

Socialist nominee rips Reagan's 'rights' panel

BY MOHAMMED OLIVER

Mel Mason, Socialist Workers Party candidate for president in 1984, blasted the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights' statement January 17 attacking affirmative action and the use of numerical quotas for Blacks in hiring. The commission also urged that the U.S. Supreme Court adopt a similar racist position.

"The civil rights commission claims affirmative action quotas constitute reverse discrimination against whites," said Mason. "That's a lie. Whites don't suffer race discrimination. The commission raises this false argument to divert attention from the real racial discrimination suffered by Blacks, and to portray Black workers fighting for equality in the workplace as the enemy of white workers."

The civil rights commission, recently reconstituted by President Reagan to include a majority opposed to affirmative action, adopted its new stance in a statement attacking the Detroit Police Department for using quotas for the promotion of Black officers. The commission raised many of the same arguments presented by the U.S. Justice Department, which joined with some white cops in Detroit in challenging the affirmative action program.

The police department is required to maintain separate seniority lists for Black and white officers. Promotions are made alternately from the two lists so that Black and white officers are advanced in equal numbers.

Morris Abram, a Democrat appointed to the commission by President Reagan, assailed the dual seniority system: "Equal means equal. Equal does not mean you have separate lists of Blacks and whites for promotion, any more than you have separate accommodations for Blacks and whites for eating."

John Bunzel, another Democrat on the



Mel Mason, Socialist Workers Party candidate for president, denounced civil rights commission statement against affirmative action.

commission, said "it is a gross oversimplification to suggest that racism and discrimination are still the root cause" of inequalities.

"Does anyone really believe that the special ills which still trap the Black underclass in poverty and failure can be blamed solely on discrimination?" asked Bunzel.

"Well, it's not because we're dumb!" Mel Mason told the *Militant*.

"Yes," he continued, "it's because of racism and racial discrimination. And it's because of sexism and sexual discrimination that women are on the bottom of the heap. And, in the final analysis, it's because this society is run by a tiny group of capitalists who make superprofits off this oppression

and further divide the labor movement in the process.

"The only protection Blacks, other oppressed nationalities, and women have from the painful cycle of being 'the last hired, first fired' is affirmative action — and with some teeth. Quotas."

Mason, a former city council member in Seaside, California, who led a successful fight for affirmative action programs in that city, said that Blacks and women should join together in demanding an end to racial and sexual discrimination.

"But," Mason added, "this struggle requires the full support of the entire labor movement. Allowing the employers to dis-

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Nicaragua rebuts lies on downed U.S. copter

BY JANE HARRIS

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — "We thought it came to bomb us!" explained 38-year-old Carmen Sandré, mother of six children.

Sandré, a resident of the Nicaraguan border village Teotecacinte, was referring to the helicopter piloted by U.S. Chief Warrant Officer Jeffrey Schwab. Schwab flew 13 kilometers into Nicaraguan territory January 11, was fired on by the Sandinista army, and then crashed just across the Honduran side of the border.

"Everybody in town who had a rifle got it out and went to the streets or their backyards in case we were attacked," said Teotecacinte militia member Julio Velásquez.

Nicaraguan leaders have expressed regret over the death of Schwab, but pointed out that it never would have happened if U.S. armed forces had not been sent to Central America.

Sandinista militia members and soldiers fired on the helicopter with light weapons after it penetrated Nicaraguan territory, Defense Minister Humberto Ortega announced at a news conference here January 17. All shooting from the Nicaraguan side stopped "moments after the helicopter made a forced landing in Honduran territory," he said.

A Nicaraguan commission formed to investigate the incident has not been able to determine the exact cause of the forced landing because it has not been granted access to either the helicopter or the surviving crew members.

But it has established that the helicopter was one of a type frequently used in the past for spying and planting land mines on the Nicaraguan side of the border. Moreover, it reports that the two survivors were not simply "engineers" as reported in U.S. statements, but rather demolitions experts specializing in the use of explosives.

Ortega also reported that the downed helicopter's violation of Nicaraguan airspace was part of a pattern of nearly 40 such violations since the first of the year.

Ortega placed the incident in the context of the new counterrevolutionary military offensive planned by U.S. advisers. Called "Plan Sierra," its aim is to take and hold a piece of northern Nicaragua and then call for direct U.S. intervention. A second stage of the plan calls for invading northwestern Nicaragua by sea and air, threaten-

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Troopers beat, club copper strikers

BY KAREN KOPPERUD

CLIFTON-MORENCI, Ariz. — Phelps Dodge Corp. has escalated its union-busting campaign of violence, provocation, and harassment against the members and supporters of the 13 unions of copper miners who have been on strike against the corporate giant in Arizona and Texas since July 1.

On January 16 a state of emergency and a 9 p.m.-to-6 a.m. curfew were declared in the company town of Morenci, Arizona, and in the nearby unincorporated areas of Duncan and York. People are not allowed to gather or "loiter" on the street in those hours.

Department of Public Safety (DPS) Sgt. Allan Schmidt said, "People will be told what type of assembly is lawful under the curfew."

The day before, additional DPS (state police) were sent into Clifton-Morenci, bringing to more than 50 the number of state cops in these small towns.

Earlier, on Friday, January 13, cops in full riot gear launched a well-organized attack on pickets in Clifton. Many pickets were hit with nightsticks. Smoke bombs were thrown into the narrow streets to disperse the crowd. Fifteen people have been arrested, 12 for unlawful assembly and three for alleged rock-throwing.

Those arrested, including leaders of the Women's Auxiliary, were brutally manhandled. Women were dragged by their hair. One 14 year old was thrown to the ground from the back of her parents' pickup truck and stepped on by cops to hold her

still while they handcuffed her hands behind her back.

Strikers were outraged by statements earlier that week by George Munroe, chairman of the board and chief executive officer of Phelps Dodge. Addressing a Phelps Dodge-sponsored luncheon for 350 business, civic, and political leaders at the Phoenix Hilton on January 12, Munroe intimated that the strike was no longer an issue for Phelps Dodge, and that as far as the company was concerned, the strike was over.

Strikers and their supporters turned out on the picket line to refute this. As one striker told reporters, "We're still here. This strike is still on!"

The wife of a striking steelworker and leader of the Women's Auxiliary described the Friday-night cop attack: "It was about 10:50 p.m. There were about 60 or 70 people on the line, as usual. There were a few DPS across the street by the Circle K. Then they started arriving. More and more of them.

"They started putting on riot gear — flak jackets and helmets. They were putting little cans into their pockets. The front row of cops had M-16 automatic rifles. Then they sort of huddled.

"The picket line was getting pretty vocal at this point. Then I heard this noise — I looked across the street and they were all lined up, smacking their nightsticks into the palms of their hands. I heard one of them say, 'Let's get 'em!' I said to my husband, 'I think they're coming across the street!' When people noticed what was

happening, they sort of crowded together, but somebody shouted, 'No, no, spread out! Scatter!'

"All I could think about was my daughter, and I yelled at her to run. Then I saw the fear on her face. . . . Cops charged, pushing, hitting people. They just started grabbing people at random. . . . One of them said, 'Get your ass out of here! You've had your first warning!'

"I turned to go, and all I remember is

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Antiwar ex-marine is victim of assault and death threat

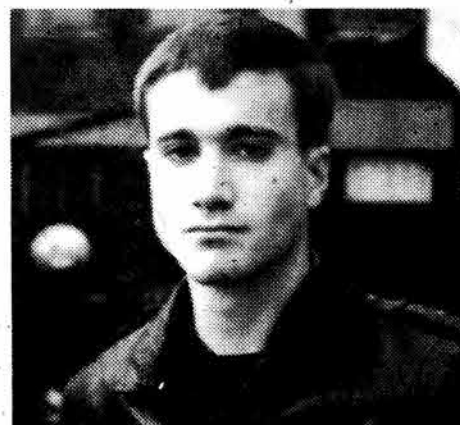
BY STUART CROME

CINCINNATI — On January 17 former marine Sgt. Jim Stryffeler and a delegation of 25 of his supporters held a news conference demanding an end to the attacks on his right to free speech and association.

An opponent of U.S. war policy in Central America and the Mideast and a member of the Young Socialist Alliance, Stryffeler won an honorable discharge from the U.S. Marines last November 9 after he successfully fought attempts by the brass to prevent him from freely expressing his views.

The January 17 news conference was held here to protest a round of death

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Jim Stryffeler

Militant/John Studer

—SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE—

In last week's column, Jason Redrup described how members of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance in Arizona organized to reach striking copper miners with the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*, and use the papers to build solidarity with the strike among other workers.

At the YSA National Convention in St. Louis, held December 28-January 2, we had a chance to talk with one of the copper miners who met the *Militant* as a result of these efforts. Billy Jacks is a member of the United Steelworkers of America, and a leader of the strike in the town of Morenci. He told Lee Martindale about his experiences with the *Militant* in the strike.

"The first time I ever read the *Militant* is when one of the teams came up to Morenci. We were getting into struggle up there, and we were talking to a lot of reporters that were asking us a lot of questions. They'd ask us, 'What do you think of the copper strike, how do you feel about this?' We told them, and then come to find out they lied about half the stuff we told them or misquoted or misprinted it.

"So the first time a *Militant* team came to talk with us, I asked

them, 'If I give you a story, will you tell the truth?' They said yes, and I said okay.

"In the back of my mind I thought, well, these guys are going to be like the rest of them. But I was proven wrong, which I appreciate very much, because without the *Militant* a lot of people wouldn't know what was going on with the copper strike.

"I met Jason Redrup through a coworker's wife. He asked me to come down to a forum in Phoenix. I went and told about the copper strike.

"And they told me about the YSA convention here in St. Louis and they asked me to go. I said, sure, why not. I'd get away for a while and plus I'd be able to tell all you people what was really going on.

"When I got here I was really surprised at the way I was treated. I met a lot of young people, I met a lot of coal miners and United Transportation Union members and Steelworkers. It was surprising to me.

"A lot of people think that, all these young people that join the YSA, maybe they're working class people that don't even belong to unions or don't have anything to do with a union. When I got down here it was a surprise to

me that there were so many unionists, so many people coming up and asking questions, so many people coming up and shaking my hand.

"When the *Militant* first came to talk to us about the strike, there was kind of a shaky situation because people didn't understand what the purpose of the paper was. They figured, well they're out to slander the people, to get the people in trouble. But now that I've come down here to St. Louis I can go back and truthfully say that you guys, the *Militant* and the YSA, have a good cause. You're out to get people out of Grenada and Lebanon and the rest of the foreign countries, and also you're out to give us 100 percent support on the strike.

"I've heard reports that other unions have read about our copper strike in the *Militant*. Like when the Greyhound bus drivers went on strike, I heard that *Militant* sales to them went booming up as soon as they heard about us being out for six months. You would go down to the picket lines and talk to the bus drivers. And that makes us feel good, that people are willing to listen and to read something like that.

"Other miners, coal miners for example, that have lost their jobs because of shutdowns, or steel-



Militant/Rich Stuart
"Without the *Militant* a lot of people wouldn't know what was going on with the copper strike," according to Billy Jacks.

workers who have lost their jobs, have also read the *Militant*. You find a lot of people that are really interested in picking up the paper.

"Often when a lot of us are sitting around the picket lines, somebody will say something about the copper strike, and 'Oh, yeah, I read about that the other day in the

Militant.'

"We have a lot of new subscribers to the *Militant* now because of the copper strike, because people know that you're going to print their stories. People know that you're not afraid to print their stories, and people care that somebody's willing to do it."

Nicaragua rebuts lies on downed U.S. helicopter

Continued from front page
ing the largest cities on Nicaragua's Pacific coast.

The increasing violations of Nicaragua's airspace are a reflection of growing U.S. and Honduran participation in the offensive, Ortega said. The counterrevolutionaries by themselves are clearly too weak to carry out an operation as ambitious as "Plan Sierra."

For this reason the new military maneuvers the U.S. has announced for Honduras take on an even more ominous character. These maneuvers, called "Big Pine III," are scheduled to begin in a few months, when the current "Big Pine II" maneuvers end. They reportedly will include not only U.S. and Honduran forces but also units of the Guatemalan and Salvadoran armies.

Unlike previous maneuvers, held in the sparsely populated Atlantic coast, these are to take place in the Pacific region, centering on the Gulf of Fonseca. This area borders both El Salvador and Nicaragua's Pacific coast, the location of this country's most strategic population centers.

"This means virtually permanent conflict in the Gulf of Fonseca and in our northern zone," Ortega said, "plus the threat of direct intervention in El Salvador."

In an earlier statement to the press, Daniel Ortega pointed out that "There isn't

any explanation about why the U.S. helicopter was so close to the border with Nicaragua, or why it penetrated Nicaraguan territory."

He reminded reporters that the aircraft was outside the region where joint U.S.-Honduran military maneuvers are taking place, supposedly 20 miles inside Honduras.

For that reason, "The first ones to be surprised that the helicopter was American was us.... We supposed the helicopter was one the counterrevolutionaries were using to supply themselves—a helicopter that the Central Intelligence Agency or the Honduran army had provided them," explained Ortega, adding that both parties had been directly supporting *contra* activities.

As it turned out, the helicopter's U.S. identification markings were both camouflaged and covered with mud.

"The death of the U.S. pilot should call attention to reflecting on the necessity of not continuing to draw blood in Central America and searching for a political solution to the problems that exist," Ortega said.

Simultaneously with the military maneuvers and the violations of Nicaraguan airspace, some 2,000-3,000 *contras* are clashing daily with Sandinista forces all along the northern border.

Nicaragua's Pacific Coast region has also been the victim of U.S.-financed aggression in recent days.

On January 6, a heavily armed plane repeatedly bombed and strafed Julio Buitrago sugar mill in southern Nicaragua.

The plane, equipped with rockets and machine guns, attempted to destroy the mill's fuel depot so as to disrupt the harvest currently under way. Fortunately, the tanks hit were not those currently in use, and fire fighters were able to put out the blaze with the loss of only a few acres of canefields. Had the real depot been hit, hundreds of civilians could have perished.

In a simultaneous attack, two planes and a high-speed launch shelled the nearby coastal town of Masachapa. One vacation home, housing six children, was hit, but no injuries occurred.

That same day, the northern coastal village of Potosí was shelled by planes and launches, for the sixth time in less than a week.

This left the revolutionary government and the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) no alternative but to move Potosí's 1,000 residents inland, a job that took the Sandinista army, the FSLN, and civil defense brigades six days to complete.

The families will be joining two already established agricultural cooperatives.

Potosí's former residents will receive fi-

nancial aid from the regional government, but, for the time being, they face difficult times.

Some 350 children and pregnant women are living in tents while the rest are sleeping in hammocks or in sheds of a local cotton hacienda.

Over the course of 1983, according to a year-end report by Defense Minister Humberto Ortega, attacks by the *contras* took the lives of 346 Nicaraguan civilians and 300 soldiers. In the same period, it is calculated that *contra* losses totaled more than 1,800.

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Gonzalez joins civil rights actions in Atlanta

Blasts bipartisan war policy

BY SARA JEAN JOHNSTON

ATLANTA — Andrea González, the 1984 Socialist Workers Party vice-presidential candidate, arrived here January 11 to participate in weeklong activities celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday and the recent victory in making the date a national holiday.

Just prior to her arrival, the Kissinger commission report calling for a massive escalation of the U.S. war in Central America was released. Why workers should oppose Washington's wars, and the relationship of U.S. foreign policy to attacks on civil rights at home were central themes of her speeches here.

Operation PUSH meeting

On January 14 González spoke before the weekly membership meeting of the local Operation PUSH chapter. González branded the release of the Kissinger commission's report on the eve of King's birthday as "especially ironic because King was a fighter and martyr for peace and justice, and this document represents a massive assault on social justice and peace. It outlines a new Vietnam in Central America."

"We shouldn't forget that Carter and Mondale started this war," she said, noting the bipartisan support for the Kissinger commission recommendations.

González explained that like the Republicans, the Democrats do not represent the interests of workers abroad or at home.

"The Democratic Party hails itself as the 'coalition' that represents all of the people. But in reality it represents only one class — the rich. That party has given us nothing. From the great civil rights march of 1963 to today, everything we got we won through struggle," González said to shouts of "Yes, yes!"

"The Democratic Party is not our party," González told the PUSH chapter. "We've got no parties. They've got two parties. We have none."

"That's right!" shouted someone in the audience.

"That's the problem," González continued, "we need a political weapon. We need parties of our own, a labor party, a Black party. We'll get those parties out of struggle. Struggles to build revitalized women's and civil rights movements and the struggle to take back our unions and make them our own will forge us a party."

Join civil rights march

After the PUSH meeting González and everyone else in attendance participated in a march to demand that King's birthday become a state holiday in Georgia. The demonstration was sponsored by civil rights organizations and several unions.

Democratic presidential candidate Jesse Jackson was also in Atlanta at the same time. He spoke to 1,500 people at a rally honoring him for obtaining the release of Lt. Robert Goodman, captured while conducting a bombing mission over Lebanon. González and her campaign supporters attended the rally, distributing SWP campaign literature and selling the *Militant*.

In his speech, Jackson charged that Lieutenant Goodman was "held hostage" by the Syrian government. He repeated the view argued by other Democratic candidates that if Washington wants to win the war in Lebanon, it hasn't sent enough marines, and if the purpose is a "suicide mission," then there are too many U.S. troops there.

Jackson expressed the idea that "the American people" — as a whole — can have a common approach to international issues.

At the socialist campaign rally January 14, González put forward a working-class alternative to Jackson's procapitalist foreign policy.

Joining her on the platform was Susan Winsten, a member of the Amalgamated

Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 365, and Maurice Williams, a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 2127. Winsten is the SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from Georgia. Williams is the party's candidate in Georgia's predominantly Black 5th Congressional District. Winsten and Williams announced their plans to join others in international brigades that will go to Nicaragua in February to help in the coffee harvest.

González explained that, contrary to Jackson, socialists do not believe people of the United States have one foreign policy in common. "The policy my campaign advocates U.S. workers adopt is peace and aid to the working people of the world," she said. "The policy of our employers and the U.S. government is war on workers and peasants around the world, as well as workers and farmers at home."

She noted that the idea that U.S. workers and their bosses have mutual interests is also contained in the Kissinger commission report. "The biggest lie in this report is that there's some kind of great American 'we' who cannot lose Central America. And a



Militant/Jon Bixby
Socialist vice-presidential candidate Andrea González (center) marches on King Day in Atlanta.

great American 'us' whose national security is endangered.

"The real 'we' cannot lose Central America because we never owned it in the first place. As for 'security,' Nicaragua is no threat to us, but it is a threat to them — the rich in this country. Nicaragua cannot export revolution, but it can serve as an inspiration to the oppressed of the world."

"In Nicaragua in 1979 the people took governmental power, and began organizing their society for their needs. They

stepped onto the road of building socialism. They wiped out many diseases and illiteracy, and reduced unemployment. They increased unionization. The government there sides with the workers. It wields governmental power on the side of the oppressed. That's exactly what working people need in this country."

"No wonder Nicaragua inspires us and strikes fear into the hearts of the U.S. rulers," said González.

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Marroquin fights deportation threat as Supreme Court deadline nears

BY CARLA RIEHLE

Héctor Marroquín, a Mexican-born socialist worker, has been battling for six years with the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to obtain political asylum in the United States. In spite of the fact that Marroquín has proven he will be persecuted for his political ideas if forced to return to Mexico, the INS says he has

not shown a "well-founded fear" of such persecution.

The case is now before the U.S. Supreme Court and a decision is imminent.

The INS is also singling Marroquín out for victimization in another way, and the Political Rights Defense Fund (PRDF) which is sponsoring his case, is asking his supporters to respond immediately and vig-

orously to this latest threat.

Marroquín is married to Priscilla Schenk, a U.S. citizen, and has applied for permanent residence — a green card — on that basis. By law, such applications must be granted if certain broad criteria are met, such as the existence of a valid marriage, and "good moral character." Although the INS has given preliminary approval to the application, they have refused for six months to say whether it will be granted.

Most other immigrant workers who apply to the INS also face long and painful delays. In fact, two out of three files are "lost" sometime during processing. But Marroquín's application is undoubtedly receiving special treatment.

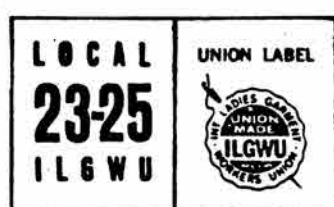
Through his six-year ordeal, the INS has made its hatred for Marroquín and his political ideas clear at every step. They informed him at his deportation hearing in 1979 that "the United States does not grant asylum to Marxists."

An INS official also recently admitted to Marroquín's attorney that no action would be taken on Marroquín's application for permanent residence until after the Supreme Court had decided his appeal for political asylum. The government's intention is clear: they hope the Supreme Court will dismiss the asylum case, forcing Marroquín to leave the country, after which he would have no appeal to the courts if his green card application is denied. If they process it now, they face the choice of granting permanent residence to someone they have been trying to deport, or of denying the application on clearly spurious and political grounds.

The INS has been emboldened in its stance by a recent decision from the Supreme Court that was a setback for many immigrant workers in this country, as well as directly for Marroquín.

The immigration laws allow permanent residence to be granted to immigrants who have maintained a "physical presence" in the United States for seven years and who can show they would face severe hardship if forced to return to their native countries. A brief trip out of the United States would not necessarily interrupt the seven years. On January 10, however, the Supreme Court issued a drastic restriction of this law, stating that any absence will disqualify an applicant.

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EDGAR ROMNEY
Manager-Secretary

January 13, 1984

Mr. Alan Nelson, Commissioner
Immigration and Naturalization Service
Washington, D.C. 20536

Dear Mr. Nelson:

For the past six years, Héctor Marroquín, a Mexican unionist, has been fighting Immigration and Naturalization Service attempts to deport him.

In spite of overwhelming evidence that his life and freedom would be threatened in Mexico because of his political ideas and activities in support of the trade union movement there, the INS has refused to grant his request for political asylum. Now his appeal is at its last critical stage before the Supreme Court. Within the next few weeks he could be faced with immediate deportation.

Furthermore, Héctor Marroquín is married to a U.S. citizen — a trade unionist herself — and has lived continuously in the U.S. for the past nine and a half years. Marroquín is entitled to permanent residence in this country based on this marriage, yet, the INS has stalled on granting it.

I believe that brother Marroquín is being victimized because of his political ideas and activities in this country, where he has been committed to the defense of immigrants and all working people.

There is a lot at stake for the labor movement in the outcome of Marroquín's fight against deportation. If the INS succeeds in deporting this brother, it would be a blow against the rights of all labor activists, as well as all immigrants and refugees in the U.S.

That is why I join the numerous labor leaders and organizations which support Héctor Marroquín's fight for his rights and urge others to do the same in the best traditions of the labor movement.

I demand a stop to the deportation of Marroquín. I urge you to respect his right to political asylum and that he be granted permanent residence and be allowed to live with his wife in this country.

Very respectfully yours,

Kathy Andrade, Director
Department of Education

Protest letter from Kathy Andrade, education director for Local 23-25 of garment workers union.

Iranian government escalates attack on Tudeh Party

BY CINDY JAQUITH

In early December 1983, the Iranian government conducted closed-door military trials of individuals arrested in the crackdown on the Tudeh Party (Communist Party) last spring. The trials mark a major new blow to the Iranian revolution, at a time when that revolution is under steady military assault from Iraq and is a target of stepped-up attacks from the imperialists in Washington and Paris.

Last February, the central leadership of the Tudeh Party, the oldest and largest party in the Iranian workers movement, was arrested. In May the party was banned and thousands of its members thrown in jail. This coincided with the expulsion of 18 Soviet diplomats from Iran.

