

Denver unionist fights government harassment

BY BERNIE SENTER

DENVER — A serious attack on the union movement, women workers, and democratic rights is taking place in Denver, Colorado.

This attack consists of a campaign of spying, harassment, and intimidation aimed at Sally Goodman, an electrician at the Martin Marietta Corp. plant here, and other members of United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 766. Goodman is one of only three women electricians in the plant and is a founding member of the Denver chapter of the Coalition of Labor Union Women. She is also a supporter of the Young Socialist Alliance and the Socialist Workers Party.

The harassment of Goodman takes the form of an "investigation" by the Defense Investigative Service (DIS), the spy agency of the Department of Defense. This harassment is taking place with the connivance and encouragement of Martin Marietta, a major weapons producer with billion-dollar contracts for making the MX missile and other military hardware.

Goodman's UAW local filed two grie-

vances on her behalf against these outrageous acts. Goodman told the *Militant* that she intends to take her case to the entire labor movement — in Denver and nationally.

On September 10, the company called Goodman into the security offices where she was confronted by DIS agents. She was told that they were investigating her "background." They said that "allegations" had been made that raised questions about the propriety of her having the security clearance which the company requires her to hold in order to keep her job.

These allegations were:

- Goodman is a member of the "Young Socialist League (sic);"
- She is "at least an associate of known members of the Socialist Workers Party;" and
- She is gay.

DIS made it known to one of Goodman's co-workers that they had agents working on her case in California and New York, where she had previously lived.

Within a week, DIS agents had interviewed three of Goodman's friends about

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Militant
 Sally Goodman, one of three women electricians at Martin Marietta plant, is under 'investigation' for her union activities and political ideas.

Harrisburg unions give warm welcome to Salvadoran labor leader

BY KATHERINE SOJOURNER

HARRISBURG, Pa. — Thirty-three labor and other organizations and individuals sponsored the successful tour here by Alejandro Molina Lara, the exiled Salvadoran trade unionist.

Molina Lara, who is a leader of the National Confederation of Salvadoran Workers (FENASTRAS) and secretary-general of the Fishing Industry Union (SIP), was forced to leave his country as a result of the repression of the Salvadoran labor movement by the U.S.-backed military junta there. He is here reaching out for support from the U.S. labor movement.

Among the sponsors of his tour here were the Harrisburg Central Labor Council, Paul Gehris of the Pennsylvania Council of Churches; Pete Huebel, director of Region 4 of the United Food and Commercial Workers; and Rev. Thomas Haney of the Catholic Witness.

Additional sponsors included Andrew Stern, state president of the Pennsylvania Social Services Union, Service Employees

International Union (SEIU); the Harrisburg chapter of the National Organization of Women; Earl Keihl, district director of District 4 United Furniture Workers of America; two district managers of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU); and eight area ministers.

The first stop in his trip to Harrisburg began with a well-attended press conference at the state capital rotunda.

As a result of the press conference, the headline of the afternoon newspaper, the *Evening News*, read "Support Salvadoran Workers, Unionists Asks." Channel 15 TV explained quite well the plight of the people of war-torn El Salvador and stressed Molina Lara's appeal to the American people to stop the U.S. government's massive flow of arms to the dictatorship in his country.

Channel 27 showed Molina Lara explaining that his people have been forced into a war in order to prevent being driven to their knees and calling for an end to U.S. arms and for the solidarity of the American people.

In the same newscast, City Councilwoman Jane Perkins pointed out that many U.S. cities are facing cutbacks, fiscal crises, and layoffs. She blamed the massive shipment of arms to dictators like those in El Salvador "and the huge military budget that is growing more every day."

Another participant in the news conference was Nate Gadsden, president of the Central Pennsylvania Chapter of the Black Social Workers. He told reporters that "the people of El Salvador are fighting for justice and democracy, and the United States is aiding a regime that wants to defeat justice and democracy."

That evening, a public meeting was held in the union hall of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 143. The president of the local, Glen Shaffer, opened the meeting by welcoming the 60 participants. David Nack, head of organizing for the Pennsylvania ILGWU, chaired the meeting.

Nack announced that the night before the Erie-Pennsylvania Central Labor Council passed a resolution calling for an end to all U.S. aid to El Salvador.

Before Molina Lara addressed the audience, four speakers representing the broad sponsorship of the meeting welcomed the Salvadoran leader. Pastor Gregory Harbaugh of the Lakeside Lutheran Church pointed out that as a former member of the United Auto Workers Union he welcomed Molina Lara as a Christian brother and a union brother. He urged Americans to fight for an end to all U.S. intervention in El Salvador.

Earl Keihl from the Furniture Workers asserted that the United States government would be beating, jailing, and torturing U.S. unionists if they thought they could get away with it. He stressed that "unless we support our brothers and sisters in El Salvador, the time will come when we will find ourselves under the same attack here."

Anita Stabile, president of Harrisburg NOW, stated NOW's solidarity with the trade unionists and women of El Salvador.

David Nack pointed to a list of U.S. corporations in El Salvador and said this was a source of the suffering. He said that the money being stolen from "our vitally needed social-service programs in this

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Coal miners celebrate inauguration of Trumka

BY LOUISE GLOVER

CHARLESTON, W. Va. — For the first time in the history of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA), the inauguration of international union officers took place in the coal fields.

About 2,000 miners turned out here December 22 as Richard Trumka, new president of the coal miners' union, and other officers were sworn in at a public rally at the Charleston Civic Center. The ceremony was hosted by UMWA District 17.

The decision to hold the inauguration in Charleston is symbolic of the strength of rank-and-file democracy in the UMWA. Determined to stand firm against employer and government attempts to weaken their union, coal miners sought to rearm the UMWA by voting out incumbent president Sam Church last month and electing a new leadership team headed by Trumka. Church — hated for his cooperation with the employers and their demands for union concessions — was defeated more than two to one.

Robert Long, international executive board member for UMWA District 14 and the master of ceremonies for Trumka's inauguration, summed up the theme of the event: "This represents a new beginning to put the UMWA in the forefront of the labor movement."

In a fiery speech interrupted by numerous ovations, Trumka pledged to stand firm on his campaign platform. He described the legacy of the union's history: the fight for the eight-hour day, the struggle to organize all industrial workers in the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO), and the UMWA's unequivocal stance in its early days against discrimination.

"This union," he said, "was built on unity regardless of color, creed, or national origin."

He pointed out the enormous problems the union faces today: 42,000 miners are unemployed, and thousands more are on short workweeks. One hundred and eighteen miners have been killed so far this year in mine accidents.

He also cited how the mines have changed. They are now owned, he said, by giant energy monopolies which "have altered the climate of contract negotiations."

He pledged to stand firm in the 1984 contract negotiations: "We have promised no backward steps."

He also promised the union will organize unorganized mines, and said, "We will see the day when every ton of coal mined in America will be stamped UMWA."

\$250,000 publications fund over top with week to go!

BY HARRY RING

We did it — in full and ahead of schedule!

As of December 22, we have received \$270,470 toward our \$250,000 Socialist Publications Fund. And by the official closing date of December 31 we hope to be even further over the top.

The fund was launched last August by members and supporters of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance. The purpose is to meet the inflation-induced publishing deficits of the *Militant* and its sister publications, *Perspectiva Mundial* and *Intercontinental Press*.

The decision to raise a quarter of a million dollars was not made lightly. It's twice

the amount of any of our previous publications funds and it comes at a time when our supporters, like all other workers, are hit by the widespread layoffs.

During the first weeks of the drive, payments lagged a bit behind schedule. Often in socialist fund-raising efforts this is the case and, given the present economic situation, it was not surprising.

But then came a very nice surprise. As the weeks went by the pace of collection increased. By late October we were able to project the idea of being fully on schedule by Thanksgiving and then moving ahead of schedule.

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Militant/Ginny Hildebrand
 Salvadoran trade unionist Alejandro Molina Lara.

Denver unionist fights gov't harassment

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her political views and private life.

What has Goodman done that bothers the company so much?

In the two years she has worked at Martin Marietta, she has been a leading union activist. She helped organize her local's participation in the September 19, 1981, Solidarity Day demonstration called by the AFL-CIO; the January civil rights march and rally on Martin Luther King's birthday; and this year's Labor Day march.

Goodman has been involved in the local's women's committee, trying to help get it revitalized, as well as trying to get more of the approximately 300 women who work in the plant involved in the union.

During the miners' and air traffic controllers' strikes that happened in the last

Thournir's campaign, and some were supporting her. The "investigation" of Goodman started, in fact, at the height of the election campaign.

Goodman has been a target of the bosses before. As one of only three women in the maintenance department, she has been the victim of sexual harassment from management. She has been denied several job transfers. The union filed a grievance over the company's refusal to allow Goodman to attend two union meetings held while she was working overtime.

Supervisors had warned several of Goodman and Thournir's co-workers not to associate with them.

Over the past year, there has been a dramatic increase in Martin Marietta's attacks on union members in the Denver plant. UAW local 766 reports that with a union membership of 1,100, the local is presently fighting over 400 grievances.

Attack on union, women workers

The company didn't like the fact that they've been forced to hire women as electricians. They don't like the fact that the women who fight their way into these better paying jobs don't passively submit to attacks on themselves, their co-workers, or the union. They tend to fight back against sexual harassment by foremen and other company-inspired attempts to get rid of them.

In many industries and worksites where women are a small minority, the women tend to band together — sometimes in union women's committees — to help each other get through probation and handle discrimination on the job.

The companies don't like the female solidarity that develops, knowing that it weakens the bosses' ability to divide the work force, and to discipline and harass all workers. They often use lesbian-baiting as a way to try to divide female and male workers, as well as to break down solidarity among women.

Goodman told the *Militant*, "The company-DIS investigation of me is a part of their stepped-up attack on my union. They hope to victimize militants and intimidate the local and its members, particularly the women, Blacks, and Chicanos. UAW locals everywhere are under attack."

She continued, "As part of this whole offensive, what's really at issue in the investigation is my union activity, the fact that I'm a woman who doesn't take any guff from the bosses, and my support to pro-labor candidates."

"There is no 'security threat' involved. They haven't accused me of breaking any laws. They try to scare people away from my ideas by labeling me a lesbian, but that doesn't work too well anymore. The company and the government don't have any right to ask about my private life. One of

my co-workers told me it reminded him of the witchhunts in the 1950s. He decided to attend Eileen Thournir's campaign rally after hearing about my case. Workers understand that if I lose, they all stand to lose."

UAW fights back

The UAW local is standing behind Goodman, defending her right to retain her job, express her political views, and to live her own life free from company-government spying. Soon after the investigation started, the union filed two grievances against the company.

One grievance insisted upon the right of union members to have representation present during the government's interrogations.

The second one pointed out that this investigation constitutes harassment by the company of an employee because of her union activity. It says in part, "it was brought to Ms. Goodman's attention later that co-workers . . . had been questioned about her in an intimidating and hostile manner. The people conducting these interviews implied possible illegal activities and subversive conduct by Ms. Goodman. This constitutes harassment of a union member by the company since it happened on company property in a closed company office and on company time. We recognize that this investigation is a result of her . . . activities in the Local union 766 UAW!"

The grievance demanded that "this investigation be stopped immediately, that Ms. Goodman not be harassed further, that other company employees and union members not be involved further. We demand access to all files and interviews conducted. We also demand that the company issue a written apology, clearing Ms. Goodman of any wrongdoing or illegal activity."

The investigation has been reported on at three recent union meetings.

Illegal and unconstitutional

The American Civil Liberties Union is providing legal counsel for Goodman. They agree that the government's antilabor investigation is illegal and unconstitutional. According to government regulations, DIS is prohibited from spying on workers' political party affiliations.

Over the last decade, court decisions have also outlawed government snooping on workers based on the allegation that they are homosexuals.

The government says it has the right to investigate people accused of being gay based on two Pentagon criteria: that homosexuals are "perverted" and mentally imbalanced, and therefore can't be trusted with government "secrets"; and that gays

are especially susceptible to blackmail by foreign agents who could threaten to publicly expose a person's homosexuality as a way to get them to violate "national security."

None of their business

Though legal decisions over the last decade have narrowed the scope of Pentagon spying, how much DIS is allowed to ask you about your private life if you are accused of being gay is still not settled in the courts. In challenging the government's and employer's right to ask *anything* about her personal life, Goodman's case will be a political and legal landmark.

Samples of some questions that the government currently claims the right to ask you are:

- "Would you be willing to reveal the

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To our readers

This "Militant" is the last issue of 1982. We will take a two-week break and the next issue will be dated January 21, 1983.

two years, Goodman worked with others in the local to build solidarity and bring speakers from these labor battles to union meetings.

Along with others from the plant, Goodman was an active campaigner for Eileen Thournir, a Martin Marietta worker who recently ran for U.S. Congress on the Socialist Workers ticket. It was the first time a worker in the missile factory had run for office on a platform that stood against U.S. government military intervention abroad, and for human needs before private profits at home. Central to Thournir's campaign was raising the need for labor to form its own party to take on the bosses in the political arena.

A number of workers were interested in

Chicago

Rally in Defense of Union Rights and Political Freedoms

Speakers:

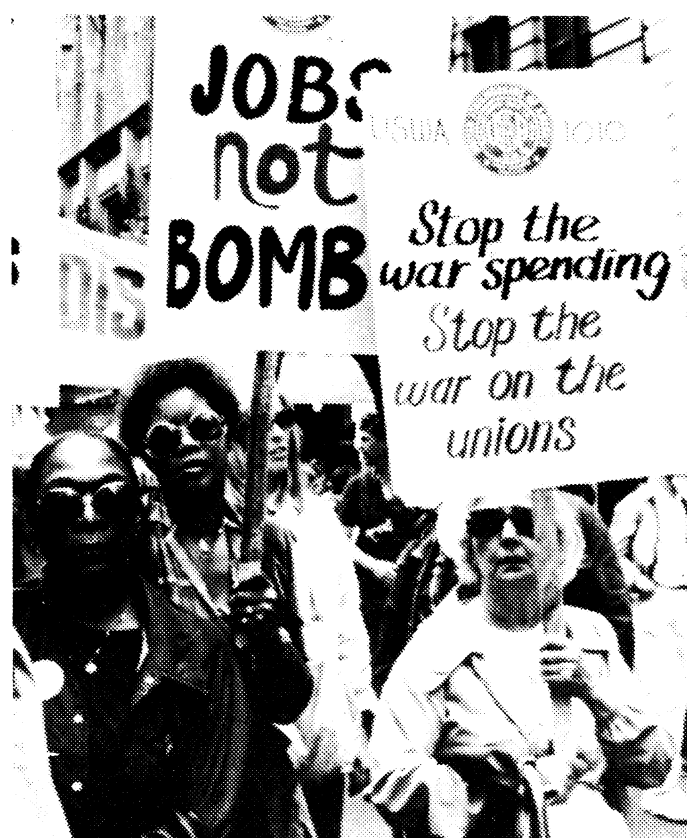
Sally Goodman, member of Denver UAW Local 766, victim of government harassment.

Tom Fiske, member of International Association of Machinists Local 709 in Atlanta and plaintiff in lawsuit against Lockheed-Georgia.

Mac Warren, Political Committee of Socialist Workers Party.

**Thursday Dec. 30 8 p.m.
McCormick Inn Ballroom \$2**

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The Militant

Closing news date:

December 22, 1982

Editors: CINDY JAQUITH

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Published weekly except two weeks in August, the last week of December, and the first week of January by the Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014. Telephone: Editorial Office, (212) 243-6392; Business Office, (212) 929-3486.

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to The Militant Business Office, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014.

Second-class postage paid at New York, N.Y. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Militant, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014. Subscriptions: U.S. \$24.00 a year, outside U.S. \$30.00. By first-class mail: U.S., Canada, and Mexico: \$60.00. Write for airmail rates to all other countries.

Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant's* views. These are expressed in editorials.

Chicago jobless hear socialist

BY JIM LITTLE

CHICAGO — The temperature had dropped to one degree, the coldest of this winter. It was a sign that this would be the longest, stingiest winter yet for Chicago's working people. The campaign of Ed Warren for mayor was in the streets to reach people with the Socialist Workers Party program.

A few blocks from Warren's home, thousands lined up four abreast at a Baptist church. They waited — hundreds had been there since the wee hours — for a few groceries to be handed out.

Warren and his campaigners got a hearing despite the bitter cold. Everyone in the young, Black crowd pulled out a half-frozen hand to grab a campaign platform.

People asked and answered questions eagerly. Many had lost jobs recently. One had worked for a restaurant, another in a steel mill. Whole families stood together.

Warren called out, "What do we need now?" Jobs, came the answer.

"We in Chicago pay out billions for the war budget," Warren said. "It goes to fight against working people in Central America. These are people just like us, people who are fighting for what they need. The money in the U.S. war budget could create millions of jobs."

There are four declared capitalist candidates in the mayor's race; three are Democrats. The incumbent Democrat, Jane Byrne, has lost all support among the large Black population in this city, as life in the "city that works" becomes unbearable.

Richard Daley, Jr., is running on the name of his father, "Boss" Daley. Some Blacks and other workers feel that things were better under a Daley. They have the misplaced belief that things might get back that way if another Daley sat in City Hall.

But the Democrat who is attracting the most attention here and nationally is Black U.S. Rep. Harold Washington. Because he is associated with many liberal and progressive issues, many view Washington's campaign as a new hope.

His program is actually indistinguishable from the other capitalist candidates. He says he opposes Reagan's economic plans. But he doesn't explain his own economic program. He presents himself as the candidate of the whole city and spends a lot of time appealing to the city's financial fathers.

Washington seeks to portray unemployed workers as having common interests with the businessmen and bankers. He favors "Enterprise Zones" — low-wage, tax-incentive bonanzas for the employers — to lure business to Chicago.

A recent forum sponsored by the New World Resource Center sought to gather support for Washington's mayoral bid. The meeting was largely a success for the Democratic Party forces. Speakers directly representing the Democrats included Bruce

Biggest battle yet in Nicaragua

BY MICHAEL BAUMANN

In the biggest battle yet against U.S.-sponsored counterrevolutionaries, Nicaraguan troops have turned back an invasion by nearly a fifth of the Somozaist forces stationed just across the border in Honduras.

The aim of the invading force, made up of three units totaling some 900 men, was to take the northern border city of Jalapa, cut off roads connecting it with the rest of the country, and declare it a "liberated zone."

In five days of fighting that ended December 14, the invaders were decisively defeated and driven back across the border.

Jalapa is located in the northern province of Nueva Segovia, which along with most of the neighboring region has been declared a military emergency zone.

The attacks on this coffee-producing region have an economic aim as well. The coffee harvest is in full swing, requiring thousands of day laborers to pick the ripening beans. The pickers have been a special target of counterrevolutionary terror, in an effort to drive them back to the cities.

Six thousand young volunteers, many of them members of the Sandinista Youth organization, have been sent into the region to assure the success of the harvest.

Dixon, from Marion Stamps' 42nd Ward aldermanic campaign, and supporters of Juan Soliz, a Chicano Democrat.

Nancy Cohen from the Workers World Party also spoke. The Communist Party is backing Washington too.

Only the SWP campaign of Warren is presenting an alternative to the three Democrats and one Republican in the race. Warren points out that the idea progress can come by supporting Washington fails for two big reasons. First, it relies on the wrong class, the bankers and big businessmen, instead of on the working class.

