

Picketing slows Greyhound; strikers winning big support

Arrests, scabs don't stop strike

BY GEORGE JOHNSON

NOVEMBER 23 — The nationwide Greyhound strike, riding a wave of support among workers, is growing in spite of arrests of pickets in many cities.

As we go to press, mass picketing is planned for several cities, supported by state and city central labor councils.

In New York City, the Central Labor Council is using radio spots to call on workers to be on the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) picket lines all day November 23 and at a 5:30 p.m. rally the same day.

In Boston, the Massachusetts State Labor Council is calling for workers to join the ATU strikers November 23. Large-scale rallies are also planned in other cities that day, including Los Angeles.

When Greyhound tried to run scab buses in a number of cities November 17, mass picketing halted them in Philadelphia and delayed them in others.

Pickets attacked, arrested

Cops attacked pickets in San Francisco, Boston, and Minneapolis, among other cities. Three pickets were injured and three arrested in San Francisco. Nine were arrested in Detroit, and 40 in Philadelphia.

In Boston, 51 pickets were arrested November 17, including the entire executive board of the Carmen's (city transit) union, and 14 more the next day. Cops there have been especially provocative; some are on "special detail," paid by Greyhound.

A Boston mounted cop pushed a striker under a bus. Later, fire engines were run into the crowd to disperse strikers.

The engine of the first scheduled Boston bus died on the way out, for which a striking mechanic was arrested. It wasn't until an hour later that a bus was able to leave.

In Minneapolis, a woman crossing the picket line drove her car into the strikers, injuring three. Police arrested her to rescue her from irate pickets.

Across the country, Greyhound has gotten court injunctions to limit the number of pickets.

The picket lines have sharply curtailed Greyhound operations. In many cities the scab buses have run all but empty. Greyhound now claims an average passenger load per bus of 21, and contends that an average load of 30 is all they need to break even.

But in Phoenix, Greyhound's corporate headquarters, ATU members learned that Greyhound employees "were given the day off for a bus ride to Tucson and back to portray an image of normal ridership," the AFL-CIO News reported.

Support for strike

Widespread support for the 12,700 ATU members on strike is evident at union rallies and on the picket lines.

In Minneapolis, a number of Ford workers joined 350 other pickets on November 17. They came straight from a 10-hour shift at their plant to march with members of other unions: ATU members from both

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Greyhound drivers defend their jobs against scabs and cops in Boston. Mass picketing around country shows big support for strike.

Israel bombs Lebanese towns; Syria batters PLO

BY MOHAMMED OLIVER

For the third time since November 4, Israeli warplanes bombed Lebanese villages in the Shuf Mountains on November 20. These air strikes are part of Washington's war against the Lebanese, Palestinian, and other oppressed peoples of the region. The U.S. government and its allies seek to crush resistance to the Israeli-imposed regime of Lebanese Pres. Amin Gemayel, drive the Syrian army out of Lebanon, and destroy the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) as an independent and fighting representative of the Palestinian toilers.

This last objective is being furthered by the continued assault on PLO fighters in and near Tripoli by Syrian-backed PLO renegades.

On November 20 seven Israeli jets bombed the villages of Falugha and Sofar in the mountains east of Beirut. One Israeli warplane was shot down during the attack. Israeli government officials claim that the air strikes were made against military bases of the As Saiqa and Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command — two PLO guerrilla groups that follow the political lead of the Syrian regime.

Twice before Israeli warplanes have struck this same area. Just hours after a truck-bomb demolished the Israeli military compound in Tyre on November 4, Israeli jets bombed the area near Baalbek. The Israeli warplanes struck again on November 16.

An Israeli military official said his government bombed the villages "in response to a long series of attacks and attempted attacks" against Israeli soldiers, such as the November 17 bombing in Sidon that killed one Israeli soldier and wounded six. Fifteen thousand Israeli troops occupy southern Lebanon.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir not only defended the terror raids, but threatened new attacks. He said the air strikes "will continue in Lebanon and elsewhere as long as they continue to attack us." This statement is a threat to attack Syria, which has been blamed by Israel and the other imperialist governments for at-

tacks on Israeli, French, and U.S. troops in the last month.

On November 17 French warplanes struck Baalbek. Fourteen Super Etendard fighter-bombers from the aircraft carrier *Clemenceau* bombed the village. The French military said the raids were designed to "prevent fresh terrorist actions against French forces in Lebanon."

The U.S. government is considering
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'The Day After' stirs debate, doesn't show way to end war

BY HARRY RING

Surely it was a chilling experience to see the television film *The Day After*. The mushroom clouds and fire storms. The incandescent bodies. The incredible destruction. The nightmarish plight of those who "survived."

And the maniacal voice of a president assuring, "There has been no surrender."

The film was powerful to the extent that it gave visual expression to what millions have come to realize — we live with the threat of nuclear holocaust.

The final point was driven home even further with the final note advising that what was depicted of the bomb's aftermath was in fact understated.

It's estimated that 100 million people saw the film. ABC spent \$8 million on it, and a good piece of the budget went for publicity. This generated a media campaign that in turn assured a huge audience.

But it took more than media hype to get that audience. The film did reflect the widespread concern about the danger of nuclear war, which was expressed so massively when a million people joined the peace march in New York on June 12, 1982.

The nationwide discussion now sparked by *The Day After* is not likely to lessen antinuclear sentiment.

Solidarity can win for bus workers

Since the smashing of PATCO, the air traffic controllers' union, by the federal government in 1981, there has been an obvious, indeed urgent, need for solidarity with workers whose unions are under at-

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tack by the corporate owners and their government.

In the copper workers' strike in Arizona, and the nationwide Greyhound strike, active solidarity is critical.

The possibilities for such solidarity are also growing.

The strike forced by Greyhound Corp. on its 12,700 workers who belong to the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) is a well-prepared and deadly union-busting assault on yet another major union in the transportation industry. Under the guise of federal "deregulation," transportation workers have been forced to make huge concessions in wages and working conditions to increase their employers' profits.

Clearly, in attempting to scare ATU members back to work, Greyhound chairman John Teets underestimated their determination to fight for their dignity. The boss class often does that, having little knowledge that their wage-slaves are capable of such human feelings.

Likewise, Teets underestimated the bond of class solidarity among workers,
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Yet the film offers no constructive proposals for this discussion. It effectively depicted some of the consequences of a nuclear blast. But there was not even a clue as to why humanity is faced with this awesome problem, or how it can be resolved. Presented in that void, the horrors of nuclear war portrayed in the film can, in fact, feed the demoralization of those who believe the situation is hopeless.

To assure the powers-that-be that *The Day After* was not "un-American," and despite its assurance that it wasn't "political," ABC had the film open with an act of Soviet aggression in Berlin provoking the final confrontation. Who actually struck the first nuclear blow was left ambiguous.

The anti-Soviet opening was matched by ABC's indecent haste to provide the Reagan administration and its supporters "equal time" to debunk the film before the same huge audience.

The post-film discussion was definitely one-sided.

Robert McNamara, former secretary of war, did suggest negotiations to reduce the number of warheads per missile. "We've got to be more daring," he stoutly declared.

Secretary of State George Shultz avoided meeting antinuclear sentiment head on, demagogically arguing that the nuclear

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Strikers slow Greyhound, win broad support

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Greyhound and the city's transit system; United Transportation Union and Brotherhood of Airline and Railway Clerks; United Electrical Workers; International Association of Machinists; Communications Workers of America; and others.

In Boston, 400 unionists joined the lines November 17 from the International Union of Electrical Workers Local 201 at GE's Lynn plant, United Auto Workers from Framingham, Steelworkers, Ironworkers, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU), American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Boston Transit workers, and others, including virtually all building-trades unions.

In Philadelphia, among the 800 ATU supporters at the picket lines on November 17 were members of the Teamsters and the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, among others.

On November 18, ATU pickets at Penn Station in Newark, New Jersey, were joined by auto workers from the Linden GM plant and members of other ATU locals. Members of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers from Essex brought a solidarity message from their local union.

In Dallas, postal workers are refusing to deliver mail to Greyhound.

The outpouring of support for their strike has been "a real shot in the arm for us," as one ATU member at New York City's Port Authority put it at a November 17 rally here.

PATCO

The crushing of PATCO, the air traffic controllers' union, by the government in 1981, and their determination not to allow that to happen to their own unions, is on the minds of many unionists at the ATU picket lines.

"We should have helped PATCO," said one of the Linden GM workers. "We could have lent a hand to the Ma Bell strikers. We just can't let another fight like this go by without taking a stand."

Former PATCO members are also supporting the Greyhound strikers, including former PATCO leader Ron May, who spoke at a November 12 rally and march of 200 ATU members and supporters in Dallas.

There have also been joint support actions by Greyhound strikers and copper miners in Arizona, who are on strike against Phelps Dodge Corp.

In Los Angeles, ATU members attended a rally for striking ILGWU members at Davis Pleating Co.

ATU members have sought support elsewhere, too. In Boston Roger Sewell, a Greyhound driver for 23 years, appeared before the Boston University Student Union to get their endorsement of the strike. He got it, unanimously, and was then off to Harvard, where Greyhound was selling tickets for Thanksgiving Day travelers.

Many passengers have responded to ATU appeals not to take Greyhound, the

nation's largest bus company.

Scab drivers have so far been involved in several accidents, one of which killed a woman.

Greyhound provokes strike

The strike began November 3 with Greyhound insisting on far-reaching concessions in wages, benefits, and work rules. ATU members had voted 98 percent to authorize a strike, seeing in Greyhound's "offer" an attempt to bust their union.

The union offered to work under the old contract, which expired October 31. Then it proposed to work without a contract. Later it offered to submit to arbitration. Greyhound rejected all these offers.

Greyhound's preparations for the strike included full-page ads in 170 newspapers distorting the workers' pay and the union's position; hand-delivered orders to report as ready for work on November 14; taking of applications from potential scabs across the country; and an offer of half-price fares for the Thanksgiving holidays.

Finally, Greyhound said, buses would roll on part of its runs on November 17, union or no.

All of this, and numerous Greyhound news releases, were well publicized in the big-business media.

ATU's response

The ATU's first response, as many of the union's members put it early in the

strike, was disbelief that Greyhound could or would run buses without them. But as the company's hardball game became more apparent, the union's response stiffened.

The company's back-to-work orders were burned in rallies across the country on November 14. And large-scale picketing met the scab buses in many cities when Greyhound tried to resume operations on November 17.

Greyhound was forced back to the bargaining table and made an offer slightly reducing its demands for wage cuts but leaving other concessions by the union intact. The ATU's 31-member bargaining council unanimously rejected the proposal but agreed to put it to a membership vote that began November 20.

Counting of the votes is not complete, but first reports indicated it will probably be rejected.

The November 23 rallies are designed to cripple Greyhound's business on traditional heavily traveled holidays. If they accomplish this, it will be a major gain for the labor movement against the drive by the corporate owners and their government to lower workers' wages and working conditions.

The amount of labor support for this strike, including by official union bodies, is unprecedented in recent years. A member of the New York City Central Labor Council told the *Militant*, "This is much more than [the union officialdom] did for PATCO."

A few UAW members in Detroit and



Militant/George Johnson
Greyhound strikers in New York City

Chicago work for Greyhound. UAW Pres. Owen Bieber issued a press release, which said that, while their contract prohibited them from honoring the ATU picket lines, the UAW will "monitor work assignments closely to insure that our members are not required to perform work outside of their normal classifications."

The AFL-CIO has called for a boycott of Greyhound for the duration of the strike.

Just how poor is Greyhound Corporation?

Greyhound is the nation's largest bus line, carrying 60 percent of intercity bus traffic on 3,800 buses.

But it's much more than that. The bus line, Greyhound Lines, is only part of a much larger parent, Greyhound Corp., which owns other bus companies — such as Vermont Transit.

The parent owns Dial soap, the country's largest-selling deodorant soap. It has a mortgage insurance company, Verex, which the big-business press describes as "doing well."

Greyhound also leases construction equipment, airplanes and computers. Until recently it was into meat processing and car rentals, too.

And its bus-building operations are said to be "bustling."

While Chairman John Teets claims that Greyhound Lines lost \$16 million last year, the entire transportation division made \$19.6 million. And those are Greyhound's own figures.

This year's third quarter net income for the corporation was \$36.3 million, just slightly below the \$37 million reported for the same period in 1982.

In 1981 net income was reported at \$137.5 million. The figure for 1982 was \$103.1 million.

Much of this drop was due to the recession. People traveled less. And Greyhound's leasing division claims it has made some bad loans in Brazil and other countries bankrupted by the capitalist economic crisis.

Payments to shareholders and banks have continued, of course. In 1982, \$52.8 million was paid in share dividends, about the same as 1981 and 1980. Interest payments for last year were \$49.8 million; \$58 million in 1981.

Top corporate salaries have not suffered

either. Teets alone got more than \$600,000 last year. Pres. Frank Nageotte got \$453,000, according to reports.

Under industry deregulation, which Greyhound supported strongly, low-profit bus service has been sharply cut back to many small towns. *Rural America* estimates that 380 towns nationwide have lost all service and 300 more have suffered drastic cutbacks.

There are requests for termination of service to hundreds more towns by Greyhound and other carriers.

What transit boss wants from workers

These are the major concessions demanded by Greyhound Corp. of its 12,700 employees who are represented by the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU):

- A reduction in wages of 7.8 percent (Greyhound originally demanded a 9.5-percent cut).
- Loss of four paid holidays.
- Sharply curtailed medical benefits.
- More nonpaid layovers, including time drivers spend going to runs.
- Hiring of part-time workers plus ignoring job classifications.
- Reduced mileage rates for drivers of charter buses and for deadheading, or returning passengerless buses (which often,

however, carry freight).

• A freeze on cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) for the first two years of the three-year contract, and a 35-cents-per-hour cap during the third; half of that is to go into a pension fund.

• No Saturday or Sunday overtime pay until a weekly minimum number of hours has been worked.

Other than the softening by Greyhound of its wage-cut demand from 9.5 percent to 7.8 percent, ATU officials say there is no difference between the company's present offer and that which forced the union to strike November 3.

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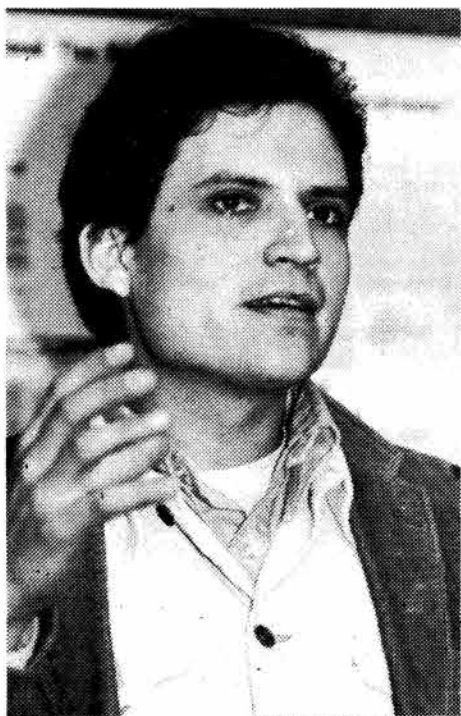
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Héctor Marroquín

Militant/Lou Howort

Speakout for political rights

N.Y. rally to demand political asylum for Marroquín

NEW YORK — Eddie Carthan, Dennis Brutus and Iván Escobar will join Héctor Marroquín and others on the speakers platform here on December 3 in a rally to demand that deportation proceedings against Marroquín be halted.

In the wake of the U.S. invasion of Grenada, the program will constitute a broad and united response to the government's increasing assault on the rights of working people at home and abroad. The defense of civil liberties is becoming increasingly important as the Reagan administration attempts to restrict the democratic rights of workers to organize and protest against U.S. aggression.

This rally will be particularly crucial in winning Marroquín's six-year fight for political asylum. On December 6 the Su-

preme Court will hear arguments in a related case. Their decision will determine whether Marroquín's appeal will be heard. If it is turned down, the Immigration and Naturalization Service will order Marroquín to leave the country within two days.

Iván Escobar is one of the two surviving members of the El Salvador Human Rights Commission. Several years ago he was forced to seek refuge in the United States when an official of the American embassy warned him that his life had been threatened by the notorious death squads. The U.S. government is now trying to deport him.

Dennis Brutus, the well-known South African poet and educator, recently waged a victorious fight for political asylum which had gained the support of a wide

range of opponents of racist discrimination.

Eddie Carthan, the first Black mayor of Tchula, Mississippi, has recently been released from federal prison where he had been incarcerated following a racist frame-up conviction.

Other speakers include Kathy Andrade, Director of Education for International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union Local 23-25; Margie O'Rourke, whose husband Michael is an Irish freedom fighter currently jailed in New York under order of deportation; Marshall Perlin, lawyer for the sons of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg; Anthony Flores, National Vice-President, Northeast Region, League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC); Aurora Camacho de Schmidt of the American Friends Service Committee's Mexico-U.S. Border Program. Harold Massey of the General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church will chair.

The broad agreement on the necessity of speaking out on these vital civil liberties issues has been reflected here in the initial response to this event. Articles have appeared in two New York Black newspapers and local organizations fighting U.S. immigration policies have asked for leaflets to help build the rally.

The rally is co-sponsored by the Political Rights Defense Fund, the National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild, and the Center for Immigrants Rights.

Marroquín gains support in Newark

BY PHIL NORRIS

NEWARK — One of the busiest campaigners for political asylum for Héctor Marroquín is his wife, Priscilla Schenk, who lives in the Newark area.

Schenk is a garment worker and member of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU) and the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW). She and other Marroquín supporters have won many new endorsers for his fight for political asylum in the United States.

When she speaks to individuals or organizations, Schenk discusses the stakes in her husband's fight, among which is his life.

He faces frame-up murder and kidnapping charges in his native Mexico. For this reason he crossed the border in 1974 and became an undocumented worker.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) refuses to grant his request for political asylum because of his Marxist political views, and has ordered him deported. The U.S. Supreme Court is to hear his case.

Also at stake in this case is the right of thousands of other foreign-born political activists to speak out free from fear of deportation and harassment. Schenk points out that Marroquín's fight for political asylum is part of the fight to reverse the government's discriminatory immigration policies, which are used to harass people fleeing political persecution and economic oppression by regimes supported by the U.S. government.

Schenk has appeared before the Labor and Religion Coalition in New York. Attending were clerics who had toured Central America and labor officials from the Communications Workers of America and ACTWU. Brochures were distributed and several people spoke with Schenk about the case and signed petitions.

Schenk also spoke at a meeting of school representatives of the Newark Teachers Association (NTA), which is affiliated with the National Education Association

(NEA), an endorser of Marroquín's case. The NTA president is Brenda Hoffler, who heard Marroquín at the NEA convention this summer.

