

Tours build August 27 jobs, peace, freedom rally

BY GEORGE JOHNSON

The August 27 March on Washington, D.C., for Jobs, Peace, and Freedom is picking up steam.

National leaders of the civil rights and women's movements are going on tour to build the mass demonstration.

Beginning a tour in New Orleans June 2 will be civil rights leaders Coretta Scott King, Rev. Joseph Lowery, and Walter Fauntroy. Touring with them will be Richard Deats of the Fellowship of Reconciliation and Judy Goldsmith, president of the National Organization for Women.

On June 3, the five will go to Birmingham. On June 7 they will be in Columbia, South Carolina; and June 10, Philadelphia. There will be fundraisers in Washington, D.C., on June 11, and in New York City June 12.

In Newark, New Jersey, Mayor Kenneth Gibson and others appeared at a news conference May 23 to build participation in the march from his state. Also appearing at the news conference was Clara Allen of the Communication Workers of America, who said a large labor contingent will take part in the demonstration.

Many Black Democratic officials have endorsed the action, which has been called to commemorate the huge 1963 March on Washington led by the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

In Pittsburgh, a representative of Steelworker International Vice-president Leon Lynch is part of the August 27 coalition and attends national coalition meetings in Washington. Steelworker locals and leaders are also active in Pittsburgh in building the action, as they are in Baltimore and Gary.

Other unions involved in local coalitions include the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, Hospital Workers 1199, and others.

The action also got a boost at the recent Dallas convention of the United Auto Workers, which endorsed the action, as did new UAW President Owen Bieber in his inaugural address at the convention.

Other organizations taking part either regionally or nationally include the NAACP, Urban League, American Agriculture Movement, National Black Independent Political Party, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, and numerous church, religious, and political organizations.

For further information, contact the 20th Anniversary Mobilization at 1201 16th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001; telephone (202) 467-6445.



Coretta Scott King

Militant/Flax Hermes

Black freedom struggle deepens in South Africa

Apartheid regime responds with racist terror



BY ERNEST HARSCH

South African planes bombed Maputo, the capital of Mozambique, May 23. This criminal attack left 6 people dead and 24 wounded.

The racist white minority regime in Pretoria presented the raid as an attack against offices of the African National Congress (ANC), in reprisal for a bomb blast three days earlier outside the South African air force headquarters in Pretoria, carried out by ANC freedom fighters.

But South African officials themselves admit that the raid was planned before the bombing. Such attacks are part of the South African regime's on-going policy of aggression against neighboring countries that provide sanctuary to South African freedom fighters and refugees, such as Angola, Lesotho, Botswana, and Mozambique.

Continued on Page 7

Senate bill hits rights of immigrant workers

BY HARRY RING

Antilabor forces scored an important victory when the U.S. Senate voted 76-to-18 in favor of the Simpson-Mazzoli anti-immigrant bill. The measure will increase the victimization of undocumented workers and will be used as an added weapon against the entire labor movement.

The bill will intensify job discrimination against the undocumented by making it illegal for employers to "knowingly" hire them. Others with a darker skin or "foreign" accent will suffer as well.

The Senate approved the bill May 18, and a similar measure is expected to come before the House for debate and vote in early July.

The reactionary measure enjoys bipartisan support in both Houses. Alan Simpson, who introduced it in the Senate, is a Republican, and Romano Mazzoli, the House sponsor, is a Democrat.

Of the 18 senators who voted against it, six were Democrats. And three of these are from states where farm operators opposed it.

One proviso of the bill is aimed directly at the union movement and could mean costly victimization. It provides penalties for union hiring halls that may send undocumented workers out on jobs.

To mask its reactionary content, Senate passage was accompanied by hype about the bill providing amnesty for many undocumented U.S. residents.

This is largely a fraud.

According to the Senate bill, those who can prove to the satisfaction of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) — the racist *la migra* — that they have lived here continuously since before Jan. 1, 1977, will qualify for permanent residence, or "green-card" status.

Those who can prove they've been here continuously since before Jan. 1, 1980, would qualify for "temporary" residence status, and green-card status only after three additional years. Those who arrived after Jan. 1, 1980, would still be subject to deportation.

There is also an important, but little noted, hooker in the "amnesty" section.

To qualify, you must not only meet the residency requirements, but also pass a general "good conduct" test.

What constitutes "good conduct"? That, apparently, is up to *la migra*. Given the record of that cop outfit, it's not unreasonable to assume that in addition to any possible arrest record, involvement in union or radical political activity would be enough to flunk the "good conduct" test.

Also, both the Senate and House versions include a dangerous legal precedent for establishing a category of second-class legal residents of this country — people who are denied rights accorded to others.

Under Simpson-Mazzoli, those granted amnesty would be denied any form of federally funded assistance for an entire period of time.

Under the Senate version, this would be for three years after becoming a legal resident. Under the House measure, it would be five years.

In other words, even though people's status here would be entirely legal, they would be denied such things as federally funded welfare, medical assistance, disability, and social security benefits. They would be in this second-class category even though they would pay taxes like everyone else.

Another reactionary feature of the measure is that it would curb even further the right of court appeal by those excluded from entering the country, ordered deported, or denied political asylum.

In the initial draft, virtually all recourse to the courts would have been denied.

Apparently this was a bit too raw — and also patently unconstitutional — so Sen. Edward Kennedy stepped into the breach. Even though he formally voted no on the bill, he was able to draft an amendment satisfactory to its sponsors, and it was incorporated into the version approved by the Senate.

As of this writing, the text of the bill is not yet available and the actual content of

Continued on Page 2

Poll says 78% oppose U.S. moves to overthrow Nicaraguan government

BY FRED FELDMAN

The American people reject moves by Reagan and Congress to step up U.S. military intervention in Nicaragua and El Salvador, a *Washington Post-ABC News* poll confirmed May 26. The poll was taken shortly after Reagan's April 27 speech on Central America.

"Do you think the United States should secretly try to overthrow the government of Nicaragua?" the pollsters asked.

Seventy-eight percent said "no." Thirteen percent said "yes." And 63 percent answered "no" when asked, "Do you think there are any circumstances under which the United States should secretly get involved in overthrowing a Latin American government?"

Seventy percent of those polled said they opposed sending additional military aid to the Salvadoran government.

Two-thirds thought Reagan would try to send troops if the Salvadoran government can't defeat the rebels. But, reported the May 26 *Washington Post*, "they oppose such a move, even as a last resort, by an almost 6-to-1 margin."

The pollsters found an interesting response to Reagan's attempts to mobilize

anticommunist sentiment in support of his war drive.

They asked: "Which would you say is a greater danger to the United States: the spread of communism in Central America because the U.S. doesn't do enough to stop it, or the U.S. becoming too entangled in internal Central American problems as a result of trying to stop the spread of communism?"

Fifty-five percent said that "entanglement" in Central America was the main danger. Thirty-four percent opted for the "spread of communism" as the threat.

In response to the question, "What do you think is the greater cause of unrest in Central America," only 22 percent agreed with Reagan in citing "subversion from Cuba, Nicaragua, the Soviet Union." Fifty-seven percent cited poverty and the lack of human rights.

Despite the evidence of massive opposition, the Democrats and Republicans are escalating the attack on El Salvador and Nicaragua.

These polls are a new confirmation of the opportunities to get out the truth about Central America to working people and to mobilize them in growing numbers in opposition to Washington's war.

—SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE—

BY LEE MARTINDALE

On April 16, the Kennecott Corporation signed a contract with the United Steelworkers of America and other unions representing workers at its copper mining and smelting operations.

The Kennecott contract has often been regarded as a pattern-setter by the industry and the unions. This contract includes a three-year wage freeze and no relief for the thousands of laid-off copper workers, but other copper companies have complained that it doesn't take back enough, and are demanding even more concessions.

A team of nine socialist workers from Tucson, Arizona, drove down to the San Manuel copper mine on May 14 to see what copper miners there thought about the contract negotiations, and to introduce them to the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*. San Manuel is the biggest underground copper mine in the United States, employing around 5,000 workers when it is operating at full capacity. The mine and the nearby smelter are owned by the Magma Corporation.

This effort was a big success. The sales team was able to meet and talk to dozens of copper work-

ers, and got a very friendly response. They sold 106 copies of the *Militant* and 10 *PMs* in about three hours at the smelter plant gate and parking lot, at a supermarket in the town of San Manuel, and door-to-door in miners' neighborhoods.

Workers told the sales team that Magma had walked into the contract negotiations demanding a \$2-an-hour pay cut on top of the three-year wage freeze Kennecott got. Magma also wants workers to give up their company-paid eye and dental care. The company has presented these demands as non-negotiable.

Comparing notes, members of the sales team found that most of the miners they talked to were determined not to accept these takebacks, and were willing to strike if necessary to defend the gains they had made in the past. The sales team met several members of the union negotiating committee, who said they thought it would take a very hard fight to get a decent contract.

"We got a great response to the *Militant* and *PM*," reported one team member. "A couple of workers asked us to come back again, and asked us when we were going to come. A lot of workers made

extra donations for the paper."

"We stood at a stop sign at the smelter where workers were coming in and going home from the plant, and we held the paper up. Workers stopped and rolled down the window, and most of them bought the paper."

"At one point the Pinkertons — that's the security service the company has — told us we had to leave the smelter parking lot, and three workers who had passed by before came back and chipped in a quarter each for a copy of the *Militant*."

Although one of the attractions of the paper was an article on the Kennecott contract by laid-off copper miner Dan Fein, discussions weren't confined to that subject. The team reports that even people who didn't want the paper were very sympathetic and interested in the case of Héctor Marroquín, a socialist fighting deportation from the United States because of his political views. The team explained Marroquín's case as they went door-to-door in San Manuel.

A lot of people were also interested in the *Militant* and *PM's* coverage of the fight to stop U.S. government intervention in Cen-



Militant

Unemployed copper miners demonstrating in Globe, Arizona. *Militant* sales have gone well in that state.

tral America. Selling at the supermarket, salespeople would introduce the two papers by explaining that they are written in the interests of working people, that they oppose the U.S. government's war in Central America, and that the papers campaign to replace the big-business government of the Democrats and Republicans with a government of workers and farmers. As the sales showed, quite a few people liked these

ideas enough to want to find out more.

Arizona socialists in both Phoenix and Tucson think it's important to take this opportunity to meet and talk with copper miners about their contract fight and about other political issues affecting working people. They plan to travel to several other copper mines, in addition to the regular weekly plant gate sales they organize in their own cities.

Immigration cops terrorize Florida farm workers

An 11-year-old girl is left with her three younger brothers, aged 7, 5, and 4.

Two children, 1 and 5, are left at a neighbor's place.

A two-year-old is left alone in a trailer.

These are some of the results of stepped-up Border Patrol raids in central Florida farm areas where undocumented Mexican workers are now being seized and deported in record numbers.

In the past 14 months the Immigration and Naturalization Service — *la migra* — has increased the number of its cops in Florida from 34 to 69. Last year they grabbed 6,332 people in the state. In the first four months of this year, the figure was well over 5,000.

"People are being terrorized," the executive director of the Redlands Christian Migrant Association told the *Miami Herald*. "Their rights are being ignored."

He complained of military-like sweeps, roadblocks, and searches without warrants.

Even the conservative Florida Farm Bureau Federation complained about the *migra* cops. "We understand they have a job to do," its director said, "but this running across fields and kicking down doors isn't a good thing at all."

The wife of a strawberry grower said, "They came in like a SWAT team. They had clubs and guns and helmets."

Another said *migra* cops hauled off two workers from her farm one morning.

"They took them several miles down the road," she said. "When they found out they were legal, the Border Patrol just dropped them off the side of the road. They didn't even have the decency to bring them back."

A husband and wife were scooped up and put on a bus to Mexico. Their children, 1 and 5, were with neighbors. "I tried to tell them about the children," the mother

said. "They wouldn't listen."

They crossed back from Mexico three days later. I was eight months pregnant," she said. "They pulled me across the Rio Grande in an inner tube. I had to come back to get my children."

The couple paid border smugglers \$1,000 to get them back to Florida.

The 11-year-old, who was left with her three little brothers said, "It was terrible. I

gave my brothers the food in the refrigerator. But I didn't have any money when that ran out. Our neighbor helped as much as she could.

The children are reunited with their mother. She recrossed the border and hitchhiked 1,900 miles to Florida to get back to them.

The area INS director said *la migra* was careful not to violate individual rights.

Senate bill hits immigrant workers' rights

Continued from front page

the Kennedy amendment is murky.

Under present law, INS deportation orders, denial of political asylum, or arbitrary exclusion can be challenged in the courts, first to a federal judge, then in the appeals courts.

In a telephone interview, a Kennedy aide who worked on the amendment accepted by Simpson seemed unable to spell out what was changed, but he agreed that what's in the bill is less than what exists now.

"We succeeded in reaching a compromise," he said. "We narrowed this judicial review. . . . It's slightly constricted."

"Slightly"? It remains to be seen how "slightly."

While harsh in their treatment of the un-

documented, the legislators showed due concern for employers who multiply their profits by sweating the undocumented.

Imposition of fines on employers who "knowingly" hired undocumented workers would not go into effect until six months after passage of the law.

Agricultural employers would be given a three-year period to "phase out" their use of undocumented workers.

Provisos loosening up employer requirements under the law were attacked by the national AFL-CIO. Unable to fight effectively to win jobs for the unemployed, these bureaucrats shamelessly join with the employers and politicians in scapegoating the undocumented for high unemployment.

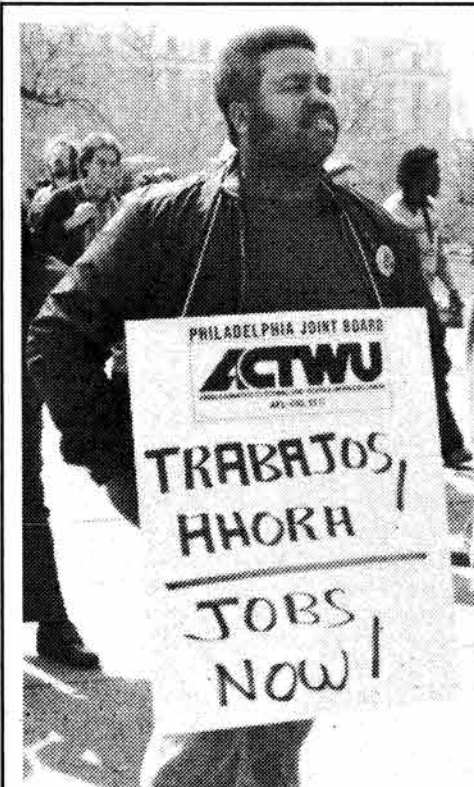
Simpson-Mazzoli was scored by the League of United Latin American Citizens, a mainly Chicano organization, as "clearly

discriminatory legislation."

The measure was also condemned by Jorge Bustamante, Mexico's most prominent academic opponent of U.S. immigration policy.

Bustamante described the bill as nothing more than an "act of power." He pointed to the reality that immigration from Mexico will not cease, and the real purpose of such a law is to drive down even further the wages of those coming here in search of work.

That's certainly the truth and it should be a matter of concern for the entire trade union movement. History has well established that driving down the wages of any sector of the working class helps the employers to drive down the rest. This is surely a situation where an injury to one is an injury to all.



Read the truth — every week

Subscribe to the *Militant*

That way you'll get facts about Washington's bipartisan wars against working people at home and abroad: from El Salvador to Lebanon; from unemployment to racism. Read our proposals for how to stop U.S. intervention in Central America and how to fight back against the employers here and how to replace their system of exploitation and oppression with a system that's in the interests of working people.

At the plant gate, unemployment lines, and picket lines, the *Militant* is there, reporting the news and participating in the struggle. Subscribe today.

- ☐ Enclosed is \$3 for 12 weeks
- ☐ Enclosed is \$15 for 6 months
- ☐ Enclosed is \$24 for 1 year
- ☐ Enclosed is a contribution

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone _____

Union/Organization _____

Send to *Militant*, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014

The *Militant*

Closing news date: May 25, 1983

Editors: CINDY JAQUITH

DOUG JENNESS

Business Manager:

LEE MARTINDALE

Editorial Staff: Connie Allen, Nelson González, William Gottlieb, Arthur Hughes, Margaret Jayko, George Johnson, Frank Lovell, Malik Miah, Geoff Mirelowitz, Harry Ring, Larry Seigle, Mary-Alice Waters.

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

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

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

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

Affirmative action: have hard times made it irrelevant?

BY NANCY COLE

With more than 10 million Americans unemployed and employers on the offensive against the lucky ones still working, is affirmative action for women and oppressed minorities a thing of the past?

The Reagan administration and other voices of big business say yes.

Groups of workers, from women coal miners to Black railroad porters, say no.

The U.S. Supreme Court avoided choosing sides when on May 16 it dismissed a lawsuit challenging the affirmative action layoff plans of the Boston police and fire departments. Although they heard arguments on April 18, the justices ruled the case moot because all those laid off had been rehired under a special legislative decree.

A similar case involving layoffs of Memphis fire fighters, however, is pending before the high court.

The Reagan administration had joined the Boston case, filing a brief opposing the layoff plan. In recent months the Justice Department has intervened in other cases in lower courts as well, always on the side of those who charge affirmative action is "reverse discrimination."

Two of these involve court-ordered promotion plans for Black police in the majority-Black cities of New Orleans and Detroit. The Justice Department has sided with the white cops, arguing that the promotion plans infringe on the rights of "innocent nonblacks."

Only those cops who can prove as individuals they were victims of discrimination should be entitled to preferential treatment, the government argues.

The five appointed members of the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission (EEOC) unanimously voted to file a court brief in the New Orleans case criticizing the Reagan administration's stands. The White House stepped in and strong-armed them into withdrawing it, which they agreed to do in a 4-1 vote.

Boston layoff plan

The Boston case posed the question of how to preserve past affirmative action gains when layoffs hit.

In the mid-1970s, in two separate cases initiated by the Boston NAACP, the courts ordered the fire and police departments to begin priority hiring of Blacks and Latinos until their numbers approximated their percentage of the total population.

The fire fighters union and the police association appealed the orders, but the findings of discrimination were upheld.

By 1981, 11.7 percent of cops and 14.7 percent of fire fighters were Black or Latino. Boston is now almost 30 percent Black and Latino.

Layoffs came that year which would have eliminated half of the oppressed minorities hired in the fire and police departments under the court order. The Black and Latino fire fighters and police went back to court and won layoff plans that would classify employees on the basis of race.

The fire fighters union and the police association, along with the State Division of Personnel Administration, appealed.

A host of groups joined the legal battle, filing friend-of-the-court briefs.

On the side of affirmative action during layoffs were the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, Mexican-American Legal Defense and Education Fund, National Education Association, American Civil Liberties Union, and National Organization for Women.

Charging "reverse discrimination" were the Anti-Defamation League, the AFL-CIO, and the Justice Department.

Reagan's discrimination rules

Reagan's assault on affirmative action is codified in proposed guidelines first issued more than a year and a half ago. Presumably they will soon go into effect when they will have the power of law.

In Labor Department language, the guidelines "change the emphasis on paper

and confrontation to an emphasis on non-discrimination and communication."

