



Bill of Rights under attack by federal court in L.A.



Right of unions, Black groups, and all political organizations to oppose government policy is at stake in Los Angeles trial of Socialist Workers Party. If court gets away with intervening to determine leadership, membership, and policy of SWP, no group is safe from similar government disruption.

Militant/Lou Howort

Socialist Workers Party goes on trial March 1

On March 1 a trial will begin in United States District Court in Los Angeles. The immediate defendant is the Socialist Workers Party. But the target is every single organization and individual in the United States resisting the government's erosion of democratic rights, defending the interests of the working class, fighting racist

member, Alan Gelfand, who is a Los Angeles lawyer employed by the county government. Gelfand was expelled from the party in 1979 for going into court against the SWP in the midst of the party's historic campaign to expose the FBI Cointelpro operations.

Gelfand is asking the court to restore his membership in the SWP; to declare that his expulsion from the party was a breach of contract subject to court regulation; and to order that the members of the SWP responsible for his expulsion, including the national secretary of the party and several members of the National Committee, be removed by the courts from the leadership positions to which they were elected by the membership of the SWP.

That kind of government intrusion in the functioning and activities of a voluntary political organization has been fought by working people throughout the history of the United States. Without the right of opponents of this government to organize and work to achieve their goals without hostile government interference, political freedom has no meaning.

District Court Judge Mariana Pfalzer, who is presiding over this case, has repeatedly refused to throw out this suit that constitutes a violation of the most basic political rights of the SWP.

On February 11 the U.S. Court of Appeals in San Francisco rejected an emergency petition filed by attorneys for the SWP, asking that Pfalzer be overruled and the suit dismissed.

At a pretrial hearing on January 31, Pfalzer made it clear that she intends to continue to assert the right to subject the political policies and internal functioning of the SWP to a Federal court review, and to rule on each and every one of Gelfand's claims.

Thus she is attempting to establish a precedent whereby the state through its courts, and not the SWP members themselves,

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EDITORIAL

discrimination, promoting equality for women, or working to advance the cause of the oppressed and exploited anywhere in the world.

The Bill of Rights itself — the hard-won political freedoms guaranteed by the first 10 amendments to the U.S. constitution — is once again under attack.

This time the assault is being waged by the federal courts.

A suit has been brought against the Socialist Workers Party by a former

U.S. fears Salvadoran army may crumble

BY HARRY RING

Morale is at a low ebb in all ranks of the Salvadoran army. The target of heavy new blows by the rebel liberation forces, the army is demonstrating that it has neither the will nor the capacity to fight effectively for the Salvadoran dictatorship.

Responding to that problem, Washington is pushing toward even deeper involvement in the civil war there.

The escalation of U.S. intervention was spelled out in February 2 testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee by Thomas Enders, assistant secretary of state for inter-American Affairs, and by Gen. Wallace Nutting.

Both were adamant on the need for increased military aid to the repressive Salvadoran government. Nutting flatly told the committee that the liberation forces could not be defeated without direct involvement of U.S. troops.

Enders emphasized that the administration is against any negotiations to end the bloodshed. He declared:

"If we attempt to force the government of El Salvador to negotiate with the guerrillas as equals, we risk its collapse."

This stand was echoed by José Napoleón Duarte, former Salvadoran president, who declared February 10, "In this country, negotiations mean surrender."

What an admission of the bankruptcy of the Salvadoran regime! If negotiations with the rebel forces mean "surrender" and "collapse," that simply confirms that the government has no support among the people and can rule only at the point of a gun.

That reality was confirmed again by the recent revelations of demoralization in the government army.

The extent of the problem was highlighted by a front-page article in the February 13 *New York Times*, which reported that the Salvadoran military is "facing a serious morale problem."

It added: "Everyone from the highest commanders to the enlisted soldier has been affected."

One reason morale is low among the enlisted soldiers is that a large percentage of them are literally "plucked off the street."

"In a recruitment drive last month," the *Times* reported, "army trucks cruised San Salvador looking for volunteers."

"Some young men responded willingly, but those who did not were herded out of restaurants or picked off street corners and were required to do a few pushups before being loaded onto trucks."

In addition to those dragooned into the army, additional numbers sign up simply because it means food and shelter.

At least 60 percent of the troops "are not there voluntarily," a military analyst told the *Times*.

Those forced into the army are most often sent into combat areas without serious training.

The *Times* described government troops in Morazán province, where the rebels are especially strong.

"Some of the troops," the *Times* reporter said, "sat in the command post last Saturday and every half hour stood to do a few military exercises."

"The men could hardly keep from laughing as they went through their routine, looking more like a group of high school students doing a takeoff on the army, than soldiers."

Among the officer corps, the morale problem is fed by their inability to meet the

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Chicago socialist nominee demands jobs now



Militant/Jon Hillson

Socialist Workers Party mayoral candidate Ed Warren.

CHICAGO — Ed Warren, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor, called for a massive public works program and sharply denounced the latest jobs proposal coming from Washington as "a fraud." The socialist released his statement as primary elections approached here to choose the Democratic nominee for mayor.

Responding to the decision of Democrats in Congress to go along with a \$4.3 billion jobs bill put forward by President Reagan, Warren said, "This measly amount of money wouldn't begin to even solve the unemployment crisis here in Chicago, where thousands of steelworkers, railroad workers, and others have lost their jobs."

Unemployment in Chicago is now over 12 percent. Warren himself is a laid-off garment worker.

"While the Democrats and Republicans are toying with the idea of spending \$4.3 billion for jobs," said Warren, "they're all agreed on spending over \$200 billion for war. I say, take the war budget and use those funds to provide jobs at union scale

to build things we need, like hospitals, schools, and mass transportation."

The socialist candidate noted that the Democrats and Republicans are also debating whether to extend unemployment benefits for six or nine months. "I'm for extending those benefits for as long as a worker is out of a job," he emphasized.

Warren charged that none of the three Democrats in the February 22 primary here, nor the Republican candidate Bernard Epton, has offered answers to the crisis of unemployment. The Democratic contenders are incumbent Mayor Jane Byrne, Richard Daley, Jr., and Rep. Harold Washington.

"Whatever the outcome of the primary," said Warren, "I will be the only candidate on the ballot campaigning for a massive public works program, shortening the workweek with no cut in pay to spread the available work, and breaking with the two parties responsible for unemployment to create a labor party based on the trade unions."

Socialists file motion to disqualify judge

BY WILL REISSNER

Judge Mariana Pfaelzer "is biased and prejudiced" against the Socialist Workers Party and its members and should disqualify herself from presiding over a suit against the SWP scheduled to go to trial March 1.

SWP attorneys filed a motion substantiating that claim on February 12. It has not yet been acted upon.

There will be no jury in the scheduled trial in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles and the judge will decide all issues.

The trial stems from a suit brought by Alan Gelfand, a former member of the SWP who is an avowed opponent of its policies. Gelfand is asking the federal court to order the SWP to readmit him as a member.

In response, the SWP has pointed out that any governmental intrusion into the party's internal life violates the First Amendment's guarantees of the right of free association.

The charge of bias and prejudice against Pfaelzer stems from the recent discovery that while she served on the Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners from 1974 to 1978 she was directly and intimately involved in authorizing police spying and disruption operations against the SWP and its members, as well as against dozens of other political and religious groups.

By authorizing these police attacks against the SWP's right to freedom of association, Judge Pfaelzer "has already decided a central factual issue in this case: whether the SWP is protected by the First Amendment from government interference and inquiry," the motion to disqualify Pfaelzer notes.

In addition, during her years of close collaboration with and responsibility for the Los Angeles Police Department's Public Disorder and Intelligence Division (PDID), which carried out the spying and disruption, Pfaelzer was provided with PDID data on the SWP, including surveillance reports and conclusions about the SWP.

She has publicly stated that in 1975 she spent "hundreds of hours" going through all the PDID files and that in 1978 she "read every card" and had "long discussions" with police officers about the files to be kept on organizations and individuals that were targets of PDID spying and disruption operations.

The fact that Pfaelzer has obviously studied police files on the SWP "constitutes extrajudicial knowledge of disputed facts in the case," the SWP attorneys contend.

Moreover, Pfaelzer has publicly stated that the PDID was justified in continuing its covert activities against its targets, which included the SWP and individual SWP members.

By personally "concluding that the SWP

was a legitimate target for PDID spying and disruption operations," the motion argues, Pfaelzer has "displayed clear bias of a personal character against the SWP."

Throughout her years as a member and later as president of the Los Angeles Police Commission, Pfaelzer was closely associated with the PDID.

After more than half a century in operation under a variety of names, this scandal-ridden police agency was ordered dissolved in January following new revelations about the scope of its undercover operations to disrupt the political activities of Los Angeles residents. All its functions, however, were transferred to other divisions in the police department.

In the early 1970s, the PDID admittedly maintained over 2 million files on 55,000 individuals and organizations.

In 1974 and 1975, at a time of growing public revulsion against spying and disruption by the FBI and CIA, the Los Angeles police department reviewed its PDID files in an attempt to head off lawsuits of the type that were being filed against the federal agencies.

Pfaelzer played a key role in this review. She worked closely with the police department to determine who the PDID would continue to maintain files on as special targets for disruption and spying.

As a result of this review process headed by Pfaelzer, in December 1976 the PDID issued new public guidelines for its operations.

In describing the new criteria for approved targets of PDID spying, Police Commissioner Pfaelzer stated that files could be maintained on organizations and individuals "which threaten, attempt, plan, or perform acts disruptive of the public order. And that means they are acts which can be reasonably expected to lead to or involve physical injury or property damage."

Under these new guidelines, Pfaelzer approved spying and disruption operations against 37 organizations and hundreds of individuals, including the Socialist Workers Party and members of the party. Clearly Pfaelzer has already formed an opinion concerning the character of the SWP, its members, and its activities. She believes the party is not entitled to the protection of the constitution.

In July 1978, in response to widespread criticism of the continued cop spying in Los Angeles, Pfaelzer defended the PDID, claiming that "no organization is being spied on now because it is a political activist group."

That claim was untrue. During the years that Pfaelzer was overseeing the PDID, at least two Los Angeles police undercover

agents infiltrated the Socialist Workers Party.

The SWP was spied upon precisely because it is "a political activist group" opposing policies of the government, and the very class interests that government defends.

The undercover cops in the SWP attended political meetings, rallies, and conventions. They gathered information about those in attendance, including license plate numbers, addresses, places of employment, and marital status. Information they reported was read by Pfaelzer in the course of her reviews of PDID files.

Both these police agents, who operated with Pfaelzer's approval, are scheduled to be star witnesses in the trial against the SWP! Clearly, during the trial Pfaelzer cannot be unbiased concerning undercover operations that she personally okayed as police commissioner.

Throughout her career on the police commission, Pfaelzer acted according to her view that the government — through its cops, legislatures, and courts — has the right to intervene in and disrupt the internal life of political organizations it opposes.

In the past, Pfaelzer supervised others to intervene and disrupt the SWP's political activities. Now by using the powers of the courts she is accomplishing a similar violation of the SWP's political rights.

Choke hold, jailhouse murder: record of LAPD

BY WILL REISSNER

The Los Angeles Police Department "has been plagued by increasing instances of corruption lately; there have been disclosures that undercover officers spied on peaceful community organizations. The department has been accused of needlessly killing suspects and innocent citizens."

That is how *New York Times* reporter Robert Lindsey summed up the LAPD in a May 17, 1982 article.

Corrupt, brutal, racist — that's what the cops who defend the existing social order must be. The LAPD is simply one of the purer examples.

This is the police department that has been infiltrating and disrupting the Socialist Workers Party and dozens of other progressive political organizations in Los Angeles for decades.

The LAPD has gained great notoriety for the racist and brutal manner in which its police operate against Blacks and Latinos and the labor movement in general. Police Chief Daryl Gates has made openly racist remarks on a number of occasions.

In 1978 Gates told a Hispanic organization that the reason there were so few Latino police officers is that Latinos are too "lazy."

In January 1982 Gates claimed that the

Soviet Union was sending Jewish agents provocateurs into Los Angeles in the guise of immigrants in order to disrupt the 1984 Olympics.

Since 1977, 15 people, 12 of them Black, were killed by choke holds applied by Los Angeles cops. Responding to the death of the latest Black victim, Gates speculated on May 9, 1982, that the reason so many Blacks have died in choke holds may be that "in some Blacks when it is applied, the veins or the arteries do not open as fast as they do in normal people." The real reason is that in this racist society the cops use choke holds more frequently and with greater force against Blacks than against whites.

In the uproar that followed his remarks, Gates refused to apologize to "so-called Black leaders," stating, "I have no apology at all to make for what I was thinking."

The LAPD's treatment of Blacks was brought into sharp focus this summer, when police officer Carl Algee revealed the details of the 1981 jailhouse killing of a 40-year-old Black, Charles Hill.

"At various times numerous officers viciously and savagely kicked" Hill while he was handcuffed and shackled, Algee stated. "There were at least four kicking him at once," and, "at least six who really

put the boots to him."

But rather than investigate the incident, the police department's internal affairs division launched an investigation of Algee.

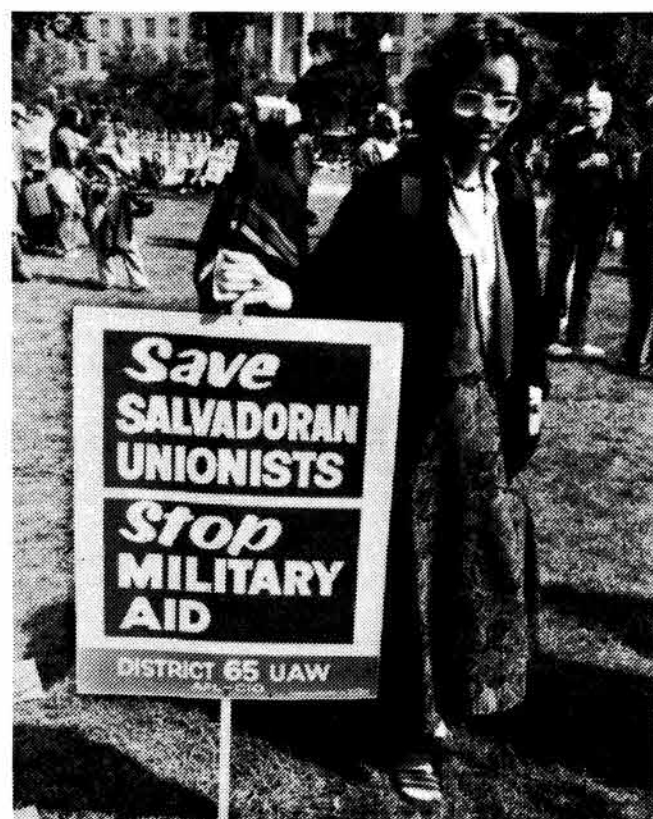
The police never told the district attorney about Algee's charges, Chief Gates admitted.

While the Los Angeles police department is slow to investigate police brutality against Blacks and Latinos, it is quick to use undercover agents to infiltrate and disrupt organizations fighting for an end to discrimination.

There have been numerous scandals about police undercover political operations. Last November, for example, associate superintendent of Los Angeles schools, Jerry Halverson, told the *Los Angeles Times* that in late 1977 or early 1978 cops had offered him police files on supporters of the struggle for busing to desegregate Los Angeles schools.

This incident took place at the time that Police Commissioner Mariana Pfaelzer was staunchly defending the LAPD against those outraged by its racist brutality and blatant disregard for constitutional rights. She was assuring the public that "no organization is being spied on now because it is a political activist group."

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The Militant

Closing news date:

February 16, 1983

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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.

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Militant
Speakers at emergency PRDF rally in Atlanta include Tom Fiske (left), plaintiff in lawsuit against Lockheed-Georgia Corp. At Los Angeles rally, a featured speaker will be Larry Seigle of Socialist Workers Party Political Committee.

Political Rights Defense Fund sets emergency campaign

BY HARRY RING

NEW YORK — The Political Rights Defense Fund (PRDF) has launched an emergency campaign against a new government threat to First Amendment rights. The immediate target is the Socialist Workers Party, which faces a federal court attack on its right to function free of government interference.

A federal judge in Los Angeles has taken upon herself the authority to intervene in the party's internal life, including questions of membership, leadership, and political positions. This threatens the constitutional rights of all organizations not in accord with government policy.

Holbrook Mahn, national coordinator of PRDF announced here that it is initiating broad protest rallies in 50 cities across the country. Meetings have already been slated in Los Angeles and Atlanta.

In addition, Mahn said PRDF has undertaken a \$75,000 emergency fund appeal to help defray the high cost of the trial scheduled to open in Los Angeles March 1.

The protest meeting in Los Angeles will be Friday evening, February 25, at the Angelica Lutheran Church, 1345 S. Burlington Ave., a block south of Pico Boulevard.

The basic issues involved in the case will be presented by Larry Seigle, a member of the SWP's Political Committee and a defendant in the suit.

The meeting will hear a number of public figures and representatives of concerned organizations.

In Atlanta a meeting with a broad roster of speakers will be held on Saturday evening, March 12, at the Wheat Street Baptist Church at 18 Yonge Street.

The meeting will have a double focus. It will rally support for a suit initiated against the Lockheed Corp. in Georgia for victimizing a number of its workers on the basis of membership in or association with the SWP. Tom Fiske, a Lockheed worker and a plaintiff in that suit, will discuss this. The meeting will also hear an account of the Los Angeles federal court attack.

Among the notables participating in the

Atlanta meeting are textile union organizer Crystal Lee Hutton (portrayed in the film *Norma Rae*); General Vann, a spokesperson for the National Committee to Free Mayor Eddie Carthan and the Tchula 7; James Orange, an international representative of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union; and Tommy Kersey, Georgia coordinator of the American Agriculture Movement.

The meeting is cosponsored by Local 1644 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Workers, the union of Atlanta city workers.

A New York City rally is scheduled for March 11 at the Marc Ballroom, 27 Union Square West.

The emergency \$75,000 fund now being raised by PRDF will be sought during the months of March and April. But the committee said it is necessary to raise the bulk of the fund in March, since that is when the trial will be in process.

The defense staff will have to establish itself in Los Angeles office space, involving rent, copying, phone, and mail expenses.

There is also the substantial cost of transcripts and other court expenses, as well as necessary travel costs for witnesses, and more.

PRDF is also seeking the broadest possible protest against this political victimization. It has urged supporters to obtain resolutions from union bodies, civil liberties and civil rights groups, as well as statements from concerned public figures.

Copies of resolutions and statements should be forwarded to the Political Rights Defense Fund, Box 649, Cooper Station, New York, N.Y. 10003.

The committee has mailed a fund appeal to some 5,000 of its supporters. An excellent account of the key issues in the case, available in brochure form, may be obtained from the committee.

We urge our readers to take an immediate step in support of this important fight by clipping the coupon below and sending a contribution to the defense committee.

Bill of Rights attacked

Continued from front page

have the final say in determining the basis for membership.

