

U.S.-backed terrorists bomb Nicaraguan port

BY JANE HARRIS
AND MICHAEL BAUMANN

CORINTO, Nicaragua, Oct. 12 — The counterrevolutionaries' attack on petroleum facilities here — by far the greatest act of sabotage against the Sandinista revo-

Exclusive on-the-scene report from our news bureau in Managua, Nicaragua.

lution so far — came close to destroying this port town, 100 miles northwest of Managua.

The *contras*, as the antigovernment counterrevolutionaries are called here, entered Nicaragua's main port near midnight October 10 in a high-speed launch. They fired rockets on a diesel storage tank, and made a quick getaway, eyewitnesses told the *Militant*.

Before the fire was contained, a day and a half later, it claimed four storage tanks, 1.6 million gallons of diesel fuel, and what fire fighters describe as "incalculable millions of dollars of damage." Fortunately, no lives were lost.

Had it not been for the mobilization of fire fighters from across the country and emergency international assistance many of the 25,000 Corinto residents could have easily lost their lives. Virtually the entire town was evacuated to prevent such a possibility.

Fire fighting equipment and specialists flown in from Mexico, Colombia, and Cuba helped bring the blaze under control before it reached nearby aviation-fuel tanks.



Counterrevolutionary attacks against the Nicaraguan revolution are escalating. In addition to serious damage to oil storage facilities, the Managua International Airport (above) was bombed last month.

Townpeople explained to the *Militant* that organization and tremendous combativity were the key weapons against the horrifying blaze.

"When the Mexicans arrived, they thought it would take 15 days to put the fire out," recalled fireman Santiago Vendell, who had traveled 110 miles to help out. "We told them no more than three days — and we did it in 36 hours with water alone."

"How was that possible?" we asked. "Because here in Nicaragua we love our country and we don't tire out easily. We just kept on working," Vendell explained. Residents, reentering their city, ex-

pressed amazement at the rapid work of the fire fighters. Many, like telecommunications worker Esperanza Mayorga, thought it was all over for Corinto — and it almost was according to many fire fighters interviewed.

Mayorga explained that civil defense brigades were organized two years ago because "we knew that at any moment they [the imperialists] can come and we've been ready."

As far as responsibility for the crime is concerned, militiaman Germán Garay explained: "The people of Nicaragua aren't

Continued on Page 5

Unions join Nov. 12 Salvador protest

BY OLGA RODRÍGUEZ

NEW YORK — The November 12 march on Washington, D.C., to protest the U.S. war in Central America and the Caribbean has won important support from the New York labor movement. At its October 3 meeting, the New York Area Labor Committee in Support of Democracy and Human Rights in El Salvador voted to endorse the November 12 march and to help mobilize area labor participation in the demonstration.

The New York labor committee is made up of 30 unions, including the United Auto Workers Union; Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU); District Council 37 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; and District 1199, National Union of Hospital and Health Care Workers.

As part of building trade union participation in the November 12 action, the labor committee is sponsoring an important educational program on Central America November 3.

Among those speaking at the event is Dave Dyson, a leader of the National Labor Committee and a staff representative of ACTWU. Dyson was one of seven U.S. labor leaders who traveled to El Salvador last summer, and he will report at the November 3 meeting on the findings of the U.S. labor delegation on the situation confronting Salvadoran labor unions.

The activity will take place at 5:30 p.m. in the ballroom of the national headquarters of ACTWU, 15 Union Square West, New York.

The New York labor committee sent a mailing to area unions urging their participation in the Washington action. For further information contact the New York Area Labor Committee in Support of Democracy and Human Rights in El Salvador, c/o Headwear Joint Board ACTWU, 49 W. 37th St., 7th floor, New York, N.Y. 10018.

Several campus teach-ins, including on November 5 at Hunter College and October 27 at City College of New York, are scheduled to build support for the November 12 action. Public forums in the Puerto Rican and Black communities are also planned.

An event that will aid in turning out trade unionists for the march is the October 22-26 New York-New Jersey tour of Salvadoran trade union leader Sonia Galán. Galán is the former president of the textile workers union of El Salvador and a member of the Salvadoran trade union federation, FENASTRAS. She will be the featured speaker at a public meeting October 22 at St. John's Church, W. 31st St., between Seventh and Eighth avenues.

Organizations active in the New York November 12 coalition are helping to promote Galán's tour and to build the November 3 labor committee activity. A labor outreach committee of the New York November 12 Coalition is also organizing to help get trade union resolutions of support for the demonstration adopted, as well as urging local unions to provide buses for their members to attend the demonstration. The labor outreach committee, together with the New York area labor committee is helping to get labor signers on an ad for the *New York Times*.

For further information contact: November 12th Coalition, P.O. Box 50131, Washington, D.C. 20004; (202) 347-5516. For information on New York activities, New York November 12 Coalition, 339 Lafayette Street, New York, N.Y. 10012; (212) 505-8493.

Va. shipyard workers defend union

BY GEOFF MIRELOWITZ

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. — An important battle is shaping up here at the Tenneco Corp.'s giant shipyard. Workers are mobilizing in support of their union, Local 8888 of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA). The USWA is defending itself from the company and its agent, the Peninsula Shipbuilder's Association (PSA).

On a recent visit to the yard signs of this were all over. At lunch time hundreds of workers pour out of the 50th Street gate, one of many where more than 18,000 workers clock in and out of the yard that sprawls for miles across the waterfront. Union buttons are everywhere: "Vote USWA," "Join USWA," "Member USWA." Many workers sport steelworker hats.

Later, at shift change time, there is again a sea of workers coming in and out of the gate. Many are Black and most are young. At the entrance is a crew of union organizers. Some are full-time staff people sent in by the USWA's international organizing department. Most are members of Local 8888's Volunteer Organizing Committee (VOC). They give out more buttons left and right.

"You're looking good," says one organizer to a worker coming in for the afternoon shift. He's already wearing three union buttons, but takes another and adds it to his hat. The scene is not uncommon, as many workers show their strong support for the union the same way. Other workers take buttons for the first time.

"It's a fight, but we'll be alright," one volunteer organizer told the *Militant*.

The fight is the union representation election scheduled for October 27. On that day workers in the yard will vote on whether to stick with the USWA or return to the PSA, the old and discredited company union.

Five years ago to the day, on Oct. 27, 1978, the National Labor Relations Board certified that the USWA had successfully ousted the PSA in a union representation election. This victory was the result of a prolonged fight led by hundreds of rank-and-file workers in the original USWA Volunteer Organizing Committee.

As it turned out, that day only marked

the end of the first stage in what turned out to be the most important union organizing battle of the decade. The company refused to recognize the USWA, and in January 1979 the union went out on strike.

The chant "Eighty-eight! Close the gate!" became a cry that inspired militant workers across the country. From the steel mills of Pittsburgh, Gary, Baltimore and elsewhere, from the iron ore mines of Minnesota, and from many other plants organized by the USWA, steelworkers boarded buses and traveled to Newport News to express their solidarity. Workers

Continued on Page 8

Big political battle shaping up in disruption suit against SWP

BY JOHN STUDER

LOS ANGELES — A crucial hearing for political rights is scheduled October 24 in federal court here. At that time Judge Mariana Pfaelzer will hear arguments on a motion filed by the Socialist Workers Party to hold the Los Angeles law firm of Fisher and Moest financially liable for helping orchestrate a four-year-long disruption and harassment campaign against the party in the guise of a lawsuit.

A major political battle is shaping up around the hearing. On the one side is the party, defended by the Political Rights Defense Fund (PRDF) and a growing number of unionists; Black, Latino, and women's rights fighters; and defenders of civil liberties.

On the other side stands Fisher and Moest and their client, Alan Gelfand, himself a lawyer employed by Los Angeles County. They are supported by a peculiar array of lawyers defending the "independence" of the legal fraternity and immunity for lawyers who use suits to harass and vilify groups such as the SWP.

This lawyers' mobilization in defense of Fisher and Moest has a distinctly rightist component to it, drawing on lawyers who earn large sums defending the "First Amendment rights" of "adult movie theater" operators and reactionary organizations such as the Reunification Church of Reverend Moon. Fisher and Moest itself has the Moon church as one of its main

Continued on Page 2

Big battle shapes up in disruption fight

Continued from front page

clients. The Moon church is a right-wing political outfit that sent squads of its members to try to physically disrupt antiwar demonstrations and used its massive resources to rally support for the reactionary regime in South Korea.

Adding his voice to these rightist forces in the legal fraternity is Michael Tigar, a well-known lawyer and ex-radical. It is precisely Tigar's past radical credentials — for instance he coauthored the book *Law and the Rise of Capitalism* published in 1977 by Monthly Review Press — that makes his support of Fisher and Moest valuable to them. It plays the same role as a radical past does for Ronald Radosh, who is attempting to cash in on that past today by prop up his reactionary contention that the Rosenbergs were indeed guilty.

Meeting this reactionary mobilization head-on is a fight with high stakes. At issue is the basic right of the party — and all voluntary political associations — to function free from attempts by right-wing opponents and greedy lawyers to use the courts to harass, financially drain, and possibly destroy them.

Disruption case

In 1979 Gelfand was expelled from the SWP after he filed court papers accusing the party of being a front for the FBI and CIA. In collaboration with a London-based outfit known as the Workers Revolutionary Party (WRP) and its U.S. affiliate, the Workers League (WL), Gelfand then sued the SWP.

He asked Judge Mariana Pfaelzer to order him reinstated into membership and removed the elected party leadership. Bankrolled with unlimited funds from the WL-WRP, Gelfand and Fisher-Moest used the case to pry into the lives and beliefs of party members and to smear and vilify the party. The financial drain on the SWP was immense, as was the diversion of the party's energies needed to defend itself.

Despite the fact Gelfand and his lawyers never produced a single shred of evidence to back up their slanderous accusations, Pfaelzer repeatedly refused to dismiss the case. Her aim was to take advantage of the Gelfand-Fisher-Moest suit to attempt to establish the power of the federal courts to investigate and supervise the internal activity and decisions of the SWP and other political groups that oppose government policies.

Fake case exposed

The SWP and PRDF mobilized a nationwide campaign of protest, organizing protest messages from unionists and civil-rights fighters, women's rights activists, and defenders of the First Amendment to condemn Pfaelzer's use of the court to permit this harassment case to continue. This campaign had a large impact. When the case finally went to trial in March 1983, the judge was forced to rule decisively in favor of the SWP defendants. She told Gelfand's lawyers, "You have not proved anything that you said you were going to prove. Nothing."

"The whole aura of fact in here leads me to question the motivation for the lawsuit," she continued. "If I had been presented with one single piece of evidence that would indicate that these people [the SWP members] are agents of the government, that would be an entirely different matter. I haven't a single piece of evidence given to me, and I am deeply disturbed about this, deeply, because, after all, the political process is an important thing and it must be protected."

In the face of the public defense campaign waged by PRDF, and the fact that Gelfand's sham case collapsed of its own weight at the trial, Pfaelzer was compelled to rule in favor of the SWP and announce that she would favorably consider a motion by the SWP to force Gelfand to pay the legal fees and expenses the party had to shell out.

SWP files motion for costs

On April 28, the SWP filed a motion with the judge, arguing that the party, having been vindicated in court, be repaid all its costs and attorneys fees. But the party is asking that Gelfand's lawyers, not just Gelfand himself, be made to pay.

Whether all of the shysters at Fisher and Moest were politically committed to the anti-SWP wrecking operation, or were doing it only for the handsome fees they raked in, makes no difference. Perhaps their anticommunist "principles" coincided with their financial interests. Whatever their precise motivations, they enriched themselves to the tune of hundreds of thousands of dollars by carrying out this assault on the First Amendment rights of the SWP.

Holding Fisher and Moest financially liable is critically important for two reasons. First, it will serve to deter other lawyers from using similar tactics against working-class organizations in the future, whether out of pure greed or reactionary political goals.

Second, it will make it possible that the SWP may actually be able to recover some or all of the money it has been robbed of. The case was set up from the beginning to make Gelfand himself "judgment proof" — he has no financial interests in his own name — so that any costs assessed against him will be uncollectable. Fisher and Moest's money is collectable.

Lawyers mobilization

September 30 was the deadline for Fisher-Moest to file their response to the SWP's motion for fees. Their answer was accompanied by a mobilization of support from an array of lawyers. In addition to an affidavit from Tigar, who explains "I do expect to send a bill for my services to plaintiff's law firm," "Friend-of-the-Court" briefs were filed by the California Attorneys For Criminal Justice and a group calling itself the First Amendment Lawyers Association.

These lawyers are connected by a common dedication to protecting the legal fraternity from any liability for conducting law suits to harass and smear groups like

the SWP. They are also shot through with reactionary political connections.

All of these attorneys claim to be partisans of civil liberties, but this does not stand up to scrutiny. Fisher and Moest themselves claim that "our principal specialty is in First Amendment and civil rights litigation." But their clientele — based on Moon's right-wing outfit, other religious sects like the Hare Krishnas, and pornographers — puts the lie to this claim.

The "First Amendment Lawyers Association" is a national group of 125 lawyers bound by common involvement in defense of the interests of pornographers.

At the core of Fisher and Moest's arguments and those of their supporters, is the contention that lawyers cannot be held financially accountable to victims of such harassment lawsuits. Underlying this claim is the reactionary view that somehow the courts are "neutral" and float outside the real world class conflicts between the bosses and labor, the exploiters and all of the oppressed.

The Friend of the Court brief filed by the First Amendment Lawyers Association, the specialists in defending pornographers, states, "The courtrooms of this country are one of the few places left in the free world where people can confront their problems and resolve them in a peaceful manner." Try to tell this to workers forced on strike when "free world" courts "peacefully" slap injunctions on their picket lines and jail their leaders while the bosses bring in scabs to break their strike.

Fisher and Moest argued their own case, complete with reference to the hero of British imperialism, Winston Churchill: "Fisher and Moest met its ethical responsibility [that is, advanced Gelfand's disruption case], and in doing so, it no doubt imposed burdens. But that is the price of the clash of facts and law inherent in court proceedings. To paraphrase Churchill on democracy, litigation is the worst system for resolving disputes devised by the wit of man, except for all the others."

Tigar's efforts to use his radical past to lend cover to these reactionary views leads him to state, "I conclude, therefore, that the routine or unconsidered use of these sanctions against law firms would significantly diminish plaintiffs' access to legal service. . . ."

The First Amendment Lawyers Association concludes, "The lawyers of this country cannot allow themselves to be intimidated by courts that attempt to shackle

them with court costs because it is believed they have abused our legal process. This practice must be halted or our profession will lose much of its independence and dignity." As long as the "dignity" of the legal fraternity — and their checkbooks — is intact, it is just too bad if the Socialist Workers Party, or any other group protesting government policies, is harassed or bankrupted by right-wing opponents.

These arguments are both reactionary and false to the core. The courts are not some "neutral" arena, nor a particularly good place for workers and the oppressed to look for justice. This is the bitter experience today for workers at Continental Airlines, which is using a court bankruptcy fraud to slash jobs and wages.

The concept that lawyers in general should never be held accountable when they use the courts to harass, slander, or attempt to destroy a working-class organization is deeply dangerous to democratic rights. In the Gelfand case, which the court has already been forced to recognize as a conscious fraud from beginning to end, the idea that Fisher and Moest should be free to close their leather attaché cases and walk away from their four-year disruption campaign without being called to order would give a green light to others to engage in similar victimizations.

Support needed for hearing

The key factor in the victory for democratic rights won in the trial last March was the massive public support campaign. Prominent individuals and organizations in the labor, civil rights, and women's rights movements and supporters of civil liberties lent their support to the fight to defend the right of political organizations to function free from harassment and court interference. That same type of support is equally important in meeting the mobilization of the lawyers on behalf of Fisher-Moest.

The Political Rights Defense Fund is organizing this ongoing public campaign. They are organizing a public rally in Los Angeles on October 23 (see page 16) and are urging people to fill the courtroom for the hearing on October 24 at 10 a.m. in Pfaelzer's court at 312 N. Spring St.

PRDF is asking people all across the country to speak out against the lawyers' reactionary mobilization and to send messages of support for the SWP's stance in defense of political rights to be read at the rally.



Alan Gelfand (at right) and Robert Moest at March 1983 trial

Militant

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 _____

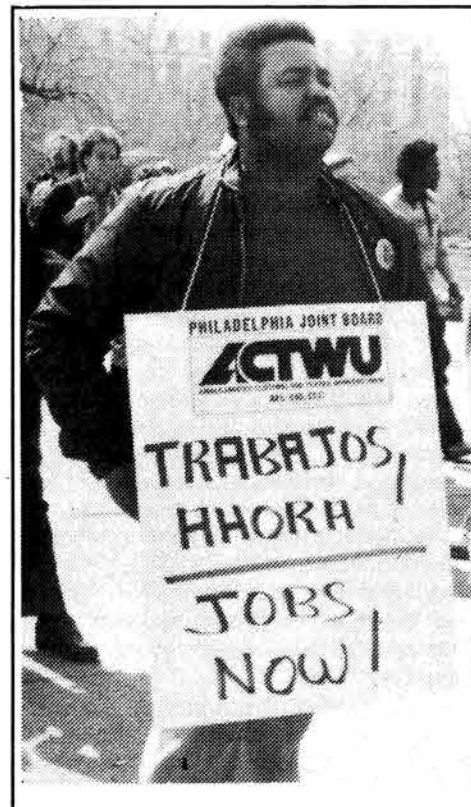
Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone _____

Union/Organization _____

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



The Militant

Closing news date: October 12, 1983

Editors: CINDY JAQUITH
DOUG JENNESS

Business Manager:
LEE MARTINDALE

Editorial Staff: Connie Allen, William Gottlieb, Arthur Hughes, Margaret Jayko, George Johnson, Malik Miah, Geoff Mirelowitz, Mohammed Oliver, 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.

Legal lynching of Brink's trial defendants

BY CINDY JAQUITH

A legal lynching is taking place in New York State.

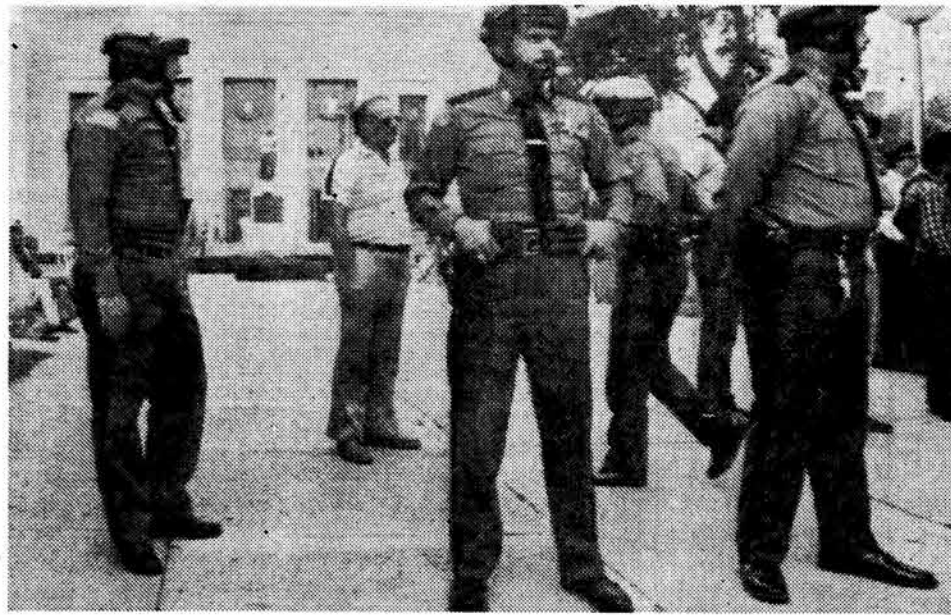
Through the trials of the people accused in the 1981 Brink's armored car robbery, the federal and state governments have unleashed a broadside attack on democratic rights. Their goal is not only to deny the current defendants the right to a fair trial, but to set new precedents that further strip away the constitutional rights of all defendants and prisoners, especially those who are political activists.

In the most recent trial, the state of New York convicted David Gilbert, 40; Judith Clark, 33; and Kuwesi Balagoon, 36; of murder and robbery in the 1981 Rockland County, New York, holdup. Two cops and a Brink's guard were killed during the robbery attempt.

On October 6, the defendants were each slapped with three consecutive terms of 25 years in jail. None will be eligible for parole until they serve their 75 years, meaning they have been locked away for the rest of their lives.

These barbaric sentences didn't satisfy Rockland County District Attorney Kenneth Gribetz, who said, "We're upset, frankly, [that] there's no death penalty. Our goal is to see that these people, who have contempt for society and have shown no remorse, will never see the streets of society again."

Toward that end, Gribetz and Judge David Ritter collaborated to deny the three



Cops created atmosphere of intimidation during federal and state trials of Brink's defendants, whose cases are important for all political activists.

defendants as many rights as they could in the course of the trial.

Gilbert, Clark, and Balagoon were tried by an all-white jury. They got life in prison despite the fact the state never produced a single witness identifying them as the killers of the guard and two cops.

The state organized a major effort to convince the population of Goshen, New York, where the trial took place, that the

defendants were dangerous criminals. The town was turned into an armed camp. Police deputies brandishing rifles stood guard daily on the courthouse roof. The defendants were brought to the trial each day in a convoy of police cars, sirens screaming. In the courtroom, they were shackled hand and foot.

The Goshen trial is the second in the Brink's case. In September another group

of defendants were tried on federal charges stemming from the robbery. Two were convicted on conspiracy and racketeering charges, two on lesser charges, and two acquitted of all charges.

Another defendant, Kathy Boudin, is accused of murder in the Brink's case and has also faced victimization. She is currently scheduled to go on trial November 7 in Goshen. Her attorneys asked to have the trial site moved because of the prejudicial publicity and behavior of the prosecution in the town. But on October 6, a five-judge panel of the New York State Court of Appeals rejected changing the trial location.

Currently Boudin is to be tried together with Samuel Brown, who turned informer against the other defendants. This is a further outrageous violation of Boudin's right to a fair trial.

The 40-year-old woman has been in prison for almost two years, despite the fact that she has never been tried or found guilty of any of the charges she faces. The conditions in the Orange County Jail where she is currently incarcerated are abominable.

Until the first week of October, Boudin was denied the right to be housed along with the general prison population. She was not allowed to have any communication with other inmates, except codefendant Judith Clark. When several male prisoners broke this ban on human contact by saying "hello" to Boudin through a window, they were promptly locked in their cells as punishment.

Boudin's visitors suffer extreme intimidation. She and David Gilbert, to whom she is married, have a three-year-old son named Chesa. When Chesa visits Boudin, three prison guards stand behind him in a threatening manner. A telephone warns the child if he moves about in the visiting room.

Eleanor Brussel, a 77-year-old woman who brings Chesa to the prison for visits, was subjected to a strip search recently when her artificial hip set off a metal detector.

The truly inhumane conditions imposed on the Brink's defendants have evoked little public protest, unfortunately. It is dangerous to allow government officials to whack away at civil liberties as they are doing in this case.

The prosecution and judge have insisted that politics have nothing to do with the proceedings. It's a straight criminal case, they argue. "This is not a trial of political beliefs," said Judge Ritter. "It is not a trial of racism." He made this argument as he was overruling statements by the defendants on their support for Black liberation and their opposition to imperialist war and capitalism.

There can be no question that these prosecutions are political down to the last detail, carried out with a particular hatred for radicals who became active in the anti-Vietnam War and Black nationalist movements of the 1960s.

The Brink's defendants come from that generation of radicals. While most people who oppose the U.S. government strongly disagree with the political strategy that led to the Brink's robbery, that is not the issue here. The sweeping assault on democratic rights is.

Equally outrageous is the hypocritical mantle of morality and concern for life in which the government has wrapped itself.

Advocating the stiffest possible punishment, Prosecutor Gribetz charged that the Brink's holdup was "uncivilized and barbaric." He branded defendant Gilbert a "social misfit and common criminal" and Black codefendant Balagoon a "common thug."

In capitalist society, such "misfits" get locked away for good, if not legally murdered — unlike the "civilized" people who drop atom bombs, napalm children, and lynch Blacks.

Who will be the next "social misfit" the capitalists condemn to death or lifetime imprisonment? A unionist on strike against uncivilized work conditions? A demonstrator against the barbaric U.S. wars in Central America and Lebanon? A Black who defends himself from cop violence?

All supporters of democratic rights should speak out forcefully against the injustice of the Brink's case and unite to demand the defendants' right to a fair trial.

KAL downing: more Reagan lies exposed

BY MOHAMMED OLIVER

Within hours after the September 1 downing of Korean Air Lines (KAL) Flight 7, President Reagan protested "the Soviet attacks on an unarmed, civilian passenger plane." He expressed "revulsion" at this "appalling and wanton misdeed."

On October 6 a State Department aide went further by saying, "It is just as abhorrent to shoot down an unarmed reconnaissance plane."

The latest State Department statement came in the wake of damning evidence — revealed by the government's own secret police — that puts the lie to the White House version of the jet's downing. In a front-page article, the October 7 *New York Times* reports that after reviewing the intercepted radio and radar signals for five weeks, U.S. intelligence experts found that the Soviet Union's air defense thought it had shot down a U.S. spy plane. The Soviet government said, soon after the September 1 downing of the jetliner, that its fighter pilots had stopped a U.S. reconnaissance plane from further "penetrating the Soviet Union's airspace."

President Reagan, however, was saying to the American people, "There is no way a pilot could mistake this [jet] for anything other than a civilian airliner." The U.S. delegate to the United Nations, Jeane Kirkpatrick, said, on September 7, that the tapes she presented to the UN Security Council established "that the Soviets decided to shoot down a civilian airliner, shot it down, murdering the 269 people on board, and lied about it."

But it was Kirkpatrick and the other U.S. government officials who were lying. Their lies immediately began to unravel.

- Washington claimed, at first, that the Soviet fighters fired on the air liner without warning. The White House now admits that the Soviet Union's defenders fired warning shots.

- The U.S. government denied having a spy plane near Sakhalin Island, where the jet was shot down. Washington now acknowledges that a RC-135 reconnaissance plane was nearby and had crossed flight paths with the KAL aircraft. This would have confused the two planes on radar.