Second, while some picture the Washington campaign as antimachine and thus anti-Democratic Party, in reality it is an effort to shore up that party.

Mayor Jane Byrne, notorious for her anti-Black, antilabor policies, ran "against the machine." Richard Daley, Jr., is running "against the machine." Even the Re-

publican is running "against the machine."

Warren is campaigning for a break with the Democratic and Republican parties, for the formation of an independent labor party based on a fighting trade-union movement. Such a party would champion the rights of Blacks, Latinos, women, and the unemployed.

This kind of party, he explains, will come out of struggle. When one woman asked Warren on the breadline if he'd give out jobs if he were elected, he said, "Nobody can give jobs any more than anyone gave us our civil rights. What rights we have we fought for."

"I say we have to look to the way the Chrysler workers are fighting here and in Canada, to the way steelworkers are rejecting givebacks to the bosses. By standing up to the corporations they strengthen the fight against unemployment, against racism, against war."

"It's the employers who put us on this



Militant/Lou Howort
Mayoral candidate Ed Warren

breadline, it's they who are trying to send us off to their dirty wars in El Salvador and Nicaragua. Our war is here at home, against the bosses and their government."

Protesters battle cops in Argentina

BY FRED MURPHY

More than 100,000 persons turned out in Buenos Aires December 16 for the biggest street demonstration in more than six years of Argentine military rule.

The protest, billed by its sponsors as a "March for Democracy and National Reconstruction," culminated in a huge rally outside the Casa Rosada, Argentina's presidential palace.

About an hour and a half after the demonstration began, the military junta's cops attacked the crowd, firing tear gas and rubber bullets.

"Most of the peaceful demonstrators streamed away from the plaza, pursued by tear gas," the *Washington Post* reported the next day, "while groups of protesters re-

mained to battle mounted police with rocks, paving stones and firecrackers.

Other reports said police fired rubber bullets into restaurants where protesters had sought refuge. The public headquarters of three of the capitalist parties which sponsored the march were also attacked by the cops.

Many photographers and reporters were beaten.

One protester was killed when a man in civilian clothes stepped from a Ford Falcon and shot him. The cops denied the killer was one of them but opposition leaders charged he had to be a government security agent to have a car inside the blockaded zone.

Before the police attacked, the *Post* re-

ported, "the diverse crowd of students, factory workers and middle-class citizens stood beneath a hot setting summer sun and tirelessly chanted such antimilitary slogans as, 'It's going to end, the military dictatorship' and 'Up against the wall, all the brass who sold the country.' There were loud chants of 'the disappeared — tell us where they are.'"

Between 6,000 and 15,000 people are unaccounted for as a result of the kidnappings and murders carried out by death squads directed by the military regime in the years following Argentina's 1976 military coup.

For several years, courageous mothers, relatives, and other human rights activists have been demanding that the fate of the "disappeared" be clarified and those responsible brought to justice. But anger on the issue reached the boiling point with the discovery, starting in October, of mass graves of the military's victims. By mid-November, some 1,500 unidentified remains had been discovered in a dozen cemeteries around Argentina.

These discoveries spurred the demands for an accounting by the military of the fate of the disappeared. Substantial protest actions were held.

These events culminated on December 6 in the giant general strike against military rule and economic hardship. At least 90 percent of the country's 10 million workers joined in the strike which gripped the country.

The explosion of protest shows that the Argentine antidictatorial movement, and the labor movement in particular, have recovered from the disorientation brought on by Argentina's defeat at the hands of British imperialism in the Malvinas Islands in June.

It also shows that despite the Malvinas defeat, the overall impact of the confrontation with British and U.S. imperialism was to deepen the radicalization of the Argentine workers and to raise their political consciousness.

Unionist fights harassment

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names of your homosexual partners? What are their names?

- "Does your supervisor at work know of your homosexuality?"

- "Approximately how many homosexual acts have you engaged in? Can you not give me a precise answer simply because it is such a large number that you cannot count them?"

- "Would you identify the nature of homosexual acts that you've engaged in, without going into detail? Please identify them by name."

It's this kind of outrageous invasion of privacy and pure harassment and intimidation that the Goodman case is challenging. No worker should be subjected to these questions to begin with, never mind being forced to answer them.

This case also raises the broader challenge of whether the company and government can force any workers to reveal any facts about their personal and political life using the smokescreen of "national security." As of now, workers can be fired for not answering questions like those listed.

Goodman told the *Militant* "this government harassment fits into a broader framework. In war industry plants across the country, the government has beefed up its spy and fink network. Companies have tried to bust unions and force takeback contracts on them. They are leaning hard on the affirmative action gains won by women and Blacks, and generally cracking down with increased job discipline."

"The 'security threat' is not union activity, my political ideas, or my sex life. It's Martin Marietta and the government. Their war plans and antilabor drive for higher profits is the real threat to our security."

"The government is trying to victimize socialist unionists first," Goodman explained. "They hope to set a precedent by hitting those with radical ideas first, making it easier to intimidate others."

"For the same reason, they think that because I'm one of the few women electricians, they can lesbian-bait me and isolate me from my fellow workers. But who I support in the elections and what I do with my personal life is none of the business of

Martin Marietta or the Pentagon. My co-workers realize how this threatens them, too. They wonder if maybe they'll be next.

"If we continue to stand together, we will have the best chance to beat back this company and government attack, just like the Chrysler workers did — and won a new and better contract in the bargain. At stake is the unions' ability not only to defend women workers, or workers with ideas different from the bosses and their government, but to defend the existence of the union movement itself."

Goodman, along with her union, has launched a campaign to get out the facts on her case and to garner support for her fight to keep her job and put an end to company harassment. To this end, Goodman will be a featured speaker at a public rally sponsored by the Political Rights Fund in Chicago on Thursday, December 30.

Bernie Senter is a member of UAW Local 766, and works at Martin Marietta in Denver.

Come to the Young Socialist Alliance Convention

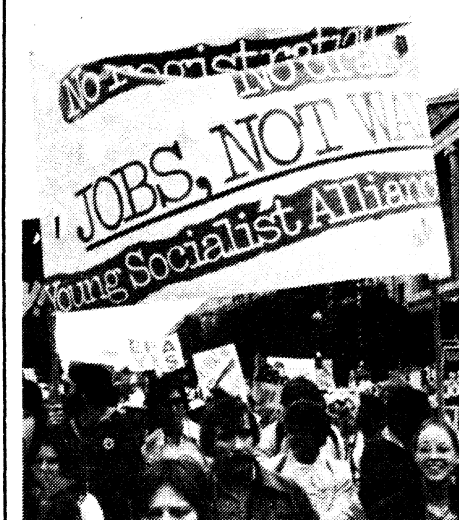
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Saturday Jan. 1, 1983 8 p.m.
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Salvador workers strike despite repression

BY FRED MURPHY

The first strikes in more than a year have taken place in El Salvador, where repression by the U.S.-backed dictatorship has dealt heavy blows to the trade-union movement.

The strikes occurred in mid-November and were mainly around demands for wage increases. Since a pay freeze was imposed by the regime in 1980, food prices have jumped by 25 to 100 percent.

Government employees were in the forefront of the work stoppages. On November 18, the 8,000 employees of the Ministry of Agriculture went on strike. To circumvent the regime's ban on strikes under the state of siege, the employees went to their workplaces but refused to perform their duties.

Several days later, more than 1,300 employees of the public-works and tourism ministries carried out similar job actions in solidarity with the agriculture ministry workers.

Strikes were also reported under way in late November at the El León spinning mill, the Cuscatlán sack factory, the El Salvador textile plant, and the Montagi construction company in the capital, San Salvador.

U.S. harasses N. Korean envoys

BY WILL REISSNER

For nearly three months, U.S. authorities have been harassing diplomats attached to North Korea's United Nations Observer Mission. The harassment began days after a U.S. soldier defected to North Korea on August 28.

One North Korean diplomat has been forced to remain inside the UN mission since September 28 to avoid arrest on trumped-up charges of sexual assault.

Other diplomats have been unable to get U.S. visas to enter this country in connection with their work at the United Nations. According to North Korea's UN ambassador Han Si Hae, one of the diplomats whose visa is being held up has a letter from defecting soldier Joseph White to his parents.

"Private White thought his letter would only arrive safely in America if it were carried by a diplomat, rather than if it went through the international mail," Ambassador Han explained.

The North Korean diplomat charged with sexual assault is O Nam Chol, third secretary at the UN mission.

On Sept. 5, 1982, police in suburban Westchester County seized O Nam Chol and five other North Korean diplomats at a Sunday picnic in a park. A woman in the park claimed she had been sexually assaulted by an Asian male.

When the woman and three other witnesses were shown the diplomats, including O Nam Chol all four told police that the attacker was not among them. At that point the diplomats were released with a police apology. But as they were leaving the park in their cars, they were again stopped by police and harassed.

On September 10, the North Korean mission lodged a protest against this harassment with the U.S. mission to the United Nations.

Days after the protest was lodged, the State Department provided Westchester police with photographs of the members of North Korea's U.N. mission. Westchester police claim that the woman who was attacked identified O Nam Chol as the attacker from his photograph, although she had been unable to identify him in person only minutes after the alleged attack took place.

A grand jury issued a warrant for O Nam Chol's arrest, September 22, on charges of sexual assault, which carries a sentence of up to seven years imprisonment.

Ambassador Han stated that "Mr. Nam is innocent beyond a doubt of all the charges raised against him. The woman had originally made clear to the police that he was not a suspect in the case when she first saw him."

Since the indictment was issued, police have been stationed outside the mission waiting for Nam to emerge in order to arrest him.

vador, as well as at two industrial plants in the western city of Santa Ana.

A demonstration by 200 peasants was also reported to have taken place November 17 at the town of Santa Tecla, west of the capital. The peasants were protesting corruption among officials of the regime's agrarian reform agency and the halting of even the minimal land-distribution program started under the previous government of President Napoleón Duarte.

Meanwhile, the freedom fighters of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) have continued to register gains in battles against the regime's armed forces.

The government launched a counteroffensive November 11 with the announced aim of dislodging the FMLN from rebel-held areas in Chalatenango and Morazán provinces. But the operation ended November 21 with little to show for it. The FMLN withdrew from towns it held in Chalatenango so long as the army was in the area, then retook the towns on November 26.

At the same time, the rebels extended their attacks to the country's easternmost province, La Unión. Government forces in five towns there were routed November 25. The FMLN remained in control until making a tactical withdrawal November 30 in

face of a government counteroffensive. The regime's troops found the towns deserted upon retaking them.

Further counterattacks by the government were reported under way in northern Morazán in early December. According to the FMLN's Radio Venceremos December 7, "hundreds of unarmed civilians were massacred by government troops of the Atlacatl and Atonal battalions supported by A-37 aircraft" in the villages of Calavera and Estancia in Morazán.

The two battalions mentioned have been trained by U.S. advisers, and the A-37 planes were recently supplied to El Salvador by the Pentagon.

Fund hits goal with week more to go

Continued from front page

We made the Thanksgiving goal and then, in proper socialist tradition, set our sights even higher—to complete the drive by Christmas and surpass it by New Year's.

Now we've made the Christmas goal, and a solid accomplishment it is.

Certainly, it was no small task for our supporters.

From Texas came a check for \$325 with the comment: "It's been difficult scraping it together. I never knew how much a week's pay meant until I tried to save it up."

We were standing at the collection table at a meeting of the Manhattan branch of the SWP. A laid-off garment worker walked up and removed nine rolls of pennies from her purse to make a payment.

The seriousness of purpose represented by those rolls of pennies was not atypical. The contributions of all our members and supporters were a mark of their collective commitment to our movement and a resounding vote of political confidence in what we are working to achieve.

The record-breaking success of the fund is very much related to other successes we've been experiencing.

We proposed to raise \$250,000 because we needed that much, and more. The steady squeeze of continuing inflation, coupled with layoffs, posed a clear alternative. We either had to make further cutbacks in our staff and operating expenses or raise the substantial amount of money necessary to put us on a reasonably stable footing.

In a decisive way, our supporters opted for raising the money. They were convinced that there are now important opportunities for advancing our socialist ideas

Canadian unionists back abortion rights

The fight for safe, legal abortion in Canada received a strong boost when the Ontario Federation of Labor adopted a resolution at its November 22-25 convention supporting the right of women to full access to abortion, establishment of free-standing abortion clinics where women who want abortions can obtain them, and the removal of abortion from the Criminal Code.

Dozens of men and women lined up at the mikes to speak on the issue, and the resolution passed the convention by an overwhelming majority.

The British Columbia Federation of Labor, at its convention the previous week, also voted overwhelmingly in support of "women's right to choose abortion," and demanded that the federal government repeal the current antiabortion law. They also demanded that the government in the province of British Columbia ensure that women who want abortions can obtain them.

Meanwhile, in Toronto on November 18, 1,000 abortion rights supporters rallied to show their support for an abortion clinic scheduled to open soon in Toronto. Dr. Henry Morgentaler, who was jailed in Quebec in 1975 for performing abortions, is moving ahead with others to establish abortion clinics in Toronto and Winnipeg, in open violation of Canada's restrictive and anti-abortion laws.

and they were determined not to let money stand in the way.

Since the fund drive was launched the correctness of that approach has been confirmed in several ways.

The victorious contract fight of the Chrysler workers was one of several important demonstrations of a growing determination by the workers to stand up and fight back.

The various manifestations of this developing militancy among workers was reflected in the more favorable response to our socialist ideas. In the fall elections we succeeded in reaching more working people than we had in a long time. And we found a serious interest among many in our program. As a result, new recruits have been won to the SWP and YSA.

Perhaps the most direct verification of the changing times was the success of our recent circulation drive for the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*.

We set out to sell 45,000 copies of both publications in eight weeks and wound up selling 55,000.

The success of the circulation drive and the response to the Socialist Publications Fund were carefully assessed at the recent leadership meeting of the SWP and played an important role in the decision-making process there.

At the meeting, it was decided to take a big new step forward in the building of a revolutionary workers party and in expanding the influence of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* among working people.

It was agreed that it be established as a norm of membership in the SWP, that each member participate in a regular weekly sale of the press at a selected plantgate or industrial site.

This major political decision was made with the full confidence that it would enjoy solid membership support.

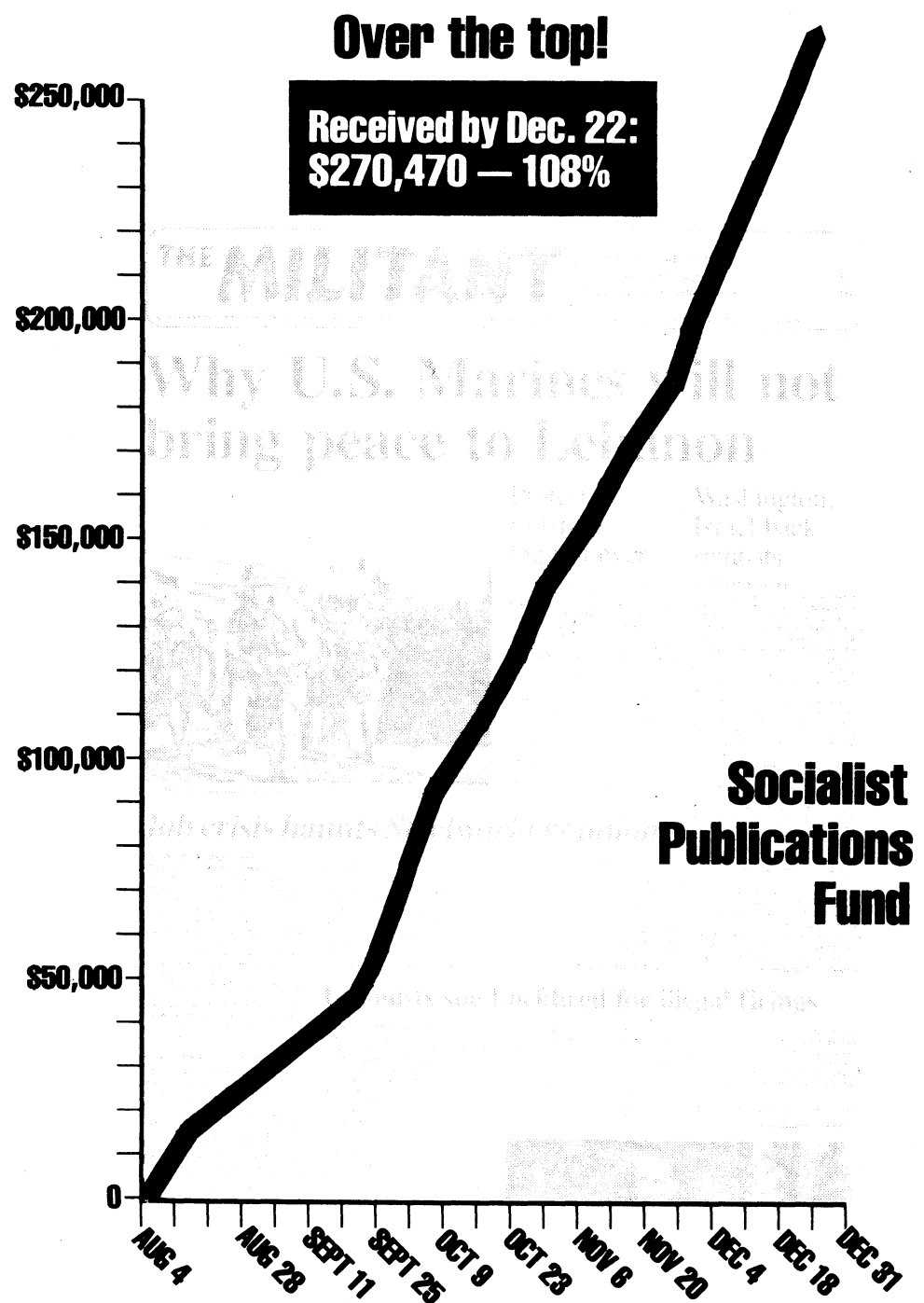
The results of the circulation and fund campaigns were key in assuring that this was a realistic appraisal.

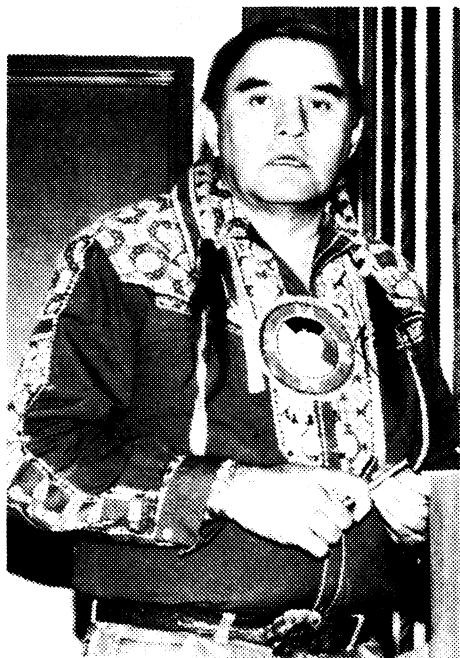
And, in practical terms, the success of the fund drive puts us in a stronger position to launch this important new project and to map plans for a general expansion of our sales as well.

