

## CIA-organized bombing raids mount against Nicaragua

### 150,000 protest Kissinger in Nicaragua

BY MICHAEL BAUMANN

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — "We want peace but we are ready for war!"

This was the overwhelming response at a massive demonstration here October 15. It was called in support of defense and austerity measures announced the day before to confront a sharp escalation of the U.S. war of aggression against this country. Some 150,000 people — a fifth of the city's population — mobilized in Managua to tell visiting Henry Kissinger that Nicaragua, like Vietnam and Palestine, would never surrender.

Tens of thousands more demonstrated in provincial capitals in the north and south.

Organized participation, much greater than in the past, from Managua's largest factories was a notable aspect of the demonstration.

The march was called on less than 24 hours' notice, following a dramatic speech the previous day by coordinator of the revolutionary government, Commander Daniel Ortega.

Following repeated failures by the *contras* (counterrevolutionaries) to gain a foothold inside Nicaragua, Ortega said, "beginning in October, the CIA has



October 15 demonstration in Managua denounced U.S. war, declared Nicaraguans' readiness to defend country.

launched a new offensive."

"They are regrouping and mobilizing their Somozaist National Guard, mercenaries, and traitors," he said. "Battalions of the Honduran army are being deployed all along our borders. Pressure is being stepped up through sabotage and the U.S. naval presence, with the main aim, among others, of cutting off our oil supplies."

In an effort to bring the economy to a halt, five major blows have recently been struck at the country's oil. They come just as Nicaragua is preparing to harvest its two main cash crops — coffee and cotton — for which large amounts of fuel will be required.

The biggest blow came when a sea-borne commando squad hit the country's main fuel storage depot in the northern port city of Corinto October 10. Rockets fired on a diesel storage tank caused a 36-hour fire that destroyed 1.6 million gallons of fuel in four tanks.

Had the fire spread to nearby aviation fuel and chemical tanks, the entire population of this city of 25,000 could have perished. Only mobilization of firefighters from across the country and emergency international assistance from Mexico, Colombia, and Cuba prevented the blaze from

Continued on Page 4

## Issues confronting Black party convention

BY MALIK MIAH

The National Black Independent Political Party (NBIPP) is holding its third national party congress November 10-12 in Jersey City, New Jersey. The congress will evaluate the current state of the party and outline its perspectives for the coming year.

The issues to be discussed are important both to NBIPP members and supporters and to activists in the Black and labor movements seeking ways to defend and advance the political interests of Blacks.

The congress takes place in the context of growing political ferment in the Black community and among working people in general. This ferment is a result of the deepening employer-government offensive against wages, working conditions, democratic rights, and quality of life for all working people, especially for Blacks.

This mounting discontent is expressed in many ways — protests against cop violence, demands on the government to enforce the voting rights laws and provide more jobs, and deep opposition to new Vietnam-style wars in Central America and the Middle East.

A very significant expression of this mood occurred on August 27 when nearly a half million working people marched on Washington to demand jobs, peace, and

freedom. The march was initiated by the major Black civil rights organizations. It was supported by over 700 other organizations, including Latino and women's rights organizations, farmers groups and, significantly, the AFL-CIO.

This coalition reflected various social

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## Big push needed for SWP fund

BY NORTON SANDLER

The Socialist Workers Party's 1983 Party Building Fund is substantially behind schedule. The fund, launched in August at the Socialist Educational and Activists Conference, has the goal of raising \$125,000 by December 1. The fund is necessary to help support the full range of activities that the SWP is involved in.

The fund has enabled a *Militant* reporting and sales team to travel to Mississippi to learn about the struggles for voter rights, union organization, and Black education and about the activities of farmers and woodcutters. They have been able to meet many people and share with them the ideas of the Socialist Workers Party.

In late August SWP National Committee member Rich Stuart was sent to Arizona to gather first-hand information about the

### Join Nov. 12 actions in Washington, Los Angeles

The U. S. government has struck serious new military blows against Nicaragua in the last few weeks. The immediate target has been the vital oil supplies Nicaragua must import which are key to its economy and the very lives of its people.

This dangerous level of military aggression — which will escalate further — underscores the urgency of the upcoming November 12 demonstrations against U.S. intervention in Central America and the Caribbean.

On October 10 a CIA-directed commando unit destroyed fuel-storage tanks in the Nicaraguan port city of Corinto. Some 1.6 million gallons of fuel were lost.

On October 14 sabotage teams hit the city of Puerto Sandino and blew up offshore oil tanker loading facilities.

That same day Exxon announced it would no longer lease its oil tankers to the

## EDITORIAL

Mexican government to deliver oil to Nicaragua.

But this has not been all. A joint attack by various *contra* (counterrevolutionary) organizations, including the outfit led by Edén Pastora, attempted to cut off transportation to and from Nicaragua at both ends of the Pan American Highway. The *contras* received open support from the Honduran army.

On October 2 Pastora's forces, operating from Costa Rica, briefly occupied the Nicaraguan city of Benjamín Zeledón. The *contras* have also stepped up their air attacks. On September 8 an aerial bombardment damaged part of the Sandino Airport in Managua.

Just as ominous as the attacks themselves is the fact that Washington openly claims credit for this entire offensive.

A front-page article in the *New York Times* Sunday, October 16, flaunts the CIA

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### Devastating blow to Grenada revolution

BY STEVE CLARK

OCTOBER 20 — As we go to press, a report over Radio Free Grenada indicates that six top leaders of the revolution and of the New Jewel Movement, including Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, were shot and killed October 19 by the Grenadian army.

Since October 14 there have been vague and often conflicting reports in the big-business media of a deepgoing split in the

### As we go to press

leadership of the Grenadian revolution. Despite efforts to gather reliable information since these reports began, the *Militant* has not established any independent sources.

Whatever additional facts may come to light, there can be no doubt that these events, culminating in the killing of Prime Minister Bishop and other leaders, deal a devastating blow to the revolution and to the hopes and aspirations of the toilers of that country and all those who have shared their determination to consolidate and advance the social and economic gains that have been made since the dictatorship of Eric Gairy was toppled in 1979. Bishop and the other leaders who were killed were looked to for political leadership and inspiration by tens of thousands of Grenadian workers and farmers and others around the world.

The announcement of the killings came in a radio address by army commander Gen. Hudson Austin. This reporter heard a tape recording of the entire broadcast over

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# U.S.-Seoul threats target North Korea

BY GEORGE JOHNSON

The U.S. and South Korean governments have mounted a campaign of propaganda, threats, and military provocations against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) in the wake of the October 9 bombing in Rangoon, Burma, that killed 17 high South Korean officials, including four cabinet ministers.

The South Korean president, Gen. Chun Doo Hwan, was in Rangoon at the time but was not injured.

The Washington-Seoul campaign against the DPRK is continuing, despite the lack of evidence that the DPRK was responsible for the bombing.

The campaign includes:

- Full-alert status for South Korea's 600,000 troops and at least 50,000 cops and for the almost 40,000 U.S. troops there.

- Intensification of U.S. and South Korean surveillance of the DPRK.

- Keeping the U.S. nuclear-powered-and-armed attack carrier *Carl Vinson* in Korean waters.

- The staging of government-organized anticommunist demonstrations in South Korea (which, with the exception of the funeral in Seoul for those killed in Rangoon, have been remarkably small).

- Ostentatious U.S. support for Chun, including the presence at the funeral of Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger and the plans to go ahead with President Reagan's visit to Seoul.

- An attack by South Korean troops on a DPRK outpost in the Demilitarized Zone that separates the two parts of Korea. This attack was implicitly admitted by a Seoul official, who said, according to press reports, that "if an incident did occur, it did not have government approval and was probably the result of frustrated soldiers acting on their own."

But the attack took place in the midst of a series of threats by the Chun government to "punish" the DPRK with commando raids and other armed attacks.

The DPRK has termed the Seoul-Washington charges regarding the killings as ridiculous and preposterous.

At the same time that Washington and Seoul were waging their campaign of threats against the DPRK, the U.S. government was reportedly cautioning "restraint" on the South Korean government. With the wars Washington is waging in Lebanon and Central America, it is not anxious at this time to get committed to another Korean War. Such a war would almost certainly involve China, an ally of the DPRK.

But Washington and Seoul aim to isolate the DPRK as much as possible and thereby further the diplomatic standing of the U.S. puppet regime in South Korea.

That was the purpose of Chun's visit to Burma and several other countries in Asia: to try to capitalize on the pro-South Korea propaganda campaign waged by Washington and Seoul around the shooting down of a South Korean airplane September 1 for violating Soviet airspace.

The government in Seoul has also historically used "threats" from the DPRK as an

excuse to repress democratic rights in South Korea.

The "evidence" of DPRK responsibility for the Rangoon bombing, which even Seoul admits contains nothing concrete, is based only on speculation by the South Korean and U.S. governments and media.

Of three supposed Koreans said to have been fleeing Rangoon after the bombing, one was killed and two were captured by Burmese police. One of those captured has since conveniently died, and nothing has been disclosed about the third — not even if he is a northerner or southerner.

The three "Koreans" were said to have carried Japanese batteries — very incriminating!

There are several possibilities for who carried out the bombing: one is Burmese opponents of the military government in Rangoon.

Or it may have been the work of South Koreans opposed to Chun for his brutal suppression of democratic rights. He is widely known as the "butcher of Kwangju" for his role in drowning a popular insurrection there in blood in 1980.

Nor can it be ruled out that it was an inside job, as was the assassination of South



U.S. troops in Korea. U.S., Seoul puppets use pretext of Rangoon bombing to threaten North Korea, despite lack of evidence of its responsibility.

Korean Pres. Park Chung Hee in 1979 by his own Korean CIA director. A report in the October 13 *Washington Post* from Rangoon says that "informed observers" there are "increasingly considering the possibility that it was a domestic South Korean factional struggle being fought out on neutral

soil."

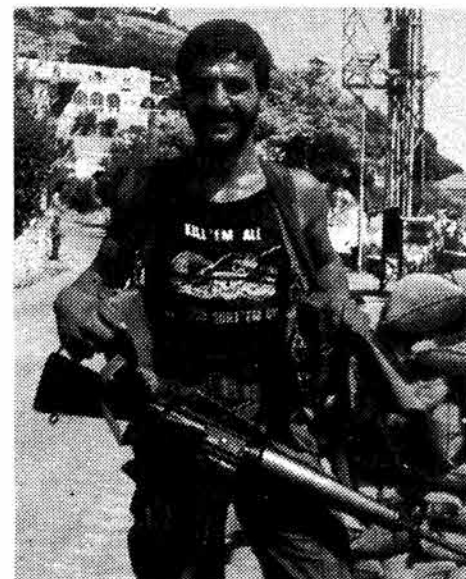
And sources in Rangoon that were "unofficial" — but credible enough to be accepted by the Associated Press — raised as a strong possibility that assassins had "infiltrated the 200-man advance South Korean security contingent."

## 2 more marines die to prop up Gemayel

BY MOHAMMED OLIVER

OCTOBER 19 — Two more U.S. marines have died in combat in Lebanon's civil war. Their deaths underscore the tenuousness of the cease-fire agreed to September 25. Six marines have been killed and more than 50 wounded since the current U.S. intervention began in September 1982. There are 1,200 marines stationed in Lebanon, who are backed up by more than 10,000 sailors, pilots, and marines aboard U.S. warships off the coast.

The U.S. Marine contingent is part of an imperialist combat force aimed at crushing resistance to the Gemayel government. Thousands of French and Italian troops have been committed to this "peacekeep-



"Kill 'em all, let god sort 'em out" reads shirt of U.S.-backed Lebanese rightist.

ing" force, and 17 French troops and one Italian soldier have lost their lives. In addition, the British government has deployed a small contingent of Royal Marines to take part in the joint imperialist force. The 15,000 Israeli troops who continue to occupy southern Lebanon make up the largest contingent of imperialist troops in the country.

Despite its imperialist backing, Lebanese Pres. Amin Gemayel's government has failed to force Muslim and Druse oppositionists to accept its rule. The majority of Lebanese are Muslim or Druse. They are fighting to get rid of a political system that guarantees the Maronite Christian minority dominance in the government. The Gemayel regime is controlled by the Phalangists, a grouping of ultrarightist Maronites.

Sporadic fighting, which intensified this past week, shows how precarious the cease-fire between the Lebanese government and Muslim and Druse militia is. Suk al Gharb — a town in the Shuf Mountains where the fighting was centered leading up to the cease-fire — remains the scene of occasional combat. Fighting has also been reported elsewhere in the Shuf Mountains, which are the traditional homeland of the Druse.

There has also been fighting in Beirut. On October 17 an artillery battle occurred between the Lebanese Army and militia in the Muslim southern suburbs of the capital.

Meanwhile, Israeli troops have continued their terror of the Lebanese people. On October 16 Israeli soldiers opened fire on a crowd of 50,000 Muslim worshippers in the town of Nabatiyeh. One person was killed and 10 wounded.

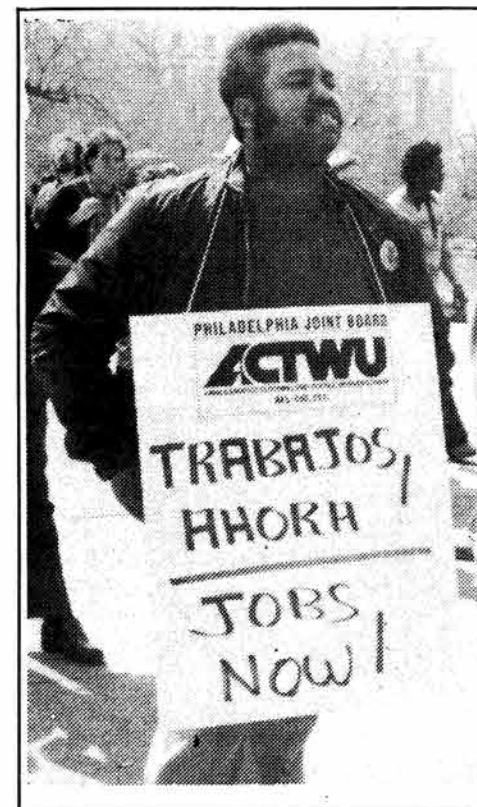
Muslim leaders in southern Lebanon have called for "total civil resistance" to the Israeli army. Israeli military patrols are continually attacked.

The cease-fire agreement called for talks aimed at "national reconciliation." Going into the fourth week of the cease-fire no negotiations had taken place. Government and opposition forces still could not agree on a site for the talks.

On October 12, however, Gemayel unilaterally set October 20 as the date for the negotiations. Through these talks the Phalangists, and their imperialist backers, hope to force the Syrian regime to withdraw its 40,000 troops and impose a proimperialist government in Beirut. If that fails, Washington and its European allies have threatened to launch a broader war against Syria, which has aided the Lebanese Muslim and Druse militia.

With this military threat and other pressure, the Reagan administration hopes the Syrian government of Pres. Hafez al-Assad will rein in resistance to the Gemayel regime. In particular Washington welcomes the Syrian government's attempt to subordinate the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) to the dictates of Syria. Assad's regime is trying to force defenders of the PLO's independence out of Lebanon. The Syrian army has corralled all PLO fighters loyal to PLO Chairman Yassir Arafat into two refugee camps near Tripoli on the country's northern coast.

The Syrian government's attacks on the PLO play into the hands of world imperialism. They weaken the Arab struggle against Washington and its allies — particularly the national liberation struggle of the Palestinian people.



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# Nov. 12 actions: U.S. out of Central America!



March 27, 1982, antiwar march in D.C. Antiwar forces are preparing to march on Washington again. Backing for November 12 actions includes encouraging support in labor movement.

## FDR leader Ungo says solidarity urgent

BY GEOFF MIRELOWITZ

NEW YORK — Decisive military and political battles are approaching in El Salvador. That was the message Guillermo Ungo, president of El Salvador's Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR), brought to an October 14 rally here. "President Reagan is not so powerful," Ungo declared, "if the American people are hand in hand with us," opposing U.S. intervention.

Ungo was one of several speakers at the rally on "Deadly connections — Latin American Intervention, Nuclear Escalation and Economic Crisis: A Socialist Response." The meeting was organized by the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) as part of its national convention, which took place the same weekend. The DSA claims to be the largest social-democratic organization in the United States.

Ungo was joined on the platform by California congressman Ron Dellums, Randall Forsberg, a leading proponent of a bilateral nuclear weapons freeze between the United States and the Soviet Union, and Barbara Ehrenreich, DSA vice-chairperson. DSA national chairperson Michael Harrington chaired the rally, which drew more than 800 people.

In his talk Ungo stressed that the progress being made by the forces of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) on the battlefield is leading new sectors of Salvadoran society to "favor talks leading to a political settlement."

The increasing Americanization of the war means that "it is being fought in different territory." Ungo reminded the audience that U.S. advisors are training Salvadoran soldiers both in El Salvador and in the United States itself. "Honduras is an occupied American territory. The U.S. is training thousands of Salvadoran soldiers

there." U.S. bases in the Panama Canal Zone are being used to train Salvadoran pilots, Ungo added.

Despite this regionalization of the war, the results for Washington have been "meager." Moreover, in El Salvador itself "the right is losing ground, becoming more isolated and turning to more violence," out of desperation, according to Ungo. Earlier this month, leaders of the People's Democratic Union (UPD), one of the more conservative labor federations with ties to the AFL-CIO leadership in the United States were openly threatened by Roberto D'Aubuisson, leader of El Salvador's right-wing ARENA party and president of the Constituent Assembly.

"We feel optimistic," Ungo concluded, "cautiously optimistic" because the approach of the Reagan administration and its Salvadoran puppets "is going to fail." The "military progress" they claim to be making, said Ungo, "is an optical illusion fading away day after day."

"Struggles inside the government are growing while the economic crisis is unwinding despite aid from Washington," Ungo asserted. "No matter the willingness of the administration to prolong the military approach — more and more sectors of the Salvadoran people see that without us [the FDR-FMLN] there is no possibility of a genuine revolutionary anti-oligarchic government." This is "the only way to democracy and freedom."

Ungo also stressed that "our struggle has a lot to do with your struggle." The Salvadoran revolutionary forces "believe more and more now that this is a common struggle with battlefields in El Salvador and the United States."

Ungo received a standing ovation when he ended his talk with his thanks for the

BY GEOFF MIRELOWITZ

Organizing for the November 12 mobilization to protest U.S. intervention in Central America and the Caribbean is intensifying. National demonstrations are planned for that day in Washington, D. C., and Los Angeles.

The Washington action will begin with three separate morning rallies each scheduled to assemble between 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Bob Stix, a staff person for the November 12 Coalition, told the *Militant* that these are not simply assembly points. The rallies, to be held at the offices of the Health and Human Services (HHS) Department, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and the State Department, each have a theme that is part of the day's events.

At HHS a speakout will be held on "The social cost of U.S. intervention." At the State Department the rally theme will be "Voices of justice rising." The theme at the INS will be "Circles of sanctuary and solidarity." Stix reports that 50 refugees each from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Haiti will form a circle with North Americans on either side of each refugee to symbolize the rally's message.

Each rally will begin at 10:30 a.m. and last for an hour. At 11:30 the groups of demonstrators will each march to the Ellipse,

work of those in the United States who are fighting U.S. intervention. Leaflets for the November 12 march on Washington against U.S. intervention were prominent at the rally and several appeals to build the action were made. The DSA is a sponsor of the march.

Referring to a discussion inside the DSA, Barbara Ehrenreich remarked that "many people feel Nicaragua falls short of the model of democratic socialism." However, she said, the U.S. government "has its foot on Nicaragua's neck. We shouldn't be too concerned with the contortions on the face of the victim" as he tries to get the foot off. Rather "we should help get the foot off the neck!"

This is by no means a unanimous view within the DSA. A recent issue of the *New Republic* magazine includes a piece by a prominent DSA member, Ronald Radosh, entitled "Darkening Nicaragua: Still not totalitarian, but the drift is disturbing."

Radosh virtually ignores the rapidly escalating war against Nicaragua organized and financed by the CIA. Instead he devotes six pages to "liberties" which "appear to be in growing jeopardy."

A different view was recently advanced by Saul Landau in *Socialist Review* a publication reflecting the views of some in and around the DSA. Landau argues that "the Sandinistas' first obligation is to hold on to the revolutionary power that was won with the blood of 50,000 dead Nicaraguan patriots."

Pointing to the example of Chile, Landau notes "Freedom of speech and assembly" was converted into excuses to plot violence and conspire... to create the Western Hemisphere's bloodiest and most brutal dictatorship ever." At the same time he notes the generally wide-ranging civil liberties allowed in Nicaragua despite the virtual state of war.

Much of the counterrevolutionary violence, Landau says, "is directed from abroad," and "all of it is in the interest of the propertied classes of Nicaraguan society." What is happening in Nicaragua today, he stresses, is not a drift toward "Stalinism," but rather "the intensification of the class struggle."

Randall Forsberg's speech, while making few specific references to Nicaragua or El Salvador, connected the fight against nuclear weapons and U.S. military intervention abroad.

Forsberg argued that Washington's nuclear arsenal is intended primarily to back up its conventional forces that are used for "unilateral intervention" in the Third World. The Pentagon budget, she explained, is not a "defense" budget, it is a "military" budget. This represented a positive shift from her previous position of concentrating solely on a bilateral freeze of nuclear weapons.

behind the White House for the day's main rally.

According to Stix "easily 100 cities are mobilizing" for the Washington action. More than 300 buses have been reserved and Stix reports that the list of cities sending buses is "growing day by day."

Broad support already exists for the march including the endorsement of civil rights leaders Coretta Scott King, and Dr. Joseph Lowery; the League of United Latin American Citizens; the Mexico-U.S. Border Commission in Solidarity With the People of El Salvador; and the Committee in Solidarity With the People of El Salvador (CISPES), among others.

In an important addition, the New York chapter of the National Labor Committee in Support of Democracy and Human Rights in El Salvador is encouraging unionists to attend. Stix reports that the N.Y. Labor Committee is sending out a letter urging trade-union support for the march. Another letter is being circulated among trade unionists in Chicago.

Support is also growing for the Los Angeles action according to *Militant* correspondent Vivian Sahner. There the sponsors of the march are the November 12 Coalition and the Mexico-U.S. Border Commission. Endorsers include CISPES, the Southern California Interfaith Task Force on Central America, Service Employees International Union Local 535, the Alliance for Survival, and the Los Angeles chapters of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the National Lawyers Guild.

Sahner also reports that an encouraging spirit of unity is developing around the demonstration among the many solidarity organizations in the large Salvadoran, Guatemalan, and Nicaraguan communities in the Los Angeles area. Many of these groups are working to build the action.

Tens of thousands of leaflets have been distributed, according to Sahner, and many are being passed out at plant gates. Members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union who are on strike at the Davis Pleating Co. are organizing a contingent for the march.

In San Diego, Operation PUSH has endorsed the action and is organizing a bus to bring people.

On October 20 the U.S. premier showing of a new movie, *Guatemala: When the Mountains Tremble*, is scheduled to be held at the Fox-Venice theater in Los Angeles. Proceeds will go towards the expenses of the march.

While final plans on speakers are still being worked out, Sahner reports that Pete Beltran, president of United Auto Workers Local 645 at the General Motors Van Nuys plant, has agreed to speak.

The Los Angeles demonstration will assemble at Shattuck Park and march to a 3 p.m. rally at MacArthur Park.

In other solidarity activity on the West Coast, an important tour of Central American trade union leaders from Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Guatemala is being organized by the West Coast Labor Central America Solidarity Network.

The purpose of the tour is to inform U.S. trade unionists about the conflict in Central America and the situation of working people in these three countries. Scheduled to tour are Sebastián Castro Cruz, a leader of the Sandinista Worker's Federation (CST) in Nicaragua; Marta Alicia Rivera, a representative of the National Association of Salvadoran Educators (ANDES); and Miguel Angel Albizuere, the exiled secretary-general of the National Committee for Trade Union Unity (CNUS) of Guatemala. The tour began in Washington state on October 16.

For more information about the November 12 actions contact the November 12 Coalition at P.O. Box 50131, Washington, D.C., 20004 or phone (202) 347-5516. In Los Angeles the November 12 Coalition can be contacted at P.O. Box 15213, Los Angeles, Calif. 90015 or phone (213) 484-1157.

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# St. Louis UAW body supports Marroquin

## His case for asylum is strong, says auto worker leader

BY ANN RILEY OWENS

ST. LOUIS — Héctor Marroquín's right to political asylum in the United States received the unanimous endorsement October 12 of the St. Louis Community Action Programs (CAP) Council of the United Auto Workers (UAW).

Marroquín is facing deportation by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) back to Mexico, where he faces persecution on frame-up "terrorism" and murder charges. He is a leader of the Young Socialist Alliance and Socialist Workers Party.