- The Reagan administration claimed that the Soviet fighters flew alongside the KAL plane and could see that it was a Boeing 747 passenger plane. The truth is that in the air it is difficult to distinguish an RC-135, which is a modified Boeing 707, from the Boeing 747.

Moreover, Reagan was lying about the Soviet defenders being alongside the KAL flight. Reagan's own intelligence experts now say that the Soviet fighter that downed

the KAL jet was below and behind the plane. There is no way the Soviet pilot could have known the plane he was shooting at was a passenger jet.

Given that an RC-135 was known to be in the area and that the KAL jet was refusing to heed warning shots, Soviet defenders assumed the aircraft they were tracking was a spy plane.

Yet, U.S. government officials say all these revelations make no difference. "It's just as abhorrent" to shoot down a spy plane, they say.

The logic of this assertion is that imperialist military forces have the right to violate Soviet airspace with impunity. Where does this end? Should U.S. spy

ships and other war vessels be permitted to freely enter the Soviet Union's territorial waters? Do imperialist troops have the right to cross Soviet borders without being fired on?

This logic is consistent with Washington's record of harassment, provocations, and military threats against the USSR. Since October 1917, when the workers and peasants of Russia overthrew the Tsar and capitalist rule, world imperialism has sought to overturn the gigantic gains working people have made there. And the Soviet Union has the right to defend these social conquests from any threats, including reconnaissance planes regardless of their form or shape.

Calif. unionist framed on arson charge

BY SAM MANUEL

SEASIDE, Calif. — Ken Collins, a banquet set-up person at the Hyatt-Delmonde, was arrested here by the Monterey Peninsula police. He is being framed up on a charge of "attempted arson." Collins, who is Black, is a member of the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Local 483, AFL-CIO. It is the largest union on the peninsula. He was the picket captain at the Hyatt during the hotel workers' strike last year.

Collins is also a leader of the Seaside chapter of the Young Socialist Alliance and recently joined the Socialist Workers Party.

On the evening of October 5, Collins and a coworker discovered a smoldering fire in a storage room in which they had both been working earlier. Collins put out the fire and reported it. Several minutes later management arrived along with hotel security. After answering some questions, Collins was told he should return to work.

His coworker was further questioned by Robert Keller, head of Hyatt security. Collins' coworker reported that during the questioning Keller asked him several times if Collins had started the fire.

Later that evening the Monterey cops came by and demanded that Collins come to the police station to answer questions. Informed that he was not under arrest, Collins told the cops that he could answer their questions right where he stood. At that point he was handcuffed and thrown into a police car. He was not charged, nor was he informed of his rights.

At the police station Collins was held for five hours without any charges. When Collins asked if he could make a telephone call, Detective Ed Smith told him he would

be allowed to do so only after he answered the cops' questions.

During the interrogation Smith grilled Collins on his attitude towards the Hyatt management and his union activities. At the end of the questioning, Smith asserted that Collins had started the fire and that he could prove it. Smith, however, refused to state his proof and informed Collins that he had been charged with "attempted arson." Collins faces a minimum of 16 months in prison. The maximum penalty is three years imprisonment and a \$50,000 fine.

This is the second "suspicious" fire at the Hyatt. The first occurred last year shortly after the strike. Collins reported both fires. In an earlier frame-up attempt, the same Detective Smith interrogated Collins about the fire and the strike. When Collins asked what the strike had to do with the fire, Smith answered "I'm just trying to establish motive."

In the case of the first fire, management of the hotel decided to let the fire burn. In both cases the buildings in which the fires occurred were scheduled to be torn down as part of the hotel's remodeling plan. In the first fire, the remains of the building were bulldozed by the Hyatt in spite of a standing investigation by Monterey fire marshals.

At a campaign rally in San Jose for Socialist Workers Party candidates for school board, Collins explained, "This is an attempt to frame me up because of my union and political activities. It is therefore an attack on every member of my union. I intend to fight back relying on and mobilizing the support of the members of my union and others in the labor and antiracist movement to expose and halt this frame-up."

Salvadoran unions mobilize workers

BY MARGARET JAYKO

A new round of urban-workers struggles against the U.S.-backed regime in El Salvador has begun. Strikes and other protest activities have occurred in the capital city of San Salvador demanding:

- Wage increases. With food prices increasing at a rate of 300-400 percent, wages have remained frozen since 1980. Unemployment is upwards of 40 percent.

- The continuation and enforcement of the 1980 land reform law.

- The right of unions to function free from government repression. Most importantly, unionists want an end to the murders and kidnappings of unionists by ultrarightist death squads. These squads are creatures of the army that function with impunity. They have escalated their terror recently. Several union leaders and members have been assassinated, and 100 "disappeared" in the last month.

- That the government accept the offer of the Revolutionary Democratic Front-Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FDR-FMLN) for a dialogue to end the civil war and achieve peace with social justice.

At the end of August, workers at the Urban Housing Institute (IVU), a state-owned construction company, began a work stoppage. This strike has since spread to three other government institutes and the banks, according to one of the FMLN's radio stations.

The IVU workers earn about \$2.50 per day and are demanding a 25 percent wage increase, a \$250 biyearly bonus, and the right to organize.

They are also demanding the return of the union's secretary-general, Rosendo Mejía, one of three heads of major unions who were kidnapped at the end of September. Mejía turned up in police custody after being abducted by armed men in civilian dress.

"The government has refused to negotiate with us," says acting union director Esteban González. "We have written letters to the Ministry of Labor, Ministry of Public Works, President [Alvaro] Magaña, and the Constituent Assembly for help in resolving the dispute, but no one has answered."

Miguel Angel Villabos, IVU's president, told the workers they don't have the right to organize because they work for the government. "The government is your union," he told them.

The IVU union used to be a member of FENASTRAS (National Federation of Salvadoran Workers' Unions). FENASTRAS helped organize the last general strike in 1980. After that strike, FENASTRAS was outlawed and its leaders imprisoned.

FUSS leader murdered

The massive workers' struggles of 1979-80 were crushed by government terror. From 1979-81, 8,239 unionists were either murdered, abducted, disappeared, or wounded.

"The major labor confederations of the last decade are fighting now to survive,"

U.S. trade union report on Salvador available

For a brief, well-written account of the trade union movement, the struggle for land reform, and the U.S.-backed terror against workers and peasants in El Salvador, the recent pamphlet by the National Labor Committee in Support of Democracy and Human Rights in El Salvador is excellent.

It's titled *El Salvador: Labor, Terror, and Peace*. It's based on the observations of a seven-person U.S. trade union delegation that visited El Salvador in June. It ends up being a damning indictment of U.S. policy in that region.

The cost is 20 cents per copy for up to 100 copies; call for prices on larger quantities.

The report can be obtained from the National Labor Committee in Support of Democracy and Human Rights in El Salvador, 15 Union Square, New York, N.Y. 10003; telephone (212) 242-0700.

said a leader of the United Federation of Unions of El Salvador (FUSS), a major leftist-led union federation. "We have had our office bombed and hundreds of our members have been killed or disappeared."

Trade union membership overall is down about 40 percent since 1980.

According to the September 30 *Christian Science Monitor*, "The secretary-general of FUSS, Santiago Hernández, [Jiménez] was abducted outside the Banco Salvadoreño on Sunday, September 25. He was headed to a gathering of union representatives who planned to initiate the 19th annual FUSS congress. Mr. Hernández was to begin his speech speaking of those who have died the last few years attempting to organize in El Salvador."

Thirteen days later, on October 7, his body, along with three others, were found strangled near a market in San Salvador. In a message tied to the arm of each victim the Maximiliano Hernández Anticomunista Brigade took responsibility for the killings.

The other victims were all opposition leaders also: Víctor Manuel Quintanilla Ramos, Dora Muñoz Castillo, and José Antonio García Vázquez.

Largest protest in years

On September 27, the largest demonstration in almost three years took place in the streets of San Salvador. The 15,000 farm workers and their supporters on the march were demanding land reform. They marched 14 blocks through the center of the city and held a rally. Despite the terror campaign that's been launched against leaders of the farm workers' unions, the action was not attacked.

According to the Nicaraguan daily *Baricada*, the chants of the demonstration were, "We want peace, we want agrarian reform, and we want better jobs."

The focus of the protest was the current discussion in the Constituent Assembly over three amendments to the draft constitution which would totally junk the 1980 land redistribution law. Reportedly the assembly is deadlocked 30-30 over this. The ultraright National Republican Alliance (ARENA), led by death-squad leader Roberto D'Aubuisson, opposes anything that even smells of land reform. He is president of the Constituent Assembly and ARENA is the direct agent of the landed oligarchy.

The Christian Democrats are for keeping a facade of government support for land reform in order to head off massive peasant revolts.

According to march organizers, 10,000 government workers struck the day of the demonstration, showing their solidarity with the farm workers protest.

The march was organized by the Popular Democratic Union (UPD), an umbrella labor federation that represents more than 200,000 unionized farm workers. Its largest component is the peasant Salvadoran Communal Union.

The UPD is affiliated to the Christian Democratic Party, 4,000 of whose members participated in the march.

The UPD is supported by the official leadership of the AFL-CIO in the United States, and works closely with the CIA-funded American Institute for Free Labor Development (AIFLD).

Agrarian reform?

These forces were the chief architects of the agrarian reform law passed by the Christian Democratic government in 1980. That law had enough loopholes to ensure that it would not overturn the position of El Salvador's landed aristocracy, and that very few poor peasants would benefit from it.

It also gave the army a cover for militarizing sections of the countryside.

Nonetheless, the landlords strongly opposed the law and have done everything they could to sabotage it. About 2 percent of the country's population controls 60 percent of the cultivatable land. This tiny land-owning elite, known as the "14 families," have run the Salvadoran government for decades.

The living conditions of farm workers



In San Salvador 15,000 peasants demand end to government sabotage of land reform

and small peasants are wretched. Only a tiny handful have derived any benefit at all from the highly touted land reform. But even these meager gains would be called to a halt if the Constituent Assembly adopts the three pieces of legislation currently before it.

The fact that the conservative leadership of the UPD is now engaged in a head-on confrontation with the government and has become a focus of right-wing terror is one more sign of how isolated the ruling strata is in El Salvador.

Jorge Camacho, one of the directors of the UPD, had his car bombed by rightists and had been repeatedly threatened with death in recent weeks as a result of the stepped-up fight over land reform.

Unions denounce terror

Four days after the farm workers march, the ARENA party held a rally that was addressed by D'Aubuisson. He declared that Samuel Maldonado, a member of the UPD's political committee and head of the Salvadoran Communal Union, has ties with the FMLN, and has been responsible for funneling U.S. aid money to the guerrillas.

This pronouncement was recognized by the unions as the equivalent of a public order by D'Aubuisson to his death squads to murder Maldonado.

Recent articles in the Salvadoran press have accused the AFL-CIO and AIFLD of supporting unions dominated by "radical political elements."

The two major death squads in El Salvador are the Maximiliano Hernández Martínez Anticomunista Brigade and the Secret Anticomunista Army. D'Aubuisson is linked to the latter.

The UPD organized a news conference in San Salvador calling attention to this threat and D'Aubuisson's links with the terrorists.

"The entire Salvadoran people knows what these accusations mean coming from D'Aubuisson," the union federation said in a statement read by a member of its political committee, Miguel Angel Vázquez, and signed by three other committee members.

Vázquez called on President Alvaro Magaña, Defense Minister Eugenio Vides Casanova, and head of the national police Reynaldo Lopez Nuila to say publicly whether they are investigating the death-squad killings and the kidnappings of left-wing union activists and the third-ranking official in the Foreign Ministry.

Vázquez listed several union leaders and others, including the late archbishop Oscar Romero, who were assassinated "for the fact of having worked for peace, democracy, and justice" after being denounced by D'Aubuisson.

Even a U.S. diplomat admitted that when D'Aubuisson "goes public, we know of at least five cases which have resulted in the immediate death of that person."

Dialogue

The question of peace is a central one for workers and peasants in a country that's been fighting a civil war for close to four years now. The FDR and FMLN, which represent the interests of the majority of the Salvadoran people, have proposed a dialogue to the Salvadoran regime, setting no preconditions. The rebels explain that they are for peace with social justice.

For a long time, their dialogue proposal was rejected out of hand by the U.S. government and its mouthpieces in El Salvador.

The FDR-FMLN then went on a vigorous campaign — at home and internationally — to win support for their dialogue proposal. The effort has borne fruit. International backing for their proposal is growing. The U.S. government and Salvadoran dictatorship stand exposed as the ones responsible for the escalation and prolongation of the war.

Inside El Salvador, the dialogue proposal has helped isolate the regime further, with groups like the pro-Christian Democratic UPD coming out in favor of government talks with the rebels.

The overwhelming majority of organized labor in El Salvador supports such peace efforts. This helps give a big impetus to the fight against the dictatorship in El Salvador. It opens the door for the weight of the organized working class to be brought more to bear in the revolutionary process.

Rebel forces score big victories

A big factor in the current confrontation between the workers and peasants of El Salvador on the one side and the U.S. imperialists and their native agents on the other, is the impressive victories being scored by the rebel forces in the field against the Salvadoran army and their U.S. "advisers."

The U.S.-inspired "pacification program" that the army has been attempting to carry out in rebel-controlled areas has not been very successful. And the FMLN recently made gains in a series of new military offensives.

The pressure of these political and military victories has been a big factor in further polarizing the political situation and in increasing rightist activities in San Salvador. In addition to targeting those unionists who speak out for land reform, the ultraright has targeted those who are supporting the dialogue.

The top rulers in El Salvador recognize and fear the potential power of a labor movement mobilized to fight for peace, wages, and land reform.

Government planes strafe civilians

On September 26, U.S.-made A37 jets flown by U.S.-trained pilots bombed and strafed the town of Tenancingo in El Salvador for six hours.

When they were finished, an estimated 50 civilians were dead, scores more wounded, and 25 houses and other buildings destroyed or damaged.

This destruction of a town full of civilians, on the excuse that left-wing guerrilla forces were about to overrun it, was the third known incident of the Salvadoran air force strafing and bombing entire villages.

Government officials have tried to blame this crime on the rebel forces with the lame excuse that their radar was jammed by the guerrillas. The fact that the jets made repeated bombing runs, going back to base five times to reload, makes that assertion unbelievable.

U.S. officials called the bombing attack "a serious mistake." U.S. military advisers point out that mistakes are of course unavoidable in war and that it's more important to make sure that the Salvadoran dictatorship has adequate air power than to worry about possible "mistakes."

One "foreign military observer" quoted in the *Miami Herald* said, "It happened in Vietnam. It's happened here before — and it's going to happen again."

Nicaraguan rightists admit CIA runs war

BY MICHAEL BAUMANN

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — "The Yankees are in charge of everything," a former pilot for Somoza's air force, now flying missions for the Honduran-based counter-revolutionaries, told a standing-room-only news conference here October 6.

The pilot, Roberto Amador Narváez, was shot down October 2 by Sandinista militia members as he flew in from Honduras in a converted World War II DC-3.

His mission was to bring in supplies to a squad of counterrevolutionaries operating in Nicaragua's Matagalpa province, some 80 miles north of here.

Amador Narváez, copilot Hugo Reynaldo Aguilar, and the plane's mechanic survived the crash. Their first-hand testimony, in response to questions by more than 50 journalists, provided further proof of the CIA's role in organizing the largest of the counterrevolutionary organizations — the Nicaraguan Democratic Forces (FDN).

In three months of flying for the FDN, Amador said, "I had the opportunity to meet various North Americans, who are the ones leading the war against Nicaragua, through the FDN."

Among the U.S. officials named specifically by Amador and Aguilar were the following:

- Colonel Raymond, Vietnam veteran, coordinator of all U.S. CIA advisers assigned to the FDN.
- Colonel "Miguel," CIA officer in charge of coordinating FDN air missions. "Miguel" was Amador's direct supervisor.
- Major West, former paratrooper in Vietnam, today commander of the Honduran air base in Olancho Province, where all FDN flights to Nicaragua originate.
- Major "Alex," a former Green Beret, coordinator of operations with counter-revolutionary leader Steadman Fagoth.
- Major Jeffrey, in charge of the FDN security apparatus.

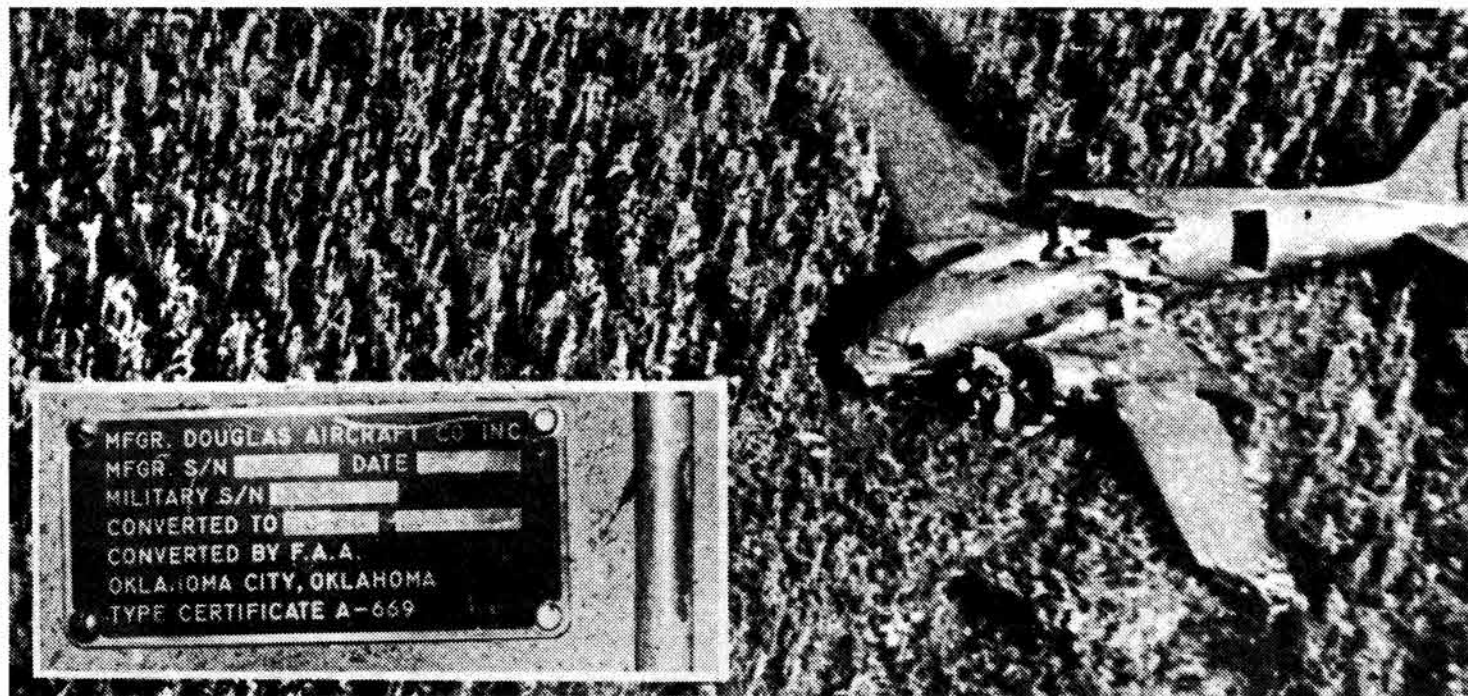
The FDN at present has eight or nine pilots and four planes, Amador said, two DC-3s provided by the United States and two smaller aircraft provided by the Argentine government.

"Or I should say," he added, "they now have one DC-3."

More planes and pilots are expected, Amador said, and a major escalation of air attacks is scheduled for November.

All FDN pilots, like the great majority of the FDN forces as a whole, are former members of Somoza's armed forces. Aguilar, in fact, was Somoza's personal pilot.

Several of the pilots, including Amador, were recruited in Miami, through FDN or-



U.S.-made DC-3 shot down October 2 by Sandinista militia members. At left is plane's U.S. registration. Its mission: to bring supplies from Honduras to counterrevolutionaries in Nicaragua's Matagalpa Province.

ganizers who operate openly there. They are paid \$1,000 a month in U.S. dollars, out of funds the CIA provides the FDN.

Inside Honduras, Amador said, "The FDN moves in complete freedom."

Brush-up training in flying DC-3s was provided by an officer of the Honduran air force. All repair and maintenance work on the planes is provided free at a Honduran

air base near the capital, Tegucigalpa.

The air base in Olancho Province where the flights originate is "an operational Honduran air base," copilot Hugo Aguilar reiterated in response to a question from a reporter. But the 80 or so Honduran soldiers stationed there "take their orders from a U.S. officer, Major West."

In a related development of CIA in-

volvement, it has been reported that the two-engine Cessna 404 shot down during a bombing raid of Nicaragua's international airport was registered for much of this year to a leasing company in McLean, Virginia, the Investair Leasing Corp. Investair is managed by a former top official of a company that was used by the CIA, according to Investair officials.

Why Walesa was given Nobel prize

BY DOUG JENNESS

When the Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded the 1983 Nobel Peace Prize to Lech Walesa, the most prominent leader of Poland's Solidarity labor union, it cited, "Walesa's contribution, made with considerable personal sacrifice, to ensure the workers' right to establish their own organizations."

Walesa, a shipyard worker active in labor protests and organizing activity for more than a decade, has helped advance the struggle of Polish workers for an independent union and democratic rights. When that fight was repressed in December 1981 by the privileged bureaucracy that governs Poland, Walesa was held in solitary confinement for 11 months.

Solidarity and Walesa's record as a

worker-leader and union organizer deserve international recognition.

But that is not why the Norwegian Nobel Committee bestowed an award on him. Their objective is to add fuel to the reactionary, anticommunist propaganda campaign of the imperialist governments and their apologists. They have no more regard for Polish workers and their union rights than they do for workers in their own countries.

As soon as the award was announced, top politicians in the imperialist capitals seized on it to express their hypocritical solidarity with Polish workers and to condemn communism.

Pres. Ronald Reagan, now waging war in Central America and Lebanon, hailed it as a "triumph of moral force over brute

force. It's a victory for those who seek to enlarge the human spirit over those who seek to crush it."

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, a strong supporter of deploying nuclear-tipped missiles on German soil, aimed at Polish and other East European and Soviet workers, joined the chorus. "Your courage," he said, addressing Walesa, "the solidarity of your friends and firm faith of the Polish people are an encouraging example for all people concerned about the cause of freedom."

French Pres. François Mitterrand's cabinet, which now has combat forces in Lebanon and Chad, echoed this theme.

Pope John Paul II, who plays an important ideological role in bolstering the crisis-ridden imperialist system, chimed in too.

Since 1901, when the first Nobel Prizes were presented, the Norwegian Nobel Committee — selected by the parliamentary representatives of Norwegian big business — has generally been used to advance the political interests of imperialism. Sometimes it is simply given outright to imperialist heads of state and statesmen. Among the better-known are President Theodore Roosevelt (1906); President Woodrow Wilson (1919); U.S. general and secretary of state, George Marshall (1953); Canadian Prime Minister Lester Pearson (1957); and West German Chancellor Willy Brandt (1971).

In 1978 the prize was awarded to Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat following the Camp David agreement. This "peace pact" recognized the Israeli colonial-settler state at the expense of the Palestinian struggle for their homeland and set the stage for the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982.

In 1975, the peace prize went to Soviet scientist Andrei Sakharov, an anticommunist opponent of the Soviet government. This was used by the imperialist rulers to whip up anti-Soviet propaganda.

On one occasion, however, the attempt to use the prize to advance imperialism's political goals backfired. This was in 1973 when it was awarded to U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and Le Duc Tho of North Vietnam for negotiating an end to the Vietnam War. Le Duc Tho refused to accept the award because "peace has not really been established in South Vietnam." It was two years later that Vietnamese liberation forces drove all the U.S. forces out of Vietnam and reunited the country. As for Kissinger, the biggest protests in the history of the peace prize were mounted against his receiving it.

Pastora's forces invade Atlantic Coast

BY JANE HARRIS

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Gasoline storage tanks supplying fuel for Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast, gold mines, and inland Miskito settlements were completely destroyed October 2 by a counterrevolutionary attack on the small coastal city of Puerto Benjamin Veledón.

The city's homes and schools were also burned and destroyed.

An invading force of 500 men arrived in

the coastal area in high-speed boats, part of the new equipment furnished by the CIA to counterrevolutionaries led by Edén Pastora. They attacked four Atlantic Coast cities — Haulover, Wounta, Prinzapolka, and Puerto Benjamin Veledón — and held them for a matter of hours before being forced to flee.

In the process of retaking these cities, Sandinista forces killed 100, or 20 percent, of the invading force. However, Defense

Minister Humberto Ortega reported October 5 that similar attacks in the area can be expected in the next few weeks.

In fact, attempts to paralyze Nicaragua's production have already been stepped up in recent weeks.

Nicaraguan Democratic Front (FDN) forces — composed mostly of ex-Somozaist National Guardsmen — have threatened to blow up Mexican ships carrying petroleum to Nicaragua.

Mexican officials have publicly denounced this threat. Senators Rafael Herrera and Rafael Cervantes, the presidents of Mexico's Marine Commission and National Defense Commission respectively, pledged that "terrorist threats will never hold back our foreign policy. . . . Mexico will fulfill its promises of crude oil delivery to Nicaragua on time."

October 2 Pastora's forces destroyed two high-voltage towers transmitting electricity from Costa Rica to Nicaragua and Honduras. Both towers are in Costa Rica, just across the Nicaraguan border near the recently attacked customs checkpoint at Peñas Blancas.

The sabotage will cost Nicaragua an estimated \$80,000 in addition to a 60 percent increase in oil consumption while the electric lines are down. However, the country even more affected by the loss of electricity will be Honduras. (Nicaragua's new geothermal plant will be able to supply ample back-up energy here.)

And, until the power lines are restored, Costa Rica will lose \$71,000 daily in electricity it could have sold to Honduras.

Terrorists bomb Nicaragua oil port

Continued from front page

stupid — they know this thing was carried out by the CIA."

The government sent a note to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz protesting U.S. aid to the rebels.