And this when the sole purpose for which the SWP exists is to convince the majority of the American people of the need to get rid of this state and its courts that govern in the interests of the bankers, industrialists, and bosses and replace it with a state that defends the workers and farmers!

If Pfaelzer's negation of the Bill of Rights is allowed to stand, any working-class, Black, Latino, or women's organization, any citizens group formed to oppose and expose abuses of democratic rights by the government, could be dragged into the government's courts by a political enemy.

Any such organization would then face what the SWP has been subjected to for the last three and a half years. It would be drained of substantial resources to meet legal expenses, ordered to turn over internal records, subjected to harassing and intrusive depositions as part of the so-called discovery process, and forced to divert time and energy from the political objectives to which the organization is committed.

The basis on which this unprecedented abuse of constitutional political rights is being perpetrated is the wholly unsubstantiated allegation made by Gelfand that the SWP was long ago taken over by police agents of the U.S. government. The alleged agents include such veteran socialist leaders as Joseph Hansen and George Novack, who supposedly organized the takeover. Gelfand was trying to expose this government takeover, he claims, and it was the supposed agents who expelled him in an attempt to protect their true identities.

Thus, he asserts, it is his constitutional rights that were violated by the U.S. government, acting through the leadership of the SWP.

Pfaelzer has repeatedly noted in the court record that despite hundreds of hours of court-ordered discovery over almost four years, Gelfand has not produced one shred of evidence to substantiate his allegation of a government takeover of the SWP. At one hearing she remarked that all she had heard was "conjecture, surmise, suspicion, paranoia." But no evidence. Yet she has refused to throw the case out.

The only significant fact established through pretrial depositions has been Gelfand's admission that the funds to meet his enormous legal expenses are being raised by the national secretary of the Workers League. Gelfand's course of action both prior and following his expulsion from the SWP was mapped out in consultation with the Workers League and its London-based sister organization, the Workers Revolutionary Party. Both are organizations that broke from the Trotskyist movement in the early 1960s. They refused to support the Cuban revolution, denounced the rise of Black nationalism as reactionary, and abandoned Marxism entirely.

At the January 31 court hearing Pfaelzer made it clear that the trial will continue the pattern of abuse she has already set. Attorneys for the SWP pointed out at that hearing that the trial would constitute further

unconstitutional court inquiry into the SWP's ideas and actions as a political party. They demanded that Gelfand be obliged to establish the relevancy of "evidence" he intends to submit.

Pfaelzer refused to place any limitations on what she would accept as evidence. "They can put in what they want," she ruled.

Since she alone will judge the relevancy and merits of the material submitted, she stated, there is no problem. There will be no jury to be influenced by materials and arguments that have "absolutely no weight whatsoever!"

Pfaelzer also made it clear that she would continue to uphold the government's claim to "informer privilege." She had earlier concurred with the government's argument that "national security" would be jeopardized by a disclosure that someone was *not* an agent! Therefore the government was permitted to refuse to answer whether or not the SWP defendants are government agents.

Finally, Pfaelzer made it clear that even if Gelfand fails to make his case of a long-time government takeover of the SWP, she fully intends to rule on the propriety of the procedures followed in expelling Gelfand.

In effect she is saying that the courts, not the SWP membership through their duly elected delegates at conventions, have the final say over the organizational rules and practices of the SWP. Such a precedent would open the door to permanent judicial review of the internal functioning of any political organization the government wants to harass and attempt to destroy.

The scope of Pfaelzer's interference in the constitutionally protected political activities of the SWP has already been without precedent. The impending trial will constitute a qualitative deepening of that abuse.

The court's actions constitute a threat not only to the political liberties of every single opponent of government policies in the United States, but to every defender of the Bill of Rights as well.



Political Rights Defense Fund

The lawsuit brought against the Socialist Workers Party, now being heard by United States District Court Judge Mariana Pfaelzer and scheduled to go to trial March 1, "represents a grave threat to political freedom."

That is the judgment of the Political

Rights Defense Fund (PRDF). That is why PRDF is making its attorneys available to represent the SWP defendants in this case, and is organizing a nationwide campaign to publicize the issues at stake and help raise the necessary funds to meet the exceptional legal costs entailed.

Enclosed is my contribution of \$ _____.

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Send contributions to PRDF, P.O. Box 649 Cooper Station, New York, N.Y. 10003.

Indiana socialists in ballot fight

BY BARBARA HENNIGAN

INDIANAPOLIS — The Socialist Workers Party campaign held a news conference here February 9 to protest the Marion County Election Board decision to exclude the SWP candidates from the 1983 municipal ballot.

The candidates are Bill Warrick for mayor and Margaret Thomas, Billy Jones, and Kevin Dwire for city-county council.

Campaign supporters submitted more than 9,900 signatures to the Marion County Election Board, well over the 5,323 signatures required by law.

On January 21, Providence Benedict, Board of Voter Registration chief deputy,

informed candidate Warrick that officials had validated 5,669 signatures, exceeding the required amount.

But on January 28, the socialist campaign received a letter from the election board crediting them with only 4,110 valid signatures. No explanation was given of why the figure had suddenly dropped.

The Board of Voter Registration officials now claim the discrepancy resulted from a staff member tabulating the 398 petition sheets by hand instead of using an adding machine.

Already some significant validation irregularities have been uncovered. For example, the signatures of Beth Julien, the 1982 SWP candidate for U.S. Senate, and David Ellis, 1982 SWP candidate for U.S. Congress, were ruled off as not being registered voters. Both are registered.

Another invalidated signature was that of Chuck Deppert, business representative for District 90 of the International Association of Machinists. He too is a registered voter.

Speaking at the February 9 news conference, held at the Indiana Civil Liberties Union (ICLU) office, were Bill Warrick and Mike Gradison, executive director of the ICLU. The ICLU is lending its support to the fight of the socialists to get on the ballot.

Already a broad range of individuals have endorsed the socialists' right to be on the ballot. These include Paula Barbour, Committee for Peace in El Salvador; Elmer Blankenship, United Auto Workers Region 3 staff; Gene Ferguson, president of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 7-706; Ed Parrish III, director of Youth and Adult Ministries, Christian Church; and Jerry Ulman, American Federation of Teachers Local 3153.

BY MALIK MIAH

We are launching a new column this week. "Selling Our Press At The Plant Gate" will report on the weekly plant-gate and industrial-site sales of the *Militant* and the Spanish-language biweekly, *Perspectiva Mundial*, by members and supporters of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance.

In Indianapolis, where we have been forced out of the auto plants by the massive layoffs, we now have a weekly sales presence at four of the major plants.

Regular sales have been established by Pittsburgh socialists at nearby coal mines they work at. These and other industrial sales have helped the work of socialists on the job who are no longer seen simply as individual radicals with good ideas, but as part of an organized workers' party.

In New York City, where socialists on the railroad have been hard hit by the recession, the Manhattan and Brooklyn SWP branches were able to organize sales to six rail yards to get out a *Militant* article by Jim Gotesky on the attacks on Conrail workers.

Socialists in many cities organized special sales at truck stops and sold at rallies that supported the independent truckers during their shutdown. These sales of the *Militant* became a way to solidize with these workers.

In Denver, for example, members of the SWP recently sold their

entire bundle of 50 to truckers and farmers!

A number of SWP branches have also drawn up leaflets to pass out at plant gates to introduce the *Militant* and *PM* and let workers know salespeople will be at the plant gate every week.

In California's Bay Area, the three SWP branches are distributing a bilingual leaflet to reach both English- and Spanish-speaking workers. At one plant where cars drive in and out at high speeds, salespeople made a sign that says, "Please stop and take a leaflet."

In Morgantown, West Virginia, regular sales are now taking place at three mine portals. At one mine, this is done every two weeks. At another, where sales hadn't occurred for a while, several Black miners remembered the paper from last fall's socialist election campaign.

Nancy Cole, a leader of the Milwaukee SWP, reports that every member has participated in at least one plant-gate sale. Although sales have been modest, she reports that they are trying hard "to establish a routine of selling on Saturday, at a plant gate, and one other time during the week."

A few branches are finding that it is possible to integrate weekly plant-gate sales with ongoing sales in working-class communities, at meetings and demonstrations, on campuses, and other places where the press is normally sold. Of course, the work-site sales qualitatively strengthen the influence of



Selling at General Motors plant in Framingham, Massachusetts.

Militant/John Cottman

our ideas in the working class.

Because this is a new norm we seek to establish, getting these plant-gate teams organized is involving an initial period of trial and error — from checking out plant gates and times to sell, figuring out how to approach plants where access is difficult, to putting together regular teams responsible for each weekly sale. Some cities have found it useful to assign a team captain for each sale who takes responsibility for making sure the team has papers and for rescheduling the sale if it gets

rained or snowed out.

This can lead to what Nancy Cole describes as members becoming attached to "their" plant. This is not a bad idea. It can be the best way for workers to get familiar with the same salespeople each week. It may take a week, a month, or even a year or more before some workers will decide to talk to us and buy a paper.

It is by being there every week — talking to the nearly 90 percent of the working class still working — that the ideas of our party will gain more influence among

workers who are looking for answers, and political alternatives.

Through this column we hope to report on the wealth of experiences of our *Militant* and *PM* salespeople. We want to hear what workers are discussing and how they're responding to the paper. We want suggestions and tips, too, to pass on to other salespeople and readers.

Drop us a line.

Malik Miah is a national cochairman of the Socialist Workers Party.

Copper miners in Arizona demonstrate for jobs

BY BOYD CRICK
AND JOSEFINA OTERO

GLOBE, Ariz. — More than 6,000 people in Gila County, Arizona — 34.9 percent of the county's workers — are unemployed today, victims of a massive shutdown in the copper industry.

Thomas Ochoa, a member of Carpenters Local 538 at the Inspiration Mine, was laid off a year ago. Unemployment benefits have run out for many miners, he says, and are about to be exhausted for many more. The utility companies are threatening to shut off service.

Edward González, a member of Teamsters Local 310, was laid off from the Pinto Valley Mine in June 1982. He explains there's no way to begin keeping up with home mortgages, health care for his children, and other bills. Many miners are not eligible for food stamps, he adds.

Ochoa and González were two of the 200 people who came to a rally here January 29 to demand jobs. Concerned Workers of America, a community group, organized the rally. The group has been meeting at United Steelworkers Local 586 hall since Thanksgiving.

The workers marched through Globe chanting "Queremos trabajos" (We want jobs), and carrying signs with slogans like "Somos la gente" (We are the people) and "What if Reagan were unemployed?" Then a rally took place.

Jesus Padilla of Steelworkers Local 586 blamed the U.S. government for the plight of workers in Gila County. He asked where the senators, state representatives, and county supervisors invited to speak at the rally were. "Do you see any of them around? Are they taking another vacation? And we pay for it?"

Margie Rocha, also of Local 586, told the crowd, "I have been laid off from Inspiration Mine with no recall rights. . . . I believe in the system and my country. But I do believe that the government has become negligent toward the working-class people.

"To our elected officials, I say, give me back my pride. Give us all back our self-esteem. Give us jobs!"

Lee O'Leary, owner of a small grocery store, and Barbara Cochran, from the Oklahoma Welfare Rights Association, also spoke.

The final speaker was James Lannan, chair of Concerned Workers of America and a laid-off worker at the Magma Mine. "Don't we all know that Reagan doesn't mind if the working people of this country bear the burden of this economic crisis?" he asked. "But is the problem only Reagan? Is it only under this administration that the working people have suffered?"

"There is work out there," Lannan insisted. "There are hospitals to be built. There are schools and mass transit systems to be repaired and built. There are highways and public facilities of all kinds that can be built."

Lannan pointed to other victims of the economic crisis. "There are farmers who are losing their land, who are fellow workers being put out of a job. There are new immigrants in this country from the Third World, where people suffer more than we do. There is U.S. money supporting rep-

ressive regimes like in El Salvador and Haiti, where people flock to our borders because they can't live in their own country out of fear for their lives."

Lannan said he believed "if there is going to be any political change in this country that benefits working people, we the working people are going to have to initiate that change. . . . I'm talking about solidarity among working people. I'm talking about strong leadership to maintain the momentum of a workers' movement. I'm talking about representation of working people, by working people, for working people, in national office."

Following the rally, the Steelworkers opened their hall for a reception where discussion continued on the fight for jobs and the possibility of getting in touch with other groups like Concerned Workers of America around the country.



Protester at Globe, Arizona march.

Militant

Ohio truckers map campaign to win solidarity

BY DEAN ELDER

FREMONT, Ohio — Many truckers in northwest Ohio are not at all satisfied with government promises to "review" the tax burden they face. And they don't intend to give up their fight for relief.

This was made clear at a February 12 meeting here of Concerned Truckers. More than 200 gathered to hear reports on recent meetings with officials in Washington and decide what to do next.

This was in the wake of the February 10 announcement by Mike Parkhurst, president of the Independent Truckers Association (ITA), that the ITA was calling off the shutdown.

Virginia Jenkins, one of three drivers elected from this area to take part in the Washington talks, related her experiences there. She took part in the Independent Truckers Unity Committee, made up of 34 truckers from around the country. First, she said, they formulated their demands on the government. Then they held numerous meetings with federal agencies to present their case.

As Jenkins put it, "We went, we saw. The bad news is we didn't get everything we wanted." But, she said, "we have the beginnings of a grass-roots movement, and

they sure know we're here now."

The truckers then discussed future plans. The area steering committee posed three possible actions: call off the shutdown altogether; continue the shutdown; or call a moratorium on the shutdown until April 1 when, if they hadn't gotten a satisfactory response from the government, they would shut down again.

The vote for a moratorium was unanimous, except for 10 drivers who wanted to stay shut-down. No one was for throwing in the towel.

The truckers plan to use the next few weeks to continue winning public support and to hold regular meetings. They have done a lot already, through media interviews and talk shows, protests at truck stops, passing out literature, speaking before groups, and holding a car caravan through the area.

They are now preparing black flags to hang on their trucks to show their solidarity and support for the April 1 protest. They have invited area ITA members to participate in their meetings, and they plan to invite area Teamster officials as well.

Later in the afternoon, a group of truckers headed for Sycamore, Ohio, to speak at a town meeting in the local fire-

house, which they had gotten the town council to sponsor.

Trucker John Schultz reflected the sentiments of most at the meeting when he said, "We may have lost this skirmish, but we sure haven't lost the war."

Oil workers local backs truckers

TOLEDO — Local 7-346 of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers here voted at its recent meeting to support striking truckers and donate \$50 to Concerned Truckers, the group that organized the shutdown here.

The support was well received among independent truckers.

The oil workers sympathized with the drivers' fight against taxes. And they also realized that truckers can play a key role in strikes; if they refuse to cross picket lines, the workers have a better chance of winning their demands.

As one oil worker put it at the meeting, "If we help them out now, maybe these guys will help us the next time we're out."

N.Y. transit worker seeks justice after murderous attack by racists

On June 22, 1982, three Black members of New York Transport Workers Union Local 100 were brutally attacked by a mob of racist thugs in Brooklyn. Willie Turks was beaten to death. Dennis Dixon and Donald Cooper were injured.

Five whites were charged with the assault and murder. One of the five has since died, and the other four are each being tried separately.

On January 31 a pretrial hearing was held for Gino Bova, one of the whites charged. According to *Militant* reporter Wells Todd, Bova's lawyer requested a delay in order to subpoena the notes of *New York Times* reporter Sheila Rule, who recently wrote an article on the case. Bova's lawyer claimed that in the article Dennis Dixon implied he had provoked the murderous assault.

Judge Phillip Lagana assigned the case to another judge to rule on the subpoena motion. No trial date for Bova has been set.

The following is an interview with Dennis Dixon, who is leading the fight to get out the truth about this racist killing. The interview was conducted by *Militant* reporter Mark Friedman, a member of Local 100 and a coworker of Dixon.

Question: What are the details of the racist attack on you and the two other transit workers?

Answer: On June 22, 1982, myself and two coworkers, Willie Turks and Donald Cooper, were attacked on Avenue X in Brooklyn. Willie Turks was beaten to death, I was severely beaten and injured, and Donald Cooper was beaten.

We worked second shift and were on our way to a bagel shop that we frequented at about 9:30 p.m. A bottle was thrown at our car as we approached the bagel shop.

An older white woman was telling one of the guys hanging around, "We don't do that over here." The guys were all white and they started arguing amongst themselves. They said nothing to us, nor we to them. So we thought it was an isolated incident and left.

Later that night we did our regular routine, which we had been doing for three weeks, stopping at the same bagel shop after work at midnight. We felt comfortable going there. We got our bagels and got in the car and proceeded.

We stopped for a red light. The car stalled. We were about 20 feet from the store. This guy approached the car and said,

"What are you niggers doing here?"

I said, "You know this car, we always come through here. We work for transit."

Then another guy approached the car and I said to him, "Hey man, why don't you cool your friend out?"

The first guy then pulled open the car door and bent it back. I stood between the car body and door and told them to cool out. At this time Donald Cooper said, "Let's get out of here 'cause here come some more guys."

As I turned my head another guy threw his beer bottle at me and it caught me on the side of my head. Before I realized how badly I was hurt, I was lying on my face. I knew then I had to get out of there. I felt maybe five people on my back. I used the front of the car to pull myself up.

At the time I was training for the New York City marathon, so I had the strength in my legs and I out-ran them for two-and-a-half blocks, to the scene of a car accident where there were police, an ambulance, and a crowd.

I went to the police and ambulance attendant standing together and said: "I was just attacked on Avenue X after leaving the bagel shop." By that time, having a cut artery, blood was spouting from the side of my head.

I told them that there were two other people in my car with a mob trying to get them, and that if they hurried up they could save them, because no more than five minutes had passed.

The police said, "We'll send somebody." But I yelled to them "you have to go, look what they did to me, they'll kill them."

The second officer said, "Go ahead to the ambulance, we'll call someone." I yelled back that by then it would be too late.

As I looked around I saw my blood against the ambulance walls and myself floating. I felt like I wasn't going to be around. One of the ambulance workers yelled to his partner after taking my pulse, "We're going to lose him."

At that point, they took me to the Coney Island hospital. They sewed up the artery, and then brought Willie Turks in.

A policewoman told me they found him face down in a sewer with his skull cracked open and his brains hanging out. His face was beaten in so you couldn't recognize it as a face. His body was stomped. At that point I was ripped-up inside.

I feel that the police did not act responsibly. I filed a complaint against them.

They said there was a woman injured at the scene of the accident, so they couldn't

leave. But I had found out from the ambulance drivers that there was nobody injured. The world has to know what happened that night.

Q: What is the Gravesend area around Avenue X like, in the vicinity of the Coney Island transit yard?

A: The area is predominantly white, and they want to keep it that way. The Blacks who live and work in that area know that they are not wanted there. The whites view the Blacks in the housing projects as a threat. Many of my coworkers have told me about racist incidents in the area.

This has been going on so long the white kids feel it's almost legal to beat a Black if you catch one. Who do they think they are to tell Blacks where to walk? They can't just come on us and tell us where to go, and not to go, and then want to destroy us because we walk on their block!

Q: How has the Transit Authority responded?

