

## Ireland protests hit Reagan war policies



More than 3,000 marched in Dublin, Ireland, May 26 to protest Reagan visit and U.S. war in Central America. Derek Speirs/Report

BY MARGARET JAYKO

DUBLIN — More than 3,000 people marched through the streets of this city on May 26 to protest Pres. Ronald Reagan's visit to Ireland and the U.S. war in Central America.

Included among the marchers was Mel Mason, Socialist Workers Party candidate for president of the United States.

Protests will dog Reagan's every step during his June 1-4 visit. Ben Kearney, president of the Dublin Council of Trade

Unions, said, "we hope this will be a massive demonstration against President Reagan and his foreign policies."

Reagan's visit has sparked a countrywide discussion and debate here. The discussion centers on opposition to the U.S. war on the peoples of El Salvador and Nicaragua as well as Washington's backing for repressive rulers around the world, from Pres. Ferdinand Marcos in the Philippines to Prime Minister Pieter Botha who heads the racist regime of South Africa.

Also unpopular is the joint decision by London and Washington to place cruise missiles, armed with nuclear warheads, in Britain.

The future of Ireland — a nation divided, oppressed, and exploited by the British imperialists — has inevitably become a key part of the controversy around Reagan's visit.

The Irish government, while claiming to disagree with aspects of U.S. foreign policy, has not taken any action.

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## Central America rally in N.Y. June 9

BY OLGA RODRÍGUEZ

NEW YORK — A final push is on to get out the word for the June 9 demonstration here against the U.S. war in Central America and the Caribbean.

The protest is organized by the Coalition Against U.S. Intervention in Central America and the Caribbean, whose principal coordinators are representatives of the Committee in Solidarity With the People of El Salvador (CISPES), Mobilization for Survival, and Clergy and Laity Concerned. A broad range of Black and Latino groups, solidarity organizations, religious groups, and left organizations is backing the action.

The National Congress of Puerto Rican Rights has sent out a bilingual leaflet urging Puerto Rican participation in the march to over 3,000 members and supporters. A Third World contingent is being organized.

The Women's Coalition to Stop U.S. Intervention in Central America and the Caribbean has put out a leaflet to build a women's contingent on the march. The same U.S. government attacking equal rights at home, the leaflet explains, "also attacks the hopes, aspirations, and concrete victories of women, workers, and oppressed people of other countries, especially in Central America and the Caribbean."

Mavie Chalkey, June 9 coordinator for the women's coalition, said that among the groups planning to participate in the women's contingent are CISPES Women's Committee; Women for Racial and Economic Equality; AMES, a Salvadoran

women's organization; Women's International League for Peace and Freedom; MADRE, a group in solidarity with mothers of U.S. war victims in Central America; United Methodist Women; United Church of Christ Women; and activists from the Women's Peace Committee of the Coalition of Labor Union Women.

The Salvadoran Solidarity Coordinating Committee is building the march. Luis Bran, an activist in the June 9 coalition and a member of Casa El Salvador, told the *Militant* the protest is important as "an expression of open opposition to the U.S. administration's escalating intervention in the region."

"We are doing everything possible to

mobilize people in all the areas of New York where there are big concentrations of Salvadorans," explained Bran.

Among the many other organizations building the march are Black United Front; Caribbean People's Alliance; Committee for a Free Grenada; Casa Nicaragua; Puerto Rican Socialist Party; Antonio Maceo Brigade; War Resisters League; Communist Party; Socialist Workers Party; and Democratic Socialists of America.

The demonstration will assemble at 11 a.m. on Saturday, June 9, at Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza (47th Street and First Avenue) and proceed to the Times Square Recruitment Center. For more information, contact the coalition at (212) 242-1040 or (212) 673-1808.

## U.S. escalates war against Iranian people

BY HARRY RING

MAY 30 — Washington is engaged in a dangerous military intervention in the Persian Gulf. Its aim is to deal a sharp blow to the Iranian revolution and to stave off the defeat of Iraq in its war against Iran.

The Reagan administration is prodding Saudi Arabia and other Persian Gulf states to take military action against Iran and is providing the weapons to do it.

Reagan announced May 29 that 400 Stinger missiles and 200 shoulder-held missile launchers had been sent to Saudi Arabia.

Thirty U.S. "advisers" accompanied the

weapons, assertedly to train the Saudis to use them.

Meanwhile the Saudi government announced it was undertaking to patrol virtually the entire southern portion of the Persian Gulf to protect tankers and other shipping from alleged Iranian attack.

The northern part of the gulf is already heavily patrolled by Iraq. Iraqi planes have repeatedly attacked ships in the area of Kharg Island, the Iranian oil terminal in the northeastern part of the gulf.

In addition to the Stinger equipment, jumbo U.S. aerial tankers have been dis-

## Condemn assassination of Vietnamese in S.F.

Nguyen Van Luy was critically wounded and his wife killed when they were gunned down in front of their San Francisco home on the night of May 28. Luy, a Vietnamese in his sixties who has lived in the United States since World War II, has been a public opponent of the U.S. war against Vietnam and a supporter of the revolution in his homeland.

According to the *San Francisco Examiner*, witnesses told police that a young Asian man fired four shots at Luy and his wife and then sped away with an accomplice in a waiting car.

This political assassination must be answered with immediate protests. A New York City rally in solidarity with Vietnam is scheduled for the Marc Ballroom, 30 E. 16th St. on the corner of Union Square West, at 1 p.m. on Saturday, June 2.

## EDITORIAL

Speaking at the rally will be *Intercontinental Press* editor Steve Clark, a representative of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mission to the United Nations, and a representative of El Salvador's Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front.

All those opposed to the San Francisco assassination should help assure the largest possible turnout at this rally as an immediate response to the May 28 events.

The murderous attack on Luy and his wife is the latest in a series of terrorist actions against Vietnamese in this country.

In 1981 Lam Trong Duong, an outspoken opponent of the U.S. war in Indochina, was assassinated in San Francisco. A right-wing terrorist group calling itself the Anti-Communist Viets Organization took responsibility for that murder. No one was ever brought to justice.

The Vietnamese educator Ngo Vinh Long was nearly assassinated by right-wing Vietnamese who firebombed his car at Harvard University.

All these attacks take place in the framework of the ongoing U.S. war against Vietnam. The U.S. government has maintained an economic and diplomatic blockade of Vietnam, encouraged military attacks on that country, and whipped up a vicious propaganda barrage against the Vietnamese revolution.

Washington routinely refuses visas to Vietnamese spokespeople and artists. The U.S. State Department does not allow the Vietnamese delegation to the United Nations to travel beyond 25 miles of the UN headquarters.

U.S. officials have turned a blind eye to violent attacks against public meetings where Vietnamese representatives have

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patched to refuel Saudi planes while aloft.

The tankers are part of the U.S. Air Force and will be operated by Air Force personnel. A State Department official dismissed questions about the risk of the tankers becoming involved in a Saudi clash with Iranian planes. There was, he asserted, "little likelihood" of this happening.

Prior to dispatching the Stingers and refueling planes, the Reagan administration had informed the Saudi government that if it and other allied governments in the gulf confronted Iran, the Pentagon would pro-

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# —SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE—

BY MALIK MIAH

TOLEDO — On May 25, this reporter participated in the afternoon sale of the *Militant* at the Jeep plant gate here. Six socialists, including four who work the first shift at Jeep, were able to sell 59 *Militants* in less than 30 minutes. The paper's headline was on the major battle here between the United Auto Workers and the union-busting AP Parts Co.

Most of the workers that the sales team talked to had either been at the 3,000-plus May 21 militant solidarity demonstration at AP Parts or firmly supported the strikers. Several workers had been beaten by cops there and two faced trumped-up charges for defending themselves from the vicious police attack.

The success of the sale at Jeep was not accidental. It wasn't simply because the front page focused on this labor battle in Toledo. It reflected the *Militant's* longterm impact on workers here, especially on members of the UAW, the

largest union in this city.

According to Mark Friedman, an auto worker and member of UAW Local 12's Jeep Unit, the Toledo SWP branch has for several years regularly sold to UAW workers at plant gates, union meetings, and on the job. Since January, he added, socialists in the city have sold 419 papers at plant gates. Of these, 230 have been to Jeep workers. Jeep is the largest auto plant here, with nearly 6,000 union members.

Friedman explained that another 118 papers have been sold inside the plant to coworkers.

Because the UAW is the strongest union in the city, most plant-gate sales are at UAW-organized factories. Friedman noted that 52 *Militants* had been sold to AP Parts workers this year before they went on strike May 2. Workers at General Motors Hydraumatic plant have bought 39 papers. Workers there are members of UAW Local 14, an amalgamated local that also organizes the striking workers at AP Parts.

These sales laid the basis for a successful tour of SWP candidate for vice-president, Andrea González, in early May. González visited the AP Parts picket line and expressed her support for the strike in two TV interviews.

The regular presence of the *Militant* is why it is a widely recognized paper today. For example, after the May 21 militant action, several other left groups from nearby cities came to town to distribute their newspapers, mainly for free. While workers took them, the warmest response was saved for the *Militant* salespeople who have regularly sold outside the plants.

The Toledo experience indicates a few lessons about the value and importance of regular plant-gate sales.

One is that when a big labor battle does arise, the potential to sell a greater number of papers than usual is enhanced.

Joe Callahan, a Jeep worker, sold 11 papers to workers attending a meeting of UAW Local 12's

Acklin Stamping plant unit. Another 12 papers were sold to an International Association of Machinists union meeting with 40 workers present.

Sales will be all the more successful if the *Militant* has had a regular presence at the plant gates all along.

This highlights a second important reason for organizing weekly plant-gate sales. They are first and foremost a way for revolutionists to present our ideas on a weekly basis to industrial workers. The *Militant* is the central way in which socialists take our program to auto, steel, garment, and other industrial workers. The paper is a way we help broaden the political outlook of workers about national and international politics.

The plant-gate sales — as the experiences in Toledo are showing — are essential to building a Marxist current in the industrial unions — one based on militant class-struggle methods and a revolutionary program. Socialist workers are better known because of

these sales and because of our day-to-day participation in workers' battles and union politics.

Socialists at Jeep and other UAW-organized plants, for example, report that since the May 21 solidarity demonstration there is more eagerness to discuss union strategy and tactics and general politics with SWP members.

Another lesson is the importance of organizing the sales through the SWP branch. Although most socialists in Toledo work in UAW-organized shops, those who don't are also organized on plant-gate sales teams. This increases the paper's presence at more plant gates and helps to generalize the plant-gate experiences for all members of the branch — auto workers and others.

It is clear from what's already been accomplished here that the regular plant-gate sales are increasing the SWP's knowledge of the auto industry and its most important component, the unionized workers.

## Fight to save UAW at AP Parts continues in Toledo

BY JOE CALLAHAN

TOLEDO — Police here blocked off the road to the AP Parts company May 22, following a militant demonstration against union-busting the night before by 3,000 auto workers. The May 21 protest was organized to back striking workers at AP Parts. When cops brutally attacked the demonstrators, the unionists stood their ground, and a six-hour battle ensued.

Workers who tried to return to the struck plant the night after the demonstration were unable to because of the police blockade. Cops also arrested an AP Parts striker May 22.

The strike at the plant involves a bitter fight to save the AP Parts unit of Local 14 of the United Auto Workers (UAW).

Last March 5, AP Parts unilaterally imposed its final contract offer on the UAW. This included an immediate \$5.84 an hour cut in wages and benefits.

After working under slave-like conditions for eight weeks, the union walked out May 2. Every attempt by the union leadership to negotiate a contract has been rejected by the company. AP Parts' line is, "on our terms or not at all."

On Thursday, May 24, scabs were back working in the plant, after one day missed because of the May 21 demonstration and another day missed due to a power failure.

Also on May 24, the company went to court to tighten the antipicketing injunction. Typically, the court quickly complied, cutting the number of pickets allowed per gate from six to four.

Meanwhile, Toledo Mayor Donna Owens appointed a five-member panel, consisting of three corporate figures and two union officials, to oversee the start of new negotiations.

But on May 29, AP Parts UAW Chairman Dick Thompson said, "They [the company] just don't want to negotiate. They just don't want to bargain in good faith."

This is despite the fact that the union leadership is offering big concessions. According to the *Toledo Blade*, the latest offer by the union includes a \$2 an hour wage cut; elimination of supplemental unemployment benefits; and giving up eight cost-of-living adjustments, one week's vacation pay, and three holidays.

On May 30, the negotiations completely collapsed. The company refused to even discuss the union's proposals.

At Jeep, the largest plant in Toledo, the

union executive committee sent out a letter inviting workers to attend a June 3 rally commemorating the historic 1934 Auto-Lite strike. The letter said "It seems as though the old adage that, 'History repeats itself,' rings true; for almost fifty years to the day, we are back fighting the same fight with AP Parts. . . ."

"In spite of the late notification, this Jeep Unit was well represented [at the May 21 demonstration] and should be proud. A good time was had by all who attended the rally, and we came away secure in the knowledge that this Union is a force to be reckoned with and we are willing to take whatever steps necessary to protect the rights of our fellow Union Brothers and

Sisters of the AP Parts Unit of Local 14."

National news coverage of the May 21 demonstration has helped spark solidarity and interest from UAW members in other cities. The UAW local at a Ford plant in Cleveland requested 2,000 buttons supporting the AP Parts workers.

On June 4, preliminary hearings begin for the 41 workers arrested at the May 21 demonstration. Unionists face felony charges, including "aggravated rioting," which carries a minimum sentence of one year.

Joe Callahan is a member of UAW Local 12, Jeep unit.

## Unions mark '34 Auto-Lite strike anniversary

BY TOMMYE WEISE

TOLEDO — The 50th anniversary of the 1934 Toledo Auto-Lite strike, arriving as it has in the middle of this city's current labor struggle, has been an occasion for much debate and discussion.

Unionists have heard it said for years that "what we need is a return to the tactics of the '30s." Feature articles in the daily *Toledo Blade* and the *Toledo Union Journal*, weekly newspaper of United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 12, have sparked widespread discussion on exactly what those tactics were.

More than 100 unionists attended a program here on May 29 celebrating the Auto-Lite victory. It was sponsored by the AFL-CIO and the UAW. The audience was about half UAW members and half striking members of Oil, Chemical and Atomic

Workers (OCAW) Local 7-912 at Sun Oil.

The applicability of many of the tactics developed during the struggles of the '30s was apparent to everyone. Some of those ideas have already been carried out here, such as the mass defiance of court injunctions limiting strike picketing.

This is particularly relevant for the future of the current fights in Toledo. Then, as now, the companies used the courts to their advantage — to limit picketing, to protect strikebreakers, and to victimize militant unionists.

The legal defense of the 41 UAW members arrested at the May 21 solidarity demonstration promises to involve the UAW in another long and extensive court battle.

The evening's program included remarks by Joseph Tomasi, UAW Region 2-

B director; Ron Rinna, president of OCAW Local 7-912; and Dick Thompson, chairman of the AP Parts Unit of UAW Local 14.

Also planned for this week is a 50th anniversary rally outside the Lucas County Courthouse June 3 at 2 p.m. This was the site of a rally held June 1, 1934, which drew 50,000 people in support of the Auto-Lite strike. The meeting is sponsored by the Toledo Area Solidarity Committee and endorsed by several unions.

Resolutions and telegrams of support for striking AP Parts workers can be sent to: UAW Local 14, 5411 Jackman Rd., Toledo, Ohio 43613.

Tommye Weise is a striking Sun Oil worker and a member of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 7-912.

### SPECIAL OFFER TO MILITANT SUBSCRIBERS

"Maurice Bishop Speaks"

This collection of interviews with and speeches by the slain prime minister of Grenada also includes an introduction explaining the events that led to the overthrow of the revolution, Bishop's assassination, and the invasion by U.S. troops.

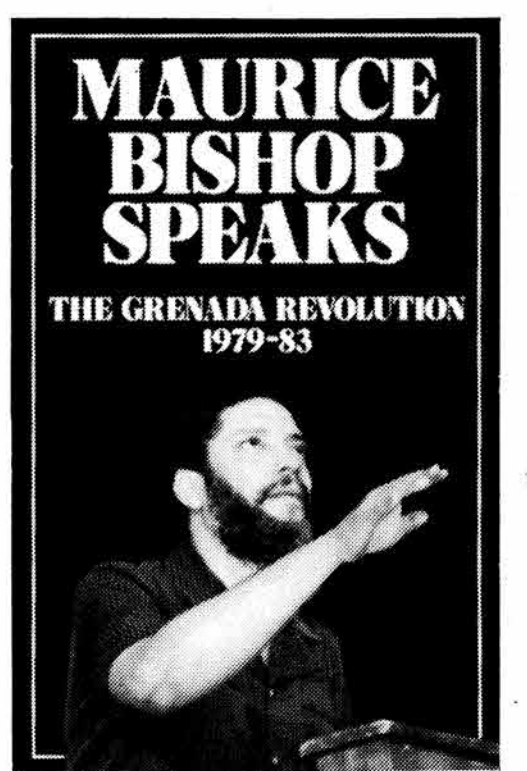
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# Black trade unionists hold Bishop book reception

BY MOHAMMED OLIVER

CINCINNATI — "Bishop is one of my heroes — like Malcolm X," James Webb told a group of Black trade unionists here. "He's an inspiration to Black people everywhere."

Webb is the vice-president of the New York chapter of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU) and is on the executive board of American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Local 420. He was speaking at a May 27 reception celebrating the publication of *Maurice Bishop Speaks*. Webb was one of the hosts for the reception, which took place during the 13th annual convention of the CBTU held here May 25-28.

Also sponsoring the event were Robert Clark, vice-president of United Electrical Workers (IUE) Local 1111 in Milwaukee; the Cincinnati Free Grenada Committee; and Pathfinder Press, which published *Maurice Bishop Speaks*.

Bishop, the central leader of the Grenada revolution, was murdered in a coup last October along with other leaders of Grenada's People's Revolutionary Government (PRG). Following the PRG's overthrow, the U.S. government invaded the

Caribbean island. Washington still maintains its occupation of the predominantly Black, English-speaking country.

One of the reasons the U.S. government feared the Grenadian revolution was its appeal to U.S. workers — especially Blacks. Bishop himself explained this fact in a speech he gave to a mostly Black audience of 2,500 at Hunter College in New York in June 1983.

Webb was there, and Bishop's speech deeply moved him. Webb and James Butler, Local 420's president, traveled with Bishop to Detroit and were able to discuss the gains of the Grenada revolution with him. Webb talked about this experience with the CBTU delegates who attended the reception.

Another Black trade unionist affected by Bishop's Hunter College speech was Robert Clark from UE. Clark wasn't at Hunter, but he read the talk later and liked it, he told the *Militant*.

Solidarity with the Grenada revolution led Webb, Clark, and other CBTU delegates here to promote *Maurice Bishop Speaks* at the CBTU convention. They got together Friday night, May 25, and decided a reception and slide show about Grenada

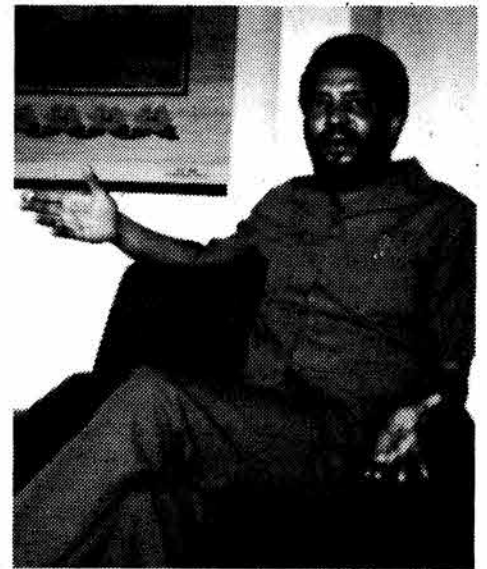
would be a good way to introduce convention delegates to the book.

The appeal of such an event was shown immediately. When William Lucy, president of the CBTU and international secretary-treasurer of AFSCME, was invited to attend, he suggested the reception be announced from the podium — which it was.

In addition, leaflets announcing the reception were placed in the hospitality suites of the New York caucus, which numbered some 300 people out of the more than 650 delegates, and on CBTU registration tables.

Some 60 people attended the reception, including three members of the CBTU's national executive council: Oliver Montgomery of the United Steelworkers of America, Charles Drew of the International Association of Machinists, and Willie Bell of the International Union of Electronic Workers. The slide-show presentation by members of the Free Grenada Committee was shown twice, as different people came into the hotel suite during the three-hour affair.