The attack came shortly before members of President Reagan's Commission on Central America met in Costa Rica with Alfonso Robelo, a leader of a Nicaraguan counterrevolutionary group.

After two sleepless nights, a brigade of some 30 AMNLAE [Association of Nicaraguan Women] were to be found in their offices, sharing experiences and taking time to evaluate the role of women in combating the latest contra terror.

They decided to call a march against imperialism for that very afternoon to clear the air of panic they said existed among

some people following the initial explosion.

They agreed they would have a lot of work to do once the damage was evaluated.

As AMNLAE National Executive Committee member Magdea Enríquez put it, "It's a victory that imperialism was not able to destroy the entire port, but it's not the end."

The attack followed one earlier this week on gasoline storage facilities on Nicaragua's Atlantic coast. In that attack two million gallons of fuel — all purchased with scant hard currency — was destroyed. The damage from both attacks threatens a severe shortage of fuel just as harvest of the country's main cash crops — coffee and cotton — begins.

As the *Militant* goes to press, ambassadors resident in Nicaragua are here inspecting the U.S.-funded damage in response to a call for international aid.

BY SARAH MATTHEWS
AND LYNDIA JOYCE

LOS BANOS, Calif. — A *Militant* team returned to the cantaloupe packing shed workers' picket line here September 28. The strike of Local 78B of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Workers against the Lindemann melon-packing company is in its second month. Lindemann is demanding a new contract with a no-strike clause, a 40 percent wage cut, and takeaway of fringe benefits.

Four young strikers were sitting in lawn chairs with their picket signs when we arrived.

"Where are you from?" one striker called out.

"The *Militant* newspaper," we replied.

"The *Militant*!" shouted two of them as they jumped out of their chairs, "the best newspaper!" They remembered the *Militant* from the last time we were there.

Immediately two cops closed in on us demanding our names and addresses. Within minutes four squad cars showed up. Detective Hughes of the Los Banos Police Department claimed we were violating a court injunction limiting the strike line to only five strikers and supporters. When one striker left to comply, the cops demanded that we stand 10 feet apart as we interviewed the strikers. While this harassment went on, two strikers bought subscriptions to the *Militant*.

The police harass the strikers every day. Eighteen-year old Jerry Falk, a migrant worker from Arizona, told us he had been arrested six times — for everything from "attempted malicious mischief" to using "foul" language. He likened their situation to that of Solidarity members in Poland. Anthony Messineo, 27, was arrested for "juggling rocks."

The strikers are digging in for the long haul. "We'll probably win this strike next year. Strike Lindemann all winter until the season starts again next summer," said Messineo.



Militant talks to strikers on visit to Los Banos

Lindemann's shed is the only one out of 11 sheds in Los Banos that refused to sign the new three-year contract with Local 78B.

United Fruit and Vegetable Workers, part of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union, voted to assess themselves \$20 per week to support the strike. Union members are trading places with strikers so the strikers can collect a day or two of wages and the working members can help with picket duty. When the melon season ends this month and approximately half the work force travels to the Imperial Valley and elsewhere to work, the assessment will continue. This will make it possible to maintain the strike throughout the winter and start up full force again when the new season starts next July.

We visited the nearby NAAM Packing shed as the shift ended. Union members and a few strikers who had worked that day in the union shed crowded around us, excited to see an article that told their side of the story.

"We're going to duplicate this

and put it up on the bulletin boards," said one woman.

"What's that?" asked one worker.

"It's a newspaper about our union! And look, there's an article on the copper workers strike, too!" answered another. Eight more unionists — including another striker — bought subscriptions. We sold out of every copy, and sold subscriptions based on xerox copies of the strike article.

Everyone had stories and questions about cop harassment, company guards, and how one-sided the local news coverage is.

The discussion with the strikers and unionists continued for an hour on the Arizona copper strike, President Reagan, the role of the cops and courts, a labor party, and what we mean by socialism.

Gail Brown, a leader of the strike, told the *Militant*, "Ever since Reagan busted PATCO [air traffic controllers' union destroyed by the government during 1981 strike], they're out to bust all our unions." The Los Banos strikers are showing how to fight back.

SUBSCRIPTION SCOREBOARD

(Totals as of *Militant* issue #36, *PM* issue #19)

Area	Militant Goal/Sold	PM Goal/Sold	Total Goal/Sold	%
Seaside, Calif.	35/27	10/3	45/30	67
Toledo	50/25	5/2	55/27	49
San Antonio	60/28	25/8	85/36	42
Harrisburg	35/15	5/0	40/15	38
Wash., D.C.	80/30	20/7	100/37	37
Lincoln, Neb.	35/12	0/0	35/12	34
Morgantown, W. Va.	70/23	0/0	70/23	33
Los Angeles	100/27	75/30	175/57	33
Virginia, Minn.	75/23	0/0	75/23	31
Twin Cities	120/39	10/0	130/39	30
San Jose	75/21	15/5	90/26	29
Philadelphia	100/29	25/6	125/35	28
Milwaukee	110/28	10/5	120/33	28
Denver	80/27	15/0	95/27	28
Boston	95/23	15/7	110/30	27
St. Louis	120/31	0/0	120/31	26
Dallas	50/12	15/4	65/16	25
Oakland	90/23	15/2	105/25	24
Charleston, W. Va.	45/11	0/0	45/11	24
Miami	70/17	10/1	80/18	23
Kansas City	65/17	10/0	75/17	23
Detroit	85/19	5/2	90/21	23
Albany, N.Y.	70/16	5/1	75/17	23
Atlanta	85/19	5/2	90/21	23
Brooklyn	110/28	40/5	150/33	22
Seattle	75/15	5/2	80/17	21
Pittsburgh	135/29	0/0	135/29	21
Portland	45/7	10/4	55/11	20
Manhattan	150/30	50/9	200/39	20
Indianapolis	80/15	0/1	80/16	20
Newark	110/17	30/9	140/26	19
Cincinnati	70/12	0/1	70/13	19
San Diego	70/13	30/5	100/18	18
Gary	45/9	5/0	50/9	18
Newport News, Va.	75/13	0/0	75/13	17
Albuquerque	50/10	15/1	65/11	17
Greensboro, N.C.	50/8	0/0	50/8	16
Louisville	55/8	0/0	55/8	15
Houston	60/10	30/3	90/13	14
Salt Lake City	70/8	5/1	75/9	12
Baltimore	65/7	0/0	65/7	11
Cleveland	80/8	5/0	85/8	9
New Orleans	80/7	5/0	85/7	8
Phoenix	75/7	25/0	100/7	7
Chicago	135/11	15/0	150/11	7
Birmingham	70/5	0/0	70/5	7
San Francisco	90/6	40/2	130/8	6
Price, Utah	35/1	5/1	40/2	5
Tucson	30/1	10/0	40/1	3
Totals	3,710/827	620/129	4,330/956	22
Should Be	927	155	1,082	25

Successes in sub drive show need to be organized

BY PEGGY BRUNDY

With this issue, the drive to sell 4,300 subscriptions to the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* enters its fourth week. It's too early in the drive to draw general conclusions, but some socialists from around the country report that they are beginning to get over their initial "rustiness" in selling subscriptions.

Socialists in Seaside, California, and San Antonio, Texas, raised their goals: Seaside by 10 *Militant* subscriptions, San Antonio by 5 *Militant* and 5 *Perspectiva Mundial* subscriptions.

Sales to coworkers at industrial worksites have been particularly good so far, accounting for approximately 15 percent of the total subscriptions received. Last week we reported that Indianapolis socialists in the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers union took a goal of 12 subscriptions; this week they report selling 2; right on schedule. Socialist garment workers in Washington, D.C., report selling 6 subscriptions at their Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers-organized shop.

The team of socialists traveling in Mississippi sold 10 *Militant* subscriptions last week. In two days they also sold 57 single copies of the *Militant* and 7 of the *Young Socialist*, many of these going to Black workers in Mississippi's cotton-production industry — in the cotton gins, compresses, and on the cotton plantations. Team member Tony Dutrow reports that one of the big things on people's minds was the labor movement and unions. "People know the difference between working on the plantations for \$3.35 an hour and having a union job, where the pay is more like \$4 or \$5 an hour."

The *Militant* and *Young Socialist* were also well received at the Mississippi Valley State campus in Greenwood. The team set

up a table, and in addition to excellent sales, two students signed up to come to the upcoming convention of the Young Socialist Alliance, and 10 other students signed up for more information about the YSA.

Socialists who participated in a farm protest in Kansas last week sold three subscriptions.

While selling *PM* and campaigning door to door, Atlanta socialists met a Cuban who recently moved to the United States. After three years of experience living here, he was very glad to see us, bought a subscription to *PM*, came to a campaign rally, and has gone out campaigning with the socialists since then.

These strengths of the drive so far provide a solid groundwork in most places for the rest of the eight-week drive.

Many areas, however, did not sell as many subscriptions during the first weeks as they had projected and are discussing how this can be turned around.

Mike Shur reports from Seattle that they sold 11 subscriptions last week, up significantly from the 6 they sold the first week. He notes that sales improved as soon as they realized that the most important factor in selling a subscription was getting into political discussions with people — about socialism, about how working people can get political power, about the wars in Lebanon and Central America. They have also been following up the subscriptions they sold at the August 27 demonstration with good success.

Dave Ferguson, who sells the *Militant* door to door in coal-mining communities near Morgantown, West Virginia, reports that he sometimes meets people who are interested in what the *Militant* has to say, but want to buy a single copy and read it before

they decide to subscribe. He asks these people if he can come back in a week and see what they think of the paper and whether they want a subscription. Last Sunday, he went back to visit with the people he talked to the previous Saturday. He reports that a large proportion of the people he's talked to decide to buy a subscription after they've read the first copy. He also arranges to drop by again where people want the subscription but don't have the money right then.

All areas that are not on schedule should consider discussing out how to get caught

up. The sales director of the Newark, New Jersey, branch of the Socialist Workers Party reports that they view their slow start as a serious problem. "When we decided on our goal several weeks ago, we thought it was realistic — a challenge, but real. So we must take it seriously now." She noted that meeting this goal is important, because it allows them to establish ongoing contact with many new workers and learn more about their city and the surrounding region. So they decided to have a special effort this weekend to catch up, organizing the maximum number of people to participate.

Subscribe to Intercontinental Press

For the most complete coverage on the unfolding revolutions in Central America, with features such as speeches by Cuban leaders Fidel Castro, Jesús Montané, and Manuel Piñero on revolutionary strategy in Central America and the Caribbean, interviews with participants in the Central American revolutions, and exclusive reports from our correspondents on the scene, you should subscribe to the biweekly *IP*. \$12.50 for six months; \$25 for one year.

Mail orders to: Intercontinental Press, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

INTERCONTINENTAL PRESS

inprecor

Lebanon: Reagan and Allies Step Up Military Intervention



Nicaraguan Working People Make Gains While Mobilizing to Defend Revolution

PUSH leader backs Georgia socialist

BY JAMES CAMPBELL

ATLANTA — Joseph Beasley, the coordinator of the Atlanta chapter of Operation PUSH, has endorsed Sara Jean Johnston, who is the Socialist Workers Party candidate in the 7th Congressional District special election October 18. The special election is being held to fill the vacant seat of Larry McDonald, who was aboard the Korean Airlines Flight 7 downed over Soviet territory last month.

In his statement on the campaign, Beasley said, "Political participation is the cornerstone of the democratic process. Your vote counts. Business as usual must not be the mandate of the next representative of the 7th Congressional District of Georgia. If you're poor, if you're a woman, if you're a member of a minority, if you believe in human rights, your choice in the special election must be Sara Jean Johnston. She can strike a blow for human dignity that can make a difference for all residents of the 7th Congressional District and for the state of Georgia."

Beasley issued his statement after Johnston spoke at a membership meeting of the Atlanta chapter of Operation PUSH on October 8. She explained the socialist program she was putting forward in the election. Johnston spoke about her opposition to another Vietnam in Lebanon or Central America and for jobs, not war.

She said that working people face another war here at home. Johnston spoke as one who had participated in the August 27 march on Washington and who, like Jesse Jackson, wanted to build a "rainbow coalition" of the oppressed.

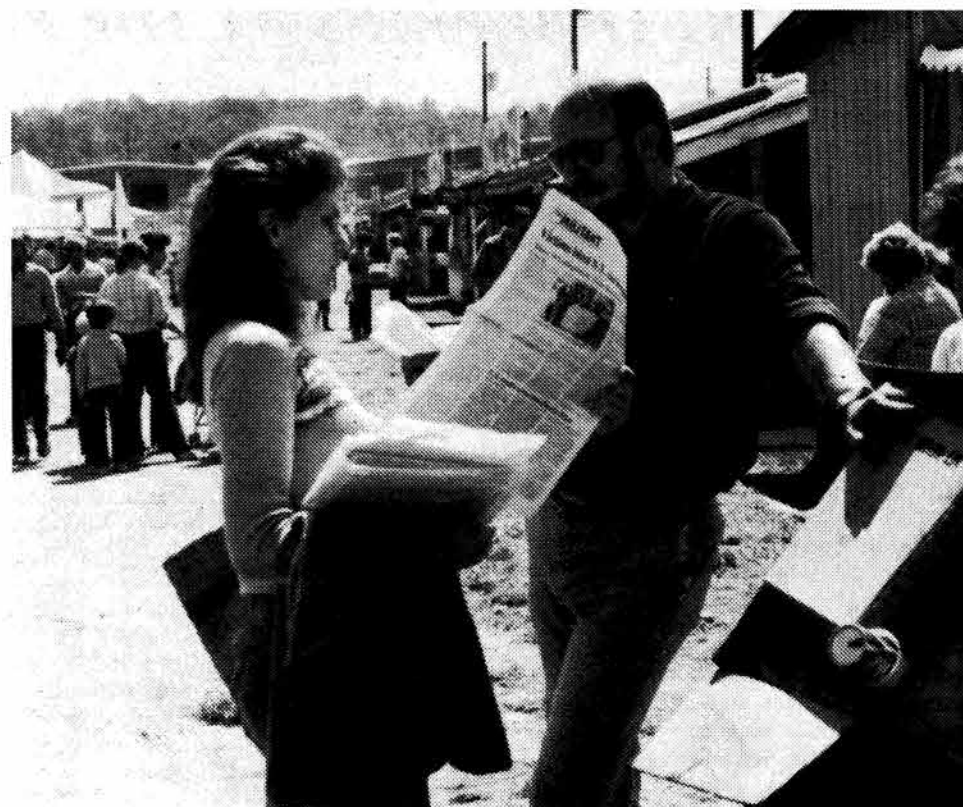
But Johnston posed the question: What

is the best way to achieve this unity? She suggested the necessity to break from the parties of the oppressor — the racist and big-business-controlled Democratic and Republican parties. We should form parties of our own, she said, a Black party and a labor party.

"With these powerful instruments," she told the civil rights activists, "we can win a successful struggle to totally transform society and create what we need — a government of workers and farmers."

Johnston told the meeting of her experiences campaigning in the 7th Congressional District. She said she has received a good reception in the district. "McDonald was an ultrareactionary racist and all the other candidates are trying to out-McDonald one another," Johnston said. "But the truth is that unemployment in the district is officially 15 percent. The area is largely populated by working farmers, who are being driven off their land by the banks and the government's proagribusiness policies. And both workers and farmers in the district oppose this government's war moves around the world."

She gave the PUSH members an example of how an alliance of farmers, unionists, and the Black movement can be built by relating the discussions she had while campaigning at the North Georgia State Fair in Cobb County. Johnston said she got a positive response when she explained how the gains won by the civil rights movement made possible greater unity of workers to be able to work together to successfully form unions in the South.



Sara Jean Johnston campaigning at North Georgia State Fair

Militant/Susie Winsten

Boston SWP stays in race

BY RICHARD CAHALANE

BOSTON — In the final weeks before the October 11 primary, the campaign of Eloise Linger, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor, took on the opposition before television and radio audiences, at candidates' forums, and at workplaces throughout the city. Her campaign supporters handed out thousands of brochures, sold subscriptions to the *Militant*, and canvassed neighborhoods in the Black and Latino communities. The socialist's supporters campaigned at a garment factory in East Boston and the Domenico garment shop in Lynn, where Linger is employed. She is a member of International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union Local 397.

Going into the "nonpartisan" primary, polls placed Mel King, the only Black candidate, out front. Only the two top vote-getters in the primary are on the ballot for the general election on November 15.

Two of the other candidates fighting for a place in the run-off were David Finnegan, a former Boston School Committee president who fought court-ordered desegregation of the Boston schools, and Ray Flynn, a city council member who, as a state representative, helped organize opposition to the busing plan.

In a historic vote, Mel King became the first Black in the city's history to enter the runoff election for mayor. King garnered 47,431 votes or 29 percent of those cast. Flynn, who also entered the runoff, captured 47,432 votes. King won up to 88 percent of the vote in the two Black districts and a significant number of votes from whites in Boston's Back Bay and Allston-Brighton sections.

Finnegan came in third with 41,308 votes.

In the final week before October 11 Finnegan and Flynn traded charges more than once before cameras and audiences. Flynn's campaign had issued two flyers in Dorchester — one in the Black section stressing his advocacy of equal rights and a second in white sections omitting his supposedly pro-Black positions. Finnegan called this procedure "racist" and accused Flynn of being a "political chameleon."

Flynn fired back that Finnegan just represented the rich and he, Flynn, was for working people.

Increasingly, Flynn's past record as an active opponent of busing and abortion rights became an issue in the campaign. Mel King's standing in the polls rose while Flynn's suffered a setback. In the final week before the primary both Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young and Operation PUSH leader Jesse Jackson came to Boston to endorse King.

Linger and the seven other candidates attended a mayoral forum on September 28 in South Boston, which was the scene of the most violent resistance to busing in 1974. King, who at the height of the struggle to desegregate Boston's schools spoke out against the racist attacks on Blacks, and Linger, who told the September 28 meeting she defends desegregation in education and housing, both received polite applause.

The socialist candidate also blasted the recent cop murder of Elijah Pate, a Black teenager, and the U.S. wars in Central America and Lebanon.

Linger has been on all major radio stations and fought for and won the right to participate in the televised debate sponsored by the League of Women Voters on September 14. Another televised debate on October 2 included Linger. She announced her plans to launch a write-in campaign in the November 15 election. "No other candidate," she said, "advocates the organization of independent political parties by the working class — a Black party and a labor party — that's why I'm running."

On October 8 the SWP campaign held a rally at Roxbury Community College-Massachusetts College of Art. The 50 people in attendance raised \$1,550 to help finance the write-in campaign. Two young white workers asked to join the Young Socialist Alliance, which has been very active in supporting the Linger campaign.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE 'YOUNG SOCIALIST'

Bimonthly revolutionary youth newspaper covers the fight against Washington's wars and racism, the struggle for women's liberation, and the fight for a socialist world.
\$1 for half-year \$3 for one year
Send name, address, and payment to 14 Charles Lane, New York, NY 10014

La. socialist barred from debate

BY STEVE BEREN

NEW ORLEANS — On September 27 at the Hyatt-Regency Hotel a gubernatorial debate was sponsored by WomenFocus '83, a coalition of 23 women's organizations including the Louisiana chapters of the National Organization for Women (NOW) and the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW).

Ironically, the only woman running for governor — Michele Smith of the Socialist Workers Party — was excluded from the debate, which had been billed as "non-partisan." Only Republican Governor David Treen and Democratic challenger Edwin Edwards were extended invitations.

A group of Smith's campaign supporters picketed outside the hotel and distributed an open letter from the socialist candidate.

"The organizations which have put together the program tonight have done a dis-

service to women and all supporters of full equality for women," the open letter stated.

Smith pointed out that she is a member of CLUW and NOW as well as the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 4-522. She charged that "the action of excluding me from tonight's debate is highly partisan in favor of the Democrats and Republicans."

The debate format did not allow for audience participation. Treen opposed the Equal Rights Amendment, mandatory sex education, gay rights, and affirmative action quotas. Edwards also opposed mandatory sex education.

Opposition to police brutality and the U.S. war drive, along with support for abortion rights and repeal of "right-to-work" laws were demands raised by the socialist candidate in her open letter. These issues, however, were not mentioned during the debate.

The election is to be held on November 8.

Cleveland SWP demands ballot spot

CLEVELAND — The Cuyahoga County Board of Elections is attempting to take Socialist Workers Party school board candidates Tamar Rosenfeld and Omari Musa off the November 8 ballot.

The socialist candidates filed more than 2,900 signatures each in August. Only 1,400 signatures are required to be on the ballot. According to board records the petitions for Musa were tallied by September 15. Campaign director Susan Berman was told by the Petitioning Department then that Musa would definitely be on the ballot and they were still working on Rosenfeld's petitions.

Musa then received a letter from the board dated October 3 that stated his petitions were 189 signatures short. Rosenfeld never received a letter, but was told by phone that she was 152 signatures short.

On October 7 socialist campaigners discovered that huge numbers of newly registered voters had not been entered into the general file. The first petition page checked showed four of the 11 signers disqualified as "nonregistered" were indeed registered voters.

Another signature disqualified was that of a deputy registrar who had signed the

socialist's petition during his lunchbreak at a supermarket in the Black community. He was registering new voters at the time.

Other signatures thrown out were labeled "illegible," yet these "illegible" signatures were quite legible and found to be registered voters. Still other valid signatures were disqualified because the person printed one of their names instead of signing it.

These errors were found by the socialists and the board workers after spot-checking only four pages of petitions.

The board also threw out more than 200 signatures for each candidate because one of the petition circulators had signed her new address before she had "officially" signed a change of address card with the board.

Musa and Rosenfeld blasted the board for attempting to rule them off the ballot at a spirited campaign potluck-emergency protest meeting October 8.

The socialists forced the board to recount every signature on their petitions. They have also formally protested the board's move and are considering filing an injunction to prevent the printing of ballots until this matter is resolved.



Militant/Steve Beren

Michele Smith explains why she should be included in WomenFocus debate.

Lumber workers forced to strike West Coast mills

BY FRED AINSWORTH

PORTLAND, Oregon — Two strikes, now in their 12th week, have been forced on lumber workers in the Pacific Northwest by employers determined to force wage and benefits concessions from their unionized workers.

In Willamina, Oregon, 250 members of International Woodworkers of America (IWA) Local 3-1 were forced to strike Willamina Lumber Co. July 18.

The owner, John Hampton, refused to consider union proposals for a new contract and told the union to take it or leave it.

Arrayed against the union members have been the courts, cops, and newspapers. A court injunction limits pickets to four per entrance.

A union member was arrested for arson because he lived on the same block as a foreman whose car caught on fire. Cops and sheriffs escort a scab crew of 70 in and out of the mill.

Newspapers regularly print Hampton's version of the strike. "We've had to chew their ass to get one or two articles giving our side," said one striker.

On September 26 the local held a march of 80 wives, children, and husbands of strikers from downtown Willamina to the mill gates.

Other IWA locals and other unions have contributed to the strike defense fund. Nonunion lumber workers have also helped

picket, and some downtown merchants have pitched in.

Also on strike are 1,700 members of the IWA and the Lumber, Production and Industrial Workers employed in California, Oregon, Alaska, Idaho, Montana, and Washington by Louisiana-Pacific Corp.

Louisiana-Pacific wants new hires to start at \$4 less an hour than other workers and to get 2 holidays instead of 12. Using scabs and supervisors, L-P claims it has resumed operations at 15 of 22 mills and support facilities that were shut down June 24 when the strike began.

Contributions to the Willamina strikers can be sent to Strike Defense Fund, IWA Local 3-1, 2203 5th St., Tillamook, Ore. 97141.

Garment strikers oppose givebacks

BY MIKE MALONEY

LOS ANGELES — Three to four hundred strikers, other garment workers, and supporters held a spirited march here September 23 against Davis Pleating Co. A picket line surrounded the building that housed the company.

Davis Pleating forced the strike on the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU) August 10 with demands for a 20 percent reduction in wages, elimination of four holidays and two weeks of vacation, no seniority, right to contract out work, and compulsory overtime.

The company, with the aid of a court injunction limiting the

number of pickets to six, is continuing operations. In response, the ILGWU is picketing companies that send garments to Davis for pleating. The union says most of the picketed companies have stopped sending their garments to Davis.

At the rally, strikers and some union organizers wore red-and-black clothes and carried red-and-black flags. Red and black are the colors of the Nicaraguan revolution, the Mexican revolution and Mexican unions, and of the United Farm Workers Union of America.

A big majority of garment workers here come from Mexico and Central America.

Davis Pleating was also the site of a 1977 raid by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, which resulted in a suit by the ILGWU and others that stopped the INS raids.

The Davis strike is important as a response to attacks by the garment bosses on the ILGWU and the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union here, and for organizing workers. Less than 5 percent of the garment industry here is unionized.

Resolutions of support and financial contributions can be sent to Southern California Strike Committee, ILGWU, 400 W. 9th St., Los Angeles, Calif. 90015.

PUSH supports Atlanta strike

BY HENRY LYONS

ATLANTA — Garment workers here on strike against Empire Manufacturing Co. have received

an important boost in their five-week struggle from the local chapter of Operation PUSH.

Since their strike began September 1, members of United Garment Workers of America Local 29 have been attending weekly PUSH meetings as part of a broad search for solidarity with other unions and the civil rights and women's movements.

Women make up about 90 percent of the work force at Empire, which is a subsidiary of National Linen Service. About three-quarters of the workers are Black.

Much of the discussion at these PUSH meetings has focused on the need for working people of all races — men and women — to unite in the face of current union-busting drives by the bosses and government.

The workers at Empire, who earn an average of \$5 an hour, were forced on strike when the company offered them a raise of only 45 cents an hour over the three years of the proposed new contract.

In addition to taking up collections for the strikers and dispatching members to the picket line, PUSH participated with other supporters in a news conference September 28 in front of the plant. Also featured was a free concert by members of the Atlanta Symphony, which is also on strike.

At the next PUSH meeting, Local 29 President Linda Pounds said PUSH had helped the union understand "what solidarity is all about. It has kept us going."

PUSH has provided assistance to tobacco workers in Macon in a contract dispute and is sponsoring

a public forum October 27 on discriminatory firings of Blacks and women by Atlanta-area companies.