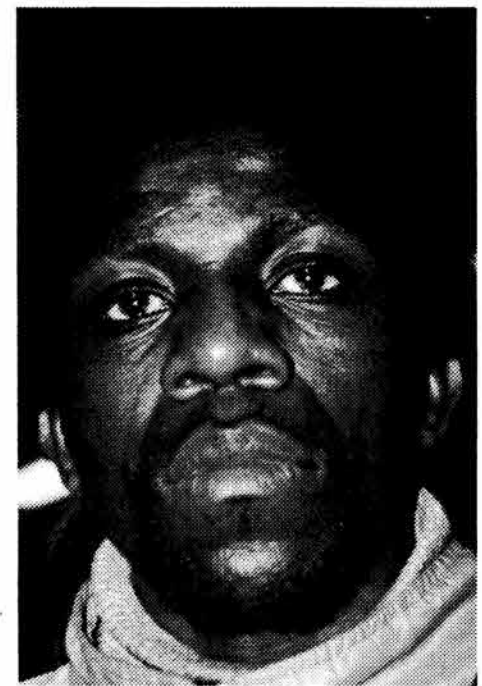
A: Very coldly. I was out three and a half months without pay, and all they could tell me was that I didn't qualify for benefits and when could I come back to work. I have filed a lawsuit against the TA for placing me in a potentially dangerous work situation that they knew about.

I feel like I'm being treated like a criminal. My car was totaled and then spray-painted by the mob. All the windows, which Turks and Cooper had rolled up to try and protect themselves after I was hit, were smashed. The mob threw garbage cans, pipes, and bottles at the car. We did not have any weapons. Willie Turks, besides, had a cast on his arm from a ripped tendon that happened a week before. The rumors about the whites acting in self-defense and us having a gun or us initiating the attack are total lies.

Although I didn't see them all, I am told that there were about fifteen of them in the attack. They seemed to know one another. Five were jailed soon after the assault and murder. Four of them were freed on bail. One of those released was killed on New Year's Day. He was shot in the head in his house with his wife and friend nearby. The police say that this is not related to my case.

Q: What support have you received from the Black community and your coworkers?

A: A lot of strong support, but it is not yet put together. That is why I am here today, to help put strength to it so that all



Militant/Roberto Kopeck
Dennis Dixon: "I'm looking forward to the union following this case and giving me all its support."

the concerned people can find out how to help. People have to know before they act.

Another source of support is a letter that John Lawe, president of my union, Transport Workers Local 100, sent to Brooklyn District Attorney Elizabeth Holtzman. It called upon her to make sure that those guilty for the attack are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

I am looking forward to the union standing by this letter and following this case and giving me all its support. It is important that the union alert the workers at the Coney Island yard to what is happening and tell them that the union will stand behind them if racist tension is high, and add some protection for the workers if necessary.

Rev. Ben Chavis, representing the Commission for Racial Justice of the United Church of Christ and as national representative of the National Black Independent Political Party, has been actively helping me and is a strong backer of this case. He has offered his office and help from his staff. In the near future there will be a fund established to help defray the legal expenses and to give financial help to the Turks family. Some of my coworkers have already volunteered money and there has been a lot of verbal support and interest in attending the trial.

Q: What can people do to help?

A: I should take this time now to thank the public for their support. It has really come through to me, and no matter what happens, I know that I have to go through with this and tell the truth. There is no turning back. I can't keep it inside me any longer.

I am asking people who support this case and want to see justice done to come down to the court and attend the trial — be an eyewitness to the facts of the case and how it is handled by the justice system. I want to see justice for all so that we can go anywhere we want. Anyone who breaks the law, especially in this case, should be fully prosecuted.

It is very important that this case be publicized and supported because often the victims of the racist violence in the area don't know how to respond. Until we take a stand against these racists here — or around the country or the world — and stop letting them take the law into their own hands, for their own advantage, there will be no peace.

Whitewash charged in cop killing of Black

BY BOB ROWAND
AND LINDA SLODKI

CLEVELAND — "The whole thing is a farce," said Lucius Woods, father of Michael Woods, a young Black killed by a cop here last year. Woods was responding to the latest cover-up in his son's death: a judge's decision that the city doesn't have to release any police files concerning the case.

The police claim Michael Woods was shot after he drew a gun on a patrolman. The Woods family doesn't believe this and has filed a "prediscovery suit" in an effort to obtain all files on their son's killing.

In an interview with the *Militant*, Lucius Woods described how his son died.

On July 23, 1982, Michael Woods was driving downtown when another car driven by a white man "pulled out and almost hit Mike, then pulled down the street," said Lucius. "Evidently Michael caught up with him and asked him, 'Hey, what's the matter with you?' When the light changed, Michael took off and then this car zoomed up to him again."

The two drivers exchanged words. Then, relates Lucius, the white driver "pulled out a 9-millimeter pistol and shot Michael right in the head. . . . Michael's car hit a pole with such force it flipped over twice and then righted itself."

People gathered around the car and looked inside. "They had seen no weapon

in the car until that white fellow got out of his car, put on a policeman's shirt and hat, and proceeded to give orders and pushed everyone away from the car." According to one witness, the man then leaned over the car and placed something in it," said Lucius. The man turned out to be patrolman Joseph Paskvan.

After a long delay, police got Michael Woods to a hospital. He was dead on arrival.

The Woods family is convinced a gun was planted in their son's car.

But a grand jury has returned a verdict of justifiable homicide in Woods's death. A mayor's committee set up to see if the police conducted a proper investigation announced January 25 that they had. "There was no cover-up and there was no planted gun," said a committee spokesperson.

Others have come to the defense of Michael Woods. These include the NAACP, People United Against Repression, Women's Speakout for Peace and Freedom, and the National Black Independent Political Party. Demonstrations have been held at city hall to demand justice and benefit cabarets held to raise funds.

Lucius Woods wants the truth in his son's case to be public. "If the police investigation was open to the public, that would enlighten the people. We need everything made public and open. The people are the ones who should know."

He added that racist cop activity is not limited to Cleveland. "Take, for instance, when the Ku Klux Klan had their rally in Washington, D.C., last December. You had a dozen Klan members and 5,000 anti-Klan protesters. So they bring out the whole police department and pay them to protect the Klan."

Donations to the Michael Woods Memorial Legal Fund can be sent to First Bank National Association, 4567 Northfield Rd., Warrensville Hts., Ohio 44128. The account number is #010024930-8.

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Broad N.Y. rally condemns U.S. war in El Salvador

BY MARGARET JAYKO

NEW YORK — In the middle of the worst blizzard in 36 years, 225 people turned out for a rally to protest U.S.-backed war and repression in El Salvador. The featured speaker was Salvadoran trade union leader Alejandro Molina Lara.

The rally capped a jam-packed week of activities as Molina Lara toured the New York-Northern New Jersey area (see story this page.)

The rally's chairperson was David Dyson, an official of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU).

Dyson is also secretary to the National Labor Committee in Support of Democracy and Human Rights in El Salvador, which includes the presidents of 11 U.S. trade unions. The committee's co-chairs are Douglas Fraser, president of the United Auto Workers; William Winpisinger, president of the International Association of Machinists; and Jack Sheinkman, secretary-treasurer of ACTWU.

Dyson opened the meeting by talking about the committee and about Molina Lara. "In mid-January 1981, Amnesty International issued one of their Action Alerts. On this particular alert were the names of nine people who had been arrested for political crimes in El Salvador. The sixth entry on the list read like this:

"Alejandro Molina Lara, 36 years old, arrested at 7 a.m. by members of the National Police and believed to still be in their custody."

"All too often, that's all we hear about people. But Alejandro literally came back from the dead. Alejandro was released because there was a solidarity network to respond to that arrest."

"The Reagan policy in Central America is starting to self-destruct. And one of the reasons we have tried to get labor people together is not only to oppose U.S. policy in Central America, but is to oppose AFL-CIO policy in Central America as well."

The fact that top AFL-CIO officials have recently come out against certifying the Salvadoran regime's alleged human rights advances, an important step forward from their previous stance, indicates the opportunities to directly involve the trade union movement in the fight to get the U.S. government totally out of El Salvador.

The first speaker was Flaurie Imberman, a representative of the Committee in Solidarity With the People of El Salvador (CISPES). Imberman began: "On behalf of CISPES, it is an honor to give a greeting of solidarity to Alejandro Molina Lara, to FENASTRAS, to the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front-Revolutionary Democratic Front." Molina Lara was the organizational secretary of FENASTRAS, the National Federation of Salvadoran Workers.

Imberman explained that in the last two years, there's been an increase in opposition in the labor movement to the U.S. war against the people of El Salvador.

Elombe Brath, cochair of the International Relations Committee of the National Black Independent Political Party (NBIPP) and chair of the Patrice Lumumba Coalition, brought greetings to the rally from NBIPP. He promised that "the next time the situation presents itself" NBIPP would be glad to host a similar rally in the Black community.

In referring to Molina Lara, Brath commented, "It is good to be able to be associated with somebody who really is a labor leader because that's been a corrupted term in this society."

Throughout his talk, the NBIPP leader pointed to the links between the struggles against imperialist domination of southern Africa and the struggles of the peoples of Central America and the Caribbean.

Nancy Rosenstock spoke on behalf of the Molina Lara Tour Committee. She described the success of Molina Lara's tour thus far.

Rosenstock introduced transit worker Dennis Dixon from the audience. Dixon is one of three Black members of the transit

workers union who were brutally attacked by a mob of racist thugs in Brooklyn last June. One of the Blacks was beaten to death.

Long-time activist in the Irish freedom struggle, George Harrison, got a round of applause as he went up to the stage and embraced Molina Lara. Harrison was one of five people recently acquitted in New York for supplying weapons to the Irish Republican Army.

Several speakers couldn't get to the meeting because of the storm, including: Ramón Malave, executive vice-president of District 1199 of the National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees; Sam Myers, head of United Auto Workers Local 259; Dr. Joanne Palmisano, from the executive board of the Committee of Interns and Residents; and John Riordan, president of American Federation of Government Employees Local 3369.

Alejandro Molina Lara was the last speaker. He discussed several key political points on the struggle of the workers in El Salvador and in the United States.

First he explained what's behind the conflict in El Salvador: "We want to make very clear why the conflict in our country has come to where the war is today. It is because this is a conflict among social classes. The ruling class is made up of 14 families and supported by the military dictatorship and by imperialism. And we, the working people, are being oppressed and exploited. We fight to get rid of this misery we live in, this illiteracy, this hunger."

Molina Lara expressed the opinion that 1983 "will be the decisive year for our revolution."

"This revolution that is going to encourage the American people. And when I talk about the American people, I'm referring to the oppressed and exploited sectors. I'm referring to the working class and to the middle sectors like the truck drivers, who with their strike are showing that they reject Reagan's policies. They too are workers. And if they are now showing their militancy, the entire working class will find the day when they too can fight the way the truck drivers are doing today."

Then he spoke about the upcoming visit of Pope John Paul II to El Salvador. He described the visit as the Pentagon "trying to play its last card."

"They have managed to get Paul II to leave his throne and come to El Salvador. We know the kind of pastoral visit that Pope Paul is accustomed to making. He went to Poland. He went to England and Argentina when that colony was fighting against the United Kingdom. And now he's going to El Salvador."

"Our people are going to go out into the streets and our working class is going to close the factories and join the people in the streets. That's not because we're all Catholic. It's true we haven't lost our faith. But above all, we're going to greet this saint to demand that when he kisses our land, at the same time he condemns the intervention of this government in our country."

Molina Lara warned that the fact that Ronald Reagan is losing the war on all fronts — military and political — means there's an even greater danger of more direct U.S. intervention, and a greater effort is needed to stop such a move.

Molina Lara also discussed the Salvadoran freedom fighters' call for a "dialogue" or negotiations with the Salvadoran regime — a call that has been rejected by the Salvadoran and U.S. governments. "We support the dialogue and we will fight to have a dialogue, because the dialogue is for us only one more arm of the revolution."

Molina Lara ended his talk by expressing his confidence that U.S. working people will prevail over the U.S. ruling class.

He pointed to the militant struggle waged by the air traffic controllers and the solidarity they received from other workers and said, "I go back to my country confident that after El Salvador, this people will free themselves."



Alejandro Molina Lara in New York. David Dyson (right), secretary to the National Labor Committee in Support of Democracy and Human Rights in El Salvador, chaired rally.

Salvadoran labor speaker warmly greeted by unions

BY ARIS HARAS

NEW YORK — The growing labor opposition to U.S. intervention in El Salvador was demonstrated by the successful tour of Alejandro Molina Lara in the New York-Northern New Jersey area February 5-11.

Alejandro Molina Lara was the general secretary of the Fishing Industry Union of El Salvador and organizational secretary of FENASTRAS, the National Federation of Salvadoran Workers.

On February 9, the National Labor Committee in Support of Democracy and Human Rights in El Salvador, along with the local branch of this committee, sponsored a forum for the Salvadoran trade union leader at the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU) national headquarters in New York City.

David Dyson, secretary to the National Labor Committee and an official of ACTWU, chaired the forum. More than 40 trade union officials attended, from ACTWU, United Auto Workers, International Ladies Garment Workers Union, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, and the American Federation of Teachers. Members of the New York Central Labor Council and the Coalition of Labor Union Women were also present.

After hearing Molina Lara, the unionists sent a letter to Secretary of State George Shultz and Elliott Abrams, "the assistant secretary for lack of human rights" — as Dyson put it — protesting the Reagan administration's recent certification that El Salvador was making progress in the field of human rights.

A five-minute segment of this forum, along with an interview with Sydney Bykofsky, comanager of ACTWU Local 169, was aired on the National Public Radio on February 9. This went out to radio stations across the country. The interview focused on the Salvadoran trade union movement.

More than 50 trade union officials heard Molina Lara speak at a meeting of the Industrial Union Council of New Jersey. They agreed to set up a committee of the council to do further work in the union movement on El Salvador.

Molina Lara was also invited to speak at a conference of the Affirmative Action Committee of the Industrial Union Council in Atlantic City, New Jersey, but the recent blizzard here prevented him from attending.

In Paterson, New Jersey, 15 Latino shop stewards and members of United Electrical Workers (UE) Local 404 warmly welcomed Molina Lara and donated \$50. They talked with him for about an hour. They have since gone on a campaign to circulate the FENASTRAS petition.

Molina Lara also spoke with the UE staff at their national headquarters in New York and met with UE President James Kane.

At a meeting of the Executive Board of

the Fur, Leather and Machine Workers Union that Molina Lara addressed, a resolution was passed demanding that Washington:

"1. Stop all U.S. military aid to and intervention in El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala."

"2. Stop U.S. covert operations and all other destabilization activity against Nicaragua."

"3. Vigorously support a negotiated political solution between all parties involved in the conflict in El Salvador and support the Mexico-Venezuela peace initiative which calls for talks between the U.S. and Nicaragua and between Honduras and Nicaragua."

"4. Grant temporary asylum to Central American refugees until they can return safely to their homelands."

The executive board also decided to circulate a petition among their members to free imprisoned Salvadoran electrical workers.

On the last day of his tour, Molina Lara spoke with transit workers at a transit barn in the Bronx. In the bitter cold, a crowd of about 30 workers, mostly Black, gave him an enthusiastic reception and presented him with over 200 signatures they gathered from their coworkers.

At a meeting for Molina Lara in the Montefiore Hospital in the Bronx, Ramón Malave, executive vice-president of District 1199 of the National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees, read a statement on behalf of that union condemning U.S. intervention in El Salvador.

District Council 37 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees printed 10,000 leaflets announcing the public rally for Molina Lara that was held in New York (see article on this page).

The Manhattan chapter of the National Black Independent Political Party sponsored a reception for Molina Lara on February 11.

At a meeting at William Paterson College in New Jersey, Joseph Smith, president of the Passaic County Central Labor Council, spoke on behalf of the council and blasted U.S. intervention in El Salvador.

Meetings were also held at Queens College in New York and Princeton and Rutgers universities in New Jersey.

About \$2,500 was raised during the tour to cover the expenses and to aid imprisoned Salvadoran unionists.

Molina Lara's visit attracted a lot of interest from the media in the area. There was major radio coverage and articles on the tour appeared in three major daily papers in New York and New Jersey.

Molina Lara's brief stay here was a big success. It's clear that his tour is just the beginning of the opportunities to involve the New York-New Jersey labor movement in the fight against U.S. war in Central America and the Caribbean.

Nicaraguan embassy spokesman condemns U.S. troop maneuvers

BY IKE NAHEM

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The D.C. area Militant Forum sponsored a February 4 meeting to hear Francisco Campbell, the Nicaraguan Embassy's first secretary. Campbell is a young Black Nicaraguan from the city of Bluefields, on the English-speaking Atlantic Coast of the country.

"As I stand here tonight, the United States government, along with the armed forces of Honduras, are involved in military maneuvers just 12 miles from the border of Nicaragua," said Campbell.

"The Nicaraguan government stated from the outset that we consider these military maneuvers to be part of an effort by the present U.S. administration to intimidate the people of Nicaragua.

"It is a provocation designed only to create more tension for the people of Central America, more tension for the people of Nicaragua who seek only the right to build a new, just society which addresses itself to the needs of our people.

"Nevertheless, rather than listening to those countries of Latin America that have called on the United States to participate in peaceful negotiations, the U.S. administration continues to believe that the crisis in Central America can be solved through military means."

Campbell took up the question of why Washington is so intent on trying to overthrow the government of Nicaragua.

"There are those in the Reagan administration who would have us believe that the reason the United States is so involved with counterrevolutionary groups, the reason why the Reagan administration is so much against the revolutionary government of Nicaragua, is because there is an ideological confrontation between East and West taking place in Central America.

"We, however, maintain that the problem in Central America is really rooted in poverty, is rooted in misery, is rooted in injustice, is rooted in oppression."

Campbell concluded his talk by highlighting some of the achievements of the Nicaraguan government in the areas of land reform, education, health care, and expansion of democracy. For example, the current budgets of the revolutionary government for education and health care are \$150.9 and \$218.3 million respectively.

Under Anastasio Somoza, the Nicara-

guan dictator overthrown in 1979, the highest budget ever for education was \$39.9 million, for health, \$26.4 million.

Campbell took up the propaganda campaign of the U.S. government and media over the alleged lack of freedom of religion in Nicaragua.

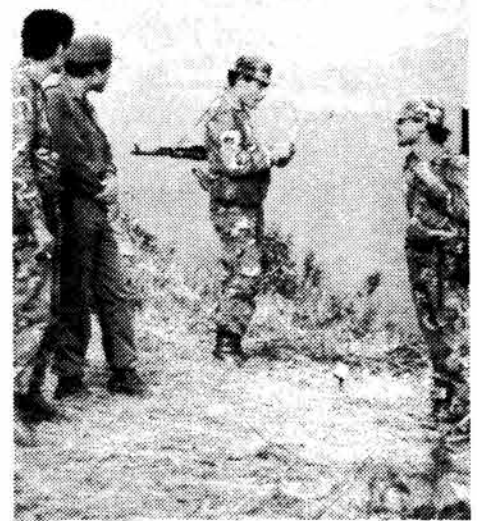
"The people of Nicaragua are absolutely free to exercise their religious preference," he explained. "The revolutionary government also guarantees the right of individuals not to believe if they choose not to."

