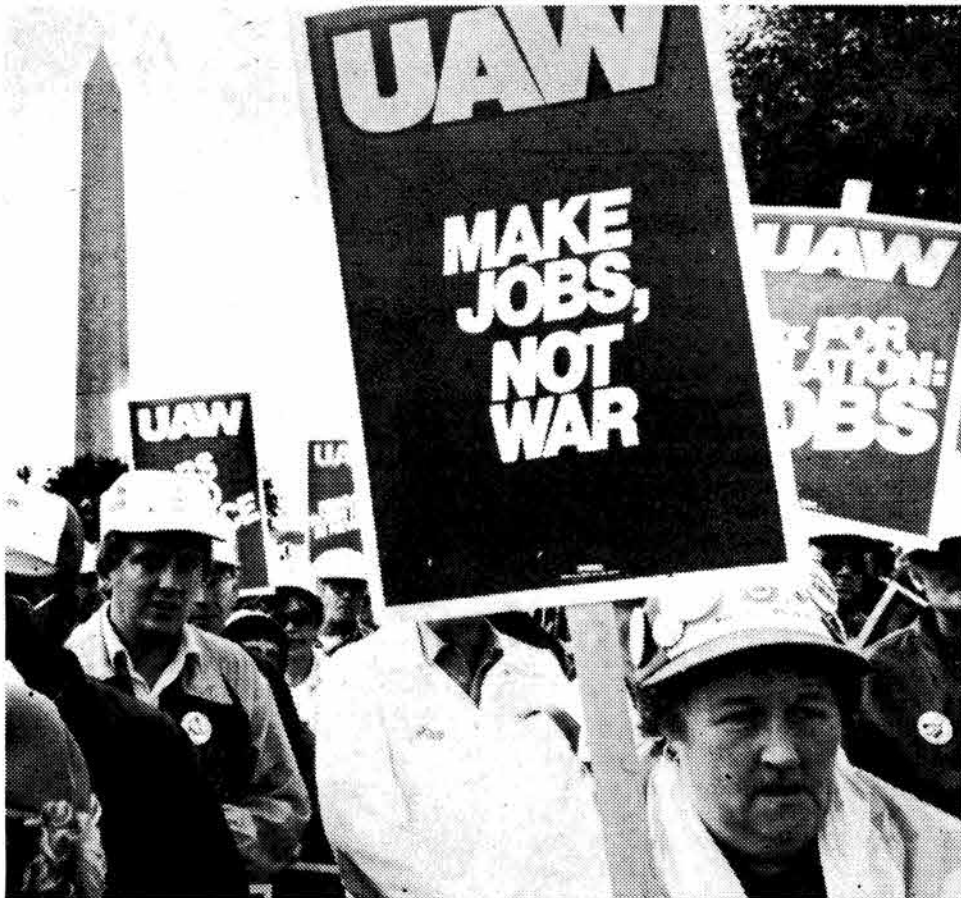


Socialist candidates back UAW, blast U.S. war in Central America



Mason and González say concessions demanded by GM and Ford are part of U.S. rulers' worldwide war against working people, which makes international working-class solidarity essential.

Mason talks to Cleveland auto workers

BY CATHLEEN GRAHAN

CLEVELAND — The Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate Mel Mason received a warm reception from workers in the Cleveland-Akron area during his tour here September 6-7.

One of the highlights of the tour was a campaign appearance held at a restaurant outside of the Chrysler Twinsburg stamping plant. The socialist campaign committee obtained permission from the restaurant management at Shorty's to campaign at this popular truck stop and beverage store, where many Chrysler workers stop off on their way to and from the plant. Approximately 20 Black workers showed up, in the rain, to speak with Mason outside of the restaurant.

The Chrysler stamping plant, located between Cleveland and Akron, currently has about 3,600 workers. United Auto Workers Local 122, which organizes the plant, has a history of militant activity. It has consistently rejected every concession contract pushed on Chrysler workers since 1980, a stance that culminated in a strike in March 1983 over overtime and safety conditions that shut down all Chrysler facilities in the United States and Canada.

The strike was sparked by the death of a worker who was crushed in a press on the midnight shift. Local 122 refused to return to work until they had won a key demand: one weekend off every month.

At Shorty's, one Black woman worker told Mason, "I had to come to meet you after I read your program. It's obvious how different you are from [Jesse] Jackson." She pointed out how unusual it is to meet a candidate who refuses to change or water down his program.

There was a lot of interest among the
Continued on Page 6

Link fight against war, union-busting

The following statement was released by Socialist Workers Party presidential and vice-presidential candidates Mel Mason and Andrea González at news conferences in St. Louis and Indianapolis. Mason and González have been campaigning among auto workers in these cities and throughout the Midwest.

The contract battle between the auto barons and the United Auto Workers (UAW) is one battleground in the war between the employers and working people.

The front line of this war today is in Central America, where workers and farmers are fighting to free themselves from U.S.

Mason & González



Speak Out

imperialist domination. These brothers and sisters are facing U.S. firepower, and the increasing threat of a U.S. invasion.

On the home front the rulers are stepping up their moves to break our unions, lower our standard of living and expectations,
Continued on Page 9

Antiwar action set for Oct. 27

BY WENDY LYONS

NEW YORK — "The Caribbean and Central America are not America's backyard." This saying by Maurice Bishop, slain leader of the Grenada revolution, is the theme of a demonstration called for October 27 at Grand Army Plaza in Brooklyn.

Sponsored by a coalition of Caribbean, Black, Central American solidarity, and peace organizations, as well as left-wing groups, the action will mark the anniversary of the October 25, 1983, U.S. invasion of Grenada.

Reports have been leaked to the press that President Reagan is considering going to Grenada on the anniversary. The purpose of such a trip would be to step up the government's anticommunist, prowar propaganda campaign as part of preparations for escalating the U.S. war in Central America and the Caribbean.

Escalating U.S. aggression

In an attempt to halt the revolutionary process in Nicaragua and El Salvador — and to turn back the Cuban revolution, if possible — the U.S. government is charting a course toward an eventual introduction of U.S. combat troops into the region on a massive scale.

U.S. troops, along with soldiers from proimperialist regimes in the Caribbean, are occupying Grenada today to bolster the U.S.-installed puppet regime and make Grenada "safe" for "free enterprise."

It's in response to the growing U.S. aggression in this hemisphere that a broad coalition is being formed here around the October 27 action. Black and Caribbean organizations are taking the lead in pulling forces together.

The National Black United Front (NBUF), Caribbean People's Alliance, Grenada Center, Patrice Lumumba Coalition, New Afrikan People's Organization, National Black Independent Political Party

(NBIPP), and others began to plan a series of activities around the anniversary of the Grenada invasion. They reached out to the Coalition Against U.S. Intervention in Central America and the Caribbean for support. This coalition sponsored the June 7 and 9 New York protests against the U.S. war in Central America.

New coalition formed

A new coalition — the October 25 Coalition — is the result of this process. It was officially formed at a September 6 meeting chaired by NBUF leader Adeyemi Bandle and attended by more than 40 organizations, including those listed above.

Other groups represented at the founding meeting included: Committee in Solidarity With the People of El Salvador (CISPES), Committee in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala, Coordinadora de Solidaridad Salvadoreña, Metro BUF, Women's Coalition to Stop U.S. Intervention in Central America and the Caribbean, Socialist Workers Party, Communist Party, Young Socialist Alliance, Queens and Manhattan NBIPP, National Conference of Black Lawyers, National Committee to Free Puerto Rican Prisoners of War, Nicaraguan Solidarity Support Network, and the United States Anti-Imperialist League.

The demonstration's slogans are:

- Remove U.S. and all other foreign troops from Grenada now!
- Stop U.S. military intervention in El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala, Puerto Rico!
- No more U.S. intervention and economic destabilization in Caribbean and Central America!
- Say no to Reaganism!

The November elections were a topic of controversy among the forces coming together around the protest. Some organizations initially argued for the action to focus on "Dump Reagan" or vote for Mondale,
Continued on Page 13

Stepped-up 'Militant,' 'PM' sales help answer employer, gov't attacks

BY JIM WHITE

Socialists around the country report increasing sales of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* (PM), our Spanish-language sister publication, spurred on by the escalating U.S. war against Nicaragua and El Salvador; the contract showdowns in basic auto and coal mining; and the beginning of the home stretch of the election campaign of Mel Mason and Andrea González, the Socialist Workers Party candidates for president and vice-president.

In every area, plans are being made to take on the challenges and opportunities of the fall.

Recent sales have been particularly strong to auto workers. Salespeople in Kansas City ordered an additional 100 copies of last week's issue after they sold 42 of their initial 100 at two auto plant gates in the first couple of days they had their bundle. In Toledo, 47 papers were sold in a single sale at one Ford plant.

Sales were also strong at Labor Day activities. More than 160 copies of the September 14 issue were sold at the Labor Day march in Toledo.

At a Rock Against Reagan event in Salt Lake City, organized to oppose the president's campaign visit there, socialists sold

more than 40 copies of the *Militant* and 26 copies of the *Young Socialist* to a crowd of about 250. In Price, Utah, 13 *Militants* were sold at the annual Labor Day picnic.

As Mel Mason and Andrea González continue their tours, socialist campaigners are using sales of the *Militant* and *PM* to build, promote, and follow-up the tours.

Socialists in Morgantown, West Virginia, have mapped out a tour-building effort centering on sales of the *Militant*, combined with a series of weekly forums publicizing their local election campaign. They will be selling on Saturdays in the Morgantown area, as well as expanding their coal mine portal sales efforts.

On successive weekends, they have planned forums on the auto contract, the elections in Nicaragua, and the socialist view of the United Mine Workers contract fight. Following Mason's October 4-5 tour, they plan to turn their attention to getting the *Militant* out in the region beyond Morgantown.

The *Militant* would like to urge all its readers to join in getting out the truth and campaigning for socialism by selling the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*. See the directory on page 12 for the socialist campaign office or bookstore nearest you.

—SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE—

BY SUSAN JACOBSON
AND BOB MILLER

NEW YORK CITY — The media image of New York City is Madison Avenue and Wall Street. But the New York and northern New Jersey area is a sprawling metropolitan and industrial center where hundreds of thousands of industrial unionists live and work.

In the months leading up to the current massive effort to get the Socialist Workers Party candidates on the ballot in New York, socialist workers in New York and New Jersey have made big progress in regularizing and establishing plant gate *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* (PM) sales teams to talk with these workers on a weekly basis.

New York and New Jersey are centers of the garment industry. Teams take the *Militant* and PM each week to members of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers' Union and the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU) at garment shops in New York, Hoboken, and East Newark. Through these sales, the teams are meeting members of ILGWU Local 23-25, the largest local in the union, which waged a militant strike against the garment bosses in Chinatown in 1982.

Four teams sell to United Transportation Union members. Large Conrail, Amtrak, and MetroNorth railroads are located in the area, as well as rail terminals in both

states.

Other teams sell to members of the United Auto Workers (UAW) at both Ford and General Motors plants.

One of the members of the sales team to the Ford plant in Metuchen, New Jersey, used to work there. His former coworkers talk to him about how conditions in the plant have changed. People have been working 58-hour weeks, while the whole second shift is still laid off. The line speed has gone from 55 to 75 cars per hour and the company is introducing automation and more speed-up. Older workers have died of heart attacks because of the company offensive. The team sells an average of 4 *Militants* a week at Metuchen.

Another team sells the *Militant* and PM to UAW members at Hyatt-Clark, an "employee-owned" plant in Clark, New Jersey. Workers here — like everywhere else — are barraged with propaganda blaming Japanese workers for the problems facing U.S. auto workers. These workers were therefore particularly interested in the *Militant's* interview with Japanese auto workers. The Japanese unionists explained that they face the same kinds of attacks by the bosses — speed-up, attacks on safety conditions, union-busting — as auto workers here.

In Queens, New York, and

many small cities in New Jersey, there are electrical plants organized by District 3 of the International Union of Electronic Workers. At one of these plants, Becton-Dickenson, a security guard tried to stop the team from campaigning and selling the *Militant*. One of the team members is Priscilla Schenck, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from New Jersey. Schenck wrote a letter to the company protesting this blatant attempt to deny her campaign, and the workers at Becton-Dickenson, the right to discuss ideas that the company doesn't agree with. The company backed down and stopped harassing the socialists.

Another important industry in New Jersey is the pharmaceutical industry. Many of the workers in these plants are members of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union (OCAW). OCAW members at the Merck pharmaceutical plant are fighting a lock-out by management, which is trying to impose a takeback contract on the union. The *Militant* has carried coverage on this struggle, and has gotten a friendly response on the picket lines and at solidarity actions.

In addition to continuing to organize more regular weekly teams to these and other workplaces, the socialists are appealing to these workers for support to the socialist candidates' fight to get on the bal-



Militant/Dee Scalera

Nan Bailey, SWP congressional candidate in New York City.

lot in New York state.

Campaign supporters are collecting well over the required 20,000 signatures to win ballot status for the SWP's presidential ticket of Mel Mason and Andrea González, and for SWP candidates

for U.S. Congress: Nan Bailey and Richard Ariza. Many of the workers who have been able to follow the *Militant* or PM and the socialist campaign at their plant gates are glad to sign the ballot petitions.

Puerto Rico probes U.S. role in murder cover-up

BY HARRY RING

The Senate of Puerto Rico will probe the role of U.S. officials in the cover-up of the 1978 murder of two Puerto Rican pro-independence activists by police on the island.

The August 22 announcement by the Senate's president, Miguel Hernández Agosto, coincides with a mounting demand by Puerto Ricans for complete exposure of official complicity in the police assassination and subsequent cover-up.

The first two "investigations" by the U.S. Justice Department whitewashed the killers and the higher-ups responsible for their deed.

By 1983, when public, televised hearings were held, the official story was so battered that a number of the cops involved had second thoughts and testified to what actually happened. The revelations had a deep impact on Puerto Rico.

Washington's response to the increasing pressure was to find an easy scapegoat by indicting 10 local cops on counts of perjury and obstructing justice.

Hernández Agosto said witnesses for the Senate's newly announced probe would be subpoenaed from the United States as well as Puerto Rico. These would include two Justice Department officials and an FBI

agent.

The witnesses, he said, will be asked to explain "why the federal investigations failed despite abundant evidence available to them that the police lied when they said they fired in self-defense."

The two independence fighters, Carlos Soto Arriví and Arnaldo Darío Rosado, had been lured to an isolated mountaintop by a police provocateur. Waiting cops shot them in cold blood after they surrendered. The cops then claimed they fired in self-defense.

But facts began to emerge contradicting the self-defense story.

It turned out that Darío Rosado and Soto Arriví had been entrapped by the police agent in their group into going to the top of Cerro Maravilla. The agent had persuaded them they could use a TV tower there to broadcast a pro-independence message.

According to the police fabrication, however, they planned to bomb the tower and responded to a command to halt by blazing away with guns, forcing the cops to return the fire.

Later police testimony established the two had surrendered, were beaten, and then shot pointblank while pleading for mercy.

The cops' final act was to pull Darío

Rosado's ski cap over his face so he would look more like a "terrorist," and then snapped a picture of the corpse.

Puerto Rico's Gov. Carlos Romero Barcelo proclaimed the shootings a "triumph of law and order," and U.S. and Puerto Rican officials quickly joined hands in the plot to cover up the crime.

As the police story first began to unravel, the civil rights division of the Justice Department announced an investigation. But in early 1980 it declared the probe ended for lack of evidence.

It was then compelled to reopen the investigation when a Puerto Rican police lieutenant decided to provide the facts in exchange for immunity from prosecution. He confirmed that Soto Arriví and Darío Rosado had in fact surrendered and had been executed while unarmed.

That "investigation" was then closed with the Justice Department asserting that the cop had failed a lie-detector test.

In 1981, the Senate of Puerto Rico responded to public concern and initiated its own investigation.

The Puerto Rican Senate investigators found that the results of the lie-detector test had never been made available and so it was impossible to determine if the cop had

actually failed it. They also noted that the FBI, which was supposed to be doing the legwork for the U.S. investigation, had accepted the appointment of a Puerto Rican police captain, Angel Pérez, as investigation coordinator between the FBI and Puerto Rican police.

It was Captain Pérez who had planned and supervised the police shootout!

Justice Department documents obtained by the Puerto Rican Senate indicate that the department's main concern was that the murders not damage the administration of Governor Romero Barcelo. Totally subservient to U.S. colonial rule, Romero is a bitter opponent of Puerto Rican independence. To further ensure U.S. rule, he is pushing for statehood for the island colony.

A Justice Department memo issued three days after the shooting asserted the incident was being used to cause "embarrassment to the pro-statehood movement."

In July, Noel Colón Martínez, former president of the Puerto Rican bar association, reported on documents obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, including an FBI memo issued six days after the murders rejecting any "active investigation."

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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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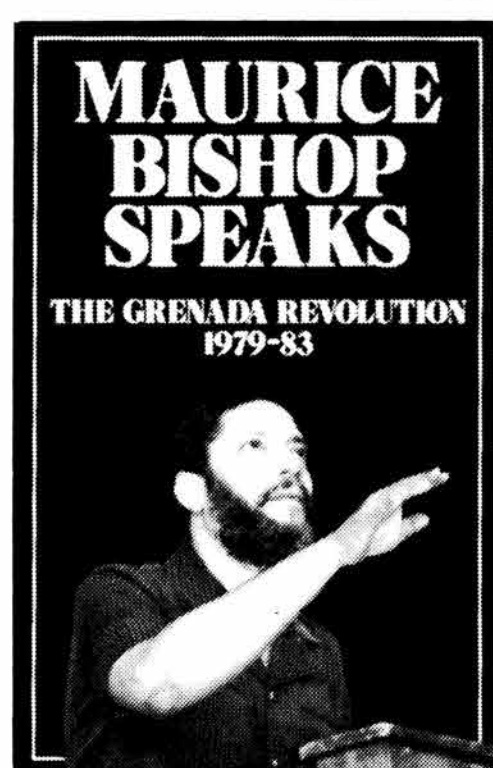
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United Mine Workers backs British strike

BY GEOFF MIRELOWITZ

The August issue of the *United Mine Workers Journal* set an example of working-class solidarity for the rest of the U.S. labor movement by appealing to the union ranks to support the six-month-old British coal strike.

In a prominent article titled "Solidarity with British Miners," the union paper carried an extended report on the discussions and decisions of a July 23-24 meeting of the union's International Executive Board (IEB).

"The UMWA is acting to support its brothers on strike in the British coalfields," the article announced. An IEB resolution adopted unanimously to support the strike included a \$25,000 donation to the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) — which will be used to aid British miners' families — and the decision to send a fact finding commission which will report back to the IEB on the situation in the British coalfields.

The IEB meeting adopted the resolution after hearing a report and an appeal for solidarity from John Moyle, an NUM local union president. The *Journal* also featured a full-page interview with Moyle in the same issue.

"We are in a very critical time," Moyle told the U.S. coal union officials. "Two miners have been murdered on the picket line, thousands injured and over 4,000 arrested. The government is also arresting people who are collecting food for miners and their families, and they have set up roadblocks to stop miners from travelling from one area to another."

"But," the *Journal* reported Moyle told the board, "we are winning this strike." Moyle described the active solidarity of British rail workers, dockers, and seamen who have refused to move any coal. Moyle also pointed to the importance of international solidarity, including financial aid and messages of support. "It may seem like a little thing," Moyle told the UMWA leaders, "but you've all been on strike, so you know how important messages of support can be."

Moyle also explained, "We have a mammoth task feeding the families of 150,000 miners."

UMWA President Richard Trumka told the *Journal*, "The British miners are faced with nothing less than a union-busting situation. If the National Union of Mineworkers is destroyed," said Trumka, "the damage that would inflict on the UMWA and other unions in the United States and around the world 'would be incalculable.'"