The Iranian government forced top Tudeh leaders, including the party's first secretary, Nureddin Kianuri, to go on television and "confess" to charges of espionage for the Soviet Union, illegal harboring of weapons, recruiting supporters for espionage in Iran's armed forces, and other activities.

The Tudeh "confessions" also included denunciations of Marxism and the Soviet Union. Tudeh writer Mahmoud Etemadzadeh was quoted as saying, "Marxism has come to a blind alley in Iran. It has nothing to offer us against Islam's well-defined doctrine accepted by millions of the Iranian masses."

These fake confessions and the escalat-

ing assault on the Tudeh Party serve a broader purpose, that of promoting anti-Soviet, anti-Marxist views among the Iranian masses. This is in order to justify the government's repressive drive to force the few workers organizations remaining intact in Iran to completely dissolve and cease all functioning that is in any way independent of the ruling Islamic Republican Party.

This anticommunist campaign reached a new stage with the December 1983 trials of Tudeh supporters. Based on the crimes they are charged with, the most likely possibility is that they will be executed. This would not only lay the basis for severe repression against others in the Tudeh Party and other working-class organizations, but would have the effect of further intimidating all revolutionary-minded Iranians, whether in the factories, villages, army, or schools.

The December Tudeh trials involved former officers in the Iranian army, navy, and air force. Among them was Bahram Afzali, a former commander of the navy, who was charged with "espionage against the Islamic Republic and membership and activity in a secret organization with the aim of overthrowing the Islamic Republic," according to the Iranian government news agency IRNA. Afzali and the other defendants were accused of belonging to what the regime calls a secret Tudeh organization in the military and of passing military information to the party, which the government says was turned over to the Soviet Union.

The prosecutor in the trials, according to IRNA, claimed "the final objective" of this alleged activity "was to push the Islamic Republic towards a close relationship with the Eastern bloc and eventually seize power at an appropriate moment."

Since the defendants were denied the right to a public and civilian trial; the right to choose their own attorneys; and the right



Militant/Cindy Jaquith
Iranian workers demonstrate at U.S. embassy in Tehran in 1980. Crackdown on Tudeh Party is aimed at intimidating all working-class forces.

to a jury; the only information available on their trials comes from the Iranian government. IRNA press releases claim the majority of defendants "confessed" to guilt on all charges. A few, however, denied involvement in espionage, the press releases say. IRNA also reported that Tudeh First Secretary Kianuri sat in on the trials and offered information to corroborate the prosecution's case.

But none of the IRNA releases offer a shred of evidence of the supposed Tudeh-Soviet plot to overthrow the Iranian government. Instead, a string of "confessions" are put forward as proof. "Testimony" by one defendant is then used against the next defendant, and so forth.

The charges against the Tudeh Party and Soviet government represent a dangerous escalation of the anti-Soviet propaganda campaign the Iranian government has carried out for some time. While the government remains in conflict with imperialism, it has increasingly sought to present the Soviet Union as an equal danger to the Ira-

nian nation. This has been accompanied by continual diatribes against Marxism, which — through the Tudeh trials — is now explicitly equated with treason.

The implications are obvious for the Iranian working class. Any worker who is attracted to the path followed by the Russian workers and peasants in carrying out a socialist revolution, or, by extension, to the Cuban, Nicaraguan, and Grenadian revolutions, is a "subversive," the "agent" of a foreign power.

While Iranian workers have not mobilized to support the anti-Tudeh trials, no organization in the workers movement has been strong enough, in the face of stiffened repression, to mount opposition to the anticommunist attacks and frame-up of the Tudeh Party. This can only embolden those in the government who want to move to further weaken, if not dismantle, all the factory committees that continue to exist and sharply increase the pressure on the rights and living standards of the Iranian working masses.

Mason, Gonzalez send protest

The following telegram was sent to the Iranian government by Mel Mason and Andrea González, Socialist Workers Party candidates for president and vice-president in 1984:

As longtime supporters of the Iranian revolution, and as defenders of the Iranian government against U.S. imperialist attack, we oppose the trials of Tudeh Party supporters charged with espionage and treason.

We believe these trials, the arrests of thousands of Tudeh Party members, and the banning of their party endanger the revolution at a time when it is under severe attack from Washington, Paris, and the other imperialist powers, as well as continued Iraqi aggression.

No evidence has been offered for the crimes the defendants are accused of. They have been denied the right to public and civilian trials, to their choice of an attorney, and to a jury.

We urge you to drop the charges against those on trial and all other Tudeh supporters now in prison. They should be freed and full democratic rights restored to the Tudeh Party.

Mason rips rights panel

Continued from front page

criminate against any worker weakens the whole union movement by placing the unions on the side of our enemies — the bosses and the government."

The SWP candidate said he favored the use and extension of dual seniority lists to protect affirmative action during layoffs, as well. "The employers use layoffs by strict seniority to get rid of Blacks and women hired under affirmative action," said Mason. "Strict seniority isn't 'color blind.' It's used to preserve segregated patterns of employment."

"I think the stance of the labor movement on the Detroit case, and any others like it, should be that of the largest teachers union in the country, the National Education Association. The NEA supports a contractual modification of the seniority system as a way to prevent the discriminatory layoff of Blacks and women. My campaign agrees."

Marroquin fights deportation threat

Continued from preceding page

Marroquin has lived in the United States continuously for 10 years. But in 1977 he made three brief week-end trips to Mexico to see his family and consult with a lawyer. Although his attorneys had prepared papers for filing this week, Marroquin is now unable to ask for permanent residence on the basis of his 10 years in the United States.

Marroquin's attorneys are, however, pressing the INS for a decision on the marriage application. They have asked the INS to allow Marroquin to remain in the country at least long enough to complete the processing of his green card application, even if the Supreme Court decides against him in the next few weeks. Although Marroquin is now subject to an order to leave the country within two days following such a decision, his attorney argues that "as it is the general practice of the INS to permit aliens . . . to remain here until their actual visa interviews, Mr. Marroquin seeks only to be no exception."

Marroquin's supporters can help ensure that the INS doesn't treat him as an exception. A recent letter supporting Marroquin by Kathy Andrade, education director of International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union Local 23-25, is a good example of the kind of protest that is needed to make the INS back off.

Telegrams, letters, and phone calls demanding permanent residence for Marroquin and a halt to his deportation should be directed to Alan Nelson, Commissioner, INS, Washington, D.C. 20536. Telephone (202) 633-2000.

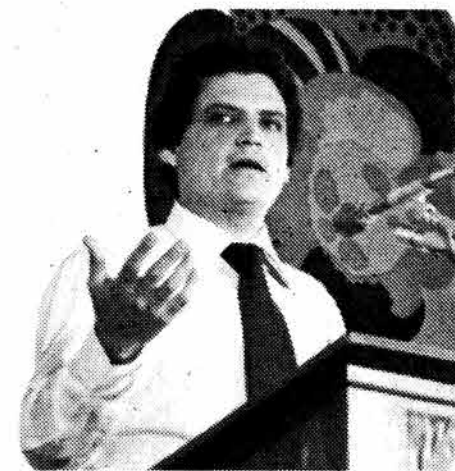
WASHINGTON, D.C. — An array of speakers will join with Héctor Marroquin at a rally here demanding that the government not deport Marroquin.

The speakers include: Fritz Longchamp of the Haitian Refugee Project; Amit Pan-

dya of the American Civil Liberties Union Immigration Project; Harold Massey of the United Methodist Church; and Earl Kiehl, director, District 4 of the United Furniture Workers, AFL-CIO.

Initiated by the Political Rights Defense Fund, cosponsors of the rally include: Haitian Refugee Project; North American Coalition for Human Rights in Korea; Church Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines; ACLU Immigration Project; National Lawyers Guild Immigration Project; Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Project.

The meeting will be held Saturday, February 4, 8 p.m., at Calvary United Methodist Church, 1459 Columbia Rd., NW.



Héctor Marroquin

Gonzalez joins rights actions

Continued from preceding page

"Socialists believe workers have to look at world politics from the standpoint of our class interests, not 'American' interests, as Jackson says. His chauvinist perspective leads to arguing that 'we' don't have enough marines to 'win' in Lebanon. But 'we' — the working class — have no interest in imposing Washington's will on the Arab peoples. We have no interest in having a single GI there. We have no interest in sending a single Lieutenant Goodman on raids to bomb Arab workers and peasants."

"Was Goodman 'held hostage' by the Syrians, as Jackson charges?" she asked. Why did Goodman end up imprisoned? We say it's because Syria, Lebanon, the Palestinian people, and the whole Mideast are held hostage — by the U.S. oil corporations and the troops the U.S. government has sent in to maintain corporate profits in the region.

"There is no 'we' that unites workers with the likes of Chrysler's Lee Iacocca. Our 'we' is the workers of the world."

In addition to her campaign rally, González appeared on the Channel 30 TV program "Take 30." She was also a guest on a two-hour-long radio call-in show on WAOK, the city's major Black radio station.

González also attended a conference, held at the King Center, on "World Peace and Global Justice." Featured speakers at the gathering were National Organization for Women Pres. Judy Goldsmith and a former U.S. attorney general, Ramsey Clark. There González met a Black union shop steward working in the "Jobs with Peace" campaign. He liked what he heard from González, and videotaped her TV interview to show to other unionists. He attended the January 14 SWP campaign rally.

Reagan seeks rightist regime in Grenada

BY MOHAMMED OLIVER

The Reagan administration is mapping out plans to firmly reestablish imperialist domination of Grenada. A major aspect of the U.S. rulers' moves is the planned infusion of what U.S. government officials euphemistically call "aid."

Proposals made in a recent report by a U.S. investigating team show how this aid is aimed at overturning the gains made by Grenadian working people during the four and half years of the Peoples' Revolutionary Government (PRG) led by murdered Prime Minister Maurice Bishop.

The report, entitled "Prospects for Growth in Grenada: The Role of the Private Sector," was issued by a U.S. government team that visited Grenada November 17-19. The bulk of the delegation was made up of people from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). The U.S. government team made several recommendations, which all center on enhancing the profit-making possibilities for U.S. and other capitalists.

The report proposes revising Grenada's investment and tax codes to favor private businesses; developing a new labor code; selling off government-owned enterprises to private owners; and eliminating the government's role in marketing of imports.

Gains U.S. wants to overturn

The PRG was a workers and farmers government that ruled in the interests of Grenada's working people, the overwhelming majority of whom are Black. The PRG intervened in labor struggles on the side of the workers rather than the bosses. The revolutionary government did away with the repressive legislation of the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Eric Gairy, and adopted new, prolabor laws.

As a result of these laws, Grenadian workers had, for the first time in their history, the right to organize. Union membership leaped from 30 percent to 90 percent under the Bishop-led government. Agricultural workers organized a new union to represent them, the Agricultural and General Workers Union (AGWU).

The PRG also made big gains in defending the right of every Grenadian to a job. Unemployment plummeted from 50 percent to 12 percent. State-owned businesses, like the AgroIndustry plant, and agricultural projects were launched. The biggest government project was the construction of an international airport at Point Salines. Thousands of jobs were created through this government-led economic development.

The U.S. invasion of the country last October has already severely set back these accomplishments. The AgroIndustry plant is closed, and the Point Salines airport construction has been halted. One Grenadian union leader told the *Militant* last December that of the 6,000 jobs created by the PRG only 1,000 still remained since the U.S. invasion.

The Reagan administration wants to dismantle all the state-owned farms and other



Part of Butler House, where offices of Grenadian Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and staff were located. Building was bombed by U.S. troops during invasion of Grenada. U.S. government is trying to establish proimperialist regime, but Bishop legacy remains an obstacle.

businesses. Such a broadside assault on Grenadian workers will be met with resistance. The union movement will be the center of these attempts to defend the workers interests.

Bishop legacy lives on

The U.S. invasion and occupation of Grenada ensured there was no popular uprising to reestablish a revolutionary government like that of the Bishop-led PRG. The legacy of Bishop, however, lives on, and haunts the U.S. government as it tries to reimpose its will on the island.

There are still revolutionary cadres of the New Jewel Movement (NJM), the Marxist party led by Bishop, in the country. U.S. troops have harassed and detained them from time-to-time, but they're currently on the streets.

Former Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard and his supporters have been held in prison without charges for more than two months. Coard led a secret gang of state functionaries and military officers in overthrowing the PRG and then murdering Bishop and other central leaders of the NJM. Because the majority of Grenadians justifiably despise Coard and his supporters for the role they played in drowning the revolution in blood, there has been no protest made over their detention and inhuman treatment.

U.S. government officials intend through their prosecution of Coard and his followers to set a precedent that can be

used against other Grenadian working-class leaders.

The U.S. rulers are particularly concerned about Grenada's trade unions. One of the central proposals of the report by the USAID and other officials is that the American Institute for Free Labor Development (AIFLD) help to "restructure" the Grenadian labor movement.

This outfit was set up by Pres. John Kennedy and owners of major U.S. corporations in 1960. It is known to have close links with the CIA. AIFLD is also backed by the top leadership of the AFL-CIO, which has officials sitting on AIFLD's board of directors and union staff working alongside CIA agents in AIFLD projects.

The main function of this agency is to subvert militant unions abroad or, failing that, to create divisive rivals to them. Before Gairy's ouster in March 1979, AIFLD played the role of bolstering union officials opposed to revolution. During the PRG's rule AIFLD constantly slandered the revolutionary government.

That slander continues with the charge that Grenada's trade unions aren't "free," but dominated by "communists" — meaning anyone who supported the PRG. The U.S. imperialists will use AIFLD to try to dismantle what militant leadership remains in Grenada's trade union movement.

Stabilizing government

But what the Reagan administration wants above all is a stable, proimperialist regime on the island. The U.S. rulers would like such a government to carry out the drive against workers rights and organizations.

Setting up such a government has been a problem for Reagan. Grenada's Advisory Council, the so-called interim government, has no popular support among the Grenadian people. It's seen as only a thin veneer for the actual U.S. rule of the country. This fact led Alistair McIntyre, who was originally named head of the council, to decline the nomination, excusing himself on the basis of illness.

In addition, Anthony Rushford, a central figure in the council, resigned later, charging that the body had no real authority.

The most widely known and popular leader in Grenada today is Maurice Bishop. This is a big problem for the U.S. government, which is trying hard to parlay hatred of Coard into opposition to the Bishop government and its policies.

Most Grenadians, however, view the accomplishments of the PRG as a big step forward. They not only support the revolutionary government's measures, they want them to continue. They want the airport finished. They want to maintain the adult education program. They want the right to organize unions and fight for higher wages and better working conditions. They want laws like the Maternity Leave Law, which

provided women with paid leave from work while pregnant, to stay on the books.

And they want jobs.

Unemployment is on the upswing again. More than 30 percent of Grenadian workers are without jobs. Joblessness and other problems resulting from the U.S. invasion are causing revolutionary-minded Grenadians to speak up more. General restlessness is increasing on the island.

Even the *New York Times* is admitting this fact. The big-business daily ran an article January 9 based on interviews with young unemployed workers on the waterfront in St. George's, the capital. "They call it a rescue mission," said one 19 year old, referring to the U.S. invasion, "but they haven't rescued me yet."

And another youth, 23, told the *Times* that "If there's no work after a while, you know what will develop. If there's no work, you'll see another revolution."

Quelling this unrest and preventing the development of a leadership that can organize and mobilize it is the problem still facing the U.S. ruling class.

Party fund goes over goal of \$125,000

BY HARRY RING

The Socialist Workers Party has successfully completed the Party Building Fund launched last fall. With a goal of \$125,000, the total amount collected as of January 18 was \$128,000.

Success of the drive was essential to carrying on the party's activity. The purpose of the fund was to help fill the gap between the income from the regular weekly contributions of party members and supporters and the continually increasing cost of financing the party's work.

The fund had gotten off to a slow start and it was necessary to postpone the closing deadline from December 1 to January 1. Exceeding the goal helped significantly in compensating for that.

Especially gratifying were the numerous generous contributions by friends of the party.

The spirit of their response was articulated in a letter from Ruth Ginsberg, veteran socialist fighter from New Jersey, who sent in \$200 during the drive.

Her initial check, she explained, "was especially for El Salvador and Nicaragua — my spirit and heart is struggling with them."

She added, "I marched for Spain when I was in high school, and have been speaking out and marching through the years. I now march for Central America."

She concluded, "¡Venceremos!" — We will win!

That kind of support, and spirit, helps guarantee that we will.

Cops attack Arizona strikers

Continued from front page

seeing this little kid come flying out of the truck. . . . They had the child's mother with her arms behind her back, pulling her by the hair. . . . The [father] was kneeling, with one cop straddling him and another pulling his hands up from behind to put the cuffs on him. . . . They gave us one minute to get to our cars and get out of there."

Many strikers said they felt this was a planned provocation. "It was a show of force," one declared.

There are hints of more serious provocations. A Phelps Dodge official publicly stated that he did not know how much longer his employees would be able to restrain themselves from taking matters into their own hands against so-called intimidation by the strikers. There are rumors of a scab vigilante group forming.

At least three strikers have already been badly beaten by scabs. On several occasions, pickets have been threatened by scabs with guns. Strikers report that a scab fired three shots at pickets the night of January 14. The police have done little or

nothing in these cases.

The strike is attracting some national media attention. *People* magazine and the *Denver Post* have recently carried articles on the strike, and this past week a CBS News film crew was in town doing a story for "Sixty Minutes."

In a related matter, the January 17 *Arizona Republic* reported that a striking Ajo copper miner and his family will be able to move back into a house rented from Phelps Dodge while he appeals his eviction.

A Pima County superior court judge granted a stay of his previous eviction order, allowing William Puffer and his family to move back into the home pending completion of his appeal.

The judge said it would be insensitive not to allow the family to remain. (For more on company evictions, see story on page 15.)

Continued and increased solidarity with the copper strikers is necessary. They need messages of support and money. Send contributions to Copper Strike Relief Fund, 606 S. Plummer St., Tucson, Ariz. 85719.

Immigrant workers fight layoffs in France

BY WILL REISSNER

A strike against layoffs at the huge Talbot automobile factory in Poissy could have repercussions throughout French industry. The plant, which has more than 16,000 workers, is owned by Peugeot, France's largest automaker and its largest privately-owned company.

Peugeot, which also owns Citroën, bought the Talbot plant from Chrysler.

On December 7, workers at Poissy went on strike, protesting an agreement between Peugeot and the French government that allows the company to lay off 1,905 workers at the facility. Peugeot had originally requested permission to eliminate 2,900 jobs at Poissy.

Peugeot's management tried to reopen the plant, where hundreds of workers had been sitting-in for three weeks, but was unable to resume production. Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy, a member of the Socialist Party, ordered riot police to enter the factory on December 31 and remove the strikers.

When management tried to reopen the plant on January 3, after the scheduled New Year's shutdown, workers entering the facility blockaded the assembly lines with forklift trucks.

The following day, more than 30 people were injured when clashes broke out in the plant between striking workers and employees trying to resume production.

Another round of fighting in the plant took place January 5. More than 55 people were injured, some seriously. For the second time in a week, riot police removed the strikers.

Peugeot then announced that the plant would remain closed until further notice and that all employees were suspended without pay. The company also stated that it would spin off its Talbot holdings to two subsidiaries, a move that many workers feared was the prelude to ending production of Talbot cars in France.

The struggle at Talbot is being closely watched throughout French industry because plans have already been announced to lay off 100,000 workers in the auto, steel, shipbuilding, and coal sectors in the near future. If the Talbot workers can force the company and government to back down on the plan to eliminate 1,905 jobs at Poissy, that victory would encourage similar resistance in other industries.

'Prime minister of unemployment'

The strike has also been an acute source of political embarrassment for the government, which is a coalition of the Socialist and Communist parties. Pierre Mauroy, who ordered the riot police into the factory, had personally taken charge of the negotiations with Peugeot and had agreed to allow the elimination of 1,905 jobs at Poissy rather than the 2,900 the company had originally targeted.

At the time of the agreement, Mauroy hailed the outcome.

Mauroy once commented that he had not taken office in order to become "prime minister of unemployment." But the government's original plan in 1981 to create 400,000-500,000 new jobs was abandoned, and more than 2 million workers are now out of work. The National Statistics Institute predicts that the number of jobless will swell by another 400,000 by the end of 1984.

Role of immigrant workers

More than half the work force at Poissy, as in most French auto plants, is made up of immigrant workers, mostly from North Africa. The large majority of the 1,905 workers slated to lose their jobs are immigrants.

Immigrant workers have become an increasingly important factor in the French labor movement in the past two years. During the economic boom of the 1960s, hundreds of thousands of foreign workers were recruited in their native countries to fill vacancies in French industry.

With the economic downturn, however, the immigrant workers are suffering disproportionately in terms of layoffs. The government is trying to encourage immigrant workers to return to their native countries.

But many of the immigrant workers have been in France for several decades and have few prospects for finding a job if they are forced to leave the country.

Strikes spur unionization

For more than two years immigrant workers have spearheaded a whole series of struggles in the automobile industry. In October and November 1981 a first wave of strikes broke out in Renault plants. In the spring and fall of 1982, strikes took place in a number of Renault, Citroën, and



Sitdown strike at Talbot. Sign reads, "We don't accept any layoffs."

Talbot plants. In December 1982 and January 1983 a new wave of strikes began in Citroën and spread within weeks to almost every major automobile factory in France.

In the course of these strikes, immigrant workers for the first time became involved in a massive way in the unions. Most joined the General Confederation of Labor (CGT), the union federation close to the Communist Party. The French Democratic Confederation of Labor (CFDT), which is close to the Socialist Party, also attracted significant numbers of immigrant workers.

The latest round of struggle began in late July 1983, when Peugeot announced plans to eliminate the jobs of more than 7,000 of its 81,700 workers.

The CGT responded with slowdowns and strikes in many of the plants of the Peugeot group. The Poissy Talbot plant

was immediately shut down by a 24 hour protest strike.

At the time, Jean-Pierre Linocier of the CGT noted that "if Peugeot is given a free hand, thousands of other jobs in the auto industry will be lost. A Socialist government should not fight economic problems through capitalist means."

At the Poissy plant, the CGT distributed leaflets in French and Arabic warning workers that "your job and your future are at stake."

When Mauroy and Peugeot reached the agreement to limit the jobs lost at Poissy to 1,905, the CGT leadership agreed with the outcome. The CFDT at Talbot, however, rejected the plan, stating that "the struggle must continue so all the layoffs are overturned."

From Intercontinental Press

Big Oil slowly signing union pacts

BY JAMES HARRIS

LOS ANGELES, January 16 — Eight oil companies have now agreed to new contracts with the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW) covering 15,800 workers.

Mobil, Amoco, Arco, Edgington, Tosco, and Atlas Processing fell in line with an earlier agreement between OCAW and Gulf and Ashland, according to Ron Rogers, a spokesman at OCAW's headquarters in Denver.

Mobil and Arco settled only after strike notice was served on them by the union. Some 35,000 refinery workers are working under extensions of contracts that expired January 7.

OCAW served Union Oil, which oper-

ates three refineries in California, with strike notice when negotiations stalled. Workers were set to strike at noon today, but the company returned to the bargaining table.

Rogers reported that Union Oil workers had won a tentative agreement at the company's Lamont, Illinois, refinery and were "close" to an agreement at Union's big refinery near Beaumont, Texas.

Texaco has broken off talks at their big refinery here and, according to officials at OCAW Local 1-128 in Los Angeles, at other Texaco refineries around the country.

Texaco officials here have refused to officially extend the old contract and won't say if they'll abide by its terms pending a new agreement.

While negotiations were going on, Texaco refused to discuss wages, claiming refinery workers were overpaid. Company officials made demands on the union that would severely erode past gains workers have won and would increase safety hazards in an already-dangerous industry.

