

Beirut: Palestinians rounded up as U.S. Marines back rightists



Marines arriving in Lebanon

BY HARRY RING

OCTOBER 6 — President Reagan is refusing to tell Congress — no less the American people — how long he intends to keep U.S. troops in Lebanon.

According to law, he must have congressional approval to keep troops in a "hostile" situation more than 90 days.

Reagan said September 29 that he didn't expect the troops to get involved in hostilities, so he didn't need any approval.

Five days later, Israeli planes bombed Syrian positions about 20 miles east of Beirut, where 1,200 U.S. Marines are stationed.

Meanwhile, Lebanese troops, aided by French "peacekeeping" forces, are conducting a massive roundup of Palestinians and Lebanese Muslims.

Israel unleashed its October 4 bombing raid a day after six of its soldiers were gunned down in an ambush. But no pretense was made that the air strike was in reprisal for the shootings.

The Begin cabinet reportedly decided

on the renewal of its air war to demonstrate that the world outcry against the Beirut massacre of Palestinian refugees would not deter it from further military action.

So far, the renewal of Israeli aggression has not even brought the customary "deploring" and tongue clucking in Washington. This underlines that it will do nothing to stay the hand of its Middle East junior partner.

And that is the real nature of the relationship. The Israeli economy could not survive without the heavy infusion of U.S. dollars. And its powerful military machine would be a 98-pound weakling without the U.S.-supplied bombers, transport planes, heavy tanks, and trucks.

If Washington really wanted peace in Lebanon, the Israeli war machine would grind to a halt — whether it liked it or not.

'Stability'

But that's not what Washington wants. Its goal is what it calls "stability" in Lebanon.

"Stability" means a Lebanon where the Palestinian liberation fighters have been driven out. A Lebanon where the majority Muslim poor are disarmed and unable to defend themselves. A Lebanon where the ultrareactionary Christian Phalange government of Amin Gemayel is firmly entrenched.

According to the White House, the U.S.-French-Italian "peacekeeping" force will leave when the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Syrian and Israeli troops are gone. This, they keep assuring, will be "soon."

But the Israelis are digging in for the winter.

Winter uniforms are being issued. Prefab houses are being shipped to the front lines. Mountain roads are being paved. Snow plows are being procured.

Equally ominous is the drive being conducted by the Phalange government

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Miners fight safety cuts, firings

BY JOHN STUDER

PHILIPPI, West Virginia — A victory has been won in an ongoing battle taking place here between Old Ben Coal, a subsidiary of Standard Oil of Ohio (SOHIO), and 600 members of United Mine Workers Local 2095 at Kitt mine #1.

This running battle came to a head on September 22 when Old Ben framed up and "suspended with intent to discharge" miner Bill Hovland.

Hovland has worked in the mine since January 1981. He is currently on the ballot as Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate in West Virginia.

As a number of miners put it, Hovland's suspension was "the straw that broke the camel's back."

On October 4 the miners in Local 2095 won Hovland's job back.

Over the last year, miners at Kitt #1 have been subjected to a deepening company campaign to worsen working conditions, slash safety in the mine, and to victimize union activists.

Kitt #1 has a reputation as one of the most dangerous mines in Mine Workers district 31, which covers northern West Virginia.

Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) inspectors report that Kitt has the highest lost-time accident rate in their district. For this reason a special MSHA investigative team has pored over the mine for the last two months.

MSHA classifies Kitt as the thirteenth gassiest mine in the entire country. As of today, four sections of the mine are down because of roof falls.

SOHIO takes over

Early this year, Kitt was purchased by SOHIO from Republic Steel corporation. At the same time, SOHIO took over management of three other Republic mines in neighboring southwestern Pennsylvania. SOHIO's Old Ben subsidiary is rapidly expanding its holdings in the coal fields.

To manage these Republic mines, Old Ben brought in Gene Shockey as Direc-

tor of Operations. Shockey previously worked for Consolidation Coal (Consol) — the largest coal employer in the district. It has a notorious reputation for antiunion activities and unsafe operations in order to boost productivity and profits.

Shockey is widely known in the coal fields as a real "Consol man" who Old Ben brought in to get a speedup drive going in their newest mine in Philippi.

In order to give extra incentive to the supervisory personnel to crack down on the work force, Old Ben announced they would wait for six months before making any management changes. Those who proved themselves most capable at boosting productivity and weakening the union would get to stay.

Nat'l drive against union

These moves by Old Ben come as part of a national drive by the mine operators to break the union. They have shifted production to Western nonunion mines. They have tried to force takeback contracts on the union in the last two negotiations — each time forcing lengthy and hard-fought strikes. They are taking advantage of the recession, layoffs, and the threat of further layoffs to enforce new work rules and gut safety protection.

Many miners at Kitt #1 have recently come from Moundsville, in northern West Virginia, and from eastern Ohio. They were forced to either move or to commute for hours to find work because of the layoffs.

Crackdown at Kitt

This national drive to reverse safety protection underground has been stepped up at Kitt. In April, under the cloud of the impending transfer of ownership, the company tried to force miners to work while there were unsafe emergency escape routes leading out of the mine. The union safety committee protested.

Federal MSHA enforcement represen-

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Miner Bill Hovland won job back

'Militant' sales drive hits 124%

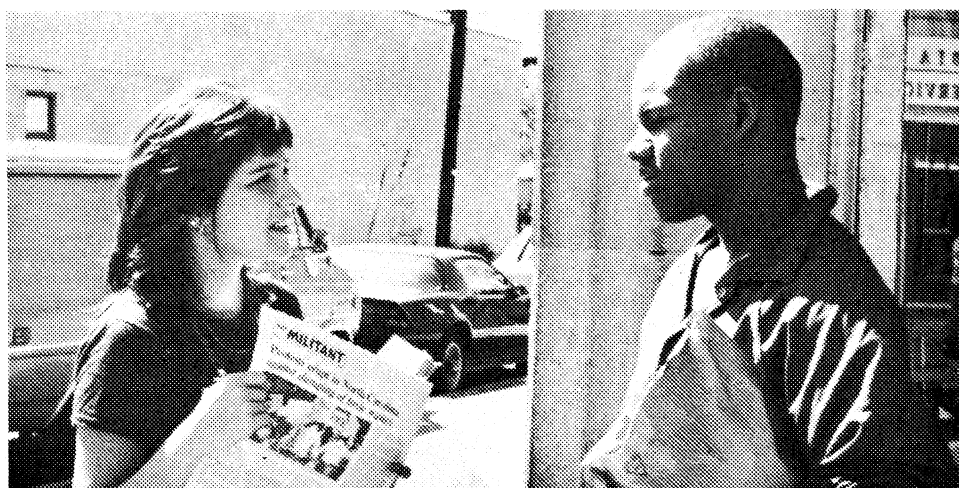
BY SANDI SHERMAN

The first week of the drive to introduce 45,000 new people to the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* met with tremendous success. Supporters of the *Militant* and *PM* sold 6,450 copies, topping the national weekly goal by 24 percent. Forty-five out of 49 areas made or surpassed their goal. The campaign

began on September 25 and continues for eight weeks.

Socialists in Baltimore, Milwaukee, and Philadelphia voted to raise their weekly goals for the second time since the drive began. In addition, Oakland, Washington, D.C., Winston-Salem, and Louisville socialists have increased

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Selling in Baltimore's Pimlico community

Militant/Steven Fuchs

Coal miners fight safety cuts, firings

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tatives were called in and certified the situation as highly dangerous. This case is still pending. Since then, MSHA has filed four more claims against unsafe operations in the Kitt mine.

Under the new management, supervisors spread rumors of a coming crackdown against the General Inside Laborers (GILs). These jobs are generally held by the miners with the least seniority.

GILs were branded as "lazy" and charged with being responsible for production "problems" in the mine.

Following the four roof falls, section foremen, who no longer had sections to supervise, were sent on spy missions. They roamed the mine with their cap lights turned off, looking for scapegoats to sacrifice to the speedup drive.

The two section foremen who spearheaded this drive were Ed LeMasters and Ken Currey.

Over the past month, these "search and fire" missions have spread through the mine. At the end of his shift, motorman John Perry was accused of stealing. He said he wasn't. Because the foreman had stopped Perry before he even had come above ground, there was no way the company could prove its charges. They fired him anyway.

The two roving company spies sent miners up to the office to be chewed out on the flimsiest pretext. One belt cleaner was sent up for "reading the newspaper." Another miner was sent to the office for having "bad work habits."

The supervisors threatened two masons, accusing them of "sitting around" while waiting for their next job. The supervisors tried to force them to dust a belt, a job outside their job classification.

Union activists have been special targets of the company's attempted victimizations. Frank Raddish, a union safety committeeman, was called by a miner to investigate a safety violation. His shift foreman refused to let him respond — a violation of past practice in the mine — and then suspended him with intent to discharge for refusing a direct order.

This firing couldn't stand. The company had to reinstate Raddish the next day after his third-step grievance hearing. Even though Old Ben had to drop its case, they denied Raddish his back pay for the day he missed.

Old Ben is also trying to break Local 2095's safety committee by removing

committeemen who effectively enforce mine safety.

Shortly after Raddish won his job back, Jim Davis, the head of the safety committee, shut down a section of track because it was under two feet of water. Old Ben invoked a clause in the 1981 contract under which the company can remove a committeeman who "in closing down an area of the mine acts arbitrarily or capriciously."

The arbitration hearing in this case lasted all day October 1 and was continued to the next week.

Assistant shift boss Jim Schwartz used the spreading unemployment in the coal fields to justify their attempt to remove Davis. "There aren't a lot of jobs out there and people need to work; and they're just not going to be so picky about safety," he told a section crew.

One miner summed up life in the mine since Old Ben took over as a "reign of terror."

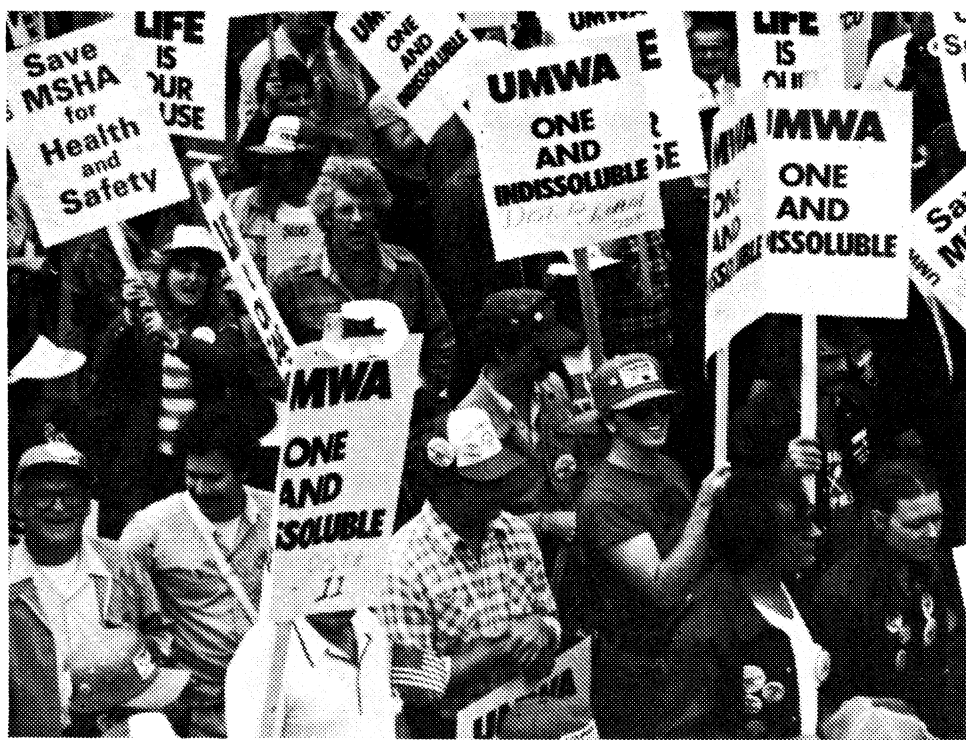
On September 21, Old Ben fired Tom Jones, the foreman on the midnight shift. They promoted their roving spy, LeMaster, to temporary shift foreman. His sidekick Currey was acting as temporary assistant shift foreman. These two didn't waste any time bringing their "terror" down on their new domain.

LeMaster had been telling miners he had harbored a grudge against Hovland because of a run-in they had earlier. The night of September 22 when Hovland came to work, he was assigned to watch and clean around a belt head in an isolated area of the mine.

Toward the end of the shift, at 6:45 a.m., Currey sneaked into the area, hoping to find an excuse to fire Hovland. As Hovland recounted the work he had been doing, Currey became irate. When it became clear Currey couldn't find an excuse to send Hovland up, he did the next best thing — he invented a frame-up. He took Hovland out of the mine and suspended him for "insubordination." It was his word against Hovland's.

The accusations of one boss, with no witnesses, has never been enough to fire a miner. Miners have always known that such a precedent would be a deadly threat to the union. Lying foremen would strip the mines of union activists.

The company's attempt to violate this principle — on top of their months-long antiunion campaign — was the last straw. After midnight, September 23,



Militant/Osborne Hart

Mine workers at Solidarity Day, 1981. Like the Philippi miners, miners around the nation are fighting against the bosses' attempt to smash mine safety and the union.

the mine was shut down. The members of Local 2095 had had enough.

The walk-out lasted 24 hours. Such strikes are considered illegal by the operators and the courts.

In addition, in 1977 the Arbitration Review Board issued ruling 108 which states that "the passing out of information relating to a dispute . . . cannot realistically be viewed as the exercise of constitutionally protected freedom of speech and must be viewed instead as a contractually improper act of work stoppage inducement." In short, this notorious antiunion ruling is used to fire any miner who advocates or supports striking to enforce the contract.

Local 2095 went back confident that they had made their point and that Hovland would get his job back at his grievance hearing.

The hearing took place September 27. Frank Burlingham had come down from Old Ben headquarters in Meadowlands, Pennsylvania, to oversee the hearing. It lasted over three hours. At the end, Burlingham announced the company was pushing the case to arbitration to determine who was telling the truth. Then he played his ace-in-the-hole.

"Mr. Currey," he asked piously, "are you a Christian gentleman?"

"Yes sir," Currey answered.

"And you, Mr. Hovland?" Burlingham asked.

Hovland replied, "I'm not religious."

Burlingham closed the hearing.

That night the miners closed Kitt #1 again.

The mine was closed down for two days. In an attempt to intimidate the strikers, supervisors and management personnel tried to mine coal. They weren't able to keep the equipment running.

The miners used the time to gather together the full picture of company harassment. Each story of spying and victimization fueled their desire to stop the union-busting drive. The evidence presented of LeMaster's plot to "get" Hovland made them determined to win back his job.

The miners knew they were in a real battle, and they became convinced their experiences had better prepared the union to fight than it had been before. At midnight on September 29 they went back to work again.

Their adversary met them with a show of force — six cop cars patrolled the mine entrance. Supervisors tried to spy on miners' conversations in the bathhouse, looking to victimize anyone discussing strike action. No miners were provoked.

Company backs off

The next day, Shockey, Frank Burlingham, and other company officials agreed to meet with the miners. District Director Carroll Rogers, Local 2095 President Jim Powell, and members of both the local's mine and safety committees presented the case against Old Ben's harassment campaign.

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Why U.S. fears Iran's victories over Iraq

BY FRED MURPHY

Iranian forces have scored fresh victories in that country's efforts to end the two-year-old counterrevolutionary war launched by the Saddam Hussein dictatorship in neighboring Iraq.

In the heaviest fighting since July, Iranian troops and volunteers routed Iraqi units from about 90 square miles of Iranian territory in an area along the border between the two countries, 100 miles northeast of the Iraqi capital, Baghdad.

The Iranian offensive on the war's central front exposed the falsehood of earlier claims by the Iraqi regime to have withdrawn from all the Iranian territory seized in the early weeks of the war.

Saddam Hussein's aim when he sent his troops and armor into Iran in September 1980 had been to topple the regime of Ayatollah Khomeini and weaken the Iranian revolution. Hussein feared the impact that the massive upsurge of the Iranian toilers was having on Iraqi working people. This fear was shared by Washington and other imperialist powers, who welcomed the Iraqi invasion.

But the Iranian people rallied to defend their country and revolution. By June of this year, the Iraqi occupiers had been driven out of all but a few pockets of Iranian territory.

Victories alarm Washington

When Iranian troops entered Iraq in July to seal Saddam Hussein's defeat and put a stop to continued shelling of Iranian cities from across the border, the Reagan administration grew more alarmed. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger warned July 28 that Iran's victories posed "a serious threat to all countries of the Middle East, including Israel."

The Iranian regime has called for active solidarity with the Palestinian people, and has sent troops to Lebanon. Iranian leaders urged all Muslims to unite against the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and denounced the failure of the Arab regimes to take action.

The imperialists and their allies wasted no time in responding to the latest Iranian advances against Iraq. On October 1 a powerful bomb ripped through a crowded square near the central bazaar in Tehran, the Iranian capital, killing 60 or more persons and injuring at least 700.

The attack came hours after tens of thousands had marched in Tehran to hail the war victories. Many of the victims were no doubt demonstrators returning to their homes in the poor and working-class districts of south Tehran, near the site of the bombing.

No group has taken credit for the attack. It is known, however, that some of the late shah's top military officers have close ties to the Iraqi regime. According

to revelations published in the *New York Times* last March 7, the CIA has provided these monarchist groups with arms and millions of dollars worth of aid.

Another group that has often taken credit for terrorist attacks in Iran is the People's Mujahedeen Organization. It tried to blame the latest bombing on the Iranian government.

Arab rulers back Hussein's war

The U.S.-backed regimes in the region view Saddam Hussein as the point man in the battle to contain the anti-imperialist ferment inspired by the Iranian revolution. Right after the latest Iranian advance, dictator Gaafar al-Nimeiry of the Sudan made known that regular Sudanese troops would soon be dispatched to Iraq.

