: "What do we have now?"

But South Works will be "another Wisconsin Steel" (shut down last year), they pleaded.

The response: "It [South Works] is already shut down." "They'll do it anyway, if they want to."

Ed Sadlowski, well known as a former president of Local 65 and as an insurgent challenger in 1977 to USWA President Lloyd McBride, also tried to sell the proposal.

The members listened quietly, in contrast to their response to Stazak and others, as Sadlowski argued that the local had to accept the concessions proposal because the company wouldn't build the rail mill unless it's profitable, and without the rail mill, there would be no South Works. "Profitability is the bottom line," he said.

But Sadlowski couldn't convince them either.

Opposition to deal

Officials were recognized to speak before the ranks were. Of the officials, several grievors opposed the concessions.

One was Alice Peurala, a former pres-

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Socialists open drive to boost 'Militant' and 'PM' sales

BY LEE MARTINDALE

From the picket lines at Iowa Beef Processors in Nebraska, to the gates of auto plants that are shutting down, to the unemployment lines, working people are discussing what is the cause of wars abroad and the economic crisis at home.

A lot of phony answers are proposed by the bosses, big-business media, and the Democrats and Republicans. They all boil down to making U.S. capitalism "strong again."

The Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance have a different answer — working people need to organize independently of the employers and their two parties and fight to replace the government of the bosses with a government of workers and farmers.

This fall socialists are taking our proposals to working people by selling 45,000 single copies and subscriptions to the *Militant* and our Spanish-language

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Militant/Holbrook Mahn

Socialists open drive to boost 'Militant' and 'PM' sales

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sister publication, *Perspectiva Mundial*. We urge all our readers to join in this campaign.

Set to begin September 25 and run for eight weeks, the drive to increase circulation of the *Militant* and *PM* will be an important part of the election campaigns that the SWP is running and supporting across the country.

In the ten days before the election, there will be an extraordinary effort of sales and campaigning — with two days of door-to-door canvassing and sales October 23-24, and then a sustained campaign effort lasting until election day.

The fall circulation campaign was announced at the Socialist Educational and Activists Conference held in August in Oberlin, Ohio.

SWP leader Mac Warren, in his report to the conference, pointed out that the

SWP's election campaigns and efforts to get on the ballot had already demonstrated a growing interest in socialism.

Warren proposed that the fall sales and election campaigns be used "to talk to the workers who are still at work; to talk to the workers no longer at work; to talk to those who are resisting and those who are looking for answers."

Plant gate sales

In order to accomplish this, the SWP and YSA will place a big emphasis on campaigning and selling the press among co-workers on the job; at plant gates; and in Black, Latino, and other working-class communities.

The goal is to make press circulation a regular activity of socialists in every city, and to involve every member of the SWP and YSA in selling each week.

Results before the drive has even begun indicate what can be done.

In Atlanta, when socialist candidate Maceo Dixon and his campaign manager, Garrett Brown, were fired by the chemical company where they worked, their supporters went on a defense campaign at plant gates around the city. One hundred forty *Militants* were sold in one weekend.

Dixon has won back his job, and the

fight continues to get Brown rehired. SWP branch organizer Chris Hoepfner reports that "people who were never interested in buying the *Militant* before are buying it now. People identify the paper with Maceo and Garrett's fight. They see the *Militant* as not just having good ideas, but being effective."

Sales at antiwar, labor actions

At the September 11 demonstration in Washington, D.C., protesting the Israeli-U.S. aggression in Lebanon, over 350 *Militants*, *Young Socialists*, and *PMs* were sold. The *Militant's* analysis of Reagan's "peace plan" for the Mideast attracted considerable attention.

In San Antonio, over 50 copies of the *Militant* and *PM* were sold at a big Labor Day march. Six construction workers came to a campaign open house after the march to hear Mel Mason, socialist candidate for governor of California, and Shirley Peña, Texas SWP candidate for Congress.

Fifty papers were sold at the September 11 demonstration in support of striking meat packers in Dakota City, Nebraska. Meanwhile, in Jasper, Indiana, another march against union-busting was taking place. Socialist Kevin Dwire reports that unionists who came



Militant/Alice Sanpere

Socialists sold 44 papers at antiwar rally in Miami on August 28.

out to support striking Jasper furniture workers stopped to look at the *Militant* when they saw its front-page coverage of the Nebraska strike.

The Wisconsin primaries that just took place included a referendum calling for a bilateral freeze on nuclear weapons by the United States and the Soviet Union. Supporters of Milwaukee socialist candidate Cheryl Hidalgo sold over 100 *Militants* at various meetings and rallies to get out the socialist view of the nuclear freeze measure and why it's no answer to stopping war.

Pittsburgh plans for fall

Pittsburgh socialists have planned an aggressive schedule of sales and campaigning this fall for SWP candidate for Congress DeAnn Rathbun.

In August, Rathbun led a team of supporters who visited seven mine portals and plant gates, including a large garment shop, and unemployment offices. The campaigners also visited workers at home to talk with them about the campaign. Forty-eight *Militants* were sold and Rathbun was interviewed by three newspapers and a radio station.

The fall plan includes three weeks of campaigning in the Pittsburgh area and three weeks in the coalfields south of Pittsburgh. Campaign supporters are planning out which areas to visit and how to involve workers on their days off and those who are laid off.

The Pittsburgh YSA has scheduled a regular Wednesday night discussion series based on the September-October *Young Socialist*.

Looking beyond election day, Pittsburgh socialists plan to urge everyone who buys a *Militant*, *PM*, or *Young Socialist* to attend the YSA National Convention in Chicago December 30-January 2.

Militant Tote Bag

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Chicago steel unionists blast givebacks

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ident of Local 65 who opposes the McBride leadership of the international union. She was defeated by a small margin in a three-way race by Stazak, who played on job losses in the local.

Other grievors who opposed the agreement were Joe Kransdorf, Bob Jackson, and Ike Mezo.

They were cheered as they ripped the agreement to shreds. Kransdorf called it a "Trojan horse."

What the ranks had to say, both in the meeting and in discussions that continued long after outside the union hall, showed the depth of their opposition to the agreement and their disbelief in the company's alleged promises.

"I might be willing to give up something if they guaranteed something, some jobs. But this is too much. They must think we're idiots. Give away everything for nothing."

"They're just trying to kick us when we're down. Then if things pick up, they'll have us where they want us."

"They don't even say they will build the rail mill. Just maybe, if we go along."

"If we let them do this to us, they'll shove it down everybody's throat."

"Look at the auto workers. It didn't save their jobs. They're out in the streets, just like us."

Opposition to the deal was so overwhelming in the meeting that Stazak tried to adjourn it. Chants of "Vote! Vote! Vote!" came from the membership.

Despite the uproar, Stazak and Local 65's procompany officialdom had no intention of letting the membership de-



Militant/Elizabeth Kilanowski

Alice Peurla: "If this agreement goes through, what's to stop companies from pushing it across the country?"

cide its own future. "I never promised you that you could vote," he said. To get off the hook, he promised a mail referendum for the entire membership.

The referendum, which he called "more democratic" than a vote at the union meeting, is a phony. A one-sided letter that urged the membership to vote for the concessions went out with the ballots.

Peurla and others were denied permission to include their arguments against acceptance.

The referendum, however, is only ad-

visory and nonbinding, although Stazak (and McBride) would like the ranks to approve the concessions.

Peurla and three other grievors from Local 65 held a news conference after the August 27 union meeting that reflected steelworkers' opposition to the agreement.

"We fought for 40 years as union people to prevent this combination of jobs," Peurla told reporters. "And if this agreement goes through at South Works, then what's to stop all the steel companies from pushing it across the country?"

"It stinks," she said. "U.S. Steel should not be using us as guinea pigs."

Peurla said management "has been threatening us for years. For 10 years they've said South Works isn't profitable."

She said the company will make big profits from the rail mill and she doubted that they would not build it; "They've already spent money on it."

"What we're talking about here concerns the union movement all over the country," she added.

She was also joined at the news conference by Frank Guzzo, president of Local 1033 at Republic Steel, who said, "This issue could steamroll over the whole country. It affects us all."

That workers in this local would turn down these concessions so firmly is significant.

Whatever the outcome of the stacked referendum in Local 65, the union's membership has made it clear it would rather give U.S. Steel a fight than be on its knees. And they aren't buying the company's promises or its blackmail.



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Rallies condemn company union-busting

Indiana action solidarizes with furniture workers

BY BILL WARRICK

JASPER, Indiana — On September 11 a spirited crowd of more than 1,000 unionists chanting "union contract now" filled the main square of this southwestern Indiana town.

They were here to voice support for striking workers at the Indiana Desk Company. The workers belong to the United Furniture Workers of America (UFWA) Local 334.

Last March 29, 172 workers were forced out on strike against a union-busting attempt by the company. It has been a hard-fought strike.

From a platform on the steps of the Dubois County courthouse, union speakers urged Indiana Desk to resume bargaining with the union.

Carl Scarborough, international president of the UFWA, told the crowd: "We're not going to let the rotten scabs walk out of that plant and hit our pickets. We're going to defend ourselves. We're in Jasper to stay."

Jasper is a small town of about 10,000 people. Furniture is the main industry in the town and surrounding area, and is only partially unionized. If the employers succeed in breaking the union at Indiana Desk, they will break the strongest UFWA local and the one with the best contract.

A two-mile-long march preceded the rally. Along the way the solidarity marchers passed the factory, dubbed "Fort Scab." Stacks of wood reaching 20 feet high are piled around the perimeter of the plant. Several attack dogs could be seen behind the stacks.

One of the most popular chants was

"Stanley Kremp, Amos Braun, get your goons out of town." Kremp and Braun are executives of Indiana Desk. The goons referred to are employees of Command Investigations Bureau, an Indianapolis "security" outfit that specializes in herding scabs across picket lines.

When the marchers assembled in the town square, several rousing choruses of *Solidarity Forever* were sung. Signs supporting Furniture Workers Local 334 were everywhere. One young miner carried a sign that said "UFWA + UMWA + AFL-CIO + Solidarity = Strength."

Contingents of the Aluminum, Brick, and Glass Workers came from Newburgh, Indiana, and Sbree, Kentucky. Teamsters Local 215 of Evansville, Indiana, was well represented. From northwestern Indiana a delegation from Steelworkers Local 1010 attended.

Furniture workers in their "Be strong — let's all belong" tee-shirts were everywhere. UFWA locals came from as far away as Guthrie, Oklahoma; Memphis, Tennessee; and Martinsburg, West Virginia. A large number of Black unionists were welcomed in this nearly all-white town.

One of the most significant contingents, about a dozen marchers, came from United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 1793 in Shelbyville, Indiana. These UAW members are involved in a similar hard-fought strike against their employer, Wellman Thermal Systems Corporation. Wellman has also hired a strike-breaking "security" outfit to run scabs.

At the rally, the crowd listened to three hours of speeches by union officials, religious leaders, and political figures, including several Democratic Party office-seekers. Larry Penn, a truck driver from Milwaukee, entertained the crowd with songs.



State cops arrest worker on strike against Iowa Beef Processors in Nebraska. Workers have faced gas, clubs, National Guard.

In between the speakers, rally chairman Lowell Daily, international secretary-treasurer of the UFWA, announced contributions to the Local 334 strike fund.

It was a successful day and gave the furniture workers a real boost. As Carl Scarborough told the crowd, "We'll keep coming back until the last rally is a victory rally."

Tri-state protest backs meatpackers in Nebraska

BY MICHAEL CARPER

SIOUX CITY, Iowa — A rally here September 11 in support of embattled strikers at Iowa Beef Processors (IBP) drew 500 unionists and others.

The IBP workers, whose strike is entering its fourth month, are members of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 222. They sent a car caravan to the rally here from their picket lines at IBP's Dakota City, Nebraska, plant.

The IBP strikers have faced beatings, gassing, and arrests by state police. The company is using scabs at the plant, who for a time were under the protection of the National Guard.

Meatpackers have also been forced on strike against the John Morrell plant in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

The September 11 rally was organized by the AFL-CIO in the tri-state area (Nebraska, Iowa, and South Dakota).

Rally speakers included Jack McCoy, area director of the AFL-CIO; other union officials; and Milo Colton, a Democratic Party candidate for Iowa state Senate.

Israeli gov't escalates aggression in Lebanon

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Many of the targets were offices and headquarters of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). According to an initial report over the Voice of Lebanon, the radio station of the rightist Phalangist militia, the Israeli planes likewise bombed a Palestinian refugee camp near the port city of Tripoli, in northern Lebanon.

Also hit were positions of some of the various Lebanese Muslim and leftist militia forces that are opposed to the Israeli invasion, as well as Syrian military installations and anti-aircraft positions.

Since the Bekaa Valley is of strategic importance to the defense of Syria against any attack from Lebanon, the Syrian regime has some 25,000 to 30,000 troops stationed there.

The bombings in the Bekaa Valley capped several weeks of periodic Israeli attacks on the Syrians. Moreover, Israeli officials have repeatedly warned that their artillery is within shelling distance of the Syrian capital, Damascus, just 15 miles from the closest Israeli positions. An editorial in the September 1 *Jerusalem Post* summed up the Israeli regime's general approach: "And Now, Syria's Turn."

These most recent attacks point to the Zionists' next immediate military and political goals in Lebanon: to expel those Palestinian fighters who are still within the country and to push Syrian troops out of the Bekaa Valley.

The Israeli regime calls this "Phase 2" of its invasion.

Demise of a terrorist

With Washington's direct support, the Zionists had also hoped to consolidate a new ultrarightist regime.

The September 14 assassination of Bashir Gemayel greatly complicates their efforts to do so. He was killed when a 440-pound bomb exploded in the Phalangist Party headquarters in East

Beirut. No one has yet taken credit for the action.

Gemayel was one of the most hated figures in Lebanese politics. As the head of the Phalangist militia force, he had a reputation for extreme brutality.

During the 1975-76 Lebanese civil war, Gemayel personally supervised the massacre of several thousand Palestinians at the Tel Zataar refugee camp. He also made many enemies among his own Maronite Christian minority, killing the relatives and followers of two of his principal Maronite rivals, former presidents Suleiman Franjeh and Camille Chamoun.

Gemayel's Phalangists received considerable military and financial aid from the Israelis, and Gemayel explicitly backed the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, calling it a "surgical operation."

Gemayel was chosen president during a stage-managed parliamentary session, under the shadow of Israeli tanks and artillery. He was to have been inaugurated on September 23.

'Dictatorship will be necessary'

Gemayel made little secret of his plans for Lebanon, and his hopes for a close alliance with U.S. imperialism.

In a September 7 dispatch from Beirut, *Washington Post* correspondent Loren Jenkins reported that, according to "close advisers to Gemayel," one of his first acts would have been to order the Lebanese army to take full control of West Beirut, which is still controlled by the various Muslim and leftist militia forces. The army, officered primarily by Christians, has openly collaborated with the Phalangist gangs in the past.

"Gemayel's advisers," Jenkins continued, "said they hope the U.S. government will provide the aid, in money as well as arms, to shape this modern force."

"According to these sources, the question of U.S. aid was raised by Gemayel

last week in a meeting with visiting U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger who promised that all of his requests would be given 'serious consideration.'"

The Pentagon quickly set up a team of weapons specialists to fly to Lebanon.

An assistant to Gemayel, in an interview with the Israeli army magazine *Bamahaneh*, gave an indication of the purpose of this military buildup. He said that "a five year dictatorship period in Lebanon will be necessary in order to clean up all the dirt, and convert the country into a paradise."

Although Gemayel's assassination has removed one of the key figures in the U.S. and Israeli efforts to set up a proimperialist, dictatorial regime in Lebanon, they will not give up their attempts and are already seeking to patch together an alternative government.

That can only mean new attacks against the Lebanese people and the hundreds of thousands of Palestinian refugees living in Lebanon. It will especially mean new attacks against West Beirut, which remains a center of resistance to the Israeli invaders and their Lebanese allies.

On August 29, Israeli Chief of Staff Rafael Eytan, in an interview over the Israeli army radio, raised the demand that members of the Mourabitoun leave West Beirut.

The Mourabitoun is one of the largest of the various Muslim and leftist organizations that are allied within the Lebanese National Movement and that fought alongside the PLO during the siege of West Beirut. Like other militia forces in the city, the Mourabitoun has refused to give up its arms, for fear that the Phalangist gangs will launch new massacres of Palestinians and Muslims.