Marroquín explained to the UAW members of the CAP Council that, as a brother trade unionist, "a victory for me would be a victory for the fight to halt company-government union-busting by dividing working people — citizen against foreign-born, just like white against Black or men against women."

Marroquín was invited to the meeting by Leonard Robinson, CAP director of UAW Region 5. After Marroquín spoke, Robinson explained that the UAW had researched the case and concluded it is "a strong case, one that holds water."

Marroquín's request for political asylum is supported by many UAW leaders, Robinson said. Declaring that this fight was a union issue, he urged solidarity. After some discussion, the CAP Council

passed the resolution unanimously.

After the meeting, members of the UAW body talked with Marroquín and his supporters for more than an hour.

Robinson said he would take the case to the Kansas City CAP Council. Arnold Baum, president of UAW Local 282, said he would take Marroquín's case to his local for endorsement and invited supporters of the Political Rights Defense Fund (PRDF), which is organizing backing for Marroquín, to come to the next local meeting.

A Black retiree said he would pass out material on the case in his neighborhood. Several UAW members bought T-shirts and buttons; others donated money to PRDF.

Marroquín was also warmly supported by women UAW members, including four retirees and the president and a member of Local 282's Women's Committee.

## Marroquin reaches thousands through media, meetings

BY BRENDA BRDAR

ALBUQUERQUE — Héctor Marroquín's tour to publicize his fight for political asylum reached thousands of Spanish and English-speaking New Mexicans.

On September 25 Marroquín explained his case at the Unitarian Church in Santa Fe at a meeting sponsored by the New Mexico National Education Association (NEA), the New Mexico chapter of the National

Lawyers Guild, and the Santa Fe Peace Coalition.

He spoke in Albuquerque September 27 at a meeting at the National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees 1199 hall sponsored by the Political Rights Defense Fund.

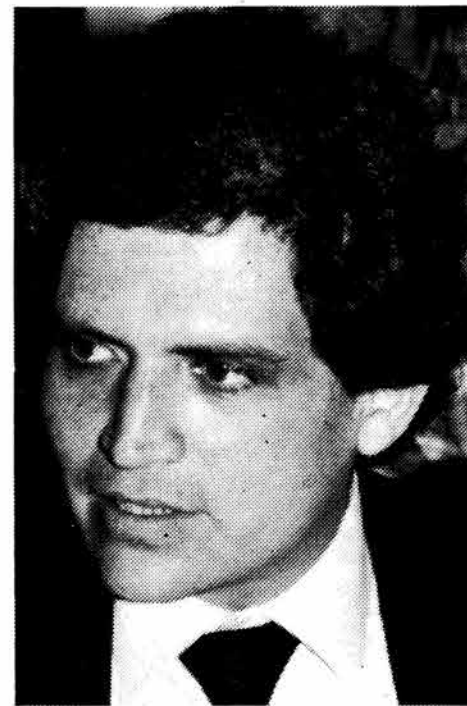
"My case will have an effect on the 24,000 Salvadorans who are asking for political asylum [in the United States]," Marroquín told his audiences. "The refusal to grant asylum to these political refugees is an extension of U.S. foreign policy, which supports the murderous regime in El Salvador. But Central America should not be regarded as the backyard of the United States. These countries are our next-door neighbors and should be respected."

On being an "American citizen," he said, "My America includes the northern and southern hemispheres — from Chile to Alaska. And the people in each country oppressed by the U.S. have a right to decide for themselves what kind of society they will have."

Reagan, he said, "speaks against the 'Cuban-model state.' But the people of Latin America are saying they want no more Guatemalan- and Chile-model states."

He asked: "Wouldn't the people of the United States rather send teachers and doctors to El Salvador instead of GIs?" His audiences clearly agreed.

In Santa Fe Marroquín was introduced by Charles Boyer of the Albuquerque NEA, who urged the audience to support Marroquín's case financially and to send protests to the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS).



Militant  
Héctor Marroquín: tour gains support for his fight for political asylum.

Among those in the audience was Voderne Patterson, president of the New Mexico NEA.

At the Albuquerque meeting, Marroquín was welcomed by representatives of the labor movement, including Catarina Davis of District 1199 and Ingrid Davis of the Albuquerque Federation of Teachers (AFT).

Marroquín had earlier addressed the executive board of AFT Local 1420, which decided to send a protest letter to the INS.

Marroquín also spoke before two college classes and got prominent media coverage.

\* \* \*

In Lincoln, Nebraska, Marroquín spoke with Ray Linewebber, general chairman of the Nebraska United Transportation Union and a member of the executive board of the state AFL-CIO, and with June VanderVeer, president of the Nebraska NEA.

Marroquín spoke in Detroit at a PRDF rally with Ismael Ahmed of the Arab Community Center and Father John Nowlan of the Salvador Sanctuary Project, St. Rita's Church.

Statements of support came from Erma Henderson, president of the Detroit City Council, the Detroit chapter of the National Organization for Women, and Larry Chunovich, president of the Michigan Education Association.

In Portland, Oregon, Marroquín spoke at two meetings of Latinos and at a college class. He also got extensive media coverage. At a Portland rally, he was joined by Dave Worthington, president of Painters Local 724, member of the Salem Committee on Latin America, and member of the Tri-County Central Labor Council. A message of support was read from the Portland chapter of the National Organization for Women.

Marroquín also appeared before the state board of the Oregon Education Association. Two leaders of another union, the International Woodworkers of America (IWA), endorsed his case. They are Fernie Viala, a member of the IWA international executive board, and Roy Ockert, IWA education director.

Marroquín also toured in Toledo, St. Louis, and Seattle.

In addition to extensive local media coverage of the case, *USA Today*, a national daily newspaper, reported October 3 on Marroquín's fight for political asylum.

He is to appear October 23 at an open house in Baltimore at 639 McKewin from 3-5 p.m. On December 3 he is to speak at a rally in New York City.

## New T-shirts, posters, brochures available

New T-shirts and posters, plus a new brochure, on Héctor Marroquín's case are available from the Political Rights Defense Fund.

T-shirts are available for \$5 each in S, M, L, and XL sizes. There is no charge for posters or brochures.

Order from PRDF, Box 649, Cooper Station, New York, N.Y. 10003.

# 150,000 Nicaraguans protest Kissinger

Continued from front page  
turning into a holocaust.

The sophistication of the high-speed launch from which the rockets were fired gave the operation an unmistakable stamp of "Made in U.S.A."

The craft, known by the U.S. military designation "Sea Rider," was equipped with special ballast tanks that take in sufficient sea water to give the vessel added stability for pinpoint marksmanship. Powerful pumps then expel the water, and twin 400-horsepower engines kick in for immediate escape — presumably to U.S. warships located only 12 miles off the coast.

In two additional attacks, September 8 and October 14, CIA-organized sabotage teams blew up off-shore oil tanker-unloading facilities in the Pacific coast city of Puerto Sandino.

## 'Contras' massacre peasants

BY MICHAEL BAUMANN

MANAGUA, Nicaragua, Oct. 20 — Some 250 to 300 contras (counter-revolutionaries) entered the small farming village of Pantasma, in northern Nicaragua, at dawn October 19 and murdered 32 residents. All government and social service centers were burned to the ground, the president of Nicaragua's Council of State, Commander Carlos Nuñez, reported.

Twenty-five of the victims were peasant civilians, six were militia members, and one was a Sandinista policeman.

Pantasma, located some 30 miles south of the Honduran border, is by no stretch of the imagination a military target. It is inhabited mostly by members of peasant cooperatives, set up since the revolution on land provided free by the government.

The attack comes on the eve of the coffee harvest, scheduled to begin in this area in two weeks with some 20,000 volunteer workers from the cities. Spreading terror to disrupt the harvest of one of Nicaragua's main cash crops is a chief aim of the counterrevolution.

The Sandinista army announced October 19 that an invasion by an estimated 2,000 contras is expected during the harvest months of November and December, in a renewed effort to occupy a sector of northern border territory and declare a "provisional government."

On October 14, in Mexico City, the U.S. oil giant Exxon delivered the follow-up blow. Citing increasing "danger," its tanker affiliate, Esso, announced that it would no longer rent tankers to the Mexican government for the shipment of oil to Nicaragua.

As Mexico has no tankers of its own and is the main supplier of crude oil to Nicaragua, this "business" decision is clearly intended to be equally as damaging as the rocket attack.

## Pastora strikes from south

On Nicaragua's Atlantic coast, on October 2, some 500 contras based in Costa Rica and led by ex-Sandinista Edén Pastora briefly occupied the city of Benjamín Zeledón. Before being driven out, they destroyed the port's fuel-storage facilities.

Despite Pastora's public claims that his group has nothing to do with National Guard-led contras in the north, the Honduran army, or the CIA, the fact is that all four enemies of the Sandinista revolution are increasingly coordinating their actions.

In a joint attack at the end of September, Pastora's forces and the Honduran-based Somozas hit Nicaragua at both ends of the Pan American Highway, north and south. The fighting disrupted travel and commerce for several days, destroyed two key customs facilities, and forced the relocation of 1,000 civilians in the north.

Eyewitnesses to the combat in the north, at the El Espino border checkpoint, reported that the contras were openly supported by the Honduran army.

One of the most ominous aspects of the attack in the south, at Peñas Blancas, was the fact that after the initial attack was repelled, the contras moved half a kilometer into Costa Rican territory and continued shelling Nicaraguan positions. At that point they were operating virtually in the Costa Rican customs facilities.

However, no action was taken by Costa Rica to stop them. To the contrary, the Costa Rican Foreign Ministry removed the contra wounded to government hospitals and accused Nicaragua of attacking Costa Rica.

## Emergency measures

To meet the new level of aggression, Commander Ortega announced nine immediate tasks. According to Ortega, the steps, which will be filled out more concretely in the days ahead following discussions with the mass organizations, are to:

1. Take measures to conserve energy.
2. Establish stricter rationing of fuel.
3. Assure the supply of basic food-stuffs, clothing, shoes, and medicines to soldiers and to workers in the productive sector.
4. Complete the organization of production battalions, which must be prepared to get out the harvest from all areas and with their own means, should that be necessary.
5. Concentrate *vigilancia* (night watch) around strategic economic installations, organized by institutions and the people.
6. Complete the organization of the Infantry Reserve Battalions and the Territorial Sandinista People's Militias, in accordance with the plan and objectives of the Sandinista People's Army.
7. Update and concretize plans for civil defense.
8. Take concrete measures to conserve hard currency.
9. Do not allow the enemy to open an internal front! We must combat this with decisiveness and energy!

In addition, Ortega announced that Nicaragua has begun "to formally solicit, from different governments of the world, the military means needed to defend our coastlines and airspace."

In the past, the U.S. government, while masterminding the attacks that make such a step necessary, has stated that it would view the arrival of Soviet MIGs or other jet fighters as a "threat to peace." Anonymous Pentagon officials have suggested "surgical air strikes" to destroy such planes.

## Kissinger visit

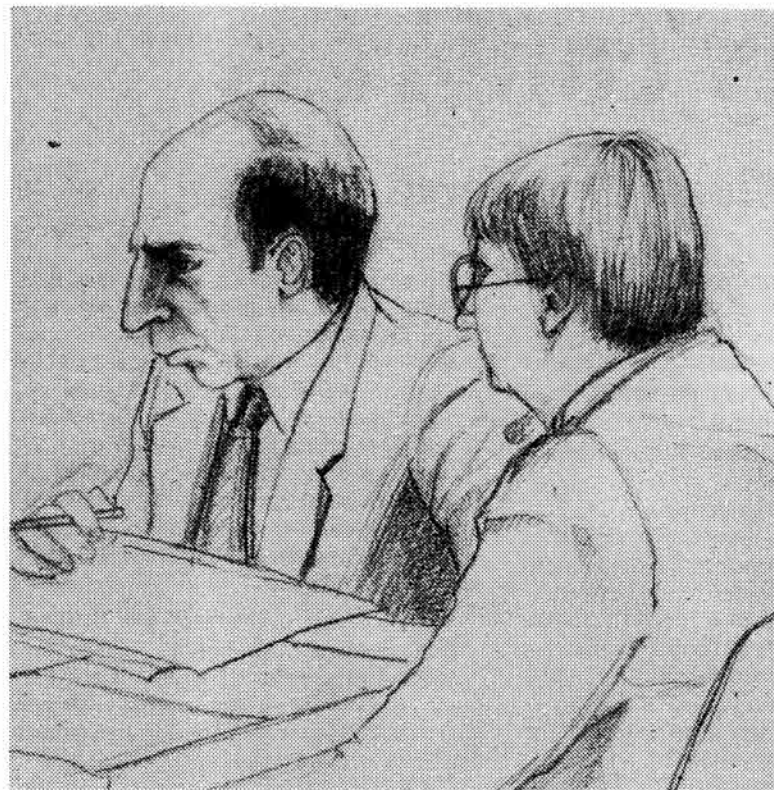
The visit here by former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, head of Reagan's bipartisan war commission, did nothing to dispel the conviction that further defense preparations are necessary. Kissinger made a nine-hour stopover October 14, part of a visit to each country in the region.

Declining to answer any questions from the press about the U.S. war against Nicaragua, Kissinger stated publicly only that he was "not here to negotiate."

Following a 45-minute meeting with Kissinger and the U.S. delegation, Ortega announced that little had been accomplished.

"It is up to the United States to decide if they are going to continue the policy of war we are living through, or seek the road of detente," Ortega said. "While we do not have great expectations of this commission, we do not discard the possibility of a peaceful solution to the problems. But we confront a situation of declared war with the United States."





Militant  
Alan Gelfand (left), who conducted disruption suit against Socialist Workers Party, shown with Robert Moest, partner in law firm that represented Gelfand knowing he had no evidence at all.

# Oct. 24 set for hearing to make lawyers pay for disruption suit

## 'Civil liberties' ruse cloaks attack on SWP

BY JERRY FREIWIRTH

LOS ANGELES — The Los Angeles law firm of Fisher and Moest, which represented Alan Gelfand in his disruption lawsuit aimed at the Socialist Workers Party, is the focus of a crucial hearing here October 24.

At that hearing before Federal District Judge Mariana Pfaelzer, arguments will be presented as to whether Fisher and Moest should be held financially liable for their role in the Gelfand suit.

To understand the reasons why the SWP is seeking this judgment, it's necessary to examine the Fisher and Moest law firm in more detail. Who are these lawyers? What was their exact role in the Gelfand disruption operation? What significance does the question of lawyers' responsibility have for the broader civil liberties issues raised in this battle?

The Gelfand case began in 1979 when Alan Gelfand was expelled from the SWP after he filed court papers accusing the party of being a front for the FBI and CIA. Gelfand then sued the SWP, claiming his civil rights had been violated. He demanded that Judge Pfaelzer reinstate him into membership and remove the elected leadership of the SWP.

His suit was launched in collaboration with the London-based Workers Revolutionary Party (WRP) and its U.S. affiliate, the Workers League (WL). The main activity of both these groups since the mid-1970s has been a campaign charging that the SWP is run by U.S. and Soviet government agents.

During the four years of the case and at the trial itself last March, Gelfand and his lawyers portrayed their efforts as a significant civil rights lawsuit. But this was a fake from start to finish. Not a single shred of evidence was produced.

### Refused to dismiss case

Pfaelzer, however, repeatedly refused to dismiss the case. She took advantage of the Gelfand-Fisher-Moest lawsuit to assert the court's right to investigate and supervise the internal life of the SWP.

Finally, because of widespread public outcry, Pfaelzer was forced to rule against Gelfand. She stated that Gelfand and his lawyers had never intended to produce any evidence. This so-called "civil liberties" case was shown for what it was: a disruption effort.

Fisher and Moest had a vital role to play in this well-coordinated operation by Gelfand, the WRP, the cops, and the courts, particularly in bolstering the sham civil rights cover. They style themselves a civil liberties law firm.

"Fisher and Moest emphasizes public interest litigation," they state in an affidavit filed with the court. "Our principal speciality is in First Amendment and civil liberties litigation. . . . Often, the cases have been taken with little expectation of payment. . . ." The affidavit provides a lengthy list of cases to illustrate this point.

But closer scrutiny reveals Fisher and Moest to be anything but a genuine civil liberties firm. Of the 13 "civil rights" cases cited, not a single one involves defense of working people or the oppressed. Not a

single unionist, Black or women's rights activist — none of the groups suffering real discrimination and denial of civil rights — is included among Fisher and Moest's clients.

Instead, Fisher and Moest specialize in defending right-wing, wealthy religious sects, undoubtedly for a handsome fee. Most of the cases they cite involve the Unification Church of Rev. Sun Myung Moon, commonly called the "Moonies." The Unification Church is best known for its ties to Washington's repressive puppet regime in South Korea. One of its most common activities is to organize goon squads to break up antiwar demonstrations in the United States.

Other cases listed by Fisher and Moest concern the defense of other wealthy religious sects — mostly the Hare Krishnas — and one involves a movie-theater owner's right to show X-rated films.

### 'Civil rights' sham

Fisher and Moest's sham claim as civil rights lawyers is unfortunately not all that unusual in legal circles. There is only one of a large number of law firms that use this label while defending anti-working-class, anti-Black and Latino, and antiwomen's rights forces.

This phenomenon has appeared recently in the controversy around the legal defense of the Ku Klux Klan and the Nazis. Lawyers defending these racist, antilabor outfits often characterize their legal efforts as championing constitutional rights. At times, like some chapters of the American Civil Liberties Union who have recently defended Nazis, they take the view that constitutional rights are abstracted from the clients they defend. The real world of class conflict between bosses and workers, exploiters and the oppressed, they maintain, does not enter into decisions on who they choose to defend.

But civil liberties are not abstract. False claims of civil liberties are often used by cynical lawyers and their right-wing or corporate clients to strip working people and their allies of their real constitutional rights. So many law firms specialize in union-busting today that they are considered by financial analysts to be a "growth industry."

Especially in "right-to-work" states, these law firms make millions while denying workers their right to organize unions. Typically, this type of union-busting legal action is carried out under the cover of "defending the constitutional rights" of some procompany worker or of scabs during a strike.

Other law firms specialize in actions against affirmative action, defending the civil rights of corporations and racists who claim their rights have been denied by even the most limited programs designed to counteract discrimination.

Generally the main motivation for such fake civil rights firms is money. Sometimes their motivation, in addition to lining their pockets, is a reactionary political bent.

The motivation of Fisher and Moest's involvement in the Gelfand case seems to involve a little of both. This suit was fi-

nanced to the tune of hundreds of thousands of dollars — and maybe more — by Gelfand's backers. Fisher and Moest have already made a bundle.

### Burton's political views

The deal worked out between Fisher and Moest and the WRP involved more than money, however. John Burton, a principal trial lawyer in the Gelfand case, joined the firm almost immediately after Fisher and Moest agreed to represent Gelfand in the spring of 1980. His actions and statements during the case reveal a lot about his political views and the nature of Fisher and Moest.

In his closing argument at the March trial, Burton responded to Judge Pfaelzer's ruling that he had presented no proof by stating, "We may not have a smoking gun, but we certainly do have a stinking corpse, I will tell you that, in the Socialist Workers Party. . . ."

Earlier, Burton conducted a pretrial deposition of Bruce Marcus, an SWP member, by reading from the Workers League newspaper, in which a person interviewed supposedly praised its coverage. Burton then asked the following questions:

"Do you think that indicates that the Workers League is making headway in the working class? Isn't it a fact that the Workers League is advancing much more quickly as a working-class party than is the Socialist Workers Party?"

Fisher and Moest's intention was never to present a real case, but rather to use the courts to vilify and harass the SWP, to drain it of its resources and money, and to work hand-in-glove with the courts, the cops, and the government to deny the SWP's First Amendment rights of freedom of association.

To successfully conduct this operation, not just any law firm would do. What was needed was a phony "civil rights" firm, one unscrupulous enough or anticommunist enough to undertake a fraudulent lawsuit, and at the same time, lend a veneer of civil liberties cover. Fisher and Moest fit the bill.

The SWP is seeking damages from Fisher and Moest as well as Gelfand because both share responsibility for their disruption lawsuit. It is the party's hope to recover some or all of the hundreds of thousands of dollars it has been forced to spend to defend itself.

But the most important aspect of the SWP's demand for compensation from Fisher and Moest is the political principle involved. What's at stake is whether lawyers in general should be held accountable when they use the courts to disrupt or attempt to destroy political organizations, unions, or civil rights groups.

Pfaelzer's ruling against Gelfand during the March trial was an important victory for First Amendment rights, but it was only a partial victory. If Fisher and Moest are not held responsible for their actions, they will have succeeded, with the court's help, in disrupting and draining a workers organization — and they will have gotten away scot-free. They will then be free to

move on to more such cases, hundreds of thousands of dollars richer for their efforts.

### Lawyers' mobilization

Not surprisingly, Fisher and Moest have raised quite a stink against the move to hold them responsible. Once again they have advanced another sham "civil liberties" argument in their defense. Holding them liable, they claim, will have a "chilling" effect on other civil liberties lawyers. It will "reduce the number of skilled lawyers who will undertake to defend constitutional rights."

To this end, Fisher and Moest have marshaled arguments in their defense from other lawyers and lawyers' associations in the form of friend-of-the-court briefs and affidavits. Each of these briefs neatly sidesteps the central fact established in the March trial and ruled on by Pfaelzer: Fisher and Moest undertook this case *knowing in advance* that it contained not a grain of truth. They knew that its only purpose was to disrupt a legitimate party.

These supporting briefs also avoid the real constitutional issue at stake: the ability of political parties, unions, and others to be free from disruption and harassment through the courts.

This lawyers' mobilization in support of Fisher and Moest seeks to set all lawyers above the Bill of Rights. A ruling by Pfaelzer supporting such a right to immunity would be a great danger to democratic rights.

That is why it is urgent for all supporters of union, Black, and women's rights, and all supporters of civil liberties, to speak out against Fisher and Moest and their lawyers' mobilization. Just as in the March trial, such a public campaign can have a decisive impact on the outcome in the courtroom.

The Political Rights Defense Fund is organizing an effort to this end in Los Angeles and around the country. Messages of support are beginning to come in to the PRDF national office from a wide array of individuals and groups — from union leaders to civil liberties lawyers, to Black and Latino and women's groups.

**PRDF** Political Rights Defense Fund

Help put an end to lawsuits aimed at disrupting and harassing organizations of the working class and its allies; support the effort to make the law firm of Fisher and Moest financially liable for representing Alan Gelfand, who tried to disrupt the Socialist Workers Party in court, while knowing he had no case whatever.

Send tax-deductible contributions and messages of support to: Political Rights Defense Fund, Box 649, Cooper Station, New York, N.Y. 10003.



# Issues facing Black party congress

## Potential for independent political movement 'clearly on the agenda'

Continued from front page

movements that are the main allies of Blacks. Together they represent potentially very powerful forces.

A radicalization is occurring among working people that hasn't yet found an expression in independent political action — that is in a move away from the framework of capitalist politics. The Black liberals, who assumed the leadership of these demonstrations and protests, are trying to steer this anger and growing political consciousness into refurbishing the Democratic Party.

The depth of problems facing Blacks, and the scope of the growing anger, means that NBIPP can bring forward its perspective and get a hearing from Blacks. This is especially true if it supports key struggles as the copper strike in Arizona, the strike of airline workers at Continental, the fight against U.S. intervention in Central America and Lebanon, and demonstrations for Black rights.

By public statements, participation in actions, and fielding candidates for public office it can reach thousands and educate them on an anti-imperialist, anticapitalist perspective.

Despite NBIPP's small size, its program, which is based on breaking out of the capitalist political framework, points the way forward for all working people.

Thus, the NBIPP congress and its deliberations should be of interest to all working people standing up to the employers' attacks.

### State of the party

The call for forming NBIPP came after 1,500 Black activists meeting at the 1980 National Black Political Convention in Philadelphia declared that the Democratic

and Republican parties are not in the interests of Blacks.

"There are two kinds of mass parties, bourgeois and progressive," said the preamble of the draft charter presented to delegates at the Philadelphia convention. "The bourgeois party exists to serve the interests of a minority, but claims a mass constituency, i.e. Republican and Democratic parties. The progressive party exists to serve the interests of the working class and the poor, therefore our party will actively oppose racism, sexism, capitalism, and imperialism."

The party was established and its programmatic document, the charter, was then adopted in August 1981, at the first party congress held in Chicago.

NBIPP represents a political vanguard for both the Black community and the working class. Even as a modest nucleus it points towards independent working-class political action.

The evolution of the NBIPP over the last few years, however, has been one of the best kept secrets in U.S. politics. This is because most of the major media and the big-business parties have kept it out of the news. Black Democratic and Republican leaders have also kept quiet about the party, hoping it would simply disappear.

Nevertheless, over the last couple of years NBIPP has been involved in some important activities including: the Jan. 15, 1981 march on Washington demanding Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday be declared a national holiday, the AFL-CIO's Sept. 19, 1981, march on Washington demanding jobs, protests against U.S. intervention in El Salvador, and organizing a solidarity trip to revolutionary Grenada.