There was a lively discussion after Schenk spoke. One person was indignant that the government could deport someone for their beliefs. Another suggested that it was the government's plan to go after the weakest first. Hoffler said she would ask the union's executive board to send a protest telegram to the INS.

Marroquín's supporters here have also

been attending conferences and public forums. They attended a Black Issues Conference, where they talked with members of Operation PUSH, distributed brochures, and gathered signatures. They attended a convention of the New Jersey Puerto Rican Congress and a statewide meeting of the AFL-CIO Industrial Union Council. They participated in the Labor Day parade, where they met a local vice-president of the International Union of Electrical Workers who said he would bring the case before his union's executive board.

Eyewitness reports on Grenada invasion

BY STEVE CRAINE

NEWARK — About 75 people in New Jersey heard an eyewitness account of the invasion of Grenada that cut through government and media lies.

When Rick Wasserman, a medical worker in Grenada for a year and a half, was evacuated to South Carolina along with other U.S. citizens, he didn't kiss the ground, so his picture and story were not on the evening news. But he told it to a November 8 meeting here sponsored by a wide range of local groups.

Wasserman had witnessed the growing strength of the Grenada revolution under the leadership of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and the New Jewel Movement. In his last days on the island, he witnessed its destruction.

In addition to reviewing the tangible changes in the Grenadian people's lives, especially in the area of health care, Wasserman emphasized the new spirit of the people. "I saw so many people dedicated to what was going on there," he said. "People having a feeling for the future — a feeling that they are going to make something out of their country — that no other Caribbean country has so far had the opportunity to do."

Two weeks before the invasion, when Bishop and other leaders of the revolution

were overthrown, "the feeling of the Grenadian people was: 'What's happening here, who is in control, and how did this take place?' People were shocked," Wasserman reported. People didn't know what they could do to save their revolution, he explained. "In the past, if there was even a minor problem, they would have a parish [town] council meeting where all the problems would be brought up by the people and anybody could say what they felt about it."

Wasserman also exposed the lie that danger to U.S. citizens was the primary concern of the U.S. government. He told how he met with a U.S. official the day before the invasion. "He told me, 'No cause for alarm. Nothing's happening here. No cause for evacuation. There's no danger.'"

Once the invasion began, Wasserman said, "there were three days and nights of bombing, during which I was forced to remain in my house. Three days and nights of bombing [has to] mean more than zero Grenadians killed, which was what the news reported. I know there were 100 to 200 Grenadian soldiers stationed at the radio station, which I saw get blown up in the course of 15 or 20 minutes by four jets."

"I think the most important thing to realize is that the United States, Mr. Reagan, as well as the people in power before him, were out to make sure that the example that was being set in four and a half years of revolutionary change would not spread to the other Caribbean islands."

"There was a new feeling in the Caribbean. Many of the opposition groups were gaining strength, drawing on the example of not only Cuba, which they had in the past, but also Grenada. And this was very dangerous. So as the revolution was getting stronger in Grenada, the talk about toppling it was getting stronger in Washington."

Also speaking at the November 8 meeting were Atiba Weza, representing the Committee for a Free Grenada, and Andrés Gómez of the Antonio Maceo Brigade.

Gómez asked the audience, "Where do we go from here?" He pointed to the 25,000 U.S. troops now in Central America. "They got away with it in Grenada, and they may make the horrible mistake of getting involved in an unwinnable war in Central America. They will lose, but at what price to our peoples? The cost will be unimaginable in economic and human

terms. And it is our responsibility to do the most we can to make this not happen."

He also explained that one of the reasons the U.S. government was so determined to overthrow the Grenada revolution was that "it was the only revolutionary process in our hemisphere made by Black people who speak English."

Wasserman finished his eyewitness report by pointing out that "the Grenadian people have had four and a half years of political consciousness raising. This will not be wiped out from these people's minds — that I can guarantee. No matter how many marines they send in, there will be an opposition, and that opposition will grow. Let's hope that opposition grows stronger and stronger every day and replaces the revolution where it was before."

The impact of Grenada on the Black community was demonstrated at another meeting in the area two days earlier. Over 50 people participated in a "service of prayer and protest" at Calvary Baptist Church in the Black community of East Orange.

Among the speakers at this meeting were representatives of the New Jersey Council of Churches and the Newark NAACP.

Castro speech appears as ad in 'N.Y. Times'

The complete text of Cuban Pres. Fidel Castro's speech delivered to more than a million people in Havana on November 14, was reprinted in the Sunday, November 20 *New York Times* as a paid advertisement. The two-page ad appeared in the main news section of the *Times*.

The Cuban interests section of the Czechoslovak embassy in Washington told the *Times* that the Cuban government took out the ad because it was an important speech to get circulated more widely.

The Sunday *Times* has a circulation of over 1 million readers.

The speech paid tribute to the 24 Cubans who died during Washington's invasion of Grenada. The headline said, "Farewell address . . . in funeral homage to the heroes fallen in unequal combat against Yankee imperialism in Grenada."

The full text of the speech, which refutes the Reagan administration's lies about the Cuban role in Grenada, was also published by the *Militant* as a special supplement in its November 25 issue.



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What revolution brought Grenadian women

BY MARGARET JAYKO

Recent public opinion polls on the U.S. invasion of Grenada show women more opposed to the invasion than men.

A New York Times/CBS poll taken before Reagan's October 27 speech reported that 62 percent of the men and 41 percent of the women favored sending troops to Grenada — a 21 percent difference.

A poll by Gordon Black Associates after the speech reported that 80 percent of the men approved of the invasion, while only 57 percent of the women did so.

This gap in the views expressed by men and women reflects the fact that women, as an oppressed group, are hit disproportionately hard by the anti-working-class moves of the government, from its wars against workers and farmers in the Caribbean and Central America, to its war against women, Blacks, Latinos, farmers, and the unions here at home. Our second-class status shapes our thinking making us more suspicious of and hostile to the rulers' policies.

There is another reason that women, especially, should be in the forefront of opposition to the U.S. invasion and occupation of Grenada. The March 1979 Grenada revolution marked a qualitative step forward in the struggle for equality for Grenadian women.

Prior to the revolution led by the New Jewel Movement (NJM), which overthrew the dictatorship of Sir Eric Gairy, women in Grenada were plagued by the same problems facing women in other countries economically and politically subservient to imperialism.

Women suffered a 70 percent rate of unemployment. In order to get the few jobs there were, women often had to sell themselves sexually to their employers or government officials. Women were paid less than men for the same jobs, and were relegated to the lowest-paying occupations. The rate of illiteracy was higher for women than men. There were neither provisions for maternity leaves from jobs nor childcare for the children of working mothers.

Prime Minister Maurice Bishop in a speech to the first congress of the National Women's Organization (NWO) in 1982 recalled the murder of three Grenadian women by counterrevolutionaries:

"Who will ever forget after the revolution," he said, "the historic rally on June 19, 1980, when we were commemorating Heroes Day — as we know the women of our country were in the majority at that historic rally — and when the bomb went off, and those murderers who had planned to wipe out the leadership were able to sit back and count the totality of their destruction, what did we find: 97 of our people sent to the hospital, 80 of them women; 40 hospitalized, 36 of them women; 3 murdered, all of them women."

This marked a turning point in women's participation in the revolution, especially in the people's militia. Far from women being scared away from politics, more women than ever before turned out for the nationwide marches the day after the attack. According to an account in the *Free West Indian*, these women were "not only the stalwarts, but women who had never marched in their lives, bank clerks in crisp uniforms and stiletto-heeled shoes, matronly middle-class women, flocks of school girls with books in their hands."

Women were staunch supporters of the revolution because the taking of political power by the island's workers and farmers began the process of ridding Grenada of the main obstacles to the liberation of women — imperialist domination and class exploitation.

It meant that, for the first time in Grenada, the government sided *with* women, not against them. It gave working people a powerful tool — their own government — with which to begin to break down the centuries-old barriers to women's liberation. Women could now organize themselves, advance their own consciousness, and begin the process of educating all of society about the need to end the oppression of women. They could now change the stereotyped roles that class society assigns to each of the sexes, roles detrimental to all.

Leading this whole process was the NJM, a Marxist party which understood that the liberation of women was key to ad-



Young Grenadian women on International Women's Day 1981. U.S. invaders now seek to throw Grenadian women back to conditions existing under colonial oppression.

vancing the revolution.

In the face of formidable obstacles left them by centuries of colonial oppression, and the relentless drive by Washington to crush their revolution, the Grenadian people took big strides forward in four and a half years to deal with the problems of women.

They ensured equal rights for women under the law. The government also decreed equal pay for equal work in state industries.

Despite its poverty, Grenada began to build nursery schools, pre-primary schools, and child-care centers for the children of working mothers.

A Maternity Leave Law was passed, which provided for two months' paid leave and one month unpaid leave for women workers.

Equally important to the measures them-

selves was the way these laws were passed. Drafts were circulated to be discussed by women and workers in the mass organizations — the NWO, the unions, the youth groups and the parish councils, which were local bodies of self-government.

This democratic functioning not only assured that the best laws possible were passed. It also educated thousands of Grenadians about the need for equal rights for women.

Women also benefited from the literacy campaign, the health campaign, and the upgrading of housing and sanitary facilities.

A major push by the government and the NWO was to train women for jobs previously only performed by men: plumbing, carpentry, construction, dentistry, mechanics, engineering, etc.

Other problems the revolution was beginning to deal with were: educating the new police on the need to treat seriously cases of wife-beating; the drafting of legislation which would abolish the category of "illegitimate" children; and educating women, especially teenagers, on the use of birth control and family planning.

This is the kind of revolution that was smashed when Bishop and the other central leaders of the NJM were put under house arrest and then murdered. It was to prevent any immediate revival of this kind of example that the U.S. Marines were sent to invade and occupy Grenada.

For women's rights fighters in this country, it's important to oppose the U.S. war in Central America and the Caribbean and to learn about and publicize the kinds of gains women were able to make in Grenada under a workers and farmers government.

U.S. arms-plant workers hear Salvadoran

BY JANICE SAMS

DETROIT — Sonia Galán, a Salvadoran unionist and representative of the National Federation of Salvadoran Workers' Unions (FENASTRAS), toured here November 6-9. The highlight of her tour was a meeting sponsored by United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 1200, which organizes the 1,800 workers at the General Dynamics tank plant in Warren, Michigan. The plant produces MC-60 and M-1 tanks.

The union put out 1,500 leaflets to build the meeting. This created a lot of discussion in the plant coming right after the U.S. invasion of Grenada.

A few workers who believe that more arms spending protects their jobs questioned having Galán speak. From a different vantage point, the army brass, which oversees the plant, also objected to her speaking. The local officials, however, felt it was important for union members to hear the Salvadoran workers' side of the war raging in El Salvador.

Over 70 members showed up on Sunday morning.

Galán, introduced at the meeting by local Pres. James Coakley, outlined 50 years of repression against workers and peasants in El Salvador. She ended by pointing to the stakes for U.S. workers in the conflict:

"The situation in El Salvador directly affects workers in the United States," she said. "When multinationals can pay wages of \$2.50 per day in El Salvador, they close plants in the United States. The war affects American workers because your tax dollars are used to finance it and this is causing cutbacks in social services to pay for it. And who is sent to fight but working people."

At the close of her talk, the floor was open for discussion, which lasted over an hour. This was the first time most local members had heard the truth about the war and they wanted to know more.

After a description of the fraudulent elections held in 1982, one person asked, "What was the union doing about this election problem? Were the companies in league with the army on this?"

Other questions were:

"How can we circumvent the American government and get aid directly to the people?" "What are they giving these sol-

diers to get them to kill their own people?" "If we were to cut off aid and the people ran their own government, what kind of government would it be?"

At the close of the discussion, a motion was raised for the local to reaffirm the stand against military aid to El Salvador adopted at the last UAW national convention. It passed overwhelmingly. The unionists then voted to donate \$300 to FENASTRAS.

Several workers commented afterwards that this was the best meeting the local had had in a long time. Several people bought individual memberships in FENASTRAS. People were eager for more literature.

The following morning, Galán spoke at a breakfast meeting for labor officials,

hosted by Tom Turner, president of the Metro Detroit AFL-CIO. The idea of establishing a labor committee to speak out about issues in Central America was discussed and \$85 was raised. Two TV stations covered the meeting.

Galán's tour followed an earlier tour by Salvador López, another Salvadoran unionist. Together, they spoke to members and officials of five UAW locals and had meetings with UAW regional directors in Flint and Detroit. Galán ended her tour with an interview with *Solidarity*, the UAW's national magazine.

Janice Sams is a member of UAW Local 1200 at the General Dynamics tank plant in Warren, Michigan.

Grenada rally builds YSA convention

BY KIM KLEINMAN

ST. LOUIS — "History will absolve Grenada, just as it will condemn the United States government," Rev. Ted Braun told a rally here November 5.

The St. Louis Young Socialist Alliance rallied over 60 of its supporters as part of a campaign to protest the U.S. invasion of Grenada and publicize the YSA national convention to be held here December 28 to January 1.

Braun, a supporter of the Cuban and Grenada revolutions, detailed the progress in Grenada since 1979 and the history of U.S. efforts to destabilize the revolution.

While the government claims that the invasion "will show the region that we are not a paper tiger," Braun said, "it only shows our weakness. But the empire in its death throes can be very dangerous."

Braun was joined by Ellen Whitt of the Greater St. Louis Latin America Solidarity Committee in pointing out the danger the Grenada invasion poses for the Nicaraguan revolution.

Whitt toured Nicaragua this year and recounted the impact of the counterrevolutionary terror she saw. "The current U.S. military maneuvers in Honduras are intensely provocative to Nicaragua. They point out the parallels with the Ocean Venture 81 maneuvers, which were a rehearsal for the invasion of Grenada."

Rohima Miah, a national leader of the YSA, was the keynote speaker. Miah just completed six weeks as part of a *Militant* reporting and sales team in Mississippi covering labor, farm, and student struggles and the voter registration drive among Blacks there.

"'Democracy' in Mississippi means dual voter registration, racist intimidation of Blacks running for public office, and the right to work for less on a plantation for just a few months out of the year," Miah said. "This is the kind of 'democracy' Washington wants to impose upon our brothers and sisters in Cuba, Nicaragua, and Grenada."

"The gigantic impact of the Grenada revolution will not be easily erased among young working-class fighters pushing forward our struggle here at home," Miah said. "It is among this new type of leadership that the Young Socialist Alliance will be found. The Grenadian New Jewel Movement was the kind of leadership we strive to forge here."

Also speaking were Dianne Groth of the Socialist Workers Party, who visited Grenada in 1982; Ali Hosseini, a member of the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee; and Gloria Hoover, who explained the case of her husband who was victimized by the government and White Citizens Council of Pickens, Mississippi.

'Face the Nation': Sandinista gov't listens to the people

BY MICHAEL BAUMANN

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — "How long do we have to wait? What do we have to do to get running water and street lighting?"

"I'm a construction worker. I have to leave for work at 5 a.m. But the first city bus doesn't get here till 6 a.m."

"The shortages of rice, corn, and cooking oil are getting worse."

"Can you tell us a little more about what this Patriotic Military Service is all about?"

At a recent *De Cara al Pueblo* in Acahualinca, one of Managua's poorest neighborhoods, these questions, complaints, and many others were directed to the revolutionary government. On hand to reply were government coordinator Daniel Ortega and a battery of officials representing the ministries most closely connected with social services.

The *De Cara al Pueblo* ("Face the Nation" is a loose translation) is a form of direct democracy that grew out of the revolution. It represents an institutionalization of the street-corner meetings members of the Sandinista National Liberation Front used to organize on a lightning basis during the Somoza dictatorship.

Since the revolution these meetings have been continued on a weekly basis, in different neighborhoods around the country. In a shortened version they are televised nationally a few days later.

All residents of a neighborhood are invited to participate. Frank, blunt discussion is encouraged, both by the government and by the audience, which warmly applauds neighbors who zero in on keenly felt problems.

A measure of the importance these meetings are accorded by the revolutionary government is the fact that Ortega, who this time had just returned from addressing the United Nations, is present at nearly every one of them.

For the workers and farmers of Nicaragua — organized and unorganized — the meetings offer a chance to speak directly with their government, to discuss problems in the context of the country's overall situation of war and economic blockade.

At the meeting October 7 in the impoverished barrio of Acahualinca, on Lake Managua's southern shore, 13 of the 500 or so residents present took the microphone.

The discussion underscored the difficult economic situation Nicaragua today faces,

and the importance of explaining this in detail to the working population.

Very few immediate solutions were promised. Response of the residents of Acahualinca ranged from chants of determination to defeat the counterrevolution to polite applause to, in one case, open protest.

In the latter instance, after Ortega explained that it made little sense for the government to make large investments in water and electricity in an area too unhealthy to live in in the first place, one resident replied loudly: "Hah! You try living without water!"

Throughout the discussion, government officials sought to place the specific problems suffered by this neighborhood in the overall context of the challenges facing the country.

In response to the construction worker's complaint about bus service, a transportation official reported that the bus situation was "extremely critical" throughout the country.

"We don't have the hard currency to import spare parts," he said. "We're doing what we can to rebuild broken-down buses and increase service, but it takes time."

The light and power official explained that simply opening the new geothermal power plant couldn't solve Nicaragua's problem in providing homes with electricity because everything else needed to bring electricity to the population — "down to the last switch" — has to be imported.

The vice-minister of internal commerce, whose department is responsible for food distribution and who had several questions and complaints directed to him, explained that the country as a whole is plagued with food shortages.

"There have been serious problems in the production of corn," he said, referring to one of the staples in the diet. "All the corn we are now eating is being imported."

With cooking oil, a rationed item whose production and distribution was nationalized earlier this year to combat hoarding and speculation, production is sufficient, "but we're still having problems with distribution." Quotas have been reduced to one-half liter per month per person, "but we know we're not even reaching that."

The rice quota, also recently cut (from 4 pounds per person per month to 2½ to 3

Acahualinca: market vendors' slum

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — "Acahualinca is located near the Modelo slaughterhouse. There is a place where, from time to time, emerges a stream of blood from the slaughtered cattle. Residents of the neighborhood wait for the moment when the blood begins to run and then fight among themselves to collect it."

This account, taken from *Inferno of the Poor*, a survey of Managua's slums published here during the Somoza era, gives a glimpse of the poverty of this neighborhood under the dictatorship.

The survey placed Acahualinca alone in the worst of seven categories of slums, describing it as "lacking paved streets, curbs, sidewalks, a sewage system, public lighting, running water; aggravated by situations of extreme unhealthiness."