Texaco's demands include: increased contracting-out of work, with no contractual restrictions; increased crossing of operators during unit shutdowns for maintenance; decreased company shares of dental and medical premiums; and a workweek lengthened to an average of 42 hours, with 12-hour days.

Rogers reported one OCAW strike over local issues in progress, involving 175 workers at a refinery owned by Cenex in Laurel, Montana. Where tentative contracts have been negotiated, union members are to meet in the next couple of weeks to consider ratification.

Pressure needs to be brought to bear on the remaining companies that are holding out on a settlement. An example of such pressure took place in Toledo January 7 when maintenance workers at Sun Oil's Toledo refinery organized to protest against Sun Oil's contract proposal.

Wearing hard hats and union jackets, about 75 oil workers used their lunch break to hold an informational picket between Sun Oil's gates on Woodville Road, a major Toledo thoroughfare.

These workers constituted a great majority of the available maintenance employees. They were joined in the action by Russ Simpson, committeeman of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1043 and a leader of the Greyhound strike in Toledo, and several other Greyhound workers.

Militant correspondent Toby Emmerich reports that the lessons of solidarity actions in Toledo for the Greyhound strike and a strike by Teamster-organized Vroman Foods workers were not lost on the Sun workers, who carried signs reading, "Remember PATCO" and "We support Vroman Foods strikers."

Other signs read, "Nationalize the oil industry," "No pay cuts," and "No loss of seniority rights."

Polish gov't retreats on price hikes

BY ERNEST HARSCH

In face of widespread public opposition to proposed steep price increases on a number of staple food items, the Polish government on January 12 staged a retreat on this issue.

It declared that there would be no price hikes on such staples as cooking oil, cottage cheese, and low-quality beef, and that increases for bread would be less than half the original proposal. Sharper increases were projected for "the better cuts of meat and sausage," which in any case are hard to find in the food stores. The Polish authorities stated that the new price plan would "give more protection to people with the lowest incomes."

The government's back-down on its scheduled price increases represents a modest victory for working people in Poland. Although the independent union movement, Solidarity, was largely crushed following the imposition of martial law in December 1981, workers in Poland still retain a higher level of consciousness, confidence, and willingness to fight than they did prior to Solidarity's emergence in August 1980.

The issue of price increases in Poland is

a contentious one. In 1956, 1970, 1976, and 1980, arbitrarily announced hikes in the prices of basic foods led to major workers' rebellions against the bureaucratic authorities. In 1956 and 1980, the governments fell as a result.

While many people in Poland today recognize that some price increases may be necessary, given Poland's severe economic problems, they have little confidence in the government's overall economic policies. Without workers' democratic participation in economic planning and decision-making, they fear that arbitrarily decreed price hikes will bring no long-term economic benefits and can only lead to a further erosion of Polish living standards.

The government of Wojciech Jaruzelski was itself aware of this general mood. Unlike previous times, it did not simply announce the increases overnight. Several alternative proposals were first published in November. In an effort to diffuse the expected outcry, people were advised to express their opinions by writing letters to the newspapers or speaking at factory meetings.

The government's repressive policies against Solidarity supporters served to

mute some of the criticism, but it was still much greater than the authorities expected.

Almost no one could be found who favored the price hikes. Opinion polls were overwhelmingly against them.

In a November 20 statement, Lech Walesa, the central leader of Solidarity, declared, "The authorities' plans for a food price increase first of all will not lead to a solution of the economic problems of the country."

"Secondly, they will lead to a further, drastic drop of working people's living standards. . . ."

Under these conditions, Walesa said, "Working people cannot agree to price increases."

Even officials of the bureaucratically controlled unions and the ruling Polish United Workers Party spoke out against the price hikes. Prof. Czeslaw Bobrowski of the government's Economic Consultative Council called the proposals "simply not fit for discussion."

Fearing that this massive sentiment could be transformed once again into active protest, the authorities backed down. But even their new price increase proposal has already come in for criticism.

Big forces in Canadian labor assail U.S. Nicaragua policy

BY GEORGE JOHNSON

Major forces in the Canadian labor movement have come out against the U.S. government's war on Nicaragua. This is an important development — for U.S. trade unionists in particular.

The Canadian Labor Congress (CLC), the equivalent in Canada of the AFL-CIO, issued a statement November 22 signed by CLC Pres. Dennis McDermott. It "demands that the U.S. government cease and desist its intervention against the sovereign state of Nicaragua by immediately withdrawing its military and economic support from those who would violently overthrow the Sandinista government, and by ceasing its economic isolationist policy against Nicaragua." (See text this page.)

The CLC statement also lays full responsibility for what it terms "increasing tension in Central America" on the U.S. government.

Another important statement was released December 7, signed by 27 top Canadian labor officials, that also deplored U.S. aggression against Nicaragua.

The statement lauded gains for working people in Nicaragua:

"Despite pressures from the U.S. and counterrevolutionary forces, the Sandinista Government's National Reconstruction Program has made great strides in education, health care, and agrarian reform."

Based on "the independent reports of many Canadian trade unionists who have visited Nicaragua," the statement continued, "we are convinced that it is the working people of Nicaragua who have benefited from the reconstruction program. Through their own unique revolution, the working people of Nicaragua have gained a voice in determining their destiny through free participation in trade unions, in the Council of State and other democratic and popularly supported organizations."

Among the signers of the December 7 statement are top Canadian leaders of unions that are affiliates of the AFL-CIO as well as the CLC. They include Charles Clark and Sam Fox, vice-presidents and Canadian codirectors of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union; Mike Rygus, vice-president, International Association of Machinists; Glenn Pattinson, vice-president, International Union of Electrical Workers; Robert White, Canadian director, United Auto Workers

(UAW); Frank Benn, director, Region 18, United Food and Commercial Workers; and Dave Patterson, director, District 6, United Steelworkers of America (USWA).

Another signer was Jean Claude Parrot, president of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers.

The December 7 statement also called on the Canadian government to oppose "U.S. efforts to strangle Nicaragua militarily and economically." It called for Canada "to withhold all bilateral aid to Honduras as long as that government contravenes international law by acting to destabilize and overthrow its neighboring government of Nicaragua."

The Canadian government, it said, "should give economic assistance to Nicaragua, in the form of generous aid programs. To begin with, Canada should fulfill its promise to make an \$18 million line of credit available to Nicaragua."

It also called on the Canadian government to open an embassy in Nicaragua.

An important Nicaragua solidarity rally of 800, held in Toronto November 23, was addressed by leading unionists as well as by Pastor Valle-Garay, consul general of Nicaragua in Toronto. CLC leader Rick Jackson read the CLC's statement. Parrot of the Postal Workers union sent a message of support, as did Patterson of the USWA.

Jim O'Neil, an international representative of the United Auto Workers, spoke. Also speaking was Pauline Jewett, a member of parliament from the New Democrat-

ic Party, the labor party supported by the CLC.

A number of Canadian trade unionists have visited Nicaragua. One such visit, which included O'Neil of the UAW, took place last June. The Canadian visitors met with Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomás Borge.

Another delegation that visited Nicaragua in August included activists from the USWA and other unions.

Such tours have helped get out the truth about the gains the revolution has brought to Nicaraguan working people. Opposition to U.S. — and Canadian — intervention against the revolution is growing among Canadian workers, reflected by the CLC's decision to issue its November 22 statement condemning U.S. policy toward Nicaragua.

As the Canadian newspaper *Socialist Voice* noted, the statement "marks a welcome change in CLC policy," which for several years had been in line with the U.S. government and the AFL-CIO. The CLC leadership, *Socialist Voice* said, had "falsely accused the Nicaraguan government of violations of trade union freedoms and civil liberties" and "used this to justify its abstention from participation in solidarity actions."

As the Canadian newspaper observed, the CLC's policy change "invites a redoubling of efforts by union activists to build solidarity with Nicaragua in the labor movement."

Nicaragua impresses U.S. unionists

BY THOMAS HENDRICKS

A delegation of U.S. trade unionists recently returned from Nicaragua, impressed with what they learned about the role of unions there and concerned with U.S. aggression against the revolutionary government.

A report on the visit, written by a member of the delegation, was printed in the January 6 issue of *Racine Labor*, published in Racine, Wisconsin.

The article, headlined "Nicaragua: A worker's eye-view," was written by Bob Gifford, a member of the International As-

sociation of Machinists and editor of the LaCrosse, Wisconsin, *Union Herald*.

The unionists visited Nicaragua November 16-20. Gifford writes that they went "as concerned Americans well-read on the Central America issue" and returned "with an almost desperate sense that each of us must do everything ... to alert our fellow citizens to the real situation we face."

The unionists arrived "two weeks after the CIA-funded *contras* [counterrevolutionaries] attack on the fuel and chemical storage tanks in the port of Corinto," Gifford said, in "the midst of the extremely tense international atmosphere in Central America described by a Nicaraguan textile workers' union leader as a 'prewar situation.'"

"During our stay," Gifford wrote, "Congress approved another \$24 million for more such 'covert actions,' which make no distinction between civilian and military targets, and are aimed at completely paralyzing Nicaragua's economy. Already signs of strain are present, in shortages of water, oil, transport fuel and food."

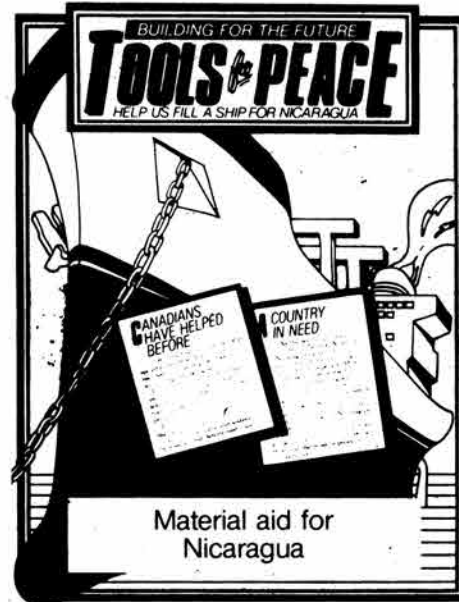
"However," he went on, "the trade unions in Nicaragua are in a much different position in regard to those problems than are those in the U.S. That is because they practically run the show."

Much different, he wrote, "from the two houses of government here in the U.S., in Nicaragua the trade unions are guaranteed delegates in the Council of State. Problems of economic planning are discussed between the trade unions and the government in that body."

"When grievances arise in government-owned enterprises, the workers elect a committee; which meets with the Ministry of Labor to resolve such problems."

One U.S. unionist commented, "it seems that the real force in this country is the unions."

The general secretary of the Nicaraguan



Canadian brochure appealing for aid to Nicaragua. Canadian union and labor party leaders endorsed aid campaign, which raised \$1 million worth of medical and school equipment, vehicles, and agricultural tools. Boat left Vancouver for Nicaragua in December.

It also provides an example and an opportunity for U.S. unionists. Here in this country, circulating widely the statements from Canadian labor on Nicaragua, especially in the unions, can be an effective way of answering the prowar stance toward Nicaragua maintained by the top AFL-CIO leadership. This is all the more important now with the release of the Kissinger commission report on Central America — endorsed by AFL-CIO Pres. Lane Kirkland, a commission member — which calls for deepening the U.S. government's efforts to overturn the Nicaraguan revolution.

farm workers' union, which they were visiting, "agreed, giving an example. 'The government has such respect for the labor movement in this country, that in this military emergency, it has called us and told us that it's up to you all to decide what to do about the salary policy.'"

Another Nicaraguan unionist added, "we have to tell you, we have the armies, we control the means of communication."

The farm workers' union secretary said, "this power does not come free," pointing out that "hundreds of workers are losing their lives today in the reserve battalions to maintain this power which they have earned."

"As unionists," Gifford wrote, "we were full of natural curiosity about the trade union movement of Nicaragua. How did they deal with the same day-to-day problems we face: grievances with forepersons, promotions, firings, absenteeism, maternity leave? They too had more questions for us than time permitted answering: what had our unions done to oppose the Grenada invasion, what are they doing to solve the extreme unemployment problem in the U.S., and did our members understand how the military spending is tied in to unemployment?"

Unionists on the tour came from several state employees unions; the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees; Service Employees International; American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; American Federation of Government Employees; and Communications Workers of America.

The delegation, said Gifford, "was organized primarily through the urgent persistence of Nicaragua's First Secretary for Labor Affairs in Washington, Roberto Vargas. Vargas, a Nicaraguan and himself a veteran of both the Vietnam war and the U.S. labor movement, felt that the time was right to bring trade unionists from Nicaragua and the U.S. together."

Canadian Labor Congress statement

The following statement by the Canadian Labor Congress was issued November 22.

The Canadian Labor Congress has long been alarmed at the political and military hostility in Central America, which has taken countless lives of workers and destroyed the dreams and aspirations of many peace-loving peoples. It is for this reason that the CLC has fully endorsed the Contadora initiative to bring about peace through negotiation in a Latin American context outside the super power structure.

In our view, the root causes of the political violence in Central America do not arise from East-West tensions but rather from decades of oppression and economic deprivation, which will no longer be sustained by the millions of working people in that troubled region. For decades Central America has been the private domain of family oligarchies, private armies, and U.S.-based multinational corporations, and nowhere was this more evident than in the history of Nicaragua since the coming to power of Anastasio Somoza with the support and assistance of U.S. foreign policy interests.

In 1979 we were proudly among the first organizations in the world to not only endorse the Sandinista victory over one of Latin America's most vicious dictators, but also to offer clothing and medical supplies to the new Government of National Reconstruction. The Canadian Labor Congress is therefore appalled at the present U.S. policy vis-à-vis Nicaragua, which is undoubtedly designed to turn the clock back on

one of the most promising developments towards social and economic justice in Central American history.

In light of the increasing tension in Central America and the devastating effect that U.S.-backed destabilizing measures have had on the economic and social opportunities of the long-suffering Nicaraguan people, the Canadian Labor Congress once again condemns the interventionist tactics being employed in the region by the Reagan administration. The CLC considers USA attempts to isolate Nicaragua from receiving economic relief through world lending institutions, President Reagan's policy of assisting armed rebels to attack Nicaragua, and the staging of USA military "exercises" both at sea and near the Honduran frontier as flying in the face of the right to self-determination of sovereign states as outlined in the UN Charter.

The CLC believes that these interventionist tactics seriously undermine the peace process initiated by the Contadora group by creating an atmosphere of hostility and mistrust in the region and that they pose a threat to world peace. Consequently, on behalf of its 2 million members, the Canadian Labor Congress demands that the U.S. government cease and desist its intervention against the sovereign state of Nicaragua by immediately withdrawing its military and economic support from those who would violently overthrow the Sandinista government, and by ceasing its economic isolationist policy against Nicaragua.

Dennis McDermott
President, Canadian Labor Congress

Further reading on Nicaraguan revolution

Nicaragua: An Introduction to the Sandinista Revolution by Arnold Weissberg. 48 pp. \$95.

Sandinistas Speak by Tomás Borge, Carlos Fonseca, Daniel Ortega, Humberto Ortega, and Jaime Wheelock. 160 pp. \$4.95.

Order from Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., N.Y., N.Y. 10014. Please include \$.75 for postage and handling.

Socialist candidate Mel Mason speaks to workers, farmers

The Socialist Workers Party launched its 1984 presidential ticket at a national rally in St. Louis on Dec. 30, 1983. The party is running Mel Mason, a Black community leader and former city councilman in Seaside, California, for president. Andrea González, a unionist, longtime Puerto Rican rights activist, and national chairperson of the Young Socialist Alliance, is the SWP vice-presidential candidate.

The two candidates were joined on the St. Louis rally platform by activists in the struggles of Blacks, farmers, labor, GLs, and women, as well as a representative of the Salvadoran trade union federation, FENASTRAS. (See news story in last week's *Militant*.)

This week we are reprinting major excerpts from three speeches at the rally, as well as a message sent to the gathering by a prisoner supporting the Mason-González ticket. The speech by SWP presidential candidate Mel Mason follows.

We have heard here tonight from leaders of the Black, Latino, women's, farmers, and labor struggles here and abroad. Each of them hit on the fact that capitalism is in crisis and discussed the magnitude of the problems we face.

But before we begin to talk about how to solve these problems, we must first understand who caused them and why.

We as socialists start from the basic fact that there are two main classes in this society — one that rules, and one that is ruled by it. One that doesn't work, and one that works for it. One that's wealthy, and one that's exploited to keep the other class wealthy.

I'm speaking of the tiny, rich minority, the capitalists, that we refer to as the ruling class, and the vast majority of the population in this country that we refer to as the working class. That's you and me. And along with the working farmers, we produce the wealth that keeps this country running. But we don't enjoy the benefits of that wealth.

If you don't have this as your starting point, there's no way that you will be able to figure out why this country and this world is the way it is. Not having this as your starting point leads you to believe the world has gone mad. It will cause you to start resorting to superstition.

How many times have you heard someone say, "I'm out of work because I'm having bad luck"? Or, "I got beat up by the cops because I was in the wrong place at the wrong time"?

Brothers and sisters, the bad luck we're having is living under capitalism. Capitalism is a system designed to make profits for the benefit of one small class — the rich. The making of more and more money is their only priority. But they need somebody to make that money for them, and that's where we come in. We're the ones who do the work and they're the ones who get rich!

This understanding will help us not only to define the problem, but to also find the solution.

The capitalist system is in a crisis — not only here at home, but around the world. What the rulers of this country are doing is making us pay for their crisis. Why are the copper miners on strike against Phelps Dodge in Arizona? Why did the Greyhound workers go on strike? Or the telephone workers? Why are the fruit and vegetable packers in Gonzales and Los Baños, California, on strike against Maggio Inc.? Because their bosses forced them to strike to protect their wages, hours, working conditions, and union rights.

They force you out on strike and replace you with scabs or close down the companies temporarily to "reorganize." The bosses want to take all they can get at the expense of our standard of living, our rights, and even our very lives.

The domestic policy of the U.S. government is to attack the working class by busting our unions, stepping up racism and sexism to divide our class, driving down our wages, taking away our job security and benefits, and pounding us into submission as they do it.

The government you have been led to believe is your government is at war with you. This goes to show you who's government this really is. Your high school civics classes lied to you. Civics classes try to convince working people that all of us in this country are one — that we all have the same things at stake whether we are rich or poor.

But are we the same as them — the rich? Are the copper miners in Arizona really Phelps Dodge in disguise? No! Are the fruit and vegetable packers in California really Maggio Inc.? Hell no. Are Black people who are being victimized by voting rights violations in the South, refusals to desegregate schools in the North, and police brutality nationwide, them? No.

Are women, who are denied equal pay and abortion rights, them? No.

Are migrant workers and undocumented workers who are constantly rounded up, harassed, and deported after being orked half to death, them? No.

Are Native Americans who have been forced to live in concentration camps in this country, have the highest suicide rate of any group in this country, them? No.

None of us are them. We are us. And it is us that the Mason-González campaign talks to.

U.S. foreign policy

Working people in the United States are beginning to see the flip side of the ruling-class policy is its foreign policy. While here at home they make us pay for their crisis, they also make workers and farmers in other countries pay for their crisis. That is why the U.S. government provides military aid to dictatorships in El Salvador and Guatemala. That is why it is funding coun-

terrevolutionaries to overthrow the Nicaraguan government. That is why they invaded Grenada and made it "safe" once again for "free enterprise."

That is why the U.S. Marines are in Lebanon. They're not there on any peace-keeping mission! They are there to prop up a government that helps secure U.S. financial interests in the Mideast. The people of Lebanon don't want this government, but Washington does — that's the problem!

The capitalist crisis, both here and abroad, will continue to deepen. With that knowledge, what do we do?

How do we reopen the steel mills that are closing down, throwing thousands of workers on the street?

How do we stop Washington from sending U.S. GLs to war in Central America and the Mideast?

How do we keep the banks from foreclosing on family farms?

How do we get the Equal Rights Amendment?

How do we stop racist attacks on Blacks and Latinos?

Can we do it by voting next November for someone in the Democratic Party who is a "friend of labor," a "friend of Blacks," or a "friend of women"? Are there any such things in the Democratic Party?

Walter Mondale

When you take a look at the fact that Walter Mondale, a leading contender for the Democratic nomination, was part of the Carter administration that helped defeat the ERA, you can rightfully say he doesn't have a record of being a friend of women.

Mondale and Carter were under attack throughout the four years they were in office for not living up to their promises to help Blacks. So Mondale doesn't have a record of being a friend of Blacks.

And Mondale was part of the administration that attacked the United Mine Workers union when it went on strike, setting the precedent for Reagan to later crush the air controllers' union. So Mondale can't be considered the friend of labor the AFL-CIO officialdom tries to convince us he is — to the tune of \$20 million of union members' money.

Copper miners and Democrats

What about the Democratic Party in Arizona? The copper miners who are on strike now helped put Democrat Bruce Babbitt in the governor's office as a friend of labor. But what did this friend of labor do when the miners went out on strike? He sent the National Guard in to attack them.

So what should the copper miners do? Support a Republican for governor? No, they should run a copper miner for governor of Arizona! What better friends of labor do we have than the copper miners of Arizona?

The Mason-González campaign advocates that kind of action on the part of workers. We think workers and working farmers need to run their own kind for office. We're not going to be able to stop farm foreclosures, plant shutdowns, war, or discrimination unless we gain political power. And you can't do that through the two-party system of the Democrats and Republicans — no matter how hard you try.

Brother Jesse Jackson hasn't been able to do it, no matter how hard he tries. The Democrats prove it to Jackson every day: they cannot and will not represent the interests of Blacks, Latinos, or labor. They can't do it because they represent the interests of another class — the ruling rich. Jackson says he wants to reform the Democratic Party, but the only thing that's being reformed is Brother Jackson himself.

Jackson on Mideast

A few years ago, Jackson came under racist criticism for meeting with the Palestine Liberation Organization. Today he is claiming that Israel, which occupies the rightful homeland of the Palestinians, not only has a right to exist, but is threatened by the homeless Palestinian people!

In the past few days, Jackson has taken conflicting positions on the war in Leba-



Militant/Steven Fuchs

Mel Mason

non. On the one hand, he says maybe the U.S. troops should be withdrawn. But on the other hand, he blames the Syrian government, not the U.S. government, for the crisis in Lebanon.

While respecting Brother Jackson's contributions to the Black struggle, and defending his right to run for office free of the racist restrictions he currently suffers, I am bound by principle to point out to working people that as earnest and sincere as I believe the brother to be, asking us to participate in the Democratic Party is leading us down a dead-end street.

Brother Jackson should take a lesson from the civil rights movement he has helped lead. Civil rights gains, like the defeat of Jim Crow segregation, the Voting Rights Act, and the Civil Rights Act, were not won at the ballot box or through the Democratic Party. The Democratic Party helped enforce Jim Crow, segregated schools, and restrictions on Black voting rights!

Right now, the Democratic Party is working with the Republican Party to attack Black rights. Violations of Black voting rights in the south are being spearheaded by the Democrats.

Blacks are being singled out for special attack because unfortunately, the Democrats and Republicans have learned more from the civil rights struggle than Brother Jackson has.

They understand the historic vanguard role Blacks play in the struggle for social justice. They understand that once Blacks start to move, the whole working class starts to move. And they don't want to see that happen. That's why they are stepping up use of the death penalty, among their other methods of terror and oppression, to intimidate us from organizing to defend our interests.

How do we defeat them?

Do we defeat these attacks by staying in the two-party system that is bringing all this about? Or do we form our own party — a Black party, or a labor party based on a revitalized, democratic, revolutionary trade union movement?

I think the answer is clear. We need our own party.

What we have experienced in our relationship with the ruling class and its parties is that the relationship is no good! It's been a bad marriage. We want a divorce on the grounds of incompatibility. And we'll have a permanent restraining order — it's called socialism!