There was a wide-ranging discussion on the accomplishments of the Grenada revolution and its meaning for Blacks and



Grenadian leader Maurice Bishop. His 1983 visit to United States had big impact on Black trade unionists.

unionists in the United States. One aspect of this discussion was thinking through the need for workers and farmers to take political power here, as they did in Grenada, and whether Jesse Jackson's campaign for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination is a step in that direction.

Several members of the All-African People's Revolutionary Party learned of the reception at a Cincinnati African Liberation Day celebration and decided to come. They participated in a long discussion on the lessons to be learned from the overthrow of the Grenada revolution regarding how to build a Marxist party and how to maintain the rule of working people once it is achieved.

Cincinnati's Free Grenada Committee has made as its central campaign the distribution of information about the achievements and overthrow of the Grenada revolution. Committee activists have reprinted the interviews with Don Rojas, Bishop's press secretary, and George Louison, former minister of agriculture in the PRG, that appeared in the news magazine *Intercontinental Press*. Committee activists sold seven copies of *Maurice Bishop Speaks* at the African Liberation Day events and brought several demonstrators with them to the reception.

Sales of *Maurice Bishop Speaks* at the reception were brisk also. Sixteen copies were sold — all that were there. In addition, several copies of *Intercontinental Press* with the Rojas and Louison interviews were sold. Some of the union leaders in attendance indicated an interest in helping to build promotional events for *Maurice Bishop Speaks* in their local areas.

## Atlanta celebration of 'Maurice Bishop Speaks'

Pathfinder Press is sponsoring a celebration in Atlanta, Georgia, of its new book, *Maurice Bishop Speaks*. Speakers will include Jerome Sadiki McBarnette, a Grenadian student at the University of Georgia in Athens, and a slide show presentation.

The rally will take place Saturday, June 9, at 5 p.m., at 1095 Confederate Avenue. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

## Soldiers' families meet with Sandinistas

BY MICHAEL BAUMANN

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Mother's Day, celebrated here May 30, is dedicated this year to the mothers who have children fighting in the Sandinista army.

In addition to receiving presents themselves, Nicaraguan mothers are collecting cigarettes, matches, candy, and food to send to their youngsters in the mountains.

AMNLAE, the Association of Nicaraguan Women, is spearheading the drive. The Sandinista Defense Committees (CDS), Sandinista Youth, the teachers union, and the health workers' union are pitching in.

Nicaraguans want the young draftees and their families to know that the entire country is behind them as they fight to turn back the biggest U.S. offensive since 1979.

On the state farms, leaders of the Rural Workers Association (ATC) are organizing meetings with family members of draftees. They make sure parents have the latest news from the front and aren't suffering financially from a son being sent to the front.

In the cities, the Sandinista Workers Federation (CST) is concentrating on helping union families obtain news from sons in the army. In a pinch, they are helping out families that have become financially strapped.

In Managua alone, the army and Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) have organized more than 40 meetings with the parents of draftees.

Meanwhile, factories are working overtime to turn out the uniforms, boots, canvas, medicine, and other items still in short supply but essential to equipping the growing Sandinista army.

Many other goods — such as soap and cooking oil — are becoming scarce in urban areas. First priority goes to units in the field and to the civilian population in the war zones.

"You'd have to be blind or be a Martian

not to see how the consequences of the war are affecting the cities," says Managua bricklayer Manuel Angel Ruiz.

Among those deeply affected by escalation of the war are parents of the draftees. Conscription, called Patriotic Military Service here, was instituted for the first time last October. And after three months of basic military training, the first contingents of draftees are now fighting in the mountains.

Parents' normal concern about their sons has been a prime target of counterrevolutionary propaganda. For weeks the counterrevolutionary stations *Radio Impacto* in Costa Rica (see box) and *Radio 15 de Septiembre* in Honduras have been broadcasting phony battle reports of huge casualties among "poorly trained" draftees. These faked reports then become the grist for *bolas* — rumors that circulate rapidly through the markets and streets.

In this case, the rumors received an impetus from the difficulty parents have had in communicating with their drafted sons. Mail service between isolated military zones and the cities hasn't kept pace with the mobilization of Sandinista troops.

As one mother told junta leaders Daniel Ortega and Sergio Ramirez at a public meeting April 12: "All the mothers in my *barrio* are worried because their sons were mobilized February 15 and we haven't heard anything from them since. No letters. Nothing."

Many, like these mothers from eastern Managua, have had no news since their sons finished basic training. One-week leaves, originally scheduled for the end of training, had to be cancelled because of the offensive.

A few mothers, victims of counterrevolutionary propaganda, took part in an anti-draft demonstration in Managua in early April. The small demonstration was covered extensively on the counterrevolutionary radio stations.

To get out the truth about the military situation — there are casualties, but the *contras* (counterrevolutionaries) are being hit hard — the government, army, and mass organizations began to organize public meetings.

"It's true that back in December the new recruits were promised leaves when they finished basic training," Lt.-Commander José Antonio Sanjinez, army chief of personnel, told the parents April 12.

"But no one could foresee the situation we were going to have three months later — the biggest imperialist aggression we have yet suffered."

It would indeed have been a grave error, if, as the counterrevolutionaries claim, the Nicaraguan government had sent raw troops in to fight, he continued. "But no family need have the slightest worry about

such an irresponsible abuse.... The youngsters had good training, lots of target practice and, within the limits of our possibilities, good officers."

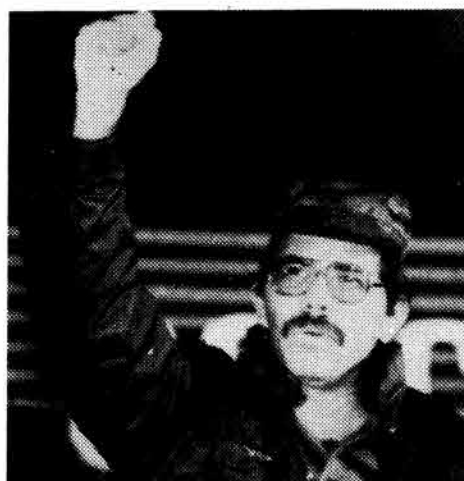
Most draftees now have permanent assignments to units, he said, and contact with them by mail can be arranged. Special post office boxes have been set up for each zone of combat.

Small packages of food and clothing can also be sent, but the emphasis is on neighborhoods taking up a collection for entire units. "That way no one gets left out and the whole community can participate," Commander Dora María Tellez pointed out.

The government is doing the best it can, within the material limits it faces, Commander Ortega assured the parents. "But military service in a country like ours — impoverished and under imperialist attack — just isn't the same as military service in a rich country that is at peace."

One thing is for sure, Ortega said, issuing a warning to the right-wing political parties, reactionary church officials, and a journalist — Luis Mora Sanchez — who works for both the reactionary daily *La Prensa* and the counterrevolutionary *Radio Impacto*:

"The organized people are not going to allow a public campaign to be carried out against Patriotic Military Service. Those who are conducting this campaign are betraying the people and the homeland."



Militant/Michael Baumann

Daniel Ortega

## Celebrate publication of 'Maurice Bishop Speaks'

Sunday, June 17

4 p.m. reception, 5:30 p.m. program  
Medgar Evers College Gymnasium  
1150 Carroll St., Brooklyn, N.Y.

### Speakers:

**JOACHIM MARK**  
noted Grenadian historian

**SAFIYA BANDELE**  
director of Medgar Evers College  
Center of Women's Development

**MFANAFUTHI MAKATINI**  
director, international affairs  
African National Congress,  
South Africa

**ADEYEMI BANDELE**  
National vice-chairperson for  
international affairs  
National Black United Front

**STEVE CLARK**  
editor of "Intercontinental Press"  
author of introduction to  
"Maurice Bishop Speaks"

**ELOMBE BRATH**  
Patrice Lumumba Coalition

**Sponsored by:** Pathfinder Press, Medgar Evers College Center of Women's Development, N.Y.C. Black United Front, Patrice Lumumba Coalition.

Medgar Evers College via subway: #3 Train to President St; #4 (Flatbush) Train to President; or #2 Train to Nostrand Ave.



# 100 attend Black party forum in Harlem

BY PAT WRIGHT

NEW YORK — Over 100 people came to commemorate the birthday of Malcolm X at a meeting here in Harlem hosted by the Manhattan chapter of the National Black Independent Political Party (NBIPP). The program included a panel discussion on the 1984 elections, featuring Black presidential candidates and their representatives.

By the end of the evening, 12 people had asked to join the NBIPP chapter, and 9 had purchased copies of NBIPP's programmatic charter.

The program opened with a film showing of "Malcolm X: Struggle for Freedom," in which Malcolm explains the need for Black people to organize independent of the Democratic and Republican parties.

The panel on the presidential elections included Dennis Rahim Watson, a supporter of Jesse Jackson's campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination; Dennis Serrette, an executive board member of New York's New Alliance Party and that party's candidate for president; and Mel Mason, Socialist Workers Party candidate for president.

Watson, an actor who has performed to raise funds for the Jackson campaign, told the audience that "Ninety-five percent of Black people agree that Jesse is waking us up, and that he may be an example of what is to come." Acknowledging that Jackson has "flip-flopped" on political issues, such as the Mideast, Watson said that the job of militant Blacks is to keep pushing Jackson to represent the sentiments of the Black community. Out of his campaign, Watson suggested, a genuinely independent movement could emerge.

Serrette, former vice-president of the Communications Workers of America Local 1101 here, urged people to "grab the momentum generated by the Jackson campaign, and not allow it to be channeled into the Democratic Party."

Serrette called for building "alliances, coalitions, and a united front to build a party." He didn't explain what issues such alliances would focus on, or the kind of program a united party should have. "I can't tell you the answers," he said, "you must use your imagination in terms of what you should do in your area." As an example, he said his party is trying to build alternative medical and school facilities for the Black community.

Mason, former city councilman in Seaside, California, is a founding leader and longtime activist in the NBIPP, having served as NBIPP Far West Regional coordinator. He focused his remarks on working-class independent political action and the importance of building NBIPP.

Mason noted that the Socialist Workers campaign has denounced racist attacks on other Blacks running for office, such as Jesse Jackson, and declared it would continue to do so.

He called the formation of NBIPP an historic step forward for Black people. It represents a political break with the Democratic and Republican parties, he explained, and sets an example for the working class as a whole.

NBIPP is different from most other Black organizations because it has drawn on the lessons of the civil rights movements of the 1960s, he said. As the NBIPP charter points out, "Both major parties (the Democratic and Republican parties) have betrayed us because their interests essentially conflict with ours."

Mason pointed out that "most cities where rebellions took place in the 1960s have since gotten Black mayors elected. Yet the condition of Black people has not improved."

The Socialist Workers Party, Mason explained, believes that the problems of racism, war, sex discrimination, and attacks on unions are all interrelated. They stem from the fact that this country is run by a tiny class of capitalists. Changing the faces of those in power will not change which class is in power. The SWP says the current government must be replaced by a workers and farmers government. As a major step toward fighting for such a government, the labor movement needs to break from the Democratic and Republican parties and build an independent labor party. NBIPP, by calling on Blacks to build an independent party, has pointed the

way forward for the whole labor movement.

Mason recommended that every Black person who is interested in ridding this society of racism and capitalist exploitation should join NBIPP and build it into the fighting organization its charter set it out to be.

Serrette disagreed. "I wish I had faith in NBIPP and where it is going, but we can't wait, we must begin organizing this very moment," he argued. Rather than a perspective of building NBIPP, Serrette pointed to what he called an alliance of five "independent" parties — New Alliance Party, Vermont Liberty Union Party, Con-

sumer Party, Wisconsin Labor and Farm Party, and the California Peace and Freedom Party — as the vehicle through which Blacks should organize. These parties reject NBIPP's perspective of organizing and mobilizing Blacks against the capitalist system.

During the discussion period, one person said Blacks should support Jackson because his campaign "goes beyond" the Democratic and Republican parties. Mason responded that this was exactly the problem — it doesn't. Jackson's perspective is limited to the reforms within a racist, anti-labor party structure. Jackson supports the capitalist system, which is the root of the

oppression of Blacks. If you try to reform the Democratic Party, Mason said, "the only thing that gets transformed is you, when you have to change your views to accommodate the Democratic Party's game."

Mason explained that those "who don't bend to the pressure of supporting the capitalist parties today" will win the respect of serious fighters as they begin to seek an independent road to freedom. That's why it's important to build the NBIPP now, and why it's effective for Blacks and other workers to run as independents on working-class programs to advance the struggle against racism and capitalism.

## U.S. escalates war against Iran

Continued from front page

vide air and sea escorts for ships entering the gulf.

The pretext for sending the Stingers and aerial tankers was the alleged need to fend off threatened Iranian attack on Saudi oilfields.

But a ranking administration official then conceded an "absence" of evidence that Iran intended to make such an attack.

Another shameless hoax is the claim that the buildup of Saudi forces is necessary to deal with Iranian attacks on shipping in the gulf.

Iran has been accused of firing on four such ships. Meanwhile, over the past three years, Iraq has bombed and strafed nearly 70 ships.

Yet Washington, the Saudi government, and its gulf allies, refuse to condemn Iraq and resolutely insist on condemning Iran.

Responding to the demagogic charges of an Iranian "threat" to the gulf states, the president of Iran, Ali Khamene'i, declared May 11, "Our revolution and the Islamic Republic are not a threat to any Muslim and neighboring country. But the Islamic Republic is a threat for the United States, our longtime enemy. The Islamic Republic will continue its struggle against all the arrogant powers, especially the United States."

### Role of Britain, France

While Washington presses gulf regimes to get more actively involved in the war against Iran, it is also trying to get the British and French governments to join more directly in the gangup.

London has military personnel in five of the gulf states — Oman, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, and Kuwait. French troops are stationed in Djibouti, on the Red Sea.

### Historic links

While Iran is not an Arab country, it is historically linked to the Arab east. Like the peoples of the Arab oil-producing nations, the Iranians have long been the victims of imperialist oppression and of fierce repression by regimes beholden to imperialism.

The revolution of 1979 overthrowing the shah dealt a powerful blow to U.S. imperialist domination of Iran.

In addition to the billions in oil profits, Iran was of strategic military importance to Washington. It is situated in a commanding position at the mouth of the Persian Gulf, whose oil traffic is vital.

And, prior to the revolution, U.S. forces utilized Iran as an important link in its military encirclement of the Soviet Union. It was a prime "listening post" for military spying on the neighboring Soviet government.

The success of the Iranian revolution in ending the murderous rule of the U.S.-imposed shah, and breaking the direct grip of Washington and Wall Street on the country, had a powerful impact on working people throughout the Mideast and Islamic world.

Iran is majority Shi'ite Muslim. The 1979 revolution particularly inspired other Shi'ite workers and peasants — who are among the most impoverished in the Mideast.

This is why Iran's neighboring neocolo-

nial governments fear and hate its revolution. They are sitting on social powder kegs that threaten their wealth and privilege. They recognize the Iranian revolution could be the spark to detonate those kegs.

From the outset, the Iraqi regime of Saddam Hussein has been deeply hostile to the Iranian revolution.

In 1978 Hussein expelled Ayatollah Khomeini from Iraq, where he was living in exile.

With the victory of the revolution, Hussein directed a series of border provocations against Iran.

Then in 1980, the Iraqi regime launched its massive invasion of Iran with the aim of overthrowing the Khomeini government and helping to roll back the anti-imperialist revolution.

### Generous aid

In this war, with its enormous human and economic toll, Iraq has enjoyed the backing of the other gulf regimes, which have contributed \$35 billion to its war chest.

In addition, other Arab governments, including those of Egypt, Jordan, Sudan, and North Yemen have provided troops to Iraq.

The governments of Syria and Libya, however, have opposed the gangup against Iran.

The Iraqi invasion also helped bring about a switch in Washington's attitude toward the Hussein regime. Earlier it had included Iraq in a list of "terrorist" governments because it had the audacity to criticize U.S. backing to an anti-Arab Israeli regime.

In the initial stage of the Iraqi invasion, Washington claimed to be neutral. Now that pretense has been totally dropped.

Washington supplies the Saudis and other gulf regimes. They in turn supply Iraq. Substantial U.S. economic aid is now also going to Iraq.

The fear of the Iranian revolution among those who benefit from the status quo extends beyond the Persian Gulf.

In Lebanon, diverse political forces, including the right-wing Christian Phalangists, conservative Muslim politicians, and those Muslim and Druse forces closely aligned with the Syrian government have been trying to put together a coalition government. The aim is to establish social "stability" in Lebanon.

But the Lebanese Muslim majority — particularly Shi'ite workers and peasants — continues to resist Phalangist terror and Israeli occupation forces. Many Shi'ites identify with the Iranian revolution. Recent reports indicate increasing Shi'ite guerrilla efforts to force the Israeli occupiers out of southern Lebanon.

One diplomat there told a U.S. reporter that if the Israelis continue their occupation, "they are going to help create a Khomeini movement on their own border."

### Saudi monarchy

Meanwhile, in Saudi Arabia, the monarchy is concerned with the potential there for an Iran-like social explosion. The majority of the population in Saudi Arabia is immigrant workers from other nations.

Three years ago, the government launched a swift crackdown against the political activity of Shi'ite Muslim workers in an important oil refining area of the country.

In preparation for the upcoming Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca, the Saudi government has issued a warning to all governments in the region. According to a radio broadcast, it declared "pilgrims should be mobilized only for the rites of the pilgrimage and should remove from their minds all slogans and political matters. . . ."

The Saudi warning added: "The competent custom authorities will not allow the entry of printed matter, leaflets, or photographs that will be exploited for political propaganda or tendentious slogans."

Clearly, not a very secure government.

This same nervousness is evidenced in Saudi efforts to avoid the curse of being publicly recognized as a creature of Washington's drive against Iran.

Recently, the State Department disclosed that Saudi planes had scrambled in pursuit of an Iranian plane that had assertedly attacked a ship in the gulf. The Saudi government was reportedly so upset by this disclosure that it issued an official denial even though many people had witnessed the takeoff.

Washington is leaning hard on the gulf governments to take the forward position in the anti-Iran operation. They want these governments to publicly request the arms they get, to offer use of their bases, and request open U.S. intervention.

### Bipartisan support

Reagan's military intervention in the gulf is agreed to by the Democrats, who fully share the anti-Iran perspective of the White House.

After a secret briefing by Secretary of State Shultz, Democratic House Speaker Thomas O'Neill had but a single caution — that Washington should get more involved in the war only in concert with the British and French.

Meanwhile, Washington's imperialist partner in Tel Aviv takes a dim view of supplying arms to the Saudi regime or other Arab nations. In the Israeli regime's view, no matter how subservient to imperialism these Arab governments may be, any added military strength could be a potential obstacle to the Israeli policy of steady territorial aggrandizement.

Whatever tactical disagreements exist, the Israeli and U.S. governments share a long-standing determination to get at the Iranian revolution by any means necessary.

It is this determination that makes the present moves to sharpen the gulf confrontation a dangerous opening for direct imperialist military involvement.

At the outset of the Iraqi invasion, it seemed like the invaders would be able to deal the Iranian revolution a deadly blow.

But they failed to reckon with the mass of the Iranian people.

It was the Iranian workers and peasants who faced the firepower of the shah's dictatorship and overcame it.

They are the ones who are pressing the present Iranian government to implement a social program corresponding to the needs of the workers, peasants, and oppressed nationalities.

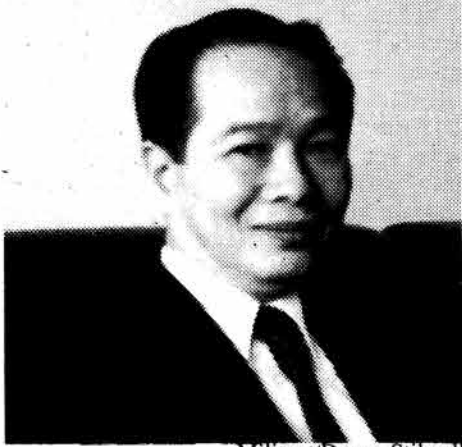
And they are the ones who press for an effective prosecution of the war.

Volunteering by the hundreds of thousands, they have fought doggedly and have driven the Iraqi occupiers out of most of their country.

It is that mass of fighting Iranian people that Washington fears and is targeting.



# China escalates attack on Vietnam border



Militant/Duane Stilwell  
Ambassador Hoang Bich Son

BY HARRY RING

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. — The Vietnamese government reports that on May 22 Chinese forces shelled the Vietnamese city of Ha Giang, causing a yet to be determined number of casualties.

Vietnam's ambassador to the United Nations, Hoang Bich Son, described the attack as an extremely grave escalation of China's border aggression against Vietnam.