Empire strikers have also attended meetings of the National Organization for Women and the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, which has contributed money from both its international and local funds. Support has also come from the Coalition of Labor Union Women.

Teamster leader supports Reagan

Jackie Presser, president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT), has said the union will support President Reagan for reelection in 1984 if he runs against Walter Mondale, who has the backing of the AFL-CIO.

The IBT, which is not an AFL-CIO affiliate, was one of a tiny number of unions that endorsed Reagan in 1980.

Presser says he will attend an October 12 gathering at the White House, despite reports that some Reagan advisers want to keep Presser "at arms length."

On September 16, the membership of the Teamsters rejected by 7-1 a Presser-supported concessions contract with Trucking Management Inc., the bargaining arm of the unionized trucking industry. The proposal would have modified the Master Freight Agreement to reduce mileage rates and hourly pay for Teamster members recalled from layoff.

The vote against the contract was 94,086 to 13,082.

Virginia shipyard workers organize to defend union

Continued from front page

in other unions also rallied to their support.

Before it was over the members of Local 8888 defended themselves not only from the company but from the armed attacks of state troopers and local cops as well. "Bloody Monday," April 16, 1979, when unionists repulsed a brutal police assault on their picket line and union hall, was just one of the proud chapters shipyard workers wrote in the history of their union. The entire strike was an inspiring example of militancy, determination, and unity among all workers, Black and white, men and women, young and old.

Ultimately the company-backed PSA was defeated and a USWA contract was won. That contract expires on October 31.

Consequently the USWA faces a double-barrelled challenge: fighting off the new attack from the PSA and winning a decent contract from Tenneco. The two are not at all unrelated.

From the beginning the USWA has also had to confront Virginia's "right to work" (for less) laws. These laws mean shipyard workers do not join the union automatically. The USWA must work continually to recruit new workers.

Since the USWA contract was won in 1980, thousands of new young workers have been hired into the yard. Several thousand have been hired in the past few months as Tenneco has secured hundreds of millions of dollars worth of naval contracts.

Many of these workers were in high school at the time of the 1979-80 fight. They were unaware of the record of the PSA and the improvements brought about by the steelworker contract. When the PSA began circulating petitions some months ago to force a new representation election, PSA organizers pressured many of these new workers to sign.

"People signed for the PSA who didn't know what it was all about," explained a VOC member. "When they find out — we'll be alright."

The September issue of Local 8888's newspaper, *The Voyager* includes two front-page articles aimed at explaining the issues.

USWA sub-district director Jack Hower

reminded shipyard workers that "the PSA gave away the 20-minute lunch period that resulted in a 9-hour work day.... The PSA gave away pension rights prior to 1969.... The 2 percent vacation bonus was ... given back.... The PSA gave back the 5-day sick leave plan.... The highest wage increase ever negotiated by the PSA in 40 years was \$.50."

Local Pres. Eddie Coppedge pointed out to newer workers, "We believe you must be told the full story." Due to the efforts of "brave men and women who saw fit to get the best union to represent their ... interests" workers have won "increased sickness and accident benefits, better wages, funeral leave, automatic progression as well as many other badly needed benefits that they did not have under the PSA."

"Automatic progression," the right of workers to move up to better-paying jobs according to seniority rather than company favoritism, was one of the key victories

won by the USWA. Before, the PSA had been complicit in a promotion system that discriminated against Blacks and women.

On the surface the evidence seems to point to a USWA victory in the October 27 election. Not only are visible signs of worker support for the USWA all over, but one has to look hard to find much open support for the PSA.

One volunteer organizer related the story of a USWA member who was running late getting to work and managed to hitch a ride on the highway. After he got in the car he noticed that the driver who picked him up was wearing a PSA hat. The steelworker immediately told him to stop the car and let him out. "I'd rather walk and be late than ride to work with the PSA," he said.

Despite strong sentiment like this, the union's international leadership is putting big resources behind Local 8888. International Vice-president Leon Lynch and District 35 Director Bruce Thrasher were both

in Newport News recently. In addition to joining the organizers at the gates of the yard, both Lynch and Thrasher spoke to two meetings that drew almost 400 unionists on short notice.

A large number of full-time organizers have been sent in, including at least one female staffer in recognition of the sizable number of women in the yard and the important role many of them played in leading the earlier battle. The head of the international's organizing department is also on hand.

If the company's agent is defeated in the election, workers will still face a fight for a decent contract. "Over the past three years the company has made high profits," points out sub-district director Hower. "We firmly believe that we deserve our share...."

In the next few weeks shipyard workers will be standing behind their union to make that happen.

S.F. rally demands full school desegregation

BY CHRIS REMPLE

SAN FRANCISCO — On September 21 a rally was held here at the Bayview Opera House to protest the closing of Dr. Charles R. Drew Elementary School. Those who gathered also demanded that in addition to Black students, white children be bused to desegregate the city's schools. The meeting, which was attended by about 100 people, followed the release from jail of four activists who had been arrested for blocking school buses that take Black children to white schools.

Drew was closed following the settlement of a NAACP lawsuit against the San Francisco Unified School District. The suit was aimed at forcing the school board to desegregate the city's educational system.

Under the desegregation plan mandated by the court settlement, approximately 1,000 elementary and middle school students from the Black community will be bused to predominantly white schools to achieve racial balance. Drew, which is in the Bayview-Hunters Point Black community, is to be converted into a day-care

center. The programs of four other schools in Hunters Point are to be revamped, but nothing has been started on these projects yet. Nor has the busing of white students to predominantly Black schools begun — as was called for in the desegregation plan.

Besides demanding the full desegregation of the schools, Blacks in this community are outraged at the closing of Drew, which is the first school in the district to be named after a Black. Drew was established after the Black community waged a fight to improve the rundown Bayview Elementary School 11 years ago. In addition to forcing the state to allocate funds for the construction of a new school, Black parents also won the right to participate in all decisions affecting the school. Blacks in Bayview-Hunters Point feel that this community control over Drew is what motivated the school board to close the school.

But, after several days of protest, the Black community forced city officials to enroll 50 students at Drew.

However, the fight to desegregate the schools continues. Seymour Kramer, a

school bus driver, spoke at the September 21 rally about what will be needed to win this struggle. He said that if workers from all the unions in the city participated in the protest, the struggle would be won. Kramer said that "the slogan from the Caribbean island of Grenada — Forward ever, backward never! — must be ours. We will never go back to separate and unequal."

In a statement distributed by campaign supporters, Pat Wright, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of San Francisco, said the current desegregation plan is a fraud. The city's refusal to bus white children into Black neighborhoods like Hunters Point amounts to an admission that they have no intentions of upgrading Black schools, she said.

"What is needed," Wright said, "is large-scale busing to desegregate the schools. This means busing white children into Hunters Point, the Mission, and Chinatown, as well as busing Black, Latino, and Asian students to better schools in white neighborhoods."

Puerto Rican Senate exposes killer cops

BY ROBERTO KOPEC

Five years after the event, the killing of two young fighters for Puerto Rican independence still rocks this U.S. colony in the Caribbean. As a result the Puerto Rican Senate has been forced to make a public investigation.

Since mid-June, televised Senate hearings have shown that the two independence fighters were led into a trap by an undercover government agent and murdered in cold blood by the police. The hearings have also disclosed the ongoing attempt by the Puerto Rican and U.S. governments to cover up the crime. It has put a spotlight on the role of government agents in the independence movement and the labor unions.

It all started on July 25, 1978.

On this date three men commandeered a taxi cab forcing its driver to take them to a hill called Cerro Maravilla, in the south-central part of the island, where government and private communication towers are located.

Several cops were waiting for them. They killed two of the three men and wounded the third. This last one was an undercover police agent.

The dead men were Arnaldo Darío Rosado, 23 and Carlos Soto Arriví, 18. Soto Arriví was the son of Pedro Juan Soto, a noted Puerto Rican novelist. The undercover agent, Alejandro González Malavé, was known to some in the left for his provocative behavior.

The cops' version

According to the police, Soto Arriví and Rosado were members of the "Armed Revolutionary Movement," allegedly a pro-independence organization, and were about to blow up one of the towers on Cerro Maravilla.

The police claim González Malavé told them about the plan. They then decided to wait for the "terrorists" in order to arrest them. Soto Arriví and Rosado, say the cops, ignored the order to lay down their arms. Instead they tried to shoot their way out of the trap. The cops then returned the fire "in self-defense" killing both men. None of the cops was injured, except for the undercover agent, wounded by his own kind.

The police also claim that in the days prior to the Cerro Maravilla shoot-out members of this "Armed Revolutionary Movement" participated in the holdup of a guard station at the University of Puerto Rico's Río Piedras campus. They also allegedly were involved in firing a shot at the home of former governor Luis Muñoz Marín.



Senate investigator Héctor Rivera Cruz points to smiling face of Alejandro González Malavé, agent provocateur who set up murder of Puerto Rican independence fighters.

However, the police version of the incident at Cerro Maravilla started to collapse from the beginning. The material evidence and testimony by witnesses showed that a murder had been committed and that the police, in complicity with the highest government figures, were responsible for it.

'It was a massacre'

The driver of the commandeered taxi, Julio Ortiz Molina, almost suffered the same fate as the two independence fighters. In an interview with the Associated Press a few days after the incident, he described it "as a massacre."

Implying that the police lied about ordering Soto Arriví and Rosado to halt, the driver said, if "they had told them to halt and asked them to give up, well, they might have given up, and if they wouldn't give up it's because they were suicidal... they could have shot them in the arm or something of the sort, without resorting to the massacre that happened."

Ortiz Molina later said that after the shoot-out he saw Soto Arriví and Rosado wounded but still alive. He described seeing the cops beat and kick both men while they lay on the ground. Ortiz Molina was himself roughed up, "although I told them I was an innocent victim of the whole incident," he told the *New York Times* a few days after the killings.

Ortiz Molina also testified that when policeman Jesús Quiñones Quiñones led him to the nearby television tower to bandage the wounds received in the beating, they heard a second round of shots. Both

the police and the government deny there were any such shots, but Quiñones and other witnesses have confirmed the driver's version.

On September 22 the Senate heard Emilio Rodríguez Esteban declare that he heard two series of shots while passing by Cerro Maravilla in his car the day of the incident. He said that he had given sworn statements to this effect to the Puerto Rican Department of Justice and a grand jury. The content of these statements, however, was considerably altered without his knowledge. He also revealed having received death threats several times since the incident.

More contradictions

There were more contradictions in the official version.

Soto Arriví's face and body had bruises and lacerations the police found difficult to explain. They attributed them to a fall down an embankment, but there is no embankment at the site and pathologists say the injuries were inconsistent with such a fall.

Pathologists have also determined that the type of bullet wounds in the youths' bodies does not jibe with the cops' description of the shoot-out.

In spite of government claims that Soto Arriví and Rosado were planning to blow up one of the towers at Cerro Maravilla, the police admit they did not find any explosives on either the youths' bodies or in the taxi.

According to the police, they were car-

rying two guns, a box of matches, 25 bullets, gloves, masks, charcoal, and a box of turpentine to light the charcoal.

Then there is the role played by the undercover agent González Malavé. The police claim that he only infiltrated the "terrorist" group in order to inform his superiors of its activities. Few people, even among those opposed to independence, believed this story.

Who is González Malavé?

A few days after the Cerro Maravilla murder, Juan Mari Bras, then secretary general of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party (PSP), one of the main pro-independence political organizations on the island, recalled that González Malavé had infiltrated the PSP four years before. According to the July 28, 1978, *New York Times*, Mari Bras "had become suspicious of the young man about two months ago and 'isolated' him from the party. 'He always wanted to get our people involved in terrorist activities that were not the type of activities we condoned,' Mr. Mari Bras said. He said Mr. González Malavé had tried to persuade party members to shoot at certain non-independence leaders' homes from passing cars and to procure materials for making bombs."

González Malavé participated in the hold-up at the University of Puerto Rico and drove the car from which a shot was fired at Muñoz Marín's house. The government used these incidents to round up several Puerto Rican patriots, including PSP members. Two youths charged with participating in these actions, Ramón Rosado and Eric Hernández, were later absolved by the courts.

In June 1983, government police agent Juan E. Brunet testified before the Senate during the Cerro Maravilla hearings that González Malavé had confessed to him on having participated in placing an explosive device at a post office. Brunet said González Malavé also confessed to several acts of sabotage against Puerto Rico's electric company in early 1978. At the time the electrical workers were on strike against the company and the government used these acts of sabotage to launch an intense red-baiting and violence-baiting campaign against the union.

An 'Armed Revolutionary Movement'?

It now seems that even the "Armed Revolutionary Movement" was invented by González Malavé himself. Nobody had heard of this group before the Cerro Maravilla incident, nor has it shown its face or made itself heard since. The government, despite its claim to have "infiltrated" it, has been unable to produce any more members of this group.

Yet Governor Carlos Romero Barceló's administration has lauded as heroes González Malavé and the other cops that took part in the Cerro Maravilla set-up.

As a matter of routine, the Puerto Rican Department of Justice investigated the Cerro Maravilla operation. All the cops involved were absolved of any wrongdoing. Another government investigation in 1979 reached the same conclusion.

Relatives of both murdered youths filed a civil suit against the governor of Puerto Rico and the cops involved in the killings. The suit against Romero Barceló was thrown out of court. According to the judge ruling on the case, the governor's inclusion in the suit was politically motivated.

Yet, as Romero Barceló admitted in April 1979, — after denying it for almost a year — he had previous knowledge of the plan to trap Soto Arriví and Rosado.

The suit against the cops went to trial on October 3.

Senate hearings

The Puerto Rican Senate is controlled by the Popular Democratic Party (PPD), which opposes the New Progressive Party (PNP) of Romero Barceló. The PPD supports the current "free association" of Puerto Rico to the United States, while the PNP favors statehood.

The PPD majority in the Senate decided to investigate the government "investigations" of the Cerro Maravilla case. Public and televised hearings by the Senate's Judicial Commission began last June.

Continued on Page 14

Latinos, unionists protest immigration bill

BY STEFFI BROOKS

SAN ANTONIO — Chanting "Jobs yes, Migra no" and "Let them deport Reagan," 100 demonstrators marched from the Alamo to the steps of City Hall September 24 to rally against the Simpson-Mazzoli immigration bill, now pending in Congress.

The bill passed in the Senate last spring by an overwhelming vote of 76 to 18 but is now stalled in the Rules Committee of the House of Representatives, in large part because of growing opposition to its racist and antiunion provisions. It will not be considered by the full House during this session.

Nationally, the League of United Latin

American Citizens, the Mexican-American Legal Defense and Education Fund, and growing numbers of trade unionists are actively opposing the bill.

Sponsors of the San Antonio protest included representatives from the San Antonio AFL-CIO Central Labor Council, county judge Albert Bustamante, San Antonio school board member Ruben Solís, the *El Pueblo* newspaper, and several clergymen. The Greater San Antonio chapter of the Coalition of Labor Union Women endorsed the action and participated in it as did members of International Union of Electrical Workers Local 1013.

Protesters focused their fire on the Simpson-Mazzoli bill's provision to issue

counterfeit-proof identification cards to every person in the United States and to require that they be produced on demand.

Rally speakers compared this to the internal passport system in South Africa and to the requirement that Jews in Nazi Germany wear a star of David. They pointed out that the targets of the identification card system will be Haitians, Mexicans, and other Black and Hispanic people in the United States. One of the placards read, "Will Henry carry an I.D. card?," referring to San Antonio's Chicano Mayor Henry Cisneros.

March coordinator Ruben Solís blasted the campaign by supporters of the Simpson-Mazzoli bill to blame undocumented workers for unemployment and cutbacks in social services in the United States. Although we are supposed to believe that immigrant workers are flooding into the United States so they can get on welfare, Solís pointed out that U.S. government figures show only 3 percent of undocumented workers are receiving any kind of welfare, unemployment, or medical benefits, although they are being taxed to pay for these services.

He hailed the 1982 U.S. Supreme Court decision that children of undocumented workers are entitled to public education. Even if every undocumented worker was deported from the United States, he continued, there would still be millions of unemployed workers left. What we need are more jobs, not more discrimination.



Protest at San Antonio City Hall demanded defeat of Simpson-Mazzoli bill

Restructuring the rail industry

Union members suffer job loss as train service is curtailed

BY JIM GOTESKY

Railroad workers today are suffering relentless attacks on their wages, benefits, job security, and working conditions.

Along with workers in auto, steel, and other basic industries, railroad workers face an assault from the employers backed by the government, Congress, and courts. In an attempt to significantly increase their rate of profit, the rail bosses have demanded more work, under worse conditions, for less pay.

At the same time, U.S. workers have to contend with the undeniable fact that Washington is dragging them toward a new Vietnam. Using the time-worn excuse of fighting "Soviet and Cuban expansionism," both Republicans and Democrats are committing the country to deepening war in Central America and the Middle East.

The Pentagon's war budget for the next five years is projected at \$1.6 trillion at a time when workers face cuts in jobless benefits, social security, and vital health care.

Railroad workers have certainly taken their share of the punches being thrown by industry and government. The following article will look at what lies behind the railroad industry's antilabor actions. A future article will explore why the railroad unions are not effectively resisting this employer offensive and outline a strategic course to defend our unions, wages, and working conditions.

* * *

Rail freight and passenger service in the United States has declined dramatically over the last 50 years. One-quarter of all U.S. rail trackage has been abandoned as rail carriers dumped lightly utilized and thereby less profitable routes. The direct victims of reduced rail service are smaller businesses and family farmers, but indirectly everyone ends up paying the higher costs of alternate transportation.

The railroad industry was badly buffeted by the economic recessions over the past decade. It was particularly hard-hit by the 1981-83 downturn. In 1982 alone, 66,000 rail jobs were lost. Railroad car loadings were down by 15 percent last year. And the 1982 rate-of-return on investment for the large railroads was only 2.2 percent — half of what they earned in 1981.

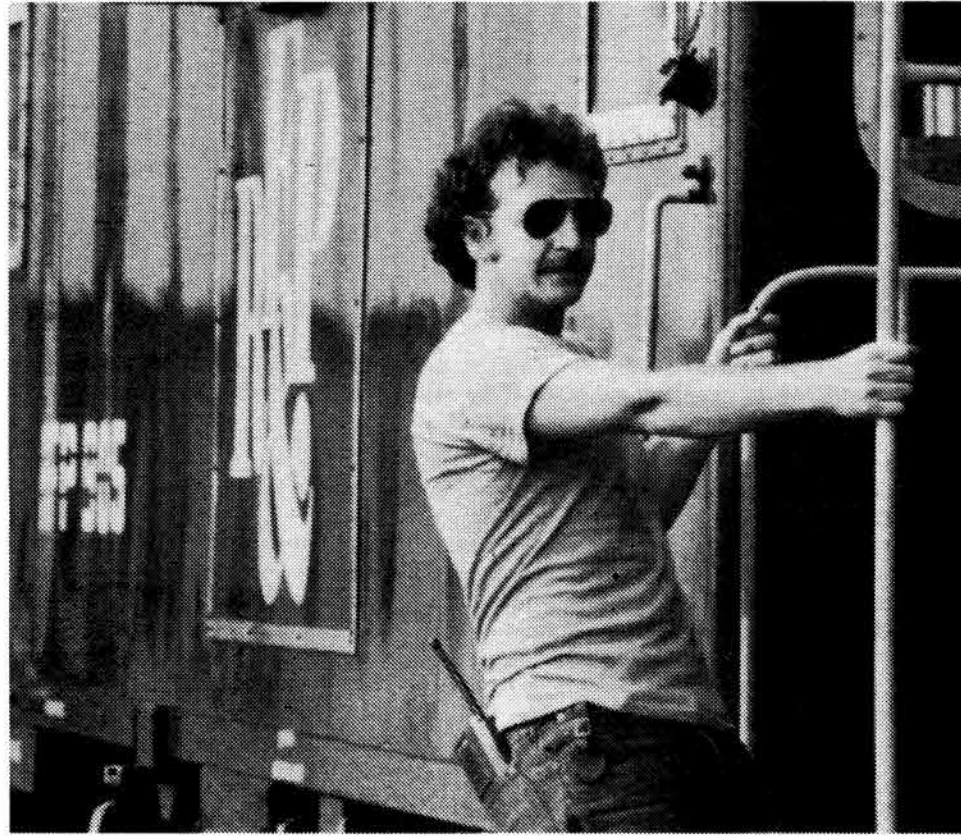
'Mega-railroads' envisioned

To buttress their sagging profits, rail carriers began to reorganize the industry in the early 1970s. Their plan is to restructure the nation's entire rail system into a handful of "mega-railroads" — giant companies locking up freight hauling over vast stretches of the country.

Key to the success of the plan is a frontal assault on rail labor and our unions — in particular the United Transportation Union (UTU) and Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers (BLE), which organize most operating craft workers. Streamlining rail operations for maximum profit will require the further layoff of tens of thousands of rail workers, increased productivity at the expense of safety, and significant wage reductions. Currently near the top of the industry's list is eliminating prouion work rules that it took rail labor decades to win.

Mergers over the past few years have already created a handful of "megaroads." The Norfolk Southern (a merger of the Norfolk & Western and the Southern), the CSX (a merger of the Chessie and the Seaboard Line), and Conrail are the three Eastern U.S. rail giants. The megaroads dominating the Western states include the recently merged Union Pacific-Missouri Pacific, the Burlington Northern, the Southern Pacific, and the Santa Fe.

A merger between the Southern Pacific and the Santa Fe was announced September 27. The combination will create the nation's third largest railway system with



Caboose is a vanishing relic on railroads as employers eliminate jobs, worsen safety and working conditions, and drive down wages. Present 7 major railroads will give way to perhaps 3 with proliferation of nonunion, short-line railroads, putting further pressure on rail unions.

some 25,000 miles of track.

In announcing the new merger, Santa Fe chairman John Schmidt said the Santa Fe was looking into purchasing Conrail. If any large eastern railroad company were merged with the combined Santa Fe and Southern Pacific, it would create the country's only transcontinental rail system controlled by a single company.

"Get ready for SuperRail," an article in the June 19 *Washington Post* began.

"Over the next decade, a combination of mergers driven by intense competition between trucks and railroads will result in a few — probably three — super railroads. Dozens of smaller branch lines, operated by private owners or state governments, will provide feeder service.

"Railroad experts in government, the industry and the financial world are in unusual agreement on this scenario. . . ."

These megaroads will carry the maximum amount of freight with the minimum size crew over great distances. Rail service will go only to those companies that can provide large enough loads on a regular basis to meet the carriers' profit standards.

"Intermodal freight systems" are to be the norm; cargo containers will arrive by ship, then be "piggy-backed" on rail cars to truck terminals for final distribution. And the carriers are determined to abandon marginally profitable passenger service wherever they can.

'Shorthaul' no substitute

While the mergers will eliminate rail service in many locations, a growing number of 'shorthaul' railroad companies are buying abandoned trackage. Serving as feeder lines to the major railroads, they often operate only a few dozen miles of track with a small work force and a minimum of equipment.

Giant corporations like U.S. Steel, ALCOA, and Owens-Illinois have traditionally owned their own railroad subsidiaries to carry raw materials and products between their factories and main rail lines.

Short-line railroads, however, will play a minor role in the industry's reorganization scenario. Hauling only about 4 percent of the nation's rail freight, they can never make up for the service abandoned by the major carriers. Their value to the industry lies in shifting the risk of operating less profitable routes onto small entrepreneurs or local governments — and weakening the

unionization of rail labor in the bargain:

"The main key to the success of short-line operations like the Pocono [Northeast Railway] or the Brandywine Valley Railroad in Coatesville, Pa. . . is that they operate with lean staffs, most often nonunion, and their employees are free to do whatever job needs to be done," an article in the September 18 *New York Times* stated.

"If a locomotive engineer is out sick, for example, his place is taken by a brakeman, a mechanic, or even an office worker."

Not only do such practices undercut hard-fought-for safety standards, but "deunionizing" even a small section of the industry sets a dangerous precedent that the large carriers can use against organized rail labor.

Scheme faces obstacles

The carriers who are pursuing the megaroad concept are not simply railroad companies. They are owned by large holding companies, including the largest and most powerful banks in the United States.

The corporate trusts who stand behind this plan will realize substantial profits if it is successfully carried out. But they face big obstacles.

A project as vast as this will cost billions of dollars in new equipment, roadbeds to handle the larger loads, port facilities, and efficient terminals. In addition, the railroads face resistance from the tens of thousands of their workers and others whose livelihoods will be sacrificed.

Especially hard hit will be family farmers who are already being driven off their land by spiraling costs and interest rates. These independent producers who grow a large portion of U.S. grain crops are already being forced to shift to expensive trucking as the railroads abandon their "inefficient" spur lines.

The railroad owners will need help to push their plan through — help in the form of cash and help in dampening the inevitable outcry by those who will suffer from this plan. To get that help they are turning to Washington.

Congress aids rail barons

Because railroads are so crucial to the economy, from the earliest days of the industry rail workers have always been in a powerful position to fight for their rights. And fight they have. In the late 19th century strikes by hundreds of thousands of rail workers paralyzed the U.S. economy

in 1877 and again in 1894.

In response, the rail barons whose vast wealth guaranteed them unchallenged influence in Congress pushed through a series of antilabor laws beginning with the Arbitration Act of 1888. By the 1920s federal legislation had saddled rail workers with the most restrictive antilabor legislation covering any section of the U.S. industrial working class.

The Railway Labor Act (RLA), which governs carrier-labor negotiations today, was passed by Congress in 1926. The RLA established a mediation board to pressure the unions to settle their disputes with the carriers.

If the rail workers refuse to knuckle under to a company's demands, the law requires a long process of mediation, including a provision for binding arbitration. If either side rejects arbitration, the dispute is put to a three-person Presidential Emergency Board appointed by the White House. Should the emergency board's recommendation fail to settle the outstanding contract issues, then an additional 30-day "cooling off" period ensues.

The RLA literally locks rail unions in this mediation process for years, while the carriers are free to conduct business as usual. The final irony is that if the rail unions are finally forced to go on strike at the end of this lengthy procedure, they face emergency congressional legislation forcing them back to work. So much for the "right to strike," supposedly guaranteed by law.