Workers and farmers government

Capitalism is outmoded, Neanderthal, antisocial, and unfit for human consumption. Our campaign says the abolition of capitalism is the only solution to the problems we face. We must establish a government in this country of workers and farmers like ourselves to guarantee that society will no longer be run in the interests of the privileged rich.

If you believe in this perspective then I'm going to challenge you.

If you believe in this perspective, then you have to fight for it. The society that we're talking about creating is not going to fall out of the sky.

You can't bring in the new order by standing around thinking good thoughts about your fellow man. You have to struggle for the new society. Some of us don't even know who our fellow man is yet. So

Continued on next page

Mason & Gonzalez Speeches on Tape

Hear the socialist candidates. Speeches from the December 30, 1983, kick-off rally of the 1984 Socialist Workers Party campaign. Mel Mason, SWP candidate for president, discusses a class-struggle perspective for working people. Andrea González, SWP candidate for vice-president, speaks out against U.S. foreign policy. González's speech is also available in Spanish. Tapes include brief introduction.

☐ Please send me _____ copies of Mason & González: Speeches (Side One: Mason on Working-Class Solutions to the Capitalist Crisis, 30 min.; Side Two: González Speaks Out Against

U.S. Foreign Policy, 30 min.)

☐ Please send me _____ copies of Andrea González Speaks Out Against U.S. Foreign Policy (Side One in Spanish, 30 min.; Side Two in English, 30 min.)

Enclosed is \$ _____ (\$6 per tape including postage and handling). Pre-paid orders only.

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Greyhound, copper strikers speak to rally

'I fully endorse a labor party in this country'

Printed on this page are speeches and messages to the Dec. 30, 1983, Socialist Workers Party campaign rally. The talk by Leonard Bryant, an Amalgamated Transit Union picket coordinator in Philadelphia during the Greyhound strike, follows.

It's good to be here tonight among friends. I've found that since November 3, when we walked out on Greyhound, my circle of friends has widened considerably.

First of all, I'd really like to thank the Socialist Workers Party and the Young Socialist Alliance for inviting me here.

And in particular, I'd really like to thank the *Militant* newspaper for its ongoing support and coverage, which was basically the only coverage that we had of what was really going on in other parts of the country. We have locals in all 48 states and locals in Canada and we have locals with 50 members and locals with 500 members. So solidarity was absolutely essential.

Earlier this year, as things progressed, I thought about rapidly approaching 1984 — oh boy. I looked around and I saw a country moving toward a society where the few were really making obscene profits at the expense of working people, where we had clowns sitting in Washington making racist jokes, where there was a concerted effort to drive the standard of living down by a concentrated effort of union-busting.

I saw a president whose first official act was to bust a union. Never mind the fact that the government refused to negotiate in good faith and violated the contract in that respect. But the workers had no business striking. That was against the sacred oath they had taken. Never mind the government's obligation to negotiate in good faith.

We at Greyhound were faced with the same situation. An offer was put on the table, take it or leave it. We left it.

With the Greyhound strike, this campaign of union-busting actually reached its zenith. I think from this point on, I think we're going to turn the corner and draw the line and really stand up and start to take our country back.

With all the things we've seen happening, with the geopolitical adventurism of the United States now, with the Reagan policies of repression, of subverting the Bill of Rights, things would seem gloomy indeed; if that were the complete picture.

But a funny thing happened on the way to 1984 — 1983. Specifically, the Greyhound strike. During that strike, I actually saw something that all of our efforts at or-

ganizing within the Amalgamated Transit Union had failed to accomplish. I saw coming together, I saw men with 30 years on the property walking the picket lines with men who had 3 years on the property. I saw men and women standing up, straightening up. You know, when you straighten up, anything that's on your back tends to fall off.

Not only in our union. We saw great solidarity in Philadelphia in particular. One Wednesday morning we had a convoy of Teamster drivers, driving 40-foot semis around City Hall. Downtown was closed. You've all heard those jokes about Philadelphia, I went there and it was closed. This morning it was closed.

There were people there from the Steelworkers, teachers union, plumbers, Teamsters. Downtown was definitely closed.

Also we enjoyed the support of the public. The *Militant* really covered our efforts and gave us tremendous support. But there was really a dearth of coverage in the mass media. When you read something in the newspapers or heard it on the evening news it was almost like a press release from [the Greyhound corporate headquarters in] Phoenix. Greyhound had the nerve to claim that this Thanksgiving they did far more business than they did last Thanksgiving.

Now, I didn't see any buses on the road. What they were doing, I don't know. They weren't hauling people, at least not on buses.

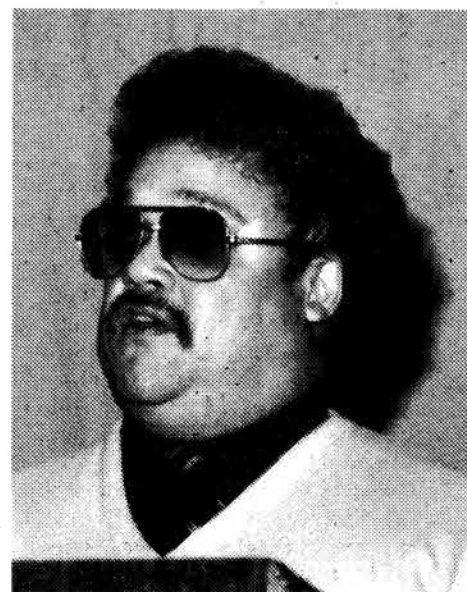
Now we did make some concessions. I don't even like to look at it as losing the battle. I think a strategic withdrawal is what we had. The war goes on. We will ultimately win.

Back to this coverage that we got. If you think about it, it really is an educational experience. If this had been an airline strike, if one of the minor carriers, not even Eastern or United, but maybe Ozark or one of the regional carriers, there would have been a tremendous amount of media coverage.

We didn't get any of that kind of coverage. We started thinking about it and said, wait a minute, how come? It dawned on several of us that IBM executives don't ride the bus. Think about it. The people ride the bus. And the people weren't riding the bus. And the people knew it. We had tremendous support.

As you know we're back to work — and we're operating at 55 miles per hour, 40 where posted. And we make very sure that before we leave any terminal that we have our fire ax on board, emergency flares, and all turn signals are working properly. And at that rate of speed we are approaching 1986, which will be our next negotiating session, where we sit down and talk again.

I was really encouraged with the solidarity from the other unions and from labor in general. I could really see that it's starting to dawn on working people in this country what's going on. That everything is connected. And for a long time, we as working



Leonard Bryant

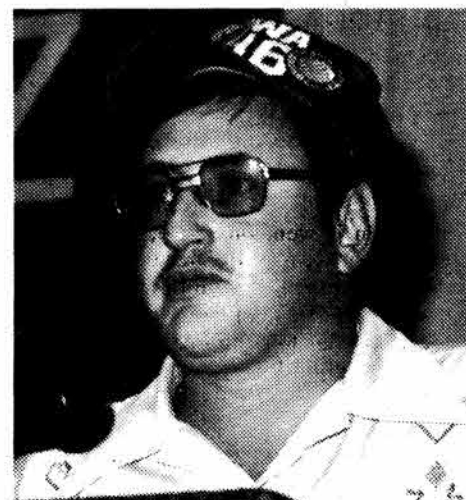
Militant/Steven Fuchs

people have been beating our heads against the wall in frustration. Well, as anyone who has experience beating their heads against the wall knows, it feels real good when you stop. It's about the only thing that can be said for it.

We're going to stop beating our heads against the wall. We're organizing. We're getting some new blood at the top. We are strong, we are united, we are talking to our sisters and brothers in other unions.

I'm happy to be here tonight to talk to you. I fully endorse a labor party in this country. Once again I'd like to thank you for this opportunity. Solidarity!

'Keep on selling your 'Militants' to people'



Billy Jacks

Militant/Steven Fuchs

News from the six-month copper miners' strike against Phelps Dodge Corp. was brought to the rally by Billy Jacks, a striker and member of the United Steelworkers of America. The strike is centered in the copper mining towns of Morenci, Ajo, Safford, and Douglas, Arizona, and El Paso, Texas. Although the company has brought the full power of the government in to try to crush the strike — including mobilizing the National Guard against pickets last August — the miners are continuing their battle for a decent contract. The following is Jacks' speech.

We're still out. We still have about 1,200 people who are staying strong.

I would like to thank the Young Socialist Alliance, the *Young Socialist*, and the *Militant* for asking me to come and speak to you.

The *Militant* is the only paper in our state that's got enough guts to print the truth about us. Keep on selling your *Militants* to all the people to let them know what's going on.

We need solidarity from every union and from all over the country. We're asking for this because it's not only our jobs, it's your jobs too. Your jobs are on the line, just like ours are.

Phelps Dodge brought 1,600 troops against 10 strikers. They brought in the National Guard and the state troopers. They brought in helicopters. They brought in tank removers and 750 tons of tear gas against us. They tried to evict us from our homes.

We've got two strikers who almost died because scabs beat them up, they put them in the hospital. We've got people who are threatened with being evicted, thrown out on the streets. They don't have the money to pay their rent. The unions are trying to pay it.

When we had a mass picket in August, the only thing we were doing was fighting for our rights. We carried bats, sticks, rocks, and chains to defend ourselves. But newspapers never reported that the scabs had guns. They never said that the company had an industrial gun that was going to blow us away. They never said anything about the National Guard that was sitting out there with their telescopes on us to pick us off one by one.

I would also like to tell you that we're going to keep fighting and we're going to win this thing.

Without our women backing us up, without the women's auxiliary backing us up and giving us 100 percent support, a lot of us would have probably gone back to work.

Brothers and sisters, the women that we've got, they're the ones who go out there, they're the ones who yell, they're the ones who give the scabs hell. We have mostly Chicano, Latino, and Mexican people in Morenci and Ajo. Our people were born and raised there and a lot of people will die there before they give their homes and their lives to this company.

The company has not given us anything. The company wants to take our cost of living away from us. They want to start new employees at a lower rate of pay. They want to take our seniority away from us. And we don't want that.

The only thing we are asking for is the right to be Americans in this state. We don't have the right to bear arms. We don't have the right to freedom of speech. We don't have the right to freedom of the press. Everything that the media tells you, don't believe. Believe what the *Militant* tells you.

Tell the people all over the country what's happening in Morenci, Ajo, Douglas, El Paso. Tell them to stay strong and give us solidarity. As the Mexicans say, ¡Viva la Huelga!

Mason talks to workers

Continued from preceding page

we have to struggle to find out. That's the best way to find out who our enemies are, get involved in the struggle.

We're living in a day and age when it's impossible to be neutral. So if you believe in our perspective, we're challenging you to put your action where your words are. If you really believe in this perspective, the doors of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance are wide open.

You can't do anything by yourself walking around with a perspective. You have to join an organization that can carry out that perspective. You need an organization that has the strength to build, to mobilize, and go out and organize among the working people. You can't do that by yourself.

So, if you believe our campaign is right when it talks about the kind of society we want to bring in, then you can help us bring it in. And the way you do that is join our movement, join the YSA and SWP.

'Workers have no stake in capitalism'

The following statement is from a leader of political activists inside the U.S. federal prison system. Incarcerated now for nine years, he began his sentence in a prison in the South where he was introduced to radical ideas by other prisoners. After helping to lead a work stoppage protesting prison conditions, he was transferred to one of the country's maximum security prisons. There he became a central organizer and was elected chairman of a large organization of Black prisoners. He began reading the *Militant* and sought out the Socialist Workers Party. Shortly after that, he was transferred again to yet another prison where he continues his organizing efforts.

I welcome this opportunity to show support and encouragement for the Socialist Workers Party's candidate for president, Mel Mason.

The onslaught against workers and farmers, women, Blacks, and Latinos is vivid testimony to the oppressive social policies of capitalism in America — personified by whichever capitalist party rules. Many years ago Malcolm X gave us an analogy that depicted the choice between a wolf and a fox disguised as Democrats and Republicans.

As the onslaught continues, it becomes increasingly clear to more and more that the problem is not just the oppressive ideology of the one man who occupies the

White House. And so it is no coincidence that this year a new player, Jesse Jackson, has joined the cast of characters who will compete to represent the interests of America's aristocracy.

The conclusions that workers and minorities are arriving at are emphasized by 57,000 dead in Vietnam, subversion and assassination throughout Latin America, the invasion of Grenada, and thousands of American troops poised around the world. Working people have no stake in maintaining the evils of the capitalist system. It is far more in their interest to help reorganize society so that it places human needs above expanding markets and subservience to the rich.

These are the issues only Mel Mason's candidacy will bring to the attention of workers. Jesse Jackson and the other candidates will obscure the necessity to change the whole capitalist system and will deliver us once again into the arms of the fox.

As a prisoner in capitalist America who understands not only what socialism would mean to this country but to the entire world, I have dedicated all my efforts in helping to make socialism a reality. I am honored to offer words of support to Mel Mason, a worker who will take the vision of a socialist future to working people everywhere. I can see the prison walls that enclose me. Yours may not be as visible, but as long as capitalism survives, we are all prisoners.

Nicaraguan leader answers U.S. li



Militant/Michael Baumann

Part of April 1983 march in Managua, Nicaragua, against U.S. war. Sign reads, "Reagan!!! You are going to fall." In the face of growing U.S. attacks, Nicaraguan people stand united and ready to defend their revolution.

The following is a speech delivered last December by Nicaragua's minister of the interior, Tomás Borge, to a group of U.S. citizens in Managua, Nicaragua. In the talk, Borge explains some of the points he wanted to make in the United States while on a tour scheduled for late last year.

But on November 29 — less than 24 hours before his flight time — Borge was told by the U.S. embassy in Managua that his visa had been denied.

The Reagan administration wants to prevent U.S. working people from hearing the truth about the Nicaraguan revolution. Washington's lies about the goals and aims of the Sandinista government are aimed at preparing to overthrow it. The Kissinger commission report on Central America, submitted last week, contains proposals designed to escalate the U.S. war against Nicaragua and Vietnamize the war in El Salvador.

This U.S. war dramatically stepped up on January 11. A U.S.-piloted helicopter penetrated Nicaraguan airspace, at a time when other aircraft had been providing reconnaissance and supplies for counterrevolutionary troops just south of the Honduran border. The helicopter was fired upon by the Sandinista army and crashed in Honduran territory.

As Washington tries to use the incident as a pretext to escalate its war, getting the truth out about the Nicaraguan revolution is ever more important.

So, for our readers, we present the speech Reagan banned in the United States.

Before the visa to visit the United States was denied us, we intended to travel to educational centers that had invited us as well as to meet with congressmen and journalists from various North American news media.

Everything seems to indicate that Mr. Reagan's administration feels that U.S. citizens have no right to listen to voices of Nicaraguans.

We wish to speak to you from a country that is at war: not only the single war we would have wished to wage, which is the war against underdevelopment, but also a war against military forces organized by the U.S. administration.

U.S. governing circles openly discuss the amounts to be assigned to covert operations against Nicaragua: operations that to us signify air raids, sabotage of production centers, and that also signify death, massive migrations, and economic losses.

What does not seem to be much discussed is the "right" of one country to attack another, or the "right" of a powerful

country like the United States to decide the destiny of a country that is nearly 80 times smaller in size and in population.

There is much discussion about the internal situation in Nicaragua. The Sandinista revolution is placed in question, but there is little discussion about the presumed right to intervene in Nicaragua.

This war, in which the United States is directly involved, today costs the U.S. taxpayers millions of dollars. Tomorrow this war may cost the people of the United States thousands of lives, as it is costing us Nicaraguans now.

The United States public is daily presented with a series of assertions about Nicaragua that are plainly and simply false, or else are half-truths. On the basis of these assertions an attempt is made to justify to the North American people an increasing involvement in a war against Nicaragua.

We would like to briefly analyze some of the principal claims that the Reagan administration presents concerning Nicaragua. Each of these claims is utilized to create a sentiment in U.S. public opinion to support the action the administration has taken to destroy the Sandinista People's Revolution.

Let us see what these claims are.

First claim: Central America is the arena of an East-West struggle.

It is true that Latin America, in its entirety, is poor and backward. Central America is poor and backward even with respect to the rest of Latin America. The per capita income of Latin Americans is \$1,554 per year; that of Central Americans is \$472. That of North Americans is approximately \$10,000. Some 6.7 percent of Latin Americans live in Central America, but they produce only 2 percent of the gross national product of Latin America.

Life expectancy in Central America is about 50 years, according to the fraudulent official data that Central American governments have traditionally provided. Central Americans live an average 23 years less than persons born in the United States. There are places in Central America where infant mortality reaches the figure of 200 per 1,000 births. In the United States, infant mortality is only 13 per 1,000 births.

Five percent of the population — the richest sector — appropriated, until the revolutionary victory, 43 percent of everything our country produced. These figures are not much different from other existing realities in Central America. When I say that there are areas in El Salvador where there is one medical doctor for every 4,000 inhabitants, I am citing a figure that is

more or less the same for the rest of Central America. I am sure that you are not unaware of the fact that in developed countries the proportion is one medical doctor for every 520 inhabitants.

Victimized by dictatorship

Central America has been victimized by dictatorships, each of which might have provided a verse for the Apocalypse. The last dictatorship suffered by Nicaragua lasted nearly half a century. It has been conservatively calculated that the National Guard, Somoza's army, murdered more than 300,000 Nicaraguans. Since 1954, more than 100,000 persons have been murdered in Guatemala, and the Salvadorans, since 1979, have paid the same quota that we did in the final stage of our struggle against Somoza: nearly 50,000 human lives.

Hunger, dear friends, is not a conflict between East and West; hunger is a conflict between the dictatorial regimes and our peoples, who are hungry as well for justice. "Commander Hunger" is the commander in chief of Central American peoples.

This sophism concerning East-West conflict is, therefore, a deliberate lie to justify aggression against our peoples.

The problem must be posed in other terms. Ours is a struggle of national affirmation and it is a struggle that has the objective of ending underdevelopment, social injustice, and oppression.

Would it not be more logical if, rather than making and unmaking dictators, rather than arming and training oppressive armies, rather than supporting selfish oligarchies, rather than perpetuating underdevelopment by means of a profoundly unjust international economic order, the United States were to support profound social change, stop opposing peoples, stop arming oppressors? Would it not be more logical if the United States were to orient its gigantic technological proficiency toward overcoming hunger and misery, not only in Central America, but among two-thirds of humanity?

Second claim: Nicaragua threatens the national security of the United States.

We did not know we were so great and powerful.

Nicaragua is 80 times smaller than the United States, and it has almost 90 times fewer inhabitants. The total cost of manufacturing the United States' B-1 strategic bombers alone is 62 times greater than the annual budget of the Republic of Nicaragua.

How can we be a threat to the national security of the United States? It is absurd to attempt any military comparison. Besides which, our doctrine as well as our armament is of a strictly defensive character.

It has even been stated, defying all logic, that we might threaten the Panama Canal, as if we had either the desire or the military capability to do so. Some maintain that this danger derives from the fact that we "export" the revolution — as if revolutions were cotton or coffee.

Faced with the evident weakness of all these arguments, at one point it was said that nuclear missiles aimed at the United States would be installed in Nicaragua. Nobody has asked us to install missiles in Nicaragua, nor have we requested missiles of anyone.

Third claim: A civil war is under way in Nicaragua.

An attempt has also been made to create the impression that a spontaneous conflict has developed in Nicaragua, in which a part of the population is fighting against revolutionary power.

It is enough to have a minimum of common sense, enough to visit Nicaragua, to realize the extraordinary degree of popular support that our revolution enjoys.

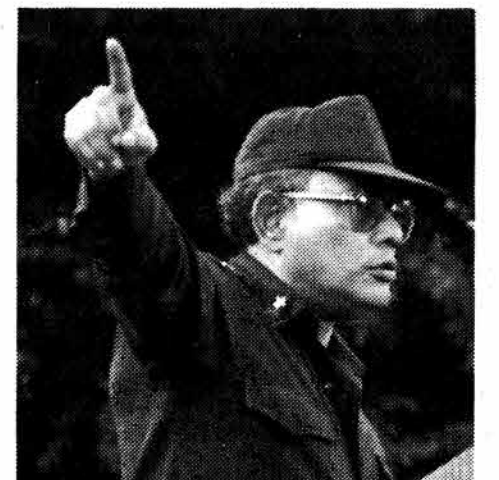
What then, is the origin of the war? It has become axiomatic that the military forces that attack Nicaragua come from Honduras and Costa Rican territory and that the mastermind and supplier of this invasion is the government of the United States. To state the contrary is to reduce the obvious to a scandalous lie. Of course, the lie bears fruit, and this was the philosophy of the German Third Reich when it upheld the maxim: "Lie, and lie again: something will stick."

On the other hand, it is a law of history that revolution necessarily produces counterrevolution. When the United States won its independence, there were also some 100,000 opponents who went to Canada. In Nicaragua, this counterrevolution, though weak, is inevitable. The strength acquired by this counterrevolution originates with a political decision by a government which, while maintaining diplomatic relations with Nicaragua, has determined to make war on Nicaragua.

U.S. sets strategy

The United States government, acting through the Central Intelligence Agency, reassembled members of Somoza's former National Guard who were dispersed throughout Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, and the United States, forming them into what was ultimately called the Nicaraguan Democratic Forces. These former members of Somoza's army were concentrated by the United States in Honduran territory. The counterrevolutionary forces commenced harassing our military installations. At the same time they were able to draw a sector of the Miskito Indian population into counterrevolutionary activity, using radio broadcasts and agents who based their appeal on the separatist leanings of some of the Miskito leaders.

These forces act from bases located in Honduran territory. Their activities on our soil depend on the rearguard and logistical



Militant/Fred Murphy

Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomás Borge.

es: the speech Reagan banned

support of the Honduran Army and the financing, planning, and intelligence supplied by the CIA.

None of this is rhetorical excess. The so-called Nicaraguan Democratic Forces function out of Honduras and have three command echelons: the lowest, composed of former officers of Somoza's National Guard who are in turn commanders of the principal "task forces"; an intermediate command level made up of Honduran army officers, one former officer of the Somoza army, and the CIA station chief in Tegucigalpa; and the high command, made up exclusively of North Americans — officers of the CIA and of the Southern Command of the U.S. Army located in Panama. This latter sets the strategy of the armed aggression against Nicaragua.

Is this a war between Nicaraguans? Or is it an external aggression? Can there be a civil war when one of the bands is organized, directed, armed, and financed from abroad?

Civil war in Nicaragua? A civil war is what exists in El Salvador. The assertion that there is a civil war in Nicaragua is an effort to legitimize a cynical ploy. It is an attempt to create the illusion that there exists in Nicaragua a situation analogous to that of El Salvador; it is a useless attempt to use blackmail to put forward a possible solution in Central America from a position of strength.

Fourth claim: Nicaragua today is a satellite of the Cubans and Soviets.

It is still fresh in the memory of Nicaraguans that the highest authority in our country during the time of Somoza was the ambassador of the United States. We are struggling, fundamentally, to be our own masters and make our own decisions. This is an elementary principle of national honor.

The assertion that Nicaragua is dominated by the Cubans and the Soviets seems to be based on an ignorance of the pride and power of national feeling among Nicaraguans. Out of respect for the truth and with full knowledge of the facts, I can affirm that neither the Soviet ambassador, nor the Cuban ambassador, nor Fidel Castro — with whom we have frequently conversed — nor the Soviet leader, Yuri Andropov — with whom we have also spoken — has ever told us what we must do. To think otherwise would be to acknowledge that we have no judgment of our own, that we have no respect for the blood of our martyrs, that we are simply puppets. All the North American friends with whom we have spoken can bear witness to our national pride.