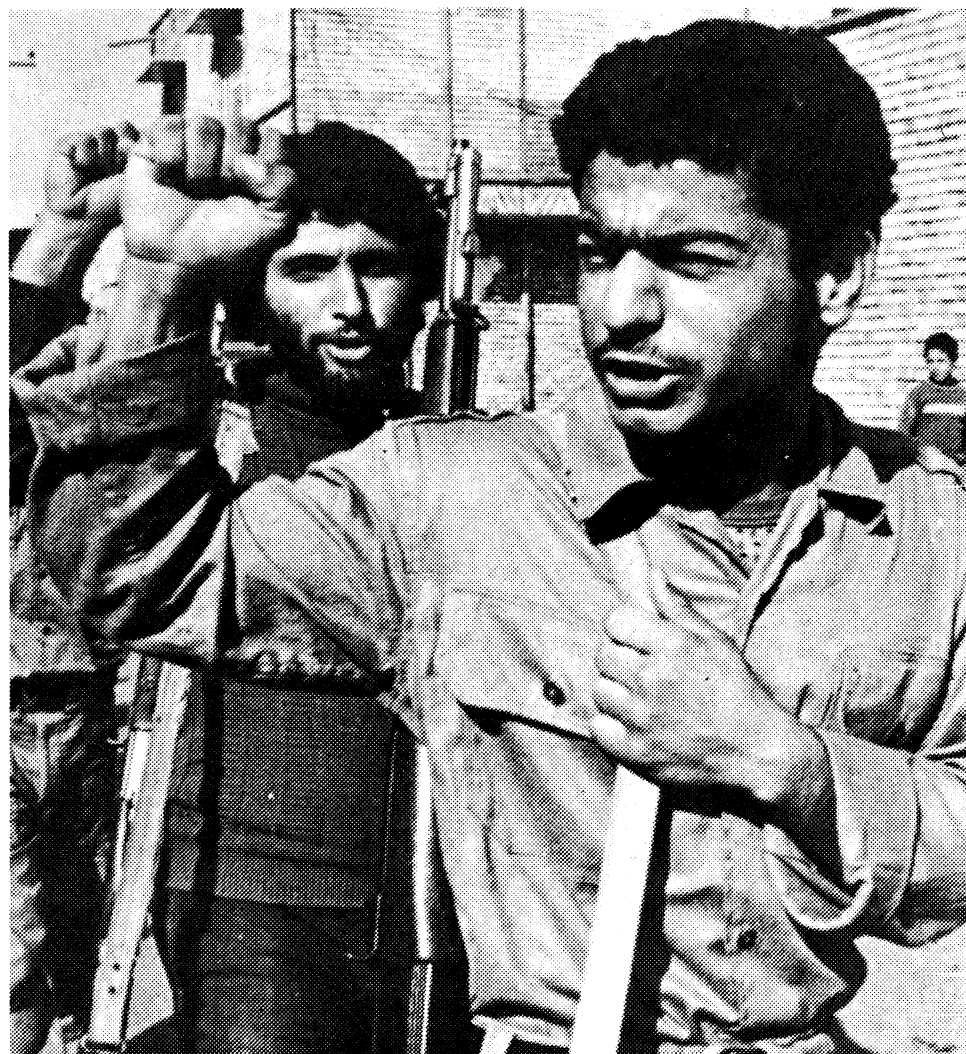
Nimeiry thus joined other Arab rulers in actively supporting Saddam Hussein's war. The Saudi monarchy and the rulers of the small princedoms of the Persian Gulf have provided at least \$25 billion in cash. Jordan's King Hussein has sent soldiers as "volunteers," and on October 4 he visited Baghdad along with the commander of the Jordanian army. Meanwhile, the Mubarak regime in Egypt is providing arms and equipment, and possibly pilots and troops.

The Sudanese move was welcomed in Washington. "American and European analysts" cited in the October 4 *New York Times* said that "early and effective Sudanese military intervention" is an "urgent need" for Iraq.

It is questionable whether the shaky and near-bankrupt Sudanese government — which itself faces widespread social unrest — can sustain such costly intervention. It certainly cannot do so without stepped-up U.S. aid. In the fiscal year that just ended, Washington provided the Sudan with \$100 million in military assistance, more than three times the amount given in the previous year.

Marines to land in Oman

The Iranian revolution stands in the way of U.S. imperialism's goal of impos-



Having overthrown U.S.-backed shah with their bare hands, Iranians continue to defend their revolution against Iraq's invasion.

ing and strengthening its domination over the Middle East as a whole. Despite Washington's recent gains — the defeat suffered by the Palestinians in Lebanon and the landing of U.S. Marines there — its overall aims are far from being achieved.

Thus, besides encouraging local clients like Nimeiry to step up aid to Iraq, Washington is also preparing for more direct intervention against the Iranian revolution. Elaborate military exercises on air, land, and sea have been scheduled for this month by the Pentagon in the Persian Gulf country of

Oman, just across the gulf from southern Iran.

According to U.S. officials cited in the August 25 *Washington Post*, the maneuvers — which include practice landings by the marines — are to "serve notice on Iran that it would risk a sharp U.S. response if it threatened moderate Arab nations friendly to America with military force or subversion."

According to the *Post* "the Pentagon has put top priority on finding ways to protect such friendly Arab governments from being toppled by radicals" inside their own countries.

Coal miners fight safety cuts and firings

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They protested cops being called to the mine, saying miners shouldn't have to work under the barrel of a gun. They demanded an end to all attempts to fire miners based on the charges of a single foreman. They insisted Hovland be reinstated.

Local officers reported back to miners that Shockey had to back off. He chided foremen for trying to spy on bathhouse discussions. He claimed he had been un-

aware of the "sweatshop conditions down there." Union officers quoted him as promising "things will be changed."

At the same time, Shockey let it be known the fight would go on. He told the miners he had considered filing suit against the local for damages because of the strike. He promised more speed-up, saying he would continue to demand "eight hours work for eight hours pay" — implying the miners weren't working hard enough.

A victory is won

Shockey told the union officers he was willing to "negotiate" Hovland's job back. Over the weekend, negotiations were held, and the company finally had to take Hovland back.

On Monday, October 4, Hovland took his bucket, got in the cage and went back to work.

The experience of the strike along with reports about the Thursday meeting made an immediate impact in the mine. One miner reported a "big change in attitudes on the job. Those miners the company didn't like or who had been harassed were now looked at with real respect."

Another miner explained that an important gain she saw from this fight was that it represented a defeat for red-baiting and discrimination as a weapon of the operators.

The company figured it could victimize Hovland without a big protest because of his socialist views. They miscalculated. Everyone saw that the attack on Hovland was aimed at the union.

Winning Hovland's job back showed Old Ben that they won't succeed in set-

ting a precedent against the union by picking on a socialist. The union has to stand behind every miner who — because of their sex or color or politics or whatever — the company thinks it can divide off from the local as a whole.

Many miners came out of this fight feeling better prepared to meet future company attacks. The collective strength of the local had won a skirmish with mighty SOHIO.

At the same time miners recognize they are locked in a deadly serious, ongoing war. SOHIO, Old Ben, and the supervisors of Kitt #1 are just one part of the mine operators determined drive for higher productivity and profits.

The seriousness of Old Ben's challenge to Local 2095 was driven home the same day Hovland went back to work. At 4:02 a.m. assistant shift foreman Jim Schwartz and section boss Johnny Williams took Bill Boyd out of Kitt #1 and charged him with sleeping during his lunch break. Boyd has been on the company's "hit list" as a well-known union activist — having participated in a major safety fight in April. He is also the Treasurer of Hovland's campaign committee.

At 9:20 a.m. Ray Jacobs, assistant mine superintendent, handed Boyd a letter suspending him with intent to fire. Boyd's grievance hearing is set for October 7.

October 8, one day after Boyd's hearing, the continuation of the arbitration hearing is scheduled in Old Ben's attempt to remove Jim Davis as the head of the Local's safety committee.

One battle has been won, but the war goes on.

Oct. 16 march to defend Tchula 7

BY NELSON GONZÁLEZ

A national march is slated for Jackson, Mississippi, on October 16 to demand freedom for Eddie Carthan — former mayor of Tchula, Mississippi — and six other Black activists.

Known as the Tchula Seven, the Blacks are victims of a frame-up campaign by white officials that began when Carthan was elected mayor.

In 1977 Carthan became the first Black mayor of Tchula, a town with an 80 percent Black population. When he attempted to institute programs to create jobs, improve city services, and increase health and child care, he became the target of a campaign by white businessmen to remove him from office.

In 1981 Carthan was convicted of assault on a cop and sentenced to three years in prison. The other six members of the Tchula Seven, also city officials, got suspended sentences and fines.

Carthan got out of jail on bond only to

be thrown back in when he lost his appeal to a higher court. He remains in jail today.

But the most serious charge against the Black activist occurred last April. Carthan and his brother Joseph were accused of the murder of Tchula alderman Roosevelt Granderson, who was killed in a robbery attempt at the store where he worked.

The Carthans go to trial on the murder charge October 19.

The October 16 march in Jackson has been endorsed by the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, National Urban League, Operation PUSH, National Black United Front, National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, and a host of Black elected officials.

The march assembles at 10 a.m. and a rally takes place at noon. For more information, contact the Tchula Seven National Campaign, P.O. Box 29, Tchula, Miss. 39169. Telephone: (601) 235-5209; 834-3080.

Palestinians are rounded up as marines back rightists

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against the Palestinian residents and against Lebanese Muslims.

Extensive "identity check" detentions are being carried on in West Beirut, which is mainly the home of Palestinians and Muslim Lebanese. No roundup activity has occurred in mainly Christian East Beirut.

Several thousand people have already been picked up. Some were detained, grilled, and then released. An unknown number have been held. A number of those released said they were subjected to abuse and beatings.

Palestinians are also being rounded up in the area of Sidon, a city in southern Lebanon still under Israeli occupation. There Israeli soldiers are making the arrests.

An estimated 500,000 Palestinians live in Lebanon, nearly half of them in Beirut.

The largest single grouping are people who were driven from their homeland in 1948 when the state of Israel was carved out.

Now they live in dread of a new dispersal.

The Lebanese government has made it known that behind the mass sweeps is a goal of reducing the Palestinian population from 500,000 to 50,000.

The massacre at the Shatila and Sabra refugee camps, and earlier massacres of Palestinians in Lebanon by Phalangists, makes it ominously clear that the new government is capable of trying to rid themselves of Palestinians by any means necessary.

Meanwhile, Menachem Begin, in a letter to Senator Alan Cranston, brazenly asserted that the charge of Israeli responsibility for the Beirut massacre was "fantastic and totally despicable."

This in the face of the steadily mounting, devastating evidence to the contrary.

And now there is evidence that Washington, too, may have had immediate knowledge of the bloody deed and failed to stop it.

Responding to such a charge in the Israeli press, White House spokesperson Larry Speakes angrily denied they had received word the slaughter was going on the night it began, Friday, September 17.

"We began to review fragmentary reports Friday night . . . that something was going on," Speakes conceded. But he refused to give any details.

Yet the charge will not go away. It is known, for example, that the CIA has working ties with the Phalange forces that perpetrated the atrocity.

In July 1981, Bashir Gemayel, the recently assassinated head of the Phalange, made a private visit to Washington. After discussion, U.S. policymakers decided, like the Israelis, to give the Phalange their support.

The CIA was sent to Lebanon to establish an "information link" with the intelligence units of the Phalange.

These intelligence units are under the command of Elie Hobeika. According to reports from Lebanon, it was Hobeika who led the Phalange units into the Shatila camp.

Was the CIA "information link" with Hobeika operating at the time?

Since the invasion began last June, Lebanon has been frequently referred to as Israel's Vietnam.

It could also be America's new Vietnam.

The danger involves more than the presence of 1,200 troops.

The first marine to die in Lebanon stepped on a live bomb. It was described as an accident of war.

The grim irony is that he stepped on one of the deadly cluster bombs provided to Israel by the United States.

The cluster bomb symbolizes the relationship. Despite the public bickering

between the Begin and Reagan administrations — some of it real, some contrived — they are in the Lebanese quagmire together.

Washington is arming and financing the Israeli aggression because the Israeli government is serving its interests in the Middle East.

That's why at the United Nations and other international gatherings U.S. representatives are ready to stand in virtual isolation in support of Israel. At every key point, Washington has made plain that, despite the overhead, it is with Israel all the way.

That's why U.S. Marines, along with French and Italian colonial forces, are in Lebanon today — to back the Israeli aggression. The aim is to further drive back the Palestinian liberation forces which stand at the fore front of the Arab freedom movement.

Through sheer force of arms, they hope to establish "stability" in Lebanon, and throughout the Middle East. By "stability" they mean the preservation of the status quo which assures their control of the strategic, oil-rich area.

But there will be no "stability." History is already showing that even this lethal combination of forces cannot stamp out the irrepressible resistance of the Palestinian and Lebanese people to their terrible suffering and oppression.



Marine "peacekeeping" force arrives in Beirut, Lebanon. How long will they stay?

Israeli troops on looting rampage

According to the propaganda, Israeli troops are well-disciplined, enjoy high morale, and are soundly motivated.

But accounts are now coming in from Lebanon that flatly contradict this — accounts of extensive looting, vandalism, and sick acts of hostility.

One such report appeared in the September 29 issue of the *Washington Post*, a paper well-disposed toward Israel.

One victim of Israeli troops was Dr. Amal Shama, director of a Beirut hospital.

She told *Post* correspondent Loren Jenkins that on returning to her hospital apartment she found her furniture smashed and valuables stolen.

The ceiling was spattered with food, and feces deliberately deposited around the apartment, including on her dining room table.

Dr. Fahri Alami, a surgeon with offices in the same area, reported that Israeli troops had occupied his clinic. On returning, he found the laboratory ransacked, and an office safe blown open, with about \$2,800 missing.

Shopkeepers complained of Israeli troops who patrolled the area stealing radios, TVs, and electrical appliances from their shops during the night.

Dozens of residents told of Israeli soldiers breaking into their homes and stealing things. In one case, it was charged, children's toys were smashed.

Usama Khalidi, a professor of biochemistry at the American University

Hospital whose apartment happened to be in the same building as the PLO Research Center (which was stripped by the Israelis), said his door was broken down twice, even though he offered a key.

From him they took Islamic art books, a collection of antique Syrian pots, and other items.

They trampled his lecture notes, table cloths, and bed clothing on the floor, the professor said. "Then they defecated on top of it all and crowned it with broken eggs."

This is the force, we're told, that's bringing "civilization" to the Mideast.

Phalangist boasts of massacre

Israeli television broadcast an interview from Beirut October 3 with one of the Lebanese Christian Phalangists who participated in the massacre of Palestinians in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps of West Beirut.

Described as a 24-year-old engineering graduate, the man told his interviewer, "I was in Shatila and Sabra and I killed Palestinians."

"I killed only 15 Palestinians in the camps, but I will continue to kill them all my life."

He said, "I don't believe it was a massacre, because this is a war and in a war on a frontier it is not a massacre if people are killed."

The number killed, he said, "was but 200 or 300, so it is much ado about nothing."

Reminded that women, old people, and children were killed, he responded: "There are Palestinian children of eight years old who make war. You can't say a person who is eight and who shoots at you is a child."

'Militant' sales drive hits 124%

Continued from Page 1

their goals as a result of the first week's success.

Reports from around the country indicate wide-ranging discussions on the job about political issues and a lot of interest in socialist ideas. As a result, a larger number of papers are being sold in and around factories, mines, garment shops, and rail yards.

Socialists in Philadelphia report the benefits of maintaining a regular, weekly presence at sales sites. They say they are often greeted by area residents with, "You all are everywhere!"

The sales drive is also part of the election campaign of Socialist Workers Party candidates in 27 states. In California, where Mel Mason, socialist city

councilman from Seaside, is running as an independent candidate for governor, campaign supporters have adopted a statewide goal of introducing 5,040 people to the campaign newspapers, the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*, over the course of the drive. California campaigners are already ahead of schedule, having surpassed their goal by 6 percent in the first week.

For full details on the drive see pages 6 and 7.

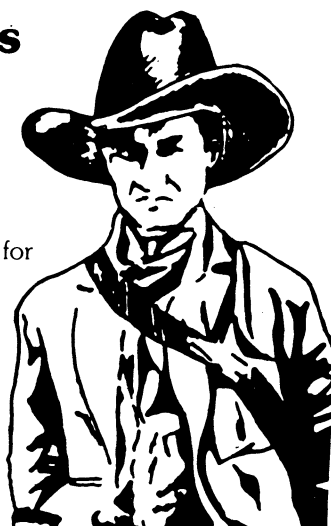
From Pathfinder Press

Nicaragua: An introduction to the Sandinista Revolution

By Arnold Weissberg, Managua correspondent for 'Intercontinental Press,' 48 pp., \$.95.

The Struggle for Freedom in Guatemala

By Anibal Yáñez, 32 pp., \$.75.



Also Available:

El Salvador: Why the U.S. government hides the truth

By Fred Murphy, 32 pp., \$.95.

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By Sam Manuel and Andrew Pulley 36 pp., \$.95.

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Subscribe to *Perspectiva Mundial*, biweekly, Spanish-language sister publication of the *Militant*. \$2.50 for 6 issues, \$8 for 6 months, or \$16 for one year. Write to 408 West St., New York, New York 10014.

SWP's view of PLO withdrawal from Beirut

BY CINDY JAQUITH
AND DOUG JENNESS

A statement on Lebanon appeared in the October 1 issue of the *Militant*. The introduction identified it as a joint statement by the French Revolutionary Communist League, the Italian Revolutionary Communist Group, and the U.S. Socialist Workers Party.

The appearance of the SWP's name on this statement was an editorial error. The SWP had not signed it, and it did not reflect the views of the SWP. The SWP's position was most clearly expressed in the front-page article signed by David Frankel that appeared in the October 8 issue of the *Militant*.

The joint French and Italian statement implied that it was an error for the Palestine Liberation Organization to have organized the withdrawal of its forces from West Beirut last August under an agreement that included the presence of a multinational force of U.S., French, and Italian troops.

The statement asks, "What good was the disengagement force sent to Lebanon in late August under the Habib plan? It organized the departure of the units of Palestinian fighters, legitimizing the Zionist military presence in Lebanon. By its presence it guaranteed the election of the Phalangist murderer Bashir Gemayel to the Lebanese presidency by a rump parliament that met in a barracks under the guard of Israeli bayonets. It dismantled the Palestinian defense lines in West Beirut."

An imperialist army of 70,000 troops — the Israeli army, armed with the most advanced and destructive military equipment financed or directly provided by U.S. imperialism — was already occupying Lebanon before any members of the multinational force arrived. Its presence was "legitimized" by naked force, and it was that same military power that enabled the Israeli army to dictate the election of Gemayel to the Lebanese presidency.

Furthermore, it is not true that the U.S.-French-Italian force organized the PLO's departure and dismantled its defense lines. The PLO organized its own departure and dismantled its own defense lines in the face of the overwhelming military force that was threatening to pulverize West Beirut and kill thousands more civilians. To help ensure that its fighters would not be massacred by the Israeli army during the withdrawal, the PLO proposed that a multinational force be brought into Beirut to serve as a buffer between the Palestinians and the Israeli troops encircling the city.

