

## Opposition grows to Reagan's Central America war policy



Nicaraguan militia members and part of crowd at second anniversary celebration of revolution in Managua, July 19, 1981. Strength of popular support has made it impossible for Washington to intimidate or turn back revolution.

The evidence that the United States government is illegally trying to overthrow the government of Nicaragua "is very strong" charges Massachusetts Representative Edward Boland.

"We are complying with the law," replies the President. "We are not doing anything to try and overthrow the government of Nicaragua."

"If you can believe this," comments *New York Times* columnist James Reston, "you can believe that President Kennedy didn't

least for the time being, the administration's request for an additional \$50 million in military aid to El Salvador this year.

And Reagan has announced his intention to address an extraordinary joint session of Congress to argue for his war policy in Central America.

The debate in U.S. ruling circles over what tactics can best defend their interests in the region, which UN Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick calls "our fourth border," is more and more clearly out in the open. And it is growing sharper.

That is good news for working people.

The sharper the debate and the more open the divisions — in short, the more thieves fall out — the greater the opportunities will be for working people here and in Central America and the Caribbean to advance our interests.

For four years the U.S. government has followed an increasingly belligerent, aggressive, confrontationalist course aimed at trying to intimidate and pressure the governments of Cuba, Nicaragua, and Grenada and the workers and farmers they represent. The strategy has been to try to find a weak spot, a fault line along which their solidarity and fighting unity can be shattered. Can El Salvadoran liberation fighters be isolated from Nicaragua? Can the workers and farmers of Nicaragua be turned against Cuba? Can a wedge be driven between Cuba and the Soviet Union?

The goal is simple. To try to halt the extension of the socialist revolution in the western hemisphere. They seek to prevent the workers and farmers of Nicaragua and Grenada from using the governmental power they have conquered to defend and advance *their* interests, which are contrary to those of Washington. They want to prevent the working people of El Salvador and Guatemala from overthrowing the dictatorial rule of landowners and industrialists there and establishing yet more workers and farmers governments.

This is what Reagan's National Security Council meant in the secret document (published last week in the *Militant*) that stated: Strategically, the United States has "a vital interest in not allowing the proliferation of Cuba-model states" near "our" borders.

Vast resources have been committed to achieving this goal. Hundreds of millions of dollars have been spent to train, arm, and supply counterrevolutionary military bands whose forces number in the thousands. Whole battalions of Salvadoran troops have been flown to the United States for training. Hundreds of CIA and other "intelligence" agents have been assigned to "destabilize" Nicaragua and Grenada and organize assassination attempts on the lives of revolutionary leaders. Complicated arrangements have been worked out to make it seem like one or another Latin American regime is the real organizer of hostility to Nicaragua, while the U.S. stays in the background so as not to inflame anti-Yankee sentiments abroad or antiwar sentiments at home.

All this has been done with minimal publicity, virtually behind the backs of the American people.

But today the U.S. government faces a major problem. The policy has failed.

Despite these assaults on them, the workers and farmers of Nicaragua and Grenada are today stronger politically, economically, and militarily than they were four years ago. Popular support for the progressive social measures of the two revolutions — land reform, literacy campaigns, medical care, and housing de-

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### EDITORIAL

really try to overthrow the Castro regime, President Johnson won the war in Vietnam, and President Nixon was just kidding at Watergate."

The United States has a moral obligation to prevent "a brutal military takeover by a totalitarian minority" in El Salvador, charges Secretary of State George Shultz.

But the House Foreign Affairs Committee, by a vote of 19-16, has rejected, at

## Harlem rally calls for solidarity with Grenada, Nicaragua, El Salvador

BY RICK CONGRESS

NEW YORK — "To the extent we can defeat the enemy of the people of El Salvador, Grenada, and Nicaragua, we can defeat the enemy of the people of Harlem," Rev. Ben Chavis told a rally of 300 here April 9.

The meeting, held in Harlem, had been called in the wake of escalating attacks on the people of Grenada, Nicaragua, and El Salvador by the U.S. government. These attacks have included the stepped-up military assault on Nicaragua by CIA-organized counterrevolutionaries, deeper U.S. intervention in El Salvador, and President Reagan's speeches denouncing the revolution in Grenada, a small island in the Caribbean with a Black, English-speaking population. Reagan claims the new tourist airport being built in Grenada is a military threat to U.S. "national security."

The turnout of 300 people, most of them Black, for the rally here marked an important step forward in building solidarity with

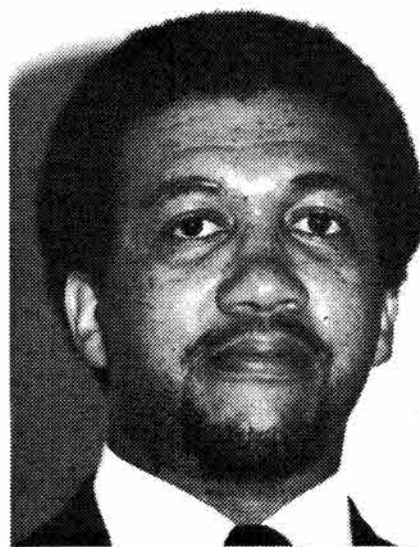
the people of the Caribbean and Central America.

Speakers stressed the common bond between Blacks in the United States and those struggling against U.S. imperialism abroad. This point was emphasized by Chavis, who is deputy director of the United Church of Christ Commission for Racial Justice and a leader of the National Black Independent Political Party.

"Reagan is serious about attacking the people of El Salvador, Grenada, and Nicaragua," Chavis told the rally. "When Reagan flashes aerial photographs of the Grenada international airport on the TV screen, we have to recognize that is *our* airport."

Chavis urged everyone at the meeting to go out into the community, to the churches, and to workplaces to organize against U.S. aggression in the Caribbean and Central America.

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Militant/Lou Howort

Rev. Ben Chavis told rally that people of Harlem have same enemy as people of Grenada, El Salvador and Nicaragua — the U.S. government.

## N.Y. rail strikers forced into arbitration

BY GEOFF MIRELOWITZ

NEW YORK — The 42-day United Transportation Union (UTU) strike against the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's Metro-North commuter rail lines here ended April 18. Strong-arm pressure was put on the union to agree to binding arbitration of the issues in the strike.

The main issue has been the MTA's efforts to cut crew sizes as a way to eliminate hundreds of jobs. The MTA maintains that it should have the exclusive right to determine the size of train crews. The UTU demands the crew size be specified in the contract, as it has been for years.

The immediate threat of a congressional order to end the strike forced the UTU to accept binding arbitration — a move they had rejected from the beginning.

UTU negotiators were dragged to Washington April 15 to testify before the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee.

The committee had already drafted legislation ordering the train crews back to work and imposing binding arbitration.

Metro-North officials, backed up by New York Gov. Mario Cuomo, pressed Congress for even tougher anti-UTU action. Cuomo and MTA head Richard Ravitch both made it clear during the strike that they would continue to press for federal legislation to place rail workers under the state's no-strike Taylor law.

Faced with this mounting attack, the UTU voluntarily accepted binding arbitration before they were ordered to by Congress.

The arbitration panel will be made up of one member chosen by management, one chosen by the UTU, and the third chosen by the first two.

During the six-week strike, the unionists were denied unemployment benefits. The big-business media ganged up on the strik-

ers. So did local capitalist politicians.

The day the strike ended, New York Mayor Edward Koch expressed some of the concerns shared by MTA management about going to arbitration rather than simply pushing ahead to bust the union.

"I worry about the fact that management, instead of exercising the prerogatives which it should have to eliminate featherbedding, is submitting the issue to a panel."

"Featherbedding" is a term used by rail management to refer to work rules they do not like and want to get rid of. Their goal is to eliminate jobs.

"I have no problem with arbitration," said Koch, making clear his only interest is in imposing management's demands on the UTU, "so long as the arbitrators have as their responsibility to determine whether or not featherbedding exists and not to tolerate it. . . ."



# —SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE—

BY RICK BERMAN

CHICAGO — For the last few months a very intense political discussion has been taking place here leading up to the April 12 mayoral election. It focused on the campaign contest between Democrat Harold Washington (who won), Republican Bernard Epton, and the only working-class representative in the race, Socialist Workers Party candidate Ed Warren.

All eyes were on Chicago because of a reactionary, anti-Black, antilabor campaign whipped up by ultraright elements, the capitalist news media, and Democratic machine politicians who were opposed to a Black person becoming mayor, even if he was a Democrat loyal to the system. The deeper impetus behind this racist campaign was an attempt to push back working-class unity in the fight for jobs, for equal rights, and against war.

Socialists were very active participants in this discussion — on the job, at the plant gates, and in the Black and Latino communities. We did so by campaigning for Ed Warren, particularly by redoubling efforts to sell his campaign newspapers, the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*.

During the last ten days before the election, 871 socialist newspapers were sold.

"We threw everything into this sales campaign," said Chicago SWP organizer Jim Little. "All of the party and Young Socialist Alliance members and many of our supporters pitched in. This was a

great success. And this was despite rainy, cold weather every day.

"More members took part in plant gate sales than ever before," Little added. "We learned more about what workers were really thinking about the election and other political issues. At some of the plants we campaigned at, hundreds and hundreds of workers now know that the Socialist Workers Party exists and they know something about what we stand for."

## Plant-gate priority

Sales at plant gates and union meetings — to talk with white, Black, and Latino workers — was made the top priority. SWP and YSA members were encouraged to participate in at least two industrial sales during this period.

This extra effort resulted in 27 sales teams visiting 16 plants and 2 union meetings, selling 60 socialist newspapers. Ninety percent of Chicago's SWP members participated in at least one industrial sale during this 10-day period.

The number of plants visited, sales teams organized, papers sold, and overall participation was the highest since weekly plant-gate sales have been organized.

At some plants where the socialists had campaigned during the past few weeks, *Militant* sales were relatively high. At other plants teams sold one, two, or no copies of the paper.

Three teams went to U.S.

Steel's South Works and Ford's Torrance Avenue Plant, selling a total of 11 at U.S. Steel and 13 at Ford.

"We expected to sell a good number of *Militants* at Torrance because of the article on how UAW members there had just voted down a local concession contract," reported Holly Harkness, a leader of the YSA and a garment worker. "But we found that the workers who bought copies of the *Militant* and others who stopped to talk were more interested in reading about what Ed Warren's campaign had to say about the racist mob attack on Harold Washington outside of a Northwest Side church."

At every plant most Black workers wore Washington buttons, a small number of whites wore Epton buttons, and occasionally you'd see a white worker with a Washington button. But the response to the Warren campaign and socialist salespeople was generally open and friendly. An occasional worker would say, "I already have my man" and refuse campaign literature. But several thousand others took socialist election brochures. Many would stop for a minute or two to talk politics.

A Black worker wearing a Washington button at Oscar Mayer, for example, took a campaign brochure on his way out to the lunch truck and read it from cover to cover. On his way back to the plant he told Meg Hayes, "Where has this guy Warren been



Chicago SWP mayoral candidate Ed Warren campaigning outside U.S. Steel South Works.

hiding? He should run for president! This stuff about El Salvador is really important." Six workers gathered around Hayes and had a lively discussion on the war in Central America and how to fight unemployment here.

## Community sales

Sales teams were also dispatched every afternoon and evening to supermarkets, shopping centers, and public transportation hubs mainly in Black and Latino working-class areas. The cold, rainy weather forced some teams to sell at subway stations and even on subway trains.

On Saturday, April 9, 30

socialists from Gary, Milwaukee, St. Louis, Indianapolis, Cleveland, Detroit, and Toledo traveled to Chicago to help the Chicago SWP and YSA members, and other Warren supporters, to campaign. Despite a rainstorm, 435 copies of the *Militant* and *PM* were sold that day.

Socialists here are excited about the successful campaign effort. We hope to build on this accomplishment by increasing the number of plant gates we sell at each week and our overall sales.

Rick Berman is sales coordinator for the Chicago Socialist Workers Party.

## Harlem rally calls for solidarity with Grenada

Continued from front page

"You can't find two islands in the Caribbean that have made more social progress than Cuba and Grenada," said Elombe Brath, the chair of the rally.

Brath spoke for the Patrice Lumumba Coalition, which, along with the National Black Independent Political Party and the Caribbean People's Alliance, sponsored the event. He noted the meeting coincided with the 85th anniversary of Black artist Paul Robeson's birth.

Brath said he had been to Grenada four times since the 1979 revolution there, when the New Jewel Movement led the overthrow of U.S.-backed dictator Eric Gairy. Important gains have been won there for the people, he said.

He also spoke of the progressive role Cuban workers are playing in helping build Grenada's airport and their role as internationalist volunteers in several countries of Africa.

Brath stressed the importance of American Blacks making sure Grenada's government is not overthrown. He also urged solidarity with all the people of Central

America and the Caribbean and with the struggle of Black Africans in South Africa and Namibia.

Grenadian United Nations Ambassador Caldwell Taylor began his remarks by noting the "common conditions of the Black masses of Harlem and the people of the Caribbean. . . . We have a commonality of struggle."

The United States "doesn't have the right to spit on the sovereignty of the Caribbean states," Taylor explained. "We deeply believe in peaceful coexistence, but it is our duty to decide our own destiny."

U.S. violations of Grenada's sovereignty have included spying on its new airport, attempting to block loans for the airport construction, and efforts to get an economic blockade of the island, Taylor said.

Oscar Chacón of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) told the meeting about the gains the Salvadoran liberation forces are making. He also denounced the recent assassination of FMLN leader Commander Ana María, who was

slain while in Nicaragua.

Chacón emphasized that the Salvadoran rebels "want a peaceful solution. Five times we have tried to talk with the United States and every time they have refused to talk."

Chacón said while the Salvadoran liber-

ation forces may not win in 1983, "we are sure that the victory is very close, and your solidarity can make it closer."

At the conclusion of the rally, Brath urged everyone to attend the April 16 emergency march here against U.S. attacks on Nicaragua, Grenada, and El Salvador.

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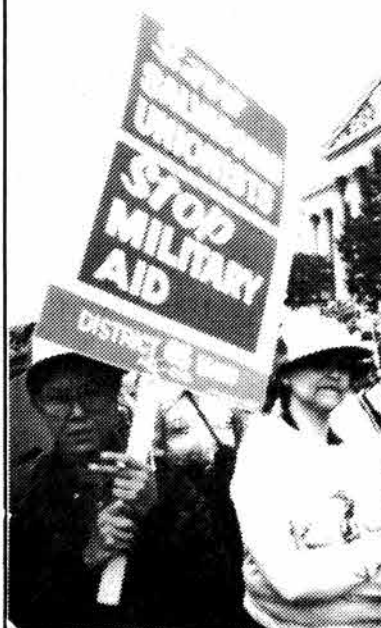
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# Kampucheans appeal to world to block war aims of Reagan

BY WILL REISSNER

The Reagan administration's airlift of military supplies to the Thai government — which began April 9 — is likely "to increase tension at the Kampuchea-Thailand border" and seriously threatens "peace and stability in Southeast Asia," an April 17 statement by the foreign ministry of Kampuchea warned.

The statement called on "the people of the world . . . to check the war-seeking activities of the Reagan administration in Southeast Asia as well as in other parts of the world."

Washington began airlifting ground-to-air missiles, artillery, and other weapons to Thailand after Kampuchean and Vietnamese troops inflicted major blows on rightist forces operating in Kampuchea from bases along the Thai border.

The rightists, backed by artillery and air support from the Thai military, were driven out of their bases at Phnom Chat and O Smach, just inside Kampuchea. They retreated in disarray across the border into Thailand.

The murderous Pol Pot government in Kampuchea was overthrown in January 1979 when the Vietnamese army came to the aid of Kampuchean insurgents. Since then, remnants of the Pol Pot forces have operated from bases in Thailand, usually described in the U.S. press as "refugee camps," carrying out terrorist raids and sabotage attacks against Kampuchea.

Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge forces, who are in a coalition with supporters of former Prince Norodom Sihanouk and former Prime Minister Son Sann, receive weapons, food, medicine, and other supplies from the Thai, American, and Chinese governments.

Washington and Bangkok support the rightists in order to further bleed Kampuchea and Vietnam. Peking has tried to curry favor with Washington by acting as an enforcer for the imperialists against the revolutions in Indochina. Following the U.S. decision to normalize relations with China and open up trade, the Peking bureaucracy went so far as to invade northern Vietnam to punish it for its role in helping overthrow Pol Pot. The 1979 invasion by 600,000 Chinese troops was eventually repelled by the Vietnamese.

Taking its cue from Washington's military airlift, on April 10 of this year the Chinese government began to escalate tensions along China's border with Vietnam. Chinese troops began steady shelling of Vietnam on April 16. The purpose was once again to put pressure on Vietnam to

halt its operations against the Kampuchean rightists.

At a Peking press conference on April 19, former Prince Sihanouk linked the Chinese shelling of Vietnam to the fighting in Kampuchea. China has "a good opportunity to teach Vietnam a second lesson," the former monarch stated.

Despite the aid the Pol Pot forces get from Thailand, the United States, and China, the Khmer Rouge and their allies are far weaker than in previous years.

Paul Quinn-Judge, writing from Bangkok in the April 12 *Christian Science Monitor*, reports that "Westerners who witnessed the aftermath of the capture last week of the Khmer Rouge stronghold of Phnom Chat in Kampuchea report . . . disarray and demoralization among the Khmer Rouge."