They parallel suggestions from the right-wing Heritage Foundation early this year, which urged Reagan to shift the priority of his legal policy from "crime control" to attacking civil rights laws, in particular hundreds of existing affirmative action agreements.

Budget cuts have already reduced the compliance staff at the EEOC by 50 percent. And during more than two years of the Reagan administration, there has been only one debarment of a federal contractor for failure to take affirmative action.

But the new guidelines will make it even harder for workers to push for action against discrimination.

The main points of attack are:

- The government will now seek relief only for individual "identifiable" victims of job discrimination. The old rules allowed "affected classes" relief — the class-action suits widely used in discrimination challenges.

- The number of contractors who have to prepare written affirmative action plans will be drastically reduced by exempting those with work forces under 100 and contracts under \$100,000. Before it was 50 workers and \$50,000. This will reportedly eliminate 75 percent of those companies now covered.

- The government will no longer review companies' compliance with equal employment opportunity laws before awarding them contracts.

- Back pay can only be collected for up to two years before filing a complaint or start of an investigation. It is three years under the old rules.

- Complaints must now identify "all known victims of discrimination." This is aimed at civil rights and women's groups who file discrimination complaints on behalf of workers who might be fired if they were identified.

- Employers have met affirmative action goals when their employment rate for Blacks and women in given job categories is up to 80 percent of the "availability" in the area. Before the goal was 100 percent.

- All goals are considered only targets, not quotas. No contractor will be found in violation solely because it doesn't achieve the goals.

'Voluntary' affirmative action

No more "heavy-handed enforcement strategies which may have been necessary in the 1960s and 1970s," says Labor Department official Robert Collyer. Rather, the government will work with industry to create "positive incentives for voluntary affirmative action and cooperative efforts."

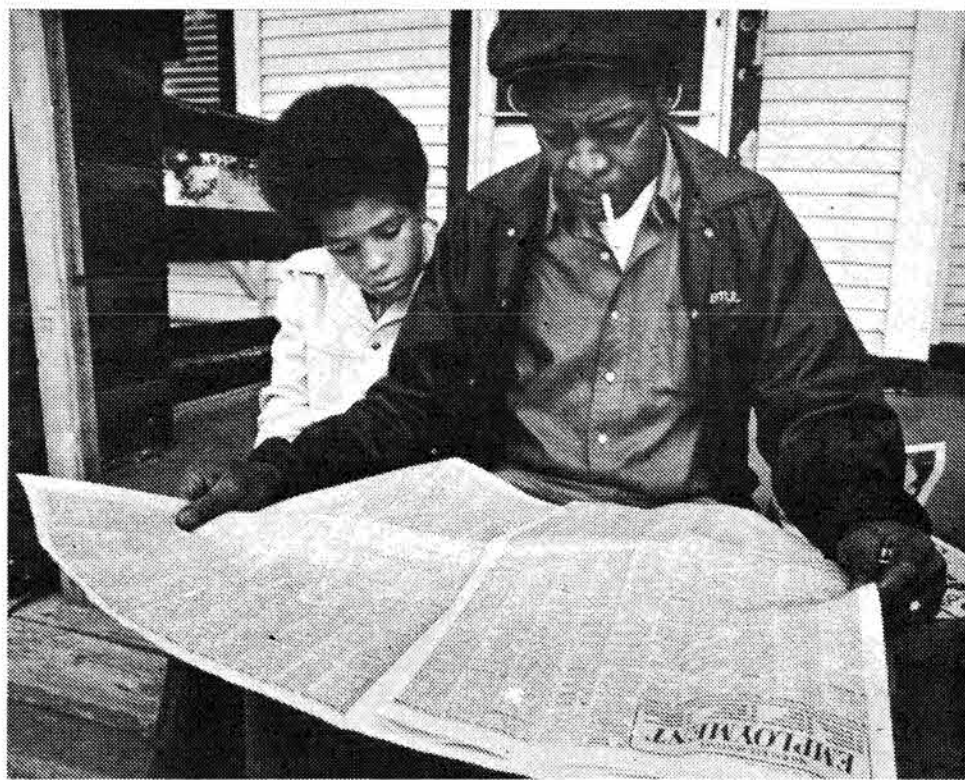
It amounts to an open admission that the government will no longer even make a pretense of supporting equal job opportunities.

"If sustained by the Federal courts," says *New York Times* columnist Tom Wicker, "the Reagan Administration policy would bring about an effective end to affirmative action, burying efforts to open up more jobs for minorities and women — if any were even made — in endless, mostly hopeless individual lawsuits."

There is no question that the Reagan guidelines aim to gut affirmative-action enforcement. But whether or not the government will get away with it is another story. The economic assault on working people has yet to stop Black and women workers from fighting for an equal chance at jobs.

In the coal industry, two court victories benefited women late last year. Peabody Coal Co., the country's largest coal producer, agreed in November to give priority in hiring to more than 2,000 women who had been refused mining jobs in western Kentucky. Once those miners on layoff are called back, Peabody must hire at least one woman off the list for every three entry-level males.

The settlement includes \$300,000 back pay for the 15 women who brought discrimination complaints, and \$100,000 for the Coal Employment Project (CEP), a



Solidarity/Jean-Claude Lejeune

group organized to help women get and keep mining jobs.

In December, Billie Thompson won her discrimination complaint against Tennessee Consolidated Coal Co. The company agreed to \$15,200 in back pay, back seniority rights, and first priority hiring status for her and 10 other women.

The company also agreed to hire not less than 30 percent of its female applicants (not to exceed 30 percent of total miners hired) and no less than 10 percent of its Black applicants (not to exceed 10 percent of total miners hired).

Thompson's case was also aided by the CEP, which continues to battle to get women into the mines despite the high unemployment in the industry. About 9 percent of miners hired in 1982 were women, the same percentage it has been for several years, although the number was down to 174 women hired.

Black train porters

In December a federal court ordered the United Transportation Union (UTU) to give back pay in the neighborhood of \$6 million to 71 Black former train porters. The UTU's seniority system had kept the workers in the lowest-paying jobs, even after they had won a settlement against their employer, the Santa Fe Railway Co.

The first settlement to provide goals for hiring and registration for women in the longshore industry was made last November in Los Angeles. The suit, filed against both the stevedoring companies

and the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union, should eventually result in at least 700 women being hired at the Los Angeles-Long Beach port.

In May, the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs agreed to a consent decree directing it to enforce affirmative-action guidelines against New York City construction contractors. The settlement was a result of a 1980 lawsuit brought by seven construction workers and two groups that promote the hiring of oppressed minorities and women, Fight Back and All-Craft Center, Inc.

The number of women in federally financed construction jobs is now supposed to increase to 6.9 percent from the present 1 percent. The goals for Black and other minority workers will vary according to the trades.

Future layoffs, of course, threaten all these gains, just as the victories of the past — like the Basic Steel Consent Decree — have been severely undercut by the massive layoffs in industry.

So an effective fight for affirmative action has to take on discriminatory layoffs as well. Any such effort thus far has been labeled "reverse discrimination" and opposed by the vast majority of the labor officialdom as an attack on union seniority rights.

"It is a clash between the civil rights goals of the 1970s and the economic realities of the 1980s. It leaves behind hardship and bitterness," offered the *Wall Street*

Continued on Page 11

Is this what Reagan means by 'nondiscrimination'?

BY NANCY COLE

For 10 hours — several of them outside — I stood in line one day last January in Milwaukee along with 20,000 others. We were there for a chance at one of 200 decent-paying union jobs at A.O. Smith Corporation.

I figured I was the needle in a haystack, but I had been told the auto-frame producer was "under pressure" to hire women.

Sure enough — a month or so later, a letter arrived informing me I had been picked for a preemployment interview.

The interview was a breeze, the preemployment endurance test was not. But I squeaked by. I was counseled by the test-givers to lift weights and use hand grips to build up my strength during the four days before my preemployment training began. Maybe I would decide, they suggested, that I prefer doing some other kind of work.

My training class included one other woman, Pat, and about a dozen men. It began with a lecture from a company instructor who stressed that we had to *earn* these jobs.

In all, the class was five hours each night (during which we *earned* no money). Broken up by three five-minute breaks, we tossed around pieces of metal weighing up to 44 pounds. By the third night's test, we were to be making 100 percent of the set rates or be out of the running for a job.

Asked by Pat if this training program

had always been in effect, the instructor answered, "Since 1973 when some lady complained of discrimination. The company came up with this program to give everyone an equal shot at a job at A.O. Smith."

Pat had been the first woman hired since World War II at another area plant she is now laid off from. That too was because some "lady" complained, although, she told me, the company never came close to meeting the goal of women hires they were supposed to comply with.

As far as the rates went, neither of us were in the ballpark of 100 percent, although by the end of the night we each felt like our bodies had been batted around.

At the close of the five hours, an instructor said to me, "If it's any consolation, only three women out of more than 40 have passed."

It was no consolation, nor any surprise, that I wasn't the only woman denied the chance to work at A.O. Smith. But it did seem grounds for a complaint, which I promptly filed with the local Office of Federal Contract Compliance.

More than two months later, still no word.

I can only guess that this must be an example of some of that "nondiscrimination and communication" that the Reagan administration is talking about replacing affirmative action with.

Cuban May Day: 'Fight, and fight again!'

[The following report was prepared by Michel Prairie, Samantha Young, and Bob Braxton, who participated in the May 1 demonstration in Havana, Cuba, as members of a 24-person delegation from the Quebec-Cuba Friendship Society.]

[The report is taken from the May 16 *Socialist Voice*, newspaper of the Revolutionary Workers League in Canada.]

HAVANA, Cuba, May 1 — Will [U.S. President] Reagan or [Canadian Prime Minister] Trudeau ever see a demonstration of one million workers in support of their policies?

No way!

But that's how many workers showed up here in Havana on International Workers' Day to show support for their government. We witnessed it firsthand — the 1983 March of the Fighting People.

The march is an impressive demonstration of the strength and determination of the Cuban working class, who made the first socialist revolution in America.

It is in direct response to the threats of

U.S. imperialism, which has become increasingly alarmed by the example and solidarity given by the Cuban people to the revolutions underway in Central America.

The unions and the other mass organizations, especially the community-based Committees for the Defense of the Revolution (CDR), united forces to organize the demonstration.

All the buses in Havana, including the schoolbuses, are made available to demonstrators. Already at five o'clock in the morning — sunrise — the buses are headed for the assembly points.

In the buses set aside for the international contingents — 3,000 demonstrators from more than 80 countries — everyone receives a straw hat for protection from the sun, coffee, a sandwich and a bag of fruits and candies.

In the crowd, enormous banners are carried by the transportation and food workers. Railworkers march behind a huge cardboard locomotive. Workers at an orthopedic hospital have made a gigantic float in the shape of a boot on which they have written revolutionary slogans.

Everywhere there are placards, flags, banners, and clenched fists.

After hours of waiting at the assembly points, the march begins. Walking rapidly, one million people passed through the Plaza of the Revolution. We march in front of a giant reviewing stand, where Fidel Castro and other leaders of the unions, government, and Communist Party preside over the demonstration. Just below them, over a thousand model workers, nominated by co-workers, have the honor of greeting the marchers.

Leading the demonstration are hundreds of Cuba's best *macheteros* (sugar cane cutters). Sugar is Cuba's main crop, and the *zafra* (sugar cane harvest) is drawing to a close. The crowd is enthusiastic: slogans, shouts, songs, and dancing.

Overlooking the Plaza, enormous multicolored billboards cover the sides of skyscrapers. On one, a portrait of Lazaro Pena, founder of the Cuban Confederation of Trade Unions (CCT). On another, two revolutionary heroes — Che Guevara and Camillo Cienfuegos — at the workbench in combat gear.

We are in the international contingents near the front of the demonstration. Around us are other international delegations: from Ethiopia, France, Grenada, the Soviet Union, most Latin American countries, the Venceremos Brigade from the United States. All are here to show their support for the Cuban revolution.

The Cubans show their international solidarity on thousands of placards and banners: "Puerto Rico, your struggle is our struggle too;" "Down with racism;" "Yankees, we will never forget the lessons of Vietnam;" "Long live the Palestinian resistance, long live Arafat;" "The Sandinista revolution is invincible;" and "El Salvador and Guatemala will win."

The Cubans give particular importance to contingents from Nicaragua, Grenada, and El Salvador. It's their way of showing they will not back down before Reagan's threats, that they will continue to support the just struggles of oppressed peoples around the world.

In the main speech of the day, CTC President Roberto Veiga explains that Cuba has been hard-hit by the international crisis of the capitalist economy and that it must now redouble its efforts to meet this situation.

The drop in the world price of sugar, the continual rise in prices of goods Cuba must import from capitalist countries, increased difficulties in getting loans — all these things, explains Veiga, have had a negative effect on the Cuban economy.

"Of course, these hard blows do not discourage us," affirmed Veiga. "There is only one revolutionary response to adversity: fight, fight, and fight again!"

In the name of the Cuban workers, he promises to redouble efforts to meet production goals, improve the quality of work, economize the use of petroleum and electricity, and develop the socialist and communist consciousness of Cuban workers.

Veiga announces a day of national mobilization: the First of May of Moncada (the attack on the Moncada barracks 30 years ago marked the beginning of the Cuban revolution). On this day, hundreds of thousands of Cuban workers will volunteer to help complete the sugar cane harvest, delayed by the floods.

As we return to our hotel, we meet a small, bronzed and wiry Cuban wearing a "millionaires" T-shirt.

"Millionaires" in Cuba are not at all like those in Canada. They are members of sugar cane cutting teams who volunteer to cut at least a million *arobas* of sugar cane (one *aroba* is about 25 pounds).

This *machetero* proudly tells us he is a member of the second-best "millionaires" team in the country, rapidly closing in on the figure of five million *arobas*. His hands are one big callus from wielding the machete 18 hours a day. But the determined smile of this Cuban "millionaire" sums up May 1 here better than anything else.

Prime Minister of Grenada to speak in U.S.

Prime Minister Maurice Bishop of Grenada will speak at a public meeting on June 5 at Hunter College in New York City. The meeting will begin at 5:00 p.m. The entrance to the meeting hall is on 69th Street between Lexington and Park avenues.

Bishop will speak to Grenadian nationals and other interested individuals. The meeting is being sponsored by a coalition of Grenadian organizations in conjunction with the Black and Puerto Rican studies department of Hunter College.

Those interested in more information can contact (212) 279-0707 or 692-9078.

Bishop will also be speaking to a public session of the Detroit City Council on June 2. He has been invited by Congressman George Crockett and city council member Erma Henderson. The meeting will be held at 3:00 in the auditorium of the City/County building.

Miami ultraright rallies to hear Reagan

BY LUIS CASTRO

MIAMI — A prowar demonstration of several thousand people was organized here May 20 when Ronald Reagan came to Miami to speak to a right-wing Cuban exile group.

No anti-Reagan demonstration was organized because of terrorist threats openly backed up by city officials. Assistant City Manager César Odio had branded an antiwar meeting planned for May 20 a "provocation against the Cuban community." He made the statement April 30 while observing, along with Miami cops, right-wing thugs break up an antiwar news conference. The meeting had to be called off.

Antiwar activists and other supporters of civil liberties are now organizing for a broadly backed meeting in the summer.

Gangs of rightists roamed the pro-Reagan rally in Little Havana to make sure

there was no opposition to him. People in a pickup truck with signs reading "Alpha 66," a Cuban terrorist group, stopped and beat up at least one person who was driving through the area who refused to shout support for Reagan.

One anti-Reagan protest they could not stop was a banner pulled behind a small plane that flew overhead. "Free the PATCO political prisoners," the banner read.

The day before Reagan's visit, Miami City Manager Howard Gary, who is Black, denounced him. "The only difference between Mr. Reagan and the fellows that wear white sheets at night in Mississippi," Gary said, "is that Mr. Reagan wears a suit and a smile and legally terrorizes Black folks day and night in the name of the president of the United States."

Under heated attack from city politi-

cians, Gary backed off a little the next day, saying his remarks were personal and not intended to insult Reagan. But Gary's remarks were popular throughout the Black community.

Reagan did not stop in any Black areas, did not meet with any Blacks, and said nothing to his audience concerning the Black community.

For a week in advance of Reagan's visit, the media here predicted that over 100,000 people would turn out to support him.

A White House spokesman and the Miami police gave out the crowd size as between 40,000 and 80,000. This is a wild exaggeration.

The only media report that had any connection to reality was a sentence in the *Miami Herald*: "The only countable numbers were 2,500 attending the speech in the Dade County Auditorium and relatively stationary groups of a few hundred in some locations."

Miami's Cuban population is about 500,000. Tens of thousands of Nicaraguans, Salvadorans, Hondurans, and other Latinos also live there.

In 1962, President John Kennedy gave a speech much like Reagan's to a similar gathering in the Orange Bowl in Miami. But that event drew 35,000 people — far more than the right-wing Cubans mustered May 20.

Rosenberg tribute announced for N.Y.

June 19 will mark 30 years since the U.S. government put Julius and Ethel Rosenberg to death in the electric chair. The execution of the Rosenbergs came at the height of the cold war, anticommunist hysteria that the U.S. rulers whipped up in the 1950s. The Rosenbergs were framed up on charges of "stealing" the "secret" of the atom bomb and passing it to the Soviet Union.

The execution of the Rosenbergs was very much a part of the government offensive to drive socialists, communists, and other militants out of the labor movement.

For many years the Rosenbergs' sons, Michael and Robert Meeropol, and others in the National Committee to Reopen the Rosenberg Case (NCRRC) have been actively working to force the government to reveal the truth about the case. This year the committee is organizing two activities in New York.

On Friday, June 17, a demonstration will be held from noon to 2:00 P.M. at the Foley Square court house in lower Manhattan. Judge Irving Kaufman, who tried the Rosenbergs and sentenced them to death, continues to sit there as a federal judge.

On the night of June 17 the committee will sponsor a public meeting at the Ethical Culture Society, located at 2 West 64 St. The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. The NCRRC can be contacted for further information at 853 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10003, or by telephoning (212) 228-4500.

Fed up with Reagan's lies about Cuba? Come see Cuba for yourself!



Militant/Perspectiva Mundial Tours is pleased to announce our first tour since the undemocratic travel ban instituted by the Reagan administration was overturned by the First Circuit Court of Appeals in Boston. Stay one week or two!

June 24-July 1: This portion of the tour will be spent in Havana with day trips to other cities.

July 1-8: After a week in Havana, this tour will fly to Santiago de Cuba, heartland of the revolution. The tour will then return to Havana by bus.

The specific itinerary (available soon) will include visits to Committees for the Defense of the Revolution, meetings with the mass organizations, and visits to schools, polyclinics, factories, and farms.

The one week tour: \$700 from Miami. **The two week tour:** \$1,100 from Miami.

Tour costs cover hotel, all meals, visa fees, and transportation in Cuba. A \$150 deposit will reserve a space. Make checks payable to *Militant/Perspectiva Mundial Tours* and send to 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014, (212) 929-3486.

Class polarization deepens in Nicaragua as counterrevolutionaries step up attacks

BY MICHAEL BAUMANN

MANAGUA — Nicaragua is a small, poor country. Its population of 2.9 million is about the same as that of Los Angeles, Rome, or Berlin. In size, it's a little bigger than Florida. Its total export income last year was \$460 million, less than one-tenth of the profits declared by a single U.S. corporation — Exxon.