Trumka also recalled that "The British mineworkers supported us during our strike in 1978, and as fellow unionists and fellow miners, it's only right that we respond in kind."

Moyle returned to this theme of international working class solidarity in his interview entitled, "We will win our fight." In response to a question about company and government efforts in Britain and the United States to get rid of unions, Moyle said:

"That's one reason I'm travelling in this country. I think that it's very, very important that we identify our common interests as trade unions if we are going to survive."

"Both our unions are facing a multinational crisis of jobs in our industries and in our communities. This is a critical time to start stepping up some international dialogue."

"We can't challenge multinational companies if we don't think in those terms."

"[British Prime Minister Margaret] Thatcher has taken a lot of cues from Ronald Reagan. This union-busting campaign is spreading, and the attacks on welfare benefits and bringing in so many police are things that have never happened in England before."

"We have two choices. We can either throw in the towel now and be laid off for the rest of our lives, or we can fight."

Labor news in the Militant

The Militant stays on top of the most important developments in the labor movement. It has correspondents who work in the mines, mills, and shops where the events are breaking. You won't miss any of it if you subscribe. See the ad on page 2 of this issue for subscription rates.

"When there were plenty of jobs, we might not have won a struggle like this. But unemployment is the highest it's ever been in Britain."

"People know there are no other jobs, and some people who aren't miners have been arrested just because they couldn't prove to police that they weren't. That is educating a lot of people as to what is really at stake in this strike."

"We have to fight and we will win," Moyle concluded.

Moyle's message should be well received by UMWA members who are headed toward their own battle with the U.S. coal operators when the national soft coal contract expires September 30. The last two contract fights required long, bitter strikes and substantial hardships for UMWA members.

The *Journal* encouraged, "UMWA members, local unions and districts who want to send resolutions of support or contributions to the NUM can mail them to: National Union of Mineworkers, St. James House, Vicar Lane, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, S12EX, England."

It's an example that should be emulated by other U.S. unions.

INSIDE TALK: John Moyle, British Miner



John Moyle is a local union president for the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) in Britain, where miners have been on strike since March 12.

'WE WILL WIN OUR FIGHT'

MOYLE: First, the country has been turned into a virtual police state.

British police used to be organized on the county level, and they had a reputation for not carrying guns or engaging in violence. With this strike, that has completely changed.

The police have been nationalized, and violence has escalated. Two strikers have been killed and thousands injured. Over 4,000 people have been arrested and the police are being flown across the country in jumbo jets at government expense.

They are arresting people for collecting food for miners' families. They're arresting people just driving to the picket lines. As you've seen...

its they're thinking about. The Board—with Thatcher's blessing wants to eliminate national unions and de-nationalize the country. To do that, they have to bust unions.

JOURNAL: We know about the Reagan administration unions in this country. The governments appear working closely together to bust unions.

MOYLE: That's one reason I'm in this country. I think it's important that we identify our common interests as trade unions.

To inform union membership of need for solidarity with British coal strikers, August UMWA Journal ran full-page interview with local NUM president visiting United States.

Labor support grows for British miners

BY CLIVE TURNBULL

SHEFFIELD, England — Sunday on, Monday off, Wednesday on, Thursday off and on. Finally Sunday, September 9, the latest round of negotiations between the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) and the National Coal Board (NCB) started.

The week leading up to the talks was dominated by the Trades Union Congress (TUC) conference. Delegates representing 10 million trade unionists voted by a massive majority to back the miners' six-month-long fight for jobs.

The indecision on the part of the NCB and the Conservative government over whether to reopen negotiations with the miners arose out of the NUM leadership's success in mobilizing support at the TUC conference. Following the TUC vote, even right-wing union leaders such as John Lyons, general secretary of the electrical power engineers, called for negotiations, warning that if the NCB or the government appeared unreasonable, his collaboration in keeping power stations operating might be withdrawn.

No end in sight

The Conservative government of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is not interested in negotiating an end to the miners' strike at present. The miners haven't been defeated. The NUM hasn't been smashed. The way has not been opened for the ruling class to launch a further massive offensive against jobs, wages, working conditions, and health and social services.

But the miners have not yet defeated the Thatcher government either. Despite the six months of the strike, the NUM's actions have been limited by those miners who have enjoyed better wages and conditions and have continued to work. These scabs come from areas where the union has a history of right-wing misleadership and class collaboration.

At the same time the NUM's president, Arthur Scargill, was fighting for solidarity against mine closures at the TUC congress, Jack Jones, Leicestershire NUM president, was with Coal Board boss Ian MacGregor at a ceremony to start a new mining development in the Vale of Belvoir. Jones, who has led Leicestershire miners in opposition to the strike, believes that his area has a secure future. But the jobs in the Vale of Belvoir have also been promised to scabs in Nottinghamshire, the Midlands, and North and South Staffordshire.

The miners' struggle has also been weakened by the failure of right-wing leaders in other unions to support their fight.

For six months the NUM has received mainly financial support.

Transport unions

The exception has been the transport unions — railworkers, seafarers, dockers, and some truck drivers — who have refused to handle scab coal. The massive

vote in support of the miners at the TUC conference reflected the nationwide campaign that has been taking place to win solidarity. In the engineering and steelworkers unions the right-wing leaderships found themselves overruled by the ranks.

Meetings are planned of the unions in the steel and electricity supply industries, which have been specially convened since the TUC conference, to discuss how "to make the dispute more effective" by not moving coal or coke across miners picket lines.

An upcoming meeting of TUC leaders will discuss increased financial support for the NUM.

The strike will shortly be entering a new phase as the colder weather of autumn and winter approaches, with the increased demand for coal. Over the summer, the Central Electricity Generating Board has shut down some power stations to conserve coal stocks. George Bolton, Scottish NUM vice-president, reported on September 10 that two of Scotland's big coal-fired power stations, Longannet and Cockenzie, had a maximum of two or three weeks' coal supplies left. This would shortly mean power cuts, he predicted.

Dockers' strike

The most important action alongside the miners' struggle is the three-week-old docks strike. The dockers are fighting the use of scab labor to move coal, which they had refused to handle in solidarity with the miners.

This dock strike has not been as solid as the earlier national strike over the same issue, seven weeks ago. Now the question

of solidarity strike action with the miners is much more central than defense of dockers' jobs against the use of scab labor. Two-thirds of dock workers are on strike, but the numbers taking action are increasing day-by-day, as striking dockers fan out across the country to explain the issues and put picket lines on the ports that are still working.

Attempts by the port employers and the government to defeat the strike have failed. Various "return-to-work" ploys, with newspaper headlines claiming the strike was crumbling, have not succeeded. Even the National Association of Port Employers was forced to report on September 11 that, "8,248 dockers were on strike, compared with 7,780 last Thursday."

The dockers belong to the Transport and General Workers' Union (TGWU) which has called upon its members who are truck drivers to observe dockers' picket lines. Meetings are being organized by the TGWU as union leaders seek to explain what is at stake in the strike.

For example, the TGWU has organized a September 11 meeting of Grimsby and Immingham dockworkers which will be addressed by John Connolly, national docks officer; Ron Todd, general secretary-elect; and Jimmy Knapp, leader of the National Union of Railwaymen.

Print workers take action

Print workers have donated hundreds of thousands of pounds to help the miners' strike, and they have also taken action against the more extreme attacks on the NUM and Arthur Scargill in the bosses' press.

Continued on Page 9

Solidarity from Nicaraguan miners

The autumn issue of *Nicaragua Today*, the magazine of Britain's Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign, published a statement from Nicaraguan gold miners in solidarity with striking British coal miners.

The message from the El Limón gold miners union in the department of León, which is affiliated to the Sandinista Workers Confederation, was translated by the Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign and sent to the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM).

"In the past the NUM has been very generous in its solidarity with the mineworkers of Nicaragua, and the mineworkers of El Limón welcomed the opportunity to return this support," reported *Nicaragua Today*. Printed below is the text of the message.

* * *

Dear Comrades,

A revolutionary Sandinista greeting from the mineworkers of Nicaragua.

Through this letter we, the miners of Nicaragua, would like to assure you of our

solidarity with the struggle you are waging in your country to win trade union democracy, to sustain your struggle without your rights being suppressed. Brothers, we would like to tell you not to lose heart. Right and reason will win through when there is the will power as strong as yours.

We know you are confronting reactionary consciousness and right-wingers led by the Iron woman Margaret Thatcher, but your struggle is just and being just will win, as the reactionary structures of capitalism are swept away by the uncontrollable forces of revolutionary and progressive ideas of the organized and conscious working class, guided by the best sons of the proletariat. Forward brother British miners, your brother miners in Nicaragua support your just struggle. A struggle which will be long, cruel and full of sacrifices, but we say to all, "The struggle continues, victory is certain." "Free country or death."

Enoc Castellion
Union of Mineworkers
El Limón Mine

BY FRANCISCO PICADO

LOS ANGELES — The Los Angeles chapter of the Young Socialist Alliance has carried out a series of classes that deal with the questions: How can young workers most effectively fight against racism, unemployment, sexism, and U.S. wars? Are these evils a result of the policies of one man — Reagan — or is the problem the "free enterprise" system itself? Are Jesse Jackson, Mondale, or Ferraro the answer to our problems? Do we need a revolutionary perspective, or can we achieve progressive social change gradually through fighting for reforms and supporting "lesser evils?"

We discussed these questions because they are the big ones facing working people who are trying to figure out what to do as the employers and their government escalate the war in Central America and their attacks on our rights and living standards here at home.

To find some answers, we studied the speeches of one of the best U.S. revolutionary thinkers and fighters of our era: Malcolm X. The heritage that Malcolm X left us is indispensable for those who want to fight to change our profit-based society to one based on human needs.

Malcolm X emphasized that we need mass political action on the

part of the oppressed and exploited independent from the two parties of the ruling rich, the Democrats and Republicans. He said, "The Democratic Party is responsible for the racism that exists in this country, along with the Republican Party."

In the classes, we discussed Jesse Jackson's campaign for the Democratic Party presidential nomination. Did Jackson's campaign help advance the struggles of Blacks and working people?

A young Mexicano worker explained how Malcolm X said that Blacks cannot rely on the parties of the rich, that Blacks must build their own organization that will fight for the interests of Black people.

"When you take your case to Washington, D.C., you're taking it to the criminal who's responsible; it's like running from the wolf to the fox. They're all in cahoots together," he said.

A young Black woman bus driver pointed out that Jackson portrayed himself as the solution to the problems we face. But Malcolm X always spoke for Blacks organizing themselves and relying on their own collective power. His group, the Organization of Afro-American Unity, urged Afro-Americans here and abroad to join in mass struggle against their

oppressors.

Jackson, like Mondale and Ferraro, is pulling Blacks and other working people out of real struggles, trying to convince them that their problems will be solved by registering to vote and pulling a lever on election day.

A Black junior high student talked about how Malcolm X spoke very strongly in favor of the right of self-defense. The rulers called him violent and a hate-monger.

"I don't favor violence. If we could bring about recognition and respect of our people by peaceful means, well and good. . . . The only people in this country who are asked to be nonviolent are Black people. I've never heard anybody go to the KKK and teach them nonviolence. . . . I believe we should protect ourselves by any means necessary when we are attacked by racists," he said.

Totally intertwined with his opposition to the capitalist parties was Malcolm X's internationalism. Malcolm X solidified with revolutions and liberation movements all over the world.

Even before he traveled to Africa and the Middle East and met revolutionaries there, Malcolm X was crystal clear about the need for solidarity with struggling

peoples around the globe. The importance of that lesson for U.S. workers today is enormous. The ruling rich have intensified their racist attacks against Chicanos, Mexicanos, Puerto Ricans, Central Americans, and Latinos in general (like the anti-immigrant, antiunion Simpson-Mazzoli bill), as well as Blacks, in an attempt to whip up racist sentiment among other working people. This is part of the war drive against the struggle of the people of Central America and the Caribbean.

Malcolm X pointed to the Algerian revolution and other revolutionary movements in Africa and Asia as examples for Afro-Americans. He defended Vietnam and the Cuban revolution from day one. A young Black in our class explained that we could be sure Malcolm X would have supported the 1979 revolution in Grenada and its gains as a triumph of our own. Malcolm X's ideas are ideas whose time has come.

Mel Mason and Andrea González, the Socialist Workers Party candidates for U.S. president and vice-president, are using their campaign to keep alive and spread the ideas of Malcolm X.

Francisco Picado is a member of the YSA's National Committee and



Young people in Los Angeles who support 1984 socialist campaign studied ideas of Malcolm X and related them to situation facing working people today.

a member of the Los Angeles chapter of the YSA.

To find out more about the YSA and the Socialist Workers Party 1984 presidential campaign, write to Young Socialist Alliance, 14 Charles Ln., New York, N.Y. 10014. Subscriptions to the *Young Socialist*, the YSA's bi-monthly newspaper, are \$3 for one year.

Stakes for working people in ballot rights fight

BY RICH STUART

An important fight for the democratic rights of all working people is under way in Michigan.

On September 7, the state moved to deny a place on the November ballot to the Socialist Workers Party presidential ticket of Mel Mason and Andrea González, and to Helen Meyers and Andrew Pulley, the SWP candidates for U.S. Senate and Congress from Michigan. All other parties seeking ballot status were approved for the ballot by the State Board of Canvassers, the bipartisan body responsible for implementing Michigan's election laws.

Why don't Michigan's rulers want the socialist candidates on the ballot?

It isn't because they consider the socialists' participation in the elections an immediate threat to their rule, since they know that the real decisions on how this country is run and which class will run it are not decided by elections.

But the bosses and their parties, the Democrats and Republicans, are threatened by the ideas that the Socialist Workers Party is putting forward in the elections and the example for working people these ideas provide.

Especially important is the idea that workers can organize themselves and their allies into their own political party and challenge the political rule of the capitalist class. The fight for ballot rights for working-class parties like the SWP is also a fight for the right of workers to use the electoral arena as part of the struggle against the bosses.

This is an attractive idea in Michigan, where auto workers are in a fight with the companies for a decent contract. The socialists' proposal that working people fight independently of the Democrats and Republicans and not sacrifice their living standards for Washington's war drive are not ideas those parties want to see popularized.

If workers can make their own political decisions, why can't they also decide that a different kind of government is needed, a workers and farmers government — one based on the producing classes instead of the exploiters as is now the case.

Attacks on ballot rights, such as the recent ruling in California denying ballot status this year to the Communist Party candidates, set a dangerous precedent for the denial of other political liberties. It can open up parties like the SWP to other attacks on their rights — political firings, police surveillance, disruption schemes, and physical attacks on their facilities, members, and supporters.

Securing ballot status helps to deter such attacks and establishes the right of all parties to organize and function as legal parties, a status which is in constant jeopardy from the capitalist authorities.

Although ballot status does not guarantee freedom from attack or determine a party's legality, it makes it more difficult for right-wing and government forces to terrorize and attempt to intimidate fighters for the rights of the working class, oppressed nationalities, and women.

The entire system of elections and ballot laws in the United States is an instrument of capitalist class rule, not a neutral set of guidelines protecting the "public interest." Typical of this is the fact that the state and federal governments have two sets of laws — both written by the Democrats and Republicans.

One set of laws is for themselves, and gives them automatic access to the ballot and other election machinery and resources, including millions of dollars in matching campaign funds.

The other set of laws, for all other parties,

makes it easier in many states for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for parties like the SWP to appear on the ballot.

The most extreme example is in California. For the SWP to gain ballot status there as a party it would require collecting the signatures of 810,000 registered voters in that state in a specified time period. The Democrats and Republicans, on the other hand, according to their laws, have to collect a total of 65 signatures.

And even when the election laws are complied with, as the SWP did in Michigan, Democratic and Republican politicians like the Michigan Board of Canvassers do their job and "interpret" the law, taking away the right of working people in Michigan to have socialist candidates on the ballot.

The SWP has an outstanding record of standing up for the rights of all parties to have access to the ballot. This is nowhere more true than in Michigan, where the SWP and the Democratic and Republican controlled state government have battled

each other for decades.

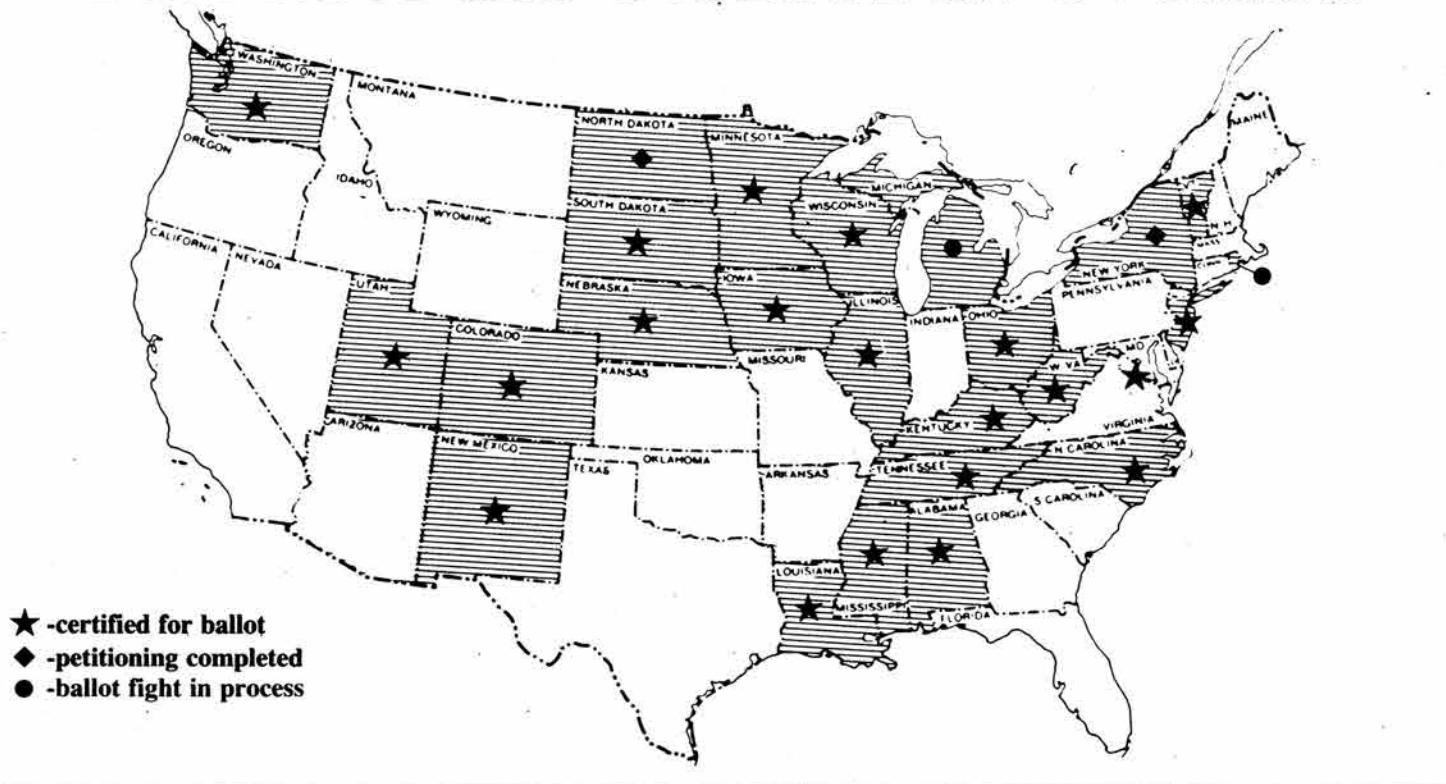
The SWP has won ballot status in Michigan in every election year since 1952, with the exception of 1980, when it was kept off the ballot under a law that was later ruled unconstitutional after an SWP court challenge. Every ballot victory has come after the SWP put up a political fight. It has won broad support for its rights and has made it too politically costly for the government to keep the socialists off the ballot.

