

GM pact: UAW loses ground to auto giant

BY PAT GROGAN

SEPTEMBER 26 — The United Auto Workers (UAW) 300-member General Motors Bargaining Council met today in St. Louis to consider the proposed three-year contract agreed on by the union's National Negotiating Committee and GM. The bargaining council members are drawn from local unions at GM facilities across the country. If approved by the council, the contract must then be submitted to the rank and file of the UAW for a vote.

On Friday, September 21, UAW President Owen Bieber announced that an agreement with GM had been reached and ordered an end to the six-day selective strike against 17 GM facilities. The strike involved about 92,000 of the 350,000 UAW members covered by the agreement with GM. The 17 UAW locals went out

Continued on Page 5

Socialists hit U.S. gov't hypocrisy on Beirut blast



Militant/Alan Martin

SWP candidates: 'Washington real terrorist in Mideast'

The following statement was released September 26 by Mel Mason and Andrea González, Socialist Workers Party candidates for president and vice-president.

The Reagan administration and a chorus of Democratic and Republican party politicians — with Democratic presidential candidate Walter Mondale among the loudest — are raising a hypocritical hue and cry about "terrorism" in the wake of the September 20 bombing of the U.S. embassy in Beirut. The blast killed 23 people, mostly Lebanese, and wounded dozens more. Two U.S. marines were among those killed. The responsibility for these deaths lies squarely with the U.S. government and its allies, who maintain their occupation forces in Lebanon.

It's these imperialist governments who are the true terrorists in Lebanon — as the record shows. During Lebanon's 1983

Coal miners vote on contract offer

BY GEOFF MIRELOWITZ

SEPTEMBER 26 — As the *Militant* goes to press, members of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) are voting on a tentative contract settlement reached with the Bituminous Coal Operators Association (BCOA). Results of the balloting are expected to be announced September 28.

The proposed 40-month pact between the union and the chief bargaining arm for the coal operators was announced by UMWA Pres. Richard Trumka at 4:45 a.m. September 21. At a Washington press conference later in the day the UMWA president, who was elected in November 1982 on a "no concessions" platform, hailed the proposed contract as "totally nonconcessionary."

Trumka also warned the independent coal operators who are not members of the BCOA, and who have not signed "me too" agreements binding them to accept the terms of a UMWA-BCOA contract, that they would face the threat of a strike by the union on September 30. Trumka named the

Island Creek Coal Co., Pittsburgh & Midway, National Coal, and A.T. Massey as possible strike targets.

The UMWA's December 1983 convention authorized Trumka to call selective strikes against one or more coal companies, rather than the union's traditional "no contract, no work" position which has led to national contract strikes in the past.

Trumka did not say at the press conference which mines would be struck in the event of a selective strike against the independent operators, but stated that anywhere from 1,000 to 12,000 UMWA members could be involved. Within days, Island Creek Coal, the largest independent, signed a "me too" agreement with the UMWA. As with other such pacts, the union agreed to a one year no-strike pledge in exchange.

Wages and benefits

The proposed contract includes a 10.25 percent wage increase over the life of the

agreement — an increase of \$1.40 an hour by the end of the contract — and minor improvements in pension and widow benefits, sickness and accident pay, and other matters. The companies agreed to increase, by 23 cents per ton of coal mined, the royalties paid for pension benefits. This will ensure that benefits remain at the present level for the life of this contract. The union won advances in miners' individual safety rights. In addition the operators agreed to increase the frequency of company-paid safety inspections done by union safety committees from once every three months to once every two months.

One miner in McClellantown, Pennsylvania, explained, "We didn't gain very much except a little bit more money," but the contract "doesn't have any takeaways so it isn't bad."

Reports from *Militant* correspondents in the coalfields indicate that this is a common response among UMWA members. Miners are well aware of the sweeping concessions imposed on major unions like the United Auto Workers, the United Steelworkers, and many others over the past several years. At the 1983 UMWA convention, delegates vowed to accept "No backward steps. No takeaway contracts."

Militant correspondent Kathy Mickells, a miner in UMWA District 4 in Pennsylvania, reports that many miners in her area share the view that "the contract is not bad." Most, she said, believe that it will be ratified by the membership.

'Could we do better?'

At the same time, Mickells said that even among those who think it will pass, some say they will not vote for it. Unlike previous coal contracts in recent years, there appears to be no organized opposition to the proposed settlement. But, Mickells explained, "some miners are beginning to think that we could do better if we give the coal operators a fight."