In the midst of a world economic slump, this tiny country is facing an escalating invasion organized by the world's strongest imperialist power. And in the midst of this war, it is still maintaining concrete improvements in the standard of living of the country's farmers and workers.

All basic food items are subsidized. Education is free. Medical care is free or low-cost (\$1 per doctor visit, prescriptions provided at no cost). In the cities, rent is gradually being abolished and the homeless are provided with free land to build their own houses. In the countryside, 500,000 acres of land have so far been distributed to land-poor peasants, and another 350,000 acres are scheduled for distribution this year.

Since it however you will, such advances can only be carried out at the expense of the wealth, power, and privileges of the old ruling class — Somozaist and non-Somozaist alike. And carried out by increasingly restricting the operations of parasitic middlemen, who are still able to use the capitalist market to hoard and speculate, thus gouging the real producers of the country's wealth — the workers and farmers.

Rise in counterrevolutionary activity

The old exploiting classes are fighting back with all the weapons at their disposal. And they have clearly been given a shot in the arm by the U.S.-sponsored invasion that has been under way since February.

As fighting continues in the north, and as counterrevolutionaries prepare to open a new front from Costa Rica in the south, there has been a shift among opponents of the revolution from relatively passive opposition or nonparticipation in the revolutionary process. More common today is open opposition, either carried out from abroad or from the still-safe channels left within Nicaragua, for example disguised as propaganda around religious themes.

But also increasingly common is clandestine counterrevolutionary activity. Its rise can be gauged from the visible results — increasing shortages of consumer items above and beyond those that can be explained by problems of distribution and production, and the wide circulation of "scare" stories.

It is no secret who is most actively involved in organizing these attempts to undermine the revolution. At the head of the pack are major big-business figures like the former owner of the country's Coca-Cola plant (now nationalized), who recently turned up as a leader of the counterrevolutionary forces based in Honduras; the Catholic church hierarchy; leaders of the right-wing political parties; and greedy, price-gouging capitalist merchants.

These are the social layers that have a material stake in the old order, those who will lose wealth and position if the workers and peasants continue to move forward in the construction of a new society. But in and of themselves, these privileged layers are a tiny minority. They confront a revolution that in less than four years has created a network of Sandinista Defense Committees (CDSs) totaling more than 600,000 participants, a revolutionary union movement of more than 100,000, a peasantry organized in more than 4,000 cooperatives, a militia of 80,000 to 100,000, and an all-volunteer army of 20,000 to 25,000.

In these circumstances, the domestic counterrevolution has made the logical move. They have increasingly turned their attention toward sectors of the population that, because of their economic and social circumstances, have the least political consciousness and have been the most difficult to integrate into the revolutionary process.

In the cities the counterrevolutionaries have sought to mobilize support from the least conscious elements among the unemployed, marginally employed, and small merchants, as well as utilizing the criminal and semicriminal elements found in all classes.

Since the capitalists still dominate all kinds of retail trade, as well as industry, they have a powerful lever to influence everyday life. Hoarding and speculation by the capitalists not only creates artificial shortages of consumer goods and anxiety and insecurity among consumers. It also forces thousands of small merchants to either join in with the black market operations organized by the capitalists or to lose their livelihood. But black market activities place the small merchants in conflict with the government.

In the countryside, the counterrevolutionaries have been able to influence a layer of peasants in the most isolated and backward areas. In the impoverished Atlantic Coast, they have made some progress among the Miskito Indians, historically oppressed under colonial and semicolonial rule and distrustful of the new "Spanish" government in Managua from the beginning.



Managua, Nicaragua: 150,000 marched in armed demonstration to protest Reagan's April 27 war-mongering speech to Congress.

These are the sectors most susceptible to anticommunist propaganda dressed up in religious rhetoric, to promises of a "quick fix" once the Sandinistas are removed, and to accepting and repeating scare stories about *contra* (counterrevolutionary) military victories or coming disastrous food shortages.

"Awakening the antipopular potential of these social layers is the main aim of counterrevolutionary propaganda today," FSLN delegate to the Council of State Onofre Guevara pointed out recently. "They represent an unconscious reserve for their own class enemy."

The war in the north and the workers

"How many of you here are farmers?" *Intercontinental Press* asked a group of militia members in the village of El Limón April 2. El Limón is located just five miles south of the Honduran border. Only hours before, the local militia unit had repelled a two-hour counterrevolutionary attack.

The three dozen or so men and one woman looked at each other and laughed. "All of us," one of them said.

It is clear to anyone who visits the front lines along the northern border that defense of the revolution is overwhelmingly in the hands of the peasants and urban and rural workers.

"The problem we have in the factories," CST leader Alejandro Arrauz told us back in Managua, "is keeping enough people out of the militia to maintain production."

The CST, the Sandinista Workers Federation, is the country's main union federation, covering about four-fifths of the organized industrial work force. One of its main tasks with the step-up of the war has been to combine steady production with increased CST participation in the militia and reserve battalions.

We got a first-hand glimpse of what this means in practice later in April when we visited the Rolter shoe factory on the outskirts of Managua and asked for an old friend, Héctor Zúñiga, a leader of the CST local at the factory.

"Héctor's been mobilized," General Secretary Gregorio Pérez told us, "along with about a dozen others."

Rolter is predominantly privately owned. But it is the union, not the bosses, that decides which volunteers can be mobilized, another union official told us.

Misel Cardoza pointed to a large complicated-looking piece of stamping machinery to illustrate what he meant. "Operation of this machine is critical to production," he said. "Nicaragua needs the shoes we make and we can't let the few people who know how to run it be mobilized. We have to pick and choose," he said.

Every aspect of defense is voluntary — with one exception. That's the one that affects the bosses, who as a class are completely absent from the militia, the army, or the Sandinista Defense Committees.

They are required by law to pay full salary and benefits to the family of any mobilized worker, for the duration of his or her military service.

Who guards the factories at night? Again, not the bosses, who would not be trusted even if they volunteered. The workers at Rolter decided at a recent meeting to follow the example of other factories and organize night-time defense of the plant themselves.

Defense of the cities

This amounts to an extension to the factories of what workers are already doing in their neighborhoods, organized there through the Sandinista Defense Committees.

Vigilancia revolucionaria (revolutionary vigilance) is today a reality throughout the cities of Nicaragua. In Managua alone, more than 70,000 take part in the organized night-watch. In the country as a whole, the figure is about 140,000.

Organized in groups of two to three per block, CDS members patrol the streets from 11:00 p.m. to three or four in the morning. They keep an eye peeled for signs of counterrevolutionary activity — unfamiliar autos, suspicious-looking packages, unfamiliar faces — or ordinary street crime.

This has been so successful — Sandinista Police estimate that most crime, and probably most counterrevolutionary activity, now takes place between the hours of 3:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. — that discussion is under way of how to extend it, in a modified form, to 24 hours a day.

"Now," says Commander Luis Carrión, vice-minister of the interior, "we want to improve the quality and not just the quantity of vigilance."

"We don't want just 'committees of informers.' We need active vigilance."

"If you see someone walking down the street listening to *15 September* [a counterrevolutionary radio station that broadcasts the names and addresses of supporters of the revolution, followed by the sound of machine-gun fire], at full blast, what are you going to do? Go look for a policeman?"

"No!" was the booming reply from the audience, made up of CDS members from all over Managua.

"That's right," Carrión said. "Take care of it yourself."

"And if you think a suspicious meeting is taking place at somebody's house, put a team right in front. If there's nothing wrong going on, they won't mind. But the contras, we want them to know they're being watched 24 hours a day."

Carrión was not talking about tea or poker parties. What he was talking about were incidents such as a "party" held in Managua in early March, where reactionaries celebrated the death of 13 members of a Sandinista Youth Reserve Battalion who

Continued on next page

Further reading on Nicaraguan revolution

Nicaragua: An Introduction to the Sandinista Revolution. By Arnold Weissberg, 48 pages, \$9.95.

Sandinistas Speak. Writings and speeches of Tomás Borge, Carlos Fonseca Amador, Daniel Ortega, Humberto Ortega, and Jaime Wheelock, 160 pages, \$4.95.

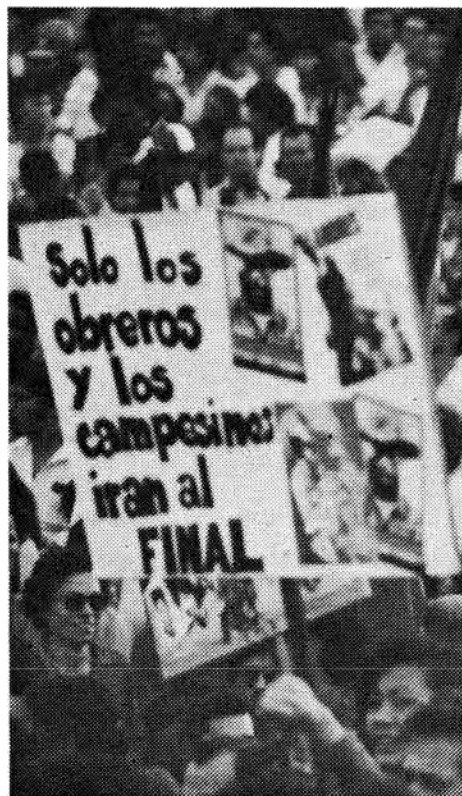
The Nicaraguan Workers and Farmers Government and the Revolutionary Leadership of the FSLN. By Jack Barnes et. al., \$1.75.

Sandino's Daughters: Testimonies of Nicaraguan Women in Struggle. By Margaret Randall, 220 pages, \$6.95.

Triumph of the People: The Sandinista Revolution in Nicaragua. By George Black, 368 pages, \$9.95.

What Difference Could a Revolution Make? Food and Farming in the New Nicaragua. By Joseph Collins, Frances Moore Lappé and Nick Allen, 186 pages, \$4.95.

Now We Can Speak: A Journey Through the New Nicaragua. By Frances Moore Lappé and Joseph Collins, this is a companion to *What Difference Could a Revolution Make?* 128 pages, \$4.95.



Order from Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Please include \$0.75 for postage and handling.

Class polarization in Nicaragua

Continued from preceding page

had been killed in an ambush by counter-revolutionaries in the north.

A clear differentiation in class forces is apparent in participation in vigilance. The more workers in a neighborhood, the more likely it is to have a smoothly functioning system of defense.

The meeting that Commander Carrión was speaking at, held to celebrate the second anniversary of the start of revolutionary vigilance, demonstrated this class polarization graphically. Of the dozen or so neighborhoods honored for exemplary performance and vigilance, virtually every one was predominantly working class.

Life at the border

What is the impact of the war on the border towns, constantly under threat of attack by counterrevolutionaries?

In Santa Clara, a small farming village 10 miles south of Honduras, *Intercontinental Press* asked Eliazar Hernández Díaz, a 73-year-old coffee farmer.

"For me," he said, "it means not having been able to get to my coffee fields for more than a year."

Hernández Díaz's farm is located right on the border, where snipers can shoot at coffee pickers without even crossing into Nicaraguan territory.

As he spoke, in early April, the 10 tons of coffee beans he had expected to harvest had already ripened, gone unpicked, and rotted on the ground. A total loss.

Hernández Díaz is remaining in Santa Clara. He spoke with pride of the revolution, of its meaning for his children and grandchildren, of the 150 of his neighbors who are members of the militia.

But not everyone has made the same decision.

Father Lucino Martínez Cuesta spoke of this, choosing his words very carefully. Father Martínez is the pastor of the main church in Jalapa, the largest town on the border and a repeated target of the contras. He is a leader of the prorevolutionary wing of the Catholic church, and his outspoken defense of the Sandinista revolution has earned him several death threats.

Are there people who have left Jalapa out of fear? he was asked.

"There are a few small capitalists, *burguesitos*, who have sold their things and left. But not many."

Do you know people who have gone over to the contras?

"Yes," he said, very quietly. "A number of cases. Including someone who used to

give me a ride on his motorcycle from time to time — a good friend. I know a number of people like that."

Does that mean the contras have some support in the area?

"Yes, they do," Martínez Cuesta responded frankly. He explained the poverty of the area and the impact of the large quantity of U.S. dollars the contras appear to have to spread around.

"But they have lost a lot of support because of the barbarities they have committed."

Divisions among population

Sandinista Army Capt. Emerson Velásquez, chief of military operations in nearby Quilali, told *Intercontinental Press* that perhaps as many as 20 percent of the counterrevolutionary "task forces" currently operating in the country are made up of peasant recruits. That is, perhaps as many as 400 of the total of about 2,000.

Some were kidnapped, Velásquez explained. Others were attracted by the pay or were victims of the contras' anticommunist propaganda. Many of these peasants have been convinced by the counterrevolutionaries that the Sandinista government is going to take away their land.

Historically, the poverty of this region has produced two very different responses. It was the stronghold of Sandino's fight against the U.S. Marines in the late 1920s and early 1930s. But it was also a favored recruiting ground for Somoza's National Guard.

At times this division is reflected even in the same family. One of the contras captured in the attack on El Limón turned out to be a young peasant from the village. She had been identified by her sister, with whom *Intercontinental Press* spoke shortly after the attack. Yet two older brothers in the same family are members of the militia.

Pope's visit

In the border region, as in Nicaragua as a whole, the impact of the pope's visit in early March could still be felt more than a month later.

For weeks prior to the visit, the Sandinista daily *Barricada*, the mass organizations, and prorevolutionary priests like Father Martínez carried out an extensive educational campaign. They urged Nicaragua's majority Catholic population to appeal to the pope to help end the U.S.-backed war against them.

The pope refused. In the main mass in Managua he ignored the appeal by



Militant/Michael Baumann

Aftermath of counterrevolutionary attack. More than \$4 million in construction equipment was blown up in terror raids in last year.

hundreds of thousands, voiced in the chant, "We want peace!"

This confrontation with the highest leader of the Catholic church helped many to understand more clearly the reactionary role of the church hierarchy. But at the same time the pope's silence on the war struck a double blow at the revolution. Father Martínez explained how.

"There have been problems since the pope's visit," he said. "Many people either didn't understand what was happening at the mass or didn't agree with chanting at the pope."

"There are also those who are more conscious, more revolutionary, who understand the situation better." But for many of them the pope's refusal to speak out was a disheartening experience.

"It lowered morale, because they had expected the pope to say a prayer for peace, for those who had been kidnapped, for the young people who had been killed just a few days earlier."

'Revolution is necessary'

The wing of the church represented by people like Father Martínez, on the other

hand, is quite clear about what happened, and blame local church officials as much as the pope.

"The hierarchy in Nicaragua," Father Martínez said, "are people with a bourgeois way of thinking. They are afraid of 'communism.'"

The extent to which the church has become a battlefield in the war between the counterrevolution and the revolution is reflected in the message from Father Martínez's pulpit. Just before leaving to say mid-night mass, he summarized for *Intercontinental Press* his Easter message to the Catholics of Jalapa:

"On the one side, there are many poor people with little wealth," he said. "On the other, there are a few rich people with much wealth. This is a very serious contradiction, as Pope Paul VI pointed out. Therefore, capitalism is evil. Revolution is necessary."

"All the good things we have, the schools, the hospitals for everyone, the participation of people in the process, the fact that almost everybody now knows how to read and write — this is a victory won by the death of our heroes and martyrs."

From *Intercontinental Press*

'Barricada' on U.S. workers tour

A group of 23 from the United States, mostly trade unionists, visited Nicaragua recently on a tour sponsored by the *Militant* and its sister Spanish-language publication *Perspectiva Mundial*. The following news report on the tour was published in the May 5 issue of the Sandinista daily *Barricada*. The translation is by the *Militant*.

MATAGALPA — A group of workers, students, and trade unionists, members of the U.S. Socialist Workers Party, assured

the Sandinista Youth — July 19 (JS-19) of Region IV [the Matagalpa area] of their firm intention to return to their country and spread the truth about what they saw in Nicaragua and to continue their opposition to Reagan's policies.

The North American delegation visited the regional office of the youth arm of the revolution, where they were met by Sandinista Youth leaders Ernesto Cabrera and Salvador Mendoza.

The visitors told the *compañeros* of the JS-19 that they did not agree with the North American policy of intervention in Central America and the Caribbean.

They said they would continue struggling against the U.S. government in order to one day defeat it, as the Sandinistas had done with the Somozaist military dictatorship.

Impressed by the advances they had seen during their stay in Region IV, the members of the delegation asked the youth of the JS-19 about the projects the government has initiated to improve defense and production.

The leaders of the JS-19 sketched for the North American citizens the history of struggle of young people in Region IV, as well as the political, social, and economic reality Nicaraguans inherited from the old system of exploitation and terror.

At the same time, they explained the tasks and responsibilities the JS-19 has assumed in this process.

They showed the visitors evidence of the aid the Reagan administration has provided the murderous Somozaist National Guards. These included arms and military supplies of North American manufacture Sandinista combatants had captured from the enemy.

The North American citizens also viewed photographs of officers of the genocidal Somozaist National Guard who are today openly leading the counter-revolutionary task forces that are invading our territory.

The visit of the North American people's delegation helped strengthen the links of friendship and solidarity between our two peoples.

Celebrate 4th Anniversary of Nicaragua's Revolution!

Tour Nicaragua! July 17-24 or extended tour July 17-29

July 17-24 — Managua, Masaya, León, Estelí, Matagalpa

July 25-29 — Bluefields (Atlantic Coast)

Militant/Perspectiva Mundial Tours invites you to join us in celebrating the 4th anniversary of the Sandinista revolution in a tour to Nicaragua. Participants will visit factories and farms, meet with activists from the unions, women's and youth organizations; learn about economic planning, health care, education, and culture.

Participate in the 4th anniversary mobilization in León on July 19! July 19, 1979, the Nicaraguan people, led by the Sandinista National Liberation Front, overthrew the brutal Somoza dictatorship, and established a government run by workers and farmers.

8 day tour: \$700 from Miami 13 day tour: \$900 from Miami

Tour price includes: round-trip airfare from Miami, three meals daily, hotels, all transfers and guide service. A \$150 deposit reserves a space with full payment due by June 27. Participants must have a passport valid for at least 6 months after the date of entry into Nicaragua.

Militant/Perspectiva Mundial Tours, 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014, (212) 929-3486



Ban on Tudeh Party deals blow to Iranian revolution

BY MEHDI ASSAR

In a blow to the Iranian revolution and the right of workers to form political parties to advance their struggles, the Iranian government banned the Tudeh Party (Communist Party) on May 4. The Tudeh Party is the largest and oldest workers party in Iran.

The same day, Iranian officials expelled 18 Soviet diplomats from the country. About a week later, the Iranian government announced it had arrested 1,000 Tudeh members around the country, in addition to party leaders seized in February.

These moves are a serious setback for the Iranian people's struggle against the ongoing attacks of U.S. imperialism and the continued aggression from the Iraqi regime, and battles of workers and peasants for land reform, labor rights, and the new society they overthrew the shah in order to build.

Far from protecting the revolution, the banning of the Tudeh Party weakens the working class and its allies in the struggle against Washington, which has not given up on overturning the revolution and restoring a regime in Iran subservient to U.S. dictates.

