

New revelations on U.S. moves to escalate Central America war

Socialists urge unions to oppose war

NEW YORK — Labor opposition to Washington's Central America war drive is being urged by the Socialist Workers Party presidential ticket.

In a statement issued by their national campaign office here April 10, presidential nominee Mel Mason and vice-presidential candidate Andrea González call for the union movement to take the lead in demanding an immediate halt to the aggression against Nicaragua and an end to support for "a murderously repressive regime" in El Salvador.

The socialists pointed to the recent admission by the Pentagon of contingency plans to introduce U.S. troops into Central America as an ominous confirmation that Washington is dragging working people into a new Vietnam in Central America.

The socialists demanded an end to the illegal mining of Nicaraguan waters, the disbanding of U.S.-organized and directed Nicaraguan counterrevolutionary invaders, and U.S. reparations for damages already inflicted.

"Equally important," they stressed, "is a complete termination of Washington's reactionary intervention in the Salvadoran civil war. The people there are fighting a just war to get a tyrannical government off their backs and to build a decent life. U.S. working people have much in common with them, and nothing in common with their oppressors."

Mason and González also called for the dismantling of the military base that has been developed by the Pentagon in Honduras to wage war against the Nicaraguan and Salvadoran people.

The socialist candidates also urged total nonconfidence in either Democrats or Republicans to avert the U.S. war that now looms in Central America.

"As the elections approach," they observed, "a majority of the Senate votes a 'nonbinding' resolution disapproving the

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Sales campaign launched

Sales of this issue of the *Militant* will launch the special effort to sell 35,000 to 40,000 copies of the *Militant* and its Spanish-language sister publication, *Perspectiva Mundial*, while campaigning for the Socialist Workers Party ticket: Mel Mason and Andrea González for president and vice-president of the United States.

Initial reports from *Militant* and *PM* readers around the country indicate that this sales drive is "just what is needed" to focus socialist campaigning during the coming weeks. Aggressive plans are underway to use the drive to reach out and introduce people to the Mason-González campaign alternative. Future articles will report on the results of these campaigning efforts and on the questions being discussed out by people the socialist campaigners meet.

We urge all readers to get involved in this effort. If you would like to participate, contact the socialist campaign headquarters nearest you, or call the *Militant* circulation office in New York City.



Funeral in Nicaragua for one of many victims of U.S.-backed war

Vietnam condemns attacks by Chinese, Thai troops

BY SANDI SHERMAN

UNITED NATIONS — In a news briefing here April 6, Vietnam's Ambassador to the United Nations Hoang Bich Son denounced the recent intense shelling of Vietnam's northern border area by Chinese forces and Thai army artillery attacks against Kampuchean territory. He denied

Our correspondents Steve Clark and Diane Wang visited the Chinese-Vietnamese border in late February. Their story is on page 15.

charges that Vietnamese troops had entered Chinese and Thai territory.

At the same time the ambassador was speaking, new fighting broke out along the Vietnam-China border. In what Vietnam described as a "very serious act of war" Peking sent several battalions of infantrymen to invade a Vietnamese province on April 6. Local armed forces repelled the attack.

On April 2, Chinese armed forces fired some 4,000 artillery shells on eight places in the Vietnamese border provinces of Quang Ninh, Lang Son, Cao Bang, Ha Tuyen, and Lai Chau.

Ambassador Bich Son charged that the purpose of this attack was to undermine the trend towards dialogue between the Indochinese countries with other Southeast Asian countries that belong to ASEAN. The attacks are also meant to boost the morale of the Pol Pot forces, upon whom the Kampuchean army has inflicted military defeats recently.

A statement from Vietnam's foreign ministry released at the news briefing noted that "whenever the Pol Pot remnants launched attacks from their sanctuaries in Thailand into Kampuchean territories, China simultaneously conducted artillery shellings to cause tension along the Sino-Vietnamese border."

The statement goes on to explain that "since the beginning of this year, the Chinese and Thai authorities have been trying to encourage the Pol Pot clique's sabotage activities, but when the Kampuchean

armed forces, with the assistance of Vietnamese army volunteers, punished the saboteurs, China, in chorus with Thailand, concocted so-called 'Vietnamese violations of Thai sovereignty' and conducted fierce artillery shelling of Vietnam's border areas."

In late March, Kampuchean armed forces launched a major military operation against a base that the Pol Pot forces had established inside Kampuchea, wiping out many enemy troops and seizing large quantities of weapons and equipment.

The Thai government — which backs the Pol Pot guerrillas who stage raids against Kampuchea from bases along the Thai-Kampuchea border — has stepped up its military aid to Pol Pot's forces.

Vietnam's foreign ministry has explained that the Thai government's claims that Vietnamese troops entered its territory were made to divert world attention from its own repeated violations of Kampuchean territory.

According to the Kampuchean News Continued on Page 15

Mason hits cop violence in Dallas

BY LEE OLESON

DALLAS — Police violence against the Black and Latino communities is on the upswing here, and both the courts and city government have given notice that they are going to do nothing to stop it.

In his four-day visit to Dallas, Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate Mel Mason spoke with campaign supporters, Black community leaders, and before a church meeting to explain that the increasing racism and police brutality are part of a national pattern.

"The people who run Dallas are seeing how far they can go with police violence," Mason told a March 24 meeting of 35 campaign supporters at the Martin Luther King, Jr., Center in South Dallas.

Mason spoke of the need for the Black community to mobilize against the racist attacks, both to stop them in Dallas and to help stop them nationally.

Sandinistas: 'biggest U.S. offensive yet'

BY MICHAEL BAUMANN

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — "At this very moment, we are confronting the biggest military offensive the United States government has launched" since the victory of the revolution, Commander Daniel Ortega told a nationwide TV and radio audience here April 6.

"The United States has sent in thousands of counterrevolutionaries from Honduras. . . . Also involved are counterrevolutionary forces in the south, based in Costa Rica, where the United States has established camps and bases."

As part of the offensive, Ortega continued, they are "mining our ports" and "approved \$21 million to continue financing crime and terror against the Nicaraguan people."

Ortega, coordinator of the revolutionary government, estimated that more than 8,000 counterrevolutionaries are involved in one or another aspect of the offensive, although not all are part of the invading force.

"They are being supplied by helicopter," he reported. He confirmed unofficial reports that there has been fighting in recent weeks in three of the five northern provinces and in the province of Rio San Juan in the south.

In his televised remarks, Ortega called particular attention to the U.S. mining of the country's three major ports. "They are trying to blockade Nicaragua," he said. He pointed out that a number of ship owners were now refusing to allow their ships to sail into the country's waters.

"The mines have damaged seven foreign ships bringing goods to Nicaragua," Ortega said. "This has led to other ships refusing to enter Nicaragua, unloading their cargo instead at Puerto Caldera in Coast Rica."

Bypassing Nicaragua's harbors greatly affects delivery time, employment in the ports, and the overall cost of imports. Cargo unloaded at Caldera must be trucked 250 miles overland to Managua.

"The majority of ships scheduled to enter Nicaraguan ports have done so," Ortega said, "but some ships were scared

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Last year Dallas police shot 29 people, killing 15. The big majority were Blacks and Latinos.

But the only charges brought in the wake of these killings were grand jury indictments of three Black witnesses to one of the killings.

Brenda Lee Frost, the sister of one of the victims; Lonnie Leyuas; and Victor Franklin, all 17 years old, were indicted February 28 by a Dallas County grand jury for "aggravated perjury."

The three were among 14 witnesses to a Nov. 7, 1983, killing by Dallas cop Melvin Cozby. Cozby gunned down Michael Frost, 20, after Frost was stopped for driving the wrong way on a one-way street in South Dallas.

The killing by Cozby caused an uproar in Dallas' Black community. In his 13 Continued on Page 14

BY DON DAVIS

Tens of thousands of steelworkers are laid off, and those still working face demands from the bosses for speedup and work-rule changes. Giant steel mills have closed, turning boom towns into ghost towns.

In view of this crisis, the Socialist Workers Party decided in December to step up its efforts to get out socialist ideas to members of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA).

It seemed an especially good time because an election campaign had begun for president of the union which had the potential to spur the ongoing discussion among steelworkers about how to fend off the bosses' attacks.

Socialists decided to increase their sales at the entrances of steel mills and to make a special effort to sell the Pathfinder Press pamphlet, *Steelworkers Under Attack: How to Fight Back and Defend Jobs*, which lays out a strategy of mobilizing the union ranks to struggle against the bosses and their government. It was decided to offer the pamphlet for just 25 cents to anyone who purchased a *Militant* or *Perspectiva Mundial* for 75 cents.

Between December and the March 29 USWA election,

socialists in 26 cities in the U.S. and Canada ordered more than 1,000 copies of the pamphlet. All SWP branches were encouraged to make a special effort to sell each week at USWA-organized plants, particularly the large basic-steel facilities which form the heart of the industry and union.

It soon became clear that the election was viewed by most steelworkers as simply a tussle between two high union officials — Lynn Williams (who eventually won) and Frank McKee — with neither offering anything really new. These two USWA officials kept Ron Weisen, a third candidate, off the ballot. Weisen, who is president of Local 1397, had a program that pointed in the direction of mobilizing the union's power for a real fight against the employer offensive, and the election generated little excitement among the membership after his exclusion from the race.

But many steelworkers were interested in considering socialist solutions. While precise national totals are not available, it is clear that several hundred pamphlets and even more papers were sold over the course of the campaign.

In Chicago, three Saturday afternoon teams to basic-steel sites went out 10 of the first 12 weeks

of the year, despite the cold, selling 7 to 13 papers each week, according to John Votava. Door to door teams were also organized in South Chicago where many steelworkers live.

The SWP branch on the Iron Range in northern Minnesota has a goal of every member participating each week in a sale at the iron ore mines, a goal which is frequently being reached, says Warren Simons.

The five regular teams average one or two papers sold per team. When the *Militant* recently featured coverage of the British miners strike, Simons said, the socialists jumped their steel teams from five to nine, took along a big sign saying "Support the British Miners," and sold 13 papers.

He estimated that at least 75 copies of the *Steelworkers* pamphlet were sold at the mine entrances or door to door.

A number of areas organized sales at major plants where they had not sold regularly in the past.

Denver socialists, for example, drove the two hours to Pueblo to sell at the big CF&I complex. Slowing down cars with a big sign advertising the *Steelworkers* pamphlet, the first three teams sold 48 papers and 43 pamphlets.

Although they have not been

able to organize sales there every week, Salm Kolis reports that each team that goes there sells at least 10 papers and 10 pamphlets.

Regular teams now sell at the Kennecott copper complex near Salt Lake City where the *Militant* and *PM* became known over the fall for their prominent coverage of the Arizona copper miners strike. A typical team currently sells four or five papers, according to Kari Reddington.

When U.S. Steel's big Fairfield Works near Birmingham reopened in January, socialists first had to fight a successful battle against the cops for the right to sell there. Now they are wrestling, so far without much success, with how to slow down the fast-moving traffic, reports Marty Boyers. Going door to door, however, they sold 28 *Steelworkers* pamphlets.

The stepped-up sales put socialists in closer contact with USWA activists. One example is a woman steelworker at Bethlehem Steel's Sparrows Point plant who helped re-establish the Baltimore chapter of the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) and now regularly buys the *Militant* either at the plant gate or at the CLUW chapter meeting.

And a socialist who had recently moved to Pittsburgh and

was selling for the first time at the Homestead works was momentarily startled when a car pulled up and the man inside handed her his money, saying, "I think I'm in that issue." It was Ron Weisen, whose campaign for USWA president was the subject of an article in the *Militant* that week.

Overall, the campaign introduced many steelworkers to socialist ideas and won some new readers for our press. In addition to maintaining these sales, socialists in several areas have begun bringing SWP candidates out to these plant gates to continue the discussion of socialist ideas.

Steelworkers Under Attack

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

In March 1983 the steel corporations imposed big wage, benefit, and work rule concessions on steelworkers. Despite their claims, not a single job was saved by these givebacks. Steelworkers still face tough times and signs are that they may get worse. In this pamphlet, Mirelowitz, a laid-off steelworker, answers the employers' attempts to blame workers for the economic crisis in the steel industry. This pamphlet proposes a course for the steelworkers' union and the entire labor movement to fight back.

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

Toledo workers strike against Sun Oil union-busting

BY JOE CALLAHAN

TOLEDO — After working under extensions of their old contract since January 15, workers at the Sun Oil refineries here in Toledo and the Marcus Hook refinery near Philadelphia went on strike March 21. Sun is demanding major concessions, such as \$5-an-hour pay cuts for workers in some departments, the right to hire nonunion temporary workers for \$6 an hour, and major restrictions on bidding rights.

The Sun workers in Toledo are members of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW) Local 7-912. During negotiations prior to the strike, the workers held a number of picket lines on their lunch hour to protest the company's bargaining stance. They also held weekly union meetings and thoroughly discussed the situation they faced: the company's refusal to budge from its stand of demanding major concessions.

During the strike the company is continuing to run the refinery using supervisors and office workers, chemists, and environmental engineers who are totally unfamiliar with the production equipment in the plant. This is very dangerous. There have been three fires in the plant since the strike began. A fire in an oil refinery can become a major disaster, threatening the lives of those in the area. The company has denied the existence of all three fires.

Many pickets report much more solidar-

ity from motorists passing by the picket lines than in the last strike in 1980, when there were more frequent incidences of people yelling hostile comments. This time the number of people honking and waving and expressing support is much greater than four years ago.

On April 8, the striking oil workers held a pot-luck dinner at their union hall, to which United Auto Workers Local 14

members from AP Parts were invited. AP Parts workers are facing an all-out union-busting drive by the company. And many of these workers attended the pot-luck dinner on only 24 hours' notice. After the dinner, the oil and auto workers picketed the Sun plant gate.

Workers at Sun who are employed by outside contractors and who are members of other unions have been honoring the

OCAW picket lines, in spite of being told to cross by the employers and their union representatives. The company is trying to get a court injunction against picketing at this gate, which is separate from the one the OCAW members use.

A solidarity rally at nearby Navarre Park is planned for April 28. The rally has been endorsed by the Toledo Central Labor Council.

Machinists slow down FMC wage takebacks

BY THERESA DELGADILLO

SAN JOSE — At a meeting attended by more than 1,400 of its 2,500 members here March 31, International Association of Machinists Lodge 562 voted to accept a new three-year contract with the FMC Ordnance Division.

Since January of this year, winning a decent contract has been a big topic of discussion among IAM members at FMC.

Contract negotiations between IAM Lodge 562 and the company, which began in February, took place against a backdrop of recent giveback contracts negotiated in the aerospace and other industries.

In a leaflet published by the union and distributed by shop stewards throughout the plant during the negotiations, the company's major demands were outlined. These included a two-tier wage structure

like that recently imposed on IAM and UAW members at Boeing, Lockheed, and McDonald Douglas. Under the two-tier structure new hires' wages can be as low as 50 percent of current employees' pay, with no prospect of reaching parity.

Opposition to such a giveback ran so deep among the union membership that company negotiators backed away from this demand. The proposed contract voted on by the local did not contain this key company demand.

Although the demand for a two-tier wage structure was abandoned, a new, lower rate for new hires — in some cases as low as 70 percent of full pay — was introduced along with an extension of the length of time it will now take to reach full pay in all 10 job classifications. This is seen by many as a step in the direction of the com-

pany's real aim.

Moreover, the new agreement, while granting a 1 percent to 2 percent wage increase to workers in the top three job classifications and a 1 percent increase to those in the middle four classifications, grants workers in the lowest three classifications no raise at all, in effect, a cut in real wages.

Because of these two aspects of the new agreement, about 10 percent of those attending the meeting voted to reject it. Even among those who voted for the agreement, there was little sentiment in favor of these two concessions. Discussions on the contract and the impact on our union will continue.

Theresa Delgadillo works at FMC Ordnance Division. She is a member of IAM Lodge 562.

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But the *Militant* gives you the workers' side of the news every week. That's why it's the paper you look to for coverage of the Socialist Workers campaign of Mel Mason for president and Andrea González for vice-president. While the other candidates are campaigning to "dump Reagan," Mason and González are campaigning to dump capitalism. While the Democrats and Republicans campaign to make the system work better for big business, Mason and González campaign for a government run by workers and farmers.

And that's the point of view a workers newspaper like the *Militant* takes. *Militant* readers know about the recent struggles of auto, steel, and copper workers to defend their unions. They know that in Cuba and Nicaragua workers and farmers are improving their lives in revolutionary ways. With regular coverage of workers' struggles

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Coal miner runs against Rockefeller

BY MICHAEL CARPER

CHARLESTON, W. Va. — For the first time in the history of this state Socialist Workers candidates for president and vice-president of the United States will appear on the ballot. Young Socialist Alliance members and other supporters of Mel Mason, the 1984 Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate, and Andrea González, the SWP vice-presidential nominee, are hard at work petitioning to put the names of Mason and González on the ballot.

SWP campaign supporters are also gathering signatures to place the names of Joan Radin, a coal miner who is the SWP candidate for Senate, and Dave Ferguson, the party's candidate for governor, on the ballot. Radin's opponent in the race is John Rockefeller, IV.

Ferguson, a laid-off miner from Morgantown, currently works in a shoe factory and is a member of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union.

The idea of running working people for office is one that meets with wide approval in West Virginia — a state where coal mining and other heavy industries dominate the job market.

Campaign supporters who have been asking people to sign the petitions to place coal miner Radin on the ballot against Rockefeller have found two kinds of responses most common. One is that of miners and their relatives, as well as other workers, who are excited by the thought of a coal miner running for office. The other response is "I'll sign anything that's against Rockefeller."

Determined to far exceed the number of signatures required to get on the ballot and

encouraged by the response to a working-class campaign, supporters of the SWP ticket have been seizing every opportunity to reach a broad layer of West Virginians with the socialist program.

At a newly opened shopping mall in Charleston, campaigners were able to set up in a booth inside the main entrance. Signs were put up reading "Money for Jobs, Not for War" and "Put a Coal Miner on the Ballot in West Virginia." But the one that got the best response read "Big business owns the Democrats and Republicans — We need a Labor Party."

Many working-class shoppers approached the booth to find out what kind of people in this shiny new shopping mall were telling the truth about the Democrats and Republicans. They were happy to sign to place workers on the ballot in West Virginia. Campaign supporters collected nearly 200 signatures during one weekday at the mall.

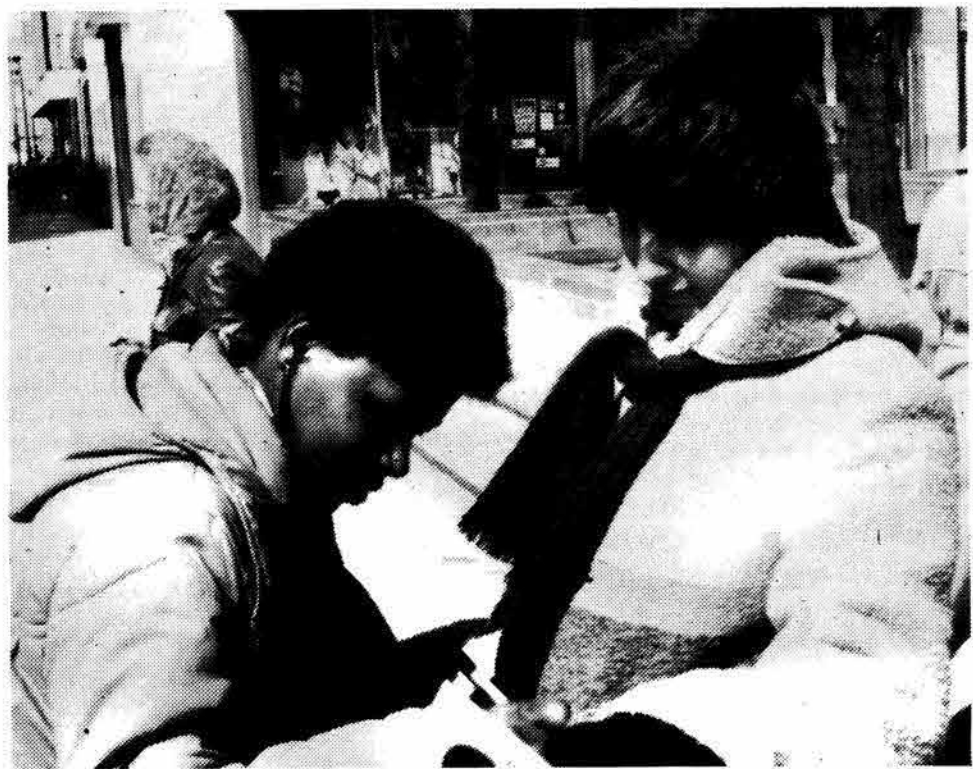
One fact that campaigners here all agree on is that age, race, or appearance are no indication of who will sign a petition to place socialists on the ballot. One of the socialist campaigners told the *Militant* that "You just can't tell by looking who might sign, even people who are working good jobs and getting along well see the need for change."

Nearly 7,500 signatures are needed to put the candidates on the ballot in West Virginia. In this first week supporters have gathered nearly 6,000 signatures. "We are determined not to slow down at all," said a YSA member who has been working on the petitioning drive. "We'll be getting as many more signatures as we can to prove the support our candidates have in this state."



Militant/Eric Sampson
West Virginia campaigners working to put socialist Mel Mason (center), presidential candidate, on ballot. He will be on ballot along with coal miner Joan Radin, who is running against John Rockefeller. A lot of people say, "I'll sign anything that's against Rockefeller."

N.J. campaign calls for jobs program



U.S. senatorial candidate Priscilla Schenk (right), a sewing-machine operator.

BY WAYNE HIEBER

NEWARK — The campaign to put Mel Mason and Andrea González on the November ballot in New Jersey began here on Saturday, March 31. The law requires that 800 signatures of registered voters be submitted on nominating petitions by April 26. The socialist campaign is aiming to get well over that amount to insure a ballot spot.

At the same time the Socialist Workers campaign is gathering a similar number of signatures to place the name of Priscilla Schenk on the ballot for U.S. Senate. Schenk is a sewing machine operator and a member of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 63 of the New York Joint Board.

In four hours 40 volunteers gathered 3,000 signatures toward the goal of 4,800 in Newark and 10 other towns. Petitioners pegged their request for support for the candidates around the socialists' opposition to U.S. intervention in Central America. The socialist campaign calls for elimi-

nating all appropriations to the U.S. military; spending this money instead on massive job-creating programs. Unemployment is a major problem in northern New Jersey, where many factories have closed since the mid-1970s.

Petitioners met many working people who were interested in finding out more about the ideas and proposals of the socialist campaign. In Flemington, a small farming community in central New Jersey, over 200 people signed. Ten people also bought copies of the *Militant* and two signed up to keep in touch with future campaign activities.

Throughout the state 55 signers bought copies of socialist newspapers and 22 people asked to be kept in regular contact to find out more about campaign events.

"The response was much better than we had anticipated. We were hoping for about 2,000 signatures," said Schenk. "We are looking forward to successfully completing the drive, and meeting many new campaign supporters while we are at it."

'Socialists? OK, I'll sign that'

BY DAVID FRANKEL

DETROIT — "Socialists? OK, I'll sign that."

That was the response of one young Black worker when he was approached by supporters of the Socialist Workers Party campaign here in Michigan. After two weeks of petitioning, campaign supporters have collected more than 16,000 signatures toward the required 19,963 needed to put the SWP on the ballot in this major industrial state. Teams of socialist petitioners are out daily, not only in Detroit, but also cities like Kalamazoo, Flint, Ann Arbor, Port Huron, and others across the state.

In the course of collecting these thousands of signatures, Michigan socialists have sold hundreds of copies of the *Militant* and built a successful rally for SWP presidential candidate Mel Mason.

Not everybody has been as ready to sign as the worker quoted above. But petitioners have found a warm response when they explain that the Democrats and Republicans represent the rich, not working people, and that the problems facing the workers and farmers here at home cannot be solved if the government continues spending billions on weapons of mass destruction and on making war in Central America and the Middle East.

In addition to petitioning on street corners and at shopping centers, socialists have taken the campaign to their fellow workers. Janice Sams described the response when she and Helen Meyers went to a women's committee meeting of United Auto Workers Local 1200. Meyers is running for U.S. Senate on the SWP ticket. She and Sams, who are currently on layoff, work at the General Dynamics tank plant in Warren, Michigan, along with 1,800 other members of Local 1200.

"There were about 10 people in the union hall, including the president, vice-president, and secretary-treasurer," Sams

reported. "All of them signed, along with all but one of the women on the women's committee."

Socialist workers at Detroit Cover, a shop that makes spare tire covers and jeep covers, signed up 20 of the 60 workers in the factory over their lunch hour.