Over the last two years, however, most of NBIPP's activities have centered around political discussions at central committee meetings and other gatherings on what

NBIPP is and how an independent political party is built. These discussions have occurred in the framework of a period of deep capitalist crisis, but where the majority of Blacks who vote still vote for liberal Democrats and Republicans.

Much of this discussion aimed at reaching political clarity has centered on the party's founding programmatic document, the charter. It also revolved around how best to unite the various individuals in the party into a team leadership. The leadership includes nationalists, Pan Africanists, socialists, communists, former Democrats and Republicans, independents, and others who agree that building an independent Black party is necessary in order to start the difficult task of providing an alternative leadership for the masses of Blacks.

The lengthy discussions at central committee meetings were necessary and an invaluable process in building a party from scratch.

During this period, however, there was a near-paralysis in the organization's functioning.

Nevertheless, the NBIPP has survived. The potential to be an example for all working people remains. The opportunities to grow and expand are even greater today if the party begins to tap the ferment in the Black community.

The big challenge facing the upcoming congress is to reach further political clarity on what the party is and how to build it.

The congress will need to discuss how to relate the charter to the political radicalization in the Black community and among other working people.

### The charter: party's foundation

The charter of the NBIPP is one of the most advanced documents ever adopted by a national Black political formation. It is a

result of both a synthesis of months of discussion and the last 20 years of experience in the Black struggle. It attempts to come to grips with our national oppression and to develop a political perspective based on *political independence* from the Democratic and Republican parties.

The charter provides a political framework from a working-class point of view for discussing today's political reality and guiding the NBIPP in developing a viable plan of action.

"The historic decision of the National Black Political Convention, which declared an Independent National Black Political Party," the charter begins, "was not just a decision to found a new organization, but to *unleash an organized political movement* for Black self-determination in the United States, and to affirm, once again in our lifetime, the reality that we ourselves must make — the critical contribution to our own liberation." (Emphasis added.)

It continues:

"The National Black Independent Political Party aims to attain power to radically transform the present socio-economic order, that is, to achieve self-determination and social and political freedom for the masses of Black people. Therefore, our party will actively oppose racism, imperialism, sexual oppression, and capitalist exploitation.

"Both major parties (the Democratic and Republican parties)," it explains, "have betrayed us because their interests essentially conflict with ours. They have consistently used power and government to create policies for Black economic underdevelopment, political exploitation, and cultural destruction. Their policies reveal contempt for the interests of Black people, and have existed solely for the maintenance of the existing political and socio-economic system.

"So we established the National Black Independent Political Party, understanding that past and its triumphs, failures, and possibilities, but reaching to surpass that legacy and to create new forms of economic, political, and social power which will enable us to create a new future for our people."

How to fight for this perspective is also outlined in the charter. "Our actions," it explains, "will be guided by three basic mass-based strategies.

**"1. Community Organization and Mobilization** around issues, such as use of direct action tactics. . . .

**"2. Institutional and Community Development**, such as the designing and development of creative alternatives to deliver needed services. . . .

**"3. Public Policy and Electoral Politics**, such as lobbying, legislative advocacy, preparing and issuing public policy statements, and studies, and running and supporting candidates for elected and appointed office."

Then follows a section with specific proposals for the Black community and Black liberation movement to support and fight for: jobs and income; revitalization of education; health care; political equality and voting rights; economic development; end to repression and racist terror; the rights of women; land for Black farmers; peace and disarmament; end to military conscription; and support for the struggles of oppressed peoples around the world.

This programmatic document clearly presents an anticapitalist political perspective for Blacks. To realize this perspective, to meet the charter's demands, means a fight for the leadership of the Black movement. It means winning over the masses of Blacks to the charter's views.

### Big political discussions

Today the political anger, militancy, and radicalization of Blacks is most evident around the ongoing discussion on how to fight for political power and use this power to advance the interests of Blacks and working people as a whole.

This discussion was sparked by developments in the Chicago mayoral campaign of Harold Washington last spring.

Washington was elected after a massive

## Jackson appeals for 'rainbow coalition,' backs ties to Democrats, stronger NATO

Jesse Jackson's campaign to open the Democratic Party to what he calls the "rainbow coalition of the rejected" — Blacks, Latinos, women, elderly, farmers — and his possible bid for the Democratic Party presidential nomination is causing plenty of discussion in the Black movement. It is also generating a lot of interest

among those who consider themselves the "rejected" of society — those seeking a political alternative to the traditional politics of the Democratic and Republican Parties.

A recent *Ebony* magazine poll found that 67.1 percent of its readers favored a Black running for president and of those, 61.6 percent said Jackson was their first choice. Other polls have placed Jackson third or fourth among the eight announced Democratic Party presidential candidates.

At the August 27 march on Washington thousands of demonstrators chanted, "Run Jesse, Run." This appeal has been repeated at scores of meetings where Jackson has spoken in recent weeks.

To better understand Jackson's appeal, it is useful to take a look at what he is saying.

Jackson is critical of the Democratic Party. He attacks the racist policies of the party and calls for its overhaul. The "rainbow coalition," he explains, "is the most viable vehicle to bring about creative change" — reforming the Democratic Party and other capitalist institutions.

In an interview published in the October 4 *Village Voice*, a New York weekly newspaper, Jackson outlines some of his ideas:

"We want issues that impact on poor people on the front burner," he explains. "We must get the Voting Rights Act enforced. If the Voting Rights Act is enforced, and if the black and Hispanic right to vote is protected, and their votes are in configurations that count, then we can get the ERA [Equal Rights Amendment] passed in the South."

He goes on, "And the ERA's important because if the blacks and Hispanics are enfranchised, and if the ERA is passed, the South will become prolabor, instead of being saturated with right-to-work laws."

Jackson then explains what he means by a "new" Democratic Party — one open to all. "Part of our mission," he says, "is to create a greater distinction between Democratic candidates and Democratic policies. Many of them are wearing Democratic

labels, but their policies — military, foreign — are too akin to those of the Reagan administration."

What about international issues? He's for discussions with the Palestinians and the Palestine Liberation Organization. He criticizes those who say supporters of such a dialogue are anti-Israel and "anti-Semitic." He opposes Reagan's policy in Central America and explains, "Clearly in Nicaragua the Somoza regime was in part empowered by America's assistance." And, "... the rebellions against the presupposition of the Banana Republic are very legitimate rebellions. As sure as we are sitting here, the occupation of South Africa by the Afrikaners will not be eternal."

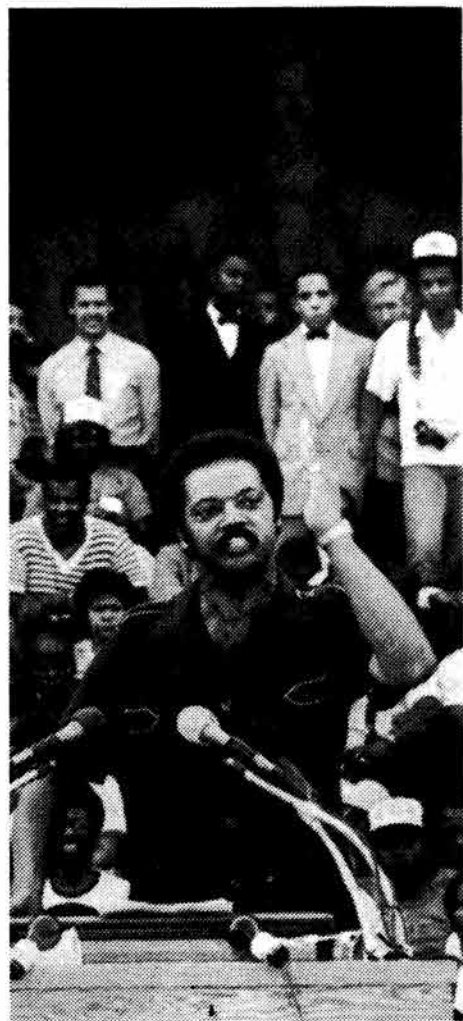
At the same time, Jackson, while initially critical of the U.S. Marines going into Lebanon, now says they can't just pack up and leave without fear of a bloodbath. To register a protest against the USSR for shooting down a South Korean airliner that provocatively flew over Soviet air space, he canceled a trip to Moscow.

His anti-Soviet stance was also expressed when he told the *Voice* that he supports a strong NATO. "If the American conventional forces were to pull out of Europe that wall would begin to walk. The Iron Curtain would begin to shift."

Finally, the *Voice* asks Jackson: "If you go forward, and then lose, would you then go outside the Democratic Party?"

Jackson counters those who hope he'll lead a break with the Democratic Party by replying, "We would not intend to. We would not have that as a desire. We will hope that our candidacy, if it were to materialize, would expand and not divide the Democratic Party."

That in a nutshell summarizes Jackson's political outlook: identify with the real political ferment in the Black community and among other workers but seek to reform the Democratic Party and the capitalist system it serves.



Jesse Jackson at August 27 demonstration in Washington, D.C.





August 27 march for jobs, peace, and freedom showed potential for alliance of Blacks and their allies.

voter-registration drive placed more than 100,000 additional Blacks on the rolls. Thousands of people in the Black community got involved in the campaign to get Washington nominated. Most Blacks saw Washington's election as a way to end the racist domination of City Hall and a victory for Black rights.

Washington's radical sounding speeches also won him significant votes from working-class whites and the majority of Latinos.

The fact that Blacks and other workers in Chicago had no mass independent working-class alternative to Harold Washington's Democratic Party campaign does not diminish the significance of what occurred in Chicago's Black community. A genuine drive developed in the Black community to get "one of our own" into office.

It was this motion from below that was so important about the Washington campaign. It showed deep-seated distrust toward the traditional capitalist candidates and a desire for a political alternative to the same old song and dance.

The seriousness with which Blacks, including Washington supporters, took the campaign of Socialist Workers Party candidate, Ed Warren, reflected the political thinking-out process unfolding in Chicago's Black community and among a layer of other workers.

The "Southern Crusade" to register several million more Blacks to vote in Mississippi and other states was spurred on by Washington's election. Jesse Jackson's Operation PUSH (People United to Serve Humanity) and other civil rights groups stepped up their efforts sensing the mood in the Black community for change.

In Philadelphia Wilson Goode forged a coalition that led to his nomination as the Democratic Party mayoral candidate — the first Black to win the nomination in that city.

In Boston, Mel King became the first Black to make the mayoral run-off in the

history of the city. Interestingly, King like Washington ran on a radical-sounding social program.

It is this political ferment and discussion that Jesse Jackson's unofficial bid for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination is seeking to tap.

The Jackson campaign is a reflection of the same process leading Blacks to register and vote and to campaign for Harold Washington, Wilson Goode, and Mel King. It is a desire to get more political representation, to get more political power.

The difference between NBIPP's perspective and Jackson's is that Jackson accepts the framework of the capitalist two-party system while NBIPP seeks to win Blacks and other workers to break from the Democrats and Republicans, and form a mass Black party. The formation of such a party would give a big boost to establishing a labor party based on the unions.

The Jackson campaign, just as the Washington, Goode, and King campaigns, offers opportunities for NBIPP to advance its working-class perspectives.

Jackson's campaign is national in scope and is receiving wide media attention. It is getting a good response from many activists, including white workers, Latinos, farmers, women, as well as Blacks.

The challenge for NBIPP is to join the many forms of increased political discussions in the Black community. This means entering into a discussion with those working people inspired by Jackson's appeal to build a "rainbow coalition," introducing the political perspective of charting an independent course.

Those most inspired by the Jackson campaign are Blacks who want more than just defeating Reagan, or even opening up the Democratic Party to more Blacks, as Jackson proposes. They want real power. They want an instrument that fights against racism, war, and for jobs.

It is this radicalization and higher expectations by Blacks that also worries the lead-

ers of the Democratic and Republican parties. It is also why most leading Black liberals, such as Benjamin Hooks of the NAACP, and many Black elected officials in the Democratic Party, such as Detroit's Mayor Coleman Young, oppose Jackson's candidacy. They fear that Jackson won't be able to control the dynamic of what he's put into motion. Jackson says he opposes a break from the Democratic Party. But when he fails to get the nomination at the Democratic Party's convention in August, Blacks and other workers attracted to his campaign may not readily join the "Defeat Reagan at all costs" campaign and vote for

Walter Mondale or whomever the Democratic Party nominates. Some may draw radical conclusions and even break with the capitalist parties.

The majority of Blacks still suffer under the illusion that they can win political power through the Democratic Party. The NBIPP was established to fight for a different course. It can reach out to the most conscious elements and win them to its banner.

It is important for the masses to shed these illusions, and NBIPP, by identifying with the desire for real political power, can take its perspectives to Jackson meetings and to other activities in the Black community and get a favorable response.

Approaching the Jackson and similar campaigns in this way can make NBIPP attractive to radicalizing Blacks and other workers. It can make it easier for NBIPP to explain to all working people that the problems we face today are not only the result of Reagan being in office, or the racism of the Democratic and Republican parties, but stem from the capitalist system.

As the NBIPP charter explains, Democrats and Republicans don't serve our interests. They are controlled by big business and can't be taken over by working people.

NBIPP, on the other hand, projects building a party that does serve the interests of Blacks.

Its example also points toward the unions forming their own party, a labor party. It points toward working people forming our own government, a workers and farmers government — a government that will mobilize working people to put an end to the private-profit system.

The potential to build a mass Black political movement along this line is clearly on the agenda. That's why the NBIPP charter should be reaffirmed at the Jersey City congress and taken to the masses of Blacks and other working people. It provides the outlines of a real alternative program for those looking for a new leadership.

## Candidate withdraws in S.F. to support socialist Wright

BY MATILDE ZIMMERMANN

SAN FRANCISCO — Independent candidate for mayor, Carrie Drake, told a City Hall news conference here October 13 that she was withdrawing from the race to throw her support behind Socialist Workers Party candidate Pat Wright. Wright is a member of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1245 and an activist in the National Black Independent Political Party. Drake and Wright are two of the six candidates who have been certified for the November 8 ballot.

"I feel that Pat has the kind of program I would support if I continued to run," Drake told the media, citing issues such as housing, working conditions, and questions of foreign policy. "It's important for people supporting similar platforms to show solidarity and unity," Drake added, "in order to give the voters a clearer choice."

Drake, 36, is a city worker and a member of Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 400. She works as a clerk at the Public Health Department across the street from city hall. Outraged by the waste and inefficiency of the department and by the fact that employees there have no power, Drake decided to run for mayor. "I wanted to bring public attention to these issues rather than sit on the sidelines and see the city fall apart," said Drake. She used her personal savings and borrowed money to pay the mayoral filing fee of more than \$1,700.

Drake told the media that when she decided to run she did not know who else would be challenging incumbent mayor Dianne Feinstein. "After speaking with Pat Wright and her campaign organizers and supporters and reading her campaign concerns," she said, "I am very impressed with her sincere and disciplined concerns."

"My support of Pat Wright," Drake went on, "also strongly takes into consideration the urgency of the needs of workers,

women, children, and senior citizens in San Francisco."

Asked if she had any problems with the fact that Wright is a socialist, Drake said, "Not at all. I was glad to hear she was going to be on the ballot. I was wondering if there was going to be a candidate from one of the labor organizations or socialist organizations. Pat was the only one to show the courage and determination to do this." She said she thought "Pat's program and socialism in general helps to bring workers together."

Drake told the media she wants "to work as closely as possible with Pat," and use whatever speaking engagements she had to urge people to unite behind Wright's candidacy.



Militant/Arnold Weissberg  
SWP candidate Pat Wright

## Reading on the Black struggle

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# —SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE—

BY ARGIRIS HARAS

VIRGINIA, Minn. — Since the end of August teams of socialists on the Iron Range here have made sales of the *Militant* at the plant entrance of different mines a top priority. The high point of our sales efforts has been at the National Steel mine in Keewatin, 50 miles west of Virginia.

A team of two socialists with a huge sign reading, "Read The *Militant*. Support The Arizona Copper Miners Strike," sold five copies of the *Militant* and two copies of the *Young Socialist* in 15 minutes the first week. Miners were most interested in the articles on the copper strike and the August 27 march on Washington for jobs, peace, and freedom.

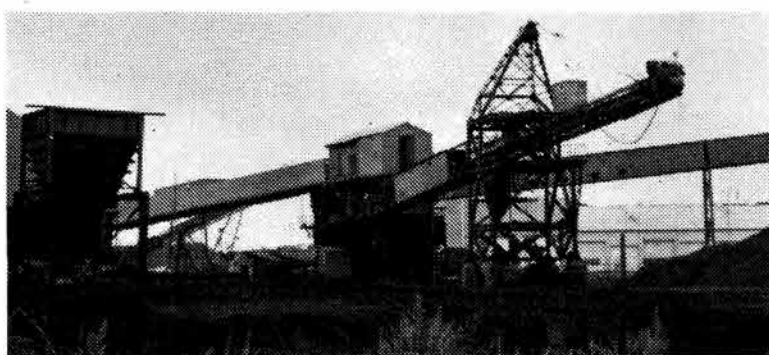
Across the street from where we were selling lives a retired miner. After observing us for a while, he came over to talk to us. He told us the country should have a woman or Black for president. He then bought a copy of the paper and said he would see us the next week.

A woman miner initially drove by us as she entered the mine. After a few minutes she came back with her fist stuck out the window. She said she had seen the paper before, was glad to see us, and gave us 75 cents for the *Militant*.

The second week, our team sold seven *Militants* in 20 minutes and gave away three back issues. A couple of miners gave us donations and told us to keep up the good coverage on the copper strike.

The following week we came with 25 copies of the *Militant* and five *YSs*. Soon after we set up our sign, it started raining. In spite of the rain, we sold nine copies of the paper in 30 minutes. Cars lined up in the rain to buy the papers.

On September 26, Saturday, we had a very successful day of door-to-door sales in Keewatin. We sold 29 single issues of the *Militant* and five subscriptions. Afterwards we sold 16 *Militants* at



Taconite mine in northern Minnesota, where miners are hit hard by layoffs.

nearby plant gates in only 45 minutes. Four workers gave donations and several praised the *Militant's* coverage of the copper strike. They said the local papers rarely covered the strike.

We also sold a *Militant* to a union official. He gave us \$1 for the paper and said, "I'm all for the copper strike." Then after seeing that our car was a Japanese model, he added, "Hey you guys shouldn't have a Japanese car. You should buy an American car to put some of you back to work." We pointed out that the problem was not imports but the companies. We asked, who's attacking the unions in Arizona? He backed off then and left.

Another hot issue was the war in Lebanon. Practically every worker who stopped to buy the *Militant* thought U.S. troops had no business in Lebanon. A miner from Portugal said, "This country stinks. The government wants us to be all over the world. It stinks."

The retired miner we talked to a few weeks earlier came across the street to help us stop cars driving into the mine. A lot of workers who were late or couldn't stop because of a long line of cars waved to us in solidarity. One worker who bought the *Militant* in town stopped to ask if it was the new issue. He said he liked the paper. Another worker who bought it for the first time asked if there was a special deal. We told him about

the subscription and he said he might buy one the next week.

October 5 our team went to the same mine for the fifth week in a row. This time it was obvious from talking with the workers that the *Militant* had become a topic of discussion in the mine. A young worker said, "I heard you guys are socialists." When we replied yes, he said he was not a socialist but then bought a paper because he was prounion and wanted to keep up with the copper strike in Arizona.

We had sold 10 papers when the cops arrived. They told us they got a complaint that we were causing a "traffic hazard." They said we would have to stop distributing the paper until we could make an arrangement with the police chief.

The retired miner — who again was helping us stop cars — walked up to the cops and asked, "Are you scabs or what?" Then he turned to one of the people on the team and asked to buy a copy of the *Militant*. He explained, "They are trying to kick you out. I don't know if I'll see you again."

One salesperson told him, "No way. We will be back next week."

And that is what we plan to do. It may take a fight to win our democratic right to distribute the *Militant* at this mine and other plant gates but we are confident we will win based on the workers' response to our sales.

## SUBSCRIPTION SCOREBOARD

(Totals as of *Militant* issue #37, *PM* issue #20)

Area	Militant Goal/Sold	PM Goal/Sold	Total Goal/Sold	%
Seaside, Calif.	35/29	10/3	45/32	71
San Antonio	60/35	25/20	85/55	65
Toledo	50/32	5/2	55/34	62
Twin Cities	120/64	10/3	130/67	52
Los Angeles	100/38	75/49	175/87	50
Wash., D.C.	80/41	20/7	100/48	48
Boston	95/38	15/11	110/49	45
Milwaukee	110/47	10/6	120/53	44
Lincoln, Neb.	35/15	0/0	35/15	43
Virginia, Minn.	75/32	0/0	75/32	43
Harrisburg	35/16	5/1	40/17	43
St. Louis	120/48	0/1	120/49	41
San Jose	75/31	15/6	90/37	41
Morgantown, W. Va.	70/27	0/0	70/27	39
Indianapolis	80/29	0/2	80/31	39
Philadelphia	100/41	25/7	125/48	38
Detroit	85/29	5/2	90/31	34
Denver	80/32	15/0	95/32	34
Miami	70/23	10/3	80/26	33
Albany, N.Y.	70/23	5/1	75/24	32
Kansas City	65/23	10/0	75/23	31
Cincinnati	70/21	0/1	70/22	31
Pittsburgh	135/41	0/0	135/41	30
Oakland	90/28	15/3	105/31	30
Brooklyn	110/36	40/9	150/45	30
Salt Lake City	70/18	5/4	75/22	29
Greensboro, N.C.	50/14	0/0	50/14	28
Dallas	50/14	15/4	65/18	28
Atlanta	85/23	5/2	90/25	28
Manhattan	150/40	50/13	200/53	27
Portland	45/10	10/4	55/14	25
Louisville	55/14	0/0	55/14	25
Charleston, W. Va.	45/11	0/0	45/11	24
Seattle	75/16	5/2	80/18	23
Newport News, Va.	75/16	0/0	75/16	21
San Diego	70/15	30/6	100/21	21
Newark	110/18	30/9	140/27	19
San Francisco	90/13	40/10	130/23	18
Houston	60/11	30/5	90/16	18
Gary	45/9	5/0	50/9	18
Cleveland	80/15	5/0	85/15	18
Baltimore	65/11	0/0	65/11	17
Albuquerque	50/10	15/1	65/11	17
Phoenix	75/15	25/1	100/16	16
Price, Utah	35/5	5/1	40/6	15
Birmingham	70/10	0/0	70/10	14
Tucson	30/4	10/1	40/5	13
New Orleans	80/10	5/0	85/10	12
Chicago	135/13	15/1	150/14	9
Totals	3,710/1,154	620/201	4,330/1,355	31
Should Be	1,409	235	1,645	38

## Subscription target week set to begin October 29

BY PEGGY BRUNDY

As Washington escalates its systematic destruction of Nicaraguan cities, the Socialist Workers Party is stepping up its efforts to get out the truth about the Nicaraguan revolution by calling a special subscription target week October 29 through November 4.

The Young Socialist Alliance National Executive Committee is encouraging all YSA members to participate in this special sales effort. This target week coincides with the last big election campaign push in over 25 cities where Socialist Workers candidates are running for local and state offices. It will also be an important way to help build the November 12 demonstrations against U.S. intervention in the Caribbean and Central America.

The decision to call this target week was based on our experiences so far in the subscription drive. Socialists in different cities report that in selling subscriptions door-to-door, on the job, and at political meetings, many people thank them for being introduced to the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*.

These workers are interested in the activities of the Socialist Workers Party — the election campaigns, forums, antiwar activities, strike solidarity. They want to seriously discuss socialism as an alternative to capitalism, and are glad to learn that a workers party like the SWP exists.

Taking advantage of the subscription drive while it lasts, and of the special target week, can increase the political influence of the *Militant* and *PM*, and of the Socialist Workers Party.

A good example of the kind of experiences we can expect to have during this target week was provided by a special subscription mobilization organized by the New York and New Jersey branches of the

SWP on the weekend of October 15.

The mobilization began at each of the three socialist headquarters — Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Newark — at about 10 a.m. Saturday with coffee, donuts, and discussion of how best to present the *Militant* and *PM* while going door to door.

Wendy Lyons, organizer of the Newark branch of the Socialist Workers Party, pointed out that she got the best response when she began by introducing herself as a member of the SWP and then talked about the *Militant* or *PM* and its coverage of working class struggles. She described the socialist bookstore in Newark and the regular Friday night forums sponsored by the *Militant* at the bookstore. She explained that the SWP is active in the fight against U.S. military intervention in Central America and Lebanon. She pointed out that most people wanted to buy and read a single issue of the *Militant* and then discuss subscribing.

