

Socialist condemns Mondale's war plans

The following is a statement by Mel Mason, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president.

In a major foreign policy interview with the *New York Times* September 16, Democrat Walter Mondale confirmed his intention to escalate the U.S. war against the people of Central America and the Caribbean if elected president in November.

The Democratic nominee — who masquerades as a "peace candidate" — stated



Mel Mason for president

that his administration would continue to back El Salvador's dictator José Napoleón Duarte and send him military aid; would continue to use Honduras as a base for the U.S. war against Nicaragua; and, most ominously, would move to "quarantine" Nicaragua if that country's government "uses any force outside of its own borders."

But as Mondale well knows, the government using force outside its own borders today is *Washington*, which arms and directs the terrorists who bomb and kill in Nicaragua, and bankrolls the army and death squads of El Salvador.

To justify his total support for U.S. aggression, Mondale repeats the lies of the Reagan administration, which claims that the Nicaraguan, Cuban, and Soviet gov-

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Auto workers fight for jobs, wages, benefits

BY JEFF POWERS AND PAT GROGAN

SEPTEMBER 19 — As the *Militant* goes to press, 17 locals of the United Auto Workers (UAW) are on strike at General Motors facilities across the country.

Despite their record-breaking profits, the owners of General Motors have turned a deaf ear to the demands of auto workers who want to regain what they lost in the 1982 concession contract. They are demanding better wages, working conditions, benefits, and job security.

GM's proposals were a slap in the face to auto workers. GM's owners demanded still more concessions: no wage increase, the expansion of a two-tier wage setup, and changes in work rules that would mean job combinations, speedup, worse working conditions, and a weaker union.

Selective strike

No agreement had been reached when the contract expired at midnight, September 14. Citing intransigence by the owners on union demands for wages and job security, UAW officials authorized 13 locals to go out over local issues. This meant 62,000 out of a total of 350,000 GM workers struck their plants on September 15.

The selective strike against GM is the first national auto strike since the 20-day strike against the Ford Motor Company in 1976.

The initial list of struck facilities — 12 assembly plants and the GM Technical Center in Warren, Michigan — involved less than 20 percent of the UAW's membership. GM said it would result in the shutdown of about 40 percent of automotive production.

The 12 assembly plants that were struck on September 15 were those turning out the hottest selling cars and trucks, and where



Striking United Auto Workers members at GM Technical Center in Warren, Michigan.

inventories were low.

The initial list of struck facilities were GM plants in Van Nuys, California; Arlington, Texas; Shreveport, Louisiana; Wentzville, Missouri; Bowling Green, Kentucky; Doraville, Georgia; Wilmington, Delaware; Linden, New Jersey; and five facilities in Michigan — Flint, Orion Township, two plants in Pontiac, and the GM Technical Center in Warren, Michigan.

Approximately 250,000 UAW members continue to work without a contract at 135 GM facilities.

Two UAW locals — one in Syracuse, New York, and the other in Lordstown, Ohio — went out briefly although they had

not been among the authorized locals.

Several others, including the Leeds local in Kansas City, Missouri, requested permission from UAW officials to join the walkout. This was denied.

The tactic of a selective strike is unpopular with many UAW members, who feel it weakens the union's hand against the employers.

In response to the strike, GM closed its Fisher Body Plant in Flint and laid off nearly 5,000 workers. GM said that close to 7,500 workers had been laid off since the strike began.

GM owners announced that the strike is costing them 8,000 cars and 1,600 trucks a day in lost production.

The 4,000 workers at the GM plant in Van Nuys, California, rejected a proposed agreement that was reached on local issues, and went back out on strike after having returned to work for a time.

The UAW announced today that it has granted permission to strike to four additional locals representing some 30,000 UAW members. These are Cadillac in Detroit, Truck and Bus in Flint, Truck and Bus in Indianapolis, and Oldsmobile Main in Lansing, Michigan.

Local GM contracts expired at the same time as the national agreement. The national contract covers wages and benefits. The locals negotiate issues such as work rules, forced overtime, job classifications, health and safety, and working conditions.

Traditionally, local issues are fought out after the national contract is signed. By authorizing the locals to go out first over local issues, the UAW has, in fact, organized a selective strike against GM.

Talks continue

While few details are known at this time about the negotiations between the owners of GM and the UAW officials, it has been reported that GM offered a small wage increase, plus cash bonuses to encourage early retirement.

A proposal for "job security" is under discussion that would give some workers with a certain amount of seniority a "guaranteed income" of an unspecified amount in the event of a layoff. The program is supposed to run for six years, but GM is said to be trying for a ceiling of \$1 billion. If present projections for layoffs continue, this fund would run out well be-

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W. Va. miners end strike at Peabody Coal

BY JOAN RADIN

CHARLESTON, W. Va. — One thousand members of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) returned to work September 17 at several Peabody Coal Co. mines in southern West Virginia, ending a major work stoppage against the coal giant.

The 360 members of UMWA Local 6608 struck Peabody's Montcoal complex in Raleigh County on September 6 when the company refused to honor a union brother's job-bidding rights. In less than a week, two more UMWA locals in Sundial and Twilight, West Virginia, had struck in sympathy, bringing the total of Peabody employees on strike to 1,000 and extending the strike to neighboring Boone County. Boone is the largest coal-producing county in the state.

The facts of the brother's case reveal the extent of the company's attacks on UMWA members' hard-won right to use seniority, not whatever suits the bosses, as the basis for filling jobs which come open for bid.

The strike began when a certified electrician working underground signed a posted bid on an open tippie (coal preparation plant) job as a dryer operator, a job he had previously performed on a temporary basis. Peabody promptly claimed the electrician was "not qualified" to do the job and awarded it to a less senior bidder.

After what turned out to be a totally phony promise from the company that the dispute could be settled fairly, the Montcoal miners returned to work for two shifts

on September 10. But the company didn't budge an inch. The wildcat was then resumed, with locals 2271 and 8873 at other Peabody mines joining their brothers and sisters.

As miners return to work, many are skeptical of receiving a just decision from the Arbitration Review Board, which is their next step in fighting Peabody on this issue.

Defend the right to abortion!

The enemies of the right to abortion are using the presidential elections to accelerate their ideological campaign against women's right to control their own bodies.

• Right-wing antiabortion groups have organized protests at Democratic Party campaign rallies all across the country — from Queens, New York, to Jackson, Mis-

EDITORIAL

issippi — to propagate the lie that abortion is murder.

• Republican candidate Ronald Reagan embraces this reactionary argument. "We are for life and against abortion," he says.

• The Catholic Church hierarchy nationwide is demanding the outlawing of abortion and denouncing candidates who don't measure up to its standards. New

The strike was nevertheless a blow to Peabody, and a sign of union power. Many miners feel the company provoked the strike expecting that the union would not fight back. Many coal operators have recently gotten away with similar contract violations.

Peabody figured wrong. The strike by Local 6608 brought production to a halt at

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York Archbishop John O'Connor, who leads the pack, has attacked Democratic vice-presidential candidate Geraldine Ferraro — herself an ardent opponent of abortion — for saying that there's more than one view on this issue within the Catholic Church.

"There is no flexibility," the archbishop declared. "It is the task of the church to affirm that abortion is death. It is the killing of an innocent creature."

• The Democrats — far from defending legal abortion — have been right in the forefront of attacking it, from the liberal standpoint. Ferraro and New York Gov. Mario Cuomo have been the prominent antiabortion spokespeople for the Democrats, both emphasizing their "personal" opposition to abortion wherever they speak.

All these capitalist politicians and the

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—SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE—

BY JIM WHITE

Interest in the contract showdown between the United Auto Workers (UAW) and the auto bosses spurred socialists in several areas to renew their efforts to sell the *Militant* at plant gates.

In Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota, salespeople took the *Militant's* coverage of the contract fight to the plants they sell at regularly. Participation in the sales by members of the Twin Cities branch of the Socialist Workers Party jumped from 44 percent to 78 percent in one week.

Tony Dutrow, organizer of the SWP branch in St. Louis, reported that in the week leading up to the contract deadline, the socialists decided to concentrate on hitting each shift at all the area auto plants.

The team that went to the General Motors plant at Wentzville sold 20 *Militants* and found a mood of determination. The Wentzville plant is one of GM's newest, having just opened in December. Still, one of the workers told Dutrow, "The company says they'll shut the plant down unless we agree to more concessions. We have to draw the line. We have to

be ready to say, 'Let them close it.'"

At one of the two plants in the huge 8,000-worker Chrysler complex, St. Louis salespeople found a high degree of interest in what the GM workers would do. The team sold the 15 *Militants* they had brought with them before the shift change was over. Dutrow said the team members found workers interested in the connection between their fight here and the U.S. war against the workers and farmers of Central America.

Altogether, more than 50 copies of the *Militant* were sold in St. Louis to Ford, GM, and Chrysler workers. Socialists there have decided to make these new sales part of their regular, weekly plant-gate effort. They plan on getting teams to each of the auto plants once, as well as resuming sales at coal mine portals in southern Illinois and at the big Granite City Steel plant outside St. Louis.

Socialists in Newark placed special emphasis on getting out to the big auto plants in New Jersey. Twenty-two *Militants* were sold by teams at GM's Linden assembly plant, Ford's Metuchen plant, and the Hyatt-Clark parts plant.

Three teams sold 12 papers at the GM Linden plant. When it was announced on Saturday that the plant was one of 13 authorized to strike, socialists began to make plans to relate to the new development.

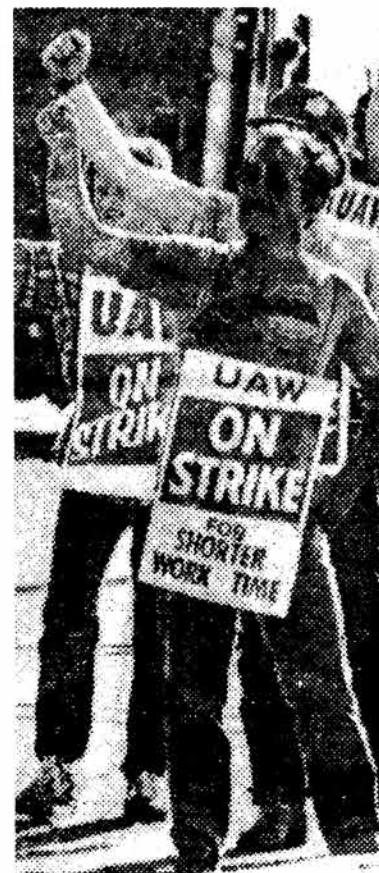
Don Mackle, a member of the Young Socialist Alliance in Newark, reported that the YSA members decided to postpone their regular Sunday afternoon meeting for a couple of hours in order to go to the Linden picket lines with the *Militant*, the *Young Socialist*, and the socialist campaign of Priscilla Schenk for U.S. Congress. They spent two hours talking to the dozen pickets there about the strike and the political issues related to it.

"The main concern of the workers we talked to," he said, "is job security. The discussion kept coming back to that, no matter what else we discussed. They knew about the Toledo AP Parts strike, and were interested in what we had to say about the British miners. They were emphatic that their fight is for a steady job, not wages or other considerations. They haven't had a strike there since 1970, when they won the '30-and-

out' provision in their retirement plan. This time they're fighting to try to keep what they've got."

The YSA members sold a copy of the *Militant*, and distributed Schenk campaign literature to all the pickets. Socialists in Newark plan to return to the picket lines and continue the discussions there while the strike lasts, as well as taking the *Militant* to other auto workers as they begin to gear up their fall plant gate sales efforts.

Andrew Pulley from Detroit told us that their plant gate efforts are most fruitful when they can get teams out during workers' lunch breaks. There's time then to have a real political discussion while workers get away from the plant for a little while. He says the workers he's talked to are trying to grapple with issues like job security and how it relates to imports. "Taking time," he said, "is important." It gives you a chance to get into better discussions and to offer an alternative to what's put out by the companies and the capitalist media. It also gives you a better chance to explain why workers should buy the *Militant*, said Pulley.



Striking auto workers outside GM plant in Linden, N.J.

Mason talks to St. Louis auto workers, coal miners

BY KIM KLEINMAN
AND ROBERT BUSCH

ST. LOUIS — Mel Mason brought his socialist campaign for U.S. president here as auto workers and coal miners faced contract expirations.

At a well-attended national news conference he held the day the United Auto Workers (UAW) struck 13 plants, Mason linked the fight against the U.S. war in Central America with attacks on the union movement.

"Workers at home and abroad face a common enemy — the U.S. rulers and their profit system, which enriches the few at the cost of enormous suffering for the immense majority of humanity," Mason said.

Throughout the week, Mason supporters sold his campaign's newspaper, the *Mili-*

tant, at auto-assembly plants in the area.

Twenty papers were sold at the GM assembly plant in Wentzville, Missouri, 40 miles outside of St. Louis.

Mason also visited two shift changes at an Exxon-owned coal mine outside of St. Louis. Supporters who work there report that the expected visit was a topic of conversation all during the week.

Mason shook hands with about a quarter of the crew on one shift.

Many miners related their current struggle for a just contract as being part of a bigger struggle between the employers and all workers, including the UAW's fight with the auto barons. "It's more than just the UMWA [United Mine Workers of America] this time," one miner said.

Mason pointed to the British coal miners' strike as an example of how solidarity

among unions can be organized.

Miners expressed concern about the possibility of the coal companies attempting to make them work a seven-day work-week. They also noted that the companies have been stockpiling coal in anticipation of a long strike.

Among the miners Mason met, he found an overwhelming determination to resist the coal operators' plans to get concessions from the UMWA.

One highlight of the tour was Mason's discussions with activists in the Black community here. He met with Dolores Williams, a leader in the fight against racist housing redevelopers in the Tiffany neighborhood. Williams spoke at the socialist campaign rally.

"They said they wanted to make this a 'nice neighborhood,'" she explained, "by getting rid of troublemakers like me."

After enduring a long legal battle and the fire bombing of her house earlier this year, Williams won the right to keep her home and continues to fight to save the homes of 21 other Black families.

"We won by struggling against them with marches and protests. I've learned a lot through struggle," she concluded.

Williams, a member of the International Association of Machinists at McDonnell Douglas, also urged UAW members to fight on against the kind of concession contract her union had been forced to accept.

Earlier this summer, Williams' community group and others extended solidarity to laundry workers on strike against Mor-

gan's Linen Supply. Some 30 Black women there walked out against the sweatshop conditions imposed on them by a racist boss.

Mason discussed the issues in the strike with the workers and later on a radio talk show. "The owner says 'laundries have always been hot,'" Mason told the radio audience. "But that's not the point. No one should have to work in 120 degree heat. The owner should be made to provide ventilation, clean up the maggots, and prevent the flooding."

At a campaign table in downtown East St. Louis, which was staffed by members of the Young Socialist Alliance, Mason and supporters met with dozens of Blacks. It is one of the poorest cities in the United States. One coal miner who, along with three other miners had gone out with Mason after work, stopped by for more information on the YSA.

This young miner was especially glad to hear Mason tell the truth about the important progress that working people have made in revolutionary Cuba and Nicaragua, since he had never really believed the lies of the U.S. government. He told Mason, "I guess I've been trying to be a socialist all my life."

Staff writer Harry Ring recently underwent phase two of a scheduled two-part surgery. We expect him back after he recuperates.

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Ohio socialists celebrate ballot victory

BY MORRIS STARKS

CINCINNATI — Mel Mason, Socialist Workers Party candidate for president, joined Kathleen Denny, socialist candidate for Congress in the 1st C.D., at a September 9 rally here.

The rally celebrated a victory for democratic rights won by the socialist campaign.

Denny, a machinist at General Electric's Evendale plant and a member of International Association of Machinists Local 912, has recently won a fight for ballot status. A U.S. senior district judge, David Porter, ordered the Hamilton County Board of Elections to place Denny's name on the November ballot. Her name will appear along with those of Mel Mason and Andrea González, Socialist Workers candidate for vice-president.

Denny's campaign filed a lawsuit last March that challenged the constitutionality of Ohio's early filing deadline for independent congressional candidates. Under that law, Denny would have been forced to gather 1,567 signatures of registered voters by February 23 — in the dead of winter.

In a 14-page memorandum the judge agreed with Denny's claim that the early filing deadline violates her constitutional rights and those of her supporters. Denny and her attorney, Robert B. Newman, argued that the early filing deadline not only restricts ballot access, but also discriminates against candidates and voters whose political preference lies outside the two major political parties.

With the lawsuit pending, Denny's campaign supporters gathered more than 3,000 signatures in May. On June 7 the Board of Elections verified that the nominating petitions submitted by Denny contained the re-

quired number of signatures but still refused to place her name on the ballot.

In a statement on the victory, Denny said, "Our legal challenge to Ohio's early filing deadline was necessary to defend the freedoms guaranteed by the Bill of Rights. Working people who want to put forward a program in the elections different from those of the major parties are hampered by the legal obstacles to ballot access. This victory removed one of these obstacles."

Speaking at the campaign rally, Denny contrasted the "real story of Cincinnati" with Reagan's claim that Cincinnati is proof of the success of his economic policies. "It is a story of union-busting, lost jobs, and plant shutdowns," she said. She called attention to a news conference held by local Democrats at a shut down valve plant during Reagan's visit to the city.

"The Democrats were a little late making an appearance at the Lunkenheimer plant — after it was closed," she said, "when they were sure they wouldn't have to talk with or be confronted by any steelworkers."

Denny pointed out that her Republican opponent, Norm Murdock, openly embraces Reagan's policies. Her Democratic opponent, Tom Luken, falsely claims to have answers to the problems working

people are facing. Denny took Luken to task for his two anti-working class "solutions" to the problem of jobs: protectionism and the B-1 bomber.

Two other speakers shared the platform with the socialist candidates. Dr. Ronn Rucker explained the issues involved in a free-speech lawsuit in which his sons, Benjamin, 14, and Andrew, 12, are among the plaintiffs.

On August 20, Pres. Reagan spoke in a downtown Cincinnati public plaza. As spectators entered the plaza through two entrances equipped with metal detectors, Secret Service agents and uniformed police took away their protest signs. (See story in September 7 *Militant*.)

Rucker's sons; their mother, Ruth Rucker; and eight others have filed a \$200,000 damage suit charging that their rights were violated. The suit also asks for an injunction against the White House, Reagan-Bush campaign committee, and the Secret Service policy of denying access to public places to those who oppose President Reagan and his policies.

Rucker attacked the U.S. military budget, the invasion of Grenada, and government violations of democratic rights. He said he was pleased Denny won her lawsuit because now he can "have someone



Militant/Salm Kolis
SWP candidate in Ohio's 1st Congressional District, Kathleen Denny.

to vote for" in his congressional district.

Patricia Hamer, a founding member and spokesperson for the Free Grenada Committee, spoke about the U.S. invasion and the importance of the committee's continued activities in opposition to the U.S. occupation of that island.

W. Va. SWP hits Klan ballot challenge

BY DAVID SALNER

CHARLESTON, W. Va. — The Socialist Workers Party has been certified for ballot status in West Virginia. But the fight to get a hearing doesn't end there, especially when a chief election official is in league with the Ku Klux Klan.

This collaboration between Secretary of State A. James Manchin and the KKK came to light on September 12 when a supporter of the Socialist Workers campaign witnessed Manchin attempting to hand over the SWP's ballot petitions to members of the Klan.

When the SWP campaign supporter expressed outrage over the Klan getting their hands on the petitions, Manchin backed off and was prevented from turning the petitions over to the KKK.

Joan Radin, a working coal miner and the SWP candidate for U.S. Senate,



Militant/Charles Ostrofsky
Joan Radin, socialist senatorial candidate from West Virginia.

blasted Manchin's action as "the continuation of an official, ongoing campaign against the right of working-class parties to participate in the electoral process."