One Black man, approached on the street by petitioner John Keeler, said, "OK, I'll sign, but this doesn't mean much."

"Why don't you come to our campaign rally tonight and see how much it means," Keeler shot back.

"Well, maybe I will," was the reply. And he did come.

A major boost to the petitioning effort was the three-day Michigan tour of Mel Mason, which culminated in a March 30 rally in Detroit that was attended by more than 90 people.

Amjad Doumani, one of 16 auto workers from the big Jeep plant in nearby Toledo, Ohio, told the *Militant*: "I'm here because the views I have align with those of SWP candidate Mel Mason — on the Middle East, Central America, jobs, and many other issues."

Also from Toledo were two members of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 7-912, which is currently on strike against the Sun Oil Co.

Other supporters of the SWP campaign came from Marine City, Michigan. Don Hutton, a member of UAW Local 114 in Marine City, spoke in support of the campaign at the rally, as did Naomi Craine of the Young Socialist Alliance, Helen Meyers, and SWP congressional candidate Andrew Pulley.

During his tour of Michigan, Mason also spoke to other meetings in Flint, Ann Arbor, and Detroit, and was interviewed by the *Flint Journal* and the *Detroit Free Press*.

Olympics: behind U.S. 'security' buildup

BY MOHAMMED OLIVER

The largest single expense of the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee isn't sports. Organizers of the 1984 Summer Games, which will be held in Los Angeles, say the big-ticket item in their \$497.7 million budget is "security." They plan to spend \$100 million on these measures, which form part of the Reagan administration's increasing attacks on the democratic rights of working people. Congress laid out another \$50 million for federal cop costs.

The Olympic and government officials are organizing a special force of 17,000 cops to head off an alleged threat of "terrorism" at the games. Los Angeles cops — with the help of the CIA and FBI — have been spying on dozens of groups in the United States and abroad that they consider "terrorist" threats.

Among these groups are the Weather Underground and organizations of Puerto Rican nationalists. Also earmarked for cop harassment are the Palestine Liberation Organization, Irish Republican Army, and revolutionary organizations in Central America such as the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front of El Salvador.

The police dragnet, however, is much broader than this. It includes all supporters of the Palestinian struggle for self-determination, the Irish freedom struggle, and the advancing socialist revolution in Central America.

The U.S. ruling class plans to unleash its secret police to try to block the development of an organized working-class fight-back against the employers' driving down wages and the standard of living of working people. The bosses and their government also hope to undermine solidarity ac-

tivity in support of the struggles of workers and farmers abroad.

The 1984 Olympics offers the U.S. capitalist class a convenient excuse for beefing up its secret police apparatus.

The employers' spy network is international in scope. Using the pretext of the Olympics security, U.S. and Mexican officials, for example, agreed to intensify repressive measures on both sides of the border between Baja California and the United States. Mexican police have increased their harassment of activists in the Central America Solidarity movement, arresting several in recent weeks in Tijuana for painting slogans on walls.

But this police repression threatens more than increased arrests — as bad as that is. The employers' "antiterrorist" campaign is an integral part of their war against working people. The Reagan administration is

preparing legislation as part of this campaign to improve U.S. capabilities for preventive and retaliatory attacks against so-called terrorist groups.

In a thinly veiled threat of war, the White House has stressed in recent months that the U.S. government will hold certain nations responsible for what Washington considers terrorist activity. U.S. government officials cite Syria, Iran, and Libya as examples. The Reagan administration has also charged Cuba, Nicaragua, and the Soviet Union with sponsoring "terrorism" in Central America.

One of the preventive measures being discussed by U.S. officials is the establishment of U.S. death squads. These units could strike against "terrorist" groups or their "sponsor" nations with "active measures," a euphemism for assassination. While Reagan issued an executive order in 1981 barring U.S. government employees or their agents from being involved in assassination plots, this ban can be easily circumvented by calling assassinations something else.

Meanwhile, the Pentagon already has one special "antiterrorist" unit, which is known as "Delta Force." This is the unit that got stuck in the Iranian desert in an unsuccessful attempt to free U.S. hostages in 1980. Its activity since has been kept largely secret, although it is known to have participated in the U.S. invasion of Grenada.

Pentagon officials say they are prepared now to launch preventive or retaliatory strikes. "You have to have targeting done in advance, with a menu of targets available," one Pentagon official told the *Wall Street Journal*. "We should be prepared to respond quickly," he continued. "That's what the Israelis do. That's what we ought to do."

SWP, CP debate strategy in elections

BY BILL WATSON

INDIANAPOLIS — An exchange of views between the Communist Party and Socialist Workers Party on the 1984 elections took place here April 5. The CP and SWP spokespeople participated in a panel discussion on the topic "Third Parties U.S.A." The panel was sponsored by the Progressive Student Union at the Indiana University-Purdue University (IUPUI), Indianapolis campus. It was attended by 25 IUPUI students.

Mike Bayer, industrial editor of the *Daily World* newspaper, represented the CP's presidential ticket of Gus Hall and Angela Davis. He told the audience that "the defeat of Ronald Reagan is probably the most important thing that can happen to insure the continued existence of the world." Bayer argued that "the Reagan administration represents a coup d'état by a far-right section of the employing class."

Bayer devoted his entire presentation to an attack on the record of the Reagan administration. He made no mention of the fact that bipartisan support of White House legislation in Congress is what allowed the "Reagan agenda" to be implemented since 1981. He said nothing about how to advance the struggles for Black and women's rights.

Bill Warrick, 1983 candidate for mayor of Indianapolis, spoke for SWP candidates Mel Mason and Andrea González. "Saying that no progressive struggles can succeed unless we 'dump Reagan' in 1984 is baloney," Warrick said. "Working people advance their interests by struggling for their rights, not by voting for this or that millionaire for president."

Warrick described how organizing the industrial unions in the 1930s was a giant step forward for working people. "The next giant step," he said, "will be to organize

politically, independent of the two bosses' parties. To form a labor party, based on the organizations of the working class, the unions. To form a Black party, based on the oppressed minority within the exploited majority."

During the question and answer period, Bayer was asked why the CP was running its own candidates, considering that it says "the number one priority" is defeating Reagan. Bayer responded, "to make a unique contribution. The CP role in elections is similar to Jesse Jackson's role in the Democratic Party. The CP is the 'left anchor' of the political spectrum."

Warrick emphasized that the SWP doesn't consider itself part of the capitalist

political spectrum. "The perspective of the campaigns we run doesn't start from the internal squabbles in the bosses' parties. We start from the objective, rotten-ripe need for working people to speak for themselves in politics."

The CP and SWP spokespeople agreed on one important point: the need to oppose undemocratic election laws. Between the 1980 and 1984 elections, the Indiana legislature quadrupled the number of signatures required to qualify an independent party's candidates for the statewide ballot. The number required in 1984 is 35,000. The Citizens' Party and Libertarian Party panelists also agreed with the need to oppose undemocratic election laws.

Milw. antiwar protest hits FBI harassment

BY GEORGE O'NEILL

MILWAUKEE — "We in the solidarity movement will not be intimidated by the FBI. Our recent encounter with them has made clear the connection between working for a just foreign policy and the defense of our democratic rights at home."

Debi Elzinga, a member of the steering committee of the Milwaukee Central America Solidarity Coalition (CASC), was summing up the feelings of CASC members. She was speaking at a public forum entitled "Who's Watching You in 1984? — Targets of Government Surveillance in Milwaukee," sponsored by CASC and the Wisconsin Civil Liberties Union (WCLU) on March 25.

Also speaking at the forum were Frank Wilkinson, executive director emeritus of the National Committee Against Repressive Legislation; Erwin Knoll, editor of the *Progressive* magazine; U.S. Congressman

Jim Moody; and Curry First, cooperating attorney with the WCLU.

The forum took place in response to a campaign of harassment and intimidation that the FBI has been carrying out against CASC. As Elzinga described it in her speech, the FBI has visited at least nine members of CASC since last December.

The FBI agents involved have insinuated that CASC has been connected with illegal activities, including bombings that took place in New York and Washington, D.C., last winter. The FBI has provided no evidence to back this up.

After a discussion with CASC's lawyer, the FBI said they had finished their investigation, but it soon became apparent they were lying. They continued to visit at least one CASC member at home and work. They told her that CASC was associated with communists and showed her copies of cancelled CASC checks that they had come

into possession of.

In the discussion period, Frank Wilkinson mentioned that this sort of FBI harassment is taking place in several cities around the country.

Elzinga responded to the lies and insinuations of the FBI in her speech. To the charge that CASC is raising money to support and finance terrorism, she said that CASC is proud of the fact that over the last four years, it has sent almost 1 million dollars in medical aid to Nicaragua.

She explained that the FBI harassment has nothing to do with any bombings in New York or Washington. It is politically and ideologically motivated, as part of the U.S. government's drive toward war in Central America. CASC considers that actions like the bombings are counterproductive to the work of building a broad antiwar movement, she explained.

Elzinga warned that a public response to the FBI is crucial, since the lack of response will only embolden them.

The meeting discussed how the attacks on democratic rights could be stopped, but did not arrive at any consensus.

Curry First advocated taking the FBI to court. But several in the audience questioned the use of this tactic, especially at a time when the court system is one of the main weapons the employers are using to attack democratic rights.

Irwin Knoll noted that anticommunism is a tool in the attack on democratic rights, and that it is essential to defend the rights of socialists and communists in order to protect the rights of all.

Knoll also pointed out that it is not just the Reagan administration and Republicans who have a bad record on democratic rights, but that the Democrats are equally responsible.

This panel discussion was the last in a series of activities sponsored by CASC for Central America Week, March 18-25. These included a March 16 benefit that netted \$400; a March 18 panel discussion on the issue of "Runaway Shops and U.S. Policy in Central America," co-sponsored with Local 64 of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union; a March 22 press conference denouncing FBI harassment; and a March 23 picket line at the Federal Building that drew over 100 people.

Iowans petition to put socialists on ballot

BY BILL ARTH

WATERLOO, Iowa — The 1984 Socialist Workers Party presidential ticket of Mel Mason and Andrea González got a big response from workers, farmers, and students here and in Cedar Falls on the weekend of April 6-8. In two days of campaigning, supporters of the socialist campaign gathered more than 1,700 signatures to put Mason and González on Iowa's November ballot.

Iowa law requires 1,000 signatures to obtain ballot status.

A highlight of the two-day effort in the Cedar Falls-Waterloo area was the response to the campaign by workers at the Rath Pork plant. The company recently declared bankruptcy to get out of its union contract, in spite of the fact that the workers allegedly "own" the plant through an Employee Stock Option Plan.

Several workers protesting an unjust disciplinary action were evicted from "their" plant by the police on April 5. The next day an informational picket was up to protest the company's attacks on the union, the United Food and Commercial Workers.

Socialist campaigners got a number of signatures at a shift change as well as at a

meeting at the union hall held to discuss further protest activities.

A campaign team spent April 6 at the University of Northern Iowa (UNI), a school attended by many young workers and farmers. In addition to getting a large number of signatures, the campaign team also distributed a number of buttons, socialist books and pamphlets, and the *Militant*.

A teacher at UNI invited the campaigners to speak to his class. A lively discussion followed, focusing on the socialist program for farmers and the question of imperialist war.

On April 7 socialist campaign teams fanned out across Cedar Falls and Waterloo for a Saturday of petitioning. They received a positive response, gathering more than 1,200 signatures by the end of the day. Thirty copies of the *Militant* were also sold.

One campaigner said, "People signed the petition because they liked our ideas. After they signed it was easy to convince them to buy the campaign newspaper, the *Militant*."

Another campaigner reported a favorable response from a clerk at K-Mart. She

especially liked the idea of a labor party. She angrily said of the political strategy of the union officialdom, "Have you tried telling that to the UAW? All you ever hear from them is 'Democrat!'"

The United Auto Workers organizes thousands of workers at John Deere agricultural machinery plants in the Waterloo area, many of whom are on layoff.

The weekend closed with a campaign activity at a community center in Waterloo's Black community. The event was chaired by Jim Sprau, a teacher in Cedar Falls who announced the plans for Mason-González campaign activities in Des Moines the following weekend.

The featured speaker was Joe Swanson, a member of the United Transportation Union for 24 years and a spokesperson for the Mason and González campaign. Swanson, drawing on his discussions with Rath Pork workers, expressed his campaign's support for their struggle.

A statement by Swanson was aired on Channel 7 TV, the local NBC affiliate.

A South African student at UNI who attended the rally expressed his excitement at running into the socialist campaign. He said, "You don't get the chance to hear this very often."

Hart, JFK: what liberals stand for

BY GEOFF MIRELOWITZ

In his campaign for the Democratic Party presidential nomination, Gary Hart has made a big effort to put himself forward as an antiwar candidate. Hart made his proclaimed opposition to another Vietnam-style war in Central America one of the key themes of his effort to win the recent New York primary.

While Walter Mondale and Jesse Jackson have also presented themselves as peace candidates, Hart in particular has recently emphasized his so-called antiwar credentials.

But a closer examination of his views and those of his self-proclaimed mentor, John Kennedy, reveals that Hart has no new ideas to offer working people.

Procapitalist

Hart is one of three liberals in the presidential contest, along with Mondale and Jackson. All say their policies would be substantially different from those of Ronald Reagan, who is labeled a conservative.

These labels, however, mask more than they reveal. Despite tactical differences between liberals and conservatives, all Democratic and Republican candidates today share the same *class* outlook. That is, they are all capitalist politicians, representatives of the two capitalist parties, which jointly run the country in the interests of the handful of super-wealthy families that own the factories and banks.

As supporters of the private-profit system, all four candidates are also proimperialist. That is, they favor the international system of capitalist exploitation whereby the owners of the giant corporations exploit and oppress working people throughout the world.

And all four, as president, would face the same problem. Throughout the colonial world — in Latin America, Asia, and Africa — workers and farmers are challenging the U.S. government and corporate bosses it defends, as they fight for political independence, land reform, trade union rights, and a better way of life.

Advancing social revolution

This struggle is most advanced in Central America. In 1979 Nicaraguan workers and peasants took the most important step since the Cuban revolution 20 years earlier when they made a revolution and established a government of workers and farmers that has begun to end capitalist exploitation and imperialist domination. In El Salvador, the working people are fighting to accomplish the same thing.

Any of the four capitalist candidates, from Hart to Reagan, if elected president, must defend the system of economic relations they support — imperialism — against this advancing social revolution. For all of them Cuba and Nicaragua do pose a threat: not a military threat, as Washington lyingly claims, but a *political* threat, because these revolutions are an example for working people everywhere that there is another kind of social system that can begin to end oppression and exploitation.

That's why no matter who is elected in November, the U.S. war in Central America will continue and expand.

Gary Hart and JFK

"Not since John F. Kennedy," said Hart in a series of full-page advertisements he took out in the New York papers prior to the April 3 primary, "have we had a President who understood the positive leadership role that America and her people can play throughout the world. We need to restore that role," he argued.

Another Hart ad identified his policy on nuclear weapons with that of Kennedy. "John Kennedy's initiative proved," claimed Hart, "that we can break the nuclear stalemate."

Hart often compares himself to Kennedy as a way to argue that if he were elected, things really would be different on the foreign policy front.

Kennedy, too, was a capitalist liberal,

both in his foreign and domestic policy. He was also a war-monger and an ardent anti-communist.

Let's take Hart's advice and look at how Kennedy "understood the positive leadership role," that the United States rulers can supposedly play throughout the world. This requires setting aside some of the popular myths about Kennedy's presidency.

JFK and Vietnam

Many people believe that direct U.S. military intervention in Vietnam was launched by Pres. Lyndon Johnson. This is not true. Johnson continued (and escalated substantially) what Kennedy had done.

The truth of the matter is that in many respects Kennedy's rhetoric when he ran for president in 1960 sounded much like Reagan's today. Kennedy campaigned for a huge increase in U.S. arms spending. Like Reagan, he claimed the United States had to "catch up" with the Soviet Union.

Theodore Sorensen was a key Kennedy aide. Listen to what he says about what Kennedy *did* once elected:

"In three years Kennedy's buildup of the most powerful military force in human history — the largest and swiftest buildup in this country's peacetime history . . . provided him, as he put it, with a versatile arsenal 'ranging from the most massive deterrents to the most subtle influences.'"

Kennedy didn't hesitate to use this military arsenal. In the spring of 1961 he sent 400 U.S. Green Berets to fight in Vietnam. The same year the U.S. government began spraying chemical defoliants like Agent Orange on the Vietnamese countryside.

At the end of the year Kennedy began the process of sending large numbers of U.S. combat troops to Vietnam, under the guise of helping with flood relief. By the end of 1962, 9,865 U.S. troops were in Vietnam. By the time Kennedy was assassinated in November 1963, the total had



Pres. John F. Kennedy and FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover. Hart seeks to emulate Kennedy's anticommunist and prowar stance.



Colorado Senator Hart on U.S. aircraft carrier *America*: the Democratic presidential hopeful wants to bolster imperialist domination worldwide, proposing to strengthen U.S. military might.

grown to 16,000.

Gary Hart contends that he, like Kennedy, understands that communism is not the source of the problems facing the oppressed peoples of Central America today.

But that was *not* Kennedy's view.

While campaigning for the presidency in September 1960, Kennedy told a meeting at the Mormon Tabernacle, "The enemy is the communist system itself — implacable, insatiable, unceasing in its drive for world domination. For this is not a struggle for the supremacy of arms alone — it is also a struggle for supremacy between two conflicting ideologies: freedom under god versus ruthless, godless tyranny."

This is the approach Hart points to as a model for today.

Kennedy and Cuba

Kennedy also evidenced the bitter hatred for the Cuban revolution that was prevalent in U.S. ruling circles and remains so today. Hart does not use the same language (it would make him sound indistinguishable from Reagan) but he proclaims that he shares Kennedy's approach to "social unrest" in Central America — actually the spread of the socialist revolution in the Americas.

At his first presidential news conference Kennedy said in response to a question on Cuba, "What we are . . . concerned about is when these movements are seized by external forces and directed, not to improving the welfare of the people involved, but towards imposing an ideology which is *alien to this hemisphere*," (emphasis added).

Kennedy initiated the economic blockade of Cuba that continues to this day to deny needed goods to the Cuban people and helps prevent U.S. workers from learning of the real accomplishments of socialist policies there.

Kennedy ordered the April 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba. This was crushed by

the Cuban workers and farmers despite the fact that at Kennedy's direction the U.S. government financed, trained, and armed the Cuban counterrevolutionaries who invaded. U.S. boats carried the invaders. U.S. planes bombed Cuba. U.S. forces died in the invasion.

In response to this unrelenting hostility to Cuba and the fact that the U.S. government did not hesitate to use force to attempt to impose its will on the Cuban people, the Soviet Union agreed to station nuclear weapons in Cuba. It was an elementary action to defend the Cuban revolution in the face of imperialist violence against it.

Kennedy brought the world to the brink of nuclear war between the United States and the Soviet Union over this. He threatened to interdict Soviet ships traveling to Cuba.

These are among the many examples of "a leadership that does not hesitate to use military force when it is justified," that Gary Hart proposes to emulate.

The relevant point is not that there will be a precise identity between Gary Hart's actions, if elected president, and those of Kennedy.

The world is a different place now than it was 20-odd years ago. The Vietnamese people dealt U.S. imperialism a big defeat in 1975. The Cuban revolution has developed further and it has been joined by a successful revolution in Nicaragua. All of these events, and others, have had a big impact on workers in the United States, whose rights and living standards are under attack by the same employers whose profits the Pentagon is defending in Central America.

If elected, Hart will face more resistance to his moves to escalate the new Vietnam than Kennedy did — but escalate he must.

Kennedy used other means to attempt to undercut the example of the Cuban revolution.

Continued on Page 17

Iron Range socialists launch campaign

BY ARGIRIS HARAS

VIRGINIA, Minn. — Steelworkers on the Iron Range now have a working-class alternative in the race for the 8th Congressional District. David Salner, laid-off from the iron-ore taconite mines like 8,000 other steelworkers, announced his candidacy on the Socialist Workers Party ticket here March 23. Over 20 percent of Iron Range workers are unemployed.

Salner formerly worked at Minntac and Eveleth taconite mines. He currently works in a garment factory and is a member of Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 512.

At a news conference Salner explained that "the labor movement should demand that the steel industry be nationalized and managed by a board elected by the public and closely watched by the unions and consumer and environmental groups."

He pointed to the extensive need for steel in this country and around the world. "Instead of closing plants and throwing thousands of steelworkers on the streets, new schools, hospitals, bridges, and fac-

tories could be built.

"Instead of sending massive amounts of military aid to U.S.-backed dictatorships such as in El Salvador, my campaign demands that steel and other construction materials be sent to such countries as Vietnam and Nicaragua to help rebuild their war-shattered economies."

These and other proposals are in the interests of working people, youth, women, Blacks and Native Americans, and all the oppressed, Salner explained.

"A fight for these proposals by the labor movement and its allies," Salner continued, "will pose the need for working people to mobilize in their interests and act politically to change the government."

The Duluth *News* and *Tribune* covered the announcement, as well as one radio and three television stations.

Campaign supporters from several Iron Range towns, along with one North Dakota activist, participated in the campaign kickoff rally held in Virginia, site of the giant Minntac mine.

Kathy Wheeler, a National Committee

member of the Young Socialist Alliance who chaired the event, projected the opportunities facing this campaign. "We have very exciting prospects to take this campaign to steelworkers, Native Americans on the reservations, Blacks in Duluth, and prisoners."

Already one Native American student at a community college recently joined the YSA.

The media coverage and campaign rally capped off two weeks of extensive campaigning all over the Iron Range and in Duluth. Campaign supporters leafleted and distributed the *Militant* at eight mines, went door to door in steelworker towns, and publicized the campaign event at a congressional hearing on the steel crisis and an International Women's Day film showing.

In the months ahead, Salner will be campaigning with the other SWP candidates in Minnesota: Ellie Garcia for U.S. Senate, and Pete Brandli for the 5th Congressional District.

Judge stalls in SWP vs. FBI suit, no ruling 3 years since trial

BY HARRY RING

April 2 marked the third anniversary of the opening of the trial in the case of the Socialist Workers Party against the government for illegal political victimization. Testimony in the trial ended 13 weeks later, on June 25, 1981.

In the two years and nine months that have elapsed since then, the presiding federal judge in the case, Thomas P. Griesa, has refused to hand down a decision.

No explanation has been offered for this extreme delay.

The SWP suit was filed back in 1973, and there were eight years of pretrial litigation before it came to trial. Is the Supreme Court supposed to wait an additional eight years — or even longer — before there is a decision?

In addition to seeking \$70 million damages, the socialists presented a motion that the court issue a permanent injunction against governmental abuses of its democratic rights.

The outcome of this case will affect not only the SWP but all organizations and individuals taking a stand against war, racism, sexism, economic injustice, and defending the rights and interests of working people against the owners of industries and banks.

Because of these stakes, the government throughout the history of the case has thrown up obstacle after obstacle to derail it. Judge Griesa's delaying actions are consistent with this pattern of stonewalling.

The important questions raised by this case remain to be answered:

Do the constitutionally guaranteed rights of free speech, press, and assembly apply to everyone without exception? Are all ideas — including revolutionary ideas like those of the SWP — secured by the Bill of Rights?

Do FBI agents and other federal cops have the right to infiltrate a legal political party, disrupt it, create provocations, and victimize its members on the sole ground that it sees the organization's ideas as "subversive"?

Background to case

Back in 1971, unknown individuals entered an FBI office in Media, Pennsylvania, and removed secret files that were then passed on to the press. These files revealed the story of "Cointelpro" (Counterintelligence Program), the FBI's ongoing program for illegally victimizing a broad array of organizations — labor, Black, Latino, women's, peace, civil liberties, left-wing, and more.

The SWP was prominent among those targeted for Cointelpro treatment. It responded to these revelations by filing its landmark suit against the FBI, CIA, Department of Defense, Immigration and Naturalization Service and other federal agencies.

In pretrial litigation, the SWP obtained tens of thousands of pages of previously secret government documents detailing an incredible range of illegal activities directed against it and others by federal political cops.

It was disclosed that the FBI had arranged for socialists to be illegally fired from their jobs. FBI agents composed and mailed anonymous red-baiting letters in the name of "concerned parents" to school authorities demanding action against socialist teachers. Poisonous smear articles against socialist candidates were planted in the media.

The party's phones were tapped, its offices bugged and files burglarized. Mail was opened, and garbage scrutinized.

Publicity about the SWP dossiers came in the context of the Pentagon Papers and Watergate revelations. Working people began questioning the activities of the secret political police.

They were still angry over how the government had dragooned working people into the Vietnam War.