In Mickells' view, the problem is not "that this contract is awful," but rather that it does not address some of the most pressing problems facing miners as the result of the relentless day-to-day assault by the coal operators against the union. "What many miners are beginning to think more deeply about," she said, "is how do we take that on."

Mickells reported a discussion with

Continued on Page 10

Ortega to address UN assembly



Militant/Michael Baumann
Nicaraguan government coordinator Daniel Ortega.

NEW YORK — A delegation from Nicaragua, headed by Daniel Ortega, coordinator of Nicaragua's governing junta, will arrive here on October 2. Ortega will address the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Opponents of the U.S.-organized war against Nicaragua will greet Ortega when he arrives at the UN.

Ortega's speech to the United Nations comes at a critical time, when the U.S. aggression against the Sandinista revolution is on the rise. The Nicaraguan government has agreed to sign a revised version of the Contadora Group's peace accord on Central America, which Washington is refusing to sign.

The Sandinista government also recently announced that the country's presidential elections, slated for November 4, will go ahead as planned. Ortega is the Sandinista National Liberation Front's presidential candidate.

As many opponents of U.S. intervention as possible are urged to turn out to greet the Nicaraguan delegation at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, October 2 on 43rd Street and 1st Avenue in front of the main entrance to the United Nations.

Mason & González



Speak Out

civil war it was U.S. naval ships that bombed the country's Shuf Mountains; French warplanes that shelled and strafed Lebanese villages; British and Italian troops that occupied Beirut; and Israeli jets that rained terror on Lebanese and Palestinians.

Israeli troops still occupy southern Lebanon today, turning it into a virtual colony of Israel.

The same day the U.S. embassy was bombed, Israeli and U.S.-backed troops from the South Lebanon Army massacred 13 Lebanese civilians in a village in Israeli-occupied Lebanon.

"The SLA soldiers just ran amok," one diplomat was quoted as saying. Ran amok while their Israeli mentors stood aside and watched.

For years the U.S. government has backed the Israeli war in Lebanon. In 1983 Washington sent 14,000 sailors, pilots, and marines and a naval armada. The British, French, and Italian governments also joined in the joint effort to bolster the proimperialist regime of Lebanese Pres. Amin Gemayel.

The U.S. embassy is in Beirut for the same reason. Far from being simply an office of diplomats, this embassy is a nest of spies and headquarters for other military personnel. That's why it's a target of Lebanese rebels — and will remain so until U.S. intervention there is totally stopped.

President Reagan and other capitalist

Continued on Page 13



Striking members of the United Auto Workers. *Militant* sales teams discussed with GM strikers the connection between union-busting and U.S. war.

BY LEE MARTINDALE

When 13 locals of the United Auto Workers (UAW) went out on strike on September 15 for a decent contract, supporters of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* (PM) used their regular weekly sales of the two papers at plant gates across the country to build solidarity with the auto workers' fight.

They also took the opportunity to discuss with UAW members and other unionists the political issues raised by the contract fight, and its connection with the fight against the employers' war on the workers and farmers of Central America. The *Militant*'s lead headline, "Socialist candidates back UAW, blast war in Central America," set the tone for this effort.

The General Motors plant in Van Nuys, California, was one of those that went out. Socialists in Los Angeles, who sell the *Militant* and PM regularly at the plant,

went to the picket lines to express their solidarity and talk to the strikers.

Teams of socialist workers also sell the *Militant* and PM regularly at other plants in the Los Angeles area. Through these sales, the socialists reached a cross-section of the city's industrial unionists with their message of solidarity and the socialist analysis of the issues in the strike.

Mike Downs, Socialist Workers Party sales coordinator in Los Angeles, reports that at the Lockheed plant in Van Nuys, sales of the *Militant* increased as a result of interest in the auto workers strike. Lockheed is located close to the Van Nuys GM plant and Lockheed workers wanted to find out more about the strike.

Another team took the socialist press to the UAW members who work at McDonnell Douglas in Long Beach. McDonnell Douglas, a Pentagon contractor, is covered by a different contract than GM

and Ford. In February of this year, the union struck in an unsuccessful attempt to prevent the company from imposing a concession contract.

At the Chevron plant, the socialists sold the paper and talked with members of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW) union. In March, the Chevron local was involved in organizing solidarity with OCAW members who struck against Texaco's attempt to bust their union.