But as the current fight in Michigan demonstrates, the bosses are relentless in their attacks on political liberties. The fight to defend these liberties is an ongoing one.

The attack on the right of the SWP to appear on the Michigan ballot is an attack on the rights of all working people. It is part of the capitalist offensive against workers' political and economic rights and should be condemned by all defenders of democratic rights.

Rich Stuart is the national ballot coordinator for the 1984 Socialist Workers Campaign.

Put Mason and González on '84 ballot!



The Socialist Workers Party presidential and vice-presidential candidates, Mel Mason and Andrea González, have been certified for ballot status in 20 states plus Washington, D.C. Petitions have been filed in New York and North Dakota and ballot fights are in process in Michigan and Rhode Island. To help in these fights and to help campaign for the socialist candidates contact the campaign headquarters nearest you (see socialist directory, page 12).

An undocumented worker fights deportation

BY THABO NTWENG

NEW YORK — On September 3, Héctor Marroquín, an undocumented worker from Mexico, kicked off a national speaking tour in Toledo, Ohio, to continue to win support for his fight against U.S. government attempts to deport him. Marroquín began his tour in Toledo as a gesture of solidarity with striking United Auto Workers members at the AP Parts plant there.

Marroquín has lived in the United States for more than 10 years, and is eligible for a permanent resident visa — green card — based on his marriage to Priscilla Schenk, a U.S. citizen. While green cards are routinely granted to undocumented workers who are married to U.S. citizens, the government has made it clear that Marroquín will have to continue to wage a fight for his — and even then there's no guarantee he'll get one.

Washington wants to deport Marroquín because of his pro-working class political ideas and activities.

He is a leader of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance and an outspoken opponent of the U.S. war in Central America and the Caribbean. Marroquín is also a foe of the employers' and governments' union-busting offensive and their moves to restrict democratic rights — including the rights of the millions of undocumented workers like himself who live in this country.

In 1981, during the trial in the SWP's lawsuit against FBI spying and government harassment, a State Department official admitted in court that it is government policy to deny green cards to members of the SWP and YSA. As justification for this policy, he cited the McCarran Act, a piece of unconstitutional witch-hunt legislation from the McCarthy era.

In an interview with the *Militant*, Holbrook Mahn, the national coordinator of the Political Rights Defense Fund (PRDF), which is sponsoring Marroquín's national tour, explained what Marroquín's supporters hope to accomplish through the tour.

"The main object of the tour is to continue to win support for Marroquín's right to live and work in this country and to force the government to give him a green card," Mahn began.

"During Marroquín's last speaking tour, we found that the best way to win support for his case is by explaining that the attack on Marroquín is one part of the government's general assault on democratic rights. The government wants to silence all opposition as it drags U.S. workers and farmers into war in Nicaragua and El Salvador.

"That is why the FBI has stepped up harassment of organizations that solidarize with the people of Nicaragua and El Salvador. That is why the government is pushing through legislation making it a crime to aid countries or organizations that it labels as 'terrorist' — such as the government of Nicaragua and the rebel forces in El Salvador. That is why Washington has instituted a ban on travel to Cuba. And that is why they are so persistent in their efforts to deport Marroquín, who uses his speaking appearances to solidarize with the struggle of the peoples of Nicaragua and El Salvador against U.S. intervention in their countries," Mahn continued. "Fighting against the attack on Marroquín is an im-

Husband convicted of raping wife

In a landmark case, a Florida jury found William Rider guilty of two counts of sexual battery and one count of kidnapping for the brutal rape of his wife, Marion Rider. It is the first time a husband has been convicted for raping his wife.

The jury found Rider guilty in an appeal of an earlier decision. Last year, a circuit judge threw the charges against Rider out of court on the basis of "interspousal exception" to the rape laws. The judge ruled that since the couple was living together, and Rider was the legal husband of the victim, he could not be charged with rape.

The conviction of Rider is a step forward for women's rights, challenging the idea that men can legally rape and batter their wives with impunity.



Héctor Marroquín (center) speaking with Toledo auto workers at Labor Day celebration. Marroquín is touring United States seeking support for his battle to win permanent residency in the United States.

portant front in the battle to defend democratic rights from a government hell-bent on war," said Mahn.

"Marroquín will also be using his tour to speak out against the government's attacks on the rights of immigrant workers, who are easier targets because they live under the constant fear of deportation.

"Because these attacks are part of the general campaign against the rights of all workers, Marroquín will emphasize the need for the entire labor movement to solidarize with struggles of undocumented workers. He will also use his tour to oppose anti-immigrant legislation like the Simpson-Mazzoli bill, designed to divide and weaken the labor movement."

Mahn also explained that Marroquín will be showing solidarity with unfolding labor struggles, and pointed to the battles looming as the auto workers' and coal miners' contracts expire.

During September, Marroquín will try to win further labor support for his fight

when he attends the conventions of the International Association of Machinists, the International Union of Electronic Workers, and the United Steelworkers of America.

Throughout Marroquín's seven-year fight, the key to stopping his deportation has been the broad support his case has won from the labor, Black, Latino, and women's rights movements.

Mahn briefly recounted the history of Marroquín's case. Marroquín fled to the United States from Mexico in 1974 because he feared persecution there as a result of a political frame-up. In September 1977, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) started deportation proceedings against him. He applied for political asylum but the INS denied his appeal. He took his fight for political asylum all the way to the Supreme Court. By ruling against him in June 1984, the Supreme Court ended his political asylum case.

Marroquín's fight to remain in the United States now centers on his applica-

tion for a green card. His fall tour will help to put pressure on the government to give him the green card for which he is eligible.

PRDF is urging supporters of Marroquín's right to live and work in the United States to send a letter or telegram demanding that the government stop the deportation of Marroquín and give him a green card. Such protests should be sent to: Alan Nelson, Commissioner, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Washington, D.C. 20536.

Please send copies and tax-deductible contributions to help cover legal and other costs to PRDF, Box 649, New York, NY 10003.

Marroquín Tour

Sept. 12-14 Portland, Oregon
15-18 Seattle, Washington
20-23 Pittsburgh, Pa.
24-29 Cleveland, Ohio

S. African activist wins U.S. asylum

BY REBA DIXON

BALTIMORE — Supporters of democratic rights won an important victory when Mankekolo Mahlangu-Ngcobo, a South African-born freedom fighter, won her battle for political asylum in the United States.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) denied her asylum request last March. The INS sought to deport the South African activist to Botswana on the grounds that she had "settled" there after fleeing South Africa in fear of her life.



Mankekolo Mahlangu-Ngcobo

However Mahlangu-Ngcobo spent only a week or so in Botswana, where agents of the South African apartheid government frequently conduct raids, kidnap Black South Africans (particularly liberation fighters), and return them to South Africa to face imprisonment, torture, or worse.

A determined fight by Mahlangu-Ngcobo and many supporters pressured the INS to reverse its decision. INS District Director Richard Spurlock ruled that "the evidence supports her well-founded fear of persecution upon return to South Africa or Botswana."

Mahlangu-Ngcobo won support from community activists in organizations including the National Black Independent Political Party, TransAfrica, and the Balti-

more South Africa Divestiture Coalition. The Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance and Congressman Parren Mitchell came to her defense. The Baltimore City Council adopted a resolution supporting her right to political asylum.

The South African freedom fighter also received help from many workers. International Association of Machinists Locals 1561 at Bendix and 1784 at the Koppers Co. passed resolutions on her behalf. Several workers circulated petitions inside and outside the plants in support of Mahlangu-Ngcobo's fight.

Flanked by many of her supporters, she held a press conference here to announce the victory. She now plans to apply for permanent residency in the United States.

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MASON FOR PRESIDENT — GONZÁLEZ FOR VICE-PRESIDENT

Mason campaigns at Cleveland auto plant

Continued from front page

workers about what the socialist candidate thought about U.S. intervention in Nicaragua, El Salvador, Grenada, and Lebanon. Some people expressed their disbelief that the CIA had no knowledge of U.S. mercenaries operating in Honduras to overthrow the Nicaraguan revolution.

Mason, who recently returned from a two-week tour of Nicaragua, was able to explain the concrete gains the Nicaraguan workers and peasants have made since the revolution: outlawing racist and sexist discrimination, free health care and education, the right to organize in trade unions, and the involvement of the whole population in deciding Nicaragua's economic and political priorities.

Some workers pointed to the obvious contradiction between the increasing power workers have won in Nicaragua and what is going on today in the United States, where unions are being smashed, affirmative-action programs dismantled, and there are continued attacks on workers' standard of living.

Mason blasted Reagan's characterization of Nicaragua's elections as undemocratic. "In Nicaragua any one or any organization can be a candidate simply by declaring that they want to run. They receive free publicity in the newspapers, on radio, and on TV. No one has to depend on campaign contributions to fund a campaign."

"Reagan has a lot of gall to talk about free elections! In this country we have to

go out and collect millions of signatures on petitions, and then they still rule us off the ballot. We're iced out of the national debates, and the major media in this country refuses to cover our campaign. Basically you have a 'choice' between Reagan and Mondale."

"Some choice!" many workers agreed.

Socialist campaigners at the Chrysler plant reported interest in the Socialist Workers Party's call for a labor party based on the trade unions to lead a political fight to defend the interests of workers and farmers. Many of the workers responded enthusiastically to Mason's denunciation of the UAW top leadership's support to Mondale.

Mason recalled the role that Walter Mondale played under the Carter administration in helping Chrysler Corp. to force the maximum amount of concessions from their workers. Some workers expressed skepticism about the strategy of the UAW officialdom in trying to avoid a strike against General Motors and Ford so as not to "embarrass" Mondale.

One worker explained, "these companies are out for blood. They want to run this place like the plantations. I thought we got rid of slavery 100 years ago. They have signs up all over the plant signed by [Chrysler president] Lee Iacocca trying to get us to donate money to save the Statue of Liberty, symbol of our freedom! Freedom for what? Freedom to work seven days a week or lose your job? Some freedom! Let



Militant/Nancy Boyasko

Mel Mason (right) speaking with worker at Toledo Labor Day rally.

Iacocca donate his \$1.5 million bonus to save some statue!"

A campaign rally held at the Militant Bookstore in Cleveland featured Mason and Omari Musa, Socialist Workers candidate for Congress from the 21st C.D.

Mason gave a fiery speech pointing out that the union-busting austerity drive of the corporate bosses is part of the employing class' preparations for war against the

workers and peasants of Central America and the Caribbean. The audience laughed and cheered as Mason denounced the jingoistic, anticommunist fervor of such current movies and TV productions as *Red Dawn* and *Call to Glory*, and the chauvinist hoopla around the U.S. participation in the Olympics.

One young Black woman who attended the rally, an executive board member of an Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers' Union local, was particularly impressed with Mason's description of how a workers and farmers government would help to defend all victims of racism and sexism.

She grew up on a small farm in the South. In discussions with Mason, she pointed out the many examples of how Black farmers in the South were disproportionately ripped-off by government agencies and forced off the land in higher numbers than white farmers.

The rally raised over \$2,000 in pledges and contributions to the national Mason campaign as well as an additional \$770 for the local campaign.

Mason also scheduled meetings with young activists interested in joining the Young Socialist Alliance. His tour here was covered by two daily newspapers: the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* and the *Akron Beacon-Journal*. An interview with Mason was carried by WJMO, the major Black AM radio station in Cleveland.

Company guard shoots Toledo UAW picket

BY MARK FRIEDMAN

TOLEDO — A striking United Auto Workers member at AP Parts was shot in the head by a guard with an air rifle while picketing the plant here on September 8. The victim, James King, was taken to a hospital and later discharged.

AP Parts forced United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 14 on strike May 2 when it imposed a new union-busting contract that included a \$5.84 wage cut and elimination of seniority rights.

King was shot from a guard house which was recently built on the roof of the AP Parts plant.

According to the UAW president at AP Parts, Dick Thompson, other strikers who were witnesses to the shooting report that AP's private security agents from Nuchols, Inc., were throwing rocks and shooting objects in slingshots at the picketers. King had ducked into a picketers' shanty and was shot above the left eye when he stuck his head out the door.

Thompson also told the *Militant* that several scabs had fire bombed a "Boycott AP Parts, Support the UAW" display that was in front of the union hall. He also reported that a striker had been beaten up in his own home, and several women strike supporters received obscene phone calls after their names appeared in the newspaper.

In response to the shooting of King, police seized as evidence an empty wrapper for steel shot taken from the AP roof. They are reportedly carrying out an investigation, but refuse to release the names of their suspects.

Thompson told the *Militant*, "This is the sort of thing that will lead to serious confrontations. These incidents are an outrage, and we will go through the legal channels."

Elizabeth Lariscy, Socialist Workers Party congressional candidate and a UAW assembly-line worker at Jeep, told the *Militant*, "I am outraged at the continued escalation of the attacks on my union brothers. The city administration, with bipartisan support, has used the full weight of the courts, police, and private goon squads to try to break the UAW."

"Unlike the Democratic and Republican politicians in town — who praise the police — the socialist campaign condemns the police provocations and attacks. We have focused our energies on defending the UAW and the 67 unionists who have been indicted for strike-related activity. Now more than ever a massive response is needed by our unions and allies against these latest injustices."

In other developments, Toledo's police chief, John Mason, has justified the firing of live ammunition by Capt. James Greenwood. The cop had used his gun at the May 21 demonstration organized by the UAW to back the strike. The chief overruled the Toledo police firearms review board which voted in July that the shooting was unjustified. Captain Greenwood fired three shots

into the air after running out of tear gas during the police attack on the demonstration. No disciplinary action is planned.

The Toledo municipal court fined six unionists (four of whom received suspended jail sentences) after they pleaded "no contest" to misdemeanor charges stemming from the May 21 demonstration.

Trials have been scheduled for November and December for 25 unionists who pleaded innocent to the misdemeanor charges. Thirteen felony cases of "aggravated riot" are pending in Lucas County court.

Mark Friedman is a member of UAW Local 12 at Jeep and is Socialist Workers Party candidate for state House of Representatives.

Funds needed for socialists' ballot fight

BY YVONNE HAYES

The Socialist Workers Party presidential ticket has been certified for the ballot in 20 states and the District of Columbia. At the same time, the SWP candidates have been undemocratically denied a spot in Michigan and Rhode Island.

The fight to gain ballot status in 24 states and Washington, D.C. is an ambitious task for a small working-class party. The Democrats and Republicans — the parties of the employers — have written the ballot laws to prevent working people from having an independent voice in the elections. They have legislated outrageously high petitioning requirements, levied exorbitant filing fees, and placed numerous legal obstacles in the path of candidates who present a working-class program.

While these obstacles have made it impossible for the socialist campaign to try to get on the ballot in a number of major states this year — such as Texas, California, and Massachusetts, some important gains have been made in broadening the hearing for socialist ideas.

Ballot drives were carried out in the mid-west farm states of Minnesota, Nebraska, the Dakotas, and Iowa; in coal mining states such as Kentucky, West Virginia, Alabama, and Illinois; and in a majority of states in the South. Over 200,000 people nationally signed petitions to put the socialist campaign on the ballot, and

through this effort tens of thousands of others have heard about the socialist program for the first time.

In New York, where socialist campaigners have just completed a successful petitioning drive, more than 30,000 signatures were collected — 150 percent of the requirement. In the course of meeting this challenge, campaigners sold more than 1,000 copies of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*, the Spanish-language socialist magazine. Three hundred people filled out cards requesting more information on the campaign, and another 25 indicated that they want to join the Young Socialist Alliance.

Many who signed the petitions were eager to promote the working-class answer to the Reagan-Mondale program in the elections. One Black worker in Staten Island, when asked by his granddaughter what he was doing, proudly explained that he was "signing to put a Black socialist on the ballot for president."

In order to wage the fight for ballot status, the socialist campaign has invested considerable resources. Mel Mason and Andrea González, the socialist presidential and vice-presidential candidates, have travelled to numerous states to participate in the petitioning effort and to be part of the battle against the undemocratic exclusion of their campaign from the ballot.

Special materials have been distributed,

including hundreds of thousands of copies of the socialist program in English and Spanish. And hundreds of campaign supporters have invested their time and energy.

In the coming weeks, a big effort is needed to wage a campaign to convince the remaining state election boards to certify the SWP for the ballot.

One way in which campaign supporters can help is by contributing to the \$100,000 fall fund which is important to defraying the costs of this fight. Campaign committees across the country are organizing to raise the pledges needed for this fund. Over \$67,000 has been pledged and \$10,243 collected. Reaching the goal by November 6 will be a big challenge for the socialist campaign.

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Three capitalist parties in Nicaragua boycott elections, lose legal status

BY JOSÉ G. PÉREZ

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Three groups representing the capitalist opposition to Nicaragua's workers and farmers government lost their legal status as political parties here August 22. This came after they decided to boycott the presidential and constituent assembly elections scheduled for November 4.

The Social Democratic Party, Social Christian Party, and Liberal Constitutionalist Party were all members of the so-called Democratic Coordinating Committee. The *Coordinadora*, as the committee is generally called, is dominated by the Supreme Council of Private Enterprise (COSEP), the main organization of the Nicaraguan capitalist class. It is also closely identified with the right-wing daily, *La Prensa*, whose editors are also top leaders of the *Coordinadora*.

The decision to strip the three parties of their status was made by the National Council of Political Parties, which includes representatives of legal parties and the government. All members of the council voted for the decision except those belonging to the *Coordinadora* parties.

Boycott: part of U.S. war

The three parties decided to boycott the elections as part of their ever more open alignment with the U.S.-organized counterrevolutionary war against Nicaragua. They seek to undermine the legitimacy of the voting, facilitating U.S. aggression. In doing this, however, they have had to pay a very high political price within Nicaragua, unmasking themselves as servile tools of U.S. imperialism.

Officially, the stance of the three parties is that they are willing, even eager, to run — on condition that the government provide sufficient "democratic guarantees."

To this end they even nominated a presidential candidate, Arturo Cruz, an official of the Inter-American Development Bank, who lives in Washington, D.C. Cruz even carried out a two-week visit to Nicaragua at the end of July to demonstrate his alleged willingness to run in the elections.

Even after the filing deadline for registering candidates expired election officials responded to requests by the capitalist parties for more time. The officials said they would do everything possible to accommodate additional candidate lists.

Cruz's backers responded by demanding an "indefinite" extension of the filing deadline.

Elections will strengthen revolution

Although the capitalist parties went through a big charade of asking for time, and more time — and additional extensions after that — the truth is that they never planned to take part in the elections. One reason is straightforward: they are very small and isolated parties (the largest re-

portedly has 600 members).

Without doubt they would be trounced by the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN). The FSLN has had the overwhelming support of the workers and peasants of Nicaragua since it led them in the 1979 revolution that overthrew the hated U.S.-backed dictatorship of Anastasio Somoza.

That revolution means that Nicaragua no longer has a capitalist government, but a workers and farmers government. The underlying reason for the capitalist decision to boycott the election is that the voting will ratify and help strengthen and consolidate this government.

A close reading of the *Coordinadora's* "Nine Points" — as printed in *La Prensa* — drives this home.

For example, one of their conditions for participating in the elections is that, before even a single vote is cast, there be "a guarantee that the Political Constitution to be discussed [by the Constituent Assembly] will be a western democratic [i.e., capitalist] one." To make sure that nobody misses the point, the *Coordinadora* demands "revocation of the laws that violate private property," mentioning specifically laws against decapitalization and those that provide for nationalization of the properties of people who have permanently abandoned the country.