After Campbell's presentation, a particularly good discussion took place around the question of women's liberation in Nicaragua. All the mass organizations in

Nicaragua are heatedly discussing this question and proposed legislation to facilitate the advance of women's rights and the participation of women in the new society.

Campbell was accompanied to the forum by two women officials of the Embassy. They helped clarify the issues involved on this question. Their description of the debates taking place exposed the lies about the supposed lack of democracy in Nicaragua.

Throughout the forum Campbell stressed his firm conviction that the great majority of the American people oppose the aggression against his country organized by Washington.



Sandinista soldiers standing guard on Nicaraguan-Honduran border.

Nebraska socialist calls for labor party

BY JOE SWANSON

LINCOLN, Neb. — At a news conference here January 25, Socialist Workers Party mayoral candidate Michael Carper, a 29-year-old laid-off rail worker, explained that he is running "because the current government and the two-party system do not serve the interests of the majority — in Lincoln or anywhere else."

Carper is vice-president of Brotherhood of Railway Carmen Local 799 and a member of the Young Socialist Alliance National Committee.

"All the capitalist candidates talk about the need for leadership. But the real leadership we need is working people and farmers running a new government," said Carper.

"We need to break out of the two-party trap and establish a labor party that can fight for this kind of government and against unemployment, wars, and discrimination in all forms."

Carper's main opponents in the race are Republican City Councilman Joe Hampton and Democrat Roger Lott, a lawyer. Carper and his supporters are organizing to meet the 100-signature requirement for a place on the ballot in the April 4 primary.

The socialist candidate spoke of the recent closing of the American Stores meat-packing plant in Lincoln as an example of the crisis facing working people.

"More than 600 workers are out in the cold because the company claims the plant is not profitable.

"Hampton, Lott, and every other Democrat and Republican claim to have solutions for this crisis, but their solutions all amount to helping the owners make higher profits — through tax breaks, government aid, and helping to reduce the wages, benefits, and union protection of the workers.

"I say the interests of the workers should come first," said Carper. "We need a government that would use all necessary force to support the union's demand to see the company's financial records. We need a new government to enable the workers to exercise control over their jobs and the basic questions affecting their lives.

"Meanwhile," he continued, "the government should guarantee that all American Stores workers and others out of work receive unemployment compensation at full union wages as long as they are out of work."

Carper also expressed support for farmers fighting against foreclosures and for the independent truckers' protest strike against recent increases in fuel and highway taxes.

He called for an immediate moratorium on all farm and home foreclosures and for repeal of all sales taxes on gas and other necessary commodities. "Tax Exxon, Mobil, Texaco, and the other energy giants that are bleeding us dry with higher prices and utility rates. They have the money; they should pay for the highways."

He went on to call for an unconditional ban on nuclear waste shipments through Lincoln from the Cooper Station nuclear power plant in nearby Brownville.

Carper denounced the policies of the U.S. government in sending millions of dollars to dictators in El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala. "Reagan has just given the bloody regime in El Salvador a clean report card and more millions to continue slaughtering its own citizens," he noted.

"This is the new Vietnam. It will lead to drafting and sending American troops to fight against workers and farmers in Central America unless the working people of this country stand up and fight against this war. We have no interest in helping the government maintain the profit system in El Salvador or in the United States."

Anyone interested in information on the campaign or in helping to petition to get Carper on the ballot should call (402) 475-8933 or 464-2565.

San Antonio union-busting hit

BY GEORGE O'NEILL

SAN ANTONIO — "We have a young worker running for mayor now, and I'm praying that she can do something for working people." This is what an elderly Chicana said to a campaigner for Stephanie Brooks at the Las Palmas shopping center here.

Brooks, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor, had been on television the night before. She filed petitions on February 4 for a place on the ballot in the April 2 city elections. She used her press conference at the filing to blast recent union-busting moves by the Handy Andy grocery chain.

Brooks said, "What does Mayor Henry Cisneros think about the sale of Handy Andy and the firing of its 900 employees? I believe this was a trick to weed out militant workers and to bust the union. Under the cover of bankruptcy, Handy Andy slashed wages and now they're trying to deny workers their pensions. Their conduct makes it clearer than ever that we need some union power, not only on the picket-lines but in City Hall."

Brooks also challenged Cisneros to a public debate. Her news conference was covered by TV channels 4 and 41 (the Spanish-language station), the San Antonio Light, and the Express-News.

The night before, Brooks went to a public rally sponsored by Communities Organized for Public Service (COPS). The purpose of the rally was to demand that the Texas state legislature provide more money for poor school districts.

At present, the poorest school district in San Antonio, majority-Chicano Edgewood, receives only \$346 in state aid per pupil compared to the state average of \$728. Texas as a whole ranks 39th among the 50 states in spending on education.

A statement Brooks and campaign supporters distributed at the rally demanded that the billions in the war budget be used instead for education and jobs.

Brooks pointed out, "President Reagan is cutting funds for education. Governor Mark White is on record against money for bilingual education and undocumented students. Mayor Cisneros does nothing to stop attacks on students' rights or improve teachers' pay. We need our own political party, a labor party that will represent working people and the poor."

The week's campaign activities were capped by a public rally at the socialist campaign headquarters. A Guatemalan speaker described the struggle of the Guatemalan people to free their country from U.S. domination. A Honduran worker talked about his experiences in the union movement in Honduras and as a worker in the United States. Another Honduran brought greetings from the Farabundo Martí Solidarity Committee in Houston.

Speaking to the rally, Brooks noted that her opponent Henry Cisneros is proud of his alliance with the biggest developers in the city, that he favors the death penalty, and that he opposes a woman's right to choose abortion.

To break out of the framework of capitalist party politics that Cisneros represents, Brooks called for a labor party.

This party would fight for "a different kind of government, a government that is made up of factory workers, farm workers, teachers, farmers, workers from whatever country, with or without papers. This kind of government would put human needs ahead of the profit greed of the companies. A workers and farmers government would enable people to live the kind of life that this society is capable of providing."

Socialist Workers Party mayoral candidate Stephanie Brooks blasted acts of vandalism against her campaign in a news conference at her campaign headquarters February 8.

On the evening of February 7, during a meeting at the campaign headquarters, someone punctured the tires of every car parked in the headquarters parking lot.

This is not the first time the SWP has been harassed in San Antonio. Brooks pointed out that "in the recent state elections, our candidate for Congress, Shirley Peña, was undemocratically excluded from the ballot. The FBI and other government agencies have admitted to spying on our members and activities. Two years ago, the San Antonio Police Department admitted that they too have been spying on the Socialist Workers Party. These actions create an atmosphere in which the rights of working-class parties to campaign against the Democrats and Republicans are seriously compromised."

Company union out to decertify Local 8888 of Steelworkers

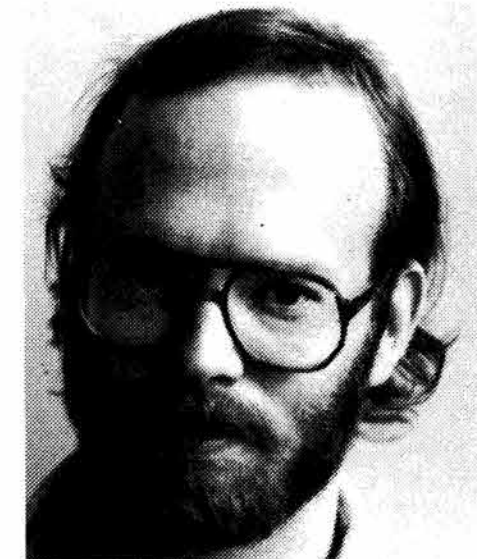
NEWPORT NEWS, Va. — In a serious challenge to labor's right to organize, the Peninsula Shipbuilders Association (PSA) filed petitions January 28 with the National Labor Relations Board in an attempt to decertify the United Steelworkers of America Local 8888. USWA Local 8888 is the bargaining agent for nearly 17,000 shipyard workers at the giant Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Co., owned by Tenneco Oil company.

The PSA is the company union that represented the company against the workers here for decades. The PSA was defeated by an organizing drive of the USWA that included a militant 12-week strike in 1979. The strike forced recognition of the USWA by Tenneco and the signing of the first union contract here in 1980.

The contract between the USWA and Tenneco expires in October of this year. According to federal law, a union can petition the NLRB to decertify another union as bargaining agent within 90 days of the third anniversary of the current contract.

The PSA is required to file petitions representing 30 percent of the workers at the shipyard for the NLRB to call a new election to determine which of the two unions will represent the workers. The NLRB will now begin the process of certifying whether or not the PSA's petitions are valid.

The PSA filing is seen here as the opening shot fired by Tenneco in a new stage of its war against the USWA and the 17,000 workers it represents.



Militant/Charles Ostrofsky
Socialist candidate Michael Carper

Malcolm's legacy: Black freedom struggle is part of world revolutionary process

BY MALIK MIAH

February 21 is the anniversary of the assassination of the great Black revolutionary, Malcolm X. To commemorate the date, we are reprinting here the text of an article, "Zionist Logic," written by Malcolm X and published in a Cairo newspaper, the *Egyptian Gazette*, Sept. 17, 1964.

As far as we know, this article has never been published or printed in the United States.

In light of Israel's 1982 invasion into Lebanon, and its earlier occupation of Arab land after the 1967 and 1973 wars, the point Malcolm makes about the logic of Zionism is very timely today.

Israeli imperialism, backed and armed by Washington, is a colonialist power in the Middle East. It occupies Palestinian and other Arab lands seized by armed force.

Zionism, a form of racism, is the reactionary ideology the Israeli rulers use to justify brutal, exploitative policies against the Palestinian and other Arab peoples.

Malcolm exposes this ideology in his article. "Did the Zionists," he asks, "have the legal or moral right to invade Arab Palestine, uproot its Arab citizens from their homes and seize all Arab property for themselves, just based on the 'religious' claim that their forefathers lived there thousands of years ago?"

"According to this warped Zionist logic," Malcolm continues, "all the whites would be forced to leave the entire Western hemisphere, and those two vast continents turned back to the original owners, the American Indians."

"In short," he finishes, "the Zionist argument to justify Israel's present occupation of Arab Palestine has no intelligent or legal basis in history . . . not even in their own religion!"

Malcolm also explains how the Israeli Zionists attempt to "deceive the African masses into submitting willingly to their 'divine' authority and guidance, without the African masses being aware that they are still colonized."

The January 1983 trip to Zaire by Israel's then defense minister, Ariel Sharon, is an example of what Malcolm was talking about. Sharon reached several agreements with President Mobutu's proimperialist government. This included Israelis training Zaire's presidential guard and providing it with \$8 million in military equipment.

Malcolm X was gunned down by assassins on Feb. 21, 1965, before he had time

to build an effective nationwide movement to fight for Black freedom. Most Blacks today correctly suspect the U.S. government was directly involved in his death. (See Pathfinder Press's *Assassination of Malcolm X* for more details on the government's role in his assassination.)

Malcolm's legacy

At the time of his death, critics of Malcolm of all stripes, including liberals and radicals, sought to slander his views with the aim of removing Malcolm's contributions to the Black freedom struggle from the minds of Blacks. They called him an "extremist," a "racist in reverse," and "violence prone."

Fortunately his speeches were published the year of his death to set the record straight. Black and white militants in the factories and campuses were able to learn some of Malcolm's thinking on racism and how to achieve Black emancipation. The ideas of Black nationalism and Black Power became identified with Malcolm X.

Today even the pro-big-business liberal *New York Times*, in a Dec. 10, 1982 editorial on "How to Remember Martin Luther King," included in its list of "historical Black figures" the name of Malcolm X. Eighteen years ago the *Times* called Malcolm a "case history" of a twisted man who had a "ruthless and fanatical belief in violence."

Why this change? It reflects the fact that Malcolm, along with Martin Luther King, is one of Black people's heroes. He told the truth and stood firm on his beliefs.

Malcolm X lived for only a short time after his break with the Nation of Islam in March 1964. In fact, he was outside the Nation only 50 weeks before his assassination.

During that period Malcolm grew and developed as a leader of Black people. He modified many of his earlier views and began to develop a program — as seen in his last speeches — for Black liberation.

Malcolm's three periods

The best presentation of Malcolm's evolution as a Black freedom fighter is contained in *The Last Year Of Malcolm X — The Evolution of a Revolutionary* by George Breitman. It was during Malcolm's last year that he made two trips to Africa, including to Egypt. These trips had a profound impact on his thinking about politics, particularly his views on the need to

build not only a religious organization, but also a secular movement to fight for Black freedom by any means necessary.

Breitman refers to three periods of Malcolm's life and development of his thinking: the Muslim, transitional, and final period. Recognizing these three periods, he explains, is crucial in understanding Malcolm's speeches and his evolution as a revolutionary and leader of the Black nationality.

Malcolm formally broke with the Nation of Islam on March 12, 1964, when he held a public press conference. The primary reason for the split was over political policy. Malcolm had come to the viewpoint that the Nation should not just talk militant and be for Black rights, but should join and help lead the civil rights struggles taking place. Elijah Muhammad, leader of the Nation, opposed this course. He favored talking militant, while refraining from mobilizing Nation members in the big battles for Black rights going on. Allah, Muhammad told his followers, would settle scores with the white man.

During Malcolm's Muslim period he eventually became the chief spokesperson for the Nation. He gave fiery speeches on Black nationalism and Black rights and denounced the evils of the white man's system. By Black nationalism he and the Nation meant Blacks should organize separately from the white man. Nationalism and separatism — i.e., formation of an independent state here or in Africa — were presented as one. (Black nationalism later became identified with the right of Blacks as a people to control their own destinies, which may or may not lead to the establishment of a separate nation.)

The rise of the colonial revolution after World War II and the formation of independent African and Arab countries, combined with the growth of the civil rights movement against Jim Crow-segregation in the South, had a big impact on all Blacks. This included the members of the Nation.

These events, and the realization that waiting for Allah to deal with the racist oppressor was inadequate, began to affect Malcolm's thinking while he was still in the Nation.

Malcolm and the United Nations

An example of Malcolm's views on political action right after his split from the Nation concerned taking the plight of Blacks to the United Nations.

In a speech he gave to the Militant Labor Forum in April, Malcolm raised the proposal that Blacks should take their case out of the hands of the U.S. government and go to the United Nations. His reasoning: "We must have human rights before we can secure civil rights [by that he meant the rights of citizens — MM]. We must be respected as humans before we can be recognized as citizens."

The idea of going to the UN to indict the racism of Washington was not new in the Black struggle. The NAACP, for example, tried to do it in 1947.

Others have done it too: Fidel Castro, leader of the Cuban revolution, used it as a forum in 1960 to expose and denounce Washington's colonialist aggression against his country.

Although the UN was established to advance the interests of imperialism, not the oppressed and exploited, revolutionaries have used the tactic of their participation in the UN to expose imperialism to the world and to win support.

This is why socialists have always supported moves to take the demands of Blacks into the United Nations — not as a road to liberation, but as a propaganda tool to expose the racism of Washington and the capitalists.

In that sense, Malcolm's proposal was in line with Fidel's and similar to what PLO leader Yassir Arafat did in 1974 when he

went before the United Nations General Assembly to explain the cause of the Palestinian people and expose Israeli Zionism and U.S. imperialism.

The transitional period

A transitional period lasted two or three months, from March to the end of May, 1964. During this time Malcolm was beginning to come to grips with how to build a movement.

Much of this reflection and thought occurred while on his first trip to Africa. He left the U.S. April 13 and returned at the end of May.

The main aim of the trip was to make a pilgrimage, called "hajj," to Mecca, the holy Muslim city.

(This was not Malcolm's first trip to Africa. As an emissary for Elijah Muhammad he traveled there in 1959.)

The biggest impact this trip had on him concerned his attitude towards race and politics. In the Nation all whites were viewed as devils. Malcolm began to alter this view. Over time he came to the conclusion that this was wrong. As a member of the Nation, as his speeches then show, he could not see whites ever playing a progressive role in relationship to the Black struggle. During the transition period he was still skeptical, but more open to the idea that whites could play a more progressive role in the future.

However, after his return from Africa, at a meeting on May 29, Malcolm said, "In my recent travels into the African countries and others, it was impressed upon me the importance of having a working unity among all peoples, Blacks as well as whites. But the only way this is going to be brought about is that the Black ones have to be in unity first."

He later said, "We will work with anyone, with any group, no matter what their color is, as long as they are genuinely interested in taking the type of steps necessary to bring an end to the injustices that Black people in this country are afflicted by."

One reason Malcolm shifted his views on this issue was that during his trip to Africa he met revolutionaries who were white. For example, the Algerian ambassador to Ghana, was white. Malcolm wrote that the ambassador "had a razor-sharp mind, and was well-versed in the principles of revolution." (Algeria then was under the leadership of a workers and farmers government that later was overthrown.)

It was people like the Algerian ambassador in Ghana's Nkrumah-led government and others that impressed upon Malcolm the need to reconsider his views on whites.

As Malcolm would later say, "Travel broadens your scope."

It was in Ghana in May that Malcolm decided to set up, in addition to the Muslim Mosque, Inc., a secular organization to fight for Black rights. He named this secular organization, the Organization for Afro-American Unity (OAAU). Its first public rally was held June 28.

The final period

Malcolm's return from Africa marked the end of the transition period. He now began in earnest his main task: the launching of a movement to fight for Black liberation by any means necessary.

This was a huge decision, considering he faced a powerful enemy — the capitalist government — and all the liberal and middle-class Black leadership against him, along with the Nation. It was no wonder he openly talked about being killed.

Furthermore, Malcolm had to both develop a program and create an organization from scratch to advance his perspective. And he had to do so while still developing his own ideas.

Much of his time at the end of his life was spent abroad, which was an important part of his political development. Mal-

By and about Malcolm X

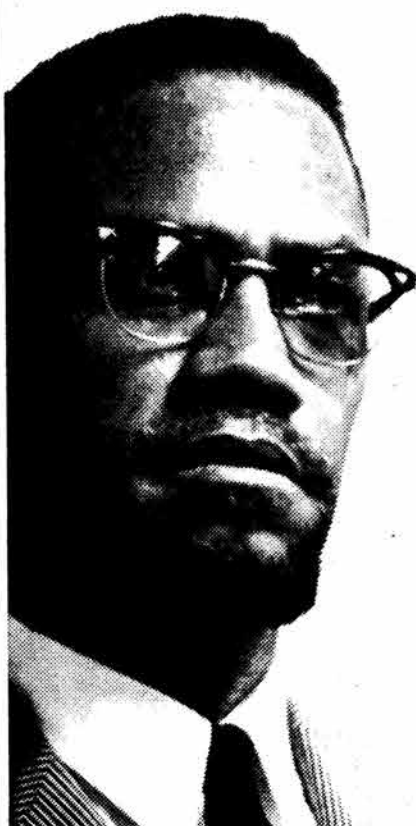
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Malcolm's second trip in 1964 to Africa began in July and lasted until November 24.

