

Reagan speech means U.S. war deepens in Central America

Sharp new threat aimed at Nicaragua

Notwithstanding deep-going opposition at home and isolation internationally, President Reagan is pushing ahead with the escalation of the war in Central America. That was the message in his April 27 speech before a special joint session of Congress.

"The national security of all the Americas is at stake in Central America,"

EDITORIAL

Reagan declared. "If we cannot defend ourselves there, we cannot expect to prevail elsewhere."

To defend the interests of U.S. big business against the advancing social revolutions in Central America, Reagan is asking

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Militant/Arnold Weissberg

Nicaraguans prepare for U.S.-backed invasion

BY JANE HARRIS

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Calling President Reagan's April 27 speech a major threat against Nicaragua, the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) immediately urged Nicaraguans to demonstrate arms-in-hand throughout the country on April 28.

Commander Dora María Téllez came on the radio here shortly after Reagan finished his speech and urged people to take to the streets the next day. "March with your rifles and your machetes, to demonstrate that in the face of this big threat of war, we know how to prepare ourselves and win," she said.

Protest actions began immediately that night in working-class neighborhoods of Managua.

On April 25, Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Government of National Reconstruction, had told the press that a new U.S. escalation was "imminent."

More than 4,000 counterrevolutionaries are preparing to invade from both the north and the south, he said, and Nicaragua expects the new attack to begin in the "next few days."

Ortega said some 500 to 700 men are waiting to open a new front on Nicaragua's border with Costa Rica; another 2,000 are preparing to enter the Nicaraguan province of Nueva Segovia from Honduras; and 1,500 more based in Honduras' Atlantic Coast region plan to attack Nicaragua's Zelaya Province.

In the past month, 11 U.S. spy flights — a record number — have covered Nicaraguan territory, Ortega reported.

The military buildup has been matched by an escalation of the political campaign against Nicaragua as well.

One part of this has been allegations made by the Reagan administration that Nicaragua is considering the installation of Soviet missiles here. Ortega categorically denied the charges.

Another axis of the U.S. offensive has been the campaign to make an international incident out of the four Libyan cargo planes that were seized by the Brazilian military on April 20. They were en route to Nicaragua with military supplies, but Washington has claimed this is proof that Nicaragua is arming the guerrilla forces in El Salvador.

The Nicaraguan government has denied the allegations and reaffirmed its sovereign right to receive military supplies from whatever sources it sees fit.

Preparations for the new invasion come on the heels of the one that began in early February, involving some 2,000 counterrevolutionaries. In the most serious fighting since the 1979 overthrow of the Somoza regime, those forces were decisively beaten back by Sandinista militia units.

The new invasion would be the first attack on a major scale from *contras* based on Costa Rica. Nicaragua has made every effort to maintain cordial relations with its southern neighbor, and Ortega told the press it was believed that the invasion from there was being prepared "behind the back

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Chicago elections: why socialist candidate got good response

BY MALIK MIAH

"The employers have two political parties — the Democrats and Republicans — to defend and protect their interests.

"The bosses are carrying out a bipartisan war against our living standards and our basic human rights — such as the right to have a job, decent housing, and a good education. Abroad they are conducting a deepening war in Central America and other countries against the workers and peasants fighting for their freedom.

"That's why working people here need a political weapon independent of the two parties of the rich. We need a labor party, based on the powerful trade unions. We need an independent Black political party that can challenge the political monopoly of the Democratic and Republican parties in the Black community.

"A labor and/or Black party would organize the unorganized; unite workers, farmers, Blacks, Latinos, and women against the big-business program of the Democratic and Republican parties.

"A labor party would fight against the current capitalist government of the rich and seek to replace it with a government of our own — a workers and farmers government.

"I'm running for mayor because I think socialism is an idea whose time has not only come, but is long overdue. Those who agree should join us in the fight for a socialist future."

Only working-class candidate

Ed Warren, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Chicago, spoke those words in May 1982 when he announced his campaign. Warren is a young laid-off garment worker from the city's South Side and a member of the National Black Independent Political Party (NBIPP). He was the

first and only working-class candidate on the ballot in the April 12 mayoral election.

Also on the ballot were Democrat Harold Washington, an attorney, and the other candidate for mayor who was Black; and Republican Bernard Epton, a millionaire. Washington won the election.

Thousands upon thousands of working people heard about the Warren campaign and the ideas presented by his party. They heard him on radio and television; read about him in the major newspapers and several community weeklies; read his cam-



Militant/Jon Hillson

Socialist Workers Party candidate Ed Warren, only working-class candidate in Chicago mayoral race.

paign newspapers, the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*, and met him and his supporters at several plant gates while he was campaigning.

Media cover-up

This hearing was achieved in spite of a conscious attempt by the news media to keep his independent working-class program hidden from workers because he was the only candidate who spoke the truth about the problems workers in Chicago faced, and offered the only solutions to end the economic crisis placed on the backs of workers.

But when workers were able to learn of the Socialist Workers Party platform, they listened carefully, especially those backing Harold Washington. Why? Because workers in Chicago, as in the country as a whole, are looking for alternatives to the Democrats and Republicans even as they vote for the "lesser evil" or "greater good" among candidates presented by the capitalist parties.

Warren, Craig Landberg, the SWP candidate for city treasurer; and Nicolee Bransen, the SWP candidate for city clerk; and their party participated in the big political discussion on which was the way forward for workers in Chicago. A review of the success of that campaign is instructive on the political changes in Chicago and in the country, as well as on the growing value of running independent socialist election campaigns. It also points to the value of running independent Black and labor candidates for office.

An indication of the type of thinking going on among Chicago workers was first evident when SWP campaign supporters went out to petition in late June and through July to place Warren's name on the

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—SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE—

BY MALIK MIAH

One of the main vehicles socialist workers have to explain our ideas to working people is sales of our press, the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*, the Spanish-language biweekly.

That's what socialists in Chicago did very successfully leading up to the April 12 mayoral election. Selling the press became the main way in which the Socialist Workers Party mayoral candidate, Ed Warren, communicated with Black, Latino, and white workers at plant gates and in other parts of the city.

Organizing that sales effort, however, as Chicago SWP sales coordinator Rick Berman explained in last week's sales column, took a lot of effort. But as the results of the experiences came in — both the sales and the political discussions — Chicago socialists became even more convinced how central plant gate sales, and selling the press in general, is to talking politics with workers who are feeling the blows of the employers' antilabor policies.

Today Chicago socialists are building on those experiences. Their plant-gate sales are more firmly established than ever before.

That success is now being repeated by Philadelphia socialists, who are currently on a petitioning effort to place Bill Osteen, the

SWP mayoral candidate, on the ballot.

Mark Emanation, SWP sales coordinator there, reports that sales of the press at the plant gates and petitioning have become totally integrated. Over the four-week petition period, he said, they've set a goal to sell 450 papers.

"This," he said, "breaks down to 100 *Militants* per week, 25 *PMs* every two weeks, plus some *Young Socialists*." He added that while campaign supporters agreed with this goal as a target, no one really thought it would be easy to achieve this as well as get the required number of signatures to get on the ballot.

The results?

"In the first week, we sold 90 *Militants* and 31 *PMs*. We had the goal of selling 25 *Militants* and 5 *PMs* at plant gates each week. In the first week we sold 19 *Militants*, 5 *PMs*, and 2 *YSs* at plants."

How did this affect the petitioning effort?

"Well, we also had the goal of getting five signatures per plant-gate sale," Emanation said. "This would have amounted to a goal of 100 plant-gate signatures in the first week. We actually collected 107."

For example, he added, "one new team to a garment shop collected 65 signatures and sold three *Militants* and two *PMs*."

Emanation explained that so-

cialists would lead off their discussions with workers by first discussing the election campaign and urging them to sign the petition, and then flip over the petition board to show a *Militant* strapped to the back. They found that some people would sign the petitions only after they saw the *Militant*. Many workers, he said, had come to know and recognize the paper from our fall circulation drive.

"Based on this experience," he said, "we decided to link the *Militant* more with the election campaign. The *Militant* masthead now appears on campaign leaflets and forum leaflets. We sold 75 and 50 papers successively on the first two Saturdays of petitioning. This compares with our last petition drive when we got a weekly bundle of 35 and sold only a few, if any."

Their success reflects what will happen when plant-gate sales are at the heart of our political work on a week-by-week basis, all year long.

Another socialist campaign is taking place in Indianapolis, Indiana. Bill Warrick, a refinery worker, is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of the city.

At a demonstration called around the slogans, "Stop the Arms Race," "U.S. Hands Off Central America," "Economic Conversion with No Loss of Jobs," and "No Deployment of the



Militant/Mark Berry
The *Militant* at March for Jobs, Justice, Peace, at Anderson, Indiana, April 4.

Euromissiles," Warrick campaigners were able to sell 70 copies of the *Militant* and *Young Socialist* newspapers.

And, at the PG&E power plant in Hunters Point in the Bay Area of California workers were also quite receptive to the city council campaign of Oakland socialist Jan Gangel, who works at the plant.

Gangel and her campaigners inside the plant had sold four subscriptions to the *Militant* to

coworkers, when people they work with began to approach them about the campaign after seeing it covered in the local media. Gangel and her supporters decided to organize a sale outside the gate — something they had never done before.

The response was excellent: they sold five *Militants*, two *YSs*, and two *PMs*. A number of workers donated a dollar to the campaign as well.

Coalitions begin building for August 27 march

BY GEORGE JOHNSON

Coalitions for the August 27 March on Washington for Jobs, Peace, and Freedom are taking shape in several cities around the country, where civil rights, labor, and religious organizations and figures are joining to organize participation in the mass demonstration.

The march, under the national auspices of the 20th Anniversary Mobilization for Jobs, Peace, and Freedom, is to commemorate the landmark 1963 March on Washington led by Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Coretta Scott King and other civil rights leaders initiated the call for the August 27 march. King cochaired the Mobilization with Joseph Lowery, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

According to Donna Brazile, national director of the Mobilization, endorsements have just been obtained from United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 1010 in East Chicago, Indiana, and Local 25 of the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees International Union in Washington, D.C.

In Philadelphia, more than 50 people attended the local coalition's first public

meeting April 13; a large part of the discussion was about how to involve organized labor.

They were already off to a good start toward this. The meeting was held at the headquarters of District 1199C of the National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees, and it was announced that the Mobilization committee had been given office space by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU).

The Philadelphia Central Labor Council has approved a resolution supporting the August demonstration, which was introduced by Henry Nicholas, national president of the Hospital Workers and District 1199C as well.

Nicholas is also regional Pennsylvania director for August 27.

Members of the National Black Independent Political Party (NBIPP) and the National Black United Front (NBUF) were at the April 13 planning meeting.

The Philadelphia building effort is led by a steering committee with representatives of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, American Friends Service Committee, Puerto Rican Alliance, Delaware Valley Peace Council, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Phi-

ladelphia Unemployment Project, and National Congress for Puerto Rican Rights.

In St. Louis on April 4 the Association for Nonviolent Social Change in America (ANSAC), St. Louis Nuclear Freeze Committee, and Jobs Or Income Now held a news conference to announce participation in the August 27 march.

Rev. Sterling Lands II, president of the Missouri chapter of ANSAC, called for the formation of a coalition in St. Louis to organize for the march.

Since April 4, several other organizations have joined the coalition, including the Coalition of Labor Union Women, A. Philip Randolph Institute, Pax Cristi (a Catholic social action group), Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now, National Alliance Against Racism and Political Repression, Socialist Workers Party, Organization for Black Struggle, United Nations Foundation, Latin America Solidarity Committee, and several local churches. The International Association of Machinists District 837 is planning to take a bus to Washington.

On April 18 the August 27 Coalition in Pittsburgh held its second planning meeting at the YWCA.

In attendance were representatives from the Pittsburgh and Aliquippa NAACP, YWCA, Catholic diocese, other religious organizations, National Organization for Women (NOW), Mon Valley Unemployed Committee, Democratic Socialists of America, Hunger Action Coalition, Socialist Workers Party, and Young Socialist Alliance.

Among the national list of sponsors are A. Philip Randolph Institute, American Agriculture Movement, American Indian Movement, Commission for Racial Justice, Congressional Black Caucus, NAACP, and National Baptist Convention USA.

Unions endorsing the Mobilization include the AFL-CIO, Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, National Alliance of Postal and Federal Employees, National Association of Letter Carriers, International Union of Operating Engineers, National Education Association, and United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 65.

For more information, including local Mobilization contacts, call or write the 20th Anniversary Mobilization, 1201 16th St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20001. Telephone (202) 462-2110.

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Salvadoran rebels press forward united after loss of two top leaders and fighters

BY LARRY SEIGLE

Salvadoran revolutionaries are responding to the deaths of two of their top leaders with stepped-up efforts to unify their forces. Recognizing that such unity is essential to the victory of the revolution in El Salvador, the organizations that make up the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) are closing ranks.

"We declare that in spite of the grief that seizes us we will remain firm in struggle; and that nothing and no one can stop the revolutionary advance of our people," declared the FMLN and the Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR) on April 20.

While pressing forward with their efforts at unification, the FMLN forces have also

deepened their military offensive in the countryside.

In the wake of the assassination of Mélida Anaya Montes and the suicide of Salvador Cayetano Carpio — two of the foremost leaders of the People's Liberation Forces (FPL) — Salvadoran revolutionaries are particularly on guard against disruption operations, smear campaigns, and "disinformation" efforts by the CIA aimed at foiling the advances being made toward unity.

Anaya Montes, better known as Commander Ana María, was slain in Managua, Nicaragua, early in the morning of April 6. Cayetano Carpio, the founder and commander in chief of the FPL, took his own

life April 12 after learning that the assassination of Anaya Montes had been organized by an individual who was part of the central command of the FPL.

The details of the tragic events were reported in Managua by the Nicaraguan Ministry of the Interior, whose forces captured the assassins.

Results of investigation

In a statement made public April 20, the ministry reported the following results of its investigation to date:

"1. The investigations have led to clarification of the circumstances in which the crime [the murder of Anaya Montes] was committed, as well as the identification and capture of its perpetrators, whose names are the following:

"a. Rogelio A. Bazzaglia Recinos, 28, mastermind and organizer of the crime. He was arrested April 9 of this year.

"b. Walter Ernesto Elías, 18; Andrés Vázquez Molina, 22; and Julio A. Soza Orellana, 25, who carried out the assassination and in whose possession were found the weapons, clothing, and other items used to carry it out. They were captured the 12th of this month.

"c. Alejandro Romero Romero, 24, and María Argueta Hernández, 39, accomplices who facilitated entry of the homicidal group into the house of Commander Ana María. They were arrested the day of the crime.

"All of them are of Salvadoran nationality.

"2. Statements by the prisoners and further investigations have shown that the mastermind and main person responsible for the murder used the pseudonym Marcelo and is a member of the Central Command of the People's Liberation Forces (FPL) of El Salvador, where he carried out responsibilities in close connection with compañero Salvador Cayetano Carpio, Commander Marcial, first in command of this revolutionary organization."

How plot was implemented

The Ministry of the Interior's statement continues:

"3. This person [Marcelo], taking advantage of the responsibility he had been given inside the FPL and of the confidence placed in him by compañero Salvador Cayetano Carpio, took advantage of the latter's absence to sow political distrust against Commander Ana María among some rank-and-file members, who were then manipulated to carry out this crime.

"4. The course of events and our inves-



Barricada

U.S. government hopes to weaken Salvadoran struggle through blows like murder of Commander Ana María.

tigations indicate that these developments are a result of enemy activity, characteristic of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

"5. Once the perpetrators of the crime were detained and these important results of the investigations were obtained, the Ministry of the Interior proceeded to inform compañero Carpio of these facts. Depressed and overwhelmed by the irrefutable proof of enemy activities carried out through a member in his confidence that culminated in the assassination of compañera Ana María, compañero Carpio made the tragic decision to take his life Tuesday, April 12, at 9:30 p.m. In the same house at the time were compañera Tula Alvarenga de Carpio, wife of compañero Carpio, and other compañeros who immediately informed this ministry of what had happened."

A separate statement released by the People's Liberation Forces confirmed the essential facts released by the Nicaraguan government. The mastermind of the assassination "lent himself to diversionary maneuvers instigated by the CIA," said the FPL.

"To carry out such a shameful and odious crime through maneuvers and trickery, this individual used various ex-compañeros. . . . With this treacherous and disgraceful action, Marcelo tried to resolve

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Salvadoran Commander Marcial (center) at funeral of Commander Ana María. Joining him there were Nicaraguan government leaders Tomás Borge (left) and Daniel Ortega (right).

U.S. Socialist Workers Party message to FDR-FMLN, FPL

The following message was sent by the Political Committee of the Socialist Workers Party to the Revolutionary Democratic Front-Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FDR-FMLN) and to the People's Liberation Forces (FPL).

With the assassination of Commander Ana María and the tragic death of Commander Marcial two outstanding leaders of the working class of El Salvador and the world have been lost. They were courageous fighters, worthy representatives of the people of El Salvador who are battling to free themselves from imperialist oppression and exploitation.

The assassins of Commander Ana María played the game of the CIA. Stung by the recent advances of the revolutionary forces, Washington is seeking to weaken the leadership of the Salvadoran people through such blows. Moreover, imperialism is seeking to capitalize on the loss of these two leaders to sow division among the revolutionary forces in El Salvador and opponents of capitalist oppression and exploitation everywhere.

In this aim they will fail.

The members and supporters of the Socialist Workers Party, together with all those in North America who support the people of El Salvador in their just struggle, are inspired by the united response of the forces of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front. The current offensive, named in honor of Commanders Ana María and Marcial, is testimony to the unity and determination of the Salvadoran workers and peasants.

Every blow you strike against the repressive forces of the puppet regime is a blow for the emancipation of working people in the United States and throughout the world.

Millions of Americans sympathize with your cause. Tens of millions, the vast majority, oppose Washington's aggression against El Salvador, and against other peoples in Central America and the Caribbean. Opposition to a new Vietnam in Central America runs deepest among the workers, farmers, Blacks, Latinos, and other oppressed peoples.

Inspired by your example, the Socialist Workers Party pledges to redouble efforts to help build a broad, united, and powerful movement in this country to stay Washington's hand. This is the best way we can pay homage to the two fallen fighters and leaders, Commanders Ana María and Marcial.

No U.S. aid to the murderous regime in El Salvador!

No U.S. troops to El Salvador!

Stop the "Made in USA" war against Nicaragua!

With unity until victory!

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Salvadoran leaders press forward, united

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a resentment and alleged ideological and political divergence with compañera Ana María.

Revolutionary Unity Square

Commander Ana María, who was 54, had been a teacher in San Salvador and a professor at the Autonomous University in El Salvador. She was a founder of the National Association of Salvadoran Educators (ANDES) and a member of the leadership body of the Popular Revolutionary Bloc (BPR), a mass organization led by the FPL.

Thousands of Nicaraguans turned out for her funeral in Managua April 9, held at a plaza that from now on will be known as Commander Ana María Revolutionary Unity Square.