In her widely-covered news statement, Radin pointed out what it would mean for Manchin to turn over the petitions — containing names and addresses — to a terrorist organization whose history of violence and murder against Blacks, unionists, Jews, and radicals is all too well known.

The incident grew out of the Klan's public claim to Manchin that "due to the Marxist nature of the Socialist Workers Party, we find it hard to believe that over 14,000 West Virginians would sign this kind of petition."

The SWP obtained almost double the 7,377 signatures needed by presenting their petitions to coal miners and other working people who thought a revolutionary working-class party had every right to be on the ballot.

G.J. Mullins, Grand Klokard of the KKK, charged that most of the names "are fictitious, deceased, unregistered, or are the

names of domestic pets owned by the Socialist Workers Party members."

When Manchin tried to turn the nominating petitions over to the KKK in his office, he gave credence to these ridiculous charges.

Widespread TV, radio, and newspaper coverage of the government-Klan collusion and Radin's response has helped win support for the SWP's political fight against the Klan's attempted intimidation. A major editorial in the September 14 Charleston *Daily Mail* supported the socialists' ballot fight, saying that "election fraud is not uncommon, but in this case the KKK hasn't a leg to stand on."

The fact that Manchin, a Democrat, encouraged the Klan, points to the necessity of a working-class alternative to bipartisan rule by the rich. Radin explained that both the Democrats and Republicans embolden right-wingers as part of the government's attacks on democratic rights. These attacks will intensify as both parties back the coal operators in their contract fight with the United Mine Workers and continue to escalate the U.S. war in Central America.

State of California denies Communist Party November ballot spot

The state of California has undemocratically excluded Communist Party presidential and vice-presidential candidates Gus Hall and Angela Davis from the November ballot. The *Daily World*, the newspaper reflecting the views of the Communist Party, reported that the Hall-Davis ticket submitted 157,000 signatures, well over the 116,000 required for ballot status for independent candidates.

On September 12 the California State Supreme Court unanimously refused to hold a hearing on a suit challenging the decision of Secretary of State March Fong Eu.

Mel Mason and Andrea González, Socialist Workers presidential and vice-presidential candidates, addressed a telegram to March Fong Eu "strongly protesting your undemocratic ruling."

"California not only has one of the most restrictive ballots in the country," Mason and González asserted, "but has repeatedly used every method possible to rule the Communist Party and the Socialist Workers Party and other parties and candidates off the ballot."

"The Communist Party candidates have more than met the requirements," said Mason and González. "Our campaign demands that you certify them immediately."

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MASON FOR PRESIDENT — GONZÁLEZ FOR VICE-PRESIDENT

Mich. judge keeps SWP off ballot

BY JEAN MARK

DETROIT — In response to a lawsuit filed September 11 by the Socialist Workers Party, a U.S. district judge on September 14 upheld the State of Michigan's refusal to certify the socialist candidates for ballot status.

The socialist's attorney, Daniel Avrunin, filed an appeal to this decision on September 18 in the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Andrew Pulley, the Socialist Workers candidate for Congress in the 1st C.D., blasted the undemocratic ruling and vowed that the socialists would continue to fight. "We are appealing this decision to a higher court, but win or lose, we will continue to campaign for socialism. This gross injustice only reconfirms our belief that to end union-busting, racism, and war it will take more than elections, where the powers-that-be change the rules in the middle of the game."

Socialist Workers campaign supporters turned in more than 30,700 signatures on April 25, far exceeding the 19,963 required to put the Socialist Workers presidential and vice-presidential candidates, Mel Mason and Andrea González; senatorial candidate Helen Meyers; and Pulley on the ballot.

After the signatures were filed, the state officials announced that they were changing the certification process and were going to check only a small random sample of the petitions' signatures. On that basis, they said, they would determine whether to cer-

tify the socialist candidates. After sitting on the petitions for over three months, a state board composed of Democrats and Republicans ruled that the socialists did not have enough signatures. However, the socialist campaign forced the head of the elections division to admit that the random sample was full of errors.

A second sample, using the same procedure as the first, was taken and on the basis of it the state ruled the socialists off the ballot.

During a September 7 hearing where this decision was announced, the head of the elections division admitted that many of the signatures that the state ruled invalid were in fact those of registered voters. The state refused to do a thorough check of their own records. Based on their incomplete search, they ruled enough signatures invalid to keep the socialists off the ballot.

In his ruling, the judge did not even address this undemocratic swindle. Instead, he parroted the state's argument that the socialists couldn't be put on the ballot because the ballots had been sent to the printers.

The state ruled against the socialists on September 7 and sent the ballots to the printers three days later, effectively eliminating any chance for the socialist candidates to appeal the undemocratic and underhanded methods of the state.

The district court judge fell right in step and, ignoring the basic constitutional right of due process, rubber stamped the state's action.

Ohio butchers strike Kroger supermarkets

BY SUSAN LOMAN

CLEVELAND — On September 11, 1,400 members of United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 880 went on strike against Kroger Co., the Cincinnati-based grocery giant that has been closing stores and forcing concession contracts on its employees in Pennsylvania, Michigan, and elsewhere in Ohio.

Taking a cue from AP Parts in Toledo, Kroger announced on September 4 that they were simply going to impose a concession contract on the local, despite the fact that the meatcutters' division of Local 880 had voted overwhelmingly to reject it in July.

Kroger is using the now-familiar tactic of blackmail against the UFCW, threatening to close 25 stores in northeastern Ohio unless the workers agree to concessions. Kroger is demanding that the clerks and meatcutters agree to a \$2-an-hour cut in pay, reductions in medical benefits, and keeping the stores open later in the evenings and on weekends and holidays.

In July the retail clerks' division of Local 880 voted to accept these concessions, fearing that Kroger would make good on its threat to close their stores. The meatcutters' division, however, rejected the offer and refused to bow to company pressure to have another vote. When the company announced they would implement the contract anyway, the meatcutters decided they had no choice but to strike. In addition, they have filed charges with the National Labor Relations Board, charging Kroger with failure to bargain in good faith.

Mack Adams, a meatcutter and Local 880 negotiator, explained what is at stake in the September 11 *Plain Dealer*. "Kroger is trying to break our union and if we don't take a stand now, we are going to lose everything," he said.

The strike has won the support of the Cleveland AFL-CIO Executive Board, which has asked all locals and members to honor the strike. Especially important for Local 880 is the support of the Teamsters, who make most of the deliveries to the stores, and who are not crossing the picket lines.

While Kroger management is attempting to make some deliveries themselves, it became clear right away that backing a tractor-trailer into a loading dock is not an easy proposition for these scab drivers. "After 80 minutes of jockeying, the trailer was parked at an angle to the dock and in no position for unloading," reported the September 11 *Plain Dealer* about one such attempt at the Parma Heights store.

Many working people in the Cleveland area are showing their support for the strikers by not crossing the picket lines to shop at Kroger's stores, despite Kroger's claims that everything is "business as usual."

In a further show of solidarity, meatcutters from other UFCW locals have joined the picket lines, pointing out that if Kroger is successful against Local 880, then they will be the next victims.

Many retail clerks are not crossing the picket lines, despite company claims that they are required to report for work because the clerks' division of Local 880 approved the contract. The meatcutters feel they have the support of the clerks, including those who are continuing to work.

On September 12, Kroger began hiring scabs to replace the striking meatcutters and clerks who were honoring the picket lines. Last week, the company sent a letter to former employees in Akron, inviting them to apply for jobs in Cleveland. Anticipating a strike by Local 880, Kroger offered to pay \$4 an hour to workers who had made \$10 an hour in their Akron stores before they were shut!

Gerry McBurney, a meatcutter who has worked for Kroger for 20 years, described the meatcutters' disgust with Kroger in the September 14 *Plain Dealer*. "We were not asking for more wages in our contract, but enough is enough," he said. "We already gave up 70 cents an hour last year in con-

cessions along with three holidays.

"At first I believed Kroger was sincere in seeking concessions and stating the stores here would be closed. I already lived through the store closings in Akron.

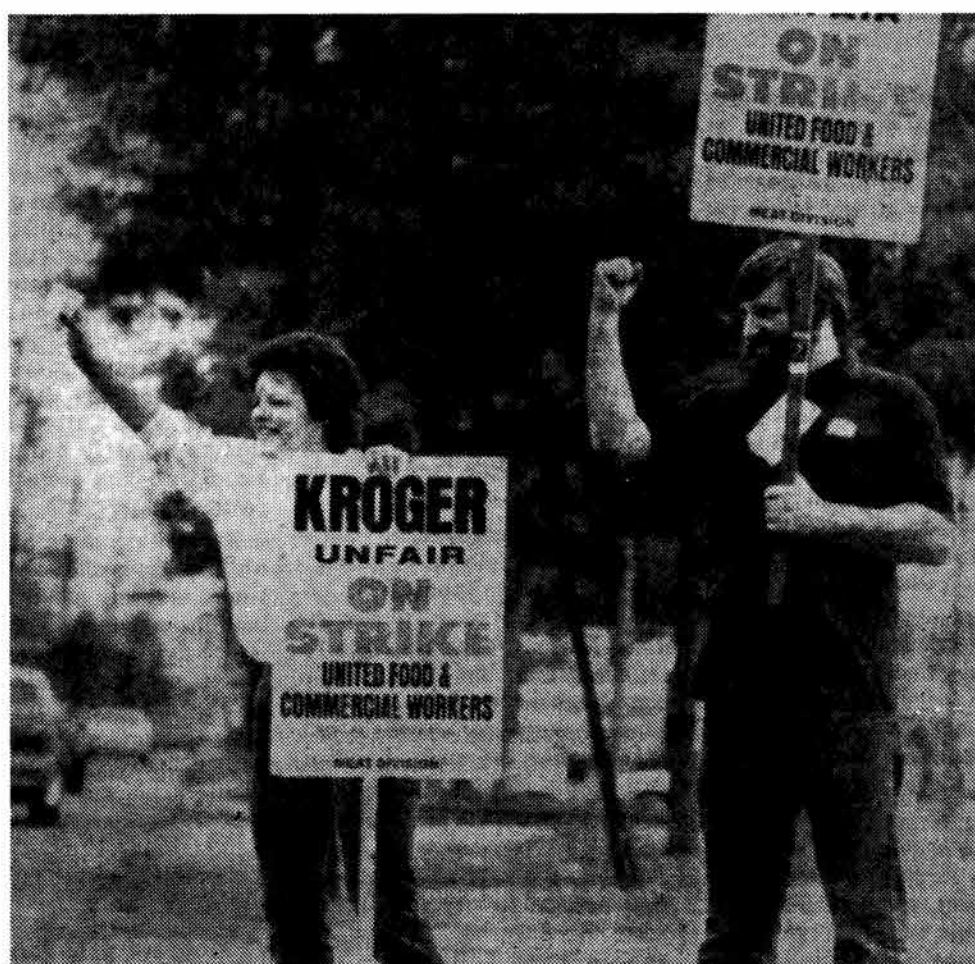
"Now, for the first time in years, I think enough garbage has been tossed around by the company and if they want to close the stores, then let them close the stores."

Meanwhile, UFCW members are continuing to work at other area stores, although their contract also expired on September 11. This is because negotiations between the union and the Cleveland and Akron-Canton Food Industry Committees covering non-Kroger supermarkets are continuing. Most stores have gone ahead and imposed the late evening and weekend hours that the Local 880 meatcutters rejected.

Omari Musa, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress in the 21st C.D., visited the picket line at Barney's (owned by Kroger) on September 12 to show his support for the strike and talk with the pickets.

"This strike is a real inspiration for working people in this whole area," Musa said.

"We've had nothing but a steady diet of plant shutdowns, massive layoffs, and brutal concession contracts for the past several years. Now the meatcutters are standing up and saying 'Enough!' The labor movement here should do everything possible to help mobilize the support and solidarity Local 880 will need in their fight against Kroger."



United Food and Commercial Workers union meatcutters picket a Kroger chain store in Cleveland. UFCW Local 880 meatcutters struck against unilateral move by bosses to impose a concession contract.

Merck workers vote to end 19-week strike

BY MARY ROCHE

RAHWAY, N.J. — "It's an absolutely horrendous package," Paul Renner, Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union (OCAW) Local 8-575 chief steward, told the *Elizabeth Daily Journal*.

He was referring to a national master contract and local contract approved by more than 3,000 Merck & Co. employees after some 19 weeks on the picket line.

Workers voted September 13 to accept a four-year contract that local union leaders say will net workers less than the proposals they rejected in April and July. About 66 percent of those voting in five states approved the contract, a union bargaining committee spokesman said.

"The people were just beaten. They starved us into submission," Renner said.

The pact calls for cost-saving work rule changes, which the union leadership had said it feared would lead to layoffs. The company offered verbal assurances of job security for present employees, but refused to put them in writing.

The new master contract calls for a two-tier wage structure. New employees hired after May 1, 1985, will not receive the current cost of living adjustment. Each year they will receive a 30 cent an hour increase until over a 10-year period they reach parity with current employees.

An earlier proposal by the executive director of the New Jersey Board of Mediation had included a two-tier wage system with no provision for eventual parity for new workers.

A brochure produced by OCAW Local 8-575, "Two-tier: A Way to Keep Your Wages Down," explained the union-busting implications of a two-tier wage structure. "How can any Union that professes to represent everyone equally," the brochure asks, "have members making substantially less money performing the same job?"

The pact also calls for increased medical deductibles.

Retroactive to May, it freezes base pay, with a 15-cent hourly COLA wage increase in its final year. It calls for lump-sum payments of up to \$700 on May 1, 1985; an \$800 lump sum in 1986; and \$500 in 1987.

"The concept of not putting the money into wages is a quantum leap backward," Renner said.

The Rahway and Hawthorne, New Jersey, workers were locked out by the company May 4, four days after rejecting the company's "final offer." One month later, the two sister unions representing workers

at six other plants, which had been operating without a master contract, went on strike.

In late July, the company said it considered the Rahway and Hawthorne workers to be on strike, after they rejected a proposal to temporarily return to work under the terms of the final offer the union had rejected April 30.

Renner told a Newark Militant Labor Forum in July that solidarity for the struggle against Merck & Co. was needed nationally and internationally.

United Auto Workers members from the nearby General Motors Linden plant frequently joined the OCAW informational picket lines.

Five hundred unionists joined OCAW Local 8-575 members July 11 in a mass picket line, march, and solidarity meeting, organized by the New Jersey Industrial Union Council, an arm of the state AFL-CIO, and 17 unions.

Local 8-575 Pres. Joe Anderson traveled to England, Ireland, Belgium, and the Netherlands to win solidarity from Merck's unionized employees there. The trip was arranged through the International Chemical and Energy Workers Federation. "Any workers' representative who deals with a transnational corporation such as Merck has to have dialogue with the workers in other countries," Anderson said.

Merck & Co. is the largest manufacturer of prescription drugs in the United States. Merck's profits in the first quarter of 1984

were running 9 percent ahead of the \$450 million earned by the giant company in 1983. But Donald Brooks, chief negotiator for the company, said, "We don't see that as an issue."

"We want to be sure they look favorable 10 years from now. The time to take action [on contract changes] is not when a company is unhealthy, but when a company is healthy," Brooks told the *Newark Star Ledger*.

None of the dozens of workers interviewed by the *Daily Journal* after the contract ratification meeting said they were happy about a package that offered less than previous offers they had rejected. A large number said the bitterness they felt toward the company would not easily dissipate. "What are they [Merck] gaining but what they're stealing from us," said Martin Korab, a rigger with the company for 10 years.

"I voted no," said Lenora Crosswell. "I feel like my life's just drained out. But I feel we've gotten a lousy deal."

OCAW Local 8-575's leadership opposed both the local and master contracts, although the majority of the Interunion Council, which represents the three sister unions at all eight plants, voted to recommend approval of the master pact.

Mary Roche is a member of International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 877 at Exxon's Bayway refinery in Linden, New Jersey. Local 877 sent \$500 to OCAW Local 8-575 in solidarity with its strike.

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U.S.-trained troops massacre peasants in El Salvador

BY GEOFF MIRELOWITZ

Two recent massacres of Salvadoran civilians have bared the brutal nature of the U.S.-backed regime in El Salvador, which is headed by Pres. José Napoleón Duarte. Crack troops from the Salvadoran army's Atlacatl battalion — an elite unit trained in the United States — murdered more than 100 defenseless peasants in two attacks in the neighboring provinces of Cuscatlán and Cabañas in July and August.

Meanwhile, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz "certified" September 14 that the Duarte regime was eligible for continued U.S. military aid on the grounds of its alleged "continued progress on land reform, free elections, freedom of association, the rule of law and the development of an effective judicial system, the termination of death squad activities, and action against those responsible for such activities."

This bald-faced lie shows that the U.S. government not only trains the Salvadoran army, but finances and encourages its day-to-day terror against Salvadoran workers and farmers. And this involvement is escalating.

Between July 18 and 22, the Atlacatl battalion brutally murdered 68 undefended peasants because they were sympathizers and supporters of the freedom fighters of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN).

The facts came out in the United States in a front-page story in the September 9 *New York Times*. In August the Salvadoran Roman Catholic Church's legal aid office issued a report confirming the charges. Subsequently three U.S. reporters traveled to Los Llanitos and interviewed peasants who survived the terror.

The killings took place in six different places over the four-day period. It was an act of terrorist retaliation for a successful FMLN military victory, a major operation against the Cerrón Grande dam in June.

The defenseless residents were not FMLN guerrilla fighters. However, the region is controlled by the FMLN "with the active support of the peasants," according to James LeMoyné's story in the *Times*. This was evidently enough reason to justify the wholesale killing. It was clearly an act aimed at intimidating other peasants who support the FMLN-led struggle against U.S. imperialist domination of El Salvador.

"It was a real massacre," Napoleón Gámez told the *Times*. Gámez said he was the FMLN political militia leader in charge of Los Llanitos, though not an armed combatant of the FMLN.

A Catholic church investigator "with no ties to the guerrillas," according to LeMoyné, spent four days to a week in the area compiling names of those who had been killed.

When the reporters returned to the village, the peasants they talked to were able

Artists' Nicaragua trip

Nicaraguan cultural workers have again invited a group of U.S. artists and intellectuals to witness the cultural and social reconstruction of Nicaragua. The invitation comes from the Sandinist Cultural Workers Association (ASTC), a federation of seven cultural unions in Nicaragua, and its corresponding U.S. organization, Ventana, based in New York City.

Highlights of the tour will be the opportunity to witness Nicaragua's presidential and constituent assembly elections on November 4 and to attend performances of the International Theatre Festival to be held November 8-18 in Managua.

Previous delegations have met with head of the Nicaraguan junta, Daniel Ortega, and Sister Mary Hartman of the Human Rights Commission.

The next delegation will begin its nine-day trip to Nicaragua on November 2. Additional participants can apply to Ventana at (212) 586-3700.

to name 42 of the 68 victims listed by the church organization.

Eighteen of the 42 named victims were less than 12 years old.

The peasants reported that the army had burned many of the bodies. The soldiers also destroyed roofs of houses and cut down fields of corn. The reporters found evidence of all these incidents.

"If we don't run they kill us. If we do run they kill us," said one peasant about the regime's troops. A reporter tried to interview Gámez' six-year-old son Noel, who had hidden with his father during the attack. The traumatized child broke into tears, covered his face and ran into a nearby hut.

The Atlacatl battalion was also responsible for a 1981 massacre of 500 villagers in El Mozote, in Morazán Province. Salvadoran President Duarte has ordered an "investigation" of the latest massacre — to be carried out by the army high command.

The ink was barely dry on Duarte's "investigation" order when his troops gunned down unarmed peasants on the banks of the Gualsinga River, which lies about 40 miles north of San Salvador, the capital.