In early September, Israeli units had also pushed into West Beirut, before being stopped by some of the Muslim militia members. On September 6, Israeli Defense Minister Ariel Sharon vis-

ited the new Israeli positions in the city and explicitly warned that his forces would invade West Beirut if the militia members did not withdraw.

The next day, the Israeli troops pulled back. But the incursion had served its purpose: reminding the city's population that they were still surrounded by large numbers of Israeli troops, tanks, and artillery.

On September 12, Lebanese army troops fought a series of gun battles in West Beirut with members of the Partisans of the Revolution, one of the predominantly Sunni Muslim militias.

Deprived of the PLO's direct military support and under this constant Israeli and rightist pressure, the Mourabitoun and the Lebanese National Movement agreed to withdraw their militia forces from the streets of West Beirut and to turn over a few buildings to the Lebanese government's security forces. They remain in the city, however, ready to defend it from attack.

Zionists plan long stay

Meanwhile, the Israeli army is preparing for an extended occupation of southern Lebanon.

On September 7, one Israeli official declared that "there will always be a need for a special arrangement for southern Lebanon."

Israeli administrators have already been sent into southern Lebanon, and Israeli banks and businesses opened there. Journalists have reported sighting trucks with prefabricated houses for Israeli soldiers to live in during the winter months.

A prolonged Israeli occupation, however, may meet renewed Lebanese resistance.

Nabih Berri, the head of the Amal, the Shi'ite Muslim militia, said at a rally in Beirut August 31 that if the Israelis did not leave, "we would become the new Palestinians who will fight them."

D.C. marchers: 'Israelis out of Lebanon!'

Thousands hail Palestinians, protest U.S. aid to Zionists



Dr. Hatem Hussein, of Palestine Liberation Organization, and Rev. Ben Chavis, of National Black Independent Political Party, addressed D.C. rally.

BY WILL REISSNER

WASHINGTON, D.C. — With the Israeli occupation of Lebanon continuing, and an estimated 70,000 Israeli troops still in that country, thousands of people took to the streets here and in San Francisco on September 11 to protest the invasion and U.S. aid to the Israeli government.

Nearly 3,500 took part in a spirited march and rally here and several hundred participated in San Francisco. The protests were sponsored by the November 29 Coalition, which takes its name from the United Nations international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people.

The Washington march was roughly half Palestinian, Lebanese, and other Arabs. Filipinos, Central Americans, and some Blacks also participated. The demonstrators chanted "Long live the PLO!" and other slogans reflecting the determination of Palestinians and their supporters to deepen the struggle for self-determination, despite the setbacks dealt by Israel and the United States.

The range of speakers at the rally here reflected growing support for the Palestinian struggle. It showed that the pro-Israeli monopoly on the expression of views on the Middle East is breaking down.

Especially significant in this regard was the participation by members of Jews Against the Israeli Massacre in Lebanon. Tamara Rohns of that organization told the crowd that the Middle East will see no peace until the Palestinian right to self-determination is met.

The rally also heard from Israeli peace activist Danny Yamit, who heads the Committee Against the War in Lebanon in his country. Yamit stated that the Israeli peace movement is "one of the most important and reliable allies of the Palestinian people in their struggle for justice, human rights, and self-determination."

He warned that the invasion of Lebanon was only the prelude to a planned "mass expulsion of Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip and of Syrian Druse from the Golan Heights." Yamit urged people to be "ready to mobilize in time and in the right numbers" to prevent the expulsions.

'Blacks stand with Palestinians'

Rev. Ben Chavis, a longtime leader of the Black struggle, addressed the crowd on behalf of the National Black Independent Political Party. Chavis stressed that "Black people inside the United States stand forthrightly with their Palestinian brothers and sisters."

Chavis added: "We all know that the Democratic Party stands with the Zionists. We all know that the Republican Party stands with the Zionists. The National Black Independent Political Party, however, stands with freedom fighters. We stand with brothers and sisters around the world struggling against ra-

cism, imperialism, and all forms of human oppression."

"Part of the problem," Chavis explained, "lies across the street in the White House. Israel could not have invaded Lebanon without the military and political support of the United States." Therefore, said Chavis, people in the United States have a special responsibility to educate and organize against U.S. imperialism and Zionism.

The Black community, he noted, is hit particularly hard by the present expansion of the military budget and the cuts in social services. Yet the U.S. government is spending \$7 billion per year on military support for the Zionist state.

Sofia Bandle of the National Black United Front told the gathering that her organization "will continue to work on behalf of Palestinian self-determination because it is consistent with our principles as we wage our struggle in the United States against racism, capitalism, and imperialism."

Israeli role in Central America

The links between the Israeli government's suppression of the Palestinians and Israeli aid to dictatorships in Central America was the theme of comments by Beth Perry of the Committee in Solidarity With the People of El Salvador.

Perry noted that "Israel has stated publicly that it is anxious and willing to act as a proxy for Washington in Central America and the Caribbean." She recounted the record of Israeli arms shipments to former Nicaraguan dictator Somoza and to the repressive regimes in Guatemala and El Salvador. Between 1972 and 1977, Perry pointed out, Israel supplied 81 percent of El Salvador's arms imports, and Israeli troops are presently training Guatemalan soldiers.

Perry stressed the urgency of the dangers facing the peoples of Central America: "As we gather here today, the people of Nicaragua are being threatened with a U.S.-backed invasion by Honduran and ex-Somocista troops." She urged participants to oppose "this blatant attack against the Nicaraguan people."

Perry pointed out that it is crucial to "make a clear distinction between the Israeli government and the tens of thousands of people in Israel who have taken to the streets in opposition," just as the liberation forces of El Salvador "distinguish between the U.S. government's support for the repressive policies of the Salvadoran government and the majority of people in this country who are against U.S. intervention in El Salvador."

Perry's talk was greeted by chants of "Palestine and El Salvador — Same struggle, same war."

Arnaldo Ramos of El Salvador's Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR) told the gathering that the FDR had rejected

advice not to speak at the rally from those who warned that it might cost Jewish support.

He noted that the people of El Salvador and the Palestinians face the same enemy because the U.S. and Israeli governments cooperate in both regions. Ramos also explained that Washington is using Honduras against El Salvador and Nicaragua in the same way it uses Israel against Lebanon.

'Peace-keeping force'

People in the United States must realize, Ramos stated, that when Reagan sent the marines to Beirut as a "peace-keeping force," he also hoped to gain greater acceptance for sending U.S. troops to Honduras.

All liberation forces must join together and support one another's struggles, Ramos stressed. This theme was repeated by other speakers.

Dumi Matabene of the African National Congress of South Africa stressed the close links between the governments of the United States, Israel, and South Africa, and the need for similar links between freedom fighters in those countries.

A representative of the Committee Against the Marcos Dictatorship, which opposes the U.S.-backed regime in the Philippines, noted that the Israeli invasion of Lebanon was supported by the same "U.S. government that allows the Marcos dictatorship to continue to repress the Filipino people."

Dr. Hatem Hussein, the PLO's deputy observer at the United Nations, told the gathering that "for 35 years the Palestinian people have been denied their inalienable right to freedom, self-determination, and human dignity." Today, he noted, Palestinians are victims of U.S.-made cluster, concussion, and phosphorus bombs, as well as tanks and warplanes.

The billions of dollars in U.S. aid to Israel, Hussein argued, would be better spent "for schools, for hospitals, for welfare institutions for the people in this country."

Nicaraguan urges moratorium on debt of poor nations

BY MICHAEL BAUMANN

MANAGUA—The poorer countries of the world need "an immediate international moratorium" on debt payments, Commander Daniel Ortega announced here September 6.

Ortega, coordinator of the revolutionary government of Nicaragua, was presenting a keynote address to a regional conference of the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization.

"The debt of the poor countries of the world today surpasses \$507 billion," Ortega said. "Our inability to pay this amount is the best proof that the framework imposed on us has reached its limit."

The audience, made up of delegates from 30 debt-ridden countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, signaled their agreement with prolonged applause.

The sheer scope of the debts, Ortega said, indicates the need for "rational reorganization of the world economy. . . . The policy of limiting our countries to the production and export of raw materials cannot continue."

Ortega said the imperialist economic policy condemns countries like Nicaragua to using "our best land, loans, technology, and the sweat and sacrifice of our people to produce more coffee, more cotton, more sugar, and more bananas, which we have to sell at continually lower prices."

At the same time it means paying "continually higher prices for medicine,

Hussein stressed that he looks forward to the day when "the children of Palestinians and the children of Israelis — Jews, Christians, and Muslims — will live together in full equality and peace in a secular and democratic Palestine."

'We will free Lebanon'

Paul Saba, a Lebanese-American supporter of the Lebanese National Movement, focused on Israeli plans to consolidate a puppet regime in Lebanon or force a partition of the country.

Menachem Begin's troops "may have overrun and occupied Lebanon now," said Saba, "but we reject the Israeli presence on Lebanese soil. We will free Lebanon from Israeli occupation and we will never permit a second Zionist state to be created on Lebanese soil."

Tom Soto of the People's Anti-War Mobilization noted that since 1948 every U.S. administration, Democratic and Republican, has backed the Zionist state to the hilt against the Palestinian and other Arab peoples.

Among the other speakers in Washington were Don Will of the United Methodist Church's United Nations office; Canadian physician Chris Gian-nou, who witnessed the destruction caused by Israeli troops in Lebanon; Columbia University Professor Edward Said, who is a member of the Palestine National Council; and Veronica Pugh of the Irish Republican Movement in New York.

Plans were announced for a national demonstration in New York on the weekend of November 26-28, when leading PLO representatives are expected to address a United Nations session.

The wide range of forces represented by the speakers indicates the potential that exists for winning millions of Americans to the Palestinian cause through wide-ranging educational programs explaining the roots and policies of Zionism, the U.S. government's role in the Mideast, and the reasons for the continuing struggle of the Palestinian people.

machinery, spare parts, fertilizers, and pesticides."

And it means allowing "15 million children in Asia, Africa, and Latin America to die from hunger each year," while "foreign investors in Third World countries take home \$2.40 for every \$1 they invest — a rate of profit of 140 percent."

The human toll in Lebanon

At least 17,825 people were killed and 30,203 wounded during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, according to a detailed survey of police and hospital records conducted by the Beirut newspaper *An Nahar*.

An Nahar, which is one of the most reputable newspapers in the Arab world, said in its September 2 edition that the highest number of casualties were in southern Lebanon, where at least 7,571 were killed. Another 5,515 were killed in Beirut and its suburbs. The newspaper's figures, which covered the period from June 4 until the end of August, included Lebanese, Palestinian, and Syrian casualties, but not Israeli.

An Nahar noted that its figures were likely to be lower than the actual toll of deaths and injuries, since they did not include the countless bodies still buried in bombed buildings or wounded people who were not hospitalized.

Independent candidate pushes for California ballot status

SAN FRANCISCO — The Mel Mason campaign for governor of California is deepening its fight to win ballot status, despite efforts by Democratic and Republican party officials and the courts to exclude the independent working-class candidate.

Mason, a city councilman in Seaside, California, is a leader of the Socialist Workers Party. His supporters gathered 214,699 signatures to place them on the ballot, but California Secretary of State March Fong Eu has invalidated more than half the signatures, claiming the socialists' petitions contain only 88,157 valid names.

The Mason campaign is now preparing to file suit in federal court against this undemocratic exclusion from the ballot. The California Supreme Court has refused to hear Mason's suit. And on August 31 a superior court judge rejected a motion to stay printing of the November ballot until Mason's suit could be heard.

Mason's campaign has focused on opposition to the draft and U.S. intervention in Central America and to Washington's war at home on the unions, Blacks, women, and working farmers. To effectively fight back against these attacks, he calls for the unions to break with the Democrats and Republicans and form an independent labor party based on a fighting union movement.

"It's these ideas that win us support among working people," says Mason, "and it's these ideas the Democratic and Republican party officials don't want to let voters hear. That's why they're try-

ing to keep me off the ballot."

At the heart of the fight, he explains, is whether workers have a right to run for office against the antilabor, racist policies of the two ruling parties. "Denying me a place on the ballot is an attack on the right of any unionist, any Black, to run a campaign that's independent of the Democrats and Republicans. It's another move to keep working people subjugated to the two-party system."

The candidate has won significant support for his right to be on the ballot. Among labor figures signing protests of

the ballot exclusion are Anthony Mazocchi, past candidate for president of the Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers union; Marc Stepp, a United Auto Workers international vice-president; and Miguel Salas, a past Ironworkers local president in San Diego.

Southern Christian Leadership Conference President Joseph Lowery and Rev. Ralph Abernathy have signed petitions on behalf of the ballot fight.

Antiwar figure Daniel Berrigan and Santa Cruz Mayor Mike Rotkin have also spoken out.



Militant/Sherry Fekete

Mel Mason is being denied right to be on ballot because of socialist views.

Cross-burning assailed in Seaside, Calif.

BY JANICE LYNN

SEASIDE, Calif. — Outrage swept through this city as residents learned of a cross-burning which had taken place late at night on September 5. The six-foot wooden cross was set on fire in a park located in Seaside's Black community.

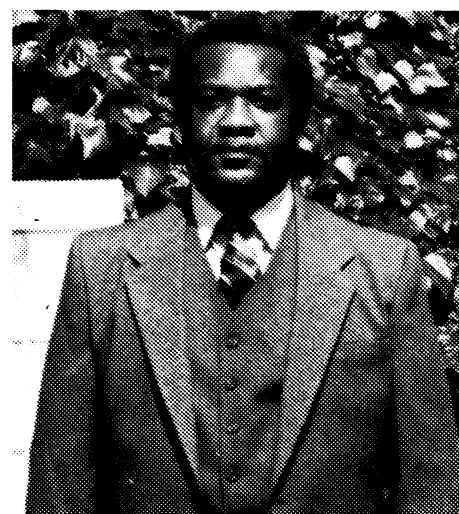
The burning cross is a long-standing symbol of racial hatred and Ku Klux Klan violence.

The Seaside police department waited three days before alerting the public. The police commander dismissed the cross-burning as "an isolated incident."

Socialist City Councilman Mel Mason, who is running for governor of California, immediately condemned this racist action. At a September 8 news conference, called just hours after learning of the cross-burning, Mason told newspaper and TV reporters that he was demanding a serious and thorough investigation by the police department.

He blasted the police commander's statement that this was an isolated incident. Mason pointed to related incidents of Ku Klux Klan activities at Fort Ord and other California military bases. Just five months ago, he added, a cross-burning was reported in the neighboring city of Marina.

"This is a serious incident," Mason declared. "It is characteristic of the KKK and we cannot afford to dismiss it as a prank. As a candidate for governor, a



Militant/Dick Roberts

City council candidate Henry Fryson called for action against racist attacks.

city council member, and a citizen of this community, I am outraged."

Mason announced that he would be introducing an emergency resolution in the city council putting the city of Seaside on record against these kinds of racist threats and acts of intimidation.

Also responding was the Seaside chapter of the National Black Independent Political Party (NBIPP). The NBIPP called an emergency rally to condemn the cross-burning.

One hundred people turned out September 12 at the site of the cross-burn-

ing to make known their opposition. Although every candidate for Seaside City Council and the mayor's seat was invited, only two candidates showed up or sent representatives.

Shirley Rainer, Seaside mayoral candidate and co-coordinator of the Seaside NBIPP denounced the cross-burning and solidarized with Mason's demand for a full investigation.

A message was read from independent city council candidate Henry Fryson.

"As a candidate for Seaside city council" Fryson's message said, "I feel it is crucial for those who are leading and those who want to lead this city to take a stand against this kind of racist action. This cross-burning will not stop us from fighting for our rights."

Just several days prior to the cross-burning Fryson had received a copy of a KKK rag, *The Klansman*, in an obvious attempt to intimidate him from campaigning.

Baqi Bismillah, a laid-off bus driver and activist in the Fryson campaign, was one of the witnesses to the recent cross-burning in Marina. He told the crowd it was important for Blacks to respond to such attacks. "Next it will be in our yard and in our house," Bismillah said.

Bismillah also urged people to follow the example of the Palestine Liberation Organization. "Those people are fighting, fighting for existence, fighting for what they are supposed to have. We must also stand up and take a stand."