On April 13, the foreign ministers of Vietnam, Kampuchea, and Laos, meeting in the Kampuchean capital Phnom Penh, made concrete proposals to ease tensions along the Thai-Kampuchean border. The foreign ministers repeated a previous pro-

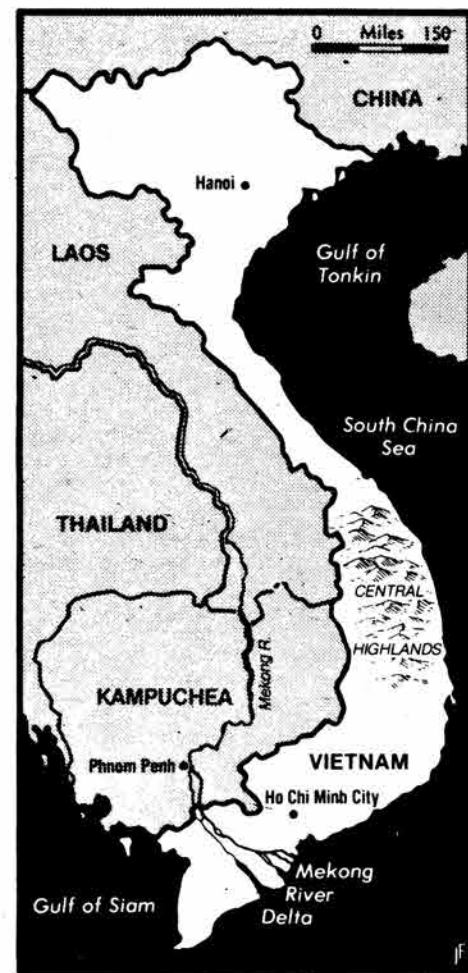
posal to establish a "security zone" along the border, with Vietnamese troops leaving the border area if the Thai government closes down the rightist bases operating on its territory.

The foreign ministers also called for direct talks between the Thai and Kampuchean Red Cross societies to facilitate the return of Kampuchean refugees in Thailand.

Even those civilians now living in the armed rightist camps in Thailand would be allowed to return under the plan, Vietnam's ambassador to the United Nations Hoang Bich Son told the *Militant* April 15.

The foreign ministers also announced a new withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea to take place in May.

The timing of this withdrawal is indicative of the weakness of the rightists and the growing strength of the Kampuchean government and armed forces, Ambassador Son remarked. May is the start of the rainy season in Kampuchea, a period when the rightists try to step up their military activities.



## Solidarity with Grenada enrages right wing in Seaside, Calif.

BY SAM MANUEL

SEASIDE, Calif. — Enraged by a proposal to make St. George's, Grenada, a sister city of Seaside, a handful of right-wing members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and the American Legion attended the April 7 Seaside City Council meeting.

Grenada, a small Caribbean island of 110,000 mostly English-speaking Blacks, overthrew a U.S.-British-backed dictatorship in March 1979. Due to Grenada's friendly relations with Cuba and its solidar-

ity with the peoples of El Salvador and Nicaragua, it has been the target of U.S. threats and economic sabotage.

Grenada has made big social and economic gains for its workers and farmers, something Washington also doesn't like. So the idea of Seaside becoming a sister city of St. George's, which supporters of the revolution are discussing here, has outraged local right wingers.

Speaking at the city council meeting for American Legion Post 591, Roy Daniels

bellowed, "The American Legion has formed a task force to ensure that Americanism is not being abrogated."

To groans from the audience, he continued, "The purpose of the task force is to see that this city is kept on the course set by our forefathers, and that one country, the United States, and one flag, the stars and stripes, shall endure for ourselves and our posterity."

When asked by a leader of the local NAACP what's so un-American that's going on in Seaside, the Legionnaires did not respond.

Just days before, an editorial appeared in the newly published *Monterey Bay Tribune*, a well-financed, extremely right-wing newspaper.

The *Tribune* is partly owned by a former Seaside mayor, Lou Haddad, who was recalled by the Black community due to his racist policies.

The editorial said, in part, "The proposal to adopt a sister city in a communist country deserves the attention of every town on the peninsula. . . . We hope the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and others will take the time to attend Seaside City Council sessions and stand up and sound off loud and clear. . . . This might be as good a time as any to let Seaside's leading communist know how they feel about his indecent idea."

City Council member Mel Mason initiated the sister-city proposal. He is a leader of the Socialist Workers Party.

At the council meeting, an activist in Seaside's Black community presented Mason with an award for his outstanding community service. The presentation drew applause from the audience.



Militant/Larry Lukehart

Socialist city councilman Mel Mason

## Marroquin begins nat'l tour on deportation struggle

BY MARGARET JAYKO

The emergency campaign to prevent the deportation of political activist Héctor Marroquín is picking up steam.

Marroquín began a cross-country tour on April 20, which focuses on talking to unions, Black, Latino, and women's organizations, and all supporters of civil liberties about his case.

Marroquín came to the United States in 1974 after Mexican police framed him up on phony charges of terrorism.

Like tens of thousands of Salvadorans, Haitians, and Guatemalans, Marroquín is a political refugee without papers. He is also a leader of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance.

The U.S. Supreme Court is currently deciding whether to hear his appeal of the deportation order against him. The noted constitutional attorney Leonard Boudin is representing Marroquín before the Supreme Court.

Minnesota is the first stop on Marroquín's tour. He is speaking at a rally in the Chicano community of St. Paul on April 24. Sharing the platform with him are: Frank Guzmán, National Chicano Alliance; Rene Hurtado, a deserter from the Salvadoran military; and Ronald Leith, director of the St. Paul American Indian Movement.

He will also take his case to postal workers and members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers who have organized informal meetings to talk with Marroquín.

The Hispanic Students Association at Macalester College has invited Marroquín to address their organization.

Marroquín will be in the following cities in the next month:

- Milwaukee April 26-May 1
- Miami May 2-6
- Philadelphia May 13-17

Supporters of Marroquín's case are aiming to flood the office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) with messages of support for him.

At the Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference of the National Organization for Women, which was held in Baltimore April 15-17, 13 participants signed protest letters to the INS.

Among the signers were Katie Hall, a U.S. congressperson from Indiana, and Monica Faith Stewart, former Illinois state representative.

Their letters said:

"The government's claimed right to deport someone purely on the basis of their political beliefs is an attack on free speech, and an attack on all working people. . . .

"I support the right of Héctor Marroquín to remain in the country and demand that the deportation order against him by the INS be dropped."

Protests like these should be sent to: Alan Nelson, Commissioner, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Washington, D.C. 20536.

Funds are also urgently needed. Checks should be made out to the Political Rights Defense Fund (PRDF), which is organizing support for Marroquín. Checks, copies of protest messages, and requests for literature and more information should be sent to: PRDF, P.O. Box 649, Cooper Station, New York, N.Y. 10003. Checks should be earmarked for Marroquín defense.

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### Socialist Educational Weekend

#### WASHINGTON, D.C.

**Labor's Strategic Line of March.** Class 1. "Fight for the Organization of the Working Class Into Trade Unions Along Industrial Lines," Sat., April 30, 3 p.m. Class 2. "The Fight for Independent Political Action of the Working Class," Sun., May 1, 10:30 a.m. Class 3. "The Struggle to Build a Revolutionary Party," Sun., May 1, 1:30 p.m.

All classes given by Dick McBride, member, National Committee of Socialist Workers Party and Transport Workers Union Local 100. Translation to Spanish. Antioch School of Law, Room 102, 2633 16th St. NW. Donation: \$2 per class, \$5 for series. Ausp: Young Socialist Alliance, Socialist Workers Party. For more information call (202) 797-7699.

**May Day Rally: Solidarity with the Revolutions in Central America.** Speakers: representative of Nicaraguan Embassy; representative of Casa El Salvador; Dick McBride, member, National Committee, Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat., April 30; refreshments, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7 p.m. Antioch School of Law, Room 102, 2633 16th St. NW. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (202) 797-7699.



## Boston socialist demands justice in racist murder

BOSTON — Eloise Linger, a member of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union Local 397, began her campaign for mayor of Boston on the Socialist Workers Party ticket by denouncing the kid-glove treatment given to the murderers of William Atkinson.

She called the "slap-on-the-wrist sentences for manslaughter," which they received, a "travesty of justice."

On March 12, 1982, Atkinson, a Black maintenance worker, was assaulted by a gang of five white youths while walking to a transit station in the predominantly white neighborhood of Savin Hill.

William Grady, a white man who was with Atkinson, was beaten unconscious while Atkinson was killed by an oncoming train in an attempt to flee from his assailants.

At the trial, numerous witnesses testified to the racist nature of the attack.

Grady recalled someone shouting, "Hey, nigger, what are you doing here?" Grady's response, "It's okay, he's with me," was

answered by, "That's all right because we're going to kill you too."

It took an outpouring of rage from the Black community, including a local march and rally of 700 people, to force the district attorney to even charge the five with manslaughter, let alone murder. They were originally charged with assault and battery.

The trial ended on April 8, with the judge sentencing two of the racists to prison terms of 7-15 years and 6-12 years.

Linger said that neither Bos-



Militant/Jane Roland  
**Eloise Linger, socialist garment worker running for mayor of Boston.**

ton's current mayor, Democrat Kevin White, or any other candidate, has spoken out publicly against the miscarriage of justice in this case. She accused White's administration of being responsible for an atmosphere allowing and encouraging racism. Because racist violence is encouraged when racists are allowed to get away with murder."

Linger also asked why her Democratic and Republican opponents have not "condemned the attacks on desegregation, busing, and public education." Linger said her campaign stands solidly for "equality in education and for desegregated schools," which includes busing.

## Auto worker in Philadelphia mayoral race

PHILADELPHIA — On March 26, the SWP held its first campaign rally to announce its 1983 slate in the city elections.

Bill Osteen, a member of United Auto Workers Local 932, is the SWP candidate for mayor of Philadelphia.

Since neither the Democratic nor Republican primaries has

taken place yet, Osteen currently has five capitalist opponents in this race.

Ex-cop Frank Rizzo and Wilson Goode, the city's managing director, are competing for the Democratic nomination. Goode is Black, and the race between the two is being compared to the recent election in Chicago.

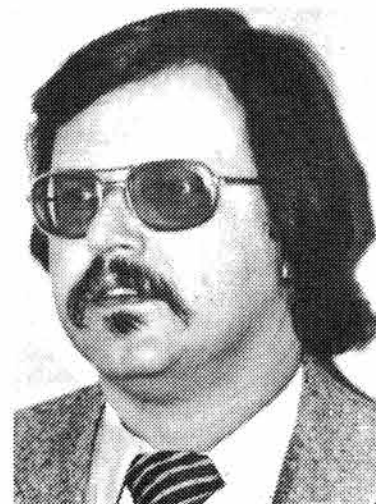
The three Republican candidates are professional basketball star Thomas Gola; former U.S. representative Charles Dougherty; and stockbroker John Egan, Jr.

The SWP is running three candidates for city council: hospital worker Sam Farley; electrical worker Mike Finley; and Katy Karlin, a member of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 8-901.

The SWP will be petitioning from April 9-30 to get a place on the ballot.

## Toledo candidate backs UAW strike

TOLEDO — Socialist refinery worker Janet Post expressed her solidarity with 500 striking United Auto Workers members at a March 30 press conference announcing her campaign for mayor



Militant/Charles Ostrofsky  
**Socialist candidate for mayor of Philadelphia, Bill Osteen.**

of Toledo on the SWP ticket.

The strike was provoked by DeVilbiss, a manufacturer of spray-painting equipment, which demanded a \$1.13-an-hour pay cut and the elimination of a cost of living adjustment. The news conference was covered by two television stations, eight radio stations, and *The Blade*, the daily paper.

Many of Post's coworkers saw or heard the coverage and expressed support for the ideas of her campaign.

Compiled by  
Margaret Jayko

# U.S. warns Mexico, Panama on Central America

BY STEVE WATTENMAKER

The U.S. government will take steps to "isolate" those who refuse to embrace the Reagan administration's war plans in Central America. That threat — directed at Mexico in particular — was disclosed in a highly classified National Security Council (NSC) document made public by the *New York Times* April 7.

The top-secret memorandum, prepared as a summary of an April 1982 meeting between President Reagan and his advisers, was adopted to guide Washington's intervention in Central America through 1984.

The Reagan policy makers singled out Mexico, slamming it for continuing "to work against our policies."

"Mexico continues public and covert support for the extreme left with propaganda, funds, and political support," the document complains.

Mexico and Panama, one at the northern end of Central America and the other at its southern tip, are two of the Latin American countries most dominated by U.S. imperialism. Mexico's economy is completely dependent on that of the United States. Panama remains under virtual U.S. military occupation with 10,600 U.S. troops stationed in the Canal Zone — a force equal in size to Panama's own army.

But such is the popular support for the revolutionary struggles of the workers and peasants of Central America, that the Mexican and Panamanian governments have defied the White House by backing the call of El Salvador's Revolutionary Democratic

Front (FDR) for negotiations between the rebels and the Salvadoran junta. Mexico and Panama have also refused to support Washington's escalating war against Nicaragua.

### 'Accomplices in betrayal'

At the conclusion of the UN Security Council meeting called in late March in response to the U.S.-backed invasion of Nicaragua, Washington's UN ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick issued a thinly disguised threat to the countries who had defended Nicaragua in the debate:

"Whoever in this arena supports Nicaragua's right to commit repression at home and aggression against its neighbors . . . has become an accomplice in the betrayal of" self-determination and peace, Kirkpatrick declared. She singled out both Mexico and Panama among the list of "accomplices."

Earlier, in response to the show of independence by countries that Washington views as in its backyard, the NSC policy group decided to "adopt [a] more active diplomatic campaign to turn around Mexico" while keeping it "isolated on Central American issues."

U.S. plans to "isolate" Latin American governments that do not come to heel quickly enough at their master's command go beyond diplomacy. They include financial pressures, intervention in the internal politics of these countries, and even military threats.

In August 1982 the Mexican government obtained a copy of a secret U.S. State Department document. It suggested Washington could exploit Mexico's economic crisis to pressure Mexico to be "less adventuresome in its foreign policy and less critical of ours." Mexican officials angrily charged that Washington had launched a "campaign" to inspire "critical attitudes" toward Mexico.

### Mexico gets warning

Top U.S. officials have also made it clear that in fighting the revolutionary upsurge in Central America they are prepared to ignore the existence of Mexico and Panama as sovereign states with their own independent foreign policy.

If the guerrillas in El Salvador succeed, President Reagan said in a March 11, 1983, speech, "the killing will increase, and so will the threat to Panama, the canal, and ultimately Mexico."

In essence, Reagan's argument is that he knows what is best for Mexico and Panama.

Mexico's foreign minister, Bernardo Sepúlveda, sharply criticized Reagan's speech for meddling in the affairs of his country. Reagan, he declared, was raising the specter of guerrilla war in Mexico as a "pretext" to intervene in El Salvador and Nicaragua.

Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs Thomas Enders testified before Congress March 1 that the revolution might spread from Nicaragua and El Salvador.

"So the struggle would go on," Enders said, "but on battlefields where the stakes would be much higher. We cannot permit that" (emphasis added).

If Washington "cannot permit" the spread of the social revolution in Central America, the implication is that it also "cannot permit" Mexico and Panama to follow policies that get in the way of the escalation of its counterrevolutionary war there. Also implicit in Enders' statement was Washington's right to intervene on any Central American "battlefield" — a warning that has not been lost on the peoples of Panama and Mexico.

### Stirring up a coup

Washington made an even more direct threat against Panama by assigning U.S. ambassador Everett Briggs to stir up a possible coup by junior officers in the Panamanian National Guard.

At the end of February Briggs was discovered making "courtesy calls" on local mil-

itary commanders at their bases in Colon and Boquete — without the knowledge of their superior officers.

This provocation was considered serious enough for Panama's strongman, National Guard commander Brig. Gen. Rubén Darío Paredes, to warn Briggs that "in the face of another act of this nature, this command . . . will ask the Government for your withdrawal from the country."

The U.S. State Department quickly expressed "full confidence" in Briggs.

A month later the Reagan administration drove home its displeasure with Panama's independent policies by canceling a planned visit to Washington by General Paredes.

Not only is the Reagan administration irritated by Panama's support for negotiations in El Salvador, but the White House is concerned with growing opposition in Panama to an announced step-up in the training of Salvadoran government troops at the U.S. Army-run counterinsurgency school in the Canal Zone.

The school itself is supposed to close in 1984 under provisions of the Panama Canal treaty. But Washington is pressuring Panama to keep it open. Panama has repeatedly protested other violations of the Panama Canal treaty as well.

A Panamanian journalist captured the mood of growing anger in both Panama and Mexico at U.S. imperialism's efforts to bully both countries back into line. Panama, he said, "isn't Ronald Reagan's estate."

From Intercontinental Press

## Further reading on the Nicaraguan revolution

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

**Nicaragua: An Introduction to the Sandinista Revolution** by Arnold Weissberg. 48 pp. \$9.95

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

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



**Salvadoran troops training at U.S. base in Panama. Opposition is growing to Washington's bully-boy attempts to use Mexico, Panama against El Salvador's workers and peasants.**



# Nicaragua copes with increased shortages

BY MICHAEL BAUMANN

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — As the invasion of U.S.-backed counterrevolutionaries has escalated in recent weeks, serious shortages have occurred in a number of products here. These include eggs, milk, cheese, laundry soap, cooking oil, beef, chicken, gasoline, and toilet paper.

Where do these shortages come from?

Tomás Borge, Nicaragua's Minister of the Interior, put his finger on one of the major factors: economic sabotage.

"Imperialism is trying to provoke uneasiness and discontent among the masses, through both false rumors and artificial shortages," Borge told an assembly of Sandinista Police March 26. "It is certain that a large part of the products that are currently scarce in the markets are scarce because of the rumors that have been circulated.

"We can't rule out here what the imperialists did in Chile, what they did in Cuba, where they devoted economic resources to buy basic consumer items and then destroyed them."

A report on the Sandinista daily *Barricada*'s editorial page three days later frankly acknowledged the scope of the problem and indicated some contributing factors.

"Speculation in basic products has increased enormously, creating situations of serious shortage in some neighborhoods and cities, or else an insane increase in prices. In the space of just a few days many products have begun to run short, despite normal rates and quantities of production, even an increase in some cases."

This is "an old tactic of the counterrevolution," *Barricada* said, but it is clear "many people are participating."

The big merchants and wholesalers, *Barricada* said, "still control part of the distribution of many products" and are "without doubt" a big part of the problem.

As for the medium-sized merchants, "Some of them are receiving fewer goods from the wholesalers, have less to sell to their own customers, and consequently have increased prices to 'compensate' for fewer sales. They may also be keeping some things off the market, for when the lines get even longer."