Another point is "separation of Party-State." In other words, they are demanding that the Sandinistas should give up power, and most especially control of the army, militia, and police. They also demand that mass organizations, such as the Sandinista Workers Federation and the neighborhood Sandinista Defense Committees be cut off from any government support and that they no longer be led by the Sandinista Front.

Disenfranchise youth

Among other "democratic guarantees" the *Coordinadora* demands is that hundreds of thousands of young Nicaraguans be disenfranchised through raising the voting age and denying suffrage to members of the Sandinista People's Army.

Since the "Nine Points" were issued in December 1983 the *Coordinadora* parties have steered a course toward boycotting the elections.

They refuse to take part in many of the discussions in the Council of State, Nicaragua's current legislature, on the election law. When the Supreme Election Council tried to place advertisements in *La Prensa*, explaining voter registration procedures, the *Coordinadora* editors refused the ads. When the FSLN invited all other parties to discussions on how their freedom of action and agitation could be broadened, despite the State of Emergency, the three *Coordinadora* parties boycotted the meeting.

The Sandinista Front did everything in

its power to ensure the *Coordinadora*, as well as all other parties, runs in the election.

For example, since the middle of July alone, deadlines for filing for ballot status for candidates have been relaxed repeatedly, the campaign period lengthened, and allocations of free radio and TV time extended. Smaller parties lacking legal status have been legalized, government campaign subsidies increased, and members added to the Supreme Election Council from various parties.

State of Emergency relaxed

On July 19, the fifth anniversary of the revolution, Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the governing junta, announced that the State of Emergency regulations would be relaxed. Press censorship — except for military and national security matters — was lifted. Freedom of travel to areas of the country affected by CIA mercenary raids has been restored. The ban on outdoor political rallies has also been eliminated. The amnesty program for everyone except a handful of top counterrevolutionary leaders has been extended.

At the beginning of August there was a further loosening of restrictions, including restitution of the right of habeas corpus and the right to strike. A law restricting information on economic matters was revoked. A new law guaranteeing candidates time off with pay in order to campaign was proclaimed. The People's Action Movement, a small, recently legalized party, was allocated a representative on the Council of State, as was its trade union arm, the Frente Obrero.

In this framework, pressure mounted on the Democratic Coordinating Committee to participate in the elections. One of its members, the Social Christian Party, even went so far as to publicly announce its slate, although they did not officially file for ballot status. It was to keep these parties from caving in to the pressure to participate in the elections that Arturo Cruz was sent from Washington.

Washington's candidate

Cruz was clearly sent as Washington's candidate. Less than an hour after he had been chosen presidential candidate in Managua, the Voice of America (VOA) was broadcasting an interview with candidate Cruz that the station said it had taped several hours before. The VOA's nightly "Report to the Americas" could well have been renamed the "Arturo Cruz Show" for the following week. This reporter heard no less than three major interviews with him.

All the CIA's armed mercenary groups united in support of Arturo Cruz.

Cruz's mission in Nicaragua was not to campaign, but rather to ensure that the *Coordinadora* did not run. He was out to provoke incidents which then could be used propagandistically against Nicaragua.

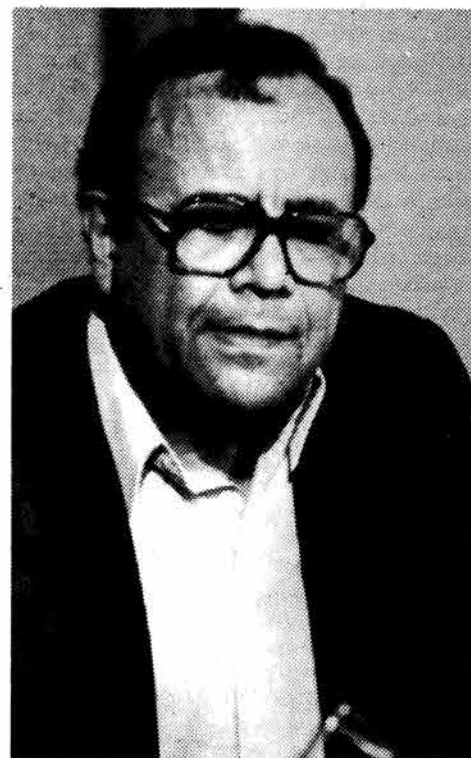
As soon as he stepped off the plane from Miami, Cruz replaced the *Coordinadora's* Nine Points with one: dialogue with the CIA's mercenary army based in Honduras and Costa Rica.

Cruz provocatively boasted about his good relations with Adolfo Calero Portocarrero, head of the Honduras-based Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN), and of his "friendship" with turncoat Edén Pastora, who leads the counterrevolutionary forces in Costa Rica.

The *Coordinadora* could not have done anything to more thoroughly isolate itself from the broad masses of Nicaraguans, including many who are not supporters of the FSLN. The CIA bands are deeply hated. Unable to take any towns or significant portions of territory, these professional terrorists instead ambush teachers, kill doctors, and murder entire peasant families.

Demonstration against the 'beasts'

So hated are the CIA "beasts" — as they are often called here — that mothers, widows, and orphans of Sandinista soldiers who have fallen in the war against the mercenaries organized a demonstration against Cruz when he went to speak in the city of Matagalpa on August 4. The 400 women



Militant/Fred Murphy

Capitalist opposition leader Arturo Cruz refused to register as candidate in Nicaraguan elections. Right-wing boycott is aimed at undermining legitimacy of elections in order to help set stage for escalated U.S. military intervention. An example of provocative stance of these forces was offered by Cruz supporter who told *New York Times* in late August, "What we really need is Arturo in jail."

and children were attacked by a gang of Cruz thugs, wielding sticks and throwing rocks. Several people were injured.

This led to an explosion of protests all over Nicaragua, and to a similar march against Cruz — this one much larger — in Chinandega the next day. Again Cruz supporters, wearing Social Democratic and Social Christian party emblems, tried to start a brawl, but were prevented from doing so by leaders of the mass organizations that sponsored the march.

The isolation of his candidacy was so complete that Cruz did not even try to campaign among social layers where the right wing has long claimed to have a base, such as among market vendors.

The *Coordinadora* boycott of voter registration was a complete flop. Some 1.5 million people registered, well over the 1.2 million that had been expected.

First union contract won at Litton plant in South Dakota

United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers (UE) Local 1180 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, scored an important victory for the whole labor movement in the ongoing effort to win union recognition from the notoriously antiunion Litton Corp.

By a nine-to-one margin workers voted August 25 to ratify the first union contract at Litton's Sioux Falls plant. The union won a \$1-an-hour wage hike as well as improvements in seniority rights, health and safety monitoring, and other benefits, according to a UE statement.

In March, an administrative law judge had ordered Litton to remedy more than 20 unfair labor practices committed in violation of workers' rights during the past several years.

The union drive in Sioux Falls was backed by a coalition of a dozen international unions working to unionize the company at plants across the country. Organized in "The National Litton Campaign," the unions won support from community and women's rights organizations as well as others.

UE organizer Bob Kingsley expressed appreciation for this support and added, "most of all we must applaud the steely determination of the many Sioux Falls Litton workers who have fought so hard and so long to attain a little more justice in their working lives."

Nicaraguan unionists tell CUS leaders 'No more alliances with bosses'

One indication of how severely the "dialogue with the mercenaries" campaign damaged the *Coordinadora* became clear on August 18, when members of the Confederation of Trade Union Unity (CUS), a tiny labor federation that is a member of the Democratic Coordinating Committee, occupied their national office demanding that CUS pull out from that boss setup.

The top CUS leaders are closely linked with the American Institute for Free Labor Development (AIFLD), a CIA front set up with the cooperation of top U.S. labor bureaucrats. The CUS reportedly received some U.S.\$12,000 a month from abroad, a huge amount of money by Nicaraguan standards, especially for an organization of less than 2,000 members.

Led by two members of the CUS National Executive, protesting union members adorned the building with placards reading "The *Coordinadora* is for intervention, we are with the people." Victoria García de Castillo, one of the CUS national

leaders supporting the protest, said: "We can't continue to be allied with the bosses" on the Democratic Coordinating Committee. "We believe that the fact that the *Coordinadora* failed to register [for the elections] constitutes a mockery of the electoral process."

In response, the leadership of the CUS scheduled a National Assembly to decide the question for August 25. Upon seeing that the big majority of those present favored breaking with the *Coordinadora*, however, gangs of thugs organized by the national leadership tried to violently eject the delegates from the headquarters. In response the CUS dissidents organized a Provisional Committee and asked the Sandinista police to safeguard the building until the conflict was resolved.

On September 7, Sandinista Police returned the offices to the CUS. Union leaders announced that they would hold an Extraordinary National Congress to resolve the issue of whether the CUS will remain in the Democratic Coordinating Committee.

Farm Workers discuss growers' attacks

Continued from back page

porting the union," Chávez said. "Many others have lost their jobs because growers illegally changed the names of their companies to avoid signing a contract."

Things came to a head when Deukmejian vetoed a \$1 million appropriation passed under UFW urging. The money was earmarked to speed handling of ALRB cases where the courts had upheld board rulings that growers must turn over back pay due to workers because growers had bargained in bad faith. (Growers have consistently stalled on these "make whole" payments by appealing board decisions to state, then federal courts.)

According to Chávez, "More than 6,300 farm workers, who are owed over \$72 million in back pay by their employers, are still waiting for their money."

In response to the governor's veto Chávez announced a new international grape boycott July 11.

"We told the growers and we told the Deukmejian administration that if they shut down the law, we would return to the boycott," Chávez told the convention. The original boycott was called off after passage of the ALRA.

"Now it's the time for us to act!" Chávez said. "It's time for us to place our faith in the court of last resort once again — with the table-grape boycott that symbolized the farm workers' struggle during the 1960s and '70s."

"We built the union without the ALRB, and we can survive now without the ALRB!" Chávez proclaimed.

'High tech boycott'

The grape boycott joins an ongoing boycott of Red Coach lettuce and Chiquita Banana. UFW officials reported that the Red Coach boycott, aimed at grower Bruce Church, Inc., has succeeded in getting the brand removed from the shelves of several major chains in the East.

Chiquita Banana has been targeted because it is owned by United Brands, which is also a major owner of Sun Harvest. When the 1,200 Sun Harvest employees voted to join the UFW, the company shut down and reopened under a new name.

The UFW will be waging what officials call a "high tech boycott." Rather than building a mass movement, this involves the use of computerized lists to pinpoint likely boycott supporters, as well as stores in areas most likely to contain boycott supporters.

Chávez said the UFW will focus on gaining supporters from backers of the grape boycott in the 1960s and 1970s.

"Fifteen and 20 years later, the men and women of that generation are still alive and



United Farm Workers Pres. César Chávez addresses union convention

well," Chávez told the convention. "They are a little older. And more successful. But, together with our other friends, they are still inclined to respond to an appeal from farm workers."

"We're prepared to stake our future on their good will. It's a safer course of action than relying on Governor Deukmejian to protect farm workers' rights."

The convention adjourned the first day to allow delegates to tour La Paz, the union headquarters located in a remote mountain area 30 miles outside Bakersfield. There delegates viewed the computers and advanced printing equipment to be used in the boycott. They enjoyed a barbecue outside Chávez's small house at La Paz. The tour was in part aimed at allowing delegates to get a look at the offices and dispelling rumors that Chávez is living like a rich man.

Prop 39

Featured speakers at the convention included Willie Brown, speaker of the California State Assembly, and David Roberti, president pro-tem of the state senate. They appealed to the union to use its resources to defeat Proposition 39.

Placed on the November ballot by Deukmejian forces, the proposition would authorize a panel of retired judges to redraw state electoral districts. Democratic party politicians, who drew the current district lines, see the proposal as a major threat to their power. The delegates unani-

mously passed a resolution opposing Proposition 39.

The convention went on record endorsing an extensive list of Democrats for state and federal offices.

In his remarks Chávez condemned Reagan for the "slaughter of thousands of farm workers in Central America" who are only "guilty of the same crimes we committed." Like farm workers here, they "want a better life for their children, free from hunger and exploitation," Chávez said.

Two guest speakers struck another note, however, when they made a central point of attacking the Nicaraguan revolution. Msgr. George Higgins of Catholic University in Washington, D.C., a "labor expert," condemned the lack of "free trade unions" in Nicaragua.

Emilio Maspero, described as the "general secretary of the Confederation of Latin America Workers of Caracas, Venezuela," devoted the bulk of his remarks to extremely well-received expressions of general solidarity which he claimed to be bringing from the farm workers of Latin America. His most explicit political point, however, was to condemn the Sandinistas for allegedly wanting a "controlled trade union movement" and for "imprisoning" members of the "free trade union movement."

Later, several farm workers listened with great interest to informal explanations by socialist workers of how the farm work-

ers in Nicaragua not only have unions, they have their own government.

'Radio Campesino'

Dolores Huerta, UFW first vice-president, reported on her work on behalf of "Radio Campesino," the UFW's own 18-hour-a-day FM radio station broadcasting in the San Joaquin Valley. More than 4,000 farm workers turned out earlier this year to celebrate the first anniversary of the radio station.

Delegates saluted the new version of *El Malcriado*, the union's newspaper. A new newspaper aimed at union supporters is also in the works, it was announced.

In an ominous development, Chávez reported that Teamster Pres. Jackie Presser had refused to renew an agreement signed in the mid-1970s under which the Teamsters had agreed to leave organizing farm workers to the UFW. Prior to the agreement, Teamsters officials had sought to undercut the UFW by signing sweetheart agreements with growers who had previously signed with the UFW. Teamster-organized goons were brought into the fields to attack UFW supporters. Widespread outrage and persistent UFW efforts had forced the Teamsters to back off.

Railroad found guilty of discriminating against women

Two women won a major victory against the Richmond, Fredericksburg & Potomac Railroad Co. (RF&P) when a federal judge ruled that they had been deliberately kept out of high-paying jobs as locomotive engineers.

The RF&P was found guilty of discrimination on the basis of sex against Doris M. Davis and Sandra Jean Hylton, who were denied admission to an engineer apprentice program for nearly 10 years. Both women are employed by the railroad as clerks and earn about half the annual pay of the RF&P's engineers, all of whom are men.

When the women filed suit in March, the RF&P had never hired a single woman as a train engineer, or admitted a single woman to its 11-year-old apprenticeship program. Sixty-six of the railroad's 843 employees are women, and all but three are clerical workers.

When he ruled on the case, Judge Richard Williams said, "It is not disputed that women have been relegated to low-paying clerical jobs in the railroad industry in general." Documents submitted in the case showed that only 140 of the 34,009 train engineers in the country are women.

Blacks send 'Angels' packing

BY MIKE GALATI

BOSTON — Black youth here successfully turned back an attempt by the Guardian Angels to mount an "anti-crime" patrol in one of this city's Black neighborhoods. The Angels is a right-wing vigilante group organized to aid the cops in their racist terror of Black and Latino communities.

The confrontation took place in the city's Mattapan section, a largely Black, working-class area. On August 22, a group of five Guardian Angels — wearing their Guardian Angels T-shirts and red berets — marched through the neighborhood. They began harassing local youth for "hanging out" on the streets. A group of around 20 youth gathered and demanded that the Angels leave. When they refused, a fight ensued that forced the Angels to flee the area.

The following night, in an obvious provocation, the Angels returned to the same neighborhood with a 20-person "patrol." This time they were met by a crowd of more than 60 angry young people, who once again forced them to leave.

One young person told the media that the Angels "walk around acting like cops." "We don't want them at all," added another youth.

City officials support the reactionary aims of the Angels. They were given free subway passes in order to carry out their patrols. But after the two nights of fight-

ing, they began to urge the Angels to stay out of the Mattapan area because of what one official described as "the potential for an explosion."

At an August 28 news conference, Lisa Sliwa, the Angels' national director, said her group would not "bow to politicians and to street punks" and that they would be returning to the neighborhood that evening.

Sliwa also laid out a set of demands she said would have to be met before the Angels would stop their patrols. "The only way we'll stop these patrols is if [city officials] reopen the closed police station and rehire the policemen that were laid off [due to budget cutbacks] and if they call in the National Guard."

That night, Sliwa and five other Angels paraded through the neighborhood with a police escort. More than 200 people, mostly youth, jeered and demanded that they leave.

The following evening, the Angels again tried to patrol the area. This time, however, even the more than 30 cops escorting them couldn't protect the Angels from the nearly 400 youths who surrounded them, chanting "We don't need you." The cops were finally forced to get the Angels out of the neighborhood.

In light of this mobilization, the Angels announced that they would suspend their patrols in the Mattapan area until things "cooled off."



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UAW heads toward contract deadline with GM

BY JEFF POWERS

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Sept. 12 — As the *Militant* goes to press, the outcome of contract talks between the United Auto Workers (UAW) and the Ford and General Motors corporations is not yet known.

Contracts between Ford and GM and the UAW covering some 450,000 auto workers expire at midnight, September 14.

On September 6, UAW Pres. Owen Bieber announced that the union would zero in on GM as the target for reaching a pattern agreement with both companies. GM, said Bieber, "offers the best opportunity for an agreement which will achieve our principal goals — meaningful job security and an economic settlement that represents fairness for our members."

Ford and GM each took a hard line in negotiations and put forward similar giveback proposals that would weaken union power. This included a proposal for a two-tier wage structure that would mean new hires would receive 75 percent of base rate. It would take five years for them to reach full pay. (See the September 14 *Militant* for more details on Ford and GM proposals.)

The GM proposal now becomes the basis for negotiating a pattern contract that union officials hope will also be accepted by Ford. Little information about the specifics of the negotiations is available. GM's original contract demands, which were made public, included no hourly wage increases. It offered a meager lump-sum payment of \$600 the first year, \$300 the second year, and nothing the last year of the contract.

GM proposes to change the base year used for computing the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) from 1967 to 1971. The company wants other changes in COLA that will greatly reduce what workers receive.

British labor support to coal miners grows

Continued from Page 3 press.

On September 2, members of the National Graphical Association and SOGAT '82 (Society of Graphical and Allied Trades) took action against the *Sunday Times* in response to articles by right-wing electricians' leader, Frank Chapple, and conservative energy minister, Peter Walker. Three hundred thousand copies of the paper were lost, and the following week the management printed a major article by Scargill, although claiming that this was in response to a long-standing invitation!

Scargill explained the miners' case:

"Today, miners and their families face a closure program which would over the next few years wipe out virtually half the coal industry. The Coal Board's announcement on March 6 that 20 pits would close with 20,000 jobs destroyed during the coming year was only the beginning of the government's onslaught upon us. . . .

"The choice to our people is very simple. Either we give in, we submit — or we fight to save our jobs, pits, and communities.

"We know that the media (including most specifically this newspaper) advises, indeed, demands that we do give in. We are called criminals for refusing to surrender our livelihood.

"But, over the past 5 years, mining families have witnessed the effects of government policies on other industries, other communities. We see that the primary features of British society in 1984 are anguish and despair, physical and mental ill-health, and unemployment. Most criminal of all, perhaps, is the effect of government strategy upon young people, victims of increasing social abuse.

"We have witnessed the effects on people of de-industrialization, privatization [return of nationalized industry to private companies], homelessness, and the savage cutbacks in health care.

"Our response, like the choice before us, is very simple. We will not give in. We will not submit to the decimation of a vital industry. We will not stand passively by while jobs which belong to future generations are bought up and destroyed.

"We are fighting back; and we will win."

GM is pushing ahead with the battle plan laid out in an internal memo that became public last spring.

In line with this memo, GM is demanding lower labor costs, speedup, concessions on work rules, job combinations, and other givebacks that would weaken the union. It wants to step up "joint problem solving" — union-busting schemes like the "Quality of Work Life" program. In the memo, GM also laid out its plans to eliminate 60,000 to 120,000 workers in the next two and a half years. At present more than 80,000 UAW members are permanently laid off.