In a press briefing May 24, the ambassador said China had provoked a number of border conflicts in April, "but it escalated when President Reagan visited China" at the end of that month.

Chinese forces, he said, have occupied six hills on Vietnam's side of the border

and the shelling of Ha Giang began from inside Vietnam. Hundreds of mortar shells were fired into the city, which has a population of more than 25,000.

In addition to the dead and wounded, many homes were destroyed and factories damaged in the city.

Ambassador Son estimated that 20,000 Chinese troops were now inside Vietnamese territory. Additional troops are mobilized on the Chinese side of the border, he noted, and these are on combat alert.

Vietnamese forces have repulsed some of the border forays and fighting continues in the border area.

For a number of years China's ruling bureaucracy has launched attacks on Vietnam

in an attempt to curry favor with and win trade agreements and economic aid from Washington.

For its part, Washington has maintained its stubborn determination to roll back the Vietnamese revolution. The defeat it suffered in its merciless war against Vietnam in no way modified that determination.

In 1979, with backing from the Carter administration, 600,000 Chinese troops invaded Vietnam. They were finally driven out, but at a heavy human and economic toll for beleaguered Vietnam.

As justification for its most recent border aggression, Peking has offered the crude pretext that it is seeking to regain "lost" border territory.

Commenting on this, Ambassador Son wryly observed that the common border between Vietnam and China was clearly delineated exactly 900 years ago, in 1084.

That agreement was maintained, he added, until the end of the 19th century, when the French, who already occupied Vietnam, offered China some of Vietnam's border area in return for trade concessions.

On this basis, areas on the Chinese side of the border are part of Vietnam, not vice versa, Son observed.

Responding to the present attack on Ha Giang, Vietnam's ministry of foreign affairs issued a statement in Hanoi May 23 which declared, "These cruel shellings on civilians have laid bare the Chinese authorities' deceptive contentions about peace."

It said the Vietnamese government "severely condemns and denounces the crimes committed by the Chinese authorities" and resolutely demands a halt to them.

In his press briefing, Ambassador Son added that the Vietnamese government wants friendly relations with all the nations of Asia, including China.

Responding to a question about talks between the Chinese and Soviet governments, he said, "We want to have normal relations with China. We welcome any improvement in relations between China and the Soviet Union."

At the same time he expressed confidence that world public opinion would roundly condemn the Chinese aggression against Vietnam.

## How Vietnam's drug rehabilitation works

BY DIANE WANG

HO CHI MINH CITY — The main building looked like a church, with a big cross outside, but inside there was a large map of Vietnam in place of an altar. Across the lawn, someone was playing "Stormy Weather" on a jazz saxophone.

This was the School for New Youth, a drug rehabilitation center, housed in a vac-

**A rally in solidarity with Vietnam will be held Saturday, June 2, at 1 p.m. in New York City (see ad below). A representative of Vietnam will speak, along with Intercontinental Press editor Steve Clark, who recently traveled to Vietnam and Kampuchea. There will be special greetings from El Salvador's Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front.**

ated missionary center. The school opened only six months after the April 1975 liberation of Saigon from the U.S. puppet regime. The city was renamed Ho Chi Minh City. The new government set to work right away to deal with the drug addiction, prostitution, and other social problems that were promoted by the U.S. occupation.

"There are many victims of the war," Nguyen Quang Van, director of the school, told the *Militant*. "There are many victims of Agent Orange, for example. But that disease is easier to see. Drug addiction is harder to see; it leaves its victims half alive and half dead. And as you can see, drug addiction is very difficult to cure."

Mr. Van had joined Vietnam's liberation forces when young and had served as a political education officer. Now he directs this center. Other provinces in southern Vietnam also have drug rehabilitation schools, but this one is a special effort.

Mr. Van described the scope of the drug addiction problem. "According to documents from the old regime, there were 150,000 drug addicts here in Ho Chi Minh City and perhaps 500,000 for the South as a whole."

Before 1975 some two tons of heroin were sold each month in Saigon, Van said. "Of course, Vietnamese could not use all that, so Saigon was a center of the drug trade in Asia."

Many officials of the U.S. puppet government helped direct the drug trade. Those officials took in as much as \$100 million a year from drug deals, Van explained.

The School for New Youth helps 1,000 people at a time. Altogether it has treated about 11,000, with a number returning for help after they become addicted again. About 10 percent of the students are women.

Students range in age from 25 to 70 years old, with the majority being between 35 and 40. As we saw from a display about the school's history, there has been a change in the student body. Originally, the school treated many drug addicts who were children. The older age of today's students shows there has been progress in stamping out the drug trade before it affects the new generations.

Some people come here voluntarily or are sent by their families or workplaces. But the majority are sent by local administrators.

The school tries to deal with both physical and psychological addiction. "I think our measures are different from those of

Continued on Page 15



Militant/Diane Wang

Job training is key at School for New Youth in Ho Chi Minh City

## Lively discussion at forums on Indochina

BY MAE CRAMER

Curiosity about what has happened in Vietnam and Kampuchea over the last decade, as well as concern about the coming Vietnam-style war in Central America, has provoked lively discussions at presentations of the slide show, "Vietnam and Kampuchea: an Eyewitness Report."

Diane Wang, who spent a month in Vietnam and Kampuchea for the *Militant* and *Intercontinental Press*, has shown the slide show at Militant Labor Forums in nine cities around the country.

In Louisville, Kentucky, Wang spoke to two classes of Vietnamese and Kampuchean immigrants who are learning English at a local community center. About 25 people attended each class.

There was a mixed response to the slide show. A number of local teachers who at-

tended were skeptical and anticommunist.

Among the Vietnamese only a few were markedly hostile. Most were curious to know about recent progress and glad to see pictures of their homeland.

Kampuchians in the class were especially pleased to see how their country has revived since the brutal days of the Pol Pot regime and the 1979-80 famine there.

A week earlier a march protesting the escalating U.S. war against El Salvador had passed nearby the English classes. Some students and teachers received leaflets announcing the Militant Labor Forum about Vietnam and Kampuchea, and requested that the slide show be shown to their class.

In Boston the Vietnamese professor, Ngo Vinh Long, spoke along with Wang at

the Militant Labor Forum. During the Vietnam War Long, as a student at Harvard, spoke out against the U.S. aggression. He has been a target of several attacks by right-wingers who fire bombed his car several years ago.

Long spoke of the enduring consequences of the U.S. war for the Vietnamese. He explained that the Vietnamese had fought, not to make history or to be heroic, but simply because they were forced to defend their country. In the same way, he suggested, Salvadorans are being forced into a Vietnam-style war by the United States.

Long explained why the U.S.-organized land reform failed in Vietnam and only deepened the war. He pointed out how similar that land reform is to the one promoted by the United States in El Salvador today.

In Baltimore and Washington, D.C., Chan Bun Han spoke with Wang at forums. Han is Kampuchean and an activist in the Committee in Solidarity with Vietnam, Kampuchea, and Laos.

The forums were held a few days before the elections in El Salvador, which were publicized and praised in the U.S. big-business press. Han compared such publicity with how the U.S. media ignored the democratic elections held in the People's Republic of Kampuchea in 1981. Washington does not want to recognize the legitimacy of the Kampuchean government that ousted Pol Pot, so it played down the elections. In El Salvador, Han explained, Washington hails the elections to justify the growing U.S. military involvement there.

In Detroit, Gary Trabue, who had fought in Vietnam as a young, Black GI in the 1960s, spoke at the forum with Wang. "The pain and suffering the Vietnamese withstood put mirrors in front of a lot of eyes," Trabue said. "It shook us, and it shook the foundation of this country."

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#### SPEAKERS

#### STEVE CLARK

Editor, *Intercontinental Press*. Recently returned from a fact-finding trip to Vietnam and Kampuchea.

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# Ireland protests hit Reagan war policies



Derek Speirs/Report  
Dublin, May 26. Similar protests will follow Reagan throughout visit to Ireland.

Continued from front page  
icity, is adamantly opposed to any protests while Reagan is here.

## Socialist candidate tours Ireland

SWP presidential candidate Mel Mason has emerged as an important participant in the current protests and discussion. Mason arrived here May 25 for a week-long visit. He was invited to Ireland by the socialist organization People's Democracy (PD), which is affiliated to the Fourth International.

Given that the Irish government invited Reagan, and some liberal opponents of Reagan's visit invited the Democratic Party presidential candidates, PD thought it was important to have the only socialist candidate for president come to Ireland and participate in the anti-Reagan protests. It would provide the opportunity for the Irish people to hear the truth about U.S. working people's opposition to Washington's aggression in Central America — an aggression conducted jointly by the Democratic and Republican parties.

Mason intends to use the example of the Irish people's active opposition to U.S. imperialism to inspire all working people in the United States to mobilize against the Central America war.

A statement by Mason that he is also here to show "solidarity with the Irish people's struggle against British imperialism" has been widely reported in the newspapers and on the radio here.

## 'Nicaragua will be Reagan's Vietnam'

The May 26 march and rally in Dublin was one of several such protests that are being organized. It was sponsored by the Irish Campaign Against Reagan's Foreign Policy, a coalition that includes Latin America solidarity groups, Catholic organizations, and nuclear disarmament groups.

A contingent of Catholic nuns, dressed in religious habits, led off the march. Several carried a coffin with the names of the four U.S. church women who were raped and murdered by the military in El Salvador in 1980.

Marchers sang "We Shall Overcome," a theme song of the U.S. civil rights movement. There's a strong identification here with the struggle of Blacks in the United States for self-determination.

The contingent of nuns was followed by a truck with a banner reading "Stop arms to El Salvador."

Many contingents carried signs condemning Washington's war in Central America: "Nicaragua will be Reagan's Vietnam"; "Marines out of Honduras"; "Support Nicaragua"; "'Mine' your own business," referring to the CIA's mining of Nicaragua's harbors.

There were several contingents from the Irish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND), including the Irish Trade Union CND. Many signs and chants were directed against the U.S. nuclear arsenal, which threatens the entire world.

U.S. backing for the murderous Marcos dictatorship in the Philippines was highlighted because of the case of Irish priest Father Niall O'Brien. He has been imprisoned by Marcos and falsely charged with murder along with eight others who are known here as the "Negros 9," after the Philippines province of Negros Occidental where they were arrested. Signs saying, "Free Father O'Brien and justice for the Negros 9" and "Stop U.S. support to Marcos" were carried on the march.

"Reagan supports apartheid," read a banner from the Irish Anti-Apartheid Movement. A contingent of Chilean exiles also marched. There was a banner from the Dublin Council of Trade Unions.

Among the left and workers' parties that participated were Sinn Fein and its youth group, the Republican Youth Movement.

Sinn Fein, which has close political ties with the Irish Republican Army (IRA), is the largest of the groups opposed to British rule of Northern Ireland. Its goal is a united democratic socialist republic of Ireland.

There were also contingents from People's Democracy; Irish Labor Party; Workers Party; and the Communist Party of Ireland.

The major argument by the government and businessmen against the anti-Reagan protests is that they will scare off U.S. investors and U.S. tourists. One sign gave a simple but eloquent answer. It was a map of Ireland, inside of which was written "Not for sale."

## Trade unions fighting to survive

The march ended at Iveagh House, where the Department of Foreign Affairs is located. A brief rally was held there.

The first speaker at the rally was Tom McGarry, president of the Federated Workers Union of Ireland, the second-largest Irish trade union in the country. (Irish workers are organized by both British-based trade unions and trade unions that only exist in Ireland.)

"We're here because we're opposed to Reagan's foreign policy," said McGarry. He voiced the resentment of many people here. They reject Reagan's use of his visit to Ireland, with his new-found interest in his alleged Irish roots, to boost his election campaign.

McGarry pointed out that in countries like South Africa, El Salvador, and the Philippines, whose governments are backed by Washington, trade unions "are fighting for their very existence."

Like many other opponents of Reagan's visit, McGarry scored Reagan's hypocritical claim to be a defender of democracy when he backs tyrants throughout the world.

The Dublin Council of Trade Unions has come out against Reagan's visit, as have two of Ireland's three main teachers' unions. Several members of parliament from the Irish Labor Party have announced that they will boycott Reagan's June 4 address to the Dail, southern Ireland's parliament. The party has urged its members to participate in anti-Reagan protests.

## 'Nicaragua has tasted freedom'

The next speaker was Sister Joanna O'Connor of the Sisters for Justice, an organization of nuns. She said that as Christians, they stand with the peasants of El Salvador, who are "brutalized by the army," which gets its weapons from the U.S. government.

O'Connor condemned the U.S. training of government torturers in Guatemala as well.

She said that the people of Nicaragua, through their revolution, have "tasted freedom." That revolution, she said, is one where "people are more important than profits."

Olivia O'Brien, mother of Father Niall O'Brien, demanded that Reagan get Philippine President Marcos to free her son from prison.

Representatives of the Irish Anti-Apartheid Movement, Irish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, and Chilean exile Fernando Lanfranco also spoke.

The Irish Campaign Against Reagan's Foreign Policy announced that more than 30,000 people had signed petitions opposing Reagan's foreign policy.

## Broad protest movement

The fact that Reagan is receiving an honorary doctorate of law degree from the National University of Ireland (NUI) is also being protested. Some university staff members plan to burn their degrees when Reagan gets his award.

Fifty-five staff members of the University College in Galway signed a letter protesting the university's decision to give Reagan the degree. "Indeed, the recent statement by President Reagan, that the United States will not be bound by the decisions of the International Court of Justice concerning Central America, emphasizes the perversity of the NUI Senate in awarding him a degree of Doctor of Laws," said the letter.

Sections of the Catholic church hierarchy here oppose the visit and are backing protests against it. Bishop Eamonn Casey of Galway has refused to be part of the well-known platform for Reagan. Casey opposes U.S. policies in Central America.

A group of 75 Jesuit priests have urged the Irish people to participate in "nonviolent protests to show, by their absence from the streets, their moral doubts about [Reagan's] Central America policy."

## An oppressed nation

Behind the broad opposition to Reagan's visit and the U.S. war in Central America is a strong identification with others in the world who, like the Irish people, are fighting for dignity, economic justice, and self-determination.

Supporters of the struggle for a united, free Ireland have been in the forefront of organizing opposition to Reagan's visit. That's no surprise.

# Funds needed to defray costs of Mason trip to Ireland, Britain

BY YVONNE HAYES

This issue of the *Militant* carries the first of Margaret Jayko's eyewitness reports on the important demonstrations in Ireland against U.S. war in Central America. Over the next few weeks, she will follow these actions and the tour of Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate Mel Mason to Ireland and Britain.

When Mason received an invitation from People's Democracy to visit Ireland and participate in the protests of Reagan's visit, the socialist campaign responded eagerly. The task of building an international movement in opposition to U.S. imperialism's wars is central for the socialist campaign.

The Irish people, long oppressed by British imperialism, are setting an example for working people worldwide by mobilizing against the U.S. war in Central America. For this reason, the participation of the socialist candidate for president in these actions is very important.

Mason's trip is also a step toward strengthening solidarity between the Irish freedom struggle and the Black liberation movement in the U.S. This is demonstrated, Jayko reports, by the interest in Mason's background as a leader of the Black struggle.

Mason will also be traveling to Britain to participate in activities there protesting U.S. war in El Salvador and Nicaragua and the placement of U.S. missiles in Europe. On June 9 in London he will join in a major action organized by the Committee for Nuclear Disarmament.

The socialist candidate's tour of Britain will include visits to coal-mining centers in England and Wales. Mason will speak with striking miners and plans to report back to U.S. workers on the lessons being drawn

Ireland was forcibly partitioned by the British imperialists in 1921. The British armed and financed rightist Protestants, called Unionists, who established a state in the north based on privileges for the Protestants. They practiced brutal repression and discrimination against the impoverished Catholic minority. The six counties, which today make up Northern Ireland, are occupied by armed British troops. They are governed directly by London. The 26 counties in the south of Ireland are formally independent. However, they are economically dominated by British imperialism.

In their fight to rid themselves of British domination, the Irish people have run up against U.S. rulers as well.

## U.S.: ally of British imperialism

The U.S. ruling class is a staunch supporter of British imperialist rule over Ireland. On May 24, the U.S. Senate unanimously endorsed the report of the New Ireland Forum.

This report was put together by four major parties in Ireland: Fine Gael, Fianna Fail, Irish Labor Party, and the Social Democratic and Labor Party.

The Forum was supposed to come up with a solution to the division of the country. However, it refuses to advocate the necessary steps to do that: getting the British out of Ireland and an end to the system of Protestant privilege.

By endorsing the report, the Senate gave a vote of political confidence to the Irish government and expressed its continuing opposition to the struggle by the Irish people for a united and independent homeland.

The U.S. government also cooperates with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in harassing and jailing U.S. supporters of the Irish national struggle. Washington also refuses to allow members of Sinn Fein, and other Irish activists, to enter the country. Joe Cahill, cochairman of Sinn Fein, was arrested in New York on May 17 on charges of illegally entering the United States. Supporters were forced to raise \$150,000 bail to get him out of prison.

by these labor militants in their fight against the government of Margaret Thatcher.

This important and exciting trip, however, was not included in the socialist campaign's original plans nor were the expenses of the trip budgeted. So tour schedules had to be reorganized, last-minute travel arrangements made, news releases sent out, and numerous overseas calls placed.

To cover the unexpected costs of the trip, the socialist campaign is turning to its supporters and especially to those who follow the campaign in the pages of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*. A special \$5,000 fund has been established to cover travel expenses.

Campaign coordinators are confident that the response to this fund will be enthusiastic. Even before this fund was launched, one *Militant* reader had sent in a contribution of \$100 earmarked for the Ireland-Britain trip. Contributions to cover the costs of the tour can be made payable to "Socialist Presidential Campaign."

☐ I am contributing \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to help pay for Mel Mason's trip to Ireland and Britain.

☐ I would like to be a campaign volunteer.

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(paid for by the Socialist Workers Presidential  
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# U.S. socialist and Irish rights fighters address Dublin rally

BY MARGARET JAYKO

DUBLIN — Mel Mason, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president, spoke at a public meeting here along with figures in the Irish liberation and anti-war movements May 25. The meeting was one of several organized by People's Democracy (PD), the socialist organization that invited Mason to tour Ireland. Through these forums, featuring Mason as a keynote speaker, PD hopes to help spur discussion on the links between the struggle in Ireland and Central America and between U.S. and British imperialism.

The meeting was held at the Irish Women Workers Union hall here. Two unmarked cars full of Irish Special Branch (plainclothes) cops sat outside the meeting hall eying people going in. This attempted intimidation is one part of a broader effort by the present neocolonial government to curtail democratic rights.

About 150 people packed into the meeting, which was chaired by PD National Secretary Anne Speed. Speed is a well-known activist in the nationalist, socialist, labor, and feminist movements here.

She announced PD's support for Sinn Fein's candidate in the elections for representative to the European Economic Community (EEC). Sinn Fein's central campaign slogan is "One Ireland, One people."

Joe Duffy, outgoing president of the Union of Students in Ireland, was the first speaker. Like many activists here, Duffy has done time in jail for his political activity.

Duffy began by pointing to the carloads of Special Branch cops outside the meeting. The police force, he said, is supposed to protect people, not harass them. Duffy pointed to the recent eviction of workers occupying the Ranks Flour Mill in Dublin, as another example of the real role of the cops. The cops, he predicted, will be following Mason and other fighters around trying to harass and intimidate them.

Duffy took up the argument by ruling-class politicians and businessmen that U.S. investment and tourism will drop off here if the Irish people demonstrate and "insult" Reagan on his visit. It is said the already high unemployment will soar higher.

Duffy pointed out that U.S. Vice-Pres. George Bush came here several months ago. Virtually no protests took place. That didn't prevent the Ford Motor Co. from closing down its plant in Cork, Duffy noted.

Ronald Reagan will get an honorary degree, said Duffy, while the majority of Irish people can't afford a decent education.

He urged everyone to protest at the Dail, southern Ireland's parliament, on June 4 to show the world that the welcome Reagan will be given by Irish politicians is not "our welcome."

Speed read a speech by Sinn Fein Pres. Gerry Adams, that he had given while

campaigning for one of Sinn Fein's candidates in EEC elections.

Adams described Reagan's visit to Ireland as an "insult" to the people of El Salvador, Nicaragua, and the Philippines. He pointed out that Reagan is an ally of British Prime Minister Thatcher in her attacks on the Irish freedom struggle, attacks that are matched by Reagan's harassment of Irish activists in the United States.

The next speaker was Sean Crowe, election director for John Noonan, Sinn Fein's candidate in the EEC elections in Dublin. Crowe pledged Sinn Fein's support for the anti-Reagan actions. He said Sinn Fein's campaign stands for Irish independence and neutrality, both of which are undermined by Reagan's visit.