In Brooklyn, many of those who participated in these teams came back inspired by the discussions they had. One socialist, Michael Pennock, described meeting a young man who had just got his first union job in a place organized by the United Food and Commercial Workers and whose brother is a marine stationed in Lebanon. "This guy," said Pennock, "was very open to what the *Militant* had to say about how the union movement can fight war."

Socialists in Manhattan gave priority to visiting housing projects where workers live. One supporter of the SWP who last participated in a *Militant* subscription drive in 1976 sold one subscription and six single copies. He reported that response to the *Militant* was much better now than it was then.

The final result — which won't show up on the scoreboard until next week — was

that around 120 people subscribed to the *Militant* or *PM*, over 200 bought single copies, and hundreds more received leaflets about the forums or solidarity activities supported by the SWP and YSA.

In addition to these door-to-door successes, socialists in the New York-New Jersey area have sold 10 subscriptions to coworkers at the Brooklyn Navy Yard and 14 to coworkers at an Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union-organized garment shop where the company is on a drive to weaken or break the union.

This kind of experience is being repeated across the country. The drive nationally, is still behind.

In Salt Lake City, 10 *Militant* and 3 *PM* subscriptions were sold last week and organizers of the subscription effort expect that they will be on schedule by the end of next week. They cite more door-to-door teams as one of the reasons for this. They also report that 9 of 11 members of the SWP branch participated in plant-gate sales last week, and 5 of them went out twice.

On October 15, a team of socialists from Albuquerque, New Mexico, traveled to Bayard, New Mexico, site of the big Kennecott copper plant that was featured in the movie *Salt of the Earth*.

Standing at a highway intersection near the plant at shift change, they sold 36 copies of the *Militant* and several copies of the *Young Socialist*. They also gave everyone who stopped a subscription blank. Bobbie Speigler reports that the workers there are really watching the copper strike and know that they are going to have a fight of their own when their contract expires.

Subscription sales to coworkers continue to be brisk. Socialists in St. Paul who work at Champion International, organized by

the International Paper Workers Union, sold 12 subscriptions to coworkers last week. Frank Forrestal explains that "We asked some coworkers we hadn't thought of asking before, and they turned out to be very interested."

One important goal of socialist election campaigns is winning new readers to the *Militant* and *PM*. As John Harris, a supporter of SWP candidates for San Jose, California, school board Rick Trujillo and Siobhan Dugan, explains:

"The purpose of our campaign is to get out the ideas that can build an alliance of working people. When I'm out campaigning, I explain this to people — that promoting these ideas is the purpose of the campaign. One of the most important ways to support the campaign is to subscribe to the *Militant* and *PM*, to follow the campaign and the struggles it supports."

The value of the *Militant* and *PM* as tools for building solidarity with the people of Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Grenada was demonstrated at a conference in San Antonio. At a table set up by *Militant* and *PM* salespeople 18 subscriptions were sold. The papers' prominent eyewitness coverage from Managua of the bombing of important oil ports is especially useful in showing people why they should turn out on November 12 to demonstrate against the U.S. government's escalation of the war against Nicaragua.

**Subscribe to the Militant**



# Boston vote: Blacks, workers want change

BY MOHAMMED OLIVER

BOSTON — It was Aug. 10, 1975. There were more than 1,000 Blacks trying to have a picnic at South Boston's Carson Beach. A racist mob of South Boston residents hurled rocks and bottles at the Blacks, injuring many. Hundreds of cops attacked the Blacks, who were attempting to desegregate the public beach. Not a single racist was arrested, but 14 antiracist demonstrators were busted.

Mel King, then a Massachusetts state representative, was there. This reporter, then the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Boston, was there, too.

Nine years have gone by and a dramatic shift has taken place in Boston politics. Today Mel King is running for mayor of Boston. He is the first Black in the city's history to make it to the runoff election for this post.

King and the SWP candidate, Eloise Linger, were in South Boston again recently — campaigning. On September 28 King and Linger participated in a candidates' forum organized by a South Boston neighborhood group. Several hundred South Boston residents attended. Both King and Linger received polite applause at the end of their talks. They were applauded, not stoned. They got attention, not jeering.

The changing consciousness of Boston workers is also shown in the way that Raymond Flynn, a city council member who is running for mayor, feels he has to present himself. Flynn won a ballot spot in the November 15 runoff election along with King. Flynn was also a state representative at the height of the struggle to desegregate the schools here. He was a leader of the racist opposition to the court-ordered desegregation plan.

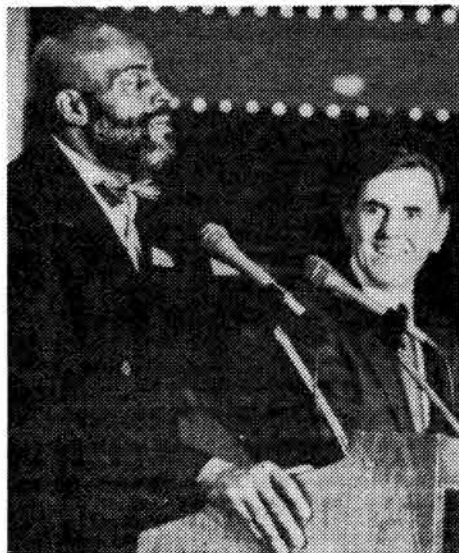
## 'Poor vs. rich'

Flynn, from South Boston, is making a demagogic appeal to this city's working class and poor, saying they should run Boston, not the super-rich. Flynn says he would be "the workingman's, the working-woman's mayor." He has centered his campaign on what he calls the fight for "economic justice."

King says he's for winning political representation for the oppressed and exploited. Like Jesse Jackson, King speaks of building a "rainbow coalition of the rejected" — Blacks, Latinos, women, and labor. Jackson came to Boston the week before the October 11 primary to campaign for King.

Most of King's support comes from the Black community, where, in the wake of the Harold Washington victory in Chicago and the enthusiasm generated by Jesse Jackson's voter-registration drive, he is seen by many as a vehicle for increasing Black political power. In the October 11 primary King received the overwhelming majority of votes in the Black community — up to 95 percent in one ward.

King also garnered 10-15 percent of the votes cast by whites. King campaigned in South Boston and other areas previously thought of as racist strongholds. The Boston *Globe* accompanied King while he campaigned at the Andrew Square subway station near South Boston. The *Globe* reporter asked one white couple, who said they were supporting King, why they were going to vote for him.



Mel King (left) and Raymond Flynn, candidates on ballot for runoff elections.

"He's for the poor people. He's for us," the DeAngelises told the *Globe*. Did it make any difference that King is Black, the *Globe* asked.

"We don't look at it that way at all," the *Globe* was told. "He's the man for the job. Besides, Kevin White [the current mayor] is white, and what did he ever do for us?"

Both King and Flynn won support from the city's labor movement. Flynn was endorsed by most unions, but many locals supported King.

Some groups on the left, such as supporters of the *Guardian* newspaper and the Communist Party, backed Mel King. The Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) supported Raymond Flynn, but Manning Marable, national vice-chair of DSA, and other DSA members disagreed and campaigned for King.

When the votes were tallied in the eight-candidate race, King and Flynn had each rolled up 29 percent of the total, or more than 47,000 votes. David Finnegan, a former president of the Boston School Committee, placed third, with 41,300 votes.

Finnegan, like Flynn, opposed the court-ordered desegregation plan. In the mayoral race Finnegan was considered more conservative than Flynn. Finnegan had the backing of Boston's "Vault" — the banking and insurance companies downtown. He spent over twice as much money campaigning as Flynn and King combined.

Eloise Linger, the SWP candidate, received considerable media coverage before the primary. She spoke at dozens of community meetings, and to working people at home and at work. Linger, a member of International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union Local 397, received 200 votes. Linger has announced that she will stay in the race for the November 15 election as a write-in candidate.

## Capitalism in crisis

"All the other candidates," Linger told her supporters, "say we should elect them. They have even adopted some of the most radical-sounding rhetoric in response to questions and demands from working people."

"Workers here, as elsewhere, see that capitalism is in crisis. U.S. imperialism is at war with workers and farmers in Central America and Lebanon. Much-needed social services, such as education and health care, are being gutted. Millions of workers are unemployed and the layoffs are continuing. Prices are rising while wages are being cut."

"We say," the socialist continued, "tax the banks and big corporations, whose wealth is squeezed out of working people. Most importantly, Blacks, Latinos, women, and the entire labor movement should demand that Washington stop its wars in Central America and the Mideast. We want jobs, not war. We say dismantle the government's war machine and use that money to launch a massive public works program here, and throughout the country,"



Militant Jane Roland  
Eloise Linger, SWP candidate for mayor, is running write-in campaign.

to build schools, hospitals, mass transit, and housing."

Boston's housing crisis has been particularly acute and one of the main issues in the campaign. Seventy-five percent of Boston residents rent their dwellings. The city has the oldest housing stock in the United States. Because of landlords' conversion to condominiums, Boston has lost 18,000 rental units in the past decade.

"The socialist campaign says: 'No more condo conversions,'" Linger pointed out. She calls for more public housing construction and for housing desegregation.

## Desegregation and busing

Boston's segregated housing patterns are well-known. The city's lily-white communities are euphemistically called "ethnic neighborhoods." South Boston, East Boston, and Charlestown are such white areas and have been the scene of racist violence against Blacks.

This racist terror reached a peak during the struggle to desegregate the city's schools, in 1974-76. After many years of demanding better education, the Black community here forced the federal courts to order the Boston School Committee to desegregate the schools. The court-ordered plan called for busing Black and white students to achieve racial balance in the schools and, thereby, improve Black education.

"Given segregated housing patterns," the SWP mayoral candidate explained, "there's no way to desegregate the schools without busing."

Flynn now says that he supports "integrated education."

There is clearly a change in working-class consciousness in this city, including in South Boston. Black workers are taking the lead in looking for solutions to the social crisis facing working people as a whole. Blacks are hit the hardest by the capitalist crisis, which makes them among the first to question the status quo.

Black workers voted for Mel King in the primary because they were attracted to his calls for reforms in Boston's social and economic structure. They supported him because they hope to win more political power, which would be a powerful weapon against racial oppression.

## Time for a change

On September 30 one of the major TV stations here took a poll. They found that 65 percent of those questioned who had decided on a candidate to vote for did so because they felt that the candidate would bring about a change.

At the same time, 80 percent felt that no matter who was elected, no significant changes would occur. There's an underlying working-class distrust for the Democratic and Republican parties. Their increased interest in the present campaign is largely because King and Flynn appeared to be fighting the Democratic Party machine. Neither candidate seemed to have the support of Boston's super-rich. This is especially true of King, who publicly broke with the Democratic Party in 1981 and registered as an independent.

Both Flynn and King, however, only seek to reform the system. "And that's precisely the problem," said Linger. "It's the capitalist system that profits from racist and sexist oppression. While working people must fight to defend ourselves from the attacks of the capitalist class, our strategy must be aimed at doing away with the system that's responsible for our problems."

"We've been explaining," Linger said, "that no individual can bring about the changes so desperately needed by working people. The strength of the Black community and the labor movement needs to be mobilized and organized into a powerful movement."

"But," Linger warned, "no gain we win is guaranteed so long as the capitalist class wields political power. That fighting alliance of workers and their allies must take power out of the hands of the ruling class and its political parties — the Democratic and Republican parties. Workers need a party of our own, a labor party, based on the trade unions."

"Since Blacks are developing radical ideas ahead of other working people, the first working-class break from the capitalist parties may be the establishment of a mass independent Black party. That would be an impetus to independent political action by our entire class. Such parties can help to lead the struggle for a government of workers and farmers. With political power in our hands working people can wipe out oppression and exploitation. We can build a society where human needs come before profits — a socialist society."

# San Jose socialists step up campaign

BY RUTH CHENEY

SAN JOSE — There was a lot of political discussion in the FMC plants here on October 7. Siobhan Dugan, a welder for FMC, is one of the Socialist Workers Party candidates for school board. On October 7 San Jose's major newspaper, the *Mercury News*, ran an extensive article on Dugan on the first page of its "Living" section.

Most of Dugan's coworkers were glad to see one of their own featured in the paper. Some workers who had never shown a particular interest in politics before came up to Dugan campaign supporters in the FMC plants to say, "Hey, is this the candidate you mentioned before? She sounds great. I'd like to see more stuff about her campaign."

The *Mercury* article appeared at the end of one of the busiest weeks yet in the campaign of Dugan and Rick Trujillo, her running mate for seats on the San Jose Unified School District's Board.

Earlier this year the school board declared bankruptcy. It used this excuse to

deny teachers and other school employees wage increases called for in their contracts. The San Jose Teachers Association (SJTA) and the California School Employees Association (CSEA), which represents school secretaries and teachers aides, are fighting the board's union-busting attack.

On October 4 the CSEA held a candidates' forum where Dugan and Trujillo spoke. They received a good response. In September the SJTA had voted to endorse the two socialists, but later rescinded their decision. Still, Dugan and Trujillo are getting a wide hearing among teachers and other school employees.

"We've been explaining," Dugan said, "the connection between Washington's war budget and the crisis in public education. Instead of spending money to wage war on working people in Nicaragua, El Salvador, or Lebanon, the government should spend it on improving education for our youth."

The socialist campaign's call for scrapping the Pentagon's war budget and using

those monies to meet the needs of working people got a good response at a candidates' night sponsored by the Mexican-American Political Association, where Trujillo spoke on October 5. That same evening Dugan spoke before a meeting of the San Jose chapter of the National Organization for Women.

During the week, hundreds of leaflets were distributed at the main gates of FMC to build the October 8 campaign rally for Dugan and Trujillo. Like her coworkers, Dugan is a member of the International Association of Machinists Local 562. She urged her union to field candidates for public office and explained her program for solving San Jose's public education crisis.

Hundreds of similar leaflets from Trujillo were distributed at the bus barns and the Control Center of the County Transportation Agency. Trujillo is a county bus driver and a member of the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 265.

More than 75 people attended the October 8 campaign rally.



# Where 'Guardian,' 'In These Times' go wrong on Korean Air Lines incident

## Should Soviet Union be condemned for shooting down plane?

BY MARGARET JAYKO

In the aftermath of the shooting down of Korean Air Lines (KAL) Flight 7 on September 1, a debate has erupted in the workers movement about the meaning of this event and how to respond to it.

- Who's telling the truth: Washington or Moscow?

- Who was responsible for the incident: the U.S. government, the Soviet government, or both?

- Did the Soviet government's political response to the incident hurt or help the imperialists' prowar, anticommunist campaign?

- Given the lethal stockpile of nuclear arms that both the Soviet Union and United States possess, should the Soviet Union renounce military moves that might "provoke" the U.S. imperialists into nuclear warfare?

These and other questions have been discussed in the pages of the *Guardian*, *In These Times* (ITT), and the *Militant*. Their letters columns have debated the positions expressed in these weeklies.

### Anticommunist campaign begins

September 1 was when the first stories appeared reporting that a KAL plane was missing near the Soviet Pacific island of Sakhalin.

Immediately, the U.S. propaganda machine went into high gear. While presenting almost no facts (and, as it turns out, quite a few lies), President Reagan and his henchmen protested what they said were "Soviet attacks on an unarmed, civilian passenger plane." Reagan expressed "revulsion" at this "appalling and wanton misdeed."

The Congressional Democrats chimed in on the same note, and other imperialist governments followed suit. Threats of retaliation abounded. Right-wing demonstrations were organized in several countries. The big-business media for a few days allowed the event to eclipse the news of new U.S. war moves against Nicaragua and the sending of 2,000 more marines to Lebanon.

### Buckling to imperialist pressure

Under the pressure of the avalanche of anti-Soviet propaganda, the *Guardian*, ITT, and others on the left buckled. They echoed many of Reagan's charges against Moscow, even while opposing U.S. imperialism's reactionary use of the incident to advance its war aims.

The *Militant* responded with a major editorial answering the U.S. ruling class's frenzied campaign.

We rejected Reagan's version of the facts. We pointed to all the inconsistencies and contradictions that were apparent from the start.

The *Militant* editorial pointed to the hypocrisy of the White House shedding tears over the deaths of civilians given Washington's track record of mass murder from Hiroshima to El Salvador.

The editorial rejected the charge that the problem was Soviet "paranoia," pointing out that "to the degree that the Soviet Union reacts to intrusions across its borders, it's because it is threatened by a U.S. military noose." The editorial pointed to the massive hostile U.S. military machine that rings the USSR's borders. It referred to the almost daily pattern of U.S. and South Korean air and sea provocations against the USSR in this part of the world.

Finally, the *Militant* hammered home at how the Democrats and Republicans were using this incident as a cover to accelerate their war moves in Central America and the Mideast.

### 'Daily World' denial

The *Daily World* (DW), newspaper of the Communist Party USA, is a loyal fol-

lower of the Kremlin line. However, under the pressure of the anti-Soviet attacks, its first response was to deny the whole incident.

The front-page headline of their September 2 issue read: "Soviets deny downing plane." But the Soviet Union had never denied that they shot down the plane.

Subsequent issues of the DW switched to coverage more in line with Moscow's response. But it wasn't until the September 13 issue that there was any acknowledgment that the DW had been wrong initially.

Buried inside that issue under the headline "Correction" was printed a four-paragraph notice, which began:

"On Friday, September 2, the *Daily World's* page one headline reported that the Soviet government had denied shooting down the Korean jet that penetrated its airspace.

"That headline was the result of an incorrect interpretation of the first reports on the incident from the Soviet Union. . . ."

### Accepts much of Reagan's story

The September 14 *Guardian* had both a front-page news story and a major editorial on the incident.

They accepted much of the U.S. version of the "facts," including that the flight was simply a civilian passenger plane and that the Soviet Union did not attempt to force the plane to land before shooting it down.

After raising some questions about Washington's account, the news story said that "the USSR has offered no proof that the plane was spying, except the fact that it was flying over sensitive military regions and appeared to be taking evasive action."

Given the history of extensive U.S. spying and provocations against the Soviet Union, these facts certainly deserved to be given serious consideration. Instead, the *Guardian* essentially dismissed the idea that spying had anything to do with it: "U.S. spy satellites and surveillance planes are seemingly far better suited for this kind of activity than an airliner with hundreds of passengers flying over 30,000 feet in the darkness of night."

This was also the Reagan administration's response. But in view of the Pentagon's record of using all sorts of "nonmilitary" planes for illegal, covert activity (like the one that bombed Nicaragua's main airport), the *Guardian's* conclusions are hard to understand.

The heart of the errors in the editorial was contained in the following paragraph:

"Even if the plane was engaged in spying, the Soviet reaction was completely uncalled for. The Soviet Air Force could have forced the jet to land. . . . Such restraint (along with exposing the criminal use of civilians, if the plane was indeed spying) would have saved lives and created an international reaction precisely the opposite of what we have witnessed since the event."

In other words, the Soviet Union was responsible for the deaths and for contributing to the prowar, anticommunist campaign. And even if the plane was carrying out a military provocation, it was wrong for the Soviet Union to shoot it down.

### U.S. campaign gets wings clipped

Since these initial assessments, a series of facts have emerged that further discredit Washington's story. The anti-Soviet propaganda campaign has seriously fizzled.

Washington now admits the Soviet pilots did first fire warning shots, which went unheeded by the KAL pilots.

The U.S. government also admits that an RC-135 reconnaissance plane crossed paths with the KAL aircraft, allowing the two planes to be confused on radar. This also bolsters the idea that U.S. intelligence was aware of every move Flight 7 made — and did nothing about it.

U.S. intelligence experts now admit that the Soviet pilots who shot the plane down did not know they were shooting down a passenger plane. A front-page article in the October 7 *New York Times* revealed that Washington kept hidden its knowledge — almost from day one — that the Soviets thought they had shot down a U.S. 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.

There's mounting evidence and testimony by former U.S. intelligence personnel that points to the whole affair as being a cold-blooded, U.S.-orchestrated provocation.

### Was Moscow wrong to shoot plane?

ITT did not cover the incident until its September 21-27 issue, which means its editorial and news story were written at least a couple of weeks after the plane was shot down.

The editorial acknowledges that "much of the Soviet side of the story has gradually been confirmed by the U.S."

The *Guardian* has written several subsequent articles, including another editorial in the October 12 issue, which is an attempt to answer criticisms of its response by other tendencies in the workers movement. The *Guardian* news stories also acknowledged the unraveling of Washington's version of what happened.

The main question that continues to divide the *Militant* from these other papers is: should the Soviet Union be condemned for shooting down what they assumed was a spy plane?

This is no academic debate on what should or shouldn't have been done in the past. It poses the question of defense of the Soviet workers state against imperialism as well as more general questions about how working people and oppressed nations should proceed in their fight to rid themselves of imperialist domination.

### 'Right' vs. 'judgment'

The *Guardian* editors concede the abstract right of the Soviet Union to shoot

down a plane that violates its airspace and refuses to respond to warnings. They question Moscow's judgment in doing so.

Thus the October 12 *Guardian* editorial said, "The USSR has the right to defend its territory, including the right to shoot down an intruding spy plane. What we questioned was the judgment involved in exercising this right in this instance."

ITT doesn't even concede this much. Its editorial said:

"First, the Soviet Union, which in shooting down a civilian aircraft had nothing to gain and everything to lose, reacted in the worst possible way. . . ."

"Even assuming the worst on the part of the Koreans and the U.S., [the assertion that Moscow would do the same thing again] is an unacceptable position and has rightly been condemned by people and governments all over the world."

Let's start with the facts.

The Soviet Union is militarily, economically, and politically encircled by imperialism. Ever since the October 1917 Russian revolution, it has been the victim of constant military aggression and provocations.

The Soviet government says that all indications were that the plane flying for two hours over its highly sensitive airspace — just as important Soviet missile tests were about to begin — was a military spy plane.

Given these circumstances, the Soviet government exercised its political and military judgment and shot the plane down.

In this situation, why question Moscow's judgment? On what basis?

### 'Hair trigger' of nuclear war?

The *Guardian* editorial defended its original position of condemning the shooting down of the plane as a "highly dangerous act when the world is on the hair trigger of a nuclear war."

This is factually incorrect. We're not on the "hair trigger of a nuclear war."

One big reason we're not is that the Soviet Union has nuclear weapons, which forces Washington to hesitate before carrying out another Hiroshima or Nagasaki. The Soviet nuclear capability acts as a powerful deterrent to nuclear war. The Soviet Union was forced to produce those weapons in response to imperialist aggression and the knowledge that imperialism would not hesitate to use even nuclear weapons to protect its exploitation of the workers and oppressed people of the world.

The main danger of the use of nuclear weapons does not come from some "madman" in Washington making a split-second decision in retaliation for some alleged bad thing the Soviet Union did.

It comes from the decision to use such monstrous weapons at some stage in fighting the real wars that imperialism is involved in today and will continue to be involved in until capitalism is overthrown on a world scale.

Nicaragua, El Salvador, Cuba, Grenada, Lebanon, Indochina, Chad — these are battlegrounds between imperialism and the oppressed and exploited. They are, therefore, also prime targets for some "tactical" nuclear weapons to bring workers and peasants fighting to be free of imperialism to their knees.

The threats against the Soviet Union are due, in part, to attempts by the imperialists to intimidate the Soviet Union into not aiding anti-imperialist battles.

There's a very dangerous logic to the *Guardian's* position. It says that the Soviet Union should avoid, at all costs, doing anything to "provoke" imperialism because of the danger of nuclear war. This elevates nuclear war above the class struggle.

The fact is, however, that the very existence of the Soviet Union as a workers state that has abolished capitalism and estab-



Soviet Marshal Ogarkov answers Reagan's charges at Moscow news conference. USSR's response helped cut through lies, slanders, and anti-Soviet campaign.





Many on the left buckled in face of anticommunist, prowar campaign by imperialism after USSR downed Korean Air Lines Flight 7.

shed a planned economy is a constant provocation" to the employers of the world.

#### Resoluteness'

The logic of the *Guardian* position is that the USSR should give in to imperialist threats and bullying because otherwise it might provoke them. The logic of that is to roll over and play dead.

In fact, the *Guardian* editorial does begin to follow this logic a bit.

First, it quoted the following from *Frontline*, the newspaper of a small radical group called Line of March: "The Soviet Union is completely prepared both militarily and ideologically to stand up to whatever assaults U.S. imperialism will make on it. The peace of the world in the nuclear age may well depend on such resoluteness."

The *Guardian* responded: "Such 'resoluteness' in some circumstances may in fact jeopardize the peace of the world in the nuclear age."

Does resoluteness in the face of imperialist assaults cause war? Does bending in the face of imperialist attacks lessen the danger of war? Does it make the imperialist warmongers more peaceful?

History teaches us that the exact opposite is the case.

Does the Cuban government's "resolute" political opposition to U.S. imperialism — even while it makes clear its willingness to normalize relations with Washington — bring the world closer to war?