This anger and distrust of government was fueled by the secret Pentagon Papers. Released to the media by former government employees Daniel Ellsberg and Anthony Russo, the papers told the inside story of how the government step by step involved the country in Vietnam's civil war on the side of the tyrannical South Vietnamese dictatorship. And it was workers, particularly Blacks, who died in the war.

Watergate stench

The Watergate revelations added to the growing questioning in the working class and population at large.

There were the disclosures about "Tricky Dick" Nixon's secret tape recordings. The plotting against those on the White House "enemies list." The burglaries and wiretapping, the planning of provocations against peace demonstrators, and a good deal more.

Such revelations, coupled with those resulting from the SWP suit, encouraged similar legal action by others who had been victimized.

Chicago Black Panthers, victims of a murderous federal-local police attack, demanded damages. The National Lawyers Guild and other organizations did likewise. Suits were filed by prominent individuals like Jane Fonda. Local police departments were the target of additional court actions.

Responding to these mounting revelations, growing working-class distrust, and consequent political blows it was suffering, the government decided to clean up its public image — but not its act.

The Cointelpro program was falsely and hypocritically declared to be the unauthorized work of an overzealous FBI, not the capitalist government which is the real source of the threats to our basic liberties. The late J. Edgar Hoover, sire of the program, declared it had been ordered ended.

In 1976, then Attorney General Edward Levi issued a set of guidelines assertedly designed to ensure that the FBI would no longer trample on constitutional rights. The Cointelpro days, the government and media insisted, were over.

But it was sheer folly to believe that the government's political police, the FBI, could self-reform itself. That's what the SWP trial proved to be a total hoax.

From documents and from the mouths of witnesses — including FBI "street agents" and top Justice Department officials — it was firmly established that Cointelpro was not an operation conducted behind the backs of higher government authorities. Nor was it, as officials had argued, a temporary going astray.

Standard procedure

Instead, the SWP established, Cointelpro was nothing more than a particular version of a body of illegal practices which had been going on at least since the 1930s, and likely since the FBI's inception. These activities, it was proven, were conducted with the knowledge of each successive president and his aides. In fact they originated in the very highest levels of government.

Government officials were forced to confirm from the witness stand that the FBI and other agencies systematically infiltrated organizations to disrupt and, if possible, destroy them, with the sole justification that such organizations espoused "subversive" ideas.

One such witness was Raymond Wonnall, a former assistant director of the Intelligence Division of the FBI.

"The goals in counterintelligence," he testified, "are simply to know who they are, to know what they are doing, and to

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
Memorandum

TO : SAC, NEW YORK

DATE: 7/11/60

FROM : [REDACTED] PERSONAL ATTENTION--SAC

SUBJECT: SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY - NATIONAL
[REDACTED]
SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY - NEW YORK LOCAL
[REDACTED]

On 7/11/60, contact was made with [REDACTED], who has access to material located in national headquarters of the SWP, and with [REDACTED], who has access to material located in the office of the New York Local, SWP, both at 116 University Place, New York City.

Approximately 85 photographs were obtained, including such items as the following:

- 1) Correspondence identifying contributors to SWP election campaign fund.
- 2) Letter establishing trip to be made by SWP leader

FARRELL BORDS.

FBI memo reporting on burglary of a Socialist Workers Party headquarters by FBI agents. Revelations of crimes like this were obtained in SWP suit despite endless government stonewalling. Judge in case refuses to rule years after trial ended.

prevent their being successful by instituting disruptive practices or any other legal [!] means permissible."

It was on the basis of such evidence and more, that the SWP pressed for a court order prohibiting all such patently illegal secret police activity.

This demand is not limited to the FBI, but all federal agencies engaging in secret police activity.

For instance, during the trial it was established that the Immigration and Naturalization Service spies on and seeks to deport immigrants, again on the sole basis of their holding "undesirable" ideas.

During the period of the Watergate revelations and the SWP trial, the FBI and other agencies curbed some of their illegal activity against the SWP — that is, they conducted it more furtively.

But since the close of the trial, there has been a sharp escalation of government-initiated or inspired attacks on the rights of working people — attempts to undermine voting rights, to reverse affirmative action gains, bust unions through bankruptcy laws, and to push back abortion rights.

The turning point was formally marked with the March 1983 announcement by the Justice Department that the Levi guidelines were being scrapped and replaced with ones assertedly needed to conduct "Domestic Security/Terrorism Investigations."

The switch to a hard-cop approach was not simply an initiative by right-wing Reaganites. The scrapping of the Levi guidelines was a bipartisan move, enjoying the support of the key leaders of both major parties.

It was a product of the steadily developing two-sided crisis of U.S. capitalism.

One side is the inexorable drive toward war, toward direct troop involvement in El Salvador's civil war and against the Nicaraguan revolution.

The converse side is the continuing, escalating employer drive against the living standards of working people in this country. Ultimately the survival of the profit system is contingent on the success of the war drive abroad and the antilabor offensive at home.

In that kind of a fight, it becomes necessary that curbs on democratic rights be increased, and an atmosphere of intimidation created aimed at muzzling dissenting voices.

Make it legal

The Levi guidelines purported to curb illegal political activity. The new "antiterrorist" guidelines have the function of making the illegal activities "legal."

In fact, Attorney General William French Smith asserted that a function of the new guidelines was "to help to eliminate any perception that actual or imminent commission of a violent crime is a prerequisite to investigation."

Or, to put it more plainly, people and organizations can be targeted for their ideas.

One of the crassest recent examples of such illegal political victimization has been the activity of the Defense Investigative Service (DIS) of the Department of Defense.

The DIS is delegated by the Pentagon to issue — or revoke — the "security clearances" required by the thousands of workers employed by companies which have contracts with the Pentagon.

DIS agents are charged with ferreting out "security risks." The term is not a euphemism for spy. The DIS targets are political dissidents. People who may be militant unionists and/or opponents of U.S. foreign policy. They may, for instance, be workers opposed to Washington's intervention in Central America. Or think that socialism is better than capitalism.

In a number of plants, members and supporters of the SWP — real and alleged — have been victimized by the DIS. Two current cases illustrate this.

One is that of Thomas Tomasko. He's a machinist at the Lockheed Missiles and Space Company in northern California.

The other is Sally Goodman who works as an electrician at the Martin Marietta plant in Denver.

Tomasko has been subjected to DIS harassment and interrogation since shortly after the SWP trial ended in 1981.

The questions directed to Tomasko have revolved around his political ideas, his association with the SWP, and his distribution of the *Militant*. There has been no question of any illegal activity on his part.

Solely on the basis of his beliefs and associations, the DIS has advised the Defense Department it cannot vouch that Tomasko's continued employment is consistent with "national security."

His job, therefore, is in jeopardy.

The case of Sally Goodman is essentially the same — with lesbian-baiting as an added attack.

Goodman case

Goodman came under scrutiny in 1982 when she supported a coworker who was the Colorado SWP candidate for the U.S. Senate.

Again, the interrogation of Goodman has focused on her political views and relations with the SWP.

The DIS has also sought to grill Goodman about the most intimate details of her personal life, focusing on possible lesbian relationships.

In the course of its probe, the DIS inadvertently provided Goodman with a document authored either by the Department of Defense or Justice Department.

While conceding that membership in the SWP is not legal grounds for disqualifying a worker for security clearance, the document then simply asserts that the DIS does have the right, and obligation, to investigate individuals who are members of supporters of the party!

It was precisely to expose such outrageously illegal, undemocratic practices that the SWP took the government and its political police to court.

Griesa's refusal to rule on the important questions in this case is further evidence that the democratic rights of workers and farmers will only be fully protected when the minority rule of the capitalists and all their tools — cops, courts, media, two-party system — are replaced by the political rule of working people.

Socialists drop suit in Lockheed firings

Case won support against company spying but labor officials defaulted on fight

BY GEOFF MIRELOWITZ

In late 1980 and early 1981, 14 members of the International Association of Machinists at Lockheed Corp.'s giant Marietta, Georgia, plant were fired. Lockheed's pretext was the charge that the workers had falsified their employment applications. The real reason was that all 14 were active union builders and socialists — members and supporters of the Socialist Workers Party.

On Sept. 20, 1982, these workers filed a \$3.4 million lawsuit against Lockheed demanding damages and reinstatement.

On March 1, 1984, the socialist workers agreed to a dismissal of the suit. In fighting the case the workers and their supporters in the Political Rights Defense Fund (PRDF) made an important contribution to exposing employer and government violations of the democratic rights of workers and their unions. However, the dismissal of the case represents a setback for this fight.

The fired Lockheed workers and PRDF won encouraging support from workers and other supporters of civil liberties who learned of the case. But in the courtroom they faced constant obstacles. Lockheed enjoyed an enormous advantage in financial resources. Most important, while some support for the case was obtained inside the labor movement, neither the IAM, other unions, nor the AFL-CIO officialdom were willing to take the case on and provide the necessary resources to win it. This default made it impossible for the socialists alone to win the type of support necessary to beat back Lockheed and the U.S. government. A retreat became necessary.

The facts in the case

The socialist workers were first singled out by the company in October 1980. The IAM was involved in a contract fight with Lockheed. Five of the workers distributed a Socialist Workers election campaign committee leaflet outside a meeting of IAM Lodge 709.

The leaflet pointed out that the entire union movement was under attack from the corporations and the government. It suggested that the labor movement should act to form its own political party, a labor party, to help lead a fightback.

Lockheed had sent a spy to the union meeting. The next day this informer gave the company a full report — including the socialist campaign leaflet.

Company cops went into action. Robert Lang, a Lockheed "security" investigator — an ex-FBI file clerk known to many workers as "FBI Bob" — launched a "National Loyalty" investigation of the entire work force aimed at identifying the socialists and getting rid of them.

This campaign was not aimed only at depriving socialist workers of their right to make a living and voice their ideas. It was intended to weaken the IAM. The socialist workers were active union builders. By getting rid of them Lockheed hoped to intimidate other workers from speaking out. It also aimed at preventing radical ideas on how the unions can fight back against the employer assault from getting a hearing.

By fighting against Lockheed's violation of democratic rights the fired workers set an example for others. Their fight also exposed some of the details of the daily conspiracy by the employers and the government to undermine union rights — especially of the millions of workers employed by bosses who hold Pentagon contracts.

The lawsuit filed by the fired workers detailed some of the ways that company cops broke the law. It explained that the cops and their informers "entered onto residential property . . . where they tampered with . . . plaintiffs' mail boxes, and removed and examined letters."

On at least one occasion they used "an electronic listening device . . . to intercept conversations between plaintiffs."

The fired socialists had been open with their fellow workers about their political views and activities. Through their fight they brought to workers' attention the less than open antiunion spying carried out by the employers.

Defense Investigative Service

The case spotlighted the role of a little known government spy agency — the Defense Investigative Service. This outfit maintains an office at Lockheed's Marietta plant — as it does on the premises of many plants that make war matériel.

This cozy setup with the employers allows DIS to more easily investigate and spy on workers it considers suspicious. This can include any union militant.

Lockheed's own cops consulted the DIS office at the plant when they began their investigation of the socialist workers. FBI Bob also sought out the aid of his former employers at FBI offices in four different cities.

In the fight to win their jobs back the socialist workers and PRDF helped educate others as to why these violations of civil liberties and union rights are a growing danger to the labor movement. The workers and their supporters traveled throughout the country speaking to unionists, Black activists, women's rights supporters, and others.

In their presentations the fired workers noted that the employers have launched a deepening attack on the standard of living and union rights of U.S. workers. The U.S. government is going to war in Central



Fired Lockheed worker Jean Savage (second from left) explains suit at 1982 Washington, D.C., antiwar protest. Victims of Lockheed witch-hunt got broad support from trade unionists and civil libertarians. Suit set example in defending workers' rights against company attacks. But victims couldn't go it alone and win in the absence of the officialdom waking up to threat posed by Lockheed.

America and elsewhere.

The bosses and their government aim to prevent a fightback from developing in the unions against this. Part of their strategy is to crack down on the democratic rights of workers on the job. They recognize that a work force that has been intimidated is less likely to fight on any issue.

Of course the 1980s are not the 1950s when such attacks were commonplace and when the leaderships of many unions were openly complicit with the drive against democratic rights carried out under the guise of "fighting communism."

Nevertheless, the fired workers explained, if Lockheed can fire workers for their socialist political views and union activity, other employers will be emboldened to do the same. It would be foolish to think that these efforts would only affect socialists. If successful the employers will add other union militants to their hit lists.

As they publicized their own case, the fired workers learned to what extent this was already true. Many other workers came forward to explain how they too had been victimized by the employers for their ideas and political activity. Black workers who had spoken out against racist discrimination on the job were among the most prominent examples.

Despite the friendly response the fired workers received, their effort to win reinstatement and make Lockheed pay for

its violation of democratic rights was not successful. Why?

The courts are never the most favorable arena for the defense of workers' rights — as the recent spate of antilabor decisions, including the Supreme Court bankruptcy ruling, testifies. Lockheed had plenty of lawyers and plenty of money which they used to resist the socialists' legal efforts. The court allowed the company to get away with this.

An important example of this occurred during "discovery" — the period of time in a legal suit when each side solicits information from the other to bolster its arguments.

The fired workers requested information concerning the methods used by the company and its cops against workers and the union.

Lockheed refused to provide this information. It countered with demands for full personal histories of the individual workers — which had nothing to do with the case.

The court took no action to break this deadlock. Then, following two Supreme Court decisions, the judge in the Lockheed case ruled that major portions of the fired workers' suit were moot — no longer relevant.

The fired workers faced a prospect of a legal fight that could have been dragged out for years, at tremendous expense.

Most important, the official leadership of the labor movement did not act to help the fired workers win. This was not simply because the workers were socialists. The current union leadership is unprepared and unwilling to do what is necessary to win most of the battles with the employers today — from the 1981 air traffic controllers strike, to the 1983 Greyhound strike, to the now nine-month-long strike by Arizona copper workers.

The failure to take the attack on democratic rights at Lockheed seriously and respond to it as a challenge to the rights of all workers, is part of this broader problem. The fight to defend democratic rights is part of the effort to rearm the union movement and win it to a strategy that will make the old labor slogan, "an injury to one is an injury to all," a reality.

Effort will continue

The campaign of the fired Lockheed workers made a valuable contribution to this goal. Although it was not carried to a successful conclusion, the fight itself made a difference. It educated other workers and it served notice on Lockheed, other employers, and the government that they must, at a minimum, contend with a fight when they attack democratic rights.

Other battles around similar issues are taking place elsewhere. Some will be more successful than the Lockheed case in actually winning justice for the workers involved. All contribute to the necessary task of preparing the labor movement for the bigger battles that are coming.

Striking Las Vegas workers call hotel boycott

Striking hotel and casino workers in Las Vegas have issued an appeal for an international labor boycott of three major union-busters there — Hilton, Holiday Inns, and Ramada Inns.

A representative of the AFL-CIO affiliated Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees International Union, parent organization of the striking culinary workers locals, declared April 7, "This strike has become of critical importance for all of organized labor."

The union announced plans to distribute leaflets at Hilton hotels and the other chains urging unionists and the public generally not to patronize them because of their antiunion stand and their use of brutality against pickets.

More than 17,000 workers have been on strike since April 2 at the Flamingo Hilton, the Las Vegas Hilton, Caesars Palace, and other casino-hotel operations. The strikers' ranks include maids, waiters and waitresses, change-makers, bellhops, bartenders, musicians, and stagehands.

The strikers have been the target of physical attack by hotel "security guard" thugs and antiunion court injunctions.

Violence by company goons has been so open that a federal judge was moved to

comment that he reacted "in horror" to what he saw of it on TV. "I thought the Hilton Hotel security guards acted like labor goons in the 1920s," he said. "It was gruesome to see."

Led by the powerful Hilton Hotel Corp., the Nevada Resort Association has confronted the workers with a series of obviously unacceptable, union-busting demands. They want to rewrite union contracts so that instead of being guaranteed 40 hours a week, workers would be assured of only as little as 20 hours.

They also want the unionists to pay an even greater share of health insurance costs and are offering only a five percent wage increase.

Wages run as low as under \$300 a week. In the last fiscal year, operators' revenue was \$2.7 billion from gambling alone. The Hilton chain reportedly derives more than 60 percent of its total revenue from its two Las Vegas hotel-casinos.

A dozen casinos and hotels, including several major ones like the Riviera, have settled with the union.

The union is urging its members and others to boycott the union-busting hotels and casinos. Labor solidarity, including an effective boycott, could force the employers to come to terms.



A Caesars Palace security guard tries to kill hotel and restaurant employees union picket with his car. Federal judge seeing employer violence on TV remarked "security guards acted like labor goons in the 1920s. It was gruesome to see."

Conrail sale will be bad news for workers

BY JIM GOTESKY

NEW YORK — Conrail is up for sale after eight years of federal government ownership and control through the United States Railway Association (USRA). The sale, required by the Northeast Rail Services Act (NERSA) of 1981, threatens big new cuts in rail service and rail workers' wages, work rules, and benefits.

Conrail was formed by an act of Congress in 1976 following the bankruptcy of Penn Central railroad. The Penn Central bankruptcy was the largest in U.S. history. The Republican administration stepped in to bail out the railroad owners. Five northeastern railroads were merged into Conrail. The federal government rebuilt the main lines in the northeast rail corridor, drastically cut rail service to small businesses and farmers, and launched a relentless attack on rail unions.

Rebuilding the northeast corridor cost nearly \$7 billion in tax money. Conrail has eliminated more than 2,000 track miles since 1981. Two-thirds of Conrail's work force is now unemployed.

Pressure applied by the federal government and congress in April 1981 forced Conrail workers to sign union contracts breaking them away from the national freight contract, deferring 12 percent of their wages until June 1, 1984, and substantially reducing pension benefits.

Immediately following the 1981 wage giveback agreement, Congress passed NERSA. NERSA mandated the transfer of Conrail commuter lines to local transit managements by Jan. 1, 1983, and the public sale of Conrail freight lines after June 1, 1983.

Under NERSA if Conrail freight lines met certain profit requirements by June 1, 1983, Conrail would have to be sold as one unit. If Conrail did not meet the NERSA profit standards by June 1, it could be sold in pieces, resulting in the most profitable lines being "cherry picked" while the less profitable lines would be abandoned. As well, if no buyers could be found by June 1, 1984, Conrail could be sold in pieces.

Conrail turns a profit

According to Stephen Berger, USRA chairman, Conrail has met the NERSA profitability requirements. The 12 percent wage deferral and the drastic cuts in jobs and service has turned Conrail into a money maker. In fact, Conrail has set record profits in 1982 and 1983. Net income in 1982 was \$174.2 million and in 1983 profits were \$313 million. Not bad when compared to industry giants like the CSX whose '83 profits were \$271.3 million.

However, Berger is still unhappy. He thinks the NERSA profit guidelines are too narrow. Why? Because, according to Berger, "I believe we are about to enter another very exciting round of national rail reconfiguration [i.e., new mergers]."

Conrail would be a more attractive purchase prospect as a final link in one of the large merged rail systems. This would require more time than is provided by NERSA for Conrail's sale.

What would happen if Conrail's sale could be delayed past the NERSA deadlines? *Business Week* spells out the thinking of insiders at the USRA: "They would like to see the status quo maintained for another two years to allow L. Stanley Crane, Conrail chairman, time to abandon 1,000 more miles of track and get rid of an additional 10,000 employees."

Berger's estimate of the interest in Conrail on the part of other railroads is roughly accurate. As recently as February only the Santa Fe Railroad expressed interest in buying Conrail. The Santa Fe backed out in order to pursue a merger with the Southern Pacific Railroad, which, if successful, will result in the first transcontinental railroad.

Since then, John Riley, head of the Federal Railway Administration, has been

stumping the country with representatives of the Wall Street brokerage firm Goldman, Sachs & Co. to find a buyer. As a result, the CSX and the Norfolk/Southern are studying the matter. Allegheny Corp. has made a tentative offer. The new interest in Conrail promises to drag the purchase process out past the June 1, 1984, deadline.

One fly in the ointment from the government's point of view is a purchase offer made by the Rail Labor Executive Association (RLEA), which is a coordinating organization for 17 rail unions.

Faced with an angry union membership, the prospects of further layoffs, and new cuts in service through cherry picking, the RLEA has offered to buy Conrail through an Employee Stock Option Plan, ESOP. The RLEA set up a five member task force to draw up the purchase plan.

The RLEA plans to acquire Conrail with money from 3 sources: 1) loans from various investment banks, 2) the value of the 12 percent wages deferred to Conrail in 1981, and 3) existing workers' shares in Conrail stock. The lions share of the purchase price would come from the banks. The RLEA projected acquiring a majority of Conrail stock.

The Reagan administration has resisted the RLEA's offer. Department of Transportation officials consider the unions' offer an essentially cashless offer since the 12 percent deferred wages are part of the purchase offer.

Conrail management is backing the government position. They say the 12 percent wage deferral was, in fact, a wage giveback by the unions.

The RLEA has filed suit against Conrail under the Freedom of Information Act to gain access to Conrail's records of the 1981 deferral to prove the 12 percent was not a giveback. But the federal courts have ruled against the RLEA, claiming that Conrail does not fall under the jurisdiction of the Freedom of Information Act. Without the 12 percent as part of the purchase plan, the RLEA's ESOP proposal has little chance of being approved by Congress.

The key factor behind government opposition to the RLEA's proposal is its drive for further concessions from rail labor.

In January 1982 when Conrail commuter lines were turned over to city transit agen-

cies in compliance with NERSA, despite long strikes in New York, northern New Jersey, and Philadelphia, the Reagan administration imposed major takebacks on the striking unions. The government and the rail bosses want to force similar concessions on Conrail freight workers. If the Conrail freight workers can be dealt new blows, the carriers' position will be strengthened in negotiations with other freight rail workers.

ESOP'S fable

Unfortunately, the RLEA's ESOP plan offers rail workers no protection from the government's attacks and the rail bosses' drive for more profits. It is primarily a device to cover the RLEA's refusal to organize and lead a fight under the rubric that RLEA ownership of Conrail will give rail workers a greater say over what happens on the railroad, thus avoiding new cuts in service and wages.

However, under the RLEA's ESOP rail workers will have no say at all over Conrail. The real owners of Conrail will be the banks that front the money to buy Conrail. They will call the tune — or call in their loans. The bankers will be interested in more profits for their investment, not in bettering the wages and working conditions of Conrail workers.

The Reagan administration is fully aware of the window dressing nature of the RLEA's proposal, so refusing to sell Conrail to the RLEA has the RLEA over a barrel. If Conrail is sold to another railroad or sold in pieces, cuts in wages and rail service are guaranteed. Yet, in order for the RLEA to purchase Conrail, it must guarantee those very same cuts.

To pressure the Reagan administration and Conrail management to accept its offer, the RLEA has threatened to demand full repayment of the 12 percent wage deferral this June when the current union contract expires.

But the demand for repayment of the wage deferral is just a threat. The RLEA has at the same time offered to modify the ESOP proposal to guarantee that the 12 percent deferral would continue indefinitely and would be coupled with future concessions still to be negotiated.

The bottom line for Conrail workers is that the strategy of the top union officials in



Militant/Salm Kolis
Part of April 29, 1981, Washington, D.C., demonstration against attacks on rail unions.

the RLEA will lead to new setbacks, more layoffs, and wage givebacks.

Jim Gotesky is a former Conrail electrician now employed by Metro North Commuter Railroad. He is a member of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Union Local 817.

Honduran workers hit repression, U.S. bases

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Some 35,000 people took to the streets of the Honduran capital, Tegucigalpa, demanding the withdrawal of U.S. troops. The march, held April 5, was reported by the Spanish wire service Acan-EFE to be the biggest demonstration in the last 10 years in Honduras.

Lasting more than two hours, the march was made up primarily of workers, students, and teachers. It was called by the United Workers Federation of Honduras (FUTH) and the general federation of workers, trade schools, associations, and student fronts.

In addition to demanding the removal of U.S. soldiers "who are occupying our country," demonstrators demanded freedom for hundreds of political prisoners, "greater freedom, an end to the repression, moderation in labor conflicts, more justice, reappearance of 'disappeared' leaders, less bureaucracy, more democracy, and a reduction of taxes."

Protesters also demanded the dismantling of the Regional Center of Military Training in Puerto Castilla, where 120 U.S. military advisers are training 3,000 Salvadoran soldiers in counterinsurgency tactics.

BY ANÍBAL YÁÑEZ

MANAGUA — Thousands of workers, peasants, teachers, and students marched through the streets of Tegucigalpa, capital of Honduras, and of San Pedro Sula, that country's main industrial city, on March 23. They were demanding freedom for jailed trade union leaders and protesting army repression against the Workers Union of the National Electricity Co. (STENEE).