Inhabited primarily by vendors in the city's largest outdoor market, the nearby Mercado Oriental, the neighborhood has made modest gains in services since the revolution. Two streets have been paved, some public lighting and water lines have been introduced, and some sectors are now covered by trash collection and public transportation.

It is located on what, under the dictatorship, was the city's cheapest land — a low-lying, marshy area amidst the municipal slaughterhouse, the city dump, and the city's main raw sewage outlets.

With the flooding that each year's rainy season produces, the plight of Acahualinca's residents becomes even

more dramatic. Most of the city's drainage ditches culminate in this sector and often overflow by the time they reach it.

Torrential flooding in April 1982 destroyed or seriously damaged thousands of homes here, virtually wiping out entire blocks.

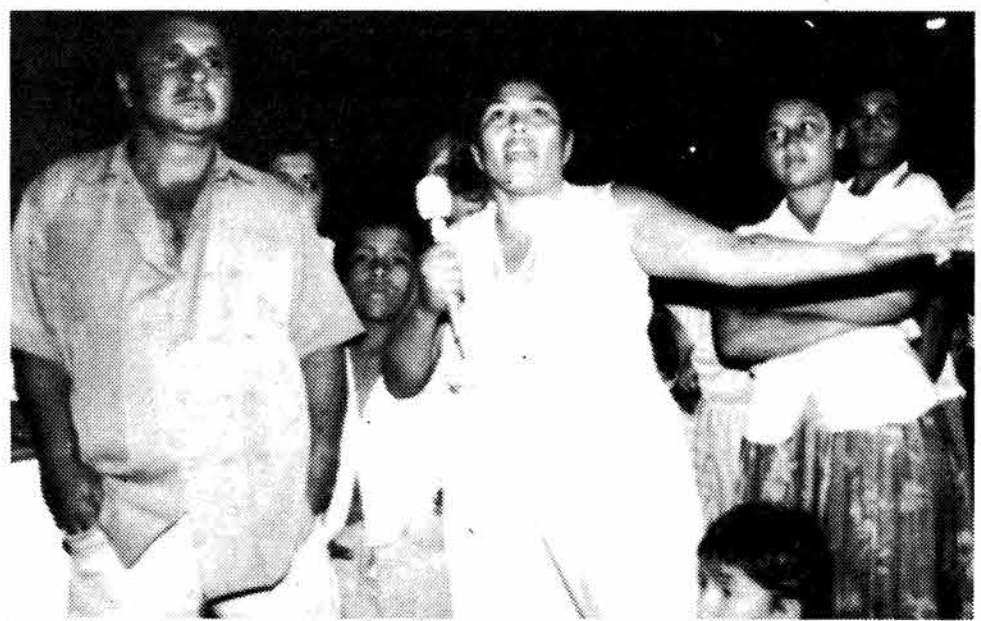
The revolutionary government's response was to declare the entire area unfit for human habitation and to move all who would agree to go to new settlements on higher ground. With the help of the army and the mass organizations, what was left of hundreds of families' homes and belongings were moved to half a dozen "progressive urbanization" sites in central Managua.

But the leap from decree to reality is not automatic. The government has relied on education, persuasion, and the example of growing improvements in the new settlements. This takes time, especially in a situation where defense demands priority in scarce resources.

More than half the residents have refused to leave. They value the convenient location (easy walking distance to the market, where work starts at 4 a.m.) above the health and other drawbacks.

Some who moved out after last year's floods have since moved back, complaining that progress in obtaining electricity and other services seemed to take just as long in the new settlements.

—M.B.



Militant/Michael Baumann

Nicaraguans challenge government officials about problems in their neighborhood and defense of the revolution.

pounds), has been seriously affected by the war, he said.

"What we are producing now we are paying for in blood," he told the Acahualinca residents. One of the major rice growing areas is the Jalapa Valley, near the northern border, which has been a constant target of counterrevolutionary attacks.

"We had to cut the quota because there just wasn't enough rice to meet it. It's not what we wanted to do. We aren't the enemy...."

We know you're not, said the next speaker, a worker in his mid-30s. He then demanded stronger forms of justice against captured counterrevolutionaries. Such calls are being increasingly heard here as frustration mounts over the growing impact of the U.S. war.

"Paredón! Paredón!" the crowd began to chant. "To the wall with the counterrevolutionaries!"

"Shoot them!"

"No more pardons!"

Ortega took the microphone to remind

the audience that Nicaragua had done away with the death penalty, replacing it with a maximum 30-year prison term. "But we are listening to the people," he added, suggesting that stronger penalties may have to be considered for captured CIA agents like the crew of the U.S.-supplied plane shot down in the north in early October.

Ortega had begun the meeting with a brief account of several *contra* (counter-revolutionary) attacks the day before on both the northern and southern borders.

An hour and a half later, when no further hands were raised from the audience, he spoke for a few minutes to sum up the discussion.

"The problems you have here are repeated throughout the country," he said. "Some can be resolved, despite the situation of war. But others can't be.... They are part of the price we must pay to be free."

"No pasarán!" (Don't let them pass!) the audience shot back. The *contras* may get in, but Acahualinca is ready to help make sure that few of them get out.

Nicaragua's mothers of heroes

Jon Hillson spent two and a half months living in Estelí, Nicaragua, last summer and traveling in the northern part of the country.

BY JON HILLSON

Tomás Borge calls them *la spina de Nicaragua* (the spine of Nicaragua). They are the mothers of Sandinista youth who have fought or fallen for the revolution.

These women are formally organized on a national and local basis in the Mothers of Heroes and Martyrs.

Their aim, says Gloria Castillo, who lost one son before and another after the 1979 revolution, is to show that "the mothers of Nicaragua stand in the front ranks of our revolution."

They are organized to support other mothers whose children have been — or will be — killed in defense of Nicaragua's right to self-determination.

They help involve mothers in night watch in the neighborhoods.

The committee brings mothers into the country's adult education program, to learn to read and write.

They seek to reach mothers around the world, especially in Central and Latin America, to mobilize public opinion against U.S. intervention in the region.

And they participate in the marches and demonstrations of Nicaragua to express their solidarity with the Sandinista revolution.

Gloria Castillo says her life is so different now. She can read and write. She is an organizer. Newly won social benefits have allowed her more time with her children and grandchildren. She is happy about the future of her children — two of whom, like nearly 2,000 Nicaraguan youth over the past four years — are studying in Cuba. Castillo shows me the high school snapshots of her two sons who died, both in ambushes.

"We mothers have given our sons freely, and will give them again for our country, for our homeland. We will give our blood and our sons forever to keep our country free," she says. The mothers committee,

Castillo explains, "is independent. No one tells us what to say or do, not Daniel [Ortega] or Tomás [Borge]."

"This is *our* revolution. These are our children. We want them to live. But when the revolution calls on the mothers of Nicaragua to sacrifice, we are at its service," she says.

Carmen Montenegro talks of the mothers committee and of the days before the July 1979 triumph of the revolution.

"So many were lost, so many sons, especially here," she says. When the victory was won, "we were happy and sad at the same time. We did not know who had lived or died."

After the triumph, the Sandinistas strove to recover the bodies of the fighters.

"For some of the mothers it was horrible," Montenegro says. "The guard mutilated the bodies. It was horrible, terrible, what they did. Some bodies were never found. The mothers wanted to bury their sons but they couldn't find them. They went crazy with grief and pain. That was when the *muchachos* (Sandinistas) made the Tomb of the Unknown Guerrillero, in the cemetery for all the *muchachos* who were never found."

"But some of the mothers never recovered."

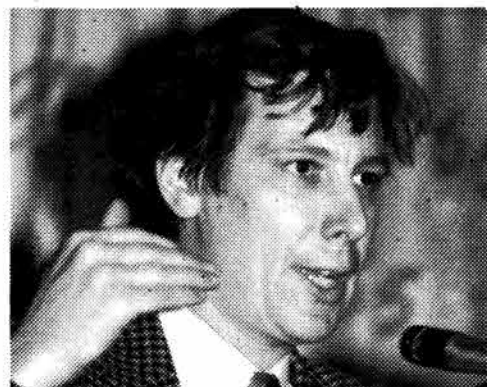
On July 16, the city of Estelí celebrated the fourth anniversary of the liberation of the city from Somoza. Commandante of the Revolution Bayardo Arce was the most prominent speaker. But the biggest ovation was given to a small, heavy set woman whose face barely rose over the podium. She is a member of the mothers committee.

"We gave our sons in the fight against Somoza and the guard. We give our sons today in the struggle against the counter-revolutionaries and the imperialists. We will keep giving until our last son, if that is what is necessary to defend our homeland," she says.

"The mothers of Nicaragua are ready to be called upon, for whatever is necessary, whatever the cost, for our free homeland," she says. "Patria libre" (Free homeland), she begins, and the crowd roars back, "O morir!" (or death).

N.Y. tribute to life of Farrell Dobbs

Outstanding leader of revolutionary working-class movement for 50 years



Speakers at New York meeting. Top row, left to right: John Riddell, Mary-Alice Waters, Clifton DeBerry, Jack Barnes. Second row, left to right: Mac Warren, Ed Shaw, Connie Harris, George Novack.

BY MARGARET JAYKO

NEW YORK — Five hundred people packed into the District 65 United Auto Workers hall here on November 20 to celebrate the life of Socialist Workers Party leader Farrell Dobbs (see biography below). It was a real celebration — of his accomplishments, his example, and the legacy he leaves to the new generation of fighters for the American socialist revolution, hundreds of whom were at the meeting.

The speakers were revolutionary socialists who had benefited from their collaboration with Dobbs and who shared his Marxist perspective.

The meeting was chaired by Mary-Alice Waters, national cochairperson of the SWP. Messages were sent from friends and comrades across the country and around the world. Some were read by Waters to the meeting including those printed in this issue of the *Militant*.

The most important greeting sent to the rally, said Waters, was the news of the victory of Marine Sgt. Jim Stryffeler in obtaining an honorable discharge from the Marine Corps. Stryffeler had been threatened with possible court-martial for his active opposition to U.S. military intervention from Grenada to Lebanon and for his membership in the Young Socialist Alliance.

Stryffeler's courage and inter-

nationalism is an example of the kind of young people that are being attracted to the movement that Dobbs spent almost a half century helping to lead.

Finest qualities

The first speaker was George Novack, a long-time leader of the SWP. Novack joined the SWP's predecessor — the Communist League of America — in 1933.

"In his activities, ideas, and outlook, Farrell embodied the finest qualities of the working class he belonged to and so faithfully served," Novack said. "His career demonstrated what untapped powers are inherent among the wealth-producers who constitute the bedrock of our society and are destined to transform it."

Perseverance, said Novack, was one of Dobbs' most prominent traits. "From the time he gave up the leadership of the over-the-road Teamsters organizing drive to assume the greater obligations of national party organization and leadership, he was totally occupied with the problems of gathering and holding together the vanguard of American socialism as national secretary of the SWP."

Novack then made a point which was reiterated by other speakers: "Farrell best displayed the mettle of his capacities as a party leader during the toughest years of the 1950s when the cold war and McCarthyite witch-hunt terrorized the forces of

the left and hounded thousands from their jobs."

Thanks in large part to the "astute and level-headed guidance" of Dobbs, said Novack, the party "successfully weathered the adversities, stuck to our course, and emerged to meet, welcome, and recruit the young radicals of the oncoming generation who were to provide worthy replacements for us oldsters."

Uplift of Cuban revolution

Many of these youth, said Novack, "were uplifted and had their views and lives changed by the Cuban revolution."

Novack recalled Dobbs' enthusiasm "about the achievements and prospects of this first breakthrough of the socialist forces in our hemisphere. It promised to revitalize the opponents of capitalist domination with confidence that the U.S. imperialists and their servitors could be combatted and defeated and the ideals of socialism take hold of the worker and peasant masses. Farrell retained confidence in the cadres around Castro to the end."

Novack concluded his remarks by saying: "What has Farrell bequeathed to us? Not only his finished books but, most of all, the inspiration of his exemplary career as an indomitable fighter for liberation through socialism."

"Here, we can proudly say, is what an American worker, guided by Marxist ideas within a revolutionary party, can be and become."

Absolute objectivity

John Riddell spoke for the Revolutionary Workers League of Canada. He recounted how the example of the SWP's transition in leadership in the 1960s helped the Canadian section of the Fourth International to make a similar change. "In observing the leadership transition in the SWP, we came to know Farrell's leadership method, which was one of absolute objectivity. All revolutionists had to conduct themselves as agents of our great historical purpose, and stand unswayed by personal considerations or subjective feelings."

Riddell stressed the way Dobbs collaborated with the less experienced leadership team in Canada: "He was anxious to talk with us, to know how we were doing, to discuss the broadest political questions. But he was a little slow in offering any specific advice. Farrell thought the Canadian party leadership had to stand on their own feet — that was the only way to gain authority in their members' eyes."

"For him, and for every leader of the SWP, the rule has always been: every form of political assistance, but never the slightest interference in the internal affairs of the Canadian party."

Connie Harris, a 42-year veteran of the

British communist movement and a leader of the Fourth International, also spoke. She described how her first encounter with Dobbs 25 years ago made a profound impact on the course of her political life. Dobbs and Marvel Scholl, his wife, had gone to Britain in 1958 to try to heal the 1953 split in the Fourth International.

They stayed with Harris while they were there. Harris was a member of the Socialist Labor League, then a Trotskyist group and part of the Fourth International.

Harris was apprehensive about having someone of Dobbs' stature stay with her. "Farrell's books on the Teamsters struggle hadn't been written then, otherwise I would have known of his outstanding leadership qualities and realized what a warm, compassionate human being he was, constantly concerned to develop the full potential of every militant in the class struggle in order for them to become more effective class-struggle fighters."

Harris described the hours of political discussions she had with Dobbs and Scholl and the way that education enabled her to maintain her lifelong commitment to the revolutionary movement.

Harris recalled that "Farrell's international assignment in 1958 was by no means

Big support for fund showed at gatherings

At the November 20 New York City rally celebrating Farrell Dobbs' life, the Socialist Workers Party launched a special "Farrell Dobbs Party Building Fund." SWP members and supporters at the meeting pledged \$7,200 to the fund. An additional \$1,400 was pledged at a November 21 rally in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Dobbs devoted the bulk of his life to building the SWP. A fund aimed at aiding the SWP's work is a fitting tribute to the revolutionary workers leader.

Rallies and other events honoring Dobbs' contribution to the construction of a revolutionary Marxist leadership in the United States will take place in many cities. The events will provide an opportunity for every branch of the SWP to participate in the special fund. Contributors are urged to make immediate cash donations or to rapidly pay pledges.

Meanwhile, the SWP is continuing a separate \$125,000 Party Building Fund. So far, \$76,700 has been collected in this drive. The fund-raising effort is now scheduled to end on January 1. Checks or money orders for this fund should be made payable to Party Building Fund.

Contributions for the Dobbs fund should be made payable to Farrell Dobbs Party Building Fund. Send the donations to SWP, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014.

1907-1983: life devoted to struggle

Farrell Dobbs, national secretary of the U.S. Socialist Workers Party for 19 years beginning in 1953, died October 31 in California following a brief illness. Dobbs, who was 76 years old, was an active leader of the revolutionary workers movement in the United States and internationally for nearly 50 years.

Dobbs was a leader of the 1934 Minneapolis Teamsters strikes, one of the important labor struggles that led off the nationwide battles of that decade that brought unionization to the masses of production workers in steel, auto, rubber, and other basic industries. Dobbs joined the Communist League of America, a predecessor of the SWP, in 1934.

Subsequently, Dobbs was the central Teamster organizer of the first campaigns to organize over-the-road truckers.

Dobbs left the Teamsters to become labor secretary of the Socialist Workers Party following the party's founding convention in 1938.

Because of his opposition to the course of U.S. imperialism in World War II, he was among the leaders of the SWP and Teamsters Local 544 in Minneapolis who were the first victims of government prosecution under the notorious Smith Act. He

served 13 months in federal prison.

During the difficult years of the capitalist witch-hunt of the 1950s, Dobbs' leadership was decisive in assuring the survival and revolutionary continuity of the SWP. As a new generation of youth came into the party in the 1960s, inspired by the rising struggles of Blacks, the victory of the Cuban revolution, and the battles being waged by the Vietnamese people, Dobbs helped train and ensure the transition of the party's leadership to the new generation.

Dobbs also played an important role in the leadership of the Fourth International, especially helping to win a majority of Trotskyist forces around the world to support for the Cuban revolution and working to reunify the Fourth International on that basis in 1963.

Dobbs was the SWP's candidate for president of the United States in 1948, 1952, 1956, and 1960. During his 1960 presidential campaign, he visited Cuba.

Since his retirement as national secretary of the SWP in 1972, Dobbs wrote a four-volume series on the Teamsters struggles. He also wrote the first two volumes of a history of the development of Marxist leadership in the United States, entitled *Revolutionary Continuity*.



Militant/Mohammed Oliver

Farrell Dobbs

an easy one. It required immense political skill, a lot of patience, and was physically demanding also. I never heard him complain, however frustrated he must have felt at times. He always maintained his good humor, total objectivity, and pursued his task relentlessly, convinced that a principled reunification would objectively aid the revolutionary struggle internationally."

Black leadership

Clifton DeBerry described how he first met Dobbs sweeping the floor of the Chicago SWP headquarters in 1950. At the time DeBerry was a union leader and an activist in the Black struggle. The fact that Dobbs was sweeping the floor made a lasting impression on DeBerry because it showed that "he wasn't too good to sweep the floor."

DeBerry began having regular meetings with Dobbs, who offered him valuable tactical suggestions in his union work. Dobbs also persuaded DeBerry of the correctness of the SWP's perspectives for the Black struggle. DeBerry, who had previously been a member of the Communist Party, joined the SWP in 1952 and was the party's presidential candidate in 1964.

DeBerry discussed Dobbs' concern with developing a layer of party leaders who were Black, an absolute necessity given the vanguard role of Blacks in the working-class movement.

This point was taken up further by Mac Warren, a young party leader who was in-

volved in the Boston school desegregation struggle in the mid-1970s and is today a member of the SWP Political Committee.

Battle of Boston

Warren pointed out that while Dobbs was not actively involved in the party leadership during the battle in Boston, he had a big indirect impact on it.

A combat situation existed in that city as a result of the racist terror organized to try and crush the court-ordered plan to desegregate the schools through busing. The SWP's response was to work together with all those willing to stand up to this racist terror.