In September 1982 members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers (BLE) shut down more than 117 railroads after working without a contract for a year and a half. Within five days Democrats and Republicans in Congress ordered the engineers back to work, forcing the engineers to sign a contract giving the rail owners just about everything they had demanded.

Penn Central bankruptcy

Within the last decade a new web of federal laws have joined the RLA on the books. These new measures are paving the way for a sweeping reorganization of the nation's rail system.

Among these laws are the Regional Rail Reorganization Act of 1973 (3-R Act), the 1980 Staggers act, and the Northeast Rail Services Act of 1981 (NERSA).

The 3-R act formed Conrail and Amtrak from the ruins of the bankrupt Penn Central Railroad and five other ailing northeastern roads. The formation of Conrail and Amtrak put the federal government squarely in

From Pathfinder P

American Railroads

The Case for Nationalization
By Dick Roberts, 96 pp., \$2.95

Eugene V. Debs

A Biography
By Ray Ginger, 543 pp., \$3.95

Eugene V. Debs Speaks

320 pp., \$6.95

The Great Labor Uprising of 1877

By Philip S. Foner, 288 pp., \$5.95

Labor's Giant Step

Twenty Years of the CIO
By Art Preis, 538 pp., \$8.95

American Labor Struggles 1877-1934

By Samuel Yellen, 398 pp., \$6.95

Order from Pathfinder
St., New York, N.Y. 1
include 75 cents for po



the center of the rail bosses reorganization plans.

The bankruptcy of the Penn Central Railroad in 1970 was the largest corporate failure in U.S. history. But the Penn Central did not just fall on hard times — it was consciously bankrupted by its owners in a gigantic financial boondoggle.

To "bail out" the Penn Central's wealthy owners, Congress willingly stepped in and passed the 3-R act, claiming it would preserve jobs and rail service. Freight and passenger service were organized into Conrail. Long distance passenger service was organized under Amtrak.

Rather than take the Penn Central out of the hands of the rail bosses and financiers who intentionally ran it into the ground, Congress rewarded Penn Central's former owners by issuing them a special Conrail bond series in exchange for rolling stock and other equipment.

A Congressional debate over whether the federal government should "get into the railroad business" was used to cover up the facts of who really owned Conrail.

Both Amtrak and Conrail were set up as "for profit" corporations that handsomely rewarded their stock and bond holders over the years. The government stepped in not to nationalize the bankrupt lines, but to assume the enormous costs of upgrading the systems' track and equipment.

Since 1976 this bailout for big business has cost taxpayers nearly \$7 billion — about \$3.3 billion going to pay off the bankrupt lines' old owners.

Few would argue that this country's deteriorating rail system desperately needs modernizing. But labor has no stake in the

current reorganization plans of big business — plans based on boosting profits through cutting service and wringing concessions from the unions representing rail workers.

By the late 1970s the railroad industry and Washington began a direct attack on railroad workers using Conrail and Amtrak as the cutting edge of their campaign. Citing the huge government outlays for the two lines, the industry and government claimed they were losing money because the work force was too large and work rules too lenient. Conrail and Amtrak unions were "featherbedding," a time-honored charge management makes against rail labor every time they seek concessions from their workers.

The unions were warned that they would have to accept big cuts in wages and working conditions in order to "save" Conrail and Amtrak — and by implication the jobs of thousands of workers.

Conrail brakemen belonging to the United Transportation Union (UTU) were among the first rail workers in the country forced to sign a "crew consist" agreement — a cost saving measure that reduces the size of train crews to a point that jeopardizes safe train operation. Shortly after the 1979 Conrail agreement was signed, the profitable Burlington Northern demanded a similar concession from its workers.

With the onset of the 1981 recession, employers stepped up their demands for more concessions. Washington again took the lead. In April 1981 the Reagan administration cited Conrail and Amtrak deficits to threaten an immediate halt to government subsidies and a forced sale of Conrail to private industry.

Reagan's threat to sell government holdings in Conrail, regardless of the consequences to Conrail workers and the public, netted additional concessions from the unions. Labor givebacks included \$200 million a year for three years in "deferred" wages and unprecedented changes in work rules that the unions had won over many decades.

Relentless pressure over the past two years forced Amtrak engineers to give up the hard-won "100-mile rule" — a method of paying engineers that encouraged the carriers to keep workers within relatively easy reach of their homes.

The UTU leadership recently agreed to allow the elimination of cabooses on some trains, not only on Conrail but nationally. The caboose is a key safety feature in rail transportation, but a very expensive one from the owners' point of view.

The employers' promise that all of these givebacks, and many more besides, would save jobs was nothing more than empty propaganda. The Conrail work force was nearly 100,000 in 1976. By April 1982 it had been trimmed to 58,750 and to 39,957 by April 1983. Since 1981 Conrail has abandoned more than 2,000 miles of track with Washington's blessing.

Conrail on auction block

Congress — under the guise of rescuing Conrail and Amtrak from the drastic steps threatened by the Reagan administration — passed another piece of antilabor rail legislation in August 1981. The Northeast Rail Services Act (NERSA) contained two main provisions.

The first phase of NERSA ordered Conrail to turn over its commuter passenger operations to local agencies by January 1983. This part of the law had twin objectives. One was to pare down Conrail to a streamlined freight-hauling system in line with the industry's overall profit-making reorganization plans. The other objective was to force the unions to sign new agreements with local operating authorities, who could argue that labor should curb its demands or be prevented from striking "for the public good."

The second phase of NERSA required that U.S. government oversight of Conrail be ended by June 1984 and that Conrail stock, temporarily being held by the government, be sold to the highest bidder.

Local authorities have used the transfer of commuter lines from Conrail to force big concessions from rail workers in the Northeast. In Philadelphia the local operating authority, SEPTA, launched an open campaign to break the unions. Members of the Brotherhood of Railway and Airline Clerks were locked out of their jobs and replaced by nonunion workers.

About half the former Conrail workers in Philadelphia ended up working for SEPTA. Rail service in Philadelphia was cut back drastically along with the wages and benefits of the remaining workers.

Long rail strikes in New York and New Jersey early in 1983 couldn't prevent

former Conrail commuter workers from suffering defeats there either.

New Jersey engineers had to accept a plan that eliminated pay for time spent waiting for return runs at outlying points. Wage increases granted by the New York and New Jersey transit authorities won't keep pace with inflation. Some crafts even accepted wage freezes. Cost-of-living clauses were struck down.

Hardest hit will be Black and women rail workers. The few affirmative-action hiring gains that brought women and Blacks into engineer and fireman jobs in the late 1970s have been virtually wiped out.

Many rail workers thought the NERSA-mandated change-over would be a better deal. After all, they asked, how could anything be worse than Conrail? Having already given up 12 percent of their wages each year to protect their jobs, they were stunned and angry at the new concessions the transit authorities extracted.

Since January 1983 union members have been fighting an uphill battle to ward off these new attacks. But it is likely that most of these new concessions will stick.

Powerful precedent

Although these blows have fallen on Conrail and Amtrak workers, they are aimed at all rail workers. Indeed, all U.S. industrialists and financiers are watching closely in order to gauge the attitudes and fighting ability of the labor movement as a whole.

From the employers' point of view, the list of givebacks wrung from rail workers in the Northeast is truly impressive. Carriers are hailing these concessions as heralding a new era in railroading. The temptation to drive through similar concessions elsewhere in the rail industry will be irresistible.

Gus Welty, labor editor of *Railway Age*, an industry magazine, took note of the handwriting on the wall in the Nov. 8, 1982, issue. Commenting enthusiastically on the BLE's giveback of mileage pay in their new contract with Amtrak, Welty wrote:

"But no matter how you cut it, no matter what arguments can be mustered, the fact remains that through peaceful negotiations Amtrak and the BLE have changed a pattern that existed for more than 60 years. Precedent has been set — and precedent can be powerful."

Unfortunately, railroad workers through their unions have been unable to mount an effective defense against this onslaught. Moreover, the leadership of rail labor in most cases has actively promoted the concessions. Why these leaderships act in direct opposition to the needs of their members and what strategy we need to fight back will be the subject of the next article.

Jim Gotesky is a former Conrail electrician now working for Metro North Commuter Railroad in New York. He is a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Union Local 817.

SS

Master Rebellion

Barrell Dobbs, 192 pp., \$4.95

Master Power

Barrell Dobbs, 255 pp., \$5.95

Master Politics

Barrell Dobbs, 256 pp., \$5.95

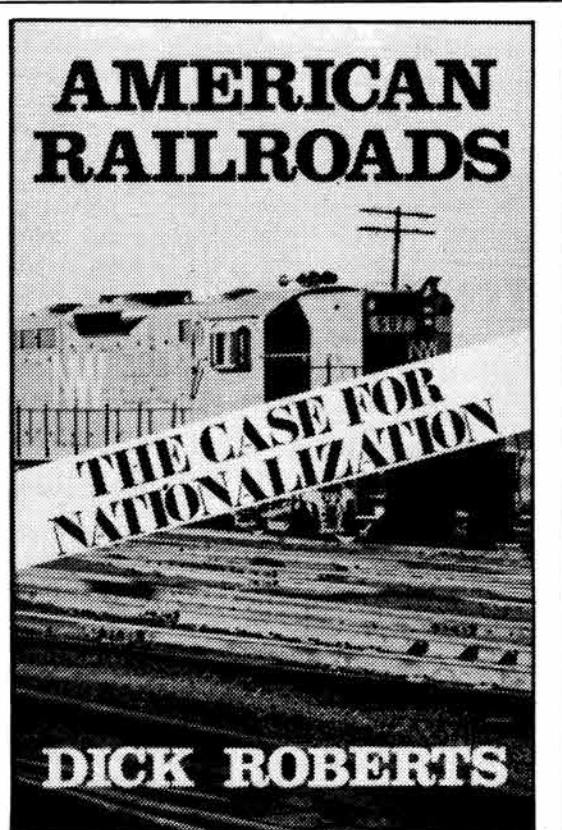
Master Bureaucracy

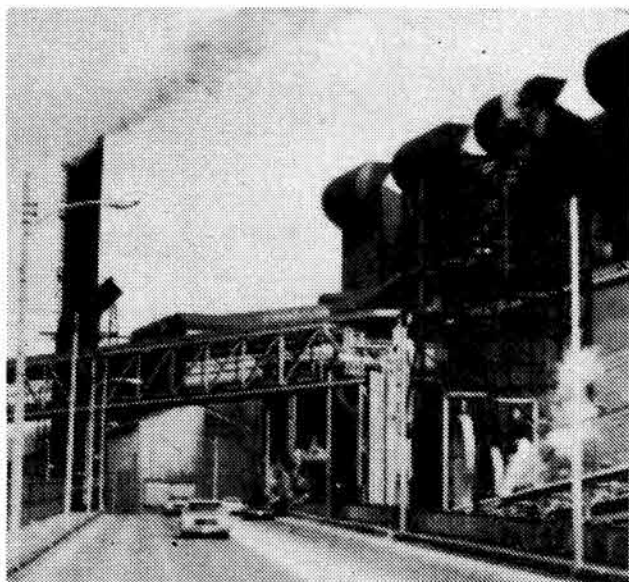
Barrell Dobbs, 304 pp., \$5.95

Workers in the Changing South

Impact of the Civil Rights Movement
Nelson Blackstock, 30 pp., 95 cents

ress, 410 West
14. Please
ge and handling.





Weirton Steel is now largest "employee-owned" company in country.

Can 'employee-owned' plants operate in labor's interest?

Weirton Steel 'bought' by workers; wages cut

BY GEOFF MIRELOWITZ

In late September, workers at the giant steel mill in Weirton, West Virginia voted to buy the plant from its former owner, National Steel. By a margin of more than 80 percent the steelworkers approved an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP) thus creating the Weirton Steel Corp., the largest "employee-owned" company in the country.

Steelworkers at Weirton voted overwhelmingly for the plan as the only road they saw open to them to try to save their jobs. Early in 1982 National Steel announced that it would no longer make any significant investment in the Weirton mill. The company said the plant was making "inadequate profits."

The implications were painfully clear to steelworkers and the residents of Weirton, which is economically dependent on the plant. At one time 12,000 workers were employed there. Today 7,100 are working and another 2,600 are laid off.

National's decision not to invest any more money in the mill meant one of two things. Either the plant would be converted to a much smaller finishing mill — with a significantly reduced work force. Or it would be shut down entirely.

Faced with choices like these, many workers voted for the ESOP proposal.

This decision will be of interest to many other workers. It will be of particular interest to other steelworkers who have been facing tough times and now see more signs that things may get worse before they get better.

"U.S. Steel's New Strategy is Likely to Result in Several Big Plant Closings by Year-End," reported a recent headline in the *Wall Street Journal*. There is little "new," however, about U.S. Steel's strategy or that of any other major steel producer. They have all been closing their less profitable operations in order to make their companies "more efficient" and raise their rate of profit.

For the same reason, a new merger is in the works in the corporate board rooms of the steel barons. Republic Steel and the LTV Corp. (itself a product of a previous merger between Jones and Laughlin Steel and the Youngstown Sheet and Tube Co. in 1978) are preparing to combine operations.

Wall Street is pleased. "The ultimate conclusion... will be extremely favorable," says one steel industry analyst. "The new company will keep the newer plants, close the older ones and end up with a lower break-even point and a higher profit margin."

The ultimate conclusion for steelworkers will be very unfavorable. Once again they will pay the price in thousands of lost jobs. So it is understandable that faced with this prospect, some workers turn to proposals such as the ESOP at Weirton. Unfortunately, such schemes cannot protect steelworkers from the effects of the employers' drive for profits.

Worker capitalism

"This is worker capitalism, not worker management," explained Joshua Gotbaum, an official of Lazard Frères & Co., the Wall Street investment banking firm that put the Weirton ESOP proposal together and persuaded the banks to loan the money to make it possible. "If this thing is going to work," warned Gotbaum, "no matter who owns it, it's going to have to be run like a business."

This frank remark gets at the heart of the problem for Weirton's workers. Under

capitalism, the only companies that stay in business are those that make a big enough profit. This profit drive is aimed directly against the wages, benefits, and other needs of workers.

The same economic laws are at work at the new Weirton Steel Corp. despite the fact that it is now "employee-owned." In order to persuade the banks to loan the money to buy the plant, the workers had to agree to the following:

- A wage roll-back to August 1982 levels.
- A six-year wage freeze.
- An end to cost-of-living protection, to be replaced by a "profit-sharing" plan — if and when there are any profits.
- An agreement not to strike for six years.
- Substantial modification of vacation, overtime, and supplemental unemployment benefits.

There is not much to distinguish this contract from dozens of other concession deals like those imposed on Chrysler workers in 1979 or on other steelworkers earlier this year. The fact that Weirton Steel is now "employee owned" doesn't make it any better. The effect of concessions is the same under "worker" capitalism or plain old "traditional" capitalism.

But there is one thing about concessions that are part of an ESOP deal that is worse than most other concession contracts. In the case of a privately owned corporation it is clear that it is the capitalists who are forcing the bad terms on the workers. An ESOP plan takes the capitalists off the hook. It creates the illusion that it is the workers themselves who have made the decision in the interests of "their" company.

In fact, the concessions at Weirton were imposed just as much by big-business interests as were those at Chrysler and elsewhere. At Chrysler the banks simply said openly that they would not loan Chrysler money unless the workers sacrificed.

At Weirton too the banks only agreed to loan the funds if workers agreed to concessions. But the bankers were able to cast themselves in the false role of "helping" the workers to buy "their own" company.

Not end of problem

The more that workers are persuaded of this illusion the more they will be inclined to go along with more givebacks as new

demands come up.

Therefore this initial concession contract is not the end of the problem for Weirton workers. It is only the beginning. As the *Wall Street Journal* observed, "the new Weirton Steel Corp. will face some of the same problems that prompted National to offer to sell the giant complex."

The new company will have to compete with other steel corporations for a share of the market for its product — sheet and strip steel. In order to compete effectively it will have to hold down costs. That doesn't mean only keeping wages down. It also means not spending "too much" on health and safety or pollution controls for instance.

The same approach will probably lead to speed up on the floor of the mill. Workers can expect to hear that they have to work faster and in smaller crews — and consequently more dangerously — in order to help "their" company compete with the other steel corporations.

What about the 2,600 workers who are laid off? If the plant was really going to be operated in the interest of the workers, those on lay off would be recalled immediately. But this is not likely. These workers will not have a job any faster than they would have if National Steel still owned the plant. They were laid off in order to protect profits. "Employee-owned" or not, the mill's managers will not call them back if that cuts into profits.

Furthermore, if it can't get enough orders, the new "employee-owned" company may have to lay off more workers.

Worker control?

Any thought that such problems might be avoided because workers will control the new corporation is mistaken. Even if the entire board of directors was made up of rank-and-file workers, the basic laws of the capitalist system would still be at work. If the "worker-managers" resolved the conflicts in favor of workers' needs and against protecting profits, the plant would not make enough money. Consequently, the banks would refuse to invest or make loans. And the plant would have to go out of business.

However, in point of fact, there will be no workers control of any meaningful sort at all in the new corporation. The new board of directors was picked by the

Lazard Frères investment firm. It has one worker representative — Walter Bish, the president of the plant's Independent Steelworkers Union (this is one of the few basic steel mills in the country not organized by the United Steelworkers of America). Whatever his intentions, Bish will be unable to do any more to defend workers' interests than Douglas Fraser was able to accomplish as a member of the Chrysler board of directors. Fraser's seat at Chrysler only created the illusion of worker representation.

Furthermore, while the steelworkers at Weirton have taken a wage cut, the company's new chief executive officer will take in a cool \$300,000 a year or more. The framers of the ESOP proposal at Lazard Frères felt such a large salary is needed "to secure an executive of the necessary ability and prominence." Just another reminder that at employee-owned Weirton, as at all other capitalist enterprises, it is only workers who are expected to sacrifice.

Bad job better than no job?

Despite these problems posed by the ESOP scheme, many Weirton workers came to the conclusion that a job with a bad contract was better than no job at all.

This is an understandable sentiment. But it is nonetheless a fact that this very argument has been used against workers and unions for years.

The employers have always used the threat of unemployment to pressure workers into accepting whatever wages and benefits the boss is prepared to pay. Workers on strike frequently hear that they should just be happy to have a job. The employers commonly argue that if strikers don't return to the job, the bosses can find other workers who will.

Once workers accept this line of thinking it is downhill from there. One concession often leads to another and the result over time is a lower standard of living.

If steelworkers and the entire labor movement are to really preserve jobs and maintain union rights and benefits that have been won in the past, another alternative must be found.

Any Weirton workers who turned to the official leadership of the U.S. labor movement didn't find any helpful ideas. The approach of most of these union officials is to start with those proposals that can help make the corporations — and the entire capitalist economy — "work better." This in turn, is supposed to help workers too.

But this approach hits the same dead end as the ESOP scheme. Because, as we have shown, helping a capitalist enterprise "work better" means workers accepting any number of concessions — up to and including acceptance of the loss of jobs of those workers a corporation deems unnecessary. In fact the ESOP idea is just another variant of this approach.

What alternative?

The working class can not control, reform, or improve the basic economic laws of capitalism that lead the employers to attack workers rights. But what it can do is fight uncompromisingly for demands that protect workers from the impact of the capitalist drive for profit. The unions can begin with the idea that it is the employers — not workers — who should pay the price of the economic crisis.

The struggle to protect jobs and defend workers rights can only be successful if it is waged by workers as a class — that is by

Continued on next page

Subscribe to New International

First issue includes: "Their Trotsky and Ours: Communist Continuity Today," by Jack Barnes; "Lenin and the Colonial Question," by Carlos Rafael Rodríguez; "Two articles on the 1916 Easter Rebellion in Ireland," by V.I. Lenin and Leon Trotsky.

- ☐ Four issues: \$12
- ☐ First class mail to U.S., Canada, Mexico: \$18
- ☐ Airmail to Central America, Caribbean: \$20
- ☐ Airmail to Europe, South America: \$25
- ☐ Airmail to Asia, Africa: \$28
- ☐ Surface mail to any country: \$18

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Country _____

Send to New International, 14 Charles Ln., New York, N.Y. 10014

New International

A Magazine of Marxist Politics and Theory

Vol. 1, No. 1 \$4.00 Fall 1983

Their Trotsky and Ours: Communist Continuity Today

by Jack Barnes

Lenin and the Colonial Question

by Carlos Rafael Rodríguez

Two articles on the 1916 Easter Rebellion in Ireland by V. I. Lenin and Leon Trotsky

'Marroquin's fight is larger than his asylum'

Kansas City Labor Council endorses socialist's fight for political asylum

The following article appeared in the September 23 *Kansas City Labor Beacon*, published by the Greater Kansas City, Missouri, Labor Council, AFL-CIO. The Labor Council heard a presentation from Héctor Marroquín on September 13. The delegate body of the council then voted a resolution of support for Marroquín and directed the council officers to send the Immigration and Naturalization Service a letter to that effect.

BY DREW MENDELSON

In the case of Héctor Marroquín the paperwork is beginning to pile up.

It is now nine years since the young political activist fled his native Mexico to escape murder charges in the death of a university librarian. He is an avowed Marxist and a union organizer. Neither calling has endeared Marroquín to the U.S. government.

In 1974 Marroquín asked the United States to grant him political asylum. It is an issue which the U.S. government would rather not face. Mexico is an ally and a trading partner of the United States. As a rule, political refugees come from countries such as the Soviet Union, whose political systems are an anathema to ours.

Political refugees seek asylum here for a variety of reasons: to escape persecution, to avoid being jailed as political prisoners, even to escape death.

Is Marroquín in such a situation? He claims to have been framed in the murder. Friends of his implicated in the 1974 murder were arrested and either died or disappeared without trials. The Mexican government has repeatedly asked for Marroquín's return. He says that he fears for his life if he is made to go back, and that the record of political repression in Mexico is clear enough to give him reason to fear.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) has refused to classify him a political refugee and ordered his deportation. Slowly during the past 10 years, the case has wound its way through the courts. Marroquín's last resort is the U.S. Supreme Court, which has granted *certiorari* to the case so as to consider it for review. A decision is expected at any time.

Marroquín's friends are already searching for another friendly country for him to move to if the deportation order is upheld.

Marroquín became involved in the U.S. labor movement shortly after his arrival in this nation. He became involved in an organizing campaign at Texas Coca Cola bottling plant. Subsequently he has traveled over the U.S. as a speaker and on behalf of union workers' rights.

Early on, according to one of the documents in the growing paper pile, Marro-

quín aroused the wrath of the INS.

"The government responded (to Marroquín's organizing work) by trying to deport (him) back to Mexico. Since both the U.S. and Mexican governments are influenced by many of the same multinational corporations, there is a mutual interest in throttling dissent in Mexico," remarked the United Auto Workers publication "Solidarity" in 1979.

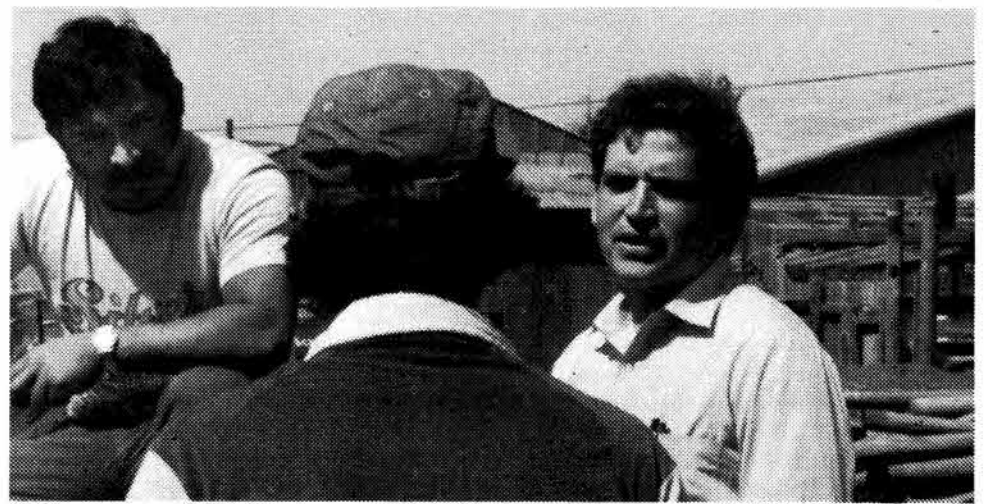
Since that time, Marroquín has garnered the backing of a large number of labor organizations. Several chapters of the Coalition of Labor Union Women have written the INS to protest Marroquín's deportation order.

The New Orleans chapter stated, "By deporting those political refugees who disagree with U.S. policies and granting asylum to those who further our own government's objectives, the Reagan Administration has reduced our immigration law to a political weapon."

The Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers, AFL-CIO, has urged the deportation order be lifted, as have local unions of the American Federation of Government Workers, the UAW, the United Steelworkers and a large number of other unions.

Why is labor lending its support to Marroquín? He is, after all, a Marxist, and U.S. labor has not embraced Marxism or found much to like about Communist philosophy. Labor in this country is firmly in the mainstream of liberal American politics.

Labor is concerned, though, about the exploitation of workers in Third World countries. Wage rates in Central America,



Militant/Larry Lukehart

Héctor Marroquín (right) is making special effort to talk with unionists to build defense of his right to asylum. Many farm workers face deportation and discrimination; they welcome his challenge to immigration authorities.

Asia, and the Far East are a pittance, and workers have little right or opportunity to organize. Because of this, U.S. corporations take their work out of the country, and American workers suffer. The issue is not politics as much as it is workers' rights.

Marroquín's struggle is a struggle which, if lost, is likely to further dampen the ability of foreign workers to form unions and obtain fair wage rates.

Too, if unions are suppressed in the Third World and wages stay low, American jobs are jeopardized. In a different context, it has been said that those who compete against slave labor are forced to accept the conditions of slave labor.

American unions know that if they must compete against the low wage, non-union labor of the Third World, they must accept the conditions prevalent in the Third World.

Thus Marroquín's fight is one much larger than just his desire for asylum and the right to free expression. It is a fight to change the way in which the government treats political refugees, particularly those working for labor rights.