At the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union hiring hall in San Pedro, socialists sold the *Militant* and PM along with books and pamphlets from a literature table. They set the table up there on a regular basis.

We invite all supporters of the *Militant* and PM to contribute to this column their experiences selling the socialist press and campaigning for the SWP candidates at plant gates.

Marroquín: Simpson-Mazzoli bill hurts all labor

BY CHRIS RAYSON

MILWAUKEE — Héctor Marroquín blasted recent Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) raids on area factories during his September 8-11 tour of Milwaukee and Racine. Marroquín charged that passage of the anti-immigrant Simpson-Mazzoli bill would lead to further attacks on all working people as Washington steps up its preparations to escalate its war in Central America.

Marroquín is an undocumented worker from Mexico whom the U.S. government is trying to deport because of his socialist ideas and his active opposition to the U.S. war in Central America and the Caribbean. Marroquín is a leader of the Socialist Workers Party and the Young Socialist Alliance.

He is touring the United States this fall to win support in the labor movement, Black and Latino communities, and from antiwar and women's rights activists for his right to obtain a permanent resident visa and stay in this country.

Over the summer, as many as 12 factories have been raided in southeastern Wisconsin. In the most serious incident, the INS conducted two raids at Racine Steel Castings, a United Auto Workers-organized shop of several hundred in Racine. (See story on page 11.)

These raids, coming on top of several others at smaller factories, provoked a discussion in the labor movement here.

Approximately 40 people attended a September 8 forum in Milwaukee featuring Marroquín, entitled "Simpson-Mazzoli: an attack on all labor." Thirty people attended a forum the next night in Racine on the same subject. A number of Chicano UAW members, active in opposing the Racine INS raids, attended both meetings, as well

as a number of activists in the Racine and Milwaukee Central America Solidarity Committee.

Father Glenn Gessner, pastor of Cristo Rey parish in Racine, shared the platform with Marroquín at both meetings. The Cristo Rey church has offered sanctuary to a number of refugees fleeing repressive dictatorships in Central America.

Francisco, a member of the Parish Council of the Cristo Rey congregation, was among those arrested at Racine Steel Castings, where he has worked for seven years.

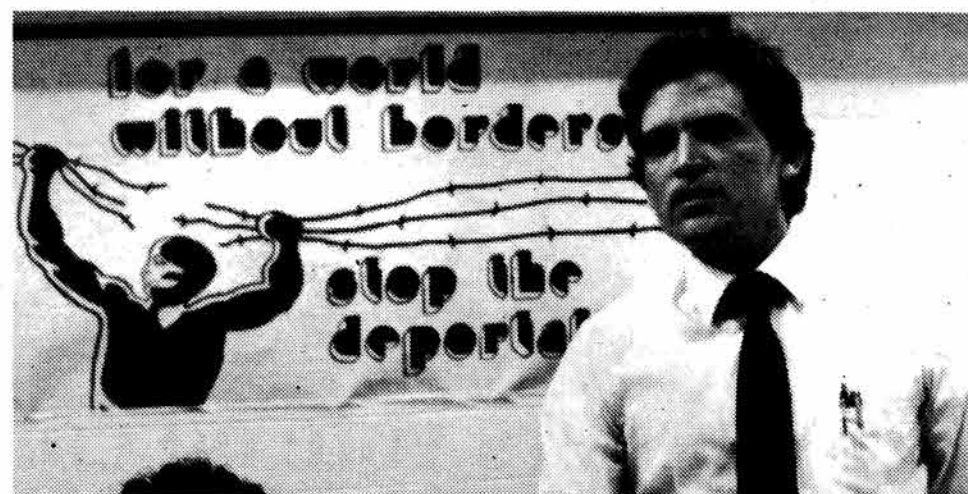
Fortunately, the UAW local at Racine Steel Castings supported these union members, Gessner said. The union helped find them legal assistance and made it possible for them to continue working at the foundry while they await deportation hearings scheduled for October 4.

Gessner pointed out that U.S. support to repressive dictatorships in Latin America has created hundreds of thousands of political refugees. "For these compañeros to leave, for 250,000 Salvadorans to flee, there must be a drastic evil they're fleeing from and that evil is the military presence pushed by the U.S.," he said.

Marroquín pointed out that "the current anti-immigrant smear campaign of the U.S. government is ultimately aimed at weakening and breaking the unions." The government intends to whip up racism and chauvinism in an effort to divide working people and win support for its war drive against the people of Central America, he said.