Young Black SWP members, like Warren, were part of the leadership team in the Black community that met weekly to discuss out how to organize this fight, which included both advances and retreats. These young socialists turned to Dobbs' *Teamster Rebellion*, which describes the hard-fought strikes in 1934 which brought unionism to Minneapolis. The main lesson these young fighters got from this book, said Warren, was an understanding of the responsibilities of leadership in such a serious struggle as the one fought out in Boston.

"This is exactly why Farrell wrote the books. For situations like this. For young workers who go into battle," said Warren. Out of this experience, a number of young Black SWP members became more firmly convinced of the leadership capacities of the party, and more confident in their own ability to lead the party.

Leadership transition

Ed Shaw joined the SWP during World War II as a seaman. When the Cuban revolution occurred, he became the Midwest organizer of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. He then became the party's national organization secretary during the early and mid-1960s and its vice-presidential candidate in 1964.

At the beginning of the 1960s the party's membership was dwindling. Many of its members were older, many of them inactive. "You can understand the difficulties we felt as we went into the early '60s, when we had a chance to begin to recruit the youth that had been awakened by the Black struggle for equality in this country and by the tremendous explosion of the Cuban revolution — something that has done more for us than perhaps can really be recognized."

Shaw focused his remarks on the indispensable role Dobbs played in making the necessary leadership transition in the SWP.

"One of the problems that Farrell understood was the need to change, to make a

transition in leadership in the party even though we were in a period of relative stagnation, when comrades are not being tried in struggles, when there is not much change, and it's difficult for leadership changes to take place.

"We needed a new layer of youth and the youth was being awakened. And I think one of the greatest things that Farrell ever did for the party was to understand that we could do it.

"Farrell was dedicated, persistent, understanding, honest, modest, and — most of all — patient. And all of these qualities made it possible under his direction to make a real transition of leadership in the party, and a successful one."

Shaw explained that Dobbs helped ensure that the transition was *organized* instead of the result of a destructive struggle of the youth against the older leaders, which would have been disastrous for the party.

Another important quality of Dobbs, said Shaw, was that when he retired, he did so without "kibbitzing from the sidelines afterwards. That's something no one likes in others, but which is difficult to control in oneself."

Three lives

The final speaker was SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes, the party leader who had worked most closely with Dobbs during the last decade.

Barnes explained that Dobbs led "three lives."

The first one was as a leader of the Minneapolis and Midwest union battles. This was a very concentrated period of political activity. It saw the pendulum swing from the rise of class-struggle unionism and Dobbs' role in leading it to the beginning of the decline of those unions. In the late '30s Dobbs was on the verge of being framed up and sent to federal penitentiary for opposing U.S. imperialism in World War II.

His second life was his several decades as a central leader of the SWP. This was also a time of first a rise and then a lessening of his leadership responsibilities. However, the change this time wasn't forced upon him — it was a result of the conscious organization of leadership transition in the party.

His third life was the last 10 years, spent in California where he wrote what Barnes called the finest books to be written on the battles of U.S. labor and the communist continuity within the working class in this country.

"Farrell always seemed to me to be more marked by being a battle commander, a combat commander, which went back to his earliest days, than any other single attribute." Dobbs felt that weight of command as a very young person in the early bloody battles to organize Minneapolis.

Dobbs was convinced that every layer of

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Messages to New York Dobbs meeting

Harrison Salisbury

The following message was sent to the New York tribute meeting for Farrell Dobbs by Harrison Salisbury, an author and former associate editor of the *New York Times*.

In his recently published book, *A Journey for Our Times*, Salisbury describes Dobbs, who he went to high school with, as the "most important member of my class and surely the most interesting."

I never knew Farrell Dobbs as a politician, a Trotskyite, a member of the Socialist Workers Party, or a revolutionary. I knew him as a personal friend, a schoolmate, and I knew very well where he came from — he came from the same north Minneapolis workers' milieu in which I grew up. I knew where he was at.

Farrell and his wonderful wife Marvel and myself went to Northside High School together in the first half of the 1920s. They were a bit older than I was and half-a-year ahead of me in school. We were not close, but we were close enough to sign each other's class annuals.

Farrell was smarter than me. I had no idea that he would go on to become a major political figure, to run for the presidency of the United States, to lead a revolutionary party. But he had me pegged. He was sure that I was going to be a success as a newspaper man — that was more than I was in those days. In fact, I didn't even know that I would be a newspaper man.

Some 50 years passed between the time Farrell and Marvel graduated from North High and my meeting with them again in Berkeley, California — 50 years of a turbulent world, of a world devoted to struggle, to revolution, to oppression, that found Farrell Dobbs, the one-time coal team driver and loader in Minneapolis, in the vanguard of the movement for revolution and change.

Long since, his horizon had broadened enormously. He was no longer a Minneapolis boy, growing up in a quiet little corner of the blue-collar part of the city, so far away from social and political consciousness that when he first went to work he didn't even know what the word strike meant, as he wryly told me 50 years later, sitting with Marvel in their quiet and pleasant California bungalow.

He had not known the names Trotsky or

Lenin, and nothing was further from his mind than revolution when he was suddenly whirled up into the Minneapolis Teamsters' strike and received on-the-job training in strike tactics with the famous Dunne brothers, who were his mentors and the leaders of the Teamsters union and its famous strike.

I will not here try to recount and recall the career of Farrell Dobbs. There are others far better able than I to tell that story.

I can only give testimony to the spirit and the straightness of the man, a pure product of the Middle West in which I grew up, tempered by the storms of agrarian depression that came long before the famous stock market crash and the big depression of the 1930s; a man who had a heart and a conscience and devoted his life to trying to change the lot of the poor and the oppressed and the down-trodden, a real American; and, I am sure, in his own way as staunch a revolutionary as the country has seen since the days of its own revolution and the likes of Tom Paine and Tom Jefferson and Sam Adams and George Washington and Ben Franklin.

A man like Farrell Dobbs lives his life in the swirl of conflict and confrontation, and perhaps it is only with his death that we begin to see what his days had been all about.

David McReynolds

Printed below is a message from David McReynolds, a member of the national staff of the War Resisters League and a national leader of the Socialist Party, that was read at the New York tribute meeting.

Farrell Dobbs was a major figure of our time, taking risks when others would not, giving up a career in the trade union movement for the sake of deeper political work, and facing prison without hesitation.

In one sense how much I wish he had been one of our people — he had the sense of organization combined with very deep political commitment and a genuine ability to relate to working people.

I send your organization condolences, which I am sure are not mine alone but shared by many in the Socialist Party and War Resisters League who appreciated one of the few who was truly a man of the revolution.

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Earl Dotter

Mine bosses attack union rights, health and safety

With this article the *Militant* begins a series on the challenges facing the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) as it approaches its 49th constitutional convention. Subsequent articles will take up some of the key lessons drawn from previous struggles by the ranks of the UMWA.

BY LINDA MAY O'BRIEN

The 49th Constitutional Convention of the United Mine Workers of America, scheduled to begin December 12 in Pittsburgh, comes at an important time for coal miners and the entire labor movement. A sustained assault has been mounted against the entire working class. The union movement's ability to defend itself effectively against this employer offensive is being sharply tested.

"My belief is that the economy is being used as a political thing from the top to break the back of unions like the United Mine Workers," a West Virginia miner told the *UMWA Journal* last April. "That's one of the reasons we have so much unemployment."

"I've seen it happen before and they're attempting the same thing now — to break the union's back."

"That goes right up to President Reagan. They started with the air traffic controllers, and they'll keep right on going until we stop them."

How to defend workers from this offensive will be a big topic of discussion at the December convention. Unlike many other union conventions today, where officials and staff who are not workers predominate, the UMWA convention is expected to be a gathering at which the ranks of the miners

union will be able to express their views and decide on union policy.

Rank-and-file democracy and participation in the UMWA, from the local to the national level, is a conquest of a historic struggle by thousands of miners that began in the late 1960s around issues of health and safety. That struggle led to the formation of Miners for Democracy, which, in 1972, ousted the entrenched bureaucracy headed by Tony Boyle that sat atop the union.

Last November miners, in an effort to strengthen their union, ousted incumbent union Pres. Sam Church and replaced him with Richard Trumka. Most miners believed Trumka would be more responsive to the ranks and therefore better able to lead the union against the coal operators.

After Trumka assumed office the *Journal* called on the membership to get involved in discussing what action the convention should take. The *Journal* outlined the tasks before the convention as: preparing to stand united for the upcoming 1984 contract negotiations, taking on antilabor politicians, organizing the nonunion mines, and securing jobs and safety.

The challenges before the union are enormous and they go beyond the immediate attacks by the coal operators. These attacks — like those of employers in other industries such as steel, auto, rail and elsewhere — are part of a united, employing-class offensive, which is backed by the government in Washington and has an international scope.

Throughout the world U.S. big business and its government are determined to raise their rate of profit and protect their political interests. Their war against the people of Central America, their invasion of Grenada, and their occupation of Lebanon are all a part of this, just as here at home attacks on mine safety, wages and benefits, and other workers rights are increasing.

The UMWA has been a special target of this offensive for some time. The miners have one thing in common with the struggling people of Central America and the Caribbean: they have fought back against the attacks. This has earned them the special hatred of the operators and their government.

1977: attacks accelerate

The coal bosses' open assault on miners' jobs, health and safety, and union rights accelerated in the late 1970s.

By the middle of the decade the mines and other coal reserves were increasingly owned and controlled by the giant energy monopoly. Nearly every major oil company — Standard Oil, Gulf, Continental, Occidental, Ashland, and others — owns a major coal company. Oil and gas companies now directly own over 40 percent of U.S. coal reserves.

These energy giants sought to increase the market for coal and their profits by increasing productivity at the expense of miners' jobs, health, and safety.

Their tools have been new technology and modernization, coupled with attempts to weaken the "unruly" and "volatile" UMWA.

In the underground mines use of the longwall method of mining, which utilizes new equipment and fewer workers per ton produced, has increased. The moderniza-

tion itself is not the problem. But in the mines, as in all U.S. industry, only the employers enjoy the benefits.

Surface, or strip mining, which requires fewer workers per ton produced, has captured a higher share of coal production over the last decade. The coal operators have aggressively driven to open these mines as nonunion operations.

As of 1977, only 41.5 percent of surface miners were organized in the UMWA, as opposed to 87.4 percent of underground miners. The recent UMWA representation victory at the Decker Mine in the West, the fifth largest mine in the United States, was an important setback to this trend.

The coal operators have also boldly moved ahead to open new underground mines as nonunion. Using a court decision as a wedge, the companies forced a change in the 1981 contract that gave them greater opportunity to do this. One result is that Consolidation Coal (Consol) provocatively forced a UMWA organizing drive at its new Dent's Run mine in northern West Virginia. Prior to 1981, union representation at a Consol mine would have been automatic.

Despite a battle by Southern Illinois miners, the Kerr-McGee Co. is proceeding with plans to open a nonunion mine in UMWA District 12. This area has been 99 percent UMWA organized.

These moves, backed by antilabor laws and court decisions, have accounted, in large part, for a decline in the share of coal mined by UMWA members from 70 percent in 1970 to under 50 percent today. Currently there are 160,000 active UMWA miners, with approximately a third on layoff.

UMWA: obstacle to profit

Opening new, nonunion mines has been only one part of a broader drive to break the power of the UMWA. The energy barons have stated time and again that the UMWA is the biggest "obstacle" in their drive for higher profits.

In 1981 the Bituminous Coal Operators' Association (BCOA) — bargaining unit for the major coal companies — published a pamphlet, which asks: Will UMWA coal participate in the coal industry's future. This was an updated rehash of a similar collection of threats printed by the BCOA in 1977, before their unsuccessful attempt to impose a "ball-and-chain" contract on miners during the 1977-78 contract strike.

These BCOA tracts explained that the UMWA will be part of the future of the coal industry if it accedes to the operators' terms.

What are those terms?

Employment costs must be lowered. Health benefits and pension plans must be cut. "Featherbedding" must be ended and productivity raised. Job bidding rights must be restricted. Many safety precautions must go.

The bosses also insist that the "strike-happy" and "irresponsible" actions by the UMWA in the coal fields must give way to "labor stability."

This antiunion package is precisely what the BCOA tried to impose on the miners through the 1977 "ball-and-chain" contract. It included provisions calling for fines on miners who honored picket lines; elimination of free health care; abusive

penalties for absenteeism; a probation period for new miners; and drastic curbs on the power of union safety committees.

The scope of this broadside attack on the union shocked many miners in 1977. But as events proved it was not isolated or accidental. It was an opening round in the anti-labor offensive that led later to the 1979 Chrysler contract; big concessions in basic steel, trucking, and elsewhere; and other steps.

A miscalculation

In 1977 the BCOA set out to take back some of the important gains miners had won through previous struggle. They were out to "housebreak" the union. They thought the UMWA was weak. The employers' attitude at the time was "strike and be damned." They thought they could wait it out and win.

They were wrong. They bumped into the militant determination of the union's ranks bolstered by the democracy that had been won in earlier battles. This included the right to read, discuss, and then vote on the contract. The miners made important use of this right during the 1977-78 strike.

They stood up to the employers' assault for 111 days. They defied President Carter's Taft-Hartley injunction granted by Congress to try to bust the strike. The miners' struggle inspired the rest of the labor movement and its allies.

Miners spoke to other workers in union meetings and special rallies across the country. Workers and farmers donated food, money, and supplies. They saw that the outcome of this fight affected their future too.

The ranks rejected the ball-and-chain contract, against the recommendation of then union Pres. Arnold Miller. They stayed on strike until they won a better contract. Despite the important setback of the loss of the health card that provided cost-free medical care, the new agreement won wage and benefit gains of more than 30 percent and denied the operators most of their worst demands.

"Although the agreement falls short of our expectations," Jack Perry, District 17 president at the time, said, "the rank and file can take a lot of credit for blocking management's efforts to destroy our union. To that extent, miners have won a major victory."

1981 strike

Following this battle, Arnold Miller's authority as president of the union was eroded among the ranks, who felt that he had let them down during the strike. He stepped down from the presidency in 1979, due to ill health, and Sam Church, the vice-president, took his place.

In 1981 the coal operators tried again to force major concessions and weaken union power.

Once again the UMWA stood up to the worst of the assault. The miners struck for more than two months and again voted down a bad contract demanded by the employers.

The contract miners voted to accept did include some of the bosses' demands, though by no means all. Wages and benefits went up about 10 percent in each year

Continued on next page



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Farmers discuss 'historic steps' forward

BY FRANK FORRESTAL

MASON CITY, Iowa — Some 65 farmer activists gathered here on October 21-22 for the 31st national convention of the U.S. Farmers Association unanimously adopted a resolution against the U.S. invasion of Grenada. The delegates learned of the imminent invasion during the conference. Resolutions were also adopted against U.S. intervention in Lebanon and Central America.

The fight against U.S. wars abroad and the urgent need to build an alliance with labor, Blacks, and women were the two most important themes of the convention.

The gathering was chaired by Fred Stover, U.S. Farmers Association president.

The degree to which a new alliance is being formed was reflected in the founding last summer of the North American Farm Alliance (NAFA), a coalition of U.S. and Canadian farmer and labor organizations.

One of the central leaders of NAFA and the farmers association is Merle Hansen. Introduced by Stover as a man with "fire in his stomach," Hansen gave an important assessment of the "historic steps" made by the farmers movement in the past year.

Hansen's report reviewed the disruptive impact of McCarthyism on the farmers movement. In many ways the cold-war witch-hunt, Hansen said, severed the continuity with earlier agrarian radical movements — such as the populist movement, the Farmers' Alliance, the Non-Partisan League, the Farmer-Labor Party, and the Farm Holiday movement.

"The ability to reach out to labor, Blacks, and women was made more difficult, if not impossible. But McCarthyism is behind us now. We are in a very unique situation," said Hansen, "because we can talk with people we couldn't for years."

The first important step was the International Farm Crisis Summit meeting held in Ottawa, Canada, last summer. Some 125 delegates came from around the world.

"It was a tremendous success," Hansen said. "First, the president of the Canadian Labor Congress, which represents a million and a half unionists, spoke before the summit."

"We learned that Canadian farmers are worse off than us, that the U.S. is the most hated agricultural producer in the world."

"We learned that penny auctions modeled after the Farm Holiday movement are not unique in the U.S. ... they are occurring in Europe as well."

"We learned that it is not just a domestic crisis but an international farm crisis. We need to build bridges so all farmers can benefit, and we need to connect this to the issue of peace."

Speaking about the need for coalitions with labor, he pointed out that "Right now corporate America is out to bust the unions. Because of these economic ties we need a good working relationship, and we will have to go about it in the right way."

The next important step and experience for the farmers movement was the Kansas protest against the foreclosure of Black farmers. On October 3, more than 150 people protested the foreclosure sale of 240 acres of Bernard and Alva Bates' 900-acre farm.

Hansen outlined the thinking behind the protest. "Darrell Ringer, a leader of the

Kansas AAM [American Agriculture Movement] got a hold of us and said we had to protest this foreclosure. We thought this was a good choice for drawing the coalition."

Farmers from the Central and Midwest states were joined by unionists, women, and Blacks to unite behind the Bateses. This coalition, Hansen said, was key to "pulling off a successful protest."

Although part of the Bates' farm was foreclosed, the struggle to prevent it was of immense importance because it forged solidarity between Blacks and whites, farmers and workers, and men and women.

This set the stage for the next step. Prior to the Kansas action, the steering committee of NAFA voted on September 16-18 in Des Moines, Iowa, to endorse a November 1 farm revolt called by the AAM based in Campo, Colorado.

A report was given on the important gains made by Nicaragua's small farmers by Marla Puziss who recently visited there.

Following her presentation one farmer responded, "It sounds like the Nicaraguans have carried out NAFA's program."

The convention ended with a very informative slide show given by Dutch farmer Arie Van Den Brand on the farmers movement in Holland and France.



October protest of foreclosure of Bates' farm in Hill City, Kansas. At right are Ava and Bernard Bates with their son.

Mine bosses attack union rights

Continued from preceding page

of the pact. In the context of the major concessions then being imposed on auto workers and others, the strike had to be considered a partial victory.

Assault continues

While the coal operators have failed to impose the contract they would like, this has not stopped them from using other means to attack the UMWA.

Weakening safety provisions has been a key aim of the employers as they attempt to raise profits and productivity. In the coal fields this is a life-and-death question. In this century 100,000 miners have died in the mines. Over 300,000 have been afflicted with Black Lung disease, caused by inhalation of coal dust.

A historic struggle by rank-and-file miners forced Congress to pass the Coal Mine Health and Safety Act in 1969. The law empowered government agencies to enforce company compliance with safety regulations. As a result mine fatality rates decreased by over a third from 1970 to 1978. While the gains were greatest in the UMWA-organized mines where union safety committees fight to insure adequate government inspection and company compliance, the passage of the act was a victory for all miners. Measures to prevent Black Lung disease, and to provide compensation for miners who suffer from it, were also mandated in the law.