The electrical workers were in the middle of contract negotiations with the gov-

ernment-owned power company the weekend before when STENEE Pres. Rolando Vindel was kidnapped in the streets of Tegucigalpa. The United Workers Federation of Honduras (FUTH), to which STENEE is affiliated, declared that Vindel's kidnapping "could not have been carried out without the participation of the state's security forces."

STENEE responded by calling a five-hour strike on March 21 to protest the kidnapping of their union president. The national strike by electrical workers was limited to an administrative work stoppage and did not halt electrical services. Union leaders made it clear that the action was not a general strike aimed at overthrowing the government, but simply demanded Vindel's release.

In the eyes of the Honduran government, however, the strike was "sedition." The army was mobilized and about 500 electrical workers were captured in raids on work-places. Most, with the exception of union leaders charged officially with sedition, were later released. The power company's seven regional centers remain in the hands of the military.

According to news reports reaching Nicaragua, the demonstration of 15,000 marchers in Tegucigalpa on March 23 was called by the FUTH and a broad array of other labor organizations in solidarity with STENEE. They not only demanded a halt to repression against the trade union movement, but also urged the Honduran government to address the problems of unemployment; the lack of health care, housing, and education; and the poverty that are producing ever more violent clashes between the Honduran capitalists and their armed forces on the one hand, and the workers and poor peasants, on the other.

The march through downtown Teguci-

galpa took place despite a half-hour rain and hail storm, and defied a show of force and constant harassment by Honduran military forces armed with M-16 rifles. At least once in the course of the demonstration, soldiers let loose bursts of machine gun fire, making men, women, and children participants scatter in all directions. Fortunately, no serious injuries were reported.

In San Pedro Sula, according to the Tegucigalpa daily *Tiempo*, some 500 workers massed in front of the city hall holding a banner that read: "We demand freedom for Rolando Vindel! The army won't let us work!"

FUTH Pres. Napoleón Acevedo spoke at the Tegucigalpa demonstration, saying that if the STENEE unionists are not freed, more energetic action would be undertaken. "The trade union movement will show the government its strength," he said.

The Sindicato de Trabajadores de la Tela Railroad Company (SITRATERCO), representing 9,000 banana workers in Honduras and about to enter into contract negotiations itself, made a special point of stating its condemnation of Vindel's kidnapping and its solidarity with STENEE.

The situation facing the workers movement in Honduras in the aftermath of these events was summed up by an editorial in *Tiempo*: "The persecution of the trade union movement has now taken on the dimensions of a war without quarter."

Meanwhile, travelers arriving in Managua from Honduras report that the whole country is being subjected to a vast military operation with the arrival of hundreds of U.S. Marines. The Honduran army is seen everywhere on the streets of Tegucigalpa, and main highways leading into the capital are clogged with long lines of cars being forced to stop at military checkpoints.

Baricada Internacional, the weekly official voice of the Sandinista National Liberation Front, is now available in Spanish and English. The price is 6 months for \$12.

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Managua, Nicaragua.

Nicaragua challenges U.S. in World Court

BY HARRY RING

The decision of the Nicaraguan government to bring the United States before the World Court will help mobilize world opinion against Washington's nakedly illegal — and escalating — aggression against Nicaragua.

The Nicaraguan announcement of the legal action came on the heels of open disclosure by the Reagan administration that the CIA was directly involved in the illegal mining of Nicaraguan harbors, coupled with the added disclosure that the Pentagon is mapping plans for direct involvement of U.S. combat troops in El Salvador's civil war and in an invasion of Nicaragua.

These facts were brazenly laid out April 8 in two front-page articles in the *New York Times*.

New Vietnam

The purpose of these hard-nosed revelations is to condition the people of this country for a new Vietnam. The idea is to convince people that the war machine is moving into high gear despite public opposition. It was this opposition that led the Senate on April 10 to pass a nonbinding resolution against U.S. financing of the mining of Nicaragua's harbors (see editorial on page 18).

The signal for this propaganda escalation came in an April 6 speech, where Reagan brazenly declared:

"Military force, either direct or indirect, must remain an available part of America's foreign policy."

At the same time that the admissions are being leaked to the press, the administration finds itself in the box of trying to squirm out of the World Court proceedings. Stripped of all the crooked legalese, the reason why Washington doesn't want the case to come before the court is plain enough. It knows full well that any court that isn't 100 percent stacked in its favor would have no choice except to find it guilty of flagrant violation of international law.

Powerful indictment

While the World Court, the principal judicial body of the UN, has no enforcement powers, Washington recognizes that the very presentation of Nicaragua's case will prove a powerful indictment.

In an April 9 statement, Nicaragua said its suit will establish that "the U.S. government is training, supplying, and directing military and paramilitary actions against the peoples and government of Nicaragua, resulting in extensive loss of lives and property."

The purpose of this aggression, the suit will assert, is to "overthrow or destabilize the government of Nicaragua."

It calls upon the World Court to order Washington to cease and desist this violation of international law and to pay reparations for the loss of lives and property and for economic disruption.

The charges by Nicaragua are fully confirmed by Washington's planted leaks in the *New York Times*.

Administration officials and members of Congress told the paper the mining of Nicaraguan waters is being done from a CIA vessel off the Nicaraguan coast.

From this larger ship, a team of Latin American commandos, trained by the CIA, is dispatched in small, high-speed boats to plant the mines in the harbors.

Three Nicaraguan harbors have been mined since March 1, and vessels from half a dozen countries have been damaged.

Discussing the plans for combat troops to Latin America, the officials explained that Granadero I, the military exercise now under way in Honduras, and Ocean Venture '84, the slated Caribbean naval exercise, are part of the war preparations.

The massive Honduran training maneuvers, they said, will develop a military cadre familiar with the terrain, climate, and

conditions under which they may fight.

They said plans were being mapped so that combat forces could respond quickly to a presidential order.

True war aim

All the patently lying propaganda justifying Washington's aggression in Central America is designed to cover up their true war aim — to make the region safe for U.S. capitalist investors. The people of Nicaragua are working heroically to rebuild their society on a truly democratic basis, one which puts human needs before profits. The Salvadoran rebels are fighting against U.S. domination to achieve the same goal.

This is what Washington and Wall Street are determined to stamp out, by any means necessary.

Staving off social revolution in Central America is a totally bipartisan objective.

Reagan could not possibly have achieved the Central American escalation already registered without the active participation of both parties in Congress.

And he knows in advance he'll have congressional support for further escalation. The officials who talked to the *New York Times* noted that sending GI's to fight in Central America would require congressional approval under the War Powers Act.

"But," the paper reports, "they contended that few members of Congress would be willing to abandon Central America to Communist rule."

For sure.

With the administration decision to go public about the Nicaraguan mining operation, congressional Democrats assert this means the House will not approve the \$21 million in new aid to Nicaragua counterrevolutionary exiles already okayed by the Senate — with a majority of Democrats voting in favor.

But twice in the past year, the House voted to end financing of the counterrevolutionaries, only to then approve \$24 mil-



Barricada/Brack

February 1984 demonstration in Bluefields, Nicaragua, against counterrevolutionary attacks and harbor mines. Sign reads "We condemn cowardly attack" and protests destruction of fishing vessel.

lion in aid as part of an omnibus spending bill!

Congresspeople claim they didn't know it was the CIA that was mining Nicaraguan harbors, and complain they should have been consulted. But the House Intelligence Committee was informed at least two weeks ago and its Senate counterpart apparently even earlier.

'Limited' war

Sen. Patrick Leahy, a Vermont Democrat, postures as one of the harsher critics of administration policy in Central America.

Leahy is a member of the intelligence committee that was informed about the CIA role in the mining.

After a public disclosure, he pontificated: "When you substitute covert activity for a foreign policy, you run into exactly this problem."

"Covert activities should be used only on a limited scale for very specific purposes."

How limited? Two Nicaraguan harbors instead of three?

Leahy points out that over the past three

years, \$1 billion has been allocated for the Salvadoran civil war — voted for by both parties.

The congressional Democrats may not appreciate the contempt Reagan expresses for them, but they share his counterrevolutionary aims in Central America and, rhetoric to the contrary, they are totally complicit in this dirty game.

The two capitalist parties are compelled to escalate the aggression because of the setbacks they have suffered.

With all the advisers, the backup support, the ultra-modern weapons — the whole billion dollars worth — the despotic Salvadoran government has not been able to crush the rebel forces, which have the backing of the Salvadoran workers and peasants.

And with all the millions given to the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries they haven't succeeded in establishing a base on Nicaraguan territory.

The failure of the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries to win any meaningful support from the Nicaraguan people is precisely why Washington finds it necessary to mine Nicaraguan ports.

Sandinistas: biggest U.S. offensive

Continued from front page

off and sailed on to Costa Rica. Other ships that were scheduled to bring us goods from other countries have refused to load the cargo, out of fear of the mines." But "most ships," he repeated, "are continuing to enter."

Nicaragua is not alone in protesting this escalation of the United States' undeclared war. Ortega cited the recent vote in the United Nations Security Council, where 13 of the 15 members voted to condemn the mining of Nicaragua's harbors.

He also cited the possibility that some foreign governments might provide technical means, such as minesweepers, to help Nicaragua to protect its waters. "We have openly requested such aid," Ortega said, "and we are prepared to accept it," if it is offered.

The Social Democratic government of France has indicated that, in certain circumstances, it would be willing to provide such aid. France voted against the United States in the UN Security Council. France also offered, in a letter to Colombian Pres. Belisario Betancur, to "contribute to operations aimed at removing the mines." (Colombia is a leading member of the four-government Contadora Group that is seeking a negotiated solution to the conflict in Central America.)

The letter, from French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson, was clearly intended as confidential. It was released publicly in Bogota April 4 after excerpts had been widely quoted in the Latin American press. It is the most blunt criticism so far by one of Washington's imperialist allies.

In the letter, Cheysson states the French government's "enormous concern" with the "obstacles to free navigation represented by the mining of three Nicaraguan ports."

"At issue, without doubt, is a blockade, undertaken in peacetime, against a small country. . . . It is correct to observe with

horror that the mining of Nicaragua's ports means that women, children, and the disinherited of Nicaragua are going to be deprived of food and medicine provided by international humanitarian aid (some shipments of which, including some from Europe, have been canceled or sent elsewhere). . . .

"I am committing a great indiscretion," Cheysson said. The French official then asked the Colombian president the following question:

"Would you be prepared, either alone, or along with the heads of friendly governments, to denounce publicly and solemnly . . . the blockade of a country that is not in a state of extreme war?"

Such a denunciation, Cheysson suggested could then be used as the basis "for taking rapid measures . . . aimed at reestablishing and maintaining free access to all of Nicaragua's ports."

For its part, "France cannot remain deaf to the requests being made by the government in Managua," Cheysson concluded. "It does not want to intervene alone. . . . It is, however, prepared to act jointly with one or another friendly European power to contribute to operations aimed at removing the mines."

The French diplomatic note caused quite a stir in Latin America and, to judge from the reaction, in Washington as well. U.S. State Department spokesman John Hughes, initially expressed "regret" over France's offer of aid to Nicaragua. "We would not favor any nation's contributing to Nicaragua's ability to export revolution with impunity," Hughes said.

When reporters pointed out that such a statement amounted to tacit acknowledgement that the United States had planted the mines in the first place, no further comments were issued.

Meanwhile, on the battle front, the U.S. war continues claiming more civilian victims. Nicaragua's Ministry of Interior reports that 700 Miskito Indians were kid-

napped March 29 from Sandy Bay, an isolated port on the northern Atlantic Coast.

Broadcast over radio stations in Honduras, where the kidnap victims were taken, and over the U.S. propaganda outlet, Voice of America, claimed the Miskitos voluntarily "fled" Nicaragua.

However, eyewitnesses who escaped told how the kidnapping had been carried out by some 300 to 400 heavily armed counterrevolutionaries. Four of the 27 militia members defending the town were killed, and 19 were wounded in a battle that lasted nearly 12 hours before the town was taken.

Prior to the kidnapping, the invading force went to the houses of two known Miskito supporters of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN). Both were machine-gunned to death in front of their families.

In Costa Rica, the Monge government is trying to explain away a damning piece of evidence that its "neutrality" in the U.S. war is a charade.

In the northern part of Costa Rica, just 12 miles from the Nicaraguan border, peasants discovered the remains of a DC-3 cargo plane, loaded with arms and ammunition. The plane, identical with one shot down in northern Nicaragua in October, apparently crashed in late March while on a mission to resupply counterrevolutionaries who had infiltrated across the border.

Four of the seven bodies discovered in the wreckage were reported to be U.S. citizens, presumably employees of the CIA. All identification markings on the plane had been covered with a coat of dark paint.

Costa Rican officials claimed they learned about the crash from news accounts. But the San Jose, Costa Rica, daily *Prensa Libre* reports that U.S. and Costa Rican officials had been combing the area looking for the plane for days. Peasants in the crash area told *Prensa Libre* there were an average of four such supply flights a week in that sector.

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Convention marks CLUW's 10th year

Union women discuss '84 elections, affirmative action, Central America

BY MARGARET JAYKO

CHICAGO — The 10th anniversary convention of the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) brought together more than 1,200 women unionists from across the country. They arrived in this city — the birthplace of CLUW — on the weekend of March 22–25 to assess CLUW's decade of existence and to discuss the organization's tasks.

Working women at the conference were conscious that they were meeting at a time when the labor movement and women's rights struggle are under sharp attack from the employers and the government.

The framework for the discussions on how to respond to the ruling-class attacks was limited almost exclusively to getting out the vote for one of the Democratic Party presidential candidates. Most convention participants, however, were not convinced that electing Walter Mondale, Gary Hart, or Jesse Jackson — despite the fact that almost everyone there intended to vote for one of them — would solve the burning problems of sex and race discrimination, unemployment, union-busting, and the new Vietnam that's underway in Central America.

CLUW members who support the Socialist Workers Party presidential ticket of Mel Mason and Andrea González proposed an alternative strategy of mobilizing

the ranks of labor to fight for the rights of women, Blacks, and all working people — in the United States and around the world — and rejecting both the Democratic and Republican parties and forming a union-based labor party.

These ideas struck a responsive chord in many conference participants (see story elsewhere on page).

AFSCME delegation largest

Convention delegates are elected both by unions that have members in CLUW and by CLUW chapters. Chapters are based on geographical areas and must include members of at least five different unions in order to be chartered.

Of the 1,209 convention participants: 565 were union delegates; 133 were CLUW chapter delegates; 421 were CLUW members who were not delegates; and 90 were non-CLUW observers and special guests.

Forty-nine different unions and 41 CLUW chapters were represented. Roughly half the participants were Black. Many rank-and-file workers, as well as union officials and staff people, attended.

The biggest delegation came from the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), whose ranks are heavily Black and female.

Also present were contingents from United Auto Workers (UAW); International Union of Electrical Workers (IUE); International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU); Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU); United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW); American Federation of Teachers (AFT); American Postal Workers Union (APWU); Service Employees International Union (SEIU); and International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT).

'Skeptics said it couldn't be done'

Participants pointed to the fact that CLUW has survived as an important accomplishment in and of itself.

CLUW executive vice-president and one of its founding leaders, Addie Wyatt of the UFCW, voiced a common sentiment when she told the convention's 10th anniversary rally: "When we came together in 1974, with the challenge to found the Coalition of Labor Union Women, the skeptics said it couldn't be done, but we did it."

"There were those who said it wouldn't last, but it has."

A convention press release reviewed the origins of CLUW in the rise of the women's liberation movement and the urgent need felt by union women to involve labor in the fight for equality:

"It was on March 22, 1974 when 3,000 union women startled the media and labor union officials by responding to a call by a committee of women union officers and top staff to form an organization that would speak to the issues union women cared about. For some time union women had been looking for a special kind of feminist organization."

Founding goals reaffirmed

The release also reported: "At the first convention most delegates paid their own expenses and travel. Although many of the delegates traveling to this year's anniversary convention will be authorized by their unions, they're not ready to chalk up any victories."

CLUW's original four goals were reaffirmed at the convention. They are:

- Organizing unorganized women.
- Affirmative action in the workplace.
- Political action and legislation.
- Participation of women within their unions.

CLUW: feminist, multinational

The convention was a gathering of union feminists who saw the goals of labor and of women as intertwined, with union women playing an important role in the fight for both.

Dorothy Haener from the UAW reminded the convention that this view was by no means a universal one in the labor movement when CLUW was founded. "All of us know," she said, "that we were told for many years that you will never get the women's movement to support you. That they only represent a little elite group of professional women. . . ."

Underscoring the unity of purpose between labor and women, National Organization for Women Pres. Judy Goldsmith told the convention to loud applause, "We are more than just allies, we are sister organizations with a common agenda. . . ."

From its inception, a strength of CLUW has been its truly multinational character with Black women playing a leading role on all levels.

Accomplishments

CLUW Pres. Joyce Miller, an ACTWU vice-president and the first woman member of the AFL-CIO Executive Council, reviewed CLUW's accomplishments in the last 10 years.

These include its role in getting the labor movement involved in the fight for the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) and pay equity for women and getting more women elected to union offices.

Miller reported that today CLUW has more than 18,000 members in 59 unions and 73 chapters spanning 32 states.

More than seven million women belong to unions today, which means only 14 percent of the 48 million women workers in this country are union members. Women are 33 percent of the unions' membership and are the largest block of new union members.

Convention speakers touched on the myriad of problems facing women workers: cuts in social services and education; low pay; sexual harassment; and lack of child-care facilities; attacks on affirmative action and pay equity; and the lack of legal equality.

"Poor women, above all those who are Blacks or other minorities," declared Miller, "have long been singled out for special oppression by the denial of Medicaid payments for abortion."

'Modest goals'

"Our goals are modest," Miller said, "jobs, quality child care, quality education for our children, the right to a job without our race or sex being taken into consideration."

To win these things, said Miller, CLUW should focus on registering women to vote against Reagan in 1984. Though CLUW is formally nonpartisan, the top leadership's

Socialist campaign sparks interest

BY ELLEN HAYWOOD

CHICAGO — Socialist Workers Party candidates for U.S. president and vice-president — Mel Mason and Andrea González — participated in the 10th anniversary convention of the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) which took place here on March 22–25.

In explaining his support for CLUW, Mason said, "Women's rights are under attack by the government and the employers. CLUW represents the women who suffer most from sexist discrimination — Black, Latina, and working women. These sisters can help lead a fighting women's liberation movement which is what we need to fight for women's equality today."

González, a CLUW member and laid-off steelworker, added that CLUW "has helped educate the entire union movement on women's rights. With more of us in the work force and active in our unions, we can bring our unions into the fight for affirmative action, abortion rights, pay equity, the Equal Rights Amendment, and childcare."

In a workshop on Reagan and affirmative action, Mason took the floor during the discussion to express his view that women, Blacks, and unionists need to mobilize a united campaign today to defend and extend affirmative action.

A CLUW sister who is Black rose to state her agreement with the need for an increased union fightback. "Where were the unions when the Civil Rights Commission was being disbanded?" It is not enough to issue statements, she said. "We should be out on every street corner."

Mason added that rather than support the Democratic nominee in the 1984 elections, as proposed by workshop panelists, CLUW should urge the labor movement to run its own candidates on a working-class program defending women and Blacks. This would be a step toward the formation of a labor party.

Socialist campaigners discussed these ideas with many conference participants, most of whom were planning to vote for one of the Democratic Party candidates with the objective of "dumping Reagan." Many supporters of Jesse Jackson, mostly Black and younger women, were particularly interested in the socialists' program.

In a statement distributed at the conference, Mason and González explained that the attacks on women's rights didn't begin

with Reagan and they wouldn't end with the election of a Democrat. "The second-class status of women has deep roots in this class-divided society," they said. The capitalist system is defended by both the Democratic and Republican parties. Mason and González are fighting for a socialist society.

González attended an international women's conference in Managua, Nicaragua, last year. She talked to CLUW convention participants about the advances women have made in countries like Nicaragua and Cuba that have workers and farmers governments.

González also participated in workshops and informal discussions with Latina CLUW sisters who were working to educate CLUW members on the importance of defending undocumented and immigrant workers from the racist discrimination by employers and the U.S. government.

Mason and González participated in a spirited picket line organized by CLUW during the convention in solidarity with striking General Dynamics workers.

Following the picket line, several CLUW members sponsored a well-attended reception for Mason and González.

A campaign supporter from Cincinnati

came to the reception with a co-worker. They reported there was very little enthusiasm for Mondale in their local of the International Association of Machinists, despite the union officialdom's endorsement. They felt that building working-class solidarity was the only alternative to Reagan's union-busting. Solidarity is what the socialist campaign stands for, which is why they are both going to vote socialist.

At the reception, González hit the anti-woman propaganda offensive around the trial and conviction of four men in a brutal gang rape in New Bedford, Massachusetts.

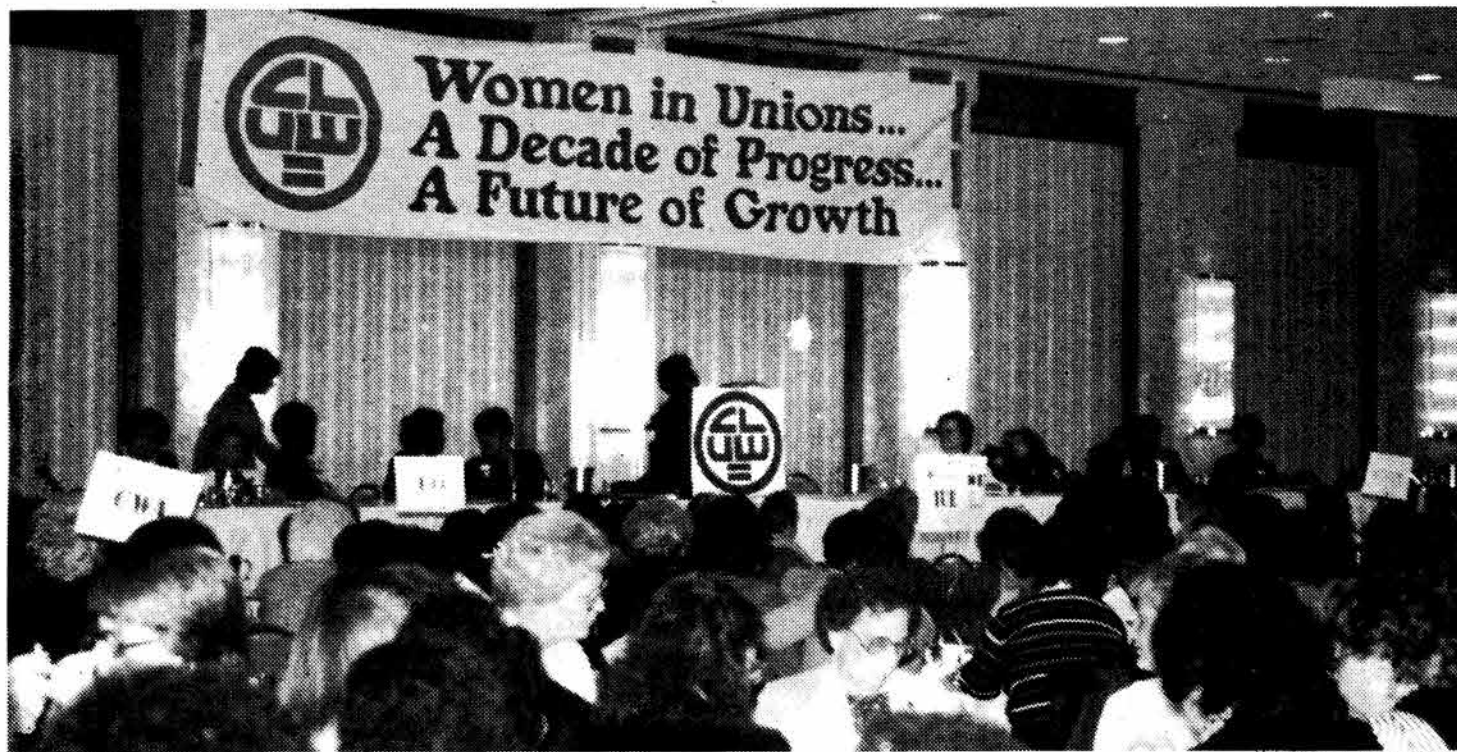
"The defense and media tried to make the victim into a criminal, dragging out the timeworn stereotype of women — 'we're all tramps who secretly want to be raped,'" González said. "The conviction of the four is a victory for women's rights and all working people."

A young machinist from Chicago also came to the reception and decided to help get the socialist campaign known on her job.

More than 125 copies of the *Militant*, the socialist campaign newspaper, were bought by CLUW members during the convention. Hundreds of pieces of campaign literature were also distributed.