In an August 28 attack led by the Atlacatl battalion, the villages of Las Vueltas, Hacienditas, and Leonese were stormed by Salvadoran troops. The army shelled the hamlet of El Tamarindo, killing at least one young girl. The Roman Catholic Church's legal aid office in San Salvador reported that by September 14 they had collected the names of 34 people who were killed.

Many more people are believed dead. Whole families are missing, said church spokespeople.

Salvadoran troops drove 300-400 peasants up six miles of steep mountain passes to the bank of the Gualsinga River. There, on August 30, the army surrounded the villagers, who tried to scatter. The troops opened fire. Many peasants, having nowhere to run, jumped into the rapids of the Gualsinga. Reporters found the broken bodies of many of them in a gully leading from the river.

At a news conference on the massacres, Duarte tried to blame the FMLN for the murders. He claimed that the FMLN guerrillas used unarmed civilians as "shields" to protect them from army attacks.

But it is Duarte's regime and its U.S. backers that are responsible for the murder of peasants in these recent massacres and the many others that have yet to come to light.

Mel Mason denounces kidnappings

BY GEOFF MIRELOWITZ

Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate Mel Mason blasted the September 5 kidnapping of Nicaraguan revolutionary leaders Ray Hooker and Patricia Delgado. The two Sandinistas were seized by Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries in the Bluefields area on Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast.

Hooker is a Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) candidate for the National Constituent Assembly from Bluefields. Delgado, an FSLN zone secretary, was touring local communities with Hooker explaining the FSLN program.

"This action," Mel Mason said in a statement to the press, "is another in a series of attempts to behead the workers and farmers government of Nicaragua, demoralize the population, and create the conditions for a return to the political rule of the capitalist class which held power until 1979."

Mason also shared his personal recollection of Hooker who, he said, "I had the honor of meeting during the fifth anniversary celebration of the Nicaraguan revolution in July."

Mason travelled for two weeks in Nicaragua on a tour sponsored by Militant/Prospectiva Mundial Tours, Inc., and has been talking to U.S. working people about what he saw there.



Salvadoran soldiers have stepped up terror against peasants

W. Coast trade unionists return from Nicaragua

BY BETSY FARLEY

Leaders of several major international unions recently returned from a week-long fact-finding tour to Nicaragua. The tour, organized by the West Coast-based Labor Network on Central America, included meetings with Nicaraguan trade union and government officials, visits to factories and farms, and interviews with Nicaraguan working people.

Delegation members included George Popyack, international vice-president of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME); Nita Brueggeman, Northwest Region director of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union; Sandra Cooper-Morgan, California president of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU); Teri Mast, president of International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU) Local 37; Roger Auerbach, recent president of the Oregon Federation of Teachers; and Sumi Haru, recording secretary of the Screen Writers Guild.

Also on the tour were several local officials of AFSCME, SEIU, and other

unions.

The aim of the tour was to bring first-hand information on the situation of Nicaraguan workers and farmers to U.S. workers and to build opposition in the U.S. labor movement to the growing U.S. government war against the Nicaraguan revolution.

According to Angel Doniego, a tour organizer and member of ILWU Local 37, plans are being set for a labor reception and a report-back meeting in the Bay Area. "We also want to get tour participants before local meetings of as many unions in the Bay Area as possible," Doniego explained.

"The more U.S. workers know the truth about the gains and goals of the Nicaraguan workers and farmers, the stronger will be the pressure on our unions to actively oppose U.S. government interventionist policies in Central America."

The Labor Network on Central America can be contacted at P.O. Box 864, Oakland, Calif. 94668 or by telephoning (415) 444-3088. Materials are available in English and Spanish.

Pastora holds Sandinistas prisoner

BY ELLEN KRATKA

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Edén Pastora, chief of one of the U.S.-financed, counterrevolutionary groups attacking Nicaragua, announced September 14 that he is holding two Sandinista leaders prisoner. Ray Hooker, a Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) candidate for the Na-

tional Constituent Assembly, and Patricia Delgado, FSLN zone political secretary for the southern part of the Atlantic Coast, were both kidnapped September 5 while on a campaign tour just outside the port city of Bluefields.

Their abduction is part of an escalating wave of kidnappings that has taken place this month. In the second week of September alone, 51 Nicaraguans were kidnapped, 44 of them peasants. Most of the kidnappings took place in the Segovia mountains and the Matagalpa area, near the Honduran border, where U.S.-paid mercenaries of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) operate.

The other seven kidnappings — including those of Hooker and Delgado — occurred in southern Zelaya Province on the Atlantic Coast, where Pastora's forces operate.

Pastora announced he hopes to exchange prisoners with the Nicaraguan government. The reply of Selena Delgado, Patricia's sister and also an FSLN member, was printed on the front page of the FSLN daily *Barricada*. "We cannot negotiate with the life of my sister," Selena said. "It would be like negotiating with the lives of our martyrs; it would be like negotiating with our spilled blood; like negotiating the future of the revolution."

The Nicaraguan government says it has reliable reports that Hooker and Delgado are being held in Costa Rica, where Pastora is based. Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto has sent a note to the Costa Rican government requesting its help in locating the prisoners and assuring their safe return to Nicaragua.

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Auto workers discuss their views on strike, jobs, imports

BY PAT GROGAN

When the United Auto Workers (UAW) contract expired on September 14, the UAW officialdom called 13 locals — whose members work at GM-owned plants — out on strike over "local issues." The owners of GM and Ford are demanding big concessions from auto workers. The UAW leadership has focused its efforts in the negotiations on obtaining a "job security" plan from the companies, which would center on restricting the imports of cars and parts.

Militant correspondents from around the country, many of whom are auto workers, went to UAW picket lines and plants to find out what UAW members think about the issues involved in the contract fight, including concessions, imports, job security, union solidarity, and how to use union power.

Valerie Johnson works at the GM plant in Framingham, Massachusetts, which employs about 3,400 workers. They voted two-to-one against the 1982 concession contract. In the present contract fight, they voted overwhelmingly for strike authorization.

Johnson said that the workers at her plant were extremely angry at GM and convinced that they had to fight the company. They felt that the whole union should be out together.

As the strike deadline approached, one worker told Johnson, "We are human beings. Prices have gone up, the price of cars has gone up, but our wages haven't."

'Times are bad'

"Times are bad," said a Scottish worker who had been there 10 years. "Ten years ago, in the cushion room where I work, 10 people used to do the job that three are doing now."

A 20-year-old white worker explained, "I think this idea of job security is a farce. There is no job security at GM. If GM wants to shut down, they're going to do it. If they don't have the laws to do it, they'll change the laws, because they own the

government. All this talk about job security is just playing with our minds to keep us from getting back what we lost."

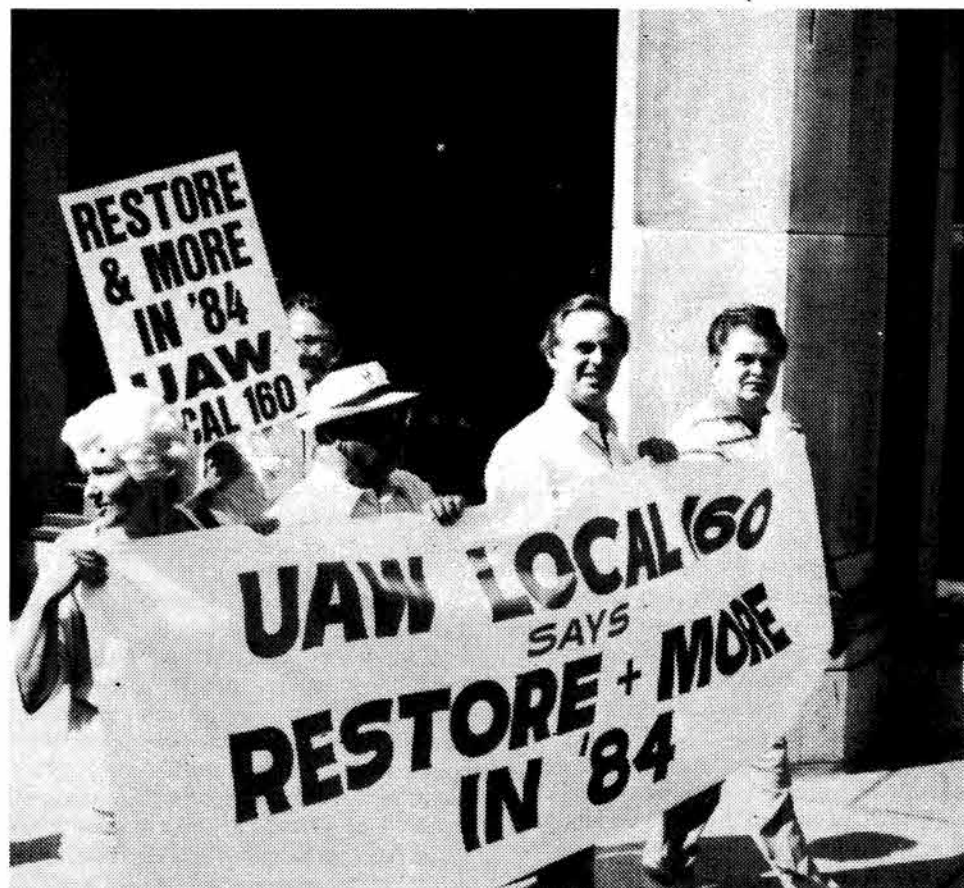
Referring to the "selective strike," a young Black worker said, "I don't like it. We lose our power."

"We should strike, all three of us: Chrysler, Ford and GM," said another worker.

Two auto workers from the plant attended a Boston Militant Forum discussion on the lessons of the British coal miners strike. One of the auto workers told the forum about the brutal conditions auto workers face. He especially talked about the effect of massive forced overtime. "Life is reduced to producing thousands of cars weekly for GM and their profits." Then, he said, workers had to face a 15-month layoff. "They just put the padlock on the door and threw us out on the streets."

Imports

Most auto workers are deeply concerned with job security. Most accept the UAW officialdom's view that imports cause layoffs. However, a real discussion is beginning to take place on this issue. Some workers are starting to see that the anti-imports campaign lets GM off the hook and prevents workers from waging a united



UAW members demonstrate at GM headquarters in July as negotiations opened.

fight for jobs against the employers.

At the forum, Christine Gauvreau, a member of the International Union of Electronic Workers and the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate, explained that it's wrong to blame workers from other countries for unemployment. It divides and weakens working people, she said, and takes the fire off the real cause of unemployment — the profit-drive of the bosses.

Gauvreau, who had recently been to Britain to talk to striking miners, pointed to the strike there as an example of how to fight for jobs. "And," she said, "just as the British miners are learning about the Irish struggle and its link with their struggle, so U.S. workers have to understand that we can't be drawn into going to war with our brothers and sisters in Central America and the Caribbean. The whole 'anti-imports,'

Continued on next page

Auto workers fight for jobs, wages

Continued from front page

fore six years.

The plan sounds like a variation of the "Guaranteed Income Stream" program negotiated under the 1982 concession contract. This program proved to be a fake. Workers with a certain amount of seniority were also supposed to be guaranteed an income if they were laid off. But, as in the present proposal, the hitch was that they had to accept a job wherever GM told them

to go. This has resulted in thousands of "migratory" workers who have had to leave their homes and families to accept jobs at GM's command.

GM is reportedly asking concessions in work rules in exchange for this so-called job security program. The auto bosses' original demand for expansion of the two-tier wage setup has not gotten much media play. In addition to raking in big profits, the two-tier proposal deals a body blow to the unity of the UAW.

What the companies want

Citing "fierce, world-wide competition which exists today in our industry," the GM proposal to the UAW said that GM employees' wages and benefits were too high. Using the false argument that "we're all in this together," GM's owners refused wage increases and demanded still more givebacks. They proposed expansion of the two-tier wage system and substantial changes in work rules, including job combinations and speed up.

To beat the competition and preserve jobs, the bosses' argument goes, U.S. workers must work longer hours for less pay.

The employers use the threat of competition from employers in other countries to pit workers in this country against workers in other countries. They use the threat of imports to bludgeon U.S. workers into accepting more concessions.

A strategy to fight back against the offensive of the employers must begin with solidarity. International solidarity against the international offensive of the employers is needed.

'Buy American'

The UAW officials have made a "Buy American," "Stop imports," campaign the heart of their scheme to save jobs.

Millions of dollars have been spent on chauvinist television commercials that say we have to fight to "save American jobs" from foreign workers.

As the picket lines went up, UAW buttons appeared with red, white, and blue flags and the slogan, "Keep jobs and wages here."

The UAW officials have demanded curbs on what they call "outsourcing" as their answer to the unemployment that looms over auto workers' heads. They de-

fine outsourcing as getting parts from nonunion shops in this country or from plants abroad.

The bosses use outsourcing to nonunion shops, like they use runaway shops in the South, to break the unions. But the only solution to this very real problem of "outsourcing" within the United States must begin with solidarity among workers, especially organizing the unorganized.

The primary concern of the UAW officials is not domestic "outsourcing," however. They almost exclusively focus their fire against imports and workers from other countries.

This strategy disarms and misleads UAW workers who want to fight back. It prevents a genuine fight for job security, which must focus on the real cause of unemployment — the profit drive of the employers. Stopping imports won't save jobs.

Workers should not pay the price for the employers' crisis. What's good for employers' profits is not good for workers.

An all-out fight by the UAW ranks to defend themselves against the effects of the auto barons' profit drive must include solidarity with other workers here and abroad. A fight for a shorter workweek with no cut in pay, and other demands directed against the employers, would be a good first step.

The "Buy American" campaign is a deadly, losing strategy that falsely ties the interests of U.S. workers to the interests of U.S. employers. Just as the owners of GM and other corporations are trying to increase the profits they squeeze out of U.S. workers, so they are determined to defeat workers in the colonial and semicolonial countries who are trying to break the grip of superexploitation. The U.S. government is today carrying out a shooting war against the workers and farmers of Nicaragua and the people of El Salvador for precisely this reason.

A strategy based on genuine solidarity and unity of workers — nationally and internationally — would immeasurably strengthen the UAW in its fight to stop union-busting, forced overtime, two-tier wage systems, and speedup. It would help mobilize support for an effective fight for jobs, decent wages, and working conditions.

Jeff Powers is a member of UAW Local 93 at the General Motors Leeds Plant in Kansas City, Missouri.

Socialist workers boost fund

BY YVONNE HAYES

The strike against General Motors by members of the United Auto Workers (UAW) and the coming confrontation between the coal bosses and the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) present big opportunities and a big challenge to the socialist campaign.

Mel Mason and Andrea González, the Socialist Workers Party candidates, are the only presidential ticket with a fighting perspective for workers who face the employers' offensive in coal and auto, and who stand squarely on the side of these embattled unionists.

The socialist candidates responded to the auto strike by issuing a statement at simultaneous press conferences in St. Louis and Indianapolis. They pointed to the centrality of the fight against war in Central America and the Caribbean to combating concessions and union-busting at home. They called for international working-class solidarity in the face of the employers' offensive — from Detroit and Toledo to Managua and San Salvador.

Mason and González are currently touring coal and auto centers nationally to carry this message to thousands who are involved in these struggles and to their allies among Blacks, Latinos, women, and family farmers.

Across the country, supporters of the socialist campaign are going to the factory gates and mine portals, into working-class communities, and to farmers with these ideas. Special sales of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*, the Spanish-language socialist newsmagazine, are being organized to reach striking auto workers and other workers who have a vital stake in this

contract fight.

Socialists in St. Louis are especially excited about the opportunities for campaigning among both auto workers and coal miners in their area. They are organizing a big effort to sell the socialist press, participate in the auto picket lines, and get out to the southern Illinois coalfields to build solidarity with the auto workers and discuss the issues in the contract fight in coal.

An important part of the response by socialist auto workers and miners from St. Louis to these challenges has been their commitment to participate fully in the \$100,000 national campaign fund which will provide the financial bedrock of the campaign in coming weeks. These workers have decided to contribute a week's pay each to this fund and are trying to pay their pledges off quickly so that the campaign will not bear the financial brunt of a strike in either industry.

Over \$73,376 has been pledged so far to help defray the costs of the candidates' tours and campaign materials. And \$14,352 has been sent in to the fund. In the next few weeks, a big push is necessary to raise the additional funds needed.

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Customs returns seized Sandinista books

BY MOHAMMED OLIVER

U.S. employers and their government in Washington are on a determined drive against democratic rights. Every now and then, however, they're beaten back.

Sam Manuel, a leader of the Socialist Workers Party in San Francisco, won such a victory on September 8 when the FBI returned Nicaraguan literature taken from him at Miami International Airport on August 1.

The books, pamphlets, and leaflets were returned just one day after a front-page article in the *Miami News* took up the harassment of Manuel and others by U.S. Customs officials at the Miami airport. The *Miami News* article stemmed from a news conference at which Jack Lieberman, a spokesman for LA CASA, a Miami group opposing U.S. intervention in Central America, rapped the U.S. Customs Service for seizing literature from Sima Rabinowitz and William Anchor. The two had just returned from a tour in Nicaragua.

Lieberman, attorney Ira Kurtzbaum, and Jim Mullins, chair of the local American Civil Liberties Union chapter, were part of a delegation that visited customs officials to protest this harassment. The news conference was held to make this protest public.

When it was reported that Harry Carnes, Miami district director for the U.S. Customs Service, said that these seizures "are isolated incidents," the *News* was told about the previous harassment of Manuel. The *News* called Manuel to hear what he had to say.

"I want my stuff back," Manuel told the *News*. "I think it's part of the policy of the government to harass people who go to Nicaragua and to prevent people from being able to read the ideas for themselves."

Manuel and 19 other activists participated in a Militant/Perspectiva Mundial Tours, Inc., tour of Nicaragua in July. The tour delegation was headed by Mel Mason, the SWP presidential candidate. Mason and Manuel were the only Blacks in the tour group, and were immediately singled out for harassment by the customs cops.

The customs agents grilled both Mason and Manuel, demanding to know the details about their Nicaragua trip. The agents told Manuel, who had a box of Nicaraguan literature with him, that the material would be handed over to the FBI. The customs agent asked Manuel if he knew it was "illegal" to bring such literature into the country.

The material was taken under a customs duties code that bans any literature "containing any matter advocating or urging treason or insurrection against the United States. . . ." Government officials customarily use such unconstitutional measures to harass those who oppose U.S. policies.

The Socialist Workers campaign committee discussed the harassment of Mason and Manuel, who is the San Francisco coordinator of Mason's campaign, with civil liberties groups, Central American solidarity organizations, and others. They found that there have been other incidents where customs agents harass travelers from Nicaragua. The FBI and other U.S. secret police agencies have been harassing people who have recently returned from Nicaragua or are active in groups opposed to U.S. intervention in Central America and the Caribbean.

Thousands of people from the United States have gone to Nicaragua to see for themselves what the Sandinista revolution has accomplished for working people there. The increasing government attacks on the right to travel are aimed at intimidating U.S. workers from learning the truth about the Nicaraguan revolution either by visiting there or by reading books, pamphlets, and other literature about Nicaragua.

This is the same reason Washington has imposed a ban on visits to Cuba, and has gone after Marazul Tours, the principal U.S. organizer of travel to Cuba.

Moreover, as the U.S. rulers drive closer to the massive introduction of U.S. troops into Central America, the government must also crack down on democratic rights here.

That's why the fight against the U.S. war in Central America necessarily entails a struggle to defend and extend democratic rights.



Rain again tomorrow
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The Miami News

A Cox Newspaper

Final Home Edition
Friday Afternoon, September 7, 1984
38 Pages

Traveler, a book dealer, calls customs action harassment

U.S. seizes Sandinista leaflets

MARILYN A. MOORE
Miami News Reporter

To Sam Manuel, the Sandinista pamphlets that he was bringing in his luggage from Nicaragua were important study material for his socialist bookstore.