Many small merchants and street vendors "buy directly from the supermarkets, at times simply emptying them, in order to resell the items at higher prices."

Finally, some consumers with economic resources to do so are stockpiling items they think might run out, *Barricada* said.

While some items are rationed here — sugar, rice, toilet paper, gasoline, laundry soap, and cooking oil — the Sandinista government has in general tried to use the state-owned and cooperative sectors to act as a counterweight to private-sector speculation and hoarding.

The idea is that through state-owned marketing channels — largely the country's two supermarket chains, people's stores in the countryside, and union-run commissaries in the factories and big agro-

## How one neighborhood dealt with speculators in the new Nicaragua

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — The residents of the working-class *barrio* José Benito Escobar here have set an excellent example of how to deal with speculators.

Growing problems with the neighborhood state-assisted "people's store" reached a climax March 26. Although 300 people were lined up outside, the manager refused to open the doors.

As the crowd began to discuss breaking the doors down, officials from the regional Sandinista Defense Committee (CDS) and the Ministry of Internal Commerce arrived.

They authorized a takeover and occupation of the store, which was quickly organized in an orderly fashion.

Cooking oil, soap, milk, and other products the manager claimed he was "out of" were soon being sold at the official prices. A total of 90 gallons of the scarcest item, cooking oil, was found hidden in the warehouse.

The old manager and staff have been fired. Three members of the *barrio* CDS have been hired to run the store, which is now really serving the 1,600 families in the neighborhood.



Militant/Michael Baumann

Central market in Masaya, Nicaragua. U.S.-backed war is expected to exacerbate shortages of all types of goods.

export farms — sufficient quantities of basic necessities could be provided at the official, subsidized price to keep prices down in general.

One of the big problems, however, is maintaining a sufficient quantity of goods that can be put on the market any time spot shortages threaten to encourage hoarding and price-gouging. It is very difficult for Nicaragua to import products needed in greater quantities because of the lack of U.S. dollars.

To begin to meet the current shortage situation, the revolutionary government has

encouraged neighborhood Sandinista Defense Committees to play a bigger role in policing price violations and has carried out several highly-publicized raids on merchants hoarding scarce items. It has also taken steps to try to assure smooth distribution of the two latest items in short supply — laundry soap and cooking oil.

Distribution of both products was nationalized in January, and there have been some improvements. But it has not yet significantly increased the supplies available at the official price.

In a nationally televised address April 8, the Sandinista leadership warned that real

shortages could soon develop in a whole host of products because of the military situation.

The FSLN called on the entire population to unite to defend the country and warned that the war situation "may mean greater difficulties for the development of our economic programs and more serious limitations in the availability of economic resources to be distributed in the country."

"To confront these inevitable difficulties, our government will take firm measures, both to regulate fair distribution at all levels and to halt hoarding and speculation."

## Grocers describe scarcity problem

BY MICHAEL BAUMANN

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — A recent visit by *Militant* correspondents to a small grocery store here gave an indication of how pressures toward black-market dealings are building up.

Of the half-dozen stores we visited in the neighborhood, this is the only one that has lines. That's because the owners, in the past, have been scrupulous about sticking to official prices. A red-and-black Sandinista signboard on the wall serves notice that they are with the revolutionary process.

Lately we had noticed that the lines were shorter, and that the store had less and less, or none of the items everybody is looking for — eggs, milk, oil, soap, toilet paper. We asked why.

"We just aren't getting deliveries anymore," one of the owners told us.

"Take milk, for example. The other day one of the neighbors told me that Perfecta [one of the two state-owned dairies that serves Managua] was making a delivery at one of the other stores. But they never came here. I don't know why."

This store is open seven days a week. It's supposed to get four cases of milk a day to supply its customers. We visited on a Tuesday. They hadn't had a delivery since Friday, and that sold out within hours.

As a result, they have begun to make inquiries, through relatives and friends, about alternate sources of milk supplies. They are already buying small quantities of

cheese on the black market, something they resisted for weeks.

Eggs are another problem, the owner said. "We haven't had any eggs in weeks."

"You can buy them in the Mercado Oriental," she said, referring to the big central market here where much of the black market trading takes place.

"But you have to pay 13 córdobas [U.S. \$1.30] a dozen wholesale. Then you'd have to turn around and sell them for 15 córdobas a dozen [U.S. \$1.50, 25 percent above the official price] and risk getting fined. That's what the other stores in the neighborhood are doing."

Was there a possibility of talking with the government supply agencies and get-

ting some of these deliveries straightened out?

"I could probably go to MICOIN [the Ministry of Internal Commerce]," she said doubtfully, "but that takes a long time. I'd have to take a cab and lose half the day. It's not worth it."

"I don't go to meetings much, or things like that," she said. "We try to help the revolution by selling things at fair prices, and by distributing the rice and sugar [low-profit ration-card items]."

Then, laughing ironically, "things don't work too good except for vices." She pointed to the shelves of rum and cigarettes, and to a cooler full of beer. "We've got no milk, no eggs, oil, or soap, but plenty of vices."

## 'Barricada' on 'Sandinistas Speak'

The following review was published in the March 28 English-language edition of *Barricada International*, the international weekly of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), published in Managua, Nicaragua. It appeared in the column entitled "Books about Nicaragua."

*Sandinistas Speak* is available from Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. The price is \$4.95 plus 75 cents for postage.

To justify its escalating intervention in Central America, the Reagan administration has accused Nicaragua's Sandinista leadership of being a "communist dictatorship" intent on trampling the people's democratic rights, leading the nation to economic ruin and militarily intervening against "legitimate" regimes elsewhere in Central America.

A review of history and the facts demolish Washington's claims. That's the point of *Sandinistas Speak*. The nine speeches, writings and interviews by Nicaragua's revolutionary leadership are chosen to give a historic panorama of the revolution's development, an assessment of its current status and an idea of its trajectory.

The first document, the "Historic Program of the FSLN," contains the FSLN's response to the political, economic and social situation the country found itself in after four centuries of colonial and neocolonial rule and 50 years of the brutal Somoza dynasty.

FSLN-founder Carlos Fonseca Amador's 1969 writing, "Nicaragua: Zero Hour," reviews the [Front's] historic precedents and origins. It also expresses this leader's revolutionary optimism and confidence in his people's triumph, which he did not live to see.

In January 1981, Cmdr. Jaime Wheelock addressed the First International Conference in Solidarity With Nicaragua, in Managua, and explained the successes, problems and dynamic of Nicaragua's mixed, primarily agricultural economy, and the struggle to break the country out of its underdevelopment, dependency and poverty.

In his presentation to the Inter-American Human Rights Commission, "On Human Rights in Nicaragua," Cmdr. Tomás Borge lays out Nicaragua's human rights policy, concluding that Nicaragua will become a "shining example for the whole continent."

In the book's final selection, "An Appeal for Justice and Peace," which is Cmdr. Daniel Ortega's October 7, 1981, speech to the U.N. General Assembly, Ortega protests the growing intervention against the Sandinista Revolution and explains Nicaragua's foreign policy: non-alignment, support for the oppressed around the world and peaceful coexistence.

As editor Bruce Marcus states in his introduction, the Nicaraguan people "deserve not only our maximum efforts to stop intervention by the U.S. and its allies against the revolution, but also our careful study so that we can learn from their experiences."



# 1,500 at N.Y. meeting hear E.P. Thompson

## British antimissile leader gives views

BY LARRY SEIGLE

NEW YORK — A large crowd turned out here April 13 to listen to E.P. Thompson, one of the best-known figures in the movement against nuclear missiles in Britain.

Thompson, a social historian and author, spoke at a forum entitled "Protest and Survive" sponsored by the Nation Institute, associated with the liberal magazine, *The Nation*.

More than 1,500 people bought \$5 or \$6 tickets to attend the event.

Also on the program was Randall Forsberg, a national leader of the bilateral nuclear freeze campaign in the United States. The evening was moderated by Studs Terkel, the Chicago radio personality and writer.

Thompson got an enthusiastic response from the audience as he described the ongoing demonstrations at Greenham Common, a military base 50 miles west of London. The base will be the site of the first of the new cruise missiles that Washington is planning to deploy in Western Europe this year.

In collaboration with its NATO allies, Washington is planning to place a total of 572 new cruise and Pershing 2 missiles in Britain, West Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Italy.

The missiles will be aimed at the Soviet Union. The Pershings will be only 5 or 6 minutes away from their targets.

In reaction to this nuclear escalation by the United States, a series of increasingly sizable demonstrations have been organized in Western Europe.

At Greenham Common, women — whose goal is to stop the deployment of the missiles — have been encamped outside the base for 18 months. Their determined action has helped to deepen the debate and galvanize opposition to the missiles.

On April 1, some 100,000 turned out near the Greenham Common base in one of Britain's largest antinuclear demonstrations. The protest was part of a series of large actions held in a number of capitalist countries in Europe against the new U.S. missiles.

Opinion polls show that a clear majority of people in Britain are unconditionally against the missiles. This sentiment is especially deep within the labor movement. Unions representing six million members are formally affiliated to the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND), the main organizer of the antimissile demonstrations.

And the Labor Party itself has gone on

record in opposition to the missiles, and for the dismantling of all U.S. bases in Britain.

The growing opposition to the missiles is posing serious problems for the imperialists in Washington and their allies in Western European capitals. The actions have been aimed at halting the introduction of the U.S. missiles, which the imperialists consider a critical necessity in their policy of nuclear terrorism against the Soviet Union and the working people of the world.

### Growing debate

There is, however, a deepening debate within the ranks of the antimissile movement. E.P. Thompson is prominent among those who insist that the protesters in Western Europe should not focus their demands on their own imperialist governments and on Washington, but should demand "equally" that the Soviet Union dismantle its nuclear missiles.

Recently, Thompson has identified himself with the increasingly vocal anticommunist and anti-Soviet wing of this movement, a fact which has come as something of a surprise to many.

He gave expression to these views at the New York forum, and has recently written about them in the pages of *The Nation*.

In his speech, Thompson defended his position that the threat of nuclear war comes not from Washington and its imperialist allies, but "from the growing military-industrial complexes of both East and West."

He said that European opponents of nuclear missiles should focus on the slogan of "the removal of all nuclear weapons from the Urals to the Eastern Atlantic." (The Ural Mountains, half-a-continent east of Moscow, are the traditional dividing line between Europe and Asia.)

In a stridently anticommunist tone that was jarring to some in the audience, Thompson insisted that "the non-aligned majority peace movements of Europe are in no way lovers of the Soviet system, no way at all." To make this clear, he insisted, antimissile forces should not "confine ourselves to the measures of halting weaponry," but should raise the banner of the fight against "repression" in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

(Professor Thompson made no reference to any problems of repression closer to London, such as British terrorism in Northern Ireland.)

### Warning to 'sleepwalkers'

In an article in the February 26 issue of *The Nation*, Thompson had presented this viewpoint in even bolder language. He warned that those who reject placing equal responsibility on Washington and Moscow for the danger of war are "sleepwalking" into a Soviet trap. If the sleepwalkers don't wake up, wrote Thompson, the Kremlin will succeed in its efforts to "manipulate" the antimissile movement to serve its own ends.

"The Western peace movement," Thompson wrote, "derives its strength precisely from its political independence, its 'unacceptable' demands upon both blocs. If it should sleepwalk into a state of dependency in accordance with the Soviet game plan, its support could fall away as rapidly as it arose. The movement could be painted into an ugly pro-Soviet corner."

Thompson's attack on his critics among the antimissile protesters will sound to many like an echo — deliberate or not — of widely publicized red-baiting charges that have been emanating recently from the U.S. government and right-wing circles.

These smears — against organizations such as the U.S. Peace Council, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and the National Council of Churches — have been part of a systematic campaign to discredit opponents of U.S. war policy.

As an advocate of the "third camp" view, Thompson denies that it is the imperialist powers that are the source of the



Women in anti-nuclear-weapons demonstration at Greenham Common, England, site planned for 96 U.S. cruise missiles. Thousands linked up in nine-mile chain around base Dec. 12, 1982.

danger of nuclear war. "We do not wish to apportion guilt between the political and military leaders of East and West," says Thompson. "Guilt lies squarely upon both parties."

This framework drives Thompson and his followers constantly toward more right-wing positions leading to accommodation with imperialism. The line defended by Thompson, and its increasingly anti-Soviet tone, has been the subject of debate and sharp disagreement in Britain, including within the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and the labor movement.

### Electoral strategy for U.S.

Thompson's "third camp" anticommunist strategy was in complete harmony with the perspectives presented at the New York meeting by Randall Forsberg, speaking for the bilateral nuclear freeze campaign.

Forsberg presented an orientation to working for Democrats in the November 1984 elections as the essential next step to be taken by supporters of the bilateral freeze proposal in the United States.

Advocates of a bilateral freeze, Forsberg said, should concentrate their energies in 1984 on waging "an electoral campaign at every level." The goal, she said, should be to "change the course of American politics" through the elections, so that "we get to a point in November 1984, where we have a government in the White House as well as the House of Representatives that will support a nuclear freeze."

This perspective got a mixed response from the audience. During a discussion by panelists, Richard Falk, a professor at Princeton University, drew some of the biggest applause of the evening when he

responded to Forsberg by pointing out that "it is not at all clear that the American people will have a meaningful choice in the 1984 elections."

Falk explained that such a choice would have to be "something more than whether the defense budget increases 10 percent rather than 4 percent."

### Silence on Central America

Unfortunately, neither Forsberg nor Thompson took advantage of the opportunity presented by the large meeting to speak out forcefully against the escalating U.S. intervention in Central America and the Caribbean. Neither of them acknowledged that the danger of nuclear war lies in the fact that the imperialist powers threaten to use their nuclear arsenals in just such wars against people of the Third World — as Britain threatened to do in its war against Argentina a year ago.

The meeting was held in the midst of the major revelations concerning the U.S. secret war in Nicaragua, and the growing international debate over what more and more working people see as a new Vietnam being prepared in Central America and the Caribbean by Washington's deepening intervention.

Save for an appeal by Forsberg to unspecified "peace forces in Central America" — who did she have in mind? — that part of the world was left unmentioned all evening.

The speakers thus avoided taking sides against a war that is actually being waged today by the imperialists in Washington, as they strive desperately to hold back the advance of humanity represented by the struggle of the workers and farmers of Central America and the Caribbean.

## The Democrats 'clarify' bilateral nuclear freeze

As the Democratic Party has increasingly adopted the bilateral nuclear freeze proposal as part of its platform for 1984, the end point of the strategy behind the bilateral freeze campaign has become clearer for all to see.

The Democrats are using the bilateral freeze proposal to give themselves a peace mask, while they plunge ahead with ever greater appropriations for war spending, nuclear buildup, and military intervention in Central America and the Caribbean.

The House of Representatives, controlled by the Democratic Party, is now getting ready to approve the bilateral freeze resolution. They will take this move at the same time they are voting to increase war spending to all time record levels ("only" a 4 percent jump, after inflation), and as they refuse to cut off financing for the murderous regime in El Salvador and the CIA's pri-

vate terrorist army operating in Nicaragua.

A lengthy "clarification" of the freeze resolution was offered by Representative Clement Zablocki, Democrat of Wisconsin and chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, during the debate in the House on April 13.

As the *New York Times* reported, the congressman "assured House members that the resolution would not require the United States to disarm unilaterally. It would permit the nation, he contended, to continue the development, testing and deployment of nuclear weapons the Administration wants to build, unless and until such weapons were specifically included in a freeze agreement with the Soviet Union."

According to Zablocki, "Nothing will be frozen until the freeze is signed, approved, and ratified. The purpose of this resolution is not unilateral restraint."

Indeed not.





# PRDF continues drive to stop disruption of socialists

The Political Rights Defense Fund (PRDF) is waging an ongoing campaign against a four-year disruption operation aimed at the Socialist Workers Party. The case involves a Los Angeles County lawyer, Alan Gelfand, who filed a harassment lawsuit against the SWP. Testimony concluded March 9 in the trial of the suit. PRDF is now campaigning to get the judge to order Gelfand and his lawyers to pay the costs and attorneys' fees incurred by the SWP in defending itself.

When testimony ended in Los Angeles federal court, Judge Mariana Pfaelzer declared Gelfand had not produced "a shred of evidence" to substantiate his case. Gelfand had charged he was wrongfully expelled from the SWP and that the party was run by government agents. He demanded the court intervene to reinstate him into membership and remove the party's elected leadership.

PRDF is now pressing to recover legal costs from Gelfand and his attorneys for knowingly undertaking a malicious court action. This is important in helping to discourage use of the courts for disruptive purposes.

Members of the SWP and others were subjected to 350 hours of pretrial questioning, a serious diversion from their political activity. Extensive legal efforts were required as well.

Gelfand's use of the court was permitted by Pfaelzer even though it was readily apparent that he had zero basis for his slanderous allegations against the SWP.

The very fact that the judge agreed the courts could rule on who can be a member or leader of the SWP was in itself a dangerous encroachment on First Amendment rights of any organization opposed to government policy.

In court, it was established that Gelfand's suit was being financed by the Workers League and its British parent, the Workers Revolutionary Party, which have devoted the past eight years to agent-baiting the SWP.

Gelfand was expelled from the SWP in 1979, during the party's suit against the federal government for illegal secret police activity. In the course of that suit, Gelfand filed a court brief charging that SWP leaders were secret agents and that the party had been taken over by the FBI. He then charged his subsequent expulsion was a violation by government agents of his "contract" with the party.

Throughout the four-year pretrial proceedings, Pfaelzer readily agreed Gelfand

had no evidence. But, equally readily, she denied each motion to dismiss, or even to curb the abuse of pretrial proceedings by Gelfand's attorneys, Fisher & Moest, a high-priced legal outfit.

Finally, in open court, Pfaelzer declared the obvious — that the "only motive was to paralyze" the SWP.

Her ruling came at a time when the Los Angeles media was focusing on new revelations of police abuses of civil liberties. Many of these violations occurred during the period when Pfaelzer was head of the Los Angeles police commission.