If Cuba capitulated to the massive pressure from U.S. imperialism to end its internationalist solidarity with the Central American revolution, would that bring peace closer in Central America? Wouldn't it embolden U.S. imperialism in its drive against Nicaragua and the Salvadoran rebel forces?

Doesn't the fact that the Soviet Union has not taken every U.S. military provocation lying down make Washington more hesitant, not less, about throwing its weight around the world today?

#### Statements by Soviet officials

In order to bolster its view that it's okay to attack the Soviet Union for shooting down the KAL flight, the *Guardian* points to statements that have appeared by top Soviet officials who have publicly criticized some aspects of the manner in which the incident was handled by their government.

Two points should be noted here.

First, the fact that some Soviet officials have criticisms of how their government handled the matter tells you nothing about what socialists in the United States should say and do.

Second, the criticisms of these officials that the editorial quotes are of a qualitatively different type than those of the *Guardian*.

The Soviet officials say that if the Soviet military had known it was a civilian airliner, it wouldn't have been shot down. None of the officials the *Guardian* quotes say that Moscow was wrong or that, spy plane or not, it shouldn't have been shot down.

#### Criticizing the Soviet Union

The October 12 *Guardian* editorial tries to duck many of the concrete issues about the KAL incident by dissolving the whole thing into a debate that is summed up in the editorial's headline: "Is it wrong to criticize the USSR?"

The *Guardian* asks, "how should we view the Soviet decision to shoot down the plane? Was it a correct action or a disastrous error?" But it never directly answers this question the way it did in its original editorial, which concluded that it was a disastrous error.

Instead it dissolves the concrete into the general by saying, "More broadly, the political point is: Can criticisms of Soviet actions be broached in a period when imperialism is leading the march toward nuclear confrontation?"

But this is not the political point at all. Asking whether it is right or wrong in the abstract to criticize the USSR doesn't get us anywhere. The only answer to such a question would be: "Criticize it for what?" It's a concrete question. In this case, we think there's no reason to criticize the Soviet government.

#### USSR's response

The *Guardian* and *ITT* heap big criticisms on Moscow for how it handled the incident after the shooting. These criticisms include:

- Moscow placed all the blame on the United States for the deaths that occurred, instead of taking some responsibility on itself and apologizing for shooting down the plane.
- Moscow shouldn't have waited till a couple of days after the incident to admit that it had shot the plane down.
- Moscow should guarantee that it will never do such a thing again.

First off, these proposals only make sense if you think the USSR shares the blame for what happened.

But Moscow literally did nothing except defend its strategic airspace against an unidentified plane that intruded very provocatively.

If Washington is the sole criminal in this case — and we believe it is — then doing any of the things suggested by the *Guardian*, *et al.*, would be an obstacle in the way of the most important task: exposing to the workers of the world the treacherous role of imperialism.

Given the evidence of Washington's guilt in this incident, socialists in the United States should demand that Wash-

ington apologize, both to the families and to the Soviet Union.

Washington should pay reparations. Washington should be forced to promise that it will never commit such a crime again.

#### Would revolutionaries take the blame?

A letter from reader Mark Schneider appears in the October 7 *Militant*. He also questions Moscow's "judgment" in this affair: "The Soviet Union has every right to shoot down military spy planes. . . ." But "the downing of this airliner hurt the defense of the USSR. . . . The protection of no military secret justified the shooting down of a passenger plane, even if it was spying."

Then he explicitly raises a point that the *Guardian* only implies: "Had a revolutionary government killed innocent civilians by mistake in such circumstances, it would immediately seek to tell the entire truth about the incident. It most likely would volunteer reparations, and challenge the imperialists, who bear ultimate responsibility, to match them."

Schneider assumes that if the Soviet government were revolutionary, it would have responded to this incident in a qualitatively different way.

Does he think the revolutionary governments in Cuba or Nicaragua would be any more likely than the Soviet government to take the guilt upon themselves for responding to an imperialist provocation?

It is important to examine Moscow's actual response, which Schneider and others give a false impression of.

The fact is that Moscow's response helped cut through the wall of lies perpetrated by Reagan. It put the onus for events where they belonged — on Washington.

The Soviet press agency, Tass, issued many statements refuting Washington's lies. The Soviet pilots who warned the plane were interviewed on television.

At a news conference in Moscow, the chief of the Soviet General Staff, Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov gave a detailed account of the results of Moscow's investigation of the incident and rebutted Reagan's lies. Such a news conference by a top Soviet official is almost unprecedented in recent years.

Moscow also exposed the hypocrisy of the crocodile tears shed by Washington over those who were killed. One example is the September 6 statement by the Soviet government. Referring to Reagan's moralistic phrasemongering about the value of human life, the statement asked:

"Can the statesmen of a country that deprived millions of people in Indochina of their lives in a most brutal manner, which at one with Israeli aggressors are killing the Lebanese and Palestinians, and whose conscience is burdened with tens of thousands of deaths of Chileans and Salvadoran patriots speak of morality and humanism? . . .

"The Soviet government expresses re-

gret over the death of innocent people and shares the sorrow of their bereaved relatives and friends. The entire responsibility for this tragedy rests wholly and fully with the leaders of the United States of America."

As for the complaint that the Soviet government waited too long to reveal details about what happened, it's poor politicians who sit, with pens poised, in another country and try to fine tune the tactics of someone else involved in a tense international situation when they know very few of the facts.

#### Who's hysterical?

The *Guardian* and *ITT* share a common perception that Reagan's campaign to whip up a real atmosphere of hysteria around the shooting down of KAL Flight 7 was successful.

But all signs indicate the opposite.

Right from the beginning, U.S. workers suspected that they weren't getting the whole story. That feeling has grown a lot since then.

Not many people were convinced by this incident to be more supportive of the U.S. war in Central America or Lebanon. Or that they wanted to go to war with the USSR.

To the degree that some workers fell for Washington's propaganda campaign, they weren't showing "a healthy revulsion of Stalinism" as Schneider claims, but rather the degree to which anticommunism is still an effective tool for clouding workers' ability to perceive where their class interests lie.

It is true that Congress used this incident as an excuse to make all kinds of war moves, from funding MX missiles to stepping up hostilities against Nicaragua. That wasn't based on "cold war" hysteria, but on the carefully considered — and long-held — opinions of the ruling class, expressed by both the Democrats and Republicans, that it is in the U.S. employers' interests to make these moves. They simply used the KAL incident for cover.

#### More pressure

The U.S. ruling class brought a lot of pressure to bear in support of their line on the downing of Flight 7. There will be more and bigger pressures in the future.

As the Democrats and Republicans step up their war against Nicaragua, as more marines go to Lebanon, as the employers and the government continue their attempts to bust the unions and cut back democratic rights, they will also step up their reactionary propaganda, including their use of anticommunism and anti-Soviet slanders.

That's why it's important to take the right position on the South Korean Air Lines incident and to understand where others went wrong. This is the only way to be able to consistently fight against U.S. imperialism both at home and internationally.



## Unionists support Briggs strikers

BY DENNIS KELLN

MILWAUKEE — A coalition of unionists has been formed here to support workers at Briggs and Stratton, who have been on strike since August 1.

The coalition organized a citywide support rally for October 19. Officials and members of a number of area unions are actively supporting the Briggs strikers, including electrical, auto, steel, and transit workers' unions.

The Briggs workers are represented by Allied Industrial Workers Local 232, the biggest union local in the state.

The major issues in the strike are a management-rights clause (which would reduce job preference and seniority rights), mandatory overtime, a two-tier wage scale for new hires and current employees, and reduction of the workweek to four days for some workers.

The company sent letters to all union members threatening to fire them and circulated rumors of plans to hire permanent replacements.

Briggs started taking applications, forcing applicants to cross picket lines. In response to this blatant provocation, strikers beefed up picket lines.

The company then violence-baited the unionists and sought a court injunction to limit pickets to

two per gate. An out-of-court agreement now limits pickets to 10 per gate.

October 1 union members rejected 4,501-2,248 a "final" offer from the company that was little different from its original proposal, other than offering the strikers \$500 each if they'd return to work.

*Dennis Kelln is a member of Allied Industrial Workers Local 232.*

## Md. Machinists strike Koppers over concessions

BY TED LEONARD

BALTIMORE — The 1,300 members of International Association of Machinists (IAM) local lodges 1784 and 605 put up picket lines October 3 at three plants here owned by Koppers Co. after rejecting a concessions contract.

The unionists rejected the offer by Koppers, which manufactures heavy machine parts, against the recommendation of the unions' negotiating committee.

Koppers wanted a three-year wage-freeze, no cost-of-living adjustment until April 1986 (and then with a 20 cent cap), fewer vacation days and less pension benefits, a substantially lower wage scale for new hires, and more worker payment of medical coverage.

The 900 members who attended an October 2 meeting of Local

Lodge 1784 heard extensive discussion of the proposal's terms. The lower pay for new hires was particularly objectionable.

A Black woman asked, "How can we do this to them? There should be equal pay for equal work."

Others said the union would be divided between higher- and lower-paid workers, and this would make it easier for the company to victimize both groups.

Koppers claims it is losing money, and offered to show financial records to the union. The negotiating committee announced in the meeting that the books showed Kopper had lost money last year, but the members voted against the contract anyway. One worker explained to the *Militant* why he didn't believe the claims of loss:

"I used to have a bar and I had three sets of books: one for the government, one for my partners, and one for myself."

*Ted Leonard is a member of IAM Local Lodge 1784.*

## Monterey bosses won't negotiate

BY KEN COLLINS

MONTEREY, Calif. — Workers at Perry House restaurant here walked off the job September 13 when the owners refused to negotiate with the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees

Union, which the workers had just joined.

The 17 employees were working 14-hour shifts at minimum wage without overtime pay, got no medical or other insurance, and had no job limitations. Waiters had to clean toilets, wash windows, and do gardening.

Workers told the company the pay and working conditions had to be improved, to which the owners said they could quit if they didn't like it.

Within days 14 of the 17 workers signed union cards, but the company has refused to negotiate with the union.

Picketing has forced the restaurant to close except for weekends.

*Ken Collins, a Hyatt hotel worker, is a member of Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union Local 483.*

## Carrot workers picket Maggio

SEASIDE, Calif. — Two hundred workers, most of them women, are striking Maggio Inc., the biggest shipper of carrots in the world.

Maggio first tried to slash wages from \$6.50 an hour to \$4.25. He then offered \$5 without medical insurance, pensions, or vacations.

Maggio workers are represented by Fresh Fruit and Vegetable

Workers Local 78A, which is affiliated with the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW).

Carrie López, a clip-top worker at Maggio's carrot-packing shed in Gonzalez, told a recent *Militant* Labor Forum here, "We know that Mr. Maggio is trying to bust the union." The strike began July 1.

Women can't leave the line even to go to the toilet, she said, and must urinate where they stand. They are also harassed just for talking on the line.

Ed Maples and Dan Mayfield, president and vice-president of the union, explained that Maggio's attempted union-busting threatens workers in the entire Salinas Valley.

The AFL-CIO has declared a boycott of Maggio carrots, most of which are shipped to the East Coast and Canada.

Maggio workers at the forum, despite their own pressing needs, donated almost \$50 in the collection to striking restaurant workers in Monterey after hearing from waiter David Winter.

Those at the meeting also sent a message of solidarity to striking Arizona copper workers. Seaside City Councilman Mel Mason spoke about the fight to ensure that union carpenters are hired for the construction of a new Seaside hotel.

Contributions and solidarity messages should be sent to Women on Strike at Maggio Inc., Local 78A, UFCW, 909 E. Alisal St., Salinas, Calif. 93905.

# Chicago teachers are solid against union-busting

BY NELSON GONZÁLEZ

CHICAGO — On October 3 the Chicago Teachers Union (CTU) struck against the union-busting tactics of the Chicago School Board. The 27,500 teachers for the first time were joined by a coalition of 18 other unions called the Coalition of School Employee Unions.

Representing some 11,000 tradesmen, maintenance, and lunchroom employees, the coalition was formed 18 months ago in anticipation of a united struggle against the school board. As a result, the current strike has put 96 percent of school-board employees on the picket line. The Coalition of School Employee Unions has vowed not to return to work until every union has accepted a new contract with the school board.

The immediate issue that precipitated the walkout by the teachers and other employees was wages. The school board had originally offered a 0.5 percent increase which was later increased to an offer of 1 percent.

Coupled with the 1 percent offer was a board demand for a layoff of 450 teachers and an increase in classroom size. The CTU, which in contract negotiations two years ago agreed to give up wage increases on a promise it would get them this time, has refused to accept any raises tied to layoffs or increases in classroom size.

The teachers, whose formal bargaining position is to ask for a 10 percent raise, have made clear they would settle for a modest 5 percent raise based on other factors in the negotiations. However, the school board's offer of a pittance together with other contract giveaways, was clearly calculated to provoke a strike.

The strike is an especially bitter one be-

cause many teachers feel betrayed by the board's refusal to offer additional funds for teachers' salaries and school programs. Last June the school board, teachers, and other school personnel organized a joint rally on the theme "Save our schools" to lobby for a property-tax increase for the schools. The school board had led the teachers to believe that fighting for a property-tax increase in the legislature would mean more money for teachers and the schools.

"We rallied for the tax increases and now they [the school board] don't want to share it," said a teacher at Lake High School, adding that, in the meantime, "she [school superintendent Ruth Love] hired administrators at more than \$45,000."

BY PATTI IYAMA

OAKLAND, Calif. — October 8 teachers here won a strike against the Oakland Unified School District. Their walkout began October 4; by October 7, more than 2,200 out of 2,500 teachers and 38,000 out of 49,000 students were honoring their picket lines.

The pact settling the strike represents virtually total victory for the teachers and their union, the Oakland Education Association (OEA).

The teachers' new contract includes no elimination or reduction of preparation time used by teachers to prepare lesson plans, assist students, meet with parents, and grade papers; no arbitrary and mass transfers of teachers from their classrooms; no cap on health and welfare benefits; and a salary increase of at least 14 percent over the next two years of the contract.

The only major issue teachers had to compromise on was an increase in classroom size. The teachers wanted to retain the existing maximums ranging from 27 to 32 students per class. The new contract permits the district to maintain an "average" class size not to exceed the previous maximums. In elementary schools the maximums have been increased by two pupils per class.

The strike was a significant victory for the teachers. Oakland Unified School District Board of Trustees had demanded a

On October 4 CTU President Robert Healy charged the school board was using union-busting tactics. "We're being tested here and it's obvious that the school board is out to break the unions," said John O'Gara, president of Local 1 of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees union, which represents the striking school lunchroom workers.

CTU President Healy charged Love is "listening to" Jerome van Gorkom, head of the school finance authority, who, Healy said, is a "Reaganite who thinks the best thing that ever happened to the unions was PATCO [the air traffic controllers' union busted by the government]."

In a move to pressure striking teachers into accepting layoffs and other contract

rollbacks, school board members on October 9 held their first news conference since the week-old strike began, calling the teachers' demands for a pay raise "financially irresponsible" unless tied to contract concessions. The board is pressing teachers for a reduction in medical insurance and other medical benefits.

The teachers' response has been to offer to bargain in good faith while maintaining their stance against contract giveaways.

Mayor Harold Washington has publicly declined to intervene in the strike negotiations. His position is that it is a matter the school board and its employees must settle. Washington has also publicly stated that the city is broke and will not provide any additional funds to resolve the dispute.

## Oakland teachers get support, win strike

series of takebacks, pleading financial difficulties and threatening to follow the example of the San Jose Unified School District, which recently declared bankruptcy. This stance angered the teachers, who realized that the board wanted to take back their contract and bust the union.

The board's lack of good faith became even clearer when, in spite of the supposed lack of money, they hired an \$840-a-day outside negotiator to help them on the proposed contract.

After nine months of frustrating negotiations, the teachers voted overwhelmingly to strike.

On the first day of the strike, 70 percent of the teachers stayed out of school. One of Oakland Unified School District's negotiators pointed out that historically school strikes get weaker as time passes. He confidently predicted that the number of substitute teachers would double the next day. They never showed up.

In fact, more and more teachers began to join the strike. By the fourth day the strike was more than 90 percent effective.

A high-ranking school official who didn't want to be named admitted to the *San Francisco Examiner* that "The teachers were the best organized I've ever seen. . . . They had a lot of people out on the picket line" and "were so well-organized we didn't have any kids in school."

But the key factor that made this strike

so effective was community support. The teachers made a real effort to reach parents by explaining the issues in mimeographed leaflets handed out on the picket lines. Parents and students realized that they had a stake in this strike. It was not just a fight over wages but over the quality of education in Oakland.

Every night on television, parents and students interviewed expressed their solidarity with the teachers. Some students made their own picket signs supporting their teachers and marched and rallied with them.

The OEA leaflet on Friday thanked the community. "Community support has been overwhelming! The district reaction to a parent boycott of schools was to close all secondary and senior high schools. We're grateful for your encouragement. Together we'll make our schools work again."

Even School Board President David Tucker had to admit to reporters he was "quite frankly . . . surprised" at the effectiveness of the strike. "They did have wide support of school parents, particularly at the elementary school level. They were effective at getting their message across."

The Oakland teachers are starting to draw the lessons from their victory. Elementary school teacher Pat Simmons stated, "I hadn't realized how much power we [teachers] had when we get together on things."

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# AFL-CIO meets as bosses step up attacks

## Labor officials offer no new solutions, back Mondale for president

BY GEOFF MIRELOWITZ

HOLLYWOOD, Fla. — The biennial convention of the AFL-CIO met here in early October in the midst of renewed attacks on U.S. workers and their trade union rights.

While the convention was in session, copper miners in Arizona entered their 14th week on the picket lines fighting the strike-breaking Phelps Dodge Corp. Continental Airlines workers struck in response to their employer's open use of the bankruptcy laws to bust their unions. Just down the road from the convention in Miami, union members at Eastern Airlines were facing a similar threat.

But these events, involving tens of thousands of workers and potentially affecting many more, lent no sense of urgency to the deliberations here at the Diplomat Hotel. It was strictly business as usual.

True to form, the officials gathered here voted unanimously for many fine-sounding resolutions stating support for workers rights both on and off the job (as well as for a number of others in no way in the interests of working people). However, no campaign of action to defend workers from the assault of the employers and government was discussed, much less adopted.

This is not to say that no activity was decided upon. In fact the federation mapped out a busy year ahead for the officials and staff of the labor movement. But the course decided upon will do nothing to advance labor's interests.

The main, and at times seemingly sole purpose of the convention was to line up united union support for former Vice-president Walter Mondale's bid for the Democratic Party presidential nomination. Towards this end, in a move surprising virtually no one, the AFL-CIO General Council voted two days before the convention opened to recommend Mondale's endorsement. A few days later the full convention followed suit.

### 'Friend of labor'

Federation Pres. Lane Kirkland is well aware of the serious attacks and hardships the working class has suffered over the past few years. His keynote speech to the convention pointed to many of them.

While Kirkland and the other assembled delegates do not experience these problems directly — they themselves, for instance, have no fear of layoffs and enjoy salaries

and expense accounts far above the wages of the average worker — they are concerned about the erosion of their base due to the declining size of many unions. The United Auto Workers and the United Steelworkers for instance, have suffered a combined loss of more than one million members, primarily as a result of layoffs and plant closings.

By the same token Kirkland is not oblivious to the danger posed by the new use of the bankruptcy laws as a union busting tool.

However, he and others in the top officialdom see electing Mondale as the solution to these and other problems facing workers and the labor movement. They promote Mondale as a "friend of labor" cast in "the same mold," Kirkland proclaimed, as "our old comrades-in-arms, Hubert Humphrey and Scoop Jackson."

Thus the convention christened election day 1984 as "Solidarity Day IV" — misnamed (as was "Solidarity Day II," 1982's election day) after the massive demonstration of workers in the streets of Washington, D.C., on Sept. 19, 1981.

The union officials are also aware of the deep dissatisfaction among many workers with the traditional capitalist politicians. They are determined to put Mondale forward not as the lesser of two evils for labor, but as a much greater good.

The assembled officials genuinely had difficulty restraining their enthusiasm as Mondale entered the room and ceremoniously walked up and down the aisles shaking their hands.

Provisions had been made well in advance to insure that delegates from each union had printed signs to wave proclaiming their union's support for Mondale as the band played "Happy Days Are Here Again."

"When I grew up," Mondale told the convention, "it was always assumed that each generation would do a little bit better than the one before. But today for the first time Americans are not sure that this will be true for their children."

Mondale put his finger on an important change in the thinking of working people brought about by the deepening crisis of U.S. capitalism and its chronic military intervention abroad. Mondale and the Democrats, however, are determined to slow down the radicalization of workers that this situation has brought about, while offering no fundamental changes in the system itself.

### 'Industrial policy' vs 'Reaganomics'

The solutions Mondale had to offer to problems facing working people were along the lines of the "new industrial policy" advocated by the AFL-CIO leaders. This is conceived of by both Mondale and Kirkland as an alternative to "Reaganomics" and a vote-catcher for the Democrats.

The heart of it is a program of tax breaks for selected industries as well as a "National Development Bank" that would offer these same big businesses low interest loans to aid in modernization and raise productivity. Workers, it is claimed, will ultimately benefit when these moves lead to more jobs. It is another scheme to tinker with the workings of capitalism complete with the standard promise that benefits for workers will trickle down.

In detailing his laundry list of economic promises, Mondale touched on one dear to the hearts of many of the top labor officials by favoring protection for U.S. business from the competition of imports from abroad.

This subject came up frequently during the course of the convention. Sol Chaikin, president of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU), commented that the success of any industrial policy is contingent on including import restrictions. "What good is a few more dollars in a pay envelope," he asked, "if workers spend it on imports?"

These anti-imports speeches are aimed at diverting workers from focusing on the real culprit causing unemployment: capitalism. Misleading U.S. workers into viewing workers from other lands as an

enemy rather than an ally is a prime purpose of the entire protectionist campaign.

The utter lack of a spirit of genuine solidarity towards fellow workers from abroad was also evident in remarks made by many of the labor officials on the subject of immigrant workers. Most favored the resolution put forward by the top leadership of the federation that, among other things, calls for "greater resources" for the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) in order that the INS can enforce the immigration laws more effectively.

While the resolution was adopted overwhelmingly, it was noteworthy that Charles Lamb, a leader of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees in San Francisco, spoke out against it. Lamb's union includes many immigrant workers.

Lamb noted that immigrant workers, especially those who are undocumented, are exploited by the employers and victimized by the INS. This in turn, weakens the union movement. But, Lamb observed, "if undocumented workers are brought into the spirit of organization; if we reach out to them," both the undocumented and the unions will benefit. He emphasized that the responsibility lies with labor's leadership because "if undocumented workers speak union they are deported."

### Shift on gay rights

Although much of the business of the convention was strictly routine reaffirmation of previous positions, an important shift took place in the federation's stance on gay rights. A resolution opposing discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation was submitted by the Service Employees International Union. This was incorporated into the broad civil rights resolution adopted by the gathering.

The resolution explained that "dismissal and harassment of workers for reasons unrelated to job performance have been used to intimidate workers from unionizing," and that "civil rights legislation prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation is consistent with the principles of trade unionism." It put the AFL-CIO on record in opposition to discrimination against workers due to sexual orientation on the job, and in favor of legislation backing civil rights for gay people.

Significantly, no one spoke against this move on the convention floor. A speaker from the United Food and Commercial Workers noted that "the 10 to 20 percent of American workers with bisexual or gay tendencies applaud this forward step."

### Opposition to Salvador aid

As the *Militant* reported in its initial coverage of the convention, a change also occurred in the federation's stance in op-

## Armour workers in Louisville vote on concession contract

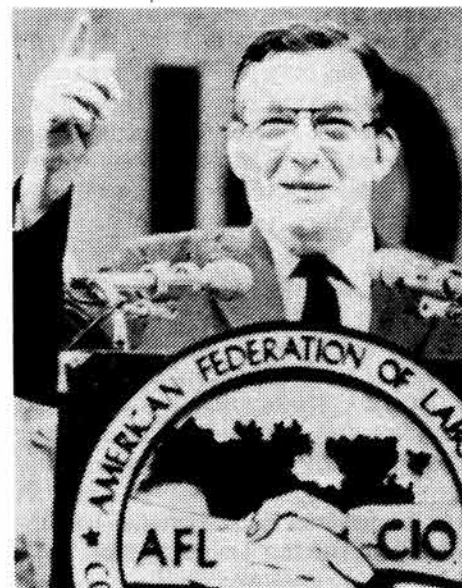
BY CHUCK PETRIN

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — By a vote of 387 to 185, workers here at Armour Foods voted to accept a concession contract demanded by the company. The contract includes a wage reduction from \$10.87 an hour to about \$8.00. Vacation time and the number of holidays was also reduced. Temporary workers can now be used as replacements for absentees.

"It's plumb pitiful," said Dennis Martin, who has worked at Armour for 17 years. But, he added, "I've got to vote for it because I've got a family. Where can you find a job paying even \$8 an hour?"