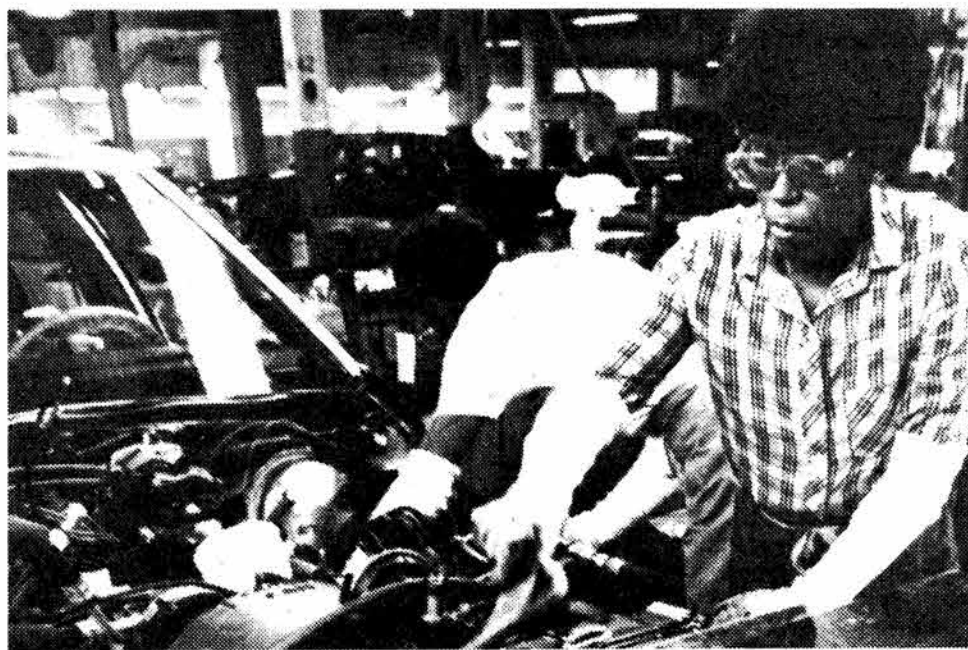
The UAW has said that job security is its number one priority in the current talks. But GM and Ford have ignored the union's demands for curbs on forced overtime, betterment of pension plans to encourage early retirement, and the return of paid personal holidays, as a way of increasing the number of workers employed.

The UAW has demanded an end to "outsourcing" — contracting out for parts to nonunion shops or to countries where wages are lower.

The practice of contracting out work previously done by union members to nonunion shops is a form of union-busting.

However, the UAW officialdom has linked its demands against out-sourcing and for job security to a reactionary anti-imports campaign which blames workers in other countries — not U.S. auto barons and their drive for profits — for unemployment.

General Motors has said that it will im-



UAW Solidarity

port over 400,000 small cars from Japan, Korea, and Mexico. GM's owners are using this to bludgeon U.S. workers into accepting lower wages and worse working conditions.

On September 10 GM made an offer to the union that they said, "supplies job security to a significant portion of our work force." A top GM official said that the proposal was "costly," however, and that the union would have to be ready to give major concessions on work rules and other areas in return.

If an agreement is not reached by the

September 14 deadline, the union leadership has already received overwhelming membership authorization for a strike against GM. If an agreement is reached, it must then be presented to the ranks for ratification.

In the 1982 concession contract, UAW members at GM only narrowly ratified the givebacks, with 52 percent voting for and 48 percent against.

Jeff Powers is a member of UAW Local 93 at the GM Leeds plant in Kansas City, Missouri.

Socialists blast war, union-busting

Continued from front page

and curtail our democratic rights.

On both fronts it's the employers' drive to increase and defend their profits that is fueling the battles. They want us to pay for their crisis — and make them richer in the process. General Motors and Ford are demanding massive concessions from auto workers while the wealthy owners of these companies give their full support to the racist U.S. intervention in Central America.

All working people have a stake in actively resisting both fronts of the employers' war.

The opposing sides in this war are clear. On one side are the bosses, backed to the hilt by the government and the Democratic and Republican parties which run it in the interests of the ruling rich.

That's why the owners of Chrysler get government bail-outs while striking auto workers in Toledo get thrown in jail. And that's why the government is waging war in Central America — to defend the profit system that enriches the few at the cost of enormous suffering for the immense majority of humanity.

Both Reagan and Mondale — and their parties — agree that employer profits, not human needs, are the highest social priority. Whichever one is elected, they will serve the interests of the capitalist class and make their decisions accordingly.

On the other side of this battle line are the auto workers and coal miners who today face contract fights.

On this side, too, stands the entire labor movement and our allies — Blacks, Chicanos, Puerto Ricans, undocumented workers, women, and family farmers. On this side stands all the oppressed and exploited in this country and throughout the world.

Auto bosses lead the charge

The auto bosses have helped lead the way in the employers' decade-long war on working people.

In 1979, the owners of Chrysler took careful aim at the UAW, a union which was looked to for leadership by other workers. The concession contract forced on auto workers then was one of the opening guns in a sustained attack on working people. It was the owners of the auto plants who led the way in weakening and trying to bust our unions, cutting our wages, and dividing us from each other.

When GM and Ford announced their 1983 and 1984 record-breaking profits, many auto workers thought it was time to

get back the \$3 billion in concessions they had given up in 1982 in exchange for phoney promises of job security.

What they got was a slap in the face.

The greedy auto giants demanded even more concessions in wages, benefits, and work rules.

GM and Ford are especially pushing for the extension of the two-tier wage setup — from the present 18 months to 5 years! This has become a highly profitable weapon in the "divide and conquer" game the bosses play. It is aimed squarely at the heart, and only real strength, of the labor movement — the unity of workers.

The power the bosses have over us comes in large part from their ability to pit us against each other — to make us compete with each other for jobs, taking the heat off themselves. They seek to divide us in every way possible — employed against unemployed, white against Black, male against female, undocumented and immigrant workers against "legal" workers. They pit workers in Detroit and Toledo against workers in Managua, Mexico, Havana, Great Britain, and Japan.

They claim that imports steal jobs and cause unemployment. Not true. Stopping imports will not create one single new job. The employers' unrelenting drive for profits is at the root of unemployment.

That's why the anti-imports drive is not simply a dead end for U.S. workers — it is a deadly trap. It binds us to our mortal enemies — the employers — and divides us from our class allies — working people in other countries.

Nothing in common with U.S. rulers

All procapitalist spokespeople — Reagan, Mondale, the bosses, church officials, and the media — constantly tell us that "our" country is threatened; "our" industry is in trouble; that we should join with "our" bosses and "our" government against the workers and farmers of the world.

But exactly the opposite is the truth. We have *nothing in common* with the U.S. rulers, their wars, their government, or their political parties. The only thing threatening us is their system.

International working-class solidarity. That's what we need to begin to counteract the bosses' two-front war. Solidarity among workers and our allies in this country and throughout the world. Solidarity against the employers. Our power is in our numbers and in our productive role in society.

Working-class solidarity in struggle — that's real independent working-class political action. And it's the polar opposite of what goes by the name of politics in this country.

We're being constantly bombarded with the message that the way to win a better life for working people and stop U.S. wars abroad is to go to the polls and cast a vote for Mondale and Ferraro.

We are even cautioned not to fight too hard because it might "embarrass" Mondale, who's supposed to be for the working people.

But replacing reactionary Reagan with procapitalist Mondale won't help working people one iota. Moreover, the record proves this.

Mondale, as Carter's vice-president, helped Chrysler shaft auto workers and aided the coal operators' attempt to bust the 1978 miners strike.

And Mondale's party is joining hands with the Republicans to wage war in Central America.

Voting won't change which class runs the government — and that's what counts. It wasn't elections that won union rights in the first place, or an end to the Vietnam War. It was hard-fought struggles by working people in our millions.

Struggles waged by a fighting labor movement, which clearly advance the interests of the workers against the bosses, will be the basis on which working people will form our own political party, based on the trade unions.

In 1979, when the first big concession contract was being wrung out of Chrysler workers, workers and farmers in Nicaragua made a popular revolution and freed themselves from the U.S.-backed Somoza dictatorship and U.S. imperialist domination.

Both of us have been to the new, free Nicaragua. We've seen with our own eyes what it means to have a government that represents the interests of the workers and farmers rather than the interests of the bosses and large landowners. It's this inspiring example of independent political action that Washington is determined to erase.

We can't rely on anybody but our class. We have the responsibility to use our power and our determination in order to get together and beat back the employer attempts to gut our unions and our rights and to dragoon us into a new Vietnam in Central America.

That's the message of the Socialist Workers campaign: working-class solidarity from Detroit to Central America.

Textron ends lockout, recalls workers

BY GREG PRESTON

DALLAS — The 3,200 members of the United Auto Workers (UAW) locals 218 and 317 — who had been locked out of work for over a month — returned to work at Bell Helicopter's eight Textron plants in Tarrant County, Texas, on August 27.

On August 21, Bell announced that it would recall the suspended workers. At the same time, they issued an ultimatum to the union that it must accept a slightly revised version of a concession contract that had been rejected by the workers in June, or the company would withdraw its contract offer. The union refused to accept the concession contract, and the workers returned on August 27 without a contract.

The aerospace workers were locked out on July 26 when they rallied in the plants to support fellow workers who received disciplinary notices from the company for refusing to work forced overtime. For the past 32 years, overtime had been voluntary at Bell.

At the time of the lockout, the Bell employees were working without a contract. In June, both UAW locals had voted to reject the concession contract pushed by Bell. The proposal included a two-tier wage set up that would start new hires at \$3 an hour less than other workers. It also substituted lump sum "bonus" payments at the

end of the year for cost-of-living adjustments (COLA).

The company went on a harassment campaign to force the workers to accept the concession contract. They arbitrarily imposed forced overtime, new work rules, and new disciplinary procedures. Workers were told they had to work 12 hours a day, and Saturdays and Sundays as well.

On July 26, workers who had been scheduled to come in two hours early punched in at their regular time. Bell immediately began disciplinary action against them.

Within minutes, workers rallied in the plant and began a discussion on what to do. Security guards then ordered them to leave the plant.

The workers — 2,700 of them — left the plant and went to the union hall, where they decided to return to work. As they approached the plant, guards closed the gates and locked them out. That night 500 workers from the night shift also left the plant.

Bell then announced that any worker who had left the plant was suspended.

After forcing a confrontation with the union on the overtime issue, Bell now says that it doesn't need as large a work force and is laying off 113 workers. More than 2,000 Bell workers are already laid off.

In a press conference August 27, UAW Assistant Regional Director Jerry Tucker said that Bell had attempted to intimidate workers with the month-long suspension and was continuing its threats.

He reported that when UAW members walked into work on August 27, they were handed a company memo that stated, "All employees who engage in such conduct as work slowdowns, refusals of mandatory overtime, and leaving your work stations for any reason, including participating in rallies, in plant protests, or to attend union meetings, even if advised to do so by the union, will be subjected to the disciplinary procedure which was adopted on July 26, including the provision therein for perma-

nent termination of the employees involved."

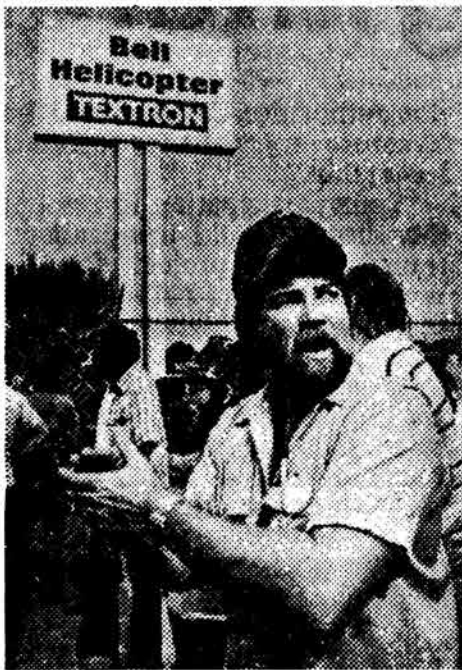
Tucker charged that Bell's latest moves were "sham bargaining."

On August 31, the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) threw out charges filed by the UAW against Bell for violating labor relations law 11 times in June and July, including the lock-out of the 3,200 workers. If the NLRB decision is upheld, UAW members will not be able to get back pay for the time they were forced out of the plant.

UAW international representative Bob Williams said the union will appeal the NLRB decision.

Despite the intense pressure from the company, UAW members have stood firm in their determination to resist Bell's concession demands and union-busting.

Greg Preston is a member of UAW Local 276 and works at General Motors in Arlington, Texas.



Some 3,200 workers were locked out by Bell Helicopter when they protested forced overtime.

Protest at K.C. concert slams apartheid

BY DIANE SHUR

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — "The one thing that supersedes my love for jazz is my concern for social justice."

With these words, Mickey Dean, international affairs coordinator for the Kansas City Black United Front (BUF), announced plans to boycott and picket the August 26 Ray Charles concert here. The picket line was sponsored by the Kansas City Anti-apartheid Network, a coalition of organizations that came together at the initiative of BUF.

The National Black United Front has organized boycotts and picket lines when Black athletes and entertainers who have performed in South Africa appear at U.S. events. Ray Charles is one of those performers.

The aim of the boycott is two-fold: to discourage Black artists from giving the South African government more legitimacy by performing there, and also to make the public aware of the racist apartheid system in South Africa that denies the most basic democratic rights to the Black majority of that country.

The spirited picket line here drew 100 people from eight sponsoring organiza-

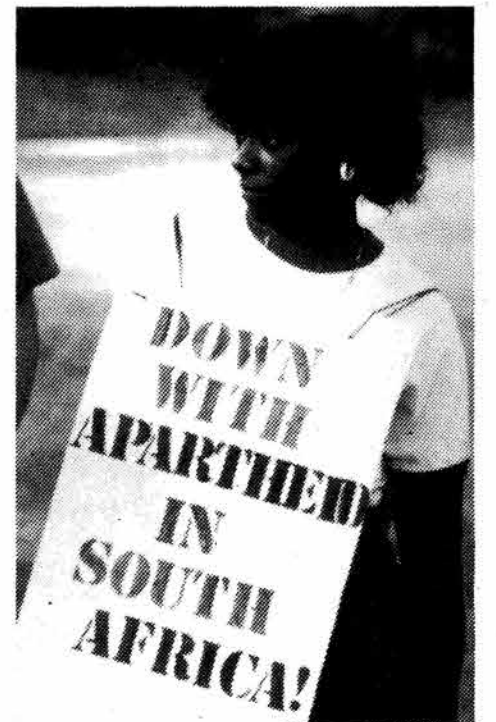
tions. They showed up at Starlight Theater one hour before concert time with signs and flyers that urged concert-goers to boycott the event.

Pickers chanted: "Ray, Ray, don't you know? Racist apartheid has to go!" and "Ray, Ray, believe you me, you're working against the ANC." The ANC (African National Congress) is the main liberation group fighting the South African regime.

As concert-goers started to arrive, they were greeted with these chants, as well as the suggestion, "Refund your ticket, it's not too late; stop apartheid at the gate."

Over the next hour, dozens of people decided to boycott the concert, many of them joining the picket line or expressing their solidarity before leaving. One woman who joined the picket line told the *Militant*, "If I had known this about Ray Charles before, I would never have made plans to hear him tonight."

It appears that others who had heard announcements about the boycott decided not to go to the concert. Only 2,300 people attended it, in a theater that seats 8,000, and usually attracts about 6,000 spectators for concerts and shows.



Militant/Jeff Powers

Pickets marched outside August 26 Ray Charles concert in Kansas City, Mo., to protest racist South Africa regime and performer's complicity with it.

Meeting honors Irish rebel

The third anniversary of the death of Irish hunger striker Michael Devine was commemorated at an August 20 meeting in New York sponsored by the New York H-Block/Armagh Committee.

Devine, a member of the Irish National Liberation Army (INLA), was the tenth and last hunger striker to die in the 1981 protest in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh

13-year-old hangs himself: '1 less mouth to feed'

Thirteen-year-old Danny Holley hanged himself on August 24 in Marina, California. Holley, the child of an Army sergeant who had been stationed at nearby Fort Ord, had earlier told his mother, "If there was one less mouth to feed, things would be better."

Holley's family moved to Fort Ord in June from West Germany. A month after they arrived, Holley's father was suddenly transferred to Korea. Housing that had been promised to the family was unavailable. They had very little money and had to take out a loan from the Army.

Holley, who had two younger brothers and a younger sister, took to collecting used aluminum cans for a penny apiece to help buy food for the family. His mother said the children often went to bed hungry.

Cynthia High of the Army Emergency Relief office said that the troubles of the Holley family differed little from those of many other families with parents in the Army.

prison in British-ruled Northern Ireland.

Seven of those who died were members of the Irish Republican Army, and three were from the INLA. The oldest was only 30.

The hunger strikers were asking for the right to wear their own clothing, to associate freely in prison, to be exempt from prison work, to receive more mail and visits, and to get time off their sentences for good behavior.

The meeting heard a message from Margaret Devine, Michael Devine's sister, describing his courage during the fast. A statement by Liz O'Hara, sister of dead INLA hunger striker Patsy O'Hara, was also read to the gathering.

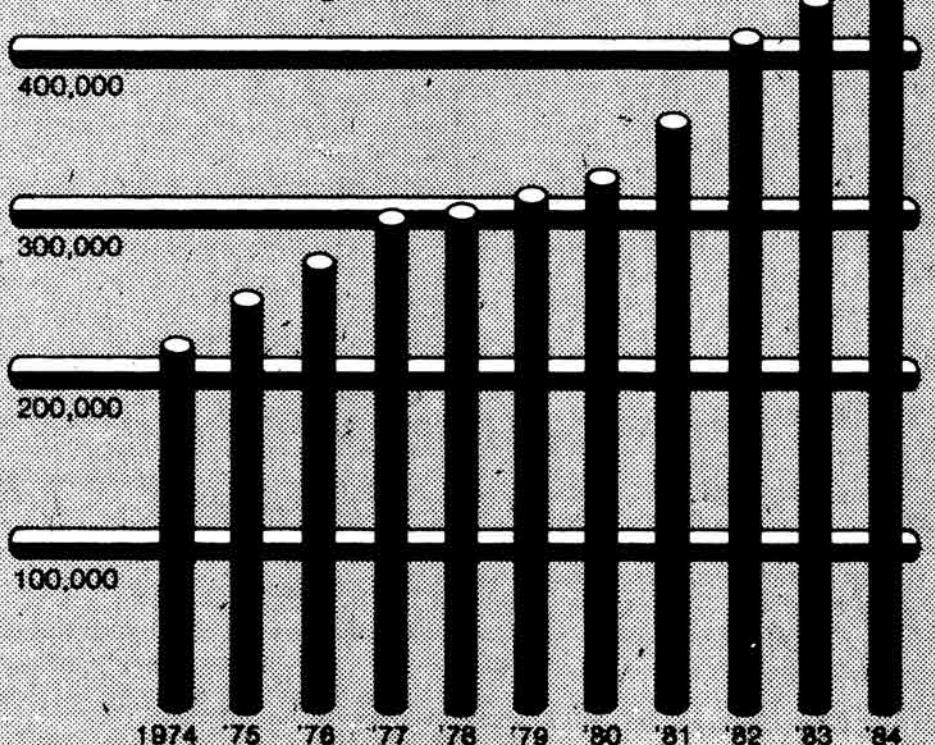
Jeannie Martin, an American whose wrist was broken by a plastic bullet when British police opened fire on a peaceful anti-internment demonstration in Belfast on August 12, gave an eyewitness account of the brutal and unprovoked attack by the Royal Ulster Constabulary. One person was killed in the police riot and scores were seriously injured.