## Protests hit court harassment

### California social services union

LOS ANGELES — Meeting here last month, the state executive board of Social Services Union, Local 535 of the Service Employees International Union, invited Robin Maisel to report on the suit against the Socialist Workers Party. An attorney who has represented workers at the Long Beach Naval Shipyard, Maisel was one of the team of attorneys defending the SWP in the recent trial here.

Following his report, the board members voted to send a message of solidarity to the SWP. The following is the text.

We support, sympathize with, and identify with you in your fight against the efforts of a disgruntled former member, using the courts, to disrupt and discredit your organization.

We face a problem similar to yours in Los Angeles County where a group of dissatisfied former members and officers of our union, unable to change the policies and direction of the union through the channels of the union itself, have broken away and attempted to decertify and destroy us.

This group has not been successful to date, but their efforts have diverted significant resources from our own organizational efforts into a defensive struggle against them. If they could tie us up in court battles for an extended period of time, our efforts to defend the living and working conditions of our members would be made even more difficult than it is already.

We cannot allow the First Amendment, which guarantees freedom of association,

The danger to democratic rights in the Gelfand case was apparent to many. This was reflected in the generous response to an emergency PRDF fund appeal (see story this page), and by the many organizations and individuals who voiced protest.

Among these were Rev. Ben Chavis; Anthony Mazzocchi of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; Democratic Socialists of America Chairperson Michael Harrington; Georgia American Agriculture Movement Chairperson Tommy Kersey; and many more, as indicated by the statements on this page.

to be nullified by the decision of any court that it has the right to dictate to any voluntary association, who its members and officers can be, and what policies it may or may not adopt.

Sincerely and in unity,  
Sandra C. Morgan, R.N.  
President

### Jailed Black rights fighter

DALLAS — Dr. Emerson Emory was publisher of *Freedom's Journal*, a Black community weekly here. The paper, with a circulation of 10,000, focused on the struggles of Black people for social and economic justice.

Two years ago, Emory was railroaded to prison on trumped-up charges of illegally dispensing drugs. Now jailed in Texarkana, he has organized fellow prisoners into a study group on the history and goals of the Black liberation movement.

The following are excerpts from a letter Emory sent to the Political Rights Defense Fund rally held here March 26.

"The case in California is of greatest importance to all of us, especially at a time when the federal government seems hell bent on eliminating many of the rights of working people and minorities, especially minorities.

"For many years, and especially during the heated days of the 60s, we were told to observe the law and the courts would take care of all our problems. We were asked to take our actions to the halls of justice and not to the streets of America.

"It has become quite apparent that somewhere along the line, the system has failed.



Alan Gelfand

Militant

The halls of justice seem to be falling down all around us.

"Our political freedoms, as meager as they are, represent the only possible access to tomorrow. The SWP constitutional rights are at stake today; tomorrow it will be yours. *Gelfand v. Smith* must be dismissed. You must help to have it dismissed."

### Editor of 'Racine Labor'

The Political Rights Defense Fund in Wisconsin released the following personal statement by Roger Bybee, editor of *Racine Labor*.

"Once more, it appears that the government is interfering with the activities of an organization working to redress America's enormous inequities of wealth and power. Over the last century, the government and its courts have repeatedly and almost unfailingly sided with the employers and their class against unions and other progressive organizations challenging their domination of society.

"The current case in the Los Angeles Federal Court fits perfectly into this pattern of repression. But it also breaks new ground by calling into question the right of popular organizations to democratically elect their own leadership without government intervention.

"As such, the Gelfand case represents an intolerable attack on the democratic rights so essential to the struggle for genuine economic and political democracy in our society."

### Houston civil libertarians

HOUSTON — A number of organizations and individuals here have registered their support to the Political Rights Defense Fund in its defense of the Socialist Workers Party against the Gelfand suit. The following are some of those released by the committee.

From the American Civil Liberties Union of Greater Houston:

"Government intrusion into the affairs of voluntary political parties is a direct violation of the First Amendment right to free association.

"Judge Pfaelzer's refusal to dismiss *Gelfand v. Smith* shows her apparent disregard for established limits to governmental monitoring of political groups.

"The ACLU of Houston supports the Political Rights Defense Fund in its efforts to keep this threat from becoming a dangerous precedent allowing judicial usurpation of the United States Constitution.

From Ray Hill, executive director of the Houston Human Rights League:

"From the beginning of the SWP suit I have felt it unfortunate that political groups were forced into self-defensive litigation to protect themselves against government encroachment into their operations.

"I am appalled that the courts have permitted individuals, perhaps agents provocateurs, to enter the litigation and confuse the issues."

Subscribe to the Militant

## Last-minute push to make defense fund goal

BY HARRY RING

NEW YORK — The editor of a well-known Wisconsin trade union paper. A victimized Texas Black rights fighter writing from prison. A California union fighting use of the courts as an antilabor weapon.

These and other messages on this page help explain why the Political Rights Defense Fund has won such encouraging support in its defense of the Socialist Workers Party against court victimization. Increasingly, people are learning from direct experience how the courts can be used as a

club against those fighting for social progress.

Recognition of the issues at stake in the SWP case is also registered in the heartening response to PRDF's \$75,000 Emergency Defense Fund. The money is being raised to meet the most urgent of the heavy financial obligations incurred during this expensive four-year court fight.

With a goal of raising \$75,000 by May 1, the committee has already collected \$63,000, according to PRDF coordinator Holbrook Mahn.

"We've been in touch with supporters around the country," Mahn said, "and from what they tell us, if a serious last-minute push is made we can raise the \$75,000 by the deadline."

But, Mahn emphasized, that's not the end of the effort. The committee has actually received pledges and contributions totalling more than \$100,000 and that entire amount is urgently needed.

"We're counting on supporters realizing this," Mahn said, "and conveying that need to those who still have outstanding pledges.

"We realize," he added, "that there are some final payments that won't come in until the first part of May. A number of people pledged to the fund on the basis of anticipating income tax refunds. And Uncle Sam isn't always that quick about mailing them out."

"But we certainly can meet and even exceed the initial \$75,000 goal by May Day and then, hopefully, the weeks immediately following will bring in the balance. We're counting on our supporters organizing the kind of systematic final collections that will mean success in this."

And, we might add, if you haven't as yet contributed to this worthy cause, why not clip the coupon on this page and mail it to PRDF today. There isn't too much time remaining.

**PRDF \$75,000 Emergency Defense Fund**

Enclosed is my contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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



## Eastern Airlines lays off 1,600 workers

Only a few hours after ratifying a new contract, workers at Eastern Airlines were confronted with a new attack by the company. On April 9, Eastern announced the "layoff" of 1,600 workers. These do not appear to be temporary cutbacks due to lack of work. Rather, they seem to be a more permanent move aimed at cutting costs and weakening the union.

The International Association of Machinists (IAM) had successfully stood up to Eastern's attempts to force more concessions out of the 13,500 mechanics, baggage handlers, and other ground personnel represented by District 100 of the union. After a series of wage concessions over the past few years, the new contract includes a wage increase of 32 percent over the three-year life of the agreement.

The company had threatened to force the union out on strike if it

didn't accept another one-and-a-half-year wage freeze. Workers indicated their view of the company's threat by voting down Eastern's initial contract offer on March 18. Seventy-two percent voted no.

Despite tough talk from Eastern's chairman, Frank Borman, that the company would keep their planes in the air despite a strike, the airline changed its tune at the last minute and offered the contract that the rank-and-file approved by a ratio of almost 9-to-1 in favor.

Eastern's spokesman called the new contract a "disappointment."

Within hours of union ratification of the agreement, the airline retaliated with its "layoff" announcement.

Eastern insisted the job cuts are "not really" a direct result of the new agreement. However, this is not too believable to most workers. Charles Bryan, president of District 100 of the IAM, said the move is "just another new low in Eastern's credibility. A continuation of repressive management is what it is."

## Seattle metal workers forced on strike

BY DAVE GOLDMAN AND DEAN PEOPLES

SEATTLE — Three companies — Jorgensen Steel, Washington Iron, and Northwest Bolt and Nut — have provoked a strike that has now spread to 28 shops employing 2,100 workers.

The striking workers are members of Machinists Lodge 79, Boilermakers Local 104, Teamsters Local 117, and Molders Local 158.

The three companies earlier dropped out of an employer organization that has bargained with the unions' Metal Trades Council and hired a union-busting firm to handle their labor relations. They said they will implement their last offer to the unions in place of contracts that expired March 31.

This last offer consisted of demands for wage reductions of \$3 to \$5 an hour, loss of the union shop, loss of all pension benefits,

a one-third reduction in health and welfare benefits, reduction of overtime pay from double time to time-and-a-half, loss of two paid holidays, and restrictions on vacation eligibility.

In meetings across the city April 18, the 1,800 workers in the Metal Trades Council working in shops other than the three companies originally struck voted to join the strike. The 28 shops in the Seattle area are now idled in the wake of the failure, as Boilermakers business manager Joe Pilato put it, of "four weeks of intensive concessions bargaining."

One worker on the picket line who had participated in negotiations said the companies had refused to even discuss a mediator's proposal of a 5 percent across-the-board cut and a two-year wage freeze.

The strikers expect a drawn-out struggle based on the severity of the bosses' takeback demands. While many strikers feel that some level of takebacks was probably unavoidable, they think the bosses' last offer would undo 40 years of labor progress.

When Jorgensen announced plans to run the plant with scabs and supervisors, the unions mobilized a picketline of 150 members. The strikers' anger was reinforced by reports that Jorgensen had called back laid-off workers and threatened them with loss of their jobs if they refused to cross the picketline.

The company also spread rumors that laid-off workers would lose their unemployment compensation if they refused to come to work.

On April 12 the company called in the cops to escort scabs through the picketline. When picketers sat down in front of the gate to protest this move, the cops left, and a carload of scabs drove through the picketline. One striker was run over and slightly injured.

The cops then returned with an injunction that Jorgensen got from a friendly local judge that limits the number of pickets at the plant gate to six.

Compiled by Geoff Mirelowitz

# PLO delivers blow to Reagan's Mideast plans

BY WILL REISSNER

President Reagan's plans for the Middle East took another blow April 10 when Jordan's King Hussein failed in his attempts to blackmail Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) leader Yassir Arafat into going along with the Reagan proposals.

The Reagan plan was made public last September, right after the PLO's withdrawal from West Beirut. Washington hoped to take advantage of the blows that the Israeli army had dealt to the Palestinian people in Lebanon. Reagan's aim was to force political concessions from the Palestinians, split the PLO, and push Jordan into a separate treaty with Israel.

Reagan called on the Jordanian king to take the PLO's place as the representative of the Palestinian people in any Mideast negotiations. Reagan claimed that if King Hussein opened talks with the Israelis, Washington would pressure Tel Aviv to stop building new settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which Israel has occupied since 1967. He also promised to support some form of autonomy for the territories in loose association with Jordan.

But Reagan's plan specifically excluded the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, as demanded by the PLO and the Palestinian people.

## PLO says no to Reagan

At the nine-day Palestine National Council meeting in February, that body rejected the Reagan plan in no uncertain terms. The PNC declared: "The Reagan plan in its procedure and contents does not respond to the Palestinian people's inalienable national rights. The Reagan plan negates the Palestinian rights to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of the independent Palestinian state. It also ignores the PLO as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative and contradicts international legitimacy."

This view has been repeated time and

again since then. As Yassir Arafat told a March 30 rally in Damascus, Syria, only days before his talks with King Hussein started, "if there is to be a solution, it will have to be on the basis of the Fez summit" meeting of Arab states. The Fez summit called for an independent Palestinian state and recognized the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

As the talks with Hussein began, Khalil al-Wazir, a PLO leader often referred to as Abu Jihad, said the Reagan plan "does not satisfy Palestinian aims. Where is any mention of the P.L.O.? Where is any mention of an independent Palestinian state?"

The night before Hussein began his talks with Arafat, the Jordanian monarch received a telephone call from Reagan urging him to apply maximum pressure on the PLO to make it change its stance.

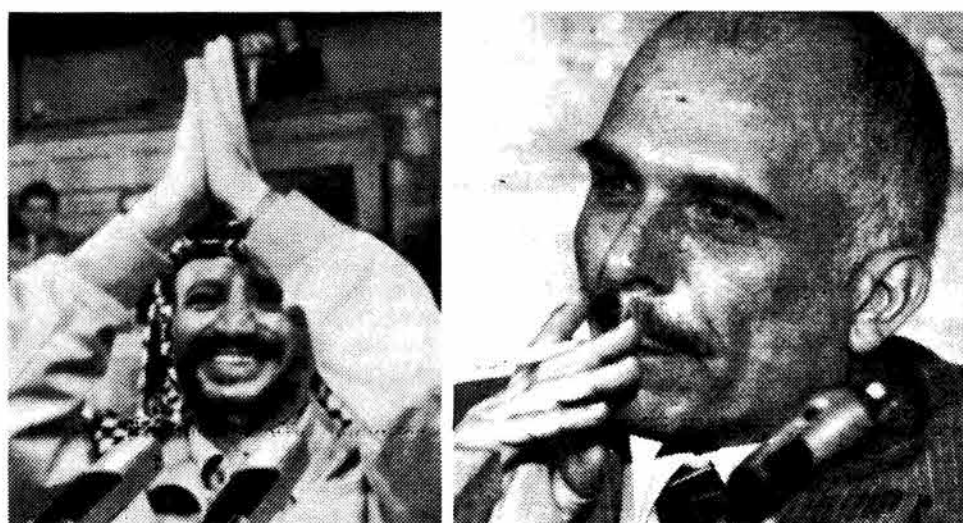
## Hussein threatens PLO

According to Herbert Denton, writing in the April 8 *Washington Post*, Hussein threatened to begin talks with Israel alone "if Arafat refused to allow him to bargain on behalf of the Palestinians." Denton adds that "Hussein also allegedly told Arafat that he would hold a referendum in Jordan and among Palestinians on the West Bank to gain support for such a move."

The PLO leader, however, refused to yield to these threats, and Hussein was forced to back down.

Following the breakdown in the Hussein-Arafat talks, Secretary of State George Shultz called on the Arab League to reverse its 1974 recognition of the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people.

An editorial in the April 12 *Washington Post* echoed Shultz's call for a more pliable Palestinian representation. Falsely claiming that "the statehood-or-nothing approach of the PLO has only feeble support among West Bankers," the *Post*'s editors



PLO leader Yassir Arafat (left) rebuffed Jordanian King Hussein's attempts to carry out Reagan's Mideast plan.

argued that "it would be foolish to chase further after the PLO. But it would be shortsighted not to continue the effort to draw out a Palestinian negotiating partner on the West Bank."

But Washington's hopes of splitting the PLO or developing a Palestinian force outside its ranks has run up against a basic problem. Even so-called "moderates" in the occupied territories recognize that the Reagan administration is not interested in forcing any real concessions from the Begin government, which has vowed not to give up an inch of the occupied territories.

On closer examination, Reagan's claims of pressure exerted on the Israeli government turn out to be nothing but window dressing. For example, the White House recently announced with considerable fanfare that it was pressing the Israelis to withdraw their 35,000 troops from Lebanon by postponing the delivery of 75 F-16 jet fighters to Israel.

But none of the F-16s are scheduled for delivery until 1985! The only thing the White House actually postponed was notification of the pending sale that it is required to file with Congress.

One Jordanian politician pointed out that "if the U.S. cannot push the Israelis out of Lebanon, why should anyone believe it can get them out of the West Bank?"

Former Gaza mayor Rashad al-Shawa noted that "the United States has within its power sufficient influence to stop Israeli settlement in the territories. Merely to talk about doing its best to stop the Israeli settlements — I don't believe that is serious enough for us who call ourselves moderates."

## Expansion of settlements

Far from coming to a halt, the Israeli colonization in the occupied territories is accelerating as the Begin government continues its policy of de facto annexation. Tel

Aviv recently announced an 18-month program to expand 68 existing settlements and to increase the Israeli population in the West Bank from 30,000 to 50,000.

Former Israeli Army Chief of Staff Rafael Eytan laid out the Begin government's policy in the clearest terms in the Israeli Knesset (parliament) on April 12. Eytan boasted that "when we have settled the land, all the Arabs will be able to do about it will be to scurry around like drugged roaches in a bottle."

Many Palestinians fear that the Israeli government is planning to drive most of them out of the territories as the next phase in its territorial expansion.

The Israeli government's attitude is illustrated by remarks made by the deputy speaker of the Knesset on March 17. Meir Cohen lamented that the Israelis had not expelled the Palestinians from the West Bank when they conquered it in 1967. Cohen said "we had the means in 1967 to make sure that 200,000 or 300,000 would move to the other side, as was done in Lydda, Ramla, and Galilee in 1948, but we made a calamitous mistake. Things would have been simpler today: no Palestinian problem, no stones, no demonstrations. We could have brought in 100,000 settlers and there would have been no trouble."

Hussein's threat to approach the Palestinian people over the head of the PLO if the talks with Arafat did not yield significant results was mere bluster. Both Hussein and Reagan know that the PLO represents the overwhelming majority of Palestinians. And they know that unless they can destroy the PLO, the Reagan plan is doomed to failure.

After all, demonstrators on the West Bank regularly carry PLO flags and pictures of Arafat when they confront Israeli troops. When was the last time demonstrators in the occupied territories carried pictures of King Hussein?

From Intercontinental Press

## Imperialism vs. the Iranian Revolution:

Which side for working people?

By Janice Lynn & David Frankel



40 pp., \$.95. Order from Pathfinder Press, 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014. Please include \$.75 for postage and handling.



# Civil rights leaders protest frame-up of Kentucky Black

BY CHUCK PETRIN

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Civil rights leaders here joined together April 9 for a banquet and rally in support of Al Horsley.

Horsley is a 41-year-old Black worker, community activist, and socialist who is being framed on charges of kidnapping and robbery. A broad array of individuals and organizations have formed a defense committee to fight for his freedom.

Sixty people turned out at the Calvary Baptist Church to help launch the committee's publicity and fundraising campaigns.

Maurice Sweeney, president of the Louisville NAACP, praised the defense effort and pledged his organization's support.