ConAgra, the corporation which is buying 13 other Armour plants nationwide apparently decided to single out United Food and Commercial Workers Local 227 here for a test of strength. ConAgra announced October 3 that if cuts were not accepted, the plant would be closed on October 7 and reopened October 10 with a new, nonunion work force. ConAgra dramatized its point by taking 700 job applications at the state employment office.

"They've got us up against a wall," said



AFL-CIO chief Lane Kirkland. He and other officials claim electing Democrat Walter Mondale will help solve problems facing workers.

posing U.S. military aid to the Salvadoran dictatorship. While the AFL-CIO Executive Council first came out against such aid earlier this year, the position adopted by the convention puts more emphasis on the need for broad progress in securing democratic rights for El Salvador's workers and peasants before the AFL-CIO will support military aid.

While this position was taken in the context of a broad, anticommunist resolution on foreign policy (standard fare at a gathering like this) it nevertheless reflected the pressure that Kirkland and others feel from the deepening discussion on U.S. policy in Central America that is occurring among U.S. workers.

In addition to workers' antiwar sentiments, another factor in this shift may well be the step up in attacks on the trade union movement in El Salvador itself, including on those relatively more conservative-led unions that maintain direct ties with the AFL-CIO. Samuel Maldonado, a leader of one of these, the Popular Democratic Union, was actually in Hollywood for the AFL-CIO convention when he was publicly threatened by Salvadoran death-squad leader and president of the constituent assembly Roberto D'Aubuisson.

Although it was a gathering of the large majority of U.S. unions, the AFL-CIO convention was not a meeting of workers. No workers were delegates. Only top union officials and staffers loyal to them were in attendance.

Furthermore, the vast majority of delegates were older white men. Blacks, Latinos, and women, among the most militant fighters in the unions today, were few and far between.

Armour worker Joyce Shelton. "There are no jobs and every day [some company] is leaving Louisville."

Other workers felt it was time to draw a line. "It started with the railroads," said Jack Hicks, "then the auto companies, then the steel companies — one after the other, they've been trying to bust the unions. Look what happened to PATCO [air controllers' union]. Those of us who are voting against the contract — it's not just for us, or even just for our union — it's for everybody!"

Other workers agreed but were pessimistic about Local 227's chances of waging a successful fight alone. "All the unions have to stick together," said one. "We need a general strike or something."

Arlene Rubenstein, Socialist Workers candidate for governor, publicly supported the union. She drew attention to the state government's complicity with Armour and stressed the need for labor solidarity.

The mood at Armour after the vote is gloomy. No one is happy with concessions and few think this will be the end of them.



Jack Sheinkman, secretary-treasurer of Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union and cochair of National Labor Committee in Support of Democracy and Human Rights in El Salvador, spoke to convention about his trip to El Salvador. AFL-CIO reaffirmed criticism of U.S. military intervention there in face of new attacks on Salvadoran unions.



# Political prisoner 'report' on Cuba is anticommunist fraud

BY HARRY RING

On October 6, Elliott Abrams, Reagan's assistant secretary of state for "human rights," branded Fidel Castro "one of the most vicious tyrants of our time."

To bolster this slander, Abrams cited a recent report by the Americas Watch that asserts there are 250 political prisoners in Cuba, "held under the most barbaric and brutal conditions."

The report flatly asserts that "freedom of expression" does not exist in Cuba, and "civil liberties do not exist."

Americas Watch is associated with the Helsinki Watch.

In August it issued a report detailing political repression in Chile. (See review in September 16 *Militant*.)

The 135-page Chile report, written by Americas Watch consultant C.G. Brown, was based on three years of research, and incorporated the findings of a broad spectrum of organizations and individuals, plus numerous eyewitness reports. The report is presented in sober, measured language.

In every respect, the report on Cuba, written by Gregory Wallace, a New York lawyer, stands in glaring contrast.

Given a hasty glance, it might seem scholarly. The 19-page report is accompanied by 28 footnotes and a 25-page appendix.

But the report is as sloppy as it is biased. Of the listed footnotes, numbers 1 and 2 do not appear in the text of the report, which begins with footnote 3. (And that one is found on page 8 of the cited work, not 18, as listed.)

Seven of the cited sources are from a 1979 report on Cuba by a human rights subcommittee of the Organization of American States.

The OAS includes such "free" regimes as the ones in El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, and Chile. Cuba has been excluded from OAS activities since 1962.

Appended to the Americas Watch report is a letter from its president, Orville Schell, requesting authorization from the Cuban government to send a delegation to Cuba to investigate the treatment of political prisoners, and to probe the issue of emigration of ex-prisoners.

The letter piously assured that such an investigation would be conducted "in the spirit of objective inquiry."

Cuba did not accept the proposal. The published report confirms it made a wise decision. The report is a crude anticommunist propaganda tract.

## Loaded language

It is studded with loaded language, unfounded assertions, and unannounced deletions.

Cuba is described as a "totalitarian communist country."

Treatment of prisoners is assertedly "brutal" and "gruesome."

When counterrevolutionary ex-prisoners provoke a confrontation with other Cubans in front of the U.S. interest section, those enraged by the ex-prisoners are described as a "pro-Castro mob."

The report cites a story of inmates assertedly kept in prison after serving their sentence.

It states: "Recently a letter was smuggled out of Boniato Prison in Santiago de Cuba, apparently written by 11 inmates who asserted that they were still in prison even though they had served their entire sentence."

"Assuming the accuracy of the letter it should be noted that Santos O. Mirabel Rodriguez, now 28 years old, was sentenced in 1966, when he was 12 years old..." (Emphasis added.) This tale is so thin that significant qualifications were deemed judicious.

One of the strengths of the Americas Watch report on Chile was the extensive documentation of the U.S. role in imposing the Pinochet dictatorship on the Chilean people.

The Cuba report, in contrast, totally avoids the 23-year record of Washington's efforts to crush the Cuban revolution.

There is no mention of the 1961 U.S.-organized invasion of Cuba or the economic blockade, now more than two decades old.

Unmentioned is the documented record of persistent CIA efforts to assassinate Fidel Castro and other Cuban leaders.

Also absent is the CIA-organized arson and sabotage. Not to mention Cuba's persuasive charge of CIA biological war against crops, cattle, and human beings.

Such facts are not irrelevant. To survive, Cuba has had to maintain a continuing vigilance and capacity to defend itself against counterrevolutionary violence. There are prisons in Cuba and there are and have been counterrevolutionaries in them. But they were jailed for what they did, not for what they thought.

Americas Watch "estimates" there are today 250 political prisoners in Cuba. Its estimate, though, is clouded by its singular lack of concern for facts.

Amnesty International, in its 1978 Annual Report, said it had sent a delegation to Cuba in 1977. It consisted of the chairman of the group's international executive committee and a member of its international secretariat. The Amnesty report said the officials were able to hold "extensive discussions with high-ranking members of the Cuban government and judiciary."

But the Americas Watch report baldly states that "international human rights groups... are not permitted to visit [Cuba] to conduct inquiries."

## Released prisoners

While the report focuses on the 250 people it estimates are political prisoners, it can't duck the hard fact that in 1978, Cuba released 3,600 prisoners convicted of counterrevolutionary crimes.

Nor can the report dodge the fact that Washington agreed to accept these ex-prisoners and then reneged on the agreement.

Aside from the inmate assertedly jailed at 12, the report refers to three specific cases, which allegedly typify Cuban "repression."

These are Rene Ariza, Huber Matos, and Armando Valladares.

Valladares is currently living in France and Matos in the United States. Ariza is reportedly also living outside Cuba.

The case of Ariza is obscure. According to the report, he was the recipient of a 1967 Cuban literary award and in 1974 jailed for three years for his writings.

In an appendix to the report, a facsimile of what is said to be the prosecutor's charge against Ariza is reproduced. It is followed by a "translation of the previous pages."

The translation is sufficient to put a big question mark over the report's assertion that this case is prime proof of Cuba's alleged totalitarianism.

For example, in the translation, the Spanish word *autor* — which in this context means the perpetrator of, or person responsible for a crime — is mistranslated as "author," that is, writer.

The prosecutor states that attached is, "A certification of the penal record of the accused." This implies a previous conviction. This is omitted from the translation.

The facts about Matos and Valladares are much better known.

## Huber Matos case

Matos had been a commander in the Rebel Army that toppled Batista. After the revolution he was imprisoned.

This is how the report summarizes the Matos case:

"In a celebrated case, Huber Matos, a commander in the Revolutionary Army of the stature of Che Guevara was arrested October 21, 1959, after protesting communist infiltration of the Cuban army. He was sentenced to 20 years in prison. He was not released until 20 years to the day."

(The assertion that Matos was of the stature of Che Guevara indicates either the author's ignorance of Cuban history or his assumption of readers' ignorance.)



Militant/Harry Ring

Ice-cream vendor, a popular figure in Sandino, a Cuban rehabilitation town in the late 1960s. It was made up mainly of ex-prisoners and their families who had lived in Escambray Mountains and been convicted of cooperation with counterrevolutionary terrorists active there in early 1960s. Ex-prisoners in Sandino worked on state farms at prevailing wages, lived rent-free in modern homes, were free to leave. Yet report by Americas Watch claims such people were subject to forced labor.

Did Matos do 20 years simply for protesting "communist infiltration" of the army?

That's pure bunk.

Soon after they won power, the *fidelistas* recognized they could not carry out their declared program of agrarian and urban reform within the framework of capitalism. The revolution began to take anticapitalist measures.

Matos, and others, were opposed.

At the time, Matos was military governor of what was then Camagüey province.

He did make speeches assailing the agrarian reform as "communist." But he also began organizing treason among the army officers in the province.

His action came in the context of mounting counterrevolutionary activity.

In his anti-Castro book, *Cuba: The Pursuit of Freedom*, historian Hugh Thomas wrote: "The cattle ranches of Camagüey were in fact the heart of counterrevolutionary Cuba, the home of conservative interests..."

On Oct. 19, 1959, Matos submitted his resignation as military governor.

But he didn't simply quit. He called in the officer corps of the area and outlined his position. Fourteen other officers then also "resigned." But, like Matos, they did not leave their posts.

Fidel Castro personally went to Camagüey to arrest Matos and his accomplices. He was greeted by a mass outpouring in support of agrarian reform and against the Matos forces.

Matos was tried December 11 of that year, with both Fidel and Raúl Castro testifying against him.

Matos was represented by counsel and spoke for two hours in his own defense.

He was convicted and sentenced to 20 years. The other officers drew lesser terms.

Discussing the Matos case at a mass rally in Havana, Fidel declared:

"What the reactionaries would like is an unarmed civilian population and an army that is corruptible and some day may be able to put a brake on the revolution..."

"This is why the betrayal of Huber Matos is such a serious matter. It was the first attempt to use members of the Rebel Army against the revolution. It was the first attempt to corrupt officers, to use them against the people... against the Cuban revolution."

Looking back, it's clear that the decisive action taken against Matos and the other renegade officers was an important factor in enabling the Cuban people to smash the Bay of Pigs invasion that came in April 1961.

So much for Matos. But what about the Americas Watch evidence of "gruesome" treatment of prisoners?

## Valladares case

The report quotes "a small sampling," which is indicated to be a letter smuggled from prison:

"... I am enclosed in a room without ventilation of any kind, as there are no windows. I am practically entombed. The heat

is hellish. The walls are heated up by the sun and they reverberate; by then the heat becomes a real torture. We sweat in streams and barely enough room to move."

The report tersely declares: "(Letter from Armando Valladares, now in France.)"

Why the brevity? The Valladares case is much more recent than that of Matos or even Ariza and has been widely publicized internationally. Valladares is the "wheel-chair poet" who was released at the request of the French government in October 1982.

His story would seem like perfect material for the Americas Watch report.

Except that it's a hoax.

For instance, Valladares wrote a two-part article published in the Sept. 12-13, 1983, *Toronto Globe & Mail*. There he said that in April of 1981 he was transferred to a new jail where he was "subjected" [!] to intensive treatment to restore use of his legs.

At the new jail, from his account, his plight was the exact opposite of the previous one.

"The authorities built a special room to keep me in the most complete isolation. The walls and ceiling were painted a gleaming white and above my bed were 10 neon tubes, 1.5 meters long, kept on around the clock. They gave a blinding glare that damaged my eyesight permanently."

So, apparently, while Cuban doctors were "subjecting" him to treatment to restore use of his legs, they were also trying to blind and, presumably, dement him.

When Valladares was released, he astonished relatives, friends, and the media, by walking unassisted from the plane in Paris.

He explained, as reported in the Oct. 23, 1982, *Miami Herald*, that he had regained his ability to walk several months previous but had not been able to advise the outside world because he was being held incommunicado.

The very next day, on French television, he said he had been able to walk since 1979.

In the *Globe & Mail* he said he hadn't really been able to walk until a week before his release when he was subjected to "intense reeducation."

But these contradictory statements are only a part of the story of the alleged anti-Batista student and poet supposedly jailed for his ideas and treated so brutally he lost the use of his legs.

Briefly: Valladares was not jailed for his poetry. He didn't write any until he was in prison.

He lost the use of his legs for a period from a nutritional deficiency brought on by some 15 hunger strikes.

He was not a student. He was a member of Batista's police force for two years prior to the revolution.

But he was not even jailed for being a Batista cop. He and 16 others were convicted of planting bombs in public places. In the house where they were arrested, police found guns, ammunition, and mate-

Continued on Page 15



# Story of Minneapolis Teamster strike of 1934

**Labor's Turning Point: the Minneapolis Truck Strike of 1934**, 16 millimeter, 43 minutes. New Front Films, 1409 Willow St., Suite 505, Minneapolis, Minn. 55403, (612) 872-0805.

BY RICH STUART

*Labor's Turning Point* by John DeGraaf opened the 1983 New York City Labor Film Festival on October 11.

## FILM REVIEW

The film tells the story of one of the most dramatic organizing drives in U.S. labor history.

In 1934 three strikes shook the city of Minneapolis, a notorious nonunion town. Along with the San Francisco longshore strike and the Toledo Auto-Lite strike, the Minneapolis Teamsters strike inspired workers throughout the country and helped pave the way for the formation of the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO).

*Labor's Turning Point* describes in a straightforward way the events of 1934 that made Minneapolis a union town. Veterans of the strike interviewed in the movie look back on what they call a civil war that pitted the Citizens Alliance, a union-busting coalition of bosses, against the ranks of the workers of Minneapolis.

The 1934 strikes took place in the context of the mass unemployment and poverty of the Great Depression and

the consistent failure of the old craft unions to organize the unorganized.

But in Minneapolis, in the winter of 1934, coal drivers moved lightning fast and shocked the employers with a three-day strike that won a union contract. The victory electrified the city and set the stage for the battles in the spring and summer.

By the end of the summer of 1934, thousands of workers in Minneapolis-St. Paul had won union recognition. Striking workers faced the National Guard and martial law, and two strikers were killed by the cops. Giant rallies and mass meetings numbering up to 40,000 workers were held.

What made the Minneapolis strikes different is explained in *Labor's Turning Point*. The central leaders of the strike were revolutionary communists who relied on the power of the rank-and-file workers to decide the course of the strike and to defend the union in the streets even when faced by heavily armed cops and National Guardsmen called out by Minnesota's Farmer-Labor Party governor, Floyd Olson.

The film includes footage from newsreel accounts of the pitched battles between strikers and cops alongside interviews with strike veterans proud of their successes in these battles. One of these veterans is Happy Holstein, a worker who grew up on the White Earth Indian Reservation in the state.

The film also points out that the leaders of the strike,

while heavily red-baited as communists by the bosses' news media, were democratically elected by the ranks. The film describes the daily strike paper, *The Organizer*, published by the union to answer the bosses and educate the strikers.

The key to the success of the 1934 strikes was the concept of breaking out of the old craft-union structure and organizing all workers in the trucking industry on an industrial basis, a revolutionary idea for that time.

Another important ingredient in the power of the 1934 truckers strike, according to the film, was the solidarity the strikers won from the 30,000 unemployed workers in Minneapolis, from workers in other industries, women, and small businesspeople. There was also the inspiring support of the Farm Holiday Association, an organization of family farmers fighting farm foreclosures that donated food to sustain the strikers.

*Labor's Turning Point* does an excellent job of whetting your appetite for more information and further study of the historic events of 1934 in Minneapolis, events that are full of lessons for working people today.

Along this line, the film ends by encouraging viewers to read *Teamster Rebellion*, an account of the 1934 strikes by Farrell Dobbs, one of the revolutionary communist leaders of the strike. *Teamster Rebellion* is one of four volumes by Dobbs on the history of Teamsters struggles in the Midwest in the 1930s. They can be ordered from Pathfinder Press, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014.

# Zionist offers to collaborate with Nazis detailed

Lenni Brenner, *Zionism in the Age of the Dictators*. Westport, Conn.: Lawrence Hill, 1983. 277 pp. \$8.95.

BY PAUL SIEGEL

Although *Zionism in the Age of the Dictators* is not a rounded analysis of Zionism, it documents some activities of Zionist leaders during the time of Hitler and Mussolini.

Perhaps the most sensational disclosure is that the Stern Gang proposed a military alliance to Hitler's Germany during World War II in order to wrest Palestine from England. The Stern Gang, an extreme right-wing

was a supporter of Fascism, and he rejoiced at the victory of Fascist Italy in Abyssinia [Ethiopia] as a triumph of the White races against the Black."

The Labor Zionists detested the Revisionists, but the entire spectrum of Zionism adhered to the doctrine of the Negation of the Diaspora, which provided a rationale for collaboration with rabid anti-Semites whose cry was "Kikes to Palestine!" This doctrine on the Diaspora stated that the misfortune of the Jews was that they were divorced from their homeland. Consequently, they led an unhealthy existence as "parasites" on their "host" countries.

This, it was stated, is the root cause of anti-Semitism, which is inevitable and cannot therefore be combated. The only solution to "the Jewish problem" is the return to the homeland, where the Jewish people will be regenerated.

Abstentionist in the politics of the countries in which they lived, the Zionists opposed the socialist outlook of many Jewish workers and Jewish radical intellectuals. The "socialism" of the so-called Labor Zionists was only a far-off goal for distant Palestine, not a class-struggle doctrine for Jews under existing capitalism.

When Adolph Hitler came to power in Germany, the Zionist Federation of Germany sent the Nazis a memorandum on June 21, 1933, that stated:

"[A] rebirth of national life, such as is occurring in German life through adhesion to Christian and national values, must also take place in the Jewish national group. . . . [W]e, too, are against mixed marriage and are for maintaining the purity of the Jewish group. . . . For its practical aims, Zionism hopes to be able to win the collaboration even of a government fundamentally hostile to Jews, because in dealing with the Jewish question no sentimentalities are involved but a real problem whose solution interests all peoples, and at the present moment especially the German people. The realization of Zionism could only be hurt by resentment of Jews abroad against the German development. Boycott propaganda [against the Nazi government] . . . is in essence un-Zionist, because Zionism wants not to do battle but to convince and to build."

On Feb. 26, 1937, the Haganah, the military arm of the Jewish Agency in Palestine, sent an agent, Feivel Polkes, to negotiate with the Security Service of the Nazi SS. The person with whom he negotiated was none other

than Adolf Eichmann, who was years later executed in Jerusalem for his part in organizing the murder of millions of Jews.

Eichmann's superior, Franz-Albert Six, stated in a report on the conversations found in the SS files by the U.S. Army at the end of the war: "Polkes . . . is against all Jews who are opposed to the erection of a Jewish state in Palestine. As a Haganah man he fights against Communism. . . . He declared himself willing to work for Germany in the form of providing intelligence as long as this does not oppose his own political goals."

In October 1937, Polkes again met with Eichmann, who was this time accompanied by a superior, Herbert Hagen. The two Nazis reported that Polkes made good on his offer to have the Haganah act as spies for the Hitler government: "The illegal Communist broadcasting station whose transmission to Germany is particularly strong, is, according to Polkes' statement, assembled on a lorry that drives along the German-Luxembourg border when transmission is on the air."

Thus, Zionist leaders not only failed to fight the Nazis but even sabotaged the resistance to them. This sabotage was of course unknown to rank-and-file Zionists, many of whom, impelled by the rise of fascism, broke from the Zionist policy of passivity to fight against it.

In England Oswald Mosley's British Union of Fascists physically threatened Jewish communities. To this the British *Young Zionist* responded with the traditional statement: "Once we have realised that we cannot root out the evil, . . . [o]ur defence is the strengthening of our Jewish personality."

However, the Jewish masses ignored this advice. In 1936, 100,000 Jews and other antifascists stopped a provocative fascist parade in a demonstration called by the Jewish People's Council, a community defense organization in which Zionists participated.

In New York, when the Nazi Bund called a meeting in Madison Square Garden in 1939, the Socialist Workers Party called for a counter-demonstration in front of the building. Young members of the SWP called the headquarters of the Hashomer Hatzair to urge a united front. They were told, "Sorry we can't join you, our Zionist policy is to take no part in politics outside Palestine."

Nevertheless, the 50,000 people who turned out undoubtedly included many Jews sympathetic to Zionism.

## BOOK REVIEW

outfit, was a split-off from the Revisionists, the Zionist followers of Vladimir Jabotinsky, who was the mentor of Menachem Begin.

Stern's secret proposal, which was found in the files of the German embassy in Turkey and published in Israel in 1974, was dated Jan. 11, 1941.

It proposed "the establishment of the historical Jewish state on a national and totalitarian basis" that would "actively take part in the war on Germany's side" on the condition that the "national aspirations of the Israeli freedom movement are recognized on the side of the German Reich."

Nothing came of this proposal, but Lenni Brenner asks a most interesting question. Did Yitzhak Shamir, then the operations commander of the Stern Gang and now Israel's new prime minister, know of Stern's attempt to become an ally of Hitler? He quotes a former youthful member of the Stern Gang, Baruch Nadel, who has done extensive research on its wartime activities and is certain that Shamir knew of the plan: "They all knew about it."

The revisionists generally were strongly inclined to be sympathetic to the fascist ideology. Their financial director was Wolfgang von Weisl, who wrote for Begin's newspaper after the creation of Israel in 1948. He told a Rumanian paper in 1936 that "although opinions among the Revisionists varied, in general they sympathized with Fascism." He went on to proclaim that "he personally

# Attack on Cuban revolution an anticommunist fraud

Continued from Page 14

rial for making bombs. The trial was front-page news in the Cuban press.

All of this was documented nearly three years ago in the Spanish magazine, *Interviú*, a glossy, mass-circulation publication.

The author of the *Interviú* article went to Havana in December 1980. His research included a visit with Valladares in the hospital where he was being treated.

**Mariel boatlift**

One particularly odious section of the Americas Watch report is on the Mariel boatlift.

Fidel Castro, the report asserts, "had loaded hardened criminals and residents of Cuba's insane asylums onto the Mariel refugee boats. . . ."

"Among the happy boat refugees screaming with joy when they saw their

families were grim sullen men.

"Some had strange tattoos on their bodies — insignias, it was later learned, of a particular criminal specialty such as murder for hire."

The source? An NBC news special, "Castro's Criminals," plus an Arkansas "refugee specialist." And this muck is included in a "human rights" report.

At the time, Fidel Castro categorically declared that no individual in prison for a crime of violence was permitted to leave.

The Cuban government has declared it has too much respect for its mental patients to ship them here.

Anyone who has visited a Cuban mental hospital, as this reporter has, is struck deeply by the rational, humane care of the patients. The quality of Cuba's psychiatric care is sufficient to rebut this particular slander.

But you don't have to take Cuba's word for it.

A lurid May 11, 1980, *New York Times* story from Mariel was headlined, "Retarded People and Criminals Are Included in Cuban Exodus."

Buried in the same issue was a dispatch from Key West, Florida, reporting that screening officials there estimated that perhaps 1 percent of those arriving were convicted criminals, and a "handful" psychiatric patients.

**Democracy in Cuba**

What is the actual state of Cuban democracy today?

The report does not make a solitary mention — even to debunk them — of the institutions being developed in Cuba to involve the people in the decision-making process.

There are now local and provincial legislative assemblies and a national assembly.

In the direct popular voting for the local assemblies, there must be at least two candidates in each district.

Those elected must periodically report back to public meetings of their constituents. Questions, complaints, and proposals are freely aired.

Perhaps the most powerful proof that Cuba is not a tyranny is the fact that in addition to the army and its reserves, some half a million Cubans bear arms as members of the territorial militia. And that is being expanded as more weapons become available.

A regime that permits not a whisper of free speech, that jails and tortures dissidents — how could such a dictatorship dare to arm the people?



**Unsung or unhung?** — "I doubt if there is any occupation that is more consistently and un-



**Harry Ring**

fairly demeaned, degraded, denounced and deplored than banking. Before any kind of a crowd you can always get a warm, encouraging response when you describe the bankers as grubbing,

money-mad millionaires with hearts of stone. . . . — Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wisc.) who insists bankers are "unsung heroes."