During his final period Malcolm began to talk about socialism. At an OAAU rally on Africa at New York's Audubon Ballroom on Dec. 20, 1964, Malcolm said, "Almost every one of the countries that has gotten independence has devised some kind of socialistic system, and this is no accident. This is another reason why I say that you and I here in America — who are looking for a job, who are looking for better housing, looking for a better education — before you start trying to be incorporated, or integrated, or disintegrated, into this capitalistic system, should look over there and find out what are the people who have gotten their freedom adopting to provide themselves with better housing and better education and better food and better clothing."

Malcolm began to view the Black struggle more in class terms. This is reflected in a speech he gave on February 18, three days before his assassination: "We are living in an era of revolution, and the revolt of the American Negro is part of the rebellion against the oppression and colonialism which has characterized this era."

"It is incorrect to classify the revolt of the Negro as simply a racial conflict of Black against white, or as a purely American problem. Rather, we are today seeing a global rebellion of the oppressed against the oppressor, the exploited against the exploiter."

Lessons for today

Much can be said about Malcolm's contributions to the Black struggle. His speeches indict U.S. racism and the blood-sucking capitalist system; he talks of Black pride; about the right of self-defense; and the need for Black politics independent of the Democrats and Republicans. These are all quite valuable.

But in many ways, his speeches on the relationship of the Black freedom struggle to the world revolutionary process are the most far reaching. In these speeches he makes the Black struggle part of the colonial revolution and the struggle of the oppressed and exploited against imperialism and capitalism. Like the current struggles in El Salvador, Namibia, and Palestine, the struggle of Blacks is both for national liberation and working-class emancipation.

That's why his article on Israeli Zionism is so significant. It ties Zionism to imperialism, what Malcolm calls "Dollarism" in his article. "The number one weapon of 20th century imperialism," Malcolm says, "is Zionist-Dollarism, and one of the main bases for this weapon is Zionist Israel."

Thus, the fight for Palestinian self-determination is a struggle against imperialist domination; and its victory will be an advance for the world working class, especially for Arabs and Israeli Jews.

The best way we can remember Malcolm today is to go back and study his speeches and writings and rededicate ourselves, as he did, to join the battles of Blacks and other workers until we win our freedom.

Forum on Malcolm X

Malcolm X: His Legacy for Today.

Speakers: Rev. Ben Chavis, national representative, National Black Independent Political Party; Malik Miah, Socialist Workers Party National Cochairman; representative, National Black United Front. Translation to Spanish. Fri., Feb. 25, 7 p.m. 335 Atlantic Ave. Brooklyn, New York. Donation: \$2. Aup: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (212) 852-7922.

Other Malcolm X forums listed on page 12.



Malcolm X in Egypt in 1964

Malcolm on 'Zionist logic'

BY MALCOLM X

The Zionist armies that now occupy Palestine claim their ancient Jewish prophets predicted that in the "last days of this world" their own god would raise them up a "messiah" who would lead them to their promised land, and they would set up their own "divine" government in this newly gained land. This "divine" government would enable them to "rule all other nations with a rod of iron."

If the Israeli Zionists believe their present occupation of Arab Palestine is the fulfillment of predictions made by their Jewish prophets, then they also religiously believe that Israel must fulfill its "divine" mission to "rule all other nations with a rod of iron," which only means a different form of iron-like rule, more firmly entrenched even than that of the former European colonial powers.

These Israeli Zionists religiously believe their Jewish god has chosen them to replace the outdated European colonialism with a new form of colonialism, so well disguised that it will enable them to deceive the African masses into submitting willingly to their "divine" authority and guidance, without the African masses being aware that they are still colonized.

Camouflage

The Israeli Zionists are convinced they have successfully camouflaged their new kind of colonialism. Their colonialism appears to be more "benevolent" more "philanthropic," a system with which they rule simply by getting their potential victims to accept their friendly offers of economic "aid," and other tempting "gifts" that they dangle in front of the newly-independent African nations whose economies are experiencing great difficulties.

During the 19th century when the masses here in Africa were largely illiterate, it was easy for European imperialists to rule them with "force and fear." But in this present era of enlightenment the African masses are awakening, and it is impossible to hold them in check now with the antiquated methods of the 19th century.

The imperialists, therefore, have been compelled to devise new methods. Since they can no longer force or frighten the masses into submission, they must devise modern methods that will enable them to maneuver the African masses into willing submission.

This modern, 20th century weapon of neo-imperialism is Dollarism! The Zionists have mastered the science of Dollarism: the ability to come posing as a friend and benefactor, bearing gifts and all other forms of economic aid and offers of technical assistance. Thus, the power and influence of Zionist Israel in many of the newly "inde-

pendent" African nations has fast become even more unshakeable than that of the 19th century European colonialists — and this new kind of Zionist colonialism differs only in form and method, but never in motive or objective.

At the close of the 19th century when European imperialists wisely foresaw that the awakening masses of Africa would not submit to their old method of ruling through "force and fear," these ever-scheming imperialists had to create a "new weapon" and to find a "new base" for that weapon.

Dollarism

The number one weapon of 20th century imperialism is Zionist-Dollarism, and one of the main bases for this weapon is Zionist Israel. The ever-scheming European imperialists wisely placed Israel where she could geographically divide the Arab world, infiltrate and sow the seed of dissension among African leaders and also divide the Africans against the Asians.

Zionist Israel's occupation of Arab Palestine has forced the Arab world to waste billions of precious dollars on armaments, making it impossible for these newly independent Arab nations to concentrate on strengthening the economies of their countries and elevate the living standard of their people.

And the continued low standard of living in the Arab world has been skillfully used by the Zionist propagandists to make it appear to the Africans that the Arab leaders are not intellectually or technically qualified to lift the living standard of their people — thus, indirectly inducing Africans to turn away from the Arabs and towards the Israelis for teachers and technical assistance.

"They cripple the bird's wing, and then condemn it for not flying as fast as they!"

The imperialists always make themselves look good, but it is only because they are competing against economic cripples — newly independent countries whose economies are actually crippled by the Zionist-capitalist conspiracy. They can't stand against fair competition, thus they dread Gamal Abdul Nasser's call for African-Arab Unity under Socialism.¹

Messiah?

If the "religious" claim of the Zionists is true: that they were to be led to the promised land by their messiah, and Israel's present occupation of Arab Palestine is the fulfillment

of that prophesy, where is their messiah whom their prophets said would get the credit for leading them there? It was Ralph Bunche who "negotiated" the Zionists into possession of Occupied Palestine.² Is Ralph Bunche the messiah of Zionism? If Ralph Bunche is not their messiah, and their messiah has not yet come, then what are they doing in Palestine ahead of their messiah?

Did the Zionists have the legal or moral right to invade Arab Palestine, uproot its Arab citizens from their homes and seize all Arab property for themselves, just based on the "religious" claim that their forefathers lived there thousands of years ago? Only a thousand years ago the Moors lived in Spain.³ Would this give the Moors of today the legal and moral right to invade the Iberian Peninsula, drive out its Spanish citizens, and then set up a "new Moroccan nation" where Spain used to be, — as the European Zionists have done to our Arab brothers and sisters in Palestine?

There are over 100 million of our people in the western hemisphere who are of African origin. Just because our forefathers once lived here in Africa, would this give Afro-Americans the right to come back here to the mother continent to drive the rightful citizens of Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, Tanganyika,⁴ or Uganda from their cities, confiscate all their property for ourselves, and set up a "new Afro-American nation" — as the European Zionists have done to our Arab brothers and sisters in Palestine?

According to this warped Zionist logic, all the whites would be forced to leave the entire western hemisphere, and those two vast continents turned back to the original owners, the American Indians. And since anthropologists say the American Indians originally came from the subcontinent of India, they could return to India and displace its 300 million people — as a handful of European Zionists have done to our Arab brothers and sisters in Palestine?

In short, the Zionist argument to justify Israel's present occupation of Arab Palestine has no intelligent or legal basis in history — not even in their own religion!

Where is their messiah?

2. Ralph Bunche — U.S. representative to the United Nations and UN mediator in Palestine in 1948-49; responsible for first armistice agreement between Israel and the Arab states; due to this role was first Black to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1950.

3. Moors — Mainly Muslim people of mixed Arab and Berber ancestry who conquered Spain in the 8th century.

4. Tanganyika — An African country that became independent in 1961; later merged with Zanzibar in 1964 to form present-day Tanzania.

1. Gamal Abdul Nasser — A leader of the 1952 "Free Officers" coup d'etat that overthrew the monarchy; elected president of Egypt in 1956; died in 1970.

Farmers' struggle: who are its allies?

LaRouche program is not the way forward

BY CHESTER NELSON

It is not uncommon these days to see representatives of the National Democratic Policy Committee (NDPC) at meetings and rallies of protesting farmers. This ultraright outfit distributed literature at the recent convention of the American Agriculture Movement (AAM) in Nashville and organized a meeting for its central leader, Lyndon LaRouche, at a hotel near the convention site.

Following the convention, LaRouche spoke at an AAM rally in southern Georgia along with AAM leaders Alvin Jenkins and Tommy Kersey. Nick Benton, the LaRouche candidate for mayor of Houston, recently spoke at an AAM-sponsored meeting in northern Texas.

The NDPC's attempt to establish friendly relations with the AAM goes back several years. During the 1980 elections this included working with AAM members to get resolutions calling for farm prices to be set at 90 percent of parity adopted at a couple of state Democratic Party conventions.

The NDPC denounces the bankers, rails against high taxes and interest rates, aggressively campaigns for a radical break with the government's present economic policies, and voices support for the farmers' struggle. On this basis, many activists in the AAM and other farm protest organizations are inclined to welcome the NDPC's support and to give its views a hearing.

No friend of working farmers

But LaRouche and his followers are no friends of working farmers, they are deadly enemies. This can be demonstrated by looking at their activities over the past decade and by the reactionary, demagogic nature of their proposals.

Activists in the farmers' protest movement may be unfamiliar with LaRouche's record, but it's well-known by many in the labor movement. The *AFL-CIO News*, weekly organ of the AFL-CIO national leadership, carried a series of three articles last summer reviewing the antilabor nature of LaRouche's organization. The article in the August 28 issue concluded that, "[the NDPC] is denounced by almost all of organized labor."

To see why there has been such widespread condemnation of LaRouche in the labor movement, it's necessary to look at his history.

In the late 1960s LaRouche and a few supporters set up the National Caucus of Labor Committees (NCLC), a split off from the Students for a Democratic Society. This outfit soon headed in an ultraright direction.

In the mid-1970s it launched a campaign to harass and physically attack unionists. It especially singled out left-wingers and liberal officials, and it attempted to break up meetings with gangs of club-toting thugs. It opposed and tried to sabotage union-or-

ganized strikes. Black and Puerto Rican activists were targeted for racist abuse.

Strike-breaking role

One example will help to illustrate the nefarious character of its antilabor crusade. In March 1974, more than 5,000 workers, organized by the United Steelworkers, struck against the Dow Chemical plant in Midland, Michigan. The workers were demanding an adequate cost-of-living clause and improved pension and insurance plans.

Dow responded by getting state troopers to herd scabs through the picket lines. Picketing strikers were brutally clubbed and dozens were carted off to jail. During this confrontation NCLC members arrived in town and began distributing leaflets attacking the local union leadership as "CIA agents." It charged them with seeking to "punish the workers with a series of provoked clashes with other sections of the working class [i.e. scabs and cops]."

The NCLC's goal was transparent: to shift the blame for violence away from the cops and onto the union, and to do everything it could to discredit the union in the heat of the strike battle.

The same year the NCLC also attacked national strikes of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers and the United Mineworkers, as well as mass protests of independent truckers.

NCLC goons forced their way into union meetings and news conferences, often using phony press credentials. They succeeded in breaking up some news conferences.

In 1973 LaRouche's hoodlums launched "Operation Mop-Up," which was a series of violent attacks on members and offices of the Socialist Workers Party, the Communist Party, and several Black organizations. Meetings where SWP and CP candidates for public office were speakers were also attacked by hooligans armed with brass knuckles and nunchakus (a martial arts weapon).

In addition to its insidious union-busting activities, the LaRouche-led NCLC and its successor, the NDPC, have campaigned in support of many reactionary causes.

Unlike Alvin Jenkins, who explains to farmers the powerful example of independent struggle set by the civil rights movement, LaRouche and his supporters have waged attacks on civil rights actions, including the struggle to desegregate public schools in Boston and other cities.

In their newspaper, *New Solidarity*, and in leaflets, they have often labeled Black and Puerto Rican activists as "cannibals," "jungle bunnies," "zombies," "faggots," and "rapists." They established a group called the National Anti-Drug Coalition, which, under the guise of fighting drugs, wages a poisonous, racist campaign against Blacks and Latinos. They have also dragged anti-Semitism into this attack by screaming about the "international Zionist conspiracy" of drug dealers.

The LaRouche cult is on the warpath against the right of women to choose whether or not to have abortions, savagely attacking supporters of this basic human right as "baby killers."

Nuclear power champions

One of its more aggressive campaigns has been in support of nuclear power.

A great many farmers and workers have correctly drawn the conclusion — especially after the disaster at the Three Mile Island nuclear plant — that the hazards of generating energy from nuclear fuel are too great and that alternative sources, such as coal, should be used. But LaRouche's followers, in the name of technological progress, have kept on promoting nuclear power despite its proven dangers. They set up the Fusion Energy Foundation to carry out this campaign and have raised hundreds of thousands of tax-free dollars from businessmen in the nuclear industry.

In the late 1970s, LaRouche sought to establish relations with the Liberty Lobby,



Militant/Tony Dutrow

Workers and farmers joined together in 1982 St. Louis Labor Day demonstration. Among the contingents were the American Agriculture Movement (above) and the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (right). This is example of alliance needed between unions and farmers' organizations.

American Independent Party, and other ultraright groups.

LaRouche's organizations have also strived to establish warm ties with various police agencies. This has included feeding them information about activists in various social protest movements.

In a May 1974 editorial, *New Solidarity* announced that "it is the ordinary cop who, for the moment, has taken the lead in opposing the establishment of police state."

Farmers who went through the experience of the 1977 farmers' strike and the tractorcades know that cops can get quite vicious against those exercising their constitutional right to freely assemble. And that FBI agents secretly conduct surveillance of all such actions. The brutal attack by the sheriff's posse against protesting farmers in Springfield, Colorado, early this year should also dispel any illusion about which side the cops are on.

Up until 1980 the NCLC ran its own candidates under the U.S. Labor Party label in order to promote its antilabor and racist filth. But in that year it switched tactics and established the NDPC to intervene in the Democratic Party. LaRouche ran in Democratic presidential primaries in a number of states. He has already launched a "Draft LaRouche" campaign for the 1984 presidential election.

As part of this tactical shift, LaRouche has put under wraps, for the moment, his goon-squad tactics and some of the most rabid antilabor and racist language in his publications and press. But the overall reactionary demagoguery is still there and is just as poisonous.

LaRouche has presented his current views in many pamphlets, leaflets, and in *New Solidarity*. Among these is a pamphlet, published a couple of weeks following the 1980 elections, entitled "Rebuilding the Democratic National Committee and a Keystone Posture of Proposing a Bipartisan Economic Policy."

In this document LaRouche describes some of his political and economic perspectives.

A 'Grand Coalition'

On the political level he proposes forging an alliance inside the Democratic Party of industrial entrepreneurs, farmers, and labor. In some literature he refers to this as a "Grand Coalition." It, he says, should unite the conservative currents, which he calls "American Whigs," in the Democratic Party. The NDPC's aim is to help lead the American Whigs to achieve their proper place of influence against the "varieties of ultraliberalism" that have dominated the party since 1968.

Who in the labor movement does he think has a "harmony of interests" with the industrial entrepreneurs?

He points to "the 'conservative' current within organized labor, usually associated with the building trades, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, and so forth," because it is "strongly pro-industrial-capitalist respecting national policy."

This is really an orientation to the most racist, craftminded, pro-job-trust, and racket-ridden union bureaucracies. It has nothing to do with tens of millions of wage workers, including rank-and-file construction workers and truck drivers.

He also contends that this current of

Whig conservatism "is echoed among conservative Democrats from the best-informed strata of black and Hispanic minorities." He doesn't give any examples so it's not clear who he's talking about. Nor does he spell out which farmers he considers to be part of this "conservative" current.

In other literature he says this coalition should fight the "economic royalists, the big-money families of New York City," like Franklin Delano Roosevelt did in the 1930s. He claims that Roosevelt got the country out of the "Herbert Hoover depression."

It's ridiculous to say that Roosevelt, a dedicated servant of the ruling rich, waged a fight against the "economic royalists." Nor did his policies end the depression. The Great Depression continued right up until the big military build-up for World War II. It was the gigantic expenditures for war that finally pulled the country out of the worst depression in its history.

But this kind of argumentation is standard for LaRouche. It's the policies of either good or evil men that determines how the economy is working, rather than the nature of the private profit system itself. This is shown by the NDPC's campaign that everything would be a lot better if only Paul Volcker would be removed from his position as head of the Federal Reserve Bank.

After sifting through the technical language and strident rhetoric that so typifies the NDPC literature, LaRouche's proposals can be boiled down to this: get industry moving again by lowering interest rates and giving big tax breaks and export credits to industrial enterprises. This, coupled with promotion of labor-saving technology, will supposedly provide jobs for unemployed workers and help debt-ridden farmers. The solution, then, is to get the banks off the backs of industrial capitalists.

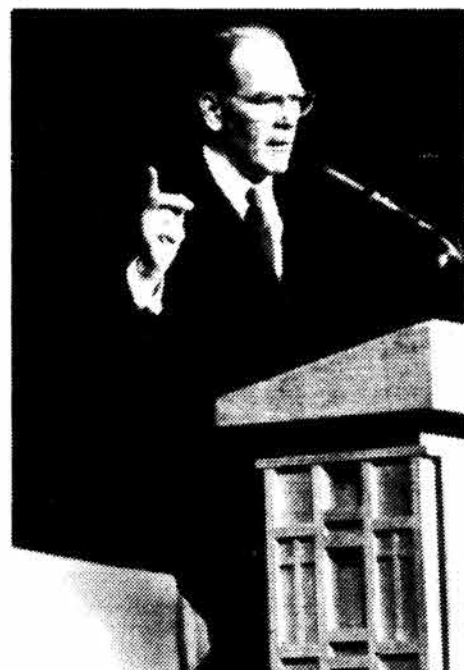
LaRouche's scheme does reflect a certain reality in one sense — that is, banking capital has been profiting a great deal more from the current recession than the industrial capitalists.

But it's totally absurd to counterpose financial and industrial capitalists. For nearly a century they have been totally intertwined and interdependent. The Rockefeller banking empire, for example, grew out of and remains deeply involved in industry, including oil, coal, and steel. When the big financiers don't invest in industrial expansion or modernization, it's because they find it more profitable to invest in other arenas.