To U.S. Customs inspectors in Miami, the literature was "possibly seditious" under a law that prohibits importation of material advocating treason or insurrection against the United States.

So when Manuel arrived at Miami International Airport Aug. 1, on his way home from Nicaragua, customs agents took the pamphlets away from him. They were reportedly turned over to the FBI for



The free expression of ideas should be protected. These seizures could be taken as having a chilling effect on the people and groups going to Nicaragua to ascertain the true conditions there.

Nicaragua to ascertain the true conditions there.

Lieberman said the literature taken from Rabinowitz included material about the Indian heritage of Nicaragua, the Sandinista youth newspaper and some union literature.

But Carnes said the material referred indirectly to "changing the mind of the United States" and that it claimed that the "U.S. was ruining Nicaragua."

"It was thought that it was worth looking at these and see if they were potentially subversive," Carnes said.

The pamphlets

Front-page article in Miami paper spotlighted customs' unconstitutional seizure of Nicaraguan books and pamphlets.

UAW members speak out on strike, jobs

Continued from preceding page

patriotic campaign is part of suckering U.S. workers into war."

The GM plant in Linden, New Jersey, is one of the struck plants. A third shift worker told the *Militant*, "When the hands on the time clock pointed to 12, everyone broke into a giant cheer, punched out, and raced out of the plant."

A worker in the tire department said, "I don't give a damn about the money — but I'll gladly go out for a little job security."

Most of the 4,800 auto workers at Linden have worked steadily, even during the recent downturn, because the plant produces "recession-proof" luxury cars. But next year, the plant will go through a long shutdown when it will be converted to produce the cheaper "L" car.

The company plans to install robots on a large scale. So job security is a big topic of discussion on the picket line and in the Local 595 union hall down the street.

Some auto workers are thinking about the impact of their strike on contract negotiations in other industries. The Linden plant is right across the street from Merck Pharmaceutical where workers just voted to return to work after having been locked out for 19 weeks.

A Linden production worker said, "If we lose, then these other small unions might as well not strike. They'll just have to take what they're handed."

An executive board member at the GM plant in Lordstown, Ohio, told the *Militant* that the initial reaction of workers there was "anger over the idea of a selective strike. Our plant wants to be in the forefront of the fight, even though the majority of us hoped that it wouldn't be necessary." The 8,800 workers at Lordstown had walked out before learning that their plant was not among the UAW officialdom's strike targets.

'No contract, no work'

Militant correspondent Greg Preston is a member of UAW Local 276 in Arlington, Texas, which went out.

Texas is a "right-to-work" state, he explained. Of the 4,400 workers covered under the bargaining agreement, only 60 are not union members, and they walked out with the rest of the workers.

The chant of, "No contract, no work" went up along the line. This is of keen interest to workers in this plant because they have been watching the owners of Bell Helicopter and the Vought Corporation wearing down and defeating workers who were working without a contract while negotiations went on.

Last month, Local 276 voted unanimously to send a telegram to the International saying that they did not want to work without a contract.

Preston said, "When we walked out there was real disappointment to find out there were only a dozen or so locals out. We weren't sure what we were on strike for."

"Local negotiations had just gotten off the ground the day before the strike," he said. "They had only solved 10 out of

2,000 local grievances. The company was taking a hard line. But we didn't know what the issues were."

Preston said, "There's no question that most workers accept the 'buy American,' 'stop imports' campaign pushed by the UAW top officials. A lot think this could be a solution to their problems. The UAW officialdom has been campaigning hard on this for years, and it has taken root. On the other hand, a real discussion is going on. I talk about how protectionism won't save jobs. How we need to fight for a shorter workweek and cut the war budget to finance a national jobs campaign. International working class solidarity begins to make sense to people."

At the GM plant in Doraville, Georgia, most workers thought the strike was necessary. "I wish we could settle this thing," one worker told the *Militant*, "but those guys [GM officials] up there don't want us to. They think we're little and they're big. But they should be willing to share some of the profits with us."

Local issues

Among the top local issues being negotiated at this plant are working conditions. Workers are forced to do their jobs in sweltering, health-threatening heat. Forced overtime and job combinations are important, too. The company is trying to push

through a system where all workers would take their breaks at the same time. This would throw hundreds of relief workers out of a job. These issues are big ones in many plants across the country.

Workers want to fight

In Kansas City, Missouri, auto workers clearly wanted to fight back, reports Diane Shur. Shur is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for congress from the 5th C.D. and works at the Fairfax GM assembly plant. "When second shift auto workers started to arrive at work here at the Fairfax plant," she said, "we were met right at the gate by union members who gave us slips of paper telling us that our plant would not be on strike. But the brother who gave me the paper said, 'I think we should all be out, Ford too.'"

A displaced California worker at the Fairfax plant started a discussion on job security at lunch. "I sure would like to know what kind of job security they're talking about now. Last time it turned out that I had to pick up my butt and move 2,000 miles away from home," he told Shur. "I took a \$1,000 moving loan from GM, when they told me I had to move or lose the 'Guaranteed Income Stream' payments. I ended up owing them 19 percent interest besides. I hope that isn't what they're talking about now."

Lawyers delegation goes to Cuba as Washington presses travel ban

BY GEOFF MIRELOWITZ

Despite government harassment, a group of U.S. lawyers left for Cuba this week to participate in a conference hosted by the Cuban Ministry of Justice on the development of the Cuban legal system.

The group left after the U.S. government backed down from an attempt to prevent the trip. The harassment was part of Washington's efforts to tighten the undemocratic travel ban that severely restricts the right of U.S. citizens to go to Cuba. But while the government conceded that it could find nothing illegal about the lawyers' trip, other government efforts to restrict and intimidate those who would go to Cuba are continuing.

In 1982 the Reagan administration reimposed the Cuba travel ban which had been lifted in 1977. The Supreme Court has upheld this undemocratic restriction. Exceptions to the ban permit Cuban-Americans to visit relatives on the island. The other exception allows U.S. citizens to travel to Cuba for professional or journalistic purposes.

The effort to tighten up the ban is part of Washington's escalation of its war in Central America and the Caribbean. The government has demanded extensive records from Marazul Tours, which is the principal organizer of travel to Cuba. Washington ordered Marazul to turn over the names of 2,000 lawyers who received a brochure on the Cuban law conference. It also sub-

poenaed the names of all 13,000 individuals who have travelled to Cuba since the 1982 ban.

Prior to their departure for Cuba, the U.S. attorneys held a news conference to blast the government's attempts at intimidating travel. Dr. Debra Evenson, an associate law professor at DePaul University in Chicago, termed the group's participation in the Cuban conference "a legitimate exercise of every citizen's First Amendment right to freedom of inquiry."

The government subpoenaed the names of the lawyers, as well as subpoenaing Michael Ratner and Harold Mayerson, who were involved in organizing the participation of U.S. lawyers in the conference. Afterwards, Treasury spokesman John Walker was forced to admit, "We've gathered enough information to show that there's sufficient probability that there is nothing illegal in the trip." Walker did maintain, however, that the government would pursue the subpoena for the names.

Meanwhile it is continuing to press for the much larger list of names of those who have travelled to Cuba through Marazul. On September 19, Robert Guild of Marazul told the *Militant* that the government's original subpoena has been amended and was expected to be served on Marazul shortly. Guild said he did not know in what ways the subpoena might be different from the original.

Gov't uses Olympics to expand cop network

BY JOANNE TORTORICI

LOS ANGELES — In the wake of the Olympic games, the brightly-colored official banners are gradually becoming stained and tattered; garbage and freeway traffic are again accumulating at their usual rate.

But something very important for working people has changed in this city: democratic rights have been narrowed, through a police agency buildup ostensibly concocted solely for the Olympics.

The Olympics security plan, which reportedly had been five years in the making, was conducted out of an "Anti-Terrorist Operations Center," an umbrella for an FBI Task Force, the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), and Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. So-called counterterrorist experts from these and other agencies were housed there.

This security force's prime concern was not protection of athletes — it was to crack down on undocumented workers, opponents of the U.S. war in Central America, and other "dissidents." Its "intelligence" activities, described in the media, include the type of illegal surveillance and disruption which was brought to light during the recent lawsuit against the LAPD for its illegal Police Department Intelligence Division (PDID) activities.

The jingoism and anticommunism that surrounded the Olympics, encouraged in order to whip up support for the U.S. war in Central America, was used to cover up this large-scale operation against civil liberties — one that cost more than \$180 million, according to the *Los Angeles Times*.

What the media glibly labeled "star wars technology" in security was, in reality, the beefing up of every repressive apparatus in the city: the LAPD, FBI, CIA, Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), Customs, and the National Guard, among others.

Their groundwork, briefly reported in the *Times*, was ominous:

INS "sweeps" of the airport; rounding up "foreign" cab drivers, who allegedly might be "susceptible to terrorists' bribes"; the re-

furbishing of unused military camps for use as large detention centers; plans to "visit immigrant and dissident groups" to "convince" them not to demonstrate or have a high profile during the games.

There was even a plan to require residents near the University of Southern California Olympics village — a largely Black, Latino, and immigrant population — to carry ID cards for admittance to their own neighborhood! The ID proposal was met with outspoken opposition from the South-Central community and was not implemented.

Edgar Best, Olympics Games security chief, bragged that this repressive effort was the "biggest blending of private and police security forces in history." Best's track record includes 22 years with the FBI, including a post as special agent in charge of the L.A. office.

Using the phony charge of potential terrorism as a pretext, 100 organizations were targeted for surveillance. According to Richard Bretzing, chief of the L.A. FBI, these include "groups which seem to support one side or the other in various Central American conflicts." These groups and their "suspected sympathizers" are being watched, Bretzing warned.

How are they being watched? With the help of \$50 million from the Pentagon. Part of the set-up, according to the *Los Angeles Times*, was:

- \$10 million worth of "intrusion detection systems."
- 77 private and military helicopters, costing \$9 million.
- 500,000 rounds of ammunition for police special weapons teams, 330 M-16 rifles, night vision devices, and tents.
- Additional teams of personnel from the INS Border Patrol, FBI, CIA, LAPD, and other agencies, linked by computer and working in a single network.

While the U.S. government prepares for an escalated military intervention in Central America, it is beginning its moves to silence those who speak out against the war. Under the guise of athletes' protection from so-called terrorists, an apparatus has



Chauvinist frenzy whipped up around Olympics helped ease way for increase in size of repressive "security" forces in Los Angeles. The games are over; the multimillion dollar expansion of cop apparatus remains.

been constructed which targets not the real terrorists — those who are masterminding plans to send U.S. working people to kill Central American workers and peasants — but rather, "immigrants, dissidents," and opponents of this government's murderous

war policies.

There are no indications that the core of this spy network has been dismantled. The Olympics have come and gone, leaving Los Angeles working people with a new and serious assault on their civil liberties.

Milwaukee cops cry libel

BY GORDON SCHULZ
AND MINDY BRUDNO

MILWAUKEE — A \$3.5 million libel suit was filed here in July against Black city Alderman Michael McGee by five Milwaukee cops. The cops were accused of misconduct in the case of a Black youth who died in their custody.

The suit alleges that McGee defamed the five cops when he implicated the police department in the May 3 hanging of 19-year-old Eric Adway in the city jail. The suit also alleges that one of the cops' wives, Alice Sytkowski, committed suicide on May 17 as a direct result of McGee's comments made 10 days earlier.

On May 3 Adway was found hanged by his shoelaces from a jail cell door. The medical examiner's office and a later inquest ruled the hanging a suicide.

But Alderman McGee, responding to family and community suspicion of foul play, demanded an investigation. Referring to the history of police brutality against Blacks in Milwaukee, McGee charged that Adway's hanging was the "kind of going-away gift that a bunch of bloodthirsty officers would give their chief." Police Chief Harold Breier, a notorious "law and order" racist, had just announced his retirement two days earlier.

McGee called the suit "frivolous" and said that he never mentioned any of the cops by name but directed his remarks

against the department as a whole.

At a rally held in McGee's defense August 21, speakers explained that the suit was a racist frameup aimed at preventing the entire Black community from freely speaking out against racist injustice in Milwaukee. McGee declared, "This lawsuit is a political case first and a legal case second."

In spite of denunciations by the media and demands for his censure coming from the police, McGee has defended his position. At an August 28 press conference, McGee announced, "I don't apologize for anything I said. I stand by every statement I made in the past. As it relates to the police department and the mentality that exists in the police department, they're just as bloodthirsty today as they were when I said it. The cowboy mentality is still there, too, today. There was probably someone last night that was brutalized."

McGee was elected to the 10th aldermanic seat in April and was in office only two weeks before Adway died.

A long-time community leader, McGee was president of the Coalition for Justice for Ernie Lacy, which spearheaded a two-year struggle around the July 1981 police killing of another 19-year-old Black.

Because the city attorney refuses to defend McGee against the libel suit — claiming that the alderman spoke as a "private citizen" and not as a public official — McGee must hire his own lawyer. Already two defense rallies have been held to publicize this racist attack and raise \$100,000 to defray legal costs.

All supporters of Black rights and free speech can contribute to the defense. Contributions can be sent to the Alderman Michael McGee Defense Fund, North Milwaukee State Bank, 5360 W Fond du Lac Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53216.

La. Blacks fight racist terror

BY RON REPPS

NEW ORLEANS — "What they [the police] are trying to do is put you back in the '60s ... where they could kick people around any way they wanted."

These were the opening remarks of the Rev. S.L. Harvey, president of the Louisiana chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, at a recently held news conference to protest the arrest and beating of members of a Black family here.

Margaret Clements described how cops from the Orleans Parish Sheriff's Department (OPSD) beat her, two of her daughters, and a 10-year-old grandson on May 17. The cops allegedly came to her home, where the beatings occurred, because one of Clements' daughters owed \$12.50 for a traffic ticket.

When two of Clements' sons and a nephew went down to the police station to find out why their relatives were arrested, the cops beat them too.

"Those deputies responsible for this should be taken off the street," said Harvey. "They should be removed, and we should march down to the sheriff's office and demand that they be removed. ... We need to get down to some serious business about this thing. We have to make them understand that we're not going to take this kind of thing."

Rev. Jerome Owens, vice-president of the 1st district of the Louisiana A. Philip Randolph Institute, said, "We community leaders are coming together today to demand that the charges against Ms. Clements and her family members be dropped." Clements is being charged with assault on an officer and resisting arrest.

Since the May 17 attack, Clements has been asked by the cops to drop her impending civil suit against the deputies and the sheriff's office. They implied that she would be allowed to see another son who was in jail if she cooperated. She told them that she planned to go ahead with her fight for justice for herself and her family.



Militant/Nelson Blackstock
Rev. S.L. Harvey, president, Louisiana Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Irish prisoner on hunger strike in U.S.

BY WILL REISSNER

Irish activist Colm Murphy, who began a hunger strike September 9 in federal prison in Milan, Michigan, was moved to a prison hospital in Springfield, Missouri, September 13.

Murphy is protesting federal authorities' refusal to move him to a prison nearer his family on the East Coast.

Colm Murphy was sentenced on July 15, 1983, to five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine following an FBI "sting" operation. His sentence was later reduced to four years.

In July 1982 Murphy was arrested on charges of agreeing to purchase 20 M-16 automatic rifles from undercover FBI agents for use in the fight against British rule in Northern Ireland.

A native of South Armagh in Ireland, Colm Murphy became involved in the civil rights movement in Northern Ireland in 1969.

In 1971 he was sentenced to two years in prison for possession of a weapon and membership in the Irish Republican Army.

He and nine other prisoners later escaped, but Murphy was recaptured four months later and completed his sentence in March 1974.

In April 1976 Murphy was again arrested in Ireland and convicted of possession of a gun, although none was found in his possession. He remained in jail until 1978.

Shortly after the 1981 hunger strike in a British jail in Northern Ireland, Murphy came to the United States. He was deeply embittered by the British government's intransigence, which led to the deaths of 10 hunger strikers, including his close friend Raymond McCreech.

It was at that time that Murphy was approached by undercover FBI agents offering to sell him weapons.

Messages of support can be sent to Colm Murphy, U.S. Medical Center, Federal Prison, Springfield, Mo. 65802.

Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate, Mel Mason, sent a message of support to Murphy and a protest to the prison authorities.

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British miners build solidarity, Coal Board presses mine closings

BY CLIVE TURNBULL
AND DAVE AYRTON

SHEFFIELD, England — The latest round of negotiations between the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) and the National Coal Board (NCB) broke down on September 14. The following day NUM Pres. Arthur Scargill addressed a 10,000-strong march and rally, organized by the Yorkshire and North Derbyshire areas of the NUM, in Barnsley, South Yorkshire.

Scargill reaffirmed the NUM's position that the NCB's entire mine-closure plan must be withdrawn, that the mines most immediately threatened with closure must be kept open, and that the NCB agree not to close so-called uneconomic mines in the future.

'Coal Board intends to smash NUM'

It is this third point on which the dispute centers. In earlier negotiations the NCB has conceded the first two points, but the miners have had a previous experience of closure promises being withdrawn. The NUM wants the NCB and the Conservative government to reaffirm the "Plan for Coal" — an agreement which aimed to massively expand the nationalized coal mining industry, rather than shrink it.

"The reason that the National Coal Board is continuing to perpetuate this dispute," Scargill explained to the crowd, "is because of its intention to close 70 pits [mines], to reduce manpower by 70,000, and at the same time, to smash the effectiveness of the National Union of Mineworkers... as a prelude to weakening the entire labor and trade union movement in Britain."

"There are no uneconomic pits in Britain. There are only pits which have been starved of investment," he continued. "In the 10-year period from 1974 to 1984, 81 percent of all investment has gone into the new collieries like Selby, and the central coalfields [for example, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire]."

"The old collieries," said Scargill, "have been starved of investment."

7,000 miners arrested

"We've had during the course of this dispute," said Scargill, "7,000 of our people arrested... I'll tell you what crime our members have committed. There is only one crime. They're fighting for the right to work, and it's the proudest fight that's ever

been staged in Britain, or indeed throughout Europe."

"We've had in this dispute over 3,000 of our people injured on picket lines — 3,000! We've had young lads with broken legs and broken arms. We've had five of our colleagues killed during the course of this dispute. And there are still people in this wider movement who still question whether the time is right to come in and stand firmly beside us."

"We've come too far, we've suffered too much, to accept anything other than fulfillment of what we've set out to win: maintain our pits. Keep open our industry. In short, no one destroys our communities, our way of life!"

"How many times have we heard it said that young people are not like their fathers and grandfathers?" he asked the rally. "How many times have we heard it said, they'll never struggle, they've too much invested in material things like mortgage repayments and purchase payments."

"I'll tell you one thing colleagues," said Scargill, "if those people who built this union could look upon us today, they would salute with pride the finest example — these young men and women — that the trade union movement has ever seen."

Women's support groups

"They'd also look with pride at the establishment of a new phenomenon in British politics," Scargill went on. "For the first time women have formed themselves into groups — women's support groups — backing the fight against pit closures. They've not done it because they support men. They've done it because they're beginning to realize the potential power that they themselves have. They're not fighting for their husbands or boyfriends. They're fighting for themselves, their children, and the community."

With the breakdown of the negotiations, the focus of attention has shifted to the Trades Union Congress (TUC), which represents 10 million unionists. At its recent conference, the labor federation pledged active backing to the miners.

"We met the TUC today," Scargill reported, "and it's significant that the TUC did not merely reaffirm Congress policy. The TUC went on record as supporting what we have done in the negotiations, deplored what the Coal Board had done, and said that it was obvious that the Coal Board is refusing to settle this dispute."