Who among you can believe that we lack the audacity and courage to make our own decisions? If we were sufficiently dishonorable to surrender, there is no doubt whatever that it would be much easier and much more comfortable to surrender to the government of the United States.

Nonaligned and pro-Third World

Our international policy is nonaligned and pro-Third World, and this cannot be gauged only through occasional votes in the United Nations, but in the wide variety of relations we maintain with European, Asian, African, and, naturally, with American nations.

Only 8.8 percent of our foreign commerce in 1982 was with socialist countries. We trade twice as much with Western Europe or with the United States as with all the socialist countries combined.

Where is the Soviet and Cuban domination? In the political sphere we are extremely jealous of our independence. In the economic sphere we have relations four times greater with nonsocialist countries than with socialist.

We have received respectful treatment from Cuba and the Soviet Union, without any sort of conditions attached. This is the same treatment we would like to have from the United States, a relationship of mutual respect and cooperation.

Fifth claim: There is a totalitarian dictatorship in Nicaragua.

Constructing a new state is like erecting a new structure on the ruins of a building that has been struck by a cataclysm. In Nicaragua we have to change everything down to our very mental attitudes, inasmuch as this was a country ruled by indifference, corruption, and selfishness. Although it seems hard to believe, in Nicaragua under the Somoza dictatorship honesty was looked on askance.

With our feet firmly planted in the reality of our country, with all its contradictions and incongruities, the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) designed a policy of alliances to confront the Somoza tyranny: a policy that saw its continuation in a pluralistic and participatory conception following the revolutionary victory.

The concrete expression of this pluralism and participation is the Council of State. In the Council of State¹ are represented seven political parties, seven labor organizations, five private enterprise organizations, diverse religious sectors, universities, youth and women's organizations, and so on.

Elections in 1985

In this same context, we have committed ourselves to holding elections, opening the electoral process in 1984 that is to culminate in 1985. In this way we are accomplishing what was promised in 1980, a few months after the triumph [of the revolution]. On February 21 the exact date of the elections — which are scheduled for the first months of 1985 — will be announced.

During these years we have carried out a series of reforms whose only objective has been to advance on the road to democracy: teaching 40 percent of our population to read, creating a totally new judicial system to replace the dictatorship's corrupt system, and stimulating a people that was oppressed for a half century to organize itself and to participate in the decisions that affect its destiny. All of this has been accomplished in five years. Has the United States forgotten that in its country the first elections were held in 1789, 13 years after the Declaration of Independence?

How easy it would be for us, goaded by the slanders of each morning and each afternoon, harassed from all angles, to toss overboard the positions and principles enunciated by our Revolutionary National Directorate.² Nevertheless, we have demonstrated irrefutably that we continue to be a nonaligned nation with a commitment to pluralism.

In our country a Law on Political Parties has been approved that assures the right of all these parties to seek power.

The level of popular participation has no precedent in our history. More labor unions have been created during these four years of revolution than in all preceding Nicaraguan history. The entire people is organized: agricultural workers, owners of small- and medium-sized businesses, women, youth, city dwellers, businessmen, professionals, students — all these have a voice in a country that was always starved for words. The decisions of our revolutionary directorate are as closely linked to the sentiments of our people as blood is to arteries. This too is democracy. The accusation of totalitarianism has sought arguments in a supposed suppression of freedom of the press. In Nicaragua there are nine newspapers: three dailies and six weeklies. Of the three daily newspapers, one is the official organ of the FSLN; the other two, *Nuevo Diario* and *La Prensa* are private. There are 46 radio stations, of which 25 — or 55 percent — are privately

owned. Through these and through *La Prensa*, the declarations and analyses of parties opposing the FSLN are transmitted every day. What is being censored? That which every state censors when confronted with a war situation, as was the case with the North American state during World War II.

How can we avoid censoring news items that promote speculation in basic goods with the purpose of distracting our people from defense tasks? How can we avoid censoring news that attempts to confuse the population and has as its end the obstruction of military service in a situation that requires the defense of the homeland?

Defense of the homeland is also a democratic act.

Sixth claim: Nicaragua violates human rights and practices repression against the Miskitos.

It is necessary to start by saying that the U.S. administration had contentedly proclaimed that there is a notable improvement in the observance of human rights in Guatemala, El Salvador, Chile, and Paraguay, but that in Nicaragua the respect for human rights had deteriorated and continues to deteriorate.

The comparison is odious because they speak of the improvement of human rights in countries where genocide has become commonplace, and they say that human rights have deteriorated in a country where there are no executions, where torture has been virtually eradicated, where prisoners, including Somocistas, have been located in work centers where they have a continuing relationship with their families and with many of them under a regime of what we call "open farms." Open farms in which there are no guards, other than moral suasion and our confidence in the prisoners, that are without police and without bars. And if this audacious measure raises some skepticism, I invite anyone who holds doubts to visit Nicaragua and observe this beautiful, profoundly humane, project in action.

Witness to the treatment we grant prisoners are the International Red Cross, Commission of Human Rights, a group of North American jurists headed by Mr. Ramsey Clark, writers of worldwide prestige such as Julio Cortázar, Carlos Fuentes, Gabriel García Márquez, Gunter Grass, and Graham Greene, among others.

Have there been abuses in Nicaragua? In

the first weeks after the triumph, when there were still no police, no judicial system or laws, the people in various cases took justice into their own hands. The accumulated hatred against those who had murdered, raped women, stolen with impunity, was great. But within a few weeks effective control was established throughout the country, putting an end to this type of practice.

There have been other cases of abuses, of mistreatment of prisoners, of some murders, of robberies committed by members of our armed forces. But we have been implacable in judging them. Today there are many Sandinistas completing sentences in our jails... and nobody abroad raises a voice on their behalf!

When the revolution triumphed, the Miskito population of the Atlantic Coast was submerged in centuries of historic backwardness, not only with respect to developed countries, but with respect to the population of the rest of Nicaragua.

The Somoza dictatorship never made the slightest effort to bring education or health care to its population. Tuberculosis decimated lives and illiteracy blotted out minds. Neglect was the policy toward the Miskitos.

We wanted to resolve this historic backwardness, having a great deal of will, but with little knowledge.

We committed errors, many errors; many times no account was taken of the cultural particularities of the Miskitos; at other times there was no emphasis on learning their language, and basic aspects of anthropology were unknown. Such errors were committed in good faith; they were taken advantage of by the bad faith of the counterrevolution.

Many of the former Miskito leaders, such as Steadman Fagoth, who had been an agent of Somoza's Security Office, commenced working with the CIA to divide the Miskitos and prevent them from supporting the revolution. An enormous campaign was launched, including radio broadcasts from Honduras, in which he urged the Miskitos to "flee" to Honduras because "the Sandinistas will kill you" or "they'll send your children to Russia so they will deny their parents," and so on.

Many Miskitos deceived

Many Miskitos were deceived and left, becoming objects for recruitment by the counterrevolution on the Atlantic Coast. In Honduras they lived in virtual concentration camps. Many of them stayed there,

Continued on next page



Refugees during 1972 Managua earthquake reach for food handouts. "Hunger is a conflict between the dictatorial regimes and our people, who are hungry as well for justice. 'General Hunger' is the commander-in-chief of Central American peoples," explains Borge.

1. Council of State — legislative body made up of representatives from the trade unions; women's and youth organizations; the small farmers' union; the FSLN and other political parties; the universities; and, clerical and private organizations.

2. National Directorate — the top executive body of the FSLN. It has nine members, among them Tomás Borge.

Nicaraguan leader rips U.S. lies

Continued from preceding page
and others were resettled in zones [within Nicaragua] that a number of you have certainly visited, where they have everything that our scanty resources can provide them.

But since we are conscious that the Miskitos who committed crimes against order and public security were deceived and manipulated, the governing Junta of National Reconstruction³ recently decreed a total amnesty for them. All those who are outside the country may return to the bosom of their families, as well as those who have been released from prison, where they had been sentenced or were detained in the course of police investigations.

Seventh claim: In Nicaragua there is religious persecution.

We have affirmed, and we repeat once more, that the Nicaraguan people are revolutionary and Christian. Numerous priests, pastors, monks, and nuns participate fully in the revolutionary process. This participation had its origin in the old nightmare of injustice and exploitation that our people endured, in the rejuvenating ideas of Vatican Council II, and in the flexibility and vision of Nicaraguan revolutionary leaders.

Role of Christians

Many Christians participated as militants in the Sandinista National Liberation Front. There were Christians who gave their lives for our revolution, including some priests who fell in combat, such as Father Gaspar García Laviana. Various Catholic priests are ministers of state, others are diplomats. The spiritual guide of Nicaraguan youth is a Jesuit priest, Fernando Cardenal.

I will not point out the variety and number of religious people in the intermediate level of revolutionary power, though it might be well to mention that some ministers of state, such as those of education and housing, are militant Christians. There are institutions such as the Valdivieso Center, the Central American Historical Institute, and the Center for Agrarian Studies and Development under the responsibility of religious personnel.

Part of the Catholic hierarchy is opposed and politically hostile to the revolution. They adopt positions that go beyond the religious sphere and in this sense there are conflicts, but on the level of freedom of religion, they have never suffered any interference from our authorities. During the past weeks we have had a series of discussions with the bishops, which have served to improve relations with the Conference of Bishops.

Eighth claim: Nicaragua foments an arms race in Central America.

Let us start with a fact: Nicaragua was first threatened and then invaded. We have the right and the obligation to defend ourselves, and we also have the duty to not attack other countries. We do not propose to invade Honduras, and obviously we do not propose to invade the United States. Therefore, our arms and our military doctrine are of a defensive nature.

We must ask, who is attacking Nicaragua? Is it not the United States? Did they not recently approve \$24 million for what they call "covert operations" against my country?

Is it not the United States that presently has 5,145 soldiers in Honduran territory?

Is it not the United States that constructs radar stations, that has spy planes crisscrossing our air space and great fleets patrolling along our coasts?

Is it not the United States that promotes the reactivation of that alliance of repressive armies called CONDECA [Central American Defense Council], from which they wish to illegally exclude Nicaragua?

They attack us on all sides, then they accuse us of arming because we are preparing for our own defense.

Honduran arms buildup

Honduras now has a great quantity of sophisticated armaments: Scorpion tanks, A-37B aircraft, several dozen fighter bombers and helicopters, plus a training program and organization of a clearly offensive character aimed at Nicaragua.

We are not worried by the quantity of arms possessed by Honduras, inasmuch as it has a perfect right to have them so long as they are not used against another country.

We also, naturally, have a perfect right to have them so long as they are not used against another country. The danger, therefore, lies in the decision to attack, that is to say, in the decision to make war. We are more worried about the enormous military arsenal that the United States has in the Panama Canal Zone, which is a sort of small capital of aggression against Latin America.

We lack airplanes, and we do not have enough weapons for each Nicaraguan to shoulder a rifle. That is to say, our problem is not one of a lack of people willing to fight, but a lack of arms. We are convinced that the problem of other Central American countries is not one of arms, but of men.

We made war to achieve peace

We know what war is, because we have made war in order to achieve peace. We know what war is, because we are at war to defend peace. This explains why we arm ourselves, and this explains why we go about the world demanding its intervention on behalf of peace. We grasp the steel of war in our country because no alternative exists, and we have been disposed to come to the United States to engage in a dialogue for peace, because it is the best alternative.

Our revolution continues — despite pressures, despite economic boycotts, despite war — along the road of institutionalization that we have proposed. From the first moment we said that elections would be carried out in 1985, and we are keeping our promise.

On September 17, 1980, the Council of State, by means of Decree 513, approved the inauguration of the electoral period in 1984 and elections in 1985. This was preceded by an official communiqué of the National Directorate of the FSLN on August 23, 1980, which also proposed the carrying out of the electoral process in 1985. This decision has been reaffirmed again and again by the leaders of the revolution.

The decisions announced a few days ago reaffirming the inauguration of the electoral process on January 31, 1984, are sim-



Militant/Jane Harris

Sahsa settlement in Nicaragua: new housing for Miskito Indians being built alongside the old. Washington lies about Sandinista treatment of the Miskitos.

ply the continuation of a decision made more than three years ago.

Because of this it is paradoxical that these decisions of ours are attributed to pressures and to the covert war against Nicaragua. As it is also paradoxical that the decisions we have taken on different occasions to prevent the Miskito population from becoming the victims of an artificially-imposed war, are likewise interpreted by the Reagan administration as a consequence of the covert war against Nicaragua. Are they perhaps ignorant of the pronouncements made by the FSLN since 1981 in which the respect for the traditions, culture, and rights of the indigenous population of the Atlantic Coast are affirmed?

All of that is paradoxical, as we have said. They make war on us — which is the only thing that could make an electoral process difficult — and then say that, thanks to this war, we are holding elections. They set their millions of dollars and an enormous propaganda apparatus in motion to deceive the Miskitos and use them as cannon fodder in their wide-open "covert war," and then they say that the revolution's amnesty is a consequence of their war. What a way of falsifying reality!

We are strong

We granted amnesty because we are strong. We will hold elections because we are strong; we are generous because we are

strong. We are strong because we are right; we are strong because here the people have arms; we are strong because here democracy, justice, respect for human dignity, national dignity, and national honor predominate.

In the peace proposals for the Central American area, we have included the question of military advisers and that of armaments. We propose the withdrawal of all military advisers in the area and the freezing of armaments in the entire region. Would not this be an effective step toward achieving peace?

The North American people have the right to be well-informed; they have the right to demand that their rulers present them with real facts rather than lies on half-truths to justify actions against other peoples. They have the right to listen to the victims; they have the obligation to judge the victimizers. Nicaragua is never going to attack the United States. Nicaragua is being attacked by the United States. The North American people have the right and duty to know this.

The U.S. administration has two options: either it continues along the belligerent path that only presages an enormous cost in lives, not only of Central Americans but also of North Americans, or else it decides to engage in dialogue, to understand our peoples, to collaborate with social changes and with the possibility of development.

Thank you.

N. Korea calls for talks, reunification

BY WILL REISSNER

UNITED NATIONS — Citing increasingly acute tensions and a growing danger of war on the Korean peninsula, the North Korean government called January 10 for three-way talks between North and South Korea and the United States to ease tensions and pave the way for the reunification of the two Koreas, divided since 1948.

The proposal was made in letters to the U.S. and South Korean governments.

The North Korean letter to Washington characterized the present situation as one of "mutual distrust" and warned that a "trifling incident" could trigger war between the huge armies on both sides of the demilitarized zone.

"Should a war break out again in Korea," the letter noted, "it would . . . inevitably expand into a nuclear war." It is believed that the Pentagon has more than 1,000 nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea. In 1983 U.S. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Edward Meyer warned that if war broke out in Korea, U.S. forces could use tactical nuclear weapons stockpiled there.

The North Korean letter to the U.S. Congress proposed that the tripartite talks

focus on "signing a peace agreement" between the U.S. and North Korea to supplant the 1953 armistice, and adopting "a declaration of non-aggression between North and South of Korea."

After the peace treaty and nonaggression pacts are worked out, the letter continues, discussions could take place on convening a conference between North and South Korea to establish "a confederation based on regional autonomy, leaving the existing socio-political systems in the north and the south as they are."

Even though the United States and North Korea fought a war, the message states, "this does not mean that our two countries should remain hostile countries forever." There can be "friendly relations" if Washington "does not interfere in the domestic affairs of the Korean people or obstruct Korea's reunification" and shows "true interest in preserving peace in Korea and in solving the Korean question peacefully."

A separate letter to South Korean authorities proposed that "a national conference embracing various parties, groupings and circles including the authorities of the North and South should be convened" to

discuss reunification. Such a conference "may discuss the question of founding a neutral confederal state, leaving the systems in the North and the South as they are and allowing autonomy in the two regions."

"If the Seoul authorities had another reasonable proposal for the founding of a unified state, it may also be discussed," the letter added.

North Korean authorities are acutely worried by the build-up of U.S. forces in South Korea.

It has been reported that in 1984 the annual U.S.-organized "Team Spirit" military maneuvers in South Korea will be even larger than "Team Spirit '83," which involved 191,000 U.S. and South Korean troops in simulated land, sea, and air invasions of North Korea.

The North Korean government is also alarmed by U.S. attempts to solidify a three-way military alliance between the United States, South Korea, and Japan. The Pentagon has long been pressing the Japanese government to take more military responsibility for policing the seas in the western Pacific and to provide military aid to South Korea's military regime.

3. Junta of Government of National Reconstruction — the top executive body of the Nicaraguan government. Its three members are Sergio Ramírez Mercado, a leading writer and historian; attorney Rafael Córdova Rivas; and Commander Daniel Ortega, who serves as coordinator of the junta.

Grenadian leader Don Rojas hails role of Cuban revolution

On Dec. 31, 1983, the Young Socialist Alliance sponsored a rally in St. Louis celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Cuban revolution. The rally was the concluding event of the YSA's national convention.

A high point of the rally was a videotaped message from Don Rojas, press secretary to Grenadian Prime Minister Maurice Bishop. Bishop was murdered last October 19 when he and his supporters attempted to lead an armed uprising at Fort Rupert to re-establish the workers and farmers government overthrown by a faction led by Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard.

Rojas delivered his message via videotape because he has been denied entry into this country by the U.S. government, despite the fact that he worked here for several years and has a wife and children who are U.S. citizens.

The full text of his message follows:

Sisters and brothers, comrades all. It gives me great pleasure and pride on this occasion to send you all fraternal and revolutionary greetings in the name of Comrade Maurice Bishop, in the name of all the heroes and martyrs of the Grenada revolution, in the name of all Grenadian patriots and revolutionaries inside and outside of Grenada today, in the name of a people robbed by imperialism of their independence and their right to self-determination, and in the name of a once free and proud country, which today stifles under the heavy yoke of foreign military occupation and domination.

I deeply regret not being physically present with you today, but please be assured that my thoughts are in your midst and that a piece of my heart is also there with you.

For me it is a particular honor to send you greetings on the eve of the 25th anniversary of the glorious Cuban revolution. The revolution that made Cuba the first free territory in the Americas — the revolution that smashed bourgeois dictatorship and tyranny in Cuba once and for all, that broke the oppressive chains of dependency on United States imperialism, that through its building of socialism has given real political power to the Cuban people and that has provided countless social, economic, and cultural benefits for them. A revolution which today enjoys the respect, admiration, and support of freedom-loving people all over the world.

And in its principled policy of proletarian internationalism, Cuba has unselfishly shared thousands of its finest sons and daughters — doctors, dentists, engineers, teachers, technicians, soldiers — who have worked and in many cases died, side by side with the peoples of the Third World.

Cuba has opened the doors of its schools and universities to tens of thousands of youth from the developing world countries, thus giving them an opportunity to a free education that will later be put to the service of their people.

Under the superb leadership and guidance of Comrade Fidel Castro and their Communist Party, the Cuban people continue to share the fruits of their revolution with the peoples of the world. During the four years of the Grenada revolution they offered us, and we gratefully accepted, their internationalist support, assistance, and solidarity.

In less than two years Cuban doctors in Grenada have given free medical examinations to over half of our population. In less than four years Cuban engineers and construction workers, along with their Grenadian counterparts, had leveled hills, filled up bays, laid a 9,000-foot strip, and had almost completed a modern passenger terminal for Grenada's new international airport, the one infrastructural project that would have provided the basis for our country's economic takeoff into the future.

And then the criminal Yankee invaders came on Tuesday, October 25, with blazing guns spitting death and destruction on the free land of our people. Drawing blood from our courageous Cuban comrades and from our own working people, finally capturing our civilian airport and promptly turning it into a military base.

Although imperialism has militarily vanquished our people and seriously set back our revolutionary process — thanks to a group of opportunistic, ambitious, infantile, and unscientific individuals posing as ultrarevolutionaries — it has not destroyed

the spirit and example of the Grenada revolution.

Today, the memory of Maurice Bishop and the martyrs of Fort Rupert is alive in the collective consciousness of the Grenadian masses. Today and tomorrow the memory of the heroic Cuban construction workers who gave their lives and shed their blood on Grenadian soil — honorably defending themselves, their homeland, their revolution, our revolution, the world revolution — their example will inspire all Grenadian patriots at home and abroad.

The Cuban people, led by Fidel, will always occupy a special place in the hearts and minds of Grenadians everywhere. For me, this occasion prompted a fond recollection of the May Day rally in Havana's Revolution Plaza in 1980 when Fidel, [Nicaraguan leader] Daniel Ortega, and Maurice Bishop lifted their joined hands into the air and signaled to the world that Cuba, Grenada, and Nicaragua were three giants standing up for sovereignty and dignity on the very threshold of imperialism.

And I remember my friend and comrade, Maurice Bishop, saying on that same occasion to some one and a half million Cubans that if ever imperialism touched Cuba, they also touched Nicaragua and Grenada.

Therefore comrades, while we celebrate now with the Cuban people 25 years of freedom and people's power, let us also turn our attention to our struggling sisters and brothers in Nicaragua and El Salvador



Don Rojas, former editor of *Free West Indian* and press secretary to Grenadian Prime Minister Maurice Bishop.

and raise our voices with them as they shout defiantly and militantly to imperialism and its stooges, ¡No pasarán! ¡No pasarán!

Finally, allow me to wish you all success with your convention and with your future endeavors.

Long live the Cuban revolution!
Long live the Grenada revolution!
¡Patria o Muerte! ¡Venceremos!
Forward ever, backward never!

Campaign to promote Bishop book set

BY GEORGE JOHNSON

A campaign is under way to distribute as widely as possible the new book *Maurice Bishop Speaks: The Grenada Revolution, 1979-1983*.

The book, according to Steve Clark, who wrote its introduction, "contains the best possible record of the accomplishments of the Grenada revolution — the words of its central political leader, Maurice Bishop." This collection of speeches and interviews, Clark said, is a unique and invaluable aid to the discussions in the Black community, in the Central America and Caribbean solidarity movement, and among internationalist-minded workers about the lessons of the workers and farmers government established in Grenada in March 1979.

The book "is a powerful indictment of U.S. government policy toward the Grenada revolution," Clark said. "Bishop explains why the wealthy U.S. rulers hated the social and economic programs implemented by the revolutionary government to benefit workers and farmers." This will be a useful political tool for all those today who are fighting to demand a complete and immediate end to the U.S. and U.S.-sponsored occupation of Grenada,

which is overseeing the dismantling of most of these programs.

The book also includes the main October-November 1983 statements of the Cuban government and Communist Party concerning Grenada. In these important documents, the Cuban revolutionaries rebut Reagan's lies about the U.S. invasion and occupation of Grenada, and they explain their condemnation of the actions of the Bernard Coard faction, which betrayed and destroyed the Grenada revolution from within, opening the door for the imperialist intervention.

Maurice Bishop Speaks, Clark said, "can be used by every Black organization, by every solidarity committee, by everyone interested in refuting the U.S. government's disinformation campaign against the Grenada revolution."

Pointing to a recent article in *Jet* magazine slandering Bishop and the Grenada revolution, Clark noted that the U.S. rulers are more and more seeking to take their disinformation into the Black community, where opposition to U.S. intervention and support for the revolution are the greatest.

Supporters of the Grenada revolution and opponents of U.S. intervention against the Nicaraguan and Salvadoran revolutions, Clark said, "have a big stake in countering the escalating campaign of lies by the U.S. government aimed at Blacks and other U.S. workers. *Bishop Speaks* will help us do that, providing us with the facts and arguments we need."

There is already a lot of interest in the new book, Clark said. Its publisher, Pathfinder Press, has begun efforts to place it in bookstores and get out the word about it.

To cite one example, a major New York City radio station, WBAI, used 15 copies of *Maurice Bishop Speaks* as gifts to donors during a fundraiser for the station that featured a 12-hour program on Grenada.