Classic fascist demagoguery

To pose the problem for working people as one of finance capital versus industrial capital covers up the central cause of cyclical recessions and mass unemployment. This same demagoguery was used by Adolph Hitler and Benito Mussolini before they took power and was the stock-and-trade of American fascists in the 1930s.

The real cause of recessions and depressions is the overproduction of industrial and agricultural commodities—not in relation to what the majority of people need, but in relation to the ability of the capitalists to sell them at a profit. Upturns occur when the stockpiles of goods are reduced and less efficient productive capacity is eliminated.



Lyndon LaRouche



Militant/Tony Dutrow

More than 150 years of experience with capitalist business cycles have proved that no government or banking policies can prevent them. They can, up to a certain point and under certain conditions, regulate them. That's all LaRouche's proposals amount to — tinkering with trade, currency, and tax policy to stimulate economic growth.

The notion that workers and farmers should join forces with industrial entrepreneurs against the big bankers is a calculated cover-up of the irreconcilable class conflict between wage workers and exploited farmers on one hand and both banking and industrial profiteers on the other.

Workers and farmers, who, with their labor, produce the great wealth of this country, do not share a "harmony of interests" with those who profit from this wealth.

The struggle of auto workers, steelworkers, and other workers to defend them-

selves from the employers' drive to squeeze more work for less wages out of them is never mentioned in the reams of literature published by the NDPC.

Nor does LaRouche have anything to say about how the monopoly-rigged pricing of the farm equipment manufacturers, seed and grain companies, and fertilizer producers rip off family farmers. Nor does he attack the giant processing companies that rake in big profits by buying low from farmers and selling high to consumers.

He doesn't even offer any proposals for the immediate relief for workers and farmers from the ravages of the recession. Such emergency measures as a massive public works program to provide jobs, extending unemployment benefits for as long as workers are laid-off, and a moratorium on all farm and home foreclosures are badly needed.

It is clear that the NDPC opposes the perspective of mobilizing workers and farmers in their own interests. The NDPC

program is a program for industrial capitalists, which they want workers and farmers to rally behind.

What road for farmers?

Farmers protesting the worsening situation they face are looking for a road out and they are looking for allies. But collaboration with industrial capitalists to help them make more profits is no way forward. This will only prolong the miserable conditions working people are fighting against.

Many farmers who went through the bitter experience of appealing to President Carter in 1978 and 1979 and backing Reagan in 1980, are drawing the conclusion that supporting the Democrats and Republicans is not in their interests either.

The only road forward is for farmers and workers to join forces to organize their own mass, independent struggle to replace the government controlled by the ruling class — which includes both the big banks and big business — with a government of

workers and farmers. With political power in their hands, working people can then move to expropriate the capitalist profit makers. By taking over the banks and industry they can organize them to serve the social needs of working people.

Farmer activists may say that this could never come about, that not enough workers and farmers would support such a perspective. That might be true if conditions were to stay the same, but they're not. The capitalist system on a world scale is in the throes of a gigantic crisis, and it's going to get worse. Working people, battered by unemployment, inflation, sudden price explosions, contrived shortages, and military adventures will be even further shaken up and radicalized.

Workers will struggle to transform their unions into fighting instruments. This will open up the possibility of establishing and building an independent party based on the organized labor movement in alliance with the mass protest organizations of farmers. An independent party of workers and farmers that can help lead the day-to-day struggles for immediate relief and connect them to charting a course to political power is the road forward — not the NDPC's demagogic schemes nor its proposed alliance with big business.

The joint actions that farmers and unions have begun conducting, and the expressions of solidarity with each other's struggles, modest as they have been, help lay the basis for the political alliance of farmers and workers that is necessary.

Small farmers make gains with Cuban revolution

The following article is reprinted from the December-January 1983 *Cuba News*, a publication of the Cuban Embassy in Grenada, an island in the Caribbean.

The small farmers were among the ranks of Cuba's independence warriors in the last century's battles against Spain; they were with Fidel [Castro's] rebel army in the mountains; and in 1959, they poured jubilantly into Havana with the victory of the Revolution to finally claim the rights they had been fighting for.

According to a study in 1957 by the Catholic University Group, only 11.2 percent of Cuba's rural population drank milk; 4 percent ate meat, 2.1 percent ate eggs; 1 percent ate fish and only 3.4 percent ate bread. Most were sharecroppers, rented the land or planted it for a large landowner, often from the U.S.; very few had title to the land they worked. And for those that did, the simple farming methods they could afford meant the harvests were barely

enough to eke out a living.

One of the first and most important measures of the Revolutionary government was the Agrarian Reform Laws, which for the first time divided up the huge landholdings and put them into the hands of the small farmers and the state. The First Agrarian Reform Law [May 1959] alone gave 100,000 small farmers title to their own land, and also laid the basis for cooperatives and state farming. This was the law, said Fidel once, "which made the imperialists decide to impose an economic blockade on Cuba. . . . It was the law that turned imperialism against Cuba. . . ." It was the law that showed them once and for all who the Revolution had been won for.

By 1963, 70 percent of the farmlands turned over to the people were being worked by agricultural workers on state farms; and 30 percent were in the private sector, in the hands of small farmers, who also massively joined the powerful National Association of Small Farmers (ANAP).

Today, the small farmers in Cuba — both on individual farms and in cooperatives — are fundamental to the country's economy. They produce: 18 percent of the sugar cane; 70 percent of the tobacco; 50 percent of the vegetables and root vegetables; 54 percent of the coffee; 67 percent of the cocoa; own 21 percent of the livestock; and sell 180,000 tons of fruit each year.

More and more small farmers are turning to the cooperative movement, which is being encouraged because it has important advantages for the farmer, including higher productivity, and a better standard of living for his family, as well as economic security. At the same time, co-ops are purely voluntary, and it is the farmer's choice to belong or not.

Here's how they work: the farmers who join a cooperative contribute their lands and their equipment. Others, who don't own land, may also join once the general assembly of members — the co-op's highest decision-making body — approves. All members have the same rights.

The farmers then work the land together,



Prensa Latina

New technology on Cuban farms such as use of this sugar cane combine has improved living standards for many.

taking advantage of more advanced farming methods made possible by the pooling of their resources. Co-ops can also obtain credit from the state at very low interest (4 percent annually) for the purchase of farm machinery and equipment, and other needs, such as pesticides. Cost of machinery tends to be lower than in neighboring countries: a tractor which sells for \$20,520 in Latin America can be bought by Cuban farmers for as little as \$3,572.

The cooperatives operate with a guaranteed market, and prices are ensured at a fair level, not dependent on the sudden changes of the so-called "free market." Once the co-op has fulfilled its sales to the state, it figures its production costs, and the profits are distributed among its members, according to the work put in by each one. In addition, each member receives a regular income which is calculated as part of the production costs, during the harvest.

Rafael Acosta, of the Republic of Chile co-op in Pinar del Rio province, speaks about last harvest's results: "You could see the happiness in people's faces: we paid

our debts and were left with 80,000 pesos (\$100,929). What can you say about that? The members' general assembly met and decided to leave a part of the profits for community projects, since we're building new houses for our members; and we also have plans to build a 600-student primary school and to finish a shopping center in town, so the people don't have to go all the way to Vinales.

"At some point, we'd also to add on to our community center, which is too small now. The rest of the money, as I said, was distributed among the individual members, according to how much work they put in. Almost everybody spent their share on their house: a new refrigerator, a TV, washing machine or sewing machine — you name it!"

These are some of the benefits that have convinced farmers to join the co-op movement all over Cuba. In May 1977, Cuba had 44 co-ops with 15,000 acres. This year, there are 1,311 co-ops with 1.4 million acres in production, and a total of 52,000 members.

From Pathfinder

Farmers and the Cuban Revolution

By Fidel Castro. The complete text of Fidel Castro's address to the Sixth Congress of the National Association of Small Farmers on May 17, 1982, is published in two issues of *Intercontinental Press*. These are available for \$2 from Intercontinental Press, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

Marxism and the Working Farmer

Includes two speeches by Fidel Castro: "Speech to Third National Congress of the National Association of Small Farmers" and "Cuba's Agrarian Reform." \$2.60. Order from Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Please include \$.75 for postage and handling.

Now will you register? — The government has an emergency plan for inducting draft registrants after a nuclear blast. Asked how they would know where to send

quired to update his address if he moves. If we don't hear from him we'll send the mailgram to his last known address."

Elegant and sanitary — Now available, a gold toothpick with a retractable point. \$150.

Principled stand — A Draft World Charter for Nature was introduced in the UN calling on all nations to respect nature and not to degrade the environment. A lone dissenting vote was cast by the United States.

Tough-times dep't — La Con-

frerie des Chevaliers du Tastevin, a well-heeled group, puts on the feedbag at a New York beanery each year. But they're feeling the inflationary pinch. This year it was \$330 a couple. As recently as 1979, it was \$180, and that was considered high. A Wall Street broker said the current tab was "absolutely ridiculous."

Sociology dep't — A recent study found that 95 percent of board members of top U.S. corporations are white males. We're only speculating, but we suspect that a followup would indicate that many of them are well off.

American touch — Takasago USA, subsidiary of a Japanese firm marketing flavors and fragrances, retained a Madison Ave. specialist to hone its image. He concluded the present image doesn't meet U.S. cultural standards. "Too Japanese. Foreign, not elegant. Not sophisticated." A trade media campaign will be built around the theme, "We are the music."

The high cost of waiting — To avoid long lines, New York's Citibank offered an express line for depositors with more than \$3,000 on deposit. Now it's \$5,000.

Advice on child care — "I had a governess for my children. I think children are better brought up with a governess. . . . That doesn't mean I never saw them. Of course I saw them. I went fox hunting with them." — C.Z. Guest, reportedly a "supersocialite."

Slow squeeze — Potomac Electric Power Co. is experimenting on Maryland customers with a new device. Those who fall in arrears will find just enough current filtering in to barely light and heat their home. The company hopes this will prove "strongly encouraging" for people to catch up.



Harry Ring

the notices, an official explained: "We'd be dependent on the individual draft registrant. He is re-

—CALENDAR—

ALABAMA

Birmingham

School Prayer: Attack on Democratic Rights. Speakers: Ishmael Jaffree, lawyer and plaintiff in suit against state-sanctioned prayers in public schools; Sheldon Schaffer, chair, Alabama Civil Liberties Union; representative, Socialist Workers Party; others. Sat., Feb. 26, 7:30 p.m. 205 18th St. S. Donation requested. Ausp: Militant Forum Series. For more information call (205) 323-3079.

Black Freedom Struggle — Yesterday and Today. Classes on the history and lessons of civil rights battles in Alabama. 1) The Defeat of Jim Crow, Sun., Feb. 20, noon; 2) Independent Black Political Action, Sun., Feb. 27, noon. 205 18th St. S. \$1 per class. Ausp: Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (205) 323-3079.

CALIFORNIA

Berkeley

Meeting of Ad Hoc Committee in Support of Iranian Revolution. Sun., Feb. 27, 3:30-6:30 p.m. Finnish Hall, 1819 10th St. (near San Pablo Blvd.). Donation: \$2, \$3.50 dinner.

Oakland

From the U.S. to the Philippines: Fight Against the Marcos Dictatorship. Speakers: Christine Araneta, chair, San Francisco Union of Democratic Filipinos; others. Sat., Feb. 26, 7:30 p.m. 2864 Telegraph Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (415) 763-3792.

INDIANA

Indianapolis

Malcolm X and the Black Struggle Today. Speakers: Abdul Malik, state coordinator, All African Peoples Revolutionary Party; Roger Jones, Socialist Workers Party candidate for city-county council; Mac Warren, national chairperson, Young Socialist Alliance; others. Sun., Feb. 20, 7 p.m. 4850 N College Ave. Donation: \$1.50. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (317) 283-6149.

Defending Political Rights: The Victims of American Justice. Speakers: representative, Al Horsley Defense Committee; Bill Warrick,

Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor, member of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; others. Sun., Feb. 27, 7 p.m. 4850 N College Ave. Donation: \$1.50. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (317) 283-6149.

KENTUCKY

Louisville

Socialist Educational Weekend. Two classes. 1) Lessons of the Civil Rights Movement. Speakers: Adlene Abstein, financial secretary, Kentucky Southern Christian Leadership Conference (KSCLC); Anne Braden, longtime civil rights activist; Rev. Odus Bush, president KSCLC; Mac Warren, national chairperson, Young Socialist Alliance. Sat., Feb. 26, 1 p.m. 2) Malcolm X's Legacy. Film: *Malcolm X Speaks*. Speaker: Mac Warren. Sat., Feb. 26, 3:30 p.m. 3) Forum — What Socialists Stand For: Working-class Solution to the Capitalist Crisis. Speaker: Mac Warren. Sat., Feb. 26; dinner, 6 p.m.; forum, 7:30 p.m. 809 E Broadway. Donation: \$1.50 per session, \$2.50 dinner. Ausp: Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (502) 587-8418.

NEW YORK

Albany

Demonstration Against Governor Romero Barcelo, Colonial Governor of Puerto Rico. Sun., Feb. 20, 5:45 p.m. Legislative Office Bldg., State St. Ausp: Puerto Rican Independence Solidarity Alliance. For more information call (518) 434-4037.

Manhattan

Irish Freedom Struggle on Trial. Speakers: George Harrison, recently acquitted in "Free-

dom Five" trial; Will Reissner, staff writer, *Intercontinental Press*; others. Translation to Spanish. Fri., Feb. 25, 7:30 p.m. 79 Leonard St. (5 blocks south of Canal). Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

Schenectady

What Socialists Stand For: Working-class Solutions to the Capitalist Crisis. Speakers: Judy Stranahan, national leader, Young Socialist Alliance; others. Sat., Feb. 26, 8 p.m. 323 State St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (518) 374-1494.

PENNSYLVANIA

Pittsburgh

Malcolm X and the Struggle for Black Liberation Today. Speakers: Al Duncan, member, United Mine Workers of America Local 2350, Socialist Workers Party; others. Sat., Feb. 26, 7:30 p.m. 141 S Highland Ave., E Liberty. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

TEXAS

Dallas

Working People Keep Dallas Running — Working People Should Run Dallas. Socialist Workers Party campaign rally. Speakers: Greg Preston, SWP candidate for mayor; Mark Weddleton, editor, *Young Socialist*; others. Translation to Spanish. Sun., Feb. 27; reception, 5:30 p.m.; rally, 6:30 p.m. 2817 Live Oak St. Donation: \$3. Ausp: Greg Preston Campaign Committee. For more information call (214) 826-4711.

UTAH

Price

You Can't Afford To Get Sick: Health Care Under Capitalism. Speakers to be announced. Sat., Feb. 26, 7 p.m. Oliveto Bldg., 23 S Carbon Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Young Socialist Alliance, Socialist Workers Party. For more information call (801) 637-6294.

VIRGINIA

Newport News

Protest Norfolk School Board Program: Why Busing Must Be Defended. Speakers: Johnny Hunter, Hampton teacher, member, Jesus Cares Committee; John Wood, Young Socialist Alliance; others. Sat., Feb. 26, 7:30 p.m. 5412 Jefferson Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (804) 380-0133.

WASHINGTON D.C.

A Tribute to Malcolm X: The Importance of His Message Now. Speakers: Donald Massey, Young Socialist Alliance; others. Recordings of Malcolm X's talks. Feb. 25, 8 p.m. 3106 Mt. Pleasant St. NW. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (202) 797-7021.

The Civil Rights Movement: Lessons for all Working People. Speakers to be announced. Fri., March 4, 8 p.m. 3106 Mt. Pleasant St. NW. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (202) 797-7021.

U.S. fears Salvador army may crumble

Continued from front page

guerrilla challenge on their own grounds. "The guerrillas own the night," one military adviser told the *Times*.

But the Salvadoran brass, not unreasonably from their viewpoint, are reluctant to send their conscripted troops on night patrol — not to speak of actually leading them in such battle.

Instead, they prefer to move by day in large battalions, with heavy air support.

Salvadoran commanders, the *Times* reports, "fight the war from 9 to 5."

The inability of the Salvadoran command to meet the guerrilla challenge is an admission of the powerful political advantage enjoyed by the liberation forces.

The guerrilla fighters, the *Times* reports, "are well indoctrinated on the revolution" and are motivated to fight because they believe they have a cause worth fighting for.

By contrast, the government troops recognize they have no stake whatever in what the army they are in is fighting for.

The *Times* report also confirms that the guerrillas' prisoner policy has proven effective.

The government army kills almost all of those they succeed in taking prisoner. But those who surrender to the guerrillas are turned over to the Red Cross and then released. It is unlikely that more than a handful return to their military units, and a good number have joined the guerrillas.

In the last three months of 1982, the guerrillas took 293 prisoners. But in the month of January alone, they took 153.

Such a situation obviously spells trouble for Washington and its client government in El Salvador. And the trouble is compounded by the growing opposition to the

U.S. involvement there.

Such opposition is increasing among workers in this country. One gauge of this has been the excellent response by unionists to the speaking tour of the exiled Salvadoran labor leader, Alejandro Molina Lara. (See reports on his tour, page 6.)

Domestic opposition has reached the stage where 81 members of Congress introduced a bill on February 4 to declare the recent certification of military aid to El Salvador null and void.

American working people certainly have

nothing to gain from the massive flow of military aid. The only ones that do are the big corporations, which are determined to preserve their domination of Central America and the Caribbean by any means necessary. To safeguard their profits in the region, they're ready to fight to the last drop of other people's blood.

That's why American working people should demand with all their might that Washington get out of El Salvador and let the people of that country determine their own destiny.

Suit exposes murder cover-up

Continued from back page

in the progress Filipinos like Domingo and Viernes were making in winning the U.S. labor movement to support unionists in the Philippines. Only two weeks before they were murdered, Domingo and Viernes had led a successful fight at the 1981 international ILWU convention to send a delegation to the Philippines to investigate the repression against working people there.

Supporters of the Marcos regime inside the ILWU tried to defeat the resolution, but convention delegates had already learned some of the truth, and the resolution passed.

The prospect of U.S. labor solidarity with the struggle against the Marcos dictatorship is none too pleasing to Washington, either. When Marcos visited here last September, a new "mutual defense" pact was agreed to. Already the Philippines hosts the largest U.S. naval and air bases outside the United States. Maintaining and

expanding this as a launching pad for imperialist intervention in Asia and the Middle East is a prime U.S. goal. Were Marcos to fall, it would be a major blow to the warmakers in Washington.

These are all important reasons to support the fight to get out the truth about the murders of Domingo and Viernes. Already, there is substantial union backing in the form of resolutions and other support — from International Woodworkers of America Local 38; Aerospace Machinists Lodge 751; Seattle Teachers Association; Amalgamated Transit Union, Local 587; Machinists Local 79; American Postal Workers Union; and Retail Clerks, Local 1001.

To contact the National Committee for Justice for Domingo and Viernes, write P.O. Box 14304, Seattle, Wash. 98114, telephone (206) 682-0690; or 1322 18th St. N.W. Rm. 44, Washington, D.C. 20036, telephone (202) 296-1535.