The new name chosen for the plaza symbolizes awareness that in El Salvador — as was the case in Nicaragua prior to the July 1979 defeat of the Somoza dictatorship — the unification of revolutionary forces is essential to the overthrow of the tyrannical regime and the conquest of power by the workers and farmers.

In his speech at the memorial rally — the last he was to deliver — Cayetano Carpio emphasized that "U.S. imperialism is mistaken if it thinks that with these blows it will weaken our unity."

Forty years of struggle

Carpio's death removed from the FMLN one of its central leaders, and the one who was best known outside El Salvador. On assignment from the FMLN, he had traveled widely to organize international support and to explain the aims of the revolutionary fighters. He attended the second congress of the Cuban Communist Party in 1980 and was the FMLN's representative at the fifth congress of the Vietnamese Communist Party in 1982. At the time of the murder of Ana María, he was in Libya.

Cayetano Carpio was a baker who became a leader of the bakery workers union. In 1944 he led the first successful bakery workers strike in El Salvador. He soon became one of the country's best-known union leaders.

In 1947 he joined the Communist Party of El Salvador and quickly became part of the leadership. In the 1950s he was imprisoned and tortured by the police and was forced into exile for a time.

In the 1960s he helped to initiate the United Trade Union Federation (FUS), in which the Communist Party (CP) played a major role.

He became the general secretary of the CP in the late 1960s, but in 1969 he decided to abandon the organization and form a new group. Cayetano Carpio and the six others who agreed with him rejected the approach of the CP, which confined itself largely to participation in elections and trade union activity within the hopelessly narrow legal framework established by extremely restrictive labor legislation.

They came to the conclusion that further argument within the CP was fruitless. As Cayetano Carpio explained it, they decided that "it wasn't possible to get the party to understand the need for a political-military strategy, that is, an overall revolutionary strategy, and that this had to be demonstrated to our people in practice."

He and his small group of supporters began, on April 1, 1970, the work of building an underground organization. Two years later this culminated in the public announcement of the formation of the People's Liberation Forces.

Impact of Cuban revolution

Cayetano Carpio's break from the Communist Party was representative of a phenomenon that was occurring throughout Latin America in the wake of the victorious Cuban revolution, which, for the first time in the Western Hemisphere, brought the workers and farmers to power.

The Marxist leadership of the Cuban revolution reestablished the continuity of proletarian internationalism carried out by a revolutionary government — a continuity that had been broken after Lenin's death. Cuba proved that it was possible to defeat U.S. imperialism and begin the construction of a new social order.

As the class struggle sharpened throughout Latin America, revolutionary-minded forces began searching for ways to follow the Cuban example, to apply the lessons of the Cuban revolution in the conditions of their own countries, and to unite the leadership forces necessary to move toward that goal.

In El Salvador, the debate and discussion began, Cayetano Carpio recalled, "virtually with the victory of the Cuban revolution, when the most clear-sighted people . . . began to feel that a dogmatic line could not lead the revolutionary process into the new stages that were required."

The ferment in El Salvador gave rise to several organizations, coming from different origins, but all seeking to find the road to mobilizing the masses to take political power.

In 1971 left-wing Christian Democrats, among them many students, joined with other revolutionary-minded activists, including some from the CP, to form a heterogeneous grouping known as the People's Revolutionary Army (ERP). The stormy internal life of the new organization was marked by factional conflicts, splits, and even violent confrontations.

Out of one of these splits in the mid-1970s, emerged the National Resistance, whose fighting organization is known as the Armed Forces of National Resistance (FARN).

The deepening of the working-class radicalization and the mass mobilizations affected every working-class organization, including the Communist Party. In 1977 the CP started moving toward convergence with the organizations born in the 1970s. In 1979, the party decided to join the armed struggle.

All of the Salvadoran groups fighting imperialism were deeply inspired by the victory of the Vietnamese revolution in 1975, which signaled a period in which the relationship of class forces on a world scale was shifting against the Yankee colossus.

However, the different revolutionary organizations remained divided, with factional and sectarian differences blocking joint action even when no overriding political differences existed.

Example of Nicaragua unity

With the July 19, 1979, victory of the Sandinistas in Nicaragua, the revolution in El Salvador entered a new stage. The Salvadoran people — fighting against the same kind of political repression and worsening economic conditions that led the Nicaraguan masses to rise up and take power into their own hands — were inspired by this nearby revolution. The workers and farmers of El Salvador were becoming increasingly convinced that a new government, one representing their class interests, could only be imposed by the most resolute struggle to destroy the imperialist-backed regime.

As the mass mobilizations deepened in the urban centers and the armed struggle expanded in the countryside, militants from all the revolutionary organizations began to press for unification of the fighting forces, so that battles would not be lost due to lack of coordination or wasteful competition between the guerrilla groups.

Likewise in Nicaragua, the unification of the three tendencies of the divided Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) was an essential part of the process by which the working class and the most exploited layers of the peasantry asserted their leadership of the revolution, and assured the seizure of power. Without the reunification, the triumph of July 19 would have been impossible.

Formation of FMLN

In May 1980 the process of uniting the divided Salvadoran forces took a big step forward with the announcement of the formation of the United Revolutionary Directorate (DRU). The FPL, CP, ERP, and FARN came together in what was projected as a new unified command for the military and political organizations struggling to overthrow the dictatorship. Later joined by a smaller group known as the Central American Revolutionary Workers Party (PRTC), this became the FMLN.

The FDR was also formed around this



Barricada/Nancy
Sandinista National Liberation Front Commanders Doris Tijerino (left), Mónica Baldodano were honor guards at funeral of FMLN Commander Ana María.

time, uniting mass organizations, unions, and broader political forces recognizing the authority of the FMLN.

Nonetheless, the five political parties within the FMLN retain their separate existence, and have even maintained, in the main, their own separate fighting forces.

As the revolutionary process has deepened and new young fighters have joined the struggle, the pressure for advancing the process of unification has grown. New recruits are not preoccupied by the previous lines of division, nor concerned with past disputes. While political discussion is continuing throughout the vanguard forces, less and less does this take place along the old organizational lines.

As the working class comes more and more to the fore in the revolutionary process, the pressure for advancing the unification process grows.

The Cuban and Nicaraguan leaders have also been doing what they can to encourage the unification process of the Salvadoran forces by generalizing the lessons of their own revolutions.

The connection between the unity of the revolutionary leadership and the successful mobilization of the masses was emphasized by Manuel Piñero, a member of the Central Committee of the Cuban CP, at a conference in Havana a year ago, attended by revolutionists from throughout Latin America.

"Life shows that it is not enough to proclaim the need for unity in order to advance toward achieving it," Piñero said. "It is precisely in this manner that the real maturity of a vanguard and its full commitment to the cause of its people is tested. Individual passions, sectarian deviations, and other limitations must bow before the collective interests of the masses."

"The process of building unity encompasses all the motor forces of the revolution and the allied democratic sectors. But its vital nerve center is the solid unity of the vanguard."

"The truth is that when the different detachments of the left succeed in cementing unity in action, have a consistent strategy, and put forward common tactics and struggles, the mass of the people — who are instinctively for solidarity among themselves — increase this unity, to the point of making it virtually irreversible."

"And the broader the scope of the forces — national and international — taking part in the struggle against the immediate enemy, the greater is the imperative of the unity of the vanguard."

'Disinformation' and disruption

If unity within the leadership is essential to the success of the Salvadoran revolution, finding ways to block and disrupt that unity is at the top of the agenda for the enemies of the revolution — first and foremost the United States government, with its massive

resources for such efforts.

This was put bluntly in the secret National Security Council document concerning Central America recently made public and reprinted in the *Militant* of April 22. This document outlined the central aim of U.S. policy in Central America and the Caribbean as preventing "the proliferation of Cuba-model states" in the region.

Disruption operations to block unity among revolutionary groups in Central America were high on the list of operational priorities outlined in this government document. The United States should secretly "initiate efforts to increase factional strife among guerrilla groups" and make a "concerted effort to exacerbate factional strife in extreme left" the document said.

The U.S. rulers hope to divide revolutionary forces within El Salvador, as well as to disrupt collaboration between those forces and potential allies in other countries, including here in the United States.

The circulation of rumors and political gossip about alleged divisions and sectarian designs — often spiced with fabricated quotations, distortions, and other "inside" information — is standard operating procedure for such a campaign.

A perfect example of this kind of operation is the way the capitalist news media has reported the slaying of Commander Ana María and the suicide of Commander Marcial.

Rumors, insinuations, and speculations are presented in such a way as to suggest "the real story" — that Cayetano Carpio was actually murdered by forces within the FMLN, and that a "power struggle" has broken out within the revolutionary forces.

That the facts all show the opposite is irrelevant to those mouthpieces for imperialism.

Sucker bait from 'N.Y. Times'

This kind of disinformation was typified by the *New York Times*, an authoritative voice of the American ruling class. The *Times* story on the death of Cayetano Carpio was a masterpiece of its kind. It was full of sucker bait, presented as inside stuff for those foolish enough to go for it.

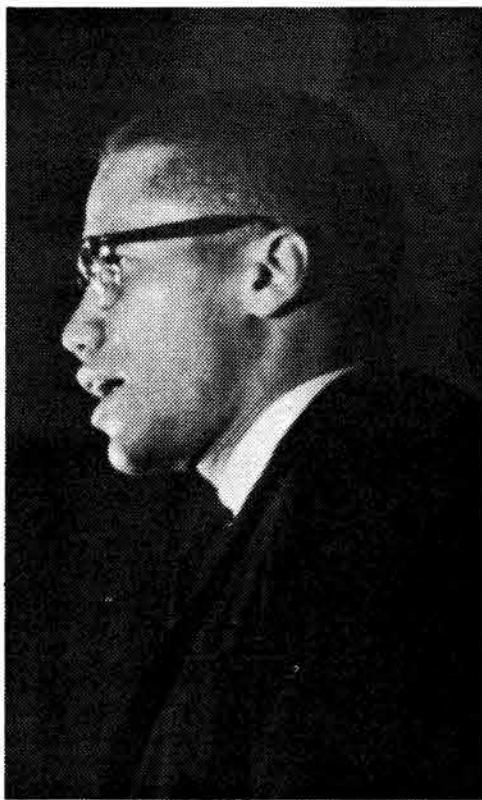
The article offered not a single fact to contradict the detailed account released by Nicaragua's Ministry of the Interior on the suicide of Cayetano Carpio.

Nonetheless, the *Times* story, headlined "Top Salvadoran Rebel Chief Dies in Mystery," centered on "speculation" that the circumstances of Cayetano Carpio's death "might not have been precisely as described publicly." The evidence? The opinion of "an American official in San Salvador" who asserted that "hard-core revolutionaries do not commit suicide"!

The *Times* then goes on:

"Although no evidence was offered, among the speculation was that the Nicaraguan or Cuban Government, feeling pres-

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African liberation leader Amilcar Cabral (left), Malcolm X. Both revolutionary leaders were victims of assassinations attributed to political opponents, but evidence clearly pointed to guiding hand of police.

Rebels press forward

Continued from Page 4

sure on the Sandinist revolution, had decided Mr. Cayetano Carpio's group was an obstacle to negotiations to solve the problems in the region and had decided to eliminate that obstacle."

Thus, the Cubans and Nicaraguans are accused of betraying the Salvadoran revolution by murdering one of its leaders because he was too intransigent. The *Times* makes not even a pretense of reconciling this "speculation" with the charge that Cuba is "the source" of all the trouble in El Salvador and everywhere else in this hemisphere.

Finally, the article implies, without rhyme or reason, that Jorge Shafik Handal, leader of the Communist Party of El Salvador, must also be considered a suspect because the death of Cayetano Carpio is expected to "strengthen [his] hand."

As for the murder of Anaya Montes, the *Times* believes that any accusation that the CIA had a hand in that is too ridiculous for words. She was clearly murdered by people from her own organization as a result of "internecine" disputes.

Thus, in one short article, the *Times* manages to point a finger of suspicion at the Cubans, the Nicaraguans, the Salvadoran Communist Party, and the FPL.

The purpose is to aid in the campaign of driving a wedge between the groups of the FMLN-FDR, and between the Salvadoran revolution and its staunchest supporters internationally.

Nicaraguans prepare for invasion

Continued from front page

and without the knowledge of the Costa Rican government."

Intimately linked to the escalation of the U.S. war against Nicaragua are the gains being made by the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) in El Salvador.

U.S. government officials on the scene have reported in top-secret documents that the war there cannot be won simply by increasing aid to the dictatorship's army.

In the past two weeks, big blows have been dealt by the FMLN offensive named in honor of Commanders Ana María and Marcial. Successes include:

- Occupation of five radio stations in San Salvador April 14 and broadcast of a message condemning assassination of Commander Ana María.
- Capture of 82 government soldiers in La Paz Province April 19.
- Capture of 71 prisoners in San Vicente Province, plus all their arms, April 21.
- Two-day battle in Guazapa Province April 22-23, defeating an army counteroffensive and resulting in 65 government casualties.

Whatever the precise role that imperialist agents played in the assassination of Commander Ana María — and more evidence will be forthcoming as the investigation continues — Washington immediately seized on her death to advance its disruption campaign.

With the subsequent suicide of Commander Marcial, which they could not have anticipated, they further stepped up their campaign to obstruct the road of unity.

But the firm response of all the revolutionary organizations of El Salvador in favor of deepening the process of unification has made it difficult for the disrupters to have much success.

As the FMLN and FDR put it, "Those who believe that we are going to weaken in the face of the sad circumstances are mistaken. To the contrary, our revolutionary courage will grow and our unity will strengthen!"

"Finally, we state once again to our people that we are ready to step up the struggle on all terrains and no imperialist maneuver will succeed in the face of the unwavering decision of the FMLN and FDR to reach victory together with our people, to be able to respond with them to achieve their aspirations and to honor and remember our heroes and martyrs.

"With unity until victory!
"United to fight until the final victory!
"Revolution or death, we will win!"

62 percent oppose CIA's operations against Nicaragua

Six to one, the American people are against a CIA-sponsored invasion of Nicaragua.

That's according to a recent poll conducted by the *Los Angeles Times*.

The paper reported April 12 that sentiment "ran high" against such an invasion.

"By a margin of 6 to 1," the paper found, "respondents opposed covert U.S. intelligence operations there, with 62 percent saying the CIA should not be involved and 10 percent saying it should." The remainder, the paper said, were "undecided."

Poll takers also asked if people considered U.S. involvement in El Salvador morally justified. Forty-nine percent said no, with but 26 percent saying yes.

Asked if they would favor use of U.S. troops if the Salvadoran government is about to fall, 53 percent said they were against, and only 31 percent in favor.

Police agencies and political murders

What historical record reveals

BY ERNEST HARSCH

In response to accusations that the CIA was responsible for the April 6 assassination of Salvadoran rebel leader Melida Anaya Montes (Commander Ana María) in Managua, Nicaragua, the U.S. government has piously denied any involvement.

Seizing on the fact that those arrested by Nicaraguan security forces in connection with the assassination were members of the same Salvadoran guerrilla group that Ana María was a leader of, State Department spokesman Alan Romberg claimed, "It's pretty clear that gang warfare has broken out among the insurgents."

Thus Washington's hands are obviously clean.

Or are they?

That it was Salvadorans, even insiders, who wielded the knife hardly proves that the CIA had no hand in the murder.

It has long been a favorite practice of the political police agencies of imperialist powers to assassinate leaders they fear. CIA officials now admit that they plotted to kill Patrice Lumumba, the Congolese national leader who was murdered in 1961.

Cuban President Fidel Castro has been the intended victim of numerous CIA assassination plots.

Sometimes CIA agents are directly involved in such assassination attempts. But often others are employed to do the dirty work instead.

The infiltration or corruption of someone in the leadership of the organization to which the targeted individual belongs is standard procedure. It is often the only way to get close enough to carry out the assassination plans.

But more important is the political advantage. It is easier to cover up imperialism's hand and to sow confusion and demoralization in the wake of the murder.

After the 1965 assassination of Malcolm X, one of the United States' most outstanding Black revolutionary figures, the big-business media, echoing the police, portrayed his killing as the work of members of the Nation of Islam (a group from which Malcolm had split a year earlier), acting on their own.

But the evidence of other attempts on Malcolm's life, inconsistencies in the police account, testimony by the defendants, and the fact — revealed only later —

that one of Malcolm's bodyguards was a police informer all point to a different conclusion.

There is no doubt about the role of the political police in the 1969 slaying of Fred Hampton and Mark Clark, members of the radical Black Panther Party in Chicago. Both were killed by a barrage of police gunfire.

During testimony in a subsequent suit against the government, it was revealed in court that William O'Neal, an FBI informer who had infiltrated the Panthers and become Hampton's bodyguard and the party's chief of security in Chicago, helped the police set up the raid.

A case that bears striking similarities to the assassination of Commander Ana María was the January 1973 killing of Amilcar Cabral, the well-known African liberation leader and founder of the African Party for the Independence of Guinea-Bissau and the Cape Verde Islands (PAIGC), territories in West Africa then ruled by Portugal.

Cabral was killed in Conakry, the capital of Guinea, by a group of PAIGC members led by Innocente Camil, the commander of the PAIGC's naval forces. They were arrested by the Guinean authorities while trying to flee into Portuguese-occupied Guinea-Bissau.

The Portuguese authorities, and the imperialist press in general, portrayed the killing as an internal "squabble." And just as Washington is now trying to suggest there is a Nicaraguan or Cuban hand involved in Ana María's killing and the subsequent suicide of Salvador Cayetano Carpio, the big-business press seized on the fact that Cabral had been murdered in Conakry to claim there were rifts between the PAIGC and Guinean President Sékou Touré, who provided aid to the PAIGC.

However, the investigation into Cabral's assassination revealed that the Portuguese secret police, the PIDE, had played a key role in it.

This blow against the PAIGC came at a crucial point in its liberation struggle. Its forces had already won control of most of Guinea-Bissau and were on the verge of proclaiming the country's independence. But Cabral's assassination, obviously intended to demoralize the PAIGC's fighters, failed to stop them. The following year they won their goal.

State Dep't concealed evidence that D'Aubuisson plotted Romero murder

BY HARRY RING

Two years ago, the State Department received "highly reliable" information that Salvadoran right-wing leader Roberto D'Aubuisson and a dozen security force officers drew lots for the privilege of planning the assassination of Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero.

This was reported April 15 by the *Los Angeles Times*, which obtained the information from three unidentified but "well-placed" U.S. officials. They said the revelations were included in two secret State Department cables, which all three had read.

Romero was gunned down March 24, 1980, as he said mass at a hospital chapel. He was a critic of government repression.

D'Aubuisson, who had to flee El Salvador after the Romero assassination, is now president of the Salvadoran Constituent Assembly.

The *Times* revelations confirmed earlier charges by former U.S. Ambassador Robert White that D'Aubuisson had organized the murder of Romero.

The second of the two secret State Department cables actually identified the man who pulled the trigger — Walter Álvarez, a member of El Salvador's blood-soaked National Guard. Later he was shot to death and his body found by a roadside in traditional death-squad style.