Of course, as always, the U.S., French, and Italian capitalist governments had nothing progressive in mind in agreeing to the multinational force. By its political stance and heroic resistance throughout the Israeli onslaught, however, the PLO had made the political cost for imperialism of any slaughter of the PLO fighters during the withdrawal very high.

As the *Militant* pointed out in the October 8 article by David Frankel, "an analogy could be made to the organizers of a progressive demonstration who, faced with an attack by a superior force of armed rightist thugs, call on the police to defend the democratic rights of

the demonstrators. Such an action does not imply political support to the cops, approval of their role in society, or abandonment of the need for self-defense."

The article also stated that the PLO's only alternative to a negotiated withdrawal was to make a futile last stand in West Beirut.

"Such a decision would have led to far more civilian casualties than even the massacre at the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps. . . . The only thing a fight to the end would have accomplished would have been to help the Israelis in their aim of destroying the PLO and its forces."

Therefore, the article continued, the PLO "correctly rejected this suicidal course and chose instead to organize and lead a retreat. . . ."

Once this decision had been made, the tactics the PLO chose in carrying out its retreat were — like the decision itself — dictated by the relationship of military forces. As the October 8 article explained:

"Since the Palestinians were not in a position to force a pullback of Israeli troops, they proposed an international force that would interpose itself between their forces and the Israelis as the only way to ensure that they would not be slaughtered during the withdrawal."

The joint statement of the French and Italian sections of the Fourth International further asserts that U.S., French, and Italian troops that returned in September, following the massacre in West Beirut, "will not serve the interests of the Palestinian and Lebanese people any better" than the troops that went in August.

This confuses the concrete role of an international force that the PLO had to accept in order to obtain a withdrawal of its military forces from Beirut, with a military occupation force that will stay as long as necessary to prop up the most proimperialist, anti-Palestinian, anti-



Palestinian fighters leaving Beirut. PLO leaders decided on evacuation to save thousands of civilian lives.

working-class government possible.

Both Washington and Israel are attempting to establish a stable, rightist government in Lebanon. That was one of the objectives of the U.S.-backed Israeli invasion of Lebanon. That is the purpose of the current so-called peacekeeping force — to help the Phalangist killers that carried out the massacre in Sabra and Shatila.

If it were true, as the joint French and Italian statement implies, that the agreement the PLO accepted for the withdrawal of its troops, rather than the U.S.-Israeli onslaught, was responsible for ensuring Phalangist control of the Lebanese government; for forcing the departure of the Palestinian fighters;

and for the dismantling of PLO defense lines — then it would also follow that the PLO was in large part responsible for the massacre in Sabra and Shatila.

But this is false. A position that implies that the PLO's policies in anyway contributed to the massacre in West Beirut is scandalous. The truth is that the PLO's policies were designed to prevent a much more devastating massacre.

We condemn the genocidal U.S.-Israeli policy that inevitably led to the holocaust in Lebanon. And we demand the withdrawal of all imperialist occupying armies — French, Italian, Israeli and United States — from Lebanon.

Israeli cops club, gas Palestinians

BY KATI SHUR

TIRA, Israel — Entering this Arab village near Tel Aviv September 22, we were confronted with three roadblocks of burning tires and a deathly silence, an expression of the deep mourning the villagers felt in the wake of the barbaric massacre in Beirut.

The inhabitants of the village were in the cemetery, where a memorial meeting was being held for the victims. From them, we learned that the silence was the silence after the storm. Just two hours earlier, the police had attacked the villagers.

According to one of the municipal government employees, the police had agreed not to show up in the village during the march that was planned to commemorate the victims of Beirut.

"Then suddenly," he said, "between 10 and 15 command cars, with some 100 policemen inside, showed up. They jumped out with their clubs and started to beat people indiscriminately, from children to old people to women."

Another inhabitant said that the police fired tear-gas canisters into the mu-

nicipal government building, where several hundred demonstrators had sought refuge from the beatings. When the police left, they took 20 people with them under arrest.

While we were listening to this account, the fourth march since that morning was proceeding toward us. The marchers waved Palestinian flags and black flags. They shouted, "Begin out! Palestine will be free!" and "With our spirit and blood we will liberate Palestine!"

To the people of Tira, there is no doubt who is responsible for the massacre in Beirut. "The operation was of the IDF [Israeli Defense Force]," one said. "They lit the camps with flares, they took them

[the Phalangists] in with them, they guarded the roofs for them. Without Israel, they couldn't have done it.

"We will tell our children and grandchildren who did it. We'll never let ourselves forget."

Despite the feelings of deep mourning and grief, there is a high spirit in Tira, because today there is the strength to fight against the crimes of Israel.

Stressing this point, one of the inhabitants of Tira told us, "This is not Deir Yassin," referring to the Israeli massacre of Palestinians in the village of Deir Yassin in 1948. "Today, the whole world is shouting. And we are getting more courageous from day to day."

From Intercontinental Press

Texas unionists discuss Lebanon war

BY GREG PRESTON

DALLAS — Discussions taking place at Boeing Electronics (BEI), a small electronic assembly plant here, spell trouble for Washington's designs in the Middle East.

Many workers at BEI expressed horror and outrage at the massacre of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

"This would never have happened without the presence of the Israeli army in Lebanon," said one worker. "And you know that our government gave Israel the arms they used in the invasion."

He said in his last job, at Bell Helicopter, some of the gunships he worked on went to Israel.

"How is this type of thing any different than the holocaust during World War II?" another worker asked.

Similar discussions took place throughout the week concerning events in Lebanon.

"Who are these Phalangists? I heard that they are trained and armed by Israel."

"Begin has always been a terrorist."

These were some of the comments and questions Boeing workers had on their minds.

These contrasted to the comments that generally supported Israel during the early days of the invasion of Lebanon.

Two workers bought antiwar buttons. And many workers would readily take any information distributed at the plant concerning the situation in the Middle East.

When Reagan sent the marines back to Lebanon, the use of U.S. troops in a war situation became the main topic of discussion. "Did you see where Reagan wants to send the marines into West Beirut," asked a co-worker. He said it reminded him of Vietnam. This was the opinion of many workers at the plant.

The Vietnam syndrome is alive and well in Dallas. The veil of lies and disinformation about the nature of the Israeli government has been lifted enough to instill a healthy distrust in American working people for Mr. Begin and his Phalangist friends in Lebanon.

For further reading

How Can the Jews Survive?

A Socialist Answer to Zionism

By George Novack, 22 p., \$.25.

Israel: A Colonial-Settler State?

By Maxime Rodinson, 128 p., \$3.95.

Leon Trotsky on the Jewish Question

By Leon Trotsky, 31 p., \$.95.

Socialists and the Fight Against Anti-Semitism

By Peter Seidman, 31 p., \$.60.

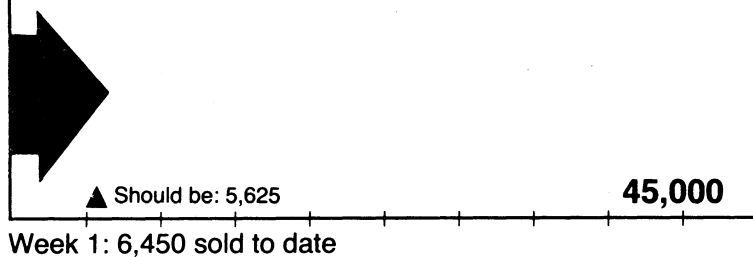
War in the Middle East

The Socialist View

By Dave Frankel, Dick Roberts, and Tony Thomas; 31 p., \$.60.

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

Fall Militant/PM Sales Goal



'This paper supports Palestinians'

All areas report that outrage over the events in Lebanon and identification with the Palestinians has led to high sales.

San Antonio socialists sold 52 copies of *Perspectiva Mundial* last week. Sales were organized to campaign in defense of the Palestinians. Steffi Brooks reports that "sympathy for the Palestinian struggle, especially among Chicanos in San Antonio, is very high."

Socialists in Seattle sold 95 copies of the *Militant*, 42 *Young Socialists*, and one *PM* to a crowd of 16,000 at an event capping off a week of forums and debates on nuclear weapons. Most of the *Militants* were sold to people interested in the article on U.S. troops in Lebanon.

Discussions about Lebanon among workers continued to deepen last week. Eleven copies of the *Militant* were sold to Metro workers in Washington, D.C. in less than one hour. Rick Higgins reports that 28 percent of their *Militant* goal of 200 was sold at industrial sites. Socialist transit workers sold 53 *Militants* and *PMs* on the job in New York. Wayne Hieber re-

ports, "most everybody is outraged by the massacres in Lebanon. Many are very sympathetic to the PLO."

Miami sales go over the top

Socialists in Miami planned a special effort for the first week of the drive, with great results. That week they sold 165 copies of the *Militant* and 11 *PMs*, well over their weekly goal of 80.

Residents of Liberty City, site of the massive Black rebellion in the summer of 1980, bought 49 copies of the first issue of the drive. On the first day of sales of the second issue, 23 *Militants*, one *PM*, and one subscription were sold there.

Auto workers seek answers

The *Militant* has reported the layoff of the second shift at the General Motors plant in Tarrytown, New York. Socialists in New York have been driving up there every week to campaign. They take a station wagon loaded with books and pamphlets, which they open for display in the parking lot. Last week 10 papers were sold in

about five minutes, according to salesperson Kathryn Crowder.

Crowder reports that a lot of the discussion revolved around what is going on in the plant now. Due to the layoffs, older workers who had been doing maintenance jobs were suddenly put back on the assembly line, without retraining and with no let-up in line speed. Workers said people are going out of the plant on stretchers every day.

"Everyone stopped to talk," Crowder explained. "There was no one I approached who didn't want to have discussions about the things we have to say in the *Militant*."

Philly gets good response

Socialists in Philadelphia sold 144 *Militants* and 23 *PMs* on Saturday, as campaign teams spread out across the city. Pennsylvania state SWP candidates Mark Zola and Katherine Sojourner went to areas where supporters were campaigning. They took a car equipped with a loudspeaker system and participated in short campaign rallies at each location. Salespeople explained that the *Militant* and *PM* were revolutionary papers that called for a socialist society.

One campaigner approached two Black women in their early sixties. One woman said, "I bought that paper last week." She told her friend, "Buy this paper. It tells it exactly like it is."

The day ended with a campaign rally that evening that drew 55 people. One Black man who had come to the rally after seeing a poster on a street corner has asked to join the YSA.

— BY SANDI SHERMAN

SALES SCOREBOARD

(Militant issue #36, PM issue #17)

Area	Militant Goal/Sold	PM Goal/Sold	Total Goal/Sold	%
Baltimore	200/595	0/0	200/595	298
Miami	65/165	15/11	80/176	223
Milwaukee	150/313	15/24	165/337	204
Wash., D.C.	120/213	20/22	140/235	168
Philadelphia	135/197	15/26	150/223	149
Piedmont	70/103	0/0	70/103	147
Manhattan	175/280	50/48	225/328	146
*Atlanta	35/50	0/0	35/50	143
Dallas	45/59	20/32	65/91	140
Oakland	100/140	5/4	105/144	137
Iron Range	40/51	0/0	40/51	128
Los Angeles	125/142	40/62	165/204	124
Louisville	70/83	0/0	70/83	119
Salt Lake City	90/101	5/9	95/110	116
Denver	102/118	8/8	110/126	115
Harrisburg	50/57	5/6	55/63	115
Kansas City	90/102	5/6	95/108	114
San Antonio	75/72	35/52	110/124	113
Seaside	35/38	5/7	40/45	113
San Francisco	100/114	30/32	130/146	112
New Orleans	100/111	0/1	100/112	112
Brooklyn	160/178	40/43	200/221	111
Houston	90/95	25/32	115/127	110
Cincinnati	90/97	0/1	90/98	109
Boston	135/153	15/10	150/163	109
Portland	60/65	0/0	60/65	108
Detroit	90/97	7/8	97/105	108
Phoenix	110/116	50/57	160/173	108
*Indianapolis	25/27	0/0	25/27	108
Twin Cities	165/180	5/3	170/183	108
Newark	145/141	30/47	175/188	107
San Diego	65/70	15/15	80/85	106
Seattle	105/115	5/2	110/117	106
St. Louis	150/158	0/0	150/158	105
Morgantown	85/89	0/0	85/89	105
Tidewater	90/94	0/0	90/94	104
Charleston	70/73	0/0	70/73	104
Toledo	70/73	0/0	70/73	104
Birmingham	110/113	0/0	110/113	103
Pittsburgh	160/163	0/1	160/164	103
Lincoln	50/51	0/0	50/51	102
Price	55/56	5/5	60/61	102
Cleveland	105/109	10/7	115/116	101
Chicago	140/137	20/23	160/160	100
Gary	65/65	5/5	70/70	100
Albuquerque	55/48	10/4	65/52	80
Schenectady	100/80	2/0	102/80	78
Tucson	35/33	25/7	60/40	67
San Jose	90/43	20/7	110/50	45
Totals	4,642/5,823	562/627	5,204/6,450	124

*Petitioning to put socialist candidates on the ballot.

Mason ballot suit to be heard Oct. 18 in L.A.

BY DAVID PRINCE

OAKLAND, Calif. — The Mel Mason campaign for governor will bring its fight for ballot status to the federal district court in Los Angeles on October 18. Mason's attorney, Robin Maisel, will argue before Judge Robert Kelleher for a federal court order that the state of California must place Mason on the November ballot.

Mason, an elected city councilman in Seaside, California, is a leader of the Socialist Workers Party. Campaign sup-

porters collected 214,699 signatures to place him on the ballot — 100,000 more than the required number. But Secretary of State March Fong Eu invalidated more than half and ruled that he should be excluded from the ballot.

Mason has received wide support in his fight against the efforts of Democratic and Republican party officials to keep a working-class candidate off the ballot.

Among labor figures signing protests are Anthony Mazzocchi, 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.

In the FMC plant in San Jose over 80 signatures were collected on petitions in support of Mason's fight, as were signatures of 42 hotel and restaurant workers during a recent strike in Monterey. A Spanish-language petition has received support from garment workers in San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Secretary of State Eu has tried to counter this growing support by sending a letter to those who have demanded that Mason be placed on the ballot.

Eu states that "my own policy is to make every reasonable effort to ensure that candidates are able to qualify for the ballot." But, she argues, Mason did not have enough valid signatures.

Mason responded with an open letter to Eu released at a press conference held in Sacramento on October 1.

Mason wrote: "As an elected city councilman in Seaside, and independent socialist candidate for Governor, I protest your recent

letter to supporters of my right to be on the November ballot. That letter can only be read as part of your campaign to deny me ballot status.

"The attempt to deny me ballot status is an attack on my, and all Californians', First and Fourteenth Amendment rights. It is an attack on the right of any unionist, any Black, to run a campaign that represents an independent alternative to the racist, antilabor, and prowar policies of the Democrats and Republicans. It is another move to keep working people subjugated to the two-party system.

"You clearly have not respected the rights of nearly a quarter of a million Californians who signed my petitions and the many who have protested your

decision to attempt to keep me off the ballot.

"Instead you have acted in the interests of the very rich in this country and their parties — the Democrats and Republicans — who want to keep a worker and antiwar candidate off the ballot.

"Your statement that your policy is 'to make every reasonable effort to ensure that candidates are able to qualify for the ballot' is hypocrisy. You have allowed any means, fair or foul, to try to ensure that there is no opposition on the November ballot to the Democratic and Republican policies which have brought massive unemployment and misery and is involving the U.S. in shooting wars all over the world."

Where you can meet Mel Mason

OCTOBER

- 10 **Oakland.** Reception with rail workers, 1921 Oakview Drive, 12-3 p.m.
- 11 **San Francisco.**
- 11 **Sacramento.** Talk: "Why They Don't Want Me on the Ballot." La Semilla, 312 20th Street, 7:30 p.m. Call (916) 758-3357 (in Davis) for information.
- 12 **Los Angeles.** At trial of draft objector David Wayte.
- 13 **Seaside.**
- 16 **Los Angeles.** Reception (6:30 p.m.) and rally (7:30). With David Wayte, a representative of Casa Nicaragua; Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress Seth Galinsky; others. 2546 W. Pico Blvd.
- 18 **Los Angeles.** Hearing on court

suit for Mason's right to be on November ballot. U.S. District Court, 312 N. Spring St., 10 a.m.

- 24 **Seaside.** Campaign rally and barbecue. With Henry Fryson, candidate for City Council; Shirley Rainer, candidate for mayor; others. Cutino Park, noon on.
- 26 **Oakland.**

NOVEMBER

- 2 **Seaside.** Election day.
 - 6 **Oakland.** Banquet, party, and rally: "The Fight Continues." St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 29th and Telegraph, from 6 p.m.
 - 13 **Los Angeles.** Rally; time and place to be announced.
- For further information, contact the Mel Mason for Governor Committee in your area (see page 10 for listing).



Militant/Dick Roberts
Independent gubernatorial candidate Mel Mason.

Blacks rip police cover-up in Baltimore

BY STEVEN FUCHS

BALTIMORE — On Thursday, September 30, the state medical examiner released a report on the death of Rupert Campbell. A 25-year-old, Jamaican-born resident of the Pimlico neighborhood, Campbell had died three weeks before, while handcuffed and in police custody. A crowd of witnesses saw him beaten by police; but the death certificate will say "accidental."

Charging that the coroner's report is "nothing more than a cover-up for the police report," the Rupert Campbell Alliance (RCA) announced plans for a "People's Tribunal" to take place on October 27 at the St. Ambrose Church. The tribunal will hear testimony from eyewitnesses to the killing and subsequent police invasion of Pimlico. It will also investigate the continuing police harassment of the Pimlico community.

On October 1 and 3, the *Militant* sponsored public forums on the Pimlico events in Baltimore and Washington, D.C. The Baltimore meeting, held the day after the release of the medical examiner's report was widely covered by local news media. About 100 people attended the two meetings.

No witnesses?

One of the speakers was George Lee, a Pimlico resident. "I was an eyewitness," he explained. "I saw all of it. They were kicking and stomping him." A large crowd witnessed the beatings, Lee said. But police have denied there were any witnesses at all.

The coroner's report claimed that three factors may have contributed to Campbell's death. One was "chest compression," an injury resulting from pressure on the chest. Witnesses have reported that Campbell cried, "I can't breathe," shortly before he lost consciousness. They saw cops standing on Campbell's back. Others reported seeing one with a foot on Campbell's throat.

Police and city officials continue to try to divert attention from the issue of police brutality. To this day they refer to Campbell as an "alleged drug dealer," though no drugs were found on him. After the incident they claimed the Pimlico community was divided between Jamaicans and U.S.-born Black residents. They blamed Jamaican residents for causing these "divisions."