Meetings are planned of the TUC committees for the power-generating and steel industries, at which practical solidarity with the coal strike will be discussed. Throughout the six-month-long strike, the right-wing dominated unions in these sectors, such as the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation and the Electronic, Electrical and Plumbing Trade Union, have scabbed on the miners. But with a massive majority supporting the miners at the TUC conference, it was the right-wing leaders of these unions who were isolated.

Important support

Important support for the miners has come from the executive committee of the union of those mine workers with some supervisory or overseeing responsibility. The 16,000-strong National Association of Colliery Overmen, Deputies and Shotfiring (NACODS) executive decided to recommend strike action beginning October 1 in balloting to be held next week. The strike call has been prompted by the NCB's decision to demand NACODS members cross miners picket lines. Seven hundred members of the union have been suspended for refusing to scab on the miners.

A ballot in April to take action against mine closures alongside the miners resulted in a 53 percent majority for a strike, but this was short of the two-thirds majority required by NACODS's rules. Union officials are now confident that they will achieve that figure. This could have the effect of halting coal production in coalfields such as Nottinghamshire, where scab miners have refused to join the strike.

The miners' strike suffered a blow on September 18 with the decision of the dock workers to end their three-week strike over the use of nonunion labor to unload scab coal at Hunterston in Scotland. The deal made by the dockers' union means an end to the use of scab labor at the dock, but it also included an agreement to allow up to 22,500 tons of coal per week to be unloaded for the Ravenscraig steelworks in Scotland.

Although the NUM had previously agreed to such a quota with the steel and transport unions, it did not endorse this agreement, nor did the rail workers.

International solidarity

There has been growing international solidarity with the miners strike. A much



Militant/Clive Turnbull
President of the National Union of Mineworkers Arthur Scargill. He told 10,000 coal miners and supporters in South Yorkshire: "Our members have committed only one 'crime' — fighting for the right to work, and it's the proudest fight ever staged in Britain."

publicized donation of \$65,000 has been received from Soviet miners in the Donbass, Ukraine. In a message, Anatoly Fedosov, a face worker at M.I. Kalinin mine in Donetsk, said: "It's in hard times that international solidarity of working class people reveals itself most strikingly. In the period of the civil war and foreign military intervention in our country, British dockers were the first to refuse to unload ships for interventionist troops."

Among the marchers in Barnsley on September 15 was a delegation of French miners. Scargill also drew the attention of the rally to a delegation "that we've got coming today of four United States miners bringing a substantial amount of American dollars for the British miners strike fund..."

"One of those American miners comes from Harlan County, where Ian MacGregor and people like him were prepared to deploy state troopers armed to the teeth to try and defeat the United States miners."

"The hat that I wear on demonstrations," said Scargill, "is an American miner's hat. There is a significance to it. That hat was worn by a striking miner who fought Ian MacGregor. Do you want to know the outcome? The miners beat him, just as our people will beat him."

Scargill concluded his speech at the rally: "We will win not only the fight to keep open our pits, to save our jobs, but we'll also get the demands to which we are entitled in the most dangerous and arduous industry in Britain. Decent wages, better conditions, a [wage] rate protection scheme... I say to you, and I say to the government and to the Coal Board: make no mistake, we're on our way to a victory."

British mine strike hitting hard at Coal Board profits

The six-month-old British coal strike is having a big impact on the British economy.

The September issue of *Coal Age*, the leading magazine of the U.S. coal industry, reports that Britain's National Coal Board (NCB), the government agency that runs the nationalized British mines, posted a loss of more than \$1.5 billion for the fiscal year ending March 31. The NCB said that a quarter of that loss was the result of the current strike.

The strike began in March, therefore most of its economic impact is not reflected in these figures. *Coal Age* says that "analysts agree the total cost of the strike currently exceeds \$1.33 billion." The loss for the fiscal year was nearly double what the NCB lost the previous year.

West Virginia miners end strike

Continued from front page

the large Number 7 mine; the smaller Number 27 mine; and the large Montcoal complex tippie in Stickney, West Virginia. It involved all of Peabody's Raleigh County coal haulers who transport coal by truck.

Rank-and-file action at Twilight and Sundial not only shut down mining at Peabody's large Number 8, Number 9, Number 10A and 10B mines, but also represented an important step in reestablishing the tradition of solidarity and united action among locals having the same employer. This tradition had been somewhat weakened during the past two years when coal-field unemployment has been staggering. In southern West Virginia's District 17 more than half the union membership is laid off.

With the purchase of Armco Steel's West Virginia coal operations in late February Peabody is returning to West Virginia mining after a 20-year absence. This was Peabody's first experience with such united action by the miners of UMWA District 17. The strike is significant because it is the first major confrontation between the traditionally militant miners of District 17 — the union's largest with over 26,000 members excluding retired miners — and Peabody. In 1983 Peabody mined more coal than any U.S. company — over 53 million tons.

Miners feel Peabody is intent on taming the West Virginia miners. It is one of the

"Big 3" (along with Consolidation Coal and U.S. Steel) of the Bituminous Coal Operators Association (BCOA), the bosses' bargaining arm.

In Washington, D.C., the BCOA is now negotiating the next national contract with the UMWA. The current contract, which was wrung out of the operators only after a 71-day nationwide strike in 1981, expires at midnight September 30.

The BCOA, which represents 32 coal companies chiefly in Appalachia and the midwestern states, walked out of contract talks on August 21 claiming there was "no basis" for further negotiation. It returned to the bargaining table on September 3. After a one hour bargaining session on September 6, UMWA spokesman Joe Corcoran expressed hope that a tentative agreement could be reached before midnight September 30. According to the *Charleston Gazette*, Corcoran said the union — as it has stated in the past — would not accept any concessions.

"The miners have stood hard by their motto of 'no backward steps,'" said Corcoran. "I don't see any change in that position."

Union miners in District 17, as in every part of the country, have been hard hit in the past two years by persistent company efforts to institute takebacks on the job, what miners call "tearing up the contract." Just prior to the opening of national contract talks in April, over 500 District 17

miners were forced to strike for more than a week in Mingo and Logan counties over the company practice of nonunion coal being run through the union tippie with no royalty payments to the UMWA pension fund — a flagrant contract violation.

Miners know that the ability to enforce the contract on any issue strengthens their ability to enforce the contract on safety. In the coal mines, an attack on any contract rights almost always has safety implications. Miners are particularly outraged by this year's mine fatalities — 65 so far this year. As pointed out in the *UMWA Journal*, a miner is three times more likely to die at work this year than last.

The four most recent fatalities took place at the same time as the Peabody strike. On September 10, four miners were killed in a roof fall in southeastern Kentucky in a mine that had been cited 10 times this year for serious roof control violations!

Safety has been a matter of particular concern to Peabody miners since the mines were purchased from Armco. At Sundial the Number 10A mine has been classified by the Mine Safety and Health Administration as the 34th most dangerous underground mine in the entire country. A fatal mine accident occurred in the Number 10B mine in April, the first underground fatality in the local's history.

Joan Radin is a United Mine Workers of America member who was on strike against Peabody.

Socialists blast privatization of Michigan county hospital

BY DAVID RUSSELL

DETROIT — After 150 years of providing health care to working people unable to afford private treatment, Wayne County General Hospital was turned over to a private corporation on August 13. County officials insisted there was "no money" to maintain the hospital as a public institution.

Wayne County General was the only hospital in the Detroit metropolitan area that was legally required to treat patients without funds. Last year it treated nearly 100,000 residents of the county, which includes Detroit. About 50,000 of those were emergency-room cases.

Wayne County Executive William Lucas, the Democratic official who engineered the privatization of the hospital, claimed "it's a matter of efficiency in government. Every day that hospital continues to operate, it costs us \$50,000."

The loss of Wayne County General was not only a big blow to working people, especially Blacks, who have depended on the institution, but to the hospital workers employed there. Southwest Detroit Hospital, which has taken over management of Wayne County General, has demanded that the hospital workers union agree to some \$3,000 to \$6,000 in yearly concessions per worker. This extortion was rejected by the members of American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 25, which represents workers at the hospital. The new management has started advertising for "replacement workers" and clearly intends to carry out major layoffs soon.

Make auto bosses pay

Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress in the First C.D., Andrew Pulley, called for reopening Wayne County General as a public hospital. "William Lucas falsely claims there is no money to keep the hospital open," said Pulley. "My campaign says, let's open the books of the county government to public

inspection by representatives of the labor movement, Black community, and other working people to find out the real facts."

"One thing we know for sure," said Pulley. "General Motors, Ford, and Chrysler — all of which are headquartered right here in Wayne County — made profits in the billions this year. They should be taxed to make public health care available, not the workers of this county, whose health has been destroyed on the auto assembly lines for decades by these very same corporations."

Tens of thousands of laid-off auto workers in the area are especially victimized by the privatization of Wayne County General, Pulley pointed out. "GM, Ford, and Chrysler threw them out into the streets and now they've lost their health insurance. For these and many other workers, particularly Blacks, a free, public hospital is a life-and-death question."

Pulley said that on the federal level, billions of dollars are being spent to wage a racist war against workers and farmers in Central America, while funds are being cut back for social services like hospitals and schools here at home.

"The funds now being spent to kill and maim workers and farmers in Central America could be used not only to keep Wayne County General a public hospital, but to build many more hospitals in this county and all over the country," the socialist candidate said.

Pulley offered his full solidarity with the embattled hospital workers of AFSCME Local 25. "These workers — who stood up to the hospital bosses and said 'no' to more concessions — deserve the full support of the area's labor movement, especially of the powerful United Auto Workers," he said.

Default by UAW

But the UAW leadership did virtually nothing to save Wayne County General. Instead of mobilizing its large membership and resources in defense of those using the hospital and the hospital workers union, it

has concentrated on urging workers to elect Democrat Walter Mondale and local Democratic candidates, covering up the fact that the attacks on union rights, health care, Social Security, and other rights of working people are *bipartisan*, carried out by the Republicans and the Democrats.

Metropolitan Detroit AFL-CIO Pres. Tom Turner did speak out in defense of Wayne County General, but made no call for action to save it. Instead, he claimed that Lucas had "turned his back on Democratic Party values and principles." Lucas, he charged, is a "closet Republican."

One organization in the Black community, the Black Slate, did attempt to organize to save the hospital. The Black Slate is a pro-Black rights group headed by Rev. Albert Cleage and his church, the Shrine of the Black Madonna.

The Black Slate originally helped elect Lucas, who is Black, to the post of Wayne County executive. Branding him as a traitor to the Black community for giving the hospital to a private corporation, the Black Slate argued that the most effective way to save the hospital was to recall Lucas and replace him with another Democrat who would be "accountable" to the Black community. It initiated a petition drive to gather signatures to place such a recall initiative on the ballot. Many young Blacks helped circulate the petitions, and thousands of workers — outraged at Lucas's criminal action — signed them. The petition drive was subsequently dropped.

Socialists propose alternative course

The Socialist Workers campaign opposed the recall effort.

"Removing one Democrat from office to replace him with another points in the wrong direction. It's not a step forward in the fight to defend health care in this county," said Helen Meyers, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate. "We won't make the Democrats or the Republicans 'accountable' to Blacks and other workers through recall elections, or any other means.



Militant/Steven Fuchs
Congressional candidate Andrew Pulley: tax auto bosses to fund public hospitals.

They're accountable to another class, the capitalist class, made up of the owners of GM, Ford, and the other big corporations. This has to be our starting point.

"To defend ourselves we must act in the interests of *our* class," the socialist auto worker explained. "We should organize picket lines, rallies, and demonstrations against the bipartisan attacks on health care and other rights we've fought for. My union, the UAW, has a special responsibility in this regard."

"Telling workers the most effective thing they can do is vote out Lucas and vote in another Democratic politician doesn't advance the struggle against cutbacks — it pushes it back. It can only help the Democratic Party cover up its role as copartners with the Republicans in the austerity drive against working people."

Meyers pointed out that the Democratic Party as a whole in the county, not just officials like Lucas, has been stripping away social services for years. Detroit Mayor Coleman Young, a Democrat, has helped lead these attacks. He refused to say a word about the privatization of Wayne County General.

The strategy of electoralism, instead of independent working-class political action, demobilized the many working people who were angered by what happened to Wayne County General and wanted a way to fight back. The August issue of the Black Slate's newspaper, for example, dropped all mention of the hospital fight. Instead, its pages were filled with articles urging Blacks to get out the vote for various Democrats. The front page of the paper approvingly quoted Lyndon Johnson saying, "The vote is the most powerful weapon ever designed by man for breaking down injustice."

"That's completely false," said socialist candidate Pulley. "We didn't end slavery, build the industrial unions or even win voting rights themselves through elections. These were won through struggle — in the plants and in the streets — against the twin capitalist parties of racism, war, and unemployment."

"By the same token, we can't stop attacks like that on Wayne County General through elections and trying to find the 'right' individual in the Democratic Party to meet our needs."

"Our problem as workers is more fundamental — it's the entire capitalist system and the government that maintains it. We need a workers and farmers government, which would organize working people to establish health care as a right, not a privilege. And to fight for that kind of government, we need political weapons that represent the interests of our class — an independent labor party and an independent Black party."

"My campaign says look to Cuba if you want to see what kind of health care can be provided when workers and farmers hold political power. I had the opportunity to tour revolutionary Cuba and visit its magnificent hospitals. Not only is all health care free on that island, but Cuba sends doctors and nurses all over the world to help other workers and farmers. Imagine what we could do in the United States with a workers and farmers government."

"Right now in Detroit, the infant mortality rate is higher in some neighborhoods than it is in the Central American country of Honduras. Meanwhile, the GM and Ford bosses are raking in obscene profits. A workers and farmers government would take emergency measures to save the lives of babies in Detroit and it would rush doctors and medicines to Honduras, instead of the U.S. troops and bombers Washington has installed there now."

U.S. government denies visa to Grenadian

BY MOHAMMED OLIVER

NEW YORK CITY — In another blow to the democratic right to travel, the U.S. State Department denied Don Rojas an entry visa to visit the United States.

Rojas, secretary of the International Organization of Journalists and former press secretary for slain Grenadian Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, was scheduled to give the keynote address at the third annual conference of the National Alliance of Third World Journalists (NATWJ). The conference took place September 14-16 at Hunter College.

In addition, Rojas was scheduled to hold meetings with United Nations officials.

The NATWJ wasn't informed of the U.S. government decision by anyone in Washington, but in a phone conversation with Rojas, who now lives in Prague, Czechoslovakia.

"The NATWJ is appalled by the decision of the U.S. State Department," said Gwen McKinney, the group's national co-ordinator, at a news conference opening the gathering. She said the government's actions reveal its "flagrant policy of prohibiting U.S. citizens access to journalists, artists, and intellectuals from other countries who do not share the administration's ideological views."

"We firmly maintain that the administration, in its efforts to squash and discredit dissent, has also violated our freedom of speech and association and the right to know guaranteed by the First Amendment."

As a leader of the Grenada revolution and an outspoken opponent of the continued U.S. occupation of that Caribbean island, Rojas is seen as a threat by U.S. officials. They hope that through measures such as this visa denial they can prevent U.S. working people from learning the truth about U.S. intervention in Central

America and the Caribbean.

In addition to Rojas, the U.S. government also denied a visa to Daniel Aguirre, secretary-general of the Federation of Latin American Journalists. Aguirre, a Nicaraguan citizen, was scheduled to address the NATWJ conference as well.

In a statement released to the media at the NATWJ news conference, the National Network in Solidarity with the Nicaraguan People blasted the visa denials. Debbie Reuben, coordinator of the group's national office, said, "Visa denials are being increasingly used for political reasons. This latest case shows how our rights to listen and speak freely are being dangerously eroded."

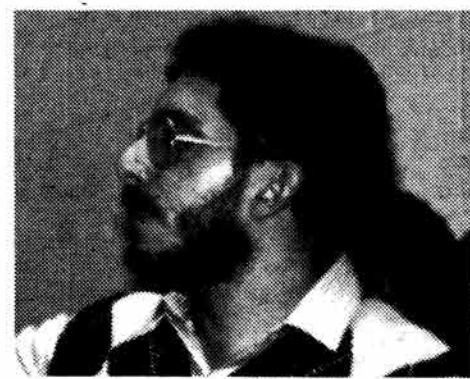
'IP' analyzes Libya-Morocco union

The October 1 issue of *Intercontinental Press*, a biweekly socialist news magazine, reprints the Sandinista National Liberation Front's (FSLN) campaign platform or "Plan of Struggle" for the November 4 presidential and legislative election.

The document stresses the importance of strengthening the political power exercised by Nicaraguan working people, defending the revolution from imperialist attack, and continuing to develop Nicaragua's economy and social life to benefit the country's toilers. The elections are a further step in this process.

The FSLN announced its candidates last July, including its presidential and vice-presidential candidates, Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega and Sergio Ramirez. Both are currently members of the ruling Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction.

Militant readers will also be interested in a news analysis article by *IP*'s managing



Militant/Angela Lariscy
Don Rojas, former secretary to slain Grenadian Prime Minister Maurice Bishop.

editor, Ernest Harsch, on the August 13 formation of a political "union" between Libya and Morocco. Harsch explains that lying behind the Libya-Morocco accord is the Moroccan regime's battle to maintain its control of the Western Sahara, where a war of independence is being led by the Polisario Front.

Polisario has enjoyed the political and material support of several governments, including that of Libya. The treaty signals the Moroccan rulers' success in getting the Libyan government to withdraw its support to Polisario. Harsch also explains the role played by U.S. imperialism in this development.

In addition to these two features, *IP* carries other news of interest to U.S. working people about working-class and anti-imperialist struggles around the world. A single issue of *IP* may be ordered for \$1.25 from Intercontinental Press, 410 West Street, New York, New York. 10014.

Vatican steps up attacks on Nicaraguan revolution

BY DOUG JENNESS

On September 3, the Vatican took another major step in its campaign against the Nicaraguan revolution and the revolutionary movements in El Salvador and other Latin American countries. The form of this political attack was a 36-page document prepared by the Catholic hierarchy's Sacred Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith. Titled "Instructions on Certain Aspects of the 'Theology of Liberation,'" it was published by order of Pope John Paul II.

The statement was made public the day before a delegation from Nicaragua's revolutionary government was to arrive in Rome to discuss the sharpening conflict between the Sandinista regime and the top church hierarchy.

The issues in this conflict include the pope's public call on four Nicaraguan priests to resign their posts in the revolutionary government and Archbishop of Managua Miguel Obando y Bravo's role in supporting CIA-backed counterrevolutionaries.

The top clergy's aid to the *contras* was exposed in June when Father Luis Amado Peña was caught red-handed participating in a terrorist underground network against the government. The following month, 10 foreign priests were expelled from the country for participating in an illegal march organized by Obando and the capitalist parties in support of the terrorist priest.

Although the Vatican's recent statement does not mention Nicaragua or El Salvador by name, and much of the argumentation is presented in a theological framework, the intention is clear. It is designed to reinforce the pope's attack on the four priests in the Nicaraguan government and to bolster the stand of the archbishop of El Salvador, Arturo Rivera y Damas, who has ordered five priests to quit the revolutionary guerrilla organizations in that country.

It is a warning to all Catholic clergy and lay people not to get involved in the revolutionary struggles of working people or support "totalitarian and atheistic regimes" that have come to power by "violent and revolutionary means."

'Marxist deviations'

The focus of the Vatican's statement is the alleged "Marxist deviations" of some members of the Catholic clergy and a layer of Catholic church members who reduce the "gospel of salvation to an earthly gospel."

The declaration contends, "Impatience and a desire for results has led certain Christians, despairing of every other method, to turn to what they call 'Marxist analysis.'" This has led them "to accept a series of positions which are incompatible with the Christian vision of humanity."