The officials who spoke to the *Times* said they knew of no follow-up on the ca-

bled information by either the State Department or CIA.

Queried about the two secret cables, the department advised it is not its practice to discuss "alleged classified material."

D'Aubuisson, who had his U.S. visa lifted in 1980, was granted a new one early in April and allowed to enter the country. State Department spokesmen said the action had been taken because allegations of D'Aubuisson's involvement in the Romero slaying "have not been substantiated."

D'Aubuisson's ultrarightist party, Arena, was recently described by the State Department as a "key element" in U.S. proposed elections now being organized by the Salvadoran regime.

Meanwhile, Rep. George Miller, a California Democrat critical of U.S. policy in El Salvador, is still waiting for a response from the State Department on information it has that D'Aubuisson sent one of his security guards here last year to "investigate" Miller.

Miller had visited El Salvador a year ago April and planned to return last January. But his visit was cancelled when the State Department said it could not guarantee his safety there.

The FBI told Miller that it assertedly has been unable to determine if D'Aubuisson's lieutenant had actually entered the country, but advised him that if the man was here, Miller "had reason to be concerned" about his well-being.

Chicago socialist got good response

Continued from front page
ballot as an independent candidate.

In four weeks 35,000 signatures were gathered in all parts of the city. The biggest response was in the Black communities; but also among workers at plantgates.

Jim Little, Warren's campaign manager, said, "It was some of the easiest petitioning I've ever done." Warren said the discussion with workers ranged from the anti-labor and racist policies of incumbent Mayor Jane Byrne to the federal government's bipartisan counterrevolutionary wars in Central America.

With 200,000 Chicago workers unemployed, 120,000 cut off from any type of medical care, with city services falling apart, and the city having one of the highest infant mortality rates in the United States, it was no wonder that petitioners found a good response to Warren's simple but radical proposal: the war budget must be eliminated and a massive public works program launched to build socially necessary goods and services to put laid-off workers back on the job at union-scale wages.

At this time, too, the main talk in the city was the impending race between Byrne and her archrival, Cook County State's Attorney Richard Daley, Jr., for the Democratic Party nomination.

There was no talk, of course, about the Republican since one hadn't won the mayor's office since 1927.

Discussions in the Black community

It was in this context of a deepening economic crisis in the city, a racist, anti-labor city administration, and a dying Democratic Party machine that several Black community leaders held a series of meetings to discuss the prospects of running a Black candidate for mayor.

The first meeting was organized by Lu Palmer's Chicago Black United Communities organization and Jesse Jackson's Operation PUSH. Those present included community activists, trade unionists, doctors, and preachers.

Warren, who attended all those meetings, explained what type of program and perspective an independent Black political campaign should have to represent the interests of the Black community and all workers: uncompromising support to the social, economic, and political rights of Blacks, Latinos, and all other workers; no support to candidates of the Democratic and Republican parties. This, he said, would be a step toward building a mass independent Black party, which would help the unions face up to the need for a labor party.

This first meeting discussed how Blacks and Latinos are now the majority of the city — 55 percent — and the time was ripe to place a Black in City Hall. Blacks, people said, had historically been segregated politically and otherwise in the city by the Democratic machine.

The meeting drew up a list of 10 to 15 names of potential candidates. The list included Harold Washington, Jesse Jackson, Danny Davis (an alderman), and Lu Palmer.

These names were then to be placed in the *Defender*, the city's daily Black newspaper. Based on who got the highest vote — what they called a "plebiscite" — that person would be the candidate.

At this meeting Warren spoke and explained the position paper on independent Black and working-class political action he had distributed. He pointed to the formation of NBIPP as an example to follow and said its charter, which stands opposed to the capitalist parties, could be the basis of a platform that a genuinely independent Black candidate could run on. Only electoral tactics flowing from a strategy to form a new nationwide independent Black or labor political party, he said, could be effective. The participants listened attentively to his proposals.

Plebiscite and boycott

The second meeting took place in late July. It occurred at Operation PUSH's offices.

At this meeting a number of important decisions were reached. First, the list of possible candidates was again discussed. Holding a plebiscite in the Black community was reaffirmed. Second, the majority present decided to launch a voter registration drive. And lastly, the majority called for a boycott of Chicagofest, which is organized by the city. The boycott of this two-week event was called to protest Byrne's decision not to appoint a Black as head of the Chicago Housing Authority, which mainly services the Black and Latino areas of the city.

SWP campaigners also participated in this meeting. Since Warren was the only announced candidate — who also happened to be Black, as well as independent of the two parties of exploitation, racial oppression, and war — it was necessary for a leader of PUSH to explain why running a Black candidate did not mean supporting a candidate like Warren.

The PUSH leader said they wanted a candidate who could win — what he meant was someone who would enable the Democratic Party to win once again.

That response to Warren's campaign clearly stamped the character of the discussion about a Black candidate: it was for a Democrat who, in fact, couldn't serve the interests of Blacks; as opposed to a working-class candidate representing the interests of the Black community and other working people who would be independent of the Democrats and Republicans.

The third and final meeting took place at a community church in early October. Fifteen hundred people attended. The results of the *Defender* plebiscite were reported: 15,000 people voted and Harold Washington, the South Side congressman, was the first choice. He was also the choice of most of those present.

It was at this meeting that Washington said he would run for the Democratic Party nomination only if 100,000 more Blacks were registered to vote by the time of the November statewide elections.

Warren was there too. Warren and his party had been campaigning for independent Black political action. Warren, however, wasn't allowed to speak since he wasn't on the plebiscite list.

However, his campaign supporters distributed literature that explained:

"We'll never change anything as long as the Democrats and Republicans are all we have to choose from. These two parties are bought, paid for, and controlled by the rich. This tiny handful of businessmen and bankers who hold so much power will stop at nothing to save their profits."

Warren explained that democratic discussions held at these meetings, and the poll, showed the real potential power Blacks and other workers had. But, he said, it would be wasted if it was used to play power politics in the framework of the capitalist parties. To gain more influence in the Democratic Party — Blacks do have more than they did 20 years ago — does not bring Blacks and other workers any closer to political and economic control over their lives, Warren added.

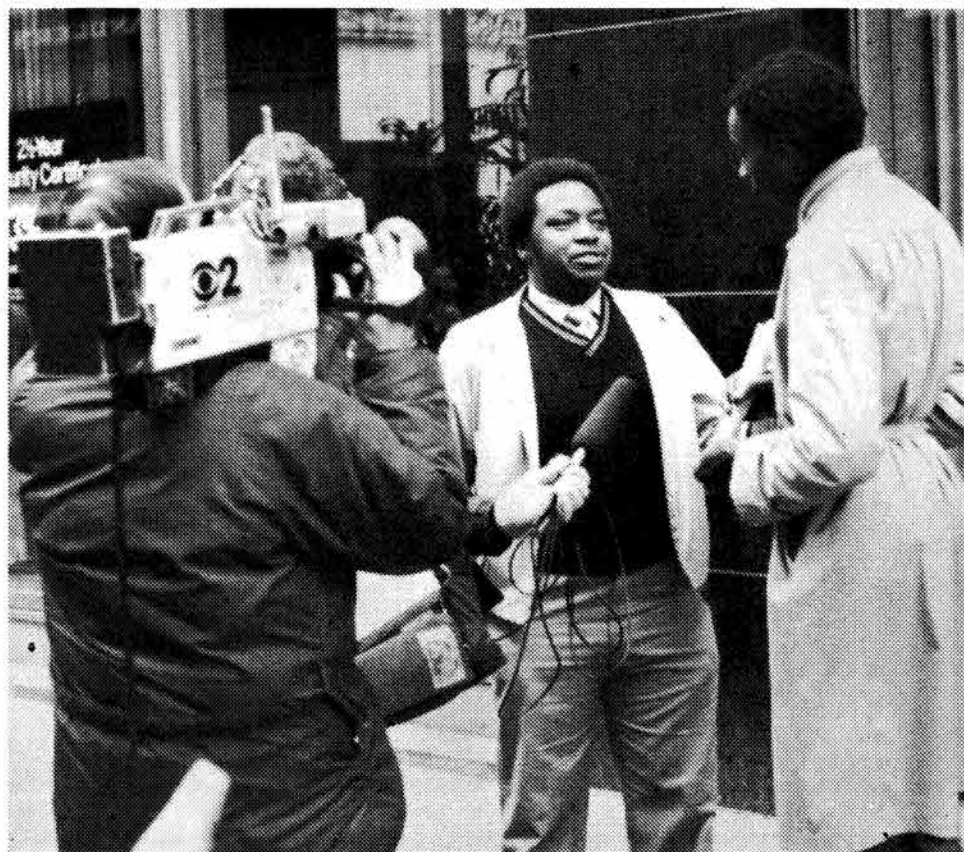
Over 40 *Militants* were sold at the meeting; and hundreds of socialist campaign statements were distributed.

The voter registration drive, which had begun over the summer, had been a great success. Over 100,000 new Blacks were on the voter rolls by November.

On October 29, at a public forum sponsored by a Black student organization and the National Black Independent Political Party at Northeastern Illinois University, Warren, Washington, and others spoke on the elections and independent Black politics. It was at this meeting that Washington said he would definitely make his decision to run for mayor after the results of the November elections.

Washington's formal announcement to run occurred after he was reelected to Congress, receiving 98 percent of the vote.

As Washington would later explain, he decided to run because he thought he had a chance to win, and to prove that only by working in the mainstream of the Democratic Party can Blacks make progress.



Militant/Craig Landberg

Socialist candidate Ed Warren interviewed by reporters on eve of elections

Warren, on the other hand, opposed this idea at the meeting, as he had been doing throughout his campaign.

Warren out campaigning

The Socialist Workers Party stepped up campaigning among the 13 percent unemployed steel, auto, garment, and other industrial workers. They sold the *Militant* at area plantgates. They went to the unemployment lines on the South Side where the huge U.S. Steel South Works is located; to the soup lines on the West Side; and to plantgates on the far South Side to talk to auto workers at Ford's Torrance plant.

Warren and his supporters also went into the Puerto Rican, Mexican-American, Central American, and other Latino communities. He himself had worked in a garment shop that had been raided by immigration cops in May as a result of the government's "Operation Jobs."

In January, Warren and his party stepped up their political offensive against their capitalist opponents in the race and their backers. They criticized the racist school board and the decision of a federal district judge for upholding the school board's so-called voluntary transfer program — a plan that will keep Chicago's schools segregated. Warren cut through the double-talk and rationalization by pointing out that only a massive busing program, including across city-suburban lines, could end segregation.

Another district judge issued a ruling January 19 awarding \$3 million in back pay to 200 women clerical workers who worked for the city's Water and Sewers Department and had been paid less than men. Warren hailed the ruling. Tens of thousands of radio listeners heard Warren explain, "This victorious suit against those who run this city should be an inspiration to women, Blacks, and Latinos to continue the fight against inequality and segregation. It is one more example how the Democrats and Republicans who run this city do so only in the interest of the bankers and big business. Their interests are counterposed to ours."

The February primary

What finally brought the Chicago mayoral campaign to the nation's and world's attention was the outcome of the February 22 Democratic Party primary.

The program of the candidates — Democrats and Republicans both — had not altered. They all stood by their call for fiscal austerity and in support of policies favoring the rich.

But when Harold Washington won the primary it was a shocking "upset" for the ruling class.

The entire history of the Democratic big-city machine had been to keep Blacks at the bottom — politically, economically, and socially — but also tied to the machine through the patronage system and other services it provided.

Times have changed, however, due to advances made by Blacks and other workers the last 20 years and the weakness of

the system. But the Democratic bosses in Chicago refused to recognize that change, thinking the old ways would remain.

The disintegration of the old machine had begun long before Washington even announced his campaign. But when he won the primary, ultrarightists in the city took the initiative to whip up a reactionary, racist campaign against Washington and for the Republican, Bernard Epton. White cops were the cadre organizers for this operation led by local Democratic Party officials and backed by Republicans. The media joined in to portray the election contest as "race against race."

Ultraright stamp

The ultrarightists sought to whip up racism to get white, Latino, and Black workers to fight among themselves and not focus their attacks on the bankers and employers who run the city. They sought to deepen divisions in the working class along racial lines, and to set the stage for more openly reactionary attacks after the elections against working people.

The ruling class as a whole was not for this campaign. They knew from experience that a Democrat is a Democrat no matter his or her skin color. That's why so many top Democrats came in to campaign for Washington. That's why the business big shots said he was okay by them.

The ultrarightists, however, placed their stamp on the election.

Warren's response to the blatant racism of the media, Epton, and right-wing mob elements was to explain more firmly why independent working-class politics is needed, while defending Washington and the Black community, as well as the entire working class, from the racist attacks.

Attempted bribe

Because the Warren campaign explained what was happening in class terms, he got a hearing from workers.

He also had a place on the ballot — in what would be a very close race.

Thus, on February 24, four men approached the socialist campaign committee, offering big money and posts in city government in return for the socialists' ballot spot. The four businessmen said they were interested in "making you [Warren] a lucrative proposition whereby you would step down and we would field a suitable [non-Black] candidate who could win the general election." They said they were offering anywhere from \$50,000 to \$1 million; and a position in the Chicago Housing Authority.

(Later incumbent Jane Byrne ran an abortive write-in campaign to keep her job. The speculation was that Byrne supporters wanted the SWP line for themselves.)

In response to this attack on working people's democratic rights, Warren said, "My party is not for sale — at any price. Last year 35,000 working people in Chicago signed petitions in order to put the SWP on the ballot in April. We didn't do this for money or posts in city government."

"There are thousands of working people
Continued on Page 15

Minn. UAW officials back deportation fight

BY NANCY COLE

Héctor Marroquín received important labor support for his struggle against deportation when he went to Minnesota, the first stop on a national tour.

Marroquín, a leader of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance, was born in Mexico. He fled government repression in Mexico in 1974 and has lived in the United States ever since. Because of his political ideas, the U.S. government has been trying to deport him.

The U.S. Supreme Court is now deciding whether to hear the appeal of his deportation order, which is his last legal recourse.

In Minneapolis-St. Paul, Marroquín met with and won the support of Bob Killeen, director of United Auto Workers Subregion 10. Killeen also explained Marroquín's case at an April 22 meeting organized to hear U.S. Rep. James Oberstar report on his recent investigative trip to El Salvador. Killeen, who had sponsored the meeting attended by 150 unionists and solidarity activists, directed people to check out the Marroquín defense table in the back. As a result several UAW officials, along with other unionists, signed a petition protesting the deportation threat.

Marroquín also spoke before the political action committee of United Electrical Workers Local 1139.

Penny Lernoux, author of *Cry of the People*, endorsed his case and invited him to speak before her class at Macalester College, where she is a visiting professor.

Marroquín also met with the Hispanic Students Association at Macalester.

Speakers at a support rally on April 24 linked Marroquín's case to other victims of

the U.S. government and its puppet dictators around the world.

René Hurtado, a deserter from the Salvadoran army who is now in church sanctuary in Minnesota, said he was in the same situation as Marroquín.

Ronald Leith, director of the St. Paul American Indian Movement, compared Marroquín with AIM victims of repression.

Guillermo de Paz, from the El Salvador Solidarity Committee, spoke of the 20,000 Salvadoran refugees deported last year.

Frank Guzmán of the National Chicano Alliance chaired the rally.

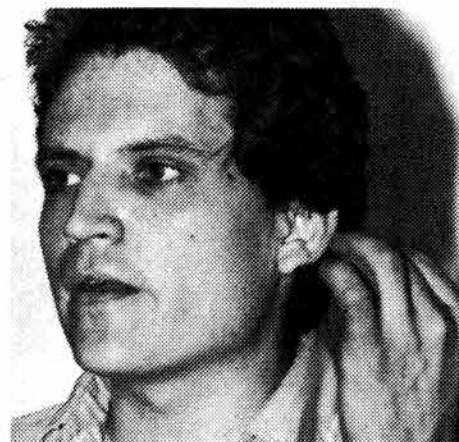
From Minnesota Marroquín went to Milwaukee, where several days of activi-

ties at plant gates, colleges, churches, and political events are planned.

Marroquín will then be in Miami May 2-6, and Philadelphia May 13-17.

Marroquín's emergency campaign is being organized by the Political Rights Defense Fund. PRDF is urging supporters of Marroquín's right to asylum to send protests to: Alan Nelson, Commissioner, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Washington, D.C. 20536.

Copies of protest messages, requests for more information, and urgently needed funds can be sent to: PRDF, P.O. Box 649, Cooper Station, New York, N.Y. 10003. Checks should be made out to PRDF and earmarked for Marroquín defense.



Héctor Marroquín

Grand jury attacks protested in N.Y.

BY STEPHEN BRIDE

NEW YORK — Grand juries are now a proven weapon in the government's repressive arsenal, and we're going to be seeing a lot more of them.

That was the message here April 8, as lawyers for Puerto Rican independence activists joined other speakers at a Manhattan meeting sponsored by the Militant Labor Forum.

"If they use them against the Puerto Rican and Black movements today, they'll use them against the antinuke movement tomorrow," Michael Deutsch, attorney for Ricardo Romero and Steven Guerra told the gathering.

Romero and Guerra are supporters of Puerto Rican independence. Along with Andrés and Julio Rosada and María Cueto,

they were recently convicted of criminal contempt for refusing to testify before a grand jury here. They are awaiting sentencing.

Bob Boyle of the Grand Jury Project told the forum: "Reagan has already said the nuclear freeze movement is Soviet influenced. All they have to say is that you're foreign influenced," and that is license for a grand jury to start fishing.

On the platform with Deutsch and Boyle was Liz Fink, who represents María Cueto. José G. Pérez, editor of *Perspectiva Mundial*, also spoke.

Deutsch said the government "raises the specter of terrorism to take away some of our basic rights" through grand juries. Among these he listed "the right to be placed on trial for specific charges" and the

right to counsel. Put simply, you can be charged with nothing and still be hauled before a grand jury. If you won't answer their questions, you can be jailed for contempt.

Another procedure is the filing of "criminal" — as opposed to lesser, "civil" — contempt charges. For this, Deutsch said, "you can be imprisoned for up to life. There's no statutory limitation."

A third technique is to push for stiffer sentences based on affiliation, in this instance political affiliation. According to Liz Fink, this means "if they can prove you have a common ideology, then all are guilty." The presumption being that, even though you have committed no crime, political agreement with someone the government says has committed one makes you just as guilty.

Similarly, said Boyle, a grand jury investigation of the attempted October 1981 holdup of a Brink's armored car in Nyack, New York, has officially targeted all who hold "a common belief in socialism and an end to the U.S. government as we know it." This, according to a government press release. Seven Black activists are now in jail for defying that grand jury.

Pérez said the use of grand juries is part of the overall effort to disrupt political movements: to accuse these movements of terrorism, to tie them up in court without evidence or charges.

"These attacks threaten all of us, with the labor movement being the ultimate target."