But the companies have been steadily chipping away at the act with the help of Democrats and Republicans in Washington. The UMWA reports that since 1978, when budget cuts began to limit enforcement of the law, mine fatality rates reversed their eight-year decline. Between 1978 and 1981 the number of mine deaths increased by almost 50 percent.

This corresponds to industry reports of increased productivity during this period. Consol, the number two coal producer, proudly points to a 24 percent rise in productivity between 1978 and 1981.

UMWA President Trumka spoke about this problem in testimony before Congress in February 1983. In 1969, said Trumka, "Congress found that the industry could not be trusted to police itself, but the current program seems to be returning to that failed principle." MSHA [Mine Safety and Health Administration] must provide "meaningful regulations, penalties that serve as deterrents, and thorough inspections. ... Otherwise, the unnecessary and indefensible death and injury rates in coal mining will not only continue but get worse."

Within months Trumka's prediction was tragically confirmed. On June 21 the worst mining explosion in the state in 25 years rocked Virginia. The disaster at the Clinchfield Coal Company's McClure No. 1 mine killed seven miners, including the fifth

woman miner to die in such an incident since women reentered the mines in 1973.

In other ways also, 1983 has been a hard year for coal miners. Unemployment rose dramatically. By June estimates placed close to a third of the UMWA's active membership out of work. *Coal Age*, an industry magazine, reported that in McDowell County, West Virginia, the unemployment rate is so high that employers are hiring security guards to keep job seekers away.

Layoffs have affected districts of the union throughout the country from Kentucky to Colorado to Utah. In at least one district, 50 percent of the membership has been affected.

The coal bosses have used this period of shutdowns and layoffs to make inroads into workers rights. Some miners have dubbed this process "creeping concessions."

The operators have been "rewriting the contract in their favor" say many miners and using the courts and antiunion arbitration decisions to back them up. Speed-up, job combinations, cutbacks in safety, and disciplinary actions against miners are all on the rise.

Increased disciplinary action

Throughout the coal fields miners report disciplinary actions — including firing — on provocative grounds that the bosses wouldn't have tried before. Miners who've been out on excused medical leave, for example, have been fired for absenteeism. Though these new practices have been in violation of the contract, arbitration decisions have backed the employers.

At Exxon's Monterey No. 2 Mine in Illinois, miners who've lost workdays due to accidents in the mine have been fired.

Disciplinary actions against miners have been taken to enforce speed-up. Two miners at the Emerald mine in Pennsylvania were disciplined (one suspended) for not working fast enough with bad sawblades. The company apparently used materials accumulated in "secret files" to "prove" that these miners had a history of poor work habits.

In many cases, new work rules have been posted by companies to cover and justify these firings and harassment.

As one miner from the Kitt Mine in northern West Virginia put it:

"Going into the mines now is like going into a battle zone; you're always looking out for how they're going to set you up."

Mandatory overtime has increased. Companies are unilaterally writing tighter rules for forced overtime in mines where in some cases half the work force is laid off.

Court harassment

When miners are forced to strike to stop the operators' attacks, the companies quickly get injunctions from district judges to force them to return to work. The miners

on the midnight shift at Blackville No. 2 Mine in northern West Virginia were fined and forced to pay \$25 a shift for time lost.

Kitt Energy, owned by Sohio, took legal action against UMWA Local 2095 to try to make the local pay tens of thousands of dollars for production lost during strikes last year.

The UMWA had to propose special levies on the membership to cover the legal obligations incurred in trying to take on this entanglement of court fines and arbitration costs.

This entire situation portends greater accidents and deaths in the mines for the coming period. The U.S. Labor Department, which administers the Black Lung Disability Trust Fund set up to compensate miners for the job-related disease that kills 4,000 coal miners every year, is driving ahead in its efforts to tighten eligibility requirements in response to the demands of the coal companies.

This anti-union alliance of the companies and federal government agencies has been strengthened by bipartisan anti-labor actions taken by state legislatures. In the name of improving the "business climate" in their states, probusiness legislation is being passed. In West Virginia, the supposedly prolabor Democratic Party-controlled legislature passed a bill that weakened a court decision which had made it easier for workers to sue companies for on-the-job injuries.

It was in the face of these frontal assaults by the employers and their government and courts that the miners voted in the Trumka leadership last November. Trumka comes from Pennsylvania's District 4. The slate was rounded out by Cecile Roberts from southern West Virginia, and John Banovic from Illinois.

Many miners felt that Sam Church had sold them out in the last contract battle by looking out more for the companies' interests than for their own. Miners overwhelmingly voted for a new leadership that ran on a campaign of no takebacks in the next contract, no concessions, and a return to the fighting traditions of the UMWA. The rank and file aimed to put in a leadership that could lead a fight against the companies' offensive and put the union's interests first.

How to fight back and prepare for future battles is a major discussion among miners and all working people. It's what the convention in December will give miners a chance to discuss together. It will be a chance to assess the union's situation and how to move forward in the face of the mounting employers' drive.

Linda May O'Brien is a former underground coal miner. She was employed by Consolidation Coal at its Blackville No. 2 Mine in West Virginia. She was a member of UMWA Local 1702.

Court overturns internment conviction

On November 10 Federal District Judge Marilyn Patel overturned the 1942 conviction of a Japanese-American for refusing to be sent to an internment camp during World War II.

That conviction had led to a Supreme Court ruling upholding the legality of the internment of more than 100,000 Japanese Americans.

The new ruling came in response to a petition filed on behalf of Gordon Hirabayashi, Minoru Yasui, and Fred Korematsu. On October 4 the Department of Justice responded by conceding that the convictions should be set aside "as an unfortunate episode in our nation's history." (See article in November 18 *Militant*).

In her ruling Judge Patel said the government's response was "tantamount to a confession of error."

—SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE—

BY SANDI SHERMAN

In addition to regular weekly sales at plant gates, mine portals, and shop entrances, socialists around the country take the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* out to picket lines of workers on strike. Members of the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU), who are currently striking the Greyhound Corp. nationwide, have welcomed the *Militant* and *PM* at picket lines and strike support rallies.

Cleveland socialists report a lot of activity around the Greyhound strike in the past two weeks. In addition to selling *Militants* to strikers on the picket lines in Cleveland, the socialists sold 10 *Militants*, one subscription to the *Militant*, and one copy of the *Young Socialist* at an open union meeting sponsored by the ATU and attended by 350 workers. At a strike support rally that took place during a blizzard, the socialists sold six *Militants*. A statement in support of the strike in the name of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance has been printed and socialists in Cleveland plan to leaflet it along with their regular sales at plant gates to help win support for the strikers.

About 200 Greyhound strikers and supporters picketed the Phoenix terminal November 14 to

reject management's back-to-work ultimatum. Correspondent Sue Adley reports that the *Militant* got a very good reception at the picket line. Several strikers said it was the first article they'd seen that told their side of the dispute.

One driver pulled several of his friends over and said, "Hey, look at this, it's a good article."

"What is this paper?" said another striker.

"It's for the unions."

Adley reported that one of the people she had interviewed the week before came over and asked how much the paper cost. He bought a subscription.

In Boston, *Militant* sales teams have been going to the picket lines to solidarize with the strikers. At a rally in solidarity with the strike last week, six copies of the *Militant* were sold.

Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Indianapolis, Bill Warrick, issued a statement in support of the striking workers at Greyhound, and his campaign supporters have joined the picket lines there.

Cleveland socialists also report an excellent response to the *Militant* at the Twinsburg, Ohio, Chrysler stamping plant, where workers walked off the job to protest forced overtime and unsafe working conditions.

On the first day of the strike, which lasted for five days, a team of *Militant* salespeople went out to the picket lines at the plant. They report that many strikers were very interested in the *Militant* and in discussing the U.S. invasion of Grenada, which most of them opposed. "The United States is a dog," one worker, a Vietnam veteran, said. "They're just going over there for big business."

He charged that Washington has no business in Grenada, Lebanon, or anywhere else. Another said, "We have the shrewdest government in the world. They say these socialist governments are the problem — they're not the problem. The problem is that if you don't follow what the U.S. government has to say, then Washington will invade you."

Strikers bought 10 single copies of the *Militant* and one subscription.

Our national drive to obtain 4,000 new subscribers to the *Militant* and *PM* is now completed. In a coming issue of the *Militant* we will print a scoreboard with the final subscription totals, along with an article that draws together the experiences and lessons of the drive.

One conclusion we can draw



Militant/Phil Norris

Militant salespeople and Greyhound strike supporters in Newark. Workers from several unions came to show solidarity.

now, however, is that every single person who was convinced to become a regular reader of the *Militant* and *PM* over the course of the fall campaign should be encouraged to attend the upcoming national convention of the Young Socialist Alliance, which will take place in St. Louis from December

28 to January 1. The convention will be the best place to continue and deepen discussions about how to stop U.S. imperialism's war against the revolutions in Central America and the Caribbean, and the strategy for how the working class and its allies in the United States can win political power.

What's it like to be a worker in the poorest state?

BY TONY DUTROW

What's it like to be a worker, farmer, or student, or to be elderly or unemployed in the poorest state in the union?

A four-person *Militant* sales and reporting team spent five weeks in Mississippi to find out.

The four of us — Ellen Kerr, Rohima Miah, Dywond Belle, and this reporter — were armed with a big supply of *Militants*, *Young Socialists*, Pathfinder Press literature, and building materials for the 23rd national convention of the Young Socialist Alliance, which takes place December 28–January 1 in St. Louis.

We drove more than 7,000 miles. We met workers at plant gates and talked with students, farmers, woodcutters, and leading civil rights fighters at their homes and in shopping centers. Our most important tool for introducing ourselves to the political life of Mississippi was the *Militant*.

We found working people there, as elsewhere, concerned about the war moves of the U.S. government in Lebanon, Central America, and the Caribbean.

We found Black workers and activists in the state's voter registration drives excited about the prospect of a Black running for president in 1984.

We found that jobs and the fight for unions in Mississippi, a "right-to-work" state, were on the minds of hundreds of workers we talked with. The state ranks at the bottom in per-capita income, with \$6,000 a year; and the recession has driven unemployment in some counties as high as 20 percent.

The Democratic and Republican parties have done nothing to soften these blows. Rather, they are gutting already-meager social programs. Unemployment benefits are as low as \$52 a week for laid-off Delta plantation workers. A mother of two on

welfare gets a paltry \$90 a month.

One of the Democratic and Republican politicians' targets is Medicaid. In Jackson we attended a protest October 20 of more than 800, most of whom were Black and elderly, against Medicaid cuts.

Union organizing

The *Militant* team noted a number of union organizing drives in which Blacks are taking the lead for the benefit of all working people.

We saw some big gains, such as the successful unionization of a large General Motors wiring plant in Clinton and other inspiring examples in Meridian.

In several successful plant-gate sales around the state, we sold 60 *Militants*, 46 of them in the Jackson area.

On the Gulf coast, we sold seven papers at the giant Ingalls shipyard and another seven the same day at International Paper's mill in Moss Point.

Many of the workers we talked to were curious about the *Militant*'s coverage of the fight by shipyard workers in Newport News to keep their union and about the U.S.-backed war against Nicaragua.

"Socialists? Well, I'm not a socialist, but I want to find out what you have to say," as one worker put it, was an opinion we heard more than once. Many workers were suspicious about Washington's policies in Central America.

Going door-to-door in Jackson's Black community, including Georgetown and West Jackson, we sold 40 papers and two subscriptions in one afternoon.

In Greenwood, a city of 30,000 where 14-year-old Emmett Till was lynched by racists in 1955 for allegedly whistling at a white woman, we sold 37 singles and 5 subscriptions in one day.

We also stopped in Tchula, where former Mayor Eddie Carthan was framed up by the white powers-that-be for trying to improve conditions for Blacks.

There are many unemployed Black youth in Tchula, where overall Black unemployment is 30 percent, and higher for youth. When they work, it's on the area's many cotton plantations.

Young workers there responded well to the idea that the military budget should be eliminated to provide funds for jobs. Two asked to learn more about the YSA.

Poultry workers

In Laurel, where we sold 23 singles and two subs, we talked with a Black woman who, like others, was proud of her involvement in an attempt to organize poultry workers at Sanderson Farms. Their struggle drew inspiration from thousands of unionists and civil rights activists who marched on Laurel in their behalf in 1980.

Even though the union wasn't able to win recognition, a young Black woman who works at Sanderson told us, the company was forced to deal with some of the workers' grievances.

Laurel residents said they appreciated the *Militant*'s reporting of events in Grenada. Many said the big-business media accounts didn't explain things.

The team visited five campuses: Jackson State University, Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU), and Tougaloo College, which are all-Black; and the University of Southern Mississippi and the University of Mississippi.

At the University of Mississippi, a majority-white campus, the Black Student Union (BSU) sponsored our team's table. The school, which was integrated just 20 years ago in a massive fight, saw a recent struggle led by the BSU that forced the administration to replace the Confederate flag as the school's banner.

There was a lively discussion at the table all day. Some protested our presence, but many defended our right to be there. We sold \$60 worth of literature. A white student bought a Malcolm X T-shirt. Eight students, including a leader of Arab students on campus, asked to learn more about the YSA.

At MVSU, near Greenwood, 20 students wanted to know more about the YSA; nine subscriptions were sold. Students from MVSU had helped lead a protest of 200 against the killing of a Black by a white cop.

At Jackson State, two team members spoke at protests organized by the campus NAACP chapter challenging the state's at-

tempt to submerge all three Black colleges into the University of Mississippi. The team was asked to participate also in a protest October 20 at the State College Board.

Voter registration

The team met fighters for Black political rights such as Joe Delaney and Al Chambliss of the North Mississippi Rural Legal Services.

Chambliss told us about the gunshot wounding of Leonard Brown, which, he said, came as a racist reaction to attempts by Blacks to redraw voting districts. He also pointed to widespread voting fraud in the counting of white votes.

In Brookhaven, where Pertis Williams, a Black running for supervisor in a newly drawn district, was assassinated, we talked with Rev. Curtis McCollum and Johnny Markham. They had filed 1,000 signatures demanding a federal investigation for violation of civil rights laws.

They invited team members to speak at their church, where more than 100 members heard Kerr denounce the U.S. invasion of Grenada and Miah talk about the gains of the August 27 march on Washington, D.C., for jobs, peace, and freedom.

Two subscriptions were sold, one of them to a high-school student who was interested in the YSA convention.

In Moss Point, we met with Southern Christian Leadership Conference leader Leon Wells, who told us about a meeting in Jackson County of 3,000 to build participation in the August 27 march. Hundreds registered to vote, he told us, following the meeting.

Shadrach Davis invited us to his farm near Tchula, where he told us about the early civil rights movement in the area and about the struggle of the 50 Black farmers there to get loans from the Farm Home Administration.

Mack Haywood, a Black woodcutter, told us about the 1982 strike against International Paper, which runs a pulpwood yard near Haywood's home in Coffeeville.

We also gained supporters for the struggle for political asylum in this country by Héctor Marroquín, a socialist fighting deportation to Mexico. Endorsers in Mississippi for his fight now include State Senator Henry Kirksey and former Tchula Mayor Carthan.

We sold 30 subscriptions and almost 400 copies of the *Militant*, and \$200 worth of literature, buttons, and T-shirts. It was a big advance in the state for the Socialist Workers Party and YSA, and we plan to see our many friends in Mississippi again soon.

Subscribe to 'Intercontinental Press'

The biweekly international news-magazine *Intercontinental Press* is able to carry more documents and other material on the events in Grenada than we can fit in the *Militant*.

A special November 7 IP, for example, printed several documents from Cuba on the invasion of Grenada that you didn't see in the *Militant*.

You can't follow what the Cuban, Grenadian, and Nicaraguan

leaders are saying and doing by only reading the *Militant*. Subscribe to *Intercontinental Press* today.

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Police riot follows conviction of Florida cop

BY MARK BLACK

GOULDS, Fla. — A mob of more than 100 Blacks set upon Angela Vivier, a white woman whose car broke down in a Black section of this small agricultural town 30 miles south of Miami.

Vivier was saved from assault and worse by the heroism of John Ayers, a white, who, Tarzan-like, single-handedly pushed back a crowd of 100 Blacks.

This story has been peddled by the local and national press; by Dade County police; and by Ronald Reagan himself, who personally telephoned Ayers to congratulate him.

Talking with Blacks here in Goulds, Jackie Floyd, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Miami, and I discovered a story very different from that pushed by the cops and the press.

Many Blacks in Goulds socialize in the parking lot in front of Green's Grocery because there are few other places to go. Several people we met were there the night Vivier's car broke down.

"There was no mob of 100 people there that night," one man said. "There were a few people trying to rob Vivier, and maybe about 20 people who went to see what happened."

Another man said, "That's right, the big crowd the police called the riot was over at the disco they had that night at Green's parking lot."

They pointed out that while the press claims the incident took place in front of Green's, the car broke down about 100 yards down the road, out of the line of sight of the parking lot.

Nevertheless, the cops attacked bystanders and the people at the disco. What happened was that the cops waged a riot against Black people.

Jackie Floyd and most people we talked to agreed, "the cops and racists needed something like that at that time."

Floyd explained, "What's really behind

this is that the week this happened, the police and racists suffered a blow when William Koenig, a Dade County cop, was convicted of manslaughter in the murder of Donald Harp."

Harp is one of 11 Black men gunned down by local cops in the past 18 months. Koenig is the only cop convicted for these murders. Two others, Ernesto Uriaga and Thomas Pellechio, were acquitted for the shootings of Anthony Nelson and Ernest Kirkland, respectively.

In addition, Luis Alvarez, the cop who shot Nevell Johnson, was expected to go on trial. Johnson's murder set off the 1982 Overtown rebellion in Miami.

"Plainly the cops were trying to whip up this incident around Vivier to try to balance the setback of Koenig's conviction," Floyd said.

Racist articles and press reports of the incident branded area Blacks as drug addicts, criminals, thieves, and animals.

Traditional racist innuendo about Blacks and white women and charges of "Black racism" were unveiled in this campaign.

This alleged "mob assault" on Vivier, who was not physically harmed, has been

likened to the New Bedford gang rape.

Since the incident, Dade County cops have "raided" Green's Grocery and other businesses on the same lot. Blacks in Goulds say they are now regularly searched and frisked. One evening Floyd counted seven police cars in the block-long parking lot.

People we talked to in the lot say that in the weeks immediately after the incident, it was no longer safe for Black people to socialize in that area.

"Racists drove by here at night yelling 'nigger,' throwing rocks and bottles, driving close enough to hit somebody," someone said.