Clark stressed that the most important way to get the book out, however, is for supporters of the Grenada revolution "to go on an active campaign to use the book, to get it into the hands of everyone struggling for social change — in Black organizations, the labor movement, solidarity groups."

An example of what is possible, he pointed out, is one event launching the book's distribution planned for early February in Toronto, Canada. Toronto has a

large Grenadian community, and is where Don Rojas — a New Jewel Movement leader and press secretary to Bishop — is now living. The Toronto Grenada Solidarity Committee is planning a broadly sponsored news conference and reception to announce the book there. The committee is seeking support from organizations and individuals in the Black community, the labor movement, and in the New Democratic Party. Grenadians in Toronto, Clark said, are also working to distribute the book as widely as possible in the Grenadian community.

Another example pointed to by Clark was a January 7 meeting in Los Angeles where 175 people, 60 percent of them Black, listened to speakers from the National Conference of Black Lawyers, the National Black Independent Political Party, the U.S.-Grenada Friendship Society, and the Patrice Lumumba Coalition speak in defense of the Grenada revolution.

Discussion of what led up to the overthrow of the Bishop government was spirited, and a number of copies of *Maurice Bishop Speaks* were sold.

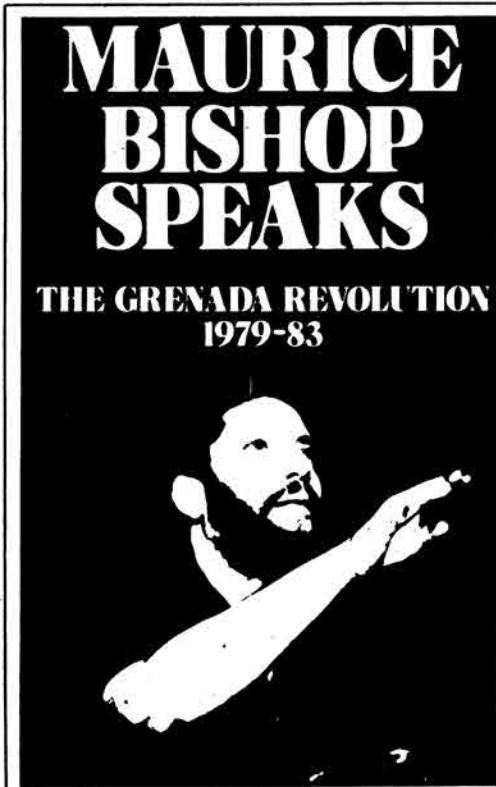
Clark said branches of the Socialist Workers Party and chapters of the Young Socialist Alliance will be making a special effort in the campaign to get the book out. "We'll be looking for opportunities like those in Toronto and Los Angeles in cities where we are located," he said. "And socialists working in industry will be getting this book into the hands of coworkers."

NBUF to show Rojas videotape Jan. 24

A videotaped interview with Don Rojas, press secretary to murdered Grenadian Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, will be shown by the New York chapter of the National Black United Front (NBUF) January 24 in Brooklyn.

NBUF publicity announcing the film explains that in it, Rojas discusses "inner workings of the New Jewel Movement and in particular the history and role of Bernard Coard... the execution of Bishop, government ministers, and others; the future of Grenada," and "building solidarity work in the United States."

The tape is to be shown at 7 p.m. at the Fort Greene Senior Citizens Center, 966 Fulton Street. For information call (212) 638-0811 or 789-1056.



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What strategy to change steel union?

Continued from back page

basic steel industry don't have that right). Slaughter echoes criticisms that Weisen "has a reputation for shooting from the hip, and makes enemies easily." She criticizes previous campaigns he has run for USWA District 15 director as "not well organized," and encourages doubts that Weisen can secure the 111 nominations of local unions necessary to win a place on the March 29 ballot.

She quotes an unidentified "reform leader," who argues: "We have to be realistic. Between Williams and McKee there's no question. Williams never worked in the mill, never took on a company. McKee has led a local, he's led strikes. He hammered out a no-concessions agreement with the copper industry."

While acknowledging McKee's "weaknesses," this reformer points to McKee's new-found allegiance to a "no concessions" stand and the right to ratify and argues that if McKee "talks about making changes... progressive forces have had an impact on program."

After a lengthy silence the *Daily World*, newspaper of the Communist Party (CP), has also written an article on the elections. In its January 5 issue, CP National Steel Coordinator Mike Bayer reports who the candidates are; explains steelworkers want "a real," and not just a cosmetic change; notes that Weisen is running "as a candidate opposed to the union international leadership" — but offers no opinion about who should be favored.

How to win changes

Many of the points raised by *Labor Notes* will be legitimate considerations if Weisen fails to achieve ballot status. But to raise them now and abandon Weisen's campaign before the nomination process is even over, is to give up the fight before it's begun.

The correct starting point is not the March election, the next election in 1985, or any election *per se*. At issue is what will best further the process of forging an alternative, class-struggle-minded union leadership based on the needs, concerns, and motion in the ranks.

Today this begins with two things. One is participating in and encouraging any effort to fight back against the employers. The other is advancing a discussion of union policy, strategy, and perspectives among the membership.

Weisen a fighter

Ron Weisen's candidacy helps spur that discussion, encourages a fightback, and can lead to more rank-and-file involvement in union affairs. Unlike both Williams and McKee, Weisen is not a top international official, he is the president of a local under sharp attack by U.S. Steel. He is closer to real thinking in the ranks. Weisen argues that the union should not roll over and play dead when the employers make a threat or demand.

"I'm a militant," he offers, "but you have to be when you deal with militant corporations. They're trying to break every union in the country."

"I like to fight," he says. "We have to take our gloves off and take these corporations on like we did in the 1930s. The only thing they understand is intimidation. We need a nationwide revolt."

This is a breath of fresh air in the

USWA, where the top officials have always recoiled from a militant fight against the companies.

Weisen represents among the best of what is left of the current in the USWA that developed through the campaign run by Ed Sadlowski against Lloyd McBride for the union presidency in 1977. This current, which also contested several district director races in 1981, called for a more militant stand against the employers, more democracy in the union, and spoke out more openly for social progress. Today, Weisen opposes U.S. policy in Central America and told Baltimore steelworkers last December, "Ronald Reagan was elected president of the United States, not dictator of El Salvador."

Local unions and districts led by Weisen and others in this current have been more democratic and have fought back more against the companies. They have been more open to the active participation of young workers. Most have spoken out more openly than the international officialdom for Black, Latino, and women's rights.

Official family

Both Williams and McKee come from an entirely different background and divergent current. Both are longtime members of the official family leadership — the bureaucratic layer of officials and staff who rule the USWA. This layer opposes any serious struggle against the employer and government attacks. As self-proclaimed "labor statesmen" they see their role as preserving labor peace — at the expense of workers interests.

This approach results in one setback after another for the ranks of labor. These officials have proven themselves utterly incapable of organizing the ranks and mounting a decisive struggle against the employers' attacks. They are also incapable of mobilizing the membership to fight to win modest gains that are possible today.

U.S. Steel shutdowns and copper strike

This has been demonstrated recently by their refusal to mobilize and lead the union ranks to fight U.S. Steel's latest shutdowns. Over 15,000 jobs were lost, but not a picket, demonstration, or rally was held in protest. A fightback would not have guaranteed success. But at minimum the USWA would have found widespread public sympathy among working people who are fed up with corporate blackmail. Blacks, Latinos, women, farmers, and other allies of the working class could have been won to the fight. A message could have been sent to the steel barons.

Instead, a different message was sent — no struggle, no fightback, just pleas by top USWA officials for Big Steel to be more compassionate and for the government to restrict imports. This is correctly seen by U.S. Steel's owners and by other employers as a sign of weakness. It only emboldens them to step up their war on the union.

In Arizona and Texas determined copper workers have been on strike for seven months against Phelps Dodge Corp. Top USWA officials, including McKee who directs the union negotiating team, have refused to organize the most elementary union solidarity to bring the power of the labor movement to bear to win the strike. In response Phelps Dodge has hired hundreds of scabs and is driving ahead with its



Ron Weisen announces candidacy for USWA presidency, flanked by Steelworker supporters in Pittsburgh, December 5. Weisen tells workers union must begin to fight.

goal of busting the unions.

While both Williams and McKee have been part of the official family, they are now engaged in a sharp power struggle. This split in the union bureaucracy is not over fundamental differences on union strategy. Both supported McBride's policies, including the March 1983 concession contract in basic steel. Williams too says the time for concessions is now over. Both support import restrictions rather than a militant fight for jobs. Both believe the real answer to workers problems lies in helping Walter Mondale defeat Ronald Reagan.

McKee's campaign does not represent a genuine break to the left in top union circles. But to the degree that he supports steps towards greater union democracy and encourages opposition to concessions, this is positive and can be pushed by rank-and-file workers. This would have been harder if the official family had united around one candidate.

At the same time, McKee's more progressive positions have already been undercut by the reactionary and chauvinist, anti-Canadian edge that his campaign has taken on. His attacks on Canadian steel imports and Williams' Canadian nationality are not only offensive to the tens of thousands of USWA members in Canada and Quebec, they also weaken union solidarity.

New leadership needed

Undemocratic election procedures may make it difficult for Weisen to obtain ballot status. Although he has won a number of nominations of very large USWA locals (18,000-member Local 1010 nominated him over McKee by a ratio of some 6-to-1), this carries no more weight in the USWA nominating process than a nomination by a local representing far fewer members.

If the March 29 election choice turns out to be only between McKee and Williams, those fighting to change the USWA will have to decide what course will best advance that goal.

But today the choice is clear. Weisen would be a better USWA president than McKee or Williams. He is pledged to a fight against the companies, and his record shows that to be more than an election-year promise. Furthermore, immediately after announcing his campaign, Weisen began to take it to the ranks. That is to his credit. It helped begin the needed discussion in the union.

Steelworkers who are supporters of the Socialist Workers Party differ with Weisen on many issues. They oppose his support for anti-imports measures — a position he shares with Williams and McKee — and with his proposals aimed at tinkering with the economy to make capitalism "work better." The problem is, it is already working in the only way it can. That is why workers must get rid of it altogether.

But socialists strongly agree with Weisen on the need to start to fight back against the companies. Through their experiences in struggle, more workers will become convinced of the need for an even more radical shift in USWA policy to transform the union into a tool for revolutionary struggle, which cannot come about

through any election alone.

Socialists believe that a class struggle-minded leadership needs to be built that is firmly rooted in the ranks. In this way a left wing can be forged in the labor movement starting with local unions, district bodies, and ultimately international unions. Such a fighting movement will reject all collaboration with the employers, their Democratic and Republican political parties, and the government. It will fight on all issues of concern to working people and will be firmly controlled by the union-ranks themselves.

This type of leadership and movement does not exist today and only further events in the class struggle itself will bring it about. That, of course, does not mean that nothing can be done today to prepare for these developments.

Steelworkers who believe in the need for a revolutionary transformation of the unions along the lines discussed above attempt to offer the clearest possible answers to the important issues facing all workers and their unions. Articles in the *Militant* are an effort to aid that process and advance that discussion.

At the same time, steelworkers who are supporters of the SWP participate in whatever important battles may occur — from shop floor struggles over safety or overtime, to the fight to stop Washington's war against working people in Central America, to international union elections.

In all cases, the most important concern of those striving to change the unions should be the thinking and experiences of the union membership. The development of a fighting labor movement will not begin at the top — although some progressive-minded union officials may be won to it. The fight will begin in the ranks.

That is why the biggest opportunity posed by the USWA election lies with deepening the needed discussion and debate by trying to elect a candidate who proposes that the USWA begin to fight.

Steelworkers Under Attack

How to fight back and defend jobs
Geoff Mirelowitz, 95 cents, 40 pp.

U.S. Steel's plant closings point to the urgent need for a discussion of strategy and perspectives in the Steelworkers union. How can the union defend itself? Why won't the top officials mount a fight? What kind of leadership will it take to do the job?

Steelworkers will be discussing these questions as the union's March 29 presidential election approaches.

This pamphlet answers the employers' lies that blame workers for the steel industry crisis, including why stopping imports will not end unemployment. It outlines a fightback strategy for the steel union and all workers.

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



In more unified day, USWA "official family" leadership poses for group picture. Following Pres. Lloyd McBride's (center) death, power struggle now pits Frank McKee (far right) against Lynn Williams (between McBride and McKee) for top spot.



Home of Art Galvez, president of Steelworkers local at Phelps Dodge in Ajo, Arizona. Company evicted Galvez family in act of intimidation.

Phelps Dodge evicts striker and family

Copper workers condemn company threats

BY JILL FEIN

AJO, Ariz. — Miners at Phelps Dodge have been on strike for almost 7 months. Phelps Dodge is trying to eliminate pattern bargaining in the industry, which was begun in 1967. It's also attempting to bust the 13 unions representing the copper miners at Phelps Dodge mines located in Ajo, Morenci, Douglas, and Safford, Arizona, and El Paso, Texas.

As one part of its strike-breaking, the company has hired scabs and is trying to

force strikers to move out of town.

Ajo and Morenci, Arizona, are company towns. Miners live in company-owned homes and pay rent to Phelps Dodge. The company has been trying for months to evict strikers from their homes without success. Many strikers have already received 3 or 4 eviction notices from Phelps Dodge. The strikers have simply ignored the notices. The unions maintain that this is just one of the company's intimidation tactics to force strikers back to work.

Because the company has been unsuccessful in getting people to leave through threats, Phelps Dodge went to court to get the notices enforced.

With a banner stretched across the front of his home reading, "If Phelps Dodge can buy a Governor and National Guard, they can make Pima County Sheriffs into house movers," Art Galvez, his wife, and two children were evicted from their Phelps Dodge-owned home in Ajo January 9. They have lived there for five years. Galvez is president of the striking Steelworkers local here.

Over 100 strikers and supporters were present to protest the eviction. Signs outside the home read, "PD: you can kick us out of PD homes, but you can't kick us out of town" and "PD can buy scabs, but you can't buy our pride."

Three Pima County Sheriff's deputies showed up at the Galvez home to enforce the court eviction order. Galvez has been fired by Phelps Dodge for strike-related "misconduct" on the picket line.

Galvez said, "They're just trying to make an example out of me because I'm president of the Steelworkers in Ajo. But the battle isn't over yet. We're still going to take this to a higher court."

Galvez is appealing his firing and eviction, but last month the Arizona Supreme Court ruled that Phelps Dodge could proceed with the eviction while the appeal is pending.

Galvez tried to pay the rent to Phelps Dodge for three months but each time it sent his check back. "They don't need the house," he said. "There are two vacant houses next door to me." The company is claiming evictions are necessary to provide housing for scabs.

"I've lived in Ajo for 27 years. What do they think they're going to gain by kicking a man out of his house? They want to break up families and get us to leave town, but that won't work with me. When we get laid off, the company says, 'stick around, stick around, we'll reopen again' and then what happens? There's a strike and the company opens its gates to just anyone."

When asked by a local reporter if he would still return to work for Phelps Dodge if a contract were signed, Galvez answered, "Sure, my grandfather worked here, my father retired from here, and I'm not leaving. I'm a copper miner."

He is confident that the unions will get a contract eventually with Phelps Dodge. "We're going to beat them." This was the same mood expressed by the supporters in front of his home. Morale has been boosted by a recent congressional report citing Phelps Dodge as responsible for the strike and by support from other unions.

Carlos Camarillo, chief steward of the Operating Engineers Union, told the *Militant*, "They're just doing this to scare people into moving out on their own. We're not trying to stop them by force because we're law-abiding. They're the ones who break the laws."

U.S. volunteers pick coffee in Nicaragua

BY MICHAEL BAUMANN

EL CHAGÜITON, Nicaragua — To the thud of mortar fire from a battle some 10 miles away, 31 North American and 17 West German supporters of the Nicaraguan revolution celebrated Christmas here in the mountains of northern Nicaragua.

The 48 volunteers were members of one of the first international brigades organized to help bring in Nicaragua's coffee harvest. They are a flesh and blood symbol of the support the Nicaraguan revolution has won around the world.

A total of between 500 and 1,000 volunteers are expected to arrive in Nicaragua before the harvest is finished in February. Solidarity organizations — mainly in the United States, West Germany, the Netherlands, and Norway — are helping respond to this year's severe shortage of labor.

There is a shortage of pickers because thousands of peasants and agricultural laborers who would normally be bringing in the harvest have been mobilized in their militia units to defend the country.

To replace these *milicianos*, more than 12,000 high-school and college students from across Nicaragua headed north to pick the ripening red beans. The volunteers from abroad are working alongside them.

"We may not be the best coffee pickers Nicaragua has ever seen, at least not yet," said Jim Bloyd, a spokesman for this group of North Americans after the first day on the coffee slopes. "But every bean we pick is a demonstration of our solidarity with Nicaragua and of our opposition to the policies of our own government."

El Chagüiton, the state farm to which this contingent of international volunteers was assigned, is located just a few miles from the Honduran border. The mortar fire we heard Christmas day was a reminder of the daily attacks Nicaragua faces from counterrevolutionaries, or *contras* as they are called here, in the border area.

We were going to a dangerous area, Sandinista army spokesman Roberto Sánchez frankly told the group before we departed from Managua. "But you will be protected by the entire Nicaraguan people."

True enough, when we arrived at El Chagüiton, we found that it was defended both by units of the regular army and by more than 100 armed militia volunteers. The *milicianos* took turns on armed sentry duty at night and picked coffee during the day. On the mountain slopes, each squad of coffee pickers was protected by several armed *milicianos* with a coffee basket on one shoulder and an automatic rifle on the other.

The *contras* fighting to the southwest of this state farm were part of a force of some 2,000 to 3,000 who had infiltrated across the border two weeks earlier. Lacking any popular support and heavily outgunned by the Sandinista defense forces, the *contras* were too weak to take and hold any military objectives.

The sole reason for their offensive was to spread terror and disrupt the coffee harvest, source of two-fifths of Nicaragua's export income. So far they had failed mis-

erably. They had gunned down several unarmed peasants, but the harvest continued.

For nearly all the North American volunteers, this was their first direct experience with the war the U.S. government is carrying out in their name. It had a profound impact.

"This revolution is just too damned attractive," said Sarah, a 72-year-old retired school teacher from California. "That's why Reagan wants to stop it."

"I used to be a pacifist — not any more," was the reaction of Kimlin, a laid-off apprentice carpenter from California. "Now I understand why the Sandinistas need those guns — to protect themselves." She and her husband John, an electronics engineer, had been among the first volunteers for the brigade.

Through Margarita, and dozens of others like her, the volunteers learned firsthand the changes the revolution had brought about in the lives of Nicaraguan coffee pickers.

Margarita, a single mother of four children from nearby Pueblo Nuevo, had been picking coffee at El Chagüiton for more years than she could remember.

"You wouldn't believe what it was like before," she said. "All this," she said, pointing to the spacious cafeteria and the bunkhouses up on the hill, "is new since the revolution."

"We used to have to sleep on the ground, in sheds. Two hundred to 300 of us jammed together like animals."

"They used to pay us only one *córdoba* [US\$0.10] per *lata*, and cheat us on the weight besides. Now we are paid 10 *córdobas* for each of the first five *latas*, and 12 *córdobas* for every *lata* after that."

Even with inflation, this amounts to more than doubling the old wage. Not to mention the improvements in living conditions, food, medical care, and the new, free child-care center just outside the gate.

The *lata* is the standard unit of measure here. The word means "tin can" and originally it was based on the amount of coffee beans it took to fill a five-gallon oil can — about 20 pounds.

Today the term is retained but the tin can is gone. The weigh-in is mechanized. Beans are dumped into a large hopper at the processing center, and marks on the side of the chute indicate how many *latas* have been picked. Union representatives and the pickers themselves oversee the weigh-in process to make sure no mistakes are made.

If enough coffee is ripe, a good professional picker can bring in as much as ten *latas* a day. A family of four or five, working together, can double that. This means a daily income, during the harvest season, of 200 *córdobas* or more, or eight times the normal daily wage in the countryside. This income is free and clear. There are no taxes. Food, lodging, medical care, and child care are all free.

The goal for the inexperienced coffee pickers from the cities is to gradually work up to three *latas* a day. They found this

wasn't easy. After the first week, individual results among the Nicaraguan students were ranging from one *lata* to a high of nine from one dedicated young member of the Sandinista Youth from Chinandega.

The U.S. and West German volunteers barely hit an average of 1.5 *latas* their first day, but improved to nearly two the second day. Friendly competition had already set in with our Nicaraguan counterparts.

The group of North American volunteers here, in their diversity of backgrounds, reflected the great attractive power the Nicaraguan revolution has already exercised in the United States.

Ranging in age from 72 (Sarah, the retired school teacher) to 21 (Susanna, a student from New York University), it drew upon a broad cross-section of the U.S. population.

Robert, a young Black construction worker from Boston, worked alongside Dale, a farmer from Wisconsin, and Sara, a garment worker from California. Andrea and Steve, apple pickers from Vermont, bunked alongside Bert Muhly, former mayor of Santa Cruz, California.

"It's amazing," said brigade member John Perla, a western Pennsylvania organizer for the National Union of Hospital and Health Care Workers.

"Our government is at war with the Nicaraguan people and yet there's less anti-Americanism here than you'd find in Europe. They make a distinction between us and our government. And us they welcome with open arms."

John, wearing his union jacket, was immediately sought out by Alejandro, president of the local Nicaraguan unit of the Rural Workers Association. They spent hours at mealtimes going over the differences in the challenges the union movement faces in the two countries.

"Here our big job is to raise the level of culture," Alejandro concluded after one lengthy discussion. "To teach the workers to read and write so they can really participate in leading the union and planning production."

"Your job," he said to John with a laugh, "is to organize the 80 percent of the workers you tell me are not organized in the United States. That's the root of your problem."

Alejandro, about 50, learned to read and write during the literacy campaign after the Nicaraguan revolution triumphed. Today he is president of the local union executive board, a member of the National Coffee Council, and a proud member of the Sandinista National Liberation Front.

How to join Nicaragua coffee brigades

To apply for a U.S. work brigade in Nicaragua, write to the National Network in Solidarity With the People of Nicaragua, 2025 I St. NW., Suite 402, Washington, D.C. 20006. Telephone: (202) 223-2328.

The brigades are being organized through the National Network in Sol-

idarity With the People of Nicaragua. Volunteers will work in Nicaragua for a maximum of one month and then return to the United States. Participants in the brigades must pay their own transportation to and from Nicaragua. Nicaragua will provide food, housing, and transportation inside the country.

THE GREAT SOCIETY

Racism? Here? (I) — "As we look at the problem of our Blacks, all we have to do is look at our sports pages to see who are the



Harry Ring

best nourished in the country." — Dr. G. Gordon Graham, member of the president's Task Force on Food Assistance.

Racism? Here? (II) — The

problem of Black children is not hunger. "They're probably the best nourished group in the United States," because "Blacks take care of their little children." — Dr. Graham.

Racism? Here? (III) — "The biggest problem among the poor is obesity — not hunger." Dr. Graham.

Racism? Here? (IV) — High infant mortality rates among Blacks may be due to premature births, not malnutrition. This might be solved by "a series of cultural changes," like "avoiding sex during pregnancy." — Dr. Graham.

Sounds rational — The Reagan administration's proposals to make sure that aid is limited to the "truly needy," includes a proviso requiring able-bodied welfare recipients to work, and a second eliminating funding for a "work incentive" program, which is supposed to help people find jobs.

From the mouths of babes and fools... — The president's Private Sector Survey on Cost Controls, comprised of top corporate execs, took a look at Congressional pork-barrelling, detailing some excesses. But its final report snipped out the names of Congress members involved. Explained a committee spokesperson, "It's not really important whether it's Mr. A or Mr. B or Mr. C. We've got a

problem with the system."