"To fight back," Pérez finished, "the main thing is explaining to people what's involved and mobilizing people against it."

PRDF fund will need final organized push

BY HARRY RING

NEW YORK — The closing date for the \$75,000 Emergency Defense Fund of the Political Rights Defense Fund is May 1. As of April 27, the committee had received \$70,000 and is confident that a last-minute effort will ensure meeting the initial goal on schedule.

However, an estimated \$30,000 in pledges to the fund is still outstanding, according to PRDF national coordinator Holbrook Mahn, and the committee is appealing to its supporters to make a final systematic effort to collect the entire amount in the coming weeks.

The fund was launched March 1 to meet the most immediate and pressing expenses involved in PRDF's defense efforts on behalf of the Socialist Workers Party, which was targeted for a costly disruption suit in federal court.

Recognizing the threat to democratic rights involved, PRDF supporters responded with cash and pledges totalling some \$100,000. The outstanding balance on that amount, Mahn emphasized, is still urgently needed.

Expenses in the legal and political fight in the case continue. PRDF attorneys are now seeking court costs from Alan Gelfand and his lawyers, who brought the suit against the SWP. After testimony was concluded in the trial of the case, presiding judge Mariana Pfalzer ruled that Gelfand had brought the case to court without "a shred" of evidence. The move to reclaim costs is intended to discourage such harassment suits in the future.

Gelfand, a Los Angeles County attor-

ney, had been expelled from the SWP in 1979 for taking legal action designed to damage the organization. After his expulsion he initiated the present suit, asking the court to reinstate him in membership and remove the SWP's elected leadership. He based this on the smear charge that the party leaders are government agents.

Although Gelfand clearly didn't have a leg to stand on, Judge Pfalzer permitted him to subject the SWP to four years of costly and time-consuming pretrial proceedings, in addition to the trial itself.

The very fact that she permitted this bogus case to go on so long was widely recognized as an attack on the right of free politi-

cal association.

This was recognized most quickly by those who have experienced government victimization firsthand, as indicated by the statement of support to PRDF from Seattle Longshore Local 37 which appears on this page.

Meanwhile, it's up to committee supporters to ensure that the outstanding balance on the fund is collected. This is necessary so that the legal and political issues in this case can be fought to a successful conclusion.

And, if you haven't as yet made a contribution, why not clip the coupon on this page and mail it to PRDF?

Seattle longshore local supports PRDF case

SEATTLE — Local 37 of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU) has declared its support for the Political Rights Defense Fund (PRDF) in its defense of the Socialist Workers Party against court victimization. A statement from David Della, secretary-treasurer of Local 37, was released by PRDF. The union's recognition that the Gelfand suit against the Socialist Workers Party represents a threat to First Amendment rights is based on its own hard experience.

Silme Domingo and Gene Viernes, who are referred to in the statement, were leaders of Local 37 who were murdered in the union hall in 1981.

They were leaders of a movement in the

predominantly Filipino cannery workers local to rid it of gangsterism and a corrupt leadership. They were also active opponents of the U.S.-sponsored Marcos dictatorship in the Philippines.

David Della is a coplaintiff in a suit that charges that the assassinations were ordered by the Marcos dictatorship, with the collusion of U.S. authorities.

The text of Della's statement follows.

* * *

On behalf of the officers and membership of ILWU Local 37 I want to applaud the efforts of the Political Rights Defense Fund around the case of *Gelfand v. Smith et al.*

From our standpoint, this is another example of the potential role that the courts play in violating and stifling the democratic rights of progressive-minded people.

Had the courts decided differently, this would have resulted in the most negative and dangerous precedent against progressive and working people in this country. The First Amendment right of voluntary political association is a basic constitutional right people must have in order to express their political opinions openly and to act on these opinions in an organized fashion, without fear of government or court-initiated interference.

In our case, two officers of our union — Silme Domingo and Gene Viernes — were brutally gunned down in cold blood on June 1, 1981. Although a number of factors surround this senseless slaying of two



Dave Della

trade unionists and political activists, we feel their untimely death occurred essentially as a result of their political views. In the most blatant sense, this was clearly a violation of their political rights.

The recent court decision in your case is clearly a victory that exemplifies the efforts that need to be undertaken by people in order to defend the existence of viable peoples' organizations, ranging from civil rights groups to trade unions and political organizations, without fear of interference or violations of civil liberties.

Let this effort be an example of what it will take to struggle for and defend the very basic democratic rights that are dear to us. In order to achieve our full civil liberties and rights we need to maintain our right to full political association.

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.

U.S. labor and El Salvador: debate and discussion deepen in union movement

BY GEOFF MIRELOWITZ

"I'm often asked by union people," American Federation of Teachers member Charlie Dee told the Milwaukee Central Labor Council recently, "Why should trade unionists worry about El Salvador? We have enough problems at home protecting our jobs and the labor movement."

Dee's answer is that U.S. military aid to El Salvador "is a triple whammy against union people."

Dee explained: "First, it's our money that is being spent to buy bullets for a government and a military which serves the 14-family oligarchy that owns the vast majority of the land."

"Second, every dollar going to El Salvador could be spent here — on jobs or energy assistance or unemployment compensation or to prevent foreclosures."

"Third, that money is a subsidy and an incentive to big business to take jobs away from union workers here . . . and run away to countries where antiunion policies and starvation wages are enforced by machine guns and helicopters paid for by working people of the United States."

The Milwaukee labor council voted to endorse the resolution submitted by Dee calling for a cutoff in U.S. military aid to the Salvadoran regime and printed it on the front page of its newspaper, *Labor Press*. This symbolized something new and different that is going on in the American labor movement.

Throughout the labor movement, there is a debate and discussion about U.S. government policy in Central America and its connection to the government's anti-working-class policies here at home.

Opinions about this are by no means unanimous, but a lively discussion is taking place.

To some workers this may seem only natural. As Charlie Dee explained, the connection between the government's attacks on workers in the United States and the war it is supporting in El Salvador grows clearer and clearer every day. But the fact that it is being actively discussed within the union movement represents an important change.

1983 not 1965

When the first American "advisers" were sent to Vietnam in the early 1960s, it was not the topic of much discussion in the unions. In 1965, when Lyndon Johnson took the first big steps to escalate the U.S. war there, the top union officials were right

behind him. George Meany, then chief of the AFL-CIO, was one of the most die-hard supporters of the U.S. government's attempts to crush the Vietnamese people's battle for self-determination.

At the beginning, many workers were misled by officials like Meany into supporting the war as a necessary step in the "fight against communism." Those workers who did oppose the war were certainly not speaking out against it in large numbers. Debate or discussion about the Vietnam War in the unions at the time was the exception, not the rule.

Today, Washington is again escalating U.S. military intervention — this time in Central America. Once again, government spokespeople such as Secretary of State George Shultz are beating the drums about our "moral obligation" to oppose "Communist guerrillas" in El Salvador. He and others have revived the "domino theory," raising the specter that if the Salvadoran rebels win, others like them will fight and win elsewhere in Central America.

But in 1983 these arguments just don't cut as much ice with American workers. Opposition to a new Vietnam War is one of the most deeply rooted sentiments among working people today. This is one of the reasons for the discussion in the unions.

More and more workers are aware that while billions of dollars are earmarked for the Pentagon, unemployment remains high, social services are slashed, and wage cuts are imposed on union after union. This awareness shows up more and more often in the signs that read "Jobs not war" or "Bread not bombs" at demonstrations like the March 15 rally of 2,000 unemployed workers at the Capitol in Washington, D.C., or the picket of 4,000 steelworkers and other unionists who greeted Reagan in depression-hit Pittsburgh on April 6.

'I was in Vietnam'

On top of this is the bitter memory of the Vietnam War itself. A machinist at the FMC plant in San Jose — a manufacturer of armored personnel carriers for the U.S. Army — spoke for many when he explained his decision to sign a petition opposing the U.S.-backed war in El Salvador. "Yeah, I was in Vietnam and there's no way my kid is going to go too," he said.

The mines, mills, refineries, and factories of American industry are filled with Vietnam veterans who haven't forgotten their experience. Tens of thousands of other workers, many of whom are not old

enough to remember the Vietnam War much themselves, know relatives, friends, or neighbors who fought or died in the war.

The memory of Vietnam, the anger about the government's economic policies, and the widespread belief that the government never told the truth about the war in Vietnam and probably isn't telling the truth about Central America today, all combine to deepen antiwar sentiment among American workers. And the signs are that this is provoking more and more of a discussion in the official bodies of the labor movement.

Of course there are still many narrow-minded officials who believe that discussion of U.S. policy in Central America is not appropriate "union business." This view is shared by some workers.

But the discussion goes on. As a group of Nebraska railroad workers and some of their union leaders recently explained in a letter to the *Lincoln Star*:

"First the government sends military aid and equipment, then it sends advisors, and last but not least it will be our sons in uniform."

"We cannot stress strongly enough how important it is for all labor unions and workers who aren't in unions to voice their disgust and resentment concerning U.S. military aid to Central America. The Vietnam War would have ended much earlier than it did if organized labor had taken its rightful place in opposing it."

AFL-CIO opposes military aid

In a key change in policy earlier this year, the national AFL-CIO officialdom came out in opposition to further military aid to the Salvadoran regime. Local AFL-CIO councils, like the one in Milwaukee, are also speaking out against the U.S.-backed war in increasing numbers.

Several leaders of large industrial unions have formed the National Labor Committee in Support of Democracy and Human Rights in El Salvador. The committee is chaired by Douglas Fraser, president of the United Auto Workers (UAW); William Winpisinger, president of the International Association of Machinists (IAM); and Jacob Sheinkman, secretary-treasurer of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU).

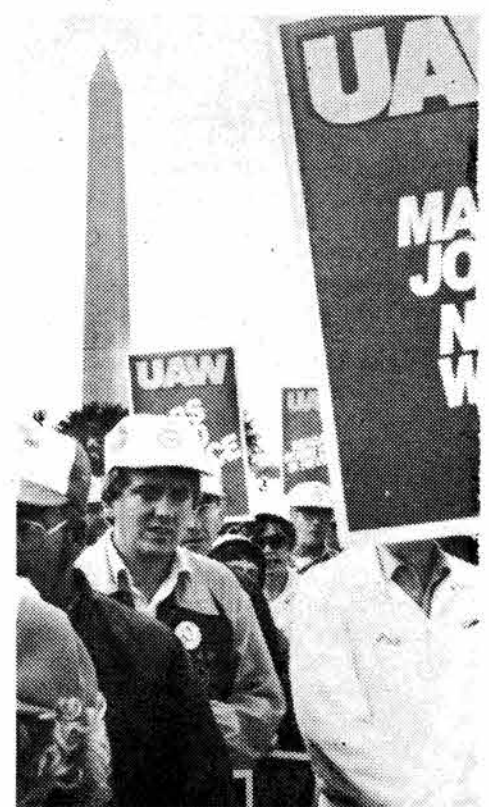
Another graphic example of the changing mood among workers and their unions has been the response to the tour of Salvadoran union leader Alejandro Molina Lara. Molina Lara is the organizational secretary of the National Federation of Salvadoran Workers (FENASTRAS).

For the past several months, Molina Lara has been traveling throughout the United States, describing the conditions of the Salvadoran working class and appealing to U.S. workers for solidarity in the fight against U.S. military intervention.

From one end of the country to another he has gotten a warm reception, and his visits have provoked interest and discussion among workers. Many union locals, including a wide range of international unions, have invited him to address their meetings or, in some cases, have organized special meetings for him.

During his Minnesota tour, for example, Molina Lara spoke to union meetings of the UAW, IAM, ACTWU, United Steelworkers of America (USWA), Brotherhood of Railway and Airline Clerks (BRAC), United Transportation Union (UTU), Minnesota Federation of Teachers (MFT), Minnesota Education Association (MEA), American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) and the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW).

Some of these meetings have been sizable — like the AFSCME state convention



Left and center, Solidarity Day march

of 400 where more than \$500 was collected for imprisoned Salvadoran unionists or the meeting of USWA Local 1938 where more than 200 iron ore miners heard Molina Lara's message.

In addition to these meetings, four other public gatherings were sponsored for him by central labor councils in Minneapolis, Virginia, Duluth, and St. Cloud.

A real discussion

Workers often use the discussion period at Molina Lara's meetings to get answers to questions that are posed by U.S. government propaganda and repeated to workers day after day by the big-business media. This was the case at one meeting organized by the UAW in Minnesota.

One worker wanted to know whether the rebels in El Salvador were receiving aid from Cuba or the Soviet Union. Another asked where did the rebels get their guns. A third worker questioned Molina Lara about whether the "domino theory" had any validity.

Molina Lara replied:

"We don't believe in dominoes. The oppressive conditions of the people are similar throughout Central America. In Guatemala the people face the same conditions of malnutrition, hunger, and illiteracy. We believe in the people fighting for national liberation."

Later in the meeting Molina Lara told the auto workers:

"Real democracy will be won by the working class. We produce everything, not the capitalists. This is a democratic struggle of mass organizations."

What is new is not that workers are asking questions like this but that someone like Molina Lara — a revolutionary union leader and opponent of the Salvadoran regime and its U.S. backers — can answer them face to face with American workers in their union halls.

After answering these questions and others, Molina Lara received a standing ovation and \$300 in donations from the UAW and individual members.

Questions in a farm town

Molina Lara has not only been speaking before unionists. He has also taken his appeal for solidarity to allies of the working class.

In Minnesota he spoke at a meeting in the farm community of Montevideo. There about 25 people, including several working farmers and high school students, came to hear him. They were especially interested in the living and working conditions of the Salvadoran rural population.

One person asked, "Is the breaking down of the big estates and the redistribution of the land taking place at all today in El Salvador?"

Molina Lara explained that the land that has been "given" to the peasants was not free. They were forced to sign contracts that called for 20 years of payments at high interest rates.

"Today," he said, "the peasants are in crisis because they can't meet the payments and they can't buy machinery to produce."



Salvadoran union leader Alejandro Molina Lara (with translator Maura Rodriguez) at Baltimore meeting. His tour has sparked discussion by unionists of U.S.-backed war.



Washington, D.C., Sept. 19, 1981. Right, March 19, 1983, New York City demonstration opposing U.S. intervention in El Salvador.

Militant photos by Lou Howort

He said the peasant organizations that are able to function are demanding the government raise the price of crops and lower the interest rates as well as the original price that was charged for the land.

He summarized the situation today saying, "The big landowners, after exploiting the land for 50 years, are now exploiting the labor of small farmers, farm laborers, and the landless . . . through the banks and the credit agencies."

Many of those at the meeting found Molina Lara's explanation of the crisis of the rural population somewhat familiar.

Molina Lara has also gone to the Black community. Blacks have been quick to extend a hand of friendship and solidarity to him. As one Black transit worker said in New York, "I fought in the last one and we don't need another war. We should be doing everything we can to keep our country from being involved in another Vietnam."

'Our struggles are similar'

Many Blacks respond favorably to the message Molina Lara brings. "Our struggles are similar," he told a meeting sponsored by the National Black Independent Political Party (NBIPP) in the Baltimore Black community of Pimlico. "We may not be Black, but imperialism oppresses us in the same way. . . . You are a people who have been denied participation in the political life of your own country. . . . So I make a call to you, to the Black people of the United States, to that section of the American working class who has struggled for your human rights in this country."

In Baltimore NBIPP was one of the principal sponsors of the tour. In addition to the Pimlico meeting, Molina-Lara was the guest speaker at the regular NBIPP chapter meeting. Following that meeting 20 Black activists attended a reception for him at the home of NBIPP leader Ken Morgan.

The Tidewater area of Virginia is another spot where Molina Lara was welcomed by Blacks. Sixty students at Hampton Institute and 70 at Norfolk State University (two Black colleges) turned out to hear him. He also spoke at meetings at two area Black churches, Bethel AME and St. Mary's Catholic. His tour in Virginia was endorsed by the NAACP in Hampton and Newport News as well as the Tidewater chapter of NBIPP.

Where it has not been possible to arrange for Molina Lara to address official union meetings, he has sometimes taken his message directly to workers at plant gates and work sites. This was true in New York where transit workers organized an informal meeting for him during a coffee break at a Bronx transit barn.

One worker to another

Part of the reason Molina Lara strikes a chord with American workers is because he is a worker talking to other workers.

This reaction was typified by a Puerto Rican transit worker in New York who said, "I know what they've been through. I've been there. I lived it. Having to suffer to make peanuts. Having to choose be-

tween paying the rent or buying food for my family."

Molina Lara is not the only Salvadoran unionist speaking to U.S. workers. In Racine, Wisconsin, exiled Salvadoran workers are receiving sanctuary in local churches because the U.S. government denies them political asylum. They have also begun to speak to audiences of local unionists.

The February issue of the *Allied Industrial Worker*, published by the Allied Industrial Workers Union, featured an interview with two of these Salvadorans.

Bill Lange, a member of Local 232 of the union, writes that the Salvadorans' story made a big impact on him. This happens "when you talk to the people personally — union brother to union brothers and their families."

"We are all workers with similar interests," Juanita, one of the Salvadorans, told Lange. "But the blood of workers in El

Salvador is running in the streets. We ask our union brothers and sisters in the United States to do what they can to stop the shipments of arms to the Salvadoran military."

"Stop the arms shipments and we will find peace on our own," said Roberto, the other exiled unionist. "If the arms shipments are not stopped, we will soon have another Vietnam in Central America."

A different reaction

This is the same message that Molina Lara brings to American workers. While he has received a warm response, some top AFL-CIO officials have reacted differently to his tour. These officials are not happy about the idea that a revolutionary Salvadoran unionist is addressing American workers and their unions.

The AFL-CIO leadership's recent change in position, to one of opposition to further military aid to El Salvador, is a step forward for antiwar forces. It de-

monstrates, in part, that these officials recognize the antiwar sentiment that exists among the union membership.

However, AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland and other top union officials are not in favor of labor adopting its own foreign policy, one that is independent of the State Department. They are opposed to local unions and rank-and-file unionists discussing and debating whether or not U.S. foreign policy is in the interests of the working class.

The AFL-CIO officialdom is disturbed by Molina Lara's appeal to American workers to actively oppose the government's new Vietnam. That too is what some of the debate and discussion is about.

This came out in a public way during Molina Lara's tour in Baltimore. Originally the Metropolitan Baltimore Council of AFL-CIO unions had voted to participate in Molina Lara's tour there. The

Continued on Page 10

Nebraska rail unionists say no to new Vietnam

BY CHERYL PORCH

LINCOLN — The March 12 issue of the daily paper here, the *Lincoln Star*, printed a letter to the editor opposing U.S. government policy in Central America. The letter was signed by 87 officers and members of seven different rail unions. (see below)

The discussion and debate both on the job and in the unions about this letter said quite a lot about American politics and the thinking of U.S. workers.

The letter was read aloud at a meeting of the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen Local 799. More than half of those attending the meeting signed it. "There's no way they're sending my kid down there," commented one woman at the meeting.