For months there had been a debate among Iranian officials over whether to outlaw parties like the Tudeh, which have not taken up arms against the government and have a stance in favor of the revolution. Since the overthrow of the shah in 1979, the Tudeh Party has in general given political support to the regime led by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

A year ago the Tudeh Party newspaper *Mardom* was banned and some party members imprisoned. On February 6, 70 party leaders were arrested and charged with "espionage and forgery of documents."

This came in the context of tightening restrictions on other workers parties, including the Revolutionary Workers Party (HKE); several of whose leaders are in jail. There has been stepped-up harassment of militant Islamic currents in mass organizations like the *Jihad*, the Reconstruction Crusade which has been active in the countryside among peasants.

The banning of the Tudeh Party came after Iranian television and radio broadcast three days of fake confessions by leading Tudeh figures. The purpose of these statements, clearly false and extracted under coercion, was to promote anti-Soviet, anti-Marxist views and to pressure workers organizations to dissolve and cease functioning in any manner independent from the ruling Islamic Republican Party.

Nureddin Kianuri, first secretary of the

Tudeh Party Central Committee, testified, as did all the other prisoners, to being a "Soviet spy" and traitor to the revolution. He said that "due to the link between our party and the Communist Party of the Soviet Union . . . we went astray. Our activities in the political arena changed on occasion to espionage activities and hence treachery against the Islamic Republic."

He "endorsed" the official government slogan "Neither East Nor West," and said the Iranian masses "must avoid any contact with foreign powers or countries, be they Eastern or Western, the American or the Soviet superpower."

Kianuri said his party committed a crime because "instead of dissolving we increased our membership and strengthened it," including having members who were soldiers. He also claimed the party was stockpiling arms.

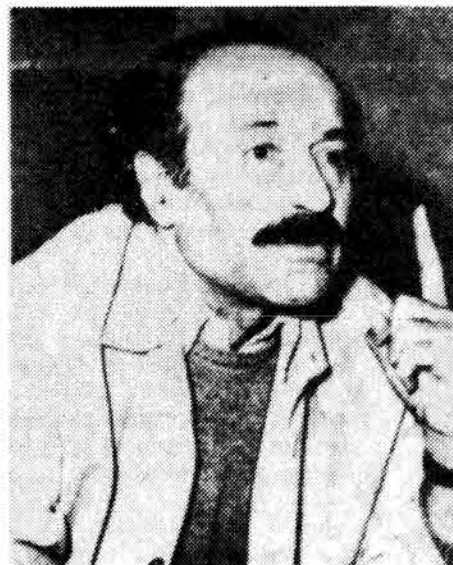
He concluded with a message to young Tudeh Party leaders that "no leftist trend should infiltrate into Iran, as it means affiliation to foreigners, to aliens. It is the mother of all treason and treachery."

The other most prominent Tudeh figure, the writer Mahmoud Etemadzadeh (also known as Behazin), also "confessed." He said "Marxism has come to a blind alley in Iran." It "has nothing to offer us against Islam's well-defined doctrine accepted by millions of the Iranian masses."

The Tudeh Party Central Committee issued a statement the day after the first "confessions," declaring the statements were false and brought about by physical and psychological torture.

Response of workers

Initial reports in the Iranian press do not indicate wide support among the masses for the anti-Soviet, anti-Tudeh Party attacks. Unlike the massive mobilizations of workers and peasants that greeted the seizure of the U.S. embassy in 1979, thus far only one small demonstration has taken place against the Soviet Embassy, which is still functioning. Nor have there been big marches against the Tudeh Party as there were in the summer of 1981 against the Mujahedeen, a petty-bourgeois group that turned to counterrevolutionary terrorism against the revolution and the current re-



Above, jailed Tudeh Party leader Nureddin Kianuri. At right, May Day workers demonstration in Tehran, where marchers' central demand was more rights in labor bill currently under debate.



gime. Those actions turned out hundreds of thousands.

There were large workers demonstrations this year on May Day, the day after the first of the Tudeh Party forced confessions. The government gave workers the day off and marches occurred in some 50 cities.

Thousands demonstrated in Tehran, where, according to the Iranian news reports, the main slogans focused on demanding an "Islamic labor law," in opposition to the current labor bill being debated, which includes unpopular restrictions on workers' rights. Workers also chanted "Death to America," "We'll fight until final victory" — referring to repelling the Iraqi invaders, and "Neither East nor West."

A resolution was read to the crowd from Workers House, the main national headquarters of the *shoras*, or factory committees. It made no reference to the Soviet Union or the Tudeh Party, or any of the charges that had been broadcast the previous evening.

Behind frame-up of Tudeh Party

The frame-up of the Tudeh Party, including the lies about KGB spies and illegal weapons, and the false idea that the Soviet Union is a military threat to Iran, is aimed at all workers parties and organizations. It flows from the fact that the capitalist Iranian government, which defends the interests of the factory owners and big landlords, has thus far been unable to decisively reverse the drive of the workers and

peasants for a complete break with imperialist exploitation and for full social and economic justice.

Attempted suppression of parties, freedom of the press, and rights in the workplace are all designed to prevent workers from seeking a political course independent of the Islamic Republican Party (IRP).

The goal is to block the workers from considering Marxist ideas and parties that are identified with Marxism and the Russian revolution. These ideas are far from foreign to the aspirations of the Iranian working class, a fact the capitalists know full well.

The Iranian regime remains in bitter conflict with U.S. imperialism and has recently established important trade and diplomatic relations with countries like Nicaragua. Nonetheless, Iranian officials have at the same time intensified their polemics against Marxism and the idea of class struggle, through the media, at prayer meetings, and in the factories and mass organizations. These attacks are not mainly aimed at the Tudeh and other workers parties, which remain relatively small, but at the broader working-class movement.

How the working class responds to the stepped-up attacks on its rights, in the context of combating the ongoing aggression from Iraq supported by Washington, will be important for the future of the revolution. The banning of the Tudeh Party and frame-ups of its members are a blow to that future; the Tudeh prisoners should all be freed and the party's democratic rights restored in full.

Black freedom struggle deepens in S. Africa

Continued from front page

bique. In December, a South African commando raid into Lesotho claimed the lives of 42 South African refugees and Lesotho citizens.

Pretoria's foreign aggression is but an extension of the violence that it metes out everyday to South Africa's Black majority.

Blacks are denied virtually all democratic rights. Opponents of the regime are routinely arrested, tortured, imprisoned, or killed. During the 1976 youth rebellions in Soweto and other Black townships, the police slaughtered more than 600 Blacks, most of them high-school students.

It is against this system of institutionalized violence — known as apartheid — that South Africa's Blacks are rebelling. As the polarization in South Africa deepens, more and more young activists are turning toward armed struggle to bring down the hated regime.

Since 1980, the ANC, the foremost national liberation organization, has been waging an increasingly effective guerrilla campaign, carrying out scores of attacks against military bases, police stations, power plants, railway lines, and other vital installations.

The bombing in the South African capital was the most spectacular guerrilla action thus far. A powerful car bomb exploded outside the Nedbank Plaza building, which houses the offices of the air force command, air force intelligence, and prison department. Army offices were located across the street. According to the

South African government, 18 persons were killed in the explosion and about 190 wounded. Many of them were air force and military personnel.

The ANC has pointed to the bombing as an example of the kind of action that the apartheid regime could expect in the future.

At a May 21 news conference in Nairobi, Kenya, ANC President Oliver Tambo explained that the ANC and its military wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe (Spear of the Nation), would henceforth extend its military operations from sabotage of buildings, railways, and bridges to "attacking the enemy forces."

"Never again, never again are our people going to be doing all the bleeding, never again," Tambo said. "Don't you think that we have offered the other cheek so many times that there is no cheek left to turn?"

A statement issued the same day by the ANC office in Lusaka, the capital of Zambia, also placed responsibility for the intensification of the armed conflict in South Africa on the apartheid regime.

"All available evidence clearly shows that the attack which took place yesterday in the heart of Pretoria was specifically directed at military establishments of the South African regime," the statement said. "The enemy casualties consist essentially of air force and military intelligence personnel."

"The escalating armed struggle, which was imposed on us as a result of the intransigence and violence of the apartheid regime, will make itself felt among an in-

creasing number of those who have chosen to serve in the enemy's forces of repression.

"This struggle, carried out by the people of South Africa and their army, Umkhonto we Sizwe, is conducted within our country and will be won within the country. Whatever the enemy does, we are assured of victory."

June 4 protest against Shoreham nuclear plant

NEW YORK — A coalition of local antinuclear groups has called for a June 4 march and rally to demand that the Shoreham nuclear-power plant not be opened for business.

The protest will be held near the site of the plant, on Long Island's north shore.

Massive cost overruns and opposition to a proposed "evacuation plan" by area residents have so far kept Shoreham from going into operation. Nevertheless, the plant is slated to come on line late this year.

Speakers at the rally, which is being organized by the Stop Shoreham Coalition, will include Screen Actors Guild President Ed Asner, physicist Michio Kaku, and Barry Commoner.

The rally is to be followed the next day by what march organizers describe as a "non-violent occupation of the plant."

For more information call the Stop Shoreham Coalition at (516) 360-0045 or (212) 505-6590. For bus information: Mobilization for Survival (212) 673-1808.

Iranian oil sent to aid Nicaragua

Managua, Nicaragua — "We are going to support in every way possible the revolutionary government of Nicaragua and all the liberation movements that are fighting against imperialism," Iranian Ambassador Mostafa Mokhlesi told a news conference here April 23.

Iran's first shipment of oil to Nicaragua is already on the way, he announced.

"We recognize that Nicaragua is in a difficult situation because of its shortage of hard currency," Mokhlesi said. So a barter arrangement has been worked out in which Iran will provide oil in return for Nicaraguan sugar, coffee, and beef.

"We want to deepen our relations with the countries of the Nonaligned Movement," particularly in Latin America and the Caribbean, Mokhlesi said.

Iran has already opened embassies in Cuba and Nicaragua, and is preparing to open missions in Grenada and Suriname.



Militant/Roberto Kopec

Socialist Workers leaders

BY MALIK MIAH

NEW YORK — Members of the Socialist Workers Party National Committee met here in early May to discuss the current stage of U.S. and world politics and assess the SWP's progress in building a party of workers.

Also participating in the six-day gathering were organizers of SWP branches from almost 50 cities, leaders of the party's work in basic industry, and members of the National Executive Committee of the Young Socialist Alliance.

Coal miners; garment workers; machinists; oil refinery workers; laid-off auto, steel, and rail workers; builders of the National Black Independent Political Party, Central America solidarity committees, and the women's movement — the gathering represented a cross-section of the party's membership, a majority of whom are industrial workers.

As the discussion unfolded one thing above all else became clear: the offensive by the bosses and their government against the standard of living, working conditions, and rights of working people in the United States is producing a reaction. There is growing ferment in the working class, a search for explanations and solutions. In the mines and mills; in the Black community; among Chicanos, Puerto Ricans, and millions of undocumented workers, especially from Central and Latin America, the radicalization is deepening.

Among working farmers, too, the capitalist crisis is producing a profound rethinking of many questions.

The result is an increased receptivity to socialist ideas in the working class and among its allies.

This was the framework in which the SWP National Committee, the highest leadership body of the party between conventions, made a number of important decisions aimed at strengthening the party's ability to take its program and ideas to working people.

First, the National Committee reaffirmed its December 1982 decision that all party members would participate in regular weekly teams to sell the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* at plant gates and other industrial workplaces. The meeting evaluated the progress of the party nationally in implementing that decision.

Second, the meeting adopted a proposal to organize the party's active supporters in every city in a more systematic way. Hundreds of party supporters and friends of all ages, working in industry and at other jobs, already make regular financial contributions and carry out activity that strengthens the work of the SWP. Organizing these supporters so they can be even more effective will increase the ability of the SWP to respond to new political openings. (See accompanying article.)

The meeting opened with a report on the

deepening revolution in Central America and the Caribbean and the responsibilities of the SWP in helping to advance those struggles. SWP Political Committee member Larry Seigle underscored the progress being registered by working people in El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Grenada especially. Washington's dilemma is that every attempt to halt their advances fuels the determination of the oppressed and exploited throughout the region to throw off the yoke of Yankee imperialism.

The urgent task here in the United States, Seigle noted, is to organize the deepening opposition to Washington's drive to crush the liberation forces. And today, unlike the period of the anti-Vietnam War movement, we have an important advantage. It is possible to bring the most powerful sectors of the working class, the organized industrial workers, into this battle to stop Washington's war plans from the very beginning. Workers, acting through and using their unions as vehicles to express their interests, can be not the only, but the most powerful component of the antiwar forces. They can provide leadership for others.

Moreover, every advance in this direction is more than an act of international solidarity, important as that may be. It is a step forward along the necessary line of march for the working class in the United States. It is part of the struggle to transform the basic organizations of the working class in this country into instruments capable of defending the workers in other battles as well.

And this process has already begun.

In fact, the tactical divisions in the ruling class on how to accelerate their military intervention into Central America are partially a reaction to the depth of antiwar sentiment in the working class and concern over the potential for it to become a catalyst.

Among other developments, Seigle pointed to the successful tour of Salvadoran trade unionist Alejandro Molina Lara, and the reception he has received in the union movement. That has been one indication of the possibilities that exist today to organize this powerful opposition to the government's war policies.

Chicago elections

The main political report was given by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes. It focused primarily on the political developments surrounding the mayoralty elections in Chicago and their broader meaning and lessons for the class struggle in the United States.

Barnes presented a view contrary to that promoted by the mass media, as well as many on the left. They have pictured the Chicago elections as fundamentally a polarization on race lines, a deep division between Black and white "voters" in the abstract.

What was registered in the Chicago election campaign, Barnes noted, was not an intensification of racism, even though ultra-right-wing forces seized the initiative and tried to foster such a development. What the Chicago events demonstrated was the degree of radicalization of the working class, the extent to which the racist divisions fostered by the rulers have weakened.

The class struggle, and resulting polarization, expressed itself in an unusually sharp manner around the Chicago elections because of the unexpected crisis and breakdown affecting one of the instruments of capitalist rule in Chicago — the Democratic Party.

The fact that the Black community, the labor movement, and the Chicano and Puerto Rican communities united to assure the election of Harold Washington as mayor also reflected important developments in U.S. politics.

Labor, Black, Latino alliance

It expressed the striving of working people, following the lead being taken by the Black movement, to use their numbers to get some political power.

The alliance among labor, the Black community, and the Latino population of



Militant/Lou Howort

Sales of socialist press at plant gates, helping to organize opposition to U.S. intervention were two campaigns discussed at SWP leadership meeting.

SWP to organize active supporters

BY FRED FELDMAN

NEW YORK CITY — A campaign to organize the growing numbers of active supporters of the Socialist Workers Party was launched at the meeting of the party's National Committee, which ended here May 12.

The aim of this campaign is to increase the impact of the party's work by better organizing the contributions of people who want to help build the party and advance its goals but don't wish to or are unable to be members.

"We think that there are hundreds of people across the country that could be organized as active supporters," stated Ken Shilman, Manhattan branch organizer of the SWP and reporter for the Political Committee on this point.

"Organizing them as a resource to help in what we have to do is at the heart of this proposal."

Our supporters, Shilman explained, "are attracted to our line of march, to the working class, to revolution. They get excited when Black, Latino, and working-class youth come to our bookstores and forums. They understand the importance of getting out the truth about the revolutions in Central America to workers. Héctor Marroquín is their comrade and they want to do everything they can to prevent the government from deporting him."

They think selling the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* at plant gates is great, and some want to be part of that effort. They want the party to talk to and recruit workers and build its influence in the American working class."

Organizing supporters has a long tradition in the revolutionary workers movement. Shilman pointed to the examples of the July 26 movement in Cuba and the Bolshevik Party of Russia, which "had more active supporters organized around them than they had members at critical points in their histories."

Some supporters will be former members, Shilman noted, but more and more

they will be new supporters won by the party in the course of its participation in the unions and in the struggles of oppressed nationalities and women.

Shilman cited one example from the history of the SWP.

In *Teamster Rebellion*, his book on how a class-struggle current in the Teamsters union led the fight to make Minneapolis a union town in the 1930s, Farrell Dobbs talks about Bill Brown, president of Teamsters Local 574. While in basic political agreement with the SWP, for personal reasons Brown decided he could not be a party member.

"He played an invaluable role as a close sympathizer," Dobbs wrote. "He collaborated loyally and consistently with the party fraction on all important matters within Local 574. Whenever a national party speaker came through the city on a speaking tour, Bill would be on hand to hear the talk, and part of what he heard would often find its way into the next speech of his own. He was also generous in his financial contributions to the party."

The proposal to organize party supporters was a new one for most branches of the SWP, but a couple of cities have already begun. Their experiences served as a guide for the report that was adopted by the National Committee.

In Los Angeles, for example, several meetings have been organized in recent months where leaders of the party reported to supporters on the current campaigns. The meetings then turned to discussion of ideas on how the supporters could help.

Joel Britton, an oil refinery worker and a longtime party leader, has been responsible for working with active supporters in Los Angeles. He described the role supporters are playing there.

"We have supporters in Los Angeles that work with us in the solidarity movement, who staff our bookstore, who help us pass out leaflets and sell at industrial sites. One supporter runs the coffee concession at forums as one of his contributions. A sup-

porter who is an artist designed the sign for the headquarters. When you add it up the branch has added another battalion to its forces."

Shilman described how a meeting of active supporters in New York City was organized to discuss the court attack on the party in a recent suit. A leader of the branch reported on what was happening in the trial and its significance. "And the supporters all helped in one way or another," stated Shilman. In addition to donating money, they helped put out mailings, supported rallies, and in the case of one supporter who is a lawyer — helped explain the case to other lawyers and get endorsements for the case."

A similar meeting in Los Angeles raised more than \$1,000 to help meet legal expenses.

The role of the *Militant* in organizing the party's supporters is central, Shilman stressed. "The *Militant* reflects our line and our assessment of struggles on a weekly basis. Our supporters will see us fundamentally through the *Militant* and our activities."

The discussion under this point on the agenda was enthusiastic, as those responsible for leading the work of the SWP around the country began thinking about the new strength this would bring to the party.

The opinion of everyone at the meeting was well summarized by Shilman when he concluded: "Every branch has supporters. Miners, steelworkers, garment workers, white collar workers, artists, doctors, teachers. As a revolutionary proletarian party aspiring to lead the American revolution, we want to look outside ourselves all the time. With this proposal we reach out to the party's closest friends, those who consciously support the party. Doing this will make the SWP stronger, more proletarian, a party that knows how to use all the forces and resources available to us in the struggle here for working people to take power and establish a government that fights to advance and defend their interests."

see new ferment in working class

Chicago expressed itself in the distorted framework of capitalist politics, and placed a Democratic Party politician in office. This offered no road forward on the decisive issue of independent Black and working-class political action. But around the Chicago elections all the fundamental questions of how working people can advance their economic and social interests were posed.

The need for an alliance between labor, the Black community, and other oppressed national minorities in order to use their power to transform this country was exactly the issue that Ed Warren, the SWP's candidate for mayor of Chicago, addressed.