Annie Chambers, a long-time civil rights activist and a member of the RCA, told the *Militant* Forum that this was a deliberate lie. "I'm here," she said, "so that we can show that there is unity among the Blacks in Baltimore city with the Jamaicans because we know we are all one. We will not be divided."

Marie Anderson, a member of the Socialist Workers Party, explained the news media's role in spreading the police slanders against the Jamaicans. She quoted Malcolm X, who said, "If you aren't careful, the newspapers will have you hating the people who are being op-

pressed and loving the people who are doing the oppressing."

Following a week of community protest after Campbell's death, police launched a military-like invasion of the Pimlico community.

Speakers described the police action: 140 police equipped with rifles, shotguns, and flak jackets broke into houses with battering rams and sledgehammers. They arrested 29 people.

'A cover-up'

Chambers said that the raid was a "cover-up to pit other people in the city against the people of Pimlico."

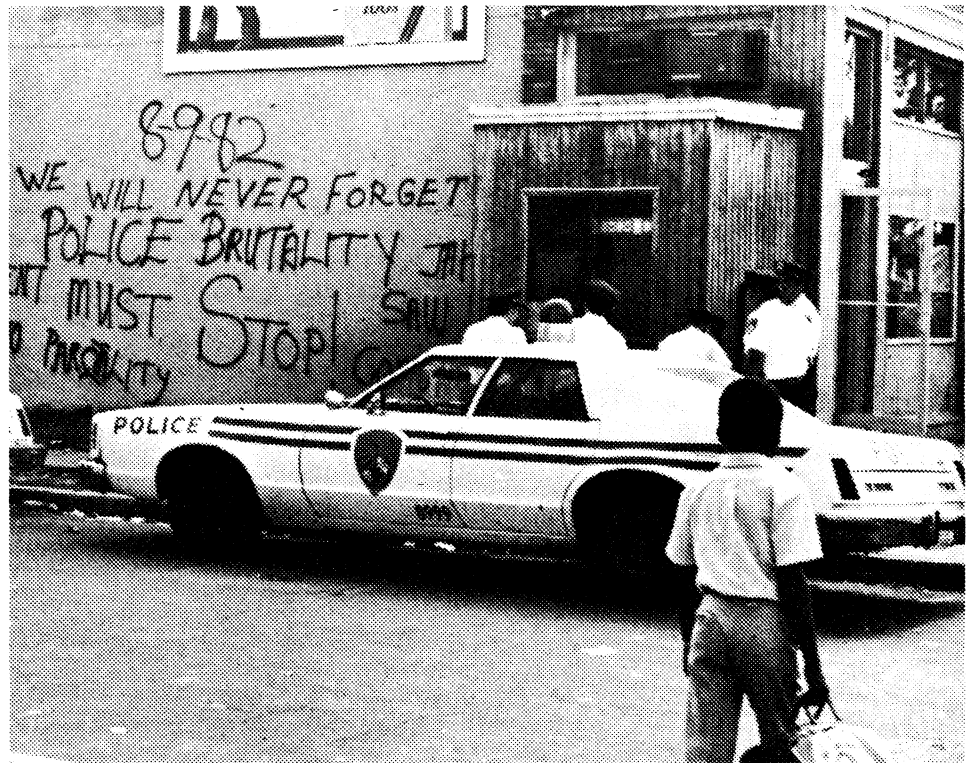
The raid was also an attempt to stop the protest movement that had developed, she explained. Police harassment has continued since; the community remains "under siege."

Ken Morgan, a member of the National Black Independent Political Party, noted that joblessness in Pimlico is estimated to be as high as 50 percent.

"When there are hard times," Morgan explained, "many signs of repression raise their heads against Blacks as well as other working-class people. If you go to a white working-class area like Highlandtown on a Saturday night, you'll see police there doing the same kind of things, trying to keep a lid on things."

In her presentation, Marie Anderson said, "More and more the government is resorting to force against working people. This summer strikers in Dakota City, Nebraska, were attacked by state police and National Guardsmen, using tear gas, mace, and clubs. What was their crime? They were on strike against a four-year wage freeze and the elimination of cost-of-living raises."

"When they say law and order," Anderson said, "that's a code word for whipping up a campaign against Black people and other working people." She contrasted this situation to police in



Militant/Steven Fuchs

Baltimore's Pimlico community. Residents are determined to win justice for victims of cop brutality.

Cuba and Grenada and Nicaragua, where the governments are run "by working people, not against them."

Democrats and Republicans

"Baltimore Mayor William Schaeffer has been completely silent about the situation," noted Ken Morgan. "None of the Democrats or Republicans, even the supposedly progressive ones, have spoken out against the killing of Rupert Campbell or police brutality. If we want real representation, we need political action independent of the Democrats and Republicans."

The speakers, all members of the RCA, reported plans for continued pro-

test. They encouraged everyone to help get out the truth about Pimlico to people throughout the city.

The RCA is demanding that all police involved in the arrest and murder of Rupert Campbell be suspended immediately, indicted, and charged with murder.

They are also calling for an independent investigation into Campbell's death and compensation for Campbell's family. They are demanding an end to the police state of siege and an investigation of violations of the civil rights of residents by police. The alliance also opposes any threats to deport Jamaican residents.

'Militant' story spurs Harrisburg reader to investigate local cop violence

BY CLEMENS BAK

HARRISBURG, Pa. — The *Militant* has given extensive coverage in its last two issues to police attacks on the Pimlico Black community in Baltimore.

On September 29 Harrisburg's 2100 block of North 4th Street looked like Baltimore.

The block's residents were shocked and outraged as white cops, in and out of uniform, waded into the middle of an argument and grabbed 13-year-old Dorea Alexis Franklin from behind, twisting her arms and forcing her to her knees.

The cops dragged her across the street, causing numerous cuts and scrapes, and yanked out a patch of her hair. They threw her into a patrol car.

Franklin, who suffers from asthma, began to hyperventilate. When her twin sister, Guenivere, protested, she too was arrested.

A crowd gathered. One neighbor, Debra Johnson, ran to the police and yelled, "You can't do that. You can't treat her like a sack of dirt."

The cops threatened her with arrest. Johnson, who had read the *Militant's* reports from Baltimore, informed the cops that she was reporting for the *Militant* and wanted their badge numbers and names.

After she got this information from the arresting officers, she gathered names and phone numbers of witnesses.

That evening she came to the *Militant* Bookstore here and turned in the report. She said, "I was furious, all those white cops coming into our community and beating up on young girls."

She said she "read the article in the *Militant* about the cops killing that Black man in Baltimore, and it was like I was seeing it happening here all over again."

Dorea Franklin was released to her mother late that night and charged with resisting arrest and disorderly conduct.

A petition demanding that the charges against Franklin be dropped has been drawn up and is being circulated. Johnson alone has gotten more than 200 people to sign it.

Katherine Sojourner, Socialist Work-

ers Party candidate for lieutenant governor of Pennsylvania, lives in Harrisburg. She immediately issued a statement condemning the local police.

Sojourner will be speaking with Debra Johnson and others at the Harrisburg Socialist Workers Party campaign rally here Saturday, October 16, at 7 p.m. at 803 North 2nd Street. Call (717) 234-5052 for more information.

Supreme Court hears challenge to SWP campaign rights

BY MATTHEW HERRESHOFF

WASHINGTON, D.C., Oct. 4 — The Supreme Court opened its annual term today by hearing arguments from lawyers for the state of Ohio demanding that Socialist Workers Party candidates turn over the names of their campaign supporters.

The state is appealing a federal court ruling. This ruling exempts SWP campaigns from a state law that requires political parties to make public the names of all campaign contributors and all those who they do business with. The three-judge court ruled the law unconstitutional as applied to the socialists.

The court held that if the names of contributors were revealed, they could be targeted for harassment and victimization by the government, employers, or right-wing groups. It summarized extensive evidence presented by the SWP of over 40 years of illegal government spying, burglaries, wiretaps, and disruption aimed at them.

"This case is about the right to exercise First Amendment freedom of association," American Civil Liberties Union

attorney Tom Buckley told the Supreme Court. Buckley argued the case for the socialists.

The Supreme Court's ruling in this case will have an important impact on the right of working people to take part in politics. A decision against the socialists would be a setback for independent labor and Black candidates in the future. It would be used as a precedent to force any new working-class party to reveal all its financial supporters. This could subject them to victimization or deter them from contributing.

Since 1974, seven courts and administrative agencies have ruled that Socialist Workers Party campaigns need not comply with state and federal disclosure requirements.

Last May, a federal appeals court held that the federal campaign disclosure law is unconstitutional as applied to the Communist Party.

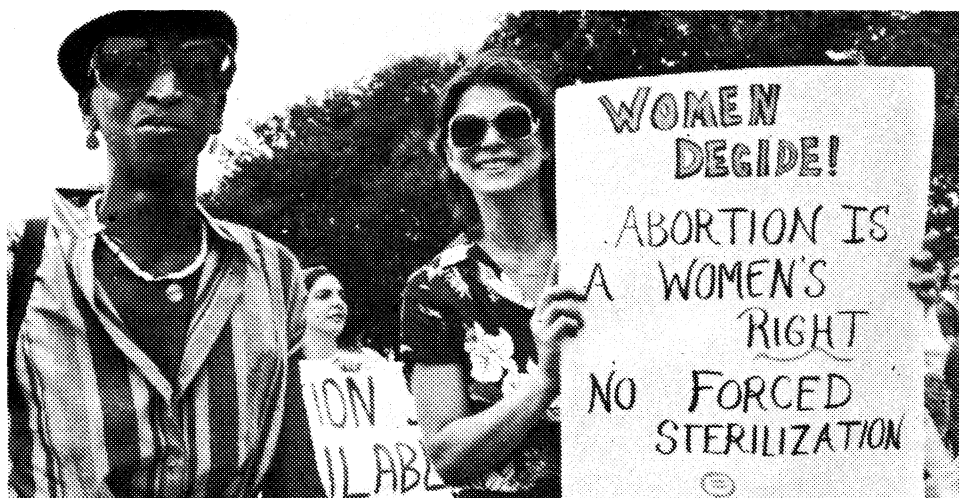
The Supreme Court ruling in the Ohio case will have a big impact on all these decisions. A ruling may be handed down before next June.



Militant/Steven Fuchs

Annie Chambers of Rupert Campbell Alliance.

How can women advance fight for equality?



Militant/Lou Howort

BY MARGARET JAYKO

The defeat in June of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) and the increasing restrictions on the right to abortion have angered millions of supporters of women's rights.

These attacks — combined with layoffs, social service cuts, and plant closings — have hit working women severely, especially Blacks and Latinas.

This assault by the government and the employers has generated an intensive discussion among fighters for women's rights: What kind of movement must be built to effectively struggle for women's liberation?

This question is uppermost on the minds of feminists attending the National Organization for Women (NOW) conference in Indianapolis October 8-10.

Reaganism

Liberals and Democratic Party politicians argue that the attacks we suffer stem from the Republicans being in office. They say our job is to defeat Reaganism by returning Democrats to power.

But what is Reaganism? There's no question that the attacks on women's rights were stepped up with a vengeance when Reagan took office. And certainly some of the most vehemently anti-abortion, antiunion, pro-school prayer spokespeople are Republican politicians like Sen. Jesse Helms.

But the assault on legal abortion, like the efforts to overturn school desegregation, began under the Carter administration. And every single measure Reagan has implemented — from chopping food stamps to slashing Social Security — has passed because Democrats gave it the vote.

Reaganism is not the policy of a single party, administration, or group of individuals, but the *bipartisan* governing policy of the capitalist class of bankers and corporation heads, who rule through both the Democratic and Republican parties.

In the face of this offensive by the U.S. rulers, the NOW leadership has pursued a course of confining the struggle for women's liberation to what the ever-narrowing framework of capitalist politics and politicians will go along with. They accept the rationalization that the social pie is shrinking and so we must be "practical" and make trade-offs in order not to lose everything.

NOW, and the entire struggle for women's rights, has already paid a heavy price for this course:

- The NOW leadership refuses to wage a fight for abortion rights at a time when that right is under severe attack. The leadership told women that to win the ERA, we had to keep virtually silent on more "controversial" issues such as abortion rights.

- They have refused to champion the demands of the most oppressed sisters, in particular Blacks and Latinas, who have been the special targets of the ruling class's assault on women. Congress has approved the Hyde amendment, cutting off federal funds for abortions six years in a row with hardly a word of protest from NOW.

- Perhaps the most grievous move of all was NOW's capitulation to the U.S. government's war and militarization drive with its endorsement of registra-

tion and the draft for women, if men were forced to do so.

This retreat from defending the program of women's liberation is reflected in the current campaign by NOW to totally immerse the organization in working to elect Democrats in November.

NOW's drive to kick Republicans out of Congress and replace them with Democrats has led to a further subordination of the struggle for women's rights. When the ERA was defeated, NOW President Eleanor Smeal announced that NOW would "not again seriously pursue the ERA until we've made a major dent" in the composition of Congress and state legislatures.

The NOW National Board even went so far as to pass a motion opposing the introduction of state level ERAs because "that will divert attention and resources . . . from the 1982 federal and state election campaigns. . . ."

Realistic alternative

Is there any realistic alternative to what the NOW leadership is proposing? Yes.

It lies along the road of building a massive movement of women who are willing and able to fight *uncompromisingly* for their rights.

Women's rights fighters can take steps today toward this goal. Supporters of abortion rights should launch a campaign against Congress's moves to renew the Hyde amendment, against racist sterilization abuse, and against the "Right to Life" terrorist attacks on abortion clinics.

We should be mobilizing defense of pioneering sisters in the coal mines, rail yards, and oil refineries who face sexual harassment by the company. We should be in the front ranks of defending affirmative action for women, Blacks, and Latinas.

Fighting on these fronts will lay the basis for building a powerful new women's liberation movement. One that will draw its strength from women like those in Dakota City, Nebraska, who are fighting for their union against Iowa Beef Processors' union-busting demands.

It will attract women like the teachers in Teaneck, New Jersey, who were thrown in jail because they dared to strike.

Women garment workers, coal miners, and auto and steelworkers would embrace such a militant movement.

An uncompromising movement, open to all fighters for women's rights, would inspire the union movement and help provide some of the new leadership needed to revitalize it.

It would help push forward the Black struggle and advance the struggle against U.S. imperialist wars.

A movement that puts the needs of women first would *have to be* independent of the ruling class and its political parties, precisely because they are the most determined enemies of women's equality.

This kind of women's rights movement doesn't exist today. But feminist fighters today can facilitate its development by reaching out to the masses of women and seeking to answer every attack on women's rights.

In the course of fighting for their liberation, many women have seen, and many more will come to see, that we need a political party that genuinely fights for women's rights.

A labor party, based on a militant trade union movement, would be an antiwar party and would champion the demands of women, Blacks, Latinas, farmers, the undocumented, and all the oppressed.

A labor party in the United States will have a strong component of feminist fighters. Building a new political party will be part of what a mass women's liberation movement will help to do.

Discussing out perspectives for the fight for women's emancipation is the central task not only before the NOW convention, but for all fighters for women's equality.

Reagan's War on Women's Rights

A Strategy to Fight Back



by Margaret Jayko

38 pp., \$.95

Order from Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., N.Y., N.Y. 10014. Please include \$.75 for postage and handling.

Nicaragua beats back food prices

BY JANE HARRIS

MANAGUA — If you live in Nicaragua, most food items cost about half of what is charged in the rest of Central America.

But, if you live just south of Nicaragua, in Costa Rica, prices you pay have risen 90.5 percent just this year alone.

To the north, in Honduras, the same shopping list costs consumers 10 percent more than in Costa Rica.

Despite the U.S.-imposed economic blockade, the continued decapitalization by local capitalists, and the scarcity of hard currency, Nicaragua is the only country in the region that has succeeded in stabilizing food prices.

How has Nicaragua done it?

First off, the small and medium producers adopted a campaign not just to raise production in general (which historically had been largely for export), but to try to grow all the food Nicaraguans needed inside the country.

Despite extensive flood damage earlier this year, they were in part successful.

Working farmers produced nearly all the beans, vegetables, and milk consumed in the country, plus a good share of the corn, sorghum, coffee, and rice.

Growing food inside the country keeps prices down because it does not need to be bought with dollars and because transportation costs are lower.

At a cost of US\$10 million per month, the Nicaraguan Basic Foods Enterprise (ENABAS) handles five basic items of the Nicaraguan diet, including rice, corn, and beans. ENABAS produces, transports, processes, and distributes these goods, which are then sold to consumers for even less than ENABAS paid the producer.

ENABAS has pledged to continue the

same subsidies through 1983, so prices will be frozen throughout the year.

Despite the efforts of the government, speculators still prey on consumers. There are those who pay young children and the unemployed next to nothing to stand on line all day at supermarkets for large quantities of relatively hard-to-find goods and then turn around and sell them at higher prices.

But increasingly the speculators are not getting away with it.

Prices of most basic food and consumer items in Nicaragua are set by the Ministry of Domestic Trade (MICOIN). MICOIN has empowered its inspectors, the Sandinista police and the Sandinista Defense Committees (CDS — the Sandinista block associations), to enforce these prices.

If a shopkeeper is caught overcharging, heavy fines are slapped on — no matter how small the shopkeeper.

In some neighborhoods or individual stores, professional standers-on-line have been stymied by the imposition of limits on goods.

One local supermarket was only letting customers purchase two chickens at a time, a product that is hard to come by.

A corner store this reporter stopped by has put limits on tortilla sales.

"Strict instructions of the CDS," the compañera explained. "It's because of the corn shortage."

Improving distribution has also been important in keeping prices down.

The government's establishment of People's Stores inside factories and in remote areas where the speculators thrive, has made their life more difficult.

Despite the efforts of the mass organizations and the government, the *Militant* found many dissatisfied shoppers in

an informal survey at a local supermarket.

"There's no corn."

"There's no variety."

"Things are so expensive."

"What about rice and beans?" the *Militant* asked.

"Oh, yes, they're cheap, but what about these?"

The compañera pointed to a dozen oranges without a government-regulated price.

Three of the 15 or so consumers the *Militant* spoke with knew why there wasn't corn — because of the recent floods. They knew that variety meant imports, and that Nicaragua didn't have the dollars to buy them.

Outside the supermarket, Emilio Campos, an agronomist, explained that while prices were high on imported items, consumers who were buying low-cost domestically grown food were much healthier than they'd ever been.

And several shoppers pointed out that the supermarket, which is partly government-owned, usually has better prices than the smaller neighborhood stores.