In the United Transportation Union (UTU) Local 305, the letter was on the agenda of two business meetings. At the first, nearly 20 workers signed and it was agreed to post the letter on the union bulletin boards at the Burlington Northern rail yards here.

Posting the letter generated more discussion, including sharp disagreement by a few with what the letter said. Joe Swanson, a member of Local 305, reported that comments were written on it including, "This is communism" and "stuff like this shouldn't be allowed in the union meeting." Below this someone else had written, "This is why we should go to union meetings."

At the second UTU meeting, the local voted not to adopt the letter as an expression of union policy. "Nobody spoke for the U.S. being involved in El Salvador,"

explained Swanson. "In fact, most of those who voted against adopting the letter as union policy had already signed it as individuals."

The letter was also published in the newsletter of my union, Local 471 of the Brotherhood of Railway and Airline Clerks.

While the letter was being circulated,

'Give our sons more than army fatigues'

The following is a letter printed in the March 12 issue of the *Lincoln Star* published in Lincoln, Nebraska. It appeared under the headline: "Local labor group fears 'another Vietnam.'"

We are writing this letter as concerned members of the laboring class of this country and as members of our unions. We shall try to relate our views and opinions on U.S. military involvement in El Salvador, and also the millions that are given to this dictatorship by the U.S. government.

It is a known fact that the government we now live and work under has for years turned a deaf ear to the wants and needs of the common working-class citizen, and catered to the demands of big business and those in control of those large corporations. These are the same corporations we are working for.

We need to use our power of unionization to speak out against an issue that is going to have an effect on our lives and the lives of our children for years to come.

The issue in point is our government's military aid to El Salvador and to counter-revolutionary terrorists trying to overthrow the government of Nicaragua. It is in fact the beginning of another Vietnam tragedy. What we must remember is the sequence of how it did happen, and will happen again if we allow it.

Joe Casmer, vice-president of UTU Local 305, read it at a meeting of 75 people who had come to hear American Indian Movement leader Vernon Bellecourt. Bellecourt had recently returned from Nicaragua.

When Casmer read the letter he explained that it expressed his personal views and that they weren't those of his union. But, he added, "they should be."

First the government sends military aid and equipment, then it sends advisors, and last but not least it will be our sons in uniform. Unless we use our strength to stop this dangerous sequence, history will repeat itself in less than one generation.

We would like to give our sons something more than a gun and a pair of Army fatigues for graduation from high school.

We cannot stress strongly enough how important it is for all labor unions and workers who aren't in unions to voice their disgust and resentment concerning U.S. military aid to Central America. The Vietnam War would have ended much earlier than it did if organized labor had taken its rightful place in opposing it. Let us not make the same mistake now. We must stop letting ourselves be patronized and pacified by this government and let it know we will be recognized.

J.V. Casmer, Vice President, United Transportation Union Local 305
Paul Swanson, Local Chair, Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Local 1320
Mike Carper, Vice President, Brotherhood of Railway Carmen Local 799
Mark Elsener, UTU Local 305
J.F. Bohlman, Legislative Representative UTU Local 305
Plus 82 other signatures

Labor news

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Labor movement discusses El Salvador

Continued from Page 9

Maryland State and Washington, D.C., AFL-CIO had sent out a letter urging union locals to invite Molina Lara to speak at local meetings during his visit. A traveling fund of \$100 was established and local unions were invited to contribute.

'Good guys and bad guys'

However, the day before the tour was to begin, the local AFL-CIO pulled out. When he was questioned by a reporter from the Baltimore *Sun*, Baltimore labor council President Henry Koellein said of the situation in El Salvador:

"It's hard to tell who the good guys are and who the bad guys are. We were told by our national organization to back off."

Referring to Molina Lara, Koellein said the national AFL-CIO "told us that he represents the guerrilla movement. So we are backing away from this and withdrawing our resolution."

At a news conference the next day, Molina Lara explained that FENASTRAS is a federation including 26 national unions in El Salvador. It is affiliated to the Trade Union Unity Committee (CUS), which includes nine Salvadoran labor federations, representing the vast majority of organized labor in El Salvador. The press conference was widely covered.

The telephone call from AFL-CIO offices in Washington did not halt Molina Lara's tour in Baltimore. Three important union meetings heard him speak, including a meeting of 75 union representatives of District 1199E of the Hospital Workers Union; a special meeting of representatives of District 8 USWA locals convened by district director Dave Wilson; and the regular business meeting of USWA Local 2609, representing workers at Bethlehem Steel's giant Sparrows Point plant.

Another highlight of the Baltimore tour was a citywide meeting held on March 25. Over 150 people attended, including steelworkers, machinists, garment workers, hospital workers, and others. Les Bayless, secretary-treasurer of 1199E, introduced Molina Lara to the meeting, which gave him a standing ovation.

One of the other speakers at the meeting was Philip Van Gelder, a retired international representative of the IAM. Van Gelder had introduced the original resolution to the central labor council endorsing the tour. He began his remarks saying American workers "are not easily persuaded that President Reagan, who is an outspoken enemy of labor and working people in this country, has the best interests of the workers of El Salvador at heart."

He also commented on the controversy in the labor movement about the Molina Lara tour. "I don't know how you cancel a resolution," he said. Van Gelder explained that he had learned of this through the newspaper and that no vote had canceled the AFL-CIO's sponsorship of the tour. He went on to say that he believed the original decision expressed the general feelings of many in the local labor movement. This was echoed by warm greetings to Molina Lara that were sent to the meeting by Earl Kiehl, District 4 director of the United Fur-

niture Workers Union, and by Octavia Roberts, chairperson of the local CLUW chapter and a member of USWA Local 2610.

Earlier in the week, Tom Murphy, USWA legislative representative, told the USWA district meeting, "George Washington was called a terrorist because he led the fight against British tyranny. And if George Washington was a guerrilla, we should wear that name proudly."

Kirkland letter

While Molina Lara was touring Baltimore, a letter was issued by national AFL-CIO head Lane Kirkland. It was sent to principal officers of local central labor councils and said in part:

"It has come to our attention that individuals or groups purporting to represent organizations abroad are asking to address trade union meetings in the United States in behalf of various causes, such as El Salvador, Chile, South Africa, etc. . . .

"Recently an individual claiming to speak for the Salvadoran people has asked to address several central labor bodies. This individual does not represent a trade union organization with which the AFL-CIO is working and which is affiliated to the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions. I believe he has addressed some trade union meetings, presenting a position or policy contrary to that adopted by the AFL-CIO Convention. It is regrettable that this took place. Perhaps such things can be avoided in the future by following the procedure outlined in this letter."

The procedure requires checking with the AFL-CIO Department of International Affairs before anyone is allowed to speak to any AFL-CIO body on an international matter.

At the same time the letter also states: "In view of this lack of progress in prosecuting the murderers [of American Institute for Free Labor Development workers killed in El Salvador in 1981], the AFL-CIO favors a suspension of military aid until such time as those involved are brought to justice."

A similar letter has been sent out to locals of the Communications Workers of America (CWA) by CWA President Glenn Watts.

But, like the phone calls from AFL-CIO headquarters, such letters have not ended the debate, nor have they been accepted like papal edicts.

Some unionists agree with Kirkland. Others do not and they continue to speak out loudly against U.S. policy and welcome Molina Lara and others like him.

In fact, the Kirkland letter has led to more of the very debate and discussion it was aimed at closing.

David Ferris, a business agent for the Service Employees International Union in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, was one of the organizers of Molina Lara's highly successful tour there last December.

Not the 1950s

"If this were the '50s and we all still believed what the government says," Ferris



Militant/Duane Hooker

Molina Lara talking with shipyard worker in Newport News, Va.

told the *Militant*, "Kirkland's letter might be more persuasive to those of us in the labor movement."

The letter, said Ferris, "may put a lot of people on the spot. But I firmly believe the labor movement has to take a stand."

He likened this disagreement to one that took place earlier that he and other Pennsylvania unionists remember quite well. Following the accident at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant in 1979, many unionists spoke out against nuclear power and in favor of permanently shutting down the plant.

This did not jibe with national AFL-CIO policy. Pressure was brought to bear on many unionists to back off from speaking out on this issue too. Nevertheless, several union-organized protests were held, including a march of over 10,000 people in Harrisburg on March 28, 1981. This action was called by 11 international unions.

'Keep the discussion going'

"Around Three Mile Island there were major disagreements in the labor movement," said Ferris. The lesson he draws from that experience about the current disagreements on El Salvador is that "the important thing is to keep the discussion going and not allow it to be cut off. We have to keep the discussion going so the truth can get out. The American people will make the right decision if they know the truth."

Molina Lara arrived in Texas shortly after the Kirkland letter. In San Antonio, the central labor council had also voted to sponsor the visit. As a result of the Kirkland letter they withdrew their formal endorsement. However, the vice-president of the council, Jaime Martínez, an international representative of the International Union of Electrical Workers, hosted the press conference that welcomed Molina Lara to town.

In Galveston County Molina Lara spoke at a luncheon hosted by the central labor council. Those in attendance included 14 local union presidents. A collection was taken after Molina Lara's talk.

Council President Charles Delgado, who is business manager of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 527, also gave Molina Lara a letter encouraging other unionists to extend solidarity to him.

"Brother Lara deserves your support in whatever form that takes in his, and others, effort to resolve the terrible problems in his country through dialogue rather than by the terrible consequences of war," says Delgado's letter.

In Washington, D.C., another stop on Molina Lara's tour after the Kirkland letter was issued, Molina Lara spoke to workers at meetings of American Federation of Government Employees locals 41, 2607, and 12; AFSCME locals 1072 and 2477; and unit six of IBEW Local 1900. He also made another quick stop in Baltimore where he spoke to workers at a meeting of United Electrical Workers Local 120.

A citywide rally in Washington attracted over 100 people including about 20 Salvadorans living in the city. Rick Ehrman, administrative organizer for Hospital Workers Union, District 1199E in Washington, and Víctor Rivas of Casa El Salvador cochaired the meeting. Messages of support to the rally included one from Victor Reuther, retired international affairs director of the UAW.

The Kirkland letter has also had an impact in California, Molina Lara's current tour stop. Some central labor councils have declined to endorse Molina Lara's tour or give him an opportunity to address council meetings. Others rescinded their previous decision to participate in the tour after receiving the Kirkland letter.

But that has not been the only reaction. The Contra Costa County labor council will hear Molina Lara at a council meeting.

The Santa Clara County labor council has voted to endorse an April 29 meeting at the San Jose Labor Temple. Council Business Manager Peter Cervantes-Gautschi will join Molina Lara on the program.

In San Francisco, where the central labor council is not participating in the tour, a number of members of the council's executive body have lent their endorsement to a May 6 citywide meeting. These include Walter Johnson, president of Department Store Employees Local 1100, and Stan Smith, secretary-treasurer of the San Francisco Building and Construction Trades Council.

Discussions among workers

The preparation for Molina Lara's tour in California has led to much discussion there as it has elsewhere. For example, UAW members at Teledyne Ryan in San Diego circulated a resolution for four weeks urging their local to invite Molina Lara to speak. Workers expressed different opinions about whether the union should play a role in opposing U.S. military intervention in El Salvador. Some workers thought it should not. Ultimately, however, the local approved the resolution by a wide margin.

The discussion continues during and after Molina Lara's meetings. Following his presentation to the USWA Local 2609 meeting in Baltimore, Molina Lara was approached by one worker, a Vietnam veteran who had accused Molina Lara of being "used by communists." Molina Lara pointed out that whenever American workers fight back against the bosses' attacks, they will also be accused of being communists.

The Vietnam vet was not completely convinced. But it has to make you stop and think about what might have been different for working people — in Vietnam and the United States — if 20 years ago representatives of Vietnamese workers could have talked face to face with American unionists. The fact that Salvadoran unionists can do that today and have a dialogue and receive offers of solidarity says a great deal about the changes in working-class politics in the United States.

As the U.S. rulers press ahead to escalate U.S. military intervention in Central America, they must contend with this change.

More and more workers have a generalized understanding that the employers are on an offensive against the unions here and that somehow that is connected to U.S. policy in El Salvador. As this discussion continues and deepens, it leads to a closer examination by workers as to whether the real interests of the working class are represented by the foreign policy of the employing class.

This is a vital and necessary part of the process of American workers coming to the conclusion that labor needs its own foreign policy, one that is in the interests of workers here and abroad.

Union leaders oppose Salvador aid

One measure of the opposition to U.S. government policy in El Salvador is the breadth of support for the National Labor Committee in Support of Democracy and Human Rights in El Salvador. It includes the following union officers as members:

Kenneth Brown, president, Graphic Arts International Union; William Bywater, president, International Union of Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers; Cesar Chavez, president, United Farm Workers of America; Murray Finley, president, Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union; Robert Goss, president, Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union; Nicholas Gyory, president, United Hatters, Cap and Millinery Workers; Frank Martino, president, International Chemical Workers Union; Gerald McEntee, president, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; Willard McGuire, president, National Education Association; and Charles Perlik, president, The Newspaper Guild.

The committee was set up on the following principles:

"Support of self-determination for El Salvador.

"Encouragement of a negotiated settlement to the conflict.

"Opposition to United States and any other military intervention.

"Affirmation of basic democratic rights for the people of El Salvador: the right to live and work; the right to free thought, expression and petition; the right to genuinely free and participatory elections; the right to organize and constitute trade unions with the right to strike."

The committee also explains:

"The American people are not willing to sacrifice their sons and daughters to prop up unpopular despots. Nor are they willing to finance military adventures when Federal budget cuts threaten essential social services. Continued American meddling can only escalate tensions in the area and place us at the threshold of a broader conflict."

Rail workers discuss Metro-North strike

BY JIM GOTESKY

NEW YORK — United Transportation Union (UTU) trainmen and conductors working for Metro-North commuter rail lines are back at work. The threat of congressional legislation ordering an end to the six-week strike forced UTU members to submit disputed contract issues to binding arbitration.

The strike was over on April 18, but the war being waged by the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) against Metro-North workers is not.

MTA Chairman Richard Ravitch has announced plans to install an automatic fare-card system on the New York subways and the Metro-North lines. The new system would virtually eliminate conductors and trainmen on Metro-North.

Striking UTU members insisted that the central issue in the strike was train crew size. They demanded that the MTA sign an agreement guaranteeing the crew sizes. Ravitch verbally agreed to guarantee the existing jobs, but flatly refused to put it in writing. Plans for the new fare-card system show how much that verbal guarantee is worth.

Train engineers, electricians, and machinists have yet to sign contracts. Engineers voted in February to reject the current MTA contract offer. Ravitch is now demanding that these workers submit to binding arbitration.

Shop craft workers who honored the strike were welcomed back by management in typical antiunion spirit. The shop foreman at North White Plains explained that during the strike top management personnel had calculated the time needed to complete each job in the shop, from cleaning toilets to electrical repairs. The six-week time study project resulted in plans to eliminate 122 shop maintenance jobs.

To show they mean business, manage-

ment wiped out clean-up time at the end of the day, along with coffee breaks. Notices were posted threatening disciplinary action for "excessive" absenteeism.

There is a lot of discussion now about binding arbitration. Is it good or bad for the unions? If all you can win in a strike is a choice between binding arbitration and congressional legislation, why strike?

In a locker room discussion, a machinist shop steward argued with the electricians' shop steward that he thought binding arbitration was no good. "Arbitrators never find for the unions," he said, citing a union study that showed arbitrators rule for the unions in only 31 percent of the cases.

The electricians' steward, not convinced, responded, "I don't know. The UTU has got Kheel on the arbitration panel. He'll fight for the union." (Theodore Kheel is a prominent arbitrator considered by some to be pro-labor.)

A Metro-North trainman making a run to North White Plains summed up the views of many, "Some guys think, what did we go out for if we end up in arbitration? But I don't think we had any choice. We may have a better chance now with arbitrators than with Congress."

This discussion is part of a bigger discussion about how rail workers can make our unions more effective in fighting for our interests. No clear answers emerged from the strike, and no new leadership came forward to chart a better course of action.

But one idea hit home to most rail workers — solidarity.

The capitalist news media carefully avoided mention of the real solidarity between other rail unions and the UTU members. The UTU is only one of 17 unions organizing workers on Metro-North. Three thousand engineers, clerks, electricians, pipefitters, coach cleaners, car maintenance

workers, and others honored the picket lines set up by the 800 conductors and trainmen.

These workers received no strike benefits whatsoever. All too often during railroad strikes one craft works while others are on strike. That didn't happen this time.

The MTA actively encouraged workers to cross the UTU picket lines. During the first few days a few did cross the lines, but Ravitch's strike-breaking efforts collapsed after two weeks. The MTA then locked out all workers, including those willing to cross the lines.

When all the Metro-North contracts are finally signed, there will be little in them for rail workers to cheer. The rail bosses have won this round. Nevertheless, there is not much demoralization among rail workers. There is, rather, a growing sense that rail workers must change our unions if we are to successfully turn back the inevitable next round of attacks on our wages and benefits.

Jim Gotesky is a member of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 817, which honored UTU picket lines during the strike against Metro-North.



MTA worker picketing outside State Capitol in Albany during strike.

Frame-up of Blacks in Omaha

Continued from back page

Omaha cops. Peak said he had acted alone in the bombing.

A week after the cop's death, the Omaha police searched David Rice's home while he was out of town. The cops claimed they found dynamite in his basement. This led to the arrest of Rice and Poindexter.

Meanwhile, under pressure from the cops and threatened with the death penalty, Duane Peak changed his story. He implicated Rice and Poindexter, claiming they had planned the murder.

At the April 1971 trial of Rice and Poindexter, Peak was the prosecution's chief witness. In exchange for his testimony, the charge against Peak was reduced from first degree murder to juvenile delinquency. A month later he was quietly moved out of Nebraska by the cops.

Rice and Poindexter were convicted and sentenced to life in prison. Throughout the trial both defendants denied any association with Peak; David Rice testified that the cops' photos of dynamite were not taken at his home.

On the same day Peak left the state, Rice's house burned to the ground, leaving no physical evidence to confirm or refute the dynamite photos.

Since the original frame-up, the rights of Rice and Poindexter have been further violated by the courts. Rice appealed the conviction, claiming the search of his house was a violation of his constitutional rights. The Nebraska Supreme Court upheld the cops, but, in April 1974, a federal district court ruled that the search was illegal and that Rice should be released or retried. Nine years later, he's still in prison.

The U.S. Supreme Court in 1976 agreed that Rice's rights had been violated, but denied him justice on technical grounds. His case was sent back to the original trial court.

Meanwhile, new evidence — unavailable to defense lawyers in 1971 — has come out, showing that the cops have a lot of reasons to keep this frame-up out of the light of day.

At the April 1 hearing defense attorney William Cunningham said he is prepared to show that Peak, the cops' star witness, did not make the 911 call as he testified he did. Further, he has evidence of a deal made between Peak's attorney and the cops and later covered up. And he has a letter written by Peak to his stepmother indicating he had implicated Rice and Poindexter under pressure from the cops.