We have a week remaining to wind up the fund. There are still some pledges outstanding and we urge a determined final spurt to put us as far over the top as possible by New Year's.

From the start, we were confident we would meet our goal. But it's a grand thing to see how socialist workers can stand up to a big challenge and more than meet it.

From the entire staff, best wishes for a happy, revolutionary New Year!





Vernon Bellecourt

Militant/Salm Kolis

Ariz. Indians hear AIM leader

BY ANDY ENGLISH

PHOENIX — The U.S. government is responsible for genocide against the Indian peoples of Central America. This message was brought to several hundred American Indians and others during a December 2-5 speaking tour by Vernon Bellecourt (Waubun-Inini), a leader of the American Indian Movement (AIM).

Bellecourt, who visited Nicaragua in December 1981 along with other AIM leaders, announced that he would return to that country this month to investigate the situation of the Miskitu Indians living along Nicaragua's Atlantic coast. This area has been the scene of constant military attacks by counterrevolutionary forces based in Honduras and armed by the United States.

Because of these attacks, the Nicaraguan government declared the border area a zone

of military emergency and relocated 7,500 Miskitus in the interior. The capitalist press has used the relocation as a pretext to slander Nicaragua.

During the tour, Bellecourt explained that the relocation of the Miskitus was carried out by the Sandinista government to protect their lives and defend the revolution. He contrasted this to the U.S. government's forced removal of 9,000 Navajo and Hopi Indians from the Navajo-Hopi Joint Use Area in northern Arizona. This relocation is being carried out to allow for coal and uranium mining by the big corporations.

Bellecourt further noted that the Sandinistas have increased spending for health and education in the Indian communities, while the U.S. government has done the opposite.

"Despite promises to spare the truly needy and uphold federal treaty obligations, your president's administration — I refuse to call him my president — has cut more than one-third and upward to 100 percent of the federal Indian budget."

The impact of these cuts has been truly staggering. As the secretary-treasurer of the White Earth Anishinabe nation in Minnesota, Bellecourt once administered a \$2.7 million job-training program. Reagan's budget cuts eliminated \$2.5 million from this program. "Unemployment on the reservations has now reached 85 to 90 percent," Bellecourt said.

"Where has all our money gone?" asked Bellecourt. "It has gone to triple the arms

sales that are causing the mass genocide of the Indians of Guatemala. Money is being spent in Honduras to destabilize the Nicaraguan revolution, and at the same time to recruit Miskitus to fight as counter-revolutionaries against the Nicaraguan government."

At the same time as Bellecourt was speaking in Phoenix, President Reagan was meeting in Honduras with Gen. Efraín Ríos Montt, the dictator of Guatemala. In the last year, over 4,000 Indians have been brutally massacred by the Guatemalan army. Thousands of Indians have joined the revolutionary forces in Guatemala.

Bellecourt's speaking tour was sponsored by the Coalition Against U.S. Aggression in Central America and the Caribbean (CAUSA), a Phoenix-based antiwar organization. During the four-day tour Bellecourt spoke in Phoenix, at Arizona State University in Tempe, to members of the Arizona Farm Workers Union in El Mirage, and at the San Carlos Apache Reservation. He also appeared on a popular Native American television program.

At San Carlos, over 100 Apaches came to listen to Bellecourt, despite urgings by the right-wing chairman of the tribal government to stay away. Udell Brown, an Apache activist, spoke for many when he said, "The U.S. government is sending arms to other countries to kill people the same as us, with the same red skin. We need to voice our opinions. Something must be done."

Phoenix socialists condemn assault

BY BOB CANTRICK

PHOENIX — Unidentified assailants smashed two window panes in the Militant Bookstore here sometime in the pre-dawn hours of December 2. Socialist Workers Party member Jim Healey discovered the damage when he opened the bookstore around noon of the same day and found a large rock on a counter amid splinters of glass. Wrapped around the rock was the crudely-printed message: "It's your first warning, FFA."

The seriousness of this attack goes beyond the inconvenience of replacing the glass. Even the lone cop sent to investigate had to admit, as he took the offending rock into custody, that the note made the incident into more than a random act of vandalism.

In fact, in September 1980 the SWP's former Phoenix headquarters was damaged in a firebombing incident. No one was ever apprehended. The most recent attack occurs within weeks of the end of the socialist campaign for U.S. Senate. Moreover, the bookstore and meeting hall have been the scene of frequent and well-publicized forums on important political questions, including how to stop the U.S. government's drive toward war in Central America.

The day after Thursday's incident, American Indian leader Vernon Bellecourt was scheduled to address a gathering in the bookstore.

Socialist activists and their supporters held a news conference the next morning. Bellecourt participated and made public his outrage at this act of attempted intimidation. Statements of support for the socialists' right to maintain a public headquarters, hold forums, and run election campaigns are now being solicited from individuals and organi-

zations who defend civil liberties and First Amendment rights. The statements urge the mayor of Phoenix and the chief of police to conduct a full investigation of the attack, to go on record against such violations of democratic rights and to guarantee full police protection against further such encroachments.

Phoenix socialists told the media that they will not be deterred by such cowardly threats.

FBI smears slain Salvador solidarity activist

BY HARRY RING

NEW YORK — An activist in the Salvadoran solidarity movement dies in a blaze that sweeps her apartment. Local and federal cops arrive immediately but show little concern in establishing how she died or who did it.

Instead they move rapidly to utilize her death to smear her, and the movement she was associated with, as "terrorist."

The purpose, clearly, is to discredit and intimidate opponents of U.S. intervention in El Salvador, and to try to blunt the effectiveness of that growing movement.

The victim was Flor "Terry" Santana. A Cuban-American, she was well known in solidarity circles here and was most recently associated with *Es-Info*, a press service that provided news and information about the liberation forces in El Salvador.

Police arrive at Santana's apartment soon after the blaze erupted December 4. Minutes later, FBI agents from a Joint FBI-Police Terrorist Task Force were on the scene.

The task force was created to conduct a dragnet operation among radicals on the pretext of possible ties with the 1981 Brink's robbery and shootout.

The New York *Daily News* reported that "sources" said Santana "was known" to the "terrorist" task force. They said her body was surrounded by literature supporting Fidel Castro and the Salvadoran guerrillas.

"Sources," the *News* added, also said Santana "belonged to a little known political group called the FMLN — an acronym apparently based on the FALN . . . a Puerto Rican terrorist group."

The "little known" FMLN is, of course, the Spanish acronym for the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front, El Salvador's rebel army. It has no relationship to the FALN which the police claim is a Puerto Rican nationalist grouping engaged in bombings and sabotage.

The *New York Times* reported that according to FBI spokesman Joseph Valiquette, there was nothing suspicious about Santana's death and that the FBI was removing itself from the probe.

Valiquette added, however, that the FBI was "reviewing" political material and documents taken from Santana's apartment. He did not specify if these included lists of Salvadoran solidarity activists.

The involvement of Valiquette is worthy of special note.

It was Valiquette, along with New York cops and the Associated Press, who tried to exploit the Brink's affair to smear the Socialist Workers Party and many Black nationalists as terrorist.

Immediately after the Brink's shootout, the AP reported Valiquette's assertion that Judith Clark, one of those arrested in the holdup, "is now a figure in the Socialist Workers Party."

Clark does not have any association with the SWP and the claim that she does was simply intended to help justify the FBI's illegal acts against the party by trying to suggest it is terrorist. The SWP is suing the AP for libel for publishing the report.

The Brink's case has also been utilized to attack, among others, the Republic of New Africa (RNA).

Soon after the Brink's affair a battalion of cops swooped down on a Mississippi farm and seized Fulani Sunni Ali, a member of the RNA, charging her with involvement.

That frameup collapsed when she established she was in New Orleans, 2,000 miles away, at the time of the incident.

She was then jailed on a contempt charge and only recently given a six-week maternity furlough.

The police and media treatment of Santana's death is of the same cloth.

Their story is certainly full of holes. They asserted, according to the *News*, that she was "lying amidst a pile of documents." But relatives and friends say her body was charred beyond recognition.

Initially the cops said it was either suicide or "accident," suggesting she died making some kind of incendiary weapons.

Then they apparently decided to go with the suicide story.

The December 7 issue of the Spanish-language edition of the *Miami Herald* reported that according to New York police, Santana's windows had been locked and the door barricaded and it was, therefore, clearly a suicide. They also asserted she had tried to burn documents. None of this appeared in the earlier New York press reports.

Friends regard the suicide claim as preposterous. They say she was in good spirits and just hours before her death arranged to meet people the next day.

In a radio broadcast monitored here, the Salvadoran FMLN described Santana's death as "a political assassination" and urged protests to the Reagan administration.

The response of the FMLN is surely a sound one. Protests are very much in order, as well as the demand for a genuine inquiry, not a coverup. The government must not be permitted to exploit Santana's murder to direct blows against the movement she had dedicated herself to.

SWP presses libel suit vs. AP, cops

BY JOHN STUDER

NEW YORK — Lawyers representing all three parties in a lawsuit filed by the Socialist Workers Party appeared before the New York State Court of Appeals on December 10. The suit charges the Associated Press and New York City Police Commissioner McGuire with libel.

The appeals court judges heard presentations from and asked questions of the three attorneys.

The case arises out of the repeated publication by AP of a story which was carried on the front page of newspapers all over the country falsely linking the SWP with the October 1981 Brink's armored car robbery in Nyack, New York. The story asserted that Judith Clark, who was reported to be connected with the incident, was a "figure" in the SWP, implying the party supported and was involved in such activities.

Shelley Davis, attorney for the SWP, explained that the lawsuit had been improperly dismissed by the lower court judge. She explained that the SWP had not been allowed to conduct any significant "discovery" — they were not able to directly question either the AP writers who authored the story or McGuire. The case was improperly dismissed on no more than "hearsay" evidence, presented by those who were not the main actors in the publication of the slander.

Davis was questioned at length by the

appeals judges about another issue in dispute. AP, McGuire and the lower court judge contend that slanderously calling Clark a "figure" in the SWP . . . has nothing to do with the SWP!

Davis explained that allegations that robberies and shootings could be carried out by a leader of the SWP, which has a clear public stance against such activities, certainly slanders the party.

The Appeals Court took these questions under consideration. A ruling is expected in the next few months.

Salvador unionist tours Harrisburg

Continued from front page

country are being channeled directly to supplying the brutal government forces in El Salvador with helicopters and guns."

During his presentation, Molina Lara traced the history of struggle of his people, the 50-year record of bloody U.S. intervention, and appealed to the meeting to take up the fight to end U.S. domination of his country. He received numerous standing ovations.

The composition of the meeting itself was evidence of the deep interest among working people regarding the role of the U.S. in Central America and the Caribbean.

There were steelworkers, garment workers, chocolate workers, ironworkers, furniture workers, and numerous church leaders.

On December 17, Molina Lara went to the offices of the Pennsylvania Social Services Union, SEIU Local 668. He spoke to 25 unionists including the union's state officers. At the end of the meeting everyone stood up, joined hands, and sang in both English and Spanish "Solidarity Forever."

In the short time that Molina Lara spent in Harrisburg, individuals and organizations contributed over \$1,000 earmarked for the families and legal fees of imprisoned electrical workers in El Salvador.

Subscribe to *Perspectiva Mundial*, biweekly. Spanish-language sister publication of the *Militant*. \$2.50 for 5 issues, \$8 for 6 months, or \$16 for one year. Write to 408 West St., New York, New York 10014.

Iranian government welcomes Nicaraguan trade delegation

TEHRAN — On December 7, Nicaragua's Minister of Foreign Trade Alejandro Martínez Cuenca began a five-day visit here as part of a three-person delegation from Nicaragua.

This is the first time that a high official of the Nicaraguan government has visited Iran since the overthrow of the U.S.-backed Somoza regime in July, 1979.

Over the last two years, Ahmad Azizi, Iranian deputy minister of foreign affairs, has visited Nicaragua twice.

Before leaving Tehran, Martínez spoke with reporters. He noted, "in our visit with the prime minister, the ministers of foreign affairs, economics and finance, and trade, and with the general director of Iran's central bank and the deputy oil minister, we had discussions concerning the just positions of both countries against world imperialism.

"We also had discussions with regard to establishing economic and financial relations on the basis of mutual respect for the rights of both nations. In most of these discussions we had common agreement and believe that our two countries should expand trade exchanges immediately."

He added, "Our visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran was a useful experience. We closely observed the efforts of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the reconstruction of the new Iran."

The response of Iranian officials to the Nicaraguans' visit was also very positive.

According to the Islamic Republic News Agency, during the meeting between Martínez and Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hossein Musavi, the prime minister noted the conspiracy of U.S. imperialism both in Latin America and in the Persian Gulf.

Musavi pointed out, "all the efforts of our nation during the last four years have been spent to maintain the independence of our country. This is one of the accomplishments of the Islamic revolution.

"Our nation has been determined to fight against all pressures, such as military pressures such as the Iraqi-imposed war on Iran, which was started by the U.S. provocation, and the recent military maneuvers in the Persian Gulf, also carried out with the participation and presence of the United States.

"Our nation, in order to withstand these ever growing pressures and other problems, decided to move toward self-sufficiency and to maintain itself with whatever it has."

In regard to trade agreements between the two countries, Heda'i Atzayeh, deputy trade minister of Iran, told reporters, "Nicaragua's resources and production in the past were plundered by world imperialist dealers. Our purchasing and business policies are based on trade relations with Third World and Nonaligned countries. The trade ministry tries to initiate economic and business relations with countries such as Nicaragua."

He added, "During the stay of this delegation in Tehran, an agreement was made between the two countries for the purchase of sugar. There was also a discussion on the purchase of coffee, wood, sesame, spices, and meats.

"Since the visiting time of the Nicaraguan delegation was short, a delegation from the Iranian trade ministry will travel

to Nicaragua shortly in order to investigate the possibilities of exports and other related things. And also to estimate the necessary measures that have to be taken in further developing relations between the two countries."

Atzayeh said an Iranian delegation "will also be sent to Nicaragua for purchasing meat and to work out an agreement for slaughtering cattle according to Islamic tradition, so that the import of meat could be made possible."

Concerning the economic situation of Nicaragua and the threats made by Honduras against Nicaragua, Atzayeh asserted, "The Islamic Republic of Iran's aim in developing a relationship with Nicaragua is to give the necessary aid to the people of Nicaragua and their revolution. This is based on the policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran to support all oppressed peoples of the world."



Iranian's sign reads: 'American bombs have massacred thousands of children in my age.'

Workers in Iran protest labor bill

BY NADER AVINI

Discussion and debate between Iranian workers and the government have sharpened in recent weeks. The focus has been the draft of a new labor law that the Labor Ministry put before the cabinet in September.

The law has been in preparation for almost a year, and has long been a center of controversy. While the proposed draft has still not been made public, Labor Ministry officials have set out to sell it to the workers. For their part, workers have held a series of conferences and seminars to air their criticisms and voice their own demands. Such gatherings have taken place around the country, and especially in Tehran, the capital, where half the Iranian working class is concentrated.

Workers confront labor official

One such meeting took place November 9 at the Tobacco Industry Club in Tehran. More than 500 representatives of factory shoras (committees) and Islamic anjomans (societies) attended. A high-ranking official from the Labor Ministry, Motamed Rezaei, was present, and the proposed agenda placed him as the main and final speaker. Little time was set aside for the workers themselves.

The workers had a different agenda, however. They took the floor one by one, putting forward their criticisms of the Labor Ministry and the government's policies, and raising their demands for improvements in working conditions.

*The shoras are committees of workers that arose in many factories and workplaces during the upsurge against the shah's regime and be-

came widespread during the first year of the revolution. Shoras continue to exist in most major workplaces, despite a ruling in late 1981 by the Labor Ministry that no further shora elections could take place. The anjomans were initiated by the Islamic Republican Party to compete with the shoras for the allegiance of workers. The anjomans have often collaborated with management, but they have also responded to pressure from the mass of the workers. Leaders of both shoras and anjomans have been the victims of arbitrary firings by management.

Another representative took the floor to express the view that "the workers of this country have been victimized, and everyone but the leader [Ayatollah Khomeini] has tried to take advantage of this victimization." He called on the labor minister, Ahmad Tavakkoli, to "listen to what the workers have to say." But he added that the minister should "not expect any thanks from me and those like me."

A member of the Islamic anjoman from a Benz truck assembly plant in south Tehran blasted the Labor Ministry's friendly attitude toward the capitalists. He attacked the notion put forward by leaders both inside and outside the government that there are good capitalists and bad capitalists.

came widespread during the first year of the revolution. Shoras continue to exist in most major workplaces, despite a ruling in late 1981 by the Labor Ministry that no further shora elections could take place. The anjomans were initiated by the Islamic Republican Party to compete with the shoras for the allegiance of workers. The anjomans have often collaborated with management, but they have also responded to pressure from the mass of the workers. Leaders of both shoras and anjomans have been the victims of arbitrary firings by management.

"We cannot fool ourselves," he said. "It is vain to expect that the leech-like capitalists will grant fair conditions to the workers." He continued, "These leech-like capitalists are supporters of terrorism. So our officials should act and legislate in an Islamic way above all, and make it unambiguously impossible for the capitalists and management to use [the labor law] against the workers."

'No government secrecy'

Next, a member of the Islamic anjoman from the Minoo candy factory in Karaj, an industrial city just west of Tehran, took the floor. He attacked the secrecy surrounding the draft labor law and added, "On behalf of the workers I demand that the officials come and see how workers whose children are fighting at the front give from their low wages for the war effort. Shouldn't our officials ask the workers' views first and only then prepare a draft? More than that, shouldn't they defend workers who have faith in the revolution from the managers and capitalists?"

The Minoo representative criticized certain factory managers by referring to Ayatollah Khomeini's statements on behalf of the poor and his proclamation that the workers are "the real managers of society."

Motamed Rezaei of the Labor Ministry was the final speaker. He said the entire cabinet was responsible for the failure to publish the draft labor law and went on to explain that even President Ali Khamenei is interested in the workers' confidence and would attend the special cabinet meeting where the labor law was to be taken up.

Rezaei then proceeded to attack the workers, exposing the nature of the Labor Ministry and its proposed law. "In Islam," he contended, "there is no contradiction between wealth and poverty. But there is a contradiction between Islam and atheism. I

Continued on Page 12

Prime minister sends message to Nicaragua

In response to the December 9 crash of a helicopter in Nicaragua in which 75 children being evacuated from war-torn areas were killed, Iranian Prime Minister Mir-Hossein Musavi sent a message to the Nicaraguan government.

The text of the message was printed in the December 13 *Ettela'at*. The following are excerpts:

In the name of God, to the honorable Junta of National Reconstruction of Nicaragua:

I was informed of the news of the crash of the helicopter in your country, which resulted in the death of a large number of innocent children.

Criminal America, by helping its internal mercenaries in the liberated countries, is committing new crimes every day.

While in your country the corrupt elements who were trained by imperialism have shown their ugly faces by killing innocent children, in Islamic Iran we have also witnessed numerous crimes in the streets of our cities. As a result of them, innocent men, women, and children and respected religious figures have been killed in a cowardly manner by the same elements, just with different names and labels.

In closing I would like to express my deepest sorrow and condolences to you and to the suffering families, and to the Nicaraguan people.



Workers demonstrate against CIA spying during occupation of U.S. embassy in Tehran.