The Vatican's defenders of the "true faith" single out several aspects of Marxism as especially abhorrent:

- Marxists, they charge, contend that "only those who engage in the struggle can work out the analysis correctly. The only true consciousness, then, is the partisan consciousness."

- Marxists recognize "the proletarian class invested with its mission in history." The "liberation theologians," it is argued, make "a disastrous confusion between the poor of the Scripture and the proletariat of Marx. In this way they pervert the Christian meaning of the poor, and they transform the fight for the rights of the poor into a class fight within the ideological perspective of the class struggle."

- Marxists, they say, advocate "the overthrow by means of revolutionary violence of structures which generate violence." This does not lead to justice, as shown by the "totalitarian and atheistic regimes which came to power by violent and revolutionary means, precisely in the name

of liberation of the people."

The meaning is clear. Recognizing that the class struggle exists and giving "partisan" support to the working class in that struggle is against Church doctrine. Workers and peasants who take power through revolutionary action do not deserve support, only condemnation.

The Vatican also levels its artillery against the "people's churches."

In many Latin American countries, Catholic clergy and lay people have been organizing religious groupings in the poor urban *barrios* and villages outside the institutional framework of the Catholic church. These formations are often called "Christian base communities," and occasionally are referred to collectively as the "people's church." In Brazil, some 80,000 such communities are estimated to exist. The activities of these groups vary a great deal, but many are involved in political action. In Nicaragua formations of this type participated in the struggle to overthrow Somoza's capitalist regime and continue to support the revolutionary workers and farmers government.

The Vatican's declaration asserts that the proponents of "liberation theology" "mean by the Church of the People a church of the class, a church of the oppressed people whom it is necessary to 'conscientize' in the light of the organized struggle for freedom. For some, the people, thus understood, even become the objects of faith."

That the "Christian base communities" are generally organized outside the official church structures and therefore further away from the pope's "divine rule," is especially a matter of concern to the Vatican. "All priests, religious and lay people," the statement instructs, who want to work for justice "will do so in communion with their bishop and with the church. . . ."

Imperialist press blesses pope

The Vatican's pronouncement was immediately hailed by the money changers in the imperialist citadels. The *Wall Street Journal*, in its usual pithy way, got right to the point in a September 5 editorial. "Having seen the consequences of liberation theology himself during his visit to Nicaragua," the editors wrote, "John Paul II clearly decided that it was long past time for the charade to stop."

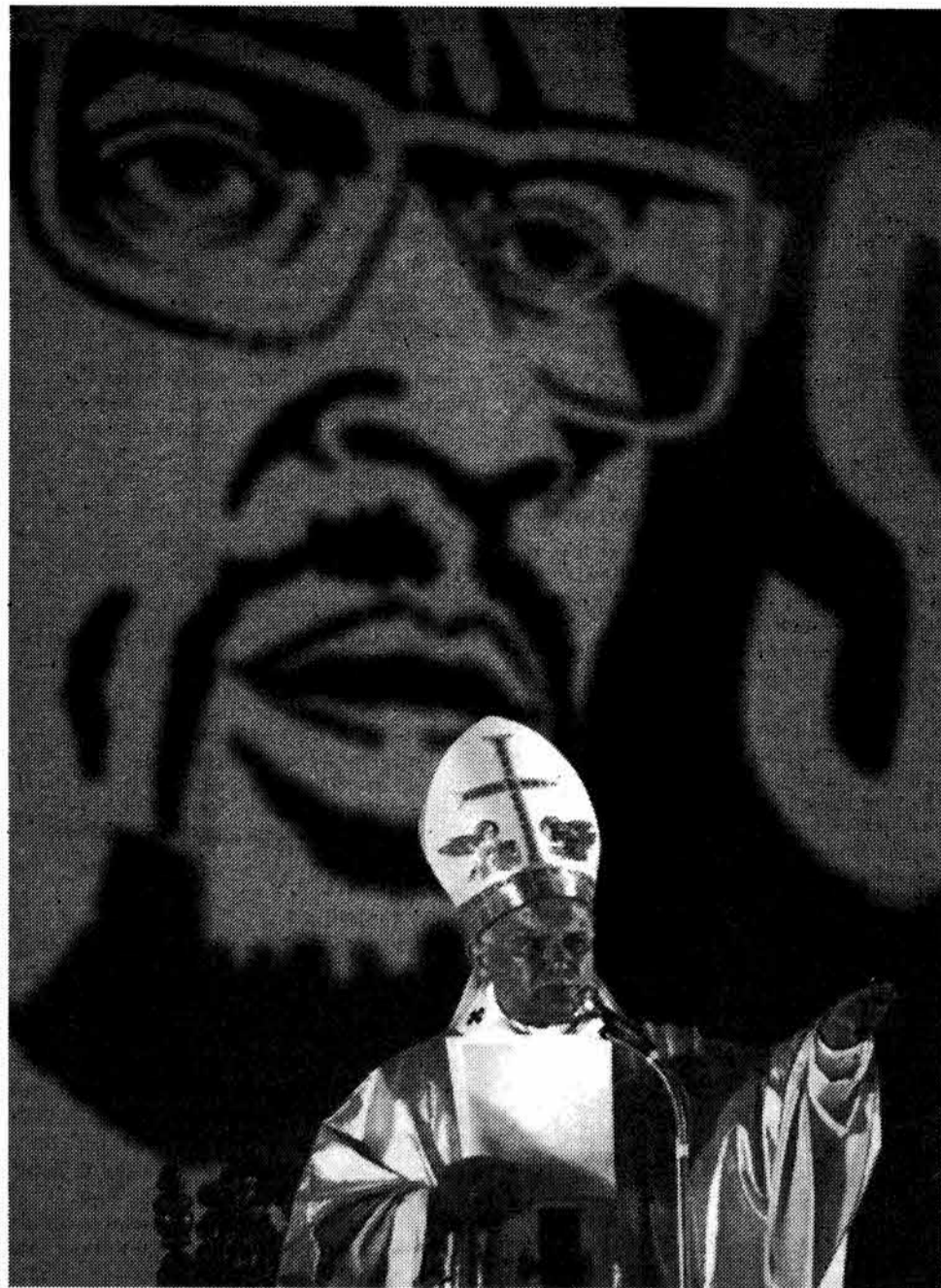
From London, the September 4 issue of the *Daily Telegraph* gave its blessing. The pope, the editors wrote, has "issued a severe reproof to those who persist in employing strict Marxist analysis. . . . The Church rightfully calls upon the rich to show charity and justice in their dealings with the poor; but it cannot bless the elimination of the bourgeoisie. . . ."

The *Times* of London, while welcoming the Vatican's instructions, thinks that they are late. Marxist ideas "have power, and they are also espoused by other champions of the poor in Latin America outside the Church. Some transfer of ideas was almost bound to follow, all the more so as the Church had no rival sociological ideas of equivalent persuasive and analytical power. The Holy See has nevertheless left it too long to be able to halt these developments. It has woken up rather late to what is now being described as a serious threat to the integrity of the faith."

Marxism's appeal

The *Times*, in its own way, puts its finger on a key point — the attractiveness of Marxist ideas. Marxism's appeal has become increasingly great to a wide layer of working people in Latin America struggling against military dictatorship and abysmal social conditions.

As they learn that reforms of the existing capitalist system cannot resolve the immense social, economic, and political



Pope John Paul II, in front of image of Sandinista hero Carlos Fonseca, delivers speech in Managua, Nicaragua, March 1983. Pope used visit to campaign against revolutionary process unfolding in Central America. Vatican's latest attacks on "theology of liberation" are also aimed at Nicaraguan revolution.

problems, they come to realize that a full social revolution is needed. They recognize what Marxists have explained for 140 years — that society is divided between exploited and exploiting classes and only revolutionary action by the exploited can bring social progress.

Particularly important in shaping the thinking of millions of political activists in Latin America have been the Cuban and Nicaraguan revolutions. The magnificent achievements of working people, and their Marxist leaders, in these two countries have helped stimulate interest in and support for Marxism. These revolutions have enhanced the authority of Marxism as the guide for working people to eliminate imperialist oppression and capitalist exploitation.

Gustavo Gutiérrez, a Catholic theologian from Peru and prominent proponent of "liberation theology," has written that in Latin America, "The Cuban revolution has played a catalytic role. With certain qualifications, this revolution serves as a dividing point for the recent political history of Latin America."

The advances of the working class, in spite of the pope's rejection of the class struggle as a "myth," are what explain the cleavage in the Catholic church in Latin America. Under this very real material pressure, some members of the Catholic clergy who, in their class origins and day-to-day life are closer to the toilers, have been getting involved to one degree or another in the revolutionary struggle.

A few join revolutionary organizations that are engaged in armed combat; some become active supporters of the revolutionary movement. Most are worried that the church will totally lose its influence over Catholic workers and peasants if adjustments are not made in church doctrine and institutions.

Reflects impact of class struggle

The emergence in the past 20 years of "liberation theology" reflects the impact of the class struggle on the thinking of a layer of the Catholic clergy. It does not represent a single coherent doctrine. For some, it is an attempt to reconcile their religious views with participation in the class struggle and with Marxism. For many it is an attempt to convince workers that they can be

religious and revolutionary activists, even socialists, at the same time. However, it is not a revolutionary theory that can guide the class struggle or that deserves workers' consideration.

The religious beliefs of the "liberation theologians" do not help shed light on class exploitation or on the road forward for working people. Rather it is through their class-struggle experiences that working people shake off the various forms of mystification, including religion, that are widespread under class society.

The Catholic hierarchy, however, cannot tolerate a situation where some members of the clergy join the revolutionary struggle to eliminate capitalism and adapt to aspects of Marxism. Catholic priests or lay people who justify revolution rather than reform and class struggle rather than class collaboration and, worst of all, actively participate in the revolutionary process, are not properly fulfilling the social function prescribed for them by the Vatican.

The Catholic hierarchy is a rock of support for the world imperialist system, and its doctrines and activities are geared to defending and preserving this system. That is the reactionary role the Vatican expects its priests to carry out throughout the world.

Since John Paul II was installed in 1978, he has been one of the most politically active popes, crisscrossing the globe to counter the growing popularity of revolutionary ideas and to bolster reactionary capitalist regimes. In March 1983, for example, he toured Central America and the Caribbean where he campaigned against revolutionary action, armed guerrilla struggles, and "collectivist" systems, and supported the call for sham elections in El Salvador.

His visit to Nicaragua brought out the largest mobilization of the revolution's opponents to date. He used this opportunity to publicly attack the Sandinista government and the Catholic priests serving in it.

As *New York Times* reporter Walter Goodman aptly put it in a recent article, "The effort to compete with Marxist regimes for the allegiance of the poor has been a mark of John Paul's tenure."

And this is one competition that the Catholic hierarchy cannot win any more than the imperialist masters it serves can forever maintain their domination.

From Intercontinental Press

ARIZONA

Phoenix

Arizona Farmworkers' Struggle for Justice. Speaker: Joaquin Lira, representative of Arizona Farmworkers. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Sept. 29, 7 p.m. 3750 W McDowell #3. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (602) 272-4026.

CALIFORNIA

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.

We are Driven. A video film on life in a Japanese auto factory. Presentation and discussion to follow on what U.S. auto workers face today. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Sept. 29, 7:30 p.m. 3808 E 14. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (415) 261-3014.

U.S. Concentration Camps: Japanese-Americans Fight Against Racism. Speakers: Don Tanaki, National Coalition for Redress and Reparations; Ernie Iiyama, executive board member, Northern California-Nevada-Western Pacific District Council Japanese-American Citizens League. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 6, 7:30 p.m. 3808 E 14. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (415) 261-3014.

San Diego

South Africa: Struggle Against Apartheid. Speakers: Ousman Gasama, member, International Association of Machinists, traveled to South Africa; Raúl Sandelin, representative, Young Socialist Alliance. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Sept. 29, 7:30 p.m. 1053 15 St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Socialist Workers Campaign. For more information call (619) 234-4630.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

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, Danly 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

United Auto Workers Contract Fight: How Can Labor Fight Concessions and Union-busting? Speakers: Toby Emmerich, member, United Auto Workers Local 12 at Toledo Jeep and Socialist Workers Party; Elizabeth Julien, laid-off Detroit Diesel Allison worker, member, UAW Local 933. Sat., Sept. 29, 7 p.m. 4850 N College. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (317) 283-6149.

LOUISIANA

New Orleans

Rally to Stop the U.S. War Against Working People at Home and Abroad. Speakers: Andrea González, Socialist Workers Party candidate for vice-president; Derrick Morrison, SWP candidate for Congress. Sat., Sept. 22. Reception, 7 p.m.; rally, 8 p.m. 3207 Dublin St. Donation: \$3. Ausp: Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (504) 486-8048.

Election Eve Celebration. Showing of slides from recent trip to Nicaragua. Sat., Sept. 29, 8 p.m. 3207 Dublin St. Ausp: Socialist Workers 1984 Campaign. For more information call (504) 486-8048.

MARYLAND

Baltimore

"Restore and More in '84": What Strategy for U.S. Auto Workers? Speaker: Linda Marcus, member, United Auto Workers Local 738, spokesperson, Young Socialist Alliance and Socialist Workers Party 1984 Campaign. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Sept. 22, 7 p.m. 2914 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (301) 235-0014.

Uprising in South Africa. Speakers: Representatives of African National Congress and Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sun., Sept. 30, 7 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (301) 235-0014.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

Campaign Rally for Mel Mason. Speakers: Mel Mason, Socialist Workers Party candidate for president; Ellie Garcia, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Sept. 22. Reception, 6 p.m.; program, 7 p.m. 508 N Snelling. Ausp: 1984 Minnesota Socialist Workers Campaign. 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.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

What Strategy for Auto Workers? Speaker: Mark Friedman, UAW member at Toledo Jeep plant, member of SWP. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Sept. 29, 7 p.m. 141 Halsey. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Speak-out Against Police Brutality. Sat., Sept. 29, 2-7 p.m. Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center, 208 W 13 St. Ausp: Anti-Police Abuse Coalition. For more information call (212) 807-7269 or 871-3548.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

Black Revolt in South Africa. Videotape and guest speaker. 301 S Elm St. Suite 522. Donation requested. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (919) 272-5996.

OHIO

Cleveland

Union-busting: Are Imports and Foreign-born Workers to Blame? Speakers: Héctor Marroquín, National Committee member, Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance; Joey Rothenberg, member, United Steelworkers of America Local 2609 at Sparrows Point. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Sept. 29, 7 p.m. 15105 St. Clair Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (216) 451-6150.

Toledo

Northern Ireland: an Eyewitness Report. Speaker: Seamus Metress, participant in recent demonstrations in Belfast and president of Clan na Gael. Translation to Spanish. Sun., Sept. 23, 7 p.m. 2120 Dorr. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (419) 536-0383.

Nicaragua Today. Slides and Presentation. Speaker: Elizabeth Lariscy, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress, member United Auto Workers Local 12. Recently returned from Nicaragua. Translation to Spanish. Sun., Sept. 30, 7 p.m. 2120 Dorr. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (419) 536-0383.

OREGON

Portland

United Auto Workers Fight for Justice. Speakers: Tom Fiske, member of International Association of Machinists Local 1005 and Socialist Workers Party; Jim Cook, postal worker, labor and peace activist. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Sept. 29, 7 p.m. 2732 NE Union. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (503) 287-7416.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

Socialist Workers Campaign Rally. Speaker: Mel Mason, Socialist Workers Party candidate for president. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Sept. 29. Buffet, 7 p.m.; rally, 8 p.m. 2744 Germantown Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Mel Mason Campaign Committee. For more information call (215) 225-0213.

TEXAS

Houston

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 coordinator 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

Nicaraguan Concert. With Carlos Mejia Godoy and Los de Palacaguina, an internationally acclaimed Nicaraguan folk music group. Fri., Sept. 21. Piggott 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.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Transit Worker Tours Nicaragua. Slide show and presentation by Ike Nahem, member, Amalgamated Transit Union Local 689 and Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Sept. 29, 7:30 p.m. 3106 Mt. Pleasant NW. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum and Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (202) 797-7699.

Socialist Campaign Rally. Speaker: Mel Mason, Socialist Workers Party candidate for president. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 6. Refreshments, 6 p.m.; rally, 7:30 p.m. 1419 V St. NW Sponsor: Socialist Workers Campaign. For more information call (202) 797-7699.

WEST VIRGINIA

Morgantown

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 UMW 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.

WISCONSIN

Milwaukee

Socialist Workers Campaign Rally. Speakers: Andrea González, Socialist Workers candidate for vice-president; Bill Breihan, SWP candidate for Congress; Alberto de Jesus, Puerto Rican independence activist and former political prisoner; Gil Delgado, member United Auto Workers Local 180; Boyce Harris, Alderman Michael McGee Defense Committee; Ted Shakespeare, Latin American Solidarity Committee. Sat., Sept. 29. Reception, 6 p.m.; rally, 7 p.m. Crystal Palace, 1925 W National Ave. Suggested donation: \$3. For more information call (414) 445-2076.

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RHODE ISLAND: Providence: YSA, P.O.

We goofed — Recently we noted Tiffany's was offering a \$695 gold corkscrew, thinking it suggested a rather pricey store.



Harry Ring

But apparently that's only by our standards. Several Tiffany execs raised \$135.5 million to buy the store back from Avon Products, its present owner. Store chairman

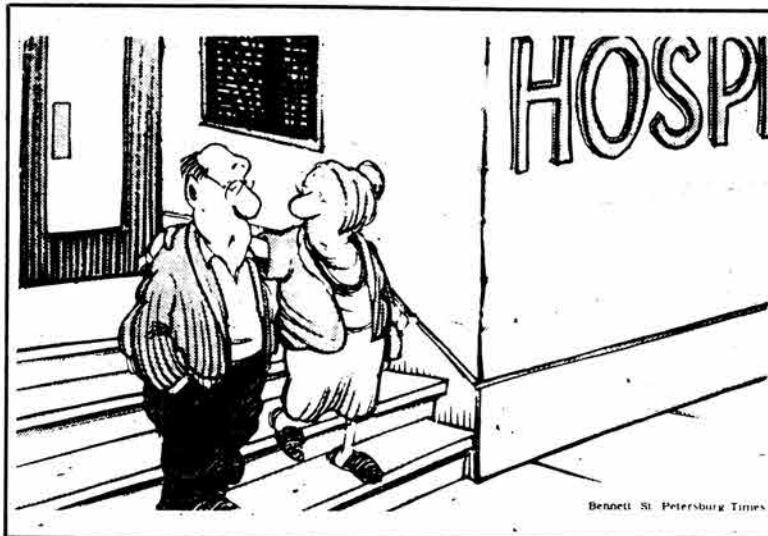
William Chaney declared, "We will now concentrate on the needs of the more affluent consumer... we want to narrow our focus and not emphasize the lower price lines."

Waffling — According to a late bulletin, Tiffany's chairman Chaney now says it's an exaggeration to call the store a mass marketer. He was responding to a designer who had quit, charging that Tiffany's was becoming more like K Mart than Cartier's. The wounded Chaney responded, "We have a \$2.9 million diamond necklace available for sale right now."

Nuke 'em — "Ever More Americans Living Into 80s and 90s. Causing Big Problems — The Strain on Social Services and Relatives Will Rise; Should Care Be Rationed?" — News headline.

The ketchup variety? — What with the heavy layoffs in the area's steel industry, the Mellon Bank of Pittsburgh has planted tomato gardens for the poor.

Thought for the week — "We are not a welfare agency." — U.S. Steel chairman David Roderick, responding to a query about the company's role in retraining the jobless.



"... On the bright side, the doctor said if I have the operation, it could add years to the time I have to pay his bill."