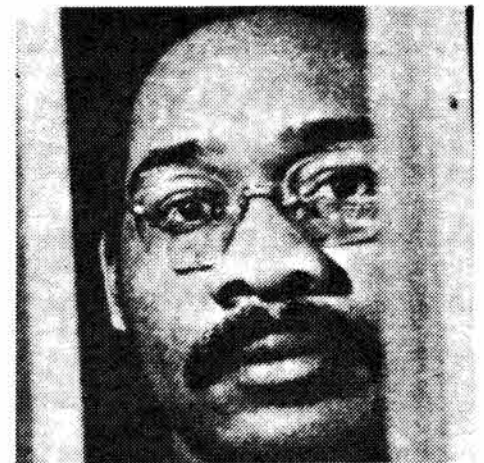
In addition, FBI files gained under the Freedom of Information Act have documented Omaha FBI involvement with minute details of the 1971 frame-up. For example, the FBI urged that the cops not use the tape of the 911 call in the trial, since it might be "prejudicial." Rice's attorneys are continuing to press for access to all the FBI and police files from the original frame-up.

Clearly the government does not want a new trial. Their case would again rest on

the discredited testimony of Peak (the cops say they can't locate him now) and the illegal search of Rice's house.

It is important now to bring maximum pressure to bear to demand a new trial for David Rice, and the release of both Rice and Poindexter. Messages can be sent to Chief Judge Norman Krivosha, Nebraska State Supreme Court, State Capitol, Rm. 2214, Lincoln, Neb. 68509.

Literature and information on the case can be obtained from and contributions can be sent to the Rice-Poindexter Defense Committee, c/o Calvin Memorial Presbyterian Church, 3105 N. 24th St., Omaha, Neb. 68110.



Ed Poindexter was sentenced in 1971 to life imprisonment.

300 laid-off auto workers protest forced overtime at GM plant

BY MARTY PETTIT

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — A spirited picket line of 300 angry laid-off General Motors workers marched in front of the G.M. Leeds plant in Kansas City April 16 shouting "Bring us back! We want work!"

The demonstration was called by the Laid-off Workers Council of United Auto Workers Local 93 in response to the institution of overtime for the first shift while 1,500 workers remain laid-off.

Relief jobs are being eliminated here, as in many GM plants around the country, with the substitution of mass relief — in which the line is shut down — for "tag" relief.

This is causing the loss of thousands of jobs. Meanwhile, remaining line workers are forced by GM to work overtime to make up production lost with the elimination of tag relief.

The hand-made signs on the picket line included one that said, "I'm hungry, give my Mommy back her job." Some 30 percent of the picketers were women, reflecting the fact that the layoff of the second shift in July 1982 left virtually no women in the plant due to their low seniority. The

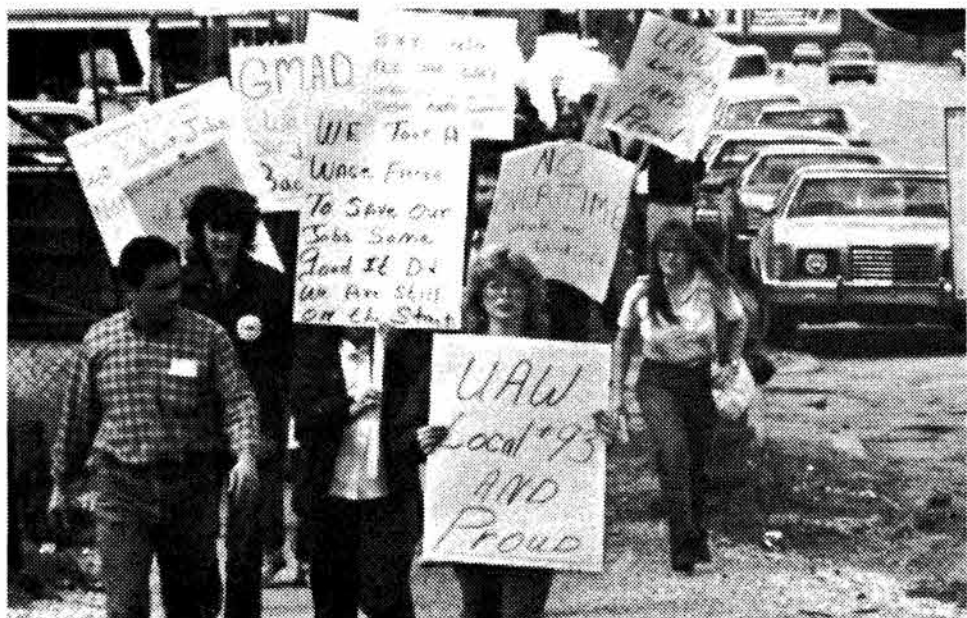
organizers of the picket line were also women, who are active in the Laid-off Workers Council.

Other signs said: "We lost our jobs, we lost our cars, we lost our homes. We have nothing left." "No overtime — bring us back."

Some 500 laid-off Leeds workers have been called in to work at the neighboring Fairfax plant under a contractual area-hire agreement. Workers at the Fairfax plant have been working overtime, and the line was recently speeded up. The company is trying to do this with a shortage of some 200 workers — despite the 500 from Leeds — so that jobs remain badly overloaded. Anger at the company and sympathy for the laid-off workers is building up at both the Fairfax plant and on the first shift at the Leeds plant.

At the picket line there was strong sentiment to continue picketing the plant every Saturday that there was overtime, and workers hoped that they would be an inspiration to other G.M. locals to fight overtime.

Marty Pettit is a laid-off member of UAW Local 93.



UAW laid-off council in Kansas City demanded jobs instead of forced overtime for employed workers.

UAW strike at Caterpillar ends

United Auto Workers members in six states returned to work April 25 at the Caterpillar Tractor Company. The settlement ended a six-and-a-half month strike, the longest by UAW against a major company.

The union struck Caterpillar last October 1, demanding an extension of the old three-year contract, including its 3 percent annual wage increase.

Caterpillar insisted on a wage freeze along with other givebacks.

The new agreement reportedly eliminates the annual wage increase while retaining the cost-of-living clause.

In addition to the 21,000 UAW members working at Caterpillar when the strike began, 15,000 were on layoff.

The UAW bargaining committee had rejected the newest contract offer, but was said to have put it to membership vote under pressure from the international leadership. The union announced the vote was 10,703 to 5,144.

THE GREAT SOCIETY

They care — SAN DIEGO (AP) — Hollow-point bullets, popularly known as "dum dums," will be standard ammunition for



Harry Ring

San Diego police, the department announced. Assistant Police Chief Robert Burgreen said Tuesday they are less likely than regular

bullets to pass through a suspect and hit an innocent bystander.

Jurisdictional dispute? — Victimization of undocumented workers crossing into the U.S. near San Diego, including assault, robbery and rape, got so bad that the San Diego police began patrolling the area but then stopped. According to a news account, it was explained that "the work became too hazardous. Officers were involved in shootouts with robbers, who in some cases turned out to be Mexican police officials."

Here or there? — It was reported in the press that Attorney

General William French Smith was in El Salvador studying ways to improve the justice system.

Problems, problems — Protesting a Quebec ban on TV ads directed at children, one toymaker complained, "The toughest challenge is introducing new products. You take a novelty item with no appeal to adults whatsoever, like the 'Slime' toy of a few years back. It has no redeeming social value. You can't market that through the parents."

Superblaboff — Reagan's Star Wars team is working on a bomb

that aides say will black out the Soviet communications system, "without necessarily hurting the people."

Plain talk dep't — "You know as well as I do that if we have a Rockefeller who's been stabbed we're going to pull out all the stops." — A New York police official explaining why they pay more attention to some homicides than others.

At least for the moment — "Political Risk Consultancy" has become a growth industry in Canada, with specialists charging fat

fees for advising companies on where to avoid investment or travel. One operator thinks the concern about travel is exaggerated. "One part of an island," he opined, "may be experiencing urban riots while the isolated Club Med on the other side is completely safe."

Shopping tip — Napoleon's, a men's boutique in New York's Trump Tower, offers cotton shirts for \$150. But some of these include extra collars and cuffs. And next door a stationery shop is featuring crocodile attaché cases for \$3,200.

CALENDAR

ALABAMA

Birmingham

Mel Mason — A Revolutionary Socialist In Office. Speaker: Sonja Franeta, member, Young Socialist Alliance and United Auto Workers Local 1155. Sun. May 1, 12 noon. 205 18th St. S. Donation requested. Ausp: Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (205) 323-3079.

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 Diego

Women In Revolution. Slide show, "Women in Nicaragua" and tribute to Commander Ana Maria of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front of El Salvador. Translation to Spanish. Sat., May 7, 7:30 p.m. 1053 15th St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (619) 234-4630.

San Francisco

Human Rights Violations in El Salvador: A Trade Unionist Speaks. Speakers: Alejandro Molina Lara, organizational secretary of Federation of Salvadoran Workers' Unions (FENASTRAS); Charles Lamb, president of Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees International Union Local 2; Father James Hagen, Most Holy Redeemer Church. Fri., May 6, 7:30 p.m. ILWU Local 10, 400 North Point (at Mason). Ausp: Alejandro Molina Lara Tour Committee. For more information call (415) 648-3469.

Benefit for Casa de Cultura Nicaragüense.

Performers: Batachanga, Los Volcanes del Xolotlan, and Los Peludos. Fri., May 20, 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Women's Building, 354 18th St. Donation: \$5. Child care provided. Ausp: Casa de Cultura Nicaragüense. For more information call (415) 824-6292.

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.

INDIANA

Gary

Grenada: Revolution in the Caribbean. Slide presentation by Carol Burke and Mitchel Rosenberg, members of Young Socialist Alliance recently returned from Grenada. Fri., May 6, 7:30 p.m. 3883 Broadway. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum and Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (219) 884-9509.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

Jobs Not War! Socialist Workers Campaign Rally. Speakers: Eloise Linger, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Boston; Ed Warren, recent SWP candidate for mayor of Chicago speaking on "The Fight Against Racism — From Chicago to Boston." Sat., May 7; reception, 7 p.m.; rally, 8 p.m. 510 Commonwealth Ave., 4th fl. (Kenmore Sq.). Donation: \$3. Ausp: Socialist Workers 1983 Mayoral Campaign Committee. 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.

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 YORK

Schenectady

The Continuing U.S. War Against Vietnam and Kampuchea. Speakers: Chan Bun Han, Committee in Solidarity With Viet Nam, Kampuchea, and Laos; Jay Johnson, member, International Union of Electrical Workers Local 301. Sat., May 7, 8 p.m. 323 State St. Donation: \$2.50. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (518) 374-1494.

Is Unemployment Built Into Our Economy?

Walt Snyder, member, Public Employees Federation. Sat., May 14, 8 p.m. 323 State St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (518) 374-1494.

OHIO

Toledo

Socialist Campaign Open House. Speakers: Janet Post, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor, oil worker; Alan Epstein, cannery worker, SWP candidate for city council. Sat., May 7, 7:30 p.m. 2120 Dorr St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Socialist Workers Campaign Committee. For more information call (419) 536-0383.

Toledo NOW Program.

Speaker: Manuella Fuentes, executive board, Farm Labor Organizing Committee, just returned from women's tour of Nicaragua.

Mon., May 16, 7 p.m. Planned Parenthood, 1301 Jefferson Ave. Ausp: Toledo National Organization for Women.

OREGON

Portland

The Palestinian Struggle Today. Speaker: Faiz Mohamad, General Union of Palestinian Students. Sun., May 8, 7:30 p.m. 711 NW Everett. Donation: \$1.50. Ausp: Militant Bookstore Forum. For more information call (503) 222-7225.

PENNSYLVANIA

Harrisburg

Open House and Reception to Launch Two-week Petition Drive to Qualify Doug Cooper for Ballot Status. Speakers: Doug Cooper, Socialist Workers Party candidate for city council; Bill Osteen, SWP candidate for mayor of Philadelphia; music and refreshments. Sat., May 7, 6 p.m. 803 N 2nd St. Ausp: Socialist Workers '83 Campaign Committee. 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 Allegheny County Commissioner, member, United Mine Workers Local 2350. Sat., April 30, 7:30 p.m. 141 S Highland Ave. 3rd Fl. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

WISCONSIN

Milwaukee

Stop the Deportations! Political Asylum for Héctor Marroquín. Speakers: Héctor Marroquín; Ruth Chojnacki, Refugee Sanctuary Coordinating Committee; Daisy Cubias, Central America Solidarity Coalition, Association of Salvadoran Women; Ahmad Hawari, Palestinian activist. Translation to Spanish. Sun., May 1, 7 p.m. UMOs, 809 W Greenfield. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Political Rights Defense Fund. For more information call (414) 445-2076.

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

CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles: SWP, YSA, 2546 W. Pico Blvd. Zip: 90006. Tel: (213) 380-9460. Oakland: SWP, YSA, 2864 Telegraph Ave. Zip: 94609. Tel: (415) 763-3792. San Diego: SWP, YSA, 1053 15th St. Zip: 92101. Tel: (619) 234-4630. San Francisco: SWP, YSA, 3284 23rd St. Zip: 94110. Tel: (415) 824-1992. San Jose: SWP, YSA, 46½ Race St. Zip: 95126. Tel: (408) 998-4007. Seaside: Pathfinder Books, 1043A Broadway, Seaside. Zip: 93955. Tel: (408) 394-1855.

COLORADO: Denver: SWP, YSA, 126 W. 12th Ave. Zip: 80204. Tel: (303) 534-8954. **FLORIDA:** Miami: SWP, YSA, 1237 NW 119th St., North Miami. Zip: 33167. Tel: (305) 769-3478.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MISSOURI: Kansas City: SWP, YSA, 4715A Troost. Zip: 64110. Tel: (816) 753-0404. **St. Louis:** SWP, YSA, 3109 S. Grand, #22. Zip: 63116. Tel: (314) 772-4410.

NEBRASKA: Lincoln: YSA, P.O. Box 80238. Zip: 68501. Tel: (402) 475-8933.

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

NEW MEXICO: Albuquerque: SWP, YSA, 1417 Central Ave. NE. Zip: 87106. Tel: (505) 842-0954.

NEW YORK: Capital District (Schenectady): SWP, YSA, 323 State St. Zip: 12305. Tel: (518) 374-1494. **New York, Brooklyn:** SWP, YSA, 335 Atlantic Ave. Zip: 11201. Tel: (212) 852-7922. **New York, Manhattan:** SWP, YSA, 79 Leonard. Zip: 10013. Tel: (212) 226-8445. **New York:** City-wide SWP, YSA, 79 Leonard. Zip: 10013. Tel: (212) 925-1668.

NORTH CAROLINA: Piedmont: SWP, YSA, P.O. Box 1026, 1400 Glenwood Ave., Greensboro. Zip: 27403. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

OHIO: Cincinnati: SWP, YSA, 4945 Pad-dock Rd. Zip: 45237. Tel: (513) 242-7161. **Cleveland:** SWP, YSA, 2230 Superior. Zip: 44114. Tel: (216) 579-9369. **Toledo:** SWP, YSA, 2120 Dorr St. Zip: 43607. Tel: (419) 536-0383.

OREGON: Portland: SWP, YSA, 711 NW Everett. Zip: 97209. Tel: (503) 222-7225.

PENNSYLVANIA: Edinboro: YSA, Edinboro State College. Zip: 16444. Tel: (814) 734-4415. **Harrisburg:** SWP, YSA, 803 N. 2nd St. Zip: 17102. Tel: (717) 234-5052. **Philadelphia:** SWP, YSA, 5811 N. Broad St. Zip: 19141. Tel: (215) 927-4747 or 927-4748. **Pittsburgh:** SWP, YSA, 141 S. Highland Ave. Zip: 15206. Tel: (412) 362-6767. **State College:** YSA, P.O. Box 464, Bellefonte. Zip: 16823.

Tel: (814) 238-3296.

RHODE ISLAND: Providence: YSA, P.O. Box 261, Annex Station. Zip: 02901.

TEXAS: Austin: YSA, c/o Mike Rose, 7409 Berkman Dr. Zip: 78752. Tel: (512) 452-3923. **Dallas:** SWP, YSA, 2817 Live Oak. Zip: 75204. Tel: (214) 826-4711. **Houston:** SWP, YSA, 4806 Alameda. Zip: 77004. Tel: (713) 522-8054. **San Antonio:** SWP, YSA, 337 W. Josephine. Zip: 78212. Tel: (512) 736-9218.

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

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

WASHINGTON, D.C.: SWP, YSA, 3106 Mt. Pleasant St. NW. Zip: 20010. Tel: (202) 797-7699. **Baltimore-Washington District:** 2913 Greenmount Ave., Baltimore, Md. Zip: 21218. Tel: (301) 235-0013.

WASHINGTON: Seattle: SWP, YSA, 4868 Rainier Ave. South. Zip: 98118. Tel: (206) 723-5330.

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

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

Polish workers organize May Day protests

BY ERNEST HARSCH

"May 1 is a workers' day, not a day for paying tribute to the authorities. Workers have a right to celebrate it the way they think best. No matter how treacherous and effective the harassment may be, May Day will continue to mean memories, hope and solidarity."

That leaflet, issued in late March, was just one of several calls by leaders of the outlawed Solidarity union movement in Poland for countrywide demonstrations on May Day to demand the restoration of workers' rights and an end to the government's repression.

Though Solidarity was officially banned in October, another declaration by the union's underground Provisional Coordinating Committee (TKK) declared, "Solidarity cannot be crushed. Solidarity lives and is well rooted in the factories. The union functions and has not given up its defense of the rights of working people in Poland. We are fighting for the right to free activity, for freedom for political prisoners, and for an end to the persecution of activists of the independent union movement."

Without explicitly saying as much, Lech Walesa, Solidarity's chairman, has indicated his support for these protests.

Though closely surveilled since his release from detention in November, Walesa was able to elude those watching him and meet with members of the TKK for extensive discussions April 9-11. A subsequent TKK statement reaffirming the call for demonstrations on May Day declared that "a joint attitude was agreed upon" between Walesa and the TKK.

The preparations for the May Day actions, and especially Walesa's willingness to link his considerable authority to them, has the bureaucrats who govern Poland extremely worried. At a time when workers' living standards have continued to decline and anger over the restrictions on workers' rights remains widespread, the authorities fear that the May Day actions could provide a focus for yet another upsurge of the Polish workers' movement.

Government statements have warned that the police will act to break up the demonstrations. In an effort to intimidate workers, trials of key Solidarity leaders are continuing, and new arrests are being carried out. On April 24, the police announced the arrest of Jozef Pinior, one of the five members of the TKK.

In addition, the Catholic church hierar-

chy has come out explicitly against the demonstrations.

Although Walesa has been detained briefly and questioned several times since he met with the TKK, the authorities are treating him cautiously, for fear that arresting him could provoke a massive outcry. In fact, they felt compelled to give Walesa his old job back at the Lenin Shipyard in Gdansk, where he led the August 1980 occupation strike that ended with the formation of Solidarity.