Long-time Seaside resident Martha Garnett stood up and told how 35 years ago in Tampa, Florida, she saw her grandmother, who had founded the first Black hospital in Tampa, being shot by the KKK. "Even when she was down they shot her some more," Garnett said. She urged all the young people present to be "united in this fight."

Bill McKeithen, a young worker, also spoke up, expressing his disbelief that this was happening in 1982.

Sam Manuel, another co-coordinator of the Seaside NBIPP, explained that the cross-burning was representative of the fact that the economic system was in trouble and looking for scapegoats.

"Everything Reagan is doing is aimed at taking back our civil rights" Manuel said. "We won these rights through force by marching and with people laying down their lives. The message of this cross is that they are prepared to use force to try to take these rights away from us."

Manuel explained that not only was the KKK the enemy of Black people, but also the enemy of all working people. The Klan has tried to break up union organizing drives in the South. "We have to reach out to the trade union organizations in a united campaign against this type of racist activity."

Also attending the rally was city council candidate Henry Burney. Other speakers included Walter Ryce, president of United Black Students at Hartnell College in Salinas, and Rohima Miah of Youth for Mel Mason.

Protests needed

The Mason for Governor Campaign is urging that protests demanding that Mason's name be placed on the November ballot be sent to Secretary of State March Fong Eu, 1230 J Street, Sacramento, California 95814, and copies to the Mel Mason for Governor Campaign, 2864 Telegraph Avenue, Oakland, California 94609.

Hypocrisy from Calif. elections official

BY NANCY BROWN

LOS ANGELES — "Exercise your rights" was the way the National Organization for Women (NOW) billed its August 28 fundraising walk, fair, and rally here. The events celebrated August 26, the 62nd anniversary of women winning the right to vote.

Speakers at the rally, who were billed as "fighters for women's and democratic rights," included Los Angeles Mayor Thomas Bradley, Democrat Tom Hayden, City Councilwoman Pat Russell, Congressman Marty Martinez, and California Secretary of State March Fong Eu.

I was especially interested in Eu's presence. Just days before, she had declared that the independent candidate for governor that I'm supporting in the 1982 elections — socialist Mel Mason — should not be on the ballot.

Eu began: "As chief election official and as a woman who has held public office for the last 25 years [I know] your power lies in your vote."

Yet Eu has served the big-business interests who run the state of California for years by keeping workers' candidates off the ballot. So our right to vote doesn't mean much.

She continued: "We must promote candidates who undertake certain issues that are women's issues. We have a lot of battles to fight — for adequate child care . . . equality under the law . . . [we have] a right to determine our

own personal and political agenda."

What hypocrisy!

Mason, a socialist city councilman from Seaside, California, is precisely "a candidate who undertakes issues that are women's issues." He is the only candidate in the gubernatorial race fighting for affirmative action, child care, abortion rights, jobs, and against U.S. military intervention in Central America.

On July 16 Mason filed signatures of 214,699 Californians who decided it was time to determine their "personal and political agenda" by helping to put a worker on the ballot.

Eu claims that Mason submitted only 88,157 "valid" signatures.

Yet campaign workers have documented case after case of officials discounting valid signatures on his petitions.

This is not the first time a socialist candidate has been denied a ballot slot. In 1980 Eu ruled the Socialist Workers Party ticket of Andrew Pulley, Matilde Zimmermann, and George Johnson, off the ballot even though they submitted 150,000 signatures (the requirement was 101,000).

The same year the Communist Party was also kept off the ballot. Some of the tricks Eu's office used then were to count blank lines on the petitions and crossed-off names as "invalid" signatures.

Nicaragua in Reagan's gunsight

U.S. steps up war to stop socialist revolution in Central America



Militant/Arnold Weissberg

Nicaraguans are prepared to defend their revolution and the gains it has meant for workers and farmers.

Continued from Page 1

opposition, sabotage, and armed resistance by the Nicaraguan capitalists and their international allies.

In an interview in the August 29 *New York Times*, Daniel Ortega, Nicaragua's head of government, warned of the danger of a U.S.-provoked war between Nicaragua and Honduras.

"We are expecting an air attack and an attack by land" from Honduras, Ortega said. "To the extent that there exists in the United States Government the desire to provoke this war, it becomes practically impossible to avoid it."

On August 28, Commander Hugo Torres, a top officer of the Sandinista People's Army, told a meeting of 1,000 professionals and technicians in Nicaragua that "we are experiencing the first phase of an aggression."

He explained that, since the beginning of the year, there had been 38 counterrevolutionary infiltrations from Honduras, 36 attacks on border posts, 5 violations of Nicaragua's territorial waters by U.S. warships, and 75 violations of Nicaragua's airspace, including 29 by U.S. planes.

Two bombs discovered in Managua

BY JANE HARRIS

MANAGUA — Major damage was averted when two bombs planned in the Central American University's Agricultural Science department were discovered before they exploded September 7. The university is a privately owned Catholic school.

The attempted bombing was timed to coincide with the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization's regional conference. Meeting less than a mile away, the conference had been discussing ways of increasing agricultural production in the face of the world economic crisis.

The bombs were intended to disrupt the training of students preparing to technically strengthen Nicaragua's efforts to grow more food.

Had the counterrevolutionary operation succeeded, 1,100 students would have been without a place to study and Nicaragua's Agrarian Reform Institute would have been deprived of an important research center.

"From all this, you can only conclude that war is once again a real possibility in Central America. . . . The possibility exists that in the next few months we may see aggression of greater magnitude, with the participation of regular armies, including U.S. Marines."

He also reported that there are at least 17 different counterrevolutionary camps in Honduras "financed by the U.S. government."

Ortega's and Torres's charges were immediately confirmed by an unexpected source — one of the top-ranking officers of the Honduran army.

Col. Leonidas Torres Arias, who served as head of Honduran military intelligence from 1976 until January of this year, revealed at an August 31 news conference in Mexico City that military strongman Gen. Gustavo Álvarez Martínez was planning an "adventure of madness."

Torres Arias and another top member of the military hierarchy were sent into diplomatic exile in May of this year, reportedly because of their disagreement with the course toward full-scale war with Nicaragua.

U.S. buildup in Honduras

Beginning last April, top officials of the Honduran government, including Álvarez, have repeatedly stated that the regime would "welcome U.S. intervention in Central America."

U.S. aid is rapidly building up Honduran military capabilities.

The country's air force — already by far the strongest in Central America — has been expanded further. It is qualitatively superior to Nicaragua's. According to *Washington Post* columnist Mary McGrory, Honduras has 39 combat-ready planes to Nicaragua's 7. Other reports put total Honduran strength at 47 or more aircraft. In mid-August, the U.S. Congress approved \$21 million for three Honduran airfields, including a major new base 25 miles from the border with Nicaragua. The United States is also upgrading the military airfield on San Andrés, a Caribbean island claimed by Colombia that is just 120 miles from Nicaragua's eastern coast.

Honduras is also building new naval bases.

There are some 100 U.S. military advisers officially in Honduras — double the number in El Salvador. In addition, the U.S. embassy in Honduras has been rapidly expanded and Washington has some 210 Peace Corps "volunteers" in the country — the fourth-largest such contingent in any country in the world.

According to the just-published pamphlet *Inside Honduras: Regional Counterinsurgency Base* by Philip Wheaton,

high-ranking dissidents within the Honduran military estimate the total number of U.S. servicemen in Honduras to be as high as 900.

The purpose of this military buildup is no secret. Referring to an appropriation for military aid to Honduras, Rep. Thomas Harkin told Congress on August 11: "Let us not have any illusions about what this \$21 million is for. It is for pushing the Honduran military, with our active assistance, into a regional war."

Leaders of the Salvadoran liberation forces are also sounding the alarm against U.S.-sponsored escalation. "The regionalization of the war in Central America is under way," said a mid-August statement by the Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR) and Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN).

"U.S. imperialism's decision to intervene directly and massively in the area was made long ago. The technical, logistical, and personnel preparations for war are almost complete. The necessary political conditions do not yet exist to a sufficient degree, but the Reagan administration is working at an accelerated pace to create them. . . .

"The imperialist aggression is at the door."

Targeting Nicaraguan revolution

This mounting danger of U.S. intervention is Washington's response to the deepening revolutionary process in Nicaragua. The past few months have seen an acceleration of class polarization and conflict in that country.

Underlying this clash is the dynamic toward the further consolidation of the revolution in Nicaragua through the creation of a workers state based on the nationalization of all major enterprises and the establishment of a planned economy.

This would be a major blow to international imperialism, definitively removing Nicaragua from the sphere of direct capitalist exploitation. The imperialists know that once this process is completed, it becomes qualitatively harder to bring the country back under foreign domination. In fact, they have never succeeded in overthrowing a socialist revolution once the capitalists have been expropriated.

Consolidating the socialist revolution in Nicaragua would also further fuel the revolutionary upsurge throughout Central America. It would serve as an additional inspiration and example to the Salvadoran and Guatemalan fighters, shifting the balance of forces against the U.S.-backed regimes in those countries.

For these reasons, Washington has embarked on an all-out drive to topple the Nicaraguan revolutionary government, as a central part of its war to defeat the regional revolutionary wave.

In July 1979, after a bloody civil war, the Nicaraguan people overthrew the hated Somoza dictatorship, replacing it with a new government controlled by the FSLN, the political representatives of Nicaragua's workers and farmers.

This government immediately launched far-reaching reforms, including nationalization of the banks, a radical agrarian reform, confiscation of the ill-gotten properties of Somoza and his henchmen, and massive public health and education campaigns.

Although concerned by the revolutionary overthrow of Somoza and the radical measures of the new government, many Nicaraguan capitalists at first did not openly oppose it. They had also wanted Somoza's ouster and hoped the revolutionary flood would soon recede and business as usual could be resumed.

In line with this projection, several representatives of the capitalists took posts in the new government, including millionaire industrialist Alfonso Robelo and newspaper heiress Violeta

Chamorro, who became part of the five-member Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, the top government body.

The capitalists hoped to use their governmental positions to slow down the revolution's advance and recapture control once it ran out of steam.

Class polarization

But that is not the way things turned out. Real political power was exercised by the workers and peasants, not the capitalists. The FSLN used its governmental hegemony and tremendous moral authority to extend the revolution. It consciously promoted and led the organization of Nicaragua's toilers into new, fighting mass organizations — the block-by-block Sandinista Defense Committees, a popular militia, a national women's organization, a militant and democratic trade union federation, and an association of small farmers and ranchers.

Over time, the capitalist elements left the new government and went into open, and increasingly hostile, opposition. Robelo reactivated his Nicaraguan Democratic Movement (MDN) and turned it against the revolution. *La Prensa*, the Chamorro family's newspaper, became a stridently anti-FSLN organ. The U.S. government accentuated its hostility towards the revolution, cutting off promised aid and loans and giving money instead to the counterrevolutionary bands of Somozaist ex-National Guardsmen operating from Honduras.

The workers and farmers have effectively used their fighting mass organizations and control of the government to defend their rights and living standards and to take big steps toward transforming society in their own interests.

The capitalists have responded by using every trick in the book to make a quick profit, usually with the idea of sending the money out of the country, decapitalizing the economy.

These growing social tensions in Nicaragua are a reflection of the fact that, while they have conquered political power, the workers of Nicaragua do not yet have full control over the economy. Large sections of industry and agriculture remain in the hands of private capitalists and landowners.

As the capitalists have gone more and more openly toward counterrevolution, the majority of Nicaraguans are becoming convinced that, sooner or later, there will have to be a complete transformation of the nation's economy to eliminate capitalism.

'We are fighting for socialism'

In preparation for this year's May Day celebrations, the Sandinista Workers Federation (CST) launched the slogan "Defend the revolution — for the building of socialism!" Together with this, a nationwide discussion among working people took place that drew the lessons of the three years since the revolutionary victory.

Lucío Jiménez, CST general secretary, explained in an interview printed in the FSLN daily *Barricada* in April:

"We, the toilers, workers, peasants, and most progressive sectors of society, under the leadership of the Sandinista National Liberation Front, have taken power in order to make substantial changes and radically transform the country's economic and social structure. For we are convinced that only a transformation of this type will enable us to meet the most deeply felt needs of the workers. . . .

"This is the way we defend the conquests the revolution has already made. We are not prepared to return the land, the factories, and the banks, nor are we prepared to see the agrarian reform law disappear. We are fighting to hold onto



U.S. military adviser (right) speaking with Honduras's Gen. Gustavo Alvarez (left). One hundred U.S. advisers are currently in Honduras helping to prepare full-scale invasion of Nicaragua.

these things, but also for a future in which the exploitation of man by man will be done away with forever, a future in which the workers and the entire people will be the rightful owners of the product of their labor and sweat. In other words, we are fighting for a socialist future.

Capitalist counterrevolution

The deepening of the revolutionary process reflected by this discussion brought an immediate and unambiguous response from the representatives of the Nicaraguan bourgeoisie.

On April 15, ex-Sandinista Edén Pastora, who had left Nicaragua and dropped out of sight the year before, held a news conference in Costa Rica. He denounced the FSLN and the course charted by the revolutionary government and promised to overthrow it by force of arms. MDN leader and former junta member Alfonso Robelo left Nicaragua shortly thereafter, to join Pastora in exile.

Beginning in May, there was a sharp escalation of attacks by Somozaist ex-National Guardsmen from the border with Honduras. These attacks had been a constant threat since the victory of the revolution, and had become a major problem by the end of 1981, when the Reagan administration implemented a not-so-secret CIA plan to destabilize and overthrow the Nicaraguan revolutionary government.

By July 1982, however, the attacks became so serious that the Nicaraguan leaders described them as "a silent, but bloody invasion." A *Washington Post* columnist described the situation "a slow-motion Bay of Pigs."

In addition, two air raids were carried out against strategic Nicaraguan economic facilities from Honduras in July.

Within Nicaragua itself, the clashes between revolutionary and reactionary forces have become very sharp.

Due to the discredit of their traditional parties, leaders, and news media, the capitalists have increasingly tried to use the Catholic church hierarchy as the cat's paw of the counterrevolution.

A number of church functionaries, headed by Managua Archbishop Miguel Obando y Bravo, have especially targeted members of the clergy who support the revolution, ordering them to abandon their parishes and staging other provocations.

The purpose of this is to portray the class struggle between the exploiters and toilers taking place in Nicaragua as a struggle over freedom of religion.

This forms part of the ideological battle under way in Nicaragua, as the exploiters and Washington seek to divide

and confuse the masses and thereby weaken the revolution.

Provocation of church hierarchy

The provocations by the Catholic church hierarchy culminated on August 16, when street fighting erupted in a major Nicaraguan city for the first time since the 1979 revolution.

Counterrevolutionary middle-class and bourgeois youth led by some members of the Catholic clergy occupied a church-run school in the city of Masaya. They opened fire without provocation on a peaceful demonstration by prorevolutionary Catholics. The counterrevolutionaries murdered two demonstrators and wounded several others. Eventually, enough government forces arrived to enter the school and take into custody all those inside.

This event has been portrayed by the big-business press as a popular rebellion by the religious people of Masaya against "atheistic Sandino-Communism."

Nevertheless, it is easy enough to confirm that what is involved is a class struggle that finds reflection *within the church*, not a government campaign to suppress religion. One need merely note that the Nicaraguan cabinet includes several persons who also happen to be Catholic priests, including Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto Brockman.

The Masaya incident was obviously a

planned probe by counterrevolutionary forces within the country and an indication of how desperate they have become as they seek to prevent the consolidation of the revolution.

The incident is especially ominous because the "senior State Department official" who briefed reporters at the end of August cited it as an indication that there is mounting rebellion in Nicaragua against the revolutionary government. "While saying that he is not predicting that the Nicaraguan government will be overthrown, the official said that the level of opposition to that government may not be very different from that in nearby El Salvador, where a bloody civil war has been raging for years," the *Washington Post's* Oberdorfer reported.

In 1961, the myth of massive domestic opposition to the Cuban revolutionary government was precisely the pretext most used by the Kennedy administration to justify the CIA's Bay of Pigs invasion. The purpose of such lies is the same today: to confuse working people in the United States and around the world who correctly believe the Nicaraguan people have a right to whatever government they desire.

The importance to the U.S. rulers of overthrowing the Nicaraguan revolution is magnified because it forms an integral part of a chain of revolutionary upsurges shaking the Central America and Caribbean regions — none of which imperialism has been able to push back.