The only reason the U.S. invests in Ireland, declared Crowe, is for profits. Washington helps arm the hated British cops in Northern Ireland, the Royal Ulster Constabulary. Reagan will condemn the IRA as "men of violence" in his speech to the Dail, yet he is financing the war in Central America, Crowe said.

Reagan's visit also exposes the hypocrisy of Prime Minister Garret FitzGerald, who refuses to meet with democratically elected Sinn Fein representatives because of Sinn Fein's support for armed struggle against the British. Yet he has no problem, said Crowe, meeting with the warmonger Reagan.

Sinn Fein, declared Crowe, supports national liberation groups that are fighting oppression throughout the world. He concluded by welcoming Mel Mason to Ireland and wishing him success in his election campaign.

Eddie Conlon from the Reagan Reception Campaign declared his solidarity with the unemployed in the United States. "We're against the American ruling class — whether it has a Republican or Democratic tag. The anti-Reagan actions are a mark of solidarity with those suffering from Reagan's policies," said Conlon.

## Bernadette Devlin

Longtime leader of the nationalist struggle, Bernadette Devlin, emphasized the opportunities that exist to reach out to layers of working people who have not been involved in politics and mobilize them against Reagan's visit.

The most sinister aspect of the Irish government's argument against the protests, said Devlin, is the idea that whether or not you decide to fight for justice should be guided by whether or not "you can bleed another dollar out of Ronald Reagan."

Devlin reminded the audience that she toured the United States in 1981 to win support for the nationalist prisoners who were on hunger strike. Blacks, Indians, and Salvadorans turned out to express their solidarity, she said.

In turn, she emphasized, it's important



Derek Speirs/Report  
U.S. Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate Mel Mason speaking at Dublin meeting. Seated, from left, Bernadette Devlin; People's Democracy National Secretary Anne Speed; and Joe Duffy, outgoing president of Union of Students in Ireland.

for these people to see thousands of Irish people protesting Reagan's visit and standing with them in their fight for dignity.

## An inspiring example

Mel Mason has gotten a very warm response in Ireland and this meeting was no exception. There's special interest in the fact that he used to be a member of the Black Panther Party.

Mason began by telling the audience that "your centuries-long struggle is an example for freedom loving people everywhere." He promised he would take what he learned on his trip to Ireland back to working people in the United States.

Mason described the strikes in the United States by Arizona copper miners, Las Vegas casino workers, and Toledo auto parts workers. U.S. working people, said Mason, are also struggling to defend their rights and living standards.

Mason explained that Black people in the United States identify with the struggle of the Irish, and would be impressed that the Irish civil rights movement has adopted the song "We Shall Overcome."

"Black people in my home town of Seaside, California, were thrilled when they found out I was coming to Ireland," he said.

Mason reported that as a city councilman in Seaside, he had sent a letter to Thatcher blaming her for the deaths of Bobby Sands and the other Irish hunger strikers because of her refusal to grant their demands to be treated with dignity.

The National Black Independent Political Party also solidarized with the hunger strikers, Mason told the audience.

The SWP candidate called for freedom for Nicky Kelly, a nationalist fighter who was framed up and has been imprisoned since June 1980.

Mason explained that it's not simply Reagan's war in Central America. "It's true Reagan is the commander-in-chief," said Mason. "But since World War II, every U.S. president has been involved in a war. He reviewed Democratic Pres. James Carter's record of aggression in support of brutal dictatorships. He referred to the recent bipartisan vote in the House of Representatives to send \$62 million more to the brutal dictatorship in El Salvador. 'Both parties are funding the war,' emphasized Mason.

The U.S. rulers have always considered Latin America their backyard, said Mason.

"They don't want to give up their empire any more than Britain wants to give up Ireland."

Mason took up Washington's propaganda that the rebellions against U.S. domination of Central America were orchestrated from the Soviet Union, Cuba, or Nicaragua. "Reagan wants us to believe that the people of Central America can't think for themselves — that they need someone to tell them that they're hungry, that they're poor, that they're oppressed."

## Cuba's example

There is one thing the people of Central America do get from Cuba, emphasized Mason — "a shining example." He described some of the advances the Cuban people have made: free health care, free education, an end to unemployment and racist discrimination, and big strides forward toward women's equality. The Cuban people are able to participate in making the decisions that affect their lives, added Mason. "Cuba is an example of international solidarity," said Mason, and reminded people of Cuban Pres. Fidel Castro's support for Bobby Sands.

The imperialists know, said Mason, that socialist revolutions like the one that took place in Cuba "will forever seal the doom of exploitation. That's why they must go to war. And that's why we must stop these wars."

## How?

First, said Mason, by continuing the national liberation struggles that are taking place. Far from being a source of violence, the struggles of the Salvadoran and Irish people are a force for peace.

Secondly, he said, "we must mobilize to stop the U.S. war in Central America. I'm going to spread your example to the people of the United States."

And lastly, he said, it is the responsibility of the U.S. working class to replace the war-making government in Washington with a government of workers and farmers.

"If Malcolm X were alive today," Mason concluded, "he would be supporting the Irish freedom struggle. He would be confident, as I am, that Ireland will become to Western Europe what Cuba has become to the Western hemisphere." This prediction was met with stormy applause.



Derek Speirs/Report  
Sinn Fein speaker Sean Crowe (left) and Eddie Conlon of Reagan Reception Campaign.



# What led to Toledo workers' militant May

BY MALIK MIAH

**TOLEDO** — This is a union town. It became one after the historic 1934 strike at the Electric Auto-Lite Co. That battle prepared the rise of the United Auto Workers (UAW) a year later and its development into a powerful national union. Today the UAW is Toledo's largest union, with an estimated 30,000 members and retirees in this city of 350,000.

Last March 5, when the AP Parts company unilaterally imposed a concession contract at its Matzinger Road plant, many unionists here figured more was at stake than just the wages and working conditions of the 400 members of UAW Local 14's AP Parts unit. They sensed it was a serious challenge to the entire UAW and labor movement.

But few thought that the open strike-breaking tactics being used today against copper miners in Arizona, for instance, could be used here — not successfully anyway.

When it became clear that was exactly what AP Parts and its powerful backers had in mind, this city's workers began to react.

## Significance of May 21 protest

On May 21, some 3,000 workers participated in a solidarity demonstration in front of the struck plant, challenging a court injunction limiting the number of pickets to an ineffective six per gate.

Most workers at the rally were not AP Parts strikers. They were unionists — mainly UAW members and a sprinkling of striking oil workers — from other Toledo plants. They included white workers, older workers, some Blacks, Latinos, and women. All of them were angry.

They came because they knew the stakes in the strike that began May 2 were high: union survival. A common comment in town is, "First AP Parts, then us."

This is primarily a defensive battle to preserve the union. The militant May 21 demonstration, which turned into a pitched battle after strikebreaking cops attacked the unionists, opened up a big discussion on what strategy and tactics can win this fight and defeat similar union-busting assaults. Many auto workers believe the outcome of this strike will have a direct impact on September's contract negotiations at General Motors and Ford.

The May 21 action was not a spontaneous one. It was organized and led by workers who recognized something had to be done to save the strike. To understand why so many workers were willing to join this militant action it is useful to review some background.

## Company assault

AP Parts produces mufflers and pipes for the auto industry. Taking its lead from the auto giants — especially GM — AP Parts launched an attack on UAW Local 14 in January, two months before the expiration of its contract.

In a full-page ad in the local paper, AP Parts announced that unless workers accepted its final contract offer the plant would shut down. Without sweeping concessions, the company claimed, the plant was unprofitable.

Behind this demand stood the owners of GM and Ford, who had told AP and other suppliers that without such a pact they would go elsewhere to buy mufflers. The auto giants hoped to use AP Parts as point man for future direct attacks on the heart of the UAW — auto assembly workers.

Top UAW international officials vainly tried to avoid a fight with the company. Rather than educate and mobilize the union membership to resist the takeback demands, these officials pushed the local union leadership to accept some concessions. They sought to appease AP Parts.

This proved difficult. The company did not want to make a deal with the union — it wanted to crush it.

The UAW leadership decided to keep workers on the job after the contract expired March 4 — hoping it could still strike a deal with the company.

Meanwhile AP Parts was preparing for a confrontation. It brought in a notorious union-busting outfit of private goons — Nuckols & Associates Security Inc. of Cin-

cinnati (also referred to in union publications as "Knuckles") — to intimidate workers. It began to store food and other supplies in the plant.

Clearly AP Parts believed that the new contract it imposed March 5 — with a \$5.84 an hour wage cut among other provisions — would provoke a strike. The company was ready. It planned to keep the plant operating and bust the union.

When a strike was not called, the company simply began to operate as though the union no longer existed. Within days it laid off 68 workers. Harsh new work rules were imposed arbitrarily. Workers began to see that AP Parts' real intention was a nonunion shop. And it was acting to establish it.

All the union could do in response was file grievances, a UAW international staff person later told the *Militant*. In the eight-week period from March 5 to May 2, he explained, 140 grievances were filed.

"It was a living hell," to be at work, said one worker. The bosses issued warnings and took disciplinary action at will. Many workers radicalized quickly and concluded the UAW would have to fight.

## Pressure from ranks

The anger that built up in the union ranks placed enormous pressure on top UAW officials to act. This was true in other UAW shops in the city also, as word spread of the harsh nonunion conditions Local 14's members were working under.

As Dave Kubicki, chairman of UAW Local 12 Unit at Dana Corp., explained later, "The shops and people in the plant have been asking for some time, 'When are we going to go out and do something? When are we going to help them?'"

Despite this sentiment, top UAW officials still hoped for a deal. On March 12, they asked the company to allow the city's "Labor-Management-Citizens Committee" to act as a mediator. AP Parts said no.

On March 21, the UAW went to the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) and charged the company with "unfair labor practices." They urged workers to wait for a friendly ruling.

## AP Parts gets help

Meanwhile AP Parts' owners were getting some help from the state government and General Motors.

On March 27, AP Parts received a \$60,000 state grant for employee training. By that time 161 Local 14 members were laid off. Two hundred workers had received reprimands for violations of the new work rules. The state grant was clearly an offer to help AP Parts train new workers — strikebreakers, if necessary.

One month later GM awarded the company a new \$20 million (later raised to \$30 million) muffler contract. But the contract was awarded with a condition: AP Parts had to stand firm in imposing the new union-busting pact on Local 14.

In this context the NLRB slapped the union in the face and denied the UAW's charges of unfair labor practices.

This left the UAW leadership no choice but to organize a strike, which began on May 2.

By this time the rank and file was fed up.

They had learned from their shop floor experience what AP Parts' pact meant. They knew they couldn't accept it. They knew that waiting for the courts, NLRB, or city hall to help them would mean dying a slow death.

A Mexican worker with 15 years' seniority who is in his mid-40s (the age of many AP Parts workers) told the *Militant* he was on sick leave when the strike began. The company demanded he return to work or lose his benefits. Other workers on layoff received similar threats. None went back.

The Mexican worker joined the May 21 action. He was beaten and arrested. He told the *Militant* he'd never work for AP Parts again, but didn't plan to look for another job until this fight was won.

Other discussions with workers here make clear that AP Parts' brutal tactics made the biggest impact on their thinking. But other developments in the class struggle here and nationally had also begun to affect their consciousness.

Many workers are aware of the defeats labor has suffered — the 1981 air traffic controllers strike, the setbacks at Greyhound and Eastern Airlines, the bankruptcy scams at Continental Airlines and Wilson Foods. Many know of the big difficulties striking copper miners in Arizona and hotel workers in Las Vegas are having.

The last recession also deeply affected the consciousness of Toledo workers. The long downturn in the auto industry hit this auto production and parts center hard. The bosses used it to demand big concessions in wages and working conditions. Many workers learned that these employer demands were not temporary, but were aimed at a permanent change in relations with the unions.

## Vanguard role of Sun Oil workers

A third factor was the example shown by Sun Oil workers, who have been on strike here since March 21 against demands by the nation's 12th largest oil company for wage concessions, work rule changes, and a two-tier pay structure.

The leadership of the 400-member Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW) Local 7-912 at Sun Oil declared from the start that they couldn't win on their own and requested broad support from the labor movement.

Only days before the AP Parts strike began, OCAW Local 7-912 Pres. Ron Rinna told an April 28 citywide labor strike support rally of 600, "No longer can one local union take on a company the size of Sun. That is the purpose of this rally."

Local 7-912's leadership set a further example by organizing the union membership as full participants and decision-makers in the strike. Regular reports and discussions on negotiations were brought before the union ranks.

Rinna told the *Militant* that Sun workers welcomed the AP Parts strike and saw it as an aid in their battle. Many AP Parts workers attended the April 28 rally. Some OCAW members were on hand May 21 to back the UAW.

The Sun local is small, but its leadership example is felt by many in the UAW. Together the AP Parts and Sun strikes are teaching a layer of unionists here that labor

can and must fight back against the union-busting assault. Not to do so only emboldens the employers.

This lesson was driven home by the UAW's experience before it finally struck AP Parts. The union leadership did everything "by the book." It sought negotiations and arbitration. It went to the NLRB. All of this got the union nowhere.

This had a particular impact on some of the shop committeemen at the Jeep Unit of Local 12 — the largest UAW unit in the city. They were among the first UAW officials to see the need for militant action to prevent the defeat of the AP Parts strike and were among the key organizers of the May 21 protest.

May 21 did not end the company's union-busting drive — or win the strike. Scabs are still crossing the picket line (see story page 2). But this exercise of union

# 1934 strike

BY GEOFF MIRELOWITZ

1984 is the 50th anniversary of three strike battles that riveted the nation's attention and changed the face of the U.S. labor movement.

One, the Toledo Electric Auto-Lite strike, paved the way for the fight to unionize General Motors and made Toledo a union town. It will be celebrated by auto workers and others in Toledo on June 3 at a commemorative event. The two other historic 1934 battles were the Minneapolis Teamsters strikes and the San Francisco general strike.

On May 21, 1984, in Toledo angry auto workers battled cops and company goons in the streets in an effort to prevent the AP Parts company from busting UAW Local 14. This has led some workers to look back at the historic Auto-Lite strike more carefully, to see what lessons can be drawn by those seeking to change and strengthen the labor movement today.

Other workers, too, can learn from the 1934 battles. They offer valuable insight to workers who are trying to better understand the fundamental nature of employee and government attacks on the labor movement, and what strategy can defeat them.

The 1934 strikes occurred in a very different context from today's. They signaled the beginning of a nationwide labor offensive. Workers went on to organize much of U.S. industry — steel, auto, rubber, etc. — for the first time through the formation of the CIO.

In contrast, today's strikes are primarily of a defensive nature. Like the AP Parts fight and the 11-month-old Arizona copper strike, most are efforts to preserve previous union gains, including, in some cases, the very existence of the unions themselves.

## 1934 and 1984

Yet certain similarities between the current situation facing labor and that of 1934 are worth noting. The great depression of the early '30s had created massive unemployment. Many employers seized on the situation to impose lower wages and



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**1984**

**Demonstration At AP Parts Company Becomes Battle With Toledo Police**

Violence broke out Monday at the AP Parts factory on Matzinger Rd. in Toledo as more than 3,000 UAW and other union members demonstrated there to protest the company's imposition of its new work rules. The demonstration started after first shift employees left their homes all over town. The unionists met at the gates in front of the factory starting at 1 p.m. but their numbers soon grew.

As more police cars came to the scene, the demonstrators over the fence and into the crowd on the road. This infuriated the demonstrators, who quickly retaliated. As more canisters of tear gas were thrown or shot into the crowd they were picked up and hauled back. Others hurled rocks and bricks, and there was extensive damage to police cars parked along the road. More at news and tears as follow up.

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**1934**

**Birth of a Union**

**Auto-Lite Strike Turns Into Battle**

The previous installment in the series of articles on the 1934 Auto-Lite Strike, which contributed to the birth of the UAW, reported that the strikers had new leadership of a highly militant kind. Arrests mounted, and those arrested went back to the picket lines as soon as they were freed. Also, E.H. Dunnigan, Labor Department coordinator, was assigned to the Auto-Lite situation following efforts to settle a Toledo Edison dispute.

On Thursday, May 17, 1934, Toledo



Front page of Toledo Union Journal published by UAW Local 12. Local 12 shop committeemen and rank and file helped organize May 21 action.



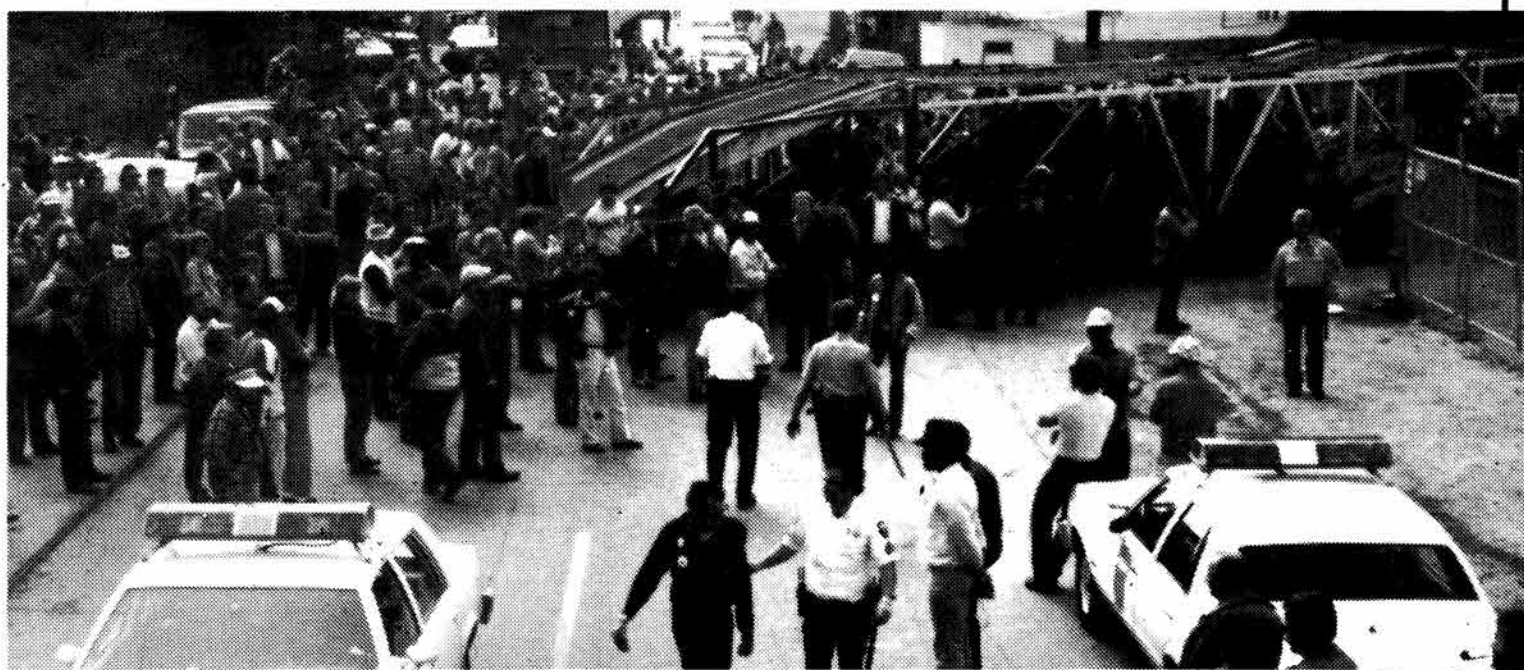
# 21 action

power did have an impact. It scared city officials. It forced AP Parts back into negotiations. It set an example for other workers — one that the employers across the country fear.

It is an example that can be emulated by other unions. It will need to be if the employers' drive is to be seriously combated.

That is one of the lessons of May 21. The labor movement will have to return to the militant methods that built unions like the UAW in the 1930s.

On June 3, a Toledo rally will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1934 Auto-Lite strike. Learning the lessons of that strike, and others that paved the way for the growth of industrial unionism, will be an invaluable aid to workers fighting to defend the AP Parts strike and those who will fight the other big battles that are coming.



Militant/Nancy Bayasko

May 21 Toledo auto workers' action in solidarity with AP Parts strikers was attacked by cops. UAW members organized this militant action after other efforts to stop company union-busting failed.

## hold valuable lessons for workers today

longer hours on those workers still on the job.

The labor movement was very weak. An encrusted bureaucracy sat on top of the American Federation of Labor. These satisfied officials feared any struggle against the bosses' attacks. The unions, for the most part, organized only skilled, white, male workers and ignored the plight of millions of workers in basic industry. Few strikes were organized, and those that were often resulted in defeats or setbacks.