Militant/Cindy Jaquith

Iranian poet freed

In an important victory for the Iranian revolution, the poet Morid Mirghaied has been released from jail in the city of Masjed-e Suleiman. Mirghaied, a member of the Revolutionary Workers Party (HKE), had been held there without charges since late July.

The poet's release came shortly after a major speech by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini sharply criticizing official abuses in the judicial system.

Four supporters of the HKE are still imprisoned. HKE leaders Bahram Ali Atai and Mohammed Bagher Falsafi have been held at Evin Prison in Tehran since last March, and Shanaz Dilmaghani was jailed there in November. In Ahwaz, a young soldier, Hassan Sadegh, remains under a 10-year prison sentence for reading and distributing the HKE's now-banned weekly *Kargar*.

Solidarity continues despite repression

BY ERNEST HARSCH

Just four days after Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski declared that the rigors of martial law would soon be suspended in Poland, police in Gdansk picked up Lech Walesa and detained him for more than nine hours on December 16.

The police gave no explanation. But their purpose was obviously to prevent the national chairman of the outlawed Solidarity union movement from addressing a rally scheduled to take place outside the Lenin Shipyard that afternoon.

Through this clear-cut act of political repression, Jaruzelski and the governing bureaucracy showed how limited are their moves to ease up on their repressive policies. The bureaucrats are as determined as ever to deny the workers their right to organize themselves and express their views. That is why the government has been adopting a host of new repressive laws at the same time that it is promising to lift martial law.

The Reagan administration in Washington has seized on this continued repression to maintain its debilitating economic sanctions against Poland, sanctions that have caused more suffering for the Polish working people.

Walesa speaks out

Although the bureaucrats have inflicted major blows against Solidarity, they still fear the union, including its most prominent leader, Walesa. They are afraid of what he represents and of what he has to say. They are afraid that he can provide a rallying point for the aspirations of working people throughout the country.

Despite the fact that Walesa had only recently been released from 11 months in detention, he has refused to remain silent or to abandon the ideals for which Solidarity fought.

On December 4, he sent a letter to Jaruzelski demanding a general amnesty for all political prisoners, for the reinstatement of all workers dismissed from their jobs, and for a return to trade union "plurality," that is, the right of workers to set up their own trade unions.

In speaking out, Walesa has acted with the confidence that he still has much of the Polish working class behind him.

This was evident in Gdansk on December 16, the day Walesa was detained, which was also the 12th anniversary of the 1970 massacre of striking workers in Gdansk. Despite a massive display of force by the ZOMO riot police, many people attempted to commemorate the anniversary.

Workers leaving the Lenin Shipyard at the 2:00 p.m. shift change laid wreaths at the monument to the slain workers just outside the shipyard gates.

At the nearby St. Brygida Church, several thousand people gathered for a memorial mass. Just as it was about to begin, someone unfurled a Solidarity banner, and the crowd burst into applause.

'Victory will be ours'

Anticipating that the authorities would try to prevent him from speaking publicly, Walesa had circulated a copy of his speech to reporters a few days earlier.

In it, he stressed the importance of continuing to fight for the workers' interests. Solidarity, he said, "exists within each of us. . . . We have to act through all possible means: public, open, and democratic means."

The workers' movement, Walesa said, had to fight along four parallel tracks. The first was for "the trade union that we won," that is, for Solidarity's right to function. The second was for the establishment of workers' self-management throughout the country, so that people can become "the genuine managers of their homes, factories, universities, mass media, farmers associations, and cities." The third was for the creation of independent unions and associations of artists and intellectuals, and the fourth for the setting up of new youth associations.

"I address all of you who are expecting these hopes to be fulfilled: Go home in peace, think this over, and work toward these aims," he said.

"We have not lost hope," Walesa emphasized. "Victory will be ours."

The police crackdown in Gdansk pre-

vented Walesa from delivering his speech in person. But that will not keep it from being circulated around the country through Solidarity's many underground newspapers.

The union's network of information centers and factory committees is massive, a fact that the government indirectly acknowledged on December 9, when it for the first time revealed figures on the extent of the opposition activities that it has so far been able to suppress.

Gen. Boguslaw Stachura told the Sejm (parliament) that since the imposition of martial law a year ago, the authorities have broken up 677 committees, silenced 11 clandestine union radio stations, discovered 360 print shops, and seized 1,196 printing presses and duplicating machines.

What the regime has been able to suppress is only a fraction of the total.

Government highly unpopular

Meanwhile, the government remains politically isolated, with only a very narrow base of social support within the country. The bureaucracy's governing Polish United Workers Party has lost hundreds of thousands of members since the rise of Solidarity — most of them in the factories. Jaruzelski has tried to get around this widespread distaste for the party by setting up a new formation, the Patriotic Movement for National Revival (PRON). But it, too, has attracted little support.

Why UAW tops chose Bieber as next president

BY FRANK LOVELL

The central leadership of the United Auto Workers (UAW) met in Detroit in November to choose a new president of the union during the strike of the Canadian Chrysler workers. They announced that the man proposed to succeed UAW president Douglas Fraser at the union's May convention in Dallas is Vice-president Owen Bieber. At the time neither Fraser nor Bieber said a single word in support of the Chrysler strike.

After 36 days on the picket line, the Canadian strikers forced the profit-hungry Chrysler corporation to grant wage increases that management negotiators had said earlier would bankrupt Chrysler. They pretended the corporation had no money for immediate wage hikes. But when the strikers refused to back down they discovered the money.

This victory was won in spite of top UAW officials in Detroit, not because of any help they gave. Of course, once the strikers made their advance and a tentative settlement was reached, these union officials were on hand to announce the successful conclusion of the strike. Their formal announcement was made December 11, before the strikers had voted on the new contract.

This was done by Fraser in accordance with customary procedure. But on this occasion Fraser was joined by his designated successor, Vice-President Bieber. Under the circumstances their joint appearance was intended to symbolize continuity of leadership and confirm continuation of the UAW officialdom's longtime policy of close collaboration with management.

Who is Owen Bieber?

Few auto union members know much about him, and those who know why he is likely to become the next president of their union are fewer. His rise in the bureaucratic structure of the union illustrates how the central leadership retains its control over the membership.

Bieber was picked by the leadership caucus at Solidarity House in Detroit, international headquarters of the union. This caucus is one of the main organizational forms used by the entrenched officials to retain their lucrative positions and pass them along to others who have been admitted to the inner circle and trained in the ways of union-management collaboration. What is now called the leadership caucus was in the past, under the regime of longtime UAW president Walter Reuther, often referred to as "the family."

This official family caucus consists essentially of a 346-member steering committee and a 26-member executive board.



August demonstration against martial law. Resistance continues as Polish government institutes new restrictions on rights, while promising to lift martial law.

It is in this context that the bureaucrats have now decided to phase out the formal trappings of martial law. By releasing many of those who have been detained and raising the possibility of amnesty for some of the 2,500 union activists who have been sentenced to jail terms, they hope to diffuse a bit of the hostility and opposition that

they face among the workers.

But at the same time, they have no intention of lifting the lid entirely. That would only encourage the workers to press the struggle for their rights with renewed vigor. "We cannot afford to renounce all the extraordinary measures," Jaruzelski

Continued on Page 10

The caucus executive board is the same as the constitutionally elected executive board of the union. As top officials retire or are otherwise removed, their replacements are chosen by the leadership caucus well in advance of the union's constitutional convention.

The early announcement that Bieber had been chosen to replace Fraser serves a dual purpose. It cools the aspirations of potential rivals and preserves official family unity. It also gives the bureaucracy five months to publicize their candidates and convince potential delegates that his election is vital to the future of the union.

It is true that Bieber has all the necessary qualifications, from the officialdom's viewpoint. He has been on the union payroll for more than 20 years and always a loyal member of the leadership caucus.

Although Bieber has been a UAW vice-president for two years and in charge of the union's General Motors (GM) department during that time, he is unknown to the membership. At a conference of the UAW's GM Council in Chicago earlier this year, top union officials were trying to persuade that delegated body to endorse their proposal to open the GM contract and make wage concessions.

Bieber was forced to take the lead in this dubious endeavor. He began with a long report filled with statistics about how unprofitable GM auto production is in this country.

He did such a good job of presenting GM's precarious financial position that one delegate from a Detroit local mistook Bieber for a company representative called in to give the facts on management problems.

The Detroit delegate had arrived late. After listening for a while to Bieber's report, he asked others in his delegation, "Why do we have to bring in these company representatives to explain to us what we ought to do?" He was told the speaker is a UAW big shot and supposed to be "our man."

The idea that the unions ought to have leaders who try to solve the problems of the workers — not the employers — is growing. It was expressed by John Hatcher, financial secretary of UAW Local 2000 at the Ford plant in Avon Lake, Ohio. "I sure as hell hope," Hatcher said, "they get someone in there that will take the companies on, instead of the soft approach we've had lately." It is generally recognized throughout the union that Bieber is hardly the one for that job.

Some local union officers have little confidence in the UAW leadership caucus's ability to manage the union and to pick top union officials. Jim McCracken,

president of Local 1250 at Ford's Brook Park plant near Cleveland, never joined the caucus. He favors rank-and-file election of all UAW officials by referendum, instead of the present method of election by delegates at the union convention.

The membership referendum, which is used in the United Mine Workers and some other unions, is popular with UAW members. Most auto workers would like a chance to vote directly for the top officials of their union like miners do. This would be a step forward, but more is involved for the members of the UAW to take control of their union.

The coal miners fought a long and bitter struggle against the coal operators and government around the life-and-death questions of safety and black lung. In the course of that struggle they threw out the bureaucratic Boyle machine in their union. The successful outcome of that struggle was helped — but not determined — by the fact that their union constitution provides for the referendum in the election of officials.

The transformation of any bureaucratized union must begin at the local level. In the UAW today, as in the mine union more than a decade ago, the bureaucracy seeks to keep the locals under strict control. Those locals that are rebellious against the International and its cozy relationship with the corporations are poorly serviced by International representatives in the settlement of job grievances, and the elected officials of these locals are ostracized by the "official family" and targeted for removal. (In the mine union the old Boyle gang used different weapons.)

Rudy Gasperek, for example, who today heads the militant 10,000-member UAW Local 1112 at GM's Lordstown Assembly plant, is excluded from the International's leadership caucus.

Behind the growing number of secondary officials raising protests is the growing sentiment among the ranks against class collaboration, and their search for a policy and leadership that defends them against the auto makers.

This was revealed in the remark of a Black worker at Chrysler's Warren Stamping plant near Detroit. After the successful Canadian strike he said, "We have no leaders. If they [the Canadian Chrysler workers] hadn't struck, we'd be going through this same song and dance that the company has no money in January."

What will happen at next year's constitutional convention remains to be seen. It is a foregone conclusion, however, that Owen Bieber will stake his bid for the UAW presidency on the promise of closer collaboration with the corporations.

The U.S. war against Nicaragua

The following is based on a talk given in New York City December 11 at an educational conference sponsored by the Young Socialist Alliance. Michael Baumann is a *Militant-Perspectiva Mundial* correspondent who has been based in Managua since March of this year.

BY MICHAEL BAUMANN

When Jane Harris, who's the other correspondent for the *Militant* in Managua, and I told our friends in Nicaragua we were coming back to the United States for a visit, and that on this visit we would be doing some speaking to explain what's happening in Nicaragua, many of them expressed concern about our safety.

To us this seemed strange. To us we were leaving the war zone and coming back home. But Nicaraguans saw it a little differently, and I think the way they saw it says something. Because they know what Reagan is doing to them. They live through it every day. And they think, "If this is what Reagan is doing to us, what is he doing to people in the United States who support our revolution?"

The husband of the head of our neighborhood Sandinista Defense Committee wanted to know if we would have bodyguards at our speaking engagements. We said no, but that because of the interest in Nicaragua we did expect to have big audiences!

Regionwide revolution

There are five different revolutions going on right now in the Caribbean and Central America. All of them are at different stages.

In Cuba — capitalism has already been abolished.

In Nicaragua and the island of Grenada — governments committed to the interests of workers and farmers have come to power. But still, for the time being, they sit on top of capitalist economic systems. This is a terrific contradiction, and one that's played out in life every day.

El Salvador — a fullscale civil war.

In Guatemala — ongoing guerrilla activity in three quarters of the country.

This is what is happening today in Central America and the Caribbean. We in the United States must see these struggles as a unit, as an overall component of the worldwide struggle of the workers and farmers on the one hand and imperialism on the other.

Because the United States is not just intervening in Nicaragua and El Salvador. That's just what gets the headlines. It's also trying to stop the advances of the socialist revolution in Cuba, turn back the workers and farmers in Grenada, and halt

the rebellion in Guatemala.

And as sure as we're sitting in this room, a direct U.S. attack on any one of these revolutions will pull in the others in defense of that revolution.

In the 1980s and the 1990s there's not going to be any more Bay of Pigs or any more sending in of 25,000 Marines like Johnson did in the Dominican Republic without starting a regionwide war.

Each one of these revolutions knows that an attack on any one of them is an attack on all. And they're going to respond. They're going to defend each other.

What we have to do is get out the truth. You can say, "This has always been our job." But I think the content of it has changed a little in the last couple of weeks.

There are millions of workers in the United States who know today something our government tried to keep secret for a long time. That the United States is fighting a dirty, bloody, no-holds-barred war against the people of Nicaragua. A war in which every day men, women, and children are being murdered.

This was not always the case, that so many people knew about this. For nearly a year the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and *Intercontinental Press* were literally the only papers in the United States that were reporting every week the real war the United States was fighting against Nicaragua.

And the reason why these were the only newspapers that were doing this was not because Jane Harris and I were super-reporters who spotted a story that nobody else saw. That was not the reason. We were not the only U.S. reporters in Nicaragua in this period.

There were other reporters there — from the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, CBS news — who saw everything we saw. Who went to the same news conferences, who visited the same villages that had just been attacked by former members of Somoza's National Guard. Who attended the same funerals of militia members who had been killed in battle.

But none of their newspapers published two percent of the truth about what was happening in Nicaragua. They didn't do it because they knew they weren't supposed to. The public line of the American government was that the war was not happening. And that's why the only place the truth was reported was in the *Militant*, *PM*, and *IP*, and occasionally in a few of the other left and socialist papers in the United States.

Now, suddenly, there's a flood of articles about the "secret war" against Nicaragua. It's not a secret anymore.

I think we have to ask ourselves what this means for us, as supporters of this revolution who live in the United States. Why

is there suddenly this flood of articles? What has changed? What happened?

These kinds of exposés usually come about for two reasons. First, when the U.S. government gets close to a big showdown, not necessarily everybody who's involved agrees 100 percent with the timing, with the tactics. What they do is "leak" stuff to the press. They try to apply pressure for a slightly different course, different timing, to better prepare this, to better prepare that.

And I think that's a large part of what's involved here. There are people like what Lyndon Johnson used to call the "nervous Nellies" who are worried about the success of this operation. And a good chunk of what we're seeing in the press is a reflection of that nervousness. But it's nervousness that comes because everybody "in the know" senses something big is in the works.

But I also think we have to assume that this publicity about the U.S. war against Nicaragua is in part designed to get American workers used to the idea of war.

Reagan is saying, through unnamed White House and CIA spokesmen:

— Yes, we're doing this.

— We're funding the counterrevolutionaries.

— We're killing Nicaraguan peasants and militia members every day.

— We've got every available CIA agent who speaks Spanish down there helping out.

— I went down myself to see how things were going.

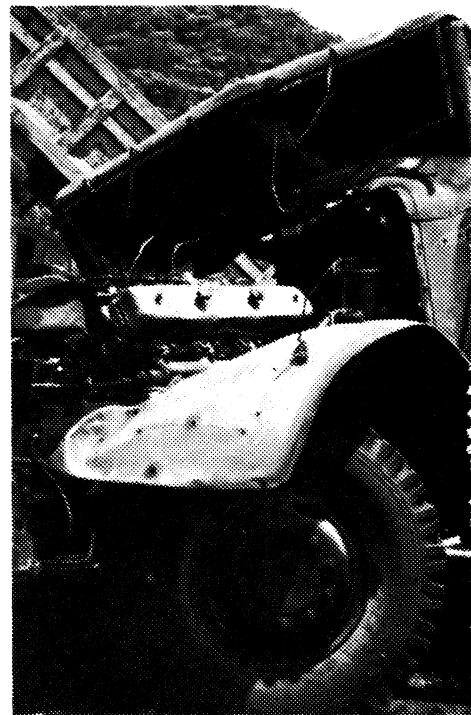
— But it's OK, it's OK because we aren't trying to overthrow the government. We're just trying to encourage them to be more reasonable in negotiations.

Real face of U.S. war

What is this war really like? How does it affect people? What does it make life like in Nicaragua? I'd like to tell you a few of my personal experiences.

The first time I saw the war directly was at a small border post up on the Nicaraguan-Honduran border. It was one of the lightly defended posts that are located every few miles along the 500-mile boundary. This particular post was hit at the end of April in a surprise attack. Eighteen people were defending it. Four were killed, four were wounded. The 10 who survived had to defend the area for four hours until reinforcements could be sent in.

Except for two officers, all the border guards were volunteers. They were young peasants and young agricultural laborers. The youngest of them was a 14-year-old woman, who served as a cook at the post. When one of her *compañeros* was killed she picked up his rifle and fought alongside the others.



Rio Iyas, Nicaragua. Construction of revolutionary road on August 30, 1982.

The second time I saw the war directly was at a construction camp, way out in the middle of Nicaragua. This is where equipment was stored that was being used to build the first road that will connect the two halves of Nicaragua.

In hundreds of years of rule by Spain, Britain, and the United States (through the Somoza family dictatorship) no roads were ever built connecting Nicaragua's Pacific and Caribbean coasts. It's only after the revolution that any attempt has been made to link these two halves of the country. It is a tremendous engineering project. And it is a prime target in the U.S. war against the Nicaraguan revolution.

Eighty to 100 counterrevolutionaries were sent in with plastic explosives and blew up every piece of equipment they could — trucks, tractors, front-end loaders, bulldozers. And that wasn't all.

They also blew up a clinic, a tin-roofed clinic with a couple of thousand dollars' worth of medical supplies. The only clinic within thirty miles. A clinic where all the patients came on foot or on horseback, some of them traveling two days to get to it.

San Francisco del Norte: This is a small town on the border. Fourteen peasants were kidnapped there by counterrevolutionaries in August. This town is so poor that to commemorate these 14 people who were kidnapped — who are probably now dead — the only way to do it was to write their names on individual sheets of 8½ × 11 paper and tack them on the wall of the militia post.

This town is located within a hundred yards of the river that serves as the border between Nicaragua and Honduras. You can stand on one side of the river and see the Honduran trenches on the other.

We also took a trip along this border. Not the whole border, thirty or forty miles maybe. What did we see? Militia posts filled with bullet holes. We saw the gravesites of literacy brigade members, of Cuban volunteer teachers, of agricultural technicians, of peasants. We saw firsthand what this war really is.

It's a war against progress.

It's a war against medical care.

It's a war against literacy.

And a war against land reform.

That's the war that our government is fighting against Nicaragua.

Economic blockade

And it's not just a military war either. We have to remember that. It has other important aspects as well. And one of them is economic.