Molina Lara Speaks

Alejandro Molina Lara, leader of National Federation of Salvadoran Workers, is speaking in this country on repression against Salvadoran trade unionists. In upcoming weeks he will speak in the following cities.

MINNESOTA

Duluth

Wed., Feb. 23, 7 p.m. Duluth Labor Building, 2002 London Rd. Ausp: Duluth Central Labor Council.

Minneapolis

Sat., Feb. 26, 7 p.m. United Labor Center, 312 Central Ave., SE. Ausp: El Salvador Solidarity Committee. For more information call (612) 375-0105.

Virginia

Fri., Feb. 25, 7:30 p.m. Carpenter Hall, 307 N 1st St. Ausp: United Steelworkers of America Local 1938; Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 512; American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Locals 66, 1490, 395; and Communication Workers of America Local 7202.

The Tet offensive in Vietnam: 15 years later

BY DAVE ZILLY

January 30 marked the 15th anniversary of the opening of the Tet offensive, one of the biggest and bloodiest battles of the Vietnam War.

Tet, the lunar new year, is the most important national holiday in Vietnam, and it was this time that was chosen by the liberation forces to carry out a massive, direct attack against government forces in every major city and military installation in South Vietnam.

In military terms, the liberation fighters were vastly outnumbered and outgunned. Less than 70,000 Vietnam-

Barricades went up right in the middle of Saigon, and it became clear the NLF had the support of whole sections of the city. The very symbol of U.S. intervention, the massive U.S. embassy complex in Saigon, fell for a day to a squad of less than 30 guerrilla commandos.

The red and yellow flag of the NLF flew over the former imperial capital, Hue, for 29 days. Every district and provincial capital in the Mekong delta was struck, and the U.S. Marine outpost at Khe Sahn near the demilitarized zone came under massive siege. In all, 39 provincial and 71 district capitals were attacked.

The weight of this thrust was not to be measured in military terms. For all its military daring and heroism, Tet was, as the Vietnamese fully understood and intended, a political blow more than a military campaign.

At the time, the American people were being told by U.S. commander William Westmoreland that he saw "light at the end of the tunnel." According to President Lyndon Johnson, U.S. policy was "winning the hearts and minds" of the Vietnamese people.

But with Tet, the American people saw that there was no "light," only a tunnel. The White House and Pentagon were shaken. Worldwide, but particularly in the United States, the antiwar movement was given an enormous boost.

How was a nationwide offensive launched totally undetected and unanticipated?

I was stationed as a marine at Danang during the offensive. There was a village of several thousand people directly outside the main gate. Typical of the racist stereotypes and terminology of the U.S. occupation, I knew this village only as "Dogpatch."

But when the Tet offensive began, overnight "Dogpatch" became an armed force of 2,000 combatants against the U.S. occupation. There ensued a week of fierce fire-fights across the barbed wire. One of the bodies identified in the ruins of "Dogpatch" when the smoke cleared was a Vietnamese barber who had cut my hair the week before.

I was shaken, too. It became clear to me where the real sympathies of the Vietnamese people lay.

The liberation forces and the Vietnamese people suffered enormously during Tet. More than 50,000 NLF fighters were killed.

To this day, the U.S. generals claim that Tet was a decisive defeat for the liberation movement.

Who really won? Well, you can check any current map of Southeast Asia to learn the final outcome of the Tet offensive. It might help you anticipate what the next map of Central America will look like.

AS I SEE IT

ese patriots were committed to battle against 492,000 U.S. soldiers, 626,000 Saigon troops, and 61,000 more from Korea, Thailand, and Australia.

Despite the odds, during Tet the National Liberation Front (NLF) dealt a stunning blow to the plans of U.S. imperialism in Vietnam. In a real way, it was the beginning of the end of U.S. domination.

The military strikes were spectacular. Thirty-five NLF battalions assaulted the capital city of Saigon and the huge Tan Son Nhut and Bien Hoa air bases adjacent to it.

Vietnamese, Kampuchians deal blows to rightists



Vietnamese troops, Kampuchean militia

BY WILL REISSNER

Vietnamese and Kampuchean troops are dealing heavy blows to rightist guerrillas in Kampuchea. A major guerrilla base located along Kampuchea's border with Thailand was occupied and burned January 31.

The Nong Chan camp, barely one mile from the Thai border, had been the base for 2,000 guerrillas of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, a group headed by former Prime Minister Son Sann.

Most of the rightist guerrillas and their supporters were forced to retreat back across the border into Thailand, from which they have received their supplies for

four years.

The victory at Nong Chan comes at a time when Thailand has been stepping up its direct military actions against Kampuchea and Laos.

In recent weeks, according to the Hanoi daily *Nhan Dan*, Thai military forces have repeatedly attacked Kampuchea and Laos from the air, sea, and land. On January 17, for example, Thai gunboats and shore batteries opened fire on the Laotian capital of Vientiane, which lies on the Mekong River, the boundary between the two countries. The shelling caused several casualties and extensive damage to a number of buildings in the Laotian capital.

The Thai attacks are part of the international campaign organized by Washington against the revolutions in Vietnam, Laos, and Kampuchea.

- On the diplomatic front, the legitimate government of Kampuchea has been denied its rightful seat in the United Nations. Instead, the butchers responsible for the deaths of several million Kampuchians under the Khmer Rouge regime have maintained the UN seat, even though they were driven from power four years ago by Kampuchean freedom fighters with decisive military aid from Vietnamese troops.

- Washington is carrying out an economic blockade against Vietnam, Laos, and Kampuchea, attempting to prevent the three Indochinese countries from obtaining desperately needed loans, food and development aid, and trade agreements.

- Along with the diplomatic and economic war against the revolutions in Indochina, Washington is keeping up the military pressure. Attacks by Thai forces are accompanied by support for counter-revolutionary guerrillas based along the Kampuchean border. Arms for the rightist forces are funneled through the Thai military, which also provides air and naval cover for their operations.

Under the cover of "relief work," agencies financed by Washington have provided food, housing, supplies, and medical care for the counterrevolutionary guerrillas based in Thailand.

Thailand has also been the jumping-off point for U.S.-organized raids against Laos. Using the hoax that there could still be U.S. servicemen held prisoner in South-

east Asia, the Pentagon has sent raiding parties into Laos.

The Pentagon claims that one such raid, mounted in 1981, was motivated by an aerial reconnaissance photograph taken over Laos that purported to show figures casting longer shadows than would be expected from Asians. Needless to say, no U.S. prisoners were discovered.

More recently, on November 27 a raiding party made up of four Americans under the command of former U.S. Special Forces Lt. Col. James Gritz, and more than a dozen Laotian mercenaries, crossed the Mekong River from Thailand into Laos. There they engaged in a gun battle with members of the Laotian people's militia.

Kampuchea protests oil prospecting

In a recent incident, the Thai government granted the Union Oil Company the right to prospect for oil in Kampuchean waters in the Gulf of Siam.

On January 13, the Kampuchean foreign ministry issued a statement describing this move as "a violation of the sovereignty of the People's Republic of Kampuchea" and called for a peaceful settlement of the matter through negotiations.

At the same time, the Kampuchean foreign ministry warned that "all foreign companies" prospecting for oil in those waters without previous Kampuchean authorization "will have to bear all the consequences that may derive therefrom."

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Why labor should back truckers

The struggle of independent truckers for decent living and working conditions is not over.

On February 10, the Independent Truckers Association (ITA) officially called off the 11-day shutdown by owner-operators. The shutdown was organized to protest a crushing package of tax hikes signed by President Ronald Reagan on January 6. But none of the problems truckers face have been resolved and they are now discussing the lessons of the strike and what to do next.

The truckers' battle with the government raises some big questions not only for owner-operators, but for all working people. The big-business-owned media — and some people in the labor movement — portrayed the shutdown as antiunion, anticonsumer, and thus antiworker.

How the labor movement approaches independent truckers is one part of a broader, life-and-death question for the unions: who are their potential allies in the fight against the employers, and how can these allies be won over to the side of the working class?

The 1982 Highway Revenue Act — the one the truckers are protesting against — will cause thousands of owner-operators to lose their rigs. Truckers estimate that when this tax goes into effect, they will have to pay up to \$5,000 more per trucker per year in taxes.

Congress also passed a nickel-a-gallon fuel tax hike, which hits those who can least afford it the hardest. These tax increases come on top of the effects on truckers of the 1980 deregulation of the trucking industry, and the current recession.

Truck drivers — independent, union, and unorganized — are facing high unemployment, worsening working conditions, and low take-home pay. The trucking bosses — like their counterparts in auto, steel, and rail — are trying to rip up the Teamsters' contract and get even bigger concessions from the union. They've already made it clear that they intend to "pass along" the cost of these higher taxes to their employees in the form of more layoffs and wage concessions.

Approval of this tax package was another open move by the Democrats and Republicans to use their governmental power to aid big business. It's part of a broader series of moves — from social service cutbacks to plant closings to rolling back the democratic rights of Blacks and women.

The truckers, like the Canadian Chrysler workers and the U.S. air traffic controllers, drew the line, stood up, and fought back.

Yet the organized labor movement did not come to the aid of the truckers. The truckers appealed for such solidarity, making the connection between the bosses' attacks on the Teamsters' contract and the tax hike.

And several Teamster locals did express support for the strike as did some other local unions.

The Teamster officialdom had the opposite reaction. Not only didn't it support the strike, it even echoed the violence-baiting campaign against the truckers in the big-business press.

The rest of the trade union officialdom remained silent on the shutdown.

What response should the unions have to struggles of independent truckers?

First, they must recognize the owner-operators as fellow toilers, like workers who own their own tools — their trucks. The banks and auto companies make big profits off selling these \$100,000 vehicles — at high interest loans — to drivers. Squeezed between enormous expenses and low payments for their services, these truckers are in constant danger of losing their rigs.

The trucking bosses also make a killing from these drivers, which is one reason they encourage the growth of the independent truckers sector.

They profit directly through forcing owner-operators

to bear more and more of the overhead burden of the company's operations. Thus, the drivers, not the companies, pay for the rig, upkeep, fuel, highway and other taxes, tolls, insurance, etc.

The bosses carefully nurture the illusion that these drivers are really owners and that any one of them can some day buy their own fleet. They do this to try to trick these drivers into identifying with management, not the union.

The employers seek to sow divisions between independents and drivers of company fleets, many of whom are unionized. They know that this is one of the keys to impeding the organization of the industry into unions.

In the current shutdown the media played up the fact that both independent owner-operators and the big trucking bosses opposed the tax bill. But they didn't explain that the big companies can afford to pass on tax hikes in the form of higher prices and lower wages, while the owner-operators must personally absorb the increased costs.

The supposed identity of interests between the bosses and the independents is the excuse the Teamster bureaucracy used to not support the strike.

The stance of the Teamster officialdom pushes the independents — a significant sector of the industry — to look to becoming small fleet owners as the solution to the insecurities they face. And it is precisely because the bosses are pushing in that direction that the labor movement should be aggressively and without hesitation championing the demands of the truckers and showing them solidarity in every possible way.

There's nothing inevitable about hostility between unionists and independent truckers. The truckers are open to seeing what labor has to offer. But the labor movement must step forward and show itself capable of charting a course that will solve the big problems the truckers face. This is a fight that is in the direct interests of the unions themselves.

It will take an even broader unity of all working people — unionists, independents, family farmers, Blacks, Latinos, and women — to organize a strong enough fightback so that the offensive is turned back.

The truckers' strike is a lesson that this kind of solidarity and power is needed in the political arena as well. It was a bipartisan Congress that passed the tax hike, a bipartisan Congress that turned a deaf ear to the truckers' pleas for relief, and bipartisan legislatures that called out the cops on these workers.

We need a new government to replace this one. A news release from a meeting of the Colorado American Agriculture Movement — which a representative of the ITA spoke at — put it this way:

"The American farmers, the labor movement, and the independent truckers face a common problem and a common enemy. Our government is insensitive to our needs and is serving the interests of banks and big corporations."

"We need a government that listens to us, a government composed of farmers, workers, and independent truckers. Together we could solve our problems in short order."

Labor can and should take the lead in fighting for such a government. The first step on that road is to stop supporting the two parties of big business and to form a trade-union-based party. A labor party would be the vehicle for organizing a fighting alliance between the unions and farmers, independent truckers, Blacks, Latinos, women, and all the victims of the ruling class.

Vigorous support by labor to the fight of the independent truckers against the government would be a meaningful first step in the process of forging this necessary alliance.

At the same time he was found guilty on a concocted fraud charge.

After being imprisoned in the county jail on the assault charge, Carthan was vindictively ordered transferred to Parchman.

The day after his transfer to Parchman, Carthan's wife, Shirley, and eight others were jailed while protesting this new victimization. They faced arraignment February 19 on charges of disturbing the peace.

Carthan fears for his life at Parchman, and, according to General Vann from Carthan's defense committee, is on the hunger strike partly from concern that the food provided him may be poisoned.

The outrageous treatment of the former mayor calls for the strongest protest. Letters and telegrams demanding that Carthan be freed immediately and all charges against him dropped should be sent to Gov. William Winter, Walter Sillers Building, Jackson, Miss. 39205.

Copies should be sent to the National Campaign to Free Mayor Eddie Carthan and the Tchula 7, P.O. Box 29, Tchula, Miss. 39169. The committee will also welcome contributions to aid its efforts.

Two speeches on revolutionary strategy

BY HARRY RING

The January 31 issue of *Intercontinental Press* includes two speeches by leaders of the Cuban revolution. Reading them underlines how indispensable *IP* is.

The revolutionary upsurge in Central America and the Caribbean has brought a corresponding rise in political discussion within and among revolutionary forces in the area and internationally. There simply isn't any other publication that makes as much of that vital discussion available in English as *IP* does. The speeches by Jesús Montané and Manuel Piñero are a case in point.

Both speeches were presented in Havana at the April 1982 International Theoretical Conference on the revolutionary processes in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Montané is an alternate member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party. Piñero is a member of the Central Committee.

Montané declared that the experience in Central America and the Caribbean confirms the Marxist prog-

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

nosis that in this period of the decay of imperialism, struggles for national liberation and against oligarchy, and the class struggles of the labor movement, "merge into a single current whose strategic direction is — and can only be — socialism."

At the same time, he said, such a process amounts to the liquidation of U.S. imperialism and this will be "a long, rough, complex process that will fill an entire historic epoch."

Montané cautioned against elevating today's revolutionary experience "into prescriptions for all future situations."

But he also stressed that one enduring lesson is that the outcome of all struggles depends on the capacity of the revolutionary vanguard. In that regard, he added, the "importance of this ideological element is steadily increasing."

While insisting that socialism is the necessary goal, Montané argued with equal force that this should not be construed to mean that "socialism should be the immediate goal in all of our countries' political and revolutionary struggles or that they should be based on the proclamation of this aim."

"What is the order of the day on this continent is the broadest possible anti-imperialist, antifascist, antioligarchic, democratic people's battle."

Taking aim at those who tend toward dogmatic and simplistic formulas, Montané pointed to the range of differing concrete situations in the area, saying "This shows that we mustn't fall into puerile generalizations."

But in all struggles, Montané contended, the central objective must be the winning of power.

This, he said, was confirmed by the 1954 defeat in Guatemala, and the 1973 defeat in Chile, as well as by the victories in Cuba, Nicaragua, and Grenada.

Piñero told the gathering that the three decisive ingredients for revolutionary victory are "unity, the masses, and arms."

The necessary broad unity of the masses, he observed, is determined by the extent of the unity that is forged among the revolutionary vanguard forces. On this point he offered some candid advice.

To achieve such necessary unity, he said, "means objectively recognizing that in the majority of our countries, other left parties and organizations have grown up alongside the experienced Communist parties. These organizations have won in struggle the respect of their peoples, and many times also represent exemplary detachments in leading the people along the road of their final liberation."

"Therefore the unity of these parties and organizations amongst themselves, and their unity with the Communist parties, is the primary guarantee for advancing the democratic, popular, and anti-imperialist revolutions in our continent."

Piñero added, "Today in various countries of the region the problem of unity is the principal obstacle to the advance of the revolution."

The value of unity of the vanguard, he added, is being demonstrated today in El Salvador and Guatemala and has been richly confirmed by the revolutionary victory in Nicaragua.

Piñero made the general point that in countries where military dictatorships prevail, the field of unity can be broadened to include sectors whose sole concern is an end to the dictatorship.

However, he added, such unity can be effective "on the condition that the revolutionary parties and organizations succeed in consolidating the leadership nucleus in such fronts."

Both speeches warrant careful reading. To do so, send \$1.25 for the January 31 issue of *Intercontinental Press*, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Or, better yet, take out a subscription at \$25 for one year.

Carthan on prison hunger strike

Eddie Carthan, former mayor of Tchula, Mississippi, has been on a hunger strike in the Mississippi State Penitentiary at Parchman since being transferred there February 1.

Carthan is being held in a maximum security area at Parchman, notorious as one of the worst prisons in the country.

Elected the first Black mayor of Tchula in 1977, Carthan used the power of his office to dramatically improve the living conditions of working people there, especially impoverished Blacks. For this he was targeted for attack by those who wanted a return to the racist status quo.

Last November, he was vindicated when a jury rejected a frame-up charge of murder that had been brought against him.

Earlier, he was convicted on a charge of simple assault against a police officer. This stemmed from the fact that as mayor, Carthan, aided by six of his supporters, disarmed an illegally appointed police chief. The other six of the "Tchula 7" were given suspended sentences, but Carthan got three years.

'Kentucky Woman': TV drama about woman coal miner

Kentucky Woman, directed by Walter Doniger and shown on CBS television.

BY KATHY MICKELLS

PITTSBURGH — This prime time, made-for-television movie is about the life of a woman coal miner. Maggie Telford, played by Cheryl Ladd of "Charlie's Angels" fame, is forced by economic circumstances to get a job in the local coal mine. Ned Beatty plays Maggie's father, Luke, and Peter Weller plays Deke, Maggie's section boss.

I had mixed reactions to the show. What would those unfamiliar with the mines think of women coal miners and coal miners in general? What reaction would they

TELEVISION REVIEW

have to the sexual harassment depicted and the response by union miners and the company? And, most importantly, would miners see this as an accurate portrayal of the roles of women, men, union, company, and government?

I asked my coworkers — coal miners in southwestern Pennsylvania — for their opinions of the movie, which provoked many discussions on women in the mines.