In this setting the Auto-Lite strike, the Teamsters strike, and the San Francisco general strike, as Art Preis explained in *Labor's Giant Step*, "showed how the workers could fight and win. They gave heart and hope to labor everywhere for the climactic struggle that was to build the CIO."

Preis' book tells the story of the CIO's first 20 years. It includes a chapter on the "Three strikes that paved the way."

The Minneapolis Teamsters' story is told in a four-volume series by Farrell Dobbs (see ad). These four books are an extensive account of the fight waged by the Teamsters from 1934 to 1941 against the trucking bosses throughout the Midwest, the government that stood behind them, and the top Teamster bureaucrats who tried to undermine the workers' struggle.

### Lessons for today

These books were written, as Dobbs explained in the afterword to the series, "to provide something more than a description of the events that transpired. I have attempted to place the reader in the position of the revolutionists who guided the union ranks — retrospectively looking over their shoulders, so to speak — as they assessed each successive problem and decided how to deal with it."

Dobbs wrote the books for today's generation of working-class fighters who seek to transform "labor's potential class power into a dynamically active force in the continuing struggle against the capitalist exploiters."

Both Dobbs and Preis wrote as participants and leaders of the 1934 events they described, Dobbs in Minneapolis and Preis in Toledo. Their descriptions of those two battles reveal several common characteristics that contributed to the union victories.

### Solidarity and allies

The workers who led the '34 strikes knew they could not win on their own. They recognized that even the mobilization of large numbers of striking workers would not be enough to overcome the powerful resistance of the employers, backed by the big-business media and the government's cops and courts.

They appealed to all working people for support. In Minneapolis the Teamster strike leadership built a collaborative political relationship with local family farmers who depended on the trucking industry to get their produce to market. The strike

leadership explained the issues and appealed for help on the basis of the common bonds among all working people.

This proved successful. Some farmers donated food to the strikers and joined in the battles against the cops and strikebreakers. Others were at least neutralized so they did not oppose the strike.

In Toledo the workers found a key ally among the unemployed. The central leadership of the Auto-Lite strike included socialists, members of the American Workers Party, who were also leading the Lucas County Unemployed League. The League conducted a campaign to win unemployed workers to the side of the strikers. This proved decisive.

The need to seek allies, among farmers, the unemployed, Blacks, Latinos, women, and others, remains crucial for the labor movement today. In Minneapolis and Toledo in 1934 such appeals were based on labor's willingness to offer union solidarity to the struggles of other oppressed and exploited groups.

### Rank and file control—union democracy

In his afterword Dobbs explains that union accomplishments in Minneapolis "were made possible through the interplay of two basic factors. One of these was the skillful and considerate leadership of the workers by revolutionary socialists." (This refers to the fact that central leaders of the strike were members and supporters of the Communist League of America — a predecessor of the Socialist Workers Party).

"The other," Dobbs continues, "was our [the CLA members] championing of trade union democracy. Full membership participation was encouraged in the organization's internal affairs. Freedom to express all points of view was upheld, as was the workers' right to set policy by majority vote."

Dobbs explained this further in a 1980 message sent to Minneapolis unionists commemorating the anniversary of "Bloody Friday," July 20, 1934, when two workers were gunned down by strikebreaking cops:

"Proceeding accordingly, the rank and file decided what demands would be made upon the trucking companies, how the battle for those demands would be carried on, and what would be considered acceptable terms for working agreements with employers.

"These democratic practices," stressed Dobbs, "unified the workers; gave them maximum strength in opposing the bosses; kept them solidified on a class basis no matter how difficult the battle; and made it possible for the union to establish itself as a power in the industry."

Quite a contrast to the general state of affairs in the labor movement today, when once again, a handful of comfortable officials sit on top of the unions making all major decisions.

These top officials seek deals with the employers in an attempt to avoid serious struggle. They offer no effective resistance to the attacks by the employing class. See-

ing this, the union ranks often take little interest in routine union business.

As Dobbs explains, there was a close relationship between the degree of union democracy and the character of the leadership that came forward in the struggle. Workers took an active part in union affairs because they knew their voice and votes were decisive, and they recognized that the union leadership offered an effective fighting strategy. The leadership, in turn, knew this strategy of uncompromising struggle with the employers depended on the mobilization of the rank and file.

As in Minneapolis, among the central strike leaders in Toledo were socialists and communists, including activists in the American Workers Party.

In Toledo and Minneapolis these revolutionists rejected subordination of workers' interests to collaboration with the employers on any level. They knew that U.S. society is *class divided* and that workers and employers share no common interests. Unions, they believed, should be instruments of struggle to defend and advance workers' needs.

### Attitude toward government

These were not abstract principles. At crucial turning points in the '34 strikes they determined the course charted by the unions. In particular they affected the attitude the workers took toward government intervention — whether through court injunctions, pressure from politicians, or the brutal use of cops and troops.

In Toledo the employers obtained a court injunction aimed at curbing picketing so as to make it ineffective in preventing scabs from breaking the strikes. This allowed Electric Auto-Lite to bring in 1,800 strikebreakers. It could have quickly brought the strike to a bitter end.

Art Preis explains that the Lucas County Unemployed League (which was also enjoined from picketing by the court) decided to challenge the injunction. On May 5, 1934, League Secretary Sam Pollock sent a letter to Judge R.R. Stuart in which he explained that on May 7 the League:

"... will deliberately and specifically violate the injunction enjoining us from sympathetically picketing peacefully in support of the striking Auto Workers Federal Union.

"We sincerely believe," wrote Pollock of the court injunction, "this... is an abrogation of our democratic rights, contrary to our constitutional liberties...."

"Further, we believe that the spirit and intent of this arbitrary injunction is another specific example of an organized movement to curtail the rights of all workers to organize, strike and picket effectively.

"Therefore," Pollock concluded, "with full knowledge of the principles... and... consequences, we openly and publicly violate an injunction which, in our opinion, is a suppressive and oppressive act against all workers."

This was a political act carried out to demonstrate to workers that there were leaders prepared to *lead* in the fight against

the employers.

Lucas County Unemployed League leaders were arrested. But they went directly from the courtroom where they were tried back to the picket line. Thousands of workers were inspired to join them. By May 23 more than 10,000 were on the lines.

Events of a similar nature transpired in Minneapolis. The leaders of both strikes were guided by the idea that government intervention cannot be allowed to stand in the way of the democratic exercise of union power. Otherwise the labor movement can be completely hamstrung by the employers through the courts.

This too is a vital lesson. It is the rare strike today that does not quickly result in a court injunction limiting the number of pickets to an ineffective handful. Such injunctions have been used at AP Parts in Toledo.

Moreover, the problem is broader than court injunctions alone. Most current union officials actually *rely* on government intervention rather than union power in confrontation with the employers.

The labor officialdom promotes the false idea that the government is neutral in conflicts between workers and bosses. The officials urge workers to keep faith in government institutions as fair arbiters and dispensers of justice. Electing Democratic Party "friends of labor" is the way to insure that labor gets a better deal, the officials argue.

In the AP Parts fight, top UAW officials told workers who wanted to act when company union-busting began to wait for the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) to rule. The officials had confidence the NLRB would declare the new contract imposed by the company over union objection an "unfair labor practice." Other labor officials often counsel similar reliance on the capitalist government.

In the AP Parts case — as in most others — the NLRB ruled against the workers. It was the decision by secondary UAW officials and rank-and-file workers to challenge the court injunction by organizing a mass protest rally outside AP Parts on May 21 that opened the possibility of defeating AP Parts' union-busting.

In 1934 the strike leaderships in Min-  
Continued on Page 13

### Further reading

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# OCAW strikers seek solidarity in Sun Oil fight

BY KATY KARLIN

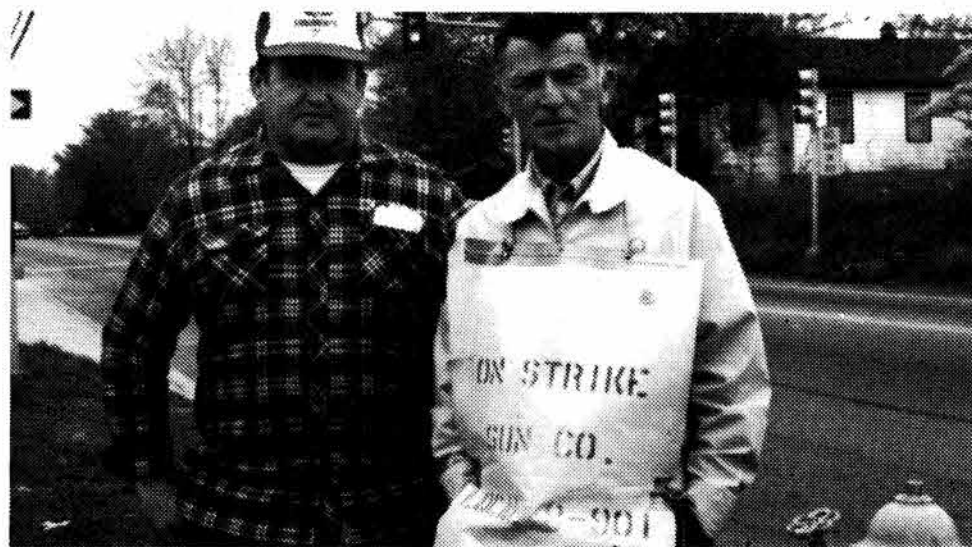
MARCUS HOOK, Pa. — In the eighth week of our strike against the Sun Oil Co., the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 8-901 added a new demand in the negotiations: to reinstate two workers who were fired for their picket-line activities, and to revoke disciplinary actions taken against five other workers who received warning letters during the strike. "These guys were doing a good job on the picket line," said OCAW 8-901 Pres. Sam Hutchinson, "and the company is trying to make an example of them to scare the rest of us."

The 900 members of the local have been on strike since March 21, along with workers at the Sun refinery in Toledo, Ohio. The Sun Co. was the only oil company which refused to grant the industry-wide pattern of a 20-cent raise in 1984 followed by a 35-cent raise the following year. In

Marcus Hook, the company is seeking to cripple the union further by dividing the work force into three separate seniority systems. It is also proposing a two-tier wage system under which workers hired after the contract settlement would start their jobs at a lower rate. In some job classifications the proposed starting wage is half as much as workers currently receive.

A court injunction, which was levied hours after the strike began, is limiting the strikers to posting four pickets at the main gate and two at the secondary gates. Delaware County sheriffs are on round-the-clock duty at each gate as well, usually in a one-to-one ratio with the pickets.

The company has installed video cameras and bright lights at each gate to record any activity. These videotapes were referred to as evidence in the company's disciplinary letters, which attacked the



Sun Oil strike pickets at refinery outside Philadelphia. Strike is now entering its eleventh week. Militant/Katy Karlin

workers for "improper conduct" on the picket line. It cited one worker for destroying the company's camera by using a hand mirror to reflect the sun's rays into the camera lens.

The refinery is being run by management — some of whom have been brought to Marcus Hook from the Sun Co. nonunion refinery in Puerto Rico — and by scab contractors. Trucks carrying petroleum products continue to roll in and out of the plant. The United Transportation Union,

which organizes railroad workers, is honoring the OCAW picket lines. But rail cars driven by Conrail management enter the plant daily.

The refinery is being operated by minimal crews who are working 12-hour shifts, 7 days a week. Many of the scabs have not been properly trained on the units they're operating. The operation of the refinery is representing an enormous risk to the surrounding community.

Some of the contract workers who are doing maintenance work inside the refinery belong to building trades unions. In the first seven weeks of the strike, the National Labor Relations Board barred OCAW from picketing the contractors' gate because, according to the NLRB, they weren't doing work that would have been done by OCAW members. The building trades unions said they would only stay out of the refinery if pickets were posted at their gate. But when the OCAW had the NLRB ruling overturned and set up pickets at the contractors' gate the union members disregarded the pickets.

One picket said to a group of contract workers, "We're only allowed two pickets at this gate. We've got cameras on us. There's nothing we can do to keep you out. But you're a union member so I'll leave it up to your own conscience." This wasn't very effective in keeping the contract workers out. Some of them explained that they would lose their jobs if they refused to cross the picket line.

Others reminded the pickets that OCAW didn't honor the picket line that the contract workers had set up two years ago when Sun Oil hired a nonunion outfit to do a construction job. This sparked a lot of discussion among the strikers, many of whom weren't even aware of the contract workers' picket lines when they were in effect.

The strikers then decided to leaflet the contract workers explaining the demands of the strike and announcing that there would be a plant-gate collection the following day. The collection itself was a success. One electrician dropped a 20 dollar bill in the collection bucket, and then got some of his coworkers to give donations. One 60-year-old member of the Laborers' Union said, "I was once on strike for four months myself. I wish I didn't have to cross the picket line." The collection turned up several hundred dollars.

Solidarity has played a role in other activities in the course of the strike. The refinery is in Delaware County, a heavily industrialized area south of Philadelphia that suffers a 17 percent unemployment rate. Most of the people who live here are unionists or related to someone who is.

Workers at another big company in Delaware County, the Boeing Vertol helicopter plant that is organized by the United Auto Workers, devoted an entire issue of its union newsletter to the Sun Oil strike and its significance to all workers. The following day UAW members collected money for the strike (Boeing management prohibited OCAW members from collecting at the gates) and got \$1,972 from the workers. A similar collection at the Scott Paper plant gate brought in \$1,500.

Another important act of solidarity has been the participation of OCAW members from the Getty refinery in Newcastle, Delaware, on the picket lines.

Katy Karlin is a member of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 8-901 at Sun Oil and is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress in Pennsylvania's 2nd Congressional District.

## Toledo coverage spurs 'Militant' sales

BY PEGGY BRUNDY

Even before last week's issue of the *Militant* came off the press, *Militant* salespeople around the country began organizing special efforts to get out the facts about the Toledo auto workers' fight to save their union and to build solidarity. The story of the Toledo battle, where unions joined together in solidarity with striking AP Parts workers, is a powerful and inspiring example.

Socialists in Toledo began selling the *Militant* as soon as it arrived in town. They report selling 59 "right away" at the UAW organized Jeep plant, along with another 20 at other plant gates. "Everywhere you go," our correspondent explained, "you run into auto workers or friends or relatives of auto workers. Many were at the AP

Parts demonstration or had a cousin or uncle who was." They report widespread discussion and thinking about other solidarity actions that the unions could undertake. In the first three days of sales, socialists in Toledo sold 200 copies and ordered another 200.

Over 50 copies of this issue were bought by participants in the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists convention held in Cincinnati. Socialists there also took the paper to an African Liberation Day demonstration. Among those interested in the Toledo coverage were two Black teachers of ninth grade students in Columbus, Ohio. The teachers explained that the Toledo strike, like the strike of copper miners in Arizona, was important to follow closely.

Socialists in Newark took the *Militant* to

the General Motors plant in Linden, New Jersey. While selling there, they learned that United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 595, which organizes workers at the Linden plant, had put out a general call for attendance at a rally planned for the next day in solidarity with workers locked out of Merck Pharmaceutical.

Merck raked in \$500 million in profits last year. Yet the owners are demanding concessions — no wage increase for the next year, elimination of cost-of-living allowance, and drastic reduction in medical coverage. Even though the union that represents the workers at Merck, Local 8-575 of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW), decided to continue working when their contract expired May 1, Merck unilaterally cut off negotiations three days later and locked out the workers.

Hundreds of people attended the solidarity rally, which was held in front of the Merck plant, just one block from the GM Linden plant. The majority were unionists from the UAW, OCAW, United Steelworkers of America, and Greyhound workers organized by the Amalgamated Transit Workers Union (ATU).

Virtually everyone was interested in the *Militant* headline "Toledo UAW battles cops in struggle to save union." Socialists sold 50 copies of the *Militant*, and talked with workers there. Frank Forrestal, one of the *Militant* salespeople, described the solidarity rally: "We met three OCAW workers from Bristol, Pennsylvania, who work for Purex. They, too, are on strike. The previous week they had been in Toledo to join their striking brothers and sisters at Sun Oil."

The current issues of the *Militant* and *PM*, with their extensive coverage of the Toledo strike and its lessons, offer an opportunity to reach more unionists, Blacks, and others with the facts of this important battle, the lessons being drawn, and the need for solidarity with the embattled UAW. Discussing the events in Toledo with coworkers and others who buy the *Militant* or *PM* will be at the center of circulating the socialist press this week.

The sales drive scoreboard this week includes a new category. Under the new miscellaneous heading we will report on sales in areas where there is currently no branch of the Socialist Workers Party. This week the category includes sales during the effort to collect signatures to put the SWP's presidential ticket on the ballot in Nebraska. Over 200 copies of the *Militant* have been sold in two weeks of petitioning and campaigning for the socialist candidates.

Branches of the Socialist Workers Party are currently discussing plans for continuing widespread distribution of the *Militant* and *PM* after this issue, the last full week of the sales drive.

### SALES SCOREBOARD

(Week #6: Totals as of Militant issue #19, PM issue #10)

Area	Eight-week Goal Militant/PM	Sold So Far Militant/PM	Total Goal/Sold	%
Toledo	800/40	856/22	840/878	105
Seaside, Calif.	320/200	253/196	520/449	86
Greensboro, N.C.	360/0	310/1	360/311	86
Los Angeles	840/880	752/642	1,720/1,394	81
Albany, N.Y.	704/56	558/47	760/605	80
Oakland	570/170	463/124	740/587	79
Denver	515/85	411/65	600/476	79
Dallas	400/200	270/205	600/475	79
Milwaukee	800/160	658/89	960/747	78
Cleveland	675/70	530/49	745/579	78
Seattle	760/40	582/34	800/616	77
San Diego	375/125	272/115	500/387	77
Louisville	450/0	345/0	450/345	77
Chicago	900/300	773/154	1,200/927	77
Birmingham	600/0	453/0	600/453	76
Baltimore	800/20	602/7	820/609	74
Washington, D.C.	515/105	371/84	620/455	73
Miami	720/80	460/114	800/574	72
Salt Lake City	400/40	263/48	440/311	71
Phoenix	600/320	499/153	920/652	71
San Francisco	755/325	540/214	1,080/754	70
Philadelphia	640/160	451/110	800/561	70
Virginia, Minn.	500/0	352/0	500/352	70
Atlanta	760/40	540/17	800/557	70
Morgantown, W. Va.	440/0	302/0	440/302	69
Houston	555/195	375/141	750/516	69
San Jose	480/80	282/98	560/380	68
Price, Utah	336/24	227/17	360/244	68
Detroit	1,040/40	709/27	1,080/736	68
Newport News, Va.	400/0	258/0	400/258	65
Minneapolis/St. Paul	1,120/80	732/37	1,200/769	64
New Orleans	720/80	449/39	800/488	61
St. Louis	533/0	322/0	533/322	60
Portland	320/160	192/97	480/289	60
Indianapolis	760/0	359/0	760/359	47
Cincinnati	600/0	283/0	600/283	47
Newark	1,250/250	466/206	1,500/672	45
Kansas City	650/25	295/8	675/303	45
Pittsburgh	850/0	366/0	850/366	43
Charleston, W. Va.	450/0	165/0	450/165	37
Boston	640/160	266/17	800/283	35
New York City	1,600/550	538/192	2,150/730	34
Miscellaneous		459/45	504	
<b>Total sold</b>		<b>18,609/3,414</b>	<b>22,023</b>	



# Ohio women fight to regain auto jobs

BY SUSAN LOMAN

CLEVELAND — On May 7, some 35 people — laid-off women auto workers, their husbands, and children — held a peaceful demonstration at the Ford Stamping Plant in Walton Hills outside of Cleveland. The group, known as United Women of Walton Hills, is demanding that Ford rehire them and others who are still laid off from the plant.

The demonstration, which was covered by the local media, drew attention to the fact that there are now *no* women working at the Walton Hills plant. The few women who had been hired by Ford in the 1970s have all been laid off, and all but a handful have lost their recall rights.

The demonstration took place during shift change. The demonstrators carried signs that said "Stop the greed and help those in need," "Women want jobs just like men," and other slogans.

Carrie Floyd, a spokeswoman for United Women, told the *Militant* that some people did honk their horns as they drove by. Some of the auto workers came out and talked to the pickets. Some were supportive of the women's fight to get their jobs back. Others had mixed reactions, she said.

Floyd explained how United Women was formed. "Since they are working so much overtime at Ford, and since we're all laid off, we said, 'Why don't we do something about it, to try to get back in?'"