"Do not underestimate the importance of what you're doing," Sweeney stressed. "We find ourselves in a situation today where the government is pushing back the clock on civil rights and civil liberties everywhere."

"This case presents another challenge but also an opportunity — to organize ourselves, reach out among ourselves to win justice. By taking this initiative you can set an important precedent for what we will need to do more of in the future."

## Framed on kidnap charge

Horsley was arrested January 8 while on his way to deliver leaflets for a march and rally commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday. City police charged that a week earlier he had stopped a white woman in downtown Louisville, forced her into her car, drove her to an all-white neighborhood, and robbed her of some money and jewelry. Horsley was locked up in the county jail for more than a month before being released on \$20,000 bond.

His trial is scheduled for June 13. The fact that Horsley was home with his mother and sister at the time the kidnapping incident was supposed to have taken place is of no apparent interest to the prosecution. Horsley is Black and he is an outspoken fighter for the rights and interests of all working people. Evidence continues to mount showing it is that — and that alone — which accounts for the charges against him.

At the defense rally, Horsley reviewed his record.

• As an assembly line worker at International Harvester and a member of United Auto Workers Local 1336, he joined the Black Workers Coalition (BWC). The BWC fought company discrimination on the job and backed a citywide movement in support of busing for school desegregation.

Like other members of the BWC, Horsley was eventually fired by Harvester on a pretext. An Equal Employment Opportunity Commission study later found the company guilty of racist discrimination, but he was unable to regain his job.

## Horsley's 'crime' was standing for rights of working people

The following is an excerpt from greetings presented to the Al Horsley defense rally from Manning Marable of the Race Relations Institute at Fiske University.

Brother Horsley's only crimes were that he was born Black in racist, white America; that he stood for justice in a nation which prides itself on bigotry and exploitation; and that he stood for the rights of working people in a society which worships the rich.

If Martin [Luther King] was alive, he would be a proud member of this defense committee. If Malcolm X was here tonight, he would take a stand for freedom with Al Horsley. Can we do otherwise?

We demand Al Horsley's immediate release, that all charges be dropped, and that this false and vindictive campaign against our brother be ended.

• After losing his own home and other property through bank foreclosures, he was spurred to greater involvement in Black community protests concerning a variety of issues — housing rights, utility company rip-offs, unemployment, and so on. He joined the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression (KAARPR), the Louisville Anti-Klan Coalition, and other groups.

• In 1982 he was attracted to the campaign of Craig Honts, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress. He participated in campaign activities, joined the Young Socialist Alliance, and later attended the YSA national convention in Chicago.

"I'll let the facts speak for themselves," Horsley told the rally audience. "My 'record' is not a criminal record. It's the record of a Black worker who all his life has had to fight injustice."

"The power structure in this country can take away your job, your home, even your freedom, and then expect you to just grin and bear it. Not me. I'll never give up. I'll never give them that kind of satisfaction."

Anne Braden, representing KAARPR, put the Horsley frame-up in the context of the U.S. war drive abroad and a pattern of increasing racism and attacks on all working people at home.

"It's the people who run this country who are scared the most. They're scared there will be more and more people like Al Horsley who will begin to explore new ideas, new solutions to the problems they face."

## FBI guidelines

Braden drew attention to new FBI regulations; which officially authorize the political police to spy on and disrupt those whose ideas and activities the government doesn't like. "We have to stop the government from telling us how to think," she

# 'Militant' renews fight against U.S. Steel

BY ANDY ROSE

BIRMINGHAM — Attorneys for the *Militant* are pressing in federal court to get out the facts behind a brutal assault on two distributors of the paper.

The two salespeople, Nelson Blackstock and Eric Flint, were beaten with baseball bats, pipes, and wrenches by a 25-man goon squad outside U.S. Steel's Concord mine here in 1979.

Blackstock, Flint, and the *Militant* filed a \$2 million lawsuit charging that the attack was led by foremen and other supervisors from the mine. They said company officials conspired to deprive the two of their civil rights, in particular the right to sell the *Militant* free from violent assaults.

U.S. Steel, hoping to keep its role secret, has called on Judge Foy Guin to throw the suit out of court — for the third time. A ruling is expected soon.

If the suit is not dismissed, the next stage will be pretrial discovery, in which U.S. Steel would have to answer questions and produce documents concerning the beating. That's something the giant corporation wants to avoid.

It's no secret whose side Judge Guin is on. He has already dismissed the case twice.

First he said the complaint — the statement of the legal and factual grounds for the suit — was not specific enough.

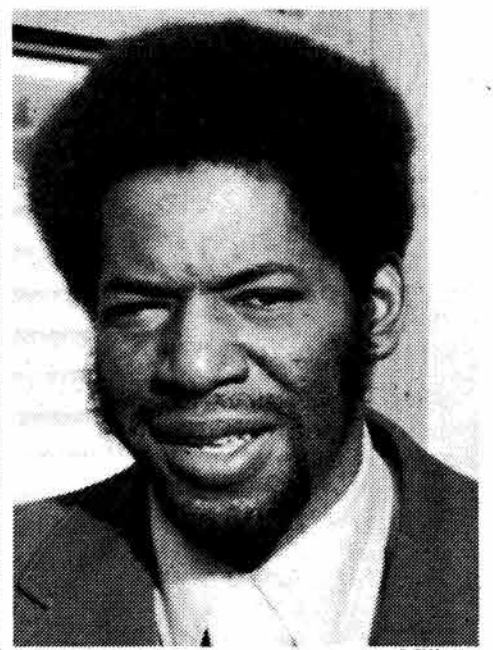
When the complaint was redrafted, the judge threw it out again. Without hearing any evidence, Guin ruled U.S. Steel not guilty and shifted the blame onto the miners. He said the attack must have been "spontaneous" because "it is within this court's knowledge that coal miners are clearly anticommunist, antisocialist, etc."

Guin didn't try to explain how the mantrip — the device that transports workers into the mine — was "spontaneously" de-



Militant/Nelson Blackstock

Longtime rights fighter Anne Braden called for united defense of Al Horsley (right): "Every time they try to frame one of us up, we have to take up the fight."



Militant

said. "A movement is needed that can turn this country around — and we have a right to build that movement."

Braden linked the defense campaigns for Al Horsley; Mayor Eddie Carthan in Tchula, Mississippi; and others with the planned August 27-28 March on Washington for Jobs, Peace and Freedom.

"Every time they try to frame one of us up," she said, "we have to take up the fight. People have to come together, dig their heels in, and say, 'No, we won't let you get away with it.'"

Adlene Abstein, financial secretary for the Kentucky Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), also spoke at the rally and pledged the group's support. Greetings were read from Manning Marable of the Race Relations Institute at Fiske University (see below).

The Kentucky SCLC, KAARPR, and Louisville NAACP are all endorsers of the Al Horsley Defense Committee. Other endorsers include NAACP Ministerial Alliance, United Black Protective Parents, Fellowship of Reconciliation, and Ministers and Deacons of Louisville and Vicinity.

Also endorsing are Joe Booker, president of United Auto Workers Local 817; Lyman T. Johnson, Black educator and civil rights leader; Abdul Qahhar, former defendant in the "Panther Seven" case,

now associated with the American Muslim Mission; and Mattie Mathis, co-chairperson of Concerned Citizens of Louisville.

## Petition Drive

More than 3,000 people have already signed petitions demanding the frame-up charges against Al Horsley be dropped. More than \$1,000 has been contributed toward legal and publicity expenses. But defense committee organizers say this is just a beginning.

Arlene Rubinstein and Rev. William Bell, co-chairpersons for the committee, reported on plans for stepped-up petitioning, outreach, and fundraising activities in the weeks leading up to the June trial. The focus of these activities will be another public rally to be held at the King Solomon Baptist Church, the city's largest Black church, on the weekend of June 4.

The committee is urging that letters and telegrams demanding the dropping of frame-up charges against Al Horsley be sent to the state prosecutor at the following address: David Armstrong, Commonwealth Attorney, Hall of Justice, 601 W. Jefferson, Louisville, Ky. 40201. (Copies should be sent to the defense committee.)

Financial contributions and requests for information should be sent to: Al Horsley Defense Committee, P.O. Box 748, Louisville, Ky. 40201



Militant

Nelson Blackstock, victim of company goon squad for selling *Militant* at coal mine.

played to allow time for the assault. The mantrip is under strict company control.

Nor did he explain how Blackstock's camera, stolen during the attack, "spontaneously" appeared the next day at a U.S. Steel office 12 miles from the mine.

Last October, after a delay of some two-and-a-half years, a federal appeals court overturned Guin's ruling and reinstated the lawsuit. At a March 18 hearing, Judge Guin refused to allow attorney David Marshall — representing the *Militant*, Blackstock, and Flint — to argue against U.S. Steel's motion to dismiss.

Instead, Guin said the complaint, redrafted in line with his own earlier instructions, and those of the appeals court decision, was now too long! He didn't have time to read it, he said, ordering that various legal papers be rewritten and resubmitted yet again.

The first step in renewing public support for the case was taken at a Political Rights

Defense Fund meeting here March 27. PRDF national coordinator Holbrook Mahn called for getting out the facts about the suit. "We want to let the judge know people will be watching him," Mahn said.

"What's at stake," he explained, "is the right of anyone — whether they are organizing a union, or urging support for a defense case, or simply getting out their ideas — to go to the workplace and seek to involve the workers in a cause."

The right to distribute literature on public property near a plant or mine entrance is clearly of prime importance for union efforts to organize the unorganized, Mahn noted.

He also pointed to "the effect on miners if they see the company can get away with sending a goon squad to attack people just for selling newspapers — what a chilling effect that will have on workers' rights to discuss and organize to deal with their problems."

The goal of the lawsuit is to expose the full story of U.S. Steel's role and to make it and other companies think twice before resorting again to such violent intimidation.

When the lawsuit was first filed immediately after the attack took place, it was supported by a range of unionists and supporters of political rights. Prominent among them were a number of miners' leaders, including Gerald Cornette, president of the United Mine Workers of America local at the Jericol mine in Harlan, Kentucky, which was on strike at the time, and Bill Worthington, president of the Black-Lung Association.

The fight has been long delayed by the unabashed procompany stance of the court. But now that the case is again active, Mahn said, it deserves the support of all defenders of union rights and free speech.



## Black community protests shooting by Alabama cops

BY HEIDI FISHER

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — The near-fatal shooting of yet another young Black man by Montgomery police has brought an angry response from the Black community here.

Hundreds jammed into Peoples Baptist Church April 11 for a mass meeting demanding an end to police terror.

Bobby Joe Sales, 23, was shot in the back while running from police investigator Ralph Conner. Conner and his partner, both in plainclothes, had not identified themselves as police.

Cops at first said Sales had been mistaken for an escaped prisoner sought by Conner. Sales had committed no crime, was not wanted for anything, and bore no resemblance to the escapee.

In a second version, police made the incredible claim that Sales — as he fled — appeared to be reaching for a weapon. Sales was unarmed.

Black community leaders are demanding that Conner be suspended without pay while the shooting is investigated.

Just six weeks earlier, Conner's partner was involved in the cop attack on the Taylor family. The Taylors are charged with attempted murder for defending them-

selves when two plainclothes cops burst into their house, guns drawn, in the middle of the night. A grand jury is now hearing evidence against all 11 members of the Taylor family.

Conner had been identified as one of the cops who beat the Taylors while they were in jail.

At the April 11 mass meeting, Taylor family defense coordinator Freddie Fox explained that the defense committee is broadening its scope to call for an end to all police brutality. He said the committee will begin to collect citizens' reports of police violence and intimidation.

Repeated community mobilizations here have won some victories. Radio station WXVI was recently forced to rehire Ralph Featherstone and Thomas Jordan, two announcers fired for speaking out on the Taylor case. All the disc jockeys at the white-owned, Black-oriented station walked out in support. Now they are back on the job and fighting to get a Black station manager.

The mass meetings against cop violence have also served as organizing centers against other racial discrimination. Picketing and a boycott forced a K-Mart to rehire two Black employees who were discriminatorily fired.

Similar picketing in defense of a fired Black employee is going on at Church's Chicken. Timothy Mays, who pickets at Church's every day after work, told the April 11 meeting how a cop stuck

a finger in his face and declared, "If I had my way, you wild animal, I'd blow your brains all over the street."

A city council meeting April 12 was jammed by outraged Blacks demanding justice, but so far Mayor Emory Folmar and Police Chief Charles Swindall refuse to carry out any serious investigation or to restrain their trigger-happy cops.

## Militarization of Black high school protested

BY MORRIS STARKY

CINCINNATI — Supporters of the Coalition Against the Cincinnati Military Academy showed up at the Board of Education meeting April 11 to tell board members what they thought about a plan to transform Hughes High School into a military academy.

The plan first surfaced in 1979, but was never implemented because of opposition organized by Black community leaders, the American Civil Liberties Union, and other groups. The Board of Education has revived the plan at this time to take advantage of the high unemployment in the Black community — especially among Black youth. Hughes High School is 90 percent Black. The school board is trying to sell the military academy plan as a way for Black youth to get needed "high-tech" job skills.

Speaking for the Coalition Against the Cincinnati Military Academy, Rev. Daniel Buford called the military an "option of despair."

Michael Itali spoke for the Young Socialist Alliance. He said young people "don't want training to fight new Vietnamese in El Salvador or Lebanon." He explained that opposition to the military academy was part of a bigger fight against the U.S. war drive in Central America and elsewhere.

Other groups represented at the school board meeting were the Cincinnati Federation of Teachers, NAACP, National Black Independent Political Party, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Cincinnati Center for Peace Education and Cincinnati Anti-Klan Network.

## Women miners address W. Va. NOW chapter

FAIRMONT, W. Va. — The chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW) here held a program on women miners March 16. The program included a film followed by a talk by Sandy Dorsey, one of eight women who successfully sued Consolidation Coal Co. for sexual harassment at the Shoemaker Mine #9 near Wheeling, West Virginia.

The women filed suit against Consol in 1981 after discovering a

"peephole" from the company safety room to the women's bathroom. Company agents and officials spied on them for three years.

Consol responded to the suit with attempts to intimidate the women and discredit their moral character. Despite these efforts the suit was successful. After one full week of trial, the case was settled in the women's favor.

In her remarks to the NOW meeting, Dorsey said the victory in this case is for all women fighting sexual harassment on the job. The women filing the suit knew if they were successful in challenging a powerful company like Consol it would encourage other women.

(Two other "peephole" suits have been filed by women miners in the last year; one in southern Illinois and one in Beckley, West Virginia.)

A number of women in the audience were miners. One of them spoke of how people at her mine — both male and female — had cheered the success of the Consol suit. Other participants took up the question of how to better prepare the United Mine Workers of America for fighting company harassment and discrimination against women. The National Conference of Women Miners scheduled for June in Pennsylvania was discussed as an important way of bringing together women miners, their coworkers, and union officials to take up these issues.

# New coverup of safety violations exposed at TMI

BY KATHERINE SOJOURNER

HARRISBURG, Pa. — Four years ago, this city was known as little more than the state's capital. Living in a big farming area that is heavily industrialized, the two million people who live in central Pennsylvania had no idea that they would soon be on center stage in a nightmarish event watched by the entire world.

At 37 seconds past 4 a.m., on March 28, 1979, a nuclear accident began at Unit 2 of the Three Mile Island (TMI) nuclear power plant near Harrisburg that brought the world 30 to 60 minutes away from a nuclear meltdown — a catastrophe that could have killed at least 45,000 people and left Pennsylvania uninhabitable.

No one knows how much radioactive gas was released into the atmosphere. The measuring instruments on the island went off scale and stayed off for several days. On the morning of the accident, releases occurred more than 100 times greater than the normal limit.

On March 30 a hydrogen gas bubble formed in the damaged Unit 2 reactor that grew to over 1,000 cubic feet in size. At 10 a.m., the civil defense air-raid siren was set off in Harrisburg, and people listened to it in horror for six minutes. The first of more than 150,000 people began to flee in every direction, on trains, buses, cars, and planes.

There were accidents in front of schools, as parents picking up children for evacuation smashed into one another. Poorer fam-

ilies were often forced to put their children on buses and stay behind; area employers were not sympathetic to anyone missing work, and many workers did not have the money to leave.

The terror hasn't ended. For four years, the nuclear industry, aided by the government, has continued to play nuclear roulette with lives and safety.

The owners of TMI, General Public Utilities (GPU), have sunk their major resources into the restart of Unit 1. This so-called undamaged reactor, which was shut down for refueling at the time of the accident, is scheduled for restart in mid-July.

Large-scale modifications have been required by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and agreed to by GPU, but GPU doesn't intend to make the changes until after Unit 1 is restarted — and then only if they're "feasible."

A new scandal has rocked the area over cleanup of the damaged reactor, Unit 2. Three engineers working on the cleanup have charged that safety procedures are being ignored.

For their services to the public in pointing out the risks, they have been harassed and punished by their employers, GPU and Bechtel Corp., illustrating once again that when giant corporations have to choose between money and safety, safety loses.

Richard Parks, a Bechtel engineer, revealed March 24 that he has been victimized by management for revealing "massive quality assurance violations" at the damaged reactor. Parks detailed his charges in a 56-page affidavit. Bechtel holds the prime contract for the cleanup, and Parks was one of three operating engineers for the entire project.

In one instance, he revealed, a major crane accident could occur when the attempt is made to lift the highly radioactive damaged core. Proper testing of the massive polar crane has not been done.

A United Press International summary of other charges includes:

- "Safety-related modifications were made to equipment and components without full prior engineering and approval."
- "Lack of an integrated schedule between the polar crane and other reactor headlift activities."
- "Quality assurance violations through issuance of test administrative procedures without prior review and approval."
- "Severe harassment and retaliation against those who internally challenged these violations, including investigation



March 28, 1979, accident at Three Mile Island brought world to brink of nuclear meltdown. Today, residents continue to fight reopening of TMI.

and dismissal for . . . previously undefined offenses."

Two other employees, Larry King, GPU's director of site operations, and his secretary were fired February 24 for also voicing strong safety concerns over cleanup procedures. Parks was suspended with pay on March 24. Management claims they suspended him to "insulate" him from any harassment and to maintain the "effectiveness of other employees."