Nicaragua is by no means unaffected by the world economic crisis. While food prices are lower here than anywhere else in Central America, the complaints of many shoppers are a reflection of the fact that wage increases and opportunities for employment have not kept pace with the cost of other necessities of life.

To the extent that food prices are stabilized here today, it's because of the increased levels of production achieved by the small farmers; because the government is buying, processing, and distributing food that is basic to the Nicaraguan diet; and because the Nicaraguan people are defending those prices.



Nicaraguan reserve unit leaving Masaya in September for duty on northern border. Militant/Michael Baumann

3 Nicaraguans slain in U.S.-backed raids

BY MICHAEL BAUMANN

MASAYA, Nicaragua — Three coffins draped in Sandinista flags lined the stage as Nicaraguan Defense Minister Humberto Ortega addressed several thousand people here October 2. The working poor of Masaya had gathered in the Indian barrio of Monimbó for the funeral of three of their sons — an artisan, a stonemason, and a laborer.

Their deaths were a direct result of Washington's continuing secret war against the Nicaraguan people.

In addition to trying to economically strangle Nicaragua, Washington is arming and training thousands of counterrevolutionaries, remnants of the ex-National Guard of Anastasio Somoza, the hated dictator who was overthrown here in 1979.

These bands conduct murderous raids along the Nicaraguan-Honduran border, as well as in the interior of the country.

"We have to be honest with ourselves," Ortega told a somber audience.

"The battle to defeat the counterrevolutionary bands is not going to be a short one."

The funeral here was for three members of Reserve Battalion 80-15. They were victims of the most recent clash with *contras* (counterrevolutionaries), in the distant mountains of Central Zelaya province. Reserve Battalion 80-15 left Masaya a month ago. Made up largely of veterans of the 1979 insurrection, it was selected as the first reserve contingent sent to Zelaya to help respond to the stepped-up attacks there.

Two members of the battalion died directly in combat; the third, wounded, drowned as he tried to cross the river. Twenty-four counterrevolutionaries were killed in the battle, bringing to more than 350 the number of *contras* who have been killed in recent months.

But 5,000 more are based in camps just across the northern border with Honduras, and an estimated 1,500 are

based in remote areas inside Nicaraguan territory.

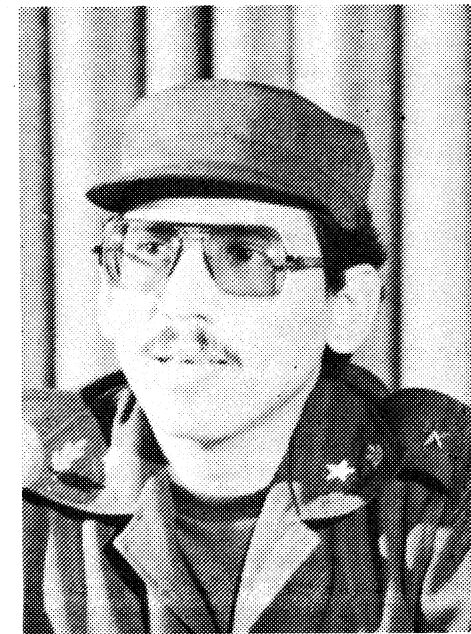
"This struggle is not going to be resolved quickly," Ortega repeated. "We are poor, so poor that it may well take 15, 20, or 30 years to emerge from our poverty."

"Yet we must also face the very real possibility of an armed invasion, either by the Honduran army or the imperialists themselves."

"We must prepare for this. And we must do it ourselves, without expecting anyone to come to our aid."

"We need a better level of organization, of combativity. We must give the whole world an example of what we are capable of accomplishing in this difficult situation."

During the long march to the cemetery the crowd of workers and artisans chanted slogans of support to the revolution, and defiance of imperialism, all the way. Some in the march were so poor they had no shoes. Many were shod in plastic sandals.



Militant/Fred Murphy

Humberto Ortega

Visit to military posts on Honduran border

BY JANE HARRIS

SAN FRANCISCO DEL NORTE, Nicaragua — At the invitation of the Sandinista Peoples' Army, *Militant* correspondents recently traveled to several towns along the northwest border with Honduras, one of the main targets in Reagan's undeclared war against Nicaragua.

Before setting off, we were shown an enormous map of the country. Depicted on it were the approximate locations of 15 bands of counterrevolutionaries based inside the country, mostly in remote areas of Zelaya Province.

Some 1,500 of these rightists are stationed in these camps, from which they periodically launch raids of terror and destruction. They are members of ex-Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza's National Guard. Four thousand more of these counterrevolutionaries, the map showed, are based just across the border in Honduras — in 18 camps strung along the frontier.

En route to the north, we stopped at an army base to pick up Manolo Ballesteros, a young frontier guard whose knowledge of life along the border was quite extensive.

Manolo first took us to Guasaule, which prior to last May had served as the principal crossing point for imports headed south. Nearby a large customs warehouse stood boarded up.

The disastrous floods in May totally destroyed the bridge there. And while Nicaragua has applied for loans to rebuild it, Honduras has not. That leaves the two countries separated by the Guasaule River and causes great economic hardship for Nicaragua.

The river serves as the northwest border between the two countries. A dirt road on the Nicaraguan side parallels the river and we took it eastward.

In Nicaragua's fight to eradicate illiteracy, tens of thousands of urban high-school students went to the countryside to teach the basics of reading and writing. Several of these *brigadistas*, or volunteer teachers, were killed by the U.S.-armed, trained, and paid counterrevolutionaries. Manolo pointed out the

gravesite of one such brigadista along the road.

The border is more than 500 miles long and by virtue of its length and remoteness, impossible to completely protect at all times.

On July 24, counterrevolutionaries attacked the village of San Francisco del Norte, gunning down some 15 workers and kidnapping 8 more. Those kidnapped, if they are still alive, are being held somewhere in Honduras.

The militia office, just off the town square, displays each of the murdered workers' names separately on the wall. It is a poor town and their names are printed in ballpoint pen on 8½ × 11 sheets of white paper.

Both the husband and son of Orllima Moncada de Espinosa were kidnapped that day in the attack.

Elouterio Alfaro, a young militiaman, described what life was like in San Francisco del Norte.

"Only six kilometers away is a band of *contras* [counterrevolutionaries]. Everything they have — their clothes, their watches, their arms — is made in the U.S.A."

"The *contras* feel very safe," he went on. "They knew that if they're caught we won't torture them because we don't believe in it."

Victor Hernández, a 60-year-old compañero who fought in the July 24 attack, emphasized one thing about living on the border. "You always have to be ready to protect yourself," he said.

Hernández is not alone in thinking this way. Everyone the *Militant* spoke with that day emphasized their readiness to defend themselves.

Santo Tomás, a smaller border town, showed us a good reason why. The militia headquarters, only a quarter mile from the border, was just recently blasted full of dozens of bullet holes. One member was wounded in the attack.

Manolo was concerned that we not get the impression that the Honduran peasants living across the river were the enemy.

"Oh, no," he said. "One time some *campesinos* [small farmers] came across the border to steal some corn because they didn't have any. They were surprised because even though we caught them, we gave them the corn because we had a lot. The government propaganda is so fierce against us because they do not want the *campesinos* to be our friends."

César Cortez, a spokesperson from the Sandinista army, said, "In fact, I wouldn't be surprised if right now on Honduran radio, they are transmitting something to the effect that all of you with your camera equipment are Soviet advisers."

Learn the truth — visit Nicaragua

BY SANDI SHERMAN

The *Militant*, along with its sister publications, *Perspectiva Mundial* and the *Young Socialist*, is sponsoring a one-week tour to Nicaragua, November 21-28.

The tour to Nicaragua comes at a time of deepening U.S. attacks against this young revolution. The U.S. government is providing financial and material aid to counterrevolutionary exiles, many stationed across the border in Honduras.

The big-business media here is filled with lies about the revolution in Nicaragua. The purpose of these lies is to confuse working people in this country and around the world. It is part of a campaign on the part of the U.S. government to deepen its intervention in Central America against the revolutionary upsurges currently under way.

A visit to Nicaragua provides participants with an opportunity to view the

revolution first-hand. The November tour will include visits to factories, agricultural communities, and hospitals. Meetings with activists from the unions, women's and youth organizations will be a feature of the tour.

Participants will get a chance to talk with people involved in economic planning, health care, education and the arts. The tour will be based in Managua with trips to Matagalpa, Granada, and Masaya. The price is \$675 from Miami.

The *Militant* is sponsoring this tour because we believe there is no better way to find out the truth about a revolution than to view it firsthand. Those interested in reserving a space on the Fall Economy Study Tour to Nicaragua can send a deposit of \$150 to *Militant/PM/YS Tours*, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. For more information call (212) 929-3486.

Jersey teachers defy jail, fines

Continued from Page 16

community school to racially balance our schools voluntarily. The Board of Education, as our elected representative, threatens to destroy this. . . . The schools remain open solely for the purpose of breaking the teachers and their strike; while our children are their pawns."

The Concerned Parents of Teaneck is filing suit against the board as an interested party.

The teachers have also gained support from postal workers and United Parcel Service workers, who have refused to cross their picket lines.

At one point during the court hearings, Judge Lester warned teachers against taking to the streets. "This isn't the 1960s," he said.

A TV broadcast of the judge's remark aroused indignation far beyond Teaneck. One of this writer's co-workers at the Exxon refinery in Linden responded, "What does he mean, this isn't the 1960s? How else are you going to win? You have to be in the streets."

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Fighting Reaganism in California: are Democrats the alternative?

BY ELIZABETH STONE

LOS ANGELES — With the 1982 election approaching, there is widespread disgust with President Reagan and his policies. During the Reagan administration, the economic situation has gone from bad to worse. There is massive unemployment. Vicious attacks against the standard of living of working people have been carried out — wage cuts, slashes in social services, and, most recently, a big tax hike.

The military budget is at an all-time high, while U.S. military intervention is escalating in Central America and the Middle East.

How can this situation be turned around? Is electing more Democrats to Congress and to state offices a meaningful alternative to Reagan's policies? How can working people organize to fight for policies that are in our interest?

These are questions Mel Mason, independent candidate for governor of California, is speaking to in his campaign. Mason, a member of the Socialist Workers Party, is a city councilman in Seaside, California, and one of the first socialists to be elected to public office in the state.

The Republicans are running a staunch supporter of Reagan for governor of California, George Deukmejian. The Democratic candidate is Thomas Bradley, mayor of Los Angeles. Mason is running independent of both the Republicans and Democrats.

Bipartisan attack

"There is no question that pro-Reagan Republicans like Deukmejian are deadly enemies of working people," Mason says. "But, the Democrats are no answer either. They are part of the problem."

Mason explains that many Democrats have tactical differences with the Republicans on how the attacks should be carried out. But they have supported every major step to drive down the standard of living of workers, from the cutbacks in social services, to attempts to weaken the unions (such as the recent congressional intervention against the rail strike), to the tax increase. The offensive against working people is *bipartisan*, depending on the collaboration of both Democrats and Republicans.

Nor did these attacks begin during the Reagan administration. Under James Carter, the Democrats followed policies that kept unemployment high. They pushed cuts in social services and helped defeat the Equal Rights Amendment. Carter introduced draft registration and initiated the escalation of U.S. intervention to shore up repressive regimes in Central America.

In fact, one important reason why Reagan got elected was because people were so fed up with Carter. Campaigning in 1982, Reagan promised he would do something about unemployment, and he said he was against the draft. Many workers voted for him. The majority sat out the election.

"It's high time working people stopped voting for people who don't represent us," Mason says. "Working people are the overwhelming majority of the population. We have enormous potential

political power. We should use that power. Workers should break from the Democrats and Republicans and organize independently."

In his campaign for governor, Mason is taking the story of Seaside around the state, explaining the contrast between the independent movement there and the campaigns of the capitalist politicians. He explains that working people need more candidates like those in Seaside, candidates who are workers, who are organizing workers to participate in politics, and who are willing to fight uncompromisingly in workers interests.

Parties of the rich

Mason points out that within the two party system working people are virtually excluded from the decision making: "These parties are controlled by the corporate rich and their servants. It takes millions of dollars to be a candidate of one of these parties. You either have to be rich, or backed by the rich."

The Bradley and Deukmejian campaigns are typical of this. It is estimated that each candidate will spend over \$5 million on ads and other campaign expenses. Both candidates are backed by sections of the ruling class.

Some of California's largest corporations such as Bank of America and the Irvine Company, have given large sums to both candidates. Bradley is supported by the Chandlers, one of California's wealthiest agribusiness families and owner of the *Los Angeles Times*. Bradley has hired an expensive consulting firm to run his campaign, the same firm that ran the campaigns of the notoriously antilabor, anti-Black Democrat, New York City's Mayor Koch.

It is widely recognized that Bradley has close ties to big business. This is especially true in Los Angeles, where people are most familiar with Bradley's record as mayor. At the same time, many workers plan to vote for Bradley in the mistaken belief that at least he will not be as bad as Deukmejian.

Union officials, leaders of the National Organization for Women, and Democratic politicians in the Black community are campaigning hard for Bradley, pushing the idea that he is a meaningful alternative.

Stopping layoffs

At a recent political convention of over 1,000 Blacks in New York, California Congressman Willie Brown berated the Black community in California for not registering to vote in higher numbers: "Don't they understand that Tom Bradley will never be elected governor of the state of California if they don't vote. . . . If you want, and excuse me folks, an ass kicking, you just fail to vote in California. If you want your job to disappear, you just fail to vote in California if you're Black."

Mason disagrees with this. "It is a cruel hoax to tell Black people we can stop the real 'ass-kicking' we are getting right now and save jobs by voting for someone like Bradley," he says.

Unemployment is 10.3 percent in California, according to official statistics. There have been huge layoffs in

steel, auto, aerospace and other industries. Edmund Brown, the current governor who is a Democrat, has done nothing to stop this.

Nor does Bradley have the answer. Bradley's program for unemployment is basically the same as Deukmejian's. They both advocate getting jobs through private industry, giving concessions to big business so as to create a better "business climate." This is Reaganism and it has not provided jobs. It succeeds only in lining the pockets of the rich.

The antilabor candidates

Deukmejian is blatantly antilabor in word and deed. Bradley says he wants to be fair to both workers and employers, but he's antiunion in his actions. Where he could get away with it, he has broken strikes of city workers. In other instances, he has used less crude methods to wring concessions and give-backs from the unions. In the recent Los Angeles bus strike, he helped pressure the strikers to agree to take the question of hiring more part-time drivers to arbitration.

Deukmejian opposes rent control. Bradley says he's for it, but maneuvers behind the scenes to gut rent control provisions that aid tenants.

Bradley and Deukmejian both support the prosecution of youths who have refused draft registration. Both support nuclear power, including the Diablo Canyon plant, which is built on an earthquake fault.

Both have close ties to state and city cops. Bradley was on the Los Angeles police force for 21 years and Deukmejian is now state attorney general. With Bradley as mayor, Los Angeles police committed one brutal crime after another against Blacks and Chicanos, with nothing being done to stop this. Instead he has pushed for more funding for police. One of the main campaign issues being pushed by the media is: Who is more propolice, Bradley or Deukmejian?

Los Angeles is one of the most segregated cities in the country, and the schools in the Black community are in a state of crisis. Yet when racists attacked and turned back busing programs, Bradley stood to one side.

Bradley will be the first Black governor in the country if he is elected. But this will not bring about more genuine political representation for Black people. As Mel Mason puts it, "You can't represent Blacks and the wealthy ruling class at the same time."

The Seaside experience

Mason's election to city council grew out of struggles in the Black community against racism. As an elected official, Mason has used his office to strengthen the independent organization of working people in Seaside.

He has supported union struggles, walking picketlines and building solidarity with workers on strike. Working with tenant unions, he helped mobilize the forces necessary to stop rent increases at local housing projects. He has joined with the NAACP, the Seaside chapter of the Black Independent Political Party, and churches to wage a campaign against police brutality. And he has built support for Black GIs at Ft. Ord in their fight against racist harassment at the army base.

While affirmative action has been under attack across the country, Mason worked with others to push through an affirmative action decree for city workers. And Mason is helping build the struggle in support of thousands of youths in California who have refused to register for the draft.

Within Seaside, the example set by Mason's campaign is spreading. Another Black community activist, Henry Fryson, is running for city council and has received significant community support. There is also an indepen-



Militant/Harry Ring

Democrat Bradley's program for jobs is to give more tax breaks to big business.

dent candidate for mayor, Shirley Rainer, who is active in building local struggles against racism and for workers' rights.

Political break needed

Mason points out that Reaganism can't be stopped by voting Democratic because the liberals in the Democratic Party are simply more subtle supporters of the very attacks that go under the heading of Reaganism.

That is why the Seaside example is so important. That's why the Mason campaign and the Socialist Workers Party campaigns of Juan Martínez for U.S. Senate and Pedro Vázquez for secretary of state are educating on the need to break from the vise of the two-party system.

They point to the union movement as the obvious place to organize such a break. They propose that the unions stop spending the workers' money on candidates such as Bradley and begin to use these resources to organize a labor party as an alternative to the capitalist parties. Unions, which are the largest workers organizations, are in the strongest position to take such a step and to draw in other forces such as farmers, women's organizations, and organizations fighting for Black and Latino rights and the rights of undocumented workers.

"What we are saying is that working people themselves have to get actively involved," Mason says. "We have to participate in politics on our own terms and begin to transform the unions so that these organizations can do a better job of fighting the attacks. Our goal must be nothing less than replacing those who are running the government now. We have to create a government of working people and farmers."

The fight to build a party which can provide real solutions to the problems workers face will be a process, but it is an effort that is beginning. Disillusionment with the capitalist parties is growing, and Mason campaigners are finding a good response to the ideas they are raising.

Mason campaign needs your help

Those who want to support Mel Mason's campaign for governor of California are urged to contact their local Mason headquarters and join in the weekly campaigning.

Los Angeles: 2546 W. Pico Blvd. Zip: 90006. Telephone (213) 380-9460.

Oakland: 2864 Telegraph Ave. Zip: 94609. Telephone (415) 763-3792.

San Diego: 1053 15th St. Zip: 92101. Telephone (714) 234-4630.

San Francisco: 3284 23rd St. Zip: 94110. Telephone (415) 824-1992.