The positive response he received among working people in Chicago was an indication of the degree to which the SWP's campaign was part of and a voice for the progressive social aspirations of Chicago's Black community and other working people.

Restricting rights of working class

The SWP National Committee also discussed the broader implications of the suit that was brought against the SWP by a lawyer for Los Angeles County who sought to have the federal courts remove certain leaders of the SWP and force the party to accept him as a member.

A federal district court judge ruled in favor of the SWP at the conclusion of a week-long trial in Los Angeles in March. But the four-year long legal proceedings before the trial were used by the government to establish that the courts can intervene in the internal affairs of the SWP, in violation of the most basic constitutional rights.

This dangerous probe, Barnes pointed out in the political report, is aimed at limiting the SWP's ability to function as a legitimate, legal political party. It is part of the broader assault by the bosses and their government agencies on all democratic rights. Such attacks are inevitably linked to the stepped-up offensive on living standards and working conditions and the need to try to intimidate opposition to the war plans of the U.S. rulers in Central America.

It was no accident, Barnes noted, that the SWP found broadest understanding and support in the union movement and Black movement in response to this kind of court harassment, disruption, and violation of the party's rights. There, more than anywhere else, we found people who had been victims of similar attacks or understood the implications for all working-class organizations, all opponents of government policy.

Building a party of workers

Resistance to the economic blows coming down, the political ferment in the working class around the issues of war and democratic rights, including defense of the gains of the last decades of struggle by Black people — all this came into focus under yet another point on the agenda.

Wendy Lyons, organizer of the Newark SWP branch, was the reporter for the Political Committee on assessing the first five months of the party's campaign to involve every single member in selling the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* every week at plant gates and other workplaces.

As she explained, "At the heart of our decision to make weekly plant-gate sales a norm of membership — something that every member does every week — is a political judgment about what is happening in the working class, and what we need to do and can do to build a party of workers who are leaders."

Correctness of strategy

The character of the response to the economic and social offensive of the bosses, the level of working-class radicalization, the degree of political ferment, the openness to socialist ideas — all this, she stressed, confirms the correctness of our determination to maintain and deepen the SWP's orientation to the decisive sectors of the industrial working class.

Lyons reviewed the reasons why the National Committee decided on the plant-gate-sales campaign at its previous meeting in December 1982 and assessed the progress in implementing it.

The original impetus for the proposal, she reminded the gathering, came from the highly successful sales campaign last fall, during which we noted a real increase in the response to the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*. For the first time in a long while, we were selling a significant number of papers at plant gates. This was especially true, she noted, when we established regular sales teams, selling every week at the same time and place. When we did that sales increased noticeably throughout the fall campaign.

While the total number of papers sold at plant gates was not enormous, the political importance of the sales was obvious. The SWP decided to continue building on the momentum of that successful campaign.

Maintaining political contact

The second factor, Lyons reminded the National Committee, was the need to maintain or reestablish political contact with the many coal miners, steelworkers, auto and rail workers, and others who had been either regular or occasional *Militant* and

Perspectiva Mundial readers in the past.

Many of them, due to layoffs and job changes, no longer had regular contact with anyone distributing the *Militant*.

The fall sales campaign made it clear that many former readers would be even more interested today in what we have to say and in the activities the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* are building.

And, of course, there are many new readers to be reached as well. The goal, Lyons explained, is to involve every single member of the SWP in spreading the influence of the party in the working class, even if that individual member is not currently working at an industrial job.

Progress in organizing every member to be part of this campaign, she pointed out, is part of every party branch thinking out the question of jobs as well.

Helping unemployed members get jobs and helping relocate others in important industrial plants and workplaces is a permanent responsibility. Lyons noted that special attention must be given by the branch jobs committees to employment opportunities for Black and Latino members, especially women and youth, who face the greatest difficulty in getting hired due to discrimination.

As anticipated in December, Lyons explained, carrying out the decision on

weekly plant-gate sales as a norm for every member has been a challenge to lead and organize. Even branches that got a head start during last fall's sales campaign indicated in the discussion that it will be a while before all the implications for the reorganization of the party's work begin to be realized.

With that perspective, the National Committee decided to continue the plant-gate-sales campaign as the central sales perspective for the next months, rather than proposing a sizeable subscription drive or other sales goals.

The contributions to the discussion under this report confirmed that the progress made in the last five months has already begun to have an impact on the functioning and arena of political campaigning of the SWP. A higher percentage of SWP members have regular political contact with important sections of the working class. And the enthusiasm this has generated in the branches has led to a more general expansion of sales and other activities as well.

The overall progress the SWP has made in the last months places the party in a better position to respond to new working-class struggles and to broaden the influence and membership of the party.

Conference to study Marxist continuity

BY FRED FELDMAN

More than a thousand members and supporters of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance will converge on Oberlin, Ohio, July 30-August 6 in order to participate in a Socialist Activists and Educational Conference.

The character of the conference and its main themes were discussed and decided on at a meeting of the SWP national committee in early May.

The conference will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the death of Karl Marx, the founder — along with Frederick Engels — of the modern revolutionary workers movement.

Educational activities at the conference will include classes and discussion of Marx's contributions to the working-class movement and why they are a living part of our heritage today. They will cover a broad range of questions from Marx and Engels as revolutionary politicians to their writings on trade unions, the need for a labor party, the fight against colonialism, and the liberation struggles of oppressed nationalities and women.

A second theme of the educational conference will be the lessons to be learned from the experiences and debates of the early years of the Communist International, including their impact on the working-class movement in the United States.

One of the aids in preparing this part of the conference will be the publication — in time for sale at the gathering — of the second volume of the series entitled *Revolutionary Continuity* by Farrell Dobbs.

Dobbs, former national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, is working on a history of the struggle to build a proletarian Marxist party in the United States. The first volume, which appeared three years ago, covered the development of the workers movement in the United States from 1848 to the Russian revolution of 1917.

The new volume covers the years 1918-21 — the founding of the Communist International and the first years of the communist movement in the United States.

Classes at the Oberlin conference will be able to draw on the rich material Dobbs has assembled to help working-class fighters

today absorb and apply the lessons of our continuity with the early communist movement.

In addition to the schedule of classes, the conference will have ample time for meetings of socialist workers active in all the struggles to change the world today.

The third major aspect of the conference will be meetings of participants working in the garment, electrical, coal, rail, aerospace, and other industries. These meetings will give working-class militants a chance to discuss out how their coworkers and unions are responding to the ruling-class offensive against working people.

The meetings will feature discussion of how socialist workers can help to advance the growing opposition in the unions to the escalating war against Central America. They will take up the role of the unions in the fight for Black rights and women's equality. And they will provide an opportunity to size up the progress of regular plant-gate sales of the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and the *Young Socialist*.

The conference will also provide opportunities for relaxation including sports, movies, music, dancing, and socializing.

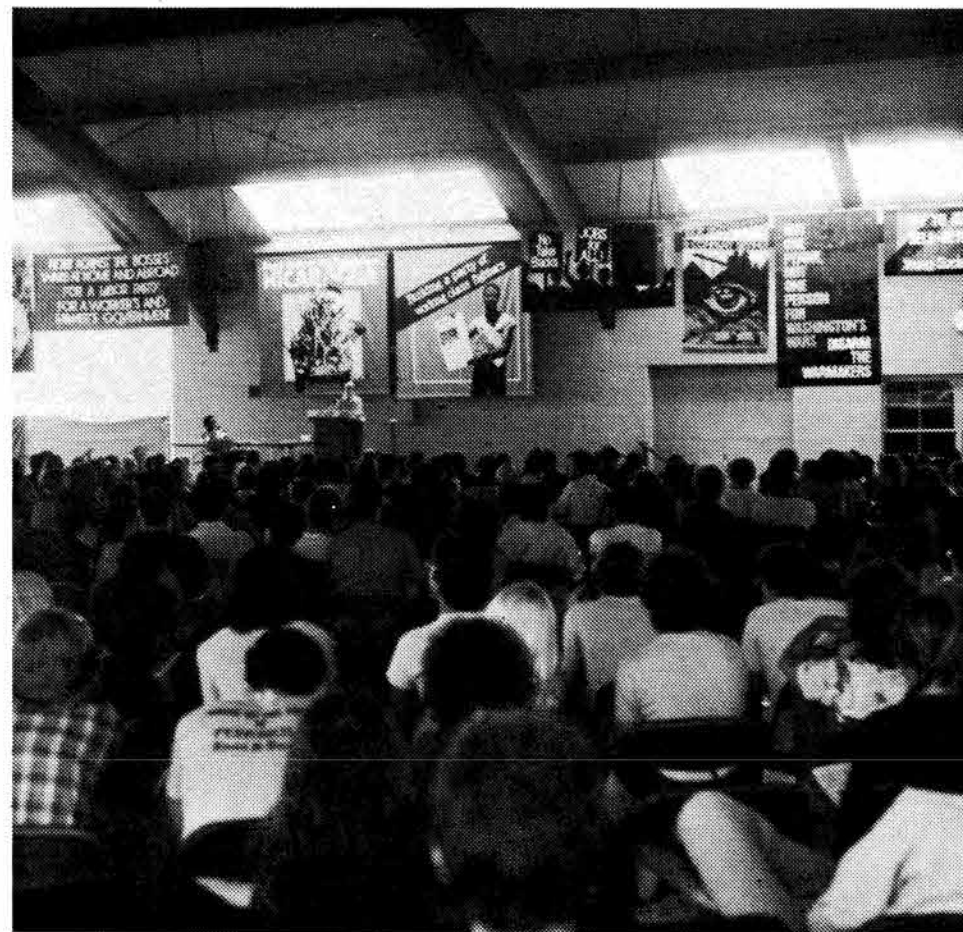
Most conference activities will be conducted in English, but some classes will also be given in Spanish, and Spanish translation will be available for all classes and workshops.

If you are interested in attending the Socialist Activists and Educational Conference, fill in the coupon below or contact one of the offices listed on page 12.

Attend the socialist conference

If you're interested in attending the 1983 Socialist Educational and Activists Conference in Oberlin, Ohio, from July 30-August 6, fill in the coupon below. Send to the SWP branch or YSA chapter nearest you (see directory on page 12), or to the SWP, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
Union/Organization/School _____



Militant/Charles Ostrofsky

1982 socialist conference in Oberlin, Ohio.

Representative of FDR tours Britain

The April 1 issue of *Socialist Action*, a British weekly, reported on a successful tour conducted by Jaime Lopez, a representative of the Revolutionary Democratic Front of El Salvador.

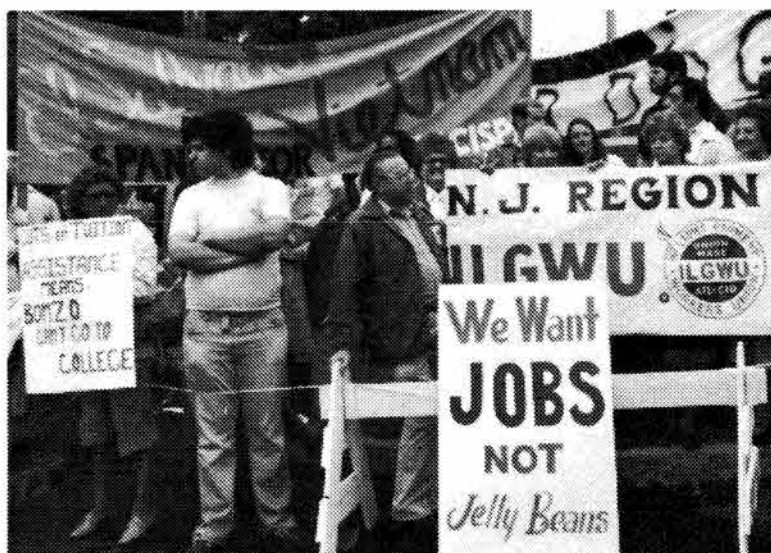
Lopez spent a week in the Nottinghamshire and North Derbyshire area where he talked to members of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM). During the week he met with two members of the NUM's national leadership and with local officials at seven pits. Meetings of rank-and-file miners also heard Lopez speak.

The miners' union was also backing a May 14 Labor Movement Conference on El Salvador held in London.

Labor paper says 'Yankee stay home!'

The April 1 issue of *Racine Labor*, the official labor newspaper in Racine, Wisconsin, published an editorial opposing U.S. government policy in Nicaragua. Titled, "Yankee stay home!" the editorial said:

"Once again, the U.S. government is interfering within the internal affairs of Central America,



Militant/Dee Scalera

500 protested the U.S.-backed war in Central America when Reagan spoke at the Seton Hall University graduation ceremonies in New Jersey on May 21. Among the crowd were contingents from the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, the International Union of Electrical Workers, rank-and-file auto workers from the nearby Metuchen Ford plant and others. A pro-Reagan rally drew 50 people.

this time by sponsoring the right-wing invasion of Nicaragua by former guardsmen who were supporters of the late and much-hated dictator Anastasio Somoza.

"The real problem with Nicaragua in the administration's eyes," the editorial continued, "is not that it is receiving Cuban and Soviet aid . . . or that it is helping the rebels in El Salvador, so much as the fact that it is committed to rebuilding its economy free of domi-

nation by U.S. based multinational corporations, and based instead on workers' and peasants' needs.

"The U.S. role in the current invasion could not be more clear. . . . The only aspect of the current invasion that remains unclear is the question of why the Democrats in Congress have not spoken out forcefully against this outrageous exercise in old-fashioned U.S. imperialism. . . . (The administration's

claim that the U.S. involvement is aimed merely at 'harassment,' as opposed to overthrow, is too ridiculous for words.)

"We're afraid," the editorial concluded, "that once more, many Congressional Democrats are showing they are either too conservative or too intimidated to challenge Ronald Reagan's policies. This gutless failure to resist Reagan's New Cold War is leading to more bloodshed and tragedy for the people of Nicaragua and can only make the Central American situation even more explosive."

Poets and writers speak out for Nicaragua

The April 23 issue of *The Nation* published a letter under the heading: "With the poets in Nicaragua." It was signed by 34 prominent literary figures in this country who have formed the Committee to Support Nicaraguan Culture. The letter reads:

"We are concerned about the Reagan Administration's drive to destabilize Nicaragua and to blame the Sandinist government for the ills of the region. We recognize with regret that an embattled government sometimes restricts certain rights, as have many governments — including that of the United States.

"The mainstream news media have, in effect, chosen to ignore the continuing achievements of Nicaragua since the revolution. The most outstanding among these achievements are agrarian reform, the health program and the literacy campaign. In five months, illiteracy was reduced from 50 percent to 12 percent; a program of continuing education is being offered as a follow-up. In a country of poets, poetry workshops have sprouted in factories, police stations, army outposts and peasant organizations. Poems are published in a magazine called *Poesia Libre* and are 'distributed like basic grains.'

"We writers are starting a drive to collect typewriters, ribbons, paper, office supplies and tape recorders. These will be used in the workshops and by writers all over Nicaragua.

"Material may be contributed (and pick-up arrangements made) by calling (212) 924-0767. Donations for shipping costs and spare parts may be sent to The Committee to Support Nicaraguan Culture, 33 Carmine Street, New York, N.Y. 10014."

Among the signers of the letter are: Dore Ashton, Julio Cortázar, E.L. Doctorow, Barbara Garson, Allen Ginsberg, Günter Grass, David Ignatow, Holly Near, Grace Paley, Alix Kates Shulman, Nicholas von Hoffman, Kurt Vonnegut Jr. and Helen Yglesias.

compiled by Geoff Mirelowitz

Molina Lara on the Salvadoran labor movement

The following is an interview with Alejandro Molina Lara, organization secretary of the National Federation of Salvadoran Workers' Unions (FENASTRAS), who has been touring the United States speaking in front of trade unions and other organizations. The interview was conducted in April by Andrea González, a correspondent for *Perspectiva Mundial*. The translation is by the Militant.

Question: Can you describe the current conditions of the Salvadoran workers?

Answer: The economic crisis has continued to deepen. Its weight is falling entirely on the shoulders of the working class, because the means of winning better socio-economic conditions from the bosses have been completely eliminated by repressive government decrees. Wages remain frozen. Under the state of siege, union meetings, in which we could discuss and make plans to solve our problems, are prohibited.

On top of all this, businesses are being decapitalized. Many have closed under the pretext that they are bankrupt, that they don't have the foreign exchange needed to buy raw materials abroad. From 65 percent to 70 percent of the companies have closed down.

Unemployment is enormous. The rate approaches 65 percent to 70 percent of the work force.

In addition, the conditions of war and the resulting food shortages have increased the cost of living. The purchasing power of the working class and of all low-income families has declined.

For this reason, we have been able to get the different trade union federations in the country to put forward common programs. In these programs, we lay out economic, political, and social demands. The economic measures include wage increases, benefits for those who are unemployed due to a lack of raw materials, life insurance because of the climate of violence, and job security.

In the political arena, we are calling for freedom for imprisoned unionists and unconditional amnesty for all political prisoners. We call for the reopening of the national university, lifting of the state of siege, and the repeal of all the laws that have totally negated the basic rights of the working class.

We believe that this common program of demands, which was presented to the Salvadoran government last December, will provide a stimulus to the unorganized sector of the working class to get involved in the struggle alongside the organized sector, which represents about 10 percent of the work force.

At the same time, we are approaching the labor federations that are under the influence of the AFL-CIO so that together we can seek a way for the government and the guerrillas to enter into a dialogue in order to find a negotiated political solution.

We have been able to jointly sign some statements appearing in the only newspaper in our country that will sell space for such statements, the daily *El Mundo*.

The Salvadoran working class has joined with the whole people in an outcry for peace, because workers are tired of three years of war. Consequently, efforts are being made to seek dialogue in order to achieve peace, social justice, and democracy.

Q: Would you say something about the struggle of the working class in the cities?

A: It has been increasing little by little. There was an ebb in 1981, after the people rose up in insurrection and the working class mounted a general strike. The authorities unleashed repression against all layers of the working class, especially those that had been the most militant.

Following this there was an ebb in workers' struggles. Many workers became radicalized and, frustrated by their inability to find peaceful means for socio-economic change, began to fight in the armed struggle. Many others left the country, took shelter abroad, fearing for their lives. Other workers stayed, without involving themselves in either the trade unions or the political struggle. They are simply observers in the conflict.

Despite the systematic repression launched by the government in 1981, at the end of 1982 strikes occurred involving over 20,000 public workers. In November 1982 workers who are employees of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock went out, fighting for economic demands. Then in December, postal workers launched a strike and other unions responded. Many of the factories in the capital were shut down.

This is confirmation to us that the combativity and high level of solidarity be-

tween different sectors of the working class still exists.

We have achieved solid unity recently as a result of the General Federation of Trade Unions (CGS) becoming part of the trade union front. In the past, the CGS has collaborated with the military dictatorship over a long period.

Through these forces we have brought together over half a million workers, who we think can completely paralyze the national economy as we did in the period from 1979 to 1981. We think that we can do this despite this government's program of terror and repression.

Q: Could you go over other aspects of the struggle in the cities: in the university, among the youth, in the working-class neighborhoods, among women?

A: The universities have been closed since 1980, so the students have neither the means nor the facilities to be able to put forward a program of struggle.