Nicaragua has a tiny, tiny industrial working class — 90,000, maybe a few more, maybe a few less, but in that neighborhood. Somewhere between 10,000 and 30,000 of these workers are now unemployed. Many factories have had to be shut down because there's no hard currency to



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: eyewitness report



Militant/Michael Baumann
one of more than 30 blown up by counter-



Militant/Michael Baumann
Peasants in northern Nicaragua celebrating as they receive land titles: "Now we own land our families worked for generations."

uy spare parts, and there's no hard currency to buy the imported raw materials they need to function. This is one of the impacts of the U.S. economic blockade, started under Carter and continued today under Reagan.

In the cities the buses are jam-packed. They often pass right by without stopping to pick up passengers. You see people riding on top, standing on the back bumpers, hanging out the door. Why? Because almost half the buses in Nicaragua are out of commission for lack of hard currency to buy spare parts.

Imported items are in short supply. Nicaragua is a small country and it doesn't manufacture very much. What this means right now is that you can go for a month without seeing simple everyday items in the stores, like a roll of toilet paper or a ball-point pen. Even rice, a staple in the diet, is scarce. Right now Nicaragua is in between rice harvests, and there's not enough rice in the country.

Battle for workers' minds

There's a third aspect to this war as well, and that's propaganda. Many of you have probably heard of the right-wing newspaper called *La Prensa*, which is still published every day in Managua. It's a little sadder now because there's wartime censorship. But this newspaper still finds plenty of ways to express the hatred of Nicaragua's former ruling class for this revolution of the poor, exploited, and oppressed.

I'd like to take an example — to explain now this newspaper works. Are there people here who follow boxing?

There was a fight in Miami, about a month ago, between Alexis Argüello and Aaron Pryor. Argüello is from Nicaragua, and Pryor is from the United States.

Argüello is something of a national hero in Nicaragua, as a boxer. He's one of the finest boxers in the world. I think he holds championships in three different classifications. He was also a supporter of ousted dictator Somoza, an honorary member of Somoza's National Guard.

La Prensa' discovers boxing

The newspaper *La Prensa* decided they would try to capitalize on his popularity as a boxer by working up a tremendous publicity campaign for the fight, and then try to portray interest in the fight as somehow reflecting support for Argüello's political views as well.

So they sent reporters to Miami a month ahead of the fight. And they filed stories, day after day, that were featured on *La Prensa's* front page. The idea was to make use of the fact that Argüello was now part of the right-wing Nicaraguan exile community in Miami.

How did the Sandinista government in Nicaragua react? I think we can take a lesson from this, because they acted like the

master diplomats and tacticians that they are.

Here in the United States those who wanted to go see that fight had to pay \$50 to \$100 to see it in person, or at least \$10 to see it on closed-circuit TV. In Nicaragua it was broadcast free on Sandinista television. With commercials — from the Sandinista Defense Committees, from the army, from the Ministry of the Interior, and the militias. So much for Alexis Argüello as a symbol of the counterrevolution!

Phony news reports

La Prensa is backed up by counterrevolutionary clandestine radio stations. They pretend they're based in Nicaragua, but they're not. One is located in Honduras, the other in Costa Rica. One of the things these stations do is to broadcast the names and addresses of Sandinista officials. This is a public "hit list" of people who are supposed to be taken care of if the opportunity arises.

These radio stations are also used to broadcast false news reports and rumors, especially about shortages. You have to understand the situation in Nicaragua to see how this works.

The supply of everything is very tight. In most basic items it's sufficient, but there's no surplus. So once a rumor starts, like "Have you heard? There's not going to be any rice in the stores next week." — rice disappears from the stores. There's a shortage — artificial, yes, but real, because the stores will have no more rice.

There is some rationing in Nicaragua to cope with some of these shortages. Automobile tires are rationed; you can buy four a year. Gasoline is rationed; you can buy 20 gallons a month.

Sugar. We wouldn't consider this rationing, but Nicaraguans do, they really like sugar. Sugar is rationed at one pound per person per week. This is not all the sugar you get. It's the amount you get at the official, government-subsidized price. You can buy more if you want it, but you have to take your chances on finding it and you have to pay pretty much whatever the shopkeeper wants to charge.

And now, in the last couple of weeks with the rice shortage, they have begun to use the sugar card to portion out the rice that's available. The card shows how many members you have in your family. So it can be used to share out fairly whatever rice comes in.

These aren't called ration cards in Nicaragua, by the way. I just used that term because we're familiar with it. There's a good political lesson in the term Nicaraguans all use. They call them *sugar guarantee cards*. They *guarantee* you the right to a certain amount at the subsidized price.

Why is the United States government so upset about this little country?

Nicaragua is about the size of New York state.

It has a population of 2.7 million — a little bit bigger than Brooklyn's.

It has an army that is about the same size as the New York City police force.

It has an air force that is smaller than the fleets of many large U.S. corporations.

What is there about the Nicaraguan revolution that upsets the American ruling class so much?

Why are they already on a war footing to crush it?

We know the official reasons, and they're all a pack of lies. But I think we should take a look at them, because we can learn something from them.

Lie No. 1

"Nicaragua is sending guns to El Salvador. That's why we have to stop it." That's what they used to say a lot.

Reagan has aerial photographs of Nicaraguan defense installations he says are so good, so detailed, that they can tell Nicaragua has Cuban-style *chinning bars* in the army exercise yards.

Nicaraguans say, "Well, if that's true, how come you don't have any photos of us sending arms to El Salvador?" And there's no answer to that.

Lie No. 2

Another argument they use. They say Nicaragua is a totalitarian dictatorship.

The truth is that Nicaragua is one of the freest countries in the world, despite the wartime situation. It's hard to believe it if you don't see it yourself, but this is a country where the cops are the nicest guys in town.

This is a country where people can and do say what's on their minds. In fact, the government and the Sandinista National Liberation Front encourage and have institutionalized ways that people can speak out about their concerns, about their problems, and about instances of bureaucratic abuse.

They have an institution called *Cara al Pueblo*. A loose translation would be something like "Face the Nation." One of the leaders of the revolution comes into a neighborhood for a meeting. It's announced in advance so that everybody knows about it. The meetings usually begin with a brief presentation on one of the big issues of the day. Then the floor is thrown open, and it's open for anybody to say whatever's on their mind. And not just to stop there either. Because these meetings are televised and also reported the next day in the newspapers. The answer you get becomes a matter of public record.

One or two days a week in the revolutionary newspaper *Barricada* there's a section, one of the most popular sections in the paper, called *Buzon Popular*, "People's Suggestion Box." This is the same thing but in a written form. People write down

what their complaints are, what problems they've had with bureaucrats, what the names of the bureaucrats are, where they work, what exactly they did or didn't do.

Paper shuffling not encouraged

This is effective. If you're a government official it is very embarrassing to see your name several weeks in a row in the same complaint column. And it can mean finding yourself out looking for less demanding work.

But suppose you've gone through all these channels and you still can't get satisfaction. There's another institution set up to deal with tougher problems. It's called the Office of Complaints. It welcomes anybody who's got a legitimate gripe. In Managua, it's located next door to one of the most popular supermarkets. And it's actually sort of a branch office of the Ministry of the Interior.

I mention these institutions first because they aren't very well known outside of Nicaragua. But even more important is the role of the mass organizations.

Since the revolution, the unions have more than quadrupled in size. The Sandinista Defense Committees, the CDSs, which started out as the neighborhood military and defense committees during the insurrection, are now organized on a block-by-block basis throughout at least the western half of the country.

They have about a half a million members. They have a lot of problems too. This is a new kind of organization in Nicaragua, where for decades people had no democratic rights whatsoever. The CDSs tend to be loosely organized. They're new. They're starting. But hundreds of thousands of people are gaining political experience through them.

The militias probably have well over a hundred thousand members. Thousands of people also belong to the reserve battalions. None of them are paid, by the way. This is all voluntary. There's no draft in Nicaragua. It's strictly a volunteer army

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U.S. blockade won't stop Xmas in Nicaragua

BY JANE HARRIS

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Despite the U.S. economic blockade, Nicaraguan children will still have toys for Christmas.

Dragons, clowns, cars, jump ropes, baseball bats, chalk boards, and more are being created by the imaginative use of furniture scrap.

Designed by a Nicaraguan architect who brought back toy catalogs from the United States and Europe, they will save Nicaragua the hard currency it needs to keep its economy going. Only the paint will need to be imported.

Two factories just south of Managua, in the city of Granada, are hard at work and happy for the business. One, a former furniture factory, and the other, a former framing and molding factory, were without an export market for their products because of the international economic crisis.

Three million *córdobas* in initial financing (about U.S. \$300,000) was provided by a combination of government agencies to get the project off the ground.

After Christmas, contracts from the Nicaraguan Ministry of Education for educational toys (geometric forms) will keep workers on the job. Also in store for 1983 will be the export of these toys to the Arab nations.

The toys — 100,000 if production goals are met — will be distributed through the unions of the Sandinista Workers Federation and will be on sale in the plant stores and supermarkets. Another targeted distribution point will be the Atlantic Coast, geographically isolated and hard hit economically.

The toys, which are of excellent quality, will range in price from \$1.70 to \$15 tops. At F.A.O. Schwartz in New York handmade wooden toys of this nature were priced at \$20 to \$30 by the *Militant*.

Unionists support fight against spying at Lockheed

BY HOLBROOK MAHN

There is a growing recognition among trade unionists that the firing of 15 International Association of Machinists (IAM) members by the Lockheed Corp. in Georgia represents a threat to the entire labor movement.

The IAM members were fired after a company informer spying on a union meeting reported that some union members had distributed a campaign statement by a Socialist Workers Party candidate for Senate. This triggered a four-month witchhunt in which Lockheed used its own secret police, the FBI, the local red squad and the Defense Investigative Service to pry into the private lives of its workers in a search for "subversives."

On Sept. 20, 1982, a \$3.4 million lawsuit was filed against Lockheed by the fired workers. The lawsuit, which challenges Lockheed's right to spy on, harass, and fire workers because of their union activity and political beliefs, has already won an impressive list of supporters.

Several statewide unions, such as the Colorado Federation of Teachers and the New York State Public Employees Federation, as well as a number of union locals, have given their support to this fight against company spying and harassment.

The potential for winning more national labor support for the Lockheed lawsuit was shown by the response it received at two recent conferences attended by trade unionists.

Tom Fiske, one of the plaintiffs in the lawsuit, participated in the Ohio Labor Conference on Full Employment, Safe Energy, and Military Spending held in Toledo, October 29-31. Twenty unionists and antinuclear activists signed endorser cards demanding the jobs back for the fired IAM members.

"The thing that struck me as I talked to the unionists at the Ohio conference," Fiske told the *Militant*, "was that when I explained the facts of the Lockheed case, they saw it right away as a union case and one for the entire labor movement to support. They said that if Lockheed gets away with firing union activists who are socialists, then they would use the precedent to go after other union militants."

"People I talked with were outraged at the stance Lockheed took in their answer to

the lawsuit — that they had the right to spy on union meetings and to victimize their workers and that they would continue to do so."

Fiske continued, "Some of the unionists I talked with related the Lockheed case to their own experiences with company harassment. A miner from Blairsville, Pennsylvania, compared the Lockheed case with the harassment he had experienced when participating in an organizing drive for the United Mine Workers (UMWA). He ended by saying to me, 'Thank you for fighting this Lockheed case — it's for all of us.'"

Chris Hoepfner, a plaintiff in the lawsuit and one of the fired IAM members, met with a similar response at a conference on "Organizing against Concessions — Strategies for Labor's Survival," held in Detroit November 12-14. Of the 750 people in attendance, 250 signed petitions or endorser cards in support of the Lockheed workers.

Hoepfner found the best response among auto workers. "Many of the United Auto Workers members I talked to drew a parallel between the Lockheed case and Chrysler's attempts to wring concessions from them. They saw both as attacks on the labor movement and explained that in order



Militant/Lou Howort



Militant/Charles Ostrofsky

Miner John Hawkins (left) and lawsuit plaintiff Chris Hoepfner (right).

to try and push these concession contracts through, the companies want to silence the union activists who speak out against them.

"Quite a few of the trade unionists I talked to wanted to have the Lockheed case presented to their local meetings. I think that we have an opportunity to get resolutions of support passed by locals as well as contributions when we present the facts of the case to them."

John Hawkins, a member of UMWA Local 6132, helped get a resolution in support of the fired Lockheed workers passed by his local. He told the *Militant* that before the local meeting he helped distribute brochures and fact sheets to a number of

workers at the mine.

"From what I could gather from discussions with co-workers who got the material," Hawkins said, "just about everybody read it and took it pretty seriously. It's a shock to lots of people that you can get fired on some pretext because of your union activity and your political ideas."

The vote in support of the resolution was overwhelming. Hawkins said, "I think it just shows how jealously working people guard our political and trade union rights — especially today when everyone senses, to one or another degree, that we need those rights to defend our class interests on a number of fronts."

Workers are victims of recession worldwide

BY WILLIAM GOTTLIEB

The General Agreement on Tariffs & Trade (GATT) met over the Thanksgiving weekend. None of the conflicts among the imperialist countries over access to shrunken markets was resolved. No progress was made on resolving the battle for control of the world agricultural market that is raging between the United States and the European Common Market (EC). The chance of an all-out trade war continues to mount.

Behind the increasing trade frictions is the deep and prolonged worldwide capitalist recession. Each capitalist government is attempting to preserve and expand the share of the shrunken world market that its own bosses command. The victims of this international struggle for markets and profits are the workers of the world.

Take the town of Longwy for example. Longwy is an industrial town in France. Twenty years ago 30,000 steelworkers labored in Longwy's mills. Now there are only 6,700 left working. By 1986 the number is expected to be down to only 4,400 as the ECC steel cartel continues to reduce steel capacity. Longwy is a dying town.

But it is not an isolated case. In France as a whole, 48,000 steel jobs have disappeared over the last six years. Another 10,000 are scheduled to disappear over the next four.

Across the Rhine, the once much vaunted West German "economic miracle" has come to a grinding halt. Unemployment is expected to hit the double-digit level by February. In many places in West Ger-

many it is already there. In the industrial city of Dortmund, for example, unemployment is 13 percent.

Nor have Japan's workers escaped the effects of worldwide economic crisis and increased capitalist competition.

Yubari is a Japanese coal-mining town. In the early 1960s when world trade was expanding rapidly, Yubari had 26 coal mines. With its coal mines booming, the town's population had reached 120,000. Now only 2 mines are in operation. The population is down to only 30,000. For those that are out of work, the chances of finding a new job are bleak.

Miners still working face dangerous conditions. On Oct. 16, 1981, an explosion ripped through the town's newest mine. Many months later the bosses finally got around to draining the mine. The bodies of 93 miners were found 3,000 feet underground.

Miner Hiroyuki Suzuki was in the last shift to go into the mine. He escaped with his life but not his job. Still unemployed, Suzuki asked the *New York Times* reporter who was interviewing him about how things are in Canada. But there is little chance that Hiroyuki Suzuki will find a job in Canada. Unemployment there is officially 12.7 percent.

Hiroyuki Suzuki's plight underlines a basic fact. Workers all over the capitalist world are in the same boat. There is no land "where the streets are paved with gold" to run away to. Nor are there any national boundaries to hide behind. Only international labor solidarity — the only true solidarity — can combat the global attack of the bosses on working people.

Penn. court delays Abortion Control Act

BY KATY KARLIN

PHILADELPHIA — Implementation of the Pennsylvania Abortion Control Act has been stalled by the Circuit Court of Appeals, which blocked the act one day after it went into effect. The law is now temporarily suspended while the court considers an appeal filed by Planned Parenthood and other abortion rights groups.

The Abortion Control Act is an enormous attack on abortion rights in Pennsylvania and if upheld could set an ominous precedent for other states.

The act requires: parental consent for any woman under 18 seeking an abortion; that physicians warn patients of the possible "physiological and psychological effects" an abortion might have; and that a second doctor serve as witness if there is any question of a "live birth" during the course of the operation.

The act also forces women who have passed their first three months of pregnancy to enter a hospital to obtain an abortion. The expressed aims of the sponsors of this bill, state representatives Stephen Freind and Gregg Cunningham, are to make it as difficult as possible for women to get an abortion and to eventually outlaw abortion in Pennsylvania.

In a Philadelphia *Daily News* interview, the first woman to receive an abortion during the one day the law was enforced was "adamant that no amount of legislation could have stopped her." She told the *News*, "If I couldn't get it here, I would have gone to another state." The woman



Militant/Ginny Hildebrand

Pittsburgh picket line outside hearings on Abortion Control Act.

underwent the required counseling but declined an optional feature — the chance to see a description of a fetus.

The Philadelphia Reproductive Rights Organization and other abortion rights groups are observing the 10th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion on January 22 with a "Women's Tribunal on Crimes Against Reproductive Freedom." The meeting will take place at the Hospital Workers Local 1199c hall and will discuss how to fight back against the impending law.

David Fair, a spokesperson for Local 1199c, said, "80 percent of our membership is women, and this is an immediate issue to them." Members of Local 1199c have pressed the union to take a prochoice stand publicly.

Solidarity continues despite repression

Continued from Page 7

said in a December 12 speech to the Sejm.

The authorities are replacing many of the specific provisions of martial law with new statutory regulations and laws.

As before, strict censorship will be in effect. The legal penalties for producing and distributing underground literature or for "causing a public disorder or disturbance" have been stiffened considerably. Workers can now be legally fired for participating in demonstrations or strikes. The 200 factories that have been militarized will remain under the control of military officers. Martial-law courts and summary proceedings will be retained. The Council of State

will have the power to reimpose martial law anywhere, at any time.

By holding the club of continued repression over the heads of the workers, the government hopes to intimidate and silence them. But a full year of martial law has not been successful in doing this.

In the text of his speech, Walesa stated, "I believe that the seed we have sown has been deeply planted. We are not the same people we were before August," referring to the August 1980 strikes that led to the rise of Solidarity. "We know what we are fighting for."

From Intercontinental Press

Meatpackers' fight far from over

IBP packinghouse bosses fail to smash union in Nebraska

BY MICHAEL CARPER

LINCOLN, Neb. — The four-month strike of United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 222 against Iowa Beef Processors (IBP) was closely watched by unionists around the country confronted with similar takeback demands from the employers.

At the beginning of October, the union voted to return to work without a contract but with the union intact, a blow to IBP's plan to destroy the local like the Federal government did to the air traffic controllers' union, PATCO.

IBP, the largest meatpacking company in the business, slaughters nearly one-fourth of the fat cattle raised in this country. It made \$57.8 million in net profit last year.

The plant in Dakota City, Nebraska, where the strike took place, is the largest beef slaughtering operation in the world, employing about 2,400 workers. It is also the most productive boxed beef plant, with the latest technology.

Record injury rate

The Dakota City plant has one of the highest rates of occupational injury and illness in the nation, with nearly 44 injuries per 100 employees annually. This compares to 35 per 100 in the meatpacking industry nationally, and 9 per 100 in all industry.

An ambulance service in Sioux City, Iowa, is under contract with IBP and makes as many as three or four trips to the plant every day to pick up injured employees and deliver them to a hospital in Sioux City. Since 1975, at least five workers have died from injuries at work.

UFCW Local 222 has had to strike for every contract since the plant was organized in 1969. These strikes have been long, bitter struggles, usually involving a great deal of company provocation and violence. The last strike, in 1977-78, lasted 14 months.