• In El Salvador, despite massive amounts of military aid, the government has not been able to deal a major defeat to the forces of the FMLN. In the 12 months ending June 30 — by the regime's own admission — government troops had 3,801 casualties, including 1,073 killed and 144 missing in action. The number of casualties is more than 20 percent of the Salvadoran armed forces. In the 12 months of 1981, the Salvadoran government troops had 801 dead.

• In Guatemala, Gen. Efraín Ríos Montt has escalated the regime's war against Indian peasants since assuming power through a military coup last March. Between March 23 — when he took power — and the end of June, some 3,500 Indians in 90 villages were massacred.

Nevertheless, the Reagan administration is pushing for open resumption of direct military aid to the Guatemalan government (right now such aid is funneled through Israel), because the government has still not been able to stop the growth of the revolutionary move-

ment. According to "U.S. sources" cited by Don Oberdorfer in the August 15 *Washington Post*, the revolutionary forces now have "about 3,500 full-time combatants."

• In Grenada, the workers and farmers government that came to power in 1979 has staunchly resisted U.S. blackmail, despite the small size and population of this Black, English-speaking Caribbean nation. Working people have made important gains there, including the construction of a popular militia and various mass organizations.

• Cuba remains a central obstacle to Washington's plans for direct intervention in the region. Reagan knows he cannot assume that the Cubans will stand idly by if an outside invasion threatens to overthrow the Nicaraguan revolution. The Cubans have not only made this clear through their words; in Angola and Ethiopia they have shown their capacity to render effective military assistance.

Moreover, Cuba remains a source of inspiration and example to all the peoples of Latin America. It shows what can be achieved in the fields of health, education, and economic development through the establishment of a government that represents the workers and peasants and the abolition of capitalism. At a time when unemployment and human misery are rising throughout Latin America as a result of the world crisis of the capitalist economic system, the attraction of this example will grow.

For these reasons, Cuba is also a central target of Washington's military pressures and threats.

Toward a new Vietnam

In recent weeks, there have been new threats against Cuba. The most outspoken of these was the Symms resolution, supported by the administration and ratified by both the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives and Republican-controlled Senate. It states:

"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 threat of force its aggressive or subversive activities to any part of this hemisphere."

Sen. Charles Percy, the Republican chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, called the resolution "a blank check" for the administration, and said it "may be considered a Gulf of Tonkin resolution for Cuba," recalling the 1964 congressional action that was used by President Lyndon Johnson as legal authorization to escalate the war against the people of Vietnam.

Senator Percy's reminder is more apt than he may care to admit. For the truth is that the United States today is already involved in a new Vietnam in Central America — just as it was already deeply involved in Southeast Asia in 1964 — and for the same reasons.

Successful revolutions by the toilers of semicolonial countries that put workers and peasants governments in power represent a deadly threat to the property and profits of the tiny clique of bankers and big businessmen whose interests dictate U.S. government policy. The imperialists are intervening and will continue to do so "by whatever means may be necessary" — in the words of the Symms resolution — because their most vital interests are at stake.

It is the working people of the United States who are paying with their tax dollars, and who will pay with their blood, for the war the U.S. government is waging against the workers and farmers in Central America and the Caribbean.

What is needed is an educational campaign of meetings, forums, and public protests to get out the truth about what the U.S. government is doing and what the stakes are for working people in the United States and in Central America.

Antiwar actions planned for Oct. 16

BY NELSON GONZÁLEZ

In response to the accelerated U.S. aggression against the people of Central America and the Caribbean, the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES) will be organizing protest activities on October 16.

These activities are in response to a call for an "International Day of Protest" made by the World Front In Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, which was founded at a conference in Mexico City last spring.

A mailing sent out by CISPES on August 23 explains, "the July certification [of the Salvadoran junta's 'human rights' record], the recent Senate resolution favoring the use of arms against Cuba, joint U.S.-Honduras military maneuvers near the Nicaraguan border: these and other recent events represent pieces of the political and military groundwork being carefully laid by the Reagan Administration for increasing the levels of U.S. intervention in Central America."

The October 16 CISPES call as initially projected will focus on "U.S. intervention in El Salvador," "U.S. regionalization of the conflict and the threat of a regional war in Central America," and "the link between intervention and budget priorities."

In planning out activities, CISPES has urged: "The October 16 mobilizations should be organized by coalitions representing the broadest possible range of organizations."

Already a number of cities have activities projected on October 16 or the week after. These include a walk-athon, march, and rally in New York, protest actions in Los Angeles and San Francisco, a teach-in in Austin, as well as activities in Boston, Louisville, and other cities.

Solidarity committees in Canada and Mexico will also be organizing activities.

For more information regarding activities in your area call the CISPES national office at their new number (202) 887-5019, or contact your regional CISPES office.



Militant/André Kahlmorgen

Socialist candidate Martin Boyers (right) got enthusiastic response from SCLCers for defense of Black rights. His opponent George Wallace failed in his attempt to gloss over his racist record.

Socialist welcomed by SCLC; Wallace gets cool reception

BY ANDY ROSE

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — When candidates for governor of Alabama addressed the Southern Christian Leadership Conference national convention, the Socialist Workers nominee got a clearly more enthusiastic response than the front-running Democrat.

The socialist is Martin Boyers, a Birmingham steelworker who has joined protests for voting rights and against police brutality.

The Democrat is George Wallace.

Wallace got a polite but chilly hearing as he insisted that his past support for segregation was "a dead issue" and that as governor he would represent "all the people."

Boyers, on the other hand, was interrupted by applause when he declared that his first act as governor would be to free Julia Wilder and Maggie Bozeman. The two Black women were convicted on frame-up charges of "vote fraud" because of their efforts to register Blacks to vote in impoverished, rural Pickens County, Alabama.

Boyers was applauded again when he called for firing Bessemer, Alabama, police Sgt. Billy Ray Smith. Smith shot and killed an innocent and unarmed Black youth, Henry Ware, Jr.

Under pressure of Black community protests, Smith has been indicted for manslaughter. But SCLC activists agreed with Boyers that "we must be vigilant in our efforts to demand that justice is done."

Boyers said, "As we know from the cattle prod trial [in which Bessemer cops were acquitted for torturing Black prisoners], just because an indictment is issued, the battle is not yet won."

The socialist candidate explained that the Democrats and Republicans all

promise jobs, but their real program is to do whatever is profitable for big business. "Tax giveaways, contract concessions, subminimum wages, and import restrictions will not save any jobs — not even one!" Boyers went on to list his proposals for the jobs crisis:

"I say put the needs of workers and farmers ahead of the profits of a handful of billionaires. The government should take over shutdown plants like U.S. Steel Fairfield Works and make them public property, reopening them to produce the things we need.

"Reduce the work week at no loss in pay to spread the available work to all those who need jobs.

"Instead of spending hundreds of billions of dollars for wars and threatening the world with nuclear annihilation, use that money to create needed jobs. Working people do not need wars of aggression against Nicaragua, El Salvador, the Palestinians, or Vietnam. We do need the social services that are being sacrificed to benefit the Pentagon."

Boyers also noted that "just at a time when job rights are needed most, affirmative action is being attacked. The Socialist Workers Party calls for extending affirmative action, and for guaranteeing that the proportions of Blacks and women in the work force not be reduced during layoffs. The wiping out of affirmative action gains would be a defeat for all workers."

"Growing numbers of working people realize that the attacks we face are coming from both the Democratic and Republican parties," Boyers concluded. He pointed to the need to break from these two parties and cited the National Black Independent Political Party as an example.

The SCLC convention also heard and warmly received Democratic gubernatorial candidate George McMillan. McMillan, who has the support of most SCLC leaders, will face Wallace in a September 28 run-off for the Democratic nomination.

McMillan indirectly condemned Wallace's racist record by saying Alabama "has been kept poor by shallow, stupid political rhetoric." He neglected to mention that, like Wallace, he had vocally supported segregation in the 1960s.

Even more important, as Boyers pointed out in his remarks, McMillan has not had one word to say in support of any current struggles for Black rights — not for affirmative action, not for freeing Bozeman and Wilder, not for justice for Henry Ware, Jr.

In informal discussions at the convention, Boyers and his campaign supporters found considerable interest in the socialist alternative, especially among young activists. Forty people bought copies of the *Militant* or *Young Socialist*.

Nat'l SCLC meets on civil rights, jobs

Discuss war, economic crisis

BY ANDY ROSE

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Less than 20 years ago Black marchers in this city faced police dogs and firehoses. This year the national convention of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) was officially welcomed to the city by Richard Arrington, Birmingham's first Black mayor.

But uppermost in the minds of the 1,000 participants in the August 9-13 convention were today's attempts to roll back civil rights and the economic crisis that has already made deep inroads on Black progress.

SCLC President Joseph Lowery called on the federal government to enact a four-point program: public works to provide jobs, a commitment to full employment, tax reform, and low-interest financing for farmers and small business.

Lowery condemned Reagan's economic policies and noted that "Congress could never have passed Reagan's program without the cooperation of Democrats." He said that "the turncoat Democrats sold us out for dinner at the White House, a pair of cuff links and a bag of jelly beans."

Lowery's answer was for Blacks to register and vote to "change the face of Congress." He said that Blacks should not "be in the pocket of any political party," yet made no suggestion of break-

ing from the two-party system.

The SCLC convention was used to provide a platform for Democrat Walter Mondale's campaign for president in 1984. Mondale posed as a supporter of civil rights, carefully ignoring the fact that Reagan's attacks on Black rights and social services only extended assaults begun by the Carter administration.

One important theme sounded several times during the convention was the need for Blacks to take active stands on foreign policy questions. "Every time the military budget goes up, the budget for human rights goes down," Lowery observed. He strongly condemned the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the increasingly open U.S. support to South Africa.

Lowery said his tour of the Middle East and his support for Palestinian rights have "appalled" some of the same Black leaders who didn't want Martin Luther King to speak out against the Vietnam War. "I'm not anti-Jewish, I'm pro-justice," the SCLC president said.

Shortly before the SCLC convention, Coretta Scott King, widow of the slain civil rights leader, announced plans for a march on Washington next summer. Commemorating the twentieth anniversary of the 1963 civil rights march on Washington, the action is to call for jobs, peace, and freedom, she said.

Battle over school desegregation heats up in Louisville

Continued from Page 16

the Palestine Liberation Organization but not about the terrorism from the KKK.

Mattie Jones, chairperson of the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, said, "You have sat very silent, you elected officials, after you come into our communities and ask 'please let me represent you.'

"It has not been the right of free speech on trial in our city [but the rights of Black students], and our elected officials have refused to come out and be counted for."

Anne Braden, long-time civil rights leader, summed up the feeling of the audience when she said, "I think something remarkable has happened here.

"A lot of us have been wrong about Valley Station. We've said it's Klan country . . . we found out there are a lot of white people out there who don't want the Klan in their community."

Other speakers at the rally included Mattie Mathis of the United Black Protective Parents, Al May from the United Furniture Workers, and Jess Segal from the National Lawyers Guild.

Rev. Ben Chavis sent a written message to the gathering.

A statement released September 4 by Craig Honts, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress in the 3rd District, said "Desegregation — and busing, the only means to effectively desegregate — has been an advance not only for Black students but for the working class as a whole.

"That's why labor as a whole has a stake in defending desegregation and opposing the Klan. Tonight's civil rights rally is just the beginning. There is majority sentiment for Black rights. We must continue to build a movement that will involve labor; women's organizations; and religious, parent, and civil rights groups."



260 racists march in Valley Station, Kentucky, in KKK antibusing march. Majority sentiment opposed Klan use of Valley High School for rally.

KENTUCKY

Louisville

How to Fight Racism in the Schools. A panel discussion.

Speakers: Adlene Abstain, project director, Southern Christian Leadership Conference; Bob Cunningham, member, Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression; Craig Honts, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress in the 3rd District; Rev. R. D. Robinson, Shawnee Presbyterian Church.

Sun., Sept. 19, 7:30 p.m. 809 E Broadway (near Shelby). Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (502) 587-8418.

The fight to oust Pol Pot from the UN

Interview with Vietnamese ambassador to United Nations

BY WILL REISSNER

There can be no denying the murderous record of the Pol Pot regime against the people of Kampuchea. From 1975 until its overthrow in early 1979, Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge regime was responsible for the deaths of up to 3 million of Kampuchea's 7 million people, through starvation or execution.

Even though Pol Pot's record of barbarism is now common knowledge, and his government has been out of power for more than three years, his representative continues to occupy Kampuchea's seat in the United Nations, with strong backing from Washington and Peking.

When the United Nations reconvenes on September 21, the question of Kampuchea's representation will again be put to a vote, as it has been each year since 1979. And once again Washington is leading a campaign to keep the seat in Pol Pot's possession.

The Reagan administration, like the Carter administration before it, claims that U.S. support for Pol Pot at the UN is based on opposition to the presence of Vietnamese troops in Kampuchea. Washington also charges that the present Kampuchean government, headed by Heng Samrin, is simply a puppet of Vietnam.

Why Vietnamese are in Kampuchea

The *Militant* raised these issues with Vietnam's vice-minister of foreign affairs, Hoang Bich Son, in New York on September 1. Son, who is also his country's ambassador to the United Nations, pointed out that Vietnamese troops are in Kampuchea for two reasons: to protect the Kampuchean people from a return by Pol Pot's forces; and to protect Vietnam from a repetition of the two-front invasion from Kampuchea and China that it suffered in December 1978 and February 1979.

Pol Pot's army mounted an invasion of Vietnam using 19 of its 23 divisions. This invasion, Son pointed out, would have been inconceivable without the aid and support of the Chinese government, which saw Pol Pot's attack on Vietnam

from the southwest as one prong of a pincer tactic that also included a Chinese invasion of Vietnam from the north.

These invasions were planned and carried out, according to Son, by China's rulers to demonstrate their value to Washington as a new ally. Ever since the Vietnamese people defeated U.S. imperialism, Washington has tried to maintain military and political pressure on Vietnam to prevent that country from healing its war wounds.

Pol Pot's overthrow

But Vietnam was able to defeat both invasions. And after Vietnamese troops stopped the invasion by the Pol Pot forces, they launched a counterattack into Kampuchea.

"While we were defeating 19 of Pol Pot's divisions," Son stated, "Kampuchean patriotic forces rose up inside the country and were able to overthrow the government because only 4 divisions remained inside Kampuchea."

The Vietnamese diplomat readily acknowledges that Heng Samrin's Kampuchean forces could not have toppled Pol Pot's regime if Vietnamese troops had not encircled the bulk of Pol Pot's army. But he strongly rejected the charge that the new Kampuchean government is a Vietnamese puppet.

"Many of the leading figures in the new government of Kampuchea," Son stated, "were originally members of the Khmer Rouge" and supported its anti-Vietnam policies. "But," he added, "they eventually became aware of the atrocities committed by the Pol Pot regime and fled to the jungle to fight against it." Heng Samrin himself was a commander in the Khmer Rouge army while it was staging border attacks against Vietnam. He broke from Pol Pot in 1977.

Vietnam withdrawing troops

Recently, Vietnam has been able to withdraw substantial numbers of its troops from Kampuchea because the Heng Samrin government is increasing-

ly able to defend the country against attacks by Pol Pot's forces based in Thailand.

In early July, Vietnam announced that major new troop withdrawals from Kampuchea would take place that month. Officials in Thailand, which provides sanctuary and aid for Pol Pot's forces, dismissed the Vietnamese withdrawal as a mere rotation of troops.

But Hoang Bich Son disputed this, pointing out that this was not the first withdrawal of Vietnamese forces. "Last year," he said, "we withdrew troops without publicity, although it was reported in the Japanese press." Son added that "today there are such sophisticated ways to monitor military activity that you cannot claim to have done something that you haven't. It is very easy to check."

Vietnamese troops remain in Kampuchea, Son emphasized, to protect that country against the return of Pol Pot. "If the Thai government stops aiding Pol Pot's forces, we will withdraw even more troops, and if China stops supporting Pol Pot we will withdraw all our troops," he stated.

But Son added that as long as the Khmer Rouge receive aid from abroad, the withdrawal of all Vietnamese troops "would be morally inadmissible and would amount to Vietnamese complicity in genocide against the people of Kampuchea."

Khmer Rouge offensive blocked

With the passage of time and the growing strength of the Heng Samrin government, it becomes increasingly difficult for Washington to marshal support for Pol Pot's forces, which are now concentrated in Thailand and in a small enclave of Kampuchea near the Thai border.