Another resident of the area reported that there have been shots fired at Black homes in the area.

Green's Grocery has been threatened with attack and bombing by callers, including some who said they were from the Ku Klux Klan.

Several people in Green's lot we talked to believed that white officers at nearby Homestead Air Force Base were trying to whip up white troops for these attacks.



Militant/Charles Ostrofsky
Jackie Floyd, SWP candidate for mayor of Miami in the Nov. 15, 1983, election, obtained real story of cop riot in Goulds, Florida.

Bitter pill for Rath's 'worker-owners'

BY GEORGE JOHNSON

When a union-hater like Continental Airlines' Frank Lorenzo uses bankruptcy laws to drive down employees' wages and working conditions, it's easy for working people to identify the villain of the story.

Likewise when Frank Borman threatened the same at Eastern Airlines.

And even though their names weren't household words, the directors of Wilson Foods were easy to spot as responsible for using the same bankruptcy ploy against union meatpackers.

But who can be blamed at Rath Packing Co. in Waterloo, Iowa, which just filed for reorganization under Chapter 11 of the bankruptcy code, to reopen a contract with the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) to gain further concessions from its workers?

Rath has been "worker owned" since June 1980, when employees began buying shares in the company. They eventually gained 60 percent of them.

Management at Rath is headed by Lyle Taylor. He used to be president of UFCW Local 46, which represents 1,500 Rath workers, and was one of the first proponents of the company's buyout by the workers. A majority of Rath's board was elected by the workers.

Besides paying \$20 a week for stock, Rath workers gave up \$2.50 an hour, which amounts to over \$20 million over the three years of their union contract, and another \$5 million in benefits Rath had held in escrow.

Their UFCW contract is up at the end of this year, but management wants to reopen it early. Rath is asking these "worker-capitalists" to continue the \$2.50-an-hour cut, and is also demanding reduced health benefits and "more appropriate labor productivity standards."

At Rath the worker-owners' own representatives are using the bankruptcy shell game to further drive down their wages and working conditions.

Not only that. The UFCW had until now resisted reopening contracts early for concessions negotiations. The Rath precedent will make it easier for the other meatpacking companies to deepen their assault on UFCW members.

The damage to the UFCW has already been severe at Iowa Beef Processors, Swift, Wilson, and Morrell, where wage cuts and worse working conditions have been imposed.

In discussing another worker buyout at Weirton Steel in West Virginia, the *Militant* (October 21) pointed out that "worker ownership" cannot change the facts of life about a capitalist economy, in which goods are produced solely for profit, not human needs.

Rath, like any other company, must raise money to modernize, or replace old machinery, or buy material to process — hogs, in this case — or to meet payrolls or pay other bills.

These cash needs, under capitalism, can

only be met by borrowing money from capitalists, either through bank loans or by selling stock. They won't spring the money unless the company seeking it is "competitive" — that is, if its workers aren't ground down to the same level as others to increase profits so the capitalists' loans can be repaid.

That's exactly what happened at Rath. Lenders charged more than the usual interest. Security Pacific Business Credit Inc. cut the amount of credit available to Rath.

Thus, workers at Rath find themselves doing exactly the same as workers at other meatpacking companies: giving up wages and working under worse conditions. And former union president Taylor has closed or suspended plants in Florida, Indiana, and Iowa. He took a three-month strike at an Indianapolis plant to force wage and benefit cuts.

The Rath workers are not to be blamed for the situation they're in. They faced a hard choice and could see no alternative to the bitter pill of concessions to try to save their jobs.

But workers established unions to fight for their interests and to defend themselves from the bad conditions created by capitalism. Every misstep union officials take to try to make capitalism "work," at the company, industry, or national level, harms that fight.

"Worker ownership" is simply one of a series of schemes promoted by self-interested "leaders" or "friends" of labor to avoid a fight with the capitalists at every level, from the shop floor to Congress and the White House.

These are who to blame: the labor fakery, lawyers, academics, and politicians who consciously or unconsciously put forward such schemes.

SWP condemns misuse of its name

At its November 16-20 meeting, the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party acted to protect the party against a provocation from an organization called Socialist Action. This sect has been established by a small grouping that recently split from the SWP.

Socialist Action publicly announced its existence at the November 12 solidarity demonstrations by distributing a leaflet attacking the leadership of the overthrown workers and farmers government of Grenada, headed by Maurice Bishop, and denouncing the SWP.

Socialist Action falsely presents itself as a "public faction of the SWP," implying some organizational connection to the SWP. This lie constitutes a deliberate challenge to the right of the party membership and elected leadership bodies to decide party policy, which includes first and fore-

most the right to determine who speaks and acts in the name of the party, and who the members of the party are.

The National Committee (unanimously) adopted a resolution reaffirming the basic principle of the party's right to determine its policies free from interference by hostile groups, and protecting the organizational and legal integrity of the SWP.

The resolution states that, "The SWP has no 'public faction,' and adherence to or collaboration with any such formation is incompatible with membership in the SWP."

"No bodies other than the constitutionally elected leadership bodies of the SWP can speak in the name of the party. The SWP takes no political, organizational, or legal responsibility for statements or actions of any other organization."

Birmingham cop guns down Black

BY HEIDI FISCHER

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — The brutal police slaying of Parrish Thomas, Jr., a Black Birmingham resident, was condemned by Rev. Abraham Woods, president of Birmingham Southern Christian Leadership Conference, at a news conference here November 8.

Woods and members of the Thomas family were flanked by representatives of organizations comprising the Coalition of Conscience — the group that organized Birmingham participation in the August 27 march on Washington for jobs, peace, and freedom.

On November 5, just before 9 a.m., Thomas was shot at least four times by white police officer Mosteller Cost. Witnesses say they heard five or six shots in rapid succession. Police claim Cost was threatened through the window of his squad car by Thomas wielding a "sharpened file."

Thomas' mother and Shirley Bates, his wife, told reporters of their repeated efforts the night before the shooting to get the help of the police to pick up Thomas — who had a history of mental illness — in order to take him to the hospital where he could get medical attention. Police refused.

Witnesses to the aftermath of the shooting related that another police officer and a fireman arriving at the scene congratulated Cost and shook his hand.

A stark reminder that police brutality has been a long standing issue here was given when Martha Jones expressed her solidarity with the Thomas family. "I'm a victim of police brutality," she said. She told how her son had been shot 13 times by a police officer in 1975. "My son had begged for his life, but they gunned him down and threw him in the ditch," she said.

The cops claim they are carrying out an internal investigation of the shooting. Woods noted there is no reason to have any confidence in the police department investigating itself. He called for a civilian review board, and announced he would meet with Mayor Richard Arrington about the conduct of the police.

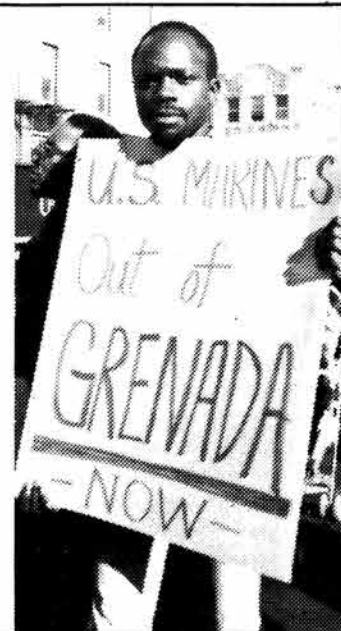
COME TO THE YSA CONVENTION

Dec. 28-Jan. 1, the Young Socialist Alliance will meet in St. Louis, Missouri, to discuss the fight against Washington's wars in Lebanon, Central America and the Caribbean and the tasks of U.S. revolutionary youth.

A celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Cuban revolution will be featured.

For more information write to YSA, 14 Charles La., New York, N.Y. 10014.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____



Not your ordinary criminals — Datapoint, a Texas outfit, apparently misrepresented its financial situation for several years to



Harry Ring

entice shareholders at inflated prices. A number of damage suits against it includes one brought under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization Act

(RICO). The judge said he would find it distasteful to try prominent industrialists under a statute normally used for the likes of drug peddlers.

Lucky it wasn't a harp — A Fort Collins, Colo., priest who didn't like the way a woman played a tambourine at mass allegedly threw her and, presumably, the tambourine, down a flight of stairs, plus punching out a youth counselor who tried to intervene.

See, we're doing fine — Sales of filet mignons at the Washington Hilton are up 18 percent so far this year.

Walk fast and swallow — After a debate on updating city ordinances, the Garden City, Kan., city commission agreed to leave unchanged the antiloitering ordinance, which includes a ban on "sauntering." Also continued was an antispeaking ordinance. If that particular statute were dropped, a commission member noted, it would allow people to spit on City Hall.

Ethics dept — The Albany, N.Y., *Medical Nexus*, a student paper at the med center there, includes a report by a visitor to an East Berlin medical center who found the (free) medical care there as least as good as care here, and

felt that even the medical ethics were comparable. The same issue features a U.S. Army ad for clinical workers, which stresses "Minimum Qualifications."

Might try it on people — Virginia Tech researchers found that a little tender loving care made chickens happier, healthier, and healthier.

Express service — The Post Office, which is planning to hike postal rates again because expenses are so high, leases a seven-passenger jet at \$48,000 a month to fly its top execs around. Which wouldn't be so bad if at least they'd take a few pieces of mail along.

Shopping tip — Truffles are now available for \$25 to \$40 an ounce. And, with a truffle slicer, you can shave them thin enough to flavor a spaghetti sauce for four with but one ounce.

Ah, romance — A New York sociologist runs a \$25 a session seminar for singles. He recommends hanging out in good department stores to meet people rather than singles bars. He also advises: "This is highly competitive. You must use sales and marketing skills to sell yourselves."

If only we had a bar — A New York shop is featuring British chrome bar stools at \$325 each.

'The Day After' shows no way to end war

Continued from front page
danger underlined the need for the administration's pugnacious anti-Soviet policy and nuclear arms build-up. Put aside, for the moment, was the assertion that a nuclear war is "winnable."

Kenneth Adelman, Reagan's "arms control" director, did make a telling point against Democratic critics by noting that Reagan's nuclear program was but a continuation of that followed by "seven other presidents." (That includes four Democratic ones.)

Adelman could well have boasted that that policy has now been escalated with the deployment of over 500 U.S. nuclear missiles in Europe in the face of deep-going public opposition there. The European deployment of cruise and Pershing 2 missiles, which is proceeding right on schedule, enjoys bipartisan support in Washington.

What is the root source of the nuclear threat?

U.S. imperialism. That's a hard fact confirmed by the record.

Washington's policies in relation to war and peace can be adequately comprehended only by recognizing that it is a government of big business dedicated to defending its profiteering interests at home and abroad.

That explains why Pres. Harry Truman dropped the A-bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 — after Japan began suing for peace.

James Byrnes, Truman's secretary of state, later openly admitted that the bomb was dropped on Japan as a "demonstration shot" for Moscow. It was necessary, he conceded, not against Japan, but to "make Russia more yielding" (*Foreign Affairs*, January 1957).

That sinister threat was followed by the systematic military encirclement of the

Soviet Union. The Pentagon today commands some 300 land, air, and naval bases in more than 110 countries. And now there is the addition of the European-based nuclear missiles. The Soviet Union is not paranoid in thinking it's threatened.

Since Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Washington has made at least 12 specific threats to use the bomb.

In 1950 during the U.S. invasion of Korea, Truman threatened the Chinese with the bomb.

In 1953, the threat was repeated by Eisenhower.

Pres. John Kennedy brought the world to the nuclear brink during the 1962 Cuban missile crisis.

There are additional documented cases of such nuclear blackmail.

Meanwhile, Washington has waged a series of aggressive wars with such "conventional" weapons as napalm, lethal chemicals, and cluster bombs to crush rebellions in countries under the heel of imperialist domination.

In 1950, it intervened in the Korean civil war to save capitalism in South Korea and, hopefully, to overturn the workers state in the north.

In the 1960s and '70s it unsuccessfully repeated this in Vietnam.

In 1961 it organized an unsuccessful counterrevolutionary invasion of Cuba.

In 1965, Pres. Lyndon Johnson dispatched the marines to the Dominican Re-

public to quell a popular uprising there.

This, however, is not just a historical question.

The government of the United States is waging war today. Thousands of people are dying in these wars and the coffins of GIs are again being shipped home.

It is in these ongoing wars — and the threat of their escalation — that the nuclear danger is lodged.

By official count, 239 GIs died in the explosion at the U.S. encampment in Beirut. The danger that the U.S. intervention there will escalate is substantial.

Meanwhile, closer to home, the war in Central America and the Caribbean steadily deepens.

Vietnam-style "advisers" are intervening in El Salvador's civil war. The dictatorial regime there cannot survive against the liberation forces without the increased use of U.S. forces. And Reagan is ready to use them.

Meanwhile, U.S.-organized mercenaries are trying to destroy the revolution in Nicaragua. A big U.S. strike force is being mobilized on the borders of Nicaragua. The Nicaraguan people are making urgent preparations for an imminent U.S. invasion and their preparations are obviously well justified.

In recent weeks we have seen the brutal occupation of Grenada, designed to eradicate the revolution there.

It is these ongoing acts of aggression that

indict U.S. imperialism as the central threat to world peace and the source of the nuclear war danger.

Since its World War II victory over Japanese and German imperialism, it has assumed the mantle of world cop. To assure the safety of business investments and trade, it has undertaken to crush the worldwide rise of liberation movements — by any means necessary.

It persistently expands its already swollen nuclear stockpile and openly declares its readiness to strike first.

Meanwhile, the Soviet Union has publicly pledged it will never be the first to use the bomb and it has made countless offers to reduce nuclear stockpiles. Each of these offers has been rejected on one pretext or the other by successive administrations in Washington.

It is this record that points to the source of the nuclear danger. That danger will not be overcome until Washington's stockpile is totally scrapped. And the prospects for peace in the world will not be achieved until the people of this country replace the capitalist government in Washington with a workers and farmers government. Only in this way will the capitalist warmongers be disarmed and the deadly drive for profits ended.

A government of working people will extend the hand of friendship to all people. Socialism is, in fact, the only road to peace.

Israel bombs Lebanese; Syria batters PLO

Continued from front page
using the same lie to launch bombing raids of its own. When asked if the U.S. government planned such air strikes, one top U.S. military official said, "I would not rule out anything. Keep your ear to the ground." If the Reagan administration orders bombing raids, it will claim they're in "retaliation" for the October 23 bombing of the marine headquarters in Beirut, which killed 239 U.S. troops.

While Israeli and French jets are bombing villages in eastern Lebanon, Syrian-backed PLO mutineers are shelling Palestinians and Lebanese in the north. Fighters loyal to PLO chairman Yassir Arafat and the rebels, headed by Col. Saed Musa, are waging a fierce battle for control of the Beddawi refugee camp north of Tripoli. Hundreds of Palestinian and Lebanese civilians have been killed by the rain of artillery shells coming from Syrian-held positions. On November 19 heavy shelling of Tripoli began. Arafat's forces — outgunned and outnumbered — are still fighting the assault.

Syria's Pres. Hafez al-Assad aims to destroy the PLO as an independent organization. He hopes to replace it with a rump group that follows his political dictates. Assad thinks this will enhance his negotiating stance with the Israeli and U.S. regimes.

But, as the Israeli and French bombing raids show, rather than making concessions to the Syrian regime, the imperialists are stepping up their war moves against the Arab nation.

Meanwhile, Washington and its allies

hope the Syrian regime's blows against the PLO will allow Jordan's King Hussein and conservative Palestinian figures on the West Bank to negotiate with Israel. "Wise Palestinians," advises the *New York Times* in a November 19 editorial, "especially the million-plus in the West Bank and Gaza, will finally take charge of their own fate [with Arafat's defeat]. Wise Israelis will encourage them, let them practice their own politics, find their own leaders and produce their own ideas for living in peace with Jordan and Israel."

But the PLO, which has suffered the worst blows in 15 years, has yet to be destroyed and still enjoys broad support among the Palestinian people. This is espe-

cially true in the West Bank and Gaza, where thousands of Palestinians have protested the recent attacks on the PLO.

The Israeli government has clamped down on the protests through arrests and curfews, but unrest may still explode. "People feel frustrated and disgusted by what is going on in Tripoli," Elias Frej, the Palestinian mayor of Bethlehem, told the *New York Times*.

"They support Arafat and they are afraid that the struggle will destroy the PLO. They are really angry at the Syrians and Libyans, but the Israelis represent the source of their tragedy, so they throw stones at the first Israeli car or soldier they see."

CALENDAR

NEW YORK

Manhattan

YSA Educational Conference: U.S. Hands Off Grenada Now! Stop the U.S. War on Central America and the Caribbean! Classes on Grenada, Nicaragua, Cuba, the "Rainbow Coalition," Black struggle, and the women's liberation movement. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Dec. 3, 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m. City College of New York, 138th St. and Convent Ave. Donation: \$3. Aup: N.Y.-N.J. Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (201) 643-3341, (212) 226-8445, (212) 852-7923, or (203) 562-0407.

We Are Struggling for Peace: International Politics and Nicaragua. A Teach-in. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Dec. 3, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. New School for Social Research, Albor List Academic Center, 14th St. and Fifth Ave. Do-

nation: \$5. Aup: Casa Nicaragua. For more information call (212) 243-2678.

PENNSYLVANIA

Pittsburgh

The Day After: How to Prevent It. Speakers: Mark Weddleton, Young Socialist Alliance National Committee; others. Sat., Dec. 3, 7:30 p.m. 141 S Highland. Donation: \$2. Aup: Militant Forum. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

WISCONSIN

Milwaukee

Farrell Dobbs Tribute Meeting. Speakers: Kathy Owen, Milwaukee Socialist Workers Party chairwoman. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Dec. 3, 7:30 p.m. 4704 W Lisbon. Donation: \$1.50. Aup: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (414) 445-2076.

Operation PUSH: undermining Chicago school strike

The following is a guest column written by Melvin Chappell.

CHICAGO — For more than a decade Operation PUSH has participated in and initiated important actions



BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY

Malik Miah

in defense of Black rights in many cities, especially here where it has its strongest base.

However, in a recent struggle here PUSH didn't play such a good role.

The Chicago Teachers Union (CTU) and the Coalition of School Employees Unions, which represents 11,000 tradesmen, maintenance, and lunchroom workers from 18 unions, conducted a three-week strike in October —

the longest in the history of the Chicago school system. PUSH didn't support it.

PUSH tried to take a middle-of-the-road position by defending Black parents and children, as if their real interests were counterposed to those of striking teachers. But the bottom line of PUSH's position was to fault the teachers for the closing down of the public schools.