Socialist Workers Party candidates for president and vice-president, Mel Mason and Andrea González, at CLUW convention picketline against General Dynamics.



More than 1,000 unionists attended convention marking CLUW's first decade. Leadership projected supporting a Democrat against Reagan as the way to solve the problems facing women and all working people. SWP campaign supporters were only CLUW members to pose alternative strategy of mobilizing labor's ranks against both Democratic and Republican parties.

message to "vote for Mondale" came through loud and clear in a thousand different ways.

Affirmative action

The first day of the convention was devoted to affirmative action.

The keynote address was given by Althea Simmons, director of the Washington, D.C., Bureau of NAACP.

Simmons stressed the need for unity between the women's rights movement and the civil rights movement in the face of government and employer efforts to turn these two oppressed groups against each other. This kind of unity is easier to achieve, Simmons indicated, "in the company of labor union women."

Responding to Reagan administration attacks on affirmative action, Simmons defended the use of numerical goals, which have the force of law behind them, that is, quotas, in order to begin to remedy the effects of discrimination.

She also defended the use of separate seniority lists for Blacks and women and other modifications of seniority. She motivated these as a way to break the vicious cycle of "last hired, first fired," which damages gains made by women and oppressed nationalities in hiring and promotion.

AFL-CIO opposes modifying seniority

In the workshop titled "Affirmative Action Within Our Unions," William Pollard, director of the AFL-CIO Civil Rights Department, took issue with Simmons' talk.

He spoke against modifying seniority as part of affirmative action plans. It's the employers, not the union, he said, who refuse to hire women and Blacks and who lay them off.

But that sidesteps the fact that the unions have won some control over who gets laid off first — through seniority systems negotiated into contracts. The unions, therefore, are responsible for fighting for seniority systems that strengthen the unity of the union by preventing discriminatory layoffs, which reduce the percentages of Blacks and women on the job.

Pollard also stressed that the AFL-CIO officialdom supports only voluntary affirmative action programs, thus opposing mandatory quotas for hiring Blacks and women.

This workshop, like others, discussed the need for unions to establish women's committees, as well as the need for CLUW chapters to play a direct role in defending women workers on the job.

'No one asks to be sexually harassed'

The workshop on sexual harassment was a real give-and-take discussion on what sexual harassment is and how to get the unions to fight it.

Panelist Priscilla Young from the UAW explained that it's essential to overcome the idea that it's a woman's fault when she's harassed. No one ever "asks" to be sexually harassed, affirmed Young, just like no one ever "asks" to be raped.

Solidarity among women workers in backing up sisters who are the victims of harassment was repeatedly pointed to as key to combating such mistreatment. Panelists stressed that sexual harassment is illegal and that harassment victims should utilize their unions to fight for them.

Several women described unsuccessful attempts to get their locals to deal seriously with cases of harassment. This led to some discussion on the need to educate union brothers on how the bosses initiate and foster sexual harassment as a way to weaken the unions and divide and discipline the work force.

The need to elect union officials who are more responsive to the needs of women was also raised. Several women pointed to the special problems of women who work in predominantly male jobs.

Grenada

Blandina Ramirez, a former member of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights who was fired by Reagan, was the guest speaker at the affirmative action luncheon.

There was also an excellent slide show by Alarie Mack on the role of Black women in 19th century struggles for the rights of Blacks and women. Mack began with the 1801 slave revolt that established the independent Black republic of Haiti. She pointed out that the U.S. ruling class at that time was fearful of the example that this set for Black slaves in the United States, just as the U.S. invasion of Grenada was carried out, in part, because of Washington's fears of the example the Grenada revolution set for Blacks today.

Though this was the only mention of the events in Grenada from the podium during the convention, socialists who are members of CLUW had many discussions about the Grenada revolution and the U.S. invasion with convention-goers who stopped by the socialist literature table. A book and a pamphlet by Pathfinder Press containing speeches by Grenada's murdered Prime Minister Maurice Bishop were brisk sellers.

Arizona copper strike

In an inspiring display of working-class solidarity, the convention gave representatives of the striking copper miners in Arizona an enthusiastic response. CLUW's Organizing the Unorganized conference last year had sent a message of support to the striking copper miners.

The strike representatives were originally slated to speak at noon on Sunday, when many participants would have already left. On Saturday, delegate Kathleen Kelley from International Association of Machinists (IAM) Local 79 in Seattle took the floor to propose a change in the agenda so that the Arizona women could address the plenary on Saturday. Delegates welcomed her proposal and two of the women spoke.

The United Steelworkers (USWA) and 12 other unions have been on strike against Phelps Dodge for nine months. The company is out to break the unions. Women's auxiliaries have been formed to mobilize

women and others to support the strike. Three women from the women's auxiliary in Safford attended the convention, as did Anna O'Leary, whose husband, Dr. Jorge O'Leary, has been victimized by Phelps Dodge for supporting the strike.

Kansas City CLUW, which recently organized a strike-support tour in their area, gave their table to the Arizona women to use to distribute literature on the strike.

Auxiliary member Virginia Ruiz described the "multitude of injustices" that the strikers had to contend with, including attacks by the cops and National Guard. O'Leary ended her remarks to the convention with a thought from Mexican revolutionist Emiliano Zapata: "We would rather die standing up than to live on our knees."

Delegates then hit the mikes, to pledge money and support. United Farm Workers Vice-pres. Dolores Huerta denounced Phelps Dodge's racism against the majority Latino strikers and reported on the UFW's donations of food and money. About \$2,000 was raised at the convention.

Unionists on strike against Continental Airlines also addressed the gathering.

On Friday, 500 convention participants demonstrated at the downtown Chicago headquarters of a subsidiary of General Dynamics Corp. (GD), the largest contractor with the Pentagon. The UAW has targeted GD as a notorious union-buster. The demonstration was a show of solidarity with the 2,200 UAW members on strike against GD in Groton, Connecticut, as well as a protest of its gross discrimination against women workers.

Roybal bill: 'lesser evil'

This CLUW convention also saw a continuation of the discussion, began at the 1979 convention, on the need for the union movement to vigorously defend the rights of undocumented workers.

CLUW members active in defense of the undocumented — including several Latinas — wanted CLUW to go on record against the anti-immigrant Simpson-Mazzoli Bill, which is currently before Congress. Instead of educating about why CLUW should oppose any restrictions on workers without papers, that is, an open border, these activists proposed that CLUW back a bill recently introduced by Rep. Edward Roybal (D.-Calif.).

While this bill purports to eliminate some of the worst features of Simpson-Mazzoli, its declared aim is the same: to curb immigration. And that means more border cops and continuing the pariah category of "illegals."

Supporters of the Roybal bill argued that while it wasn't "perfect" it wasn't as bad as Simpson-Mazzoli and it would bring some benefits to immigrant workers.

Other supporters of the undocumented disagreed with this approach.

Willie Reid of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 66 in Houston said that backing the "lesser of two evils" meant backing an evil that would worsen the plight of the undocumented and intensify boss-created di-

visions in the labor movement.

She pointed to Roybal's call for beefing up the border cops as a direct attack on workers forced to come here because U.S. employer domination has kept their countries impoverished.

Rachel Knapik from the IAM in Cincinnati said the Roybal bill would close U.S. borders even tighter to the thousands of Salvadoran refugees who are fleeing their homeland to escape U.S.-sponsored violence there.

Most delegates, however, felt that the Roybal bill represented a step toward justice for the undocumented and the resolution passed.

One measure of the solidarity with undocumented workers at the convention was the broad support given to the case of Héctor Marroquín, a Mexican-born socialist who is fighting U.S. government attempts to deport him (see story on page 20).

'Mondale's fight is our fight'

An indication of the recognition CLUW has won within the union movement was the number of top union officials who addressed the convention.

For the first time ever, the president of the AFL-CIO, Lane Kirkland, addressed a CLUW convention. Six international union presidents also spoke, including the heads of AFSCME, USWA, UFCW, and APWU. All paid tribute to the role of women in the labor movement, and pledged their backing for CLUW and the fight for women's equality.

The focus of Kirkland's speech, however, was justifying the AFL-CIO's endorsement of Mondale.

Kirkland blamed the Reagan administration for all the problems facing working people, and claimed that a Mondale administration would solve all those problems. The AFL-CIO asks Mondale, said Kirkland, to "defend our country against all enemies — internal and external." Referring to Mondale, Kirkland concluded, "his fight is our fight."

Kirkland's flag-waving, jingoistic enthusiasm for Mondale's program contrasted with the more skeptical and militant mood of many women at the convention — including many who intended to vote for Mondale themselves.

The tendency of every speaker to blame all the problems facing women and working people on Reagan the individual re-

Continued on Page 12



Militant/Nancy Cole
Women's auxiliary member Virginia Ruiz tells CLUW convention about Arizona government's attacks on striking copper miners. Delegates donated \$2,000 to strikers.

CLUW convention marks 10th anniversary



Militant/Nancy Cole
"Peace, Jobs, and Disarmament" workshop. Discussion on U.S. aggression in El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Grenada showed depth of union women's opposition to new Vietnam. Many have begun to learn about the gains of women and workers under Nicaragua's Sandinista government.

Continued from Page 11

sulted in a refusal by the assembled officials to face up to the real depths of the crisis facing working people.

Any honest look at the blows being dealt to women and the unions would show, not only that they are the result of *bipartisanship*, but also that far more than casting a vote on Election Day is required to begin to defend working people. The idea of *mobilizing the power of the ranks of labor* — in strike action, in solidarity with other strikers, in demonstrations for jobs and against U.S. wars, in struggles against racism and sexism, in on-the-job fights against speed-up and sexual harassment — was absent from the podium.

Joan Mondale, Walter Mondale's wife, also addressed the convention.

She hit hard on the reactionary "America first" theme that has been the hallmark of Mondale's campaign. She said Mondale would be a president "who will stand up for American businesses, American workers, and American farmers."

Speech by Charles Hayes

The most well-received speaker at the convention was Rep. Charles Hayes (D-Ill.). At the time he was elected in 1983, Hayes was a vice-president of the UFCW and a leader of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists. He was the first top trade union official elected to Congress in decades, and he emphasized that it was the power of the organized labor movement in support of his campaign that allowed him to be elected.

Hayes was the only speaker who advocated support for Jackson, motivating it as a way to raise the "problems of poor people" and as a way for working people to put some of their "planks in the platform" of the Democratic Party.

While Hayes' program is in the same procapitalist framework as Mondale and Kirkland, he was perceived as more militant. An attempt by a small number of white delegates to start a chant of "Mondale, Mondale" when he finished speaking was drowned out by thunderous applause and the singing of "Solidarity Forever" led by Blacks.

While not originally on the agenda, Chicago Mayor Harold Washington spoke

the next day. He reviewed the policies of his administration since he was elected last year and urged workers to "march to the polls" to get rid of Reagan.

Antiwar and freeze resolutions

Resolutions against U.S. intervention in El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Grenada were submitted to the convention by CLUW chapters and leaders. They reflected the widespread antiwar sentiment among union women, the discussion in the labor movement about what position to take on U.S. policy in this region, and the antiwar and solidarity activities that some CLUW chapters have been involved in.

They indicated a different sentiment from the poisonous chauvinism of Joan Mondale's speech.

A layer of unionists came to the convention with the goal of getting CLUW on record against Washington's aggression in Central America.

At the 1982 convention, the CLUW leadership attempted to prevent a discussion on Central America under the guise that foreign policy is not a woman's issue. This year there was an official workshop on "Peace, jobs, and nuclear disarmament."

About 100 women attended the workshop. While the focus was support for a bilateral freeze on nuclear weapons, there was some discussion from the floor on the war in Central America.

Some delegates spoke on the convention floor against a resolution putting CLUW on record in support of a nuclear freeze.

Mindy Brudno from the ILGWU in Milwaukee explained that it's the U.S. government, not the Soviet Union, that is responsible for the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the wars going on in the world. She was booed by many delegates when she pointed to the fact that the United States is the only country that has ever used nuclear weapons. She was referring to the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki during World War II.

The freeze resolution passed with only a few dissenting votes.

When the resolutions committee's version of a Central America resolution was distributed to delegates on Saturday, some

people were outraged to see that it had little resemblance to an antiwar resolution.

Slander of Nicaragua beat back

In talking about "undemocratic regimes" that suppress union activities in Central America and the Caribbean, the resolution lumped together the bloody Salvadoran government with the pronoun Nicaraguan government.

It did this by including the following sentence:

"In Nicaragua, seven dockworker union leaders have been jailed for actions taken on behalf of their members, which is a violation of their trade union rights." This is a lie, not a fact.

The resolution also demanded an "immediate end to military intervention by the United States, or any other outside power in the affairs of Central America, and the Caribbean, including Grenada" (emphasis added). This gives credence to Washington's main justification for intervention: the need to counter alleged Soviet and Cuban intervention.

The resolution also didn't call for an end to U.S. economic aid to El Salvador. But it is precisely such aid that allows that murderous government to stay in power. In fact, the resolution proposed sending "humanitarian" aid, a formula for continued support to the U.S.-backed government.

The resolution calls for support for "free labor unions." These are the standard codewords for the AFL-CIO officialdom's reactionary aid to CIA efforts to crush militant unions and replace them with proimperialist house-broken ones in countries around the globe.

Questions about the resolution were raised in the ACTWU caucus meeting and elsewhere. Activists from AFSCME, SEIU, IAM, and other unions also raised objections. By the next morning, a new version of the resolution was distributed, with the slanderous sentence on Nicaragua deleted. Nobody spoke in favor of the original version or criticized Nicaragua during the floor discussion on the resolution.

No amendments were proposed either that would have strengthened the resolution's opposition to U.S. policy.

U.S. subverts popular government

A Teamster was the first person to speak in favor of the resolution. She reported on a visit she and other unionists made to Nicaragua in January. "We met with union leaders from different political persuasions, including the unions that are sympathetic to the government as well as the unions that are not," she began.

One thing all the unionists they met with agreed on, she said, was opposition to U.S. military intervention and U.S. aid to the rightist counterrevolutionaries. "Millions of our tax dollars are being used to subvert a popular government in Nicaragua and to support an unpopular one in El Salvador."

"Ronald Reagan doesn't support the American workers and he does not speak for the workers in Nicaragua."

UAW opposes intervention

The next speaker was Jo-Ann Della-Giustina from the UAW in Chicago. She read from the recent issue of the UAW's *Ammo* magazine, which is titled "Why are U.S. troops in Central America?"

"Central America is at risk of exploding into a regional war," warned *Ammo*. "Throughout Mexico, Columbia and Venezuela, young unemployed people already are talking of forming brigades to join the Sandinistas in the case of outright conflict. So the stage is set for jobless U.S. boys to die in the mountains of Central America fighting jobless youths from all over Latin America."

Della-Giustina also quoted from the recent UAW convention resolution which called for "the cutoff of U.S. military and economic assistance to the oppressive regime of El Salvador" and which opposed "covert or overt U.S. aid to overthrow the government of Nicaragua" and urged "a withdrawal of CIA and military involvement in Honduras aimed at harassment of Nicaragua."

An IAM member from Connecticut pointed out that "Lane Kirkland, in serving on the Kissinger commission on Central

America, has given the commission our endorsement. That commission's conclusions did not oppose intervention in Central America. In fact, it supported increased aid of all kinds. I would just hope that brother Kirkland would be persuaded by the depth of our convictions and our arguments on this issue to rescind his support for the Kissinger commission."

No one spoke against the resolution and it was adopted.

Weak South Africa resolution

The convention also debated what position CLUW should take on the role of U.S. employers in South Africa. The resolutions committee put forward a resolution that condemned the racist apartheid government, its repression of Black trade unionists, and the profiteering by U.S. employers at the expense of Black workers.

The resolution called on CLUW to "support all efforts to divest any public or private funds of any investments" in South Africa. However, the resolution also gave credence to the false idea that U.S. corporations and the U.S. government — which are collaborating with and backing the apartheid regime — can be a force for progress in South Africa. An attempt to strengthen the resolution by deleting a section that condoned the presence of U.S. businesses in South Africa was defeated, and the resolution passed unamended.

Building CLUW

A concern of convention participants was the question of building CLUW as a large and strong organization. In the USWA and ACTWU caucus meetings, there was some discussion about the small number of rank-and-file union members involved in CLUW and the need to turn that around. Currently, the core of active members in most CLUW chapters are union staff members and officials.

The need to build CLUW chapters came up in a debate over a proposal to amend the constitution to change the ratio of convention delegates from CLUW chapters from 1 per every 25 members to 1 per every 10 members — the same ratio as for delegates from unions. After some discussion, the amendment passed over the objections of the resolutions committee.

The constitution was also amended, at the initiative of the CLUW leadership, to add a category of CLUW "associate membership" which would allow women who are not union members to be active in CLUW.

Union women support Marroquín's fight against deportation

Continued from back page

should fight first and then pray," another added.

"It is with the kind of solidarity that you have shown at this convention that I can win my case," Marroquín said.

As the meeting ended people took material and petitions on Marroquín's case and exchanged ideas and experiences on how to present resolutions to their unions and organizations in support of Marroquín's fight.

JERSEY CITY, N.J. — Upon my return home I was invited to address a chapter meeting of North Jersey CLUW on my husband's case. The response was inspiring. One member denounced U.S. immigration policy as "racist" and "discriminatory against women" as well as Blacks and Latinos.

A member of the executive board of Communications Workers of America Local 1033 volunteered to present a resolution on behalf of Marroquín before her next board meeting. She then proposed and, along with two other CLUW members, drafted a resolution that North Jersey CLUW go on record "in support of Héctor Marroquín in his fight for political asylum and permanent residence." It was adopted unanimously.

Priscilla Schenk is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from New Jersey.

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Denial of rights in Boudin case must be brought to light

The following article is by George Novack, a longtime leader of the Socialist Workers Party. Novack has been active in civil liberties cases dating back to the 1930s, when he was involved in the fight to free jailed labor leaders Tom Mooney and Warren K. Billings, and in the campaign against the racist frame-up trial of nine Black youth in Scottsboro, Alabama.

Novack was national secretary of the Civil Rights Defense Committee, which defended Minneapolis Teamsters and SWP leaders framed up on sedition charges on the eve of World War II. He headed the Kutcher Civil Rights Committee, which defended legless veteran James Kutcher when the government tried to fire him from his job during the McCarthy period because of his membership in the SWP.

In the 1960s, Novack was actively involved in the campaign to defend three members of the Young Socialist Alliance framed up on charges of conspiring to overthrow the government of the state of Indiana.

For the last 11 years, Novack has been active in organizing support for the SWP's federal lawsuit against FBI spying and government harassment. He is treasurer of the Socialist Workers Presidential Campaign Committee.

BY GEORGE NOVACK

To someone like myself, who has been actively engaged in many civil liberties causes over the past 50 years, it is disturbing to note that forces on the left have given so little attention to the trial of Kathy Boudin now being staged at the Westchester County Courthouse in White Plains, New York.

Boudin is charged with robbery and murder in connection with the holdup of a Brink's armored truck in 1981, during which two policemen and a Brink's guard were killed. Her husband, David Gilbert, and two other defendants were sentenced last year to 75 years to life on similar charges.

Boudin was arrested shortly after the robbery. She was not armed, according to police. No eyewitness at the scene of the holdup has identified her as a participant.

Boudin was arrested shortly after the robbery. She was not armed, according to the police, and she is not accused of shooting anyone. No eyewitness at the scene of the holdup has identified her as a participant.

Nonetheless, for two and a half years she has been unrelentingly subjected to vindic-

tive measures by law enforcement officials. Boudin; her attorneys; and her parents, Leonard and Jean Boudin, have conducted a tireless struggle simply to secure minimally tolerable conditions for her in prison and to safeguard her legal rights.

They have initiated motions and lawsuits attacking the harsh conditions in four jails where she has been incarcerated. They have forced the severance of trials and two changes in location, because of adverse publicity marked by media hostility demanding retaliation for the police deaths.

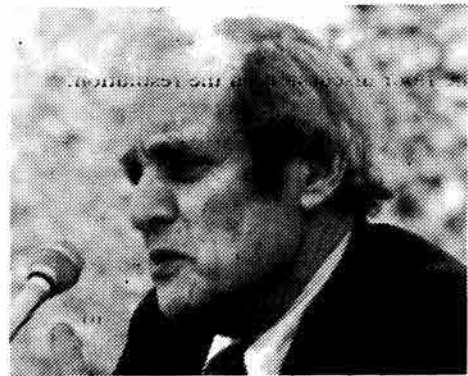
The circumstances of the case and the artificially stirred-up hysteria have tended to deter objections to the abusive treatment of Boudin, the gross violations of legal procedures, and the denial of her democratic rights. They have pushed into the background and obscured the civil liberties issues at stake in the case.

Brutal treatment

What, specifically, have the authorities done against Boudin? Although she has not been convicted of any crime, she has been consistently denied bail and has been kept in jail for two and a half years. The courts have refused to separate her trial from that of Samuel Brown, another Brink's defendant who turned government informer in the case.

For almost three months after her arrest, Boudin was in solitary confinement at the Manhattan Correctional Institute. She was not allowed to touch her 15-month-old baby, Chesa, on the pretext of "security" considerations. The authorities said her baby might be carrying a weapon concealed in his Pampers.

In January 1982, Federal Judge Kevin Duffy ruled that her constitutional rights were being denied and held that "Ms.



Militant/Harry Ring
Leonard Boudin. Powers that be are using trial of his daughter Kathy to strike a vengeful blow against him for his decades of defense of civil liberties.

Boudin, as a pretrial detainee, is not to be punished." She was transferred to a state prison where her codefendants were, including her husband, and was permitted to play with her son when he visited. Even then, it took a fight to get her housed with the general prison population, instead of being held in isolation.

The most flagrant recent episode in her harassment occurred early this year. On the evening of February 3, Boudin was illegally removed from the Orange County Jail and hustled back to the Rockland County Jail. This was in defiance of a state appellate court ruling moving her out of Rockland because of its punitive atmosphere. Rockland is one of the worst jails in the state.

The appellate court had ruled that Boudin's next transfer should be to the jail in Westchester County, where her trial is taking place. From the Rockland jail, she has to travel a total of an hour and a half each day to and from the court, seriously impeding adequate preparation of her defense. Not a single state official has opposed this illegal transfer, which has even elicited protest from the pages of the *New York Times*.

Deliberate, provocative attacks

Why have the prisons, courts, and elected officials so deliberately and provocatively attacked Boudin's rights? They aim to take advantage of the pariah status they have imposed on her — and the lack of vocal support on her behalf — to establish precedents that can be used more broadly to take away the democratic rights of other indicted individuals. And they are banking on the intimidating atmosphere generated by the media to get away with such arbitrary acts.

In the 1950s, the case of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg was used by the government in a similar manner.

On top of restricting Boudin's legal rights even to the point of breaking their own laws and regulations, the authorities are taking exorbitant and costly measures designed to brainwash potential jurors and depict her as a terrorist menace, though she has harmed no one. They are enforcing the most elaborate security precautions ever seen in White Plains on the pretext of anticipated trouble from radical sympathizers, although there are too few in the courtroom. The courthouse has been converted into an armed fortress guarded by police dogs.

All this is a setup for a kangaroo court and a railroad trial. The prosecutors hope



Kathy Boudin. Government is provocatively violating her rights as a defendant in order to set precedent for broader attack on rights of others victimized by courts, cops, and prisons.

to keep her behind bars for the rest of her days.

Gov't denies politics involved

Throughout the case the government has denied that politics has anything to do with its treatment of Boudin. District Attorney Kenneth Gribetz, the prosecutor in the case, recently said, "we never mentioned radical, or terrorist, or the Weather Underground, or anything political in the first Brink's trial and we don't intend to in this one."

But the trial, and the years of persecution of Boudin and her codefendants, is political down to the last detail.

Boudin is a well-known radical activist from the 1960s generation. Whatever disagreements one may have with the course she chose in becoming part of the Weather Underground, no serious person on the left can fail to see the stakes in her case for the workers movement as a whole. The government vendetta against her is more broadly directed at Black liberation fighters, unionists, socialists, and opponents of U.S. intervention in Central America. Boudin's association with Black militants alone has singled her out for automatic abuse by racist officials.

The vendetta against Kathy Boudin is also aimed at her father, Leonard Boudin. He is general counsel of the National Emergency Civil Liberties Committee and is one of the most eminent U.S. constitutional attorneys. He has represented opponents of the Vietnam War, such as Dr. Benjamin Spock, Daniel Ellsberg, and defendants in the Harrisburg 7 case and a host of other victims of the government and the courts. At the present time, he handles the legal affairs in this country of the Cuban and Angolan governments and of the Central Bank of Iran.