Parks responded by stating that Bechtel and GPU wanted him "out of their hair." "This is more proof they are continuing to harass and intimidate me," he said. "I don't want to be off the island. They want me off."

On April 5 the media announced that Edwin Gischel, Unit 2 plant engineering director, had joined Parks and King in criticizing the damaged reactor's cleanup. Gischel also voiced concern "about harassment and intimidation against those of us who have expressed our professional opinions frankly."

Gischel's charges carry added weight because he is not, as he points out, "antinu-clear."

The day of Park's suspension, the area anti-nuclear organization, TMI Public Interest Resource Center in Harrisburg, asked the NRC to halt all work at Units 1 and 2 except for necessary maintenance. They called for a congressional investigation of cleanup shortcuts and for the formation of an independent commission to inspect and monitor future cleanup activities at TMI.

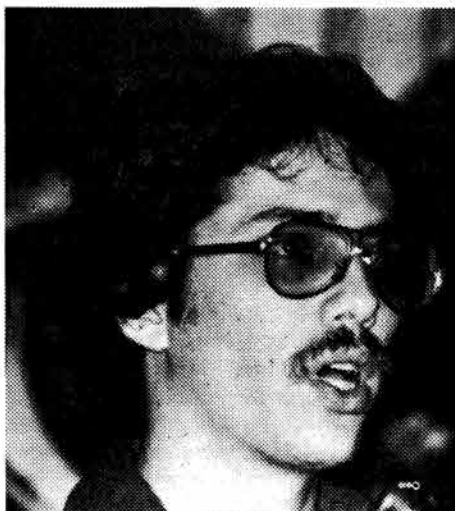
In a statement released on the fourth anniversary of the accident, Doug Cooper, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for Harrisburg City Council, said: "Three Mile Island should be shut down permanently. Nuclear power plants cannot be made to operate safely."

"The state of Pennsylvania alone rests on over 400 years of coal reserves. Why should we continue facing the hazards of nuclear power, when the technology exists today to mine coal safely and burn it cleanly? And many who have lost their jobs in the mines and steel mills and on the railroads could return to work."

These suggestions don't fall on deaf ears among central Pennsylvanians, who within a few months have had rate hikes in gas, telephone, and electricity bills, and who must live every day with the danger represented by TMI.

In surveys, polls, and a nonbinding referendum last May, again and again the majority who live here have made it clear they do not want TMI to ever reopen, and that a safe, speedy cleanup is their top priority.

Jim Hurst, an area leader of People Against Nuclear Energy (PANE) in Middletown, spoke recently at a TMI symposium. He noted that the rest of the panelists, mainly doctors and scientists, had used slides to illustrate their points. He stated, "If I had thought to bring my slides, I would have brought one to show why we are concerned with TMI. I would have brought a slide of my family and my home."



Militant/Charles Ostrofsky  
Doug Cooper, socialist candidate: "How many who have lost their jobs in mines and steel mills could return to work, if we used available coal?"



# Anti-immigrant bill discussed at N.Y. forum

BY DIANE WANG

NEW YORK — The New York Migration Forum and the Committee for Fair Immigration Legislation cosponsored a meeting in March to discuss the new Simpson-Mazzoli anti-immigration bill. About 75 representatives of immigrant service agencies, community organizations, and unions attended the forum, held at the headquarters of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union Local 23-25.

On February 17 Rep. Romano Mazzoli and Sen. Alan Simpson again introduced legislation to restrict the number of immigrant workers and sharply cut back their legal rights. Last year the Simpson-Mazzoli bill passed in the Senate but failed in the House of Representatives.

Sponsors of the new bill are trying to speed it through Congress, according to Wade Henderson of the American Civil Liberties Union legislative office. The Senate and House subcommittees finished hearings on the bill within a month after it was introduced.

Rick Swartz, president of the National Immigration, Refugee, and Citizenship Forum, and Allan Wernick of the Committee for Fair Immigration Legislation, outlined some of the dangers posed by the Simpson-Mazzoli bill.

The bill proposes to penalize bosses who knowingly hire undocumented workers. Civil rights groups have pointed out that the real target of this measure is Black and Spanish-speaking workers. These workers would be singled out to "prove" their citizenship when trying to get a job.

In fact, everyone's rights are threatened. The bill proposes that every citizen carry an official identification card, which could be used to go after union militants whether they are citizens or not.

Under the Simpson-Mazzoli bill refugees seeking asylum in the United States would lose the right to appeal decisions of the Immigration and Naturalization Service through the courts. The INS would have the right to simply deport refugees or turn them away at the border without a judicial review.

The bill would also make it much more difficult for immigrants with papers living in the United States to bring over their families to live with them.

The bill proposes that immigrant workers who have lived here for a specified time be given legal status. However, the United League of Latin American Citizens (LULAC) and other Latino organizations have called this proposed legalization a sham. The INS itself estimates that only half or fewer of the undocumented workers would qualify or risk coming forward to seek legal papers.

One provision of the law, for example, says that an undocumented worker who might need welfare or other public assistance cannot qualify for legalization. That

means that a woman garment worker supporting her family might fail to qualify. The government could claim she would need too much public assistance.

Michael Meyers of the National Council of Churches devoted his presentation to a description of lobbying techniques.

In presentations and discussion several speakers referred to an amendment to the Simpson-Mazzoli bill proposed by Rep. Pat Schroeder. Schroeder proposes that instead of penalizing bosses for hiring undocumented workers, current laws protecting workers be more strictly enforced and additional penalties be levied where undocumented workers are victimized.

The American Bar Association has recommended another amendment to avoid penalizing all employers. They suggest targeting only those industries that have traditionally used immigrant workers.

Meyers suggested that groups might want to consider supporting some kind of amendment for the sake of limiting the damage to undocumented workers if the bill passes.

Lupe Sanchez, executive director of the Arizona Farm Workers Union, spoke from the audience explaining why his union opposes any attempt to amend this legislation. The bill should be defeated, not amended, he said.

Sanchez also put the problems of immigrant workers in the context of the U.S. war drive, urging that people also demand an end to U.S. military aid to El Salvador.

The connection is important. According to the *Miami Herald*, of the 1,510 immigrants now being held in INS camps, 842 — more than half — are Salvadoran. The U.S. government refuses to grant Salvadorans political asylum.

Others in the audience discussed whether the failure of the Simpson-Mazzoli bill might only result in an even more repressive proposal. Another posed whether we must make concessions in order to win some legalization for immigrant workers.

Unfortunately, the speakers' proposals for opposition to the Simpson-Mazzoli bill focused on maneuvering within the framework of what Congress is willing to do. But that approach can only lead to bargaining, concessions, and ultimately defeat.

Defense of immigrant workers must start with uncompromising defense of full rights for all who live and work in this country: the right to work, the right to education and health care, the right to political activity. We need an educational campaign to explain why trade unions have a stake in the defense of immigrant workers as part of defending the labor movement itself. We need an educational campaign that rallies labor along with Black and Latino communities to defend immigrant workers.



Undocumented workers arrested near Orlando, Florida. Simpson-Mazzoli bill threatens rights of all workers, with or without "papers." It would require a national identification card for all citizens.

## Anti-imports campaign won't mean jobs

Continued from back page

leadership falls into this kind of trap.

Recently our union business agent explained to us that we needed to make "our" shop more competitive. The union had sent an expert from its productivity department who had recommended that the boss get new machines and that every worker in the shop go on "piece rate." Piece rate means pay is based on the rate of production, rather than hourly pay.

Of course, we would all like to use the new labor-saving machines. But part of the union's plan would mean we would take a cut in our piece rates because the new machines would increase productivity. Shouldn't the workers receive some of the benefits of this new technology, which is paid for out of the profits made from our work?

This approach, of making concessions to make the companies more competitive, does not save jobs. Auto workers and steelworkers, for instance, have made concessions like these, including big wage cuts, in the hope of saving jobs. But this has not created new jobs in those industries.

In addition to the fact that the anti-imports campaign will not create a single job, it is a danger to the union in another way.

Accepting the bosses' propaganda that unemployment is caused by imports, shifts the blame onto foreign workers — many of whom make only pennies an hour. This is a threat to the entire labor movement and to the ILGWU in particular. It's like accepting the bosses' view that foreign-born workers who move to this country are "stealing" the jobs of U.S. workers.

It is precisely these immigrant workers — from Central America and Asia — who make up a large section of our union. We cannot afford to give an inch to this kind of racist propaganda that is intended to break down the solidarity that workers need in order to fight the employers effectively.

A real fight for jobs could begin by taking a lesson from the 15,000 Chinese members of ILGWU Local 23-25 in New York, who marched against the bosses last year in a militant demonstration aimed at defending our contract. The slogan of the demonstration was "We are one."

This idea of mobilizing the membership in independent action on the basis of working-class solidarity points the way forward. This potential union power could be used to organize the hundreds of nonunion sweat shops and to fight the growing amount of industrial "home work."

Rather than joining the employers in a fight against imports, the ILGWU could launch our own fight under the banner of "Jobs not war." We could use the union resources and energy that is being misdirected into projects like the April 23 "Teleconference Day" for a fight against the billions of dollars the government is spending on a new Vietnam in El Salvador and Nicaragua. The billions that are being spent for nuclear weapons and U.S. military intervention around the world could be used to put garment workers, and others who are unemployed, back to work.

Those who seek to strengthen the ILGWU should reject the anti-import campaign and instead begin the fight for this kind of pro-working-class strategy that is based on the idea of working-class solidarity — at home and abroad.

*Leslie Dork is a sewing machine operator and a member of ILGWU Local 23-25 in New York City.*

## 100 protest jailing of Salvadoran refugees in Miami

MIAMI — About 100 people demonstrated March 27 in front of the Krome detention camp to protest the imprisonment there of refugees from El Salvador and the growing U.S. war against Central America. The protest rally was organized by the Latin American and Caribbean Solidarity Association (LACASA).

A number of the protesters were Haitians, some of whom were imprisoned in Krome themselves before protests forced federal courts to order their release.

A dozen armed border patrol cops faced the demonstrators. Other Immigration and Naturalization Service agents circulated in the crowd with a video tape camera, trying to intimidate the demonstrators.

A brief rally was held after about one hour of picketing. The speakers included LACASA head John Thiele, Haitian community leader Father Gerard Jean-Juste, farm worker organizer Fernando Rangel, and Miami Young Socialist Alliance leader Jackie Floyd. There were also speakers from the Miami Beach National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and an Iranian student group.

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# THE GREAT SOCIETY

**The budget torchers** — Although the United States reportedly has the highest fire fatality rate in the industrial world, the Reagan administration is cutting back on



Harry Ring

funding for the federal Center for Fire Research. Which, from the standpoint of consistent policy, is

cool. The next indicated move is to find a certified pyromaniac to head up the agency.

**They got a nerve** — A UPI dispatch advises, "Kampuchea is the name Cambodians use for their country."

**Person of principle** — We reported the case of Raymond Garland who was acquitted by an Illinois jury on failing to pay several years income tax, insisting that federal booklets clearly suggested such payment was voluntary. The *American Agriculture News* now reports that asked if he intended to

pay this year, Garland responded, no.

**How did they spot the error?** — Ralston Purina recalled 150 cans of cat food in the Salt Lake City area which were mistakenly labelled Chicken of the Sea tuna.

**Just leave 'em in the woods** — Penny Franco, 8, who was booted out of her Brownie troop because she didn't sell five of the 41 boxes of Scout cookies she ordered, will be allowed to join a new troop. The head Brownie for the area indicated Penny's troop chief had

overreacted. "We all have our stinkers. We all have a couple of girls we'd like to get rid of," she philosophized. "But there are better ways to handle it."

**Really?** — According to a recent federal study, poor people can economize by using beans instead of meat.

**Next case** — Denied a state job 11 years ago, Eldred Rice, then 62, filed a complaint with the Washington Human Rights Commission. In April Rice was notified the case was settled. The statute of limitations had expired and

no legal action could be taken.

**Now here's a deal** — What with the weakening of the pound, Rolls Royce has cut the U.S. price. You can now pick up a Silver Spirit — that's the economy model — for \$93,000.

**They'll paint too** — If you're interested in keeping ahead of the Joneses, check out New York's posh new Trump Tower. The penthouse, a condo, is said to be the world's most expensive — \$10 million. But there's handy shopping in the building and, for added convenience, it's right next door to Tiffany's.

## CALENDAR

### ARIZONA

#### Tucson

**Women and the Cuban and Nicaraguan Revolutions: Eyewitness Report.** Speaker: Betsy Stone, National Committee, Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat., April 30, 7:30 p.m. SW Savings Bank, 3404 E Broadway. Ausp: Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (602) 573-1545.

### CALIFORNIA

#### Oakland

**The Chicago Elections: Racism and the Democratic Party.** Speaker: Matilde Zimmermann, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. vice-president in 1980. Sat., April 30, 7:30 p.m. 2864 Telegraph Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (415) 763-3792.

#### San Francisco

**Meet Pat Wright, Socialist Candidate for Mayor of San Francisco.** Reception and rally. Sat., April 23, 7 p.m. 3284 23rd St. Ausp: Pat Wright for Mayor Campaign. For more information call (415) 824-1992.

**History of the Black Movement in the U.S.** A three-part series by Clifton DeBerry, longtime activist in civil rights and labor movements. 1: "The Civil Rights Movement," Fri., April 29, 8 p.m. 2: "The Black Nationalist Movement," Sat., April 30, 1 p.m. 3: "Independent Black Political Action," Sat., April 30, 3 p.m. Translation to Spanish. 3284 23rd St. Donation: \$2 per class, \$4 for series. Ausp: Pat Wright for Mayor Campaign. For more information call (415) 824-1992.

#### San Jose

**U.S. Government Policy and the Repression against Salvadoran Trade Unions.** Speakers: Alejandro Molina Lara, Salvadoran trade union leader; Peter Gautschi, business manager of Santa Clara County Central Labor Council; others. Fri., April 29, 7 p.m. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Santa Clara County Central Labor Council, Amalgamated Transit Union Local 265, International Association of Machinists Local 565, Service Employees International Union Local 535. For more information call (408) 295-5237 or (408) 280-0376.

### GEORGIA

#### Atlanta

**Which Way For Black Rights: A Discussion of the Washington Election in Chicago.** Speakers from NAACP, SCLC, Operation PUSH, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., April 30, 7:30 p.m. Georgia-Hill St. Center, 250 Georgia Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

**Workers Under Attack: How to Fight Back Against Speed-up, Forced Overtime, Sexual Harassment, Layoffs, and Piece Work.** Speaker: Gary Washington, member, Printing Specialties and Paper Products Local 527; representative of Socialist Workers Party. Sat., May 7, 7:30 p.m. 504 Flat Shoals Ave., E. Atlanta. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

### KENTUCKY

#### Louisville

**Grenada and Nicaragua: Two Eyewitness Reports and Slide Show.** Speakers: Joe Buckner, visited Grenada in 1981; Jon Hillson, visited Nicaragua in 1982. Sat., April 23, 7:30 p.m. 809 E Broadway (near Shelby). Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (502) 587-8418.

### MASSACHUSETTS

#### Boston

**Cuba Today.** Slide presentation by Al Campbell, recently visited Cuba. Sun., April 24, 7:30 p.m. 510 Commonwealth Ave. (Kenmore T stop.) Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (617) 262-4621.

### MICHIGAN

#### Detroit

**Lessons of the Chicago Election.** Speaker: Ed Warren, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Chicago. Sat., April 30, 8 p.m. 6404 Woodward Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (313) 875-5322.

### MINNESOTA

#### Virginia

**Nicaragua: The Struggle for Peace and Against U.S. Intervention.** Speaker: Wayne Lewis, just returned from Nicaragua. Fri., April 29, 7 p.m. 112 Chestnut St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (218) 749-6327.

### MISSOURI

#### Kansas City

**What Socialist America Will Look Like.** Speaker: Kathy Fitzgerald, 1982 Socialist Workers Party congressional candidate. Translation to Spanish. Sun., May 1, 8 p.m. 4715 A Troost. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (816) 753-0404.

### NEW MEXICO

#### Albuquerque

**Reagan's Nuclear Arms Build-up: What We Can Do to Stop It.** Speakers: Paul Mailhot, Socialist Workers Party; Blanche Fitzpatrick, Action For Nuclear Disarmament; Gerry Bradley, U.S. Peace Council. Translation to Spanish. Sat., April 23, 8 p.m. 1417 Central NE. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (505) 842-0954.

### NEW YORK

#### Brooklyn

**The Continuing U.S. War Against Vietnam and Kampuchea.** Speakers: Chan Bun Han, Committee in Solidarity With Viet Nam, Kampuchea, and Laos; Will Reissner, staff writer for *Intercontinental Press*. Translation to Spanish. Fri., April 29, 8 p.m. 335 Atlantic Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (212) 852-7922.

### OHIO

#### Toledo

**Grenada: Big Revolution On a Small Island.** Speaker: Andrew Pulley, National Committee, Socialist Workers Party, just returned from Grenada revolution's 4th anniversary celebrations. Slide show. Fri., April 29, 7:30 p.m. 2120 Dorr

St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (419) 536-0383.

### PENNSYLVANIA

#### Harrisburg

**Ireland: The Struggle For National Liberation.** Jack McKinney, columnist for *Philadelphia Daily News*, vice-president, The Newspaper Guild Local 10; Margie O'Rourke, representative of Free Micael O'Rourke Committee. Sun., April 24, 3 p.m. 803 N 2nd St. Donation: \$1. Ausp: Militant Forum and Harrisburg Irish Northern Aid. For more information call (717) 234-5052.

#### Pittsburgh

**Lessons of the Chicago Mayoral Race: The Socialist View.** Speaker: Al Duncan, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Pittsburgh city council, member United Mine Workers Local 2350. Sat., April 30, 7:30 p.m. 141 S Highland Ave., 3rd floor (E. Liberty). Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

### UTAH

#### Salt Lake City

**Class on 1848 Revolution in France and Germany.** Speaker: Betsy Stone, National Committee, Socialist Workers Party. Mon., April 25, 6 p.m. 677 S 700 E, 2nd floor. Ausp: Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (801) 355-1124.