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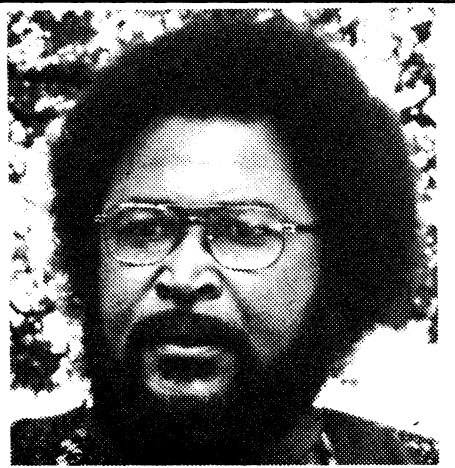
Seaside: 1043A Broadway. Zip: 93955. Telephone (408) 394-1855.

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Antilabor policy spells defeat for Koch

BY STEVE BRIDE

NEW YORK — New York State Democrats got a chance on September 23 to pick who they didn't want for governor, and they decided that was Edward Koch.

By a ratio of 53 percent to 47 percent, they sent the New York City mayor to defeat at the hands of Lieutenant Governor Mario Cuomo in the Democratic gubernatorial primary.

Cuomo now faces right-wing millionaire, drug store proprietor, and Republican nominee Lewis Lehrman in the November 2 election. Cuomo and Lehrman also occupy, respectively, the Liberal and Conservative party ballot lines.

Opposing both is Socialist Workers Party candidate Diane Wang, a garment worker.

What interest there was in the Democratic race centered on one question: How many people were fed up with Koch and his policies? Quite a few, it turned out.

The 38 percent turnout was high for a gubernatorial primary; the last one, in 1978, drew only 21 percent of all registered Democrats. In New York City, 44 percent showed up to vote, a statewide primary record. In Black and Latino sections of the Bronx, the figure reached 60 percent. Upstate, 29 percent made it to the polls despite heavy rains.

Key New York City Black communities — Harlem, Bedford-Stuyvesant, Ocean Hill-Brownsville — went almost 2 to 1 against Koch.

This, after the mayor's campaign had outspent Cuomo, \$3.5 million to \$1.6 million.

The attention on Koch was such that 20 percent of those voting didn't bother to cast ballots for senatorial or lieutenant governor candidates.

Why Koch lost

As for substantive differences, there was little to choose between Koch and Cuomo. Aside from the death penalty, which Cuomo said he opposes and Koch says he supports, the *New York Times* noted the candidates "often went to great lengths to find differences" in their respective records.

While debates between the two produced a good deal of name-calling, observed the *Times*, differences on the issues were "less clear."

Indeed, Cuomo's victory statement lauded Koch as an "extraordinary public servant," adding, "I look forward to locking arms with Mayor Koch."

Reasons for Koch's defeat, then, must be sought elsewhere.

Most of them can be found in the hatred Koch has incurred after five years as mayor, leading the assault on city services and city workers. During this time, he has invited — and won — a reputation as a more-or-less open racist. He is despised by unionists for, among other things, trying to break the 1980 city transit strike.

Cuomo was the beneficiary of this sentiment. He pressed the advantage by linking Koch to the programs of the Reagan administration. At certain points during his administration, the mayor demonstratively associated himself with Reagan. And, of course, Koch's economic and social attacks on working people have much in common with Reagan's.

Campaign officials on both sides also indicated that the recent Israeli-backed massacre in Beirut probably fueled the fires against Koch. The latter is an ardent supporter of the Zionist state, and was photographed in New York with Israeli Defense Minister Ariel Sharon just weeks before primary day.

Whatever mileage Cuomo may have gotten from this, he also refused to assign any blame to the Israeli government for the slaughter.

Union officials' role

Particularly significant was the decision of most city and state labor leaders

to throw in with Cuomo, and their subsequent role in the campaign.

In August, the state AFL-CIO convention declared for the lieutenant governor. Anti-Koch sentiment among rank-and-file unionists forced even the United Federation of Teachers, which last year backed Koch for mayor in defiance of the city Central Labor Council, to go along with the convention.

Shortly thereafter, Cuomo appeared as an honored guest at the September 6 Labor Day march up New York's Fifth Avenue.

As the campaign intensified, so too did leafleting for Cuomo by union staffers, particularly among transit, city, and garment workers. Unions (notably the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees) provided Cuomo with staffers and most of the 10,000 volunteers who rang phones and doorbells to turn out the Cuomo vote.

A door-to-door army of this size is rare these days, as candidates prefer to rely on their television campaigning.

Socialist candidate responds

Labor's role in defeating Koch brought this response from SWP gubernatorial candidate Diane Wang:

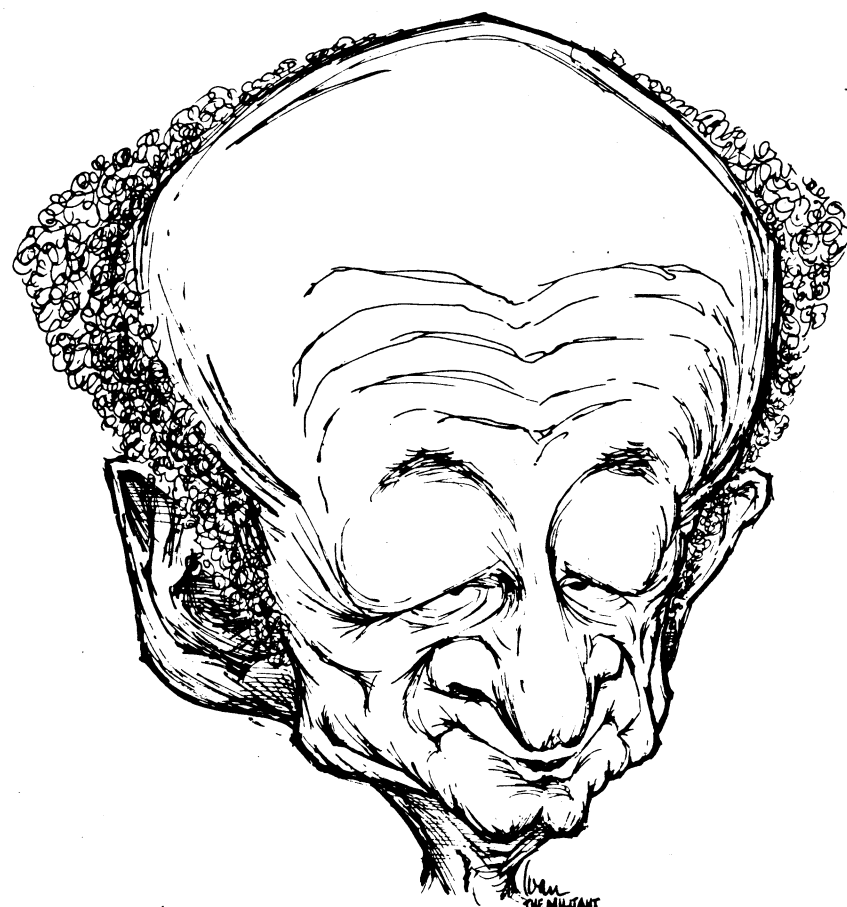
"The primary gave a glimpse of the kind of organizational clout our unions have in them. The question is, in whose political interests should this power be mobilized?"

"On September 23, this power — some of it — and workers' justifiable hatred of Koch were used to nominate another Democrat. Mario Cuomo and some union officials encouraged this by portraying Koch and his policies as crea-

tures of the Reagan administration.

"The fact is, the attacks on social services and public workers in New York City began in 1975 under Mayor Abraham Beame, a Democrat. They were deepened in 1977 by Koch, while the White House was occupied by Jimmy Carter, a Democrat.

"In other words, these attacks had been going on for five years before Ronald Reagan ever came onto the scene."



Wang then turned to Mario Cuomo's recent record.

"Last April, New York Governor Hugh Carey vetoed \$941 million in state expenditures for school aid, mass transit, bilingual programs, community and health services, child welfare, and youth jobs programs.

"Did Lieutenant Governor Cuomo, a member of the Carey administration,

Continued on Page 15

Lone Star steelworkers angered by layoffs



Socialist Workers candidate Lee Oleson talks to laid-off steelworkers at Lone Star plant.

BY KATHY RETTIG

LONE STAR, Texas — This state has largely been insulated from the current recession, but it's catching up.

Starting eight months ago, 58 oil refineries have been shut down. Then came mass layoffs in the oil-service industry. Unemployment jumped from 5.5 percent in January to 7.2 percent in July.

On August 17, layoffs hit Lone Star Steel. This east Texas mill, which produced oil-drilling pipe, closed indefinitely, throwing 3,500 workers on the street.

Lee Oleson, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress from Dallas and a laid-off steelworker, visited here to express solidarity with fellow steelworkers.

Oleson and campaign supporters talked with scores of workers who were at United Steelworkers of America Local 4134's hall to hear about unemployment benefits.

"I've been at Lone Star 12 years in electrical maintenance," one worker said. "And I never thought I'd see this happen. Our hours had been cut, and I

thought there would be a small layoff, but I never thought it would hit me. They said there was an oil shortage. So why all of these layoffs?"

Most of the workers Oleson talked with said they planned to stay in Lone Star to see if the plant would reopen some operations by January, as the company has indicated.

"If the plant doesn't open by the time the SUB [Supplemental Unemployment Benefits] pay runs out, I don't know what we're going to do," Grover, a Black Vietnam veteran, said. "Everyone wants to go back to work, but there are no other jobs around here." He said he knew first-hand as a veteran that the idea that war brings jobs is a myth. "War isn't the answer to any situation," he said.

Oleson raised the need for the unions to form a labor party independent of the Democrats and Republicans. Such a party would fight for a government of workers and farmers, not corporate bosses.

"That makes sense to me," said one worker.

"The government doesn't represent me," said another.

One middle-aged white worker said he had hesitations about socialism, but thought working people should run the country. "We ought to take over the government," he said. "We have nowhere else to go. Four hundred years ago people came here to escape governments that ran over people. And we fought against taxation without representation. Even if we went to the moon," he said, "they'd tax us on the trip." He expressed dissatisfaction with the union's orientation toward candidates of the Democratic and Republican parties.

The worker, a member of Bricklayer's and Allied Craftmen's Local 11 in the plant, said that now his union is "paying a fortune for all this political junk. We get this glossy magazine [from the union] filled with all of these politicians telling us what they are doing for labor. They must think I'm some kind of an idiot. They try to tell me what to think."

A young steelworker, William, said he didn't vote and had never seen any reason to. But he, and several others, said if they could vote for someone like Oleson they would.

After hearing Oleson's ideas, another worker said he agreed, but added, "Well, you know, I always vote straight Democrat."

One laid-off worker said he agreed that the corporations run the country, including the Democratic and Republican parties.

"They don't care about our welfare or about jobs or about anything, really, except themselves. They kill people. They don't care."

This worker said he admired Oleson for expressing his ideas, but he did not think Oleson had a chance. "They [the corporations] control everything," the worker said. "It's like 1984. You know that book by George Orwell?"

A Black worker said "Right on" when he heard Oleson propose a workers and farmers government. "Good luck. You've got my vote."

Until prosperity do us part — Noting that the economic slump has been accompanied by



Harry Ring

a drop in the divorce rate, a University of Chicago researcher observed, "My impression is that divorces do move in stages

with the business cycle. . . . If the economy does well in the next nine months it will begin to show up in the divorce rates."

Take a long weekend — The *Wall Street Journal* reports that many firms are now firing earlier than Friday. "It's depressing for the fired employee to go home on Friday without a job," explained a Morton Salt exec.

Pink letter? — One company spokesperson told the *Wall Street Journal* that when firings occur higher up the ladder,

firms go to greater length to explain the action.

There's always the bright side — We decided times really are tough on reading that executive wages increased only 13 percent this year, as against 14 percent last year. However, researchers hasten to assure, the rate of increase in base pay trailed significantly behind that of bonus payments.

Sociology dep't — "Those guys don't have stress. They create it." — Herbert Benson, a

Boston psychiatrist, debunking the notion that top company execs suffer the most stress.

Dep't of sinking expectations — Time was when "full employment" meant everybody was working. Then it came to mean 4 or 5 percent unemployed. Now, advises Reagan, even with a "healthy" economy there will be 6 to 6.5 percent unemployed. Thus, "full employment" will mean a mere 7 million out of work.

Hanging in mid-air? — "At

this point we are at the interim period between a recession and recovery." — Commerce secretary Malcolm Baldrige.

Shopping tip — Most luxury items have gone up faster than the inflation rate, according to a recent survey. But a 7-oz. jar of Beluga caviar has stayed at \$199 since 1980.

Thought for the week — "With so many people laid off and the economy so bad, people just can't afford funerals." — A D.C. funeral director.

—CALENDAR—

ALABAMA

Birmingham

Economic Recovery or a New Depression: What Lies Ahead for Workers? Speaker: Andy Rose, former editor of the *Militant*. Sat., Oct. 9, 7:30 p.m. 205 18th St. S. Donation requested. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (205) 323-3079.

ARIZONA

Phoenix

Jobs Not War — A Fighting Program for Workers and Farmers. Socialist Workers campaign rally and dinner. Speakers: Fred Halstead, Socialist Workers Party National Committee member and author of *Out Now and What Working People Should Know About Nuclear Power*; Jessica Sampson, SWP candidate for Congress, 2nd District; Rob Roper, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate; others. Translation in Spanish. Sat., Oct. 16; dinner, 5:30 p.m.; rally, 7:30 p.m. 613 E Indian School Rd. Donation: \$5 or \$2 for rally only. For more information call (602) 274-7399.

CALIFORNIA

San Jose

Reagan's Attack on Women's Right to Abortion. Speaker: Roberta Frick, member, International Association of Machinists Local 563, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Oct. 15, 7:30 p.m. 46½ Race St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (408) 998-4007.

Seaside

Campaign Rally Barbecue. Speakers: Mel Mason, independent candidate for governor; Henry Fryson, independent candidate for city council; Shirley Rainer, independent candidate for mayor; others. Sun., Oct. 24, noon on. Cutino Park. Ausp: Mel Mason for Governor Committee. For more information call (408) 394-1855.

COLORADO

Denver

Do Immigrants Cause Unemployment? Gov. Lamm supports the anti-immigrant Simpson-Mazzoli Bill, should you? Speakers: Felix Garcia, Colorado Rural Legal Service; Brother Marshall Gourley, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church; Lalo Delgado, Colorado Migrant Council; Floyd Fowler, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Oct. 15, 7:30 p.m. 126 W 12th Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Denver Socialist Forum. For more information call (303) 534-8954.

FLORIDA

Miami

Central America: Reagan's Growing War — The New Vietnam. Speaker: Victor Orlando, Revolutionary Democratic Front of El Salvador. Fri., Oct. 16, 7:30 p.m. Florida International University—North, Student Center, Rm. 320; NW 151st St. (off Biscayne Blvd.). Ausp: Latin America and Caribbean Solidarity Association. For more information call (305) 638-0878.

INDIANA

Indianapolis

Socialist Campaign Rally. Hear the 1982 & 1983 Socialist Workers candidates and others. Sun., Oct. 24; reception, 6:30 p.m.; rally, 7 p.m. 4850 N College Ave. Small donation. For more information call (317) 283-6149.

KENTUCKY

Louisville

Why Working People Should Oppose the

Simpson-Mazzoli Anti-Immigrant Bill. Speakers: Craig Honts, Socialist Workers candidate for 3rd Congressional District; Mattie Jones, chair, Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression. Sun., Oct. 10, 7:30 p.m. 809 E Broadway. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (502) 587-8418.

MARYLAND

Baltimore

Crisis Facing Steelworkers: What Are the Problems, What Are the Solutions. Speakers: Geoff Mirelowitz, laid-off steelworker, member of United Steelworkers Local 2609, *Militant* correspondent covering Steelworkers convention. Fri., Oct. 15, 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

South Africa: White Rule, Black Revolt. Speakers: Maka Colo Ngcobo, representative of African National Congress; Ike Nahem, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Oct. 22, 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

There is an Alternative: Socialist Workers Campaign Rally. Speakers: Don Gurewitz, SWP candidate for governor, member, International Union of Electrical Workers Local 201; Art LeClair, SWP candidate for lieutenant governor, member International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 791; Jane Roland, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate, laid-off member, Shipbuilders Union Local 5; Valerie Johnson Eckart, SWP candidate for 9th Congressional District, laid-off member, United Auto Workers Local 422; Mac Warren, an organizer of Student Committee Against Racism during 1974-75 Boston busing struggle, national leader of Socialist Workers Party. Sun., Oct. 24; social, 6 p.m.; rally, 7 p.m. Church of the Covenant, 67 Newbury St. For more information call (617) 262-4621.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

The Nuclear Freeze: Will it Bring Peace — A Debate. Speakers to be announced. Sun., Oct. 17, 7 p.m. 6404 Woodward Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (313) 875-5322.

MINNESOTA

Virginia

Fight Against the Draft and War. Panel discussion with nonregistrants and antiwar activists. Sat., Oct. 16, 7 p.m. 112 Chestnut St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (218) 749-6327.

Depression in Northern Minnesota: Socialist Workers Campaign Presents a Fighting Program for Working People. Speakers: Kathy Wheeler, SWP candidate for governor; Bill Onasch, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate. Sat., Oct. 23, 6:30 p.m. Miners Memorial Bldg. Ausp: Minneapolis SWP Campaign Committee. For more information call (218) 749-6327.

MISSOURI

Kansas City

Labor's Stake in Defending Nebraska Meat Strikers. Speaker: Michael Carper, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Lincoln, vice-president, Brotherhood of Railway Carmen Local 799. Sun., Oct. 10, 8 p.m. 4715 A Troost. Donation: \$2. Ausp:

Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (816) 753-0404.

St. Louis

Abortion: Why Women Need the Right to Choose. Speakers: Ingrid Smith, director, Ladies Center Abortion Clinic; Barbara Kline, Young Socialist Alliance; others. Fri., Oct. 15, 7:30 p.m. 6223 Delmar (near Skinker). Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (314) 725-1570.

Rally Against Washington's Wars: Why Working People Should Run the Country. Speakers: Jody Curran, Socialist Workers candidate for Senate, member, International Association of Machinists; Marie Cobbs, SWP candidate for governor of Illinois, member, Brotherhood of Railway and Airline Clerks. Sat., Oct. 23; open house, 6:30 p.m.; rally, 7:30 p.m. 5007 Waterman (Unitarian Church near Kings Highway). Donation: \$3. Ausp: St. Louis Socialist Workers Campaign Committee. For more information call (314) 725-1570.

NEW MEXICO

Albuquerque

What's Behind Draft Registration. Speakers: Philip Sarah, Palestinian human rights activist; Graham Meyer, member, Student Committee for Human Rights in Latin America; Jeff Jones, Young Socialist Alliance; others. Thurs., Oct. 14, 7:30 p.m. University of New Mexico, SUB Student Union, Rm. 231 E. For more information call (505) 842-0954.