For more than two decades, Boudin has been counsel in major cases associated with the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance, ranging from the "sedition" indictment against three YSA leaders at Indiana University in the 1960s, to the landmark lawsuit of the SWP and YSA against the FBI, to the current battle to prevent the deportation of Héctor Marroquín, an SWP leader.

All this has made Leonard Boudin an anathema to the powers that be. They have seized on his daughter's case as a long-awaited opportunity to damage his reputation and strike a vengeful blow against him.

Silence must be broken

The issues in the prosecution of Kathy Boudin go beyond the personalities, ideas, and activities of the individuals directly involved. They should be of concern to every defender of civil liberties. The violations of democratic rights and dangerous precedents being set must be exposed and opposed.

If they are passed over by default, assaults on the Bill of Rights will gain a further boost. Other radicals, unionists, Black liberation fighters, and antiwar activists will increasingly be victims of similar abuses by the courts and prison system.

For these reasons the silence that has surrounded the proceedings in the Westchester County Courthouse must be broken. The denial of democratic rights in the Boudin case must be brought to light and condemned.

Atlanta socialist office attacked again

BY RICK CONGRESS

ATLANTA — The Socialist Workers campaign headquarters here was attacked for the third time in a month when the front window was broken in on Saturday evening, April 7. On the weekends of March 10 and March 18 pellet gun shots were fired through the front window (see *Militants* of March 23 and 30).

After the March 18 attack, Maurice Williams, 5th Congressional District candidate for the SWP, held a news conference, which was widely covered by the local media. Williams demanded that the city and state governments and cops arrest and prosecute those responsible for the terrorist attacks.

The Socialist Workers campaign also began a drive to get support for its democratic right to function free from rightist attacks. Efforts were stepped up to get Mayor Andrew Young and Georgia Gov. Joe Frank Harris to condemn this attack publicly and to take some action. Several community activists supported this effort, but neither Young nor Harris responded to this appeal.

When the latest attack took place, TV and radio stations gave coverage to Williams, who spoke for the SWP campaign at a news conference held April 8 at the campaign offices. He announced that a delegation would visit the mayor and governor to demand that action be taken to stop these

attacks. Williams pointed out that their failure to speak out and act served as an incentive to racist and right-wing elements to continue such violence.

Williams also explained that the SWP campaign will not be intimidated by these attacks. It will continue to publicly speak out in defense of workers' rights and against racist attacks and the U.S. government's move to create a new Vietnam in Central America.

On Monday morning, April 9, Joe Beasley, deputy state director of the Jesse Jack-

son campaign, accompanied Williams in an attempt to meet with the mayor. The mayor's aide said that he was "in conference" all day and could not be reached. But Williams and Beasley did have a chance to meet with the police chief.

The Atlanta Operation PUSH chapter has offered to turn its April 14 meeting into a protest rally against the attacks on the SWP offices. The meeting will be at 10 a.m. at Tabernacle Baptist Church, 475 Boulevard Ave. For more information call (404) 577-4065.



Militant
Socialist Workers congressional candidate Maurice Williams (right) and U.S. Senate candidate Susan Winsten, show reporters damage done to their headquarters.

N.D. farmers force FmHA to move officials

BY ERLING SANNES

BISMARCK, N.D. — Over 600 riled, angry, and desperate farmers, supported by several small businessmen and workers, gathered in Thief River Falls, Minnesota, March 24 expecting to directly confront Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) National Director Charles Shuman with their complaints.

Their grievances include a backlog of unprocessed loan applications, callous and indifferent treatment they receive at FmHA offices, and a pervasive lack of support from insensitive officials in several FmHA offices in northwestern Minnesota.

The farmers fear that they and thousands of their fellow farmers throughout the country are going to lose their farms unless they get immediate help in the form of urgently needed loans for spring planting.

The March 24 meeting was an outgrowth of a demonstration February 22, when 100 angry farmers staged a first-ever successful blockade of the FmHA office in Thief River Falls on the North Dakota border. That day-long blockade ended only after certain very specific demands were met.

The farmers demanded the removal of two FmHA officials from the Crookston, Minnesota, district office. They also demanded that Shuman personally come to Minnesota to see and hear first hand the terrible plight of hundreds of farmers in northwestern Minnesota.

After the February 22 protest, the FmHA only reluctantly yielded to the demands of the farmers and transferred District Director John Friederichs and his assistant, Paul Dornfeld, from the Crookston office when it finally became evident to FmHA that there was genuine dissatisfaction over the way these two individuals ran the district office.

While not satisfying all their demands, the farmers were nevertheless encouraged that their prolonged complaints brought results. It has encouraged them to demand the removal of other officials who will not listen to concerns of the farmer. "We intend to go after several others, one by one," Tracy Bjorke, a farmer-activist, told the *Militant*. "This is just a start."

As the farmers began to assemble for the Saturday meeting with Shuman, one of them said to Willard Brunelle, organizer of the Northwestern Minnesota Emergency Action Committee, "We've got to get a microphone set up or we are going to have a riot."

Emotions ran even higher when the farmers were told Shuman would not appear because fog had prevented his plane from landing at Thief River Falls. When Shuman finally arrived at the Grand Forks, North Dakota, airport, he attempted to talk to the group by conference telephone. That plan was quickly abandoned, however, when it became apparent tension among the disgusted farmers was reaching the boiling-point because Shuman decided not to travel by car to Thief River Falls.

The farmers cheered and roared their approval when Debbie Bjorke, from Goodrich, Minnesota, told Shuman over the phone, "We are not interested in talking to you over the telephone. If you can't come here and talk to us, we'll find another way of being heard. We think you ought to be able to get here," she said, "because several farmers left their homes as early as 3 a.m. to drive 250 or 300 miles through the

fog to get here on time," she told Shuman.

Shuman had no comment to her assertion that if the event had been a \$100-a-plate fund-raising event for the Republican Party he would have found a way to get there.

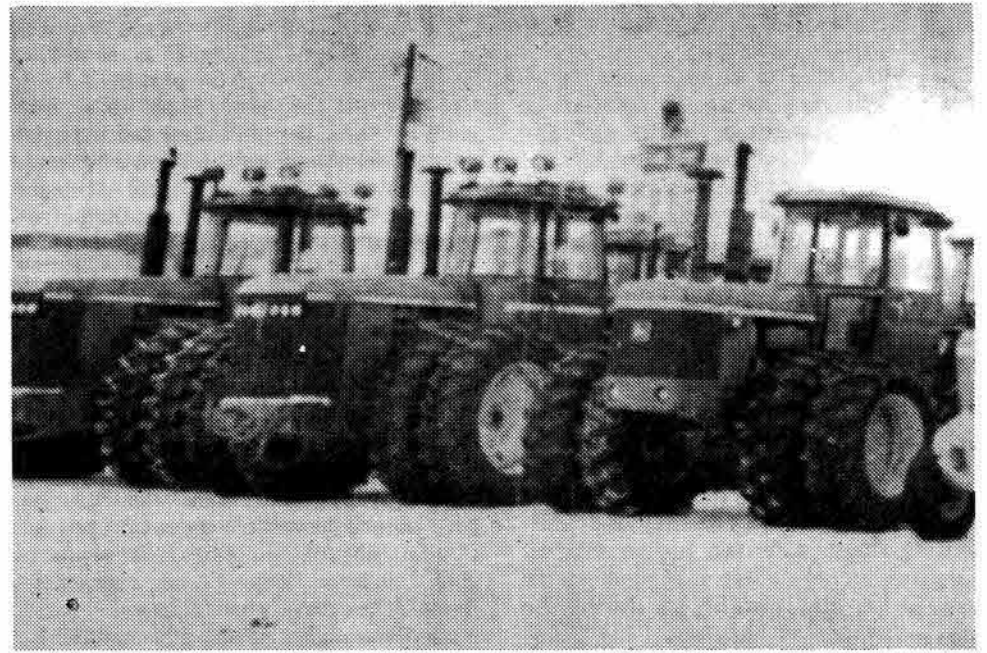
Other farmers said they didn't think Shuman wanted to meet with them. When one suggested that the farmers would be willing to come to Grand Forks in a tractorcade, Shuman hastily recalled an important Saturday night commitment back in Washington.

Anger ran even higher when Tracy Bjorke reminded the crowd that Agriculture Secretary John Block has made several speeches recently where he has declared that from 15 percent to 17 percent of the farmers in the United States "have to go."

"Before that happens, Block will be removed from office," Bjorke told the group of cheering farmers.

"Farmers all over the United States have got to organize. We've got to have a national effort. We have to strike, we have to picket, we must stand up for our rights," Bjorke told the *Militant* in a telephone interview.

"I've been getting telephone calls from farmers all over the United States asking for advice on how to organize tractorcades, blockades, and demonstrations. We're not going to stop until we have a farmers organization in every county in the United States so we can shut down every road and highway anywhere in the country," Bjorke said.



Part of March 13 tractorcade in Jamestown, North Dakota, which called for using air force bombers to transport food to hungry nations around the world.

Bjorke calls for establishing a new nationwide organization, the Farmers Political Action Committee to Feed the World. The emphasis on the committee's goal to "feed the world" is an outgrowth of a two-day tractorcade by 200 farmers at Jamestown, North Dakota, March 13, during which the farmers successfully blockaded the offices of several private banks

and three federal farm lending institutions in that city.

At that time, the farmers issued a statement of principles that calls for a 25 percent reduction in the U.S. war budget and establishment of an "Agricultural Products Reserve" to assist in exporting food to hungry nations around the world utilizing air force bombers to transport the food.

Mason addresses Dallas Black church

BY KATHY RETTIG

DALLAS — A highlight of presidential candidate Mel Mason's March visit here was his speech at Sunday services of the all-Black congregation of St. Luke's Community United Methodist Church.

During the collection the pastor, Rev. Zan Holmes, introduced Mason as a former city councilman from Seaside, California, who is running for president on the Socialist Workers Party ticket.

"Two brothers are running for president, and this brother is deserving of our support for his right to run for office," Holmes told the 300 church members present.

Before the benediction, Mason was invited to address the congregation from the pulpit. He talked about the need for a Black party and a union-based labor party to confront and turn around the attacks on Black people in the United States.

"We have to stop counting on the Democratic Party to represent our interests. They pretend to be concerned about Black people while taking their orders from the rich families and corporations that control this country," he said. Mason explained that a party of working people could demand an end to U.S.-sponsored wars against workers and farmers in other countries, and could defend all civil rights and women's rights.

"It could put across a clear program on how we, as Blacks, with other working people, can attain political power in this country and replace the government we now have, whose only concern is profits, with a government that would reorganize

society to meet human needs."

After the church service, Mason and campaign supporters spoke to and distributed campaign literature to almost all those at the service. Many wished him luck and said he had their votes. One church member had lived in Seaside when Mason was elected to the city council.

The chairperson of the church's social concerns committee invited Mason back.

Later in the evening, Mason was warmly received at the Cotton Candy Club in the Black community. A campaign supporter who is a member of the club introduced Mason to his friends and associates by saying, "I'd like you to meet Mel Mason, the real presidential candidate." Many people left the club wearing "Mason for President" buttons.

Mason also was the keynote speaker at a Socialist Workers campaign rally held the first evening of his Dallas visit. Also speaking at the rally were Beverley Andalora, socialist candidate for U.S. Senate; Steve Iverson, socialist candidate for 24th Congressional District; Jerry Messick, a campaign supporter and antiwar activist from Norman, Oklahoma; and Patty Sanchez, who had just completed a tour of the Rio Grande Valley with vice-presidential candidate González.

A local Black radio station ran clips from an interview with Mason for an entire week and plans to air Mason's comments before the Texas Democratic Party primary in May. Mason also received coverage on local TV, one local newspaper, and other Dallas radio stations.

Mason hits Dallas cop violence

Continued from front page

years as a cop, Cozby previously shot seven people, three of whom died.

The grand jury that indicted the three witnesses to Cozby's latest killing also cleared him of any wrongdoing.

A defense fund has been started for the three indicted witnesses. The charges against them carry a prison sentence of 2 to 10 years.

During his tour in Dallas, Mason paid a visit to a meeting of the Citizens Police/Paramedic Complaint Committee, a community-based group that has been collecting complaints of police violence and injustice.

In a five-minute address to the committee, Mason explained how mobilizations by the Black community in Phoenix and in Seaside, California, have been used to turn back cop injustices.

"In Seaside we were fortunate enough not to have any Brothers killed because of police brutality," Mason said. "Nevertheless, mobilizations by our independent committee resulted in firing and disciplinary actions that turned around the pattern of police brutality."

Mason urged the Dallas citizens committee, which is composed entirely of Blacks, to reach out to Latinos and whites and other allies in the struggle against police violence.

Mason spoke of the importance of turning back the wave of cop violence in Dallas. "If they can get away with it in Dallas as well as Miami and Phoenix, then the kind of police violence we have seen here will be extended throughout the country,"

Mason told the group. Mason's talk met with rousing applause.

At the meeting Mason also met with Dallas Jackson, chairman of the committee, who has called the indictment of the witnesses "Ku Klux Klan treatment."

Mason also spoke with Al Lipscomb, a Black Democratic Party candidate for County Commissioner. Lipscomb said he has been threatened with a lawsuit by the Dallas Police Association because of public comments he made about officer Melvin Cozby.

The Dallas Police Association has called for the disbanding of the Dallas Citizens/Police Relations Board, an official, city-sponsored body that has made no criticisms of the spree of killings by Dallas police.

A week before Mason's visit to Dallas the city-sponsored board issued a report of officially clearing the police in all of the 29 shootings in 1983. The board recommended that carrying of handguns by Dallas citizens — not police — be prohibited.

In a statement issued in response to the city board report, the 1984 Texas Socialist Workers campaign of Beverley Andalora, candidate for U.S. Senate, and Steve Iverson, candidate for Congress, called the report a "whitewash."

The indictments of witnesses to the killing by Cozby and the whitewash report have been organized because Dallas city officials want "to stop Blacks from coming forward and accusing cops of brutality and murder," the campaign statement said.

The socialists are demanding "cops out of the Black community, drop the indictments!"

'Farm crisis deeper than a year ago'

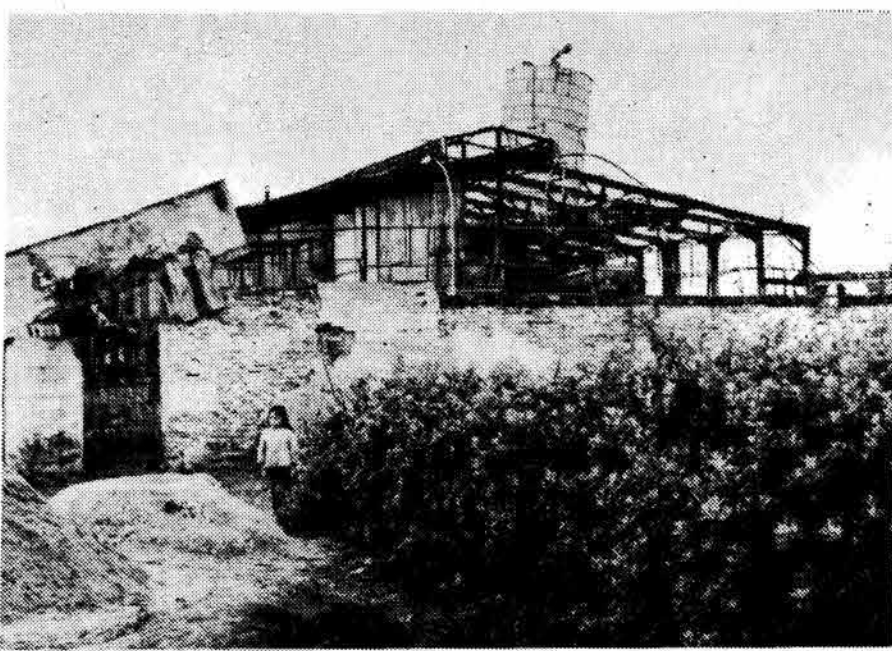
BY JOHN STAGGS

DES MOINES, Iowa — Farm activists from nine Midwest states met here March 15-17 to discuss the deepening farm crisis and how to respond to it. The meeting was called by the North American Farm Alliance (NAFA).

Several farmers explained that areas hit hardest by last year's drought are the scene of hundreds of foreclosures this spring. The difficulties of farmers is made worse by the refusal of banks and Federal agencies to make production loans. In this worsening credit climate, most grain elevators and stockyards are issuing payment checks to farmers with their bank's name listed as a necessary coendorser. This means the farmer has to check with his loan officer before he can get paid for selling any of his commodities.

After hearing area reports, the meeting's assessment was that the crisis is much deeper and hitting a broader layer of farmers than a year ago.

The NAFA steering committee proposed reaching out to all the farm groups to unite in coordinated actions to fight the effects of the crisis. It proposed organizing coalitions around the theme "Common Ground — A rural movement for economic justice." The purpose is to organize demonstrations, rallies, etc.; win a consensus for a 1985 farm bill; screen candidates and register voters; fight for emergency legislation, debt foreclosure moratoriums and minimum pricing bills; and raise ideas for a long term solution. They will try to get national and local sponsors for this movement from church, union, and political organizations as well as farm groups.



Above, Anise processing plant in Lang Son, Vietnam, was destroyed in 1979 invasion. Vietnamese do not rebuild it for fear of another Peking invasion. Right, Lam Binh Phuong (left) talks to Lang Son residents who are rebuilding their home.



Militant photos by Diane Wang

U.S.-China war against Vietnamese people

BY STEVE CLARK
AND DIANE WANG

LANG SON, Vietnam — Vietnam looked very different as we drove north from Hanoi. Instead of rice plains there were steep mountains; the weather was cold and wet. People with light brown hair, bright blue tunics, or gold earrings — Nung, Tay, Dao, and other national minorities — predominate here.

There were more somber differences too. We passed long rows of huts with bamboo matting for walls. "Those are for refugees from the Chinese attack," our guide explained. "We haven't been able to rebuild enough housing yet."

While in most of Vietnam the worst debris from the French and U.S. wars has been cleared away, in the far north there are still rubble and skeletons of buildings destroyed by Peking's invasion in 1979.

"The Chinese blew up that anise processing plant just before they left," a local man said as he pointed out a deserted frame. "We don't rebuild it because we're so close to the border. If the Chinese attack again it's just one more target."

Many other buildings were in ruins or only partially rebuilt: the main market building, the school, the former provincial offices and headquarters of the Vietnamese Communist Party. One church was in two piles of rubble. Half had been destroyed by U.S. bombing; the rest was blown up by the invading Chinese troops.

In January 1979 Chinese leader Deng Xiao Peng visited President Carter to solicit U.S. aid and investment to modernize China. They struck a deal. Only a few weeks later, China sent 600,000 troops to invade Vietnam. The bureaucratic misleaders of the Chinese workers state were eager to show what a reliable ally they could be for U.S. imperialism. They willingly placed themselves in the front ranks of Washington's attempts to "punish" Vietnam and hold back the extension of the socialist revolution in Indochina.

Peking waged a month-long assault against all six Vietnamese provinces that share a border with China. "But in Lang Son province they used one-third of their force, 200,000 troops," Mr. Phi Long, a provincial leader, told us. It is only four hours by highway from this strategic bor-

der town to Hanoi.

"I'll give you some examples of what they did, barbarous crimes," the provincial leader said. "They killed more than 500 people and wounded more than 200 others. They arrested more than 800, including old people and children. They destroyed 30 schools, 5 district hospitals, 72 infant houses, and 26 industrial sites and bridges. They destroyed a big part of the housing in this town, and as they retreated they tore down the electric and telephone posts."

"They left behind many mines, and even after the Chinese withdrawal those mines have caused more than 100 casualties."

In this area, it was the provincial militia that fought back against the invasion. Lam Binh Phuong, a former school teacher who had been part of the militia's resistance effort, told us it took the Chinese 17 days to travel 17 kilometers (about 11 miles) from the border to Lang Son. After taking the city of Lang Son, the Chinese withdrew a few days later.

Since 1979 the Peking regime has continued its hostilities. We drove to the border, or as close as was deemed safe, one mile from the crossing called Friendship

Pass. The border crossing got its name during the long period when the Chinese and Vietnamese worked together closely in the struggle against the French and U.S. imperialists.

Our guide pointed to a hill where the Chinese have set up a radar station. "That actually is Vietnamese territory," he said. But the Chinese government has seized points within Vietnam at 10 places at least. "They take the hills. Then they shoot down into the valleys to terrorize people," he said. The sporadic attacks disrupt daily life, especially during planting and harvest seasons.

A few days later Tran Cong Man, editor of the Vietnamese army daily, told us that Peking maintains 10 divisions and 5 army corps, about a half-million troops, along the border. In the past, when China assisted Vietnam, there were no military troops along that 1,000-mile border, but now it is one of two areas where Peking concentrates its armed forces.

The Chinese government carries on economic sabotage, too. It also starts rumor campaigns in the northern areas of Vietnam. Local residents report that Chinese

authorities even send kites and balloons over the border with candies and anti-Vietnam leaflets attached.

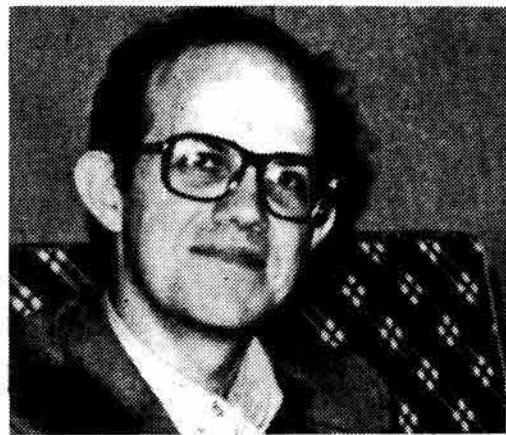
Despite these problems Lang Son tries to rebuild. Local people pointed with pride to the electrical and telephone posts that have been set back up. A number of people have brick kilns in their yards, and houses are being repaired or constructed.

"We restored the schools very quickly," Phi Long said. "If we count people who study in their spare time, one-third of our people are students." The previous secondary school was destroyed, but a new one has been built. Clinics and hospitals were a priority in the reconstruction effort.

"We would like to have peace because we've suffered the consequences of war," Phi Long emphasized. "We need peace to finally rebuild and restabilize."

"Our government has often proposed normalization of relations with China, to restore the traditional friendship between the two countries. That fits the desires of both the Vietnamese and Chinese people. We would like to strengthen our ties with other countries so that we can help each other and build a better life."

'Militant' reporters visit Vietnam, Kampuchea



Steve Clark



Diane Wang

Militant/Diane Wang

Militant/Lou Howort

'IP' to print Castro interview

Readers of the *Militant* will want to be certain to get the upcoming April 30 issue of *Intercontinental Press*. The biweekly socialist news magazine will carry the full text of an interview with Cuban leader Fidel Castro. A portion of the interview was run in the January 9 issue of *Newsweek*. The February 10 issue of the Cuban magazine *Bohemia* published the entire text, which *IP* has translated. *Bohemia*, a weekly, is widely circulated and read in Cuba.

In the interview the Cuban revolutionary leader takes up the achievements of the Cuban revolution and puts the lie to U.S. claims that the revolution lacks popular support. Castro talks about the Cuban government's proposal to normalize relations with Washington and what concessions Cuba will make and not make.

Castro also discusses the events leading up to the overthrow of the People's Revolu-

tionary Government (PRG) of Grenada headed by slain Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and the subsequent U.S. invasion of that country last October.

Turning to the U.S. war against the peoples of El Salvador and Nicaragua, Castro explains how he sees the revolutionary process unfolding in the region. He indicates that U.S. imperialism will pay a high price if it invades Central America, as it is preparing to do.

The Cuban head of state also talks about Cuba's role in fighting U.S. imperialism elsewhere in Latin America and Africa.

Another article of interest in this issue will be an interview with Kenrick Radix, a former minister in the PRG under Bishop.

Single copies of *IP* are available for \$1.25. To subscribe, send \$12.50 for six months to *Intercontinental Press*, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

"El Salvador is Spanish for Vietnam" reads one popular antiwar button these days. The *Militant* wanted to probe the content of that slogan. What has happened to Indochina since its hard-fought victory over U.S. imperialism? What were the consequences of the U.S. war there?

The *Militant* sent correspondents Steve Clark and Diane Wang to Vietnam and Kampuchea to record the progress and problems those revolutions face. They spent 20 days in Vietnam and 10 days in Kampuchea.

In Vietnam Clark and Wang visited Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, Lang Son near the Chinese border, the textile center of Nam Dinh, the coal fields of Hon Gai, the area devastated by U.S. chemical warfare in Dong Nai, a new economic zone, factories, hospitals, and schools. They interviewed leaders of the Vietnamese government and mass organizations, as well as workers and people who are rebuilding that country.