U.S. labor aids imprisoned Salvadoran unionists

Continued from back page

STECEL leaders inside Mariona Prison during the 1983 tour. ACTWU Secretary-Treasurer Jack Sheinkman, a member of the delegation, explained why the Labor Committee is campaigning for the electri-

cal workers' freedom: "After more than four years in prison without formal charge or trial, they are among the longest held political prisoners in El Salvador. Because the Salvadoran judicial system simply does not function, they have no hope of vindication or release without international pressure."

The Labor Committee has just printed for distribution an attractive four-page brochure on the case.

The brochure urges supporters to circulate petitions and send letters and telegrams to Duarte and the U.S. State Department demanding the immediate release of the prisoners.

Unionists from the Labor Committee are available to speak about the case before union locals and other organizations. Also available for speaking is Francisco Acosta, the North American representative of FENASTRAS (National Trade Union Federation of Salvadoran Workers).

The Labor Committee is also planning a tour for the 16-year-old son of the impris-

oned president of STECEL, Héctor Recinos. The tour is scheduled for the first week in October and will include Boston, the New York-New Jersey area, Philadelphia, and Richmond, Virginia.

The STECEL leaders were arrested in August 1980 during a nationwide general strike to protest violent repression against STECEL and the entire union movement. Meetings were disrupted, union halls bombed, union members kidnapped, tortured, and murdered. Between 1979 and 1980, 18 members of STECEL were "disappeared" or murdered.

After the arrests, STECEL was dissolved by government order and the hydroelectric plants formerly organized by STECEL put under military control.

The imprisoned unionists were tortured and told their families would be killed. In September 1980 they were forced to sign papers which they were not allowed to read. The papers were phony confessions implicating them in "terrorist" acts.

In June 1981, the 17-year-old daughter of one of the STECEL leaders, José Valentia, was forced from her home by armed men in civilian clothes and later found tortured and murdered.

In August 1982, the wife and 13-year-old daughter of Héctor Recinos were arrested and "disappeared." Mrs. Recinos was an active member of the Committee of Mothers of Prisoners and the Disappeared.

Recinos' remaining three children fled El Salvador to the United States. They were arrested by the Immigration and Naturalization Service. They now live in Los Angeles and are seeking political asylum.

To obtain copies of the brochure on the case, information about speakers, and copies of *El Salvador, Labor, Terror and Peace*, contact the National Labor Committee in Support of Democracy and Human Rights in El Salvador, 15 Union Square, New York, New York 10003 (212) 242-0700.

Oración la Esperanza, marzo 17 de mayo 84
Comité por los derechos humanos
en el Salvador
Estimados amigos, reciban nuestro
Fraternal saludo y admiración por la
noble tarea que ustedes llevan adelante.
Hemos tenido conocimiento a través
de la prensa de la detención de los
líderes de la UDELAR.

A Prison Letter from
Hector Recinos
(Translation of Hector Recinos' letter to the Committee)
(of Hope)
Prison 'La Esperanza'
17 May 1984

To the Committee for Human Rights in El Salvador:

We send you our brotherly greetings, dearest friends, and our admiration for the noble task that you are carrying forward.

Our knowledge of your work comes to us from our representative (Francisco Acosta) who has told us about all you have done for us and our people.

Your committed, dedicated efforts against social injustice helps to lessen the sadness of our people, and it fills us with pride and strength to know that there are brothers who are aware of our degrading situation, a situation brought about by the Salvadoran regime's disregard for life. We know that you support us and are making efforts for peace and justice, and this raises our morale to continue forward, as it is nearly four years now that we have been in prison, ignored and forgotten for the most part.

We want to take this opportunity, therefore, to express our deepest thanks for all that you are doing for us and to send you our love as brothers and sisters in the fight for peace and justice.

You have our strong embrace and our hope that the campaign you have undertaken will someday permit us to work together for the good of humanity.

Warmly,

/s/Hector Bernabe Recinos
Sec. General, Fenastras, in
prison
San Salvador, El Salvador,
C.A.

(Note: Recinos is President of STECEL)

Letter from Salvadoran union leader Héctor Recinos to the National Labor Committee in Support of Democracy and Human Rights in El Salvador.

Socialist candidate hits Mondale's war plans

Continued from front page

ernments are a threat to peace in the region and are the real cause of the civil war in El Salvador.

Mondale also repeats the charge that the popular Sandinista government in Nicaragua is a "totalitarian state" guilty of human rights violations.

In fact, democracy is flourishing in Nicaragua today because the workers and peasants there are in power, running their society in their own class interests, not those of the U.S. imperialists or the Nicaraguan capitalists and landlords.

Mondale, the "peace" candidate, also told the *Times* he fully endorses the racist U.S. invasion and occupation of Grenada last October. He says that like Reagan, "I would have used [force] to go in there and protect American lives." But it's a lie that the lives of U.S. students were ever in danger. This was just the pretext for carrying out the invasion of the majority-Black island that Washington had been planning for years, beginning under the Carter-Mondale administration.

In 1979, workers and farmers in Grenada overthrew a hated tyrant and established their own government. I visited Grenada two years later and witnessed the gains being made through the revolution in education, housing, medical care, and employment.

The U.S. occupation forces in Grenada today are facilitating the overturn of these advances.

Large estates, idle until the revolution made them into cooperatives, are now being returned to big landlords. Many state-run enterprises are being shut down, sending unemployment soaring. Free milk for children — a program of the revolution — has been halted and literacy centers are closing down. Teachers' education as well as medical care has been disrupted.

Mondale says it's in the national interest of people in the United States to support this war against workers and peasants in Central America and the Caribbean. But is it in U.S. workers' interests to take milk away from children? Is it in our interests to

stop workers and peasants from learning how to read? Is it in our interests to see clinics closed down and small farmers' land taken away from them?

No!

This war is not being waged in the interests of U.S. workers and farmers but in the interests of the employers of this country, who reap huge profits from the exploitation of working people in Central America and the Caribbean as well as here at home. And to defend those class interests, the Democrats and Republicans are preparing to send U.S. combat troops directly into the war in Central America and the Caribbean, despite the strong sentiment against this among U.S. working people.

The November elections will not and cannot change this course. That's why it's futile for opponents of U.S. aggression to try to stop the war by working to elect

Mondale. As his own statements indicate, a Democratic Party victory in November will not stop U.S. intervention nor will it "buy time" for the people of Nicaragua, El Salvador, and the rest of the region.

In fact, supporting the Mondale-Ferraro ticket will take away precious time that is needed to begin building a movement that can stop U.S. intervention, a movement based on the labor movement and the Black, Puerto Rican, and Chicano communities.

I encourage everyone who opposes U.S. intervention in Central America and the Caribbean to help organize the kind of massive, independent antiwar movement that is needed. And I urge you to join me and many others in the October antiwar protests scheduled for New York and other cities to mark the anniversary of the invasion of Grenada.

S. Africa cops shoot Black miners

Continued from back page

slogans, chanted antiapartheid demands, and sang revolutionary songs.

Meanwhile, the Botha regime continued to claim that the Black protests were caused by "outside agitators." In predawn arrests prior to the August 22 and 28 elections, 17 leaders of the United Democratic Front (UDF), a broad coalition of Black organizations and other opponents of the "reform" constitution, were jailed. Six of those locked up were later released and are now taking refuge in the British consulate in Durban.

On September 11, the South African regime banned all antigovernment meetings in 21 cities and towns. The ban came just three days before Botha was to be sworn in as president under the new constitution. Cops used tear gas and whips to break up a Soweto prayer meeting, which was called to commemorate Biko's murder.

The banning of all opposition political

meetings holds the ominous threat of a ban of opposition groups such as the UDF.

On September 14, Botha was inaugurated with much pomp and circumstance. A 21-gun salute boomed over Johannesburg. Warplanes flew overhead in formation, spewing smoke in the South African government's colors of orange, white, and blue. Attendants released 100 doves, 2,500 pigeons, and 3,000 colored balloons into the air.

But Blacks throughout the country held their own ceremonies in which they made it clear that they will accept nothing short of abolition of the entire apartheid system. In Sharpeville — site of the infamous 1960 massacre in which cops murdered 67 Blacks — hundreds of Blacks gathered in the Methodist Church on September 15 to commemorate their dead. As they crammed around seven coffins, they chanted "Amandla!" ("Power!") and its rejoinder "Awetu!" ("It shall be ours!").

Behind gov't 'anti-drug' campaign

The Reagan administration, with enthusiastic backing from the Democrats, is once again screaming about drug trafficking. But their complaints are not about the big U.S. drug dealers who run the international market, aided and abetted by U.S. "law enforcement" agencies. Instead, without a shred of evidence, they are trying to blame Cuba, Nicaragua, Bulgaria, and the Soviet Union.

"Communist dictators," cries the Republican Party platform, "Cuba, the Soviet Union, Bulgaria — and now the Sandinistas in Nicaragua — are international 'pushers' selling slow death to young Americans in an effort to undermine our free society."

This hogwash reads as if it is straight out of a yellow journalism scandal sheet. However, by repeating it over and over again, in public speeches such as one recently given by Secretary of State George Shultz, in Congressional hearings, and in the big business media, the U.S. rulers hope to convince working people that it is true.

The "evidence" is not very persuasive.

In fact it doesn't exist. Consider a few choice sentences from a recent *New York Times* offering titled, "The Communist Connection."

The head of the Drug Enforcement Administration, ac-

cording to the *Times*, "said he knows of no solid evidence linking the Soviet government to international drug trafficking."

Other drug enforcement officials, notes the *Times*, "have said that as much as 10 percent of the heroin smuggled into the United States may flow through Bulgaria. . . . But they also say the estimate is rough and difficult to confirm," (our emphasis).

Such charges are "hard to confirm" because they are not true.

And it is equally "hard to confirm" the charges about Cuba and Nicaragua. While the U.S. government has been mouthing such accusations for years, it offers no facts to back them up. Because there are none.

The real reason for these charges is to fuel the U.S. government's prowar and anticommunist propaganda. It hopes to manipulate the real concern among working people about the epidemic of drug addiction to promote Washington's reactionary foreign policy. The government hopes to convince working people that its war in Central America is necessary because communists are drug pushers — and the source of all other evil.

This fiction should be seen for what it is, and rejected.

Defend the right to abortion!

Continued from front page

church officials, as well as the big business media, portray abortion as a complex "moral" and "religious" question.

This is false.

The abortion issue has to do with one and only one thing: Does a woman have the right to decide for herself whether to bear a child? Or should this decision be dictated to her by politicians, priests, doctors, or family?

Millions of working women and men affirm that a woman must have the right to control her own body, to choose abortion or not. The right to control her own body is a prerequisite for controlling her own destiny — the ability to hold a job, to get an education, to participate actively in her union and society as a whole.

It's not women who have abortions who are the "murderers," but those who condemn women — especially Blacks and Latinas — to back-alley, illegal abortions that maim and kill. It's no accident that the loudest proponents of the "right to life" are also those clamoring for more invasions like that of Grenada, for more nuclear weapons, for harsher attacks on the unions, for sending immigrant workers back to dictatorships they fled, for putting more killer cops on the streets.

While professing their concern for "unborn children," the antiabortion forces are the ones who are for cutting back on child care, food stamps, government health-care programs, and public school budgets.

Just like the broader debate over religion in the election campaign, the attacks on abortion are part of the ideological war by the rulers of this country to gain greater acceptance of their antilabor, prowar offensive.

Attacks on women's rights — like those on Blacks and immigrant workers — are a central part of this anti-working-class offensive. The employers seek to push back the most oppressed, to deepen divisions in the working class, and divide workers from our allies. Opposition to abortion, busing, and immigrant rights have become central rallying cries of this reactionary capitalist campaign.

The employers and their politicians in the Democratic and Republican parties couch the abortion issue in moral and religious terms to better obscure the fundamental class issues involved.

Ferraro, for example, says she's against abortion "as a Catholic." The genuinely reactionary character of her views comes through in her explanation of why she's voted for some funding for Medicaid abortions: "The cost of putting an unwanted child through the system far outweighs the costs of funding abortion on demand."

This is not a women's rights argument, it's the argument of the racist population control schemers and those who advocate the forced sterilization of Black and Puerto Rican women.

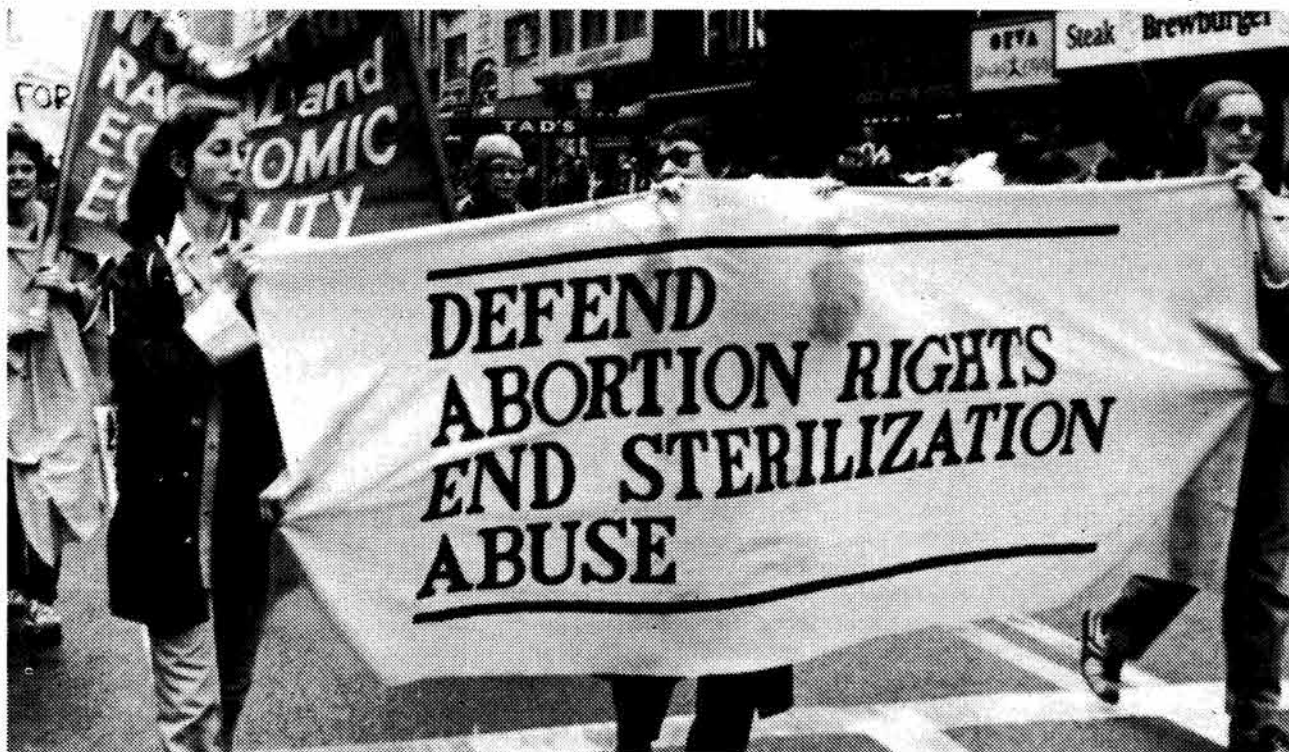
Ferraro has been the lead player in a carefully orchestrated campaign to put forward prominent Democrats as "Catholic politicians" and use them to attack abortion. But Ferraro, Cuomo, and Sen. Edward Kennedy are not "Catholic" politicians, they're capitalist politicians who strongly oppose women's right to abortion and who happen to be Catholic. In Ferraro's case, she's also a racist millionaire slumlord who likes to brag about how she "put her share of criminals" behind bars as a prosecutor.

The Socialist Workers Party is running the only presidential ticket in this election that is actively defending the right to abortion. Socialist candidates Mel Mason and Andrea González demand repeal of all local and federal laws restricting the right to legal, safe abortion. They say, restore all the funds the Democrats and Republicans cut for Medicaid abortions and expand those funds. They call for vigorous prosecution of the terrorists who are bombing and ransacking abortion clinics. They oppose forced sterilization.

Mason and González say supporters of abortion rights should not stand silent in the face of the antiabortion onslaught by the Democrats, Republicans, and Catholic Church hierarchy.

They warn that the antiabortion frenzy is aimed at laying the basis for new moves to further restrict abortion, as well as to deepen the assault on affirmative action, child care, maternity leave, and equal pay for equal work.

Mason and González urge women's rights groups, the unions, and Black and other civil rights groups to speak out against the attacks on abortion, to organize protests, rallies, and teach-ins, and to set the record straight: *abortion is a woman's right.*



125th anniversary of John Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry

BY STEVE MARSHALL

One hundred twenty-five years ago, in October 1859, about 50 armed abolitionists seized a federal arsenal at Harper's Ferry, Virginia. They planned to take its weapons and retreat into the Appalachians. Their aim was to raid plantations, liberate slaves, and build their forces.

The company included workers, farmers, slaves, soldiers, and businessmen. It was about evenly divided, Black and white. At its center stood a dozen antislavery

OUR REVOLUTIONARY HERITAGE

combat veterans gathered over the years around a 59-year-old revolutionary commander named John Brown.

Brown was born in 1800. His ancestors landed on the *Mayflower*, fought in the Revolutionary War, and sheltered fugitive slaves on the underground railroad.

The young man moved with his generation around the expanding new country, as a farmer, surveyor, businessman, tanner, shepherd, and wool merchant. He made his fortune and lost it, twice, in booms and busts. He supported abolitionist reforms, but for most of his life concentrated on making his living.

Meanwhile, the southern slaveowners fortified their brutal, backward social system.

Driven to expand, they came into sharper conflict with the rising capitalists of the North and their system of wage labor. The planters tightened their hold on the federal government and used its laws, courts, marshals, and troops to extend slavery.

Under government protection, slave hunters tracked runaways and murdered free Blacks and whites. Plantation brutality intensified. Armed expeditions were launched — unsuccessfully — to enslave Cuba and Nicaragua. By 1854, Karl Marx wrote, "The Union had in fact become the slave of the 300,000 slaveowners."

The deepening crisis focused John Brown's thinking: freedom and slavery could not coexist. He became, said his wife, "an instrument of Providence" against slavery.

Brown studied the slave rebellions of Gabriel, Nat Turner, and Denmark Vesey, and Toussaint L'Ouverture's slave revolution in Haiti. In 1849, after revolutions swept Europe, he went there to study insurrectionary warfare. He pored over southern geography and censuses, and formed his plans for guerrilla war.

But his plans were interrupted in 1854, as thousands of settlers staked out the new Kansas Territory. Among them were his five sons — attracted by "appeals to all lovers of freedom . . . to go there as settlers and by their votes save Kansas from the curse of slavery."

Proslavery terrorists fell upon Kansas. On election day thousands of Missouri "border rabble" occupied Kansas and, with Bowie knives and guns, "elected" a proslavery legislature. Violence against free farmers mounted while federal troops — under the U.S. Secretary of War, a rabid slaveowner named Jefferson Davis — stood by.

So John Brown joined his sons at Osawatimie, Kansas, and defended the free soilers' right to vote. When proslavery killers burned the capital at Lawrence and announced Osawatimie was next, Brown stood in Lawrence's smoking rubble and gathered his forces. They rode down to the proslavery camp and executed five terrorist commanders in the Swamp of the Swan.

The battle was joined in earnest. Northern arms and fighters came to "Bleeding Kansas," and Brown commanded companies against the slave-owner forces. Twice he raided Missouri plantations to free slaves. The tide was turned, and the planters were beaten back.

Turning back to his main plan, Brown and his fighters moved quietly — training, making maps, raising funds. Newspapers north and south wondered where "Old Osawatimie" would strike next.

They struck at Harper's Ferry. After two days of fighting, Brown's forces were defeated by Col. Robert E. Lee's U.S. Marines. Half the abolitionists, including two of Brown's sons, were killed. John Brown and six others were tried and hanged for treason.