Because of military setbacks, the attention of Pol Pot's international backers is shifting more to the diplomatic arena. Washington is working to improve the image of the Khmer Rouge in the hope that this will keep Kampuchea's UN seat in the hands of Pol Pot's forces.

As part of this campaign to improve the Khmer Rouge's international image, Washington and its Southeast Asian allies were successful in pressuring Prince Norodom Sihanouk to join an alliance with the Khmer Rouge, although all effective power in this alliance remains in the hands of Pol Pot's supporters.

Sihanouk ruled Kampuchea until he was overthrown by a U.S.-sponsored coup in 1970. Until recently he was an outspoken opponent of the Pol Pot forces.

An agreement establishing a nominal three-person leadership — made up of Prince Sihanouk, former Prime Minister Son Sann, and the Khmer Rouge's Khieu Samphan — was signed on June 22.



Militant/Will Reissner

Hoang Bich Son

Now Sihanouk will be the star performer in the campaign to whitewash Pol Pot. He is expected to address the United Nations session that takes up the question of Kampuchea's representation. There he will plead that Pol Pot's representative should retain Kampuchea's seat.

The real Kampuchean government, on the other hand, has decided that this year it will not present its own candidate for Kampuchea's UN seat. Instead it has endorsed an Indian proposal that the seat remain vacant during this session, a solution similar to the one adopted by the Movement of Nonaligned Countries at its September 1979 summit conference in Havana. Washington opposes this proposal, knowing that if Pol Pot's forces are ever removed from the UN they would lose all international credibility and it would then be harder to justify continuing to provide support to the Khmer Rouge.

Vietnamese Ambassador Son dismissed the alliance between Sihanouk, Son Sann, and the Khmer Rouge as "a farce," noting that "Sihanouk has simply been hired to keep Kampuchea's UN seat for Pol Pot."

Protest at UN

The Committee in Solidarity with Viet Nam, Kampuchea and Laos has called for a demonstration at the United Nations September 22 to demand the ouster of Pol Pot's representative from Kampuchea's UN seat. The action will take place from 1 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

11,000 teachers strike in Detroit against concessions, union-busting

BY TAMAR ROSENFELD

DETROIT — "We want to work, but we're not afraid to strike."

"We asked for nothing and the board said, 'That's too much.'"

"No rollbacks."

These are just a few of the messages on placards that 11,000 Detroit teachers carry as they walk picket lines across the city.

The Board of Education wants wage concessions of \$7 million. Coupled with proposed reductions of fringe benefits, that amounts to a 16 percent pay cut, according to John Elliot, president of the Detroit Federation of Teachers (DFT).

The board also wants union members to take four half-days and two full days off work without pay.

The board claims a \$38 million deficit. Elliot said, "This is not a real figure."

"It is obvious," he continued, "that the board's top priority is not concern for the students, but to gut our contract and bust the union."

Detroit School Superintendent Arthur Jefferson announced that students were to report to school regardless of the strike. Few of the 200,000 students enrolled in Detroit schools showed up Monday morning. Those who did ended up roaming the halls or playing frisbee on the grass.

The Cass Technical High School student council president was on the radio Monday morning urging students to support the teachers' demand for full wages and not to come to school.

Some students joined the picket line.

At Cass, Teamsters honored the pickets by refusing to deliver goods. Lunchroom workers also honored the lines.

Dan Grasschuck, Cass's DFT building representative, told a militant group of striking teachers, "We want it understood that we stand with this union."

Asked about the board's threats, Grasschuck responded: "Fire us? Forget it. Our strength is to stay together."

Tim Craine, who is a striking teacher at Renaissance High, a Detroit public school, and the Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of Michigan, pointed out that his two gubernatorial opponents, Richard Headlle and James Blanchard, are both against the teachers' right to strike.

Craine said Headlle, a Republican, "says teachers who don't report for work should be fired and replaced." Blanchard, a Democrat who is endorsed by the Michigan Federation of Teachers, "says he's also against teachers having the right to strike but doesn't think it should be a campaign issue."

Craine went on, "I think it's a campaign issue, and so do thousands of teachers who are on strike right now — besides Detroit, there are 2,000 in seven other Michigan school districts, and thousands more in Illinois, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and New Jersey. For all of us, it's a big campaign issue, and the fact that we aren't supported by either of the two proemployer parties should be a big lesson; we need a labor party that would fight for our interests, and the right of the children of working people to get a decent education."



Skulls of some victims of Pol Pot's genocide. Vietnam's Radio Hanoi reported September 13 that some 2,000 more mass graves had been found in two Kampuchean provinces. Initial excavations uncovered the remains of about 54,000 people. Some had smashed skulls, others bore stab wounds.



Militant/Charles Ostrofsky
Claire Moriarty, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from New Jersey, calls for nationalization of oil industry.

N.J. socialist challenges Exxon's right to profits

The following statement was released by Claire Moriarty, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from New Jersey. Moriarty works at Exxon's Bayway refinery in Linden, New Jersey, and is a member of Teamsters Local 877.

Exxon and Chevron have announced plans to reduce refining operations at two of their New Jersey plants. Exxon also plans to stop marketing gasoline and heating oil in a five-state, mostly rural area.

Both companies cited "reduced de-

mand" for oil products as the reason for their decision.

But the need for gas and heating oil hasn't diminished.

Workers still drive their cars to work. Farmers still need oil and gas. People need oil to heat their homes. We simply use less because we cannot afford more.

Last winter, some people in this country — the wealthiest nation in the world — froze to death because they could not afford the price of heating oil.

When Exxon and Chevron speak of "reduced demand," they mean it is not profitable to refine and distribute badly needed oil.

For years they told us there was an oil shortage caused by the Arab and Iranian peoples. Now they tell us there's too much oil. Yet prices are still sky-high.

We have a right to know the truth.

Gasoline and heating oil are not luxuries; they are necessities. I say nationalize the oil industry. By that I mean take this vital industry out of private hands and put it under public ownership. Take decisions about what to produce out of the secrecy of backroom corporate board meetings.

Instead, let's have a publicly elected board whose deliberations and decisions are open to the scrutiny of all. Refineries should be run by the workers who operate them.

Exxon has already begun to lay off workers at the Bayway refinery, where I work. I oppose these layoffs. My co-workers should be immediately rehired with back pay. I call for a shorter workweek with no cut in pay in order to spread around the available work.

My Democratic and Republican opponents offer no solutions to the workers and farmers who are the victims of Exxon's latest moves.

These two parties represent the likes of Exxon and Chevron. We need our own candidates and we need our own party — a labor party, based on the trade unions, that would fight for the interests of working people.

Bayway refinery workers don't buy company story on cutbacks, layoffs

BY KAREN NEWTON

LINDEN, N.J.—On August 25 Exxon, the world's largest oil company, announced plans to cut back its marketing and refining operations.

The Bayway plant here was already operating far below capacity and will now be reduced even further.

Exxon blamed the cutback on "lower demand for petroleum products and continuing excess refining capacity."

In an open letter to all Bayway workers, James Hook, the refinery manager, made the following appeal:

"We should all recognize that, although this means Bayway operations will continue for a while, there are still no guarantees. While we have significantly improved safety, reliability and environmental performance over the past year or two, we need to move ahead and deliver results in the areas of improved productivity, efficiency and profitability.

"These improvements must not be viewed as short-term emergency steps for survival, but as a new way of doing business at Bayway. It is imperative that we continue the improvements we have made and move ahead with further improvements to make Bayway a more profitable operation. But, I repeat, there are no guarantees."

Bayway workers were skeptical about the company's motives for cutting back and its demand for greater productivity.

Often workers expressed the idea that mismanagement is the crux of the problem. Equipment is not maintained, while seemingly irrational projects are carried out. Expensive materials go to waste. A lot of red tape is involved in getting anything done, and management is top heavy.

"Every third guy around here has a beeper," said one worker. (Beepers are carried by supervisors.)

Another worker expressed the fear that Exxon may be using this as an excuse to lay off workers, and then hire back only those people they want.

Others, taking note of Exxon's announcement that any "slack" caused by the reduced refining will be taken up at the Texas and Louisiana refineries, pointed out that unlike Bayway those refineries are nonunion.

The age of the refinery, which was built in 1919, and the greater expense of refining in cold weather, were pointed to by some as the real reason for the cutback.

Is the glut real?

"I don't get it," said a friend on my unit. "During the oil shortage we were refining 265,000 barrels per day. Now there's a glut and we're refining 165,000. It doesn't make any sense."

A woman mechanic scoffed at the idea that Exxon is losing money. "Look, if I plant a bunch of trees and plan to get 400 apples, and I come up with 365 ap-

ples instead, I didn't lose 35 apples. I got 365. They're not losing money. They're just making less than they planned."

Some workers rejected the need for increased productivity on the grounds that if the plant wasn't operating at full capacity to begin with, there's no point in working harder because you won't produce more.

One old-timer said, "Things are getting bad. We're heading for another

1929. Mark my word, there's going to be another war."

People are scared of being laid off. Everybody knows that finding another job will be difficult. "It's cold out there" is a familiar expression people use in talking about looking for another job.

Karen Newton works at the Bayway refinery and is a member of Teamsters Local 877.

Profit is bottom line for oil giant

Continued from Page 16

economy or specifically on the people in areas where the 850 service stations are located. It is known that the decision to close the service stations will immediately lead to the layoff of 200 employees.

It is likely these cutbacks will affect thousands more people in the Northeast and Midwest, just as the pullback from the Colony shale oil project in Colorado is affecting thousands there.

The Bayway refinery is one of the largest employers in northern New Jersey. How the production cutback will affect the thousands of people who depend on Bayway for their livelihood is yet to be seen.

Considerations of this type do not appear to have influenced Exxon's decisions. Nor the fact that hundreds of thousands of people are already jobless in these areas.

Production is undertaken by capitalist corporations only on the basis of whether they believe it will be profitable. The overall well-being of society simply doesn't enter into individual capitalist calculations.

Must it be this way?

Under capitalism, the answer is yes.

A basic contradiction in the capitalist system is the conflict between human needs and the private ownership of and control over the means of production.

At present, world capitalism is in the worst crisis since the 1930s. The supply of goods and services on the market today exceeds the demand from consumers who don't have the money to spend. This overproduction leads to cutbacks in production and massive layoffs.

More than 10.8 million American workers are jobless today, 9.8 percent of the nation's workforce, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The actual figure is much higher.

Cutbacks, layoffs, union concessions — these are the capitalists' "solutions" to the current economic crisis.

What can be done?

But the interests of the vast majority of society require that the energy industry, and other basic industries, be taken out of private hands and placed under

public ownership. There is a great need for energy, steel, efficient transportation equipment, and countless other products. There are millions of workers ready and willing to produce them. Only private ownership — which requires that nothing be produced unless it is profitable for the capitalists — stands in the way.

Control over production — work speed, automation, hiring and firing, health and safety — should be in the hands of the workers themselves through their unions or workplace committees.

The parties and politicians that work for the bosses — the Democrats and Republicans — will not implement these solutions.

To realize these and other necessary steps will take militant struggle by working people and a revitalized labor movement.

There is a growing need for the unions to launch an independent labor party — one that would rally the strength of the organized workers, the unorganized and unemployed, Blacks, Latinos, women, and youth to confront the parties of the corporations on all economic, social, and political issues.

Formation of such a labor party would be a gigantic step toward the only real solution to the capitalist economic crisis — a workers and farmers government in this country.

Such a government, relying on the mobilized power of the workers and farmers — the majority — would respond very differently to Exxon's announcement than the current batch of kept politicians.

It would order Exxon to rehire the workers who were laid off. It could force Exxon to open its books to be inspected by working people so that we could see what kind of fraud is being perpetrated by the owners.

And if Exxon can't or won't produce the oil and gas we need at prices we can afford, a workers and farmers government would nationalize Exxon.

It's only when working people take control of the government and the economy that the root cause of capitalist

crises will be abolished, along with all the ills that go with it.

Working people, along with their allies in the Black and Latino communities and among women and small farmers, need to fight for this kind of government as a first step toward building a society governed by human needs, not private profits.

Barbara Mutnick works at the Bayway refinery and is a member of Teamsters Local 877.



Exxon is largest and wealthiest U.S. corporation.



Kathleen Fitzgerald, socialist congressional candidate in Missouri, campaigns at Phillips refinery day before it shut down.

Kansas City hit hard by oil, auto layoffs

BY DIANE SHUR AND MARTY PETTIT

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — August 31 was the last day for workers at the Phillips refinery here. Following the closing of the Amoco refinery in Sugar Creek a few months earlier, the Phillips shutdown brings to 800 the number of oil workers on unemployment lines.

Facing a common uncertainty, people who had worked together for years held parties that night to say good-bye and wish each other luck in the search for new jobs. Bitterness and anxiety about the future are widespread, as is a very clear idea of the seriousness of the problems working people face.

"Things are just closing down. The situation is getting severe all around the country," one worker observed.

For years, the Kansas City Chamber of Commerce has touted this midwestern city as one of the most "livable" in the country.

Lately, workers and farmers around here are beginning to have their doubts. The economic crisis has in no way passed this area by.

In Kansas City, the third largest railroad center in the United States, a quarter to a third of the area's rail workers have been laid off over the past year and a half. Members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and the United Transportation Union have been working without a contract for more than a year, and have been hit with a federal injunction against striking.

Until just recently, Kansas City was also one of the country's largest auto and truck manufacturing centers. Workers for Delco Battery and K.W. Dart Truck have been on layoff more than two years. The second shift at General Motors' Fairfax, Kansas, plant was out of work two years before being called back this

June. Across town, in the GM Leeds plant, all 2,000 workers on second shift have just been laid off indefinitely.

Kansas City workers have also been following the events in Dakota City, Nebraska, where meat-packers at Iowa Beef Processors have faced the National Guard and state police when they walk the picket line. Kansas City newspapers advertise for "security guards" and scabs for Dakota City. A young Black worker from the GM plant in Fairfax observed, "It's very simple: they're trying to break our unions."

On August 30, the day before the Phillips refinery closed, Kathleen Fitzgerald, the Socialist Workers Party candidate in Missouri's 5th Congressional District, held a news conference outside the refinery. Campaign supporters handed out a letter from her to workers as they changed shifts. In the letter, which got a very favorable response, Fitzgerald explained that when companies threaten to close plants and refineries, they should have to open their financial books to public inspection.

She went on to explain that the oil industry should be nationalized, so that it could produce for human needs, not profits. Workers should control safety and work conditions.

"What kind of government would nationalize the oil industry and defend the workers' right to run it? Not the kind of government we now have. That is why we need a government run by workers and farmers," Fitzgerald's letter stated.

"Do you know your job?" a worker asked after reading the letter. "As a congressperson, I mean?" "Sure," said Fitzgerald, "to use my office to organize people like you to fight the layoffs and plant closings." "Then you do know your job," the worker responded, "Thanks so much for coming out here."

Polish regime tries to crack down on Solidarity

BY ERNEST HARSCH

The August 31 demonstrations in Poland by tens of thousands in support of the Solidarity union movement were the largest such actions since shortly after martial law was imposed last December by Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski.

The Polish government itself has admitted that protests were held in 54 cities, located in 34 of the country's 49 provinces.

Despite fierce repression of the peaceful actions by riot police — resulting in five people being killed — the demonstrations were a victory for Solidarity. They showed that eight months of martial law have not broken support for the union, which remains deeply rooted in the working class.

Because it is unable to win popular support for its measures, the Jaruzelski regime has increased repression in the hopes of intimidating Solidarity supporters.

In addition to the five protesters who were known to have been killed by the police, and the hundreds of injured, some 4,050 people were arrested for participating in the August 31 demonstrations. Within just a few days, more than 1,800 of them had already been tried and sentenced, most receiving fines, but 137 got prison terms.

Several prominent Solidarity leaders were among those arrested. Zbigniew Romaszewski, a key underground leader

in the Warsaw area, was picked up on the day of the demonstrations. Anna Walentynowicz, a leader in Gdansk who had been released from detention in July, was rearrested the day before the demonstrations.

On September 3, the government filed formal charges against Jacek Kuron, Adam Michnik, Jan Litynski, and Henryk Wujec, accusing them of conspiring "to overthrow the political system by force." All four have been in detention since martial law was declared in December, and all were associated with the former Committee for the Defense of the Workers (KOR), a grouping of intellectuals formed in the mid-1970s that was prominent in its support of Solidarity after the union's establishment.