Thomas Todd, acting president of PUSH while Jesse Jackson campaigns for the Democratic presidential nomination, denounced the settlement and the teachers repeatedly at public meetings. During the strike PUSH joined with a coalition of a half-dozen organizations, including the Black United Front of Chicago, to file a lawsuit in the federal district court seeking an injunction to reopen the schools.

This action by a major civil rights organization only weakens the solidarity that is needed between Blacks and labor to fight against the ruling class austerity drive.

The CTU is a majority Black organization — 55 percent of its membership is Black. Rather than their enemy this union helps to advance the interests of Black and Latino students who are over 80 percent of the 475,000

students in the inner-city schools.

Instead of placing the blame for the strike on the CTU, PUSH should have aimed its fire where it belongs, at the school board, the city administration of Harold Washington (which it helped elect), and the bankers. They are the ones responsible for carrying out the austerity measures that are slashing thousands of public employee jobs and many public services including education.

These attacks hit Blacks especially hard and make worse the already inferior education Blacks receive. In Chicago, which has one of the most segregated big-city school systems in the country, this is particularly true.

Todd and other Black leaders here should remember the important role they played four years ago to mobilize Black community support for striking fire fighters. That support was decisive in winning that fight. Furthermore, they should follow the example of the Atlanta PUSH chapter which is supporting a strike by garment workers.

They should have supported the CTU here which has been in the forefront of fighting against the school board's attacks. Only solidarity with the teachers and labor will best advance the real interests of the Black community.

New York celebration of life of Farrell Dobbs

Continued from Page 7

fighters could only lead other fighters in struggle after they had "seen the elephant" — a Civil War saying that means, seen the reality of combat.

Ex-con

"Farrell never forgot and never quit drawing on his experience as a con," at Sandstone penitentiary, said Barnes. He followed the letters from prisoners in the *Militant* closely. The serious attention by the *Militant* to prisoners and the reaction by prisoners to the *Militant* was seen by Dobbs as an acid-test of a serious revolutionary publication.

Dobbs was convinced that the fight of the workers to defend democratic rights would be part and parcel of the battle to

overturn capitalism.

Dobbs covered the Smith Act trials of the Communist Party in the '50s for the *Militant*. Barnes said that Dobbs thought this attempt to railroad the entire leadership of the CP to prison was a deadly blow to the working people of the United States. He saw this as a question of principle. Many of these leaders who Dobbs' article defended were the same people who had called for Dobbs' conviction and imprisonment a few years earlier when he was a victim of the same Smith Act.

Having his name on the articles was an act of education and objectivity. Dobbs hoped to convince a broad layer of workers of the need for solidarity in the face of ruling-class attacks.

In reviewing Dobbs' many accomplish-

ments, Barnes said the most important of all was his indispensable role in leading the party during the '50s.

An ordinary man

Dobbs was an ordinary person, just like the rest of us, said Barnes. Dobbs was dubious of the use of the term genius, especially in politics. He thought that the real gap was between what was present in millions of working people and how much of it was prevented from coming out by this rotten capitalist society.

Barnes closed by saying a few words to the members of Dobbs' movement, the SWP and Young Socialist Alliance.

He pointed out that the last four weeks had been bitter ones. The revolutionary movement had lost Maurice Bishop and other central leaders of Grenada's New Jewel Movement, the Cuban workers who gave their lives in the fight against the U.S. invaders, and Dobbs.

Barnes described how Dobbs closely followed the recent events in Grenada from the hospital during his last days. He saw the Grenada invasion as the opening battle of what will be a massive war in Central America and the Caribbean. And he had unshakeable confidence in the young fighters coming forward to be part of the battles ahead — in the United States and in Cuba, Nicaragua, Grenada, and El Salvador.

Barnes quoted a speech Dobbs gave to the YSA in 1966. Dobbs passed on what Trotsky, a central leader of the Russian revolution, had told him: "Don't make it a condition that the socialist revolution must come in your lifetime. Be not only a citizen of the planet; be a citizen of time."

Barnes read the concluding section of

that speech:

"Our job is to build a movement of men and women who emulate the seasoned fighters of the Continental [Army] in the first American revolution. Learn to be professional revolutionary fighters. Don't be summer soldiers. Don't dawdle; don't vacillate. Put nothing above the considerations of the movement. Maintain your place in the front ranks of the revolutionary fighters, and stand in that place for the duration.

"There is no other way in which you can find so rich, so rewarding, so fruitful, and so purposeful a life."

A collection was taken for the Farrell Dobbs Party Building Fund to continue Dobbs' work.

Tribute meetings

Cleveland

Sunday, November 27, 7:00 p.m.
15105 St. Clair Ave.

Speakers will include:

Barry Sheppard, Mac Warren, others.
For more information: (216) 451-6150.

Boston

Saturday, December 3, 7:00 p.m.
510 Commonwealth Ave., 4th floor

Speakers will include:

Barry Sheppard, Augusta Trainor, Mac Warren, others.
For more information: (617) 262-4621.

Chicago

Sunday, December 4, 4:00 p.m.
Loop YWCA

37 S. Wabash

Speakers will include:

Barry Sheppard, Mac Warren, others.
For more information: (312) 326-5853.

Message from Fourth International

The following is a statement by the United Secretariat of the Fourth International.

Farrell Dobbs represented as few have the understanding of the best working-class leaders of the necessity of building a revolutionary socialist party to liberate the working people.

More than 40 years ago, although he had gained a historic stature as a trade unionist, he left trade union work to head a small, revolutionary-Marxist party.

Farrell Dobbs led the Socialist Workers Party through the 1950s, the most difficult period in the history of the American socialist movement, symbolizing the determination of the Trotskyist cadres in the

United States to persevere at any cost in the work of building a revolutionary party in the central country of modern capitalism and imperialism.

Farrell Dobbs' stature and his total dedication to the aim of building the instrument necessary for liberating the working class and all of humanity is testimony to the quality of the small group of revolutionists who rallied around Leon Trotsky to rebuild the international revolutionary party and to continue to develop revolutionary Marxism as a scientific tool.

The Fourth International honors the memory of Farrell Dobbs as an example of the dedication of the cadres educated by Trotsky to the task of building the world party of the socialist revolution.

—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: 63118. 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 Pad-dock Rd. Zip: 45237. Tel: (513) 242-7161. Cleveland: SWP, YSA, 15105 St. Clair Ave. Zip: 44110. Tel: (216) 451-6150. Toledo: SWP, YSA, 2120 Dorr St. Zip: 43607. Tel: (419) 536-0383.

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

PENNSYLVANIA: Edinboro: YSA, Edinboro State College. Zip: 16444. Tel: (814) 734-4415. Harrisburg: SWP, YSA, 803 N. 2nd St. Zip: 17102. Tel: (717) 234-5052. Philadelphia: SWP, YSA, 2744 Germantown Ave. Zip: 19133. Tel: (215) 225-0213. Pittsburgh: SWP, YSA, 141 S. Highland Ave. Zip: 15206. Tel: (412) 362-6767. State College: YSA, P.O. Box 464, Bellefonte. Zip: 16823. Tel: (814) 238-3296.

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

TEXAS: Austin: YSA, c/o Mike Rose, 7409 Berkman Dr. Zip: 78752. Tel: (512) 452-3923. Dallas: SWP, YSA, 2817 Live Oak. Zip: 75204. Tel: (214) 826-4711. Houston: SWP, YSA, 4806 Alameda. Zip: 77004. Tel: (713) 522-8054. San Antonio: SWP, YSA, 2811 Guadalupe, #100. Zip: 78207. Tel: (512) 432-7394.

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

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

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

WASHINGTON: Seattle: SWP, YSA, 5517 Rainier Ave. South. Zip: 98118. Tel: (206) 723-5330.

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

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

Nicaragua girds for invasion

Joint U.S.-Honduran military maneuvers, coupled with an additional Congressional appropriation for "covert" aid to anti-Nicaraguan mercenaries, underlines the gravity of the U.S. military threat to Nicaragua and to the liberation fighters in El Salvador.

Nicaragua's Sandinista government is mobilizing the people of that nation in major emergency preparations for a direct U.S. invasion.

They have good reason for doing so.

The November 18 Congressional vote to allocate \$24 million for the next six months for the dirty "secret" war had bipartisan support, indicating that Democratic criticism of the illegal drive against Nicaragua is now reduced from a token to a charade. Rep. Edward Boland (D-Mass.) hailed approval of the funding as "a giant step in the right direction."

The money will be used to provide more airplanes to the mercenaries, led by supporters of the late dictator Somoza, for use in such operations as the recent bombing of a Nicaraguan oil port. And it will finance hit-and-run forays into Nicaragua from across the Honduran and Costa Rican borders to rape, murder, destroy crops, and raze buildings.

This is being done in the name of "intercepting" an alleged flow of arms from Nicaragua to the insurgents in El Salvador.

Meanwhile, in a brazen display of the planned aggression against Nicaragua, over 150 foreign reporters and military observers were invited to Honduras to watch U.S. marines and Honduran soldiers stage an amphibious landing on the northern Honduran coast.

The rehearsal for a coastal invasion was part of the extensive U.S.-Honduran maneuvers dubbed Big Pine II. It was the most substantial display of military muscle since Big Pine II began, involving jet fighters, helicopters, and armored vehicles.

Explosive charges were detonated on the beach to simulate a naval bombardment and then helicopters and

landing craft brought U.S. and Honduran troops ashore.

The chief of the Honduran armed forces told reporters that when Big Pine II comes to an end next year, it will be followed by Big Pine III. He said this may also involve the troops of the Salvadoran and Guatemalan regimes.

Meanwhile, in Nicaragua, heightened political and military defense efforts were under way.

Appeals have been made to the United Nations and the Contadora Group — Mexico, Panama, Colombia, and Venezuela.

Inside Nicaragua, people were pitching in to build underground shelters and trenches as protection against a bombardment.

Government leaders spelled out the gravity of the situation to the people in the frankest terms and received a resolute response.

Concern about an impending invasion apparently was not laid to rest when the U.S. ambassador to Nicaragua assured them their fears of an invasion are "exaggerated." He didn't say by what factor.

For Nicaragua, the situation is plain enough. Over the past months, the forays by the U.S.-sponsored exiles have become more lethal. And, in light of the cold-blooded invasion of Grenada under the flimsiest of pretexts, the massive added presence of U.S. forces in neighboring Honduras is obvious cause for the most serious concern.

Meanwhile, in El Salvador, the liberation forces voiced major concern that they too faced a direct U.S. invasion.

For people in this country, too, the invasion of Grenada helps make clear how totally determined Washington is to carry through its plans to crush the revolutionary forces in Central America and the Caribbean. There should be no illusion about the fact that U.S. imperialism is ready to go to the limit. The big job of mobilizing the forces against their reactionary war drive must be doubled, trebled, and doubled again.

U.S. curb on Soviet reporting

It was one more tightening of the anti-Soviet screw and another cut at the Bill of Rights.

In a totally arbitrary action, the State Department denied permission to two Soviet journalists to report on the Communist Party convention held in Cleveland November 10-13. The two were New York-based correspondents for the Soviet press agency, Tass, and the Soviet paper, *Pravda*.

In addition visas were not issued to members of a Soviet Communist Party delegation that planned to attend the convention.

In explaining the unusual denial of permission for Soviet journalists to attend the convention, a State Department spokesperson asserted that it was on the basis of "reciprocity" — that is, that U.S. journalists are also restricted from some areas of the USSR. He also asserted that Cleveland is classified as a "closed" area and, also, near an airforce base outside Dayton, Ohio. (Dayton is 209 miles from Cleveland.)

The "reciprocity," "closed" area argument is bunk.

Both the United States and Soviet Union have areas that they declare closed to journalists from the other country. But Cleveland is not on the State Department's list of off-limit areas. This attempt to stop the Soviet media is part of the same undemocratic policy that barred the U.S. press from covering the invasion of Grenada.

Increasingly, the U.S. government is moving to curb the flow of information at home and abroad. The ban on reporting the invasion of Grenada was an admission that what Washington was doing could not stand the light of day, not even in the twisted reporting of the capitalist media.

The antiliberties ban on Soviet press reporting of the Communist Party convention is one more step in extending the government's "right" to restrict news coverage. And, as Grenada confirmed, it doesn't stop with journalists from other countries. The curb on the Soviet reporters is an attack on freedom of the press and should be protested by all.

Solidarity needed for bus drivers

Continued from front page

the display of which in this strike is inspiring. Auto workers from Linden, for instance, came to join a Newark picket line because, as one of them said, these strikers need our help. No one had to urge them to come; they just saw the strike on TV and pitched in.

Sympathy among working people for strikers is not unusual. But in the Greyhound strike, solidarity is more visible than it was for the air traffic controllers, for instance.

Greyhound's operations in several cities, such as Philadelphia, have been shut down or at least severely curtailed with the active participation of local central labor councils. In large measure this is due to the realization that PATCO went down because of a lack of such support.

The ATU pickets and their supporters have also gained significant backing from passengers, both through appeals for solidarity and by pointing out the safety risks of riding with untrained drivers on ill-maintained buses.

Support for the Greyhound strikers is so strong that even some Democratic Party politicians, such as San Francisco Mayor Diane Feinstein, have been critical of

Greyhound. Of course, this is only posturing, as Feinstein proves when her cops club strikers at the Greyhound terminal.

Can Greyhound's assault on its workers be beaten back? Yes — with organized, active solidarity. The example of public workers in British Columbia, who just defeated an antiunion attack by the provincial government, shows what can be done when labor closes ranks in solidarity. The British Columbia workers forged an alliance of unionists and their allies that was leading up to a province-wide general strike when the government backed off and gave up on many of its threats.

Beating back Greyhound will require more than ritual verbal support. The AFL-CIO's call for a boycott of Greyhound can be effective if it can be turned into active support on the picket lines.

Fortunately, that is beginning to happen. Several central labor councils are calling for such support at the November 23 ATU rallies.

That is an encouraging sign. Such solidarity, if it grows, can stop or at least blunt Greyhound's attack on the ATU and provide an inspiring example for the hard-pressed copper workers and others.

Maurice Bishop speaks: Goliath versus David

Over the next several weeks we are running excerpts from speeches by Grenadian Prime Minister Maurice Bishop who was murdered October 19.

A collection of over 20 speeches by and interviews with Bishop is scheduled for publication by Pathfinder Press in December. The following excerpt is from a Grenadian national radio address by Bishop March 23, 1983.

When the president of the United States of America, who is also commander-in-chief of its armed forces, states publicly and clearly that tiny Grenada is a threat to the national security of the mighty and powerful USA,

OUR REVOLUTIONARY HERITAGE

and when his top advisers and military personnel indicate that the time has come to put "teeth into their rhetoric," then it is clear that Goliath has turned his attention to David.

The U.S. government has a well-documented history of dealing with countries which it has deemed threats to its national security. The U.S. has intervened militarily in this region well over 100 times in the past 100 years to protect its so-called national security interests.

Although the information on this current threat is by far the most dangerous that we have ever faced, some of our people are saying that there have been other occasions when we have had cause for justified concern that our revolution was threatened.

That is true, comrades, but what is important for us to stress tonight is that on previous occasions, we forced our enemies to change their plans at the last minute because we were successfully able to mobilize regional and international public opinion in our defense. In other words, we were able to alert the world of the danger that we faced and the world stood up with us.

The best example of this that I can give you tonight is the "Amber and the Amberines" maneuver conducted by the U.S. in August 1981 off Puerto Rico as a full-scale dress rehearsal for an invasion of our country. We immediately went on a political and diplomatic offensive to alert the world of the threat facing us, to call for international solidarity, and to request our friends to pressure the U.S. not to carry out its aggressive plans.

It is fortunate for us that the conscience of mankind and the force of world public opinion responded readily on all continents to our call.

But comrades there is another very important lesson which we have also learnt and this is, whenever our country is in danger, whenever our revolution is threatened, we must always go all out to give our people the facts, to fully alert them as to the precise nature of the danger and to call upon them to mobilize and organize themselves in defense of our revolution.

Again, in face of grave danger, we need to call our people to arms. Once again, we have to shoulder our fundamental responsibility to defend what we fought for and won after many years of bitter struggle.

We must never forget that the only way in which we can ever guarantee that international public opinion comes to our defense is if we can continue to show to the world that we are willing — as a united people, every single one of us — to stand up firmly on our own two legs with arms in our hands to fight and to die, if necessary, in the defense of our beloved homeland.

Even at this late hour, we want to repeat that our preference is for peace and normal relations with the U.S. administration. We understand very clearly that only an environment of peace will allow us the opportunity to continue to develop our economy, raise our academic and skills' levels and political consciousness, and bring more and more benefits to our people.

We do not want war. We have never wanted war. But equally, we are not prepared to give our birthright or to allow others — no matter how big and powerful they are — to shape our destinies for us or to tell us what we can do when we can do it, and how we must do it.

Our enemies had better try to understand the deep pride and dignity of our people and the courageous way in which we have always faced up to difficulties. They had better remember the vanguard role of our glorious party — the New Jewel Movement which mobilized, organized, and led our people through the years of terror and repression of the Gairy dictatorship up to the seizure of state power and the dawning of the new day of liberation and freedom on March 13, 1979.

There is no doubt that we are a peace-loving people but there is equally no doubt that we are proud and courageous people who will always fight to defend our dignity, our freedom, and our homeland.

McBride death leads to new steel union election

BY GEOFF MIRELOWITZ

Lloyd McBride, president of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA), died November 6. He had recently undergone heart surgery.

McBride was elected president of the union in 1977 in

UNION TALK

a hotly contested battle with an insurgent candidate, Ed Sadlowski. McBride was only the fourth president to serve since the union was founded in 1942.

He succeeded I.W. Abel and promised to continue Abel's policies, which were based on seeking an accommodation with the steel corporations rather than fighting to defend steelworkers from the employers' attacks.

This was one promise McBride kept. Under his leadership and that of the official "family" team at USWA headquarters in Pittsburgh, the union saw its membership cut almost in half by layoffs, plant closings, and company job elimination schemes.

Last March workers in the basic steel industry — the heart of the union — were the victims of a historic concession contract that drastically cut wages and benefits.

The McBride leadership favored this deal and sold it to local union presidents who approved it. They said it was the only way to save jobs in the industry. Rank-and-file steelworkers themselves had no say in the matter. Steelworkers have no right to vote on their own contract — a denial of union democracy that McBride steadfastly insisted on.

The arguments in favor of the concession deal that were put forward by McBride and other top USWA officials have proven utterly false. No jobs were saved and today, more than nine months after the contract was signed, hundreds of thousands of steelworkers remain laid off.