No walls will come crashing down if Marroquín wins this fight. No historical marker will be established, only a rededication of America's goal of freedom for all.

Plant closing angers Birmingham workers

BY DEE ROBBINS

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — September 1 Connors Steel shut its doors on more than 500 steelworkers after they voted against the third giveback contract in a little over a year. The mood at Connors was anger.

Workers there see the closing as part of a nationwide union-busting drive. Some told the *Militant* they expect the plant will reopen nonunion within a year. They cited recent retooling for new production lines and the company's purchase of more real estate near the plant.

Workers at Connors had taken a 12 percent pay cut in July 1982 and another 20 percent cut last March. Now company officials were demanding a three-year wage freeze, an end to cost-of-living increases, no shift differentials, elimination of two paid holidays, and cuts in vacations and pensions. Workers told me this amounted

to a cumulative 40 percent cut in wages and benefits.

Steelworkers voted the concessions down twice. After the first vote, the parent company, H.K. Porter Inc. of Pittsburgh, announced it would close Connors. A petition was circulated for a revote under the guise that workers had "thought Connors was bluffing."

Despite company threats and a media campaign branding them as greedy and irresponsible, steelworkers rejected the contract by an even greater margin — nearly two to one — in the second vote.

Workers interviewed by the *Militant* said a key reason was the "30-day clause." This would allow the company to cancel the contract and close the plant at any time with only 30 days notice. "Our insurance would be canceled, we'd lose our rights to paid vacations for 1984, and the guys who are within two years of getting their pen-

sions wouldn't be eligible for them," one steelworker said.

Another worker told the media, "I gave up \$6,000 a year but the price of a loaf of bread hasn't come down a dime."

This sentiment against more concessions outraged the local press. A *Birmingham News* editorial called union leaders "a few unreasonable and wrongheaded men" and said the workers "would rather be unemployed than have a job."

News media repeatedly claimed Connors steelworkers made \$15 an hour even after earlier givebacks. Workers at the plant gate told me the real figure averages about \$8.

"The media is out to make us look mean," one steelworker told me, "that we're out to blow the place up. They've been searching us as we go into the plant these last couple of weeks because of an alleged bomb threat. It's a management thing to make union members out to be violent."

The two Democratic Party candidates in the October 11 mayoralty race, incumbent Richard Arrington and City Council President John Katopodis, didn't have a word of support for the Connors workers' fight for job security and a living wage.

Although both claimed to be campaigning against unemployment, neither condemned Connors for robbing the workers for more than a year and then shutting the plant down.

On the other hand, Socialist Workers Party candidate Sonja Franeta actively supported the Connors workers and spoke out against the company's blackmail.

"Contrary to what the bosses tell us, the Connors workers have learned that concessions *don't* save jobs," she said. "Concessions weaken the labor movement, the only force that can fight for jobs."

"Saying no to company giveback demands is the first step toward building a strong union movement that can really fight for jobs — for demands such as a shorter workweek with no loss in pay, and a massive public works program instead of today's war spending."

For the past several months the *Militant* had been sold weekly at the Connors plant gate. Usually two or three papers were sold. One worker bought the pamphlet, *Steelworkers Under Attack*.

The final week before the plant closed 10 *Militants* were sold.

Are 'employee-owned' plants in labor's interest?

Continued from preceding page

all workers together. It cannot be done plant by plant or industry by industry. Unemployment is a social problem that requires a broad political solution.

As an immediate measure, the labor movement should demand that the government provide unemployment compensation at the rate of union wages, for as long as a worker remains out of work.

Similarly, the government should also provide free health care and medical insurance. A family's right to be free of disease or to receive adequate treatment for injuries, should not be dependent on whether or not a particular company keeps a worker on the job. The money to pay for these programs can be taken directly from the massive, bloated war budget.

Especially key is for the labor movement to demand that the workweek be shortened with no reduction in pay. This would spread the available work around and provide a job for everyone who wants one. It would mean that workers could benefit, rather than be victimized, by the application of new labor-saving technology.

The employers would balk, just as they resisted the labor movement's demand for the eight-hour day. And the Democrats and

Republicans would join them.

But that is what unions are for — to organize workers to fight back effectively against the capitalists and their government when they deny workers those reasonable demands that would help assure a decent standard of living.

Nationwide political fight

Fighting for a 30-hour workweek at 40 hours pay would be a far better safeguard of workers' jobs at Weirton — and everywhere else — than the ESOP plan will be. But the Weirton workers could not fight and win this on their own.

Nor could workers at any other plant. Any company — including those which are "employee-owned" — instituting a shorter workweek while its competitors retained the 40-hour week, could not compete effectively and would go out of business.

The only way to win the shorter workweek, and adequate unemployment and health insurance too, is to fight for it throughout the country and in every industry. This would require a political battle against both the employers and the government.

Winning these demands would require mobilizing working-class power in an ac-

tion campaign conducted in the spirit of the recent August 27 march on Washington for jobs, peace, and freedom, or the massive Solidarity Day demonstration of two years ago. Just like the fight for the eight-hour day, it would require marches, rallies, pickets, and strike action where necessary. That would benefit the labor movement. It would get the unions into action and mobilize workers for further struggle.

To those workers faced with the immediate danger of the loss of their jobs — as the Weirton workers were — this may not seem like a very realistic alternative. And it is true that no such campaign is being organized today.

However, if workers limit themselves to considering only those proposals and ideas, such as ESOPs, that are considered "realistic" at this time, then there is no way out of the dead end of simply trying to make the system work better.

The challenge to those workers who are determined to find a way to defend their class from the employers' attacks, is to develop a strategy that can break out of this trap. That strategy must start with a program that is aimed not at making capitalism work better — because it is already working in the only way it can — but at protecting and defending working people.

NOW convention discusses racism, anti-Semitism

The recent national conference of the National Organization for Women (NOW) had an important discussion on the need for the women's rights movement to be part of the fight against racism and to follow up on current openings to recruit Black, Latina, Asian-American, and Native American women to NOW. The conference passed



WOMEN IN REVOLT Margaret Jayko

ed an important resolution that committed NOW to doing just that.

This was spurred by NOW's participation in the massive August 27 march on Washington for jobs, peace, and freedom.

A small number of women at the conference spoke against this perspective.

They sought to cover their opposition by counterposing a struggle against anti-Semitism to fighting racism.

On the plenary floor, this took the form of baiting supporters of the "minority women's" resolution by asking whether Jewish women were included in the term "minority women."

In the workshop titled "Why is Racism a Feminist Issue" one of the same women said the real racists are Blacks, who, she said, are anti-Semitic.

What was behind these remarks was made crystal clear at a Jewish Women's Caucus that some of the women organized.

There they repeated the charges made by the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League and other pro-Zionist organizations that the August 27 march was anti-Semitic because its demands included opposition to Washington's military role in the Mideast.

The caucus organizers also expressed their hostility to the discussion in NOW on making the recruitment of more Black women a primary goal of the organization.

Some women who genuinely oppose both racism and anti-Semitism and supported the minority women's resolution were confused.

It's important for feminist fighters to be able to take on these charges because they are designed to divide and disrupt our movement.

Is the struggle against racism counterposed to the struggle against anti-Semitism?

No. To the contrary, every blow against racist prejudice and discrimination also weakens anti-Jewish bigotry.

Racism is rooted in the same class system that foments anti-Semitism — the capitalist system. Jews have historically been used by the ruling class as scapegoats for the social ills of the private-profit system.

Ultra-right, anti-woman, forces such as the Ku Klux Klan and the Nazis are anti-Semitic as well as racist and have stepped up their violence against synagogues as well as against the homes of Black people.

In fact, at the workshop on racism, a woman from Brown University reported that after a series of racist and anti-Semitic attacks on that campus, Black and Jewish students discussed the need for joint protest activity to defend themselves.

Are Blacks anti-Semites?

No. In fact, Blacks are a key ally for Jewish people to seek out in combatting anti-Semitism. Black rights organizations are also opponents of anti-Semitic acts.

The charge that Blacks are anti-Jewish is an attempt to derail the growing understanding that the fight against racism is central for women today.

It is also directed against the fact that many Blacks condemn the racist, colonial-settler state of Israel, which works hand-in-glove with U.S. imperialism to back reactionary regimes all over the world, from El Salvador to South Africa to Lebanon.

Based on their own struggle against oppression in this country, Blacks as a whole tend to be more supportive of the Palestinian struggle to regain their homeland and

build a democratic, secular Palestine.

Blacks also tend to be more opposed to U.S. aid to Israel, just like they tend to be more supportive of the Equal Rights Amendment, affirmative action, and other progressive measures.

The U.S. ruling class — and many pro-Zionist spokespeople — try to drive a wedge between oppressed nationalities and Jews. They would like to convince Blacks that it's Jews — not the ruling class — who are responsible for the rotten housing and working conditions and poor quality of goods and services in the Black communities.

And they tell Jews that every advance for Black people conflicts with the interests of Jewish people.

Thus, groups like B'nai B'rith campaign against affirmative action quotas and community control of schools in Black and Latino neighborhoods — demands directed at achieving equality for Blacks and Latinos.

One aspect of the confusion at the NOW conference is that the term used to include Black, Latina, Puerto Rican, Chicano, and Asian-American women is "minority" women. Special outreach to these women is necessary, however, not because they are minorities, but because of their oppression based on race.

Jewish women are also a minority. But Jews are not a nationally oppressed group in this country. There is *discrimination* against Jews.

The heavily working-class composition of the oppressed nationalities in this country, their long history of organized, militant struggle, their advanced consciousness on progressive social issues, and the pivotal role that racism plays in propping up the entire capitalist system, make it absolutely necessary for NOW to consciously orient toward recruiting large numbers of these sisters.

NOW should also oppose anti-Semitism. We must point out that the fight against anti-Semitism is totally bound up with the fight against racism, sexism, and working-class exploitation. Understanding this will help make many Jewish women staunch supporters of NOW's efforts to reach out to sisters of the oppressed nationalities.

Puerto Rican Senate exposes activity of killer cops

Continued from Page 9

The PNP minority was not happy with this, especially with the television coverage of the hearings. Romero Barceló ranted about what he dubbed the "political circus" going on in the Senate. The "Maravilla-gate" broadcasts have attracted more viewers than the very popular afternoon soap operas.

The Senate hearings have confirmed that the government "investigations" of the Cerro Maravilla incident attempted to cover up the murders. Puerto Rican Justice Department officials admitted that serious "errors" permeated these investigations.

One of the main witnesses, the former agent Jesús Quiñones Quiñones, declared that on two occasions Justice Department officials tried to bribe him into changing his account of the incident.

Puerto Rico's Justice Department found it hard to remain quiet while charges were piled against it during the Senate hearings. On June 25 then Secretary of Justice Héctor Reichard announced that he was naming a special committee of people outside his department to investigate the role played by the department's agents and officials in investigating the Cerro Maravilla case.

The governor at first gave the impression that he supported Reichard's action, but a month later he asked for Reichard's resignation. Puerto Rico's secretary of state, Carlos Quiñones, explained that Reichard "could not integrate himself with the government team and preferred to work independently."

District judge places obstacle

The Senate hearings were interrupted July 12, a little less than a month after starting, when U.S. District Court Judge Juan Pérez Giménez placed an injunction on the Senate hearings, preventing the Judicial Committee of the Senate from calling the cops involved in the Cerro Maravilla killings to testify in public.

The judge claimed that this would interfere with civil suits brought by the relatives of Soto Arriví and Rosado against these cops.

The Senate responded with an appeal to the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Boston, which has jurisdiction over Puerto Rico.

The appeals court overruled Pérez

Giménez' injunction and the hearings were resumed on September 7.

The incident with the injunction provoked a heated discussion on the island over the role played by the U.S. District Court of Puerto Rico, whose proceedings are all in English and whose decisions are based on U.S. precedents.

Severo Colberg, Speaker of the Puerto Rican Senate, has called for the ouster of the U.S. District Court from the island, labeling it "an enclave which serves the interests of the U.S. government's imperialistic work."

Seek immunity

Several of the police agents involved in the Cerro Maravilla events have testified before the Senate since September 7. They generally clung to the government's version of the incident, claiming the two pro-independence youths were shot in self-de-

fense, and that only one volley of shots was fired.

However, inconsistencies and contradictions in their testimonies have forced the U.S. Justice Department to reopen the investigation on the Cerro Maravilla incident, as the coverup is rapidly unfolding.

In addition, three important witnesses have requested immunity from perjury charges so they can tell things they "had not dared to tell before," as one of them explained.

Miguel Marte Ruíz had been working at the tower on Cerro Maravilla on the day of the killings. Until now, he has claimed he heard only one volley of shots, supporting the cops' version of the incident. Modesto Delgado, supervisor of the television station employing Marte at the time, spoke with him immediately after the killings and apparently has been holding back some crucial information. These two have al-

ready been granted immunity.

A third witness, one of the police agents who participated in the Cerro Maravilla operation, requested immunity and the protection of the Senate. The Senate voted October 3 to grant him immunity in a special session called a few hours after the request was made.

On October 4, in an attempt to at least temporarily paralyze the hearings, four agents refused to testify before the Senate. They face civil contempt charges which could entail spending a few months in jail.

The Puerto Rican colonial government and its boss in the United States thought five years ago they could easily cover up and forget the cold-blooded murder of two young fighters for independence. They found out, much to their distaste, that even after several so-called investigations absolving the police of any wrongdoing, the Puerto Rican people would not let the issue die.

Anti-Semitic violence at Yeshiva University

BY STEPHEN BRIDE

NEW YORK — Authorities now admit the same gun was used in a series of sniper attacks on Jewish youths here that began last June and have so far left one person dead.

Breaking an official silence, Police Commissioner Robert McGuire announced September 20 that ballistics tests had shown the weapon, a high-powered semiautomatic rifle, had been fired in four separate incidents, three of which involved students at Yeshiva University.

Yeshiva, with an enrollment of 7,000, is the country's largest Jewish university.

"We can speculate," McGuire said, "that the shootings were anti-Semitic."

A spokesman for the university, Samuel Harstein, seemed rather more certain. "We have to accept," he declared the same day, "that these are attacks by an anti-Semitic gang or individual that has his mind set on attacks on Jewish students."

In fact, the pattern of assaults leaves little room for doubt.

• June 7: Four shots are fired at the main building at Yeshiva, located in the Bronx. No injuries are reported.

• June 9: Six shots are fired at Jewish Memorial Hospital, also in the Bronx.

Again, no injuries.

• June 22: A sniper opens up on the B'Teavon restaurant, one block from Yeshiva, firing 20 shots. This time three Yeshiva students are wounded.

• September 18: Lucille Rivera, 37, is killed — police believe mistakenly — on the Cross Bronx Expressway by a bullet fired from an entrance ramp. The assassin then puts a bullet into the car behind Rivera's, which carries five Yeshiva University High School students. One, Donald Spilky, is wounded; a second student, it turns out, was also in the B'Teavon during the June 22 attack.

In the expressway killing, police obtained descriptions of a car parked at the entrance ramp and of its lone male occupant. Witnesses to the B'Teavon shooting, however, say at least four persons were involved, suggesting an anti-Semitic organization might be behind the attacks.

Although police have now stepped up patrols at Yeshiva, their earlier inaction forced the university to lay out \$250,000 for Wells Fargo security guards and to provide a van for commuting students.

The ultrarightist Jewish Defense League (JDL), meanwhile, has used the occasion to grab a bit of publicity for itself. On Sep-

tember 25, it began its own widely advertised patrols of the university.

The JDL patrols are reportedly armed with bats, chains, and other such weapons. A sergeant at the station house near Yeshiva told the *Daily News* that police there "will offer them cooperation."

Socialists and the Fight Against Anti-Semitism

By Peter Seidman

An answer to the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League's attacks on left opponents of Zionism, including a chapter on the little-known record of the U.S. government in closing the door to Jewish refugees from Nazi terror. 32 pp., 60 cents

Order from Pathfinder Press, 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014. Write for a free catalog.

NOW members hail Arizona copper strike

BY PAT GROGAN

The embattled Arizona copper strikers received enthusiastic support and solidarity at the September 30-October 2 national conference of the National Organization for Women (NOW).

Women were alerted to the need for solidarity when they heard the greetings sent to NOW by two women strike leaders and when they read a fact sheet distributed by members of Arizona NOW. The fact sheet explained the brutality of the Phelps Dodge Corp., which forced the miners out on strike. It described the attacks by government troops against the strikers and their families in the company towns of Ajo and Clifton-Morenci, Arizona. The majority of strikers are Chicano, *mexicano*, and Native American. Women are playing a prominent role in the struggle.

"My God," said a woman from Chicago NOW. "I didn't know things like this could still happen. This is like the 1930s. I didn't know there were still company towns. We've got to do something to help."

Josefina Otero, a laid-off member of Local 3937 of the United Steelworkers of America and a member of Arizona NOW, gave a firsthand report on the strike to a special workshop at the conference. She described what the strikers are up against, including the use of state troopers, National Guardsmen, armed helicopters, cop brutality, and court injunctions. NOW members were angered that the media is covering up this union-busting.

Shiela Scovil, a waitress and member of Los Angeles NOW, said, "If they can do this to the copper miners, they can do it to all of us. We can't be afraid to fight. We have to help these people now." She linked the strike to the fight of waitresses against the federal law taxing their tips (see story below).

Another waitress, Sally Javier, said her husband was a unionist and had worked only 17 days in the last year. "They're contracting the work out to nonunion companies," she explained. "They want to get rid of the unions."

NOW members felt proud of the women miners and the wives, daughters, and sisters of strikers organized in the Women's Auxiliary. They were inspired by the courage and determination of these women who are helping lead the strike at every level, from the picket lines and strike council to organizing political support, fighting evictions, and raising funds for strike relief.

Over 300 women at the NOW conference signed a statement to the strikers that said:

"We, the undersigned participants in the 1983 Conference of the National Organization for Women, salute our sisters and brothers in Arizona who were forced to go out on strike against the Phelps Dodge Corporation. We solidarize ourselves with your 13 unions on strike, who have supported our efforts on the ERA.

"We solidarize ourselves with the Women's Auxiliary and the women miners, who are on the front lines in the fight against union-busting, and against the taking away of gains won by women on the job through their unions.

"You give the words unity and solidarity more meaning. As Chicano, Native American, and white women and men, standing strong together in your strike, you serve as an inspiration to all of us in the women's movement."

NOW members interested in strike support work exchanged names at the conference, made plans to circulate the support statement in NOW chapters, to publicize the strike in chapter newsletters and to collect food and money for the strikers. For more information on the strike, or to send aid, write to Ajo Women's Auxiliary, 580 North Lyons, Ajo, Ariz. 85321; or to Morenci Miners Women's Auxiliary, P.O. Box 1017, Clifton, Ariz. 85533.

The following are greetings sent to the national conference of the National Organization for Women (NOW) by Annie Jones, chair of the Women's Auxiliary in Ajo, Arizona, which has played a



Militant/Barbara Kingsolver

Militant/Rich Stuart

Lydia González-Knott (top left with family) and Annie Jones sent greetings to National Organization for Women conference asking for solidarity with copper strike.

major role in the copper miners' strike against Phelps Dodge Corp.

Ladies,

On behalf of all the women and members of the Ajo Women's Auxiliary and on behalf of the Ajo Unity Council, I bring you greetings.

We deeply appreciate any and all endeavors made in our behalf in conjunction with our battles with the Phelps Dodge Corp.

We realized from the start that it would not be an easy road that we had to follow. It is with full realization and a total commitment to our stance, our battle for survival, that I ask for the help of each and every woman at your conference.

I ask that each and every individual who has ever felt their dignity, sense of values, and right to earn just and fair wages in return for their labor, appreciate and cry out for us in our greatest moment of need.

Please join us in our fight for survival. Before I close, I would like to leave you with this question to ponder: How can the need for profit in a large corporation be

greater than the needs of many people, who ask for nothing more than human dignity and the basic necessities of life?

Here in Ajo, Arizona, and throughout the state, in the copper industry we have asked for nothing more than our right to dignity, self-respect, and an opportunity to attain whatever goals we as individuals have set for ourselves.

Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to say what I feel had to be said.

Best regards and best wishes for a wonderful convention.

Below are greetings to the National Organization for Women conference from Lydia González-Knott, a striking copper miner and member of the International Association of Machinists.

Dear Sisters,

I am a self-supporting mother of three children. I used to work for Phelps Dodge Corp. until a week ago — when I received a letter stating that my job was filled because I would not cross the picket line.

My brother and I were raised here in this good community. Our father, who was president of his Boilermakers union for over 25 years, brought us up believing in union solidarity. He was a hard-working man for his company, his union, and his family. We are a family of many generations who have worked for this company that we used to respect. But how can we respect a company that has used the governor of our state, the Department of Public Safety, the National Guard, and judges to threaten, harass, and intimidate the good people of Clifton/Morenci who are on strike?

Phelps Dodge Corp. has offered a \$500 bribe to strikers to get them to leave their company-owned homes. Some strikers have even been evicted. Medical help has been refused for some strikers. It is a very sad situation here.

My brother was seriously beaten because he believes in union solidarity. But no arrests have been made because he has refused to cross the picket line.

We are strikers fighting for our civil rights, our future, and our jobs. Strikers here are treated as if we were in the Vietnam War. Some were treated as if they were the worst criminals in the country. It saddens me to see what this company and the government have done to our community. They have put friend against friend, brother against brother, neighbor against neighbor.

Phelps Dodge has created a very brutal and vicious atmosphere among the people.

We are proud of our family and friends who have supported us, especially the women strikers.

We will fight for what is rightfully ours. We have been threatened, harassed, intimidated, terminated, and evicted, but we stand tall and we stand united in union solidarity.

We ask for your help.

Waitresses ask for NOW's help in tax battle

BY CINDY JAQUITH

When waitress Shiela Scovil picked up the newspaper last January and read that the federal government was going to sharply increase the tax on her tips, she was outraged. She decided to organize waitresses at the restaurant where she worked against the new tax law. Her boss quickly slapped her with a disciplinary layoff.

In February she was fired. "That gave me all the more power to go out and fight," she told a workshop at the recent national conference of the National Organization for Women (NOW).

Scovil explained how she filed a sex discrimination complaint against her employer with the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission. This summer, she won her case.

"Most people feel being a waitress is a menial job," she told the media when she won. "A lot of waitresses have felt that instead of fighting for their rights, it's been easier to just go down the street and find another job."

"They need to realize that this is their country and they do have these rights — to petition, to fight for something they believe in, and to speak out.

"By the little waitress who is supposed to be so naive and so dumb doing something like this, it will encourage other people to do the same thing."

Scovil came to the NOW conference along with two other waitresses, Sally Javier and Cindy Gonzáles. They asked women there for support in their fight against the tip tax and explained the activities of the group they work in, the National Organization of Waiters, Waitresses, and Bartenders Against the Unfair TIP TAX (WWB).

The three women are also members of Los Angeles NOW. They joined the chapter because last June NOW offered them office space and phones in the chapter headquarters. "It was the first help we'd had," said Scovil.

In an interview with the *Militant*, they explained that the WWB is trying to unite waitresses and others affected by the tax law to expose its injustice and fight for its repeal.

The group has a hotline for people seeking help: (213) 652-2503.

Congress passed the tip law last year. Both the big restaurant and hotel owners and officials of the Hotel Employees and

Restaurant Employees International Union lobbied for the bill. Under the measure, waitresses can be taxed not only on wages, but on 8 percent of the gross sales of the business where they work. The government claims this 8 percent corresponds to what waitresses take home in tips.

As a result, waitresses are having huge amounts deducted for taxes from their meager paychecks every week. Some end up with zero pay at the end of the week. Others actually owe the government money.

The new law hits women hard. Over 81 percent of food service workers are female. The majority of waitresses are single heads of households. Many are Black and Latina.

Javier said their average yearly income was \$6,000 (this was before the tip tax). Most are paid minimum wage of \$3.35 an hour, or less. The employers argue that tips will make up the rest.

It's false, the women told the *Militant*, that waitresses average 8 percent in tips. Many get much less.

Waitresses must use their skimpy paychecks and tips to pay for all medical needs and other benefits, unless they are in a unionized workplace. Generally they receive no benefits or vacation pay and have to work 10 to 12-hour days without breaks.

On top of this, when it comes to federal benefits, the government does not include tips in computing waitresses' earnings, so they get much lower Social Security and other benefits. For instance, said Javier, a waitress injured on the job may just keep on working because she'll get only \$35 a week on disability.

Scovil and Javier said groups of waitresses are popping up all over the country to fight the new law and their work conditions in general. They have gone to several NOW chapters for support and gotten it.

"We've never really complained about our situation before," said Javier.

"When it comes down on you like this, it just makes you a feminist," added Scovil.



Militant/Yvonne Hayes

Waitresses Shiela Scovil (left) and Sally Javier, members of Los Angeles NOW.

Don't miss an issue. Subscribe today.

The Militant, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014.

THE GREAT SOCIETY

Relax — In West Germany, where many folk are concerned Washington may push the atomic

explained, "Mass burials would be resorted to only in case of massive loss of life."

Top operator — The CIA bestowed its top award, the Distinguished Intelligence Medal, on its director, William Casey, for restoring the agency's credibility. And the best proof he earned the medal is that no one even realizes he accomplished the mission.

but assured that while this was cause for "mild concern," it was no health hazard.

they assured, this poses no health problem, provided people limit their consumption of bluefish.



Harry Ring

button, it hit the fan when the U.S. Army-circulated paper *Stars and Stripes* featured a story on GIs there practicing mass burial procedures. However, a staff sergeant

Slump hits confessionals — The pope told a world confab of bishops to give their "most urgent attention" to reversing the decline in confessions. Church sources said the drop has been steep over the past 20 years, with many preferring to declare their "guilt" to psychologists, or even astrologers, rather than priests. A church study found many Catholics don't see any "mortal" sin in their lives, or believe they don't need confession to get forgiveness.