NEW YORK

Brooklyn

Defending Women's Rights. Margaret Jayko, staff writer for *Militant*. Translation in Spanish. Sat., Oct. 16, 7:30 p.m. 335 Atlantic Ave. (near Hoyt). Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (212) 852-7922.

Manhattan

No Draft, No War: A Speakout in Support of Draft Resisters. Speakers to be announced. Translation in Spanish. Fri., Oct. 15, 7:30 p.m. 79 Leonard (5 blocks south of Canal, off Broadway). Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

NORTH CAROLINA

Winston-Salem

Fight Against the Bosses' Wars at Home and Abroad. Speakers: Meryl Lynn Farber, Socialist Workers candidate for 5th Congressional District in North Carolina; Maceo Dixon, SWP candidate for 5th Congressional District in Georgia; Bridget Clark, Young Socialist Alliance; Jim Grant, Commission for Racial Justice. Sat., Oct. 16; reception, 6 p.m.; rally, 7 p.m. 216 E 6th St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Farber for Congress Campaign Committee. For more information call (919) 723-3419.

OHIO

Cincinnati

Last Hired, First Fired: How to Fight Black Unemployment and Job Discrimination. Speakers: Charles Hughes, National Black Independent Political Party; Omari Musa, Socialist Workers Party; others. Sun., Oct. 10, 7:30 p.m. 4945 Paddock Rd. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (513) 242-7161.

Toledo

Socialist Workers Campaign Rally. Speakers: Alicia Merel, SWP candidate for

U.S. Senate; Sue Skinner, SWP candidate for 9th Congressional District; Kurt Landefeld, SWP candidate for governor. Fri., Oct. 14; reception, 7 p.m.; rally, 8 p.m. Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 7-346 Hall, 2910 Consaul St. Donation: \$3. Ausp: Toledo Socialist Workers Campaign Committee. For more information call (419) 536-0383.

OREGON

Portland

Machines, Migrants, and Monopolies: An Agricultural Crisis. A narrated slideshow by Science for the People. Sun., Oct. 17, 7:30 p.m. 711 NW Everett. Donation: \$1.50. Ausp: Militant Bookstore Forum. For more information call (503) 222-7225.

Socialist Workers Campaign Rally. Speakers: Ron Richards, SWP candidate for governor; others. Sun., Oct. 24, 7:30 p.m. 711 NW Everett. Donation: \$2.50. Ausp: Oregon Socialist Workers Campaign Committee. For more information call (503) 222-7225.

PENNSYLVANIA

Harrisburg

Jobs Not War: Socialist Workers Campaign Rally. Speakers: Mark Zola, SWP candidate for governor, member, United Steelworkers Local 1408; Katherine Sojourner, SWP candidate for lieutenant governor, member, USW Local 1688; Cathy Emminizer, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate, member, United Auto Workers Local 92; Samuel Farley, SWP candidate for 2nd Congressional District, hospital worker; Debra Johnson, Harrisburg Black community activist, eyewitness to police brutality. Sat., Oct. 16; social, 6 p.m.; rally, 7 p.m. 803 N 2nd St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Central Pennsylvania Socialist Workers Campaign Committee. For more information call (717) 234-5052.

Philadelphia

Israel's War Against the Palestinians. Speaker: Mark Zola, Socialist Workers candidate for governor. Sat., Oct. 9, 7:30 p.m. 5811 N Broad St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (215) 927-4747.

TEXAS

Dallas

Women's Rights Under Attack. Speakers: Beverly Andalora, member, United Food and Commercial Workers, Young Socialist Alliance; Mavis Belisle, War Resisters League; others. Translation in Spanish. Sun., Oct. 17, 7 p.m. 2817 Live Oak St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (214) 826-4711.

VIRGINIA

Newport News

Socialist Workers Campaign Rally. Speakers: Eli Green, SWP candidate for Senate, member, United Steelworkers Local 8888; Nancy Schwalb, SWP candidate for 1st Congressional District; Ali Abed, native Palestinian; Meryl Lynn Farber, SWP candidate for 5th Congressional District in North Carolina. Sat., Oct. 9, 7 p.m. 5412 Jefferson Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Virginia State 1982 Socialist Workers Campaign Committee. For more information call (804) 380-0133.

WASHINGTON

Massacre in Beirut: Made in U.S.A. and Israel. Speakers to be announced. Sun., Oct. 17, 7 p.m. 4868 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

How I fought to keep Social Security disability benefits

BY MORRIS STARKY

CINCINNATI — I was one of thousands of disabled workers who received a letter from a state agency in August 1981. Mine was from the Ohio Bureau of Disability Determination (OBDD). The return address gave me a twinge of fear.

The letter said that the Social Security Administration (SSA) had asked the OBDD to review my eligibility for disability benefits. I was instructed to call the local office, complete some forms, and wait for the result of the review. There was no face-to-face interview and no medical examination. The determination was done solely on the basis of the record. I waited.

In September, the OBDD informed me that my condition "no longer meets or equals the Social Security regulations for disability."

The OBDD letter told me that I would be given a three-month "adjustment period" after which my benefits would be terminated. A brochure was enclosed informing me of what I could do if I disagreed with the OBDD's decision.

I knew that I couldn't do any kind of work. But, even if I could do something, who would hire a 49-year-old ex-professor with a pacemaker? Irregular heart beats and fatigue are a constant in my life. Dizzy spells are a frequent occurrence. I had to fight back.

The first thing I did was to hire a lawyer to represent me. In Social Security cases a lawyer is paid out of retroactive benefits if you win.

My lawyer filed a "Request for Reconsideration" with the SSA on my behalf. In February 1982, four months after my benefits had been cut off, I was notified that the OBDD's decision was "proper under the law."

Again, there was no medical examination or hearing to evaluate the medical evidence in the record. The "reconsideration," like the initial review, was based solely on a mechanical application of the new SSA regulations to the record.

These new regulations were established in 1980 to implement a review of all Social Security disability cases. The review was planned by the Carter administration to begin this year, but was speeded up by the Reagan administration. The new regulations severely restrict eligibility for disability benefits.

When they took effect in 1980 it was estimated that nearly 28 percent of

those receiving benefits would be "ceased," that is, cut off. Since 1980 over 100,000 disabled workers have been cut off. By 1984 the figure is expected to be 700,000. Almost 50 percent of those who are terminated appeal the decision and 67 percent of those who appeal are reinstated.

There are many documented horror stories about those who have been cut off. Some have lost their marriages; others their sanity. A few just gave up and committed suicide. Some died of their illnesses after having been told by SSA that they are not too sick to work.

Losing disability benefits is both a financial and an emotional hardship. It is difficult knowing that you are a financial burden on your family. In addition to the income, you lose Medicare. That means the added expense of health insurance at very high non-group premiums.

Even if your spouse (or whoever is supporting you) has a good job, there is the constant worry about a lay off. There is the fear of not being able to make house or rent payments. An unexpected car expense can throw your budget off for months. Although the monthly benefit payment is small, it is an independent income. That makes the difference between sharing expenses and sharing an income.

I was fortunate. My wife was not laid off and we didn't lose our house. We worried a lot and she took all the overtime she could get. It was a strain on both of us, but we continued the fight.

The next step was to file a "Request for a Hearing." Mine was filed by my lawyer in March 1982. The hearing was scheduled for July.

Social Security claims are heard by an administrative law judge who works for the Bureau of Hearings and Appeals of the SSA. Hardly an independent judicial review. Yet, the cutoffs are so inhuman that two-thirds of those appealed are reversed.

My hearing took about 40 minutes. First I was asked some questions about my history and medical condition. Then the administrative judge asked a physician he had called in as his advisor to testify about my ability to work.

The physician gave a detailed report of my illness and said that in his opinion I could not do any kind of work. That ended the hearing.

On August 18 I was notified by the administrative judge that my disability had not ceased. I was entitled to Social Security benefits all along. If that ended the matter my regular benefits would begin on October 1, and I would soon receive a check for the benefits I should have received for a whole year.

However, the Appeals Council of the SSA has 60 days in which to review — and maybe reverse — a decision by an administrative judge. It never reviews a decision affirming termination of benefits unless requested by the claimant.

However, since last October, the Appeals Council has systematically reviewed decisions of administrative judges who reverse "too many" terminations. At this writing I have not received word as to whether the decision in my case is to be reviewed by the Appeals Council.

As socialists, my wife and I knew from the outset that the problem we were facing was not just caused by overzealous application of SSA regulations or by a lack of money for disability benefits. The problem is that the government — all of its departments and agencies — is set up solely to protect the property and further the interests of the capitalist class.

The fight against disability cutoffs is part of a larger political fight to put human needs before profit.



Morris Starky

Supporters of Irish freedom go on trial in New York City

BY WILL REISSNER

NEW YORK — As the judge in federal court in Brooklyn began questioning prospective jurors on September 21, it became clear to everyone in the courtroom that a highly political trial was about to begin.

"Do you have an opinion with respect to Bobby Sands?" Judge Joseph McLaughlin asked each potential juror. Sands was the first of 10 young Irish patriots to die on hunger strikes in a British jail in Northern Ireland in 1981.

"Have you ever heard the Irish Republican Army described as freedom fighters?" McLaughlin inquired of the jurors.

On trial are five men — Thomas Falvey, George Harrison, Patrick Mullin, Martin Flannery, and Daniel Gormley — accused of engaging in a December 1980 to June 1981 conspiracy to transport weapons to Ireland for the Irish Republican Army (IRA). The IRA is fighting to end British rule over six counties of Northern Ireland and to reunite all of Ireland in a single republic.

Thomas Falvey, George Harrison, and Patrick Mullin are also accused of possessing unregistered weapons.

All five defendants pleaded not guilty. Opening statements were made on September 23.

Assistant U.S. Attorney David Kirby is being assisted at the trial by FBI Special Agent John Winslow, who operated on the case undercover as "John White." Kirby stated that the government's evidence is based on reports from informer George De Maio, on wiretaps placed on the phones of two defendants, and on conversations taped by De Maio and Winslow — alias "John White." The FBI also carried out surveillance of the homes of several defendants.

Attorney Frank Durkan, representing George Harrison, said in his opening statement that in addition to the five defendants, the "knowledge and intent of the U.S. government" are also on trial.

Durkan stated that Harrison does not deny shipping guns to Ireland. "He admits it and asserts it with pride."

Moreover, said Durkan, although the charge deals only with the period from December 1980 to June 1981, "Mr. Harrison has aided and abetted and supplied arms to the rebels in Ireland for a quarter century."

Durkan maintained that there is evidence the U.S. government knew of Harrison's involvement in sending weapons to Ireland for years, but acted when it did due to British governmental pressure on Washington.

Harrison, 67, was born in Ireland and has been involved in the struggle to oust British troops from his homeland his entire adult life. He has also been a staunch supporter of freedom struggles in South Africa, the Caribbean, and elsewhere, Durkan told the jury.

The defense recently discovered that informer George De Maio, a convicted arms dealer now serving a five-year sentence in a federal prison, was involved on a number of occasions in arms shipments for the CIA. It was De Maio who introduced FBI undercover agent John

Winslow to Harrison. Winslow allegedly sold Harrison 47 machine guns.

These machine guns, Durkan argued, were in effect planted by government agents, who then sprung the trap by seizing the planted weapons.

If the government does not subpoena De Maio, Durkan asserted, the defense will, to question him on his CIA involvement.

Patrick Mullin told the jury of his birth on a farm in Ireland and his emigration to the United States. His initial political involvement, he stated, was raising money for the civil rights movement of the late 1960s in Northern Ireland, which was fighting to end the discrimination suffered by the nationalist population there.

British troops opened fire on a civil rights march in Derry on "Bloody Sunday," Jan. 30, 1972, killing 13 marchers. "I resolved then to do everything possible to help the Irish people win their freedom," Mullin told the jury.

Martin Flannery is an 80-year-old leader of the Irish Northern Aid committee, which raises money for the families of Irish political prisoners in the British jails of Northern Ireland. He was arrested three months after Harrison, Falvey, and Mullin. Flannery was seized and handcuffed in front of fellow parishioners as he was leaving morning mass at his church.

Flannery told the jury that he joined the IRA at an early age in Ireland, and had fought for 11 years "in the hills and valleys" against the British rulers and later against the British-sponsored partition of his homeland.

For the past 55 years, Flannery has lived in the United States. In that time, he told the jury, he has never been involved in sending weapons to Ireland. But, he acknowledged, he sends his "special blessings" to those who are involved.

Flannery argued that his arrest was due to British pressure on the U.S. government to silence him because of his role in raising funds for the families of Irish prisoners.

The trial, held in Courtroom 8 of the U.S. Courthouse, 25 Cadman Plaza East, Brooklyn, N.Y., is expected to last about five weeks.

Irish struggle leader to tour U.S., Canada

Bernadette Devlin McAliskey, a leader of the Irish freedom struggle, will begin a three-week speaking tour of the U.S. and Canada in late October. Her topic will be "Ireland One Year After the Hunger Strike."

McAliskey's speaking tour will begin in New York on October 22, when she will address a meeting sponsored by District Council 37 of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees at the union's headquarters, 140 Park Place, at 7:30 pm.

The following day McAliskey will speak at a rally in solidarity with the people of El Salvador at 3 pm at the United Nations. On the evening of October 23, she will be the featured speaker at a rally for Irish political prisoners at 7:30 pm at Holy Name Church, 97th Street and Amsterdam Avenue. The rally, for which a \$5 donation is requested, is sponsored by the New York H-Block/Armagh Committee.

For more information on the rest of her tour schedule, contact the New York H-Block/Armagh Committee, 135 W. 4th St., N.Y., N.Y. 10012, or call (212) 436-4770.



Militant/Lou Howort

Defendant George Harrison

Miners' victory: gain for all workers

Coal miners in Philippi, West Virginia, have just scored a victory against their employer, SOHIO, in getting union member and socialist candidate Bill Hovland reinstated (see story on page 1). This triumph deserves a cheer from all working people.

SOHIO's attacks on mine safety and union rights in Philippi are part of the drive against working people by all employers throughout the country. In order to jack up their profits, they are trying to squeeze as much as they can out of workers. They are reopening contracts and slashing wages. They are cutting benefits and laying off workers. And they are speeding up production lines and rolling back health and safety standards.

In the coal mines, for example, fatalities are occurring at the highest rate since the record year of 1975 as safety inspections are reduced and standards are lowered. By July 15, 71 coal miners had died in the mines.

In order to impose ever harsher working conditions and lower wages, the employers demagogically try to persuade workers to go along. But they don't rely on subterfuge alone. They must also discipline workers. They must attack their right to organize, to hold meetings, to strike, to speak out, and to exercise even the most modest control over safety and working conditions. They must plant spies and finks in the plants and mines and in union meetings. They must be able to assert their right to arbitrarily fire whomever they please.

According to the National Labor Relations Board, in 1981 over 10,000 workers were illegally fired for engaging in union activities. And that doesn't count the 12,000 members of the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization (PATCO) fired by President Reagan when they were forced out on strike last year.

And when all of these measures aren't enough, brute force is used. Just in the last few months, armored National Guard vehicles rumbled through the streets of Dakota City, Nebraska, to help break a strike of meatpackers. Nebraska state cops, wielding tear gas, mace, and clubs, herded scabs through the picket lines.

In Richmond and Jasper, Indiana, striking workers have been set upon by armed guards and attack dogs.

In Teaneck, New Jersey, dozens of striking teachers were tossed into jail or confined in schools converted into makeshift prisons.

These assaults are a small sampling of the kind of force the employers and their government are going

to use as workers' resistance mounts. Firings and other attacks on democratic rights are all part of the preparation to weaken the workers' capacity to combat the even worse attacks that are coming.

In most plants throughout the country, the employers work hand-in-glove with the government in attempting to discipline workers.

In Atlanta, Georgia, 15 members of the International Association of Machinists (IAM) were fired by Lockheed more than a year ago after being spied on by the Defense Investigative Service (DIS), the FBI, and the Cobb County Sheriff's Department. Last month the fired workers filed a \$3.4 million suit against this antiunion and unconstitutional surveillance and the firings.

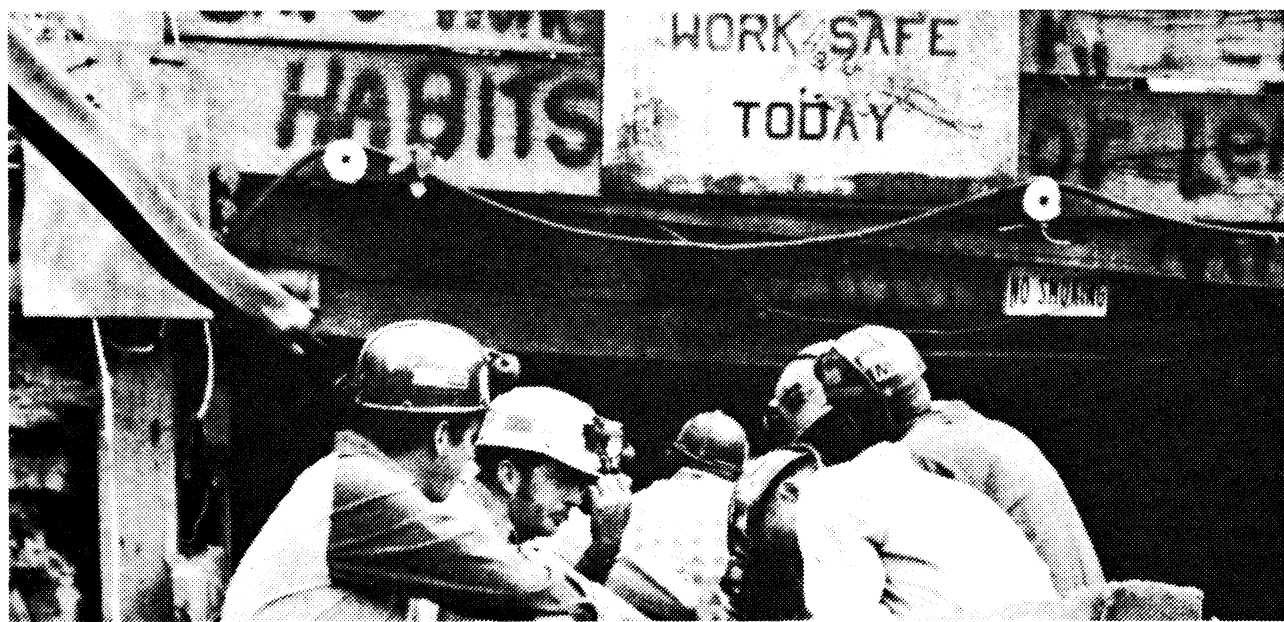
Similarly, three IAM members, fired last winter at McDonnell Douglas in St. Louis, are still fighting to be reinstated.