The charges against them could bring the death penalty.

The authorities have often falsely charged the KOR with being "anti-socialist," because of its criticisms of bureaucratic rule and its support for workers' struggles.

In a September 6 radio broadcast, the government attempted to blame Kuron for the seizure of the Polish embassy in Bern, Switzerland, that same day by a previously unheard-of right-wing terrorist group called the Home Army-National Liberation Front. Solidarity representatives have condemned the embassy seizure. The group itself has denied any connection with Solidarity or the KOR.

The radio broadcast also accused Michnik and Litynski — as well as Karol Modzelewski, another detained Solidarity leader — of having "connections with Trotskyite terrorist groups in the West."

Anka Kowalska, a former KOR spokesperson, responded to such fabrications, stating, "We never planned or contemplated the use of force, violence, or terror. Peaceful methods formed the basis of KOR's ideology — and this was stated on numerous occasions. This was how we wanted to shape society's consciousness."

Last year, Anna Walentynowicz replied to similar charges that the KOR was an "antisocialist" group. "The KOR is in no way an antisocialist force!" she said in an interview in the March 19, 1981, issue of *Wiadomosci Krakowskie*, a Solidarity journal. "It's a real Committee for the Defense of the Workers. . . . It's not the KOR, but the government, that's antisocialist."

From Intercontinental Press

New York auto workers discuss socialist view on shutdowns

BY MARGARET JAYKO

NEW YORK — Friday, September 10, was the last day on the job for 2,000 auto workers on second shift at the General Motors plant in Tarrytown, New York. All 2,000 are now on indefinite layoff.

In April, Tarrytown workers approved the national concessions contract negotiated by the United Auto Workers leadership by an official count of 2,579 to 861.

Workers were told by the employers and the union officials that concessions would save jobs. Subsequent layoffs have made more workers see what a fraud that claim was.

During the last week before the layoffs, supporters of Diane Wang and Steven Wattenmaker, Socialist Workers candidates for governor and U.S. Senate in this state, distributed 500 statements condemning the layoffs and putting forward some ideas on how to fight back.

Campaigners credited the enthusiastic response they received to the fact that Tarrytown workers are hungry for some serious analysis.

The socialist statement asserts that there are "simple and practical" ways to defend workers against these kinds of blows. Among the demands raised are:

- "Launch a massive public works program to build schools, mass transit, housing, hospitals, and other vitally needed facilities.
- "Extend unemployment benefits to everyone out of work, at a union-scale wage.
- "End forced overtime and shorten the workweek with no cut in pay."

The socialists point out that money to carry out these moves is being squandered on the gigantic U.S. war budget.

The statement explains that conces-

sions won't save any jobs. The root of the problem is "capitalist production," which is "production for profit. And when profits and human needs come into conflict, human needs lose."

The statement gives an example: "That's why GM has built plants in places like Mexico — where workers can be forced to work for far below our minimum wage — while closing plants here. And that's why workers at Tarrytown worked long hours of forced overtime while tens of thousands were idle."

The statement calls for nationalizing all companies that close their doors on workers. It points to the need for a workers and farmers government to replace the current government which "is run by and for the corporate rich through the bosses' two-party system." And it points to the necessary first step — a labor party launched by the unions.

Ellen Kratka, a second-shift worker, said she was "mobbed" when she distributed the statements outside the plant to first-shift workers. She gave out 300 copies in 10 minutes.

Kratka told the *Militant* that a lot of older workers were interested in what the socialists had to say. A few workers had a different reaction: they urged people not to take the leaflet at all.

One co-worker of Kratka's came by her work station, read the entire statement, and then got other people to read it. He said "That's it. That's the answer. That's what we've got to do."

Wells Todd, who also works on second shift, said that everyone he talked to who read the statement agreed with it.

One young worker, who doesn't usually agree with Todd's ideas, first read the leaflet and thought it was "so, so." But a little later he went over to Todd and admitted there was nothing in it he could disagree with, everything in it was true.

Fidel Castro Speeches

Cuba's Internationalist Foreign Policy 1975-80

Since 1975, Cuba's foreign policy has deeply affected the course of world politics. Few of Castro's speeches are readily accessible in English. What does exist in print generally dates back to the 1960s or even earlier. This book represents a step toward filling that gap.

"Cuba in Angola" by Gabriel Garcia Marquez, a noted Latin American author, is included as an appendix. It is the most complete account yet written of the Cuban role in Angola.

391 pp., \$7.95. Order from Pathfinder Press, 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014. Include \$.75 for postage.

Like stripeless zebras — "I must confess that once upon a time his family and my family were oligarchs. But we are re-



Harry Ring

formed oligarchs." — Imelda Marcos, spouse of the Philippine dictator.

Short-sighted — The Okla-

homa Conservative Convention opposed abortion rights and the insanity defense. It favored the death penalty and a stepped-up nuclear program. "I'm not a warmonger," one asserted, "but if it comes to this, I want to be able to push the button first." They should rethink the insanity defense. Some day it may be their only out.

A friend in need . . . — Former Secretary of State Haig received a reported \$25,000 for a 45-minute gig at a fund-raiser for Israel. He said he liked what Begin did in Beirut and Reagan

should bug off.

Things are tough all over — Henry Ford II is seeking a rezoning so he can tear down his Grosse Pointe mansion and put up some condos. As a result of two reportedly costly divorces he's now down to his last \$100 million.

Try the lite scotch — What with budget cutbacks, for the past five months the New York State Liquor Authority has been unable to test bottles of whiskey thought to be watered down.

Getting cynical? — A Philadelphia-area home developer now facing personal bankruptcy decided not to brood. Instead he threw a "bankruptcy" bash for similarly afflicted business friends, plus laid-off execs. Reportedly, they dined out of dog food cans and toasted the free enterprise system.

Just work and be quiet — The "Moral Majority," and some cothinkers, held a forum on the family. The convener outlined her understanding of the "new traditional woman." She said the wife could be the chief wage-

earner in a family and the husband could cook a meal now and then so long as the wife still accepted his authority.

Thought for the week — SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 12 (UPI) — Reading about crime in newspapers frightens people, particularly well-educated whites, as much as being exposed to crime, a recent study concludes. . . . However, a lack of confidence in the police by members of minorities and those less well-educated outweighed their fear of "crime waves," researchers concluded.

—CALENDAR—

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

March Against the False Amnesty and the Simpson-Mazzoli Bill. Sat., Sept. 25, 11 a.m. Meet at Olympic and Broadway; 1 p.m. rally at City Hall, 1st and Spring St. Ausp: Council for Visas and Rights of the Undocumented. For more information call (213) 266-2690 or 768-1171.

Picket Line and Candlelight Vigil to Defend David Wayne — No U.S. Intervention in Central America! Speakers: David Wayne, others. Mon. Oct. 11, 7-9 p.m. Federal Court House on Spring St. Ausp: L.A. Draft Resisters Support Committee.

Oakland

Why Working People Should Oppose Simpson-Mazzoli Immigration Bill. Sat., Sept. 25, 7:30 p.m. 2864 Telegraph Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Mel Mason Campaign Forum. For more information call (415) 763-3792.

The Nicaraguan Revolution: Why Reagan Wants to Turn It Back. Sat., Oct. 2, 7:30 p.m. 2864 Telegraph Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Mel Mason for Campaign Forum. For more information call (415) 763-3792.

FLORIDA

Miami

African Freedom Struggle Today. Speaker: Jerry Hunnicut, Socialist Workers Party; others. Fri., Sept. 24, 8 p.m. 1237 NW 119th St., N. Miami. Donation: \$1.50. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (305) 769-3478.

ILLINOIS

Chicago

Grand Opening of Socialist Workers Party Campaign Headquarters. Speakers: Ed Warren, candidate for mayor; Marie Cobbs, candidate for governor; Rick Young, candidate for lieutenant governor. Sat., Sept.

25, 6:30 p.m. 555 W. Adams St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Socialist Workers Campaign. For more information call (312) 559-9047.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

Detroit Teachers on Strike. Speakers: Tim Craine, striking teacher, member of Detroit Federation of Teachers, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor; Mack Moldwin, student at Cass Tech High School, SWP candidate for school board, member Young Socialist Alliance; others to be announced. Sun., Sept. 19, 7 p.m. 6404 Woodward Ave. Donation: \$1. Ausp: Socialist Workers Campaign. For more information call (313) 875-5322.

MISSOURI

St. Louis

The Case of the Legless Veteran: James Kutcher. A film documentary of a man who fought and defeated the witchhunters during the Joseph McCarthy era. Sat., Sept. 18, Solidarity hour 6:30 p.m., program 7:30 p.m. First Unitarian Church, 5007 Waterman. Donation \$5. Ausp: Political Rights Defense Fund. For more information call (314) 725-1570.

NEW YORK

New York City

Protest the Visit of Philippine Dictator Marcos. Teach-in: Sat., Sept. 18, 6 p.m. Community Church of N.Y., 40 E. 35th St. Rallies: Mon., Sept. 20, 6 p.m. Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, Park Ave. and 49th St.; Wed., Sept. 22, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. United Nations, 1st Ave. and 43rd St. Ausp: National Committee to Oppose the Marcos State Visit.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

Eyewitness Report on the Nicaraguan Revolution: Reagan's Secret War. Slideshow and discussion. Speaker: Ellen

Berman, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., Sept. 19, 7:30 p.m. 510 Commonwealth Ave., Kenmore Square. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (617) 262-4621.

NEW MEXICO

Albuquerque

In Pursuit of Refuge. Slide and Tape Show on Peoples Forced to Flee Guatemala and El Salvador, Produced by Resource Center (formerly New Mexico People and Energy). Fri., Sept. 24, 8 p.m. 1417 Central NE. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (505) 842-0954.

NORTH CAROLINA

Winston-Salem

Reagan's Mideast Peace Plan: A Prescription for New Wars. Speakers: Basil Abu-Lieth, Palestinian recently returned from West Bank; Kate Daher, Young Socialist Alliance; others. Sat., Sept. 25, 7 p.m. 216 E 6th St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (919) 723-3419.

OHIO

Cincinnati

Grand Opening of Militant Labor Bookstore. Speakers: Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth; Victor Rubio, Revolutionary Democratic Front of El Salvador; Rachel Knapik, Socialist Workers Party candidate for lieutenant governor; Essie Hughes, chairwoman, Cincinnati National Black Independent Political Party. Sun., Sept. 19, 4 p.m. open house, 5:30 p.m. reception and program. 4945 Paddock Rd. Donation: \$2.50 (reception and program). Ausp: Militant Labor Bookstore. For more information call (513) 242-7161.

No More Vietnams: The Fight Against the Draft and Washington's Wars. Speakers: Rev. Dan Buford, author, *Feet of Clay in the Black Community*; Kathleen Denny, Young Socialist Alliance; Suzanne Doerge, Central America Task Force. Sun., Sept. 26, 7:30 p.m. 4945 Paddock Rd. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (513) 242-7161.

OREGON

Portland

The American Economic Crisis: Reagan Makes Workers Pay the Price. Speaker: Jim Miller, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., Sept. 19, 7:30 p.m. 711 NW Everett. Donation: \$1. Ausp: Militant Bookstore Forum. For more information call (503) 222-7225.

PENNSYLVANIA

Harrisburg

Israel's War Against the Palestinians. Speaker: Mark Zola, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of Pennsylvania. Fri., Sept. 17, 7 p.m. Harrisburg YWCA, 215 Market St. Donation: \$1.50. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (717) 234-5042.

Philadelphia

Jobs Not War, Stop the Draft Prosecutions. Speakers: Andrew Walden, 20-year-old draft resister, Young Socialist Alliance National Committee; Kathy Emminizer, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate. Sat., Sept. 18, 7:30 p.m. 5811 N Broad St., Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum and YSA. For more information call (215) 927-4747.

Pittsburgh

Socialist Workers Campaign Open House. William Kalman, Socialist Workers

Party candidate in the 14th Congressional District; other candidates. Sat., Sept. 25, 4 p.m. 141 S Highland Ave., 3rd floor. E Liberty Mall area. Ausp: Socialist Workers Campaign. For more information call (412) 488-7000.

TEXAS

Dallas

Protest U.S.-Israeli War on Palestinians. Speakers: Fred Stanton, Socialist Workers Party; representative, General Union of Palestinian Students. Sun., Sept. 19, 7 p.m. 2817 Live Oak. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (214) 826-4711.

San Antonio

No Place To Run. Video Tape on the Plight of Salvadoran Refugees. Fri., Sept. 24, 8 p.m. 337 West Josephine St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (512) 736-9218.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

Protest the Visit of Philippine Dictator Marcos. Rally: Sat., Sept. 18, 12 noon to 2 p.m. Federal Court House, 5th and Madison. March to picketline at Philippines Consulate, 3rd and Marion. Ausp: National Committee to Oppose the Marcos State Visit.

Stop racist attacks! Speakers: Omari Tahir, Community Exchange; others to be announced. Sun., Sept. 26, 7 p.m. 4868 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

Disarm the U.S. War Makers! Speaker: Christopher Remple, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate. Sun., Oct. 3, 7 p.m. 4868 Rainier Ave. S. Donation \$2 Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

WISCONSIN

Milwaukee

Central America: Revolution and U.S. Intervention: An Educational Conference on Strategies for the Midwest Antiwar Movement. Speaker: Keynote address by Father Edgard Parrales, Nicaraguan Ambassador to the Organization of American States. Fri., Oct. 1, 8 p.m. Brooks Memorial Union Ballroom, Marquette Univ. Workshops Oct. 2 and 3 from 9 a.m. at Univ. of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Donation: \$8 for entire conference, \$4 students and unemployed. Ausp: Central America Solidarity Coalition. For more information call (414) 224-9352.

Further reading on the Nicaraguan revolution

Sandinistas Speak by Tomás Borge, Carlos Fonseca, Daniel Ortega, Humberto Ortega, and Jaime Wheelock. 160 pp. \$4.95

Nicaragua: An Introduction to the Sandinista Revolution by Arnold Weissberg. 48 pp. \$.95

The Nicaraguan Revolution edited by Pedro Camejo and Fred Murphy. 80 pp. \$2.25

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Twin Cities conference to discuss 'Imperialism: the roots of war'

BY JAY RESSLER

MINNEAPOLIS—To deepen their understanding of what the imperialist system is and how it functions, socialist workers, antiwar activists, and others will be participating in an Upper Midwest Educational Conference at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis October 1-3.

The theme of the conference is "Imperialism: The Roots of War — The Marxist Approach." It is sponsored by the Young Socialist Alliance and the Twin Cities Militant Bookstore.

The main talk at the conference will be given by Mary-Alice Waters, national cochairperson of the Socialist Workers Party. Drawing on her recent visit to Havana where she observed the Ministerial meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Movement of Non-aligned Countries, Waters will speak on "How Cuba Is Leading the Fight Against Imperialist War."

SWP National Committee members Richard Stuart and Brian Elam are slated to make presentations on "What Is Imperialism?: Lenin's View" and "Lenin's Antiwar Strategy."

A special feature of the conference is a

panel discussion on the theft of land from the Indian peoples and its role in the development of the United States as the mightiest imperialist power. The discussion will include a dialogue on the solution to the land question. Panelists include Vernon Bellecourt, a leader of the American Indian Movement and the International Indian Treaty Council; and John Gaige, a National Committee member of the SWP.

Winding up the conference will be four workshops: "How Imperialism Underdeveloped Africa, Asia, and Latin America"; "The Role of the Movement of Non-Aligned Nations"; "Do Working People in North America Benefit From Imperialism?" and "The Ultimate Imperialist Weapon: Food."

A Socialist Workers campaign rally will also be part of the weekend's activities. Among the speakers will be Joe Swanson, SWP candidate for governor of Nebraska. He will discuss the strike of workers at Iowa Beef Processors in Dakota City, Nebraska.

For more information on the conference write: Young Socialist Alliance, 508 North Snelling, St. Paul, Minn. 55104; or call (612) 644-6325.

AFL-CIO backs bosses' anti-immigrant bill



Albert Shanker: point man for AFL-CIO's racist, antilabor immigration stand.

BY NELSON GONZÁLEZ

According to the *AFL-CIO News*, the Simpson-Mazzoli immigration bill now in Congress "combines compassion for immigrants with safeguards for the jobs and labor standards of American workers."