**U.S. Arms Build-up: The Human Toll.** Speaker: Preston Truman, member of the Downwinders and victim of southern Utah fallout from Nevada atom bomb tests. Fri., April 29, 7:30 p.m. 677 S 700 E, 2nd floor. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (801) 355-1124.

### WASHINGTON

#### Seattle

**Cuba: What the Revolution Teaches.** Speaker: David McDonald, Socialist Workers Party; others to be announced. Sat., April 23, 7 p.m. 4868 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

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



# On being a Black woman poet in Cuba and U.S.

BY LEE MARTINDALE

NEW YORK — On March 10, the Center for Cuban Studies here arranged for two Black women poets — one from Havana, Cuba, and the other from the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn — to meet each other for the first time and talk about their poetry and its origins in their experiences and struggles. About 50 people came to listen.

The poets are Nancy Morejón, a well-known poet of the new generation in Cuba, and June Jordan, who has published 11 books of poetry and now teaches at the State University of New York in Stony Brook.

Morejón began the dialogue by reading two poems about her family: "El Cafe" (Coffee), and "La Cena" (The Dinner). "La Cena" is an affectionate description of a family dinner at her parents' home, and paints a tender and respectful picture of her father, a worker, "a man who builds."

Morejón explained that the poem was written in the '60s, when many young poets were discussing the role of the family in the new society they were building after the 1959 revolution, and trying to get a critical sense of it. They saw the "old" family being transformed into something new, she said, a family increased by society.

These themes of family and change immediately ignited a discussion.

June Jordan asked: What do you mean by family? The family in this country is changing too, but it's a change being fought for by people who see the family as oppres-



Nancy Morejón, left, and June Jordan.



## POETRY REVIEW

sive, an obstacle to women fulfilling themselves as human beings.

Morejón responded that the family is an old, old structure whose role remained fundamentally unchanged for centuries, and now in Cuba it is changing. As a Marxist, she said, she can't say "family" by itself, because it's the family in relation to society. In Cuba the society is changing, so the family is changing too.

But, said Jordan, the family is a contractual relationship guaranteed by the state. It embodies the idea of property, of ownership of one person by another. And implicit in it is that one member of the family — the patriarch — is more powerful than the others.

Morejón replied that, of course all of us had different experiences. Other Cuban poets write different kinds of poems about their families — angry poems. But, Morejón said, she found her cultural roots, her African roots, primarily through her family. It was a conduit to her real identity, she said.

Jordan then read two poems about her parents.

One was about her father, written at the time of his death. He was a West Indian who, in the poem, spent the little money he could scrape together ordering tropical

trees and flowers from catalogs and trying to coax them to grow in a stony backyard in Brooklyn. The poem spills over with anger at the futility of his dreams and her pain at his disappointment:

*West Indian in kitchen exile  
omnivorous consumer of thick  
kitchen table catalogs  
of seeds for sale  
for red  
bright flowers . . .  
who saved for money orders  
for the flowers  
for the trees  
who used a spade  
and shovel  
heavily and well  
to plant the Brooklyn backyard  
innocent of all  
the succulent  
the gorgeous schemes  
you held between your fingers  
like a simple  
piece of paper*

The other poem, dedicated to her mother, was a section of a longer work ("Getting Down to Get Over") that ran through like a musical scale the words "Black mama," in a voice of love and fear to scorn and fury, expressing the whole spectrum of things women are expected to be and subjected to.

The moderator pointed out that women's position in Cuba, their sphere of activity, had changed a lot since the revolution. He said he thought having women do militia duty on street corners with rifles had changed the way a lot of people thought about women's role.

Jordan responded that women in the United States ar-

en't to that point yet, but when they get there it'll change a lot here, too.

Both women talked about how they became poets and how they view themselves.

Jordan explained how the poetry written by Black women has been ignored and ghettoized off as "political" poetry ("Political poetry is defined as poetry against the system. The other kind, that supports the system, that's just poetry.")

As a Black woman poet, she said, she has a sense of having to be serious, to speak to Black women's collective situation. She doesn't write love poetry for publication very often she said, because of this feeling.

Morejón explained how when she began to write poetry it was an unusual thing for a girl to do. After the revolution this began to change, and she described with great pride how last year, at an International Women's Day celebration in Cuba, she read her poems along with 10 other young women poets.

She feels the same sense of responsibility, Morejón said, a duty to society to unveil beauty. Cubans enjoy love poetry very much, she added.

Jordan said at one point she could see that you don't have to deal with racism in Cuba like Blacks do here.

Morejón replied that racism is both discrimination and prejudice. In Cuba, discrimination has been wiped out by law, but prejudice is an idea, an attitude that can't be wiped out overnight. It's 24 years of revolution, she said, opposed to centuries of colonialism. You have to describe it as a society in a process of changing.

Despite the differences between them, there was a deep sense of community between the two as women, as Africans, and as conscious voices of their peoples in struggle.

## 'My true independence brought me on stage'

The following is Nancy Morejón's poem "Black Woman."

I can still smell the spray off the sea they made me cross.  
I don't remember the night.  
Not the sea itself could remember.  
But I can't forget the first alcatraz I saw.  
The clouds, high, innocent on-the-spot witnesses.  
Neither have I forgotten my lost coast, nor my mother tongue.  
They brought me here and here I have lived.  
And because I worked like a beast

I was born again, right here.  
To how many a Mandinga epic have I turned.

I rebelled.  
His Mercy purchased me in a public square.  
I embroidered His Mercy's shirt and bore him a male son.  
My son had no name.  
And His Mercy died at the hands of a perfect English lord.

I roamed.

This is the land where I suffered face down and whiplash.  
Bucking her rivers.  
Under the sun I planted and gathered harvests I did not eat.  
A barracón was my home.  
I myself carried the stones to build it,  
but I sang to the natural rhythms of this country's birds.

I rose up.

Here in this land I touched the blood and rotting bones of others,  
brought here or not, as I was.  
And I never again imagined the road to Guinea.  
Was it to Guinea? Benin? Was it to Madagascar? Or Cape Verde?

I worked much more.

I gave greater touchstone to my ancient song and hope.  
I built a world here.

I went to the hills.

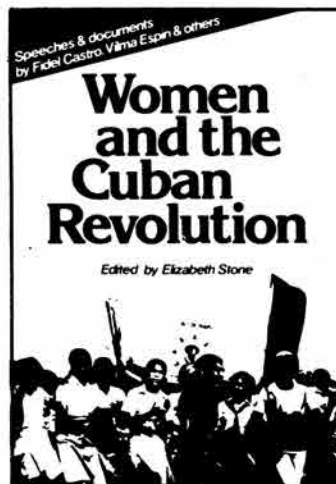
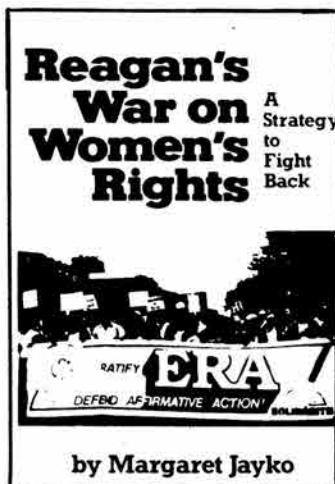
My true independence brought me on stage  
and I rode with Maceo's troops.

Only a century later  
with my descendants  
from that blue mountain

would I come out of the hills

to put an end to capital and to moneylenders,  
generals and bourgeoisie.  
Now I Am. Only today do we have and make.  
Nothing is lost to us.  
Ours the land.  
Ours the sea and sky.  
Ours the magic and rage.  
My equals, here I watch you dance  
around the tree we put in the ground for communism.  
Her prodigious wood already sounds.

## Reading on women's liberation



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# Behind the harassment of Cuba

U.S. officials have accused two Cuban UN diplomats of spying and ordered them to leave the country in 48 hours. The action came April 19 as Washington stepped up its pressure campaign on Cuba and a political offensive to justify Reagan's war policy in Central America.

A day earlier, Cuba's deputy minister of culture was denied a visa to attend a Los Angeles film festival. One dispatch cited a U.S. "diplomatic source" as explaining they did not want to give him a "chance to criticize United States policy while at the movie festival."

The UN diplomats were charged with "hostile intelligence activities," including assertedly trying to buy a monitoring device the U.S. prevents Cuba from purchasing.

Three other Cuban UN staff members were expelled on a similar charge last July. The evidence? Reportedly ordering a TV monitoring system from a Florida mail-order firm.

Responding to the present expulsion order, one Latin American diplomat was quoted as declaring it "a political gesture, part of a U.S. campaign to inflame sentiment against Cuba."

In another recent act of harassment, Cubana Airlines was barred from U.S. air space for two weeks in March after Washington claimed two Cubana planes en route to Montreal deviated from delineated air routings over the country.

Meanwhile federal and New York state officials joined with the media in a lurid rerun of charges that Cuba is running a dope ring that is responsible for a massive influx of illegal drugs into the country.

The new installment on the drug story first resurfaced on the front page of the April 4 *New York Times*. According to the *Times* story, one Mario Esteves, a convicted drug runner and self-described "Cuban defector" was one of 3,000 Cuban agents planted among those coming to this country from the port of Mariel in 1980. (The other 2,999 apparently haven't been caught.)

According to the *Times* account, he says he "delivered between \$2 million and \$3 million to Cuban officials" in drug-running profits.

In testimony the next day before the New York State Senate Select Committee on Crime, "Esteves" upped the figure to "\$7 million."

He told his story from behind a screen and it was acknowledged that Esteves is not his name. He is, it seems, in a federal "protection" program and not available for direct interview.

He was arrested in 1981 operating a speedboat laden with 2,500 pounds of marijuana and faced a 15-year term.

However, in return for his story, he drew nine months.

Like the unsubstantiated spy claim, this patently self-serving "defector's" story is cynically used to feed the propaganda drive against Cuba.

The purpose is to undermine antiwar sentiment in this country and to win support for imperialist aggression against the liberation forces throughout Central America and the Caribbean, including Cuba.

Protesting each of these frameups and smears against Cuba is not only a matter of simple justice. It's also a part of the fight against Washington's war drive.

# Opposition to Reagan's war policy

Continued from front page  
velopment — is stronger.

The liberation forces in El Salvador are winning support, while the corrupt and brutal regime there is visibly cracking.

Cuba has strengthened its defenses. Half a million men and women have been armed and trained as part of a new popular militia. Thousands more volunteers have had a chance to express their commitment to extending the revolution by working as teachers, medical personnel, and construction workers in Nicaragua and Grenada.

The U.S. rulers have now reached a limit. They can no longer effectively advance their interests by acting primarily in secret, behind the scenes, using surrogate forces such as Argentine military trainers and ex-Somocista National Guardsmen as mercenaries.

Only more direct and larger-scale U.S. military intervention can hope to prevent the establishment and consolidation of new "Cuba-model states" in Central America. That is why the Reagan administration has "gone public" with the debate over U.S. policy in Central America. It is a political offensive to try to convince the American people that it is in *our* interests to try to prevent the working people of Central America and the Caribbean from doing what they think is best for themselves.

The divisions now opening up within the government circles are not over strategic objectives. The one thing they agree on is that they do indeed have "a vital interest" in halting the advance of socialist revolution. The difference is over tactics, how best to assure that goal.

As the lead editorial in the April 18 *New York Times* put it, the problem with the Reagan administration's policy is not its legality or its morality. The *Times* editors were willing to concede the "morality and even legality" of Reagan's actions in Nicaragua. Their concern, as they bluntly stated it, is "can the secret war succeed?"

"The holes in the Administration's case are practical. Its secret army is big enough to arouse nationalist fury, but too small to overcome well-armed revolutionaries."

The policy followed by the U.S. rulers for the last four years is not an unintelligent one from the point of view of imperialism. It has worked in the past, in many parts of the world. But in the Caribbean basin today, the U.S. government finds itself up against something different, just like it did 24 years ago in Cuba. Imperialism is learning the limits of its strength when confronting a powerful revolutionary mobilization of the workers and peasants of an oppressed nation, led by conscious proletarian forces of the caliber of those that exist in Central America and the Caribbean today.

Up against deep-going social revolutions and leaderships that can neither be bought nor intimidated, whose principles, like those of the Cuban communists, are not for sale at any price, the U.S. rulers must now supplement their secret armies and limited numbers of military advisers with more direct and open use of their military power. That is what's new. But they are not sure what the consequences will be. And that is why they are dividing over the course to follow.

They are aware of the polls showing that today 68 per-

cent of the U.S. population is opposed to any increase in aid to the Salvadoran regime.

They are aware of the large number of union locals that have already discussed and adopted resolutions opposing U.S. war policy in Central America.

They know what it means when the AFL-CIO Executive Council formally breaks from the State Department line and condemns any increase in military aid to El Salvador.

They are aware of the degree to which the U.S. is isolated even among its closest allies in Latin America. Only Honduras and El Salvador spoke out in support of the United States during the recent UN Security Council debate on U.S.-backed attacks on Nicaragua. They warn each other of the consequences to be anticipated in Latin America from any stepped-up U.S. aggression against the peoples of Central America.

"Even if the Latin Americans recognize the danger of Communist expansion in the hemisphere, which some do," James Reston cautioned in a recent column, "any U.S. military intervention below the Rio Grande sends a shudder through the Latin American capitals."

One thing is certain — the debate and the divisions in the ruling circles will continue and deepen because there is no solution to the dilemma they face. They will test and probe. They will push forward with new provocations and acts of murderous aggression. Depending on the reaction, they may pull back in fear of the consequences of their actions. And they will decide pragmatically at each stage what to do next.

They can exact a high price from our brothers and sisters of Central America and the Caribbean who dare to assert their right to determine their own destiny. But they will not be able to halt the advance of the struggle against oppression, exploitation, and dictatorship.

The dilemma confronting the U.S. rulers is a sign of the growing strength of the working class and its allies on a world scale. Our job is to take advantage of their squabbles and divisions and the broad public debate and interest that will be generated in order to explain that working people in the United States do not share the dilemma the U.S. rulers face. We do not share their needs or problems.

Every successful new act of aggression against the workers and farmers of Central America and the Caribbean only emboldens Washington on a world scale, and intensifies the employers' austerity offensive and crackdown on the rights of working people here. Conversely, every time our brothers and sisters in the Caribbean region land a blow against Washington it weakens our enemy and thus strengthens our ability to successfully fight back.

Our interests are the opposite of the U.S. rulers. The course we follow, if we are to wage the effective fight for peace in our hemisphere that is possible, must be independent of the needs of the politicians of both ruling-class parties.

Our interests can best be served today by taking advantage of the growing public divisions in the halls of Congress, to increase debate and discussion in the working class, to get out the truth, and to deepen the growing opposition to a new Vietnam in Central America.

# Bay of Pigs invasion and parallels today

BY HARRY RING

April 17 marked the 22nd anniversary of the aborted U.S.-organized invasion of Cuba known as the Bay of Pigs.

It was a naked act of aggression, and it was cloaked in a deception similar to that now surrounding the U.S.-organized invasion of Nicaragua.

The Cuban revolution was less than three years old when the attempt was made to crush it. The aim, then as

# OUR REVOLUTIONARY HERITAGE

now, was to make the hemisphere safe for U.S. imperialist profits by preventing the advance of socialist revolution.

An army of 1,500 Cuban counterrevolutionary exiles was recruited by the CIA and trained in camps in Guatemala.

It was difficult to keep the operation secret. There were reports about the camps in Guatemalan papers and a few here. The *Militant* persistently warned of the impending attack.

But the major media stubbornly tried to bury the story. For instance, the *New York Times* studiously avoided the reports for six months. Then, 10 days before the invasion, it finally ran something. Initially it was planned as the page 1 lead. This was vetoed by the paper's publisher. He ordered it moved to a less prominent spot, with the headline minimized and all references to the imminence of the invasion deleted.

Former *Times* writer Gay Talese put it this way: "It was in the national interest to withhold certain facts from the American people."

Two days before the invasion, exile pilots flying U.S. planes with Cuban markings bombed four Cuban airfields.

Two of the planes involved wound up in Miami. There they were described as defectors from the Cuban air force.

Adlai Stevenson, a liberal Democrat, was the U.S. ambassador to the UN. He stood before that body and declared without a blush that an uprising was under way in Cuba and pointed to the "defectors" as an example.

It was a performance not unlike that of Jeane Kirkpatrick, who recently stood before the UN Security Council insisting the U.S.-organized exile invasion of Nicaragua was an internal rebellion against the Sandinistas.

Stevenson's story about the "defectors" was so patently preposterous that it was quickly exposed.

Meanwhile, the exile force was moved from Guatemala to Nicaragua, piled on U.S. ships, and headed for Cuba.

When they hit the beach, they found the Cuban forces ready and waiting. In 72 hours, the invasion was smashed.

Of the 1,297 who made it to shore, 1,180 were captured. Later Cuba exchanged them for U.S. medicine.

It was a stunning, ignominious defeat for Washington. But the rulers of this country remained no less determined and, in the heat of the moment, spoke quite plainly.

The day after the invasion ended, President John Kennedy declared: "I am determined on our system's survival and success, regardless of the cost and regardless of the peril."

(A year later he showed this was no mere rhetoric when he brought the world to the nuclear brink during the Cuban missile crisis.)

The reason for the invasion was put with equal candor by Harold Geneen, then president of International Telephone & Telegraph, whose Cuban subsidiary had been nationalized.

U.S. business cannot risk investment in Latin America, Geneen declared, "unless the specter of Cuba is removed."

Twenty-two years later, there is not only Cuba, but Nicaragua and Grenada, with El Salvador on the way. Washington has been unable to remove the specter of workers and farmers taking their destiny into their own hands, but they have never given up trying.

## Readings on Cuba

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# Debate over Black presidential candidate in '84

A number of prominent Black Democrats have been holding discussions about fielding what many of them call a Black symbolic presidential candidate for the 1984 elections. The person would run in the Democratic Party primaries for the nomination.