**Don't forget to check mom** — An ad for a pocket-size "voice stress analyzer," a version of the asserted lie detector, exhorts, "To find out if your employees are stealing — if your business associates are cheating — if your friends are really your friends."

**Cool and comfy** — About 20 of the offspring of the rich and famous organized a bash in New York to project their own independent identities. Tucker Johnson,

heir to the Johnson & Johnson fortune, said, "It was my father's father's company. It has nothing to do with my life." What's his life? "I play polo and fox hunt. It's the coolest thing to do."

**Our rational society** — Responding to the sharp slump in the sale of video games, Atari dumped 14 truckloads of cartridges and related equipment at the city landfill in Alamogordo, N.M. Guards kept reporters and spectators away as workers poured cement over the dumped merchandise.

**What alienation** — Lotus, a luxury sports car, has a newspaper

ad with a picture of the car and the thought, "At least part of your life should be on your own terms."

**Of divine origin?** — Commenting on the resurgence of sweatshops in New York, a garment manufacturer commented, "I'm opposed to the sweatshop, but I don't want a law about it. We got 500 million laws on the books. Who lives by them?" Sweatshops, he philosophized, "are the history of mankind."

**No doubt about it** — A New Orleans nurse who objected to paying the 50 percent of her income tax which she estimated

went for war was fined \$500. An IRS spokesman advised, "There is no such thing in the federal income tax code as a war tax deduction. The system doesn't recognize a philosophical or moral argument."

**Thanks, doc** — Prof. Robert Weinberg, a research scientist, says finding a cure for cancer wouldn't do all that much to prolong life. Noting that older people are the principal victims of the disease, he philosophized, "As we cure these diseases, we will get more decrepit and die a slow, lingering death."

## CALENDAR

### ARIZONA

#### Phoenix

**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

#### San Francisco

**Free Nicky Kelly: Irish Political Prisoner.** Speaker: Tony Gregory, independent socialist member of Irish parliament. Mon., Oct. 24, 1 p.m. San Francisco State College, Student Union Bldg., rm. B-116. Mon., Oct. 24, 6 p.m. Four Seasons Clift Hotel, Geary and Taylor Sts.

**Seaside**

**A Black for President in 1984?** A panel discussion on perspectives for the 1984 elections. Speakers: Lance McClair, mayor of Seaside; Mel Mason, Seaside city councilman and member of Socialist Workers Party; Alonzo González, League for United Latin American Citizens. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 29, 7 p.m. Seaside Public Library, 550 Harcourt Ave. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (408) 394-1855.

### INDIANA

#### Indianapolis

**How Can Workers Stop Plant Closings — Should AT&T Have the Right to Close Shadeland Avenue Western Electric Plant?** Speakers: Kevin Dwire, Socialist Workers Party candidate for at-large city-council council, member of International Union of Electrical Workers; John Cardwell, Citizens Action Coalition staff member. Sat., Oct. 29, 7 p.m. 4850 N College Ave. Donation: \$1.50. Ausp: Militant Forum Series. For more information call (317) 283-6149.

### KENTUCKY

#### Louisville

**Socialist Workers Campaign Rally.** Speakers: Arlene Rubinstein, SWP candidate for governor; Roger "Billy" Jones, SWP candidate for city-county council in Indianapolis; Karl Weisman, member of Pipefitters Local 522. Sat., Oct. 29; reception, 7:30 p.m.; rally, 8 p.m. 809 E Broadway (near Shelby). Donation: \$2. Ausp: Kentucky Socialist Workers Campaign Committee. For more information call (502) 587-8418.

### 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.

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. 3207 Dublin. Ausp: SWP Campaign. For more information call (504) 486-8048.

### MARYLAND

#### Baltimore

**Open House for Héctor Marroquín.** Meet Marroquín, Mexican socialist fighting for polit-

ical 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

**Mother** A Russian film based on Gorky's novel about 1905 revolution. Discussion period to follow. Sun., Oct. 30, 7:30 p.m. 510 Commonwealth Ave. (Kenmore T), 4th fl. Donation: \$3. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (617) 262-4621.

### MICHIGAN

#### Detroit

**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

#### St. Paul

**Free Nicky Kelly: Irish Political Prisoner.** Speaker: Tony Gregory, independent socialist member of Irish parliament. Sat., Oct. 22, 7:30 p.m. College of St. Thomas.

**Farmers in Revolt: The Fight to Defend the Family Farmer.** Speaker: Mark Ritchie, board member of U.S. Farm Association, activist in farmers movement; representative of Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Oct. 29, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

**The Socialist Strategy and the Fight for Jobs, Peace, and Freedom.** Speaker: Andrea González, national secretary, Young Socialist Alliance. Sat., Nov. 5; dinner (\$2.50 donation), 5 p.m.; rally (\$2 donation), 7 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Ausp: Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

Two classes: "Why Imperialism Goes to War," Sun. Nov. 6, 12 noon; "Women and Revolutionary Nicaragua," Sun., Nov. 6, 2:30 p.m. (donation, \$1 per class). Speaker: Andrea González. 508 N Snelling Ave. Ausp: Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

### MISSOURI

#### Kansas City

**The Truth Behind the War Hysteria: A Socialist View.** Speaker: Debra Whitley, Young Socialist Alliance. Discussion and dinner to follow. Sun., Oct. 23, 5 p.m. 4715 A Troost. Donation: \$3 for dinner and forum. Ausp: Young Socialist newspaper. For more information call (816) 753-0404.

### NEW JERSEY

#### Newark

**Legalized Murder: Why Use of the Death Penalty Is on the Rise.** Speakers: Joe Fortunato, New Jersey National Lawyers Guild; Bob Brown, Board of Directors of Fortune Society, former prisoner; representative, Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Fri., Oct. 28; dinner (donation: \$3), 6 p.m.; forum, (donation \$2) 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey (corner of Raymond, one block from Broad). Ausp: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

### NEW MEXICO

#### Albuquerque

**Upsurge in the Philippines.** Speakers: Jerry Gardner, Socialist Workers Party; others. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 22, 7:30 p.m. 1417 Central NE. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (505) 842-0954.

### NEW YORK

#### Manhattan

**Meeting in Solidarity With the People of Chile.** Speaker: Eugenio Cossio, member of Socialist Party of Chile, general secretary of

Association of Professors and Employees of the University of Chile (ATEUCH). Translation to Spanish. Fri., Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m. 79 Leonard St. (5 blks. south of Canal). Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

**Evening in Solidarity With Chile.** Slide show and video tape. Nov. 5, 6 p.m. Church of the Holy Name, Amsterdam Ave., between 96th and 97th Sts. Donation requested. Committee for a Free Chile. For more information call (212) 590-3907.

### OHIO

#### Cleveland

**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

#### Harrisburg

**Harrisburg Is Really Two Cities.** Speakers: Doug Cooper, Socialist Workers Party candidate for city council; others. Sun., Oct. 23, 4 p.m. 803 N 2nd St. Donation: \$1. Ausp: Socialist Workers Doug Cooper for City Council Campaign. For more information call (717) 243-5052.

#### Philadelphia

**Hear Bill Osteen — Socialist Workers Candidate for Mayor.** "City Lights" show, Channel 13, Sat., Oct. 22, 7 p.m.; WMMR (93.3 FM), Sun., Oct. 23, 7 p.m.; "A.M. Philadelphia," Channel 6, Tues., Oct. 30, 10 a.m.; WFIL (560 AM), Sun., Oct. 30, 11 p.m.

#### Pittsburgh

**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.

### UTAH

#### Orem

**What Socialists Stand For.** Speaker: Bob Hoyle, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Salt Lake. Translation to Spanish. Tue., Nov. 1, 7 p.m. Orem Library, 58 N State St. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (801) 355-1124

#### Price

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

**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: Adeeb 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

#### Seattle

**How To Defend Women's Rights in the '80s.**

## Stop U.S. War in Central America

### NEW YORK

#### Manhattan

**Repression in El Salvador.** Speakers: Salvador Lopez, representative of Salvadoran trade union federation FENAS-TRAS. Sat., Oct. 22, 7:30 p.m. St. John's Hall, 213 W 30th St. Donation: \$3. Ausp: Lopez/Molina Lara Tour Committee. For more information call (212) 391-8732.

**An Educational Program on Central America.** Speaker: Dave Dyson, leader of National Labor Committee in Support of Democracy and Human Rights in El Salvador. Thurs. Nov. 3, 5:30 p.m. Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Headquarters, 15 Union Square West. Ausp: New York Area Labor Committee in Support of Democracy and Human Rights in El Salvador.

### TEXAS

#### Edinburg

**International Conference on Central America in the Rio Grande Valley.** Speakers: Mariano Barahona, Nicaraguan Supreme Court Justice and president of Association of Democratic Jurists of Nicaragua; Arnoldo Ramos, Revolutionary Democratic Front of El Salvador; Lucia Martínez, Association of Salvadoran Women. Translation in English and Spanish. Thursday through Saturday, Oct. 27-29. Pan American University, Edinburg, Texas. Ausp: La Raza Legal Alliance. For more information call (512) 425-3723.

A panel discussion. Speakers: Deborah Higdon, Young Socialist Alliance; others to be announced. Sat., Oct. 29, 7:30 p.m. 5517 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

### WEST VIRGINIA

#### Morgantown

**Blacks and the 1984 Elections.** The lessons of the August 27 march on Washington; the impact of Jesse Jackson; and forging a Black, Latino, and labor alliance. Speaker: Mac Warren, member of national committee of Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Oct. 29, 8 p.m. 957 University Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 296-0055.

**Two Classes on Black History.** Speaker Mac Warren, member of 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." Sun., Oct. 30, 1 p.m.

Class 2. "Defeat of Radical Reconstruction, the Rise of Jim Crow and Sharecropping, and the Fight for Black Liberation." Sun., Oct. 30, 3:30 p.m. 957 University Ave. Donation: \$1 per class. Ausp: Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (304) 296-0055

### WISCONSIN

#### Milwaukee

**Crisis in the Philippines: The Struggle Against the Marcos Dictatorship.** Speakers: Roger Austria, chairperson of Wisconsin Filipino Forum; Bill Breihan, Socialist Workers Party and member of Smith Steelworkers DALU 19806. Sun., Oct. 30, 7:30 p.m. 4707 W Lisbon Ave. Donation: \$1.50 Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (414) 445-2076.



# Emil Mazey: early builder of auto union

BY HARRY RING

Emil Mazey, one of the early builders of the United Auto Workers (UAW), died October 9 in Detroit at 70.

In the early 1930s, Mazey was an active socialist, holding membership in the Proletarian Party, a left-wing offshoot of the Communist Party that existed for a number of years.

By 1936, Mazey had been fired from several jobs for union organizing. He then got hired at Briggs in Detroit, the major supplier of auto parts for Chrysler. There, Mazey became active in the fledgling UAW.

The UAW was part of the CIO which, in defiance of the old AFL craft unions, was organizing workers in the nation's basic industries.

Organizing the traditionally nonunion industries into the CIO took a tremendous rank-and-file effort, involving pitched battles with cops and company goons, defiance of antipicket injunctions, and even occupying entire plants until the employers yielded.

Initially Mazey was fired from Briggs for organizing departmental work stoppages. But after the plant was successfully organized as UAW Local 212, he was reinstated and was elected president of the

local, which for years was regarded as one of the most militant in the UAW.

Within the UAW itself, in those years, Mazey was part of a broad-based left wing. At the union's 1943 convention during World War II, Mazey was among those who mustered a strong minority in favor of ending support to the capitalist parties and leading in the formation of an independent labor party.

At that convention, the left wing also fought to have the union rescind the "no-strike" pledge imposed on the unions by the top officialdom of both AFL and CIO as a "win-the-war" measure. It was proving an effective employer weapon against the workers.

Shortly after that convention, Mazey was drafted into the army.

At the close of the war, Mazey found himself stationed in Manila where he was to play a leading role in a movement of historic importance.

At the end of the war, the GIs, more than anxious to get home, realized that Washington was deliberately engaging in heavy footdragging in demobilizing them. This caused an outcry among the troops, stationed around the globe. Soldier and

sailors committees were formed that organized giant protest demonstrations and a flood of letters and resolutions demanding that the GIs be sent back home.

With his background as a union leader, Emil Mazey quickly emerged as a leader of the GI movement in the Philippines.

The GIs led by Mazey also appealed for labor support to bring them home.

A message to the UAW was immediately responded to by then-President R.J. Thomas who publicly declared his "utmost sympathy for the outraged feelings of those GIs."

Many union bodies adopted resolutions, and the Los Angeles CIO organized a public demonstration.

In the face of the massive GI protest and mounting support for them at home, the Pentagon had to retreat and the WWII GIs came home. This put a heavy crimp in Washington's efforts to hold back the already emerging colonial liberation movement, as well as its timetable for establishing its world domination.

Back home, Mazey didn't do too well. He became involved in the inner union machine politics of the UAW, supporting Walter Reuther's successful 1947 bid for

presidency of the union. Reuther had a capacity for combining a policy of collaboration with the employers with a progressive and even radical rhetoric.

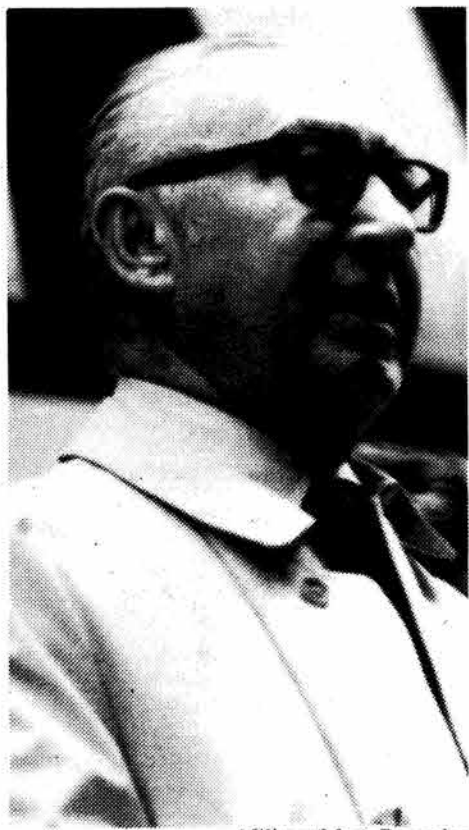
Mazey was elected secretary-treasurer of the union on the Reuther ticket and held that post until his retirement in 1980.

As a top union official, he became increasingly conservative, accepting the idea of conciliation with the employers. He gave up his early stand in favor of a labor party and joined the Reuther machine in supporting the Democrats.

During the Vietnam War, Mazey was critical of the U.S. aggression. But he took a dim view of the massive antiwar demonstrations that did so much to end the war. Mazey argued that peace could more effectively be achieved by supporting Democratic "doves."

In his youth, Mazey's socialist convictions proved an effective guide in helping to move the workers movement forward. As he became enmeshed in the union officialdom, that necessary vision dimmed and he ended as one more partisan of the status quo.

Much better to remember the young Emil Mazey.



Militant/Mark Reynolds  
Emil Mazey in 1971. As a youth Mazey was an active socialist and union militant. Later he became part of UAW officialdom and partisan of status quo.

Continued from front page

New York radio station WLIB.

Austin charged that the six were killed during fighting after they had taken the military headquarters and distributed weapons to a crowd of their political supporters; other reports from Grenada challenge the truth of this account.

The other five New Jewel Movement leaders killed were: Unison Whiteman, the foreign minister; Jacqueline Creft, the education minister; Norris Bain, the housing and construction minister; and trade union leaders Vincent Noel and Fitzroy Bain.

In the radio address by Austin, he announced the formation of a military council to govern the country until the return of "normalcy." Austin also announced a round-the-clock curfew for four days until October 24; he warned that violators would be "shot on sight."

The deaths of Bishop and the other Grenadian leaders come at a time when U.S. imperialism is sharply escalating its attacks against the Sandinista revolution in Nicaragua, the Salvadoran freedom fighters, revolutionary Cuba, and the struggles of working people throughout the Caribbean and Central America. Washington has targeted the Grenadian revolution and its gains ever since the March 1979 victory there, and the U.S. rulers are already exploiting the latest developments to escalate their propaganda in preparation for intervention against revolutionary struggles

throughout the region.

The claim by Washington and counter-revolutionary forces throughout the Caribbean region that they can be of assistance to the Grenadian people at this time is not only cynical and hypocritical, but a dangerous lie. All those who support the Grenadian revolution must oppose any U.S. intervention in the affairs of the people of that island.

U.S. government spokespeople and the press in this country have also sought to use the events in Grenada to smear Cuba

and bolster their false claims that it and the Soviet Union pose a threat to the peoples and governments of the Caribbean and Central America. These charges must be rejected and exposed for what they are — an effort to justify U.S. military action against Cuba because of its exemplary internationalist solidarity with all those struggling against tyranny, oppression, and exploitation in the Americas.

As the *Militant* obtains further reliable information, we will report it to our readers in upcoming issues.

## Devastating blow to Grenada revolution

## Big push needed for SWP fund drive

Continued from front page

the drive, an extra push is necessary if we are to reach the goal in full and on time.

Financing the activity of a revolutionary workers party is a constant challenge. Economic strain from inflation and layoffs can create financial difficulties. The bedrock of the SWP's finances are the weekly contributions from party members, the majority of whom are industrial workers. But extra efforts like the Party Building Fund have usually been necessary to make sure the party has a balanced budget and meets its political projections.

The key to success in recent fundraising has been to organize the full membership

of the party and all its supporters to make pledges.

The driving force of such efforts has been industrial workers in the party. Party miners, auto workers, garment workers, and others in the mines, mills, and plants have inspired the rest of the party.

Recently a group of auto workers who just completed a mandatory probation in a General Motors plant wrote that they are increasing their pledges by 200 to 300 percent. That is an example of the type of effort needed if we are going to get the drive on the track.

With a sustained effort in the remaining weeks, the drive can be completed by the deadline.

## —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, 3455 S. Michigan Ave. Zip: 60616. Tel: (312) 326-5853 or 326-5453.

**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:** Piedmont: SWP, YSA, 301 S. Elm St., Suite 522. Greensboro. Zip: 27401. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

**OHIO:** Cincinnati: SWP, YSA, 4945 Paddock Rd. Zip: 45237. Tel: (513) 242-7161. Cleveland: SWP, YSA, 15105 St. Clair Ave. Zip: 44110. Tel: (216) 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 Almeda. 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.



# Join Nov. 12 antiwar actions

Continued from front page

role in orchestrating this terror against Nicaragua. The *Times* reports that Reagan administration officials openly admit that the CIA "recommended and helped plan recent attacks against an oil storage depot and other industrial targets in Nicaragua."

This was the result of "a decision reached by the CIA over the summer, that attacks directly against industrial and transportation targets inside Nicaragua would be a quicker and more effective way of hurting the Sandinistas."

These same officials predicted more strikes against industrial targets soon.

This is all part of what Washington hypocritically refers to as its "two-track approach" to Nicaragua: military pressure and diplomatic "persuasion."

Carrying the ball on the second track is Reagan's bipartisan war commission headed by Henry Kissinger. After meeting openly with Alfonso Robelo, a leader of the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionary forces financed by the CIA, Kissinger and his traveling road show arrived in Managua. There he piously declared that "we should not have to choose between peace and democracy" in Nicaragua.

But Washington has no right to choose *anything* in Nicaragua, or anywhere else in Central America and the Caribbean. It remains the responsibility of working people in the United States to make that clear to Kissinger, Reagan, and the U.S. Congress. It is the right of the people of Central America to choose their own future and road of development.

That is precisely what the Nicaraguan people have done and it is what the revolutionary workers and peasants in El Salvador are striving to do.

The Nicaraguan revolution, like the Cuban and Grenadian revolutions, is an example of what can be accomplished by a government of workers and farmers that puts the interests of working people first. It is this progress — improved workers' standard of living, union rights, education, health care, and the advance of women's rights — that Washington hates so much.

That is why imperialism seeks to crush the Nicaraguan revolution and stop the struggle in El Salvador.

In El Salvador U.S. backing to the reactionary regime's war against the country's working people continues apace. The Kissinger commission itself acknowledges that the right-wing death squads organized by the U.S.-backed regime are stepping up their murderous activity. They have already assassinated more than 1,300 civilians this year alone.

Today, even the more conservative union leaders are on their hit list. At the very same time that Salvador Maldonado, a leader of the Popular Democratic Union

(UPD), was in the United States attending the AFL-CIO convention, he was publicly accused of ties to the revolutionary forces of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) by Roberto D'Aubuisson, leader of the right wing and president of the Constituent Assembly.

This accusation by D'Aubuisson was so widely viewed as equivalent to a death sentence from the death squads that AFL-CIO leaders urged Maldonado not to return to his homeland.

Behind all these military moves and threats lies the armed strength of the Pentagon. Already thousands of U.S. troops are stationed in Honduras where they participate in "maneuvers" threatening Nicaragua and bolstering the government in El Salvador.

Central America is not the only region where the U.S. government is at war. On October 16 the sixth U.S. marine was killed in combat in Lebanon.

The demonstrations called by the November 12 Coalition for Washington and Los Angeles are an important opportunity to mobilize a response. These actions have already won broad support among anti-intervention organizations, peace and disarmament groups, religious groups, civil rights leaders and some union officials.

These demonstrations, called to oppose U.S. intervention throughout Central America, can call special attention to the dangerous new attacks on Nicaragua.

Discussion about the new stage in the war and how workers can respond on November 12 can be taken into every union, to plant gates, and onto the shop floor. Union buses should be organized. Funds should be made available to send union delegations. Banners from the labor movement should be prominent.

In addition to the November 12 actions, other opportunities exist to deepen the discussion about the war in the labor movement. An important tour of trade-union leaders from Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Guatemala has just begun on the West Coast. (See story page 3.) Along with the ongoing tours of leaders of the National Federation of Salvadoran Workers' Unions (FENASTRAS), this tour presents an opportunity to further the discussion in the labor movement on U.S. workers' stake in opposing Washington's war.

The continued criticism of U.S. military aid to El Salvador on the part of the top leadership of the AFL-CIO, coupled with the new attacks on Salvadoran unions with ties to the AFL-CIO, as well as others, will spur this process also.

Building the November 12 demonstrations and deepening this discussion among U.S. working people are the key tasks facing those opposed to U.S. intervention and all those in solidarity with the Central American revolution today.

# No to NATO nuclear missiles

As Washington organizes bombing raids on Nicaragua, it is also beginning the deployment of new nuclear missiles in Europe.

Although deployment was not scheduled to start until December, control shelters for the missiles are already under construction and electronic systems and testing equipment are being delivered. There are reports that the components of the missiles themselves have secretly been flown into Britain.

By Jan. 1, 1984, 41 missiles are scheduled to be in place in West Germany, Britain, and Italy. Aimed at the Soviet Union and East European workers states, they are the first of 572 nuclear missiles — 108 Pershing 2's and 464 cruises — to be placed in Europe by 1988. Under the auspices of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the weapons will be stationed in Britain, West Germany, and Italy, and presumably Belgium and the Netherlands, whose governments have not yet formally agreed to the proposal.

Washington and its imperialist allies are determined to go ahead with the missiles despite the majority sentiment among West European working people and workers here at home against the plan. Recent polls, for example, found West Germans opposed to deployment by two to one.

Demonstrations are scheduled in several West German cities, as well as in Britain, France, Spain, Italy, Sweden, and the United States around the date of October 22 to protest the NATO weapons. On October 13, several thousand protesters attempted to blockade the U.S. Army barracks in Bremerhaven, West Germany. Actions have also occurred at other U.S. military installations in that country.

The White House has answered opposition to the missiles by charging that the Soviet Union is the danger to world peace. Reagan claims the USSR has nuclear superiority, forcing NATO to beef up its own arsenal.

This is false. As the USSR has pointed out repeatedly, it has deployed nuclear weapons to protect its own citizens from the bombs *already* aimed at them: the French and British intermediate-range missiles, the French, British, and U.S. nuclear missile submarines, and the nuclear bombers of all three nations poised on airfields throughout Western Europe, ready for attack.

The imperialists have tried to discount these weapons, claiming, for example, that the 162 French and British intermediate-range missiles are "independent" of NATO.

But they are just as much a part of the hostile encirclement of the Soviet Union as the 248,000 U.S. armed forces personnel stationed in West Germany or the imperialist warships and bases scattered around the world to threaten the USSR.

In Western Europe, French President François Mitterrand, head of the Socialist Party, has taken the lead in campaigning for the NATO missiles. He is calling on the heads of all imperialist governments there to unite behind the missile plan and against the Soviet "threat."

Mitterrand has spoken out against "pacifism" and denounced the idea of unilateral nuclear disarmament of the imperialists. France does not belong to NATO, but it is one of the world's foremost nuclear powers.