Hold the wings — After media exposure of diseased meat produced in filthy, rat-infested plants, the Agriculture Dept. took a look at the Colorado and Nebraska operations of Rudolph Stanko, a major supplier of hamburger for school lunches. Officials said they did find insect fragments in the meat,

You'll sleep better — What's better for you than decaf coffee? Less decaf coffee. Surely with that in mind, the major manufacturers have reduced the traditional 16-oz. can to 13 oz. Meanwhile, natch, hiking the price. But the nicest touch is that you won't notice it's only 13 oz. A new chemical additive puffs it up to look like 16.

No sweat — New Jersey officials report an accumulation of the pesticide chlordane, a carcinogen, in bluefish off the coast. However,

It squeaks? — We recently advised of a phone designed as a decoy duck which quacks instead of ringing. If that doesn't turn you on, how about a 14" high replica of Mickey Mouse? \$99.

Free advice dep't — Looking for work can be the best therapy for the stress and depression caused by a job loss. So says James Challenger, prez of Challenger, Grey & Christman, Inc., an "executive outplacement" outfit.

CALENDAR

ARIZONA

Phoenix

Grenada: Black Revolution in the Caribbean. A slide show and first-hand report by Lillian Hall. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 15, 7:30 p.m. 17 E Southern (corner of Central). Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (602) 268-3369 or 256-7133.

Stop the War on Working People At Home and Abroad! — Support the Striking Copper Workers! Socialist Workers campaign rally. Speakers: Barry Fatland, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor; others. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 22; Reception, 6:30 p.m.; rally, 7:30 p.m. 17 E Southern Ave. (at Central). Donation: \$3. Ausp: SWP Campaign Committee. For more information call (602) 268-3369.

Young Socialist Alliance Goat Roast. Sat., Oct. 29, 3:30 p.m. in Chandler, Ariz. For tickets and exact location call (602) 268-3369.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Support the Striking Davis Pleating Garment Workers! Speakers: Dixie Youts, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union organizer; others. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 15, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Bookstore/Libreria Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

San Diego

Mexican Barbecue. Meet and hear Mel Mason, socialist city councilman from Seaside, California. Sun., Oct. 16, 12 noon to 4 p.m. Donation: \$5. For more information call (619) 234-4630.

Seaside

Revolutionary Roots: the Continuing History of Workers Struggles. An Educational Weekend. Class 1: "Marx and Engels on the National Question," Sat., Oct. 22, 2 p.m. Class 2: "Origins of Women's Oppression," Sat., Oct. 22, 7 p.m. Class 3: "Communist Manifesto," Sun., Oct. 23, 12:30 p.m. Class 4: "Wage-Labor and Capital," Sun., Oct. 23, 3 p.m. Translation to Spanish. Seaside Public Library, 550 Harcourt. Ausp: Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (408) 394-7857.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

See Sara Jean Johnston, Socialist Workers Candidate for Congress, on League of Women Voters' Live TV Debate. Sun., Oct. 16, 7 p.m. Channels 5, 11, and 2. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

LOUISIANA

New Orleans

Socialist Educational Conference. Two classes on Black history by Mac Warren, National Committee Socialist Workers Party.

Class 1) "Forty Acres and a Mule — the Fight for a Radical Agrarian Reform and the Black Struggle: 1865-77." Sat., Oct. 22, 3:30 p.m.

Israel's War Against the Palestinian People

By David Frankel and Will Reissner. The articles in this pamphlet explain the nature of Israel as a colonial-settler state, the character and history of the Palestinian struggle for self-determination, and the Marxist attitude toward the Palestine Liberation Organization. 46 pages, \$1.25.

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

Class 2) "The Defeat of Radical Reconstruction, the Rise of Jim Crow and Sharecropping, and the Fight for Black Liberation: 1872-1920." Sun., Oct. 23, 12 noon. 3207 Dublin. Donation: \$1. Ausp: Socialist Workers Campaign. For more information call (504) 486-8048.

Socialist Campaign Rally. Speakers: Mel Mason, socialist city councilman from Seaside, Calif.; Michele Smith, Socialist Workers candidate for governor of Louisiana; representative of Mississippi Militant subscription team; others. Sat., Oct. 22, 7:30 p.m. 3207 Dublin. Ausp: SWP Campaign. For more information call (504) 486-8048.

MARYLAND

Baltimore

The Battle Against Union-busting: Lessons of the Arizona Copper Strike. Speaker: Rich Stuart, laid-off miner and Militant reporter on Arizona copper strike. Sat., Oct. 15, 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

Open House for Héctor Marroquín. Meet Marroquín, Mexican socialist fighting for political asylum in United States. Translation to Spanish. Sun., Oct. 23, 3-7 p.m. 637 McKewin St. Donation: \$3. Ausp: Political Rights Defense Fund. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

Crisis in Lebanon: Why U.S. Troops Should Be Brought Home. Speakers: Prof. Elaine Hagopian, faculty of Simmons College and author on Mideast, recently returned from Beirut; Don Kinnell, leader of Grassroots, a relief agency for Palestinians in Lebanon; Gerald Cohen, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., Oct. 16, 7:30 p.m. 510 Commonwealth Ave., 4th fl. For more information call (617) 262-4621.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

The Fight For Women's Rights in the '84 Elections. Speaker: Michele Van Summer, member of Young Socialist Alliance and National Organization for Women. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 15, 8 p.m. 7146 W McNichols. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (313) 862-7755.

The Murder of Vincent Chin: Racism and the Justice System. Speakers to be announced. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 22, 8 p.m. 7146 W McNichols. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (313) 862-7755.

MINNESOTA

Minneapolis

Socialist Workers Campaign Rally. Speakers: Lisa Ahlberg, Socialist Workers Party candidate for city council, 8th ward; John Gaige, Minnesota SWP state organizer. Sat., Oct. 15, 7:30 p.m. Sabathani Community Center, 310 E 38th St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Minneapolis Socialist Workers Campaign Committee. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

The Battle of Chile. A film depicting events leading up to the CIA-sponsored overthrow of Salvador Allende in 1973. Fri., Oct. 21; Pre-film dinner (\$3 donation), 6:30 p.m.; Film (\$2 donation), 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey (cor. Raymond, one block from Broad). Ausp: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Police Brutality in New York: Koch's Cops vs. Blacks, Latinos, Asians. Speakers: Darnel Murdaugh, victim of police brutality, testified at congressional hearings; Greg Jackson, Young Socialist Alliance. Translation to Spanish. Fri., Oct. 14, 7:30 p.m. 79 Leonard St. (5 blocks

south of Canal off Broadway). Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

OHIO

Cincinnati

The Housing Crisis in Cincinnati. Speakers: Kathleen Denny, Socialist Workers Party candidate for city council; others. Sun., Oct. 16, 7:30 p.m. 4945 Paddock Rd. (busline #45). Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (513) 242-7161.

Cleveland

Imperialist War in Lebanon: What Does It Mean for U.S. Workers? Speakers: representative of Arab Social Club; Omari Musa, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Cleveland School Board. Fri., Oct. 21, 7:30 p.m. 15105 St. Clair Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum and Socialist Workers Campaign Committee. For more information call (216) 451-6150.

Classes on Socialism. Discussion and refreshments every Tuesday, 7 p.m. 15105 St. Clair Ave. Ausp: Socialist Workers Campaign Committee and Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (216) 451-6150.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

The Vietnam War: Why the U.S. Fought, Why the Vietnamese Won. Speakers: Mark Emanation, Young Socialist Alliance National Committee; Tyrone Williams, Vietnam veteran, member of Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 15, 8 p.m. 5811 N Broad. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (215) 927-4747.

Pittsburgh

Hear the Socialist Workers Candidates on WAMO-FM Radio. "Focus on Pittsburgh," show with host Eugenia Hall; 106 FM. Sat., Oct. 9 and 15, 9 a.m., SWP candidates for city council. Sat., Oct. 22, 9 a.m., SWP candidate for Allegheny County Commissioner.

Grenada in Revolution: Four Years of Black Freedom. Speakers: Prof. Richard Blackett, University of Pittsburgh, Department of Black Studies; Linda Nordquist, Socialist Workers Party, recently returned from Grenada; slide show. Sat., Oct. 15, 7 p.m. 141 S Highland. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

Nicaragua Today: Life in a Military Zone. Speaker: Jon Hillson, Socialist Workers Party, recently returned from Nicaragua. Sat., Oct. 29, 7 p.m. 141 S Highland. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

TEXAS

Dallas

Will the Marines Bring Peace to Lebanon? Speaker: John Rubenstein, Socialist Workers Party; others. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 15, 7 p.m. 2817 Live Oak St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (214) 826-4711.

UTAH

Price

The Fight for Democracy in the Philippines. Speakers to be announced. Sat., Oct. 22, 7 p.m. 23 S Carbon Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (801) 637-6294.

What Workers and Farmers in Central America Are Fighting For. Speaker: Jeff Pike, Socialist Workers candidate for Price city council. Sat., Oct. 29, 7 p.m. 23 S Carbon Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (801) 637-6294.

Salt Lake City

Do Imports Steal Jobs: A Working-Class Answer to Big-Business Lies. Speaker: Rosalie Majka, Socialist Workers Party, member of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 2-931. Fri., Oct. 21, 7:30 p.m. 677 S 700 E. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more in-

Rally to defend political rights

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Protest court interference with freedom of association and help win legal judgment against dangerous and disruptive lawsuits. Translation to Spanish. Sun., Oct. 23, 7:30 p.m. People's College of Law, Rm. 8; 660 S Bonnie Brae. Ausp: Political Rights Defense Fund. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

formation call (801) 355-1124.

Colorado and Utah Socialist Educational Conference. Two classes by Malik Miah, Socialist Workers Party National cochairperson: Class 1) "Independent Black Political Action," Sat., Nov. 5, 2 p.m. Class 2) "Blacks in the Labor Movement," Sun., Nov. 6; part 1, 10 a.m., part 2, 12 noon. Socialist Workers Campaign Rally. Speakers: Malik Miah, Bob Hoyle, SWP candidate for mayor of Salt Lake; Jeff Pike, SWP candidate for Price city council. Sat., Nov. 5; reception, 6:30 p.m.; rally, 7 p.m. 677 S 700 E. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Socialist Workers Campaign and Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (801) 355-1124.

VIRGINIA

Newport News

Why Are the U.S. Marines in Lebanon? Film showing: *Report from Beirut — Summer of 82.* Speaker: Adeb Hamzey, executive board member, Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee. Sun., Oct. 23, 4 p.m. 5412 Jefferson Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (804) 380-0133.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

On Strike: Eyewitness Account of Copper Miners' Strike. Speaker: Rich Stuart, *Militant* reporter at Arizona strike. Translation to Spanish. Sun., Oct. 16, 7 p.m. 3106 Mt. Pleasant NW. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (202) 797-7699.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

Why "Buy America" Won't Create Jobs. Speakers: Dean Peoples, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate, member of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers; Omari Tahir, Democratic Party candidate for U.S. Senate. Sat., Oct. 15, 7:30 p.m. 5517 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Socialist Workers Party Campaign Committee. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

Central American Trade Unionists: Stop U.S. Intervention Now — Rally to Support Working People of Central America. Speakers: Sebastián Castro, Sandinista Workers Federation; Marta Alicia Rivera, National Association of Salvadoran Educators; Miguel Angel Albizu, National Committee for Trade Union Unity—Guatemala. Sat., Oct. 22, 7:30 p.m. Seattle Labor Temple, 2800 First Ave. Donation: \$3. Ausp: Committee in Solidarity With the People of El Salvador, Guatemala Solidarity Organization, Friends of AMES, Labor Committee on Central America, International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union Local 37, U.S. Anti-Imperialist League, Socialist Workers Party, and Christian Community of Salvadoran Refugees. For more information call (206) 723-2748.

WEST VIRGINIA

Morgantown

U.S. Intervention in Latin America Today. Film: *Americas in Transition.* Speaker: Dave Ferguson, Young Socialist Alliance. Sat., Oct. 15, 8 p.m. 957 University Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 296-0055.

TV film shows brutality of imperialism in Vietnam

"Vietnam: A Television History," produced by Public Broadcasting affiliate WGBH in Boston, Britain's Central Independent Television, and France's Antenne 2. Shown every week on PBS until December 20. See local listings for time.

BY DAVE ZILLY

"Vietnam: A Television History," goes a long way toward taking the lid off the discussion about the Vietnam War and what it meant.

This is not a discussion the U.S. government and its cronies, bent on new Vietnams in Central America, the

TELEVISION REVIEW

Middle East, and elsewhere, are eager to see open up.

They spend a lot of time, in fact, plotting ways to get around the "Vietnam Syndrome," a disease known to produce disinterest in fighting and dying in imperialist wars precisely like those being waged against the Lebanese, Nicaraguan, and Salvadoran people today.

The first two installments of this 13-part public TV series can only have given a boost to "Vietnam Syndrome."

Probably for the first time for most Americans, Vietnamese revolutionaries can be seen as real people, as human beings.

Contrary to the picture of the French paratrooper, wounded and captured at the fall of Dien Bien Phu in 1954, who feels himself thrust into "the world of the red termites," the image of the Vietnamese is one of patriotism, courage, and determination.

The warm laughter of Premier Pham Van Dong, the calm and dignity of General Giap, the sincerity and com-

monplace heroism of the liberation forces stand in sharp contrast to the racist, anticommunist stereotypes heaped on us through 15 years of U.S. intervention.

Indeed, it is the French and other imperialists who wind up looking less than human. Witness, for example, the French "civilizers" not only beheading Vietnamese who resist the colonial plunder of their country, but sending postcards with pictures of severed heads to France "with love and kisses."

In Vietnam, subjugated at the expense of French taxpayers, companies like Michelin Rubber made fantastic profits while "the bodies of Vietnamese workers fertilized the rubber trees." Peasants starved while French companies exported huge amounts of rice.

The history presented in the first two episodes, which is generally accurate, also sheds light on the roles of Japan, Britain, and the United States. It would almost be a comedy if it weren't true.

Japan takes over the country during World War II but leaves the French colonial bureaucracy to administer it. The United States hooks up with the communist Viet Minh to fight the Japanese.

After the defeat of Japan in 1945, the British, mandated to oversee the truce in the south, rearm the Japanese against the Vietnamese because they fear the French are too weak and undisciplined to do the job, as U.S. military officials stand by.

Such are the workings of "democracy" and "civilization" as experienced by the Vietnamese people at the hands of imperialism.

It is noteworthy that the defeat of Japan is portrayed with a scene of an atomic fireball rising over one of the two Japanese cities destroyed by U.S. atomic bombs.

Postwar Indochina, the series then explains, witnessed the unbridled effort to reassert French domination, with

the United States fronting billions of dollars to finance the operation.

At the same time, Vietnamese nationalist consciousness inspired a tremendous surge in organized opposition to the French under the banner of the Viet Minh.

Eight years of French-U.S. war end with the crushing defeat of the French at Dien Bien Phu, where the United States again considered the use of atomic weapons, this time against the people of Vietnam.

An important point is made of the powerful impact of the Chinese revolution and the aid it provided the Vietnamese on the road to victory over the French.

The 1954 Geneva Conference, which then worked out a political settlement, again frustrated the sovereignty and national unity of Vietnam. The Soviet and Chinese governments, decried by the cold warriors as fomentors of subversion, in fact played a role in imposing concessions on the Vietnamese.

Concessions, however, are never enough for imperialism and the weekly series now moves into the period of direct U.S. involvement and escalation.

If the first two parts are any indication, the series is worth seeing.

Every person who saw the scene at the end of the first part of the first American to die in Vietnam was reminded of the first marine killed in Lebanon or the first to die in El Salvador.

Everyone who is able to experience, through the vivid and sometimes rare film footage and interviews, a bit of the real attitude of imperialism toward democracy, toward human rights and self-determination, will become more suspicious toward Washington's foreign policy today.

Dave Zilly was a U.S. Marine in Vietnam in 1967-1968.

Duval miners forced to return without a contract

BY DAN FEIN

TUCSON — The strike by 2,000 copper workers at Duval Corp. that began September 30 ended after three days. The company's union-busting "take-it-or-leave-it" attitude at the negotiation table forced the miners to return to work without a contract.

Duval has imposed its last offer upon the unions. This package will result in a wage cut of \$4.50-per-hour for the 650 currently working employees over the next three years.

Jack Smith, Assistant District 38 Director of the United Steelworkers of America

(USWA) and chief union negotiator, said that the cut in pay would be accompanied with elimination of the cost-of-living clause, medical and dental benefits, and all sick leave.

For the 1,350 laid-off workers things are worse. About one-half will lose their recall rights on Dec. 15, 1983; the other half in June 1984. If any of the laid-off workers get called back they will make \$3.03 per hour less than those currently working.

Five unions represent Duval miners at the Sierrita and Esperanza properties, 25 miles south of Tucson. The day before the

strike and the last day of the old contract, Teamsters Local 310, one of the five unions, voted to accept the company's offer. On October 3 the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 570 also voted to accept the company's offer.

The picket lines went down the next day. The members of the other unions — USWA, Laborers, and Operating Engineers — felt that they couldn't win the strike without solidarity from the Teamsters and the IBEW.

The copper companies are gloating over the workers' defeat at Duval. "I think people are going to look back at 1983 as a watershed year in the labor relations in the copper industry," said C.J. Hansen, president of the Arizona Mining Association. "This taken with the Phelps Dodge action indicates an end really to the so-called pattern bargaining [where one or more companies reach a settlement and everyone else agrees to similar contracts]," Hansen said.

But Al Tellez, business representative for Teamsters Local 310 disagreed. He pointed to the ongoing strikes at Phelps Dodge and Anamax where the pickets are still up.

The failure to win a new contract at Duval will hurt the strikers' efforts at Phelps Dodge and Anamax win a decent contract.

Dan Fein was laid off from the Duval Corp. nearly two years ago. He's a member of the United Steelworkers of America.

Floods used against Arizona strikers

Continued from Page 20

clean-up efforts by Phelps Dodge employees. They have suggested that the unions brought suffering on themselves and their members.

The strikers have responded with greater unity and more determination to hold out. The Women's Auxiliary and young people, along with other relief agencies, are working 16 and 18 hours a day provid-

ing hot meals, clothing, and shelter. Everyone is helping in the clean-up effort. The afternoon picket lines are bigger and noisier than at any time since the August 20 National Guard occupation.

Alex López, chief of the bargaining committee representing the 13 striking unions, has responded that, "I don't think our strikers are willing to give up what they have held out for, for so long."

—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, 17 E. Southern Ave. (Central and Southern). Zip: 85040. Tel: (602) 268-3369. 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) 839-5316. San Diego: SWP, YSA, 1053 15th St. Zip: 92101. Tel: (619) 234-4630. San Francisco: SWP, YSA, 3284 23rd St. Zip: 94110. Tel: (415) 824-1992. San Jose: SWP, YSA, 46½ Race St. Zip: 95126. Tel: (408) 998-4007. Seaside: Pathfinder Books, 1043A Broadway, Seaside. Zip: 93955. Tel: (408) 394-1855.

COLORADO: Denver: SWP, YSA, 126 W. 12th Ave. Zip: 80204. Tel: (303) 534-8954.

FLORIDA: Miami: SWP, YSA, 663 Martin Luther King Blvd. (NW 62nd St.) Zip: 33150. Tel: (305) 756-1020.

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. Baltimore-Washington District: 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, 7146 W. McNichols. Zip: 48221. Tel: (313) 862-7755.

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 (Albany): SWP, YSA, 23 Central Ave. Zip: 12210. Tel: (518) 434-3247. 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: Greensboro: SWP, YSA, P.O. Box 1026. Zip: 27403.

OHIO: Cincinnati: SWP, YSA, 4945 Pad-dock Rd. Zip: 45237. Tel: (513) 242-7161. Cleveland: SWP, YSA, 15105 St. Clair Ave. Zip: 44110. Tel: (216) 451-6150. 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, 2811 Guadalupe, #100. Zip: 78207. Tel: (512) 432-7394.

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, 5517 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.

U.S. warships threaten Iran

In a provocative new escalation of U.S. military involvement in the Middle East, the White House has sent three amphibious assault ships and a destroyer to the Arabian Sea, south of Iran.

This latest threat to the Iranian revolution came just days after the imperialist government of France delivered five Super Etendard jet fighters to Iraq for use in its war against the Iranian people.

Two thousand U.S. Marines are on board the ships Washington has dispatched to Iran's coast. In addition, Navy officers have disclosed that the United States currently has four destroyers inside the Persian Gulf, plus the aircraft carrier *Ranger*. The *New York Times* reported that there are also some 25 other U.S. warships nearby in the Indian Ocean.

Washington's justification for its massive naval buildup against Iran is the Iranian government's assertion that it will defend its oil shipments from attack, including by closing off the Persian Gulf if necessary.

The attack Iran fears is real. After France sent the jet fighters to Iraq, Iraq's president Saddam Hussein threatened on October 10 to mount a new offensive against Iran saying, "Our victory on the Iranian enemy will be achieved soon and the enemy will suffer a decisive defeat."

The bombers Iraq has received from France are capable of firing powerful Exocet missiles from far enough distances that Iraqi pilots would not be in danger from Iranian firepower.

The imperialist government of François Mitterrand has also trained 30 Iraqi pilots to fly the planes, which Iraq bluntly says it intends to use to bomb Iranian oil tankers and installations.

The Pentagon is also upgrading four bases for the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force in nearby Oman to further pressure the Iranian government — and anyone else who challenges U.S. imperialism's domination of this region.

In the face of this military buildup, the U.S. imperialists and their French counterparts still assert that Iran is the aggressor in the Iran-Iraq war.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

The imperialists welcomed Iraq's decision to launch a war against Iran three years ago. Iraq has since been trying to masquerade as a proponent of a cease-fire, while it still occupies part of Iran's territory and continually shells Iran's border cities.

Iran has repeatedly explained that it supports an end to the war, with three reasonable conditions:

- Iraqi forces withdraw totally from Iranian territory.
- Iraq agree to pay war reparations for the thousands of people who were killed, the cities that were demolished, and the industrial centers that were destroyed.

ACLU and Rosenberg case

An important letter by the two top officials of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) appeared in the October 7 *New York Times*. Signed by ACLU Pres. Norman Dorsen and Executive Director Ira Glasser, the letter took up the case of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. The two were murdered in the electric chair in 1953 on the frame-up charge of "stealing" the "secret" of the atom bomb for the Soviet Union.

At the time, the ACLU refused to defend the Rosenbergs or to even protest the brutal death penalty imposed on them. The ACLU argued that in the Rosenbergs' case, the use of the death sentence "raised no civil liberties issues."

In their letter, Dorsen and Glasser do not specifically refer to this scandalous capitulation by the ACLU to the witch-hunt. But they do take up a recent *Times* article mentioning FBI documents that claim a general counsel for the ACLU, Morris Ernst, volunteered to infiltrate the Rosenberg defense team for the government. (The documents are cited in *The Rosenberg File*, by Ronald Radosh and Joyce Milton.)

Dorsen and Glasser write, "It would be utterly reprehensible for any lawyer to make such an offer. . . . Whether Ernst, a prominent lawyer who died in 1976, did so is the subject of current debate and controversy. . . ."

"If Ernst did what is alleged, it was as a private lawyer, without the knowledge or approval of the A.C.L.U. and certainly not in the A.C.L.U.'s behalf. We have searched our own archives . . . and can find no evidence to the contrary."

The most significant sentence in the letter follows: "The archives reveal that the A.C.L.U. discussed many civil liberties points related to the Rosenberg case, some of which might be decided differently today."

For all supporters of democratic rights, particularly those involved in the current debate on the Rosenberg case, it is important to know the content of the ACLU's discussions in the 1950s and what decisions, in the opinion of current ACLU leaders, would be different today.

In 1952, for example, the ACLU declared there had been "no denial of due process of law" in the Rosenberg trial. There was plenty of evidence then of gross violations of the Rosenbergs' right to a fair trial, but in the last

• Iraqi opponents of Saddam Hussein's aggression who were deported to Iran have the right to return home.

When the Reagan administration contends that military force is justified in order to protect "our" oil, it is speaking for big business — not for working people in the United States. The giant oil companies reap billions through their plunder of the Middle East oil fields. Then they turn around and sell it to us at monopoly-rigged rates.

Working people in this country thus have every interest in opposing U.S. attacks on Iran and for calling for the removal of all U.S. bases, warships, and troops from the Persian Gulf area.

• Washington is also making increasingly serious threats against Syria.

In his October 8 weekly radio address, President Reagan pointed to the Soviet Union's shipments of military equipment to Syria as a cause to "wonder aloud" whether the Syrians really want peace in Lebanon.

Reagan quoted what he claimed was a letter from a marine corporal stationed in Lebanon saying, "It is our duty as Americans to stop the cancerous spread of Soviet influence wherever it may be."

The attacks are escalating on Syria for obtaining military aid from the USSR in order to defend itself.

This reinforcement of its defense capabilities follows a massive military buildup by the imperialist powers in and around Lebanon today.

There are 14 ships from the U.S. Sixth Fleet, and 14,000 sailors, pilots, and marines in the U.S. contingent of the five-nation imperialist combat force stationed in Lebanon.

If you add in the forces of France, Great Britain, Italy, and Israel, there are close to 20,000 more imperialist soldiers stationed on Lebanese territory. They've used their firepower against Lebanese rebels and against the Syrians.

According to the October 7 *New York Times*, "The Syrians, who have backed the anti-Government forces in Lebanon, indicated concern last month over the shelling of their lines in Lebanon by United States Navy warships. . . ."

Syria has the right to defend itself, and to procure whatever weapons it deems necessary to do so.

The Democrats and Republicans emphasize the Soviet Union's arms shipments to Syria in order to justify the escalating U.S. role in Lebanon. It's U.S. money and soldiers that are backing an unpopular minority regime against the will of the Lebanese people.

U.S. working people have no stake in such a war.

Bring the soldiers home from Lebanon now!

decade, volumes more have come out on the role of stool pigeons and perjurers against the Rosenbergs; the conspiracy between Judge Irving Kaufman, the FBI, and prosecuting attorneys to "get" the couple; and the fabricated evidence used to convict them.