With respect to the neighborhoods and shanty towns, they remain active. They are the bases of support, of sustenance, for the revolutionary movement in our country. They are the "mountains" in which the in-

surgent forces shield themselves in order to be able to attack enemy positions.

The incorporation of women into the revolutionary process in our country — including on the military front — is very important. From the beginning, from the moment that the revolutionary organizations were founded among the people, we have seen the participation of women. In working-class neighborhoods, in the cities, in the factories, and in the shanty towns, women have always formed strike support committees and committees to aid occupations of neighborhoods and cities.

In the unions it has been the same. It is the women who have walked the picket lines, who stood in front of the factory gates to prevent workers from entering during a strike. And in demonstrations, the women have always been in the forefront.

There are even committees of women right in the dictatorship's jails, which they have turned into yet another trench of the revolution. In the Ilopango jail, there are 175 women and a branch of the Committee of Political Prisoners of El Salvador (COP-PES). The fact that there are 175 women imprisoned by the dictatorship shows the incorporation of women into the revolutionary process is total.



Militant/Salm Kolis

Salvadoran trade union leader Alejandro Molina Lara

Deportation fight linked with int'l struggles

BY MARK EMANATION

PHILADELPHIA — "The union movement has to take up international issues. It has to take a stand on human rights. It has to be united, because an injury to one is an injury to all. That's why we have to support Héctor Marroquín's fight for political asylum," said Howard Deck, president of Local 590 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

Deck opened a meeting here May 14 attended by 50 people in support of Marroquín, who fled government repression in Mexico nine years ago. He is now a leader of the Socialist Workers Party.

Ed Kaminski, representing the Commit-

tee in Solidarity With the People of El Salvador, told the audience that Marroquín faces deportation because the U.S. government wants to silence opposition to its war in El Salvador.

Benjamín Ramos, president of the Philadelphia Puerto Rican Socialist Party, and Gerard Ferère, representing the Coalition for Haitian Concerns, both pointed to the similarities of Marroquín's case with U.S. government attacks on Puerto Rican activists and Haitian refugees.

The meeting also heard an appeal from Margie O'Rourke, whose husband Michael O'Rourke is an Irish freedom fighter held in prison by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) for more than three years without bail. The meeting participants here voted to send a telegram to the INS demanding freedom for O'Rourke and political asylum for Marroquín.

Aurora Camacho de Schmidt, coordinator of the U.S.-Mexico Border Program of the American Friends Service Committee,

sent a message of support to the rally.

Marroquín's case received considerable media coverage during his tour here, including a major article in the Sunday *Philadelphia Inquirer* which has the sixth largest Sunday circulation in the country — and interviews with the city's Black and Puerto Rican newspapers. Reporters from the *National Leader*, *El Leñero*, and *El Enfoque* covered the May 14 meeting.

"Attorneys on both sides of the Marroquín controversy say his case, now before the Supreme Court, could have a major impact on many of the 12,000 other current applicants for U.S. political asylum, particularly those from El Salvador and Haiti, whom the United States consistently has labeled economic, not political, refugees," wrote *Inquirer* reporter Rich Heidorn, Jr.

"If you're fleeing a left-wing government, you're assumed to be a political refugee. If you're fleeing a right-wing government, you are presumed to be an economic refugee," Tom Farer, a visiting

professor for Latin American Affairs at Princeton University, said in a telephone interview Friday. "It's not the policy, but it is the practice," the article continued.

Heidorn also called the FBI about why they had a file on Marroquín while he still lived in Mexico, but couldn't get a comment; the Mexican embassy, who said Marroquín's "allegations are not based on any credible antecedent"; and U.S. Deputy Solicitor General Kenneth Geller, who referred to the appeals court decision upholding deportation.

The *Inquirer* then quoted attorney Shelly Davis from the Political Rights Defense Fund, which organizes support for Marroquín. "What the government is saying is [that] you have to show a near certainty that you would be killed or imprisoned," Davis said. "The Haitians have a good way of putting that — they call it post-mortem asylum. Even the State Department has been quoted as saying [that] being shot at isn't enough."



Militant/Ike Nahem

Héctor Marroquín

Marroquin wins support at UAW convention

Héctor Marroquín and supporters of his fight against deportation distributed some 3,000 brochures on his case at the United Auto Workers convention in Dallas on May 16 and 17.

According to Marroquín, UAW delegates and other convention participants were genuinely interested in his case and it was clear that many read the literature explaining the high stakes in his plea for political asylum.

"We had a lot of discussions with people about my case," Marroquín told the *Militant*, "about my Marxist views and why that should not exclude me from political asylum. Some people would say, 'Well, I don't agree with your socialist views, but if you're a victimized worker, I'll support you.'"

Marroquín got a friendly response at the reception for California Congressman Esteban Torres attended by several hundred Black and Latino delegates and others. Torres endorsed Marroquín's fight, as did United Steelworkers Vice-president Leon Lynch, who was also at the reception.

Also endorsing at the convention was Henry Lacayo, national director of the UAW-Community Action Program Department and national president of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement.

Joaquín Zapata, secretary-general of the General Motors Union in Mexico had already heard of Marroquín's case and offered his support.

Other endorsements included Lee Price of the UAW's International Affairs Department; Jeffrey Stansbury, reporter for the UAW's paper *Solidarity*; Local 425 President Michael Pohorence from Lorain, Ohio; Local 259 President Sam Meyers from New York City; and Local 808 President Joe Placentia from Maywood, California.

Requests for more information on Marroquín's case and contributions should be sent to Political Rights Defense Fund, P.O. Box 649, Cooper Station, New York, N.Y. 10003. Checks should be made payable to PRDF and earmarked for the Marroquín defense.

Protest messages demanding the deportation order be dropped should be sent to Alan Nelson, Commissioner, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Washington, D.C. 20536, with copies to PRDF.

Meatpacker 'bankruptcy' aims to bust union

BY DUNCAN WILLIAMS

LINCOLN, Neb. — On April 22 the largest pork processor in the country filed for reorganization under Chapter 11 of the federal bankruptcy laws.

This legal maneuver was not to get Wilson Foods out of debt, but to get the union out of its plants and to break the master contract in pork packing.

There are 6,200 workers at 12 Wilson plants who had been working under a union contract with the United Food and Commercial Workers union (UFCW).

For these workers, their hourly pay is now 60 percent of what it had been. The base wage of \$10.69 an hour was cut to \$6.50, with new hires starting at \$5 an hour.

Wilson Foods claimed the antiunion bankruptcy filing was necessary to combat "onerous" labor costs and to keep up with the competition from other packers.

The company also informed the workers of the following changes: differential pay for night work is 10 cents an hour, rather than 21 cents; maximum vacation is reduced to four weeks a year from six (and then only after 20 years); workers qualify for two weeks' vacation only after five years instead of one; paid holidays are reduced from 11 to 8 a year; overtime will be paid after 10 hours instead of 8; sick pay begins only on the eighth day out; and the guaranteed workweek, company pension payments, and break time are all reduced.

One worker at Wilson's Cherokee, Iowa, plant called it "a dream contract for the company, but not for the working man."

Wilson's move is a bold new step in the drive by meatpacking companies to increase their rate of profit at the expense of the workers' rights and living standards.

During the last several years workers at many packing plants, like workers in other industries, have faced demands for contract concessions on wages, vacation, benefits and working conditions. In some cases they have been forced to accept them. In others, the workers have rejected the concessions, and the owners have closed the plants, forcing thousands of workers onto unemployment lines and devastating the economies of small towns where many plants are located. (At times, plants are shut down even after the workers agree to concessions.)

It is also common for a plant to be shut down and sold (even back to the original owners, under another corporate name) and reopened without a union and with much lower wages.

But Wilson's union-busting approach is new. The meatpacking company is using the ploy first raised by Manville Corp. to avoid possible payments in lawsuits by workers injured by exposure to asbestos.

Wilson simply used the federal bankruptcy laws, which are written and enforced first of all to protect profits, to dump the contract and impose new wages and contract conditions.

This move is aimed not only at the workers at Wilson's plants. Wilson still operated under the master contract in pork packing, which covered 40,000 workers. This contract, which was negotiated in

1981, included a no-strike pledge and a wage freeze. It was supposed to run until 1985.

With Wilson pulling out of the contract, other pork packers will be encouraged to break the contract and impose lower wages and benefits on their employees. This, in turn, will create downward pressure on the wages of all workers in meatpacking.

According to union officials, sentiment for a strike runs high among the workers. "There are some pretty hot people in these plants," an international union official told the press. Reports indicate that workers began to slow down production as the new conditions were imposed. At Cherokee, Iowa, according to Local 179 Financial Secretary Richard Nehring, "They figured if they were going to be paid less, they would put out less. Some were giving 30-40 percent."

The UFCW has announced that it is trying to get the bankruptcy filing thrown out of court, and has filed charges against Wil-

son with the National Labor Relations Board. According to union officials, a strike is under consideration on a "day-by-day" basis. Meanwhile, the union is holding "exploratory" talks with the company.

These talks are continuing, despite an early claim by Wilson spokesman Ron Phillips, reported in the *Lincoln Star*, that the bankruptcy filing means the union "is no longer the bargaining agent for 76 percent of the company's 8,200 employees."

If Wilson succeeds in its use of the federal laws and the courts it will be a serious blow to the workers and their union. The stakes in this unfolding battle are high — for the workers in Wilson's plants, for other meatpackers, for the labor movement, and for all working people.

As one livestock analyst for the brokerage firm Shearson American Express put it, "if [the union] doesn't do something about it, every other packer in the country with a master contract will file for Chapter 11."

Affirmative action and hard times

Continued from Page 3

Journal in a report on the Boston case.

But does that have to be? Is affirmative action only good for the working class in times of prosperity, and divisive when times are rough?

Or is unity of the working class contingent on fighting for the most oppressed in good times and, especially, in bad.

"We believe in the seniority system. We believe it is designed to protect all employees," says Phyllis Frank of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT). The AFT rivals the Reagan administration as the biggest pusher of the "reverse discrimination" line.

Strict seniority?

The idea that layoffs always occur on the basis of strict seniority, of course, is not true to begin with. Many contracts grant union representatives super seniority to protect the union during layoffs. And in the Boston police and fire departments, disabled veterans are not laid off, says Judith Tracy, one of the attorneys working on the affirmative-action side of the case.

The National Education Association (NEA) has a long tradition of supporting affirmative action, and it is the only labor organization that supported the side of affirmative action in the Boston case before the Supreme Court.

"Affirmative action doesn't upset anyone when there are more than enough jobs for everyone," NEA General Counsel Robert Chanin told the *Militant*. "When there is a decreasing job market, you have to make accommodations with seniority."

The Boston teachers provide an example of the interests all workers have in affirmative action. In 1981, Judge Arthur Garrity, who ordered Boston's school desegregation plan a decade ago, ruled that layoffs of Boston teachers could not effect the percentage of Black and Hispanic teachers.

The AFT quickly went to court to overturn this decision. AFT President Albert Shanker argued at the union's 1982 con-

vention, "By destroying the principle of seniority, we destroy something that is color blind."

Although similar to the fire fighters and police suit, the U.S. Supreme Court decided not to review the appeals court decision, upholding the teacher layoff plan. This was presumably because it was related to the plan for desegregating Boston's public schools, which the high court has not yet tampered with.

Teachers under attack

Hundreds of Boston teachers are on layoff, and hundreds more are now receiving layoff notices for next fall. Negotiations for a new teachers' contract are in progress and reportedly the school board is demanding big takebacks.

Now is the time when the AFT needs solidarity and support from one of its potentially biggest allies — the Black community. But it has put a big obstacle in the way of that support by its reactionary campaign against affirmative action.

Similarly, when workers have to fight their unions along with their bosses, as the Black railroad porters did, or women fire fighters in New York City have had to do, it alerts the corporations and government to a weak spot in labor. And it alienates some of the most combative workers — Blacks and women — from their unions. That can only work to the disadvantage of the labor movement.

Strict seniority is not "color blind" when it serves to preserve segregated patterns of employment.

It's true that white, male workers are not responsible for the historical discrimination that has kept women and oppressed minorities out of many jobs. But that's not the point.

The question is, what should unions do to begin to change this pattern of discrimination and in the process take steps to unify the ranks of labor?

The answer has to be consistent support of affirmative action at all times.

THE GREAT SOCIETY

Totally objective — An AP dispatch from Nicaragua reported: "A Nicaraguan patrol boat escorted three American yachts to



Harry Ring

port after a storm nearly beached them during a trip to Costa Rica. One of the captains said today they would soon be on their

way. . . . He said the Nicaraguan authorities treated them cordially [and] they would leave as soon as they obtained diesel fuel." The *New York Times* headlined the story, "3 U.S. Yachts Detained At a Port in Nicaragua."

And people say they don't care — "The Reagan administration has devised new procedures to deal with people who threaten to kill themselves after being told they may lose their Social Security benefits." — News item.

Better than the bible — A New York court ruling gives land-

lords the right to evict tenants who don't have a marriage license or are otherwise legally unrelated. Observed a City University psych prof: "Fear of herpes has forced many people to think twice about infidelity and casual relationships. Maybe this court ruling will cause people to think twice about. . . . whether or not this is a loving, caring relationship."

That could get some votes — When Congress put some apparent conditions on Reagan's Central American war chest, a supporter complained, "We have taken the president, put him in a straitjacket, locked him in a trunk and dropped

him in the river."

Chew on this — A federal appeals court in Atlanta upheld the National Restaurant Association position that hotels and restaurants can pay below the minimum wage by deducting for meals furnished — whether the workers want them or not. The test, the judges held, is if the food is "regularly provided," not if it's "voluntarily accepted."

The walls have ears? — Minutes after Reagan made his Central America war speech to Congress last month, about a hundred feet of stone veneer crumbled off the front of the Capitol where he

spoke.

Makes sense — Durk Pearson and Sandy Shaw are gaining popularity with a book which says you can live significantly longer by gulping down megadoses of "antioxidants." They testify they personally feel not only fitter, but smarter. Their ideas, they say, are proving more valuable. How do they know? "We've been able to sell more of them."

Eat it behind the barn — "You could put it into whipped topping or ice cream." — A plant pathologist trying to develop edible protein from tobacco leaves.

CALENDAR

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

The Struggle to Organize Unions in South Africa. Videotape and presentation. Speaker: Vussi Shangase, California representative, African National Congress of South Africa. Translation to Spanish. Sat., June 4, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. (1 1/2 blocks from Vermont). Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

San Diego

The News Media and El Salvador. Speakers: Alex Drehsler, film maker, photographer, and former reporter for the *San Diego Union*; Sergio Pedroza, KPBS radio station; others. Translation to Spanish. Thur., June 2, 7 p.m. Grassroots Cultural Center, 30th and Grape Sts. Ausp: Benefit for the Second Mexico-U.S. Border Conference in Solidarity With the People of El Salvador, July 2-3 in Tijuana, Mexico. For more information call (619) 232-5009.

CONNECTICUT

New Haven

Rally: U.S. Troops Out of Lebanon, No U.S. Military Aid to Israel, Israel Out of Lebanon, Recognition of the PLO. Sat., June 4, 1 p.m. New Haven Green. Ausp: Middle East Crisis Committee. For more information call (203) 562-0402.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

Why Capitalism Doesn't Work. Young Socialist Alliance Discussion Series. Sat., June 4, 1 p.m. 510 Commonwealth Ave., 4th fl., Kenmore T stop. Ausp: YSA. For more information call (617) 262-4621.

The Roots of Women's Oppression and the Fight Against It. Young Socialist Alliance Discussion Series. Sat., June 11, 1 p.m. 510 Commonwealth Ave., 4th fl., Kenmore T stop. Ausp: YSA. For more information call (617) 262-4621.

MINNEAPOLIS

St. Paul

The Fight to Save Little Earth. Speakers:

Ronald Leith, American Indian Movement; others. Sun., June 5, 4 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

NEW MEXICO

Albuquerque

An Eyewitness Report on Repression in El Salvador and the Role of U.S. Involvement. Speaker: Alejandro Molina Lara, organizational secretary of National Federation of Salvadoran Workers Unions. Translation to English and Spanish. Wed., June 8, 7 p.m. Carpenter's Hall, 1021 Cardenas Dr. NE (near San Pedro and Lomas). Ausp: Coalition for Human Rights in Latin America. For more information call (505) 256-3171.

Video Showing: 'El Salvador — Another Vietnam.' Sat., June 11, 7:30 p.m. 1417 Central NE. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (505) 842-0954.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Film: Case of the Legless Veteran. Tues., June 21, 8 p.m. 350 E 10th St. Donation: \$1.50. Ausp: Film Program in the Assembly.

OHIO

Cincinnati

Nicaragua: Women and the Revolution Today — A Slideshow. Speakers: Kathleen Denny and Nancy Boyasko, Young Socialist Alliance. Sun., June 5, 7:30 p.m. 4945 Paddock Rd. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (513) 242-7161.

OREGON

Portland

The U.S. War Drive and Disarmament. Speaker: Ron Richards, chairman, Young Socialist Alliance. Sun., June 5, 7:30 p.m. 711

NW Everett. Donation: \$1.50. Ausp: Militant Bookstore Forum. For more information call (503) 222-7225.

TEXAS

San Antonio

Nicaragua's Struggle for Peace. Speakers: Brett Merkey and Sandra Cuillery, just returned from May Day visit to Nicaragua. Translation to Spanish. Sun., May 29, 6:30 p.m. 337 W Josephine. Donation: \$1.50. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (512) 736-9218.

UTAH

Salt Lake City

Proposed City Budget: An Attack on All Working People. Speakers to be announced. Fri., June 3, 7:30 p.m. 677 S 700 E. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (801) 355-1124.

Thousands sign for Chicago socialist

Continued from back page

educational opportunities for Blacks, Puerto Ricans, and Mexican-Americans.

The city fathers are also threatening to close 12 elementary schools and parts of three other schools, claiming there is a \$200 million deficit in the Chicago school budget.

Warren called for keeping all these schools open.

Where will the money come from?

"Take the money out of Congress' multi-billion dollar war budget!" said Warren.

"The events in Chicago's mayoral race proved the potential power of an alliance of Blacks, Latinos, and the unions, fighting for our own interests," Warren said.

"This important alliance," he continued, "needs to have as its goal the struggle to sweep away the old government of bankers, billionaires, and employers — the class served by the Democrats and Repub-

licans — and establish a government that defends the interests of workers, farmers, and all the oppressed.

"Our campaign says an important first step in fighting for this is the organization of an independent Black political party as well as an independent labor party based on the trade unions."

Warren's anticapitalist, prosocialist ideas got a good response from this crowd, which included garment workers, members of Black Islamic organizations, and at least one active supporter of Lou Palmer, a candidate for the Democratic Party nomination for the congressional seat.

One participant told the *Militant* she had voted for Washington in the mayor's race but had split her ticket and punched the ballot for the two Socialist Workers candidates for city secretary and treasurer.

Community activist Roger Davenport

asked people to come to a protest in the Black community against the undemocratic and racist maneuvering by the "old guard" on the City Council, which is attempting to prevent Washington from carrying out his campaign pledges of social reforms.

The rally also carried a strong message in solidarity with the people of Nicaragua and El Salvador.