In Kampuchea Clark and Wang visited Phnom Penh, Kompong Chnang, and villages in Kandal province. They visited several *khrom samaki* (agricultural solidarity groups), hospitals, schools, and factories. They viewed the evidence of Pol Pot's crimes. They interviewed several leaders of the Peoples Republic of Kampuchea.

In coming weeks the *Militant* and *Intercontinental Press* will carry Clark and Wang's reports on Indochina.

If you missed earlier coverage from the trip — articles about Kampuchean women, Vietnam's efforts to deal with the consequences of Agent Orange, interviews with Minister Vo Dong Giang of Vietnam's foreign ministry and with Kampuchean Deputy Foreign Minister Kong Korm — write to the *Militant* and *Intercontinental Press* for copies of recent issues.

Attack on Vietnam

Continued from front page

Agency (SPK), in the second two weeks of March the Thai army carried out 127 artillery attacks against Kampuchea territory; the Thai air force violated Kampuchea's air space 36 times; and Thai naval vessels intruded in Kampuchean waters 128 times.

A Hanoi statement pointed out that "the Socialist Republic of Vietnam categorically rejects the slanderous accusations of the Thai authorities. While it firmly supports the Kampuchean people and revolutionary armed forces in exercising their legitimate right to self-defense to punish the Pol Pot genocidal clique, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam once again reaffirms its consistent policy of respect for the independence and sovereignty of Thailand."

Progress report — ST. LOUIS, March 29 (UPI) — Poor people crowded into City Hall today and won a victory from the Board of Aldermen, who agreed to



Harry Ring

change a proposed ordinance that would have banned scavenging in trash containers. The measure was amended to permit rummaging

through the containers in the daytime.

Think you're crazy? — Sam Cohen, inventor of the neutron bomb, favors defending Israel's borders with a "nuclear wall" creating a kind of radiation sufficient to kill anyone in minutes. For insurance, it would be backed by mines, barbed wire, and tank traps. He assures a down wind would be no problem, and observes, "Good fences make good neighbors." The proposal appeared in the magazine, *Reason*.

Quite an endorsement — Sen. Jeremiah Denton, (R-Ala.), an observer of the recent Salvadoran

elections, reported back that while he couldn't say if the elections were honest, "I will say that they made more effort to conduct fair elections than we do in the state of Alabama."

Us too — Cristina Ferrare, spouse of automaker John DeLoorean, now being tried for drug dealing conspiracy, says, "Now I have to think twice about buying a \$160 pair of shoes."

We goofed — We recently reported about the Washington society luncheon where powder room attendants sprinkled carnation petals in the toilet bowls. But we failed to report an added aesthetic

touch. The centerpieces for the tables were live, caged doves.

Digestive test? — A 4-pound chicken fired from an air gun with an impact of 600 mph caused only small cracks in the windshield of a recently developed F-4 jet fighter. Must have been one of the Colonel's tender finger lickin' specials.

Ethics Dep't (I) — After a highway construction firm pleaded guilty to bid rigging, a federal judge ordered it to contribute \$1.475 million to endow an ethics professorship at the University of Nebraska. The federal government is appealing the decision, demanding it get the dough instead.

Ethics Dep't (II) — The above item affords us the opportunity to recall the old wheeze about the youngster doing his civics homework and asking his father, "Pop, what's ethics?" The father, a shoe store partner, reflects and explains, "A man buys a \$50 pair of shoes, gives me \$100 and leaves without his change. There I have a problem in ethics. . . . Do I tell my partner?"

Don't forget your lifejacket — *Yacht* magazine is on the stands this month at \$5 a copy. Explains the publisher, "There will be no how-to articles . . . we're going to treat yachts and boats the way *Penthouse* treats women."

—CALENDAR—

ALABAMA

Birmingham

El Salvador — Phony Elections and Growing U.S. War. Speaker: Andy Rose, Socialist Workers Party National Committee. Sat., April 14, 7:30 p.m. 205 18 St. S. Donation requested. Ausp: Militant Forum Series. For more information call (205) 323-3079.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

An Afro-American's View of Cuba: The Gains of Blacks 25 Years After the Revolution. Speaker: Ron Wilkins, member of Ad Hoc Grenada Coalition, recently traveled to Cuba with group of Black activists to discuss Grenada events with Cuban leadership; slide show. Translation to Spanish. Sat., April 14, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$2. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

Oakland

Truth Crushed to the Earth Will Rise Again. Videotape interview with Don Rojas, press secretary to Grenada's slain Prime Minister Maurice Bishop. Translation to Spanish. Fri., April 20, 7 p.m. 3808 E 14th St. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (415) 261-3014.

San Diego

How "Buy American" Campaigns Hurt U.S. Workers. Speakers to be announced. Translation to Spanish. Sat., April 14, 7:30 p.m. 1053 15 St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Socialist Workers Campaign. For more information call (619) 234-4630.

Seaside

Eyewitness Report of Hotel and Restaurant Workers Strike in Las Vegas. Speaker: Ken Collins, Socialist Workers candidate for Sea-

side City Council. Translation to Spanish. Fri., April 20, 7 p.m. 1184 Broadway. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (408) 394-1855.

INDIANA

Indianapolis

U.S. War Drive in Central America. Will Dumping Reagan in '84 Lead to Peace? Speakers: Dave Ellis, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress; Dave Young, toured Nicaragua in 1983 as member of U.S. antiwar delegation. Sat., April 14, 7 p.m. 4850 N College Ave. Ausp: Socialist Workers '84 Campaign Committee. For more information call (213) 283-6149.

KENTUCKY

Louisville

An Eyewitness Report: Life in Nicaragua Today. Speaker: Dave Welters, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate, recently returned from Nicaragua. Slide show presentation. Sun., April 15, 7 p.m. 809 E Broadway. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (502) 587-8418.

LOUISIANA

New Orleans

Rally to Stop the Deportation of Héctor Marroquín and All Other Refugees. Speakers: Héctor Marroquín, Mexican-born socialist fighting deportation; Rev. S. L. Harvey, president, Louisiana Southern Christian Leadership Conference; Ron Chisom, community organizer. Sat., April 14, 7 p.m. St. Mark's Community Center, 1130 N Ramparts. Ausp:

Louisiana Héctor Marroquín Defense Committee. For more information call (504) 891-5956.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

The Middle East: Fight for Liberation Today — What Road Forward for the PLO? Speaker: Dave Frankel, Socialist Workers Party National Committee, former managing editor of *Intercontinental Press*. Translation to Spanish. Sat., April 14, 8 p.m. 7146 W McNichols. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (313) 862-7755.

MISSOURI

St. Louis

Bi-state Rally for Socialist Workers Campaign. Speakers: Andrea González, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. vice-president; Nelson González, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from Illinois; announcing SWP candidate for governor of Missouri. Sat., April 14. Dinner, 6:30-7:30 p.m.; rally, 8 p.m. Salad Bowl Restaurant, 3949 Lindell Blvd. Donation: Dinner and rally, \$7; rally only, \$2. Ausp: SWP Campaign '84. For more information call (314) 772-4410.

NEW YORK

Albany

The Irish Freedom Struggle Today. Speakers: Paul Murray, coordinator, Capital District Irish Northern Aid; Chris Miller, member Noraid and visited Northern Ireland in 1982; David Wall, Young Socialist Alliance and member of Brotherhood of Railway and Airline Clerks Lodge 861. Translation to Spanish. Thurs., April 19, 8 p.m. 23 Central Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (518) 434-3247.

Manhattan

Public Enemy #1. Videotape program about journalist Wilfred Burchett. Fri., April 13, 8 p.m. Downtown Community TV Center, 87 Lafayette St. (south of Canal) Ausp: Tribute to Wilfred Burchett Committee. For more information call (212) 624-8173.

Forum on the U.S. Military Intervention in Central America. Presentation on platform for a provisional government in El Salvador and results of the past elections. Speakers: Salvador Sanabria, representative, Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front—Revolutionary Democratic Front; Bob Armstrong, North American Committee on Latin America; John Wilkins, Committee in Solidarity With the People of El Salvador. Sat., April 14, 7 p.m. Bertold Brecht Auditorium, 151 W 19th St., 7th floor. Ausp: Roque Dalton Salvadoran Committee. For more information call (212) 391-8732.

OHIO

Cincinnati

Turning the Victim Into the Criminal: New Bedford Rape Trials. Speakers: Karen Moser, president of Cincinnati National Organization for Women; Nancy Ruhe, associate director of Women Helping Women; Valery Libby, Socialist Workers Party; Patricia Hamer, National Black Independent Political Party. Sun., April 15, 7:30 p.m. 4945 Paddock Rd. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (513) 242-7161.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

Iraqi War Against Iran. Speaker: Cindy Jaquith, editor of *Militant* and eyewitness to 1979 Iranian revolution. Sat., April 14, 7:30 p.m. 2744 Germantown Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (215) 225-0213.

Pittsburgh

Democratic and Republican Parties: No Answer for Working People. Speaker: Al Duncan, Socialist Workers Party candidate for 14th Congressional District, member United Mine Workers of America Local 2350. Sat., April 14, 7 p.m. 141 S Highland Ave., 3rd floor. Donation requested. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

Grenada Under U.S. Occupation: Eyewitness Report. Speaker: August Nimtz, Socialist Workers Party, recently returned from fact-finding tour of Grenada and other Caribbean islands; slide show. Sat., April 28, 7 p.m. 141 S Highland Ave., 3rd floor. Donation requested. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

Eyewitness Reports From Nicaragua. Seattle antiwar activists return from helping with cotton and coffee harvests. Speakers: Paula Gooding, participant in Maura Clark Brigade; Tom Leahey, participant in coffee harvest; Dean Peoples, participant in Maura Clark Brigade, member of Socialist Workers Party; slide show. Sat., April 14, 7:30 p.m. 5517 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (206) 725-3246.

WEST VIRGINIA

Charleston

Socialism: A Future Worth Fighting For. Speaker: Joan Radin, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate, member of United Mine Workers of America Local 2271. Sat., April 21, 7:30 p.m. 1584-A Washington St. E. Donation: \$2. Ausp: SWP Campaign, Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (304) 345-3040.

Support the British Coal Miners' Strike: Eyewitness Account. Speaker: Bruce Kimball, member United Mine Workers of America Local 2295, recently returned from reporting for *Militant* on British miners' strike. Sun., April 29, 2 p.m. 1584-A Washington St. E. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 345-3040.

Striking British miner wants military medal 'melted down'

Gordon Jones has been a South Yorkshire miner for 10 years and is a development worker at South Kirkby. He is one of thousands of British miners on strike against mine closures. Jones was also a soldier in the British armed forces, stationed in Northern Ireland. For that he received a medal. He returned that medal to Buckingham Palace with the following letter, which was reprinted in the March 23 *Morning Telegraph*.

Your Majesty, for some years I was member of your services, namely a proud member of the Coldstream Guards. I now, however, feel that the service medal received for duties in Ireland no longer holds any value for me.

I am now a Yorkshire miner and I feel that, at the age of 31, I may soon be one of the forgotten masses. In other words I was good enough to be a Yorkshire bully-boy fighting in Ireland, but not for my job.

I therefore return my medal to the country, as I feel it may be better employed melted down to help the unemployed, of whom I may soon be one.

Socialists oppose U.S. war

Continued from front page

illegal mining of Nicaraguan ports. But on the binding votes, they persistently approve funds for overt and covert operations against the Nicaraguan and Salvadoran people. Like previous 'peace' votes, this one is a total sham. It is designed to throw sand in people's eyes while both parties continue to press the war drive."

Judge overturns law

Continued from back page

Shouldn't they have the right to work and still take a reasonable time off . . . have children and come back in the work force?"

Marnie Delaney, president of Los Angeles NOW, pointed out that society as a whole, not individual women, should be responsible for bearing the cost of childbirth. She said this was part of a whole series of attacks on women's rights.

Most women must work to support themselves and their families. Women — concentrated in low-paying, unskilled jobs without union protection — often face demotions, loss of seniority rights, layoffs, and firings when they become pregnant. Maternity leave laws don't discriminate against men — they protect women. Women's rights fighters and unionists have also demanded paid paternity leaves so that fathers, as well as mothers, can choose to stay home with a newborn.

Both the labor movement and women's rights organizations need to respond to this attack on women's rights.

In urging labor opposition to the aggression in Central America, Mason and González pointed to the stand taken by the United Auto Workers (UAW) as an example for all labor.

The current issue of *UAW Ammo* is devoted to the question, "Why are U.S. troops in Central America?"

It reviews the history of U.S. military and political interventions in the region, and demonstrates that these have all been conducted to safeguard the profits of U.S. businessmen at the expense of the superexploited people.

The magazine recalls the resolution of the 1983 UAW convention, which declared, "We strongly urge the cutoff of U.S. military and economic assistance to the oppressive regime in El Salvador. . . . We strongly oppose covert or overt U.S. aid to overthrow the government of Nicaragua. . . ."

Mason and González declared, "That's the direction in which all labor should go. We urge rank-and-file unionists across the country to press to involve their organizations in opposition to this criminal drive toward a new Vietnam."

The socialist nominees added that Washington's Central American war drive was not only an issue of paramount concern for U.S. workers, but equally a central international issue.

"Workers in all countries," they declared, "must be mobilized to oppose Washington's illegal, immoral, and unjust aggression."

British gov't 'privatizes' state forests

BY DOUG JENNESS

For the past three years "Keep Out" signs have been appearing on what had been, until recently, state-owned forests in Britain. The no trespassing notices are being put up by private landlords who have been able to buy the lands as a result of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's policy of selling state-owned forests.

Reversing a 64-year-old policy, the Thatcher administration pushed through the 1981 Forestry Act enabling the government to sell some of its forest lands. Since this law was adopted, more than \$100 million worth of land has been sold.

According to a report in the December 1983 issue of *Landworker*, newspaper of Britain's Agricultural and Allied Workers Union, Thatcher initially proposed selling about \$50 million worth of land. But she has progressively increased her demands, and the \$100 million of sales may not be

the end. The Forestry Act places no limit on how much land can be sold, giving Thatcher a free hand to sell more.

The land sales to private owners decrease the amount of forests that are open to the public for recreational purposes. Under pressure from the labor movement, forests managed by the Forestry Commission have in recent years been made increasingly accessible to millions of people.

The Forestry Commission is also the largest supplier of timber to the wood processing industry. But today timber sales are down and the commission is cutting back on planting. It has slashed its work force from 16,000 to just over 6,000.

The sale of forests to private owners is also leading to cutbacks. Many of the new landlords are investing in the forest lands for speculative reasons, to obtain tax shelters, or to establish private recreational retreats.

Anger among forestry workers is mount-

ing. Under this pressure leading members of the Agricultural and Allied Workers and the Civil Service Union, both of which organize forest workers, held a protest and news conference last November at 10 Downing Street, the prime minister's residence.

The labor party also opposes the sale of public lands. According to the *Landworker*, Bob Hughes, the Labor Party's agriculture spokesman, told a protest meeting of union leaders and members of parliament that "the Labor Party is committed to a repeal of the 1981 Forestry Act." He stated that "when we return to power, we will repossess that land taken over by private landlords to make speculative gains."

The sale of state-owned forests is part of a general policy of the Thatcher government to dispose of public property. Since 1979 it has been on a campaign to turn Britain's state industries over to private own-

ers. Already some \$2.8 billion worth has been sold. And the government has proposed increasing this over the next four years. Among the industries targeted are Telecom and British Airways. In addition to reestablishing private control over key industries, one of the goals of this reprivatization is to deal a blow to the trade unions in government-owned industries.



British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is busy turning over public forests to become recreation retreats and tax shelters for the rich.

Backers of free Puerto Rico sentenced

BY ROBERTO KOPEC

NEW YORK — Two leaders of Puerto Rico's independence movement were sentenced here April 9 to two years in jail each on criminal contempt charges stemming from their refusal to testify before a Grand Jury.

Federico Cintrón Fiallo and Carlos Noya Murati, both residents of Puerto Rico, had been called to testify in Brooklyn before a Federal Grand Jury allegedly investigating a series of bombings in the New York area claimed by the Puerto Rican Armed Forces of National Liberation (FALN).

Cintrón and Noya are both members of the Puerto Rican United Committee Against Repression (CUCRE); Noya is also a leader of the Puerto Rican Socialist League, a proindependence organization. Like many other Puerto Ricans, they stand on the principle of refusing to collaborate with the U.S. judicial system, whose jurisdiction in Puerto Rico they do not recognize, having been imposed on the Puerto Rican people by U.S. military occupation forces after the U.S. invasion of the island

in 1898.

At a packed pre-sentencing hearing April 6, in Brooklyn Federal Court, several prominent Puerto Ricans testified on the political motives behind Noya and Cintrón's refusal to collaborate with the Grand Jury.

Included among those testifying were Rubén Berrios, head of the Puerto Rican Independence Party (PIP) and currently a candidate for the Puerto Rican Senate; Bishop Antulio Parrilla Bonilla; and Luis Camacho, a former member of the Puerto Rican Senate and former president of the Puerto Rican Bar Association.

Eight other proindependence activists,

all of them residents of the United States, have fallen victim to this Grand Jury. Five of them began serving three year prison sentences on April 10. Silvia Baraldini and Shelley Miller will be sentenced April 16. And the last person so far to be subpoenaed, Pamela Fadem, who lives in Austin, Texas, is scheduled to go on trial for criminal contempt on May 21. None of these activists have been directly accused of belonging to the FALN, nor of having committed any terrorist acts. They are being railroaded to prison for their open, declared support of independence for Puerto Rico, and their refusal to cooperate with the U.S. government.

Hart and Kennedy: what liberals stand for

Continued from Page 5

tion and prevent it from being emulated by workers and farmers elsewhere in Latin America. Chief among these was the misnamed "Alliance for Progress." Today Hart proposes more such programs as his answer to the example of Cuba and Nicaragua.

The Alliance for Progress was intended as the capitalist answer to the tremendous advances made by Cuba through land reform, economic planning, and other measures.

Kennedy explained, "Our unfulfilled task is to demonstrate that our democratic, capitalistic, free enterprise system is better for underdeveloped countries than the totalitarian systems; that it will provide the social justice which the masses demand."

But that task — an impossible one — remains unfulfilled. The Alliance for Progress was a miserable failure.

The imperialist setup, which the Alliance for Progress was designed to bolster, cannot provide the "social justice which the masses demand," because it is based on big profits for the few at the expense of the interests of the vast majority. Thus, it inevitably leads to more bloody repression, as in El Salvador today, and more wars such as the one the U.S. government is waging in Central America.

Hart, like his model Kennedy, will attempt to sound "progressive" while taking whatever steps are necessary to stop the extension of the socialist revolution in the Americas.

The deepening U.S. war in Central America is not the creation of Ronald Reagan or a band of conservative or right-wing politicians in Congress. It is the inevitable result of a bipartisan foreign policy that seeks to preserve imperialist domination at all costs.

This was Kennedy's policy, as well as that of all presidents, Republican and Democrat alike, who followed him.

In 1964 liberal presidential candidate Lyndon Johnson pledged not to send "American boys" to do a job "Asian boys should do for themselves" in Southeast Asia. When Johnson ordered his first major escalation of the Vietnam War, some who had mistakenly voted for him as a peace candidate felt betrayed. They claimed Johnson was implementing the policy proposed by his opponent in the 1964 election, Barry Goldwater.

But that was wishful thinking. Johnson wasn't following Goldwater's policy. Johnson was following *Johnson's* policy — the foreign policy of the capitalist class. Based on his own campaign rhetoric, Gary Hart, like the other liberals, can be expected to do the same.

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Senate Nicaragua motion a fraud

"The Senate took a first step to halt President Reagan's secret war in Nicaragua," declared Sen. Edward Kennedy after the Senate voted 84-12 for a nonbinding resolution opposing the use of federal funds for mining Nicaraguan waters.

There's not a single word of truth in Kennedy's statement.

The very fact that the April 10 vote was nonbinding should make clear that its purpose is not to slow down the war drive but to better adapt to the wide popular concern evoked by the steady military escalation.

No one should believe this vote will stop the mining. Open, committed supporters of Reagan's policies were among the 42 Republicans, including the Senate majority leader, and 42 Democrats that voted for the resolution.

Furthermore, it was reported that a White House aide told reporters that the White House "would not have a problem if the first Kennedy amendment went through."

That is, Reagan could live with the no-more-mining resolution if Kennedy would agree to withdraw another

nonbinding resolution that the U.S. accept World Court jurisdiction in disputes over Central America. Nicaragua has moved to bring Washington before the World Court for its illegal mining of Nicaraguan waters.

Kennedy cooperatively withdrew the World Court resolution and the one on mining sailed through. It was pure charade.

It's worth recalling that last July the House voted 228-195 to end covert aid to the counterrevolutionary exiles conducting murderous raids into Nicaragua.

Four months later, in November, House and Senate conferees agreed on providing \$24 million for such covert aid.

It can be safely predicted that the same pattern will again prevail — talk of peace while making sure the war is well-funded.

This underlines the need for U.S. working people to oppose Washington's criminal aggression against Nicaragua.

U.S. government bars Ungo visit

U.S. capitalists are intensifying their war in Central America, and that means curbing democratic rights here. One of the rights under attack from the bosses is freedom of speech. And one way that right is under attack is that working people are being denied the right to hear and discuss the views of Central American leaders who oppose Washington's bellicose policies.

The April 5 announcement by the U.S. State Department that it had revoked the entry visa of Guillermo Ungo is a case in point. State Department officials told Ungo he was being barred entry to the United States because he used previous visits to raise money for Salvadoran guerrillas of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN). Ungo heads the Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR), a broad coalition of Salvadoran forces opposed to the U.S.-backed military dictatorship.

The actual reason for the ban is to further limit opportunities for U.S. workers to hear opposing views on the U.S. ruling class' foreign policy.

Ungo has visited the United States often, including trips in February and another last October. During those

visits Ungo spoke before antiwar rallies, teach-ins, and other public gatherings. The Salvadoran leader also met with members of the U.S. Congress to, according to a FDR spokesperson, "find a political settlement to the conflict" in El Salvador.

In a similar move last November, the State Department denied a visa to Tomás Borge, Nicaragua's minister of the interior. At the time, one White House spokesperson baldly admitted that the government didn't want to provide the Nicaraguans "a propaganda platform" in the United States.

The employers and their government are afraid. Afraid that if U.S. working people hear the views of the Sandinista and Salvadoran rebel leaders firsthand, it would deepen already widespread opposition to U.S. intervention in Central America.

They're right. And that makes it doubly important to protest these visa denials and all other attempts to prevent us from hearing what Central American working people and their leaders have to say about Washington's war.

Reagan's poison gas 'ban'

President Reagan plans to send Vice-pres. Bush to Geneva later this month to present a U.S. proposal that would supposedly ban chemical weapons. In fact, Reagan's draft "treaty" is nothing more than an attempt to cover up the actual buildup of the U.S. chemical arsenal, which forms part of Washington's massive stockpile of conventional and nuclear weapons.

The 1925 Geneva Protocol, which the U.S. government refused to sign until 1975, prohibits the use of poisonous gases and biological weapons in warfare. Possession of biological weapons was outlawed by the Biological Weapons Convention of 1972.

Both Democratic and Republican administrations have stockpiled chemical weapons, claiming that the Geneva accord doesn't ban possession, but only use of the weapons.

Estimates of the size of the U.S. stockpiles vary, with figures as high as 150,000 tons of poisonous gas.

Since 1978 a United Nations Committee on Disarmament has been meeting periodically to try to adopt a total ban on chemical weapons. The committee, which has 40 member nations, will hold another conference later this month in Geneva.

At an earlier conference the Soviet Union's government said it would agree to permanent on-site verification of the destruction of its chemical-weapon stocks. This offer followed a proposal from the Warsaw Pact, an alliance of the Soviet Union and Eastern European workers states, that the imperialist North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) bloc join it in banning chemical weapons from Europe.

The Reagan proposal demands verification of destruction of chemical arms stockpiles at "undeclared" sites as well as declared sites. The U.S. government demands that the Soviet Union submit to "mandatory inspections" of chemical weapons production sites that have been declared to exist, and give U.S. military officials the "right to look at suspected undeclared production sites."

Washington is demanding, in effect, the unrestricted right to spy throughout the USSR. Thus it was no surprise that on April 5, the Kremlin rejected the Reagan plan.

Tass, the Soviet government's news agency, correctly pointed out that "by making patently unacceptable conditions for 'verification' and 'enforcement'" the Reagan administration's real intention was to block agreement on a ban of chemical weapons.

Moreover, Tass continued, the Reagan plan was merely "a propaganda trick" aimed at obscuring Washington's buildup of chemical arms.