Take an Einstein to figure it out — The feds are seeking civil damages from a military contractor who overcharged for jet parts. Like, a clamp the company said cost \$12.75 only cost 20 cents. An assistant U.S. attorney said civil rather than criminal charges were brought because of the "complexity" of the case.

Plan ahead — If you're going to the L.A. Olympics, why not reserve a comfortable house? Like, one place available in Beverly Hills includes a main house and guest house, separated by swimming pool, plus sauna and bar, and a movie room that seats 20.

Maid service five days a week. Can accommodate up to five couples. \$30,000 a week.

That's odd — A business newsletter warns that recent polls establish a growing discontent among employees at virtually all levels. However, the researchers found, the dissatisfaction is significantly less among managers than hourly workers.

Progress report — Cleveland's Union Club has accepted its first woman member. Thirteen years ago, it accepted its first Jewish member, and three years ago, its first Black. And, women guests are now permitted to enter by the front door.

CALENDAR

ALABAMA

Birmingham

What We Can Learn From Dr. Martin Luther King. Speaker: Darryl Turner, Young Socialist Alliance. Sat., Jan. 21, 7:30 p.m. 205 18th St. S. Donation requested. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (205) 323-3079.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Cuban Revolution Today. Speaker: Matilde Zimmermann, just returned from two-week trip to Cuba. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Jan. 28, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W. Pico. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Bookstore/Libreria Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (213) 380-9640.

Seaside

Mel Mason Send-off Rally: Fight for Workers To Be on the Ballot. Speakers: Mel Mason, Socialist Workers candidate for president; Ernest Scott, executive director, Monterey County chapter of National Client Council; Alonzo González, trustee of Salinas League of United Latin American Citizens; Julie Brown, chief steward, Service Employees International Union Local 535; Barbara Johnson, member of California Teachers Association; Ken Collins, member, Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Local 483, Young Socialist Alliance National Committee. Translation to Spanish. Sun., Jan. 29. Reception, 3:30 p.m.; rally, 4 p.m. Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School, 1713 Broadway. Ausp: Socialist Workers Presidential Campaign Committee. For more information call (408) 394-1855, (415) 824-1992, (408) 998-4007, (415) 839-5316.

KENTUCKY

Louisville

U.S. War in Lebanon: the Next Vietnam?

Speakers: Omar Masri, Lebanese immigrant, former activist in Organization of Arab Students; Mahmoud Nassar, Palestinian-American and member of Arab-American League; Ousana Aboul-hosn, recently returned from Lebanon; representative of Socialist Workers Party. Sun., Jan. 22, 7:30 p.m. 809 E. Broadway (near Shelby). Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (502) 587-8418.

LOUISIANA

New Orleans

Grenada: the Revolution's Achievements and Its Overthrow. Film: *Grenada: The Future Coming Toward Us*. Speakers: Lloyd Richards, member of executive council, United Teachers of New Orleans; Ron Chisom, community organizer just returned from Nicaragua; Derrick Morrison, correspondent for the *Militant*. Fri., Jan. 27, 7:30 p.m. Xavier University, Pharmacy Auditorium. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Committee in Solidarity With the People of El Salvador, Socialist Workers Party. For more information call (504) 486-8048.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

Vieques: a Look at U.S. Colonial Rule Over Puerto Rico. Slide show and discussion. Sun., Jan. 22, 7:30 p.m. 510 Commonwealth Ave., 4th floor (Kenmore T). Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (617) 262-4621.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

El Salvador: As the Revolution Advances Kissinger Calls for New Vietnam. Speakers:

Russ Belant, antiwar activist, former editor of the *South End*; Tim Craine, 1982 Socialist Workers Party gubernatorial candidate, member of American Federation of Teachers; Richard Reyes, Committee in Solidarity With the People of El Salvador. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Jan. 21, 8 p.m. 7146 W. McNichols. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (313) 862-7755.

MINNESOTA

Virginia

The Fight for Women's Rights and the 1984 Elections. Speaker: Andrea Morell, Socialist Workers Presidential Campaign coordinator. Sat., Jan. 28, 7 p.m. 112 Chesnut St. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (218) 749-6327.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

Abortion Rights Under Attack: Defending a Woman's Right to Choose. Speakers: representatives from New Jersey National Organization for Women, Socialist Workers Party, others. Translation to Spanish. Fri., Jan. 27, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey (corner of Raymond, one block from Broad St.). Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

Martin Luther King and the Civil Rights Movement. Film: *I Have a Dream*. Speakers: Andrew Mitchell, president of Stokes County NAACP; Osborne Hart, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Jan. 21, 7:30 p.m. 301 S. Elm St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (919) 272-5996.

OHIO

Cincinnati

Stop the U.S.-Israeli War In Lebanon! Speakers: Michael Italie, chairperson, Cincinnati Young Socialist Alliance; others. Sun., Jan. 22, 7:30 p.m. 4945 Paddock Rd. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (513) 242-7161.

Toledo

Workers Educational Conference 1) Film: *With Babies and Banners* with presentation on the fighting traditions of the United Auto Workers. Speaker: Alan Epstein, UAW Local 12. Fri., Jan. 27, 7 p.m. 2) "Unions in the Fight for Black and Women's Rights." Speaker: Toby Emmerich, UAW Local 12. Sat., Jan. 28, noon. 3) "Making Our Union Stronger: How to Fight and Win." Speaker: Elizabeth Lariscy, UAW Local 12. Sat., Jan. 28, 3 p.m. 4) "Labor and the Struggle Against War." Speakers: Ignacio Meneses, UAW Local 408; slide show on Nicaragua presented by Tommy Wiese, Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 7-912; Andrew Pulley, Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate in 1980. Sat., Jan. 28, 7 p.m. 2120 Dorr St. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (419) 536-0383.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

Lebanon: What Next? U.S. War Drags on as Jackson Brings Flyer Home. Speakers: Chris Horner, Socialist Workers Party; others. Sat., Jan. 28, 7:30 p.m. 5517 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

Who Killed Karen Silkwood? Speakers to be announced. Sat., Feb. 4, 7:30 p.m. 5517 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

Ex-marine gets death threats for antiwar views

Continued from front page

threats and physical attacks against Stryffeler. Stryffeler and the delegation had earlier gone to the Cincinnati police headquarters to press the investigation of the crimes committed against him.

On January 11 at about 11:30 p.m., Stryffeler returned to his apartment in Cincinnati to find two men dressed in suits in his living room. They had illegally entered his apartment. They proceeded to threaten to kill members of his family and friends if he continued to express his views and associate with socialists.

These death threats came one week after Stryffeler was assaulted, kicked, and cut on the arm with a broken bottle by two young thugs in Reading, Ohio, outside Cincinnati.

Stryffeler, speaking at the conference, said, "I am here to ask the authorities to catch those responsible for these crimes and to protect the basic democratic rights of free speech and association for myself and everyone else."

Stryffeler joined the U.S. Marine Corps five and a half years ago and was recently assigned to the U.S. Marine Reserve Center in Cincinnati.

In July he joined the YSA to work with others to oppose U.S. policy in Central America and to learn more about socialism. He participated in the August 27 march on Washington for jobs, peace, and freedom.

In October Stryffeler spoke out in opposition to the invasion of Grenada and announced his intention to march in the

November 12 demonstration against U.S. war policies in Central America and the Caribbean.

The Marine Corps brass viewed Stryffeler's ideas and activities as a greater threat after the invasion of Grenada. They decided to victimize Stryffeler to set a precedent for intimidating other GIs from speaking out against U.S. war policy or joining organizations the marines deemed "subversive."

Stryffeler's superior officers threatened him with court-martial for his views. He responded to the escalating threats of court-martial by taking his case to the public. He requested a leave and scheduled a press conference against these threats and the invasion of Grenada. On November 9, after the Sgt. Jim Stryffeler Free Speech Committee was formed and launched a public campaign in defense of Stryffeler's right to freedom of speech and association, the Marine Corps decided to grant him an honorable discharge.

Speaking at the January 17 news conference, Stryffeler said that after this victory, "I went on a tour around the country to speak about my case. Over the New Year's weekend, I went to St. Louis with hundreds of young people from around the country to attend a national convention of the Young Socialist Alliance. I spoke about my case at a rally to launch the presidential campaign of the Socialist Workers Party, which was held during the convention. The very day that I returned from the conven-

tion I was physically assaulted in broad daylight in Reading, Ohio."

It was clear that this assault was a political attack because the thugs yelled "communist" before they started swinging at him, Stryffeler said. He filed a complaint with the Reading police.

The next week Stryffeler moved into Cincinnati, and the first night he spent at his new apartment he found the two men sitting on the couch. "These criminals told me they didn't like my speaking out," Stryffeler reported. "They didn't want me to associate with the Socialist Workers Party anymore or enter the Militant Labor Bookstore ever again. They told me that if I did any of these things my loved ones would be killed. They threatened my son by name."

"Since I first started speaking out," he further reported, "government agents have been spying on me, keeping watch on my house, intimidating my neighbors. The military brass admitted that they had me under surveillance when I was in the service. The FBI interrogated my family, trying to find a way to scare me away from speaking out. I believe these spy efforts are behind the threats and attacks against me, which are continuing today. I believe that these criminals are also government agents and that the first place the Cincinnati police should look for them is in the local FBI office."

Rev. Maurice McCrackin, one of the chairpersons of the Sgt. Jim Stryffeler Free Speech Committee in Cincinnati, made a

statement at the press conference in defense of Stryffeler's right to speak out and express his views.

A statement from Rev. Dan Buford of Clergy and Laity Concerned in defense of Stryffeler was released to the press. Others who participated in the delegation to the police station and the news conference included Sister Caroline Benker, a Franciscan nun and officer of the Free Speech Committee; John Studer, national executive director of the Political Rights Defense Fund; Lissa Pogue of the Cincinnati Anti-Klan Network; Steve Miles, of the Cincinnati Coalition For Peace and Education; Robert Thomas of the All-African Peoples Revolutionary Party; and Prof. Kerry Walters of Xavier University.

Following the press conference a meeting was held by the Free Speech Committee to map out plans for mobilizing public support behind efforts to halt the attacks against Stryffeler. The committee is demanding that the police act quickly in its investigation, identify the criminals who are responsible for these attacks, and prosecute them to the fullest extent of the law.

The committee is asking everyone who supports political rights to join in demanding that this harassment and these attacks be stopped. The committee is requesting that messages urging the Cincinnati police to act swiftly and decisively on this be sent to Detective Dan Ochsner, 5th District, Cincinnati Police, 1012 Ludlow, Cincinnati, Ohio 45223.

'Silkwood': a film that tells her powerful story

Silkwood. Directed by Mike Nichols. Written by Nora Ephron and Alice Arlen. Starring Meryl Streep, Kurt Russell, and Cher. A Twentieth Century-Fox release.

BY BARBARA MUTNICK

Silkwood is a stunning dramatization of the life and death of Karen Silkwood and her struggle to expose the deadly conditions she and her coworkers faced at Kerr-McGee's plutonium plant in Oklahoma.

Her story is both an indictment of the nuclear industry and an inspiration to all who are confident that working people can and will fight in their own interests, at times against great odds. *Silkwood* tells big parts of that story very powerfully.

Karen Silkwood was a member of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union, and responsible in her local for monitoring health and safety at Kerr-McGee. She was

FILM REVIEW

killed in a car crash in 1974 one week after she'd been contaminated with plutonium for the second time. Silkwood was only minutes away from delivering documentation of her employer's misdeeds to a *New York Times* reporter at the time of her death.

The material destined for the reporter vanished. The crash was quickly classified an accident by the Oklahoma Highway Patrol, and the FBI declared the case closed after a brief investigation.

Silkwood's arrival on the scene a decade later is dramatic tribute to the fact that the case is far from closed.

Treatment by capitalist press

Testament to the movie's powerful account of the Silkwood saga is the extraordinary treatment it's received in the capitalist press. The *New York Times*, for example, has printed not just a review, but an upgrading of a review, an editorial, a "scientific" analysis, and an exchange of opinions in the letters-to-the-editors column.

About Mike Nichols' direction, Meryl Streep's portrayal of Silkwood, and about the entire supporting cast's work there is little controversy. Many critics credit some if not all of this movie's team with having produced their best work yet.

What then disturbs the *Times* about *Silkwood*? "The chicanery of its genre," it says. "Like other docudramas," the December 25 editorial states, *Silkwood* is a "perversion of the reporter's craft and deserves vigorous protest."

The first article to hit the *Times* even before the film critic's review, was a "scientific" analysis of *Silkwood* by William Broad. In that lengthy article and in the editorial that followed, the *Times* unabashedly resurrected point for point Kerr-McGee's defense in the 1979 trial — points that the jury rejected when it held the corporate giant responsible for Silkwood's contamination with plutonium and awarded her family \$10 million in punitive damages.

The *Times* editorial goes so far as to repeat Kerr-McGee's hideous charge that Silkwood's contamination happened "in ways that suggest it was possibly by her own hand." Rev. William Davis, a board member of the Karen Silkwood Fund, in a letter to the *Times* refuting the editorial, explained that "the jury came to an explicit finding of fact" that Silkwood's contamination was not

self-induced, that "the plutonium found in Silkwood's apartment — the source of her contamination — was traced to a particular batch stored in a vault to which she did not have access."

The executive producers of *Silkwood*, Buzz Hirsch and Larry Cano, underwent a nine-year battle to get the film made, and that is a story in itself. They had secured rights to produce it in 1977 while graduate students at the UCLA film school. Then they went to Oklahoma to collect information for the film. When the suit brought by the Silkwood family entered its preliminary stages, Kerr-McGee subpoenaed Hirsch, demanding access to all interviews, tapes, and film maker's notes. Hirsch refused on First Amendment grounds.

Broad support, especially among film people in Hollywood, enabled Hirsch and Cano to stay a court order and finally in 1977 to win a precedent-setting ruling that entitles film makers protection of confidential sources similar to that of reporters.

The Karen Silkwood Fund and other organizations such as the Cistic Institute view *Silkwood* as a valuable aid in their campaign to get out the truth and all the facts about the Silkwood case. They are urging activists to tap into the heightened interest sparked by the film and to set up meetings and disseminate literature about aspects of the case the film doesn't cover.

Unforgettable scenes

Silkwood is major-film production in the United States at its best.

The last scene is a nightmarish one of Silkwood's drive to a Holiday Inn to meet the *New York Times* reporter.

A soundtrack of "Amazing Grace" fills the theater and Silkwood's face is seen behind the driver's wheel. A strained yet eager and determined expression turns to terror as a headlight glaring through the rear window draws closer and closer.

The next scene shows Silkwood's Honda in ruins against a concrete culvert.

There can be no mistaking from that sequence that Silkwood was deliberately run off the road, and the entire preceding film footage explains why: because she knew too much and planned to act on what she knew.

The movie is a synthesis of cinematic skill that delivers



Meryl Streep as atomic worker Karen Silkwood

unforgettable scenes:

A trip home to Texas to visit her kids tells you everything you need to know about Karen Silkwood's roots and about her part of Texas, where an oil refinery is the backdrop of nearly every frame.

The safety showers at Kerr-McGee, where terrified workers who've been contaminated with plutonium are scrubbed down by technicians in white coats 'til they're pink and raw.

The piece-by-piece dismantling of Silkwood's ramshackle house as it is decontaminated until nothing stands but the walls.

These are some of the scenes *Silkwood* recreates about a real-life drama that continues to unfold.

Supreme Court ruling favors Silkwoods

BY HARRY RING

A measure of justice was won in the Karen Silkwood case with a January 11 decision by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Reversing a federal appeals court, the Supreme Court upheld the right of an Oklahoma jury to award \$10 million in punitive damages to the Silkwood estate in a negligence suit against the Kerr-McGee Corporation.

However, the Supreme Court returned the case to the lower court for further consideration. This means Kerr-McGee can come before the same judges and make new arguments for setting aside the jury's verdict against it.

A company lawyer said it would "most assuredly" do so.

Silkwood's parents had initiated the court action, charging Kerr-McGee with responsibility for their daughter's death and detailing its failure to provide the workers in its plant with proper protection against the deadly material they were working with.

The appeals court reversal of the jury decision had

been exploited by pronuclear-power forces to discredit the initial outcome of the case, arguing that the jury's verdict had been found faulty.

But in fact, the appeals court made no attempt whatever to challenge the jury's finding of the company's guilt. Instead, it resorted to a crude legalistic pretext. It ruled that in awarding damages, a state court had, in effect, presumed to regulate the nuclear industry, a prerogative assertedly reserved for the federal government.

Not surprisingly, the Justice Department had urged the Supreme Court to uphold the appeals court and Kerr-McGee. It argued, without a blush, that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission strictly enforced nuclear safety regulations.

The Supreme Court split 5-4 on the case. One of the dissenters, Justice Lewis White, saw the \$10-million award as "a disquieting example of how the jury system can function as an unauthorized regulatory medium."

Bill Silkwood, Karen Silkwood's father, said of the decision, "I've been waiting for this for years."

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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: SWP, YSA, 1184 Broadway. Zip: 93955. Tel: (408) 394-1855.

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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.

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

Lies about 'Cuba-Soviet threat'

The Kissinger commission report, in endorsing the White House's escalation of U.S. military involvement in Central America, also endorses the principal justification for Washington's war drive: the "Cuba-Soviet threat."

Democrats and Republicans on the commission argue that this "threat" legitimizes a sixfold increase of U.S. military aid to the murderous Salvadoran regime; more funds to expand U.S. Army bases in Honduras; more money for the CIA-led Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries; and resumption of aid to the bloodstained Guatemalan regime.

The inevitable result of this course is that U.S. combat troops will be sent to fight in Central America before this war is over.

The report argues that Cuba and the Soviet Union — by way of Nicaragua — are endangering U.S. security:

"The use of Nicaragua as a base for Soviet and Cuban efforts to penetrate the rest of the Central American isthmus, with El Salvador the target of the first opportunity, gives the conflict there a major strategic dimension. The direct involvement of aggressive external forces makes it a challenge to the system of hemispheric security... and to the security interests of the United States. This is a challenge to which the United States must respond."

In other words, Washington is intervening in Central America "only" because "aggressive external forces" have done so — as though the U.S. rulers had some preordained right to intervene in the affairs of other countries.

But what are the facts? There are no Cuban or Soviet bases in Nicaragua, much less El Salvador.

But there are numerous U.S. bases throughout Central America. The Panama Canal Zone, with its 10,000 U.S. GIs, is just one example. Closer to the conflict yet are the U.S. Army installations in Honduras, which aid the attacks on Nicaragua by counterrevolutionaries. Washington has some 5,000 troops in Honduras today, not to mention its "advisers" aiding the Salvadoran army in "search and destroy" assaults on the people there.

If there ever was an "aggressive external force" in Central America, the U.S. government is it. Its charges about Cuba, the Soviet Union, and Nicaragua are merely the cover for increasing U.S. military aid to the dictatorships in the region.

The report claims the Salvadoran liberation forces have "little popular support." Without backing "from Cuba, Nicaragua, and the Soviet Union, neither in El Salvador nor elsewhere in Central America would such an insurgency pose so severe a threat to the government," it says. Therefore, this "proves" Cuban intervention.

But the report has it backwards.

The Salvadoran revolutionary movement is strong and growing stronger precisely because it *does* have the support of the masses of El Salvador. That support is based on the fact that the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) is fighting for the needs and interests of the Salvadoran workers and peasants against a handful of wealthy families and their U.S. backers.

In the zones that are occupied by the FMLN, popular measures like land reform, wage increases, literacy and health programs, are being implemented.

The Salvadoran government, on the other hand, which couldn't survive a moment without massive funding from Washington, is becoming increasingly isolated.

Its death squads murder thousands and the only way it can fill the ranks of its army is by kidnapping peasant and worker youth off the streets. The government has blocked any meaningful land reform, the labor movement is suffering severe repression, and the economy is in a shambles.

The rebellion of the Salvadoran people against their

oppression was not made in Cuba or the Soviet Union. It began long before the Cuban revolution of 1959, and well before the Russian revolution of 1917, for that matter. Its roots lie in the imperialist enslavement of the Salvadoran masses for decades. Like every other Central American country, El Salvador has been treated as the backyard of U.S. businessmen, a good place to get cheap labor, and a market in which to dump high-priced U.S. goods.

The U.S. rulers fear the rebellion of the Salvadorans against this domination because they know that a successful Salvadoran revolution would bring that to a halt — the same way the revolution in Cuba ended Wall Street's economic and political control over that country, and the same way that the revolution in Nicaragua is ending U.S. domination there.

The Kissinger commission report admits that the road of "free enterprise" has been a failure in Central America. The real road to progress has been demonstrated in practice by the Cubans, Grenadians, and Nicaraguans, who threw out the imperialists and their local puppets, and established governments of workers and farmers. Those governments charted a course of ending dependence on imperialism and overcoming its legacy by taking steps toward the construction of socialism. This is what Washington means by the "Cuba-Soviet threat" — the example of the socialist revolution, which has inspired workers around the world ever since the Russian revolution.

The Kissinger report admits that "who shall govern and under what forms are the central issues in the process of change now under way in country after country throughout Latin America and the Caribbean." The Cubans, Nicaraguans, and the Grenadians decided the workers and farmers would govern, not the businessmen and bankers beholden to Washington. It's precisely for this reason that when Washington got the opportunity in October of last year, it invaded Grenada to stamp out all remnants of the revolution there.

But the brute force and violence of capitalism will not stop the inevitable march of the Latin American masses toward freedom. Fidel Castro pointed this out in a speech at the 25th anniversary celebration of the Cuban revolution on January 1:

"Today the U.S. can indulge in the luxury of invading Grenada, of blockading economically and threatening two small countries like Cuba and Nicaragua, and of showing its claws and teeth in El Salvador and Central America. But the system of imperialist rule in Latin America is in crisis. The right-wing military dictatorships in Chile, Argentina, and Uruguay and other countries, the last bastions of capitalism and imperialism, have failed miserably, bringing these countries to a state of ruin and economic collapse....

"Structural and social changes are inevitable and will come sooner or later. And the more serious and unresolvable the longterm crisis is, the more profound the changes will be.

"Cuba cannot export revolution any more than the United States can stop it. Do they think perhaps in the future they will be able to blockade and invade the whole of Latin America?"

U.S. working people have no stake in Washington's war. Our interests lie with the workers and peasants of El Salvador, Grenada, Cuba, and Nicaragua. The threat to our security is the wealthy families that run this country, who throw us out of work, try to bust our unions, and attack the rights of Blacks and women. Solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Central America, against our common enemy — the employers of the United States — is the only way for U.S. working people to be true to our interests.

Death penalty for 'spies'?

Under the guise of defending "national security," a federal judge has declared that a man facing charges of conspiring to commit espionage could be executed if found guilty.

This is another attempt to make the increased use of the death penalty more acceptable and to further erode democratic rights as a whole.

The death-sentence ruling was made in San Francisco January 12 by Judge Samuel Conti in the case of James Harper. Harper was indicted this past October for allegedly conspiring to sell classified missile data to a Polish citizen.

Harper's case is also one of a recent series intended to promote the idea that there's a big problem of "industrial espionage" in this country — a problem that must be countered by restricting democratic rights.

A few weeks after Harper's arrest, two Californians, two Bulgarians, and a Dutch citizen were indicted in California on federal charges of conspiring to export "nonexportable" computer equipment.

Earlier, in September, a Bulgarian trade official stationed in New York was jailed on charges of conspiring to commit espionage. He assertedly paid a graduate student \$300 for a classified document. If convicted, he too

faced a possible death sentence.