Cesar, a Salvadoran revolutionary, told the rally, "The American working people are the only force that can stop U.S. imperialist intervention in El Salvador."

An appeal for funds for Warren's campaign was made by Marie Head, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Gary, Indiana. Campaign supporters responded generously, donating \$2,100.

Also speaking was Stuart Crome, a national leader of the Young Socialist Alliance.

IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP

Where to find the Socialist Workers Party, Young Socialist Alliance, and socialist books and pamphlets

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

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

CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles: SWP, YSA, 2546 W. Pico Blvd. Zip: 90006. Tel: (213) 380-9460. **Oakland:** SWP, YSA, 2864 Telegraph Ave. Zip: 94609. Tel: (415) 763-3792. **San Diego:** SWP, YSA, 1053 15th St. Zip: 92101. Tel: (619) 234-4630. **San Francisco:** SWP, YSA, 3284 23rd St. Zip: 94110. Tel: (415) 824-1992. **San Jose:** SWP, YSA, 46 1/2 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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, 141 Halsey. 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 Paddock Rd. Zip: 45237. Tel: (513) 242-7161. **Cleveland:** SWP, YSA, 15105 St. Clair Ave. Zip: 44110. 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.

Seattle Metal Trades strike backed by solidarity march



Militant/Dean Peoples
Striking workers, supporters march past Jorgenson Steel, shaking fists and ignoring company cameras.

BY DEAN PEOPLES
AND DAVE GOLDMAN

SEATTLE — On May 6, about 300 people marched through the industrial heart of Seattle to show their solidarity with Metal Trades workers, on strike at 24 shops now for three weeks. The striking workers were joined on the march by their families and workers from other industrial corporations such as Boeing, whose contract expires in October, and Todd and Lockhead shipyards, whose contracts expire in July.

Those on strike include mem-

bers of Boilermakers 104, Machinists 79 and 289, Iron Workers 506, Auto Painters 518, Teamsters 117 and 763, Carbuilders 1368, and Molders 158. A contract proposal by a federal mediator, calling for five to 40 percent wage cuts and big takebacks in benefits and working conditions, was soundly defeated by a vote of 911 to 29.

As the marchers passed the picket lines at Kenworth Truck, they shouted "No concessions!" and "On strike, shut it down!" Going by Isaacson Steel, they

chanted "We Hate Scabs". (Isaacson had let the scabs go at noon, before the march arrived.) Many passing car and truck drivers honked to show their support.

Arriving at Jorgenson Steel, owned by Earl Jorgenson, close friend of President Ronald Reagan, the march was met by a company cameraman operating a video unit from a hoist positioned over the main gate. Early in the strike Jorgenson obtained an injunction limiting the number of pickets at each gate to six.

Undeterred by the company surveillance, the marchers held a spirited rally which was addressed by Ingrid Baur from Machinists Lodge 79.

Steve Gary, a Machinist shop steward at Todd Shipyard, said he felt this march represented a big step forward in building wider community support for the strike. He also pointed out that the march brought together Blacks, Latinos, Native Americans, and Asians, an important step in further strengthening solidarity. A Women's Auxiliary has also been formed.

At a forum on U.S. labor's stake in Central America the evening of the march, Neal Strassman and Ingrid Baur, both from Machinists Lodge 79, gave an update on the strike. They were greeted with a hearty applause from the 90 people who had gathered at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers hall to hear two trade unionists from El Salvador, Fernando Rod-

riguez and Lydia Martínez, and Waldemar Monzón, a Guatemalan unionist.

Strassman said U.S. working people share a common struggle with the people of Guatemala, Nicaragua, and El Salvador because we are all under attack from the employers. He encouraged people at the meeting to volunteer to help out at the strike headquarters, set up more speaking engagements, and contribute food and money. He announced that an All-Union Strike Support Day, coordinated by the Washington State Labor Council, had been called for May 15.

San Diego cops blasted for 'sleeper hold'

BY WALTER CAMERON

SAN DIEGO — Barry Preston, a 23-year-old Black man, was killed on April 30 by a San Diego cop using the so-called sleeper hold. The coroner has ruled that the death was due to "asphyxiation following compression of the neck."

Preston was stopped for driving with a faulty headlight. The cops claim that he was under the influence of the drug PCP and that this made him so violent that the sleeper hold had to be used. But Preston was killed with his hands cuffed behind his back while in a police patrol car just a few blocks from the police station.

The Preston family has rejected the cops' story. The family has retained attorneys Melvin Belli and John Learned to pursue a \$25 million suit against the city of San Diego and Christopher Ball, the cop who applied the hold.

Thirteen organizations including the Urban League, California State Association of Black Lawyers, Black Federation, and the NAACP, issued a statement calling for a full investigation of the death and a moratorium on the use of the sleeper hold. The statement said Preston's death "is the most recent example of police sanctioned terrorism which threatens this community."

On May 6 a picket line was held in front of City Hall. Picket signs read "Your children may be next," "Do away with the death hold," and "Kolendr [San Diego police chief] says it's OK to murder."

On May 14 a community meeting was held at which a broad discussion took place. Some pointed to the example of the civil rights movement that ended Jim Crow segregation as a model of the massive unity in action that is necessary today. Others cited the election of Democrat Harold Washington as mayor of Chicago as an example of how Black people should organize politically to get results.

The discussion of plans for future action included mass participation in a special public hearing on Preston's death to be held at the City Council on May 25, a possible class action lawsuit, and further public demonstrations.

She has 'a radically different view of the issues'

BY RASHAAD ALI

NEW ORLEANS — "On the issues the major candidates seemed to be substantially in agreement [but] a little-known candidate in the gubernatorial race, Michele Smith of New Orleans, offers a radically different view of the issues."

This is how Jack Wardlaw of the major big-business daily the *Times Picayune and States Item* summarized the debate between the four candidates for governor of Louisiana. They were appearing in a televised debate in March before 500 participants at the League of Women Voter's state convention.

Besides Michele Smith of the Socialist Workers Party, candidates in the debate were Republican Gov. David Treen, Democrat and former governor Edwin Edwards, and Democrat Ken Lewis.

In her opening remarks the socialist candidate, who is an oil refinery worker and member of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 4-522, said the most urgent issue facing working people today is the war being waged by the United States in El Salvador. "Working people need to wage an all-out fight against financing the murderous dictatorship in El Salvador and the multi-billion dollar bipartisan war chest of the U.S. rulers," she said.

Taking up the bipartisan attack on working people, Smith pointed out that in Louisiana "the candidates of the Democrats and Republicans proved they were antilabor with the passage of two bills. One was the workers' compensation act that cut benefits to injured workers by more than 20 percent, and the other was a bill that slashed unemployment benefits by more than \$200 million per year.

"These acts," she said, "were pushed by

the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry and sailed through the Democratic-controlled State House and were then signed into law by a Republican, Governor Treen.

"According to the major newspapers for big business in this state, this was the greatest victory since the passage of the 'right-to-work' law that was signed into law by the then governor, Democrat Edwin Edwards.

"This is proof," she said, "that labor has no friends in the Governor's Mansion or State House and that the politicians are owned lock, stock, and barrel by the Louisiana Association of Business and In-

dustry."

She explained that this is why working people need a political organization of our own, a labor party, capable of fighting for our interests and against those of big business.

During the debate the three candidates of big business called for a freeze in state hiring and a reduction in the state work force. Smith pointed out that "at this time when there is massive unemployment, they are talking about more layoffs and not about how to put people back to work.

"This shows to us just how cruel and antilabor all of them are," she said.

"The solution to unemployment is not

very difficult if you are not concerned with the profits of corporations," she said. "Just reduce the workweek to 30 hours to spread the work around and guarantee a living wage for all with no reduction in pay. Take the money now spent on war to provide funds for a massive public-works program capable of employing everyone now out of work."

Answering a question on the use of nuclear power, Treen and Edwards supported building more plants, while Lewis favored a freeze. In contrast, Smith called for immediately shutting down Louisiana's Waterford 3 plant and converting all nuclear plants to coal.

Tom Scharrett: revolutionary and socialist

BY STEPHEN BRIDE

Tom Scharrett, a leading member of the Young Socialist Alliance and Socialist Workers Party in the 1970s, died early this year after a lengthy bout with leukemia.

Tom had been hospitalized in Royal Oak, Michigan, a suburb of Detroit, receiving treatment for the disease. He was 31.

Tom came to the socialist movement from a working-class background: his father worked in a Detroit-area Ford plant. It was in Detroit that Tom became involved in the struggle against the Vietnam War and, in 1969, joined the YSA.

Despite holding a fulltime job, Tom devoted long hours to the activity of the Detroit YSA, particularly in the antiwar movement. This seeming tirelessness was to characterize his years in the YSA and in the Socialist Workers Party, which he also joined in Detroit.

In 1971, Tom moved to Berkeley, California, to help strengthen the party branch and YSA chapter there. He became a central leader of the YSA, eventually serving as organizer of the Northern California region for the YSA, then organizer of the Berkeley chapter.

In 1973, Tom was elected to the YSA National Committee.

Tom moved south, to Los Angeles, in 1974. There, he again took on the task of organizer for the YSA chapter, and later the Southern California region. In both capacities, he was instrumental in helping to recruit a significant layer of students from outlying campuses to the YSA.

He was also instrumental in helping to educate a number of comrades already in

Los Angeles. It was characteristic of Tom that he was willing to hear out almost any idea. Developing confidence in expressing your ideas, he believed, was an important part of developing into a political leader. In this way and others, he had a lasting influence on many who worked with him.

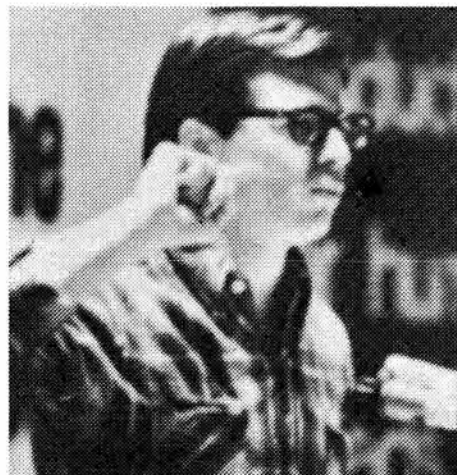
Described by one party member as a "20-hour-a-day man," Tom's commitment to politics seemed, on the surface, to exclude all other interests. Only those closest to him knew of his love for classical and folk music. He was constantly plagued by stomach disorders, and this, along with his own intense nature, made it difficult for Tom to relax.

All this, coupled with a series of personal setbacks, took its toll on Tom. By 1977, he felt he could no longer be politically active. He left the party to pursue a career in music and writing. Those who were in contact with him during this period report he went about it with the same intensity that marked his years in the party.

A year ago, Tom learned he had leukemia: cancer of the bone marrow.

Several months before his death, Tom wrote an article for a Los Angeles newspaper. In it, he pointed to capitalism, which pollutes the air and poisons the food and water, as a major cancer-causing agent. He lashed out at a system that afforded treatment for diseases such as his on a profits-first basis.

Finally, he restated the belief that never left him during his time away from the party: he remained a revolutionary and a socialist.



Tom Scharrett

Militant/Ernest Harsch

Two Nicaraguan women tour U.S.

Yvon Siu and Zulema Baltodano, two leaders of the Luisa Amanda Espinoza — Association of Nicaraguan Women (AMN-LAE) will be touring in the United States in June. The two will be speaking about the progress being made by women in Nicaragua and will be seeking solidarity with the Nicaraguan revolution.

The tentative tour schedule is:

June 4-7	New York City
7-8	Philadelphia
9-12	Washington, D.C.
13	Jackson, Mississippi
13-15	Cincinnati
16-19	Chicago
20	San Francisco
21	Bay Area
22-24	Los Angeles

UAW stand on Central America

At its recent Dallas convention, the United Auto Workers (UAW) adopted a strongly worded resolution demanding a cutoff of all "military and economic assistance to the oppressive regime in El Salvador," and opposing "covert or overt U.S. aid to overthrow the government of Nicaragua." The resolution supports the call for a dialogue and negotiations in El Salvador and urges "a withdrawal of CIA and military involvement in Honduras aimed at harassment of Nicaragua."

This is a welcome step. It represents a further deepening, in the official bodies of the labor movement, of the discussion about U.S. government policy in Central America. It is a stand that should be adopted by other unions on the local and national levels. It is a decision that should be acted on.

At the convention Dennis McDermott, president of the Canadian Labor Congress (the Canadian equivalent of the AFL-CIO), commended the delegates for their decision. Speaking of the issues facing working people, McDermott said, "The national cannot be separated from the international."

There is a growing understanding in the American working class today that the government is carrying out an anti-working-class policy at home and abroad.

In El Salvador, the U.S. government is increasing its military aid to a reactionary regime that imprisons trade union leaders and murders thousands of workers and peasants in cold blood.

At the same time millions of dollars are earmarked to

finance right-wing forces trying to overthrow the government of Nicaragua — a government that has encouraged the growth of trade unions, and seeks to improve the standard of living of workers and farmers.

The UAW convention resolution opens the door for antiwar fighters in the union to seek a broader discussion on this subject in their locals and regional bodies.

UAW meetings in several cities have already heard and discussed presentations by Alejandro Molina Lara, a leader of the Salvadoran trade union federation FENASTRAS, as well as Salvadoran unionists who have fled their homeland and are seeking asylum here in the United States.

The UAW's action should encourage those in other unions to also step up their work in opposition to the U.S. war in Central America. The UAW position, while it is the most forthright stand yet taken by any international union in the U.S. labor movement, simply expresses the sentiment of the great majority of union members.

Another important opportunity to organize antiwar sentiment was also taken up at the UAW convention. The union reaffirmed its decision to participate in the August 27 March on Washington for Jobs, Peace, and Freedom. This demonstration, called by civil rights leaders to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the historic March on Washington in 1963, will be an important chance for auto workers and others to protest the government's war against working people in Central America and here at home.

U.S. to send F-16s to Israel

On May 20 President Reagan announced that Washington will go ahead with the sale of 75 F-16 warplanes to Israel. Reagan's move came just a couple of weeks before the first anniversary of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon — an invasion in which Israel's vastly superior forces, equipped and financed by Washington, slaughtered upwards of 17,000 people and wounded many more.

By sending Israel more of the most advanced fighters in the U.S. arsenal, Reagan — with the full support of Congress — is offering encouragement and support for new acts of aggression by the Israeli rulers against the Arab peoples who are the vast majority in the Middle East.

The State Department's announcement of the sale was accompanied by a stark threat against Syria. "Our heightened concerns about the Soviet challenge in the region — particularly the Soviet supply of the SA-5 integrated air defense system to Syria — make it timely for us to send this notification to Congress now," said State Department spokesman John Hughes.

Washington's stance could hardly be clearer. The Israeli rulers, in the name of "security," can invade and occupy Lebanon, bomb research reactors in Iraq, shoot down Syrian planes over Syrian territory, and maintain its grip on Arab territories seized through war. But when the Syrians attempt to protect their airspace from Israeli attack, this represents a "Soviet challenge."

The proposed agreement between Israel and the Lebanese government installed by Israel and Washington fits into this framework. The Israelis agree to withdraw

their troops from Lebanon — if they can keep some of them there, return at any time, and are guaranteed political and military control over the southern part of the country.

Syria has rejected the agreement, as has the Palestine Liberation Organization. So the U.S.-sponsored agreement on Lebanon has become the pretext for new war threats against the Arab forces standing up to imperialism.

The oppressed Arab peoples of the Middle East know very well that the U.S.-Israeli axis aims to keep them down. This imperialist alliance guarantees the holdings of Big Oil in the region.

The U.S.-Israeli axis is not in the interests of working people inside Israel. They pay in blood and money for the aggression against the Arab peoples that is built into the foundations of the Israeli state. This reality began to be reflected during the war in Lebanon through massive protests within Israel.

Billions of our tax dollars are being spent on aid to Israel and on building military installations in the Middle East — money that should be going for health, education, housing, jobs, and other desperately needed social programs. And at some point, unless this course is reversed, American workers will be called upon to fight and die in the Middle East to protect the profits of Big Oil.

It is the attempt by Washington, in partnership with Israel, to dominate the Middle East that is the real threat to peace.

Neutron bomb threat to N. Korea

The Pentagon is considering placing neutron bombs in South Korea, Jack Anderson reported May 2 in his syndicated column.

"Most Americans probably got the idea that the neutron bomb — the nuclear weapon that kills people but leaves buildings intact — was shelved years ago after running into a storm of outrage," Anderson writes.

"Actually, the Pentagon has been quietly producing neutron warheads since August 1981, when President Reagan gave the go-ahead. This is so despite the fact that our European allies have refused to allow neutron bombs on their territory, Soviet threat or not.

"Military planners know there's another place the tactical neutron bombs could be used effectively: South Korea."

Anderson explains that the inventor of the neutron bomb first conceived of it during the Korean War in considering how to recapture Seoul — the capital of South Korea — from North Korean troops.

The neutron weapons are being stockpiled on U.S. territory, says Anderson. "They can be deployed only with the permission of the country involved. Most likely, South Korea will agree to the deployment of neutron bombs."

The North Korean government has condemned this new threat, which heightens "tension in Korea and gravely threatens peace in Asia and the world."

This is on top of the 39,000 U.S. troops already stationed in South Korea and the deployment there of hundreds of nuclear weapons.

The United States frequently organizes joint "war games" with South Korean troops that simulate invasions of North Korea. The biggest so far began in February of this year with 191,000 military personnel, 73,000 of them U.S. troops. "Team Spirit '83," as it was called, involved the largest number of ground troops of any military exercise ever staged by the Pentagon.

The reason for this show of military strength has nothing to do with "protecting" the South Korean people against attacks from the North.

South Korea is a beach-head for Washington on the Asian mainland. It has great strategic value for U.S. imperialism.

Military threats against North Korea stem from fear that the example of the north — where a revolution has led to gains for workers and farmers — will strengthen the desire of South Koreans to resist foreign occupation, antilabor policies, corruption, and repression.

The South Korean government is one of the most repressive in the world, according to Amnesty International. It is one of the most unpopular, too. It stays in power, like the government of El Salvador, because of U.S. military support.

The interests of American working people are with South Korean workers and farmers, and not with the U.S. government or the South Korean rulers. We should demand that U.S. troops and nuclear weapons be withdrawn from Korea now.

Memorial Day massacre at Republic Steel

BY NANCY COLE

"Memorial Day 1937, when ten were massacred outside the Republic [Steel] plant in South Chicago, stands as one of the darkest days the American workers have ever known," wrote Art Preis in his book *Labor's Giant Step: Twenty Years of the CIO*.

The Little Steel massacre of 1937 is one of the more revealing examples of how far the government of this country is prepared to go to protect the interests of the ruling corporations. It may have no equal in current labor battles, but government violence, in particular police attacks on strikers, remains an active part of the employers' arsenal against the working class. And we will see more of it.

The sitdown strikes of the mid-1930s, more than half of which were for simple union recognition, won big gains for the newly organized CIO (Committee for Industrial Organization, later Congress of Industrial Organizations). The victory of 140,000 General Motors sit-downers in February 1937 had a decisive effect on the negotiations with U.S. Steel, which controlled 40 percent of the basic steel industry. The U.S. Steel contract led to a rush of new members into the Steel Workers Organizing Committee (SWOC) and to a series of new union contracts in the industry.