The meeting also heard from José López of the Puerto Rican National Liberation Movement and David Ndaba of the African National Congress of South Africa. Ndaba drew sharp parallels between life in British-ruled Northern Ireland and life under the apartheid system in South Africa.

A biographical sketch of each of the 22 hunger strikers who have died on fasts since 1917 was provided by George Harrison, who blasted the Reagan administration's refusal to condemn British human rights violations in Belfast.

Penitentiary Population

Number of people in Federal and state prisons at the end of each year. 1984 figure is for first six months.

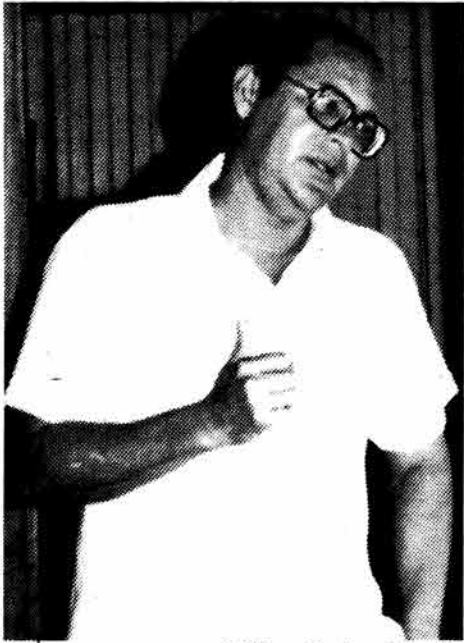


Source: Justice Department

With the increasingly harsh "tough-on-crime" policies of the federal and state authorities, a record 454,136 people are now in jail, nearly double the number of a decade ago. Authorities attribute this to more vigorous prosecutions, longer sentences, and more curbs on parole. They note the crackdown began before Reagan and that tougher statutes have enjoyed bipartisan support from Republicans and Democrats. Meanwhile, bankers, employers, landlords, and other big-time thieves — the real criminals — are still on the street, enjoying their take.

U.S.-backed 'contras' kidnap FSLN leaders

Ray Hooker, FSLN candidate from Bluefields, abducted while campaigning



Militant/Barbara Mutnick



Militant/Helen Scheer

Ray Hooker, left, and Patricia Delgado, FSLN zone secretary, right, were kidnapped September 5 by counterrevolutionaries in the Atlantic Coast region.

BY ELLEN KRATKA

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — The latest example of the U.S. policy of terrorism against the civilian population of Nicaragua was the September 5 kidnapping by counterrevolutionaries of Ray Hooker, Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) candidate for the National Constituent Assembly from Bluefields. Also kidnapped was Patricia Delgado, FSLN zone secretary, who was touring local communities with Hooker, explaining the Sandinista program.

Hooker, a history professor, has been coordinating social services for the regional government of the southern part of the Atlantic Coast. The attack on him was denounced by thousands of local residents in attendance at the funeral of a Sandinista soldier recently fallen in battle. All too familiar with the brutality of the counter-revolutionary forces, most of them fear for the lives of Hooker and Delgado.

The kidnapping comes in the wake of the September 1 downing of a U.S. helicopter in Santa Clara by Sandinista forces. The helicopter, along with three airplanes, had attacked a military training camp in that town near the Honduran border. Seven Nicaraguan civilians — four of them children — were killed. Two U.S. citizens, Dana Parker and James Powell, died in the crash.

To cover up this heinous crime and to bolster the myth that Nicaragua is a "Soviet-Cuban proxy," the Reagan administration charged that four senior Cuban military advisers were killed in the air raid. The Sandinistas called this a lie.

Nicaraguan Minister of Defense Humberto Ortega explained at a news conference following the incident that the air attack was part of a step-up in *contra* (counter-revolutionary) activity made possible by increased U.S. government support to the rightist bands. The U.S. government has denied having any ties to the two dead mercenaries.

The Nicaraguan government, in response, continued its efforts to expose before world public opinion the true face of the U.S. war against the revolution here. For the eighth time in two years, Javier Chamorro Mora, the Nicaraguan ambassador to the United Nations, went before the Security Council on September 7 to refute U.S. government lies.

"Only U.S. citizens closely tied to the CIA can enter and make use of all the infrastructure that the CIA has created in Honduras," he said. He added that "there exists no operation against military or economic objectives in my country that isn't directly authorized by the Central Intelligence Agency."

The Nicaraguan representatives in the UN showed the members of the Security Council a dossier with photos that prove that the downed helicopter was of U.S. manufacture and that it had come from an air base maintained by the U.S. armed forces in El Aguacate, Honduras.

As soon as the identities of the dead men were established, Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto telephoned their families in the United States to express the condolences of the Nicaraguan government. He invited the families to come to Nicaragua to make positive identification of the bodies and offered help in returning their remains.

This humanitarian attitude contrasts sharply with that of the U.S. government. The father of one of those killed told a reporter from the Nicaraguan news service, Agencia Nueva Nicaragua, that after his

conversation with D'Escoto, the U.S. State Department had called to tell him not to go to Nicaragua. "He [my son] died on Saturday and they didn't call me until Tuesday, and now they tell me not to pick him up," the father said.

The U.S. government's callousness toward the families of the first two U.S. citizens killed in combat here reflects Washington's stance that these were "independent mercenaries" operating without the knowledge of U.S. officials. John Stockwell, who was a CIA agent for 13 years, told Agencia Nueva Nicaragua that this denial is normal CIA procedure.

He explained that once the CIA has decided to use mercenaries in operation, it handles their hiring and organization "from afar" through a series of fronts and individuals supposedly without ties to the U.S. government. But they follow instructions from the U.S. National Security Council which is responsible directly to the White House.

However, the U.S. government's phony claim is crumbling in the face of further revelations.

Tom Posey, spokesman for the Civilian-Military Assistance (CMA) in Alabama, the anticommunist paramilitary outfit to which Parker and Powell belonged, has asserted that the U.S. Treasury gave his group permission to buy and sell arms destined for Central American mercenaries. The CMA has financed the arming and

training of mercenaries in Honduras to the tune of \$70,000. Posey also reported having top-level meetings with Honduran and Salvadoran officials arranged by the U.S. embassies in those countries.

Major John Smith, spokesman for the National Guard in the Pentagon, has revealed that Parker and Powell belonged to Unit 20 of the Special Forces which has as its mission "to plan and conduct nonconventional war operations." He said they had been "trained, equipped, and everything else" by the U.S. government.

In a September 6 protest note to the U.S. State Department, D'Escoto reminded them that the CMA is in violation of the Neutrality Act, which prohibits U.S. citizens from being involved in any way in attacks on governments with which the United States is formally at peace. He urged the U.S. government to prosecute this group and to take action to prevent further military activities against Nicaragua by U.S. mercenaries.

"The attitude of the United States government of not complying with its own laws in this respect constitutes, in fact and by law, at the least, approval of the activities of North American mercenaries, if not open collaboration. [It] permits Nicaragua, under recognized principles concerning the responsibility of states, to hold the U.S. government fully responsible for these activities and the damages caused by them," D'Escoto said.

Salvadoran FMLN prepares for intensified U.S. war

BY JOSÉ G. PÉREZ

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — The Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front of El Salvador (FMLN) is preparing to "initially resist, then bog down, and eventually defeat" a U.S. invasion of their country, said Commander Octavio Martínez speaking to foreign correspondents here September 7.

Commander Martínez is a member of the Political Commission of the Communist Party of El Salvador and political-military officer of the FMLN's "Rafael Aguirre Carranza" battalion. "We are preparing for a bigger war because we know that the U.S. invasion is at the door," he said.

"The militarist Reagan administration is going to throw its marines at Central America," said Martínez, pointing to recent war moves like the stationing of a U.S. naval task force headed by the battleship *Iowa* in Central American waters and the reopening of the reconnaissance and communications base at El Tigre Island, in the strategic Gulf of Fonseca.

Underlying the grave threat of a direct U.S. invasion is the incapacity of the Salvadoran army to defeat the insurgent forces of the FMLN. Martínez explained that since 1981 the army has more than doubled, from 20,000 to 45,000 troops, and acquired huge amounts of new U.S. weapons of all kinds.

Nevertheless, the army has been unable to defeat the FMLN, which has steadily extended its relative control to about one-third of the country.

Martínez explained that the FMLN has grown to the point where it can deliver "strategic blows" to the army. He cited as examples the occupation last June of the Cerrón Grande dam and the recent overrunning of the headquarters of the Fourth Infantry Brigade in Chalatenango.

Each of those operations involved more than 2,000 FMLN fighters, yet in both cases, the government was caught by surprise. This indicates it has been incapable of assimilating sophisticated U.S. reconnaissance equipment, and of using intelligence gathered directly by U.S. armed forces in El Salvador.

Martínez said the U.S. decision to impose José Napoleón Duarte as president of El Salvador was part of the preparation for an invasion.

"Duarte has made better use of political

demagogy," Martínez continued. "He has tried to create an image which will permit the entry of U.S. troops into El Salvador."

Part of that image has been the claim that Duarte could have stopped the murders by right-wing death squads, which in fact are army and police units in civilian clothes.

But since the beginning of August, Commander Martínez reported, "the reactivating of the death squads has resulted in dozens of corpses" in the capital alone, all showing signs of torture.

Since Duarte became president, said Martínez, the Salvadoran air force has drastically stepped up its bombing of civilian settlements in zones under FMLN control, killing many noncombatants. In the month of August the Salvadoran air force carried out 39 such raids.

Martínez announced that, given this situation, the General Command of the FMLN, composed of the top leaders of the five organizations of the front, recently met and decided to strengthen the cohesiveness of the rebel forces.

"The General Command has completely taken into its hands the leadership of all its military units," Martínez said, "and the unity of the organizations in the FMLN grows stronger. They are now a single armed apparatus, a single political apparatus."

He explained that the FMLN had set itself three interrelated objectives in this regard: the building of a united party to lead the Salvadoran revolution, the forging of a single revolutionary army, and the putting together of a united front of all the mass organizations opposed to the U.S.-imposed Duarte dictatorship. "We are advancing toward these objectives step-by-step," he said.

Thanks to the growing unity of the FMLN, said Martínez, the recent meeting of the General Command was able to agree on "common tasks, common tactics, common political objectives, and common diplomatic objectives."

On another subject, Martínez reported that the General Command had decided to end conscription into its armed forces in the areas that it controls and has a popular base in. Martínez said that, given the size of the FMLN's army and the extensive zones it controls, the front considers a draft a legitimate measure. "Nevertheless, we were worried that we might reach a point where we might suffer political losses, especially among the masses," he said.

New York antigay court ruling legalizes discrimination

BY MOHAMMED OLIVER

NEW YORK — The New York State Supreme Court recently ruled "unconstitutional" an order by New York City Mayor Ed Koch that outlawed discrimination against homosexuals by employers that do business with the city.

The court decision effectively legalizes such discrimination, and is a blow to the democratic rights of all working people.

The ruling was the result of a suit filed by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York, the Salvation Army, and the Agudath Israel of America, which is an orthodox Jewish organization. The three religious groups all contract to provide child care and other services to the city.

They sued to scuttle implementation of Koch's Executive Order 50, which took effect in April 1980 and forbids employers under contract to the city to discriminate against anyone due to their "sexual orientation or affectional preference."

"The issue is fairly simple," explained Tim Sweeney, executive director of the

Lambda Legal Defense and Educational Fund, a gay rights group. "Should a person's sexual orientation be considered in their ability to do a job? We simply don't think it should."

The religious groups claim their "moral" views prevent them from pledging not to discriminate against homosexuals.

"The Roman Catholic Archdiocese, Salvation Army, and Agudath Israel are not simply religious organizations," explained Nan Bailey, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress in the 16th C.D., "but employers as well. The court ruling gives a green light to every employer to discriminate against homosexuals, and try to justify it on the grounds of their 'moral' or 'religious' views."

"The implications are obvious," said Bailey. "Racist and sexist employers also have 'moral' objections to hiring Blacks, Puerto Ricans, and women. This ruling is an attack on the democratic rights of all working people. The entire labor movement should protest the decision."

—THE GREAT SOCIETY—

That was a close call — The Population Reference Bureau repeats the warning that while eliminating such ailments as cancer and heart disease would prolong



Harry Ring

millions of lives, it would also mean big extra bucks caring for all the elderly whose lives would be prolonged. For instance, if all those who died prematurely of

heart disease in 1978 had lived to their full life expectancy, it would have set the government back an extra \$15 billion.

In case you think they're kidding — According to a *Washington Post* ad, the ANSER company in Arlington, Va., is looking for a few good nuclear weapons effect analysts with background in the fields of airblasts, cratering, and ground motion. An equal opportunity employer.

For the little people — A concerned Manhattan developer is converting a turn-of-the-century tenement into small but "affordable" coops. Available space will be maximized. Like six floors will

be fitted into the present five-story walkup. Sixteen of the one-bedroom apartments will be about 17.5' x 20'. (That's the apartment, not the bedroom.) But nine will be duplexes, totalling about 25' x 28'. The small ones, \$85,000 and up. The biggies, \$165,000.

He only wanted to frame her — Kenneth Carden, the Dallas assistant D.A. who tried, unsuccessfully, to railroad Black engineer Lenell Geter on a robbery rap, has resigned after being busted for soliciting a police-decoy prostitute.

Truthsayer — A media event was organized around Mondale buying some fruit from Vincent

Masucci, who has operated a Kansas City produce stand for 62 years. Afterward Masucci commented, "No president has ever helped me or given me a dime. I came to work every day no matter who was president."

Like worrying about the rent? — Scientists are testing a drug which they found has an intense aphrodisiac effect on rats. However, they caution, it remains to be determined how well it will work on people, since "human sexual behavior is complicated by the influence of emotions and other factors."

Better than the Staten Island ferry — If the gang's looking for

something to do on a warm evening, check out the *Riveranda*, which can be chartered for a cruise of New York Harbor. A four-hour trip — \$3,500 plus \$35 to \$95 per person for food and drink, depending, we assume, on how hungry and thirsty everyone is.

A rich soup — Those who pick the tomatoes and other produce that wind up in Campbell soup cans may subsist on meager wages, but the company is doing nicely, thank you. In the last fiscal year, "earnings" were a thumping \$192.1 million. Sales were up 11 percent and profits 16 percent. Some may suspect the extra profit came from squeezing the workers, not the tomatoes.

—CALENDAR—

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Blacks and the 1984 Elections. Discussion and film showing of *Malcolm X: the Struggle for Freedom*. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Sept. 15, 6:30 p.m. Barton's Records, 4018 Buckingham Rd. Donation: \$2. Ausp: National Black Independent Political Party. For more information call (213) 734-3891.

Oakland

British Miners' Strike: An Eyewitness Report. Speaker: Louise Goodman, member of Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Sept. 22, 7:30 p.m. 3808 E. 14 St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (415) 261-3014.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

Solidarity With the British Coal Strike. Speaker: representative of Socialist Workers Party just returned from three-week tour of British coalfields. Sun., Sept. 16, 7:30 p.m. 504 Flat Shoals Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

The Shockley Trial: Racism Masked As Science. Speakers: representatives of Socialist Workers Party and National Black Independent Political Party. Sun., Sept. 23, 7:30 p.m. 504 Flat Shoals Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

ILLINOIS

Chicago

'84 Socialist Workers Party Campaign Supports Striking Workers. Speakers: Nelson González, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate; Ed Warren, SWP candidate for Congress, 1st C.D.; Marcos Muñoz, Danley striker; Dr. Anderson Thompson, cochairperson, Chicago chapter National Black Independent Political Party. Sat., Sept. 22, 5 p.m. Grand opening of Maurice Bishop Memorial Bookstore followed by program. 3455 S Michigan. Donation: \$2. Ausp: 1984 Illinois Socialist Workers Campaign. For more information call (312) 326-5853.

INDIANA

Indianapolis

Socialist Workers Campaign Rally. Speakers:

Andrea González, Socialist Workers Party candidate for vice-president; Dave Ellis, SWP candidate for Congress. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Sept. 15. Reception, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7 p.m. Pearl's Lounge, 116 McLean Place (21st and Illinois). Donation: \$1.50. Ausp: SWP 1984 Campaign Committee. For more information call (317) 283-6149.

KENTUCKY

Louisville

Socialist Workers Campaign Rally. Speakers: Andrea González, SWP candidate for U.S. vice-president; Dave Walters, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate; Peggy Kreiner, SWP candidate for Congress. Sun., Sept. 16, 7 p.m. 809 E Broadway. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Socialist Workers Campaign. For more information call (512) 587-8418.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

The British Coal Miners' Strike: An Eyewitness Account. Speaker: Chris Gauvreau, member International Union of Electronic Workers Local 201 and Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate. Recently returned from fact-finding tour of British coalfields. Sun., Sept. 16, 7:30 p.m. 510 Commonwealth Ave. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (617) 262-4621.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

We Are Driven. Showing of video documentary on Japanese auto workers followed by presentation. Speakers: Ignacio Meneses, member United Auto Workers Local 408, Detroit; Grant Elgaard, UAW Local 222, Oshawa, Canada. Sat., Sept. 15, 8 p.m. 7146 W McNichols. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (313) 862-7755.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

South Africa: Repression and Popular Resistance. Speakers: Enoch Duma, exiled South African journalist; Eric Mahmoud, activist. Sun., Sept. 16, 4 p.m. 508 N Snelling. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI

Kansas City

Socialist Campaign Rally. Speakers: Mel

Mason, Socialist Workers Party candidate for president; Diane Shur, SWP candidate for Congress, 5th C.D. Sun., Sept. 23. Reception, 6 p.m.; program, 7 p.m. All Souls Unitarian Church, 4500 Warwick. Donation: \$1. Ausp: Socialist Workers 1984 Campaign. For more information call (816) 753-0404.

St. Louis

Socialist Workers Party Campaign Rally. Speakers: Mel Mason, SWP candidate for president; Bob Allen, SWP candidate for governor; Bill Henry, Young Socialist Alliance. Sat., Sept. 15. Reception, 6:30 p.m.; rally, 8 p.m. 3109 S Grant. Donation: \$2. Ausp: SWP Campaign. For more information call (314) 772-4410.

PENNSYLVANIA

Pittsburgh

South Africa Freedom Struggle: New Explosion Against Racist Apartheid. Speaker: August Nimtz, participant in South Africa solidarity movement, visited South Africa and met with leaders of Black freedom struggle. Sat., Sept. 15, 7:30 p.m. 141 S Highland Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

TEXAS

Houston

1984 Texas Socialist Workers Campaign Rally. Speakers: Mel Mason, SWP candidate for president; Beverly Andalar, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate and member of United Auto Workers union; José Alvarado, SWP candidate for U.S. Congress, 18th C.D.; Hitaji Aziz, Committee for Prison Reform and Defense of Human Rights. Translation to Spanish. Sun., Sept. 16. Reception, 4:30 p.m.; program, 6 p.m. South Central YMCA, 3531 Wheeler, rooms A & B. Ausp: Houston SWP 1984 Campaign. For more information call (713) 522-8054.

The Grenada Revolution. First in series of five classes sponsored by the Young Socialist Alliance. Translation to Spanish. Thurs., Sept. 27, 6:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. For more information call (713) 522-8054.

UTAH

Salt Lake City

Will the Election End U.S. War in Central America? Speaker: Deborah Liatos, youth co-

ordinator of Socialist Workers campaign. Translation to Spanish. Fri., Sept. 21, 7:30 p.m. 767 S State, 3rd floor. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (801) 355-1124.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

Stop the Deportations, Defend Immigrant Rights! Speakers: Héctor Marroquín, leader of Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance; José Cerrantes, Chicano activist. Translation to Spanish. Sun., Sept. 16, 7 p.m. 5517 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

Nicaraguan Concert. With Carlos Mejia Godoy and Los de Palacaguina, an internationally acclaimed Nicaraguan folk music group. Fri., Sept. 21. Piggot Hall Auditorium, Seattle University. Ausp: El Centro de la Raza. For more information call (206) 329-2974.