The two months preceding May Day have seen a resurgence of antigovernment demonstrations, the first significant ones since Solidarity's unsuccessful general strike last November.

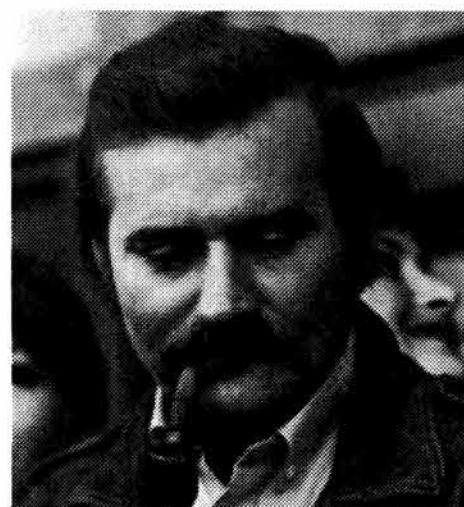
On March 13, and again on April 13, thousands demonstrated in Warsaw, Gdansk, Wroclaw, Kalisz, and other cities

to mark the day of the month on which Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski declared martial law on Dec. 13, 1981.

On April 17, more than 1,000 Solidarity supporters gathered in Warsaw to commemorate the anniversary of the 1943 Jewish Warsaw Ghetto uprising against the Nazi occupation forces.

The only leader of that uprising still living in Poland, Marek Edelman, was barred by the government from attending the commemoration because of his support for Solidarity (he was a union leader in Lodz before martial law). Edelman had called for a boycott of the government's official anniversary ceremonies, calling them "manipulated celebrations."

"Real socialism has nothing to do with this," Edelman said of the government's general policies.



Militant/Ernest Harsch
Solidarity leader Lech Walesa

Nun defies church on abortion funds

BY HELEN MEYERS

DETROIT — Pope John Paul II is directly intervening against a woman's right to choose abortion in the state of Michigan.

The Vatican has ordered Sister Agnes Mary Monsour, a Roman Catholic nun, to quit her post as director of the state's Department of Social Services (DSS).

The Archbishop of Detroit, Edmund Szoka, had ordered Monsour to resign from her post on February 23 because she refused to publicly oppose Michigan's policy of providing Medicaid funding for abortions, which is handled by the DSS. The Catholic Church hierarchy opposes abortion, calling it murder.

Monsour has maintained that although she is personally opposed to abortion, abortion is legal and it's wrong to deny abortions only to those who cannot afford them.

"As long as it is legal, I do not believe there should be a double standard," Monsour said.

The pope's personal representative to the U.S. Catholic church is now negotiating Monsour's fate with Sister Theresa Kane, national president of the Religious Sisters of Mercy, Monsour's religious order. (Sister Kane is the nun who publicly urged the pope to approve the ordination of women as priests during his 1979 visit to the United States.)

Sister Monsour has repeatedly stated that



Sister Agnes Mary Monsour

she plans on staying in her job as director of the DSS.

Public opinion here has been overwhelmingly in favor of Monsour not resigning.

The most visible sign of this support was a demonstration by 300 nuns organized by Groundwork for a Just World, which includes 15 different women's religious orders plus the Capuchin fathers. The demonstration took place at Marygrove College on February 27 in response to the Archbishop's order that Monsour resign.

A statement released by the nuns at the action criticized the archbishop's opposition to Medicaid funding for abortions: "In this pluralistic society where abortion is legal, can a person be required to add another

evil — to deny only the poor what has been legalized?"

The Groundwork for a Just World also organized a press conference in support of Monsour on March 2.

Sister Patricia Drydyk described an experience that resulted from the "unfortunate impact" of the archbishop's proclamation.

"Last Saturday I went to a . . . supermarket and saw they were selling Red Coach brand lettuce, which the United Farm Workers have been boycotting for several years in an attempt to get a fair contract with the company.

"The produce manager was there and so I introduced myself as Sister Pat and expressed my concern. I had hardly begun when he interrupted me saying, 'Hasn't Szoka shut you up yet?'"

An editorial in the March 31 *Detroit Free Press* stated, "We believe strongly in maintaining the separation of church and state. But we see no inherent conflict in one's private religious affiliation or vocation and the administration of a major department of state government. The notion that the Medicaid abortion question makes her position untenable is troublesome."

Michigan has one of the country's highest unemployment rates, and many people are totally dependent on social services, including Medicaid funding, in order to survive. This also occurs as the state legislature is considering a bill that would cut off Medicaid funding altogether.

Opponents of women's rights have backed the church hierarchy in this fight. A display ad that ran in newspapers throughout the Midwest compared Monsour to Nazi war criminals for her stance on abortion rights. A group of California doctors who oppose abortion rights ran ads in the *Wall Street Journal* and five Michigan newspapers attacking Sister Monsour.

Irish rebel on hunger strike

BY MARC LICHTMAN

On May 1, Nicky Kelly, a member of the Irish Republican Socialist Party, will begin a hunger strike in prison in the formally independent southern part of Ireland. Kelly is serving a 12-year sentence imposed on him in 1979 by a juryless Special Criminal Court after his conviction for robbery of a mail train, a crime he did not commit.

Kelly and two other members of the IRSP were convicted of the robbery solely on the basis of confessions obtained through torture by the Irish police. He fled to the United States before his trial ended and was sentenced in absentia.

The conviction of his two codefendants was overturned by an appeals court, and the Irish Republican Army, which Kelly never was a member of, took public responsibility for the robbery. Kelly then returned to Ireland convinced that the sentence against him would be overturned.

But the Irish government insists on keeping him in prison. All legal appeals have been exhausted, and the minister of justice turned down a plea from Amnesty International that his case be reviewed.

Nicky Kelly is embarking on his hunger strike as a last-ditch attempt to gain his freedom.

His real crime, in the eyes of the Irish government, is his support for the reunification of his divided homeland and his opposition to the present government in the south, which is economically dominated by British, and increasingly by U.S., corporations. The Irish government fears the freedom struggle against British rule in the north and frequently harasses and jails republican activists.

The New York H-Block/Armagh Committee will hold a vigil and demonstration to save the life of Nicky Kelly on May 5. The vigil will meet at 5 p.m. at the Irish Tourist Board, 5th Avenue between 48th and 49th Streets and will move to the steps of St. Patrick's Cathedral at 7 p.m.

The vigil will also mark the second anniversary of the death of Irish hunger striker Bobby Sands in a British prison in Northern Ireland. Despite Sands' election to the British parliament and mass protest demonstrations held around the world, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher refused to yield to the simple and just demands of Sands and other Irish republican prisoners. Nine other prisoners also died on hunger strike before the protest ended.

Although Thatcher claimed victory at the end of the 1981 hunger strike, the death of the 10 men on their fast sharply increased support for the cause of Irish freedom around the world.

Senate agrees to debate legislation that would wipe out abortion rights

BY MARGARET JAYKO

The U.S. Senate will soon be debating a constitutional amendment that would lead to the outlawing of abortion once again.

On April 19, the Senate Judiciary Committee voted to send the legislation, co-sponsored by senators Orrin Hatch, a Republican from Utah, and Thomas Eagleton, a Democrat from Missouri, to the floor of the Senate for action.

The committee tied 9 to 9 on the vote on the amendment. Usually, legislation can't get out of committee on tie votes. But the Senate leadership had made a previous deal with Hatch that the Senate would take this up, and so it didn't die in committee.

The text of the amendment is: "A right to abortion is not secured by this Constitution."

This directly overturns the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court Decision legalizing abortion. That ruling said abortion is a woman's right and based it on the constitutional guarantee of the right to privacy.

While this amendment wouldn't reinstitute the old antiabortion laws, it would allow new laws to be adopted.

In order for a constitutional amendment

to be adopted, it needs the approval of two-thirds of both the House of Representatives and the Senate and the approval of three-fourths of the state legislatures.

Nanette Falkenberg, executive director of the National Abortion Rights Action League, was quoted in the *Washington Post* as saying, "The bad news is that anti-choice proponents have forced the measure to the floor. We know the legislation will be defeated by the full Senate. Our opponents agree. Yet anti-choice leaders are doggedly determined to drag their colleagues through a futile floor debate."

But from the point of view of opponents of women's rights to choose abortion, it's not "futile" to publicly debate this issue. Hatch and company want to use the Senate discussion as a platform for public propaganda against abortion as a way to wear down majority support in this country for abortion rights.

That's why it's so important that supporters of abortion rights also publicly respond to the right-wing arguments and take the stakes involved in the struggle over abortion rights to the unions, the Black and Latino communities, and the campuses and high schools.

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Reagan's Central America speech

Continued from front page

for an emergency package of \$300 million in additional economic and military aid for the current fiscal year, and \$600 million for 1984.

Zeroing in on the revolutionary government in Nicaragua, Reagan accused the Sandinistas of "helping Cuba and the Soviets to destabilize our hemisphere."

"Violence," Reagan claimed, "has been Nicaragua's most important export to the world." Guerrilla attacks in El Salvador, he said, "are directed from a headquarters in Managua, the capital of Nicaragua."

In one of the real headquarters of violence — Miami — on the afternoon of Reagan's speech, various and assorted counterrevolutionaries from Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Cuba rallied to express their appreciation for Reagan's war in Central America and the millions of dollars that have already been spent to finance their operations. They received a telegram of warm encouragement from Reagan, who hailed this gathering of terrorist outfits as the hope of the hemisphere.

Journalists from all over the world have filed firsthand reports exposing the Honduran bases where thousands of U.S.-armed and U.S.-trained counterrevolutionaries are camped, and from which they are carrying out a war of terrorism and sabotage against Nicaragua. Yet Reagan had the gall to say that the Sandinistas "like to pretend that they are today being attacked by forces based in Honduras. The fact is, it is Nicaragua's government that threatens Honduras, not the reverse."

Two days before Reagan's speech, the Sandinista government warned that the U.S.-backed counterrevolutionaries were about to launch a new invasion of Nicaragua, this time from Costa Rica as well as Honduras. It was in this context of the opening of a new rightist front on the Costa Rican border that Reagan spoke of "the flow of arms" from Nicaragua to Costa Rica — a previously unheard accusation.

The intention behind these lies is clear. Washington is doing everything it can to organize and encourage the escalating attacks on Nicaragua, including the opening of hostilities from Costa Rica. The steps taken by the Sandinista government to defend itself and to arm the Nicaraguan people against these attacks are then taken as pretexts by the imperialists to escalate their intervention in the name of defending Honduras and Costa Rica.

Although the heart of Reagan's speech was the concerted attack on Nicaragua, the reason for the urgency and mounting concern in Washington is, above all, the situation in El Salvador. Top U.S. officials now admit that the Salvadoran dictatorship is losing its war against the guerrilla forces of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN), despite massive aid from the Pentagon.

"The last six months have been a period of steady progress for guerrillas in El Salvador, according to both Salvadoran and American officials," *New York Times* correspondent Stephen Kinzer reported from San Salvador April 25.

FMLN units, according to Kinzer, "are launching attacks in almost every part of the country." The Salvadoran army, in contrast, "has been all but paralyzed for the last three months."

Officials in Washington agree with the assessment of their counterparts in El Salvador. Leslie Gelb reported in the April 22 *Times*. Gelb interviewed more than a score of administration policy makers. These, he said, "know they are running out of time."

"A range of Administration officials say the United States must make a sustained, increased effort in El Salvador or lose the war to the guerrillas," Gelb reported.

A "sustained" effort, Gelb explained, meant the estimate that "it will take from two to seven years before significant progress can be made toward bringing the situation there under control."

In his speech Reagan repeatedly appealed for time. The guerrilla fighters in Central America, he declared, will not be "readily discouraged. It is crucial that we not become discouraged before they do."

A few days before Reagan's speech, *Times* reporter Hedrick Smith noted, "As the White House sees it, the President's task is to combat the political fatigue that has already developed over the Salvadoran conflict and to rouse the nation to sustain an even greater effort."

But so far all such attempts have fallen flat. Working people in the United States are opposed to the prospect of another Vietnam-type war, and Reagan's speech did little to allay the fears.

Not a single new piece of evidence or a single new argument was presented by Reagan. As in the past, he blamed Cuba, Nicaragua, and ultimately the Soviet Union for inciting and organizing the revolutions in Central America.

Even Sen. Christopher Dodd, who presented the official Democratic Party reply to Reagan, pointed out that "If Central America were not racked with poverty, there would be no revolution. If Central America were not racked with hunger, there would be no revolution. If Central America were not racked with injustice, there would be no revolution."

The U.S.-backed forces in El Salvador outnumber the rebel forces by more than 6-to-1, according to Washing-

ton's own estimates. The government troops are far better equipped than the guerrillas. The Pentagon provides them with training, with helicopters and planes, with napalm and phosphorus bombs. Why, then, are the government forces losing the war?

When U.S. officials are not blaming Cuba and Nicaragua, they are scapegoating the Salvadoran army's top commanders. Former Minister of Defense Gen. José Guillermo García, who resigned April 18, was singled out in this regard by Washington.

Stephen Kinzer reported on a visit to four of the most important garrisons in El Salvador one April weekend. None of the commanders were present. They had all taken off for the weekend.

But the problems of the Salvadoran armed forces do not arise from the incompetence of individual officers, any more than they come from Cuba and Nicaragua.

Washington's real problem in El Salvador is that it is faced with a social revolution in which the masses support the rebel forces and in which the local ruling class has lost confidence in its ability to rule. That is what is behind the growing disintegration of the regime, the demoralization of the armed forces, and the persistent massacres of the civilian population.

As Gelb put it, the U.S. rulers are in a situation where they are "unable to win and unwilling to lose." The result, as they fail to stem the revolutionary tide at each stage, is that they raise the stakes in the region.

Officials in Washington, Gelb continued, believe that "if the left takes over in El Salvador the contagion will spread uncontrollably to the Panama Canal and up through Mexico to the border of the United States."

Yes, the "contagion" will spread. But not because of the military power of Nicaragua or Cuba. The threat to the imperialists is the greatest of all subversives, capitalism itself, and the example of the social revolutions in Cuba, Nicaragua, and Grenada. That is why, as Gelb says, "there is now agreement in the Administration that Cuba is 'the source' of the problem in Central America."

Throughout Latin America there is massive unemployment, hunger, illiteracy, and disease. The scourge of the capitalist economic crisis is causing a rapid increase in these social evils. But in Cuba unemployment, hunger, and illiteracy have been eradicated by the establishment of an economic system that produces for human needs, not private profit. Medical care is available to all, and it is free. Moreover, Cuba also showed that it is possible to throw off the yoke of U.S. political domination and to end the costly and humiliating national oppression imposed by imperialism.

The workers and peasants in Nicaragua and Grenada have followed the example of the Cubans by winning political power and beginning a process of social transformation that has already greatly improved the living conditions of the masses. These victories have inspired new struggles, and in El Salvador the working people are advancing toward the conquest of political power.

It is this great movement of social and national liberation that is such a deadly threat to the rulers in Washington. There is no conspiracy, no secret plot — only the openly stated demand of millions of working people for an end to the exploitation of their labor and natural resources by U.S. big business, for the right to control their own countries and to build a society in which they make the decision and assert the right to live in decency and dignity.

But these demands are incompatible with the profits demanded by Wall Street. For the billionaires who control the U.S. government, this is a cause for war.

As Reagan's war moves forward, however, the imperialist rulers have become increasingly divided over how to pursue their ends. Many are fearful over the price that they may be forced to pay for their intervention.

At the same time, as Dodd made clear in his reply to Reagan, there is agreement among them on the essential challenge. The U.S. rulers must "oppose the establishment of Marxist states in Central America." The difference is over tactics to achieve that end.

The opposition to military intervention among U.S. working people is a far cry from the complaints voiced in ruling circles. It is the working class that will have to pay in blood and money for any new Vietnam in Central America. And it is the working class that is already paying for the massive U.S. military buildup, which is being carried out at the expense of desperately needed social programs here at home.

Massive opposition to the counterrevolutionary war in Central America among working people in the United States has already forced the imperialist rulers to go far slower in their escalation of the war than they had intended.

In his speech Reagan quoted the late Salvadoran working-class leader Salvador Cayetano Carpio, who pointed out that after the liberation of El Salvador, El Salvador and Nicaragua will be "arm-in-arm and struggling for the total liberation of Central America."

For Reagan, that is a nightmare. But for working people around the world, that is an inspiring perspective, one that advances our fight for social progress here in the United States.

Wounded Knee & U.S. hypocrisy on Indians

BY CONNIE ALLEN

One of the U.S. government's major frame-ups of Nicaragua is the Sandinista government's alleged abuse of the Miskito Indians on the Atlantic Coast.

A number of American Indian leaders have traveled to Nicaragua to find out the truth about Indian rights in that new revolution. Since his return to the United States, American Indian Movement (AIM) leader Vernon Bellecourt has spoken around the country, explaining the gains native people have won with the workers and farmers government in Nicaragua. In addition, he has pointed to the hypocrisy of the U.S. government accusing others of abuse of Indian rights.

May 7 is the 10th anniversary of the settlement in the historic occupation of Wounded Knee, South Dakota — an example of the U.S. government's idea of "respect" for Indian rights.

In February 1973, the Oglala Sioux on the Pine Ridge Reservation were in the middle of a fight to gain some

OUR REVOLUTIONARY HERITAGE

control over their lives. This struggle, on the second-largest reservation in the country, centered around efforts to replace the tribal government system with one to be adopted by the Indian people themselves and to impeach then-tribal chief Richard Wilson. Additional demands were termination of the tribal police and replacement of Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) officials.

Continuing its policy of extermination of Native Americans, the government established the BIA in 1824 as part of Department of War. It was later moved to Department of the Interior, and to this day maintains an iron grip over the lives of Native Americans. A 1934 federal law established the governmental system the Oglala Sioux were fighting against in 1973.

In the height of patronizing condescension, the U.S. government declared American Indians who live on reservations to be its "trustees." Therefore they cannot receive government aid to work their own land. However, it is permissible for white ranchers and farmers to rent or buy the land (through the BIA) and receive loans and grants to develop it.

After repeated efforts to change this situation through the established government, Pine Ridge residents formed the Oglala Sioux Civil Rights Organization. A meeting of 900 called on AIM to help them. They planned a giant pilgrimage to and occupation of Wounded Knee, in order to increase public awareness and gain support. Wounded Knee, a small town on the reservation, is the site of a U.S. Army massacre of Sioux in 1890.

Before the pilgrimage could take place, armed federal agents, on the pretext that the Indians had taken "captives," moved in, surrounded Wounded Knee, and refused to let anyone in or out. Thus, on February 27, the occupation of Wounded Knee began.

During the next 70 days the struggle of Native Americans for self-determination received national coverage. Federal officials tried every method of intimidation, from slander campaigns in the press to murder. The government, which reneged on an April 5 agreement with the Indians because it would not negotiate "at gunpoint," had 300 armed goons including federal marshals, FBI, and a commando unit of Green Berets and Marine Corps veterans ready to invade and slaughter.

Refusing to be intimidated, the Indians succeeded in using this action to educate the U.S. public about the plight of native peoples. They won widespread sympathy.