The contract the workers won then expired this year. In negotiations, the company demanded numerous concessions, including a four-year wage freeze and elimination of all cost-of-living raises. Under the pressure of the recession, the union offered to take a two-year wage freeze and to suspend the cost-of-living raises for three years. This wasn't enough for IBP.

The company wanted to reclassify 700 workers (cutting their pay) and to set up an extra gang of 200 workers who would have no contract benefits. IBP also demanded that new hires start at wages \$2 lower than the current base pay.

Finally, IBP wanted the right to reopen the contract. If any company on a list of designated competitors was successful in gouging concessions out of its workforce, IBP wanted the right to demand the same.

More involved than contract

Faced with these demands as the company's final offer, the members of Local 222 voted nearly unanimously on June 7 to go on strike.

From the beginning it was clear to the workers that more was involved than a new contract. "We have a big load on our back," one steward explained, "because if this big union here goes, the others are right behind. We're the biggest union this company has."

Only two of the eleven packing plants owned by IBP are organized. One woman picket told the *Militant* that Dakota City sets the pace for wages at all the plants. "We can't let those other people down," she said. "If we lose, everybody loses."

"The company would like to get rid of the union," was a frequent comment from picketers in the course of the strike.

As one worker put it, "People think we're stupid for going out in times like these, but they don't understand that a union is all a poor guy has to defend himself on a job."

When the company attempted to reopen the plant with scab labor in late July, union picket lines were attacked by more than 100 Nebraska state troopers using mace, clubs, and tear gas. More than 50 picketers were arrested, and Gov. Charles Thone called out the National Guard against the

strike, the first time this had been done here since the 1930s.

But the workers of Local 222, most of whom are under 30 and about half of whom are women, stood firm against the company and the government, earning the respect of millions of workers around the country.

Local 222 received contributions and solidarity from UFCW locals in Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota, from rail unions in Lincoln, as well as from other AFL-CIO unions. Several demonstrations were organized in August and September to show support for the strikers.

Although thousands of workers sympathized with the embattled members of Local 222 and could have been mobilized in solidarity activity, this work was undercut by the AFL-CIO officials' support to Democratic Party candidates in the November elections. None of these candidates supported the strike.

In Nebraska, for example, Gov. Thone's Democratic opponent Robert Kerrey called state actions against the strikers "appropriate."

Subordinating solidarity with Local 222 to working for Kerrey's election resulted in the strikers getting the short end of the stick. For example, local AFL-CIO leaders from Lincoln did not attend an August 21 strike-support demonstration because they were busy making signs for the Kerrey campaign.

Other companies try gouging union

BY JEFF HAMILL

LINCOLN, Nebraska — Following the attempt by Iowa Beef Processors to gouge concessions out of the workers at its Dakota City plant and to smash the union there, other meatpacking companies across Nebraska are also demanding that their employees accept massive wage cuts and benefit reductions. The companies all claim that the concessions are necessary so that they will remain "competitive." But the workers are refusing to go along with the devastating attack on their unions.

Last October 19 United Food and Commercial Workers Local 22 was informed that the American Stores plant in Lincoln "may close permanently if a new contract is not negotiated by October 28." The company demanded concessions amounting to \$7,500 annually for each of the plant's 600 workers. On November 1, Local 22 voted 418 to 2 to reject the company's demands.

Richard Nemec, a meatpacker at American Stores and a member of Local 22, explained the decision of his local at a recent *Militant* Forum here. "The company is making record profits; sales are up; its stock in July was selling for \$40 a share and now is over \$60 — but they want a 45 percent wage cut. They are pleading poverty, but they won't let us look at their records. They wanted all of us to give up a week's vacation, take away our clothes-changing time, take away two paid holidays a year."

Despite the company moving ahead to close down the plant by the end of the year and a big propaganda campaign in the local media attacking the workers as unreasonable and greedy, the meatpackers have stood by their union. At a meeting November 28, the members of Local 22 overwhelmingly voted down a proposal to reconsider the company's offer.

General Host, owner of the Cudahy dry sausage plant in South Omaha, made its "final offer" to UFCW Local 60 October 13. The company proposed a wage cut of \$1.12 in the basic wage of \$11.27 an hour; a wage of only \$7 an hour for newly-hired workers; and an end to all cost-of-living allowances; reduced work breaks; no paid clothes-changing time; and a provision that workers pay 20 percent of their health insurance premiums, that had been paid entirely by the company.

The 203 members of the local voted unanimously to reject Cudahy's demands and to go out on strike. Cudahy promptly hired all the replacement workers that they could — at a wage of \$7 an hour — while

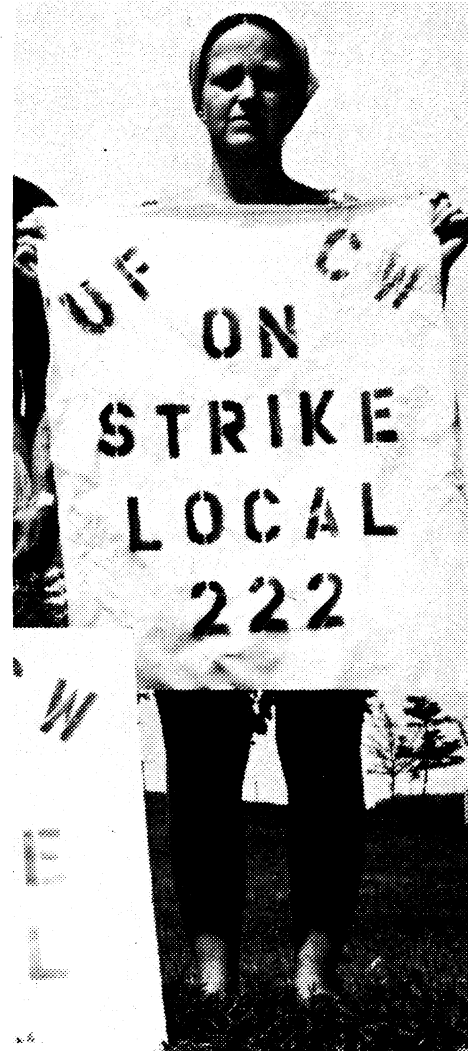
Faced with the company's intransigence, government complicity in the union-busting attacks, the failure of the labor officials to organize necessary solidarity, and with the increasing difficulties of living on \$65 weekly strike benefits, the members of Local 222 made a hard choice. After sometimes heated debate and discussion, they decided to go back to work without a new contract.

Bill Schmitz, Local 222 business agent, told the *Militant*, "The union is still strong. We're going to continue to negotiate for a decent contract. If we have to, we can strike again."

IBP was put on the defensive by the union's decision to go back to work and was forced to allow most strikers to return to their jobs. Its hope of busting the union was dashed.

Throughout the strike, the workers had vowed not to return without their union. By keeping this vow, although not winning a decent new contract, they dealt a blow to the company's concession offensive. IBP has failed — for now — to impose a four-year wage freeze and other attacks on the union.

The fight of the IBP workers is far from over. By their courage and determination they set an example for the entire labor movement. Having organized a retreat for now, they still have their union and are preparing to fight another day.



Militant

Member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 222 picketing Iowa Beef Processors during last summer's strike.

at every shift change the entire local demonstrated across the street from the plant gates.

The city then called out the police to "prevent violence" — that is, to protect company property and the scabs.

A statement issued by the Nebraska Socialist Workers Party declared, "The employers and their state government of Nebraska, along with the federal government in Washington, try to blame the economic crisis on everything except the way the capitalist system works."

"For the bosses to maintain high profit levels, they must try to force the workers to

sacrifice through concessions — by giving up wages, benefits, and jobs. The government, being on the side of big business, sends cops and the National Guard against strikers, has dismantled OSHA [Occupational Safety and Health Administration], and forces workers to settle for rotten contracts."

The role of the Democrats and Republicans, the SWP statement said, points to the need for the union movement to break from these two parties of the employers and launch a labor party that would defend the interests of working people against the takeback offensive of the employers.

N.Y. YSA conference draws 200

BY VERÓNICA CRUZ
AND ETTA ETTLINGER

NEW YORK — Over 200 people packed into the Militant Bookstore in Manhattan on December 11 to hear a forum on Nicaragua featuring Michael Baumann, currently a Nicaragua correspondent for the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*, the Spanish-language socialist biweekly.

Baumann reported on the Nicaraguan people's defense of their revolution as the U.S. government steps up its murderous attacks.

Also speaking was a leader of the Brooklyn Young Socialist Alliance. She pointed out, "We are trained to see ourselves as tiny individuals, alone, up against this great monstrous system. And the only thing we can do is to fight for our own little crumb, even if it means stepping on the other guy to get it."

"But this is a capitalist system. It doesn't see us as individuals — in fact, it takes away our individuality. To the ruling class, we are merely machines to produce their profits. They oppress us as an entire class."

She pointed out that workers are "beginning to organize and see ourselves as one class — the working class — with one common enemy — capitalism. We are beginning to cut through the racism and sexism that this system perpetuates to divide our class. We are beginning to realize what we have in common with workers all over the world."

Referring to the fightback in the labor movement that is beginning to develop today, she said, "This movement of working people is exactly what Marx and Engels

wrote about in the *Communist Manifesto* in 1848. It's a movement to win a society based on the human needs of the majority rather than the profits of a few. This movement is the progression toward socialism. . . . But socialism is not totally inevitable. Our class must *fight* to take power away from the capitalists. . . . We must be united and educated on *how* to struggle as a class."

This forum culminated a day of classes sponsored by chapters of the YSA in Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Newark, New Jersey. These sessions took up the socialist analysis of where unemployment comes from and how it can be eliminated; racism; women's liberation; the U.S. labor movement; and the founding document of the Marxist movement, the *Communist Manifesto*. Some of the classes were also given in Spanish. These were attended by Dominicans, Puerto Ricans, Salvadorans, and Bolivians.

Approximately 50 of those present were attending a socialist event for the first time. A young man from the Dominican Republic explained that he had lived in the United States for five years and this conference was the "most important thing he'd been to" since he got here.

The conference was a good introduction both to the YSA, and to what will be discussed at the YSA's convention in Chicago on December 30-January 2. Several conference participants expressed an interest in going to the convention and four decided to join the YSA. As one participant explained at the end of the conference, "After what I've seen today — this is the organization I belong in."

Double feature — Atlanta's civic center followed up on the International Chiefs of Police convention by booking the International Pig Trade Show.



Harry Ring

In green berets? — Guatemala's tourist director anticipates a modest pickup in the present minimal number of U.S. visitors

and says he's confident that before long, Americans will be arriving in record numbers.

Housing tip — Tired of that high rent? Check out the luxury Florida condos. They built too many and prices are dropping. For instance, a pad that features Roman tubs, marble floors, wine cellars and cigar humidors, initially half a million, can now be picked up for \$350,000.

Fare game — Detroit officials complain they're being beaten out of money since they jacked bus fares to a buck. Passengers must now insert a folded dollar bill in

the box and some have noticed that a folded half a dollar works as nicely.

And rightly so — A survey found that 28 percent of pet owners in Columbus, Ohio, would ignore nuclear evacuation orders if told to leave their animals behind.

Whoopee! — The Club A in New York is offering a New Year's Eve bash at \$998 a couple. That doesn't include drinks, which go for \$6.50 a shot. But, assures a spokesperson, the tab does include "the right to be seated next to people who can afford that kind of evening."

Sounds reasonable — Since the '60s, stocks have been offered for socially concerned investors. Companies that assertedly don't discriminate in employment, don't have investments in South Africa or build A-bombs, etc. But, the *Wall Street Journal* reports, such stocks are usually found at the bottom of the list, profit-wise. The paper feels there may be a difference between "doing good and doing well."

Civil war among capitalists — Jordache is suing K-mart for \$100 million, charging the chain is peddling a counterfeit version of its jeans. K-mart responded by

sweeping all Jordache products off its shelves. Meanwhile consumers continue paying triple the price for a labelled version of what used to be known as work pants.

Thought for the week — "Once you . . . try to figure out who is left in Cuba to listen to Radio Martí, you have a very narrow constituency, most of whom have very serious problems anyway, if they have nothing better to do than listen to American propaganda." — Sen. Paul Tsongas on Reagan's proposed station to beam war propaganda to Cuba.

U.S. war against Nicaragua: eyewitness report

Continued from Page 9
and militia. People want to fight to defend this revolution.

Lie No. 3

There's another argument I think we're going to hear more of in the future. That it's necessary to "save" Nicaragua from all the mistakes, blunders, and catastrophes the revolution has caused.

On the face of it, this is probably the imperialists' strongest argument. Because it's true that many, many problems exist in Nicaragua. What's false, where the lie comes in, is to blame the revolution for them.

Think of the worst poverty you've ever seen in the rural United States. Think of that and then try to imagine that for most Nicaraguans it would represent a step forward.

That gives you an idea of what this revolution was given to start out with. What the U.S. government is trying to do is to take these problems, which have been imposed on Nicaragua over centuries, and blame them on the revolution.

Here is what Nicaragua inherited from Somoza:

There is almost no modern industry.
There is a housing shortage of at least a quarter of a million units.

Unemployment is at least 20 percent.
Inflation is at least 30 percent.

There is a huge foreign debt. It was \$1.5 billion after Somoza; it's probably double that now.

The minimum wage is \$2.50 a day in the countryside, and a little over \$4.00 a day in the cities. And as low as these figures are, they're an increase over the Somoza period.

The country is dependent on a few major export crops — sugar, cotton, coffee, and cattle. And the prices of all of them are way down on the world market.

There's a severe shortage of doctors, technicians, accountants, mechanics, statisticians, of people who can read and write without difficulty.

And don't forget the war, the central problem the country faces.

These are undeniable problems. But who's responsible for them? Not the revolution. This is what Nicaragua inherited from imperialism. And they're the same kind of problems that every country in Latin America faces.

Reagan's real worry

The thing that's different about Nicaragua, the thing that really has Reagan and the U.S. ruling class worried, is that *Nicaragua is starting to do something about them.*

Despite the costs of mobilizing to defend the revolution.

Despite the inherited backwardness.
Despite the world economic crisis.
Despite the economic blockade.

Despite all these problems the Nicaraguan revolution has been able to bring about immediate and direct improvements in the lives of nearly every person in the country. Particularly the poorest and the most oppressed.

Food in Nicaragua is the cheapest in Central America.

Two thousand housing units were built last year. That might not seem like much, but proportional to the population it's more

than anywhere else in Central America.

Medical care — access is the widest in Central America. The same thing with education.

I mentioned that the buses are really crowded, and I mentioned one of the reasons why. But there's another as well. *Fares were cut in half.* Instead of walking three or four miles to work, people can now afford to take a bus.

In the countryside, working farmers were given cheap loans.

Many forms of land tenure, land holding, that go all the way back to feudalism are just being abolished now, such as paying rent with labor.

Workers in Iran protest proposed labor bill

Continued from Page 6

personally know capitalists who have helped the revolution greatly, but I have also seen the emblems of Workers House in Moscow. This is the work of leftists."

Workers House serves as a coordinating center in Tehran for the shoras and anjomans. Its leaders have close ties to the ruling Islamic Republican Party (IRP). The Central Council of Workers House has itself spoken out against the draft labor law.

Rezaei refused to answer questions or hear any reply from the shora and anjoman representatives at the November 9 meeting.

The gathering concluded with the adoption of a 13-point resolution. Among other things, this document affirmed the centrality of the war effort against Iraqi aggression and called on the prime minister to put a halt to firings and to the hoarding of essential goods.

The resolution also demanded the adoption of a proworker labor law that would include insurance, unemployment benefits, retirement pensions, and other provisions so as to conform to the 1979 constitution, which upholds the right to housing, health care, and education.

Other demands centered on the need for workers to participate in the drafting of the labor law. The resolution also called on the news media — especially the state-run radio and television — to devote more attention to working-class issues, demands, and events.

Growing resistance

The fight for pro-working-class labor legislation has been going on for some time in Iran. The raising of this demand by the shoras and anjomans reflects the efforts of workers to gain greater control in their workplaces against the owners of the means of production — the state and the capitalists — and their representatives, the managers and foremen.

At the same time, the ruling class has been trying to rebuild its domination in the workplaces. Pressure has mounted on the government to guarantee the indisputable rule of management, both in the nationalized industries and in the private sector, in order to boost capitalist profits.

As this class conflict has sharpened, pressure has also mounted on the leadership of Workers House — from the ranks of the workers on the one hand, and on the other from the capitalists and their politicians in the government, who want to do away with all workers organizations, in-

cluding Workers House itself.
After the recent series of meetings and seminars of workers representatives and the redbaiting attacks by labor ministry official Rezaei, the Central Council of Workers House met and resolved that the draft labor law "cannot be implemented."

Two central leaders of Workers House, Mahjoubi and Hossein Kamali (the latter an IRP member of parliament), were then interviewed by the leading Tehran daily *Ettela'at*. Mahjoubi said that "the fundamental question" regarding the labor law "is that of relations in the workplace." He charged that the draft is not based on "existing realities."

Technical aid is free. The roads have been improved. The state purchases the crops at a price that's agreed upon in advance before a single seed is planted.

The price of seeds, fertilizer, pesticides, and fodder is regulated by the government and in some cases subsidized.

Electricity and running water have been made more available.

What kind of example is this, from the point of view of American imperialism? It

is a terrible example.

Just imagine how attractive these gains must look to workers and farmers in Panama, in Costa Rica, in Honduras — in the United States.

Imagine how much harder it makes the *compañeros* fight in El Salvador, Guatemala. Imagine how much it can help us in our fight against U.S. intervention in Nicaragua — the more we can get out this truth. The truth about why Reagan really wants to crush this revolution. Why it's in the interests of every working person in the United States to defend this revolution, because it's a glimpse, it's a little, tiny glimpse of what our future can be like, too.

amount to a violation of Article 40 of the constitution" (which calls for decent living conditions for all).

Mahjoubi discussed other questions that are also on workers' minds: "Another problem is that of social security. From the day such insurance was abolished we have received many letters on the subject daily, all of which are pessimistic. Meanwhile the draft labor law contains no such provisions for the workers, even though providing social security to all citizens is the state's duty, one that is recognized as a universal right by the constitution."

Regarding women workers, Mahjoubi said: "In the constitution women are granted equal rights with men, but in the draft law no attention is paid to widowed women or aged women workers, even though there are many women workers in different sectors. If we cannot provide for these women in the labor law we will have committed a great injustice."

Mahjoubi summed up by saying, "We demand that workers' views, as expressed in their many seminars and conferences, be taken into account in the new labor law."

During the last week of November the cabinet decided not to vote on the law or send it on to the parliament.

Little by little, Iranian workers — who have successfully confronted the shah, U.S. imperialism, and the Iraqi army — are learning that they cannot rely on the capitalist government and its officials. The debate around the draft labor law is providing further education in this regard.

CALENDAR

CALIFORNIA

San Diego

Report on Young Socialist Alliance Convention. Speakers: Jim Cunradi, Young Socialist Alliance. Sat., Jan 8, 7:30 p.m. 1053 15th St. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (714) 234-4630.

Seaside

Introduction to Socialism Class Series. A five-class series held on Saturdays.