Like Reagan, Mitterrand protests the "Soviet threat to peace" while today his government is helping wage war against the peoples of Chad, Lebanon, and Iran. Thousands of French troops are currently in the African nation of Chad, trying to prop up a proimperialist regime. In Lebanon, thousands more French soldiers — along with U.S., Israeli, British, and Italian troops — are in the thick of fighting Lebanese, Palestinian, and Syrian forces opposed to the Gemayel dictatorship. And the French government is openly supplying the Iraqi regime with jet fighters and Exocet missiles for its counterrevolutionary war against Iran.

Increasing nuclear missiles in Europe goes hand in hand with pursuing these wars against the peoples of the Middle East, Africa, Asia, and Latin America. The warheads are a warning to the oppressed of the world of the deadly power that can be used against them if they resist imperialist domination. They are also aimed at trying to intimidate the Soviet Union from aiding colonial peoples in their struggles for self-determination.

U.S. workers — like our sisters and brothers abroad — have no interest in seeing more nuclear missiles added to the imperialists' war machine. We should say no to the NATO deployment in Europe — withdraw all the U.S. troops stationed around the world and dismantle Washington's nuclear arsenal.

# Reply to reader: Nicaragua's draft and women's rights

BY MARGARET JAYKO

*Militant* reader William R. Delzell (see letter on page 19) objects to the *Militant's* support for the military draft in Nicaragua. In explaining his objections, Delzell misses the difference between the draft for the imperialist army in the United States and for the military in a country led by workers and farmers, like Nicaragua. He also takes the wrong approach to the fight for women's equality.

Nicaragua is the object of a growing war organized and financed by the United States.

The reason Nicaragua is targeted by the Pentagon is that the workers and peasants of that country carried out a revolution in 1979. They overthrew the U.S.-backed

# LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

dictatorship of Anastasio Somoza and established a workers and farmers government, which uses its power to advance the interests of the toiling majority.

To defend their revolution from growing attacks by U.S. imperialism, the Nicaraguan Council of State just passed a draft law that makes two years of active military service compulsory for all men between the ages of 18-40 and encourages the voluntary participation of women of the same age.

The original proposal for the law limited women to reserve status only, excluding them from military training and active service. It was changed due to the active participation of the Nicaraguan women's organization, AMNLAE, in the nationwide discussions and debates on the law. AMNLAE members convinced many of their compatriots that women can and should have a bigger role in defending the country.

Women are already 30 percent of the forces in the territorial militias.

The Nicaraguan draft law is not the product of some alleged "reverse sexism" as Delzell says. Marxists reject the idea that such a thing exists. Sexism is the institutionalized oppression of women in class society. Men are not oppressed as a sex.

What the final version of the Nicaraguan draft law does reflect is both the big progress women have made and the real challenges they still face.

Since the revolution, child-care centers have been established. The use of women's bodies to sell products has been outlawed. Laws that discriminate against women have been abolished. Women are learning how to read and write.

While big strides forward have been made, the process of liberating women has just begun. It will take a long time to build up the material wealth and advanced understanding necessary for Nicaraguan women to be truly free.

But the crucial fact is that they've begun.

Delzell makes an amalgam between the draft in the United States and the draft in Nicaragua. The *Militant* supports the draft in Nicaragua and favors Nicaraguan women being part of the defense of the revolution. We oppose the draft in the United States, and we oppose women fighting to be included in it.

Why?

Because the role of the military in Nicaragua is to defend the workers' and peasants' revolution against counterrevolutionary attacks, which are currently being organized by the CIA.

The role of the U.S. military is to defend the profits of the tiny class of big businessmen and bankers who own and run this country, which includes attacking nations like Nicaragua.

Delzell's hope that Washington can be persuaded to back popular movements in Latin America is doomed to failure precisely because the U.S. imperialists recognize that it is *not* in their self-interest to back movements for social justice.

On the contrary, such movements come into conflict with the prerogatives of U.S. big business.

Socialists oppose anything that strengthens the U.S. imperialist army. Our slogan is: "Not one penny, not one gun, not one person for the U.S. military!"

That's why we oppose draft registration and the draft in the United States. We don't think women should be drafted into the U.S. Army. We don't think anyone should be drafted.

Women, as the oppressed sex, have a *special* interest in opposing U.S. imperialist wars. The ruling class that is launching murderous raids against Nicaragua is the same ruling class that profits from and perpetuates the oppression of women in the United States.

The goals of the U.S. military completely contradict the aims of the women's liberation struggle.

Nicaragua shows that the fight for women's equality is part of the bigger fight against the capitalist system and for socialism. This includes opposing U.S. intervention and the U.S. draft and supporting the Nicaraguan military and the Nicaraguan draft.



# Unity was key in Illinois coal strike victory

BY BRUCE KIMBALL

ST. LOUIS — A lot of coal miners wear a sticker on their hardhats that reads "we give our sweat, not our blood — UMWA [United Mine Workers of America]." But lately it has seemed that the coal companies want considerably more than just our sweat. Through arbitrations, court decisions, legislation, and persistent antiunion bullheadedness, the coal companies are doing everything possible to rewrite our contract in their favor. Their

## UNION TALK

objective is to increase profits at the expense of our standard of living, working conditions, jobs, and even our lives.

I know; I work for Exxon. Exxon is the largest corporation in the history of the world, and a growing force in the coal industry. Even during the recession, Exxon's profits averaged more than \$20,000 for every employee per year.

The coal mines that Exxon runs are among the most productive in the country. During the first half of 1983 — a period of one of the worst depressions in the coal industry's history — Exxon's profits from coal increased by 65 percent over 1982.

You might think that a company that makes so much money would be grateful to its employees. But all we ever see are coffee and donuts when we set new production records, and new discipline policies the rest of the time.

Take absenteeism, for example. Dozens of miners have been fired or disciplined for missing work even

though their days missed were excused by doctors due to illness or injury. One miner was fired while in the hospital. Yet the contract says nothing giving the company the right to do this.

Equally dangerous is Exxon's new concept of the "accident-prone" worker. It is now possible to be fired for having too many accidents, including injuries from roof falls, sprained backs, or being hurt as a result of someone else's actions. One miner has already been discharged through this "program," and 16 more received letters of discipline, as a possible first step towards discharge.

It was mainly this new policy around accidents that led to a recent strike at my mine. The strike was provoked when the company arbitrarily fired John Leonard, an outspoken fighter for union rights on the job, for supposedly ignoring a direct work order. It was the first walkout in nearly two years, and many felt that it was about time. The strike was especially significant considering that we have been working a four-day week all year, that the mine had been idled for two weeks in July, and that we lost our Labor Day holiday pay due to the timing of the strike. After being out for three days, we were ordered back to work by a federal judge.

The strike was a success. A few days later, an arbitrator reinstated John with full back pay. The company later agreed to remove all 16 disciplinary letters for "excessive accidents." In addition, we worked two five-day weeks to make up the coal production that was lost.

But even if the company hadn't given in, I think that the strike would have been successful. For the first time in nearly two years, we stood together against Exxon. At the daily union meetings, we had a chance to discuss our common problems at work, and to decide how to move

our local forward in fighting Exxon's attacks.

A particularly important part of the strike was a Labor Day news conference organized by a group of rank-and-file miners to expose Exxon's antilabor policies. The news conference was well attended and received major play on several southern Illinois and St. Louis stations.

The strike also has led to an important discussion in our local concerning our ability to defeat the company. Some miners argue that Exxon can't be defeated — it is just buying time until it springs back against us. Others believe that if we really fight hard, Exxon will just shut down the mine. These are important considerations, and certainly reflect a sober understanding of how serious Exxon is.

Like all major companies under capitalism, Exxon isn't going to roll over and play dead because a union went out on strike.

But when a company is forced to retreat, that buys time for the workers, too. Time for us to analyze why the company did retreat, and time to organize the most effective defense of our rights.

Our local's willingness to firmly stand up to Exxon probably took the company by surprise. The company's strategy has been to divide and conquer and to use financial leverage against us. The more we stand united, the more the company will stay on the retreat. The more we publicly expose Exxon's policies, the more it will think twice about disciplining us. The more solidarity we extend to other unionists and other social causes, the more power we will all have to stand up against the company.

Bruce Kimball works at Monterey Coal, an Exxon subsidiary in Albers, Illinois, and is a member of UMWA Local 2295.

## LETTERS

### Nicaraguan draft law

It has been my understanding that among the many things your paper supports is equal protection regardless of gender. I presume that means equal protection for both sexes, not just for women. At least I hope so.

Therefore, your support for Nicaragua's male-only draft law is totally inconsistent with both the *Militant's* and the alleged Sandinista belief in equal rights and equal obligations for both genders.

Indeed, my opposition to the U.S.'s male-only Selective Service law is based largely (though by no means exclusively) on the grounds of reverse sexism. For me to support a similar law by Nicaragua (or by right-wing Honduras or El Salvador) would be totally inconsistent with my opposition to the Carter-Reagan draft registration law. The fact that your October 7 prodraft article was written by a woman, a Jane Harris, especially disturbed me.

Don't get me wrong. I oppose U.S. intervention in Central America, let alone any U.S. support for pro-Somoza elements. At the same time, however, I cannot in good conscience support the Sandinista draft law partly due to reverse sexism, and due to its potential divisiveness among such groups as the anti-Somoza Pastors, the Misquito Indians, and the Catholic community.

Our primary concern is to convince the average American that U.S. military intervention in Central America hurts, not helps, U.S. national security. Only by supporting Latin America's popular demands for social justice will the U.S. obtain any real security from this region. We should avoid, however, taking sides with either the Sandinistas or their opponents. The main concern is to pull U.S. troops out and to persuade the United States, out of self-interest, to support Latin American governments or movements which do have popular support. Whether the Sandinistas will retain their internal support remains to be seen.  
William R. Delzell  
Nashville, Tenn.

### Milwaukee sanctuary

On September 15 Milwaukee's Cross Lutheran Church became the first predominantly Black church in the country to declare it-

self a public sanctuary site. Sanctuary site churches give Salvadoran and Guatemalan refugees shelter from deportation by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), openly challenging Washington's policy of persecution towards Central Americans.

In becoming a sanctuary site, the church emphasized the connection between the liberation struggle of the Central American people and the fight for civil rights in the United States.

September 15 marked the 20th anniversary of the Ku Klux Klan bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama; a crime that left four young Black women dead and another permanently blinded.

At a meeting here held in memory of the Birmingham victims, a church statement was read that said, "We remember these deaths by publicly declaring Cross Lutheran Church a sanctuary for Salvadoran refugees threatened with death and deportation by discriminatory U.S. immigration policies. We remember all those who struggled in the civil rights movement and take our stand with all Central Americans struggling for liberation."

The pastor of Cross Lutheran Church, Rev. Joseph Ellwanger, was working in Birmingham at the time of the 1963 bombing. In a moving speech he recalled the strength and determination of civil-right fighters in the face of such terrorist actions, and how the church became an important base of that struggle.

The Cross Lutheran Church made its challenge to immigration authorities at the height of an INS "sweep" which began in Milwaukee during National Hispanic Week.  
M.F.  
Milwaukee, Wisc.

### Korean airliner

Mark Schneider's letter in the October 7 *Militant* was striking in that his views were similar to my initial response to the downing of KAL 007. However the passage of time has resulted in the accumulation of additional information and additional rethinking on my part leading to conclusions quite similar to those of the *Militant*.

My conclusion is that the entire blame for deaths of 269 passengers must be laid at the doorstep of

the U.S. government and its South Korean puppet dictatorship. In addition, the crocodile tears shed in the swamp of imperialism must be exposed as tears of joy at the prospect of having this incident to use in whipping up anticommunist hysteria, fanning the flames of war and increasing the build-up of the war machine.

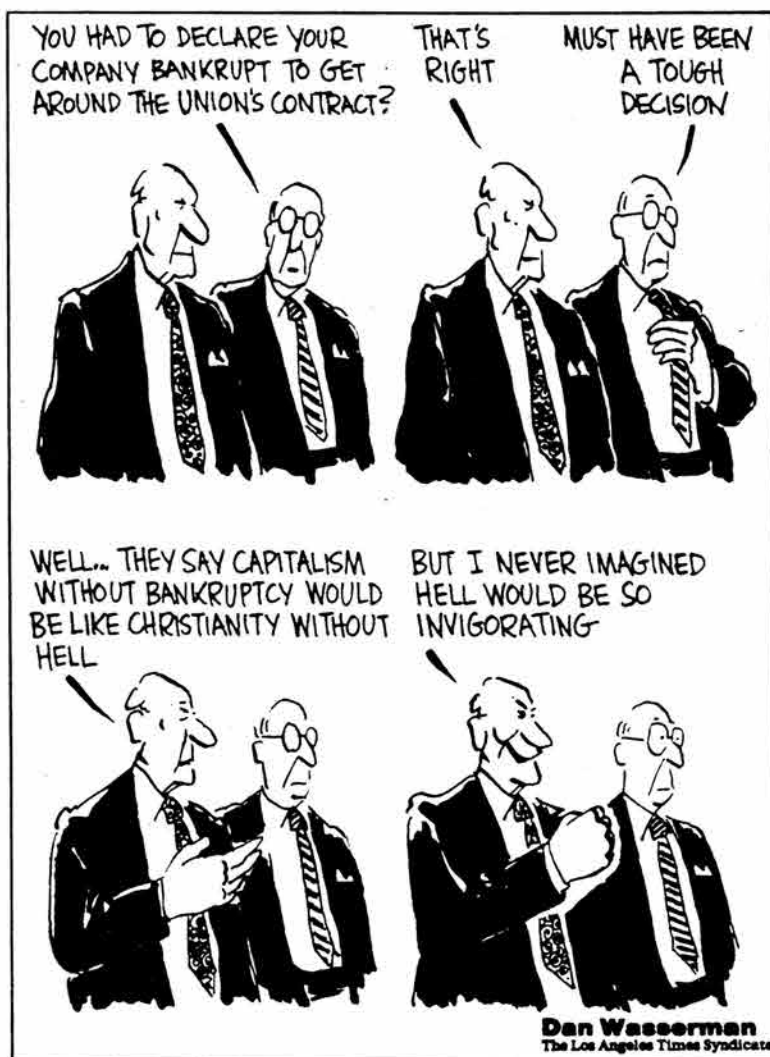
It seems clear that the order to shoot down the plane was made by a Soviet military commander based on information from the Soviet pilots who attempted in vain to instruct the plane to land. Even the U.S. government's tape recording indicated that warning shots were fired (belatedly admitted by the Reagan administration). In addition the lack of navigational lights in the dead of night and the similarity in design of 007 to the RC-135 military spy plane, with which 007 was flying in tandem for 10 minutes, created the obvious impression that this was a military spy plane.

Contrary to Schneider's assertion, it is clear that the Soviet pilot thought that a military reconnaissance plane was being intercepted. (The use of the term "Soviets... shot this plane down" makes it sound like the entire Soviet people are responsible).

Would a revolutionary government "volunteer reparations"? I think not, as this would imply some measure of guilt. An appeal to the oppressed and exploited of the world to continue to struggle against imperialist provocations and to demand reparations from the imperialist government responsible would be in order.

Even if there were some "mistake" involved, as some have asserted, the responsibility would still rest on the shoulders of imperialism for creating a high degree of security consciousness, not paranoia, on the part of the USSR, which is surrounded by 300 U.S. military bases and targeted by numerous nuclear missiles which are due to be increased by 572 Pershing 2 and cruise missiles in Western Europe.

In a recent *Boston Globe* article, correspondent Fred Kaplan pointed out that Korean Airlines is not merely a commercial enterprise. It is closely tied in with the South Korean government and the Korean CIA. He states that authoritative sources have indicated that Korean commercial airliners



are often equipped with cameras and other instruments for spying and are used routinely for such purposes.

The use of commercial airliners for spying purposes is reprehensible and the loss of innocent human life is a tragedy which should be deplored, as is pointed out by Schneider in his criticism (this was done by the Soviet Union, by the way).

The area in which I feel the Soviet bureaucracy can be faulted is not in relation to the downing of the plane but in its handling of the aftermath. An Associated Press release in the September 22 *Boston Globe* reported that even Viktor Afanasyev, editor of *Pravda*, criticized the Soviet military leaders for waiting six days before acknowledging the downing of the plane.

Had the Soviet government been more straightforward and forthcoming with the information it had right from the beginning it would have gained more credibility with working people throughout the world.

Would the Korean airliner have been downed by the "evil and barbarous" communists had they known it was a civilian plane? According to Viktor Lynnsk of the Soviet Department of International Affairs in the same dispatch, "Had we known, no we wouldn't, never."

Despite minor weaknesses dealing with this question the *Militant* has come down firmly on the right side of the class barricades, which is more than can be said of the *Guardian* or other so called "left publications" which have capitulated to the pressures of imperialist propaganda.

Gary Cohen  
Somerville, Mass.

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.



## USWA sets march to defend union

Newport News representation vote Oct. 27; contract up Oct. 31

BY CHARLES BARNET

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. — United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 8888 has set October 25 as the date for a march and rally to support the union and get out the vote in the approaching union representation election at the Tenneco Corp.'s giant shipyard here.

On October 27 Local 8888 will face off against the Peninsula Shipbuilders Association (PSA). The PSA is the old company union ousted by the USWA in a major battle in the late 1970s.

The lunchtime march and rally will start at noon at the 50th Street gate of the yard and proceed down Washington Avenue to the 37th Street gate. Washington Avenue passes directly in front of the yard. It was the site of many militant demonstrations during the course of the historic strike Local 8888 waged against Tenneco in 1979. At noon thousands of workers are to be found out on the street taking their lunch break.

The current USWA contract covering 18,200 shipyard workers — the first real union contract ever won at the yard — expires four days after the election on October 31. For this reason, Steelworkers believe they must not only win the election, but win it by a large margin.

On his recent visit to Newport News, USWA International Vice-pres. Leon Lynch explained that if the union can win big "it will send a powerful message to Tenneco that the workers want an immediate USWA contract."

A new USWA flyer encourages shipyard workers to participate in a range of activities including: area meetings, marches, rallies, house calls, gate activities, handbill distributions, and phone contacts.

The flyer also encourages those workers who have yet to join the union "to sign USWA authorization cards to strengthen our hand in contract negotiations." Virginia's "right to work" (for less) laws mean shipyard workers do not automatically join the union. Over the last month the Local 8888 Volunteer Organizing Committee has been at a different gate every day signing up new members, giving out buttons, and selling USWA hats.

Recently the *Militant* interviewed shipyard workers along Washington Avenue at lunchtime. Steelworker buttons and hats were all over. Only weeks before the elec-

tion, this reporter saw no signs of the PSA.

Two young Black workers wearing USWA hats and buttons explained what they think about the PSA: "I'm a stone Steelworker," says the first. "I wouldn't have the PSA. We had them for 45 years and they're the reason we're behind now. All they do is act for the company. They're not a real union."

"A company union!" the other interjected.

The PSA has sought support among the thousands of recently hired workers — many of them young whites — who did not directly experience the PSA years or participate in the USWA organizing fight.

But several young white workers told the *Militant* they support the USWA. "I don't know much about the PSA," said one, "but what I hear is that they didn't do much," said one.

Another remarked, "If the PSA gets in, no one will join it and then we won't have any union at all."

Most workers say the PSA has little support. Not one said they thought the PSA could win the election. Several workers said they expect a visible PSA campaign in the last week or so before the election.

A worker with seven years experience in the yard stated that he thought the PSA was trying to base itself on racial divisions in the yard and that "the PSA has more strength than some people think." But, he added, "I don't think they can carry the election."

Many women shipyard workers wear blue and white buttons that say: "A woman's place is in her union." A young Black woman who has worked in the yard for three years said: "Why should I vote for a union I don't know anything about? When I had a problem I went to the Steelworkers and they helped me."

One worker, asked about Tenneco's role in the challenge to the USWA, said: "I think the company is backing the PSA and I think the company is trying to bust the union!"

A fruit vendor who wears a Steelworker hat said he has a son who works in the yard and he thinks "the Steelworkers are better for the people."

An older worker explained that he "supports the Steelworkers for the benefits. The PSA had no benefits."



Militant/Eric Simpson  
Steelworkers in 1979 union recognition fight at shipyard; they're ready to march again.

Another worker who is "with the Steelworkers all the way," says the PSA's approach at contract time was to "give and take away to give the impression they were getting you something. . . . For example, getting some new benefit here but giving up a holiday there."

He thinks workers are looking for improvements in wages and benefits in the next contract. "Older workers, especially, are looking for better pension benefits." Two other workers stated sick leave was a big issue.

A recent ad in a local paper explains a lot about why shipyard workers feel so strongly about the attack on their union.

Taken out by the Local 8888 Retirees Club it tells the story of the club's president, Oscar Pretlow, who worked 47 years in the yard.

"After retiring six years ago," the ad explains, "he received a lowly pension of \$202.28 each month for his years of labor in the shipyard."

It is, in part, this legacy of PSA misrepresentation and collusion with the company that led rank-and-file workers to seek out the USWA and start the long hard work of the original organizing drive. Shipyard workers don't want the clock turned back. They're ready to fight to defend what they've won.

## Minn. unions, farmers plan protest rally Nov. 1

BY DAVE SALNER

VIRGINIA, Minn. — Iron Range unions and upper Midwest farmers have announced plans for a Farmer-Labor Solidarity and Survival Rally for November 1 in Virginia, Minnesota.

Tom Quinn, a Wisconsin dairy farmer representing the North American Farm Alliance (NAFA), stressed the importance of a worker-farmer alliance, speaking before over 200 Steelworkers at the October 12 meeting of United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 1938.

"A joke has been played on us that has made us think labor is our problem," Quinn said. But, he pointed out, today's farm crisis has forced many farmers to conclude that they must link up with labor and other "have-not" groups in society.

Unity and dialogue are the immediate goals of the rally, Quinn stated in his appeal to Steelworkers. But the long-range goal, he said, is to build a grassroots movement that can bring control of the government back to workers and farmers.

Local 1938 endorsed the call put out by the Iron Range Labor Assembly (AFL-CIO) and NAFA. The call for November 1 points out: "On the farms, in the plants,

and the mines of this country, people face economic disaster. Many of us do not know how we will survive the winter without serious hardship. None of us can plan on a secure future for ourselves and our families."

The joint farmer-labor statement goes on to state that "the time [for action] is now, for who can afford to wait?"

"For an end to policies that produce rural misery, poverty, or discrimination. For a beginning of policies based on agriculture, jobs, peace, and freedom."

The rally will include speakers from farm and labor organizations. The joint statement on the rally concluded that "political office holders and candidates are invited to sit in the audience and learn from the concerns of our honored guests — the bankrupt farmer and jobless worker."

The rally statement calls for a minimum price for farm products "to assure a decent standard of living for farmers," a moratorium on farm and home foreclosures, national jobs program, automatic extension of unemployment benefits, and expanded programs to provide nutrition, health care, and counseling to victims of economic disaster."

The November 1 action grows out of proposals from the American Agriculture Movement Grassroots for a farm revolt. At the NAFA steering committee September 17-18, farmers decided to kick off the revolt and give it a concrete focus by linking farmers' needs with organized labor and the Black community.

The Iron Range was chosen as a priority area for national action because of the critical unemployment situation facing Steelworkers who work in the iron ore mines in this area. For much of 1983 as few as 2,000 out of the area's 14,000 Steelworkers have been employed. Many have exhausted their unemployment benefits.

Waterloo, Iowa, where unemployment is high among auto workers employed in the farm-implement industry, was selected as another area of farmer-labor action by the NAFA steering committee.

"We think there is a lot of similarities between the situation union people are finding themselves in and farm families are finding themselves in," Quinn stated in a *Mesabi Daily News* interview. This has been the message of other farmers who have visited the Iron Range. Farmers from Minnesota American Agriculture Movement, including Pres. Jim Langman,

NAFA, and the Minnesota Citizens Organized Acting Together Farm Task Force have been touring the Iron Range speaking to officials and union meetings.

USWA Local 4757 in Babbitt, Minnesota, became the first local to endorse the rally. These 2,500 Steelworkers face an indefinite shutdown of the Reserve Mining Co. USWA Local 6115 and the Duluth Central Labor Body have also endorsed the action.

The rally has received statewide support, including Twin Cities National Organization for Women and Twin Cities Coalition of Labor Union Women.

A breakfast and protest rally in the Black community of Minneapolis is planned for November 1. This will include speakers from farm organizations and the Black community. Bob Killeen, sub-regional director of United Auto Workers, will speak and Ava Bates, a Black farmer from Kansas will be featured. Three hundred farmers and others recently protested the foreclosure sale of 240 acres of the Bates' 900-acre farm.

The breakfast protest is sponsored by NAFA and the Coalition of Conscience. People will then travel in a bus and car caravan to attend the Iron Range protest.