25th Anniversary in Honor of the Cuban Revolution. Video showing of most recent Venceremos Brigade visit to Cuba. Sat., Sept. 22, 7 p.m. 5416 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$3. Ausp: Venceremos Brigade. For more information call (206) 721-2426.

WEST VIRGINIA

Morgantown

United Auto Workers Contract Fight: How Labor Can Fight Union-busting. Speaker: Mark Friedman, Toledo Jeep worker, member UAW Local 12, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Ohio state legislature. Sat., Sept. 15, 8 p.m. 957 University Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 296-0055.

Nicaraguan Democracy: In Defense of the Workers and Farmers Government. Speakers to be announced. Sat., Sept. 22, 8 p.m. 957 University Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 296-0055.

United Mine Workers vs. the Coal Operators: 1984 Contract Struggle. Speaker: Dave Ferguson, member UMWA Local 2095, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of West Virginia. Sat., Sept. 29, 8 p.m. 957 University Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 296-0055.

—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, 3750 West McDowell Rd. #3. Zip: 85009. Tel: (602) 272-4026.

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.

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

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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.

'Dairy Queens': story of 3 fighting farm women

BY JUDITH SINGER

Dairy Queens. Directed by John DeGraaf. Videotape.

This film is a true story of three Minnesota farm women who fought against farm foreclosures, the owners of an electric company, the government, and the state police.

The story starts out with Ann Kanten, a third-generation farmer who witnessed firsthand the tripling of operating costs in a 10-year period. Farmers are presently \$222 billion in debt to the banks, with many facing foreclosure.

Kanten and her family worked 12-16 hours a day, seven days a week, all year, just to make ends meet. Kanten became angry enough to start organizing her neigh-

cided to build power lines on her land. Farmers have recently lost 3 million acres of land to power lines, roads, and suburbs. Tripp knew the danger of living close to power lines, but she was more worried about what she didn't know. She researched the situation, talked to government officials, and was told "sell the land or see it condemned."

The government refused to do anything. So Tripp organized busloads of neighbors to protest in St. Paul. She organized farmers to block roads and construction machinery in protest. Many friends and neighbors were arrested, including Tripp.

Tripp then ran for governor. She didn't win, but she did get out the word on the plight of the family farmer, and received 20 percent of the vote.

The third woman is Pat Kakac. She knew as she was growing up that the family farm would go to her brothers, so she made plans to attend college. Once in school she started missing the peacefulness of country life. She returned to the farm, but her return was soured by the government wanting to put a road through the farm, dividing it in half.

She joined the protests organized by Tripp and found leadership ability within herself. Like Tripp and Kanten, she was thrown in jail. Her response was "I'd do it again."

This is a powerful film. It will bring tears to your eyes and anger to your heart. Though the film centers around rural communities, fighting workers in the cities will also find encouragement and direction.

Information on renting the videotape can be obtained by writing to NAFA, 3255 Hennepin Ave. So., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55408.

FILM REVIEW

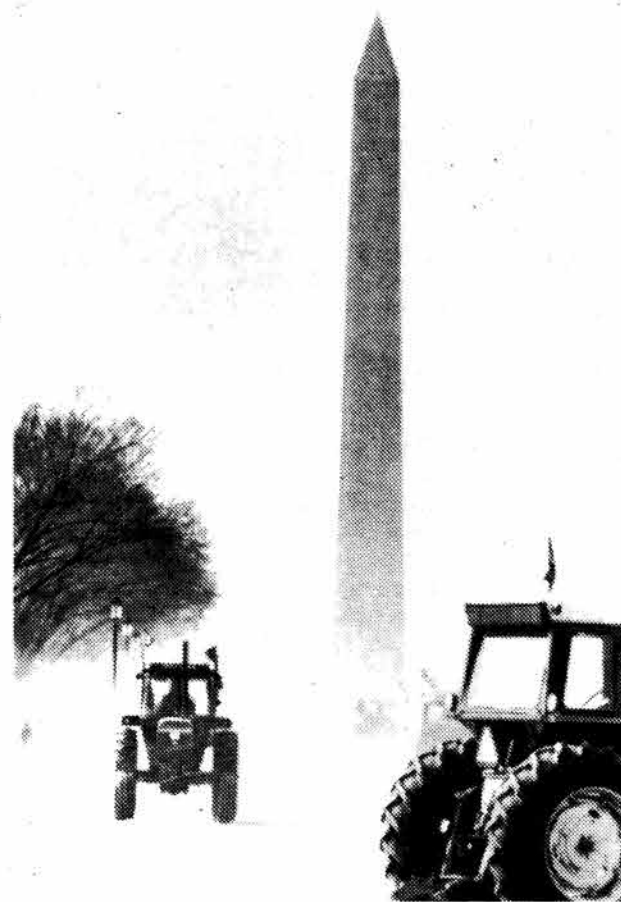
bors, starting out with small meetings in the local cafe. Kanten organized a march on the state capital, St. Paul, to protest high prices and high-interest loans.

In 1978 Kanten also helped organize the first national protest by farmers in Washington, D.C. Forty thousand farmers entered the city, many on tractors, many with their families.

In 1979 she organized another tractorcade to Washington. This time it was planned that the farmers would stay and lobby for their demands.

The second farm woman in the film is Alice Tripp, a small, likable woman with 20 years of farming under her belt.

Tripp became angry when the electric company de-



Gentle Rebels

Capitalist greed, racism are killing Black babies

For 36 years, the Democrats and Republicans have shot down the United Nations convention against genocide each time it has come up for ratification in Congress.

On September 5, Pres. Reagan announced he plans to submit the 1948 UN accord to the U.S. Senate once again for its approval.

The treaty, which defines genocide as an act committed "with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group" and demands that parties to the convention prevent and punish genocide, has

every 1,000 live births. For whites the figure is 11 deaths for every 1,000.

In New York City the statistics are even more shocking. New York state's infant mortality rate is 10.6. Black infant mortality is at 19.9 statewide, but in New York City's worst ghettos, three Black babies die for every white. The infant mortality rate in central Harlem is 25.2, and in Bedford-Stuyvesant it's 26.7.

How are Black babies being murdered? For one thing, the ruling rich and their government have been transferring money from social services to build their mammoth war machine. Government-funded medical insurance has been slashed, as have other already underfunded programs providing pregnant women with proper nutrition, prenatal care, and medical attention.

As a result, Black women increasingly find they can't afford prenatal care. In 1981, only 62.4 percent of expectant Black women received early prenatal care.

Some 16 percent of U.S. women between 12 and 45 years old have no medical insurance coverage — whether public or private. This figure is undoubtedly higher among Blacks. Private hospitals — which in the capitalist profit system are designed not to deliver health care, but to make money for their owners — refuse care to such women.

Meanwhile, public health care facilities are being gutted by budget cuts and a ruling-class drive to make all hospitals privately-owned. In some areas of the country profit-hungry businessmen already own most of the hospitals. Nationwide the number of such hospitals is increasing at a faster rate than the so-called nonprofit and public ones.

The closing of Harlem's Sydenham Hospital and the termination of such programs as the Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) project help to explain the high infant mortality rate among New York Blacks.

Does it have to be this way? No. And the revolutionary

government of Cuba provides an important example of what working people can accomplish in this field once they've taken political power.

In 1958, before the revolution, Cuba's infant mortality rate was 60 deaths for each live birth. It now stands at 17.3 for each 1,000 — a decrease of 347 percent!

Medical care is a central priority of Cuba's revolutionary government. Health care in Cuba is free. The government stresses training new doctors. Today Cuba has more than 1 doctor for every 750 people, which compares favorably with the U.S. ratio of 1 for every 540 people.

When matched against other Latin American countries, Cuba does even better. For example, Brazil — one of the most developed countries in Latin America — has only 1 doctor for every 1,750 people. And the Cuban health care system doesn't discriminate against that country's Black population.

Cuban Pres. Fidel Castro has often explained that the fruits of the Cuban revolution should not be enjoyed by Cuban workers and farmers alone, but shared with the toilers of the world. Today, more than 3,000 Cuban health workers are aiding their brothers and sisters in 26 countries, including Nicaragua, Angola, Vietnam, and Ethiopia.

Halfdan Mahler, director-general of the World Health Organization, said in July that "The commitment to health of [Cuba's] leadership is truly remarkable."

To achieve a similar concern for the health of U.S. working people — and stop the murder of Black infants through lack of medical care — we need a government like that of Cuba.

We should follow the Cuban example. We need to make a revolution that puts workers and farmers in political power. With such a government in our hands, U.S. working people will be able to provide health care and other social services not only for ourselves, but the peoples of the world.



BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY

Mohammed Oliver

been submitted to the Senate several times in the last 25 years. It's always been killed, as in 1974 when Sen. Sam Ervin, the North Carolina Democrat, led a filibuster against it.

If adopted, Ervin argued, the treaty could lead to the U.S. government being charged with genocide for its war in Vietnam, or allow groups to bring charges against the government in international courts for its treatment of Blacks.

More precisely — their crimes against Blacks. The criminals are the U.S. government, the capitalist politicians and technocrats who run it, and the superrich employers they run it for. First count of the indictment: they're killing our babies.

The infant mortality rate for U.S. Blacks is 21.4 for

N.Y. antiwar demonstration called for October 27

Continued from front page

with the U.S. war subordinated to this focus.

Discussion on November elections

A majority of organizations, however, rejected this, voting that the central theme of the October 27 activity should be to protest U.S. military intervention in Grenada and Central America.

Further discussion took place around the slogan "Say no to Reaganism." The Socialist Workers Party, New Afrikan People's Organization, Young Socialist Alliance, and others argued against including this demand. They argued that this slogan identifies the war moves solely with Reagan, when actually the drive toward more direct U.S. military intervention is a bipartisan policy of the entire ruling class. It will be carried out no matter who gets elected in November.

Opponents of this demand argued that those who oppose the war should begin to

build a movement independent of capitalist politics. This movement should be based on those forces that have the biggest stake in ending the U.S. war — working people, who suffer from the war against their standard of living and rights here at home, especially Black and Latino workers.

A large majority, however, voted to include the "Say no to Reaganism" slogan.

The October 27 demonstration will be an important action against the U.S. government's drive toward war. The fact that a broader coalition has come together around it, with greater participation and leadership by Black and Caribbean groups than ever before, is an important step in mobilizing anti-intervention sentiment.

The Brooklyn location of the action will aid in reaching out to the massive Caribbean community in the metropolitan area which is centered in that borough. There is also potential to win support from trade unions who have taken a position against the U.S. war in Central America.

Auto workers in the area who are discussing how to fight against the takeback contract that the owners of Ford and GM want to impose on them, have a special stake in this action. So do the hospital workers of District 1199, who recently beat back a union-busting attempt.

The employers are 100 percent behind the war drive of the government because they want to maintain Central America and the Caribbean as a source of low-cost labor power and raw materials to better compete with other capitalists around the world.

While they drive down the wages and working conditions of U.S. auto workers, they want to send them and other U.S. workers to kill and be killed in a war against Latin American workers and farmers. U.S. labor has a direct stake in the fight by our brothers and sisters in Central America and the Caribbean to free their countries from imperialist domination and superexploitation.

The next meeting of the October 25 Co-

alition will take place on September 20 at 7:30 p.m. For information on the location of the meeting, and other information on the demonstration, call CISPES at (212) 242-1040.

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Behind the furor over religion

In recent weeks the Democrats and Republicans have focused much campaign rhetoric on the subject of religion.

Republican Ronald Reagan took the offensive at a "prayer breakfast" in Dallas the week of the Republican convention. He attacked "those who are fighting to make sure voluntary prayer is not returned to the classrooms," those who "refuse to tolerate its [religion's] importance in our lives."

Democratic contender Walter Mondale quickly responded saying, "I don't doubt Mr. Reagan's faith, his patriotism, and his family values." Mondale demanded that Reagan and his supporters "accept mine."

Others have joined the debate too. Most significantly the Catholic church hierarchy, led by New York's Archbishop John O'Connor. Right-wing fundamentalists like "Moral Majority" leader Jerry Falwell have entered the fray. Religious leaders of many groups and denominations have spoken out, as have numerous other capitalist politicians including vice-presidential candidate Geraldine Ferraro, New York Gov. Mario Cuomo, and Sen. Edward Kennedy.

There appears to be a sharp debate with Reagan and right-wing and conservative forces on the one hand, and Mondale and Democratic Party liberals on the other.

Reagan is clearly challenging the separation between church and state guaranteed by the Bill of Rights. His administration has pushed for public funding for religious schools (including openly racist institutions that do not admit Blacks), supported the Supreme Court ruling allowing "Nativity" scenes to be erected on government property, and has promoted school prayer.

Mondale and other liberals criticize some of these specific moves. In "defending" the separation between church and state, however, they are quick to assert that they are more religious, better patriots, and more "pro-family," than the conservatives.

It is not accidental that the role of religion and the church in politics has emerged as an issue at this time. That's because it is completely bound up with a general reactionary ideological offensive that the employers and their representatives are waging. This is part of their effort to get working people to accept the mounting attacks on our democratic rights and standard of living, as well as the government's preparations for deepening the war in Central America.

Both Democrats and Republicans talk more and more of "God, country, and family." The push for a bigger role for religion in society and political life is connected to the step-up in patriotism, chauvinism, racism, anticommunism, and antiwoman propaganda.

The Reagan administration has been in the forefront of pressing this offensive. But the Democrats too support and participate in it. Witness the orgy of U.S.-flag waving at both Democratic and Republican conventions; the virtually unanimous backing by capitalist politicians of the "USA, USA" chauvinism of the Olympic games; bipartisan support for U.S. war moves in Central America; and the agreement that "communism" must be stopped — at all costs.

The ideological offensive is part and parcel of the U.S. war drive and the day-to-day attacks on working people in this country and abroad. The employers try to sap our capacity to resist these attacks by undermining the development of class consciousness and solidarity among workers.

We are taught to put the interests of "our" nation ahead of our class; and that the interests of workers in this country are opposed to and must come before those in other lands. We are told to stop looking for more government aid in providing social benefits and instead to look to the individual, the family, or the church.

The employers seek to convince us to accept the *ideas*

of their class so that we will accept the steps they must take to protect their class interests — which are opposed to ours.

Most working people oppose a new Vietnam war in Central America. The employers cannot let this stop them from waging that war to protect their profits and political interests. They use every tool at their disposal in the field of ideas (newspapers, television, radio, etc.) to reverse antiwar attitudes.

The same applies to attacks on labor at home. The anti-immigrant workers "steal" jobs from U.S. workers is aimed at diverting the anger of working people over the economic crisis from the employing class (which is responsible for the crisis) onto fellow working people.

Racist and sexist ideas, which also stem from the employing class, are used the same way to undermine the unity that is necessary among working people if we are to confront the ruling-class offensive.

The step-up in proreligion propaganda dovetails completely with this.

A good example is the attack on a woman's right to abortion recently launched by Archbishop O'Connor. This was done in the form of a criticism of Democrat Geraldine Ferraro because, he said, she suggested the church has more than one view of abortion. Not so, cried the archbishop, all church teachings oppose abortion and all Catholics have an obligation to uphold and promote the teachings of the church.

The bishops put forward the *idea* that abortion is murder in the eyes of God, to advance a specific *political goal*: rolling back abortion rights.

Working people have a different perspective than any spokesperson of the ruling class in this debate. We have an interest in opposing all forms of this reactionary propaganda, and in defending the separation of church and state.

This hard-won right limits the government's ability to persecute working people on the basis of their religious views, or lack of them. Like other democratic rights, it allows more room, more favorable conditions, for working people with diverse views on religion to unite in the struggle against the employing class and its government.

Working people also need to oppose and expose the propaganda campaign that accompanies the efforts to undermine separation of church and state. An underpinning of this effort is the idea that working people should submit to authority — to the authority of church leaders, of the "nation," of capitalist politicians.

In fact, working people need to do just the opposite. We need greater *class independence*. We need to rely on our own power to fight for our own needs.

If we accept the employers' wave of patriotism, chauvinism, and anticommunism, thereby giving up the fight against the new Vietnam in Central America, it is working people who will pay the price.

Socialist Workers Party candidates Mel Mason and Andrea González are putting forward this working-class viewpoint in the '84 presidential election campaign. They oppose all of the specific inroads on the separation between church and state, such as school prayer. They unequivocally oppose the attacks on abortion rights, whether they emanate from reactionary (or liberal) capitalist politicians, or from the church hierarchy.

At the same time the socialist candidates oppose the ideological offensive the religion drive is part of. They seek to explain to working people why these ideas are in opposition to the interests of the working class. They explain that they undermine the self-confidence, class consciousness, and solidarity that working people must develop if we are to be successful in fighting for our own interests, and in establishing a government that represents us.

Defend bilingual voting rights

New federal rules slash almost in half the number of U.S. counties that must provide bilingual ballots to Spanish-speaking citizens, and others who do not speak English as a first language.

This is a major new inroad on the democratic rights of Chicanos, Puerto Ricans, and other Spanish-speaking U.S. residents, as well as Asians and others. Like attacks on Black voting rights, which are also under assault, this outrageous move should be exposed and opposed.

The democratic right to vote is gutted of all meaning if one is not allowed to vote in a language one understands. Like poll taxes and other undemocratic measures that have been opposed by the civil rights and labor movements, it is aimed at disenfranchising members of the oppressed nationalities.

In Los Angeles County, for instance, where bilingual ballots have been available in the past, they will not be now. The racist and discriminatory nature of such a ruling could not be more apparent in that area where hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of Spanish-speaking and Asian working people live.

The attack on bilingual voting rights is part of a

broader assault on bilingualism throughout U.S. society, particularly bilingual education. The goal of these moves is to roll back gains won by Chicanos, Puerto Ricans, Asians, and others and to try and keep them in a second-class status.

It is also part of a broader ideological offensive aimed at reinforcing racism and U.S. chauvinism. The employers and their government seek to establish the idea that English is the only legitimate language to be spoken in the United States.

Working people should oppose this. Tens of millions who live in this country speak Spanish, or Chinese, or French, or other languages. It is their right to do so and the labor movement should defend that right.

These brothers and sisters are part of the U.S. working class — a growing part. They are among the most combative fighters against discrimination, the employers' austerity drive, and the war in Central America. The labor movement should support all steps that enable these working people to participate freely in political life and in all aspects of this society. That is why all working people should defend bilingualism and fight to extend it as widely as possible.

Black party shows way forward in fight for jobs

One of the key issues in the contract battles now under way in both the auto and coal industries is jobs and unemployment. Members of both the United Auto Workers and the United Mine Workers are discussing how their unions can effectively wage a fight for job security.

The charter of the National Black Independent Political Party (NBIPP) has an important contribution to make to this discussion. Printed below is an excerpt from that charter that outlines the party's program in the fight for jobs and a living income.

As with other planks in NBIPP's platform, these demands are placed in an anticapitalist framework. The charter explains that unemployment, low wages, racial

OUR REVOLUTIONARY HERITAGE

and sexual discrimination, and other problems that workers face flow from capitalism — a class system in which a tiny handful of superrich families profit from the exploitation of working people.

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

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

The entire working class can learn some valuable lessons from NBIPP's call for breaking with capitalist politics and fighting for political power. The NBIPP, though a small vanguard organization, advances a program in the interests of Blacks and all other working people. Its charter deserves serious study not only by fighters for Black equality, but trade union militants, Latinos, and those struggling for women's rights.

* * *

Millions of unemployed able-bodied men and women desperately looking for work must be regarded as an intolerable situation. In the United States this deplorable condition is aggravated by chronic inflation.