1. "The colonial revolution and the struggle for world peace," Jan. 8, 11 a.m.
2. "National oppression and the Black struggle," Speaker: Mel Mason. Jan. 15, 11 a.m.
3. "Reagan's war on women's rights," Jan. 22, 11 a.m.
4. "Roots of revolutionary Marxism and the Communist Manifesto," Jan. 29, 11 a.m.
5. "What a socialist America would look like," Feb. 5, 11 a.m.

Pathfinder Books, 1023-A Broadway. Ausp: Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (408) 899-4732 or 373-8347.

OREGON

Portland

The Role of the Big Corporations in Education. Speaker: Dr. Zaher Wahab, professor of education at Lewis and Clark College. Sun., Jan. 9, 7:30 p.m. 711 Everett. Donation: \$1.50. Ausp: Militant Bookstore Forum. For more information call (503) 222-7225.

Washington's Secret War: Target Nicaragua. Speaker: Bev Hansen, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., Jan. 16, 7:30 p.m. 711 Everett. Donation: \$1.50. Ausp: Militant Bookstore Forum. For more information call (503) 222-7225.

Debate in Black community over Israel and PLO

A debate is brewing in the Black community over what stance Afro-Americans should take toward the state of Israel and the struggle of the Palestinian people for self-determination.

In response to Israel's invasion into Lebanon last summer, Gil Noble, producer of the popular Black-oriented



**BY ANY MEANS
NECESSARY**
Malik Miah

and award-winning TV show "Like It Is," did a program called "Crisis in Lebanon."

Noble attempted in one hour to give an objective presentation on the war there, including film footage from Lebanon. The show went over the history of Israel, Washington's support for the Menachem Begin and previous regimes, and the plight of the Palestinian people.

It turned out that the program was *too* objective for some.

The switchboard at New York's WABC-TV lit up. Hundreds of callers complained that the show was biased and imbalanced. The head of the Jewish Community Relations Council, Malcolm Honlein, demanded that WABC do a rebuttal show.

William Fyffe, the vice-president and general manager

of WABC, agreed with Honlein. "I looked at the show and decided it was out of balance. A number of statements were worthy of challenge," he said.

Noble was never consulted — at least it wasn't publicly reported — about Honlein's allegations.

Finally, the idea was rejected of having a couple of Jewish leaders who support Israel do the rebuttal show. Hazel Dukes, the president of the New York State NAACP, and Wilbur Tatum, board chairman of the *Amsterdam News*, agreed to give Israel's side of the war. Both Dukes and Tatum had just returned from a fact-finding trip to Israel and Lebanon — paid for by Honlein's organization.

The rebuttal, which was aired December 5, led to storms of protest in the Black community directed against WABC and the *Amsterdam News*.

Should Blacks support the fight of the Palestinian people for self-determination? Will an objective review of the history of Israel and the Palestinian struggle, as Noble attempted to do, lead us to support Israel?

Let's review the facts.

The state of Israel is a colonial-settler state. That is, it was established in 1948 through the forcible expulsion of 700,000 Palestinian people from their homeland and the confiscation of their land. Furthermore those Palestinians who stayed in Israel became second-class citizens — facing racist discrimination worse than what many Blacks get here in the United States.

Since the creation of Israel, the Zionist rulers have used brute force to enlarge their state. The West Bank of

Jordan, conquered in the 1967 war, is more and more becoming Israelified at the expense of the Palestinian people living there.

The Palestinian people — like the Black majority in South Africa and Blacks in the United States — are an oppressed nation. But more than that, they are an oppressed nation without a land.

These facts explain why the Middle East crisis is permanent. There can be no peace until the national rights of the Palestinians are granted.

This also explains why the real terrorists in the Middle East are the Israelis. They are denying the Palestinians their rights. They are the ones who murdered thousands of Palestinians and Lebanese in the recent war.

The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) is a revolutionary nationalist organization seeking to bring peace and an end to their oppression through the formation of a democratic, secular Palestine where Palestinians and Jews can live together.

As Yassir Arafat, the head of the PLO explained, "We have not taken up arms to force 2 million Jews into the sea or to wage a religious or racial war. . . . We are a national liberation movement which is struggling just like the fighters of Vietnam, Bolivia, or any other people of the world. . . ." And just like Afro-Americans.

WABC and Malcolm Honlein don't want Blacks or other working people in this country to get an objective presentation of the facts. It will lead us to unite with our brothers and sisters in Palestine and other peoples in the world fighting for their liberation.

Bay Area IAM sponsors panel on affirmative action

**BY ROBERTA FRICK
AND MICKEY VAN SUMMERN**

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Affirmative action for women and how it strengthens the union was the topic of a panel discussion held here December 4 at the Labor Temple. Thirty-five people attended.

This program was the second in a series organized by District 93 of the International Association of Machinists (IAM) to discuss problems union women face in the plants. The issue was timely in light of some big layoffs at the Westinghouse and FMC plants, as well as the government's attempts to dismantle affirmative action programs.

Ruth Sebek, president of IAM Local 547, opened with statistics showing the growing number of women entering the work force today.

Sebek reminded people of the importance of the historic Supreme Court decision against the "reverse discrimination" suit filed by Brian Weber in 1974.

Attorney Cynthia Rice spoke on a class-action suit filed by many women against FMC Corporation. Adele Bihn, a salaried female employee at FMC, sued the company for discrimination in job assignment. Her suit was a class-action suit, representing all women at FMC, over discrimination in hiring, promotions, and job assignments.

An out-of-court settlement in 1977 re-

sulted in the enactment of a "consent decree" between management and the women's attorneys. An Equal Employment Opportunity Oversight Committee was set up to oversee the company's affirmative action policies and practices toward women. As a result, many women have been hired at FMC as well as reinstated when they were laid off or fired discriminatorily.

Charlotte Casey, past chair of the United Auto Workers Local 1364's women's committee at General Motors in Fremont, California, talked about the importance of women's committees and pointed to a difficult problem for affirmative action: plant closures and layoffs. The Fremont General Motors plant shut down permanently last year. She told how women were laid off first because they had the least seniority. The women's committee there filed a suit challenging the strict seniority system as discriminatory to women, but lost that suit.

Casey explained that the local and international union and the company opposed altering seniority to protect affirmative-action gains, on the grounds that it was divisive. Casey defended measures to prevent discriminatory layoffs, such as "super seniority," which gives women and other victims of discrimination additional seniority to make up for the fact that they generally are among the last hired and first fired in many industries.

Candy Anderson, a machinist at Westinghouse, gave a moving personal account of the difficulties she — like many women — faces as a woman learning a skilled job.

Prudence Slaathaug, business agent for the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees in San Jose, gave an inspiring account of how male and female workers joined hands to win the "comparable worth" strike against the city government of San Jose two years ago. This strike involved the demand by the union that the salaries of jobs traditionally held by women be upgraded in line with better paying jobs that require similar levels of responsibilities and skills but are primarily held by men.

Key to winning the men's support — and the strike — was the patient step-by-step education by the union on this issue over a four-year period.

Also speaking was Sandy Kelly, a shop steward at FMC and a member of the Oversight Committee.

During the discussion period one woman discussed the need for dual seniority lists for men and women so that layoffs don't reduce the percentage of women employed in a given plant. "If women are hired through affirmative action measures and then laid off a couple of months later, haven't we gone one step forward and two steps back?"

Several speakers talked about the need for the labor movement to develop a program to fight against all layoffs, which have reached dramatic proportions nationwide.

There was also discussion about the problems of sexual harassment and how to fight it.

Hung jury in Irish arms case

A New York jury was unable to reach a verdict December 17 in the trial of Barney McKeon, an Irish-American arrested in August 1982 on charges of transporting firearms to Ireland to aid the struggle to end British rule.

This was the second gun-running trial in as many months in which the prosecution was unable to secure a conviction. On November 5 a New York jury found five Irish-Americans not guilty on similar charges.

McKeon spent three months in jail in early 1980 for refusing to provide a grand jury with samples of his fingerprints and handwriting in connection with this case.

At present, seven other Irish-Americans are awaiting trial on charges of attempting to purchase and transport weapons for the Irish Republican Army. One of them, Colm Murphy, remains in prison since he is unable to raise \$1 million in bail.

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

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

CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles: SWP, YSA, 2546 W. Pico Blvd. Zip: 90006. Tel: (213) 380-9460. Oakland: SWP, YSA, 2864 Telegraph Ave. Zip: 94609. Tel: (415) 763-3792. San Diego: SWP, YSA, 1053 15th St. Zip: 92101. Tel: (714) 234-4630. San Francisco: SWP, YSA, 3284 23rd St. Zip: 94110. Tel: (415) 824-1992. San Jose: SWP, YSA, 46½ Race St. Zip: 95126. Tel: (408) 998-4007. Seaside: Pathfinder Books, 1043A Broadway, Seaside. Zip: 93955. Tel: (408) 394-1855.

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

ILLINOIS: Chicago: SWP, YSA, 555 W. Adams Zip: 60606. Tel: (312) 559-9046.

INDIANA: Bloomington: YSA, Activities Desk, Indiana Memorial Union. Zip: 47405.

GARY: SWP, YSA, 3883 Broadway. Zip: 46409. Tel: (219) 884-9509. Indianapolis: SWP, YSA, 4850 N. College. Zip: 46205. Tel: (317) 283-6149.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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NEW JERSEY: Newark: SWP, YSA, 11-A Central Ave. Zip: 07102. Tel: (201) 643-3341.

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

OHIO: Cincinnati: SWP, YSA, 4945 Pad-dock Rd. Zip: 45237. Tel: (513) 242-7161.

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TEXAS: Austin: YSA, c/o Mike Rose, 7409 Berkman Dr. Zip: 78752. Tel: (512) 452-3923. Dallas: SWP, YSA, 2817 Live Oak. Zip: 75204. Tel: (214) 826-4711. Houston: SWP, YSA, 6333 Gulf Freeway, Room 222. Zip: 77023. Tel: (713) 924-4056. San Antonio: SWP, YSA, 337 W. Josephine. Zip: 78212. Tel: (512) 736-9218.

UTAH: Price: SWP, YSA, 23 S. Carbon Ave., Suite 19. P.O. Box 758. Zip: 84501. Tel: (801) 637-6294. Salt Lake City: SWP, YSA, 677 S. 7th East, 2nd Floor. Zip: 84102. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

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

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WEST VIRGINIA: Charleston: SWP, YSA, 1584 A Washington St. East. Zip: 25311. Tel: (304) 345-3040. Morgantown: SWP, YSA, 957 S. University Ave. Zip: 26505. Tel: (304) 296-0055.

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

Who gains from Teamster trial?

International Brotherhood of Teamsters' President Roy Williams was recently convicted on charges of plotting to bribe Sen. Howard Cannon, a Democrat from Nevada. Few people doubted Williams's guilt.

The Teamster bureaucracy is widely known as a gang of crooks whose crimes include looting union pension funds; strike-breaking against the United Farm Workers union; sweetheart contracts negotiated behind the membership's back; and a reactionary stand on questions such as imperialist war and Black rights.

However, the recent trial of Williams had *nothing* to do with fighting against corruption in the unions or the anti-working-class political positions that invariably accompany such corruption.

The purpose of the trial was, in reality, to attack all Teamsters and the entire labor movement by portraying the unions as inherently corrupt and by further legitimizing illegal government intrusion into union affairs.

Williams and four other people were convicted of conspiring to bribe Cannon — with union pension funds — to convince him to put a Senate trucking deregulation bill on the back burner. This bill was opposed by the Teamsters as a serious attack on the union.

Where did the evidence in the bribery trial come from?

More than 2,500 reels of recorded conversations were produced by 30 FBI agents who spent 14 months listening to more than 400,000 conversations these five men had. This was reported to be the most extensive government wiretapping in the history of electronic surveillance.

The government's political police have always focused their spying on the unions, socialists, the civil rights movement, and other foes of the employers and the government, not on organized crime. The publicity given to the use of illegal spying in this trial is designed to further legitimize the government's right to spy on whomever it pleases, whenever it wants to — regardless of what the Bill of Rights says.

Thus the *Wall Street Journal* reported that the conviction is seen by the FBI as "a major morale and image booster."

One question that's probably on the minds of a lot of Teamsters is what else did the FBI get on those tapes that they can turn over to the trucking companies? Did they record conversations about union organizing drives or contract negotiations?

While the trial was going on, Congress was discussing a new law that would force all union officials who have been convicted of crimes to quit their posts. This law would apply retroactively.

While Williams might be among its first victims, this bill's target will be those union officials who attempt to mobilize the workers in struggle against employer-government attacks.

From the point of view of the ruling class, *these* are the real criminals, not the bureaucrats like Williams. It's unionists like the air traffic controllers, who commit the "crime" of striking against the government, or the coal miners, who defy Taft-Hartley, who are the targets of such legislation.

The government also uses incidents like the Williams conviction to try to convince union members that they can rely on the government to uphold their rights, and thereby get them to accept government intervention into the unions. The purpose of that intervention is to strengthen the employers' hand.

The Teamsters, like the rest of the labor movement, are currently in a battle with the employers over attempts to significantly weaken their union.

In January 1982, the trucking bosses succeeded in forcing a takeback contract on the Teamsters that included a wage freeze, big concessions in work rules, and less frequent adjustment of wages for inflation. But even this contract has been rejected by over 600 companies who are demanding still more givebacks.

One of the immediate aims in convicting Williams is to scare the Teamster bureaucracy and make it even more servile to the demands of the capitalists.

The root of the corruption and gangster methods of the Teamster bureaucracy lies in their policy of class collaboration, which is shared by the rest of the labor officialdom. They start from the point of view that the workers and the bosses have common interests; what's good for the company is good for the workers.

Instead of mobilizing the rank and file to wage a militant struggle against the trucking bosses and the Democrats and Republicans, Williams and his associates operate by "gentlemen's agreements" with representatives of the enemy class.

The corruption that flows from class collaboration is promoted by the employers, as a way to erode union democracy and thus union power.

That's why the only effective answer to corruption in the unions is the mobilization of the workers around a program to fight for their class interests, in the process of which they will kick out the old, inadequate leadership, and develop a new one.

Relying on the government, its cops, and its courts plays right into the hands of the enemies of the working class. The Williams trial confirms this once again.

Congress refuses to aid jobless

By the time you read this, the members of Congress will be home for the holidays. Seated perhaps before warm fireplaces, sipping a hot toddy and getting ready to do a job on the stuffed turkey.

They have reason to be of good cheer. They managed to get through the special postelection session of Congress without doing a damn thing for working people — especially the jobless.

True, as the session began, the Democrats made a few gurgling noises about jobless legislation. But that was strictly for the election-time record. In practice, they worked hand-in-glove with their Republican bedmates to ensure that nothing passed that would help the hungry.

And today it's no exaggeration to speak of the hungry. According to government figures, there are now 12 million jobless. And that doesn't count the "discouraged" who have simply stopped looking.

Across the country, thousands of people have had their utilities cut off. The number of homeless increases daily, and the lines at the soup kitchens keep growing.

In the face of this mass misery, both the House and Senate passed minor jobs bills — and then knifed them in conference.

Rep. Jim Wright, the House Democratic Majority leader, piously declared he was "bitterly disappointed" that a House-Senate conference committee agreed to drop all appropriations for a minimal public-works program.

Even the *New York Times*, which itself isn't above cynical game playing, was moved to comment December 21: "Privately, some Democrats were neither surprised nor distressed by the conference committee move. They had promoted the jobs legislation primarily to spotlight what they consider failings of the Reagan economic program, and as one House leader said today with a broad smile, 'We made our point.'"

Working people got the point, all right. The point of the shaft.

The one domestic measure both parties fully and openly agreed on was to soak people another nickel-a-gallon tax on gasoline. (At *Militant* press time the bill had not yet passed.)

Like all forms of sales tax, the measure is totally reactionary. Another nickel a gallon means nothing to the one who rides in a chauffeur-driven limousine. But it's one more bite in the budget for working people.

To garner support, the tax hike was presented as a jobs

program, with the promise it would create 320,000 highway jobs, "over a period of time."

Also, the House approved a "domestic content" bill that would supposedly create more jobs by requiring that cars sold in large quantity in this country contain specified amounts of U.S.-made parts. This measure was strongly favored by the officialdom of the United Auto Workers.

The bill was pushed to foster the idea that imports — especially from Japan — are the cause of unemployment in the U.S. auto industry. Its goal is to pit U.S. workers against workers in other countries, instead of against the auto corporations that refuse to produce cars if they can't turn sufficient profit.

Workers in this country can't solve the unemployment problem by competing with each other for jobs, but only by standing in solidarity against the common enemy, the employers. And that holds just as true for the international working class.

Another reactionary piece of legislation which failed to get through the special session, but which will be back with strong support, is the Simpson-Mazzoli anti-immigrant bill.

This racist measure was also presented as a way to increase jobs. It would impose penalties on employers for "knowingly" hiring undocumented workers from other lands. It would also beef up the border patrol to curb undocumented immigration from Mexico and other areas south of the border.

In addition to the suffering imposed on those seeking work or political refuge here, it would mean job discrimination against "foreign"-looking jobseekers and would provide for a "counterfeit-proof" identity-card system for all U.S. workers. It would be used not to open up more jobs, but to drive down wages.

The refusal of the two parties to enact a massive public-works program, to adequately extend unemployment benefits or shorten the workweek without reduction in pay testifies to the reality that they are parties of the bosses.

They will not address themselves to the desperate needs of the unemployed because the problems of the unemployed can be solved only at the expense of the employers. And that they won't do.

That's precisely why working people need their own party — a labor party.

Why gov't pretends to fight against union corruption

BY MARGARET JAYKO

The recent conviction on bribery charges of International Brotherhood of Teamsters President Roy L. Williams is not the first time that the government has intervened inside the union movement with the avowed aim of fighting "corruption."

In fact, it was under the banner of instituting a "bill of rights" for union members that the virulently anti-labor Kennedy-Landrum-Griffin Act was passed by Congress in 1959. It was originally introduced by "friend of labor" Sen. Robert Kennedy. It was supposed to insure more union democracy.

The *Militant* campaigned vigorously against this law, and pointed to the crippling effect it would have on the union movement's right to organize, strike, and regulate its own internal affairs, and how it would increase, not lessen, high-level union corruption.

This law made Department of Labor investigations of and interference in internal union affairs permanent, including "supervision" over union finances, elections, membership lists, and rules. The Secretary of Labor was

OUR REVOLUTIONARY HERITAGE

mandated to "supervise" trusteeships imposed on union locals by the international union. Provision was made for investigating union officials for past prison records or membership in the Communist Party.

As the *Militant* explained at the time, the law aimed "to place a government cop, detective, or stool pigeon in every union meeting and in every union committee. The possibilities it allows for government collaboration with employers in attacks on unions at critical moments — as in the midst of strikes — are enormous. No less unlikely are secret deals between union bureaucrats in political alliance with the administration in Washington against opponents within their unions or against rival unions."

In 1967, with a rise in labor unrest, the ruling class began discussing stiffening the law. Rank and file unionists had even begun to use the law to get rid of contracts the union leadership negotiated with the employers over the opposition of the membership. This could not be tolerated by the employers and their government.

Farrell Dobbs, then national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, wrote an article in the *Militant* in 1967 explaining the SWP's view of this piece of legislation, and the history and purpose of other legislation whose alleged purpose is to "regulate labor relations."