In recent months, the DIS and other government agencies have also teamed up with employers to harass and fire unionists at Tenneco in Newport News, Virginia; General Dynamics in Groton, Connecticut, and San Diego, California; Bendix in Kansas City, Missouri; General Electric in Lynn, Massachusetts; and Lockheed in Sunnyvale, California.

Some of these unionists are members of political groups such as the Socialist Workers Party, which the government labels "subversive." But they are far from the only targets. Any worker can be fingered by a spy in a union meeting or on the job, and branded as a "security risk."

The victory in Philippi, won by struggle, will reinforce these workers who are fighting against their firings or the threat of being fired. It is a blow against all profit-hungry employers who are attacking democratic rights.

The deepening conflict between the employers, attempting to improve their profit rates, and workers, defending their living conditions and democratic rights, is generating thousands of skirmishes like the one in Philippi. Sometimes the working class comes out ahead. Sometimes it suffers setbacks. But through all of these experiences, it is absorbing valuable lessons. The working class is becoming tougher and more clear-sighted about the depth of its conflict with the employers and what it will take to defeat the bosses. It is becoming better prepared for the big battles that are coming. The struggle in Philippi is part of this process.



Murder in 'hot box' for Black youth

As layoffs continue to mount and the Reagan administration prepares to send young men off to war, it is also moving quickly to put into place a series of "anticrime" measures. The effect in reality is to intimidate working people from fighting back against the attacks they face.

This includes moves to increase use of the death penalty, weaken the right to bail, hire more cops, and build more prisons.

And what can working people expect when they are unfortunate enough to be locked up in one of these institutions.

Take what happened at the East Carroll Parish Prison in Louisiana. Prison Superintendent Waymon Fortenberry ordered two Black youth, Randy Moore, 17 and Leroy Harris, 18 to be locked up in the "hot box."

The hot box is a steel box 70 inches long, 32 inches wide, and 78 inches high. It has solid walls with a sliding window.

The two youth were kept for 15 hours in the hot box

in order to force them to divulge information.

When the hot box was opened the next day Moore was found dead and Harris died shortly afterwards. They both died from heat stroke and dehydration.

The worst part is that this is nothing new. It represents the normal way the capitalist system functions.

This is a racist system. Its foreign policy consists of supporting bloody dictatorships in the name of "defending democracy," and it offers unemployment, racism, and of course more prisons with assorted "hot boxes" as the solution to the crisis at home.

The victimization of young men like Moore and Harris whether in prison, through the draft, or unemployment will only be ended when the real criminals are apprehended.

When the tiny minority of super rich profiteers and their political henchmen in the Democratic and Republican parties are replaced by a government of working people, then barbaric institutions such as the prison system will be razed to the ground and replaced by institutions working people really need.

Sputnik 1: achievement for Soviet economy, jolt to Washington

October 4 marked 25 years since Sputnik 1, the first artificial satellite to circle the Earth, was launched by the Soviet Union. That event profoundly shocked U.S. big business and its supporters who had been saying for years that the Soviet Union's planned economy could never match the achievements of the "free enterprise system" in the sphere of science and technology.

This jolt, however, did not prevent the big-business-controlled mass media from continuing its propaganda drive to picture the USSR's planned economy as a hopeless failure.

Yet at the same time, as part of their drive to portray the USSR as a military threat, many big-business spokesmen argue that it's winning the "arms race."

For example, the October 3 edition of the *New York Times Magazine* published an article by Professor Robert Jastrow, former director of the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies, which argues that the Soviet space program is far superior to that of the United States. Jastrow demands that the U.S. government step up military expenditures to prepare for

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warfare in space. "Twenty-five years ago, the Russians surprised us by launching Sputnik. For more than 10 years they have been gearing up to surprise us again."

In 1957 the reaction to Sputnik by big-business mouthpieces was much the same as Jastrow's reaction to Soviet scientific accomplishments today. Below are excerpts from an article by *Militant* staff writer Art Preis that appeared in the October 14, 1957, *Militant*.

* * *

Launched October 4 and now circling earth some 560 miles out in space at about 18,000 miles per hour, the Soviet Union's man-made "moon" represents a stupendous stride in man's understanding of the world and the universe. But this awesome scientific achievement has been greeted by the big-business press and leading figures in this country with scarcely concealed chagrin. Indeed, as its full significance sinks in, the reaction of American top circles approaches what might be called "controlled panic."

The Democratic *N.Y. Post* admitted in its October 7 editorial: "We cannot really sit back and enjoy the spectacle. For the inescapable corollary of the weekend revelation is that the Kremlin's capacity for push-button warfare may be larger than most men had heretofore conceded." But it insisted that "the result need not be catastrophic if we respond to the challenge with solemnity and imagination" and, of course, "without panic."

The Republican *N.Y. World-Telegram* called the Soviet's new scientific achievement "massive blackmail." It complained in an October 8 editorial that "we probably are due to be subjected to 'massive retaliation' Soviet style" — a phrase that now sounds more ominous to the American profiteer-imperialists than when Secretary of State Dulles, boasting of U.S. H-Bomb superiority, first hurled it as a threat against the Soviet Union.

With the U.S. perfection of the H-Bomb, thousands of times as destructive as the A-Bomb, Washington became more truculent than ever. The threat of "massive retaliation" became the verbal screen for more aggressive moves and stepped-up war preparations. But within nine months of the test explosion of America's first hydrogen-fusion device, the Soviet Union exploded one of her own, in August 1953.

The American ruling class was in a fury of frustration. First, the Chinese revolution and the Korean civil war had upset Wall Street's expansionist timetable. Then, the Soviet mastery of the nuclear weapons forced the ruling circles in this country to postpone their planned assault on the Soviet Union to a still later time.

American imperialism will play for time. But it will not change its aims, and it cannot forever repress the internal forces that drive it toward world conflict. The tiny class of ruling capitalists, with their political and military agents, cannot be trusted to maintain the peace. Their control over the new mighty engines of destruction must be ended. The people — with the working class in the lead — must take the road of genuine independent political action and assume control of this country's destiny. Peace lies not in a bigger and better sputnik, but in a workers and farmers government in America.

National debt

The recent movement in Congress to pass a balanced-budget amendment has started me to wondering how to retire the national debt.

Debt is in a sense negative wealth, so why not tax wealth (net worth) to retire the national debt over a period of say 20 years.

There are difficulties with a tax on wealth: how to get people to estimate their wealth and report it to the government; how to treat nonprofit organizations

and foundations, churches, schools, labor unions, pension funds, and foreign-owned property. These difficulties could be handled.

There are objections that a tax on wealth would reduce investment. This is false. Reducing the amount of money in circulation would increase its value. The tax would encourage people to invest to get a gain to overwhelm the tax loss.

Wealth in the U.S.A. is heavily concentrated in the top 5 percent, so it would weigh most heavily on a small group.

Such a tax could be paid with cash or high-grade stocks and bonds. This could lead to public ownership of major corporations.

I think a tax on wealth would be a useful one.

Jim Brown
Santa Rosa, California

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.

A year's worth

I bought my first *Militant* on the street in downtown Minneapolis last week and was immediately impressed with your publication. The issues revealed and reported in the *Militant* are conspicuously missing in our corporate media that the public reads everyday.

I feel that publications like yours are important in that the truth about our money-mongering society is revealed. Thank you, I'll take a year's worth.

Patrick Morley
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Truthful articles

I would like to thank you for allowing me to receive your paper for the past three months for only three dollars. I do appreciate the different points of view and very truthful articles your paper offers.

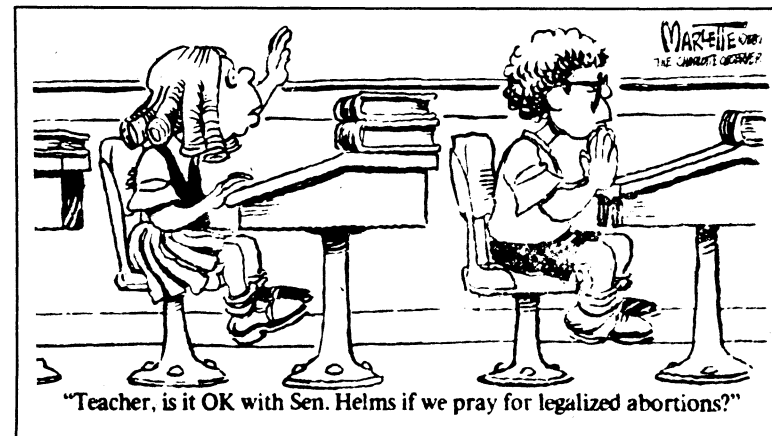
It is very important to offer a

paper that allows people to get a different perspective on issues that affect all of us. It is too bad that there are not more people aware of the many issues that affect them. Many of us are too willing to close our eyes and look the other way when they are faced with ideas that are contrary to the "American Way."

I would like to continue receiving the *Militant*, but I regret

that, because I'm a student and do not have the money, I will not be able to renew my subscription. I want to thank you again and let you know that I will renew when my financial situation is better. Please keep me on any mailing lists or send me any information about events that may be of value.

Beth Songer
Natick, Maine



Antilabor, racist policy spells defeat for Koch

Continued from Page 11

ever voice his opposition to these cuts? He did not. In fact, candidate Cuomo had already announced that the focus of his campaign would be — crime.

"So, while government figures show 8.5 percent unemployed in the state and almost 11 percent out of work in New York City, Cuomo in his campaign proposes a bond issue to build more prisons."

A similar bond issue, Wang pointed out, was put up for a statewide vote last year and was defeated.

Republican nominee Lehrman is no better in this regard, she continued, citing a series of "anticrime" Lehrman TV ads in which he is given to use of the word "savages."

Labor party

Wang again took up the question of union power.

"What if the power of our unions was used to campaign for our own candidates from our own party: workers' candidates from a labor party? What would we gain from that?"

"First off, we'd be fighting for ourselves for a change: for our own interests and our own program.

"Such a party would campaign for restoring cuts in and expanding social welfare programs, not squandering money on interest payments to wealthy bond-

holders.

"It would campaign against layoffs of public workers and for a shorter work-week with no cut in pay, to spread around the available work. And for the right of public workers to strike when

they are forced to.

"Instead of more prisons, it would campaign for more jobs, through public works programs to rebuild this state's dilapidated health, education, and transportation systems.

"Perhaps most important, such a party would point a clear road forward for workers and our allies: the road that leads to a government of workers and farmers — in Albany and in Washington."

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11. I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

(signed)
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Business Manager

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New Jersey teachers defy jail, fines

BY CLAIRE MORIARTY

TEANECK, N.J. — Starting September 29, teachers and other school employees were jailed during school hours for three consecutive days by a superior court judge for defying his order to end their strike.

But the teachers, with solid support from students, parents, and others in the community, didn't go back to work. On October 4, the judge stopped sending them to jail.

He said he would fire them if they weren't on the job by October 7, and he criticized the Board of Education for not firing them itself. He also said he would consider the unions' request for binding arbitration, which he had not done previously. The Board of Education has adamantly refused arbitration.

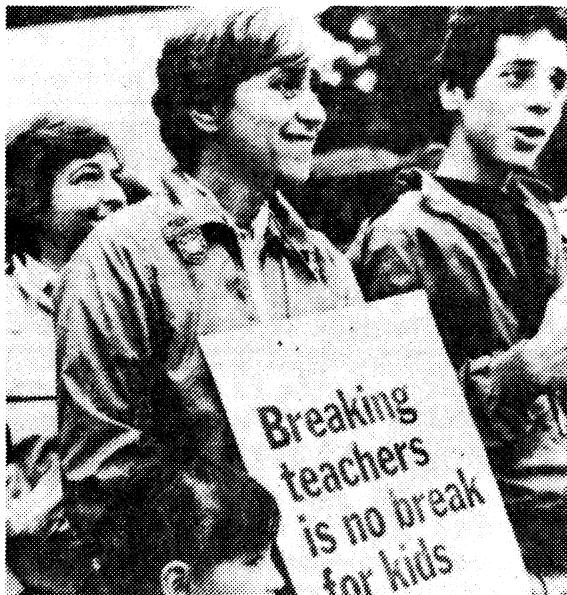
On September 29 Judge Sherwin Lester had sent 36 teachers to Bergen County Jail Annex to spend the day.

The next day, the first 36 were joined by 50 more in a makeshift prison at Washington Irving School. On October 1, some 75 more became prisoners.

October 5 — The Teaneck Board of Education, bowing to strong community pressure, agreed today to a new three-year contract for striking education workers.

Every morning and afternoon, hundreds of students, parents, and other teachers rallied to show their support to the imprisoned teachers.

Contracts expired June 30 for the Teaneck Teachers Association (TTA),



Striking teachers in Teaneck, New Jersey, with widespread community support, forced an intransigent board of education to agree October 5 to a new contract. Shown above are teachers on their way to jail (right) and strike supporters.



ciation of Educational Secretaries, all of which are seeking a wage increase of 19 percent over two-year contracts. But the Board of Education forced a strike, offering 16 percent and refusing the unions' offer of arbitration.

The board prepared well for the strike. During the summer they advertised for replacement teachers in the *New York Times*. They offered the scabs \$85 a day, almost twice the ordinary wage for substitutes, and free lunch.

Twenty-five private security guards were hired, along with nine city cops and four county sheriffs.

"We're paying for the strike," one union member told the *Militant*. "Five

days of our unpaid salaries is paying for the strikebreakers."

Judge Lester ordered the teachers back to work shortly after the strike began. Lester, a former police commissioner, issued the September 29 injunction, like his earlier back-to-work orders, at the request of the Board of Education.

He later levied \$100-a-day fines for teachers, and has since raised them to \$150.

On Wednesday, September 29, he began jailing teachers, aides, and secretaries, whose names had been provided by the board.

The next day he threatened to order the board to fire the strikers if the walk-out continued. On Monday he said he'd do it himself since the board hadn't.

But the strikers, who comprise more than 90 percent of the 600 teachers, aides, and secretaries in the school district, haven't gone back.

Despite threats to penalize students for "truancy," attendance is down. Almost no one is attending high school, and only 50 percent or so are showing up in lower grades. All of the district's 11 schools are affected.

At an October 1 solidarity rally, and later at strike headquarters, teachers made it clear that the issue is union-busting, not the wage demands of teachers, whose starting salary is \$13,500.

"It's simple," one high school teacher

told the *Militant*. "The Board of Education is out to break the union."

A first-grade teacher agreed: "There's a growing understanding that this is a fight to defend the union."

"This is a labor dispute," said a staff member of the New Jersey Education Association, of which the TTA and the aides' union are affiliates (the secretaries are part of the American Federation of Teachers).

He asked, "Why use the courts as a tool to club workers? There's no statute forbidding strikes — no reason for the Board of Ed to go to the courts, except for vindictive reasons."

Carol Goldstein, a junior-high teacher, told reporters that the law "is being used by one group to subjugate another."

Support for the striking school workers is strong among parents and students. Several community groups, including a number of ministers, have demanded that the board accept arbitration.

Teaneck's schools are desegregated. Roughly half the students in high school are Black, and a third are Black in the lower grades. Parents feel the board's intransigence threatens the quality of education in the district and thus the gains of desegregation as well.

An open letter distributed at the October 1 rally by the Concerned Parents of Teaneck noted, "Teaneck was the first

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Draft resister Sasway sentenced to 2½ years

BY SYLVIA HANSEN

SAN DIEGO — Ben Sasway, an anti-war activist convicted of refusing to register for the draft, was sentenced to two and a half years in prison by a U.S. District court here on October 4.

Sasway, jailed since August 26, has been released on \$10,000 bail while his case is on appeal.

Prior to the sentencing, Sasway stated his reasons for refusing to register. "I feel strongly that a draft is inevitable unless people assert themselves now. I believe registration leads to the draft and the draft will lead to another unjust Vietnam sort of war," he said.

The previous day over 1,300 people participated in a rally and a march in support of Ben Sasway and all draft objectors.

At the rally, Delores Sasway, Ben's mother, made an appeal to parents to support "the young people who are a ray of hope in this world."

David Clennon of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador and Medical Aid to El Salvador said that the United States is escalating its intervention in Central America. He stated that opposition to the draft is important to stop Washington from committing troops in Central America.

David Harris, jailed for draft resistance during the Vietnam War, said, "the draft is a blank check for the Pentagon to use whenever and wherever it wants, to do as they did in Vietnam. . . . No more blank checks. We decide whether or not we go."

Corky González from the Denver

Crusade for Justice pointed out the racist character of the draft. During the Vietnam War, he said, proportionately more Chicanos fought and died than whites. He called for support of draft resisters and for an end to U.S. intervention in South Africa, Palestine, Lebanon, and Central America.

The rally ended with a taped message from Ben Sasway. He said, "People are stirring. They are starting to demand the end of war confrontation policies."

He pointed out that the American people want "jobs not death and destruction. They are questioning government policies toward El Salvador and the sending of marines to Beirut. They are supporting nuclear freeze initiatives. And there is a renewed interest in taking these demands to the street nationwide."



Ben Sasway

Militant/John Naubert

Socialists back striking teachers

Claire Moriarty and Steven Wattenmaker, Socialist Workers Party candidates for U.S. Senate in New Jersey and New York respectively, issued the following statement in support of Teaneck, New Jersey, teachers and other educational workers.

The Socialist Workers Party condemns the court-ordered fines, jailings, and threatened firings of striking teachers and other school workers in Teaneck, New Jersey. This attack on the Teaneck Teachers Association and other unions is an attack on all working people.

It's also an attack on the right to public education, and on desegregated schools.

Only weeks ago Congress enacted bipartisan strikebreaking legislation against the national rail strike.

Six weeks ago state police in Dakota City, Nebraska, used tear gas, mace,

and clubs against strikers in the United Food and Commercial Workers. The National Guard was used to try to break this strike.

A year ago, the federal government launched its all-out union-busting attack on the air traffic controllers. In doing so, Reagan simply took over Carter's anti-PATCO policies.

Schools aren't jails, and teachers aren't criminals. Neither are other workers who are forced to strike for their rights.

Who are the criminals? The government and the two proemployer parties, the Democrats and Republicans. They are both staunch defenders of the capitalist system, which requires wars abroad — like those in Lebanon and Central America — and a war at home on our wages and living standards.

Rescind the fines! No jailings! No firings! Defend the Teaneck teachers and other educational workers and their unions!