We believe that everyone who is willing and able to work should have a job, commensurate with their skills and expertise, at a decent livable wage to ensure an adequate standard of living. We believe that full employment and the right to a job is a basic human right. It is clear that both the Democratic and Republican parties have abandoned this principle and have no intentions of implementing any program designed to achieve the goal of full employment. We believe that the U.S. with a \$2-trillion Gross National Product is a country rich enough to provide adequate income security to anyone unable to work due to illness, disability, or other circumstances beyond their control.

We believe that Black people should have equal employment opportunities.

THEREFORE WE DEMAND:

- Massive employment programs specifically targeted at the Black community, to alleviate the disproportionate levels of unemployment among our people, and especially among Black youth.
- A decent job under safe and sanitary conditions for all who are willing and able to work.
- Equal pay for equal work for Black people.
- An end to all racist and sexist hiring practices, and racial, sexual, and age discrimination on the job.
- Free and low-cost education and training for job opportunities for all our people.
- Special job training, job creation, and employment programs for Black youth at equal pay levels afforded to other workers.
- An end to plant closings and runaway shops.
- Full unemployment compensation for all who are laid off and unemployed.
- Increased funding and improved administration for social security and other income maintenance programs for those unable to work.
- An end to "right to work" labor laws.

* * *

An "Education for Socialists" bulletin that contains the NBIPP charter and related material is available from Pathfinder Press, 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014. It costs \$1.25. Please include \$.75 for handling.

Link conversion to fight against U.S. wars

BY JOHN HAWKINS

On June 22-24, I attended an International Economic Conversion Conference in Boston. The conference was called to discuss the impact of military spending and production on the U.S. economy and what could be done to convert the war industry to socially useful production.

Although the bulk of participants came from local conversion projects, nuclear-freeze groups, and other peace organizations, close to 200 trade union members — mostly local and regional officials — also attended. International Association of Machinists Pres. William

UNION TALK

Winpisinger, United Food and Commercial Workers Vice-pres. Bill Olwell, and United Electrical Workers Secretary-Treas. Boris Block were featured speakers at the gathering.

A broad range of international trade unionists was present. Large delegations came from Canada and Quebec, from IG Metall in West Germany, the Italian metalworkers union, and the engineering union in Great Britain. Other international participants came from Sweden, France, Austria, Belgium, Japan, Brazil, and South Africa.

The conference theme — "Transforming the Economy for Jobs, Peace and Justice" — reflected the genuine concern of many participants over the social costs of the mounting U.S. arms build-up and military interventions abroad, especially in Nicaragua and El Salvador.

However, the absence of representatives of the government and trade unions of Nicaragua and of the unions and liberation forces of El Salvador — neither of whom were invited to attend — was noticeable. Their participation

would have added something vital to such an international gathering — the views of those who are facing Washington's weaponry every day.

Instead of placing the discussion on war industry conversion squarely in the framework of a struggle against the imperialist foreign policy of Washington and its allies (the reason such astronomical sums are budgeted for military hardware), organizers directed the conference's attention to a series of reform schemes which, they contended, could solve the problem piecemeal.

This refusal to target Washington's military build-up and war in Central America also served another purpose — to justify the equal sign that many speakers placed between Washington's war spending and production, and the necessary burden of defense placed on the Soviet economy by continuing imperialist military pressure.

Seymour Melman, professor of industrial engineering at Columbia University, described a symposium on war industry conversion he had attended in Moscow along with IAM Pres. Winpisinger and others. Melman repeatedly claimed that the question of war industry conversion was equally posed in the Soviet Union and in the United States, Western Europe, and Japan.

In response to a questioner who asked what the conference would discuss concerning U.S. aggression in Central America, Melman explained that such concerns were not within the scope of the gathering, which instead would focus on what he claimed is the source of wars — war spending and production.

Various proposals to convince corporate giants involved in war production of the profitability of converting to production for social use were discussed.

Barry Bluestone, professor of economics at Boston College, recited to the Saturday morning plenary session the story of Charlie Command, one-time owner of Command Helicopter. A competitor of Sicosci Helicopter, Command decided that the prospects for successful com-

petition in this line of business were not too great, Bluestone said.

After a good deal of thought and research on how he could use his staff and plant to produce something that would guarantee more secure profits, Command arrived at the bright idea of making guitars. Today, Bluestone declared, he has converted himself into a successful guitar manufacturer.

Chris Gauvreau, member of International Union of Electronic Workers Local 201, and Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from Massachusetts, received a lively response in a workshop when she explained the fallacy of the schemes proposed.

It is impractical and naive, Gauvreau explained, to expect to reform away capitalist war production. The billions Washington, London, Paris, and Bonn spend on war materiel has one purpose — to prop up their imperialist rule abroad and capitalist class rule at home.

What is needed, she stated, is a determined struggle on the part of the labor movement and all those committed to peace against the real wars waged by imperialism today — beginning with opposition to the U.S. war in Central America.

In that framework, demanding of the government in Washington that it convert the war industry takes on importance.

Pointing to the example of the striking copper miners in Arizona, the AP Parts strikers in Toledo, the IG Metall strikers in West Germany, and the British coal miners' strike, Gauvreau said that it's along this road of class struggle that we can halt Washington's war in Central America and turn back the assault on working people here at home.

John Hawkins is a member of the International Association of Machinists Local Lodge 562, San Jose, California.

Dominican women fight for equality, land, freedom

The following is a guest column by Socialist Workers Party vice-presidential candidate, Andrea González. González toured the Dominican Republic in July.

For the past year, workers and farmers in the Dominican Republic have been struggling against repression as the government tries to force through deep austerity



WOMEN IN REVOLT

Pat Grogan

measures demanded by imperialist bankers through the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

In this upsurge, the workers and farmers have been strengthened by the entry into the battle of organized and mobilized women.

Dominican women, like women throughout Latin America, have historically participated in the struggle against imperialist exploitation and domination. The Mirabal sisters, three women killed during the 1959 rebellion against the U.S.-backed Trujillo dictatorship, are an example of the heroic role of women in the history of Dominican resistance.

Today, however, women have entered the struggle not

simply as individuals, but as an organized force.

New independent women's organizations have developed. One of the most important is the National Federation of Peasant Women. This year the Federation organized two massive demonstrations against hunger and to commemorate International Women's Day. These two were the largest of some 70 actions organized by women's groups this year.

Women have also formed groups to fight against U.S. intervention in Central America and the Caribbean and to protest government-inspired racism against Haitian workers.

It is not surprising that women should enter the struggle today in a big way. Working class and peasant women are among the hardest hit by the austerity program. The majority of working women receive less than the minimum wage. In the cities, women workers are concentrated in the restaurants, bars, and light industry where they have no protection from the bosses.

A woman I met in Santo Domingo is typical. She works a 12-hour day, seven days a week, in a restaurant. She receives 100 pesos [1 peso = U.S. \$1] a month (minimum wage is 150 pesos a month).

In a country where only 13 percent of the work force is unionized, the development of a women's rights movement serves to raise women's consciousness on the importance of unions and opens the door to fight to organize those industries where women are concentrated.

The organization of women is most advanced in the countryside. The process of organizing rural women was begun more than 20 years ago by the government, the church, and imperialist organizations like the Agency

for International Development (AID).

The aims of these early organizations was to reinforce the traditional role of women in order to create a bastion of reaction in the countryside. But this effort failed.

The capitalist crisis in the rural areas has increasingly caused the pauperization of the peasants. More women have gotten jobs outside the home. Today, 50 percent of rural women work in agriculture, mainly in temporary jobs during planting and harvesting.

The National Federation of Peasant Women has organized rural women to fight for their rights as women — for equal pay for equal work and equal access to education. The majority of illiterates are women.

These women also fight for the rights of all peasants — for agrarian reform, nationalization of the corporate-held lands, health care, and schools in the countryside.

The Independent Peasants' Movement (MCI) has recognized the organization of rural women as an important new strength.

Originally, the MCI opened its first congress only to small landowners which would have excluded women. Realizing this, the MCI voted to admit the National Federation of Peasant Women.

As Pedro de Leon, the General Secretary of the MCI, explained, this vote was an historic step forward for the peasant movement.

As the struggle in the Dominican Republic continues to deepen, this initial organization will also advance and develop. Dominican women, like their sisters in Nicaragua, Cuba, and El Salvador, will be among the workers and farmers who play a central role in the coming Dominican revolution.

LETTERS

Skoglund an inspiration

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for running the biography of Carl Skoglund. It was truly inspiring. I'm sorry that I never had a chance to meet this extraordinary comrade.

Diane Shur
Kansas City, Missouri

FSLN campaign material

I was lucky to have been a participant in the Fifth Anniversary Tour to Nicaragua sponsored by Militant/Perspectiva Mundial Tours, Inc. I was also a witness to the U.S. Customs' illegal actions against Mel Mason and Sam Manuel at Miami International Airport.

As the *Militant* reported, the U.S. government cop agency confiscated the books and pamphlets that Manuel was bringing to San Francisco. They said it might be "seditious material."

Militant readers will be inter-

ested to know that in this material were campaign posters and platforms of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN). Free elections are being held for the first time in the history of Nicaragua.

We now intend to speak out as widely as possible about the election process and about the campaign of the FSLN. Our up-to-date and eyewitness reports could help to counter the lies of the U.S. government regarding the Nicaraguan elections.

But just as the government does everything it can to keep the ideas of the Mason-González campaign from being heard, so will it do everything it can to keep the platform of the FSLN from being read.

It was useful to print Manuel's receipt for "seized merchandise" from U.S. Customs, but let's also print the election platform of the

Sandinistas!
R.F.
New Orleans, Louisiana

Women activists

For a book on women who were active during the 1930s and 1940s in left-wing political parties, I would appreciate hearing from any such women who would be willing to be interviewed.

Names will not be used.
Rebecca MacLean
234 E. 4th St., Apt. 17
New York, N.Y. 10009

Drinking water safety

I am an activist physician working in the field of public health, specifically environmental health.

Much concern exists over the safety of drinking water. Even the cleanest municipal water supplies come out of the faucet containing significant levels of organic chemicals, metals, and other contamin-

ants — many of which are involved in causing cancer, mutations, and birth deformities.

Governmental regulation of drinking water supplies has been meager, but the validity behind even that minimal level of protection of the public has been called into serious question in a recent study by health officials with the Massachusetts state Department of Environmental Quality Engineering.

The study challenges the recommendations that have been put forth by the federal Environmental Protection Agency which assume that ingestion constitutes the major, if not the only, route for toxic chemicals in drinking water gaining access to the body.

Not denying that the actual drinking of water plays a significant role in determining an individual's exposure to a toxic substance, the authors point out that the skin constitutes another — and

perhaps the major — route of exposure to chemicals in drinking water.

Coming close on the heels of the current focus in the environmental health field on indoor air pollution as constituting the major route of exposure to airborne pollutants, the evidence gathered by the authors points further to the inability of scientists and government at the highest levels both to deal seriously with toxic compounds and to protect the people from health hazards in their environment.

Joseph Regna
Medford, Massachusetts

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.

Veterans rap Agent Orange settlement

'They'll never admit what they did, but government and companies should pay'

BY SARA JEAN JOHNSTON
AND GARFIELD EVANS

ATLANTA — "This is their way of trying to clear their names for taking part in war crimes," said Vietnam veteran Oscar Tate, referring to a proposed \$180 million settlement of a class-action suit against the makers of the poisonous defoliant Agent Orange.

Tate was one of nearly 200 Vietnam vets and their families attending a regional public hearing in Atlanta, Georgia, August 20-21. The "Fairness" hearing in Atlanta was one of four public hearings conducted nationally in late August by U.S. District Court Judge Jack Weinstein of New York to "gauge public opinion before making a decision," on the out-of-court settlement proposal.

Fear the truth

The suit was filed by 15,000 Vietnam veterans and their families who are victims of Agent Orange. The out-of-court settlement was designed to avoid a trial of the owners of the big chemical companies. They feared a trial might bring out more of the truth about the genocidal campaign they helped Washington wage against the Vietnamese people — especially now when a new Vietnam-style war is opening up in Central America.

During the Vietnam War, the U.S. government sprayed 12 million gallons of Agent Orange on Vietnam, causing untold damage and misery to that country and its people. U.S. GIs were also victims, with their exposure to the toxic substance resulting in serious illnesses among them and their families, including birth defects in their children.

On August 16, just days before the Agent Orange hearing, a report from the federal government's Center for Disease Control (CDC) was released in Atlanta. It concluded there is "no evidence to support the position that Vietnam veterans have had a greater risk than other men for fathering children with . . . birth defects."

"However," the report continued, "for a few specific types of defects the estimated risks were higher for subgroups of Vietnam veterans that may have had a greater likelihood of exposure to Agent Orange. These seemingly higher risks could be chance events, the result of some experience in the Vietnam service of the father, or the result of some other unexplained risk factor."

This CDC report is the first of four in a \$100 million investigation ordered by Con-

gress. The other three reports deal with veterans most exposed to Agent Orange, long-term health effects of service in Vietnam, and the possibility of increased cancer risks of Vietnam vets. These reports aren't slated to be completed for another five years or more.

The timing of the August 16 CDC report's release was quite convenient for the seven chemical companies involved in the class-action suit. Despite the proposed court settlement, neither the makers of Agent Orange nor the U.S. government admit any responsibility for the effects of Agent Orange on Vietnam vets — a stance which the CDC report was designed to bolster.

The vets and their families have a different opinion.

'They should pay dearly'

"They'll never admit what they did," said Spencer Bumgardner from Smyrna, Georgia. "But the chemical companies and the government should pay dearly. They had it on the news again last night. They said the CDC took statistics from birth certificates. Well, many birth defects don't show up right away. And by the time the lawyers get through the settlement we won't see a damn thing."

"My husband was sprayed with Agent Orange when he was in Vietnam," said Sheri Shay during the hearing. "My son Zachary was born with 15 birth defects. I never got so much as a phone call from the CDC on their study!"

"This settlement is not fair," she continued, "but my child needs help now. I don't see anything else coming because the doctors don't want to even discuss Agent Orange."

Raymond Roubé, stationed in Vietnam during the fall of 1967, explained how he and his construction crew were sprayed with Agent Orange on August 17, and again three weeks later. "After six operations on my skin cancer, the Veterans Administration says they don't know what it is."

Richard Emsbringer from North Carolina told the hearing, "Before coming here, on Friday the 17th, the VA called me in for an Agent Orange interview. All my records from the past were 'missing.' Many veterans I talk to have experienced the same thing. I disagree with this settlement. They just want to get off the hook."

"The CDC study that conveniently came



U.S. warplanes sprayed millions of gallons of Agent Orange on Vietnam, causing untold misery and destruction to Vietnamese people. Today, U.S. government and giant chemical companies refuse adequate compensation to affected U.S. veterans.

out last week was woefully inadequate and surprised none of us," said Dick Prest, a representative of Nam Vets of Georgia.

"If it eats paint off aircraft, then what does it do to people?" asked Christopher Martin, a Black ex-marine from Birmingham, Alabama.

'Profit before all else'

"You don't have to be a scientist to figure out what has happened," said Martin. "It was reckless abuse of life putting profit before all else," he continued. "To those of us, the half-living dead, this settlement remains unjust, inadequate, and criminal."

"It is understandable why some would opt for cash now," said Martin. "We are desperate. But it leaves no mandate for the U.S. government to bring any justice. It is the obligation of those chemical companies to guarantee people the right to 'life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness,'" said Martin.

"It's not fair, or equitable," said Angela Darley of Bainbridge, Georgia. "But how many of us have time to wait through all the court proceedings, appeals, and legal maneuvers? My family has over \$100,000 in medical bills. And I don't think my husband will be around that long."

Judge Weinstein repeatedly badgered Darley and other speakers about using the Veterans Administration (VA) hospitals.

"The VA won't approve out-patient ser-

vices in our town hospital," said Darley, "and we live over 200 miles from the nearest VA hospital," she cried. "My husband is 100 percent disabled, my two children were born deformed, and my little girl has already died. The CDC never wanted any information on my child's death!"

'Too little, too late'

"You just used us vets, and now you won't deal with our problems," said Jesse Jenkins. "This settlement is too little, too late. The U.S. government and the chemical companies should be held responsible and they should have to pay for everything."

"It's not even a question of me getting any money," said ex-marine Harold Lewis. "I'm saying we don't need to send any more people to fight their wars. This issue will resurface again and again whether you hold public hearings again or not."

Lewis was right. Just days after the CDC report's release and the end of the "Fairness" hearings, Vietnam veterans' organizations in the Southeast called for a September 22 rally in Stone Mountain, Georgia, to protest the plight of the victims of Agent Orange and the U.S. government's attempts to sweep this issue under the rug.

Sara Jean Johnston is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from Georgia.

Farm Workers discuss growers' antiunion attacks

BY NELSON BLACKSTOCK

BAKERSFIELD, Calif. — More than 650 delegates and observers gathered here September 1-3 for the Seventh Constitutional Convention of the United Farm Workers, AFL-CIO (UFW).

The UFW is made up overwhelmingly of Spanish-speaking agricultural laborers from central and southern California. Convention business was conducted in Spanish, with simultaneous translation into English.

Also present were Black delegates from Florida, the only other state where the UFW holds contracts. Their first state convention drew nearly 1,000 workers last March, Florida delegates told the *Militant*.

Organizing committees from Texas and Arizona were at the national convention, as were guests from the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC), based in Toledo, Ohio.

'La causa'

The UFW was born out of long and bitter battles in the 1960s and 1970s. Califor-

nia agriculture is dominated by huge tracts owned by wealthy individual growers and big corporate interests, such as Tenneco. Tens of thousands of farm workers are needed to cultivate and harvest crops. From these rural workers, many born in Mexico, come the ranks of the UFW.

The union has a strong nationalist character, and that has been one of the great strengths of *La causa*, as the movement is known. Bands played Mexican music during breaks. At one point a delegate unfurled a Mexican flag and asked that it be brought to the front and that the convention sing the Mexican national anthem. The proposal was quickly agreed to.

The UFW has aided the predominantly Mexican and Chicano copper miners who have been on strike for more than a year in Arizona.

Delegates included seasoned veterans, now in their forties and older, along with many younger workers. Again and again the hall rang with chants of, "Boycott! Boycott!" as delegates waved red banners emblazoned with the black eagle, symbol

of the UFW. A successful grape boycott — which was a broad mass movement — was key to the UFW's original victory, and the floor demonstrations were a display of the workers' determination to beat back a new wave of grower attacks.

California's agri-capitalists, like all capitalists today, are out to squeeze as much as they can out of their employees. A long battle has been fought between the big growers and the UFW over implementation of provisions of a state farm labor law.

ALRB

Passed in the mid-1970s, the Agriculture Labor Relations Act (ALRA) was supposed to extend to California farm workers collective bargaining rights similar to those afforded to workers in other industries by the National Labor Relations Act. Farm workers are exempted from coverage under the national law.

The law set up an Agricultural Labor Relations Board (ALRB), charged with authorizing union representation elections upon submission of the prescribed number

of signatures. The ALRB also mediates disputes over contracts.

The law was passed as a result of pressure from the farm workers and got the backing of Democratic Gov. Edmund Brown. Republican Gov. George Deukmejian, who took office in 1982, is an open ally of the big growers. He appointed his own progrower man to head the ALRB, David Stirling.

In his report to the convention, UFW Pres. César Chávez said, "Under Deukmejian, the law that guarantees our right to organize has been shut down. It doesn't work any more."

In fact, the law never worked the way many farm workers hoped it would. Of the estimated 250,000 who toil in the fields each year, about 10 percent, around 30,000, belong to the UFW. Another 36,000, according to Chávez, "are still waiting for growers to sign contracts after the workers voted in secret-ballot elections" for the UFW.

"Many of them have been fired for sup-

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