Dobbs wrote, "When capitalist politicians pretend concern about bureaucratic abuses of democracy within the unions, the SWP said the real aim is to raise false hopes that the rank and file can rely on the government to uphold their rights. It is a trick designed to get workers to accept government intervention in internal union affairs."

"The government's immediate aim is to scare the union bureaucrats and make them even more servile to capitalism than they already are. A more basic objective is to strip the unions of their autonomy and make them state instruments for policing the working class.

"Adoption of the Kennedy-Landrum-Griffin law was preceded by an extended period of deliberate preparation that began during Franklin D. Roosevelt's first term in the White House. A myth was fabricated that modern unions owe their existence to the federal government, especially to Roosevelt's 'New Deal.'"

Dobbs explained that the object of this legislation and others like it was twofold: "to tie the workers to capitalist politics out of unearned gratitude and misplaced trust; and to lay a foundation for justifying government regulation of the unions."

The course that Dobbs proposed for how workers can break the stranglehold of the bureaucracy on their unions in order to effectively fight the bosses and the government is even more relevant today, when the crisis of capitalism and militancy among the ranks of labor is more advanced than in 1967:

"The sharpening class struggle . . . forecasts stiffening workers' opposition to anti-labor laws. As the process intensifies, the total bankruptcy of the union bureaucrats will become more apparent to the membership and a change of leadership will become the order of the day.

"Militant workers preparing for that development need both a clear program and a sound strategy. Bureaucratic rule over the unions must be broken — and rank-and-file control established — without yielding an inch to the capitalist government. Defense of workers' democracy must also include a fight for unconditional independence of the unions from government control. Central to that fight must be a complete break with the Democratic Party of big business, and the political arming of the workers to carry the class struggle onto the governmental plane through their own independent party."

'Last Tango' — hilarious mix of music and politics

Americans, or the Last Tango in Huahuateno, by Joan Holden; directed by Daniel Chumley; music by Eduardo Robledo and the Mime Troupe band. Presented by the San Francisco Mime Troupe.

BY IKE NAHEM

It is very rare indeed when revolutionary politics and genuine artistic talent combine into something we can

THEATER REVIEW

truly call "revolutionary art." This is what makes the San Francisco Mime Troupe so unique.

The Mime Troupe began its wonderful madness 23 years ago in San Francisco with some of the first of what has become known as "guerrilla theater." They began by going into parks, setting up a stage, singing, dancing, and telling a story. And passing the hat to keep going until the next show.

They still do a lot of that. As one Trouper puts it, "We don't exist on money from Rockefeller, Ford, or any other forms of organized crime." But they are finally getting the broad national and international acclaim they so richly deserve.

Their latest production, *Americans, or Last Tango in Huahuateno*, opened to rave reviews and big crowds on the West Coast, Midwest, and New York, as well as Canada, West Germany, and Great Britain.

At the Washington, D.C. opening on December 9, nearly 1,000 people packed into the ornate Departmental Auditorium in a benefit for Salvadoran, Guatemalan, and Nicaraguan solidarity organizations. The play was introduced by Roberto Vargas, second secretary of the Embassy of Nicaragua.

Americans is an absolute delight. It's not easy to put together a performance that has you rolling with laughter and burning with anger — often at the same time.

Americans is set in the mythical country of "San Martín," but as the program announces, "No resemblance between the personages and events of this play and actual persons and events is entirely coincidental."

San Martín goes through U.S.-backed "presidents" like a well-directed Pac-Man goes through little blue monsters. The U.S. Ambassador is a country-club liberal out to "steer the ship of state through the stormy seas of democracy." The art of double-talking hypocrisy of this type is captured to a T by Trouper Arthur Holden.

He rails and threatens the strongman Gen. Garcia with a cutoff of military aid every time a "land reform" minister or "president" is murdered by the notorious "White Glove."

But Gen. Garcia knows better. After one such lecture he says, "Go ahead. Let the domino fall!" and mentions that deadly word, "Cuba." At this the Ambassador turns stiff, a look of absolute horror on his face. He looks straight at the audience and shrieks, "C—uuu—ba!" The military aid is increased.

At one point — as the guerrilla struggle intensifies — Garcia and the U.S. government bring back ex-President Buenaparte, deposed some 15 years back by the CIA and



Michael Bry

Huahuateno takes up arms, after one betrayal too many. San Francisco Mime Troupe is touring U.S. with top-notch political satire—musical comedy set in a not-so-mythical Central American country.

the military. The Ambassador proclaims, "Fifteen years ago he looked like a communist. Today he's the only way to avoid it." But Buenaparte too is disposed of by the "White Glove."

The action in "Americans" shifts effortlessly from capital maneuvers between the puppets and the puppeteer, to a peasant village, and a guerrilla camp of the revolutionaries.

An American priest — also played by Arthur Holden — pleads with the skeptical villagers to give Buenaparte a chance. The priest too "adores" and "respects" the guerrillas, but they are "atheists."

"If it's bombs today, what will it be tomorrow," he wails. "Guns!", he is instantly answered by an old peasant who's been tricked for the last time.

The show is stolen by the brilliant comic performance of Sharon Lockwood. With incredible manic energy Lockwood has a dual role as Lana Berman, a blissed-out American photojournalist from *Experience* magazine, and Phyllis Wrench, a State Department heavy on tap to be the new U.S. Ambassador, who has U.S. UN Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick written all over her. Lockwood drips with evil in a rollicking characterization.

The guerrillas, in an attempt to kidnap Wrench, get Berman instead. It's the old case of mistaken identity. Wrench meanwhile has been taken by some government troops who think she's a nosy reporter.

The interrogation scenes between Berman and the

guerrillas, which finally establish her true identity, are a joy to witness. Lockwood is one hilarious performer. Finally, Luisa, the legendary guerrilla commandante, is convinced she really has Lana Berman from Scarsdale not the infamous Phyllis Wrench.

Berman wants an interview with the guerrillas, explaining, "You owe me a story. This is a lifestyle that hasn't been touched by *Experience*."

The musical score for *Americans* is superb, the work of Eduardo Robledo. It's based on the music and rhythms of Latin America and the Caribbean, performed by the always-fine onstage Mime Troupe Band.

Americans was conceived and written by Joan Holden following a trip to Nicaragua in December 1980, where she met with Nicaraguans who participated in the overthrow of the Somoza regime, representatives of the Revolutionary Democratic Front of El Salvador, and U.S. journalists covering Central America, including correspondents from *Intercontinental Press*.

A press release made available at the play states, "The San Francisco Mime Troupe hopes that this production . . . will serve to aid the growing and continuing swell of protest against Administration policies toward El Salvador and Central America, policies which have not only cost the lives of tens of thousands of Salvadorans, but which threaten to engage the entire region in a cataclysm of destruction."

LETTERS

Molina Lara

On November 24 and December 3 Salvadoran trade unionist Alejandro Molina Lara toured through Charleston and Huntington, West Virginia.

Here in Charleston, where there has been no consistent antiwar coalition, the response to this tour demonstrated the eagerness of people to participate in antiwar activities. An example of this was that, on one week's notice, 10 members of community, religious, and political organizations came to a planning meeting to discuss how to bring this tour to Charleston. At this meeting the Central American Human Rights Coalition was formed. Projections were made on how to publicize the truth about the U.S. war in El Salvador and how best to take this tour of a Salvadoran trade unionist to the people of southern West Virginia.

Nearly everyone in the coalition became a spokesperson for the tour, getting the word out to individuals and making presentations before community organizations. Stamps, envelopes, and over 1,000 leaflets were donated to the coalition.

A four-hour stop in Charleston was made by Molina Lara on November 24, where he was interviewed by the *Charleston Gazette*

and WCAW radio and where he met with Democratic Congressman-elect Bob Wise from the 3rd Congressional District. These interviews helped to publicize Molina Lara's upcoming tour.

Activities on December 3 began with a news conference at which a broad range of speakers appeared. Later in the day, 85 students at Marshall University heard Molina Lara speak at a meeting sponsored by a student group. After Molina Lara's talk, most of the audience remained for a rich question-and-answer session that lasted an hour.

That evening a public meeting was held at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Charleston. The discussions following the talk were valuable. Nearly everyone at the Charleston meeting signed up to participate in future solidarity activities, and the coalition has scheduled a meeting for December 15 to plan more events addressing the U.S. wars in Central America.

Karen Ray and
Joan Levitt
Charleston, West Virginia

Kampuchea solidarity

Representing the Committee in Solidarity with Viet Nam, Kampuchea and Laos, Chan Bun Han toured the Milwaukee area in mid-November.

The highlight of his visit was a

November 17 meeting at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM), where almost 50 Kampucheans — entire families — came to hear news of their homeland.

Han conducted the meeting in both English and Khmer, the language of his native Kampuchea. The audience buzzed excitedly during the showing of "Back to Kampuchea," the documentary about Han's return trip to Phnom Penh in 1981.

Much of Milwaukee's small Kampuchean community left during Pol Pot's brutal reign, when 3 million people were murdered before its overthrow in 1979. Others came to the United States later to escape the hardships of the refugee camps along Kampuchea's border.

They came to the UWM meeting, not as supporters of the Heng Samrin government necessarily, but to find out what is happening in Kampuchea. Like other U.S. residents, they have had to depend on the lying propaganda of the U.S. government, which recognizes the ousted Pol Pot and his allies instead of the governing People's Republic of Kampuchea. After the meeting, they crowded around Han to learn more about the reconstruction of their country.

On the previous day, Han had spoken to a 7th grade assembly at Kosciuszko High School. It was

through one of the Kampuchean students there that word spread through the community of the UWM meeting and film showing.

For Han, one of the more rewarding responses came from a Black 7th grader who came up to him after his talk at the high school to say, "I hope your people are happy now."

The meeting at UWM was sponsored by the Young Socialist Alliance, Organization of Arab Students, Latin American Solidarity Committee, and Students Mobilized for Survival.

Chris Rayson
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Cancellation

I am writing to request that you cancel the remainder of my subscription to the *Militant*.

I originally subscribed to the newspaper under the assumption that it would give me an objective, unbiased account of news events not offered by the newspapers I presently read.

Having now reviewed two weeks of your paper, I am extremely disappointed by the obvious slant inherent in many of the articles. I have written for a newspaper in the past, and I believe it is imperative to remain neutral when covering any type of news. I have found your constant references to "cops" an annoyance, and the

headline concerning Eddie Carthan's trial as a "racist frame-up" was clearly written to express one point of view alone.

I debated writing this cancellation notice. I considered simply throwing out each issue as it arrives in my mailbox. I have decided to write in hopes that the postage you save by not mailing my paper will be put to good use. Perhaps the staff could attend a few beginning journalism classes on the absolute necessity of leaving personal bias out of the story.

Before you become too defensive and point to other papers, let me say that I'm aware that few news organizations, if any, exist free of one bias or another. But, is other's behavior a reason to do what you know is incorrect?

Thank you for your time and for promptly cancelling my subscription to the *Militant*. The idea behind the paper is an admirable one.

Nancy Grotton
Portland, Oregon

Contribution to come

I have a subscription to your paper and will send a donation as soon as I can. Finances are bad, yes.

Venceremos. Thanks for all your help.
Debbie Packard
Lexington, Maine

State drops frame-up charges against N. Carolina socialists

BY MERYL LYNN FARBER

RALEIGH — On December 17 the Wake County district attorney dropped the charges against Steve Craine and Jeff Miller. The two members of the Socialist Workers Party and Teamsters Local 391 were arrested at a June 6 rally for the Equal Rights Amendment for seeking to petition to place the SWP on the ballot.

Supporters of Craine and Miller around the state see this as a major victory for the right of free speech and assembly and for all who are struggling for the rights of women, Blacks, and unionists in the state.

Miller and Craine participated in the June 6 march along with 10,000 other North Carolinians to show their support for the ERA and to campaign for the SWP congressional candidate.

The socialist campaigners had stopped their activities upon police order. They were discussing the unconstitutional police ban on petitioning with ERA rally marshals when they were arrested without warning.

The Socialist Workers Party 1982 Campaign Committee launched a vigorous defense campaign winning the support of hundreds of North Carolina workers, students, farmers, and prominent civil libertarians for dropping of the charges. The Raleigh chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW), along with the state NOW president and hundreds of NOW members around the country, signed petitions or sent messages to the district at-

torney. In addition Teamsters Local 391, the largest union local in the state with 10,000 members, voted unanimously at its October membership meeting to demand that the state drop the charges against its members. The president of the local sent a letter to the district attorney.

After the first barrage of letters and petitions arrived at District Attorney Randolph Riley's office, he sent a letter to every single supporter of the socialist campaigners, indicating that his office intended to prosecute this case and convict Craine and Miller at all costs.

In a classic case of trying to turn the victim into the criminal, Riley claimed that Craine and Miller had violated the rights of ERA rally participants by distributing literature and petitioning.

This letter from Riley helped to expose that these arrests were not just an error on the part of over-zealous Raleigh police officers, but in fact part of a broader political frame-up. Hundreds of people realized that the state was out to harass and disrupt the campaign of the socialist candidate for Congress, to try to prevent the Socialist Workers Party from getting on the ballot, and to beat back the democratic rights of all those who dare to stand up for the ERA or any other important social issue.

This frame-up attempt escalated as the state dragged the case out, postponing the trial at least four times and enlisting the aid of two State Bureau of Investigation (SBI)

agents who were present in court on November 19, the last scheduled trial date for the case.

Once again the trial was postponed and set for December 17.

Defenders of democratic rights intensified their campaign by launching the Craine-Miller Defense Committee to broaden support for the case and to prepare for a picket line in Raleigh at the courthouse the morning of December 17. More messages of support came in including a letter from Mel Mason, socialist city councilman from Seaside, California.

On December 16, the day before the trial, Riley decided to dismiss the case. The reason he gave was, "because an essential witness for the prosecution could not be located." Riley said the woman, whose name he could not recall, was a marshal at the ERA rally. In an effort to save face, Riley said, "We were prepared to prosecute the case and we would have but for the unavailability of the witness."

In a statement released by the Craine-Miller Defense Committee, and picked up by media throughout the state, the truth was explained, "The state backed down on this prosecution because of the tremendous support we received from women's and

civil rights activists and workers and students in the state, including Teamsters Local 391. This victory will strengthen the fight against SBI and police spying on the



Militant
Jeff Miller, one of two socialists arrested for petitioning to get candidates on ballot.

labor movement, the women's movement, and other movements that aim to defend democratic rights and our standard of living."

Co-workers of Craine and Miller and fellow union activists were excited by this victory, summed up by the much-repeated comment, "This is good news!"

Phoenix rally to boost Jan. 22 Salvador actions

BY MARYANNE BEERLING

PHOENIX — Solidarity activists here met on December 14 to discuss plans to organize activities in conjunction with the call made for U.S.-Mexico border actions on January 22 in solidarity with the people of El Salvador, Central America, and the Caribbean.

The call for January 22 actions was issued at a meeting of 300 activists from Mexico and the United States who met two months ago in Tijuana for the Mexico-U.S. Border Conference In Solidarity With the Salvadoran People.

The conference in Tijuana was called together by the Mexican Committee of Sol-

idarity With the Salvadoran People. Its purpose was to forge links with forces in the United States interested in building a broad-based anti-intervention movement.

As Gilberto Lopez y Rivas, a leader of the Mexican committee, said, "The people of Mexico and the United States should march together in the anti-imperialist struggle. . . . We must fight to prevent the youth, the sons of the North American working people, from dying in the interests of a handful of capitalists."

Activists at the conference voted to establish a new antiwar coalition called the Mexico-U.S. Border Conference In Solidarity With the Salvadoran People. It is

formally affiliated with the World Front In Solidarity With the Salvadoran People, established in March 1982 at an international conference in Mexico City.

Conference decisions included holding marches and caravans along the U.S.-Mexico border on January 22. Concerts and other fundraising activities are to be held March 2-8, the anniversary of the founding of the World Front.

One of the important decisions was to launch a campaign to fight for the rights of Salvadoran refugees in Mexico and the United States. Another border conference has also been called for the end of next May.

The Coalition Against U.S. Aggression in Central America (CAUSA), is a Phoenix-based solidarity organization that attended the conference. In response to the conference proposals, CAUSA held a planning meeting to organize a January 22 activity.

A member of CAUSA who had attended the conference, Andy English, opened the meeting with a report on the Tijuana meeting. English stressed that it is a fact that the U.S. government is directing a coordinated attack on the people of El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Guatemala. He noted that while the Tijuana conference was taking place, *Newsweek* revealed that Washington is providing training and arms for the counterrevolutionary forces attacking Nicaragua.

After much discussion the group decided to hold an evening rally on Wednesday, January 19. This would be a sendoff rally for a car caravan from Arizona through San Diego to Tijuana.

Also brought up in the discussion was the situation Central American refugees face. The group decided to call on local religious groups that work with Central American refugees and ask them to support and speak at the January 19 rally.

Miskitu Indian hits U.S. war on Nicaragua

BY IKE NAHEM

WASHINGTON D.C. — Dr. Myrna Cunningham, a Miskitu Indian and a victim of the Reagan administration's war against the people of Nicaragua, is continuing her efforts to warn the American people of the brutal consequences of Washington's war policies.

Cunningham is one of seven Nicaraguan plaintiffs in a historic lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court on Nov. 30, 1982. The suit, submitted by attorneys of the Center for Constitutional Rights and the National Lawyers Guild, seeks damages and an injunction to end U.S. covert action against Nicaragua.

Cunningham spoke at a meeting of over 30 reporters and supporters of the suit last week at the Washington, D.C., offices of the Institute for Policy Studies. She described how she was kidnapped and raped repeatedly by a gang of U.S.-trained counterrevolutionaries.

She warned that her case is just one example of hundreds that could be cited of the effects of the U.S.-directed secret war

against the Nicaraguan revolution. A war with two fronts: the Honduran border with Nicaragua, and training camps on U.S. territory, where Nicaraguan and Cuban counterrevolutionary scum gather for weapons and other training for terrorism.

Since the victory of the Sandinista revolution, she has been working on implementing the revolution's program of health care and literacy throughout the country.



Militant/Ike Nahem
Myrna Cunningham

Cunningham has a message for the people of the United States, who she knows are not the same as the government of this country.

"Reagan's trip to Honduras was to discuss what to do in the next two or three months. In the last months the attacks on Nicaragua from the Honduran border have been increasing. There have also been attacks from the border with Costa Rica.

"What will happen to us depends a lot on the pressure of the people of the world, basically it depends on the people of the United States."

That is why Cunningham feels the lawsuit is so important.

"We have a lot of legal basis. It is not a propaganda case. It is based on the laws that exist in the United States. It will be a difficult case. It is the first time that citizens in another country are suing members of the U.S. government."

Cunningham has been to several cities in her short tour publicizing the suit, which has received important, mostly favorable, coverage in the media.

Fifth youth is convicted on draft

BOSTON — On December 15 Ed Hasbrouck became the fifth young man to be convicted for failing to register for the draft. He faces up to five years in jail and a \$10,000 fine. He will be sentenced January 14.

At a rally of 80 people the night before the trial, speakers included Hasbrouck; Arnaldo Ramos, a representative of the revolutionary Democratic Front of El Salvador; Sarah Barrows, a representative of the Central America Solidarity Organization; and others.