On January 17, four months later, the judge who had ordered him held without bail had to concede the legal strength of the defense stand that the arrest was illegal — a violation of his diplomatic immunity. Yet the judge still ordered him held in jail while the government decides if it wants to appeal his ruling.

Such harassment and victimizations are designed to further strip democratic rights in this country, especially the right to bail and to a fair trial.

The death penalty threat is aimed at terrorizing all working people. The example that comes to mind is the 1950s execution of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg. They were convicted of conspiring to steal a nonexistent atomic "secret".

The lurid stories about "spies" from the "Eastern bloc" are also utilized to foster groundless fears about these countries and to build hostility toward them. That dovetails with Washington's anticommunist justification for its war drive.

Washington hopes there will be little outcry against its current "spy" frame-ups so that it can extend its assaults on democratic rights more broadly. That's all the more reason to strongly condemn each and every one of them.

Farrell Dobbs on history of USWA, fight to change it

In this week's column we are running excerpts from a *Militant* article titled: "Steel Union: Case History of Bureaucratism." This was one in a series written by Farrell Dobbs in the mid-1960s. The series was later reprinted as a pamphlet titled: "Recent Trends in the Labor Movement — The Fight for Union Democracy." Dobbs had long experience as an organizer and leader of the Teamsters union in the 1930s in Minneapolis and the Midwest, when it fought for workers interests with class struggle methods. At the time he wrote these articles Dobbs was national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party. He died last year.

The article is of particular interest today in light of the election coming up for international president of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA). Dobbs summarizes some of the important history of the union and points to lessons for steelworkers and others in the labor movement who are fighting to strengthen the unions in order to more effectively fight employer and government attacks.

The entire pamphlet referred to above has been reprinted as "Selected Articles on the Labor Movement." It is available for \$1.50 from Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Please add 75 cents for postage and handling.

Since I.W. Abel became president of the United Steelworkers [in 1965], he has been publicized as a "quiet man" who gets things done through democratic mobilization of the union ranks. Nothing is said about his long identification with the dictatorial ruling machine in the union. Instead, Abel is depicted as a crusading leader who merits the workers trust.

Members of the union can testify that he is nothing of the sort. His true image remains one of a bureaucrat floundering around in an effort to get off the hook of

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rank-and-file criticism. To probe into the union's present situation and Abel's role in it, a review of the background should prove helpful. It will also illustrate a broader problem: the general bureaucratic strangulation of internal democracy which, although varying in form and scope, exists throughout the union movement.

The present steel union had its origins in the Steel Workers Organizing Committee created in 1937 by the CIO. At the time such a provisional structure was tactically justified, since the CIO was just launching a unionization drive in steel, and it was also involved in a complex struggle with AFL craft unionists. It was another thing, however, for the CIO leaders to artificially perpetuate this loosely-defined setup, as they did for the next five years. Their object was to assure the entrenchment of a ruling bureaucracy before giving the union constitutional form.

SWOC was put under the command of Philip Murray, who was then a trusted aide of John L. Lewis, founding leader of the CIO. From the outset Murray ran things in dictatorial fashion, acting along class-collaborationist policy lines. Contract demands were shaped, not to meet the workers' basic needs, but according to what the corporations might give without a serious struggle. If there had to be a strike, the line was to end it as quickly as possible, forcing acceptance of whatever face-saving settlement the employers granted. The union was tied firmly to the Democratic Party and a policy of reliance on the capitalist government substituted for use of the workers power.

As the union gained substance the Murray bureaucracy raided the treasury for handsome salaries and lavish expense accounts. In an environment poles apart from the grind in the plants, the bureaucrats developed a calm, dispassionate view of the workers problems. They gave "statesmanlike" attention to the corporation's side in disputes and acted more and more as policemen against the workers. Membership rights were subordinated to bureaucratic special interests. Entire locals were subjected to disciplinary action. At conventions of the organization the delegates faced a bureaucratic steamroller.

It was not until 1942, after consolidation of dictatorial rule over the union, that Murray yielded to membership demands to hold a constitutional convention. SWOC was displaced by a formal international union (with Canadian affiliates) — the present United Steelworkers. Murray was made president with vast constitutional powers. David J. McDonald, who got his start in the union as a stenographer for Murray, became secretary-treasurer. As the delegates were quickly to learn, formal adoption of a union constitution neither strengthened membership rights nor weakened bureaucratic rule.

(To be continued.)

Did UNESCO become too 'uppity' for Washington?

BY HARRY RING

Much like the disgruntled youngster who takes his ball and leaves the game, the Reagan administration has formally announced U.S. withdrawal from UNESCO — the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Established with the UN itself in 1945, UNESCO was initially a vehicle for U.S.-West European cultural ex-

ities. This made Washington even more unhappy.

What is it that UNESCO has done to earn Washington's wrath?

For a period, it suspended Israel from membership in protest against its genocidal wars against Arab peoples. And it has declared its opposition to the racist policies of another U.S. ally, the apartheid regime in South Africa.

But mainly UNESCO has devoted itself to literacy projects in the semicolonial world; conducting studies on the status of women; seeking to help preserve the cultural heritage of nations; and sponsoring workshops on possible roads to peace.

The political motivation for the U.S. pullout was contained in a report by one Owen Harries, who complained that "enormous patronage" was in the hands of the UNESCO Director General Amadou-Mahtar M'Bow of Senegal.

This "patronage," he charged, was used to send delegates to conferences "in glamorous cities" and fund participation in "innumerable study groups."

Harries, former Australian representative in UNESCO, is currently resident in Washington as a fellow at the Heritage Foundation, a right-wing think tank which apparently assumes that such activity is "patronage" when engaged in by Africans and Asians who don't completely follow or accept the policies of the U.S. government.

In addition to being "radical political," the Reagan administration charged UNESCO wants to establish governmental press controls in semicolonial countries.

This from a president that barred the U.S. press from covering the invasion of Grenada, and one of whose generals advised, "I believe strongly that people have a right to know what their forces are doing . . . but at the appropriate time."

The official U.S. statement notifying UNESCO, "We quit," added the ultimate charge — the organization "has exhibited a hostility toward the institutions of a free society, especially a free market. . . ."

AS I SEE IT

change and a forum to advance anticommunist propaganda. Later, in the 1950s, the Soviet Union and various East European countries joined in and challenged the cold-war policies of Washington and its allies.

And, in the 1960s, many of the new governments of Africa and Asia added themselves to the membership roster and demanded some shift in the organization's activ-

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Wants Castro speech

I just read "Fidel Castro Speaks on Grenada" in the November 25 issue. Is there any plan to make reprints or a pamphlet of Castro's excellent and incisive analysis of the invasion? I would be interested in purchasing several copies for our group, the Committee Against Intervention (CAI), to sell at the University of Missouri campus.

Marc Wutschke
Columbia, Mo.

(In reply — This speech is available in a new book published by Pathfinder Press titled *Maurice Bishop Speaks*. It includes many of the most important speeches and interviews given by this central leader of the Grenada revolution. Other material concerning the overthrow of the workers and farmers government and the U.S. invasion — including the Castro speech referred to above and other items reflecting the thinking of the Cuban leadership — is also included.

(It can be ordered for \$6.95 from Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Please include \$.75 for postage and handling.)

Starting off right

Enclosed is a check for \$50. Please renew my subscription to the *Militant* and send me a copy of *Maurice Bishop Speaks*. The remaining amount from the check is a donation to the continuing work of the Socialist Workers Party.

In January 1983 I renewed my subscription. In that letter, kindly printed in the *Militant* of Feb. 4, 1983, I noted that I wanted to start the new year off right. That re-

solve has been hardened for 1984.

The death of Bishop and the setback to progress Washington eagerly assisted in Grenada, has hardened my resolve. I have questions as to how the Grenadian revolution should be understood in regard to those that are under way and those that are coming. But of one thing I am certain — the destruction of the recent advances in Grenada must be understood by recognizing that the U.S. government poisoned the atmosphere of the world for the Grenadians. The bizarre, murdering behavior of Coard, Austin, and others can be explained as one result of the poisoning.

Of course, more important than understanding how imperialism poisons the world is making some effort to stop it.

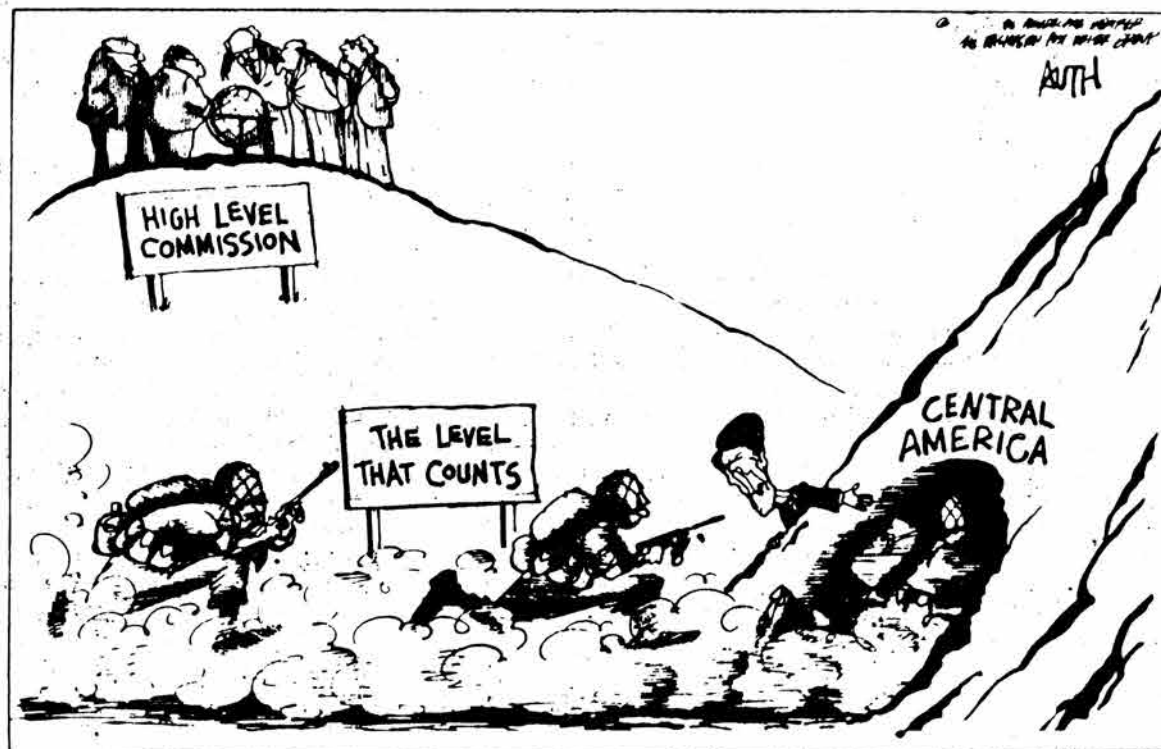
The small donation included with this renewal will be part of my effort.

Remembering Oct. 19, 1983.
James G. Smith
Erie, Pa.

Greyhound strike

The recent Greyhound strike had a profound impact on many of the workers here at General Electric's Riverworks plant in Lynn, Massachusetts.

During the weeks following the outbreak of the strike, important strategy and tactics discussions took place among a broad layer of members of International Union of Electrical Workers (IUE) Local 201 here. Was civil disobedience the right way to win the strike? How could we get our union and the whole labor movement to give maximum support to the bus drivers?



Some expressed doubts that the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) could win at all because the government and most of big business was lined up against it. There was an important difference between these discussions and others that occurred around the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization (PATCO) and some other strikes. This was a discussion among workers who were trying to figure out how the ATU could win.

After seeing the police brutalize strikers and supporters on TV, and after hearing that 5,000 unionists had rallied to support the ATU in Boston, some first-shift workers decided that it was time to visit the picket line themselves.

During this time the Local 201

leadership had played a positive role in promoting solidarity for the bus drivers. The local's newspaper featured articles in each issue concerning Greyhound's union-busting activity. The local had sent a bus of second-shift workers to attend the solidarity rally in Boston.

A group of four or five workers in Building 74, one of the main manufacturing buildings, decided that Friday, December 2, would be the best day to get participation from their coworkers. By the middle of the week most of the floor was talking about going. The union paper aided this by promoting our picket-line visit.

While we were at the bus terminal we did succeed in sending many travelers to Trailways and Amtrak. In addition one IUE

member came up with the idea of inviting bus drivers with children to the annual Local 201 children's Christmas party. The idea passed the executive board unanimously. Several dozen drivers and their families attended the party and shared presents, food, and discussion about the future of working people, and the future of unions.

Kip Hedges
Boston, Mass.

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

Struggles by Toledo workers against concessions

BY JOE CALLAHAN

TOLEDO — Auto workers and other workers here have fought some tough battles recently in the face of sharp attacks by the companies.

After five months on strike, workers in United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 48 at Midland-Ross Corp. accepted a concessions contract that included big wage

UNION TALK

cuts. The contract was voted up 141-44 after the company threatened to close the plant if workers did not end the strike.

After more than two months on strike, members of Teamsters Local 361 at Vroman Foods, an ice-cream novelties manufacturer, voted 48-41 to accept a contract with concessions of 17 percent for male workers and 33 percent for female workers. The company had been operating with scab labor and workers were threatened on January 13 with permanent replacement by scabs.

But auto workers won a victory at the Jeep plant against plans announced by the company to eliminate 56 engineering jobs and possibly others. Unlike most big auto plants — which have forced overtime, and usually lots of it — at Jeep there is no mandatory overtime.

To combat company plans to eliminate jobs, the union

leaders asked workers to exercise their right to turn down all overtime. This was an effective use of union power. It caused problems for the company, making it virtually impossible to keep up full production.

As the union leadership said in a letter to the members, "Through the combined efforts of each and every one of you, we have secured all of the 56 jobs in question. You could have easily turned your backs on the brothers and sisters of the engineering group, but you didn't. You elected to fight for their jobs and, in return, the protection of your own. You have backed your leadership 100 percent in solidarity. You have clearly shown what the union is all about."

After just one week of this refusal of overtime, the company backed off from its plan to eliminate the jobs. During that week it called back 41 of approximately 200 workers on layoff. It is reported now that the rest of the laid-off workers are also being called back.

This battle shows how the fight for a shorter workweek with no cut in pay could help end the massive unemployment all workers face. Nationally, there are more than 200,000 auto workers laid off, while most of those still working are working long hours of overtime.

Meanwhile, a Toledo auto parts manufacturer, AP Parts, took out a full-page ad in the *Toledo Blade* threatening to close the plant or move South if the workers did not make big concessions on top of those they

gave up in their last contract.

At the same time, two other companies, Strong Electric and Babcock Dairy, which have squeezed concessions out of workers by threatening to close down, announced they were closing down anyway.

Some union officials, in arguing for concessions, like to say, "We can't have a union without a company." This is not true. For example in Nicaragua, when a company tries to close down or cut back on production, the workers ask the Sandinista government to intervene. The government comes in and investigates. If it finds the boss at fault, it takes measures to defend the workers and sometimes nationalizes the plant. This allows production to continue and workers to keep their jobs.

Reagan and Kissinger and company hate Nicaragua so much they want to send \$8.4 billion to aid military dictatorships in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. We should refuse to allow any more of our tax dollars to go to these dictators who are massacring union leaders and murdering workers and peasants. This keeps profits of big business high, and weakens unions the world over.

It also sets the stage for sending U.S. combat troops to fight a new Vietnam-type war here on the American continent.

Joe Callahan is a member of United Auto Workers Local 12 at the Jeep plant in Toledo.

Doctors in Canada hauled into court for challenging antiabortion law

On November 21, Dr. Henry Morgentaler was put on trial in Toronto, Canada. His "crime" was setting up clinics in Toronto and Winnipeg that provide women with abortions. This directly violates Canada's reactionary antiabortion laws, which make such clinics illegal.

The following article on Morgentaler's trial is from the January 16 issue of *Socialist Voice*, a revolutionary socialist biweekly published in Montreal.

BY PATI HABERMANN
AND HELEN KIRKPATRICK

TORONTO — The trial of Drs. Henry Morgentaler, Leslie Smoling, and Robert Scott, who are charged with conspiracy to produce a miscarriage, has been transformed into a historic challenge to Canada's federal anti-abortion law.

Morgentaler's lawyer, Morris Manning, will try to show that his clients cannot be charged with conspiracy to commit an abortion because the federal law violates several provisions of the federal Charter of Rights pertaining to freedom of belief and expression, conscience, and religion; the right to life, liberty, and freedom; and equal rights for women and men.

On the first day of the trial, which began November 21, Chief Justice William Parker agreed to hear the constitutional challenge to the law. This paves the way for a precedent-setting decision in the Ontario Supreme Court.

Abortion restrictions

Under Section 251 of the Criminal Code passed in 1969, abortion is illegal unless performed by doctors in accredited hospitals, after approval by a committee of doctors which rule that the woman's life or health is endangered. This "law deprives both the women and their doctors of their constitutional rights in a way that is discriminatory, arbitrary, cruel, unusual, and unfair," argued Manning in his opening statement to the court.

Morgentaler has never denied that abortions were performed at the Toronto clinic, but he has denied that he committed a crime. He is confident that a jury will acquit him.

Morgentaler's confidence is founded on past experience. Three successive Quebec juries acquitted him of similar charges ten years ago. Today, ten freestanding, nonhospital abortion clinics exist in Quebec.

During almost four weeks of testimony, Manning has called an impressive array of 19 expert witnesses, and more than 90 exhibits have been presented to the court. Witness after witness testified about the difficulties women experience getting abortions, the problems of hospital therapeutic abortion committees, and the advantages of freestanding clinics. Witnesses faced exhaustive questioning by Manning and provincial prosecutor Alan Cooper.

Federal attorney Arthur Pennington told the court that the government's defense of Canada's abortion law would relate to the so-called rights of the fetus.

Just a couple of months ago, the Saskatchewan Supreme Court ruled that the fetus is not a person under the Charter of Rights.

Neither Pennington nor Crown attorney Cooper have called witnesses, choosing to rely on oral arguments presented in January. The government lawyers claimed that this was because the evidence introduced by Manning was irrelevant.

The first witness, Carolyn Egan, a counsellor at Toronto's VD and Birth Control Clinic, testified that immigrants and poor



Dr. Henry Morgentaler has been under attack for over a decade for support to abortion rights. Above, protest in Ottawa in mid-1970s to defend him and demand repeal of antiabortion laws.

women have a particularly hard time getting abortions, that hospitals in Toronto have placed quotas on the number of abortions they approve, and that a major problem facing these women was getting an appointment.

According to Dr. Elaine Borins, staff psychiatrist and director of the Toronto Western Hospital's psychiatric clinic for women, financial hardship is the most common reason for having an abortion.

Dr. Philip Stubblefield, chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Mount Auburn Hospital in Cambridge, Massachusetts and president of the National Abortion Federation, explained that it is safer to obtain an abortion at an independent clinic than at a hospital. He said

that doctors in abortion clinics have more expertise and more opportunity to counsel women choosing to have an abortion. Moreover, hospitals often use general anesthesia for abortions, while clinics usually use local anesthesia, with which there are fewer complications.

"Nobody wants an abortion just for the sake of having one," said Dr. Augustin Roy, former head of Quebec's College of Physicians. "You have to think of the child who is going to be born, of the woman involved, of her family. It's a decision a woman goes through because of her own reasons." In reference to hospital abortion committees, Roy said: "The decision depends on who sits on the committee. If you want it to work, you put people on it who

are in favor of abortion. If you don't want it to work, you put on it people who are against."

Dr. John Lamont of Chedoke-McMaster Hospital in Hamilton, reported that many women come to him as a last resort after being refused abortions at other Ontario hospitals. He said that abortions approved by his hospital's committee are kept secret because of uncertainty about how nurses or other doctors will react to the women having them.

Hospital abortions inadequate

The inadequacies of hospital abortions was a theme frequently repeated throughout the hearing. Thérèse Venne, a social worker in a Quebec clinic, told of a woman 16 weeks pregnant who had a saline abortion and was ignored for about three hours with the dead fetus between her legs. When a nurse finally arrived, she told the patient that this had been done to remind her of the gravity of the situation so she wouldn't repeat it.

Dr. Sheila Cohen, an obstetrician and gynecologist at North General Hospital who specializes in treating pregnant girls nine to 18, testified that many teenagers don't recognize their condition until it's too late to receive an abortion in most Metro hospitals. These teens must go to the U.S. for the procedure.

Dr. Jane Hodgson, associate professor at the University of Minnesota medical school, testified that 61 women from Northern Ontario had been to her clinic during the past year. She said that many women who come to her clinic are concerned that the delay in getting hospital committee approval will mean it's too late to get a simple, first trimester abortion.

On January 18 the oral summation of the hearings will begin. If Justice Parker rules that the abortion law is in violation of the Charter of Rights, there will be no trial. However, the government will almost certainly appeal the decision. If the challenge to the law is rejected, the trial on the conspiracy charges will begin March 19.

What strategy to change steel union?

BY GEOFF MIRELOWITZ

What stand should union militants take in the March 29 election for international president of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA)? Should they rally behind the candidacy of Ron Weisen, president of USWA Local 1397 and longtime opponent of the concession-bargaining strategy of top USWA officials? What attitude should be taken toward the split that has developed in the USWA's "official family" leadership, reflected in the candidacies of international Secretary Lynn Williams and international Treasurer Frank McKee?

The answers are important to all workers. The USWA remains one of the largest U.S. unions, and potentially one of the most powerful. Its political life affects the rest of the labor movement.

It is a union under severe attack by the employers. The big questions facing the union mirror those facing the ranks of labor.

How can we defend workers from the effects of plant closings, like those recently announced by U.S. Steel? How can we mobilize union power and solidarity to stop strike breaking, such as that which is taking place in the copper towns of Arizona? What is the connection between union-busting at home and escalating U.S. war abroad?

Behind all of these questions is a basic

challenge: how to put an end to the policy of cooperation with the employers that has been followed by top USWA officials since the union's inception. This approach, which holds that workers and employers share common interests, has led to sacrificing the needs of steelworkers at every turn. It has disarmed the union and prevented an effective fightback. It is a problem facing the entire labor movement.

Therefore the attitude to take toward the USWA elections is much more than whether to favor the "ins" or the "outs." It gets to the heart of what strategy can change the unions; strengthen them, and begin the process of transforming them into effective fighting tools.

Debate has developed

Among those who have favored and worked for a change in USWA leadership in the past, different opinions are now being expressed about this election. The Dec. 20, 1983, issue of *Labor Notes*, a publication that reflects the views of some of these USWA activists and some in other unions, announces: "New Candidate Enters Steelworkers Election, Dividing Reform Forces."

This refers to McKee, who originally was not a candidate. Following union president Lloyd McBride's death, the top leadership hoped to avoid an election al-

together. However, divisions developed over who would take McBride's place at the top. One seemingly natural choice, Vice-president Joe Odorcich, lost out to Williams in a USWA International Executive Board vote for acting president. The March 29 referendum election was set. Odorcich announced his candidacy. He then withdrew, McKee announced, and Odorcich expressed his support for McKee.

Jane Slaughter reports in *Labor Notes* that "many USW reformers" who originally endorsed Weisen now think they "would be better off" to back McKee, who has "a greater chance of winning."

Some, according to Slaughter, even "lobbied McKee to enter the race." Among these, evidently, was Joe Samargia, former president of USWA Local 1938 on Minnesota's Iron Range. Samargia, longtime opposition leader who left his union post to take a job in state government, told Slaughter: "I trust him [McKee] more than anyone else on the executive board."

Dennis Shattuck, a grievance committee member in Local 1010 in East Chicago was originally Weisen's Midwest campaign director. But he now argues that support for McKee is justified solely on the basis of McKee's newly expressed position favoring the right of all rank-and-file Steelworkers to vote on their contract (workers in the

Continued on Page 14