"We do realize that the plant runs on a seniority basis. But we feel that there is a problem, and there is a solution. If they would cut out the overtime, this would allow everyone to get back to work full-time or part-time. For the past three years, there have been people working 7 days a week, 10 or 12 hours a day."

Floyd pointed out that Ford has never lived up to an agreement signed in 1980 with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). The agreement required Ford to institute affirmative-action

hiring of women. Ford has a long history of discriminatory hiring policies against women.

Floyd knows of women who applied at Ford Walton Hills in the late 1960s and were never hired. A few women were hired in 1973, and then laid off on the 89th day of their probation — one day short of making it into the union. A few more women, including Floyd, were hired in 1977, only to be permanently laid off in 1979. Floyd estimates that less than 100 women were working at Ford in the late 1970s (out of a total of 4,300 workers), and now there are none.

Unfortunately, United Women is fighting Ford's discriminatory policies without the help of the union. The officials of Local 420 of the United Auto Workers maintains there is nothing they can do to help the women regain their jobs because of the seniority system.

Floyd recently filed a complaint with the EEOC, charging Ford with discrimination against women.

United Women plans to try to reach all the women who have been laid off and get them involved. "We're going to continue to fight," said Floyd.



"Last hired, first fired" system has decimated number of women in auto plants.

## K.C. auto workers meet Andrea González

BY MARCIA GALLO

KANSAS CITY — The employers' attacks on the United Auto Workers union (UAW) were a focus of an early May campaign stop here by Andrea González, Socialist Workers Party candidate for vice-president.

Seven auto workers from the Fairfax and Leeds General Motors plants here attended their first socialist campaign rally, including several UAW members who used to work at the Fremont, California, GM plant.

The ex-Fremont workers were forced to

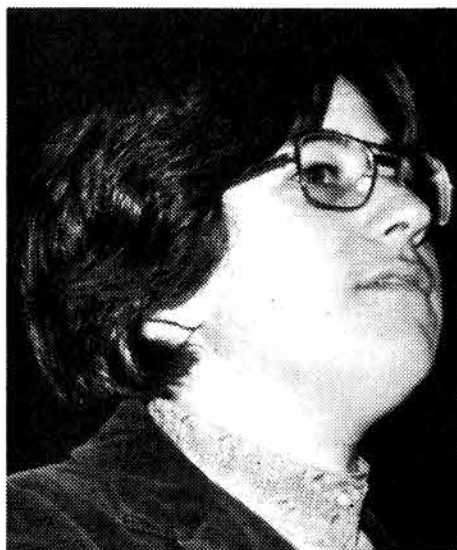
transfer to plants here in order to keep their jobs with GM after they were laid off in California. Now they are facing the difficult decision of whether to stay at GM in Kansas City or quit GM and return to California seeking jobs at the Fremont plant, which is scheduled to reopen later this year under the joint ownership of GM and Toyota. Over 1,000 auto workers here will have to make this choice during the next few months.

The decision to return is a risky one since management at the Fremont plant has now declared, "As a new and independent company, our policies and labor relations will differ from those that existed when General Motors owned the Fremont facility. None of the former agreements with GM apply to us." Wages, benefits, work rules and union rights are all in question at the "New United Motor Manufacturing Inc.," as the plant is now called.

At a dinner before the campaign rally one of the former Fremont workers explained some of the working conditions and the activities of union militants at the old Fremont plant. His stories gave everyone an idea of why Local 1364 at Fremont had a reputation as a fighting UAW local.

Two other campaign supporters at the dinner drove three and a half hours from Salina, Kansas, to hear the socialist candidate. They plan to help spread the socialist platform in the mostly rural area of central Kansas.

The rally was held in a church on the predominantly Mexican-American west side of Kansas City. González spoke on the need to revitalize the unions and to fight against concessions and for social justice. She raised the idea of the union movement taking the lead in running candidates independent of the Democratic and Republican parties. And she explained that the war in Central America is part of a common offensive by the U.S. rulers against working people here and abroad.



Militant/Lou Howort  
Diane Shur, Kansas City auto worker and socialist candidate for U.S. Congress.



Militant/Harry Ring  
Andrea González, socialist candidate for U.S. vice-president.

Another featured speaker at the rally was Diane Shur, an auto worker at the Fairfax GM plant and the socialist candidate for Congress in the 5th Congressional District. After hearing Shur's speech, a steelworker in the audience said, "When I came here I was planning to support Allen Wheat [the incumbent Democrat], but your talk gave me something to think about."

At the event, \$2,500 was raised for the campaign.

González and Shur also attended a breakfast with 10 auto workers held at a truck stop near the Fairfax plant at 2 a.m. one morning. The discussion centered around upcoming national contract negotiations as well as the opening of the New United Motor plant in Fremont.

Several of those attending the breakfast were Mexican and Chicano workers who were especially interested when González described her recent visit and discussions with farm workers in the Rio Grande Valley region of Texas. She explained the problems facing these workers as a result of the freeze this winter that virtually destroyed the citrus groves. Tens of thousands of farm workers were thrown out of work.

One worker was especially familiar with the problems facing farm workers and had closely followed the organizing drives of the United Farm Workers.

Later that day González, Shur, and several campaign supporters who work at the Fairfax plant distributed literature and talked to workers between shifts at the plant gate. For many it was the first time they had seen literature on the socialist election campaign or had a chance to meet a candidate running in the presidential elections. Both candidates received a friendly response and several hundred pieces of literature were handed out within a half hour.

That evening, Spanish-speaking workers, including Salvadorans, gathered at a house meeting to talk with González.

## Socialist campaign rally denounces Agent Orange war crimes

BY MICHAEL MAGGI

SAN DIEGO — The Socialist Workers campaign rally here on May 13 opened with rally chairperson Dean Denno denouncing the out-of-court settlement of the Agent Orange suit. The suit was brought by Vietnam veterans in a New York federal court.

Denno called the deal, which was struck between attorneys for some of the veterans and the lawyers for the government and seven chemical companies, a "gross cover-up."

"The crime of dumping 12 million gallons of Agent Orange poison on millions of Vietnamese and the poisoning of thousands of U.S. GIs is one of the worst war crimes in human history," Denno said. "The terrible consequences of having used Agent Orange will plague future generations in Vietnam and the United States with cancer, leukemia, and birth defects."

"While the U.S. government covers up its crimes and turns its back on the tens of thousands of victims," Denno continued, "the Vietnamese government is doing all in its power to give the victims and their families the medical, psychological, and social service help that they need."

Denno pointed out that Vietnam uses its resources to provide free aid and shares its research about the problems caused by Agent Orange through international medical conferences that the U.S. government has boycotted and attempted to sabotage.

A meeting of over 100 Vietnam vets met in San Diego the following night to discuss the settlement and voted to oppose it. They cited two grounds in their statement to the press. First, the financial settlement is only a drop in the bucket compared to the medical needs of those suffering from the effects of Agent Orange.

Second, the veterans don't like to see the truth swept under the carpet.

Socialist Workers Party vice-presidential candidate Andrea González speaking at the rally took up Washington's new Vietnam-style war in Central America.

"The capitalists and their government

are fighting a war on two fronts," she said, "against workers and farmers struggling for a decent life and living in the United States and against the workers and peasants of the world, especially in Central America. But the people of Nicaragua have experienced their first real freedom and dignity in centuries. The Salvadorans can see victory in sight. They will not be defeated."

The rally also featured the two socialist candidates for Congress in the San Diego area.

Mary Jo Vogel, the SWP candidate in the 41st Congressional District is an aircraft assembler at Teledyne-Ryan and a member of United Auto Workers Local 506.

Mari Hawkes is the socialist candidate in the 44th Congressional District. She is an electronics assembler at General Dynamics Corp. and a member of International Association of Machinists Lodge 1125.

Hawkes works for one of the largest war profiteers in the country. She described the discussions she has with her coworkers on the U.S. war drive in Central America. "I've found that many people like the idea of working people running this country and oppose U.S. intervention in Central America, but never quite thought of putting the two ideas together. Well, that's what my campaign, in essence, is all about."

"In Nicaragua, if the owner of a tuna cannery — like the Van Camps cannery here — tried to shut down his plant, lay off 1,200 workers, and move to Thailand where he could pay lower wages, the government would intervene on the side of the workers."

"A workers and farmers government would keep the cannery open. But because we have a capitalist government that defends the owners and their profits over everything else, all we get are pink slips."

Two representatives of Womancare, a local women's health and social services center, gave greetings to the rally and described the attacks on abortion rights by the government and ultra-right groups.



# Nicaragua hosts unionists' antiwar meeting

BY MICHAEL BAUMANN

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — "No intervention in Central America!" was the watchword as delegates of 300 trade union bodies from 50 countries gathered here in an antiwar conference at the end of April.

Delegates came from every continent and from virtually all trade union currents — ranging from the World Federation of Trade Unions, based in Eastern Europe, to the AFL-CIO. They were united in their opposition to the threat of nuclear war and to wider war in Central America or anywhere else.

Held in the midst of the biggest U.S. offensive against Nicaragua since the 1979 revolution here, the conference stressed the interest of workers around the world in defending Nicaragua.

"We support the Nicaraguan popular process," the delegates said in a special motion.

"We demand there be no intervention in the internal affairs of Nicaragua. . . .

"We condemn the mining of Nicaragua's ports, aggression coming from any territory, the external support of any aggressive group, the economic blockade, or any other aggressive action."

And, the motion added, "Although we comprise workers from all continents and ideologies, we call now on all such people to help in the direct economic reconstruction of Nicaragua."

The International Trade Union Conference for Peace, held in Managua April 24-27, was called by the Nicaraguan Federation of Trade Unions (CSN). Appropriately enough, the gathering took place at the country club expropriated from the dictatorship and its wealthy backers. It is now converted into an international conference center.

The conference's special significance stems from the fact that it was a gathering of representatives of *workers* — those who have the most to lose from an increase in war and military spending, and the most to gain from defeat of the imperialist war drive.

The U.S. delegation, made up of 30 representatives from 17 unions, including some of the largest in the country, played an active part in the conference.

"We are well aware of our role in the conflicts here" in Central America, the delegation told a news conference April 27. "We are not 'third parties.' We know that it is the U.S. government which is the main cause of the problems Nicaragua is experiencing."

The U.S. delegates also made clear that while they were confident they spoke for the interests and sentiment of the great majority of U.S. workers, top officials of the AFL-CIO support the Reagan administration on the question of involvement in Central America.

Efforts to change this, they promised, would be a priority when they returned.

For most of the U.S. delegates, this was their first visit to Nicaragua. Many of them took advantage of trips sponsored by the conference organizers to get a firsthand glimpse of the cost of the U.S. war.

They visited the border region, where the war has taken several thousand lives and displaced 30,000 peasant families. And they visited the country's major port, Corinto, which has been mined by the CIA.

"I wish more American unionists would come here," said Richard Metcalf, a spokesman for the group. Metcalf, from Minneapolis, is a midwestern regional official of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union.

"They would see that these are the same kind of atrocities the United States committed in Vietnam. Schools and daycare centers are being bombed. Crops are being burned.

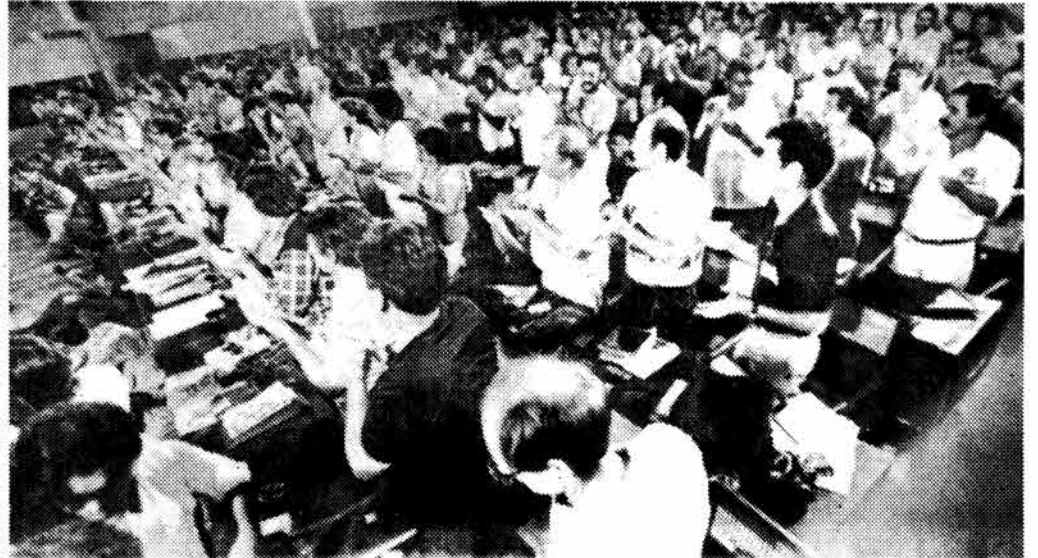
"If the people of the United States knew how big this war was, there'd be more protest against Reagan."

When asked if he'd seen instances of the "lack of freedom" Nicaragua supposedly suffers from, Metcalf replied:

"We've been laughing about this since we've been here. There are more political parties, more discussion, more debate, than you see in the United States. There are somewhere between 9 and 11 political parties here. Everywhere you go you see



Trade union delegates (right) from every continent met in Managua. They condemned threat of nuclear conflict, spread of war in Central America, and aggression against Nicaragua. At left, Nicaragua's Commanders Víctor Tirado and Daniel Ortega (with glasses) greet delegates.



Barricada

people having discussions, handing out leaflets."

Other delegates and observers from the United States included members and local officials of the United Steelworkers; United Transportation Union; International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union; Communications Workers; Service Employees International; American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; American Federation of Teachers; and the Arizona Farm Workers union.

Among the special meetings and news

conferences held during the conference were a report on the trade union situation in El Salvador and on the revolt against the rise in food prices in the Dominican Republic in late April.

Delegates from El Salvador reported that more than 30,000 workers were out on strike there against the four-year wage freeze, and that the country's large and well-organized teachers federation, ANDES, had begun to participate directly in the work stoppages.

Dominican delegates reported that more

than 50 persons had been killed April 23-24 by the army and police, and that more than 4,000 persons had been arrested.

In a special resolution on the Dominican Republic, adopted at the closing session of the conference, delegates unanimously voted to condemn the pressure from the International Monetary Fund that lay behind the price increases, condemned the Dominican government for the repressive action it had taken, and demanded the immediate release of all who had been detained.

## Delegates see U.S.-inflicted war damage

BY JOE SWANSON

JALAPA, Nicaragua — U.S. combat troops are stationed just 13 miles inside Honduras from this northern border town, explained Sandinista army Capt. Héctor López. The U.S. government is building an air strip there as well.

López gave a briefing to 150 trade unionists from Latin America, Asia, the Middle East, North America, and Australia who had attended the International Trade Union Conference for Peace, held in Managua April 24-27.

Those of us who traveled by bus to see firsthand the impact of the war on the border region included 25 delegates and observers from 14 different U.S. unions.

We stopped about five miles from the Honduran border, where Captain López and his Sandinista soldiers greeted us with smiles and handshakes.

López explained that although there are continuous skirmishes in the region, there has been no large-scale attack since June 1983, when 13 Sandinista soldiers were

killed and 20 wounded.

Defense of the area is carried out by the Sandinista army, the People's Militia, and members of farmer cooperatives who are well armed.

A member of the United Electrical Workers from Canada, whose father was a farmer, commented with disgust: "It's a damn bloody shame when a farmer has to go to the field to work with a rifle strapped to his back."

When CIA-trained counterrevolutionaries (*contras*) attacked in large numbers from the east and the north two years ago, some Nicaraguan border posts were taken. They tried to set up a "provisional government," López explained, but the posts were retaken by the Sandinistas.

An Iranian delegate asked if any chemical weapons were being used by the *contras*. He explained how the government of Iraq has used such weapons against Iran.

López said the *contras* have used rockets loaded with phosphorus, a napalm-like substance, to create terror and death.

The *contras* in this area have been broken up into small groups, López said. The last attack came about two weeks ago, but air violations take place all the time. López told us that just in the previous week there had been eight violations of Nicaraguan airspace by U.S. C-130 aircraft.

A delegate from Philadelphia, a member of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, felt that direct U.S. military intervention in Central America is very likely.

"A U.S. invasion is being set," he said, "and I don't know if we can stop it."

But the U.S. unionists who attended the conference are going home to try. Because it has been shown to us that the Nicaraguan people want peace, but they also will not be defeated by any U.S. force.

Joe Swanson, a member of United Transportation Union Local 305 in Nebraska, was an observer at the International Trade Union Conference for Peace.

## Black unionists support Marroquín fight

CINCINNATI — Socialist Héctor Marroquín, who is fighting against U.S. attempts to deport him from this country because of his political ideas, attended the May 25-28 Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU) conference here.

He and his supporters got more than 150 signatures from the unionists demanding that the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) allow him to stay in the United States until his application for permanent residency — a green card — is finished.

Several CBTU leaders have been longtime supporters of Marroquín's fight for political asylum in the United States. These include William Lucy, CBTU president; Congressman Charles Hayes, CBTU executive vice-president; William Simons, CBTU treasurer; and Horace Sheffield, CBTU secretary. Among the new endorsers of Marroquín's case are seven more members of the CBTU's executive council.

Many other Black unionists signed Marroquín's petition to the U.S. government. The response reflects the widespread support for Marroquín that can be won. The Political Rights Defense Fund (PRDF), which is coordinating Marroquín's fight, is

urging supporters to step up the campaign to win his green card.

The new support won for Marroquín at the CBTU convention comes at an important time. The U.S. Supreme Court could rule any day on Marroquín's appeal for political asylum. As a result, the fight for his right to extra time to pursue his green card takes on added importance.

A June 11 hearing is slated in Newark at the U.S. District Court, District of New

Jersey. There, Marroquín's attorneys will ask the court to order the INS to allow him to remain here while his green-card application is pending.

The June 11 hearing is before Judge Dickinson Debevoise. It begins at 10 a.m. at the Federal Courthouse on Franklin and Broad streets in Newark. All supporters of Marroquín are urged to attend. For more information, call PRDF at (212) 691-3270.

## Condemn assassination of Vietnamese

Continued from front page

spoken to get out the truth about their country.

The government allows right-wing terrorists — from Cuban counterrevolutionary groups like Alpha 66 and Omega 7 to Vietnamese rightist squads — to operate unhampered.

The May 28 assassination in San Francisco is a serious threat to everyone who opposes U.S. domestic and foreign policy. It is aimed not only at intimidating supporters of the Vietnamese revolution, but at those speaking out against the U.S. war in Central America, trade unionists opposing

union-busting attacks, and Blacks defending themselves from racist assault.

If the killers are allowed to get away with this latest crime, it will embolden right-wing thugs and the government to escalate their attacks.

The labor movement, Black and Latino organizations, and all opponents of U.S. military intervention should speak out against moves to cover up this political murder. Messages demanding a thorough investigation should be sent to the San Francisco Police Department, and everyone who can do so should be at the New York solidarity rally on June 2.



**Well, that's different** — The *New York Times* offered a clarification of an article about the CIA flying foreign journalists to El Salvador and feeding them "news" about the elections. The article had referred to three previous U.S.-subsidized trips by foreign journalists, but didn't explain these were paid for by the United

States Information Agency, not the CIA. The USIA, it seems, is duly authorized by Congress to contribute to the prostitution of the press.

**And often do** — Responding to recent negative publicity about lavishly paid auto execs, one of them commented that a recent survey showed many people feel Detroit is run by men "who wear three-piece suits, smoke smelly cigars and want to rape and pillage the public."

**True, some people are strange** — A veteran's council in Rochester, N.Y., cancelled the annual Memorial Day parade rather than

permit women peace activists to have a contingent. "We don't want to play ball with them," declared the grand marshal, "so we pick up our ball and go home." Besides, he added, "They are strange, in a sense, in that they look different than other ladies I know."

**Funniest billboard of the year** — The Trust Company of New Jersey advises: "The bank with heart — Loves Making Loans."

**He's got a point** — The Duke of Sutherland, whose family estate in Scotland once totalled a million acres, had to sell four paintings to

stay afloat. He's down to his last 7,000 acres, including 2,000 for grazing sheep and cattle and a half acre of daffodils in front of the house. The paintings did fetch \$2.95 million. But, groused the duke, "If the government left everyone with a little more, we wouldn't need all this, would we?"

**Travel tip** — For that African safari, or your next trip to Disneyland, a ventilated pith helmet with a solar powered fan to cool your brow. Batteries for night use. \$89.50.

**Some days it don't pay to get out of bed** — A chap walked into

the Heritage Bank in Anaheim, Calif., and handed over a note advising that the cash be turned over or else. The person receiving the note explained she worked for the FDIC and the bank had no cash, having just gone bust.