More recently the McBride-led leadership had stepped up its campaign against foreign steel imports as another false road to dealing with massive steelworker unemployment. It has opposed a proposed U.S. Steel-British Steel import deal with a vigor it has never showed in fighting the antilabor demands of the U.S. steel industry.

McBride rose to the top of the union by climbing the bureaucratic ladder. Before becoming president, he served as director of USWA District 34, based in St. Louis. Earlier he had been a sub-district director and a local president.

In the course of his rise McBride, like many top union officials, learned the ways of labor "statesmanship," substituting cooperation and collaboration with the employers for a determined fight for workers interests. As his denial of steelworkers' right to contract ratification showed, McBride believed that he and other top officials knew what workers wanted better than they did.

However, McBride was not always a bureaucrat. Un-



Lloyd McBride

like many in the labor officialdom today, McBride was, at one time, a worker. He took his first job at the age of 14 in a steel fabricating plant for 25 cents an hour. In 1936 he joined the Steel Workers Organizing Committee (SWOC), the predecessor of the USWA.

McBride's Local 1295 went on strike in 1937 and McBride helped organize a sitdown in the plant, a popular tactic among the militant and mobilized labor movement of the time. Less than a year later, at the age of 22, he was elected president of the local.

But as time passed McBride put as much distance as he could between himself and his past as a working-class fighter. The methods he advocated as a rank-and-file leader became completely alien to him as a union bureaucrat.

As a member of the bureaucracy he came to defend different interests. His main concern was keeping "labor peace" and not rocking the boat with the employers, while he enjoyed a big salary and maintained a privileged position and life-style far above the workers he represented.

McBride's death was particularly untimely from the point of view of his associates in the top officialdom of the USWA. The union constitution provides for a referendum election by the union ranks to fill union posts vacated more than two years before the next scheduled election. McBride died two years and 20 days before the next scheduled election for union president.

Not deterred by such formalities (when it suits their purposes) others in the top leadership initially expressed their intention to abrogate the union constitution. They wanted the union's 28-member International Executive Board to appoint McBride's successor. This would have left the choice up to the official family. The ranks of the union would have been denied their right to vote.

This would certainly have been in keeping with the approach that McBride and his three predecessors in the USWA's top spot have followed from the union's inception. Democracy has never been a hallmark of the USWA.

However, the top officials had to change their plans. They backed off their attempt to ignore the union's constitution; elected International Secretary-treasurer Lynn Williams as temporary union president; and scheduled a referendum election for March 29, 1984.

Strong sentiment among rank-and-file workers in favor of the right to an election may have been a factor. But a major consideration was a falling out in the top USWA officialdom. They could not agree on a candidate to take McBride's place. The IEB split almost down the middle. Sixteen voted for Williams, but 12 voted for International Vice-pres. Joe Odorcich.

Upon losing the vote Odorcich immediately announced he would run against Williams in the March 1984 elections. "There are issues that have not been discussed," said Odorcich in what many steelworkers would consider a vast understatement. "I will raise them," he promised.

Steelworkers will welcome this. They will no doubt have their own views about these issues; issues that McBride, Odorcich, and Williams have tried to sweep under the rug for years.

Now is an excellent time for a presidential election in the USWA. The union has been under fierce attack from the employers for some time. The five-month old strike of copper miners against the Phelps Dodge Corp. is an important example. Other major blows, including the concession contract in basic steel, have been struck since McBride was reelected without opposition in 1981. Many steelworkers feel the need for a broad discussion of strategy and perspectives to meet the employers' assault and chart an effective course forward for the union. A presidential election will open the possibility for rank-and-file steelworkers to have this needed discussion.

Those who are looking for a more effective approach to defend the interests of steelworkers might do well to review the militant lessons of the fight to establish industrial unions in steel and other basic industries, which McBride himself was part of in the 1930s. Unfortunately that was not the legacy Lloyd McBride left the USWA.

Geoff Mirelowitz was a member of the USWA from 1977 to 1983. For the past five years he was a member of USWA Local 2609 at Bethlehem Steel's Sparrows Point plant.

LETTERS

Company prowar talk

I work at FMC Corp. in San Jose, California. FMC is a major supplier of the American military and has been since 1940. FMC makes several different types of armored vehicles for different branches of the military — armored personnel carriers, Bradley fighting vehicles, and amphibious assault vehicles.

On October 24, FMC had a giant pep talk for its employees. Big tents and stages were set up in the parking lot. The Marine Corps band was there playing patriotic songs. Lots of top military brass, corporate and government officials, and media were present.

This event was billed as a "Roll-out Ceremony" — to present the first of the new completed vehicles we make to the navy and the Marine Corps. We were all given off work for about two hours to attend this event. About 300 production workers were involved as well as office personnel.

FMC spent a lot of money on this event to try to convince us that "what's good for the company is good for us." In this case, what is good for the company is war.

We heard speeches by Rear Admiral G.W. Davis, Marine Corps Brig. Gen. William Carson, and top corporate officials on the need to build up the military to defend democracy, peace, and freedom around the world. They spoke of increasing military presence in Beirut in response to the deaths of the marines there. They spoke of the "proud" history of the vehicle

we make — including its use in the Vietnam War.

They complained of Soviet military superiority and called for increased defense spending. They told us that we would be proud to know that at this very moment, marines were on their way to a "troubled island in the Caribbean called Grenada" to defend peace and democracy. And they had the chaplain of Moffett Field bless the tanks as instruments of peace. Their message for us was that we should support the government's foreign policy.

A lot of people at work were surprised at the extravagance of the event. Many people were expecting it to be a big thanks to the employees and felt we had been used by the company. Several people said things like, "I don't want to get into another war," or "This is the start of World War III." One worker told me he had had enough war — up to his neck — and he didn't want anymore. This same person thought, however, that we needed a strong defense.

A lot of people realized this event was an attempt to get us to accept war. The news from Beirut provoked a lot of thinking and a lot of antiwar comments among my coworkers.

The next day, when we heard about the U.S. invasion of Grenada, there was a lot of very vocal opposition to it in the plant. As the week wore on, and the newspapers carried more and more anti-Cuban

and anti-Soviet propaganda and lies about Grenada, the discussion went back and forth, but many people remain convinced that the U.S. should get out of Grenada and Lebanon.

*Theresa Delgadillo
San Jose, Calif.*

Military Research

On Nov. 7 several dozen students took over a military research laboratory on the University of Michigan campus in Ann Arbor, holding it for 48 hours before leaving voluntarily. The sit-in was led by the Progressive Students Network (PSN), a recently formed radical group. It successfully halted the laboratory work of Thomas Senior, an electrical and computer engineering professor, who performs research for National Aeronautics and Space Agency (NASA), air force, army, and Dikewood Industries (a war industry contractor).

The dramatic action was the fulfillment of a pledge PSN made several months ago to use civil disobedience to force military research from the University of Michigan campus. Since 1972 the university has had a policy of prohibiting federally classified (secret) research on weapons development. But last June the regents of the university defeated a student-faculty proposal that would have applied similar prohibitions to nonclassified research.

While the protesters were prepared to go to jail, the university administration decided not to take action against them, probably because their cause has widespread support on the campus and in the Ann Arbor community.

At present the University of Michigan has \$6.2 million in defense contracts. Professor Senior's radiation laboratory is undertaking research on electromagnetic pulse (EMP), bombarding a scale model of the F-106 fighter bomber with microwaves. PSN leaders believe the purpose of the experiment is to test the effects of a high altitude nuclear detonation on aircraft. One of the organizers of the sit-in, Tom Kaeding, told reporters that: "This won't be the last such demonstration this term. We won't be satisfied until military research is completely off the campus."

*Alan Wald
Ann Arbor, Michigan*

Grenada

I was very sorry to hear of the murder of the top revolutionary leader of Grenada. I was deeply grieved as I am in solidarity with the people of Grenada. U. S. imperialism and the other Caribbean nations should be condemned for the invasion.

I hope and believe the Grenadian people will be able to run the marines off of the island. The U.S. was surprised as they weren't looking to have any resistance.

The U.S. hopes to turn the revolution around so they can install their own ruler who will protect their interests.

The U.S. hates for a country to be looking out for the interests of working and poor people. The U.S. wants a government that looks out for the interests of the rich corporations.

The government of Grenada has done more for the people than any imperialist system ever has. It provided jobs, housing, medical care, highways, education to reduce illiteracy, etc.

Everyone should support the Grenadian people in their struggle against imperialism. I already did hate imperialism, now I hate it more than ever because of this act of aggression.

A prisoner

The Militant special prisoner fund makes it possible to send reduced-rate subscriptions to prisoners who can't pay for them. To help out, send your contribution to: Militant Prisoner Subscription Fund, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014.

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.

Victims of Ala. cop raid go on trial

BY HEIDI FISCHER

MONTGOMERY — The trial of Worrie Taylor, one of five Black men victimized in frame-up charges of attempted murder, robbery, and kidnapping, began here November 14.

The five — Larry Gene Hill, Willie James Taylor, Sr., and Christopher Taylor, all of Pontiac, Michigan, and Worrie and Elbert Taylor of Warren, Ohio — are accused of trying to kill two white Montgomery policemen in February.

But their real "crime" was to defend themselves when the two cops broke into their home with guns drawn in the middle of the night. The Taylors say the cops, who were in civilian clothes, did not identify themselves.

No crime had been committed, and the cops had no warrant.

Taylor family members from Ohio and Michigan were in Alabama for the funeral of a relative.

After subduing the intruders, the Taylors themselves called the police for help. Eleven members of the Taylor family were arrested. Several were beaten that night at the Montgomery jail.

Elbert Taylor testified that he was repeatedly beaten by the police officers, one of whom then removed his handcuffs and told him, "Run, nigger, so that I will have a reason to kill you."

At the trial, Ed Spivey, one of the two cops who broke into the Taylor house, testified that he became suspicious when one of the Taylors, who was in front of the

house, didn't take his hands out of his pockets.

Spivey said he concluded from this that his "suspect" was armed. The defense answered that it's not unusual for people to keep their hands in their pockets while outside in February.

Last spring rallies numbering in the hundreds were held at Black churches here to protest police violence and raise funds for the Taylor family's legal defense.

In June the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and local Black groups organized a "Sacred Rights Pilgrimage" from Eufaula, Alabama — where two Black youth were killed by police in April — to the state capitol.

But the cops, the courts, and the administration of Mayor Emory Folmar have not relented in their drive to terrorize the Black community, railroad the Taylors to prison, and persecute those who have spoken out in their defense.

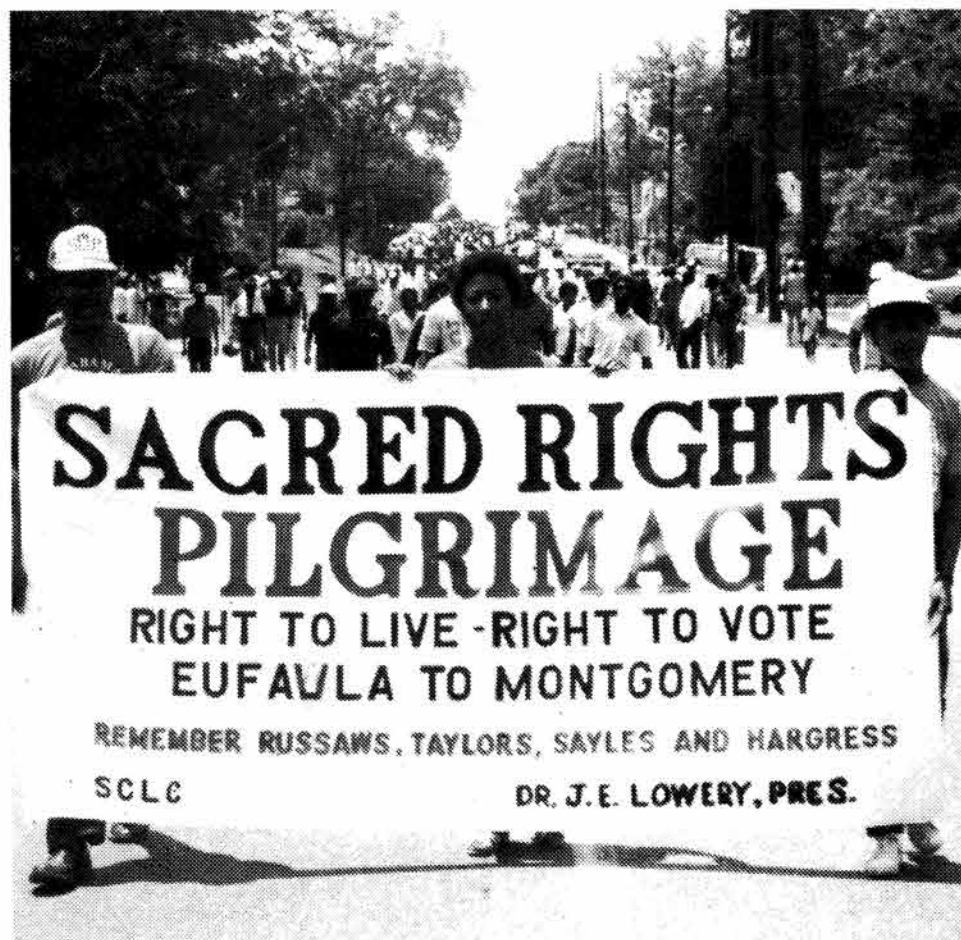
Since March, Montgomery police have shot at least five Blacks. One was only 15 years old. Three were killed.

The same grand jury that indicted the Taylors cleared the cops in two of those shootings.

City Councilman Donald Watkins was ruled in contempt of court and fined \$500 a day for refusing to name the police sources who told him Taylor family members were beaten in jail. Watkins lost on appeal and was left with fines totaling \$2,000.

Contrary to all assurances that Watkins

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Militant
"Sacred Rights Pilgrimage" from Eufaula to Montgomery, Alabama, in June protested rampant police brutality in state against Blacks, including Taylor family. Taylor family victims are now on trial for "attempted murder."

U.S. regime, troops extend grip on Grenada

BY MOHAMMED OLIVER

The People's Revolutionary Government of Grenada was going to finish the construction of the country's first international airport by next March. It had, in fact, declared 1984 to be the Year of the International Airport. But the overthrow of the revolutionary government, headed by murdered Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, and the U.S. invasion of the island make the facility's completion doubtful. Nearly 400 Grenadians who worked at the airport are now unemployed.

"We just have no official project on the completion of the airport," said James Dandridge, a U.S. State Department spokesman in Grenada. "Right now we have to get the country moving again."

By this Dandridge means, above all, the establishment of a proimperialist regime in St. George's, the capital. But before such a government can be set up, all opposition must be squelched and all traces of the revolution eradicated.

U.S. troops and other agents have jailed hundreds of Grenadian revolutionaries so far. In a massive sweep of the island, they have rounded up labor activists, members of the Grenadian army or militia, employees in the Bishop government, or members of the New Jewel Movement.

The U.S. troops are known to have imprisoned more than 200 Grenadians. The island's population is 110,000.

Meanwhile, the character of the U.S.-installed government of Sir Paul Scoon is being exposed. Scoon announced an "interim" government on November 9, which was supposed to organize elections next year. After the first meeting of Scoon's advisory council, reports the November 20 *Washington Post*, Grenada's new rulers said it might take up to two years for elections to be held.

A European diplomat in Grenada said, "the fact is the government here is still very much headed by" Ambassador Charles Gillespie of the U.S. mission and Maj. Gen. Jack Farris, the military commander.

As for the remaining U.S. troops on the island, Scoon's council says their presence

is going to be needed indefinitely. The Reagan administration has said that the 2,300 U.S. combat troops would be withdrawn by Christmas.

A U.S. official in Grenada, however, said that 2,000 "noncombat" troops will be staying on the island well into next year. The "noncombat" troops would, of course, be armed.

"Noncombat" troops would play the same role as the current U.S. occupation force. In fact, the soldiers stationed at the roadblocks, staffing the prisons, and conducting the arrests and interrogation of wide layers of the population are classified

as noncombat troops.

Meanwhile, the U.S. military forces have gotten into the publishing business. The U.S. armed forces subsidized the production of the *Grenadian Voice*, which was published on November 19. The right-wing paper ran a front-page editorial in its first issue giving President Reagan its "Order of Valor" for the U.S. invasion of the island. The republication of the *Voice*, closed down in 1981 for fomenting counter-revolutionary activity, was hailed as the resurrection of freedom of the press.

The *New York Times* article on the paper's publication was headlined "An In-

dependent Newspaper Publishes Again In Grenada." The *Grenadian Voice* said it would "defend to the fullest extent our right to exist so that never again in this land will press freedom be abrogated."

However, the paper was composed on typesetting equipment provided by the U.S. military and the copy flown aboard a U.S. military transport to be printed in Barbados. The military also flew the papers back for distribution.

The other source of news on the island is Radio Spice Island — operated by the U.S. Navy.

Steelworkers to elect union president

BY GEOFF MIRELOWITZ

On March 29, 1984 members of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) will vote in a special election to fill the office of union president. The election was set by the union's International Executive Board (IEB) following the death of union president Lloyd McBride November 6.

Already three candidates have announced their intention to run. Lynn Williams, USWA international secretary-treasurer, was picked by the IEB in a 16 to 12 vote to serve as temporary president until the election. Joe Odorcich, USWA international vice-president, was on the losing end of the IEB vote. He has also announced his intention to run. The third announced candidate is Ron Weissen, president of USWA Local 1397 at U. S. Steel's Homestead Works, outside of Pittsburgh.

Weissen's campaign was launched at a meeting in Hammond, Indiana. In attendance were local union officers and rank-and-file members from several parts of the country. Many were from USWA District 31 in the Chicago-Gary area. It is the union's largest district and for some time the center of those forces who consider themselves in opposition to the policies of the USWA's top leadership.

Weissen, for instance, opposed the con-

cession contract imposed on workers in basic steel last March, which drastically cut wages and benefits. "I'm a militant," Weissen explained November 19, "but you have to be when you deal with militant corporations."

Initial signs are that this election can open a needed discussion on strategy and perspectives for the USWA. Each candidate must receive the nomination of approximately 90 USWA locals to appear on the ballot.

Even Odorcich, who like Williams has been part of the top union leadership (and in fact negotiated the concession contract in basic steel), admitted "There are issues that have not been discussed. I will raise them."

Important questions remain to be answered concerning the elections. These include whether any other candidates will announce and what solutions the candidates will put forward to deal with the crisis facing the union. The employers' attacks and the absence of an effective fight-back strategy has led to a decline in membership of more than 40 percent.

Of key importance is the opportunity for the ranks of the union to express their views on these issues.



Militant/Yvonne Hayes
Ron Weissen, candidate for Steelworkers' presidency.