"There was a negative side to this development," wrote Preis. "The gains of the steelworkers appeared to come from the top. The steelworkers themselves did not have to go through a great struggle to get them and the CIO leadership, the SWOC leaders in particular, never made any attempt to impress on the steelworkers their immense debt to the GM sit-downers."

Five of U.S. Steel's leading competitors comprised the group called Little Steel. They were Bethlehem Steel, Republic Steel, Youngstown Sheet and Tube, Inland Steel, and Weirton Steel. The Little Steel companies decided to wage a determined battle against the steelworkers rather than recognize the union.

On May 26, 1937, the union was forced to issue a strike call for workers at all Little Steel plants except Weirton's.

The initial walkouts were virtually 100 percent effective.

OUR REVOLUTIONARY HERITAGE

Company thugs, deputies, police, and national guardsmen were then mobilized to smash the strike.

The strikers responded with courage, but they were unprepared, having been told by their union leaders that the New Deal public officials were "labor's friends," and that the cops and National Guard were being sent to keep "law and order."

In Pennsylvania, the Democratic governor declared martial law at Johnstown and reopened the plant with state troops.

In Ohio, another Democratic governor sent the National Guard into steel towns to smash picket lines, arrest strikers, and escort scabs into struck mills.

The union called a Memorial Day meeting for May 30 in South Chicago. It was to include a protest parade past the struck Republic plant.

Labor's Giant Step gives the following account: "As the marchers, in holiday mood, crossed a large trash-strewn field in the direction of the Republic plant, they saw a solid line of 200 police drawn across their path. A group of about 300 advanced to the police line and a leader began to talk to the police.

"Suddenly, the police opened fire with tear gas shells. Then, as the marchers broke and began to run in retreat, the police opened fire with their revolvers, sending hundreds of bullets into the panic-stricken crowd.

"The police then charged with swinging clubs and blazing guns, beating down or shooting every laggard. In a couple of minutes, ten lay dead or fatally wounded — every one shot in the back. Another 40 bore gunshot wounds — in the back. One hundred and one others were injured by clubs, including an eight-year-old child."

Union officials' pleas to President Franklin Roosevelt to save the strike brought his retort, "A plague on both your houses!"

"The Little Steel defeat was the first serious setback for the CIO," said Preis.

"It slowed up but did not halt the CIO's drive. The eight unions with 900,000 members that had formed the CIO in November 1935, grew to 32 international unions with a membership of 3,718,000 in September 1937."

Labor's Giant Step by Art Preis is available for \$8.95 from Pathfinder Press, 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014. Please add 75 cents for postage.

New Brazilian film: 'They Don't Wear Black Tie'

They Don't Wear Black Tie. A Brazilian film in Portuguese with English subtitles. Directed by Leon Hirszman.

BY PAUL SIEGEL

The action of *They Don't Wear Black Tie* takes place in 1980 after the Brazilian military dictatorship, faced with massive popular discontent, proclaimed a "democratic opening." The workers took advantage of this

FILM REVIEW

opening to engage in a mass breakthrough that took the dictatorship by surprise.

They Don't Wear Black Tie, which could not have been produced before 1981, is itself a part of this breakthrough. Unmistakably authentic, beautifully acted, and rising to a terrific climax, it won five awards at the Venice Film Festival and best film prizes at festivals in Spain, France, and Cuba.

They Don't Wear Black Tie tells of the workers' upsurge by depicting the family life of a working-class leader. It is a warm but realistic portrait in which the characters and their relationships to each other are gradually revealed.

Otavio, the union leader, good-naturedly and affectionately accepts his wife's loud complaining that the other members of the family only make her work in running the household more difficult. We soon perceive, however, that he is not just a good-natured and loving family man but a courageous, persevering, and seasoned activist who knows how to build the union movement and to organize its struggle.

Romana, his wife, shows herself to be, despite her complaints, stalwart in her devotion. When Otavio is seized by the dreaded secret police, she goes to their headquarters to protest strenuously. In the new circumstances Otavio, who previously would have been imprisoned and tortured, is released after having been roughed up.

Tiào, their son, was brought up by his godparents for three years when his father was in prison and has lived most of his life under the dictatorship. Confused in his values but stubborn in his attempt at independence, he is torn between his admiration for his father and his resolution that his fiancée Maria will not suffer what his mother has gone through.

Although he refused to talk when Otavio sought to communicate with him, he bursts out with an expression of his feelings when Otavio says that the situation of the workers is now better.



Cops beat striking metal workers in scene from *They Don't Wear Black Tie*.

New Yorker Films

His father is so carried away with political enthusiasm, Tiào exclaims, that he does not see the filth in which they are living. The thing to do is to look out for number one, not engage in fruitless struggle.

Tiào's pregnant fiancée Maria is of a new generation of women. She is not confined to the house, as is Romana, but has a job in the metal works factory with Otavio and Tiào. Although she is passionately in love, she surprises Tiào and us when she refuses to obey his order that she not take part in strike activity.

Maria's father also surprises us. At first he seems a worthless old drunk who reviles his daughter for no reason at all. Then we see that he has been demoralized by his joblessness but that he genuinely loves Maria.

Events build up and then cascade upon the family in a relentless series of disasters.

An ultraleftist precipitates a strike for which Otavio knows that the workers are not ready and the union not prepared.

Just after he has got a job, Maria's father drunkenly disregards the orders of a burglar and is killed, leaving Tiào to take care not only of Maria and her unborn baby but also of her sick mother and her younger adopted brother.

Tiào devastates his father when he walks through the

picket lines protected by the police as a strike-breaker. Tiào in turn is devastated when he learns that Maria has been beaten by a plainclothes thug and may have lost her baby.

In an intensely moving scene Otavio tells Tiào that a strikebreaker cannot live in his house. Otavio and Romana are left in deep sorrow at the loss of their son.

The darkness of the conclusion is, however, not unrelieved. The middle-aged couple have each other and their love. They have also Tiào's younger brother. The boy has witnessed the mass funeral procession for Otavio's Black coleader in the union, who was killed by a police agent. Otavio explains to the boy that the leader will be recorded in Brazilian history.

The strike was crushed, but the funeral procession is one of the great demonstrations through which the workers' power has been manifested.

Finally, they have the grandchild Maria will bear, whom Maria tells Tiào she will regard as Otavio's grandchild, not his child.

There is also the suggestion that Tiào may straighten himself out, as he vows to do when he is saying farewell to his mother. "You will learn that it is better to starve among friends than it is among strangers," she tells him. Perhaps he will learn the lesson of working-class solidarity.

LETTERS

The real José Martí

Reagan's speech to right-wing Cubans in Miami on May 20 made a call to arms against the revolutions in Central America and the Caribbean. Gushing about the freedom and opportunities that immigrants have supposedly met in the United States, he had the gall to quote revolutionary Cuban independence fighter José Martí.

To dispel any doubts about Martí's views, let me quote his words in 1894, when the U.S. collaborated with the Spanish monarchy in an attempt to break a strike in Key West, Florida, by Cuban immigrant tobacco workers.

Martí said of the U.S. govern-

ment: "We had seen in them the aspired freedom, the yearned-for republic, the equity and authority of the law, the prestige and emancipation of America; and they terrorize homes, take the bread out of workers' mouths, they imprison innocent men, they drag off to jail those who deliver messages to prison, they demand the gallows in the public square for the Cubans, they display on their chests as an honor the colors (of the Spanish flag) that in the Americas symbolize tyranny."

They, the republicans of America, with the slogan of murder on their chests! They, the sons of a free people, offering the landing ramp to a tyrannical and hypocrit-

cal soldier, asking him for workers (i.e., imported Spanish strike-breakers) to impoverish, and soldiers to humiliate, those who want — as they once wanted — to make a people free! With no love, no charity, no friendship, no gratitude, no respect, no legality — is this the first republic of the world? There is, then, no asylum, even in the first republic of the world, for the peoples that are fleeing from servitude!"

K.M.
Jersey City, New Jersey

More prisons?

The mass media are crying that "crime is on the increase," while

the politicians are trying to convince people that more prisons are the answer.

It's time the masses of society began to place things in the proper perspective. Prisoners are being starved, beaten, and psychologically maimed and this doesn't seem to disturb the consciousness of those who are for building more prisons.

To build more prisons will not eradicate social problems or the mistreatment of countless people behind prison walls.

The more prisons that go up, the more lives that are behind bars, still being threatened.

A prisoner
New York

Correction

An error appeared in *Our Revolutionary Heritage* in the May 27 *Militant*. A Cuban law requiring Cuban oil refineries to refine all imported oil, regardless of its origins, dates from 1938.

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

UAW convention discusses union-busting, layoffs

Continued from back page

The committee report went on to say the U.S. Supreme Court had approved the convention system of electing union officers in 1959. It concluded that the United Mine Workers (UMW) union, which uses the membership referendum, was no more militant nor effective than the UAW.

Some delegates speaking against the referendum implied that the referendum had led to anarchy, not democracy, in the UMW. One even attributed the murder of a candidate for UMW president, Jock Yablonski, to the one-member, one-vote system.

Richard Trumka, president of the miners' union, appeared unexpectedly the fifth day of the convention and gave a hard-hitting vow of support to the UAW in the organizing drives on its agenda.

Although much speculation has been

raised in big-business papers about a change coming to Solidarity House (international headquarters of UAW) with the election of Bieber, there was no discernible difference at the convention in his policy from that of outgoing President Fraser. Bieber said at the convention, "The fact that we have a change in the presidency does not mean the union will make dramatic shifts."

Bieber looks to increased ties between the companies, the government, and labor as the solution for jobless workers and for harmonious labor relations, as did Fraser.

Like Fraser, Bieber advocates passage of reactionary protectionist legislation, a domestic content bill, to solve the problems of laid-off auto workers.

Both put much emphasis on a "new industrial policy" in which the government would help companies to keep producing through grants and tax and trade policies. Conceivably, it would also bail them out

when companies have profit troubles, as with the Chrysler Loan Guarantees.

Neither Fraser nor Bieber voiced any consideration for a proposal that workers enjoy the advances of technology by winning a shorter workweek "as a matter of right, not of luxury."

This proposal was raised in a speech by Bob Rae, a leader of the New Democratic Party, the independent labor party in Canada, which the UAW supports.

Rae's proposal is not a new one to the UAW. The concept of spreading the available work around through a shorter workweek, with no cut in pay, is especially timely now with a quarter of a million auto workers laid-off.

Challenges ahead

Many challenges, and possibly big changes, face the entire union as the convention adjourned. In addition to the Fre-

mont plant and other major auto plants listed earlier, countless auto parts plants in the right-to-work South remain unorganized.

Major aerospace contracts with the UAW, such as Hayes Aircraft and McDonnell Douglas, expire this year. Nine others, including Rockwell and Martin Marietta, expire in 1984.

All the Big Three auto contracts expire in 1984, as well. Many delegates at the convention expect a fight; GM is rumored to be preparing for a strike.

The Caterpillar delegates, who had just ended a 200-day strike, weren't comfortable with the constitution committee's proposal to increase dues money to the international and the locals at the expense of the strike fund. Before the change was approved, it stirred up a lot of discussion. As one delegate from Lorain, Ohio, put it, "If GM has to go out, that \$500 million strike fund will last about 10 minutes."

Auto workers convention discusses challenge of union-busting, layoffs

Delegates demonstrate strong sentiment for embattled Fremont local



Militant/Elizabeth Ziers
UAW convention delegates give standing ovation to Fremont unionists who are fighting for union's existence when assembly plant reopens under GM-Toyota management.

BY ELIZABETH ZIERS

DALLAS — The 3,000 delegates to the United Auto Workers (UAW) 27th Constitutional Convention here May 15-20 took note of all the blows the union has suffered in recent years. In his keynote speech, outgoing President Douglas Fraser told the delegates membership has dropped by 400,000 to 1.1 million, and a quarter-million auto workers are still on indefinite layoff with little hope of recall. Although auto sales have picked up somewhat over last year, they are still 2.4 million off the pace of 1978, the year before the current crisis hit.

Fraser listed all the major auto plants that have no UAW contract in force: Nissan in Smyrna, Tennessee; Honda in Marysville, Ohio; and General Motors-Toyota in Fremont, California.

Fraser continued, "People say, 'Well, you haven't got those workers organized.' First of all, the top priority is to create jobs for Americans, and then we have the obligation to organize those plants."

No specific plans for organizing drives were proposed by Fraser, newly-elected President Owen Bieber, or any other UAW official.

Spark of combativity

The delegation from Local 1364 in Fremont brought a spark of combativity to the convention with their fight against GM's union-busting. GM has combined its money with Toyota to retool the Fremont plant, and it refuses to recognize its contract with workers laid off from the plant a year ago.

"Union-busting must be stopped at Fremont, or it will spread like cancer through the automobile industry," George Nano, Local 1364's shop committee chairman, said in remarks from the floor.

The Fremont delegation wanted the convention to go on record supporting the recall rights of all laid-off Fremont workers in accordance with the UAW contract's seniority clause. They also wanted the convention to go on record demanding that "UAW Local 1364 be given full recognition by GM and Toyota immediately."

They put these demands in a resolution and petitions and brought them to the convention. Other UAW locals in Cleveland, Flint, and Kansas City, as well, have endorsed Local 1364's resolution, and Region 6 (Far West) adopted the resolution.

But the Local 1364 resolution never made it to the convention floor.

Fremont workers were dissatisfied with

the UAW International's vague promises of support in their fight. They organized a floor demonstration against GM's union-busting. They received a spirited standing ovation from all the delegates and observers alike. The buttons the local had been selling to raise money for their fight read "1364 or War" and "1364 — Whatever It Takes." Hundreds of delegates and guests bought and wore them.

The Local 1364 delegates made it clear that their complaint was with GM and Toyota, not the Japanese workers.

Japan Auto Workers Federation President Ichiro Shioji addressed the convention. He said, "Each auto worker laid off is a tragedy to us all. We want the Japanese automakers to recognize the UAW."

El Salvador

Dennis McDermott, of the Canadian Labor Congress, gave a speech in which he commended the delegates for passing a resolution against U.S. aid to and intervention in El Salvador. The same resolution opposed U.S. attempts to overthrow the government of Nicaragua. "National affairs cannot be separated from the international. We saw what happened to the Black Panthers here in this country and then what happened in Chile and then in Nicaragua," said McDermott.

Alejandro Molina Lara, a leader of the trade union federation FENASTRAS in El Salvador, attended a portion of the convention, meeting officers and delegates, thanking them for the stand they had taken against sending U.S. taxpayers' money to the army of El Salvador.

Another significant resolution, which the convention passed unanimously, was on Equal Rights and Opportunities. This resolution established passage of the Equal Rights Amendment as a top priority for the union, and it endorsed the August 27 march on Washington in commemoration of the 1963 march led by Dr. Martin Luther King.

NAACP leader Benjamin Hooks addressed the convention on the third day. He responded to a racist insult to the Black community of South Dallas made by the UAW convention coordinators. Every delegate's packet included a card that warned them to avoid South Dallas. Hooks urged Fraser and all the delegates to not be afraid to come to South Dallas.

Many delegates had been angered at the open racism of the warning, and many made it a point to visit South Dallas before the convention adjourned. UAW vice-pres-

ident Marc Stepp and Secretary-treasurer Raymond Majerus apologized to the delegates and the businessmen of South Dallas for the "mistake."

In his speech, Hooks also noted how heavily unemployment has hit Blacks in the United States, with 50 percent of Black youth out of a job.

Owen Bieber was elected president of the union by acclamation the next day. In his acceptance speech, he reiterated the UAW's support for the demands of the August 27 march: jobs, peace, and freedom. "We'll be in Washington in 1983, and we'll be there 20 years from now, if that's what it takes to combat the forces of racism and discrimination against Blacks and Hispanics and others who have suffered too long."

Bieber received resounding applause from the concession-weary delegates when he said, "We've made our sacrifices. We've given all we're going to give. I hope [GM Chairman] Roger Smith, [Ford Chairman] Phil Caldwell, and [Chrysler Chairman] Lee Iacocca and the others are listening, because I'm deadly serious when I say it's their turn to do some giving."

Issue of democracy

Opposition among the ranks to UAW leadership-endorsed concessions has grown over the last year, resulting in Chrysler workers overwhelmingly rejecting a contract proposed to them last September.

Many of the secondary union officials

expressed the hope in recent months that a referendum, one-member, one-vote system of electing the union president would increase union democracy. They hoped it would make the president more accountable to the ranks and, therefore, less inclined to bargain concessions.

Twenty-three locals brought resolutions to the convention calling for a constitutional change to eliminate election of the president by the convention delegates alone.

The resolution brought to the floor was defeated by a 9-1 ratio although it generated much discussion by delegates.

Out of 28 delegates who spoke under this point, 12 supported the change.

John Field, of Local 595, said he would not "go back to the [shop] floor where people are breaking their backs, and tell them I voted to keep them from having the right to vote."

George McGregor, of Local 15, said, "To have a total and complete democratic union, we must have one-member, one-vote."

In preparation for the discussion and vote on the referendum, the resolutions committee handed out a two-page report describing their opinion of how one-member, one-vote would be bad for the UAW. The committee argued that the increased democracy the referendum would bring was not worth the possibility of "constant factionalism and infighting" and "manipulation by outside sources" that might result.

Continued on Page 15

Thousands sign to put Chicago socialist on ballot

BY JIM LITTLE

CHICAGO — Over 100 people packed into the South Shore YMCA on Saturday night, May 21, for a rally in support of Ed Warren, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress in the 1st Congressional District.

Warren recently ran for mayor here, a race that was won by Democrat Harold Washington, who vacated his congressional seat on the city's South Side when he took office.

Warren's only contenders in this election are several Democrats, all vying for their party's nomination in the July 26 primary.

The Chicago mayoral election opened up a big discussion among Blacks, Latinos, unionists, and other working people in this city and nationally about what kind of political action they should take in order to deal with the serious problems of unemployment, war, racism, and discrimination against women.

Warren's campaign supporters were very much a part of these discussions as they spent May 21 talking to as many people as they could about the socialist alternative in this election.

On that Saturday alone, Warren's supporters from that district collected 6,500 signatures on petitions to win ballot status for Warren. This pushed the total number of signatures collected so far to over 10,000, assuring that Warren will meet the June 6 deadline with more than the 9,692 valid signatures necessary.

Scores of supporters from around the region helped campaign by passing out some 10,000 campaign platforms and selling

copies of the *Militant*.

Many neighborhood residents who learned about the socialist campaign during the day showed up at the rally at night.

Ed Warren was the main speaker.

Warren put forward the socialists' program to meet the crisis facing working people in Chicago.

Warren pointed out that while studies show Chicago is the most racially segregated city in the country, the courts just threw out a lawsuit by the NAACP opposing a "voluntary" desegregation plan, which would actually maintain segregation.

"I support a cross-district busing program to achieve real school desegregation immediately," Warren said, as an important step toward equalizing and upgrading

Continued on Page 12



Militant/Holbrook Mahn
Ed Warren, socialist candidate for Congress from Chicago.