**Fashion tip** — Countess Mara, Inc., offers a diamond studded tie, no two alike, \$5,000. A reporter asked how you tie it without damaging the fabric. "That's not our problem," snapped company Pres. D. Gordon Williams. "I'm not a chaplain. I don't ask customers about their problems." As far as he's concerned, "they can wrap it around their head for a sweat band."



**Harry Ring**

vador and feeding them "news" about the elections. The article had referred to three previous U.S.-subsidized trips by foreign journalists, but didn't explain these were paid for by the United

## —CALENDAR—

### MASSACHUSETTS

#### Boston

**Defending the Revolution in Nicaragua.** Slide show and eyewitness account. Speakers: Kip Hedges, Socialist Workers Party and member of International Union of Electronic Workers Local 201; Jean Zuman, nurse and member of Young Socialist Alliance. Both recently returned from fact-finding trip to Nicaragua. Sun., June 10, 7:30 p.m. 510 Commonwealth Ave., 4th floor. (Kenmore T). Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (617) 262-4621.

### MINNESOTA

#### St. Paul

**Grenada Under U.S. Occupation: Eyewitness Report and Slide show.** Speaker: August Nimtz, member of Socialist Workers Party, recently returned from fact-finding tour of Grenada. Translation to Spanish. Sat., June 9, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

### MISSOURI

#### Kansas City

**Malcolm X and the 1984 Elections — Are His Ideas Relevant Today?** Speaker: Wells Todd, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., June 3, 7 p.m. 4715A Troost. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (816) 753-0404.

### Vietnam and Kampuchea: an eyewitness report

A slide show and presentation by Diane Wang

### OHIO

#### Cleveland

Sun., June 17, 3 p.m. 15105 St. Clair Ave. Donation: \$2. For more information call (216) 451-6150.

### PENNSYLVANIA

#### Pittsburgh

Sat., June 16, 7:30 p.m. 141 S. Highland Ave. Donation: \$2. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

### NEW JERSEY

#### Newark

**Black Political Perspectives in '84.** Speakers: representative of Black Organization of Students at Rutgers; Nan Bailey, Socialist Workers candidate for 16th Congressional District in New York; Ken Morgan, member of National Black Independent Political Party Central Committee. Translation to Spanish. Fri., June 8. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; forum, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey. Donation: forum \$2; dinner \$3. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

### NEW YORK

#### Manhattan

**Demonstration in Memory of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg on the 31st Anniversary of Their Execution, June 19, 1953.** U.S. Federal Courthouse, Foley Square. Tues., June 19, noon to 2 p.m. Ausp: National Committee to Reopen the Rosenberg Case. For more information call (212) 228-4500.

tion call (212) 228-4500.

### PENNSYLVANIA

#### Pittsburgh

**New Bedford Rape Trial and the Fight for Women's Rights.** Speakers: Robin Connors, Pittsburgh Action Against Rape; Mary Nell Bockman, Pittsburgh Young Socialist Alliance. Sat., June 2, 7:30 p.m. 141 S Highland Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

**Police Brutality Against the Black Community.** Speaker: Andy Towbin, Pittsburgh Young Socialist Alliance. Sat., June 9, 7:30 p.m. 141 S Highland Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

### WISCONSIN

#### Milwaukee

**Plant Closings and Run-away Shops: How**

**Can We Save Our Jobs?** Speakers: Jeff McDonald, research department, Allied Industrial Union; Mark Rosenbaum, president of Local P40, United Food and Commercial Workers (Patrick Cudahy); Chris Breihan, member of United Auto Workers Local 438 and Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sun., June 3, 7:30 p.m. 4707 W Lisbon Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (414) 445-2076.

**Why Aren't There Enough Jobs for Youth?** A discussion on solutions to unemployment, police brutality, and other problems facing youth. Malcolm X on tape: "The Ballot or the Bullet." Speaker: representative of Young Socialist Alliance. Tues., June 5, 7 p.m. 4707 W Lisbon Ave. Ausp: Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (414) 445-2076.

## 1934 strikes hold valuable lessons for today

Continued from Page 9

neapolis and Toledo recognized that the government is not neutral in labor disputes. The government, through its many institutions (courts, cops, etc.), consistently intervenes on the side of the employers.

The '34 strike leaders openly explained this to the union ranks. As workers acquired more experience in struggle, they learned this fact firsthand.

In an effort to weaken the '34 strikes, the government and the employers turned to a shopworn antiunion tool: red-baiting. They sought to divide the union with charges that union leaders were "reds" — communists and socialists.

The employers use red-baiting — in 1934 and today — to create the impression that, by the very nature of their political views, socialists and communists are alien to other workers.

In the context of the rising class struggle in 1934, this tactic failed. As Dobbs explained in *Teamster Bureaucracy*:

"The ranks were interested in the way the leaders fought, not in their politics. Be-

sides that, the workers had been consulted about every step taken; they believed in the policies that were followed; and for these reasons it was not hard for them to recognize the red-baiting as an attack on the union itself."

Today, as in 1934, the labor movement is in need of new policies, as those practiced by the current leadership are not working. But top officials are quick to echo the bosses' claim that radical-minded workers who propose a militant fight against the companies are "communists." Such charges divide the unions and get in the way of the political debate and discussion on union strategy that is needed.

Nevertheless, in differing forms and at an uneven pace, that discussion of strategy is beginning to develop. A small but important number of workers are trying to chart a course toward an effective fight-back strategy.

The most initial signs of the fightback itself are beginning to emerge in events such as the Toledo auto workers battle, the Arizona copper strike, and the continuing

fight of the Las Vegas hotel employees. These are all small signs of what is still to come — a generalized labor fightback.

Out of these struggles, and others to come, new leaders are coming forward. Many do not yet have a fully developed strategy for defeating the union-busting drive. Their consciousness is uneven, and few hold the anticapitalist perspective that guided the leaderships in Minneapolis and Toledo in 1934.

What those workers who are coming forward do have in common is a desire to fight, to tap the power of the union movement, and begin to flex labor's muscle.

For these and other vanguard workers the history of the 1934 strikes and a study of the books by Farrell Dobbs and Art Preis can be especially useful. The books offer insights into what strategy the labor movement needs to arm itself for coming battles. This is key because, as Preis explained when his book was published in 1964:

"I don't want to knock the writing of history — but making history is what really counts."

## —IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP—

**Where to find the Socialist Workers Party, Young Socialist Alliance, and socialist books and pamphlets**

**ALABAMA:** Birmingham: SWP, YSA, 205 18th St. S. Zip: 35233. Tel: (205) 323-3079.

**ARIZONA:** Phoenix: SWP, YSA, 17 E. Southern Ave. (Central and Southern). Zip: 85040. Tel: (602) 268-3369.

**CALIFORNIA:** Bay Area District: 3808 E 14th St., Oakland. Zip: 94601. Tel: (415) 534-1242. Los Angeles: SWP, YSA, 2546 W. Pico Blvd. Zip: 90006. Tel: (213) 380-9460. Oakland: SWP, YSA, 3808 E 14th St. Zip: 94601. Tel: (415) 261-3014. San Diego: SWP, YSA, 1053 15th St. Zip: 92101. Tel: (619) 234-4630. San Francisco: SWP, YSA, 3284 23rd St. Zip: 94110. Tel: (415) 282-6255. San Jose: SWP, YSA, 46½ Race St. Zip: 95126. Tel: (408) 998-4007. Seaside: SWP, YSA, 1184 Broadway. Zip: 93955. Tel: (408) 394-1855.

**COLORADO:** Denver: SWP, YSA, 126 W. 12th Ave. Zip: 80204. Tel: (303) 534-8954.

**FLORIDA:** Miami: SWP, YSA, 663 Martin Luther King Blvd. (NW 62nd St.) Zip: 33150. Tel: (305) 756-1020. Tallahassee: YSA, P.O. Box 20715. Zip: 32316.

**GEORGIA:** Atlanta: SWP, YSA, 504 Flat Shoals Ave. SE. Zip: 30316. Tel: (404) 577-4065.

**ILLINOIS:** Chicago: SWP, YSA, 3455 S Michigan Ave. Zip: 60616. Tel: (312) 326-5853 or 326-5453.

**INDIANA:** Bloomington: YSA, Activities Desk, Indiana Memorial Union. Zip: 47405. Indianapolis: SWP, YSA, 4850 N. College. Zip: 46205. Tel: (317) 283-6149.

**IOWA:** Des Moines: YSA, P.O. Box 1165. Zip: 50311.

**KENTUCKY:** Louisville: SWP, YSA, 809 E. Broadway. Zip: 40204. Tel: (502) 587-8418.

**LOUISIANA:** New Orleans: SWP, YSA, 3207 Dublin St. Zip: 70118. Tel: (504) 486-8048.

**MARYLAND:** Baltimore: SWP, YSA, 2913 Greenmount Ave. Zip: 21218. Tel: (301) 235-0013. Baltimore-Washington District: 2913 Greenmount Ave. Zip: 21218. Tel: (301) 235-0013.

**MASSACHUSETTS:** Boston: SWP, YSA, 510 Commonwealth Ave., 4th Floor. Zip: 02215. Tel: (617) 262-4621.

**MICHIGAN:** Detroit: SWP, YSA, 7146 W. McNichols. Zip: 48221. Tel: (313) 862-7755.

**MINNESOTA:** Mesabi Iron Range: SWP, YSA, 112 Chestnut St., Virginia, Minn. 55792. Send mail to P.O. Box 1287. Zip: 55792. Tel: (218) 749-6327. Twin Cities: SWP, YSA, 508 N. Snelling Ave., St. Paul. Zip: 55104. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

**MISSOURI:** Kansas City: SWP, YSA, 4715A Troost. Zip: 64110. Tel: (816) 753-0404. St. Louis: SWP, YSA, 3109 S. Grand, #22. Zip: 63118. Tel: (314) 772-4410.

**NEW JERSEY:** Newark: SWP, YSA, 141 Halsey. Zip: 07102. Tel: (201) 643-3341.

**NEW YORK:** Capital District (Albany): SWP, YSA, 352 Central Ave. 2nd floor. Zip: 12206. Tel: (518) 434-3247. New York: SWP, YSA, 79 Leonard. Zip: 10013. Tel: (212) 226-8445 or 925-1668.

**NORTH CAROLINA:** Piedmont: SWP, YSA, 301 S. Elm St., Suite 522. Greensboro. Zip: 27401. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

**OHIO:** Cincinnati: SWP, YSA, 4945 Pad-dock Rd. Zip: 45237. Tel: (513) 242-7161. Cleveland: SWP, YSA, 15105 St. Clair Ave. Zip: 44110. Tel: (216) 451-6150. Toledo: SWP, YSA, 2120 Dorr St. Zip: 43607. Tel: (419) 536-0383.

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

**PENNSYLVANIA:** Edinboro: YSA, Edinboro State College. Zip: 16444. Tel: (814) 734-4415. Philadelphia: SWP, YSA, 2744 Germantown Ave. Zip: 19133. Tel: (215) 225-0213. Pittsburgh: SWP, YSA, 141 S. Highland Ave. Zip: 15206. Tel: (412) 362-6767. State College: YSA, P.O. Box 464, Bellefonte. Zip: 16823. Tel: (814) 238-3296.

**RHODE ISLAND:** Providence: YSA, P.O.

Box 261, Annex Station. Zip: 02901.

**TEXAS:** Austin: YSA, c/o Mike Rose, 7409 Berkman Dr. Zip: 78752. Tel: (512) 452-3923. Dallas: SWP, YSA, 2817 Live Oak. Zip: 75204. Tel: (214) 826-4711. Houston: SWP, YSA, 4806 Alameda. Zip: 77004. Tel: (713) 522-8054.

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

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

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

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

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

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



## Israeli gov't admits murder

Substantial political pressure has forced an Israeli government retreat. It had to make a public admission of murderous conduct by its security cops.

On May 28, it was announced that two of four Palestinians who had attempted to hold an Israeli bus hostage had been killed after their capture.

Initially, the government tried to cover up the crime. But enough facts leaked out, and public pressure was strong enough, that it finally bowed and established a commission of inquiry, which officially confirmed what had happened.

Since the 1982 invasion of Lebanon, antiwar sentiment has been growing in Israel.

A recent opinion poll found that 58 percent of the Israeli people favor total immediate withdrawal of occupation forces from Lebanon. Another 37 percent favor withdrawal under various conditions. One percent favor keeping the troops there.

Opposition to government policy has further deepened as a result of the steady moving of Israeli settlers into the occupied West Bank of Jordan.

The brutal victimization of Palestinians has created revulsion among many Israelis. And the continuing Arab resistance spurs a growing realization that there can never be peace with occupation.

The hijacking of the Israeli bus was a case in point.

Four Palestinians seized the bus April 12. They threatened to blow it up with its 35 passengers unless 500 Palestinians were released from Israeli prisons.

Israeli forces stormed the bus, killing an Israeli woman and wounding seven other passengers. Two of the Palestinians were killed and the other two removed from the bus.

The army announced they "died on the way to the hospital."

But an Israeli paper published a photo of one of the two men, handcuffed and under escort, walking from the bus. The government tried to stonewall, but more facts came out. It was finally forced to act.

The commission of inquiry found the two had been taken alive and then killed by security cops. The bodies

were exhumed and it was found that both had died of skull fractures "as a result of a blow dealt to the back of the head by a blunt instrument."

The Israeli security cops are particularly notorious for their brutality. This stems from a system that gives them a free hand.

Within Israel, suspects can be detained up to 32 days, the first seven without seeing a lawyer.

In the occupied West Bank, Palestinians can be held six months without trial and authorities have no obligation to let them see a lawyer the entire time.

The legal violence is coupled with extralegal violence.

Early in May, the government felt enough pressure to arrest 25 ultraright Jewish terrorists operating mainly in the West Bank.

They reportedly included one who confessed to the 1980 bombings in which two West Bank Arab mayors were permanently disabled. Others are said to have confessed firing into the campus of the Islamic University in Hebron last July, killing three people and wounding 33. Confessions were also reported in the planting of bombs on five Arab-owned buses last April.

Israeli President Herzog said those arrested were "mad."

Roy Isacowitz, of the *Jerusalem Post*, put it a lot more accurately.

"The people who attempted to blow up the Arab buses," he wrote, "are not 'good boys gone wrong.' They are not the bad apples in the cart, but the tastiest, freshest apples of them all. It is the cart itself that is rotten."

That is the bitter truth. But it is not just the cart carrying the ultraright Jewish terrorists who occupy the West Bank. Their actions are in the long tradition of anti-Arab violence carried out by previous Zionist settlers of Palestine. It is the Israeli government itself that organizes the military occupation of the West Bank and other Palestinian land. The government openly states that its objective is total annexation of the West Bank.

More and more Israelis are learning from harsh experience that peace will be impossible as long as the rights and land of the Palestinians are denied.

## Stop the U.S. lies about MIAs

Memorial Day 1984 was the occasion for yet another hypocritical outburst by the U.S. government concerning those U.S. GIs still listed as "missing in action" in Vietnam.

At Arlington National Cemetery President Reagan, his voice "choking with emotion," according to the *New York Times*, called on the Vietnamese government to "return our sons to America."

This performance by the "commander-in-chief" was another cynical abuse of the concerns of U.S. families whose sons' remains have never been recovered. Reagan's intention was to further fuel the fires of Washington's campaign against Vietnam.

"First the U.S. had a hot war with us," observed Vietnam's Prime Minister Pham Van Dong in a May interview with *Newsweek*. "Now it carries on a psychological warfare against us using the MIA question." (This observation was edited out of the magazine's printed version of the interview.)

In the interview Pham Van Dong reveals the truth that Washington wants to hide about what Vietnam is really doing about the MIAs.

"Vietnam considers the question . . . a humanitarian issue," he explained. "During the past 11 years Vietnam has returned to the United States all living Americans as well as all remains of MIA's and transmitted any relevant information we may have, without any conditions . . ." said the Vietnamese Prime Minister.

In every war the bodies of many who die are never recovered.

Nevertheless Vietnam continues to devote substantial resources to attempting to locate the 2,491 U.S. GIs Washington says remain unaccounted for. "We have set up a commission that oversees forensic specialists and search-squad teams that go out into villages to find out if we can establish the presence of a U.S. MIA there," explained Pham Van Dong.

A problem, Pham Van Dong explained to *Newsweek*, is that "the villagers are not enthusiastic about helping us." Edited out by the magazine was the Prime Minister's explanation of why this is the case.

In the full text released by the Vietnamese government, Pham Van Dong continued, "'Why are you so concerned about the U.S. dead when they came in planes to kill us,' they say. 'Why are you so concerned about U.S. MIAs when the U.S. continues its hostile policy towards Vietnam?'"

Such attitudes on the part of the Vietnamese people are understandable and justifiable. It is a testimony to the humanitarian policies of the Vietnamese government that it continues to search for U.S. MIAs.

Washington's hypocritical campaign on this issue is simply further proof of its unrelenting hostility towards Vietnam. The U.S. government is not honestly concerned about finding and identifying those men it sent to their deaths. Rather, the MIAs issue is only one more political weapon imperialism is using to attack the example of the Vietnamese revolution, which succeeded in defeating U.S. imperialist intervention.

## No justice in Salvador trial

With indecent haste, the U.S. House of Representatives voted May 24 to give \$62 million in new military aid to the Salvadoran dictatorship. The vote came only hours after five members of that country's National Guard were found guilty of murdering four U.S. church women in December 1980.

The one-day trial of the five guardsmen was carefully staged by the U.S. government. The evidence was produced by the FBI. U.S. government lawyers "coordinated" — in the words of one report — the prosecution's five-hour presentation. U.S. embassy staff monitored the whole proceeding.

The accused were represented by unpaid lawyers who, in some cases, hadn't even met with the person they were representing before the day of the trial. Defense attorneys used only one hour of the five allotted to them.

One of the guardsmen who had earlier confessed recanted his confession during the trial, saying it had been obtained through torture and offers of bribes from U.S.

sources. The other defendants confirmed they had been offered "U.S. money" if they confessed.

The trial of the National Guardsmen marks the first time that Salvadoran troops have been convicted for any of the more than 40,000 civilians they have brutally murdered in the past few years.

But instead of doing justice in the case of the church women, what the trial represents is a cynical coverup of the fact that Washington's puppet regime in San Salvador is nothing but a ruthless murder machine.

Given the worldwide revulsion at the brutal rape and assassination of the four women, the Salvadoran authorities and their superiors in Washington decided to throw a few of their underlings to the wolves as scapegoats.

But the biggest criminals of all are the Democrats and Republicans in Congress and the White House who are using the conviction of the five to rush more guns and bullets to their murderous clients in El Salvador.

## Cops' role as strikebreakers: lessons from 1934

When members of the United Auto Workers in Toledo took to the streets May 21 to challenge a court injunction limiting picketing at the struck AP Parts Auto Co., they were confronted by Toledo cops. Many workers initially tried to appeal to the police as "fellow workers" who could be won to support of the strike.

It didn't take long for the workers to discover that such appeals to cops fall on deaf ears. Before the day was out

## OUR REVOLUTIONARY HERITAGE

the unionists were forced to fight a pitched battle with the cops who went after them with tear gas, clubs, and pellet guns.

As militant union actions in support of strikes and against union-busting increase, so too will the problem of strike-breaking violence by the cops.

During the historic Minneapolis Teamster strikes in 1934, workers faced such cop violence often. On July 20, 1934, it exploded in a frenzy. Events that day, which became known as "Bloody Friday," left two workers shot dead and 67 wounded. Most were shot in the back.

In *Teamster Rebellion*, the first of his four books on the Minneapolis and Midwest Teamster struggles, strike leader Farrell Dobbs offered some useful, concise lessons about the role of the cops. Taken from the chapter titled, "Bloody Friday," they are reprinted below.

\* \* \*

Under capitalism the main police function is to break strikes and to repress other forms of protest against the policies of the ruling class. Any civic usefulness other forms of police activity may have, like controlling traffic and summoning ambulances, is strictly incidental to the primary repressive function. Personal inclinations of individual cops do not alter this basic role of the police. All must comply with ruling-class dictates. As a result, police repression becomes one of the most naked forms through which capitalism subordinates human rights to the demands of private property. If the cops sometimes falter in their antisocial tasks, it is simply because they — like the guns they use — are subject to rust when not engaged in the deadly function for which they are primarily trained.