The discussions were organized by the "Black leadership family," as the group calls itself. It is made up of such prominent Democrats and civil rights figures as



## BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY

Malik Miah

Mayor Andrew Young of Atlanta; Walter Fauntroy, the District of Columbia's delegate in Congress; Representative Mickey Leland of Texas; Mayor Richard Hatcher of Gary, Indiana; and the Rev. Jesse Jackson, president of Operation PUSH, based in Chicago.

Names mentioned as possible candidates include Jackson, Hatcher, Fauntroy, and Young.

The purpose of this campaign, they say, would be to win a bloc of delegates to push Black interests at the Democratic Party national convention. This bloc would then bargain with its votes to influence the eventual white nominee.

This discussion comes in the context of the accelerated attacks on Black and all working people's rights by the Reagan administration. Black Democrats and the entire Democratic Party leadership hope to capitalize on anti-Reagan sentiment to galvanize Black voters behind the Democratic Party.

It also occurs in the context of Democrat Harold Washington's victory in the Chicago elections, in which he became the first Black to be elected mayor. An estimated 100,000 new Black voters were registered into the Democratic Party in Chicago.

Meanwhile, in Philadelphia, W. Wilson Goode, the Black former city manager, is running for mayor in the Democratic primary against racist ex-cop Frank Rizzo.

Blacks are 40 percent of the city and polls shows Goode leading in the race. The primary is in May.

In February, when Harold Washington won the Democratic primary, he gave his view of its significance:

"We [Blacks] were slow to move from the protest movement into politics. We were lulled to sleep thinking that passing a few laws was enough. But we've got to be involved in the mainstream political activity. That's what's happening here in Chicago. And that's the lesson that's going out across the country."

That's exactly the point the "Black family" makes about running a Black Democrat for president. We must remain in the political mainstream — that is, in the mainstream of Democratic Party politics.

That's a deadly trap. It hasn't worked for us in the past and won't work for us in the future.

The Black Democrats' main argument for continuing to work inside the Democratic party is that it brought us some tangible gains. They point to these "gains": over 100 Black mayors; 21 Black congressmen compared to 13 in 1972; and 5,160 elected officials compared to 1,860 in 1971.

But Blacks, including elected officials, have little say on how decisions are made in that party. Decisions in both the Democratic and Republican parties are made by the rich who run this country. And there are no Blacks in that club.

The "Black family" understands this fact: that's why they propose the Black presidential campaign be symbolic. They have no expectation of winning the nomination.

This fact also explains why there are differences among them on whether to run. They know most Blacks, when asked, would support a realistic alternative to what the Democrats and Republicans traditionally offer. That's why there's a discussion of running a Black candidate in the first place.

There are two main points of view among Black Democrats on fielding a candidate.

Jesse Jackson is strongly for doing so. He explains, "Blacks have numbers without proprietorship. We must renegotiate our relationship with the Democratic Party. We're not arguing a Black agenda, we're arguing a national agenda from the perspective of Blacks."

Jackson favors a single Black candidate as the way to unite the Black community. The program, which the family favors, is a basic civil rights-type platform: for jobs, desegregation, affirmative action, and opposition to South Africa, among other issues.

A different position is presented by Andrew Young. He believes a Black candidate could divide Black leaders and drain support from the Democratic presidential nominee, especially in the South.

He says he's also concerned that a Black candidate would produce racial polarization that could cause the Democrats to lose in the 1984 elections. Many Blacks might even bolt from the Democratic Party in response to the racism. Young is expected to endorse Walter Mondale.

Black leaders should fan out among white candidates, says Young, so as to have some influence no matter who wins the election. He calls this "real politics," which he argues is "more effective than symbolic politics."

Whether "real" or "symbolic," the strategy under discussion is how to corral Blacks into the Democratic Party — one of the two parties used by the employers to keep us as second-class citizens.

The discussion of Black political action is an important one; however. Considering that Blacks are 14 percent of the population, and we are the majority in many large cities, we have great potential political power, if organized effectively.

We are also a big component of the organized labor movement. The official union leadership also maintain the dead-end policy of working inside the capitalist parties — a perspective they claim advances labor's interests.

Black and other workers do want a new perspective. That's why this discussion is taking place — it reflects the real pressure in the Black community and among other workers seeking an alternative political perspective.

In a future article we'll explain why orienting to and working within the Democratic Party is no road forward to winning Black liberation and working-class emancipation.

We'll also outline what a working-class perspective is and the central role the trade unions must play in leading the fight to carry it out.

# More unions took part in Int'l Women's Day

Two things stand out about many of the events marking International Women's Day (IWD — March 8) this year: the increased participation by the union movement and the focus on what's happening in Central America and the Caribbean.

The *Militant* reported in our March 25 issue on several IWD events that illustrated these two things. They included:

- El Mirage, Arizona, where members of the Arizona Farmworkers Union discussed the role of women in Cen-

nuclear power sponsored a talk by a representative of Casa Nicaragua.

- New York City, where the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW), NOW, and several trade unions held a rally in Union Square. The theme was "Womenomics vs. Reaganomics," and it was addressed by representatives of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU) and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

There were other activities the *Militant* learned about since then.

In Atlanta there was a rally in Central Park and a spirited march to the unemployment office. The speaker who got the best response was Debra Barnes from the International Association of Machinists Local 1690, one of the endorsers of the rally.

This local represents the workers at Eastern Airlines, who at that point were scheduled to go out on strike. Barnes was one of 14 unionists taken to court by Eastern for an alleged "work slowdown" during the course of contract negotiations.

A representative of the Georgia Abortion Rights Action League, June Deen, emphasized the need to fight the attacks that are coming down on abortion rights.

There were several other union speakers, and banners representing the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU), Amalgamated Transit Union, and ILGWU were carried in the march.

In Pittsburgh, Rosemary Trump, president of Social Service Employees Union Local 585, chaired a panel discussion on "Women in Today's Economy."

Janet Ford of the Bakery and Confectionary Union spoke about two struggles this past year led by women workers at a Nabisco plant in Pittsburgh.

First, the workers won an \$8 million suit against discrimination in layoffs, pay, and promotions. Then, they organized community-wide protests when Nabisco announced plans to shut down the Pittsburgh plant. Ford said that for the time being Nabisco has agreed to keep operating.

Patricia Brady, of the California, Pennsylvania Teachers Association, described the recent successful strike by 76 teachers.

The strike was won, Brady said, with the solidarity of steelworkers, miners, and other unionists, along with the determination of the teachers. "We can be small but mighty when we all stick together," Brady concluded.

There was also a panel in Pittsburgh on international women's struggles, where the Nicaraguan consul for the eastern United States, Leonor Arquillo de Hüper, was the featured speaker.

The growing involvement of women workers in the struggle for equal rights in this country is a welcome sign; as in Central America and the Caribbean, it is these sisters who will be the most resolute fighters in the battles for women's liberation that lie ahead.



## WOMEN IN REVOLT

Margaret Jayko

tral America, as well as the problems of Chicanas and undocumented women workers in this country.

- Albuquerque, where more than 200 people saw slide shows on the oppression of women in Central America and the gains being made by Nicaraguan women through their revolution.

- Cranford, New Jersey, where the New Jersey National Organization for Women (NOW) task force against

## LETTERS

### NOW meeting

On April 9-10, the New York State convention of the National Organization for Women (NOW) took place in Albany. I attended the first day of the conference.

About 60 people were there, roughly one-third of whom were Black. The title of the event was "Our Common Struggle: Minority and Majority Women."

The first series of workshops were consciousness-raising sessions on racism.

Next, I attended the Reproductive Rights workshop. Alice Green, from the New York Civil Liberties Union, made a presentation on reproductive rights and minority women, discussing both abortion rights and sterilization

abuse.

The workshop on Membership and Minority Outreach centered on how to make NOW an organization that relates more to the issues that are important to Black and other minority women.

Women there discussed how can chapters that are all white reach out to minority women. One participant suggested such a chapter should have a consciousness-raising session on racism and speak out against racist attacks. Other women suggested going to events where Black women would be.

One of the co-chairs of the workshop suggested leafleting events with NOW brochures, and making sure each chapter had some in Spanish and Chinese, or whatever

language was predominant in that area. She also suggested leafleting factories as a way of doing outreach.

Mary Selvas  
Schenectady, New York

### Cat strike

The United Auto Workers (UAW) has been on strike against Caterpillar Tractor Co. since Oct. 1, 1982. Members of the UAW Local 145 are getting a real taste of the class struggle here in Aurora. I think I speak for the majority here when I say, "Forwards, not backwards!"

Al Orr  
Aurora, Illinois

### Terry Santana

This letter is regarding Terry

Santana. It was through the *Militant* that I first read about her murder. I think it's politically safe to view her death as an assassination by U.S.-sponsored agents.

[Santana, an El Salvador solidarity activist, was murdered in a fire in her apartment in December 1982 after receiving threats on her life. The cops and FBI claim it was suicide or an accident.]

With the information reported in articles and the history we have and know to be true, unless the sister had been despondent there is no need to even suggest she took her own life.

There is a group of us here in Indiana prisons who stand in solidarity with the liberation forces in El Salvador and have been fortunate enough to see two excellent films,

*Revolution or Death* by the four Dutch journalists assassinated last year, and *The People Will Win*.

Knowing Terry Santana was a crucial link in providing news and interpretation of the liberation war steamrolling in El Salvador is enough for us to feel justified in assuming her death was politically motivated.

A prisoner  
Indiana

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.Y. march protests U.S. war against Nicaragua, Grenada, El Salvador

BY DIANE WANG

NEW YORK — "Grenada, Nicaragua, Guatemala y El Salvador unidos venceremos!" ["United we will win!"] So chanted a crowd of 250 as they began an April 16 protest here against Reagan's attacks on the Caribbean and Central American revolutions. The crowd turned out during a relentless downpour in response to a call initiated by Casa Nicaragua and the Committee in Solidarity With Free Grenada.

The march and rally not only explained and denounced the escalating aggression by Washington. Speakers and chants also pointed to the interrelation of the revolutions under attack and the need for united defense.

Leaders of the Grenada Revolutionary League led chants of "USA, CIA out of Nicaragua! USA, CIA hands off Grenada!" A league spokesman told the crowd, "We of the Grenada Revolutionary League and the Grenadian community stand ready to defend our brothers and sisters of Nicaragua."

Elombe Brath of the National Black Independent Political Party and the Patrice Lumumba Coalition explained the links between the fight for self-determination of Blacks in North America and the fight in Central America and the Caribbean.

Sandy Trujillo of the New York Committee in Support of Vieques explained that the United States has 16 military bases in Puerto Rico, which it uses to launch attacks against the revolutions in the area.

The march passed by the El Salvadoran consulate to protest the murder of Melida Anaya Montes, who was second in command of the Salvadoran People's Liberation Forces (FPL). Known as "Comandante Ana María," she was murdered by counterrevolutionaries while visiting Managua.

Originally Casa Nicaragua had called a planning meeting in mid-March in response to the invasion of Nicaragua. As the threats against the island of Grenada grew

### D.C. meeting honors murdered Salvadoran revolutionary leader

BY IKE NAHEM

WASHINGTON, D.C. — On April 10, a memorial meeting was held at St. Augustine's Church in the heart of the Black community here for Commander Ana María, a leader of the Salvadoran revolutionary movement who was assassinated April 6 while in Nicaragua.

Over 100 Salvadoran refugees — working people and students — crowded into a small chapel to pay tribute to this heroic woman. The service was conducted in Spanish.

The tribute was put together by Casa El Salvador in Washington, D.C., a coalition of Salvadoran political organizations that supports the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front and the Revolutionary Democratic Front of El Salvador (FMLN-FDR).

The chairperson of the tribute opened with an official statement of the FMLN.

Other speakers were from Casa El Salvador; the Bloque Popular Revolucionario, the Salvadoran revolutionary organization to which Ana María belonged; the Oscar Romero Coalition; and the Committee in Solidarity With the People of El Salvador.

A particularly moving talk was given by a member of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) of Nicaragua. An older woman in her 60s, she spoke of Ana María as a fighter for the emancipation of women.



April 16 New York action protesting U.S. government aggression in Central America and the Caribbean.

more serious, however, the meeting was expanded to plan an action in defense of both countries.

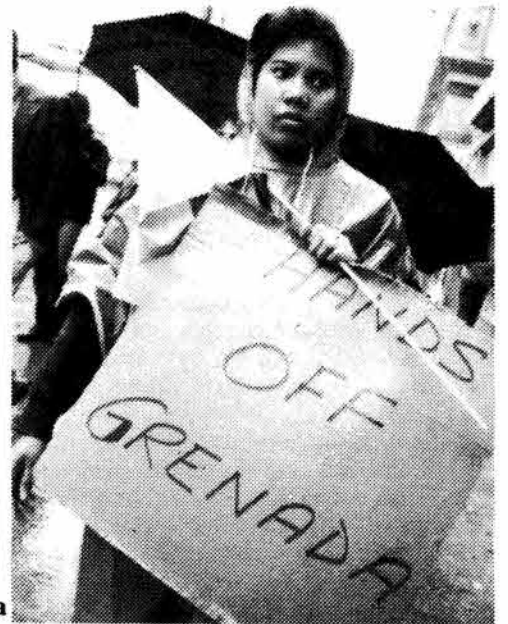
Publicity for the April 16 action pointed out the regionalization of the U.S. war, documenting the chronology in recent weeks:

In March, CIA-backed ex-Somoza guardsmen stepped up their military attacks on Nicaragua. At the same time, President Reagan labeled Grenada, with its

population of 110,000, as a national security threat to the United States.

The U.S. government escalated its provocations against Grenada, sending some 77 warships on "maneuvers" in the area. And Reagan called for \$110 million in additional military aid to prop up the dictatorship in El Salvador.

About 60 people from different solidarity groups and political organizations attended meetings preparing the April 16 ac-



Militant photos by Lou Howort

tion. Representatives of Casa El Salvador-Farabundo Martí, Committee in Solidarity With the People of El Salvador, Caribbean Peoples Alliance, Grenadian Women's Organization, Socialist Workers Party, Committee for a Democratic Palestine, and H-Block/Armagh Committee attended. Members of Casa de las Americas and the Committee in Solidarity with Viet Nam, Kampuchea and Laos also took part in the action.

## Why anti-imports campaign won't mean more jobs for U.S. garment workers

BY LESLIE DORK

NEW YORK — Many American garment manufacturers are on a big campaign against imports. "We think the time is right for American textile and garment manufacturers to increase their share of domestic business at the expense of imports by promoting made-in-America fabrics and garments," said one garment boss as he announced a new red-white-and-blue tag to be used to label his "American freedom fabric."

Unfortunately, the International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU) is echoing the manufacturers on this subject. The ILGWU has launched a nationwide campaign around the slogan, "Roll back imports." Union advertisements now say, "Think of the union label as a little American flag in your clothes."

On April 23 the ILGWU is holding a "Teleconference Day" as part of this campaign. This will include demonstrations and meetings in some 30 cities to highlight the anti-import campaign. A telecast program will include "the participation of employer representatives, local political figures, members of Congress, retail merchants, bankers, economists, etc.," according to the March issue of *Justice*, the national ILGWU paper.

Union officials are also involved in lobbying to try to get a "Sense of the Congress Resolution" that would cite "the damage done to the American apparel industry by the flood of imports from low-wage areas of the world." It would urge Reagan to limit imports, according to *Justice*.

### Who took our jobs?

The union officials say that two out of five garments purchased in the United States today are imported and that 700,000 jobs of U.S. workers have been lost because of this.

Although many workers are influenced

by this campaign, others question it. "This sounds like just one more waste of my union dues," complained one garment worker here recently.

This is true. The union's "Roll back" campaign will not create a single job. It simply misleads workers about the real causes of unemployment.

Many workers do suffer and lose their jobs as a result of the competition — both international and domestic — between various manufacturers. Under capitalism some companies do drive others out of business.

But the problem for garment workers is not imports any more than it is the shop down the block that may win a contract another shop is competing for. The problem is the economic system itself and the worldwide crisis it is in that affects many industries.

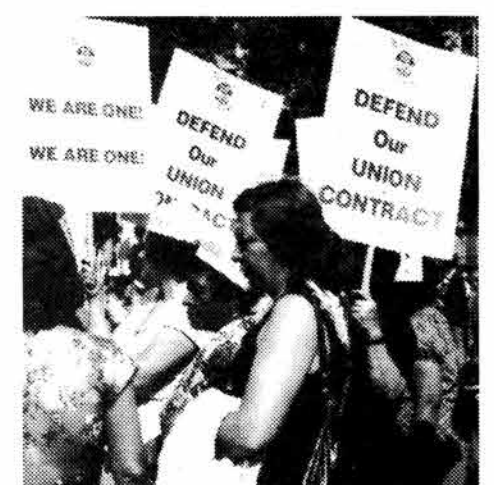
Under capitalism each garment boss tries to grab as much of the market as possible. To do this they step up production. But at a certain point they produce more than people can afford to buy. Then they lay off workers.

The most immediate impact of "rolling back" imports will be higher prices. Clothes will become more expensive. Garment workers themselves will be less able to afford them.

### 'Our' industry?

Furthermore, if the U.S. government adopts import restrictions isn't it likely that other countries will do the same? Last year the United States exported \$5 billion worth of garments and textiles. A trade war could mean that many U.S. workers whose jobs are tied to exports will lose them.

The manufacturers themselves do not propose import quotas because they want to protect jobs. Rather, they are trying to protect their profits. Their main aim is not making clothes. Their main aim is making



Militant/Diane Wang

1982 New York rally by International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union Local 23-25 demanded that garment bosses sign contract. Anti-import campaign pits worker against worker instead of against bosses.

money. A real strategy to solve the problem of unemployment among garment workers has to confront this fact.

The strategy of the ILGWU leadership is based on the false idea that what is good for "our" industry, is good for garment workers. But this is not "our" industry. We do all the work but bosses make all the profits.

When the union joins with the bosses in this anti-imports campaign, only the bosses benefit. Our problem is not to help figure out how the boss can get more business and increase profits. If it were, we could simply propose to take a pay cut, or work faster, or agree to give up "luxuries" like health and safety protection.

An experience in my shop is a good example of what happens when the union

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