That's Hollywood for you

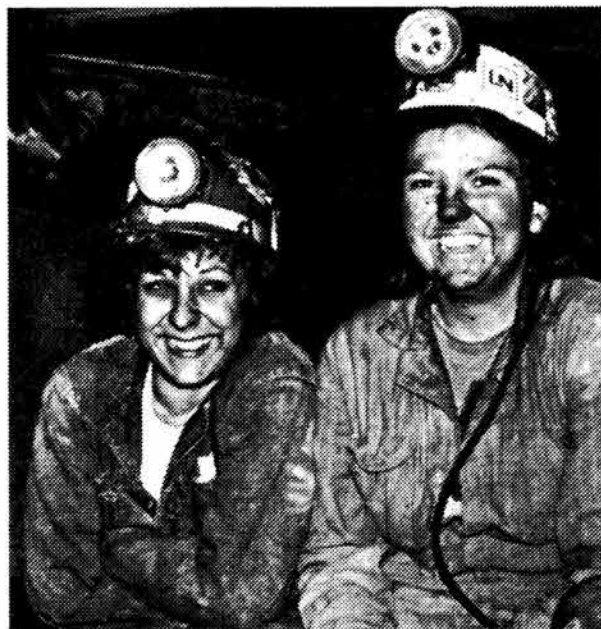
The most common answer to the question "What did you think of *Kentucky Woman*?" was "That's Hollywood for you." Miners joked about the technical flaws, from styrofoam slate in the roof-fall scene to the obvious errors made by the Hollywood miners. But most were glad to see a movie about coal miners and women in the mines.

Most women miners I talked to thought the movie was good since it dealt with the reasons many women get jobs in the coal mines and some of the harassment they confront on the job. However most felt that the harassment was greatly exaggerated and that the movie suffered from a time-warp. They said it could have taken place 10 years ago when women first began to get jobs in the mines, but attitudes have changed a lot since then and the movie didn't reflect those changes.

A major flaw in this movie is the stereotyping of all the major characters. Another is the picture of other working-class women as vengeful, backward home bodies, unaffected by the women's rights movement. When one considers that today most women work, this portrayal of them, waiting hand and foot on their man, is unrealistic at best.

More than Charley's Chicken

The story begins with Maggie's father becoming disabled from black lung disease and no longer able to pro-



Some problems of women coal miners are dealt with in film, but superficially at best.

vide for Maggie and her son. Maggie, a single mother, decides to get a job at the coal mine. She tells her father, "I can make ten times more than I make at Charley's Chicken."

Economic reality has finally hit home with Hollywood script writers. Many women get into jobs like coal mining because of economic necessity. But women have the right to be fully integrated into the work force regardless of their economic situation. This movie makes you feel that it is okay for Maggie to get a job in the mines because she has to support her family. But what about the many women miners who are single or married with a husband working — is it okay for them? The movie doesn't address this question.

The only other woman miner is Lorna, weak, whimpering, relying on her sexuality to get by, used and manipulated by the company.

The company men: Mr. Varney, the superintendent and Deke, the section boss, lay out all the arguments against women getting jobs in the mines.

When Maggie approaches Mr. Varney for a job, he accuses her of wanting the job to look for a man, that she's too pretty to work in a coal mine, she would be taking a man's job, and what she really needs is a husband. His ideas are not uncommon.

But the only person to take him on is the liberal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) officer, giving the impression that the government stands in the corner of women's rights. Although many coal companies are forced to hire women because of EEOC regu-

lations, getting those regulations enforced by the government is an ongoing battle. Far from being on the side of women and affirmative action, the government and its agencies often are obstacles.

'Good' bosses, 'bad' workers

Once Maggie gets the job, she is subjected to a series of harassments both verbal and physical.

Deke is just concerned about "getting coal." A woman on the crew is going to make it less productive, he argues. "My men aren't going to like this. She ain't going to carry her weight." And sure enough, the first thing that happens to Maggie is she catches her hand in the coal belt. Deke saves her and her hand.

Spinner, the only male coal miner to have a face and a character, is so addicted to cigarettes that he has to smoke two at a time both outside — and inside — the mine. He has personally taken it upon himself to run Maggie out of the mine, including physically assaulting her underground. She is always saved from his clutches by the boss, Deke.

Although characters like Spinner do exist in varying degrees, "Spinners" do not go their merry way without a response from union brothers. And the "good" guy is not the section foreman. In fact, the foreman often either instigates or condones the harassment of women. And more often than not, it is the union men that take the Spinners and the foreman to task.

Women miners are here to stay

You could come away from *Kentucky Woman* with the wrong impression of the response of male coal miners and the union to the harassment of women. The union is only shown twice in the entire film. Once is when it voted not to process Maggie's grievance over her firing. The picture is given of a union and its membership that are totally backward on the question of women.

The union is later shown deciding to go out on strike over Maggie's job when it is proven that Maggie was right in accusing Spinner of smoking in the mine.

Women do have a long way to go to be fully integrated into the union and the work force, but great strides forward have been made. Richard Trumka, the newly-elected president of the United Mine Workers Union, repeatedly referred in his campaign to women miners as part and parcel of the mine work force. The union has sponsored conferences on the concerns of women miners and participated in similar conferences organized by the Coal Employment Project.

Kentucky Woman tries to deal with some of the real issues confronting women miners, but its portrayal is superficial at best.

Kathy Mickells is a member of the United Mine Workers union in Kirby, Pennsylvania.

LETTERS

Holocaust

A recent article in the *New York Times* reviews a report of the American Jewish Commission on the Holocaust. It reaches the conclusion that Jews reacted slowly to the peril of Nazism.

An earlier draft of the report said that Jews did not do enough to aid their European brethren because they were so "riveted to postwar plans [i.e. the creation of the state of Israel]." The draft, prepared by commission member Samuel Merlin, aroused anger among Jewish leaders and Merlin resigned.

Merlin is quoted in the *Times* as saying that the revised and final report "is to whitewash the responsibility and guilt of the Jewish leadership of that time." The report does, however, blast British foreign policy (which the U.S. and Roosevelt agreed with), which was a major barrier to the rescue of the Jews from the Holocaust.

These words are so true. Major Jewish organizations in the 1930s like the B'nai Brith and the American Jewish Committee failed to participate in the fight demanding that the U.S. government open its doors to the tens of thousands who had filed entry visas to escape the German anti-Semitic pogroms.

With the recent atrocities carried out by the Zionist state of Israel against the Lebanese and Palestinians, *Militant* readers would find it useful to go back and read the truth about the reactionary deals that Zionist leaders like Ben-Gurion made with British and U.S. imperialism in exchange for a future role in squashing the Afri-

can and Arab revolutions.

For a more complete look at the record and a look at this whole immigration fight before and during the Holocaust, get a copy of *Socialists and the Fight Against Anti-Semitism*, by Peter Seidman, available from Pathfinder Press.

Mark Friedman
Brooklyn, New York

Truck stop

We went to the Slidell, Louisiana, I-10 Union 76 truck stop January 31 to talk to truckers. For an hour and a half at the stop, truckers from all over the U.S. could be seen leafing through the February 14 issue of the *Militant* and telling us their story. Fifteen bought the *Militant*, including one woman; two Black drivers; and a Latino from Oakland, California, who had heard of Mel Mason, the socialist city councilman from Seaside, California.

One of our longest discussions was with Art Nulf, independent trucker from Logansport, Indiana, and a group of his friends. Art has been on the road for eight years. He used to have three trucks but has had to sell two of them because "they're breaking us."

"You can't even shut down totally. If I park this in front of my house and don't move, it costs me \$1,900 a year just to hold the title. Of course the license plates alone run \$970 a year."

Art and his friends described their skyrocketing costs of fuel, tires, and taxes. "We're getting enough money to keep us earning what we made five years ago."

They pointed out that farmers are in the same boat as truckers with ever increasing expenses such as the cost of farm equipment. "This system is all take and no give. Reagan is only working for the rich."

Art read with interest the statement by Bill Warrick supporting the truckers. Warrick is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Indianapolis.

After reading the article reprinted from the United Electrical Workers newspaper on Molina Lara, an exiled Salvadoran labor leader, Art said, "At least they don't shoot us for striking here."

We pointed out that sometimes they do, and he responded, "That's right. They bring out their weekend warriors. You have freedom as long as you agree with them."

"You know they talk about communism. What is communism anyway? All we have now is the freedom to go broke. If everyone shut down, union and nonunion, it [the strike] would work. Now for everyone who goes under, some other fool comes along, gets in debt, and tries to make it."

Of all the truckers we talked to, only one said he didn't endorse the strike.

Carlos, from Oakland, told us that he thinks about 10 percent of all drivers here are Latinos, mostly Mexican. He described the kind of racial discrimination he has suffered in the U.S. that makes his job more difficult.

"I'll go into a grocery store or car wash for \$10 worth of quarters. They'll tell me they only

have one or two dollars worth. Then I'll ask a white person in the parking lot to go in and get it for me, and they come out with the quarters."

Rachele Fruit and Joe X
New Orleans, Louisiana

Protectionism

I found Bill Gottlieb's article on Marx and Engels's position on free trade and protectionism interesting, as usual. I think it deals with an important aspect of current bourgeois propaganda that attempts to whip up anti-foreign-worker sentiment in order to divert American workers from the source of their real problems here at home.

The problem with the article is that it never gets to the correct Marxist analysis of what position American workers should take on the question today.

I think it is necessary to include this point because many people who read the *Militant* will not necessarily draw the same conclusions that Marx and Engels would have simply from reading Gottlieb's article.

Lou Howort
New York, New York

Prisons

I'm an inmate who has written you in the past on articles that attracted my attention about the so-called free world out there and how business madness has literally overcome the whole New York State Department of Corrections.

In reading your Feb. 11, 1983, issue of the *Militant*, I came across

a letter by Allan Grady concerning our new Governor Cuomo and the problems he faces with the overcrowding of prisons. I often wonder how could everyone, I mean every living soul within the Department of Justice, turn their heads to what is happening within these prison walls and in the court rooms with the lettering, "In God We Trust."

I'm in agreement with Mr. Grady, and his views of the situation in prisons today.

Cuomo wants to build more secure prison cells by using a new prefabricated type of cell and by converting hospitals into prisons. Is it fair that ill, helpless people do not have a place to be cared for and in many cases even die? Yet, this department plans on building prisons where hospitals could be rebuilt and jobs could be created, even for inmates upon release.

A prisoner
New York

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

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

N.C. Black party seeks ballot status

'Black people have been politically enslaved by Democratic Party'

The North Carolina chapters of the National Black Independent Political Party (NBIPP) are petitioning to obtain ballot status. The party must collect 5,000 signatures to place its name on the ballot for the statewide elections.

Following is an interview with Howard Wiley, state coordinator of the NBIPP ballot access petition drive.

The interview was obtained by Kate Daher, *Militant* correspondent in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Question: Why did the NBIPP decide to obtain ballot status in North Carolina?

Answer: We feel that we are in an excellent position to begin building an alternative to the ruling-class parties in the electoral arena. If Black people are going to make any progress, we must put together a political party that's going to serve our interests. We cannot afford to utilize our political power in the electoral arena to advance the interests of the Democratic and Republican parties, which serve the interests of the wealthy.

The NBIPP states clearly that what we are about is trying to obtain power to radically transform society, to bring about social, political, and economic freedom for the masses of Black people.

We are anticapitalist and anti-imperialist — against racism and all forms of oppression.

We cannot simply talk about the Democratic and Republican parties and their inability to meet the needs of our communities. Involving ourselves in the electoral arena gives us an excellent opportunity to expose our party and its ideas to the masses of Blacks in the state.

At the same time, we view electoral politics as only one tool in the movement for Black liberation. We are also involved in the day-to-day struggles for self-determination.

Q: Some people believe the best opportunity for change is to remain within the

Democratic Party. What do you say to this?

A: Black people have been politically enslaved by the Democratic Party. The Democrats take the Black vote for granted because they think we have nowhere else to turn. After election time, after they utilize the Black vote, they do not concern themselves with the needs and issues that are important to Blacks. The Republicans, on the other hand, have basically written off the Black vote.

NBIPP is not just concerned with winning elections. We are saying to Blacks that we can no longer look to — in fact, we have not been able to look to — either the Democrats or Republicans to do justice for our demands for freedom and democratic rights. We must determine our own future destiny.

Q: What do you see as the issues facing Blacks in the United States today?

A: Nationally NBIPP has launched a campaign for jobs, income, and full employment. We are still in the process of concretely developing ways to implement this campaign, but we think that when it comes to unemployment, housing, education — the many needs we have as a people — we must challenge a government that pours millions of dollars into weapons of destruction and pursues repressive policies in other parts of the world.

Supporting repressive regimes and dictatorships not only contributes to the suffering and misery of people in other countries, but it has a direct impact on the misery of Blacks here at home.

The militarism practiced by the U.S. government takes away the resources that can be used to improve the quality of life for Blacks, other oppressed nationalities, the poor, and all working people.

Q: What offices do you intend to run for?

A: Right now the party nationally has a mandate against fielding candidates for

elective office, but this issue will be decided at the next NBIPP Central Committee meeting.

For us here in North Carolina, one of the reasons we really looked at ballot access and decided to make the effort was because we felt it has the potential for being a valuable tool for Black political empowerment on a local level.

We are looking at the option of running candidates in 1984. If we have the support of the party nationally, one of the offices we will consider running for is governor of North Carolina.

Getting 10 percent of the vote in that election would give us ballot status statewide and allow us to field our party candidates in local elections.

Q: You've already begun petitioning. What kind of response are you getting?

A: The response is almost beyond words. From what we've found from the initial petitioning we've done in Durham, Raleigh, and Winston-Salem, people are very interested in what we're doing and want to support the petitioning effort.

It is igniting interest in the party; in fact people are requesting to join. If what is happening so far is any indication, then we will not only be successful in obtaining the necessary 5,000 signatures, but many more people will want to support us and join.

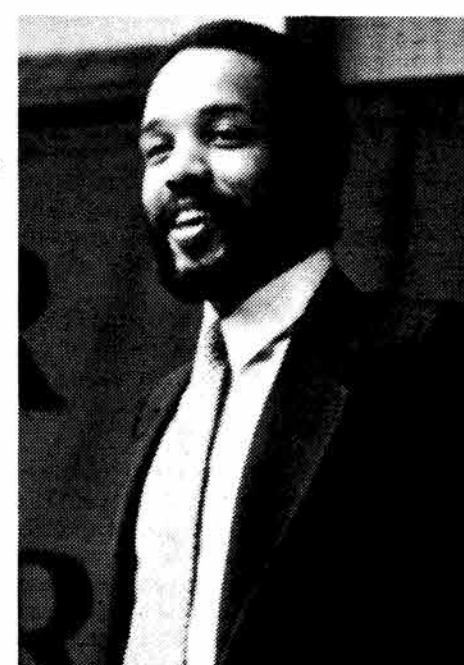
Q: That brings me to my next question. What can people do to help?

A: Well, being a young party struggling to survive, we need all the material support we can get, in order to move the party forward.

People can help us with petitioning and financially as well.

Regardless of the harsh reality that we face in this country today, the struggle for liberation is alive and we are forging the kind of organizational and political vehicle that will build the struggle of Blacks, the poor, and working people.

We understand the need is to fight for a



Militant/Kelly Lawrence
Howard Wiley, ballot coordinator for North Carolina Black party, says, "We are forging political vehicle that will build struggle of Blacks, poor, and working people."

more just and equitable social order, for political and economic power. This fight will help to create a society that will do justice to the labor and talent of all.

Our charter states clearly that Black people make up the bottom strata of society. As we begin to move forward, to challenge the existing power arrangement, the exploitative nature of the capitalist system, we must do so not only to advance ourselves, but to engage in struggle in a way that advances the struggle of all.

Therefore, we are in solidarity with all working people, the poor, and oppressed.

For more information about NBIPP in North Carolina write to: NBIPP of North Carolina, c/o David Hines, P.O. Box 26402, Raleigh N.C. (919) 828-4285.

Suit exposes cover-up in murder of Filipino unionists

BY FRANK LOVELL

An important trial is opening in Seattle in a lawsuit that seeks to bring out the truth about the murder of two Filipino trade unionists in 1981.

Those in the labor movement who knew Silme Domingo and Gene Viernes, officials of the International Longshoremen's



David Della is plaintiff in suit charging U.S. complicity in Seattle murder of Filipino unionists.

and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU) Local 37 in Seattle, were convinced from the beginning that they were assassinated by enemies of the union. Both men were gunned down at the union hiring hall on June 1, 1981.

What was not so well known then is that this crime was linked to the Marcos dictatorship in the Philippines and that U.S. government officials and the FBI and CIA would be implicated.

Both victims were Filipinos and opponents of the U.S.-backed Marcos dictatorship. They were also leaders of a rank-and-file effort to rid Local 37, which represents cannery workers and is predominantly Filipino, of gangsterism and a thoroughly corrupt officialdom. In 1980 this rank-and-file movement elected 11 out of 17 members of the local's executive council. Domingo was elected secretary-treasurer and Viernes, dispatcher.

The displaced officials had been accused of extortion, collusion with a gambling syndicate, and collaboration with the employers.

After the shooting, Domingo managed to get out of the union office and summon help. He lived long enough to identify the trigger men, two members of a Filipino street gang in Seattle known as the Tulisans. The two men were tried and convicted.

Tony Dictado, the Tulisan leader, was later tried and convicted, of giving the assassins their orders. His attorney claimed

that these orders came directly from Tony Baruso, longtime president of Local 37 and considered by many to be an agent of the Marcos regime. Baruso was honored by the Philippines government six months after the assassinations.

Baruso was arrested as a "prime suspect" two months after the murders, but the investigation of him never went anywhere. David Della, now secretary-treasurer of Local 37, says, "when the investigation began to squarely focus on Baruso and his connections to Marcos, the investigations and prosecutorial activity became bogged down." He says the probe of Baruso's activities has now "all but stopped."

The reason for this, Della explains, is that "Baruso has friends in high places and, no doubt, knows much that could prove damaging to them. . . . A cover-up has been set in motion concerning the murders of Silme and Gene, in an effort to protect Baruso and his sponsors."

Baruso was ousted from the presidency of Local 37 in December 1981. The membership voted to recall him after charges of election fraud were made. The recall campaign was led by the rank-and-file committee in the local originally organized by Domingo and Viernes.

In a further effort to break through the assassination cover-up, the Committee for Justice for Domingo and Viernes was formed soon after the murders. In addition to publishing literature, organizing speaking tours, and reaching out for support in the labor movement and elsewhere, the

committee is publicizing a civil suit that charges the assassinations were ordered by the Marcos dictatorship.

Defendants named in the suit when it was filed include Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos, former Secretary of State Alexander Haig, Tony Baruso, and others.

The \$30 million suit charges that the murders were part of an illegal operation by agents of the Philippine government assigned to silence the anti-Marcos opposition in this country. It also charges that the U.S. government was complicit in this plan.

Plaintiffs in the suit are Terri Mast, current president of Local 37 and the widow of Silme Domingo; and Barb Viernes, widow of Gene Viernes. Local 37 Secretary-treasurer David Della and Rene Cruz, national chairperson of the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP) are also plaintiffs. The KDP is the main Filipino political organization in the United States.

The spy activity of the Marcos regime in this country is no secret. In a column in 1982, Jack Anderson noted that secret intelligence reports show that for the past decade Marcos has sent "action teams" to this country "for the purpose of infiltrating, monitoring, and possibly counteracting the threat of anti-Marcos groups." (Obviously such "teams" could not possibly function here without the collaboration of the U.S. secret police.)

Marcos certainly had something to fear

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