The ACLU also argued in the 1950s that the death sentence meted out to the Rosenbergs was done so without any "political or religious considerations." But the political character of the trial and subsequent executions were the most obvious and central objective of Washington in persecuting the two. The Rosenbergs were Communists. They adamantly refused to the last second of their lives to "confess" to spy charges and "name names" as the government demanded they do. Their murder was a threat to every member of the Communist Party, other left groups, and labor militants, and it was a major step in Washington's war propaganda. The Rosenbergs were also Jewish, and anti-Semitic overtones ran throughout the trial.

The failure of liberal groups like the ACLU, as well as virtually all the top labor officials, to fight against the murder of the Rosenbergs — thus capitulating to the anti-communist, prowar drive of the U.S. rulers — helped pave the way for major blows to civil liberties in the 1950s.

An honest review and reconsideration by the ACLU of its record then would be a welcome contribution to the ongoing debate around the Rosenberg case.

This debate is not primarily historical in nature. All the same questions raised during the witch-hunt — anti-communism, red-baiting, and whether to defend all victims of government attacks on democratic rights — remain alive today. The legal lynching of the defendants in the current spate of Brink's robbery trials (see page 3) is just the most recent example.

In the 30 years since the Rosenberg executions, many lessons have been drawn by genuine fighters for civil liberties, including that "An injury to one is an injury to all." The U.S. capitalists and their anticommunist propagandists are attempting to undermine these lessons in preparation for fresh assaults on the rights of the American people. Reexamining the serious error of the ACLU on the Rosenberg case is one step in the fight to stop them.

China's revolution shook the world 34 years ago

BY GEORGE JOHNSON

Thirty-four years ago this month, the Chinese revolution swept away the reactionary Chiang Kai-shek regime, which was propped up by Washington and other imperialist governments.

An article by Li Fu-jen in the February 1949 *Fourth International*, a predecessor of the *New International*, described how Chiang's troops had fled Manchuria, which they occupied after the surrender of Japan in 1945:

"Manchurian city dwellers, who had welcomed Chiang's troops, were quickly disillusioned in their 'liberators' and transferred their sympathies to the 'Reds' — all, that is, but the capitalists and big landlords who fled south. . . ."

The slogan of the Chinese Communist Party and the People's Liberation Army of "land to the peasants" had

OUR REVOLUTIONARY HERITAGE

"a strong appeal for soldiers who were also peasants. They hated the Kuomintang [Chiang's Nationalist Party] regime. They hated their officers. In large numbers, they went over to the other side, taking their American weapons with them. Chiang lost 300,000 of his Manchurian troops, three-fifths of the total."

The attraction of the promised land reform to the rural toilers, Li wrote, "is a veritable Magna Charta. Millions of landless peasants and tenant farmers have the prospect of planting their feet firmly in the soil. Debt-burdened peasants see in it liberation from their oppressive woes."

As Shanghai was about to be liberated, an editorial in *Fourth International* said: "This is the city where a handful of white men ruled like lords for more than a century, cowering and subjugating millions of Chinese with the most brazen display of armed force. Now their one desperate thought is flight. For weeks Shanghai has been the scene of a scramble by the emissaries and retainers of world imperialism, by capitalists, businessmen — the whole assorted tribe of exploiters, slavedrivers and buccaneers — to obtain space on departing ships or planes, to get out while the getting is still good."

The editorial went on, "Watching the humiliating and crippling — and deserved — punishment received by the British gunboats on the Yangtze, American imperialism, the most powerful of all capitalist nations, possessor of the atom bomb, quickly decided that discretion was the better part of valor. It has dismantled its military establishments, pulled its warships out of the range of fire. How the mighty have fallen!"

In the *Militant* in January 1950, Joseph Hansen called the Chinese revolution "the greatest peasant uprising since the February revolution in 1917 in Czarist Russia."

The success of the Chinese people, Hansen went on, "in ridding themselves of Chiang and opening up a new stage of development that can lead to the overthrow of capitalism has upset the world balance of power."

The plans of U.S. imperialism to use Chinese bases "as part of its grandiose blueprint of assault on the Soviet Union" and its hopes "to convert China into a happy hunting ground for Big Business," as Hansen put it, were smashed. The Chinese people "have entered the arena of world politics as a new colossal force. This far-reaching defeat has weakened the camp of imperialism."

U.S. imperialism "has thus been forced to drop back from its frontline trenches in China to the second line of defense reaching in the arc from Japan to India."

Li Fu-jen described in the January-February 1951 *Fourth International* how a Chinese diplomat had looked a blustering U.S. official in the eye at the UN and told him, "I must tell you, we are not frightened by your threats." This was a giant humiliation for imperialism: A slumbering giant "has arisen and smashed his fist in the face of the greatest imperialist power on earth," Li stated.

The Chinese diplomat "was not using empty words," Li said. "Eight thousand miles away across the Pacific, Chinese troops in alliance with the Koreans were hurling back an American offensive. . . . The Americans, for so long used to having their own way with China, were stunned by the blow. It seemed incredible."

China was also providing crucial aid to the struggle against French imperialism in Indochina. Li wrote: "The whole colonial world in Eastern Asia is being swept by the flames of revolution — Korea, Indo-China, Burma, Malaya, Indonesia, the Philippines. China is the vast powerhouse of this movement . . . geographical proximity and racial affinity, common burdens and problems, and like aspirations, make for a deep reciprocal sympathy and solidarity. China's masses, feeling far from alone in their fight for a better life, are lifted and inspired by the great movements on their borders."

Armour meatpackers reject giveback contract

BY PAUL ABEL

PORTLAND — The 190 Armour meatpackers I work with here joined 2,000 Armour workers nationally to reject a severe takeback contract offer by the company. The meatpackers, members of the United Food and Commercial Workers, voted last month by an 80 percent majority

UNION TALK

against a \$2.69 per hour wage cut. All 13 plants opposed the takeback.

The Armour workers stood up to a company ultimatum similar to those imposed at Wilson and other major meatpacking companies.

Armour offered the workers a wage cut from a base wage of \$10.69 per hour to \$8 per hour, with new hires getting only \$6.50 per hour. They offered cuts in holidays, vacations, pensions, medical and dental benefits, and overtime pay for Saturday and elimination of incentive pay. Total cuts are about 35 percent of wages and benefits.

In addition, when the contract expires on Sept. 1, 1985, binding arbitration would be used to resolve a settlement based on "labor costs reflective of the meatpacking industry." The arbitrator's decision would bind both parties for three years. In other words, we would have our wages frozen at \$8 per hour for the next five years.

The ultimatum from the company concluded by saying if the membership rejected this offer, all 13 plants would be shut down December 17, a new work force would be hired, and the plants would reopen nonunion.

The excuse for this ultimatum is that Greyhound

Corp., owner of Armour, is selling Armour to ConAgra on Dec. 17, 1983. After the sale Greyhound will be the largest shareholder in ConAgra. When the sale was announced, Greyhound Board Chairman John Teets lashed out at the present union contract. He claimed Armour can no longer compete successfully against nonunion and low-wage meatpackers.

Over the past two years meatpacking workers have faced an onslaught of takeback demands by the companies. Using bankruptcy filings, sell-offs, and other maneuvers, companies have carved the union's master contract into pieces. Wilson Foods filed for bankruptcy in April and cut workers wages to \$6.50 per hour. Workers went on strike for three weeks and settled for \$8 per hour.

Last year, union workers at the Iowa Beef Packers plant in Dakota City, Nebraska, were forced into a militant strike to defend past wage gains. The bosses called in the national guard and the cops to attack picket lines. The workers were forced to return without a wage increase. Workers in most major meatpacking plants have been forced to take cuts of 25 percent to 40 percent in wages and benefits.

Workers in my plant rejected the company's ultimatum because we have given too many concessions already. Two years ago we gave up our cost-of-living wage increases. Now Armour wants to cut our wages, even though the company is making money. The new owner of Armour, ConAgra, has announced its plans to carry out its threat to shut down all 13 Armour plants on December 17 and reopen them the next day with a new work force.

Many younger workers in the plant feel we can do something to prevent this. One worker asked, "What gives Armour the right to fire all of us? We should take some action to prevent this closure."

Another worker with 30 years seniority said, "December 17 will be the happiest day of my life. I will be able to collect my pension early and get out of the meatpacking industry."

The company threat to close down the plant and open nonunion must be taken as deadly serious. As yet no proposal has come from the union leadership.

A show of union strength is the first step. To effectively counter Armour's threat, the union would have to develop a force which could shut all 13 plants down and keep them down if Armour/ConAgra tried to open them nonunion. It will require the type of labor solidarity we see beginning to develop in support of the striking Arizona copper miners.

The Armour situation poses point-blank the question, who controls the plants? Armour/ConAgra has taken the position that they have the right to run the plants without any union protection for the workers.

When I was in Nicaragua eight months ago, I saw firsthand that the situation could be very different. In many privately-owned factories there workers exercise some control over their employers. The unions not only won protection from the bosses, but they also checked the bookkeeping and kept an eye on the supervision of the plant. That's what unions in this country can ultimately do, too.

It is not the permanent fate of workers in this country that we have to give away more and more of our rights and wages under continuously escalating company threats. This is what we felt and this is what we realized when we voted a big NO against Armour's ultimatum.

Paul Abel is a member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1011.

LETTERS

SWP on radio

I have just heard the Boston mayoral debate over WBZ radio, in which Socialist Workers Party candidate Eloise Linger participated. I congratulate Eloise on an exceptional appearance on the panel. As a result of the debate, I would like information on how to become a member of the SWP.

However, the note on broadcast coverage of the debate in that week's *Militant* implied only Boston-area readers would be able to listen in, whereas WBZ, a 50,000-watt "clear channel" station, is heard throughout the eastern half of the United States and Canada.

In future issues of the *Militant*, I would like to see a section devoted to a listing of broadcast appearances of SWP members and candidates. In cases of programs scheduled for after the issue is published, stations noted should be accompanied by their frequency and the station's signal distance and reception area (the sales department of the station will provide a map of it free of charge).

Dave Saint-Germain
Oshkosh, Wisconsin

Tenneco responsible

The people who work at or live near Tenneco Oil Refinery are outraged. On the night of August 31, a Tenneco storage tank filled with 5 million gallons of gasoline exploded. The explosion produced an enormous cloud of smoke and fire that shot up 200 feet, lighting the sky over the industrial suburb of Chalmette.

The explosion caused the death of 2 workers and sent over 30 others to the hospital for treatment of burns and other injuries. During the fire, 3,200 Chalmette residents were forced to evacuate.

It wasn't until September 2, two days after the explosion, that the charred remains of Eddie Dolese were found near the exploded tank. Another worker, Leonard Carollo, was killed shortly after the fire was put out. Carollo, an electrician and member of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 4-522 was told to work on high voltage equipment which electrocuted him. OSHA and other authorities are investigating the two deaths.

Since the explosion, an important discussion around safety has occurred among workers at the re-

finery. Socialists who work at the plant report that many of their coworkers are angry and blame Tenneco for unsafe conditions, dangerous speed up, and a concern for profits at the expense of human life. Many question Tenneco's public statement after the explosion defending its "safety record."

Socialist candidate for governor Michele Smith works at Tenneco and helped put out the fire. Smith points out that Tenneco must take full responsibility for the deaths that have resulted. The speed up, increased overtime, and concern for profits above all, directly contribute to the lack of safety at Tenneco. Placing its profits above the lives of refinery workers and local residents is the underlying cause for Tenneco's long history of explosions and injuries.

Nels J'Anthony
New Orleans, Louisiana

USSR & Korean airliner

The *Militant* failed to adequately address one of the central questions raised by the incident, namely the nature of the defense policies of the USSR. Apparently, the Soviet leadership has taken the position that they reserve the right on principle to destroy any foreign aircraft, military or civilian, that violates Soviet airspace. This is a reactionary position. In fact, it is essential to distinguish between military and civilian aircraft. There is no moral, political, or military justification for a policy which sanctions attacks on civilians as a matter of course.

If, in a specific instance, a civilian plane is destroyed or damaged by mistake or accident, it is necessary to publicly admit that an error has been made and issue an apology (which, for example, Israel did—eventually—after it shot down a Libyan airliner).

Also, the defense policies of a workers' state have a political as well as military and legal-judicial dimension. In other words, while the USSR may be within its rights in firing on an intruding plane under certain circumstances, that does not necessarily mean that the best response is to automatically shoot it down. The defense of the country may be better served by "swallowing its pride" so to speak and escorting or following the plane out to international airspace

and launching an official complaint later.

If it is true, as it may well be, that the U.S. is using civilian aircraft for aggressive military purposes against the USSR, then the Russians should have made a public exposure of this practice and demanded before international public opinion that it be stopped.

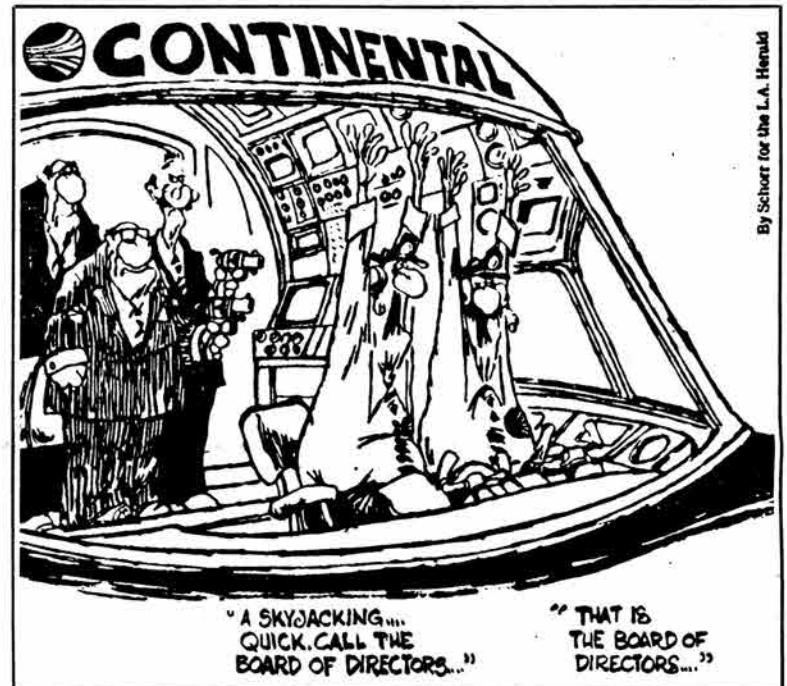
In addition, the *Militant* failed to analyze sufficiently the response of the Soviet leadership to the incident and the crisis which followed. The Soviet leaders neither explained what had actually happened adequately, nor clarified their defense policy, nor exposed the hypocrisy of the imperialist propaganda campaign. Domestically, the Soviet leadership censored information relating to the incident thereby preventing the Russian working class from studying and discussing the events and their bearing on national defense. Internationally, the Soviet leaders have done absolutely nothing to counteract the disorientation and demoralization within the workers' movement caused by the imperialist propaganda campaign. If a small newspaper like the *Militant* can do a convincing job of exposing the hypocrisy of the bourgeoisie, surely the USSR with its vast material resources and influence could do something. Soviet representatives at the United Nations and the Madrid conference ignominiously failed to defend themselves by standing up to the imperialist propaganda.

Ray Pinback
Bronx, New York

Brink's

I must agree with the opening of your article, "Brink's trial used to smear Black movement" in the September 30 *Militant*. Because the U.S. government has launched a smear campaign against the Black Liberation Movement to justify their pig raids, arrests, and assaults against Black anti-imperialist, white anti-imperialist, and all oppressed people.

The capitalist media didn't only aid the pigs by trying to justify their oppressive assaults, it also aided in smearing the true political context of this revolutionary act of expropriation from the oppressive-rich-capitalist U.S. government, to feed the starving-to-death Black people and oppressed peoples.



In your article I find that you even failed to acknowledge the true political base of this Brink's robbery when you said it was the political views of the defendants, not the robbery and killings, that took center stage. There is no doubt you are saying this revolutionary act of expropriation was nothing but an unjustified robbery and killings. The politics of those charged justifies the robbery and killing.

You also said, the real purpose of the trials wasn't to solve a crime. You again failed to acknowledge this was a "political crime" against the exploitative U.S. government and not just a criminal act.

There's no doubt in my mind or members of the Black Liberation Movement that the Brink's case was not an individual act of terrorism.

The revolutionary freedom fighters who have been captured by U.S. imperialism and charged with the Brink's robbery and some 30 other charges are Prisoners of War who have committed themselves to the liberation of New Africa (Black Belt) and the new African people (Afro-Americans) and all oppressed peoples.

The Black Liberation Movement must wage armed struggle as well as political education and political unity to win our freedom from the oppressive, racist, exploitative, and sexist U.S. government (capitalist system).
A prisoner
Indiana

Rail workers killed

Three rail workers were killed in the early morning October 1 in two separate incidents in the Newark area.

In the first incident, two members of a track crew were struck by a northbound Amtrak train between Newark and New York City. Killed were crew foreman Henry Brooks and trackman Albert Chinchar. Chinchar was thrown 50 feet into the Hackensack River and his body has not been recovered.

The second incident occurred shortly after. A New Jersey Transit train operating south of Newark's Penn Station struck and killed maintenance crew member Alfredo Guidice.

Amtrak officials said that the two workers killed in the first incident were on the wrong side of the track. But the Newark *Star-Ledger* quotes Jed Dodd, general chairman of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees, "I can't accept at this stage that our members were at fault." Dodd also accuses Amtrak of covering up in the incident in which Guidice was killed.

Phil Norris
Newark, New Jersey

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.

Ariz. bosses use floods against strikers

State troopers escort scabs, block roads to flood victims

BY KAREN KOPPERUD

CLIFTON-MORENCI, Ariz. — The national news reports of the devastating floods that hit southeastern Arizona on October 1-2, have scarcely mentioned that some of the towns in this area are the scene of a bitter struggle between Phelps Dodge Corp. and the 13 unions of its employees who were forced out on strike July 1.

Clifton, the town adjacent to Morenci where Phelps Dodge has its largest operation, was hardest hit. Last year Greenlee County, where Clifton-Morenci is located, had an unemployment rate of 67 percent — one of the highest in the country. Phelps Dodge shut down its mine and smelter entirely for six months from October 1982 to April 1983. Then, after a few months of work, Phelps Dodge launched a union-busting drive forcing the unions out on strike when it knew their workers had meager financial resources.

The sparsely covered desert landscape in Clifton has been distorted by huge dumps of waste from the open-pit mine and the smelter. Within a few hours, unusually heavy rains raised the level of the San Francisco River until most of the town was under raging water. All roads were cut off and telephone lines were down. Most of the town was in darkness, with no electricity, water, natural gas, or sewage system.

The October 7 *Tucson Citizen* quoted Town Administrator Manuel Perea: "We've got \$12.3 million in total damage so far. We've given service or help to 3,500 people so far (Clifton's population is 4,215)."

By October 6 the waters had receded somewhat, leaving great pools of greenish water and tons of stinking mud. All water is still contaminated, in part by the blue-green copper tailings from the Phelps Dodge dump. Two days later those streets that were dry were being sprayed with water. This was to keep down the dust in an attempt to prevent valley fever, a pleural fungus endemic to Arizona.

In the midst of this devastation and suffering, two elements remain unchanged. One is the tenacity and courage of the people of Clifton. The other is the company's uncompromising drive to break the unions.

During the two days Clifton was in darkness and confusion and both Clifton and Morenci were cut off by flooded roads, Phelps Dodge lodged 500 trapped out-of-town scabs in the company-owned Morenci Club. Some of the first Red Cross relief supplies were reportedly helicoptered in to feed this group. Strikers were not welcome.

The bridge on the road out of Clifton had been closed for two-and-one-half days. The town was cut in half. There were rumors of looting. With no telephones, people were desperate to get to their homes. People on the other side of the bridge couldn't get drinking water. The police kept the bridge closed until it was time for the afternoon shift change of scab workers. The first thing allowed across was a cavalcade of scab cars.

Clifton residents who were struggling through slimy mud and waist-deep water trying to save a few possessions from their drowned homes, found access to the main road blocked by the police to allow the scab cavalcade to pass unhindered. At that point tempers flared. Rocks and angry words were thrown.

One reason people were so angry was that in August they had watched 800 National Guardsmen and state troopers roll into town with a mile or more of equipment and several helicopters. They had been sent by Democratic Gov. Bruce Babbitt to help Phelps Dodge bring in scabs to reopen the Morenci operation after it had been shut down for 10 days by mass picketing.



Flood damage in Clifton, Arizona.

Strikers have been supporting their families on \$55-per-week strike pay plus whatever the Morenci miners' Women's Auxiliary has been able to organize. Now many have lost everything, including their homes.

The governor, who is referred to as Scabbitt in the copper towns, toured the town on October 4. Strikers told him what they thought of him. One man said, "I

don't want to see you in my town."

Tomás Aguilar, mayor of Clifton and financial secretary of the striking United Steelworkers of America Local 616, was shown on national television confronting Babbitt, demanding to know where the National Guard was now, now that the people needed help. He also told Babbitt, "If you ran for office today, you would not get one single vote in this town!"

The company used the Monday rock-throwing incident to break off negotiations once again. "We're certainly not going to continue to bargain under these conditions," said Jack Ladd, Phelps Dodge director of labor relations. "We made it clear we would not engage in any bargaining while there was any sign of violence on the picket line or intimidation of our employees."

The news that Phelps Dodge had broken off negotiations again rekindled people's anger. People gathered for the 3:00 p.m. shift-change picket line with renewed vigor. The state troopers were present, strung out along the road between the strikers and scab cavalcade. One striker described them as being on a "real harassing rampage these days."

One of their number turned on several strikers' children who were playing in the water, calling them "dirty little maggots."

Earlier in the strike, one of these children, at home alone, found himself surrounded by four squad cars full of heavily armed troopers who demanded to know where his father, an officer in International Association of Machinists Lodge 1132, was. When he told them, they left, telling him that they had a warrant for his father's arrest.

The company and the police are also circulating rumors that strikers are preventing

Continued on Page 17

Vietnamese leader speaks at UN, hits U.S. war in Central America

BY WILL REISSNER

UNITED NATIONS — "I see many signs that we are witnessing the prelude to a second Vietnam, this time in Central America and in Lebanon," Vietnam's foreign minister Nguyen Co Thach told reporters here at an October 5 news conference.

Thach repeated this warning two days later in an address to the UN General Assembly. There he reminded delegates that in the 1960s U.S. administrations had accused Vietnam of being a "tool" of the Soviet Union and China and had claimed that the Vietnamese liberation struggle was simply "communist expansion."

Today, he added, Washington is making the same charges against the "struggle for independence and freedom" waged by the peoples of Nicaragua, El Salvador, and other countries of Central America and the Caribbean in order to find "pretexts for intervention and aggression."

The Vietnamese diplomat warned the General Assembly that the same "logic of military escalation that led the United States to the bloody war in Vietnam" is now being "repeated in Central America and Lebanon." He pointed to the U.S. military aid and advisers and naval maneuvers that characterized the early stages of U.S. intervention in Vietnam, drawing a parallel to the present situation in these other regions.

"When they sent American advisers to Vietnam," Thach reminded reporters on October 5, "they said the advisers would not take part in combat."

"Later they said the advisers were being attacked and that marines would be sent to protect them. Then they said the marines in Danang were in danger and had the right to defend themselves."

"Still later," Thach continued, "they said the marines could fire at any potential danger, even if they had not been attacked."

He added, "this is exactly what is hap-

pening now in Lebanon and in Central America."

Thach reminded reporters of the fabricated Tonkin Gulf incident in 1964, when the Johnson administration claimed Vietnamese patrol boats had fired on U.S. warships and used the incident to justify the escalation of U.S. involvement. "To have a second Vietnam there will have to be a second 'Tonkin Gulf incident,' so you must be very vigilant," Thach stated.

But Thach also highlighted two major differences between the beginnings of U.S. intervention in Vietnam and the present situation in Central America and Lebanon. "Now, even before another Vietnam War has started, the conscience of the American people is already aroused. That is a big difference," he emphasized.

Moreover, Thach told the press, today people know that U.S. imperialism can be defeated. He remarked that on his recent trip to Nicaragua and the Caribbean island of Grenada, both targets of Reagan administration threats, he found that people "are very, very determined and have great confidence that they would win any war, because they saw that the Vietnamese won."

In his speech to the UN General Assembly, Thach blasted the United Nations role in Southeast Asia, a region that has been the site of war for four decades.

Thach noted that in the past four decades vast amounts of munitions have been used against "the Asian, African, and Latin American peoples' struggles for independence and freedom," and that "the bombs and ammunition used in the Vietnam War alone has far exceeded the amount used during the first and second world wars combined."

The history of Laos, Kampuchea, and Vietnam, he stated, "points to the UN's incompetence in the face of the successive and bloody wars of aggression" against them.

"From 1945 until now," he pointedly reminded the delegates, "the UN majority

has been silent in the face of the thunder of millions of tons of bombs and shells used by the aggressors against the three Indochinese peoples." He added that four permanent members of the UN Security Council (the United States, France, Britain, and China) had themselves "committed aggression against the Indochinese countries."

Today, Thach remarked, the United Nations is an obstacle to peace in Indochina. He reminded delegates that since the Pol Pot regime was overthrown in 1979 in Kampuchea, after presiding over the deaths of 2 million Kampuchians, the UN has voted every year to allow Pol Pot's representative to keep Kampuchea's UN seat.

And under the guise of humanitarian aid, the UN is funneling supplies to Pol Pot's guerrillas in their camps along the Thai-Kampuchean border so they can continue to "undermine the rebirth of the Kampuchean people," Thach noted bitterly.

He warned that "if the United Nations continues its present policy, then the question of peace and stability in Southeast Asia will be settled outside the UN framework," as happened in the first and second Indochina wars.

The UN will vote in late October on whether Pol Pot's representative will keep Kampuchea's seat for another year. The General Assembly is again likely to seat the ousted Pol Pot regime, with the delegates from the United States, its allies, and China leading the campaign in Pol Pot's behalf.

Thach urged the delegates to adopt instead the solution of the recent Nonaligned Summit conferences, where Kampuchea's seat was left vacant.

Reminding the delegates that "since the Russian revolution, the world has witnessed the emergence of countries with different social systems and hundreds of independent countries breaking out of the colonial system," Thach noted that "this is the evolution of history."