The truthfulness of this statement is shown by the Reagan administration's 1985 budget request. The White House has asked for \$1.1 billion from Congress to maintain existing chemical weapons and to develop new artillery shells for their delivery. About \$930 million would go to the army — an increase of \$138 million.

By making a proposal that is obviously unacceptable, President Reagan hopes to portray the Soviet Union — instead of Washington — as the obstacle to banning chemical weapons. At the news conference where he unveiled his "treaty," Reagan reiterated the false charges that peoples in Afghanistan, Laos, and Kampuchea had been subjected to chemical weapons by the Soviet Union and its allies.

Reagan claimed he was making this proposal in response to Iraq's use of chemical warfare against Iran. But Washington isn't concerned about atrocities committed against the Iranian people or their government, which the U.S. ruling class has sought to overturn since it came to power in 1979. Reagan raises Iraq's use of chemical weapons in the Iran-Iraq war as a cover for Washington's buildup of deadly arms.

It's the employers and their greed for more profits that threaten to blanket the world in clouds of poisonous vapors. It was the imperialist powers that fought in World War I to reapportion the world between them. They used millions of working people as cannon fodder and dropped tons of mustard and other lethal gases.

Between 1961-1971, during Washington's war against the Vietnamese people, U.S. forces dropped 72 million liters of defoliants — Agent Orange, Agent White, and Agent Blue — on South Vietnam. In the year between February 1982 and 1983, U.S. veterans made 369,000 visits to Veterans Administration hospitals for treatment of diseases thought to be related to exposure to Agent Orange and other defoliants containing the cancer-causing chemical dioxin. The human toll on the Vietnamese people was far greater still.

Chemical and biological weapons should be outlawed. But working people will never be free from the threat of chemical warfare until we've buried the capitalist system along with the poisonous chemicals it has created.

Kennedy's attempt to isolate the Cuban revolution

An "Inter-American Economic and Social Conference" was sponsored by the Organization of American States (OAS) in August 1961 at Punta del Este, Uruguay. There the chief U.S. delegate of the Kennedy administration, Secretary of the Treasury C. Douglas Dillon, presented the U.S. plan called the "Alliance for Progress." This was a series of economic programs aimed at posing a capitalist alternative to the example of economic progress being set by the Cuban revolution. It was also an effort to repair U.S. prestige in Latin America in the wake of the failed U.S.-sponsored invasion at Playa Girón (Bay of Pigs) earlier that year.

The conference occurred six months before the U.S. government succeeded in obtaining Cuba's expulsion from the OAS as part of its effort to ostracize and isolate the Cuban revolution. Thus a Cuban delegation participated, led by Che Guevara.

Below are excerpts from Guevara's balance sheet of the conference. It originally appeared in the February 1962 issue of *World Marxist Review* and was reprinted in the Pathfinder Press book *Che Guevara Speaks* (available from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. for \$4.95 and \$.75 postage) under the title "Cuba and the Kennedy Plan."

Unable to strangle the revolution, the United States set out to isolate Cuba in order to make short shrift of it later. The Inter-American Economic and Social Conference, held in Punta del Este, Uruguay, in August 1961 was also

OUR REVOLUTIONARY HERITAGE

subordinated to this end. The U.S. propaganda line was that Cuba need not be reckoned with, that the Cuban delegation had arrived at the session only to sabotage it and, acting "on orders from Moscow," to prevent the North Americans from granting "generous" loans to the Latin American countries.

In a way [Dillon's] speech reflected new trends in U.S. policy, the striving to make some readjustments in the machinery through which U.S. imperialism exploits the Latin American peoples and to rely not only on the feudal reactionaries but also on some sections of the local bourgeoisie. U.S. imperialism aims at lessening internal discontent in the Latin American countries by making minor concessions to the public and to the national bourgeoisie on the condition that these countries subordinate themselves completely to U.S. interests and renounce their own independent path of development. This tendency found expression in the so-called Kennedy Plan, grandiloquently christened by the U.S. president as the "Alliance for Progress."

It cannot be said, however, that the new trends wholly determine U.S. Latin American policy. The U.S. capitalists still consider the old method of exploitation the most reliable method; they have thoroughly tested it in practice and are none to anxious to go in for "innovations" which, though camouflaged, pursue the same aim of plunder.

After analyzing the four key items on the agenda, the Cuban delegation set forth its views in detail, showing why it considered that the present Inter-American Economic and Social Conference was political in character and aimed, ultimately, at isolating Cuba. We read out parts of two secret U.S. documents, which we had received through our friends and which now are known to the whole world. One of them revealed the plans of the imperialist forces and their disdain for the Latin American governments and peoples.

The second document was an official State Department analysis of the situation on the continent after the debacle of Playa Girón. As a secret imperialist document it is objective enough and reflects some truths basic to an understanding of the subsequent course of events. Admitting that Cuba could not be an aggressor, its authors concede that Cuba's purely defensive military preparations in anticipation of possible aggression presented no danger to other countries. What is dangerous is the example of Cuba, Castro's ability to demonstrate the superiority of the Cuban regime.

The document clearly reveals the details of imperialist machinations: At present the tactical objective is complete isolation of Cuba since its example presents the greatest danger to the imperialists.

How does Cuba evaluate the results of the Punta del Este conference? What did it give Latin America? Although the meeting was by no means a complete disappointment to us, neither can it be said that the Latin American peoples gained much by it.

The point is that the U.S. imperialists set out to persuade the participants that Cuba is incapable of living at peace with the rest of the Americas and maintaining relations with them within the framework of the Organization of American States. The attempt was a failure, however, and in this sense the U.S. imperialists lost the battle.

Jackson's vote: flexing Black political muscle?

That the great majority of Blacks who voted, voted for Jesse Jackson in the April 3 New York Democratic primary came as no surprise. This has been true in virtually every primary so far.

Besides, if you're Black and still caught in the framework of voting for capitalist politicians, Jackson seems a good choice. Of the three Democratic Party candidates Jackson sounds the most radical — even though there isn't any substantial difference between them. Jack-



BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY

Mohammed Oliver

son's history of involvement in the civil rights movement adds to his prestige as a "nontraditional" politician.

And, of course, Jackson is Black. The deepgoing nationalist sentiment in the Black community finds a distorted reflection in the high Black vote totals for Jackson. Blacks — especially young Black workers — are searching for a way to gain more political representation. They understand that political power would be a mighty weapon in the fight against racial oppression and their class exploitation as workers. Most Black workers view voting for Jackson as one way to achieve more political power — perhaps not as president in 1984, but through the election and appointment of more Blacks to high city, state, and federal positions.

Jackson is very conscious of this objective. He is try-

ing to parlay this support into a bargaining chip in his dealings with the U.S. ruling rich. He hopes that by amassing a substantial number of Black votes he can force concessions from the Democratic Party. In particular Jackson is looking to translate his support into a successful bid for office by local Black Democrats.

Referring to the recent election of Black mayors in Chicago and Philadelphia, Jackson said on April 3, "Chicago had its time. Philadelphia had its time. New York, your time has come."

"New York City politics will never be the same again," said Jackson. "We want more in '84 and we will be live, real live, in '85 in New York City."

Jackson's optimism was buoyed by the massive turnout of Black voters backing his candidacy. In some districts in New York City 90 percent of registered Black voters went to the polls. Eighty-seven percent of those Blacks voted for Jackson.

Among younger Blacks — between 18-29 years old — Jackson garnered 92 percent of the vote, and 34 percent of the Latinos who voted cast their ballots for the Black Democrat. And 66 percent of "first time" voters, including a number of whites, voted for Jackson.

Jackson crushed both Mondale and Hart in the majority Black districts such as Brooklyn's 11th and 12th and Manhattan's 16th congressional districts. Several local Black and Latino Democrats want to channel Jackson's strong showing into support for their 1985 campaigns.

There's also increased talk of running a Black or Latino for mayor in 1985 against the racist incumbent mayor, Edward Koch. These capitalist politicians hope to duplicate the election victories of Harold Washington in Chicago and Wilson Goode in Philadelphia.

But Blacks are looking for more than a few more "Black faces in high places." They want real power. They see the Jackson campaign as one way of winning

more political power, but they're open to other ideas — very open.

That's been the experience of the Socialist Workers Party before and after Jackson announced his campaign. Ed Warren, SWP mayoral candidate in Chicago in 1983, received a warm reception from Blacks in that city. They were glad to see another brother running for office and wanted to know what Warren's ideas were on racist cop terror, racial discrimination in housing and employment, poor education, increasing joblessness, and other issues. Warren's socialist solutions to the problems spawned by capitalism got a wide hearing from Blacks and other workers. The most receptive were Washington supporters.

Mel Mason, 1984 SWP presidential candidate, is meeting a similar response. Across the country Mason and his campaign supporters have noted the openness of Blacks and other working people to the candidate's socialist program. These workers want to discuss how to win more political power, and they see socialists as a legitimate part of the discussion.

At a support rally for Jackson in Harlem April 1, SWP campaigners distributed hundreds of pieces of campaign literature. They engaged in numerous discussions with rally participants and sold a good deal of socialist literature, including all five copies of *Maurice Bishop Speaks* they had with them.

The great significance of Jackson's Black vote is not that he got it, but why. It's primarily a protest vote, and while Jackson wants to keep that protest in the safe confines of the Democratic Party, revolutionary socialists want to help lead it in an independent working-class direction — toward Blacks and other working people taking political power. *Intervening* in the discussion around the Jackson campaign can help win new forces to this anticapitalist perspective.

LETTERS

Copper strikes

Two women from the Safford Women's Copper Strikers Auxiliary completed a successful four-day tour of Kansas City March 18. It was sponsored by the Coalition of Labor Union Women here.

Over \$2,000 was raised for the strikers.

The tour included two union meetings, radio talk shows, a lunchtime meeting with union leaders of the Central Labor Council, a press conference, and a united labor rally.

Despite an ice storm, about 100 people attended the rally. Bonita Webster, president of the auxiliary, and Pat Starr, vice-president, received a sympathetic response when they described the hardships the strikers suffered in the nine months of the strike against Phelps Dodge Corp.

Webster related that in July 1983, the month the miners went out, scabs were hired by Phelps Dodge to break the strike. In August the National Guard, local police, and tanks were brought in to physically force the strikers back to work.

However, she said, police and guns were not the only weapons that Phelps Dodge had on its side. Strikers were evicted from their company-owned homes, denied help during an October flood that destroyed many homes in the towns, and had, until recently, their medical benefits cut off.

Pat Starr said in her speech how, despite Phelps Dodge's claims that it is operating at full capacity using scab labor, the company has actually lost \$53 million since the strike began.

She emphasized the crucial need for monetary and moral support from the whole labor movement and hopes that there will be more rallies like this one around the country.

Webster and Starr received a rousing response when they spoke at a Communications Workers Union meeting where \$600 was raised, and at a United Auto Workers meeting where over \$400 was contributed.

Other endorsers of the tour included Furman Joye of the Teamsters, Glenn Overmeir of the Steelworkers, the Service Employ-

ees International Union, National Education Association, Postal Workers Union, Latin American Committee for Labor Advancement, National Organization for Women, and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Michelle Fields
Kansas City, Missouri

In memory

I've enclosed a donation made by family members in memory of my mother, Margaret.

Though not someone I would consider a "supporter" of the *Militant*, she subscribed for many years and grew to depend on it for an analysis of the complex events she always tried to grapple with and understand.

Sometimes she would dispute a stand the *Militant* had taken. But just as often she would exclaim with satisfaction that she had read that week's issue from cover to cover and had enjoyed it immensely.

Barbara Mutnick
Jersey City, N.J.

Iranian radio

In a recent broadcast of the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Iranian government slammed U.S. mining of Nicaragua's ports. It also expressed solidarity with the Nicaraguan people against the United States and its *contra* [counterrevolutionary] proxies.

The radio station broadcasts daily from 2:30-3:30 Eastern Standard Time in English on 9.022 Mhz.

Bruce Johnston
Schenectady, New York

Prisoner on Reagan

Reagan's administration is steadily increasing corporate capitalist profits by unshouldering its economic obligations to the needy by enforcing a stringent system against domestic spending on non-profitable concerns. Instead billions and billions of hard-earned taxpayer dollars are being pumped into the military industries to open avenues for profits in the Third World.

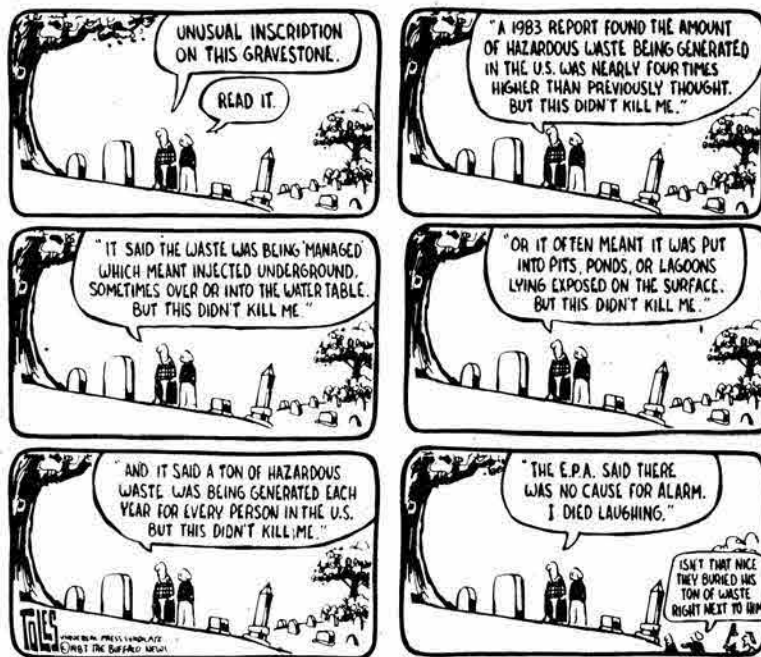
Moreover, the corporate

capitalists produce weapons to be sold and used abroad by neo-Fascist regimes in their bloody wars against the *real* defenders of Truth, Freedom, and Justice.

We must send Reagan from the White House back to G.E. Playhouse at the end of 1984. Because only the corporate capitalists can ever profit from his economic and foreign policies.

A prisoner

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.



'We are being denied our constitutional rights'

My name is Bruce Hawkins and I am a known political activist who struggles constantly within the prison system to help stop racist oppression. Myself and other comrades housed in Attica's Special Housing Unit (Box), the disciplinary confinement unit, would like to bring to your attention the inhuman, racist, dreadful treatment we receive from corrections officers, especially the assaults on inmates housed in this unit.

On March 9, 1984, an inmate was jumped and brutally beaten by numerous correction officers because he demanded to see a sergeant. He had noticed that he had human hairs and rocks in his food and that his tray was unsanitary to eat out of. He was kicked, hit with clubs, and had gas sprayed on him. The correction officers refused to give him medical assistance.

We the inmates in the Special Housing Unit are being denied a sufficient amount of food.

Our home food packages that are sent to us by our families are being delayed for weeks and are not opened in our presence. On numerous occasions food items sent us from home were missing. On some occa-

sions myself and other comrades have witnessed the correction officers eating some food from other inmates' packages.

They don't have one Black or Hispanic correction officer in this unit. The officers are white racists known for assaulting inmates in Attica.

We are not allowed personal soap, deodorant, shampoo, or body lotions. We are not allowed personal towels. We have insufficient clothing. Some of us have no coats at all.

We are handcuffed behind our backs and sometimes from the front to go to recreation, all legal visits, and all personal visits, even if we do not commit any disciplinary infraction against the institution.

Some of us are housed in plexiglas cells. Some people have suffered and have complained that we are not receiving proper air through these cells.

It takes months to get to see the eye doctor or dentist and we have individuals here who have serious tooth and eye problems who haven't been seen yet. We desperately need medical changes.

We the inmates of the special Housing Unit of Attica are

being denied our constitutional rights and equal protection by law because of our political views and struggle against racism and harassment, which goes on in the prison system.

We ask that you print this letter with our names and numbers. We ask for any political support that we can get from the outside.

Please write or call:
Thomas A. Coughlin III
Department of Correctional Services
State of New York
The State Office Building
Albany, N.Y. 12226;

Harold J. Smith
Superintendent of Attica
Box 149
Attica, N.Y. 14011

Gov. Mario Cuomo
Executive Chambers, Capital Building
Albany, N.Y. 12224

In the struggle,
Bruce Hawkins #77-A-1951
CW-2

Joseph Grice #81-B-2058
Vernon Jackson #80-B-1689
Butch Miller

Alex Sutorne #81-A-5673
Otis Hilliard #76-B-992

Malik Allah #74-A-2847

Luis Rosado #76-A-4441 Attica, New York

Union women back justice for Marroquín

Activists to take antideportation fight to unions, CLUW chapters

BY PRISCILLA SCHENK

CHICAGO — An outpouring of solidarity greeted Héctor Marroquín at the national convention of the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) March 22-25. Marroquín attended the convention as part of an emergency campaign to stop government efforts to deport him. Many convention participants saw his fight against this injustice as a powerful example of how the labor movement can organize to defend the rights of the millions of undocumented workers in this country.

The 1,200 convention participants received an open letter from Kathy Andrade, education director of International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU) Local 23-25, and myself, a delegate from North Jersey CLUW and a member of Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers' Union (ACTWU) Local 63. The letter asked for support for my husband's fight for political asylum and for permanent residence based on our marriage.

"Today a fellow trade unionist and political activist from Mexico, Héctor Marroquín, faces the threat of immediate deportation," the letter said. "Marroquín has presented overwhelming evidence that his life and freedom would be in grave danger if forced to return to Mexico. He needs the help and solidarity of the labor movement to win his right to live and work in this country."

The appeal for support comes at a critical stage in Marroquín's fight for political asylum. In a matter of weeks the U.S. Supreme Court is expected to decide his case. If the Immigration and Naturalization Service's (INS) order of deportation is upheld, Marroquín will have 48 hours to leave the country.

The open letter explained that Marroquín is being "victimized for his political beliefs and activities in this country, where he has been speaking out in defense of the rights of immigrants and all working people."

"There is a lot at stake for the labor movement in the outcome of Marroquín's fight," it continued. "If the government succeeds in deporting him it would be a blow to the democratic and political rights of all labor activists as well as all immigrants and refugees in the U.S."

In response to this call, hundreds at the convention signed petitions demanding the INS stop Marroquín's deportation. Activists from the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME); ILGWU; United Auto Workers; International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT); and several other unions

promised their help in presenting resolutions on Marroquín's behalf before their union locals and CLUW chapters.

Joycelyn Thompson, an outgoing CLUW vice-president and a member of the International Association of Machinists, and Winn Newman, CLUW's general counsel, endorsed Marroquín's case. Also endorsing were Susan Gzesh, immigration director for the National Lawyers Guild; Patricia Powell-Hook of the Omaha Federation of Labor; Sean MacDonald of New York AFSCME District Council 37, and Ferline Buie of the IBT.

A highlight of the convention was a workshop on undocumented workers, which drew nearly 100 participants. Packets distributed at the workshop included information on Marroquín's case.

A panel of labor and immigration-rights activists spoke on the growing attacks on the rights of foreign-born workers. Andrade pointed to the connection between immigration policies in this country and the policy of war against the people of Central America. "Unfortunately, the U.S. government is on the wrong side of history in Central America," she said. "What it is doing there is against the will of the people."

Tens of thousands of refugees from El Salvador have come here to escape the U.S.-sponsored war in their country. Most are ordered deported.

"It is a tradition of CLUW to defend the rights of women and, of course, the undocumented," Andrade continued. "The case of Héctor Marroquín is one that we must stand by and pitch in to help."

After the presentations, Marroquín spoke. "I feel inspired by the discussion we are having here at this convention on the rights of our brothers and sisters who come here from other countries. What we need today is for the labor movement to



Héctor Marroquín (left) speaks with Teamster members at reception. Government wants to deport Marroquín "because he's a troublemaker like us," said one.

mobilize our strength to fight to defend these rights."

Muzaffar Chishti, immigration director for ILGWU Local 23-25 and a panelist at the workshop, said that "Marroquín is a very well-known student and union leader from Mexico. His case is an extremely important one that will affect the outcome of many others seeking asylum in the United States."

A meeting was held at the convention for CLUW activists to discuss how to take Marroquín's case back to their locals and CLUW chapters to win support. Fifty people attended the meeting from unions across the country.

A lively discussion followed a presentation by Marroquín. "Why do they want to deport you?" a Black woman from the Teamsters asked. "Because he's a troublemaker like us," her companion offered.

"Yes," Marroquín explained, "they don't like my ideas. They don't like that I'm a socialist. And they sure don't like that I'm going around the country speaking out for the rights of immigrants, Blacks, women, and all working people."

"Well, how can you fight back?" a woman from AFSCME asked. "He'll have to pray," someone suggested. "I think he

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Judge overturns Calif. maternity law

BY GLOVA SCOTT

LOS ANGELES — A federal judge here recently ruled "null, void, invalid and inoperative" California's law that women returning to their jobs after maternity leaves must be reinstated to their "same or similar" jobs.

The reason?

The law allegedly discriminates against men because men don't get pregnant. While it might sound ridiculous, this ruling is a serious setback for the rights of women

and all working people and can help pave the way for further setbacks. It means that many women will have to choose between having children or keeping their jobs. And it lends credence to the reactionary and false notion that progressive laws passed as a result of the fight for women's equality discriminate against men.

The rationale for the decision was that because maternity leaves were the only disability covered by the law, the law discriminated against men.

U.S. District Judge Manuel Real was ruling on the case of Lillian Garland, a Black woman receptionist who filed a complaint against her employer, California Federal Savings and Loan Association, because it took California Federal 10 months to give Garland a job after she returned from a pregnancy leave.

California Federal got an injunction to block a court hearing on Garland's complaint and challenged the maternity law in federal court. The State Chamber of Commerce and the Merchants and Manufacturers Association backed California Federal.

Lou Custrini, vice-president of the Merchants and Manufacturers Association, was delighted with the court ruling. He said the decision will inspire employers to challenge other state disability laws that benefit both men and women.

Liberal San Francisco Mayor Diane Feinstein praised Real's decision. The job market, she said, should not have to "accommodate itself to women having children."

Women's rights groups and unions were outraged by the ruling. Various meetings were held with state and local politicians to seek an appeal.

A spokesperson for the California Teachers Association noted that the decision could invalidate maternity benefits in union contracts.

Sandra Fahra, president of the California National Organization for Women (NOW), said the decision was based on "the assumption that women will always have someone to take care of them. Women will always be the ones to bear children."

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French steelworkers organize general strike

BY HERMAN CHAUKA

Enraged French steelworkers staged a militant general strike in steel towns April 4 protesting a government-ordered plan for heavy new cuts in steel jobs.

Workers by the thousands in the Lorraine region of France, heartland of the steel industry, virtually cut the area off from the rest of the country.

Huge marches and demonstrations brought street traffic to a halt. Telephone lines were cut. Highways were blocked and rail traffic came to a halt as workers burned piles of rubber tires and piled up heavy obstacles of coiled steel.

In the town of Longwy, where half the 6,000 steelworkers there would be thrown out, the workers stormed public buildings. Riot cops were greeted with rocks and bottles of acid.

Workers from throughout the Lorraine region were slated to stage a march on Paris April 13.

The intensified resistance to the cutbacks comes in the face of a decade of steady slashing away at steel employment.

In these past 10 years the number of steel jobs has plunged from 160,000 to 85,000.

The latest cuts ordered by the French government would chop off an estimated 27,000 of those remaining 85,000 jobs. That's the government's estimate. Unionists insist the loss would be even higher.

Earlier cutbacks were also met by protests and strike action. But the big new proposed slash sparked a heavy explosion because it comes at a time when the prospects for alternate employment are becoming rapidly slimmer. France's jobless rate has climbed to 9.9 percent, and in some industrial regions it's as high as 15 percent.

During this past decade, French steel production has dropped from 27 million tons to 16 million, and the government plan is now to cut it by another one-third.

The government has been subsidizing

the losses of steel companies that become unprofitable.

Meanwhile, the government is also investing \$2 billion in building several new electrified plants, which will use two-thirds less workers.

Further fuel for the workers' anger is the fact that the onslaught against their jobs is being conducted by the Socialist Party-led government of Pres. François Mitterrand.

When elected in 1981, Mitterrand's platform had included a pledge to expand the steel industry.

Now he is demonstrating that while occasionally paying lip service to the idea of socialism, his government, as with previous governments, is devoted to the defense of French capitalism. The Mitterrand government has consistently put the employers' profits before the needs of the workers and farmers.

Demonstrating steelworkers have responded with banners declaring, "Thanks, François" and "Mitterrand resign."