No police organization is exactly the same day in and day out. Two essential factors determine its character at a given moment: the social climate in which the cops have been operating and the turnover of personnel within the force. An unseasoned cop may tend to be somewhat considerate of others in the performance of duty, especially while class relations are relatively peaceful. Even in such calm times, however, the necessary accommodation must be made to capitalist demands, including readiness to shoot anyone who tampers with private property. Otherwise the aspiring cop, if he is not kicked out of the force, will have little chance of rising beyond a beat in the sticks. By gradually weeding out misfits along these general lines, a police department can keep itself abreast of requirements during a more or less stable period in class relations.

Such had been the case with the Minneapolis cops, whose strikebreaking experiences had long been limited to occasional attacks on weak craft unions that were poorly led. Then in 1934 a sharp turn occurred in the class struggle, and they were found to be less than competent in carrying out the harsh new tasks imposed upon them by the bosses. To play the required role in the changed alignment of class forces, the department had to be drastically shaken up, and it was. When [Minneapolis Police Chief Michael J.] Johannes first issued riot guns to the cops, a few had declined to take them, and they were immediately suspended from the force. Another handful drew suspensions when they took the guns but refused to use them. Two or three went so far as to join in the shooting, and then probably appalled by the resultant carnage, turned in their guns and badges. Among those suspended was a captain of police, John Hart. Through this general shakeup the Minneapolis police force had become transformed into a body of uniformed killers who were ready to shoot strikers upon command.





## LETTERS

### Cuba and drugs?

On May 6 the CBS Sunday morning program "Face the Nation," covered the issue of the drug problem in the United States. Leslie Stahl mentioned the possibility of official Cuban involvement or, at the very least, a few corrupt officials in Cuba in the drug trade.

This was repeated by Reagan in his May 9 speech concerning Central America.

The *Militant* should again cover this subject, including a response from Cuba.

I also feel the *International Socialist Review* should cover the concise history and role of organized crime in America.

Chris Wolford  
Salem, West Virginia

### Comprehensive coverage

I have been a recipient of the *Militant* for approximately five years (thanks to the special prisoner fund), and I can assure you that its coverage of domestic and international struggles is by far the most comprehensive of any socialist paper I have read to date.

Other papers, socialist or otherwise, almost always cloud the issues in their analysis of the struggle between the forces of enslavement and the forces of freedom. However, this is not the case with the *Militant*.

Your analytical approach is much more vivid, rendering a clear line of thought, exposing the monopoly capitalist class and their agents for what they are.

For these reasons I think it only fitting to send this note of praise to your staff for a job well done.

Reeducate to liberate.

A prisoner  
Kansas

### Marxists and Christians

What about an article on the coalition and partnership between Marxists and Christians in Latin America (not dialogue but partnership)?

Would it not be the greatest irony of the last half of this century if Marxists freed the Bible for a true reading of the scriptures, and Christians were able to reinvigorate Marxists with a revolutionary vision and energy?

Shalom.  
Ed Loving  
Atlanta, Georgia

### Appreciate renewal

I was in the hospital and convalescing for nine months and my subscription expired.

I would appreciate a renewal. I enjoyed your paper very much. The older I get, the more I realize the evil of capitalism. Under Carter and Reagan the system has gotten so much worse.

M.C. Wilcox  
Mims, Florida

### 'Killing Floor'

In her review of the TV drama "The Killing Floor," Carol Burke offers the lukewarm opinion that if the broadcast "encourages more of us to learn from the history of the union movement, it will have served a useful purpose."

"Usefulness" is a good way to judge the value of a tool, but an insufficient standard by which to judge a work of art. I thought "The Killing Floor" was not only an educational play — but also an important emotional experience. It permitted me to see and feel history through the eyes of the Black workers brought up to Chicago by the meatpackers. I identified with the hopes they had from getting a

decent job and joining the union. And I was able to feel their pain and anger when the weaknesses of the unions put them in absolutely impossible situations.

Secondly, on the political level, Burke dismisses the play as one-sided, offering only "a glimpse of the real historical forces and issues." Perhaps. But this is a "glimpse" we rarely get. A glimpse of how — if the labor movement fails to defend the rights of Blacks — the government and labor-hating corporations can move right in and actually win over sections of the Black community to their union-busting projects.

If we're serious about transforming our unions into organiza-

tions that can win real power, we better think about how they should respond in situations like this. There's more than one way, after all, to cross a picket line. Right on to "The Killing Floor" for making that point.

Pete Seidman  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

### Correction

The May 4 *Militant* printed a letter from a prisoner concerning the issue of forced labor in Attica and other U.S. prisons. However a typographical error resulted in printing the writer's prison number incorrectly, making it more difficult to contact him.

Those interested in the problems of prison labor may contact:

Ronald Davidson, #76A1166, Attica Prison Special Housing Solitary Unit, Attica, N.Y., 14011.

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

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.



## GE threatens union in 'Factory of Future' scheme

BY RUSSELL DAVIS

LYNN, Mass. — Workers at the General Electric plant here are facing a serious attack by the company. It involves a GE proposal to build a \$51 million "Factory of the Future."

This is just the latest move in GE's plan to modernize its plant here and increase productivity at the expense of GE workers.

The 8,500 GE workers, 6,000 of whom are in the giant Lynn Riverworks, are organized by International Union of Electrical Workers (IUE) Local 201. The plant makes aircraft engines and steam turbines and has had relatively few layoffs recently, due to the big increase in military spending from which GE reaps enormous profits.

The aircraft division, which is almost all military production, has seen dramatic modernization lately with the widespread introduction of computerized machine tools and production control systems. One effect has been the transformation of machinist jobs into that of "machine operator."

In the turbine division, automation has been used to cut piece rates under which workers were able to make several dollars an hour extra. In one building, 66B, there was a two-month slowdown, which resulted in some gains but did not solve the problem.

GE said in early May that it would build the "Factory of the Future" in Lynn if the union agreed to several non-negotiable conditions. The proposed factory would employ 100 workers who would do the job of 200 current aircraft workers. The conditions were:

- Mandatory 12-hour shifts. The factory would run seven days a week and the workweek would be 36 hours one week and 48 hours the next, for an average of 42 hours. There would be no overtime pay if your work day fell on Saturday or Sunday.

- Compression of rates into two general maintenance rates and two rates for production workers who would be called "stagers."

- Work pace set by computers, with those unable to meet production standards

subject to discipline.

All this had to be agreed to by June 8! GE said that if Local 201 did not agree, it would build its new plant at a nonunion GE factory in New Hampshire.

As news filtered into the shop about the proposal, workers were outraged at GE's crude blackmail. Most wanted nothing to do with GE's high-tech sweatshop, though a few liked the idea of fewer workdays per week.

Some local union officials here are also critical of aspects of the proposal but seem

inclined to accept it. Their view is that if the plan isn't accepted, the Lynn plant will not remain "competitive."

But as one worker pointed out, "GE has profited off the sweat of our parents and grandparents in Lynn for almost 100 years" and owes workers here a decent job. Other workers have explained that accepting a 12-hour day would set the union back 50 years.

Another problem has been pointed to by Christine Gauvreau, a member of Local 201 and the Socialist Workers Party candi-

date for U.S. Senate here. Gauvreau has explained that if the union accepts GE's demands it will undermine the wages and working conditions of all workers in the electrical and aerospace industries. It will put the union in a weaker position in its 1985 contract talks with GE.

The discussion is continuing both on the shop floor and in the union as GE's deadline nears.

Russell Davis is a member of IUE Local 201 at Lynn Riverworks.

## How Vietnam's drug rehabilitation works

Continued from Page 5

the West," Van noted. "There they cure drug addiction by substituting a different addiction. We do not use other drugs. But even so, we have had no deaths whatsoever in our treatment."

We toured the medical facility to see what is used. The school has a number of airy buildings around a well-kept garden.

Dr. Tran The Hang was administering acupuncture to a 28-year-old patient who had arrived two days earlier. The acupuncture treatments reduce pain and insomnia, the doctor explained.

On the porch outside, a dozen students were doing exercises, another major feature of the treatment. Acupuncture, exercise, massage, cool water, and herbal medicine take the place of methadone or drugs in Vietnam's drug rehabilitation program.

It may take one week to a month for addicts to overcome the initial pain of withdrawal. Patients who leave at that stage are sure to come back later, Van said. "We must cure the psychological dependency too."

"The people who were addicted say that the drugs made them feel a real euphoria, which they miss. How can we replace that wonderful feeling?" Van explained.

"To be healthy, people need human relations and work," Van said.

"When the people here were using drugs, many committed crimes against their family or society, who then reject them. I think that many wanted very much to stop, but it was difficult once their family and society had given up on them. So they sank deeper into drug use."

"To cure them from psychological dependency we have to restore the love and belief from their family and society."

Classes at the school stress respect for work, explain the role of the individual in the family and society, and teach hatred of drug dealers.

Family visits are arranged every week.

The key to the program is vocational training. We visited a number of workshops where students were sewing, doing carpentry, making guitars or sandals. The products are sold to the state to help finance the school. Students receive incentive wages to help restore confidence in themselves and pride in their work.

"The teachers and doctors have to have a sincere love and confidence for these people," Van said. "Their attitude has to rekindle the students' spirit."

"And you can see the result," Van said as we continued our tour. "We have only 37 people on staff here. We have no police or guns. But we have 1,000 students. The security and services are all done by the students themselves, showing we believe

in them."

Once students have work to stabilize their personal economic situation and normal relations with their families, they are able to leave the school. They have full political rights in society, Van stressed.

The school also carries on a number of artistic and cultural activities. Drama groups from the school have won awards in city and national competition in 1982 and 1983.

The drama projects are not only rehabilitation for the students, Van said. "We consider art and culture a weapon to fight drug dealers here, to appeal to the population to defeat the drug dealers. When we have no more dealers, people will have a chance."

Although the worst of the heroin trade left with the U.S. occupation forces and former U.S. puppet regime, opium is still smuggled into Vietnam and creates a problem.

Yet Vietnam's real progress against drug addiction is quite a contrast to the United States. The drug trade is now a \$900 billion a year business in the United States.

Vietnam's socialist revolution made it possible to start constructing a society devoted to solving social problems instead of making profits. It opened the door to advancing human solidarity and self-respect. That is clearly the prerequisite for successful drug rehabilitation.



## Black unionists hit antilabor drive

### Convention takes up elections, war, Black and labor rights

BY MOHAMMED OLIVER

CINCINNATI — How to combat the U.S. employers' anti-working-class drive was the central discussion among the more than 650 Black trade unionists who gathered here at the 13th annual convention of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU). The convention took place May 25-28.

The CBTU was founded in September 1972 to garner Black support for Democratic presidential candidate George McGovern. This was in opposition to the AFL-CIO leadership, which gave back-handed support to Richard Nixon.

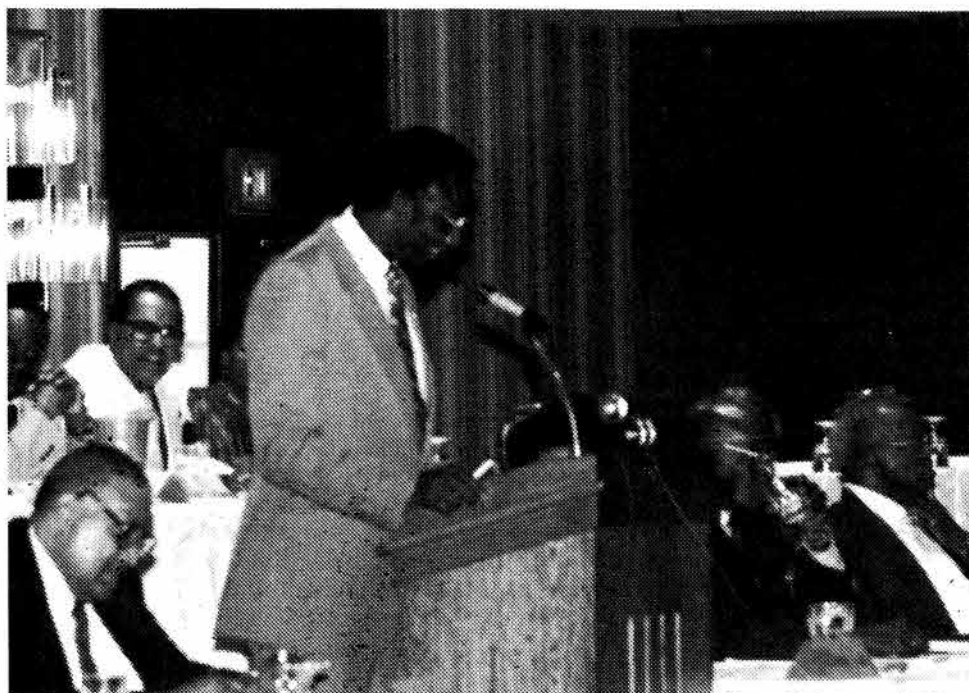
Since its founding the CBTU has worked to advance the position of Black workers in society, as well as winning more Black representation within the leadership bodies of the trade union movement. The organization has also gone on record in support of affirmative action and other measures aimed at protecting Black workers.

Convention delegates came from all over the country. New York's contingent was the largest, numbering some 300 people. Black activists from more than 60 union locals attended the gathering. The largest union contingent was from the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME). Of the big industrial unions the United Auto Workers (UAW) and United Steelworkers of America (USWA) had the largest delegations.

Women, who made up nearly half of the delegates, played an important part in the convention. On May 25 the CBTU sponsored a conference for Black trade union women. This is the first time such an event was an official part of a CBTU convention. The women unionists discussed their threefold oppression as Blacks, women, and workers. They took up the need for affirmative action, comparable pay for comparable worth, and passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Addie Wyatt, the international vice-president of the United Food and Commercial Workers who heads the CBTU's women's committee, explained the importance of these and other women's rights issues to Black women unionists. In her talk at the CBTU women's conference, Wyatt detailed the history of the Coalition of Labor Union Women and urged everyone to join that organization in addition to the CBTU.

The CBTU convention itself also discussed important social, economic, and political issues. For example, U.S. support of the apartheid regime in South Africa was the topic of an entire afternoon workshop. Convention delegates heard from a woman leader of the South African Black Municipal Workers Union, who described condi-



William Lucy, president of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, addressing the group's convention. Black workers, hit hardest by capitalist assault, discussed how to fight back.

tions faced by Black workers in her country. Marc Stepp, vice-president of the UAW and a member of CBTU's national executive council, gave a short speech blasting U.S. support to apartheid.

The U.S. war in El Salvador also came under fire here. William Lucy, international secretary-treasurer of AFSCME and the CBTU's president, scored the employers' mounting war in Central America. In his keynote address to the convention, Lucy explained that in El Salvador Washington engineered "phony elections won by a phony president and then held a phony murder trial" all aimed at providing cover for increased aid to "the military dictatorship that still runs El Salvador today."

That money, said Lucy, should be spent on much needed social programs here in the United States.

Lucy also explained the history of the U.S. rulers' offensive, beginning with the government and employers crushing of the Professional Air Traffic Controllers' strike in 1981 and going through the recent strikes at Continental Airlines and Greyhound. He also pointed to the ongoing copper miners strike against Phelps Dodge in Arizona and the striking hotel workers in Las Vegas.

He explained that workers "must pursue to the fullest our basic and fundamental trade union rights."

Black workers have firsthand experience with the employer attacks on workers'

wages, standard of living, and trade union rights. They have been hardest hit by the capitalist offensive — and many CBTU activists have been in the forefront of working-class fightbacks against the bosses.

One of the most important of such battles taking place today is between the owners of AP Parts and UAW Local 14 in Toledo. Local 14 is an amalgamated local with workers from several plants. (See article on page 2.) Henry McCoy is a member of Local 14's General Motors Hydraumatic division and the statewide head of CBTU in Ohio. When Toby Emmerich approached him at the Michigan-UAW caucus meeting about seeking support for the AP Parts strikers, McCoy thought it was a good idea. Emmerich is an auto worker at the Jeep plant in Toledo and a member of UAW Local 12.

McCoy, Emmerich, and Omari Musa — a member of the United Rubber Workers who lives in Cleveland — sold nearly 100 strike support buttons at the caucus meeting.

Later, Emmerich, McCoy, and Otis Green — another member of UAW Local 14 — spoke with national CBTU leaders about a resolution on the AP Parts strike. In an important show of solidarity, the CBTU convention adopted a resolution supporting the striking auto workers. (Reprinted on this page.)

After correctly pinpointing many of the problems facing unionists today, Lucy said in his keynote speech that "More and even

worse tragedies will be suffered by the people of this nation unless we unite to boot Ronald Reagan out of the White House in November."

Lucy said that Blacks and other workers should support Democratic presidential candidate Walter Mondale "because his views and vision for America are compatible with the needs of the American people."

Lucy and other top-ranking Black trade union officials had announced in February the formation of the AFL-CIO United Black Labor in 1984 Committee, which was founded to win support for Mondale. The CBTU delegates, however, were overwhelmingly supporters of Jesse Jackson's bid for the Democratic Party's nomination — a fact that Lucy had to deal with in his address.

"My hat is off and my heart goes out to Jesse Jackson," said Lucy. "He has changed forever the nature of politics in this country. . . . Without question his activity has produced the enthusiasm and has been the catalyst for thousands of new voters throughout the country."

But, explained Lucy, this strengthening of the Democratic Party now needs to be directed toward the "overriding priority of 1984 . . . getting Ronald Reagan out of the White House."

Lucy and other top Black labor officials share this perspective with the trade union bureaucracy as a whole. This outlook keeps Blacks and other workers tied to the employers' parties and government. It's an obstacle to the independent mobilization and organization of the working class — its real source of political power.

An independent working-class perspective is what workers and farmers need. Only a small handful of socialist workers attending the CBTU convention advanced this working-class alternative. They sold over 50 copies of the *Militant* and had many informal discussions that showed the openness to socialist ideas among workers today.

## CBTU supports Toledo auto strike

The following resolution was adopted unanimously at the 13th annual convention of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, which took place in Cincinnati, Ohio, May 25-28:

The Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU) publicly records its support of United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 14 representing over 400 unionized workers at AP Parts plant in Toledo, Ohio.

AP Parts management has openly attempted to bust Local 14 through layoffs, discipline and harassment of remaining workers, and other antiunion tactics, including the hiring of a private "goon" squad to help scabs and management pass the striking workers. Additionally, neither the National Labor Relations Board (which ruled that AP was not guilty of unfair labor practices) nor the courts (which through injunction, have limited the number of pickets) appear to be sympathetic to the workers.

The UAW workers in opposing management's final contract offer which called for a \$5.84 pay cut and relinquishment of most seniority rights, has engaged in organized and peaceful battle against the weakening of industrial unions.

Management's disruption of small parts shops sets an increasing threat in larger unionized plants. UAW has been joined in its fight by other unionists, civil rights and women's organizations, and other groups. CBTU urges a quick and just solution to the concerns of the workers and the protection of workers' rights and benefits.

## Haitians rebel against cops and hunger

BY ELLEN KRATKA

At the end of May a rebellion erupted in Gonaives, the fifth-largest city in Haiti. Its immediate cause was the public beating of a pregnant woman by police on May 21. The woman later died of her injuries.

This incident of police brutality was but the latest in a long series of such cases. It took place in a context of worsening poverty, rising food prices, and stepped-up government repression of the masses of Haitian workers and farmers. Haiti is the poorest country in this hemisphere, and the regime of Jean-Claude Duvalier is known as one of the most repressive in the world.

Long-simmering anger at the government exploded the day of the beating. According to the *New York Times*, people assembled spontaneously for a march on police headquarters. The mass demonstration demanded, "Down with hunger!

Down with poverty! Down with Duvalier!" Those who crossed the police barricades surrounding the building were clubbed with rifle butts.

A lawyer in Gonaives interviewed by the *Times* said of the march, "There were no leaders. It was a people's revolt. Food prices go up every day and their tiny income remains the same."

Many were beaten and arrested as the cops tried to repel the crowd. A school teacher commented, "No one knows how many have been arrested. They beat them, then send them home." The revolt continued through the week.

By the following Thursday, Duvalier had sent in troops from the capital, Port-au-Prince, to bolster the local paramilitary force. Three government officials spoke and tried to calm people down. But the

crowd, according to all reports, was not very receptive to them.

The troops then dispersed the crowd by firing machine guns. An unknown number were wounded and several killed. The next day the government imposed a 9 p.m. to dawn curfew.

From the point of view of the U.S. rulers, the Haitian regime has long been one of its most reliable allies in the Caribbean region. Rebellions against the current Duvalier — Jean-Claude succeeded his father in 1971 — have been rare during his 13-year rule.

In the hopes of keeping things that way, Washington sends aid to the Duvalier dictatorship to the tune of some \$55 million a year, while here in the United States, immigration cops brutalize the thousands of Haitians fleeing their homeland and deny them political asylum.