This is what the employers would like U.S. workers to believe. And the AFL-CIO bureaucracy is going out of its way to help the bosses spread their lie.

The Simpson-Mazzoli bill is the most serious attack on immigrant workers' rights in several decades. As such, it is a deadly threat to the entire labor movement.

Already passed by the Senate, the bill would beef up the racist border patrols and increase deportations, including the victims of political repression such as Salvadoran refugees. The bill would make it more difficult for these refugees to obtain asylum in this country, forcing many back into the arms of the murderous junta the U.S. government backs in El Salvador.

Some "compassion."

The bill would force all workers to carry an identification card, which could be used against union militants of all

nationalities and citizenship status.

And it would penalize unions that help immigrant workers get jobs.

In an attempt to rally support for this reactionary piece of legislation, American Federation of Teachers President Albert Shanker wrote a column about it in the August 15 *New York Times*.

The heart of Shanker's argument is that immigrant workers are the cause of unemployment, low wages, and poor working conditions. "Not only do illegals displace American workers, but where Americans have such jobs, the presence or threat of illegals tends to keep wages and conditions down," he writes.

"In a healthy economy where there are plenty of jobs, this might not result in too much displacement of American workers, although studies have indicated that illegal aliens are nearly always in competition for unskilled or low-skilled jobs with young American black and Hispanic workers."

It's touching to hear Shanker's concern for Black and Latino workers, since he has probably been the most outspoken opponent of affirmative action for Blacks and Latinos in the entire AFL-CIO, and especially in his own union.

His racist record on this score fits perfectly with his attitude toward immigrant workers, who he calls "these hordes of people" at the same time that he claims to deplore the abuse these workers suffer.

Shanker's position is not just racist but antilabor. It's designed to take our eyes off the real enemy.

It's not immigrant workers who busted the air controllers' union or sent troops against the strikers in Dakota City, Nebraska. It's the Democratic and Republican parties.

It's not immigrant workers who are handing out the pink slips in auto and steel plants, it's the employers.

Nor is it immigrant workers who are to blame for falling wages and worsening job conditions. It's true that working conditions in industries with large immigrant populations are the worst. But the finger of blame for that must be pointed straight at the AFL-CIO bureaucracy, which has consistently refused to organize most of these shops and fight for the rights of these workers.

The AFL-CIO default on this question has emboldened the employers to impose low wages and inferior working conditions on ever-widening sections of the working class.

The real problem is not the undocumented worker but the capitalist system of profit, which Shanker supports.

That system thrives on keeping the working class in this country divided and on sowing prejudice among workers here against our sisters and brothers abroad, especially in the colonial world.

Because U.S. imperialism exploits and dominates the countries of Latin America, Asia, and Africa, millions of refugees from those countries come here in the hope of escaping poverty and repression.

Instead of supporting the imperialists' foreign policy and accepting their domestic divide-and-rule strategy, U.S. workers need a perspective of uniting all workers, irrespective of nationality, against capitalism's wars at home and abroad.

Shanker winds up his column by quoting Jacob Sheinkman, secretary-treasurer of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union. Sheinkman says increased immigration will generate "even greater domestic problems."

It *will* generate problems for the employers, because immigrant workers are and will continue to be among the most combative layers of the working class. It *will* create problems for the U.S. government, because the many Latino immigrants in particular will be in the forefront of fighting to block Washington's war of aggression in Central America and the Caribbean.

This is what the bosses and union misleaders really fear about undocumented workers. And it's why they fear solidarity between U.S.-born and immigrant workers. Because once this solidarity catches on, the Shankers of this country will be out of a job.

El Salvador: gov't terrorism on rise

BY JOSÉ G. PÉREZ

There has been a dramatic increase in the murder of civilians by the Salvadoran government since the Reagan administration's human rights certification of the regime at the end of July.

On September 7, the Catholic church's legal aid office reported that there had been 356 political assassinations in August, almost double the 198 figure for July.

This brought the total for the five months following the March 28 elections to 2,084, according to a church bulletin.

In addition, the Salvadoran Human Rights Commission — not affiliated with the church — had reported the day before that the big majority of the 300 persons who had been killed during a government search-and-destroy operation in San Vicente Province were civilians.

Three peasant women and four children who survived the massacre told a September 6 news conference in San Salvador that the towns of Amatitan Arriba and Amatitan Abajo had been indiscriminately strafed and fire-bombed by government planes for a week.

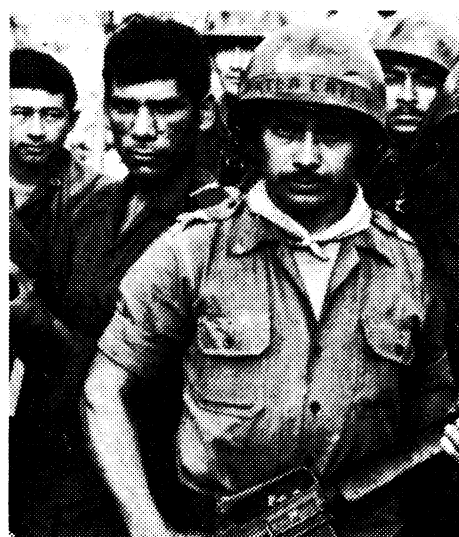
A spokesperson for the Ministry of Defense denied the charges, claiming that what "really happened" is that "250 terrorists died in that operation." Nevertheless, the government refused to present to reporters captured weapons or other evidence to substantiate its account.

Radio Venceremos, official voice of the insurgent Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front, confirmed the account of wholesale slaughter of civilians in a September 10 broadcast. The radio station gave a partial list of 134 of the government's victims, including 77 children, 7 of them infants less than one year old.

The pace of political assassinations seems to have increased further in Sep-

tember. On September 5, Arturo Rivera y Damas, archbishop of El Salvador, reported during his Sunday sermon that "This week there have been 211 dead, victims of violence." On September 12, Rivera y Damas reported a toll of 107 for that week.

Meanwhile, the U.S. embassy in El Salvador was preparing a new human rights certification of El Salvador's government in mid-September. It is reported to affirm that the August statistics "do not reflect an increase in civil violence," although by the embassy's count 444 persons died in the last two weeks of August alone. Some 352 of those were classified by the embassy as rebels, in line with the government's practice of considering even babies in rural areas as "terrorists."



U.S.-trained Salvadoran troops

Salvadorans denied U.S. asylum

BY NELSON GONZÁLEZ

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) has struck yet another blow against the rights of all immigrant workers in this country.

On September 9 in an important test case, Immigration Judge Brian Simpson ordered two Salvadoran refugees to return to El Salvador within 30 days or face deportation. Attorneys for Luis Escobar and Luis Sánchez are planning to immediately appeal the ruling to the Board of Immigration Appeals in Washington.

Both Escobar and Sánchez filed for political asylum in the United States on the grounds that in El Salvador they face surveillance, interrogation, or death at the hands of the U.S.-backed Salvadoran junta.

A team of two attorneys from the National Lawyers Guild represented the refugees. They based their case on immigration legislation that grants political asylum to people who established "a well founded fear of persecution" based

on their membership in a particular religious, political, racial or social group. The lawyers contended that young urban males in El Salvador are being systematically killed by right-wing death squads and that this constitutes such a persecuted group.

However, Judge Simpson denied the asylum appeal, despite the testimony of a dozen witnesses who recounted numerous instances of the indiscriminate torture and murder of civilians committed by the Salvadoran security forces. He ruled in favor of the INS, which contended that Escobar and Sánchez had come to the United States to "better their economic conditions," not to avoid death.

This flatly contradicts even the statements of some government officials on what happens to deported Salvadorans.

Millard Arnold, former deputy assistant secretary of state, has admitted that when Salvadorans are sent back, "It just stands to reason, some of them are going to get killed."

Blase Bonpane, a professor at California State University and a specialist in Latin American affairs, said in a March 1981 *New York Times* interview, "There is no doubt in my mind that somewhere between 5 and 10 percent of those who returned are executed, because the government had something on them, a member of a union or something."

It is clear that the consequences of the current ruling, if upheld, will result in the deaths of many more innocent victims. It is estimated that Judge Simpson's decision may affect the cases of approximately 12,000 current asylum applications by Salvadorans.

San Antonio rally hits deportations

SAN ANTONIO — A protest against deportations of immigrant workers took place here September 4. Some 50 people joined the rally, which was sponsored by *El Pueblo* newspaper and backed by several union and community leaders.

The action had been called in response to the stepped-up immigration raids in Texas and Senate passage of the Simpson-Mazzoli bill, which would sharply increase government attacks on undocumented workers.

Among the supporters of the rally was Antonio Cabral, vice-president of Local 3320 of the American Federation of Government Employees. Cabral blasted the Simpson-Mazzoli bill and its requirement that all workers carry an ID card. He charged that all Latinos will be subjected to stepped-up harassment by cops and federal agents if the bill passes.

Cabral also criticized those unions that are backing the reactionary legislation.

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Behind drive to restore school prayer

"The idea of religion and politics don't mix was invented by the Devil to keep Christians from running their own country." — Rev. Jerry Falwell of the "Moral Majority."

In a September 9 speech in Manhattan, Kansas, President Reagan renewed his call for a constitutional amendment permitting "voluntary" prayers in the public schools.

"No one will ever convince me that a moment of voluntary prayer can harm a child or threaten a school or state," Reagan piously asserted.

Such a constitutional amendment would require a two-thirds vote in Congress plus ratification by three-quarters of the states. It would scrap the First Amendment mandate for separation of church and state and would reverse Supreme Court rulings of two decades ago specifically barring school prayers, "voluntary" or otherwise.

Meanwhile, in Congress, Sen. Jesse Helms, the North Carolina racist, is sponsoring a bill to bar the courts from interfering with public school prayer.

The Helms bill is part of a three-point legislative agenda. The other two points oppose busing and abortion.

The package underlines that the prayer issue has nothing to do with piety. It's a weapon against Blacks, women, and all working people.

The talk about "voluntary" prayer is, of course, as crooked as its sponsors.

Six-year-olds are not generally in a position to decide if they want to participate in praying. And parents considering the matter would have to weigh if they wanted their children tabbed as "different."

School prayers of any kind are patently discriminatory since there is no prayer acceptable to all religions.

Testifying before the Senate Judiciary Committee against the Reagan amendment, Rev. Dean Kelley of the National Council of Churches warned it would "make the rights of members of religious minorities dependent on the self-restraint of religious majorities."

That obviously goes double for atheists.

The relevance of Rev. Kelley's point was underscored by the testimony of Robert Dugan of the National Association of Evangelicals.

Dugan demanded that the prayer amendment be expanded to include bible reading, religious instruction, and religious clubs in the public schools.

The inherent danger of state-sponsored religious activity has been traditionally recognized by believers and nonbelievers alike. This is one reason the Reagan amendment is opposed by major Jewish groups, the Lutheran Council, the Southern Baptist Convention, and others.

But there is more to the present school prayer drive than trying to impose a particular religion.

The prayer proponents see it as a way to help foster a general climate of ignorance, bigotry, and prejudice.

It's part of the same package as trying to prevent the teaching of the scientific theory of evolution. Counterposed to the evolutionary reality — confirmed by a wealth of scientific evidence — is the quack "creationist" assertion that human beings and other animals were created in their present state 10,000 years ago. This "theory" has as much scientific merit as the beliefs of the Flat Earth Society.

Nor is the drive to alienate the mass of the people from scientific reality simply a right-wing religious aberration.

It coincides with the needs of the capitalist rulers of this country to muddy up popular thinking on a range of increasingly acute social issues — issues that cry out for rational answers.

Who is pushing the school prayer issue? The same people who fight school busing in order to prevent desegregation. The same people who call abortion "murder," while howling for the death penalty and whooping it up for murderous wars.

The counterposing of school prayer to learning is evidenced in the fact that the bible-thumpers are also the ones trying to purge school libraries and classrooms of any book that looks like it might teach something.

The principal targets are invariably works by Black authors or others who challenge the capitalist status quo.

And, needless to say, the book burners are particularly fond of counterposing religion to "godless communism."

This is not intended simply to discredit advocates of a new, rational communist society. It is also a red-baiting device aimed at all working people who resist the price they are paying for the deepening crisis of capitalism. As growing numbers of working people demand action on jobs, insist on an end to U.S. intervention abroad, and the scrapping of nuclear stockpiles — all these things will increasingly be branded as "atheistic communism."

Does imperialist investment aid semicolonial world?

The virtual bankruptcy of Mexico in recent weeks focused attention on the plight of semicolonial countries in the current world economic crisis. The question is raised: what are the underlying causes of the increasing impoverishment of large parts of the world?

The imperialist powers, and the corporations they represent, claim that their economic investments aid poor countries. Below are excerpts from an article by Roberto Álvarez Quiñones published in the August 29 *Granma*. It takes up the myth that imperialist corporations — what Álvarez calls "transnational monsters" — benefit the semicolonial world.

* * *

In the last 40 years, apologists for the capitalist system have frequently claimed that transnationals further the progress of humanity by bringing technology to the so-called Third World. When underdeveloped countries demand neocolonial exploitation at international conferences and demand a New International Economic Order, there are always a few representatives of the capitalist powers who get indignant and say that far from making protests, poor

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

countries ought to be thankful for the technology and know-how they receive from the industrialized West.

To suggest that underdeveloped nations should thank imperialism for letting loose transnational monsters on their territories is like saying that a worker should thank the capitalist for employing him in his factory. As we all know, it is the people and the workers of underdeveloped countries who enrich the transnationals and the capitalists, not the other way around. Far from bringing in capital, the neocolonial exploitation of the transnationals only aggravates a major problem suffered by backward economies, that of the draining of capital.

It is an established fact that transnational profits made from Third World operations infinitely exceed capital investment. Indeed, since the 1950s, transnationals have generally used local capital from underdeveloped countries to finance much or almost all of their activities and investments. This means that, instead of aiding local economies, they end up taking even more capital out of underdeveloped countries.

To talk of "contributions" is to hide at least two unsavory facts. First, capitalist countries actually sell their technology and at exorbitant prices. Second, the technology sold is frequently obsolete and never as sophisticated as that which the capitalist powers keep for themselves.

It has always been the practice of monopolies from colonialist and neocolonialist countries to transfer to underdeveloped countries only a part of their productive processes, and never the most technologically advanced part.

This means that they transfer outdated technology and productive processes which would never be capable of generating new or other means of production, industries which need a great deal of space or abundant cheap labor, or those which seriously pollute the environment.

In the case of industries such as atomic energy or electronics, the productive processes are broken up in such a way that underdeveloped countries end up producing little more than a few components.

Furthermore, the Western powers invest their private capital in those endeavors that yield the greatest profit in the shortest time to their transnational companies but that make no significant contribution to the economies of the host nations. Above all, these investments are to a large extent meant to boost production for foreign markets, not for the domestic one. And, of course, the earnings from these exports remain in the transnationals' hands, even though they throw a few crumbs to the countries where they are operating.

It is also well known that the transnationals take unprocessed or semiprocessed basic commodities and raw materials out of the underdeveloped countries. By so doing, they choke or stop dead any national attempt to build local industries based on these primary products.

On top of this exploitation and economic damage must be added the payment of thousands of millions of dollars from the underdeveloped world to the Western industrialized countries for the supposed transfer of technology and know-how, all at astronomic prices and under utterly humiliating terms of trade.

It is estimated that in 1981 the underdeveloped countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America paid the capitalist powers about 30,000 million dollars for the "acquisition" of technology.

Philippine-U.S. Extradition Treaty

Rallies, teach-ins, and picket lines are being held this week in Washington and other cities to protest the warm welcome President Reagan is giving to Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Shortly before coming on his gala state visit to Washington, Marcos launched a fresh crackdown against the Philippine trade unions and other opponents of his 17-year rule. Dozens of labor leaders and political activists have been jailed, the army and reserve forces have been mobilized, and a special squad of 1,000 "secret marshals" have been deployed in Manila, the Philippine capital. These measures recall the period from 1972 to 1981 when all opposition to Marcos was suppressed through martial law.

With the full cooperation of the Reagan administration, Marcos is now moving to extend his repressive moves to the Filipino community in the United States. Growing numbers of Filipino-Americans oppose the dictatorship, and Marcos wants to put a stop to their activities and protests.

The dictator soon hopes to have at his disposal the new Philippine-U.S. Extradition Treaty, whose ratification is now pending before the U.S. Senate. It is designed to expedite the deportation to the Philippines of anti-Marcos exiles in this country.