The Kansas and Harper's Ferry lightning lit up the political landscape and heralded the coming storm of social revolution. Brown's judges and hangmen were soon plotting treason, led by Davis and Lee, the military dictators of the Southern Confederacy.

"John Brown's Body" was the marching song of millions of workers, farmers, and slaves, when the northern capitalists armed them for civil war — the last great plantation raid that drove slavery forever from the North American continent.

The pious old guerrilla commander and his troops hated racial oppression; they lived, organized, fought, and died to start a revolutionary war against slavery. They wrote a brilliant chapter in the revolutionary heritage of the Americas.

Wisc. farmers map fight against foreclosures

BY JUDITH SINGER

HIXTON, Wisc. — The Wisconsin Farm Unity Alliance (WFUA) held its first annual statewide meeting here August 25. The meeting was designed to build a campaign in the fall and winter that would fight for WFUA's demands for an increase in farm prices and a moratorium on farm foreclosures.

About 75 farmers and their families attended the convention.

The WFUA is a grassroots organization that has been active for two years. It has monthly meetings that include farmers from all over the state. It traces its roots back to a group of farmers from northwest Wisconsin who held discussion groups on farm issues in area churches. Those discussions convinced them that there was a serious crisis in farming communities and unless they fought back, family farmers would become extinct.

In the past year the WFUA has formed several new chapters and participated in a number of public protest actions including sit-ins and penny auctions. They have developed a "hot line" and trained members in their Advocacy Program. This program helps farmers restructure their debts through legal channels in an effort to postpone or prevent foreclosure on their farms.

The WFUA also sponsored a tour of a

woman farmer from the Netherlands to help foster discussions on the problems that European and U.S. farmers share in common. She traveled throughout Wisconsin and Minnesota speaking to farm groups about the need for international solidarity.

The convention's keynote speaker was Roger Allison, a Missouri farmer from the American Agriculture Movement. He has been jokingly dubbed "the world's worst auctioneer" after he and other farmers took over a farm auction in Missouri. He sold \$80,000 worth of farm equipment for \$43. With this action the farm family was able to buy its equipment back from their neighbors who made the bids.

Allison calls the farm crisis a "social issue." He said 396,000 farmers have stopped farming during the last two years for financial reasons.

In his presentation he responded to his being called a "radical" and "militant": "I am a radical, I am a militant, and I'm proud of it." The audience applauded.

He also talked about Ronald Reagan's visit to the Missouri State Fair in Sedalia August 19. After Reagan had finished speaking about "improvements" made under his administration, Allison shouted out to him, "Show me the improvements."

Allison is not sure the Democrats will

solve the problems either. "I don't know if Mondale is going to do it — it might go right past him," he said.

Bob Schulte, president of United Food and Commercial Workers Local P-4 in St. Paul, was scheduled to speak, but was unable to attend due to strike responsibilities. Robert Dees, a member of Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Local 64 in Milwaukee, who was an observer at the convention, was asked to speak in his place.

"We have to understand what we are fighting for, and how we can achieve it," Dees said. "The problem is not poor farm management, Blacks, Jews, 'foreigners,' imports, or 'high' union wages. The problem is an economic system that is based on competition and greed, where the worst cut-throat is likely to succeed," he explained. "We must replace it with a system based on cooperation. In order to accomplish this, workers and farmers must form a close alliance in the fight against our common foes."

He encouraged WFUA to send speakers to union meetings and other labor-sponsored events to educate city workers about the plight of the family farmer.

"And we must also educate ourselves about what is going on in the world. In Nicaragua the government is handing out titles

to land to small farmers, while the U.S. government is at war with them. Why is this?" He encouraged the WFUA to send a fact-finding tour of farmers to Nicaragua to find out what's really going on "before they send us there with M-16s to kill farmers who are fighting to defend the first piece of land they've ever owned."

The film *Dairy Queens* was also shown. It's a powerful film about three farm women who fight the government and take leadership roles in protesting against attempts to destroy family farmers. (See review in the September 21 *Militant*.)

The convention ended with a discussion on principles and positions. This discussion covered credit, debts, price and supply, imports and exports, and tax policies. Most of the farmers present spoke.

Future actions were planned, including the possibility of selling food at cost to the poor in the cities. Farmers felt that this would open the eyes of city workers to the fact that somebody in the middle was making a lot of money — not the farmer.

They spoke of "Main Street" rallies in all of their towns, working with the shopkeepers who are also in financial trouble. The idea was also raised to have rallies at state capitols all over the country on the same day and of supporting striking workers in the cities.

LETTERS

UAW solidarity

On September 6, Michigan United Auto Workers (UAW) members came to Toledo to express their solidarity with the striking AP Parts workers.

Members of the national "Restore plus More" Committee from locals 15 and 599 in Detroit, 160 in Warren, and 542 in Lansing, came to Toledo to join the AP Parts strikers on the picket line.

Don Douglas of Local 599 read a statement at the union hall recalling the tradition of solidarity in the past days of the UAW. "In those early days," he said, "UAW members from Flint would join picket lines in Ohio or Indiana on an hour's notice."

Douglas said that auto workers from the "Big Three" of the auto industry had to join hands with AP Parts workers and other independents. He said the UAW should commit its full resources to winning the battle in Toledo.

Afterwards, there was a car caravan to the AP Parts picket line to express support for the picketers and to "greet" the scabs, Nuchols security goons, and the city cops as the shift ended.

Alan Epstein
Toledo, Ohio

Labor day march

Thirty thousand trade unionists marched here on Labor Day, just two weeks before United Auto Workers contracts with General Motors and Ford were due to expire.

But discussion of a possible

auto strike was absent from the official proceedings of the march, as were most issues of vital concern to the union movement.

No mention was made of the nearly five-month-old UAW strike being fought at AP Parts in nearby Toledo. The U.S. war in Central America was ignored completely from the platform.

The rally program was dominated by Democratic "friends of labor" (several of whom were described as "labor's greatest supporter") including Gov. James Blanchard, Sen. Carl Levin, Rep. John Conyers, and Joan Mondale.

Labor speakers included AFL-CIO Pres. Lane Kirkland, UAW Pres. Owen Bieber, and Michigan AFL-CIO Pres. Tom Turner.

All speakers lavished extravagant praise on Walter Mondale; blamed imports for unemployment; and advocated one strategy for unionists: voting Democratic on November 6.

Labor officials like Kirkland and Bieber were thus disarming the union ranks in the middle of a critical battle with GM and Ford.

Most people at the march wore Mondale buttons. But there wasn't much enthusiasm for him.

Socialists at the march got a good response. One hundred and twenty copies of the *Militant* were sold, and 1,000 pieces of literature for the Socialist Workers Party candidates for public office were handed out.

Edward Goldman
Detroit, Michigan

'Improper Conduct'

Harry Ring's review of Nestor Almendros' film, *Improper Conduct*, will be an important tool for supporters of the Cuban revolution as the film makes its way around the country.

A companion to *Improper Conduct* is a small book by Allen Young entitled *Gays Under the Cuban Revolution* (Grey Fox Press). Unlike Almendros, Young uses his "leftist" past to bolster his stories and allegations against the Cuban revolution.

A longtime activist in the gay movement in the states, Young visited Cuba three times. Along with Susan Sontag, Edén Pastora, and others, Young has walked away from Marxism and put on a new jacket that fits more comfortably.

Like *Improper Conduct*, Young's attack is aimed not at pro-invasion "Soldier of Fortune" circles, but rather at the liberal and leftist milieu, hoping to shake those whose confidence in the Cuban revolution is weak enough to disturb.

Young carries us along the half-truths and horror stories by gay friends in Cuba where he is finally convinced that Marxism and the Cuban revolution are failures.

While offering shallow recognition of the advances made by Cuba in health and education, Young's real enthusiasm is revealed when he ruminates about prerevolutionary Cuba. A time when working-class families sent their young daughters and sons to the streets to sell their bodies in order for the family to survive, Young sees this as a period of time when Cubans from all classes reveled in the experiences of sexual pleasures.

No doubt there are problems that remain. However, instead of seeing a poor country under the gun of imperialism that has steadily moved forward, Young only sees repression. Allen Young's book is dangerous in that it misguides and confuses gays in the United States on how to struggle for gay rights.

In the United States gays continue to be subjected to violence and discrimination in all areas. Cubans, gay and straight, possess the freedom to participate in building a new society.

With the overthrow of capitalism 25 years ago, Cuba stands far along the road to achieving full liberation for gay people. Rather than assisting this process by aiming his fire at the real warmongers, misogynists, and homophobes in his own country, Young, along with Sontag, becomes a cheerleader for imperialism.

It is interesting that when talented artists such as Nestor Almendros (*Days of Heaven*, *Kramer vs. Kramer*) impose their reactionary dream on their art, their productions end up as embarrassing travesties.

Craig McKissic
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

'Beautiful work'

Please forward your "beautiful work," the *Militant*, to me and the brothers in the max-unit here in



this slave camp. We need to be kept up on today's happenings.

A prisoner
Missouri

Prisoners file lawsuit

This letter is an appeal for support for the class-action lawsuit against conditions at the United States Penitentiary at Marion ("the New Alcatraz," as the Bureau of Prisons [BOP] calls it).

A motion for a preliminary injunction against brutality, which details the policy of terrorism through beatings and forced rectal searches, has been filed.

Besides the beatings, which have been an administration policy for nearly a year now, the prison is on permanent lockdown, with prisoners locked in their cells all but 11 hours a week at most.

All communication is monitored, and very little is allowed.

The same guards who beat up prisoners read (and frequently "lose" or destroy) all letters; only two ten-minute phone calls are allowed per month (they are tape-recorded); all visits are through glass, watched by a guard, with conversation by telephone, and tape-recorded.

No religious services are allowed. Native American and Black prisoners are particularly harassed in even their private religious observances.

The Bureau of Prisons claims that the prisoners at Marion are the

world's worst thugs and mass murderers, and therefore it is all right to beat and torture them; but actually they are a combination of jailhouse lawyers, "management problems" (a label that covers almost everything but is usually reserved for political prisoners and leaders), and prisoners from whom the BOP wants to extort information.

I hope you'll be interested in this appalling situation.

Contributions can be sent to the Marion Prisoners Special Litigation Fund, P.O. Box 678, Carbondale, Illinois 62903.

Nancy Horgan
Carbondale, Illinois

The *Militant* special prisoner fund makes it possible to send reduced-rate subscriptions to prisoners who can't pay for them. Where possible the fund also tries to fill prisoners' requests for other literature. To help this important cause, send your contribution to: *Militant Prisoner Subscription Fund*, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014.

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

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S. Africa cops shoot Black miners

BY MOHAMMED OLIVER

South African cops killed several Black gold miners and shot, clubbed, and beat hundreds more on September 18 in an attempt to break a Black miners strike that began the day before. Between 30-40,000 Black gold miners stayed away from work on September 17, demanding higher wages.

Meanwhile, South African Pres. Pieter Botha opened the first session of the country's newly created parliament, saying, "Our gathering today indicates a continuation along the road we took to create a community of peace, prosperity, and justice on the southern tip of Africa and to respect the self-determination of population groups and peoples."

South African Blacks know all too well the actual meaning of Botha's poppycock: the newly-constituted government's design is aimed at shoring up the racist apartheid system.

The brutal crackdown against the miners strike shows the nature of this regime. Cops fired shotguns, deadly rubber bullets, and tear gas at striking Black miners in Westonaria, outside of Johannesburg. The cop assault began on the evening of September 17 and lasted throughout the night and into the next day.

The strike was organized by the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM). In the past two years, the NUM has signed up about 90,000 of the country's 500,000 Black gold miners. The NUM won a 16.3 percent wage increase over the next year, which still leaves Black miners' wages lagging behind those of whites. The miners attacked by the South African cops worked at nonunion mines. They had walked out to demand the same settlement as the one gained by the NUM.



Tens of thousands of Black gold miners struck South African operators September 17. Cops attacked, killing several miners and wounding hundreds more.

Figures on the number killed or injured by the cops are not yet available. Company spokesmen, however, said cops injured more than 350 Black miners at gold mines in Welkom, south of Johannesburg, and Roodepoort, just outside of the city.

Neville Huxham, a spokesman for the Anglo-American Corp., whose owners control the lion's share of South Africa's gold production, said company officials called in the cops to halt the Black miners' "intimidation and picketing" at their Western Holdings mine near Welkom.

"Unfortunately," said Huxham, "numerous injuries were sustained in this action, and more than 250 workers were treated at

the mine hospital in Welkom, many with fractures and wounds resulting from rubber bullets. Of the 250 injured, about 100 were admitted to the hospital, two were in intensive care, and 11 underwent operations."

This bloody repression is part of a broader crackdown on Black protests that has gripped South Africa for several weeks. Since mid-August, South African cops have killed more than 40 Blacks and injured hundreds more in the most brutal cop violence in several years.

The cop terror accompanied the inauguration of a reorganized South African government, which was formed under a new "reform" constitution. South Africa's

capitalist rulers hailed this constitution, claiming it grants more rights to sections of the country's oppressed Black majority. U.S. and European imperialists also lauded the so-called liberalization, and argued that it justified increased aid to the apartheid regime.

But South Africa's new constitution makes only cosmetic changes in the composition of the racist regime. It establishes a parliament with three houses — one for whites, one for Coloureds, and another for Indians. Whites remain in overall control, while Africans, the overwhelming majority of the country's population, have no representation at all.

For this reason, most Blacks see the regime's new constitution as another ploy aimed at trying to pit different sectors of the Black population against one another. South Africa's Black population is made up of some 24 million Africans, more than 800,000 Indians, and about 2.8 million Coloureds, who are of mixed ancestry.

Most Coloureds and Indians boycotted the elections, held August 22 and 28. Only 18 percent of the eligible voters came to the polls.

The African National Congress (ANC), the main liberation movement in South Africa, applauded the boycott, calling it an "outright victory for the democratic forces fighting for the final overthrow of the apartheid regime." The ANC said the South African people "overwhelmingly registered their complete rejection of the fraudulent racist constitution and all that it embodies by massively boycotting the recent Coloured and Indian 'elections'."

Coupled with this rejection of the new constitution was a wave of Black protests that swept South Africa. Massive Black student demonstrations, which initiated the protests, scored the "reform," and also blasted the racist educational system. New hikes in rent and electricity rates sparked further discontent, which culminated in a series of mass protests in Black townships such as Sharpeville, Tembisa, Mamelodi, and Sebokeng.

By mid-September the protests spread to Soweto, the sprawling Black township of nearly 1.5 million Blacks, where in 1976 students sparked the most widespread Black uprising in South Africa's history.

The apartheid regime closed down Black schools September 7, and a Johannesburg judge banned meetings that weekend, fearing the approaching September 12 anniversary of the murder of Steve Biko, a widely known Black leader, in 1977.

That ban was defied, as Blacks in many townships surrounding "whites only" Johannesburg held funeral services for the dozens of Blacks killed by police. The funerals quickly turned into political demonstrations against the apartheid regime. Blacks unfurled banners with revolutionary

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Socialist miner addresses UMWU meeting

BY SUSIE BECK

PRICE, Utah — Socialist Workers gubernatorial candidate Cecelia Moriarity and her campaign supporters stepped up their activities the week before Labor Day in response to the U.S. government's escalation of the war in Central America.

On August 27, Moriarity, a coal miner and member of United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) Local 2176 at the Wilberg mine, was invited to address a meeting of the UMWA's Coal Miners Political Action Committee (COMPAC). Thirty-five COMPAC representatives from all of the locals in District 22, which includes Utah, Wyoming, and Arizona, participated in the meeting.

Moriarity explained to the miners, "The reason I am running for governor of Utah is to explain to working people that we are the victims of two wars. One is the war by the employers of this country against working people in Central America, particularly the U.S. war against Nicaragua. The other, the war against working people here at home, is a war against our living standards, working conditions, and against the very existence of our unions."

"We see the fight by UMWA miners for a decent contract," said Moriarity of the developing confrontation between the union and the coal operators over a new national agreement, "as one front in the resistance to the U.S. employers' war against working people everywhere."

Moriarity contrasted the recent convention of her party, the Socialist Workers Party, to the national gatherings of the Democrats and Republicans, both of which, she said, "reaffirmed the war drive against Nicaragua." She pointed to Democratic candidate Walter Mondale's promise, in his platform to "be prepared to apply military force when vital American interests are threatened."

But Nicaragua's Sandinista government

poses no threat to the interests of U.S. working people, Moriarity explained. "Nicaragua had a revolution in 1979 and, since then, the working people and farmers of Nicaragua have enjoyed being citizens of a country with a popular government — a workers and farmers government that runs the country in their interests."

The recent SWP convention, she said, made its central focus "how to stop the escalating military threat of another Vietnam-type war in Central America. If that threat is not stopped," Moriarity told her fellow miners, "then coal miners and other working people from Utah will die defending the interests of U.S. corporations."

Moriarity also pointed out, "Just like the news media here distorts the union side of struggles against the bosses, they are distorting the truth about Nicaragua."

"Our convention," explained Moriarity, "decided that a major task for our side, the side of trade unionists, is to go to Nicaragua to see for ourselves why the union-busting government of the United States is already organizing to send troops to that country to crush a government of workers and farmers."

Moriarity also saluted the UMWA's decision to send a fact-finding team to Britain to learn about the British coal miners' strike. "The decision to give \$25,000 to the strike fund is a real example of solidarity."

Later in the week, socialist campaign supporters took these messages to more than 200 trade unionists at the state AFL-CIO convention. A campaign table featured socialist pamphlets and books as well as the *Militant*, the newspaper of the SWP presidential campaign of Mel Mason and Andrea González.

The UMWA sponsored a Labor Day Parade and celebration in Helper, Utah, an old coal mining town near Price. A truck displayed banners reading "U.S. out of Central America. Stop union-busting. A

coal miner for governor — vote Cecelia Moriarity — Socialist Workers candidate." Campaign supporters distributed a Labor Day statement to the several hundred people there.

In Salt Lake City, a "Rock Against Reagan," called to protest Reagan's presence at the American Legion Convention, attracted more than 300 people, mostly youth. The focus of the protest was the U.S. war in Central America. The Young Socialist Alliance had a campaign table and banner. All the campaign papers which they had — 41 *Militants* and 26 *Young Socialists* — were quickly sold. They explained that these were the papers of the only socialist campaign and the only anti-war campaign — the campaign of Mason and González against Reagan and Mondale.

U.S. labor aids Salvador unionists

BY DAVE PRINCE

The National Labor Committee in Support of Democracy and Human Rights in El Salvador is seeking support from U.S. trade unionists and others for a fight to win freedom for 10 imprisoned leaders of STECEL, El Salvador's hydroelectric workers union. The leaders have been in jail for four years without formal charges or trial.

The National Labor Committee — a coalition of 21 top union officials — calls for an end to all U.S. military aid to El Salvador. The Committee is co-chaired by Douglas Fraser of the United Auto Workers (UAW); Jack Sheinkman, secretary-treasurer of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU); and William Winpisinger, president of the International Association of Machinists. Members of the committee include William Bywater, president of the Interna-

tional Union of Electronic Workers, UAW President Owen Bieber, and Joseph Misbrenner, president of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union.

During the summer of 1983, the Committee sent a union fact-finding tour to El Salvador. The delegation of trade union officials found that the Salvadoran trade union movement faced brutal repression. A new preface to a second edition of the delegation's findings, published in the pamphlet *El Salvador, Labor, Terror and Peace*, stated that since the tour, despite the highly-touted U.S.-sponsored elections and imposition of José Napoleón Duarte as the new president, "the situation has not changed. In fact, the terror targeted against Salvadoran trade unionists who have dared stand up for social justice has actually increased."

The fact-finding delegation met the

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