Eventually, on May 7, the government was forced to sign an agreement.

But the government never lived up to the agreement. Instead, it unleashed a reign of terror on the reservation of 10,000. It railroaded hundreds of AIM members and supporters to prison. Dozens more were murdered between mid-1973 and mid-1975.

The situation for Native Americans has gotten worse since 1973. With BIA control of their property and natural resources and the continual theft of their land, many Indians are totally dependent on government programs for their livelihood.

They have the highest unemployment and the shortest lifespan of any sector of the U.S. population.

On the largest reservation in the United States — the Navajo reservation in the Southwest — unemployment hit 72 percent in 1982 and the average yearly income fell to \$1,700.

There is currently a campaign to return Dennis Banks, an AIM leader, to a South Dakota prison where his chances of survival are slim.

Many Indians, and other oppressed and working people in this country see in Nicaragua what Vernon Bellecourt called a "model" for the oppressed, including Indians. That's one reason the U.S. government is so anxious to get rid of that model.

Koch in hot water over school chancellor choice

BY STEPHEN BRIDE

NEW YORK — Mayor Edward Koch went looking for trouble with his latest campaign to keep Blacks and Latinos out of city government, and now he appears to have found it.

It came on April 22, when the state commissioner of education ruled that Koch's choice for city schools chancellor, Deputy Mayor Robert Wagner, Jr., didn't meet the minimum legal requirements for the job.

AS I SEE IT

The surprise decision — Wagner had been considered a sure thing — ends round one of a controversy that has once again pitted the mayor against this city's Black and Latino communities. The latter were outraged by the nomination of Wagner, a white man, to head a school system that is 56 percent Black and 29 percent Latino.

Working people as a whole suffer under the wretched conditions of New York public schools, but Blacks and Latinos bear the greatest brunt. Tracking, lack of bilingual education, segregation, and a teaching staff that is overwhelmingly white have been big issues of concern in this city for a long time. The idea that Blacks and Latinos should have almost no representation in the bodies that run the school system is deeply resented.

The selection of Wagner was made even more offensive by two factors. One was the existence of Black and Latino candidates for the post, all with the required academic credentials. Heading this field were Dr. Thomas Minter, a Black, and Anthony Alvarado.

Alvarado is community superintendent of School District 4 in East Harlem. Minter has served as a principal in the city and was first assistant secretary of education during the Carter administration. He is currently deputy chancellor of schools for New York.

As the state education commissioner noted in his decision, Wagner "has no direct experience in schools super-

vision or administration" and "the equivalent of at most one year of full-time teaching." This is a good deal less than the law requires.

Indeed, Wagner's primary experience seems to have been in helping Koch stick it to working people in the city. As head of the Health and Hospitals Corp., Wagner led the 1980 drive to close Sydenham Hospital in Harlem. He also chaired the first all-white City Planning Commission in 25 years. In this capacity, Wagner produced a 1979 report that indicated his — and Koch's — approach to education. It proposed closing 200 city schools over the next decade.

Asked that year by the *Village Voice* what future he saw for the city's poor, who would be hit hardest by any cuts, Wagner responded, "People may be better off elsewhere."

The flood of protest against Wagner eventually spilled onto the pages of the local papers. *Daily News* columnist Miguel Perez called Koch the "champion of the game of racial polarization."

"The race issue is the only reason why Wagner will get the job," Perez declared. "After all, given his qualifications, if Wagner was black or Hispanic, would he stand a chance?"

News staffer Earl Caldwell, a Black, also lashed out at Koch in a series of columns opposing the nomination. "Since the 1930s," he wrote, "the Democrats have believed that the place for black Americans is the welfare rolls. Ask for anything other than welfare and you're slapped down."

Even the *New York Times* felt compelled to editorialize on March 28 that the mayor "has earned a reputation for careless racial rhetoric." Koch and his allies in the debate behaved "almost as though minority communities have no stake in political representation." The mayor, counseled the *Times*, should wait a little longer and consult a little more widely, in an effort to give Blacks and Latinos "a small sign that Edward Koch has begun to be their mayor, too."

Koch, though, was having none of that. Told by repor-

ters that Black and Latino officials seemed of one mind in opposing him, he shot back, "So what?"

"This is just an issue that is being created to further the political process for those who would like to have an issue in the Black community," he continued. "If it wasn't this, it would be something else."

Koch went on to compare himself to other big-city mayors he said had been victims of undue hostility from Blacks. Among these he listed former Chicago Mayor Jane Byrne.

It was in this atmosphere, then, that the Wagner nomination went to the city Board of Education, which picks the chancellor. Two of the seven board members are Koch appointees; the other five are appointed by city borough presidents. Koch got six votes for Wagner.

An April 14 open meeting, at which the board made it official, drew 250 protesters, who roundly booed the board and the one person who spoke for Wagner.

Black groups next sought a temporary restraining order to block the appointment. A Brooklyn Supreme Court judge denied that request on April 19.

But that didn't end Wagner's problems. The fact that he didn't meet the requirements meant those requirements had to be waived by the state government, and that is where somebody apparently decided that matters had gotten a little out of hand. Though the commissioner's ruling limited itself to Wagner's academic qualifications — avoiding the political issues involved — there is no question that the outcry from Blacks and Latinos killed the nomination.

Koch will now have to try again. Should he again pass over the Black and Latino candidates, the outcry can be expected to be even louder.

Meanwhile, the city's school system, crippled even further by five years of budget cuts under Koch, limps along with a dropout rate of 45 percent. It is that sort of record that has earned Koch the hatred of Blacks, Latinos, and other working people in New York. Whomever Koch picks for schools chancellor, that hatred will not go away.

Bosses' greed kills Brooklyn shipyard worker

BY BILL HENRY

NEW YORK — Richard Loyal, a 30-year-old boiler-maker who worked at the Brooklyn Navy Yard and a recent father, is dead.

He didn't have to die. He lay bleeding for 45 minutes, after he lost his left arm in an accident on the USS

UNION TALK

Koelsch. The accident wouldn't have happened except for the bosses' greed.

A company ambulance was available all along to take him the few short blocks to Cumberland Hospital. But the company, Coastal Dry Dock, which is owned by the Montani family, won't let the ambulance outside the yard; it has no license plates.

He was alive and conscious while waiting for the paramedics. A sailor said, "I can't believe he died. When I saw him he was talking. He was very concerned about his wife and baby."

A burner told me, "This man died because of the company's negligence."

A pipefitter said, "We make Charlie and Louie [Montanti] millions. The least they could do is have an ambulance and doctor." He added that he had worked in other shipyards that had them.

When the paramedics arrived, they decided Loyal should be taken to Bellevue by police helicopter. That meant further delay.

"I don't care what they tell us," said another sailor. "I think he bled to death while waiting for the helicopter."

The newspapers reported a cardiac arrest as the cause of death. But the real reason was the employer's greed.

The accident should never have happened in the first place. The company was testing a welded flange under high pressure when it exploded. Loyal lost his arm and was blown into the dry dock.

A pipefitter commented, "If it wasn't for management pushing us all the time, this might never have happened."

Indeed. An investigation by the union — made necessary because the company won't give us the facts — revealed that the flange was never beveled, which would have strengthened the weld.

An inspector pointed out that the weld should have

been given a die check prior to high-pressure testing.

The company is trying to put the blame on someone. So far they've called in three Latino welders to grill them. Some of us are suspicious that the company may try to blame them for its own negligence.

The week before Loyal died, a 50-pound chain fall on another navy ship dropped. It hit a worker, so hard it split his hard hat in two. He was knocked unconscious, and it took the nurse and other workers three hours to get him out of the shaft he was in.

Shipyard work is dangerous, but it doesn't have to be. The reason it is so dangerous is because the owners refuse to spend any money on safety.

The company is claiming the Occupational Safety and Health Administration doesn't require them to provide a doctor or licensed ambulance since the shipyard is so close to a hospital.

Tell that to Richard Loyal's widow and orphaned child.

Bill Henry is a pipefitter at the Brooklyn Navy Yard and is a member of Local 12 of the Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers of America.

Chicago socialist candidate got good response

Continued from Page 6

in Chicago — including many who voted for Washington, Byrne, and Daley," Warren continued, "who are disgusted with the two-party system, but haven't yet figured out that the alternative is to strike out on their own."

Big political discussion

Because of the racist campaign against Washington by ultraright elements, a big political discussion opened up in the city over the elections and over politics in general.

Warren's campaign received a better hearing by workers in this context. His campaign was not seen as alien to advancing the interests of Blacks or other workers.

The seven-week period from the end of February to April 12 was a time of constant political discussion — especially among workers backing Washington.

The main themes of Warren's campaigning continued to be singling out the crisis of the capitalist system as the root of workers' economic problems, and the root cause of racism. In that context, he and his supporters denounced the racism directed at Washington.

This became an important contribution to the discussion of working-class and Black politics because most of the left and socialist groups in the city capitulated politically to the Washington campaign. They did so on the basis that voting for Washington was a vote against racism; so the class content of his candidacy was secondary.

Organizations like the Communist Party, Communist Workers Party, Workers World Party, Democratic Socialists of America, as well as radical newspapers such as the *Guardian* and *In These Times* backed Washington. These "socialists" didn't help to advance working-class political consciousness in this big discussion. They in fact gave a left cover for supporting a "lesser evil" in a capitalist election.

Leaders of the local chapter of NBIPP also backed Washington, despite the party charter's clear opposition to supporting the Democratic and Republican parties.

Warren explained why this view of some NBIPP leaders was a blow to Blacks building a truly mass Black or labor party. He went to NBIPP's March central committee meeting and participated in the debate there on the Chicago elections. This was the

most important discussion on independent Black politics NBIPP has had in its three-year history.

Media coverage picks up

It was during this two-week period before the elections that Warren got most of his media coverage and best response from workers.

At plantgates, for example, workers readily took his "Jobs, Not War" platform. Many workers wearing Washington buttons would stop and talk about the big issues facing workers — from the war in El Salvador to racism to the lack of jobs.

During the final days of the campaign Warren received coverage in the two main capitalist dailies; was on five television stations for a total of two and a half hours, in addition to radio talk shows; and had his campaign statements picked up on many more radio stations.

This coverage got out the socialist program to hundreds of thousands of area workers. It led to people coming down to the campaign offices — including Washington supporters — to talk politics. Some people said after the election that they voted for the socialists running for city clerk, Nicolee Brorsen; and city treasurer,

Craig Landberg (they received 14,000 and 20,000 votes respectively); but for Washington for mayor. It reflected their view that what Warren's program said was right, but "realistic" politics meant taking the "greater good" as they saw it.

That response, however, confirmed the correctness of running a socialist campaign. Many of these workers will continue to consider the ideas of the campaign after the elections, especially as it becomes clear Washington is fundamentally no different than previous mayors.

Next challenge

Nearly 4,000 workers, from most parts of the city, pulled the lever for Warren. They saw the connection between the racism issue and their class interests and voted for a perspective of fighting to end the entire capitalist system.

The historic challenge for Chicago workers, as for all workers, is to stop playing the capitalist two-party shell game. The next opportunity for socialists to explain this is the special congressional election this summer for Washington's old seat on the South Side.

The Chicago socialists will be right in the middle of that discussion.

New takebacks at Pa. steel plant

Bosses throw out work rules; jobs, seniority, overtime pay cut

BY GEOFF MIRELOWITZ

When both *Business Week* and the *New York Times* send reporters out to write articles about a Midland, Pennsylvania, plant that employs only 250 people, it's a pretty good guess that something is happening there that's important to big business.

In this case the plant is the Crucible specialty steel mill and what interests the press is the contract that has just been signed there. It's the kind of contract steel bosses and other employers would love to be able to get at other plants too.

The Crucible plant was originally owned by Colt Industries Inc. It was one of the most modern and largest specialty steel mills in the country. When Colt shut it down last October, it was a cruel blow to the 4,500 workers who lost their jobs.

A few months later the plant was bought by Jones & Laughlin Steel (J&L), one of the "Big Seven" steel corporations that recently imposed the concession contract on the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) in the basic-steel industry. But J&L agreed to buy and reopen the plant only "under the provision that substantial labor savings be achieved," according to the *New York Times*.

This is part of the employers' program for the current "economic recovery." Although unemployment remains high, some workers are being called back from layoff and some plants, like Crucible, are being reopened. But the employers aim to exact a further price from the working class as this limited upturn proceeds. The *New York Times* explained:

"Many American companies are using the recession and the changes occurring in

the United States economy to win work-rule concessions. Such changes in labor contracts are frequently more important to companies than reductions in wages or benefits, said Charles Craypo, a professor of industrial relations at Cornell University."

The Midland plant is a case in point. Jones & Laughlin didn't just change the work rules. They eliminated them. All of the work rules steelworkers had fought to establish when Colt owned the plant were simply thrown out. J&L says this will allow them to begin operations with a "clean slate."

What does this "clean slate" consist of? To begin with, workers will retain no seniority rights from previous work at Crucible. "So," says the *Times* in a modest understatement, "vacation and pension costs will be reduced."

Because seniority rights were thrown overboard, J&L "can pick the guys they want" to rehire, says USWA Local 1212 president Ronald Friess.

The company has agreed to rehire former Crucible workers, but it has "been giving employment tests and reviewing employment records, paying particular attention to attendance records and discipline history," says the *Times*. Use of such tests and records has also traditionally been employed to weed out union activists.

Another example of a change that will give J&L "the freedom to push aggressively for productivity improvements," says *Business Week*, is a new rule that allows J&L to assign workers to 10-hour shifts for each of four days a week without paying any overtime.

While it is true that work rule concessions like these are often more important to the employers than wages and benefits, J&L got a wage cut too. Average hourly wages will be slashed by \$1.45.

What did the USWA get in exchange for all of this? Not much.

J&L agreed to pay 25 cents per hour worked this year and 10 cents per hour worked next year into Local 1212's food bank. The food bank serves 1,700 people. Only 140 production workers have been rehired so it is clear that the small payments J&L will be making will not help feed very many laid-off workers.

The company also agreed to pay 75 cents per hour worked for the next two years into a fund for retraining unemployed steelworkers for jobs "that might open in the area."

These provisions are aimed at creating the impression that J&L is concerned about the well-being of steelworkers and their families. But the opposite is the case.

J&L has deep-sixed the work rules without the slightest concern about its impact on the health and safety of workers in the plant. J&L is concerned only about its own well-being, which it determines solely from its profit and loss statements. With a few more contracts like this one, those statements will make even happier reading for J&L.

The Crucible contract is an example of the kind of blackmail that more employers will try to use as the limited upturn continues. The way Craypo explains it is, "The price of a job is to reduce your standard of living."



Crucible specialty steel plant in Midland, Pa. where Jones & Laughlin Steel forced concessions on work rules that other employers would like to get from workers too.

March for Puerto Rican independence set for N.Y.

BY ARTEMIO CAMACHO

NEW YORK — Supporters of independence for Puerto Rico have launched plans for a demonstration in front of the United Nations next September 23.



Militant José G. Pérez
September 23 march will focus public attention on U.S. colonial domination of Puerto Rico.

At a conference here in March, attended by 70 activists, Rev. Alfonso Roman of the Comité Lares en la ONU (Lares Committee at the UN) explained the two objectives of the demonstration. One, he said, is to put international pressure on the United States by demanding a discussion in the UN General Assembly of the colonial status of Puerto Rico. The other is to commemorate the 115th anniversary of the *Grito de Lares* (Cry of Lares). The 23rd of September is a traditional date to commemorate the liberation of the town of Lares on Sept. 23, 1868, from the Spanish colonial regime.

Many Puerto Rican groups and supporters participated in the conference including the International Office of Puerto Rican Information, located in the UN; El Comité; Puerto Rican Socialist Party; Socialist Workers Party; Young Socialist Alliance; National Congress for Puerto Rican Rights; United Bronx Parents; and Puerto Rican Association for Community Affairs.

Members of such unions as the Carpenters; Transit Workers Union; Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees International Union; International Union of Electrical Workers; and American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees participated in the proceedings of the conference.

Wilma Reverón, director of the International Office of Puerto Rican Information, began the plenary session. She emphasized the connection between opposing the colonial status of Puerto Rico and struggling against the oppressive conditions Puerto Ricans living in the United States face.

Reverón stated: "We, the 2 million Puerto Ricans who reside in the United States, have felt the sting of [U.S.] colonial policy in discrimination and contempt for the Puerto Rican people. The high unemployment, the systematic destruction of our communities, and the budget cuts in

housing, health, education, and nutrition programs affect all Puerto Ricans, whether we reside on the island of Puerto Rico or the island of Manhattan.

"We will march September 23 in order to affirm the right of self-determination of our communities in the United States, which are continuously threatened by the same forces that perpetuate domination and oppression and its exportation to the Caribbean and Central America."

Because of "the connection between the culturally genocidal policy of the United States and its counterpart in Puerto Rico and in the sister nations of Latin America," said Reverón, "we repudiate the military intervention of the United States against the peoples of Nicaragua and El Salvador."

The conference divided into workshops representing five sectors the committee

plans to reach out to: labor, communities, academic-student, religious, and cultural.

Agreement was reached on the need to reach out to activists in Black organizations, Chicano and Irish groups, as well as to the organizations in solidarity with El Salvador, Nicaragua, Haiti, and Grenada.

The conference went on record encouraging all Puerto Rican activists and their supporters in the vicinity of New York City to attend the demonstration in New York. It encouraged activists in other cities, such as Chicago, to plan events to coincide with the September 23 demonstration in New York. Leaflets publicizing the demonstration are already available.

For more information contact: Comité Lares en la ONU, P.O. Box 2792, New York, N.Y. 10163. Telephone: (212) 286-0924.

Frame-up unravels in jailing of Omaha Black activists

BY MARY NELL BOCKMAN

LINCOLN, Neb. — Nearly 12 years after their frame-up conviction for the murder of a policeman, two Black rights fighters from Omaha may have a new opportunity to fight for their release. On April 1, the Nebraska Supreme Court heard arguments for a new trial for David Rice, based on evidence of government cover-up and manipulation during the 1971 trial that sent him and Ed Poindexter to jail for life.

Rice and Poindexter were organizers of the National Committee to Combat Fascism, a successor to the Black Panther Party in Omaha. They were widely known for their involvement in organizing against cop brutality in the Black community, against the Vietnam War, and other struggles. For these "crimes," they received the

special attention of the Omaha police and the FBI.

It was a 1970 FBI-police frame-up that put Rice and Poindexter in prison. It began with the death of an Omaha policeman on Aug. 17, 1970. A 911 phone call that night sent several cops to an abandoned house in the Black community where a booby-trapped suitcase exploded, killing one cop.

This incident was the pretext for one of the largest dragnets in Omaha's history. The next day a massive invasion of cops into the Black community led to the arrest of 56 people on charges of loitering, littering, resisting arrest, and interfering.

Eleven days after the bombing, Duane Peak, a 15-year-old Black youth, turned himself in to the FBI, who took him to the

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