The treaty, together with proposed amendments to U.S. extradition law that are also before Congress, would set a grave precedent and open the way for U.S.-backed dictators around the world to intimidate, threaten, and seek the deportation of their exiled opponents inside the United States. Likewise, it would give Washington a powerful weapon for attacking foreign-born opponents of its support to such regimes. Noncitizens could be arrested, jailed, and deported to their countries of origin for political activity that is perfectly legal under U.S. law.

Of course, such deportations in themselves are nothing new for the U.S. rulers. During the days of the shah's dictatorship, Iranian students were sent back to face the torturers in Tehran. Palestinian patriot Ziad Abu Ead was extradited to Israel last December, where he has been sentenced to life imprisonment. Irish freedom fighter Michael O'Rourke has

been held without bail by the Immigration and Naturalization Service for three years and faces extradition to Ireland. And thousands of Salvadorans and Haitians have been denied political asylum.

The Philippine-U.S. Extradition Treaty and its accompanying legislation would give the government a more effective legal cover for stepping up such attacks. The Marcos regime has already indicted 15 Filipino residents of the United States in order to ask for their extradition once the treaty is ratified.

Washington is also cooperating in other attacks against Filipino-Americans. Marcos has sent intelligence agents and provocateurs to this country to sow intimidation among his opponents. These agents are given a free hand by U.S. authorities.

In a September 14 column, syndicated writer Jack Anderson cited a secret U.S. intelligence report saying that "for the past decade the Filipino leader has sent 'action teams' to the United States for the purpose of infiltrating, monitoring and possibly counteracting the threat of anti-Marcos groups." The report warns of "the possibility of violence."

In an act now suspected to have been the work of Marcos agents, two young Filipino trade unionists in Seattle were murdered in June 1981. Gene Viernes and Silme Domingo had been instrumental in getting the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU) to send a delegation to investigate antilabor repression in the Philippines.

The threat to extradite Filipinos whose only "crime" has been to speak out against the Marcos regime is an attack on the democratic rights of all working people. As the National Committee to Oppose the Marcos State Visit has put it, "The curtailment of the rights of the Filipino minority opens the door to broader assaults on civil and political liberties. History has shown that restricting the rights of minorities is often a prelude to restricting the rights of all."

It is necessary to speak out against the attacks on Filipinos, publicize the truth about the extradition treaty and its implications, and oppose its ratification by the Senate.

Capitalism

Antonio C. Garza was born in Brackettville, Texas, 53 years ago. Ten years ago he and his wife Kay moved to Galena, Ohio, where his aerial mapping business did well until the depression wiped him out. He moved to San Antonio a month ago in the hopes of getting a job and rebuilding his life. But capitalism wouldn't let him.

On August 13, he sat in the front seat of his car with a rifle and fired two shots. One was for Kay and one was for himself. Both died instantly. On his body the cops found bankruptcy papers, an empty wallet, and this note:

"We came to San Antonio to work, not to die. But Reagan economics has nothing trickling down to us. I have gone as far as I can go with our lives. My wife Kay and I are hard-working

people that have been reduced to beggars almost."

Raúl Gonzalez
Brooklyn, New York

Insight

I would just like to mention that I am enjoying this alternative news press. It certainly helps me gain insight about U.S. diplomacy — or lack thereof. Many more issues to come — please.

Carla Pascolini
Buffalo, New York

Needs law books

We have recently established a legal law clinic in this maximum segregation unit here at Camp J of the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola, Louisiana.

We are finding it very difficult to obtain state law books from within the state. We are trying to establish a line of com-

munication by correspondence with various federal and state agencies and law libraries. We are also hoping to procure any recent legal literature that might be available to us.

If you have any law books or legal literature which you would care to donate, please contact my address listed below.

Also, we are finding it very difficult because our fund for

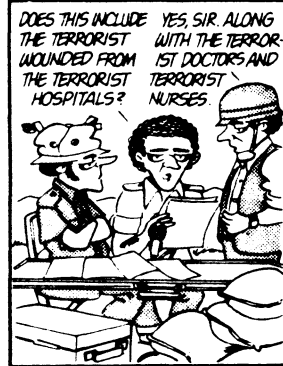
postage has run very low. Anyone that would care to make a donation or make a contribution toward our postage fund would be gratefully appreciated.

In anticipation of your kindness and support, I offer my sincere thanks of appreciation and gratitude.

John Charles Stein, Jr.
75242 Camp-J Shark-2-R
Angola, Louisiana 70712

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.

DOONESBURY



by Garry Trudeau



Court orders N.Y.C. to hire women firefighters

Fifty-one women recently passed a revised physical requirements test to become firefighters in New York City. If hired, they would be the first women firefighters in the department's 117-year history.

This victory for women's rights, like all other gains made by women and working people, had to be fought for.

In 1979, Brenda Berkman filed a court suit in Brooklyn charging that the physical test required to

also ruled that up to 45 women had to be appointed to the Fire Department and given \$40,000-\$45,000 in back pay and seniority rights dating from November 1, 1980. The judge said that the test did not ascertain the qualities needed to perform well as a firefighter.

The new test was administered in early September. The UFA sued in a last-minute attempt to prevent the new test from being given. They lost that round, but are appealing. In the meantime, the judge has granted them a hearing on their request to keep women out of the Fire Department training academy until the appeal is ruled on.

In addition, 17 men who also failed the physical exam in 1978 requested of the court that the new test not take place.

Instead, the judge agreed to hear a motion that these men also be allowed to take the revised test.

Right from the beginning of this fight, the UFA joined the Fire Department in fighting against the test changes necessary to allow women to work as firefighters. The argument of the union tops has been that revising the test would lower the standards for the job, thereby jeopardizing the lives of firefighters and the public.

UFA President Nicholas Mancuso even accused the Fire Department — the UFA's boss — of "caving in" to the city's efforts to meet the terms of the court order by holding the examination.

The argument that affirmative action measures to increase the numbers of women, Blacks, and Latinos in jobs previously closed to them "lowers the stan-

dards" is a common one used by foes of equality.

In this case, it's false on the face of it — the revised test was taken by 70 men who are *currently* firefighters. Some of them *failed* it.

The fact is that the union officials don't want to let women into the firehouses.

This is not only an obstacle to the fight for women's equality — a fight that all workers have a stake in supporting — but it also hurts the union.

Right now, for example, the UFA is in a fight with the city government, trying to get a contract with a decent pay raise and "hazardous duty" pay. But in opposing the right of women to work as firefighters, they ended up siding with the bosses — the city government — against other workers and potential UFA members.

This weakens the union and allows a big-business mouthpiece like the *New York Times* to self-righteously attack the UFA as sexist. The bosses come off looking like the defenders of the oppressed and the union like the enemy. This gives the entire labor movement a bad name among Blacks, Latinos, women, and other progressive-minded workers.

It cuts across the solidarity among working people that is so necessary to combat the current austerity drive by the employers and their government.

The UFA would do better setting an example for the entire labor movement by championing affirmative action for women and oppressed nationalities and welcoming these union sisters — and fighters — into its ranks.



WOMEN IN REVOLT

Margaret Jayko

become a firefighter discriminated against women. This was a class-action suit, representing 410 women who took the written part of the test in 1977 and 1978, but either failed the physical portion, or were discouraged from even attempting to take it by the Fire Department and the union, the Uniformed Firefighters Association (UFA).

1977 was the first time women were even allowed to take the test to become firefighters.

On March 5 of this year, Federal Judge Charles Sifton ruled that the test discriminated against women and that a new test must be developed. He

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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.

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VIRGINIA: Tidewater Area (Newport News): SWP, YSA, 5412 Jefferson Ave., Zip: 23605. Tel: (804) 380-0133.

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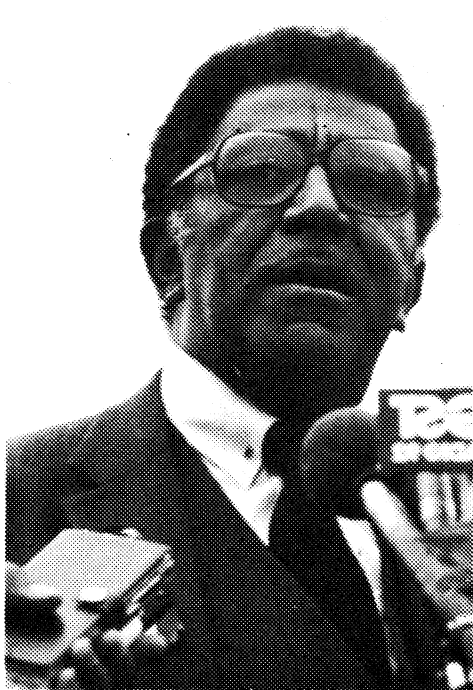
WISCONSIN: Milwaukee: SWP, YSA, 4707 W. Lisbon Ave. Zip: 53208. Tel: (414) 445-2076.

Louisville busing battle heats up

Civil rights protest rips city-sanctioned Klan rally



Militant/Nelson Blackstock



Militant/Osborne Hart

Civil rights leaders Anne Braden and Rev. Joseph Lowery spoke at anti-Klan rally. Lowery told audience that federal government "creates a climate in which the KKK can breed."

BY GALE SHANGOLD

LOUISVILLE — The battle over school desegregation and Black rights is deepening here in Louisville. On September 4 the city allowed the Ku Klux Klan to hold an antibusing rally at a local high school.

On the same day, 400 people held a counter-rally to defend civil rights and protest city officials' decision to let the Klan organize right on school property.

Despite widespread public opposition, the local Klan organization had rented Valley High School for their event, with the complicity of the Jefferson County Board of Education, the mayor, and the courts. Over 700 people gathered to hear Bill Wilkinson, imperial wizard of the Invisible Empire of the Ku Klux Klan.

Valley High School was desegregated by court order in 1975. Ever since then it has been the center of racist resistance to Black rights and desegregation.

Local Klan organizers had predicted a turnout of 3,000 to 5,000, which they

had gotten during the height of the antibusing movement here in the mid-1970s. At the same time, their rally was bigger than any they had held in recent years.

Wilkinson told the crowd that he was there primarily to speak out against busing for desegregation, which he called "the greatest tragedy forced on the American people in the last century."

'Reagan's our man'

He also said that "Reagan needs our help. He got 85 percent of the white vote. He's our man. He's against busing; he's against abortion; he's against affirmative action. But he's just one man and he needs our support."

The local media had portrayed the Klan in days preceding the rally as a group that is cleaning up its image. But there were chants of "Kill the nigger" and "Death to niggers" from the audience. Wilkinson referred to Black

athletes as "monkeys running back and forth."

The next day, September 5, 260 racists marched in Valley Station in a Klan-led antibusing march. The march and rally were held to protest the seventh anniversary of busing-for-desegregation of Jefferson County schools.

Majority oppose Klan

Majority sentiment here was against allowing the Klan to use public schools to promote racist violence and disruption of desegregation.

In contrast to elected officials, the people of Louisville showed their support for Black rights in many ways building up to the September 4 rallies.

- Over 5,000 people signed a petition which demanded that the school board deny the Klan permission to hold a rally at Valley High School.

- Close to 100 area ministers signed a statement addressed to the school board stating that they were concerned about the Klan rally and "especially concerned that the board of education has presented itself as passive, helpless, and unable to prevent this."

- On September 2 a local TV station asked Valley High School students, "Do you think the Ku Klux Klan should be able to hold their rally at your school?" All the Black students interviewed and all but one white student said, "no."

Despite this opposition, the courts ruled against a suit filed by civil rights and religious leaders along with Black parents and students, to stop the Klan rally.

Louisville Mayor Harvey Sloane did everything he could to stop the counter-mobilization against the Klan. He went so far as to ask civil rights leader Mattie Jones to cancel the civil rights rally because, he claimed, something ugly might happen in the city.

Civil rights rally

Under the pressure of these efforts by the government, the civil rights rally was an important first step in building a

movement to defend desegregation and Black rights.

It was a spirited audience that crowded into the sanctuary of Grace Hope Presbyterian Church the night of September 4.

The keynote speaker was Rev. Joseph Lowery, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

He pointed his finger at the government. "The KKK in sheets is not the only threat to the American dream. I'm also concerned about the Klan mentality and the economic and political sheets in our country. For example, that mentality which attacks affirmative action and the Klan mentality that exempts segregated schools from taxes, and that Klan mentality that creates a climate in which the KKK can breed."

"Demagogic leaders tell whites in the midst of the economic crisis that Black folks are the cause of their economic difficulties. If they say that in the Senate, no wonder they say it in the streets in sheets."

"If Black folks are getting preferential treatment, I don't know which Black folks they are."

"Black unemployment is 25 percent and among Black teenagers it is as high as 50 percent to 60 percent. We cannot be held responsible for the economic crisis. The trouble is that those few fat cats who are benefiting from economic exploitation and the division of working people are the only ones who are benefiting from the economic crisis and we have to wake up to this."

Same enemy

"The privileged few are pitting the poor — Black and white — against each other. We must say that the enemy of Black poor people is not white poor people and the enemy of white poor people is not Black poor people. The enemy is the system that keeps most of us poor, while a few make millions."

Rev. Ron Robinson from the Shawnee Presbyterian Church noted the hypocrisy involved when the U.S. government is so concerned about "terrorism" from

Continued on Page 8

Behind Exxon's cutbacks: profit is bottom line

BY BARBARA MUTNICK

LINDEN, N. J. — Exxon announced August 25 that it would close 850 service stations in the Northeast and Midwest and sharply reduce production at its major New Jersey refinery.

The company said it would stop selling gasoline, diesel fuel, and heating oil in Kentucky, Ohio, Vermont, upstate New York, and Berkshire County, Massachusetts.

"Lowered demand for petroleum products and continuing excess refining capacity" — that is, overproduction — prompted this decision, according to Jack McDonnell, an Exxon media relations representative.

An article in the June 7 *Business Week* reported some background on the August 25 announcement.

"Exxon's control over the vast oil resources that were the source of its wealth slipped steadily," *Business Week* reported. The world's largest industrial concern's output "has plummeted as producing countries have nationalized

their oil, and its own reserves are being played out. Now world markets for petroleum products have begun shrinking. And in the past few years, the strategies Exxon has been pursuing to try to find new sources of long-term earnings growth have soured one by one."

One of the most hated symbols of wealth in the world, Exxon is notorious for doctoring its earnings figures to mask the extent of its profits.

Exxon says its 1982 second quarter earnings were the lowest since the second quarter of 1979. The company reports it made "only" \$885 million, which it says is a net income drop of 51.5 percent.

At the same time the second quarter results were announced, C. C. Garvin, Exxon's chairman, said the company had begun an aggressive effort to find "operational efficiencies" and to "re-examine capital spending plans."

In May, Exxon announced it had withdrawn from work on the Colony Shale Oil project in Colorado, regarded as the nation's most ambitious attempt

to produce synthetic fuels. This and other "synfuels" efforts were "based on an assumption that oil prices would rise steadily," explained Richard González, a Houston oil consultant and former Exxon economist.

In 1979, Exxon spent \$1.24 billion to acquire Reliance Electric Co. This maker of electrical products has produced meager earnings for the oil giant.

Also, Exxon has spent more than \$1 billion to find and develop deposits of uranium, copper, and other metals and to fabricate nuclear fuel rods from uranium. Losses from these efforts have exceeded \$539 million. Last year the August 31 *Wall Street Journal* reported, "these activities lost almost twice as much as all of Exxon's U.S. oil and gas refining and marketing operations earned."

At the same time as announcing the marketing pullback, believed to be the first in Exxon's history, Exxon said it will cut back refining operations at its Bayway refinery in Linden, New Jersey.

The refinery has been operating at

about 62 percent capacity in this year's first six months, producing 165,000 barrels a day. It will be reduced to 100,000 barrels a day.

Exxon plans to dismantle several units that have been idle for some time. They say, if necessary, they will increase runs at Exxon's two huge Gulf Coast refineries in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and Baytown, Texas — which are nonunion.

Exxon says no layoffs among the 1,470 employees at Bayway are "anticipated at this time." However, 29 employees hired in March, who would have been through their six months probation on September 22, have already been laid off. And there is widespread speculation among Bayway workers that more layoffs are imminent.

The union at Bayway, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 877, has filed a grievance on behalf of the fired workers.

It is not yet known what effects Exxon's cutbacks will have on the national

Continued on Page 10