In an interview with the *Milwaukee Sentinel* headlined "Latins called target of raids," Marroquín explained that INS raids are racist and constitute political persecution of antiwar views.

"Federal immigration officials concern-



Héctor Marroquín is touring United States to speak out for rights of undocumented workers, against U.S. war in Central America.

trate on Hispanic and Latino workers when they raid factories to find illegal immigrants, according to a Mexican national whose seven-year fight against deportation has become a cause celebre in some quarters," reporter Michele Derus wrote.

"Federal officials are antagonized by Mexicans and Salvadorans who are outspoken on U.S. support for brutal Central American regimes, much as late 18th century American leaders tried to get rid of French and German immigrants who argued against slavery," [Marroquín] said.

"Marroquín said government officials wanted to silence such statements, 'because they're telling the truth' about the terrorism people suffer under leaders the U.S. supports."

Donald A. Radcliffe, assistant director of the Milwaukee INS office, was asked by Derus to respond to Marroquín's charges.

He said they were "nonsense," but then said: "We concentrate on all illegal aliens. In the last month, for instance, we arrested one Nigerian, one German woman and a number of Hispanics from a wide variety of Central and South American countries."

While on tour, Marroquín addressed the congregation of St. Patrick's. Several Mexican and Salvadoran parishioners talked with Marroquín following the service. They were especially interested in discussing his case and the political situation in Mexico.

Marroquín also participated in three radio call-in shows. Wisconsin public radio approached both Simpson and Mazzoli, sponsors of the anti-immigrant bill, to debate Marroquín. Both refused, however, and Marroquín debated a representative of the right-wing Heritage Foundation instead.

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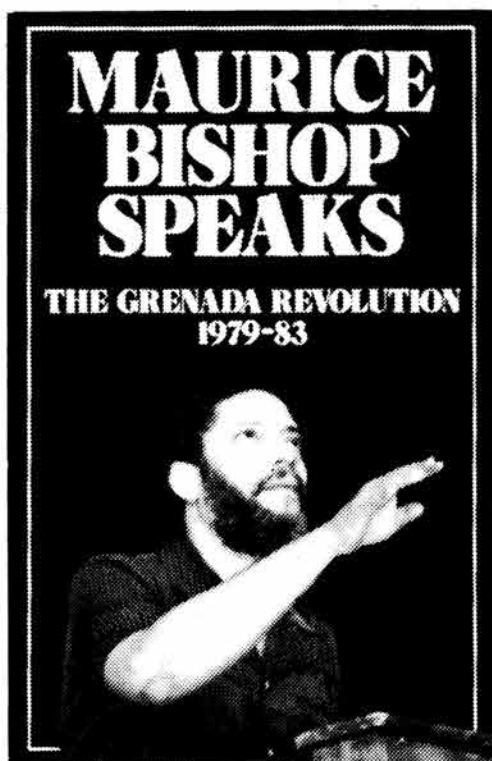
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Young Socialists set to tour U.S.

BY LAURA GARZA

Two National Committee members of the Young Socialist Alliance, Jackie Floyd and Ellen Haywood, will do speaking tours to 12 major cities this fall. Their tours are part of a national effort to build support for the socialist presidential campaign of Mel Mason and Andrea González, and to win new members to the YSA.

Haywood and Floyd are national youth coordinators for the Mason-González campaign. They will be speaking out against the U.S. war in Central America and will contrast the internationalism of the socialist campaign with the U.S. chauvinism and war moves of the Democratic and Republican parties.

YSA members have been among the most active supporters of the socialist campaign. On their tours, Haywood and Floyd will speak with young people who, like themselves, are angry with what this society offers youth. They will encourage those who want to be a part of the fight to change society to join the revolutionary socialist youth organization. They will explain that this is the most effective way to participate in the battle to defend our unions and the rights of Blacks and women; the best way to fight against the U.S. war in Central America and fight for a socialist society where human needs, not profits, are the priority.

Both Haywood and Floyd are active participants in these struggles.

Haywood, 28, joined the YSA after participating as a high school student in protests against the Vietnam War. She currently leads the YSA's participation in the fight for women's liberation, and has participated in the National Organization for Women and the Coalition of Labor Union

Women. As a member of the Boston YSA, she participated in the fight to defend school desegregation there, and fought for the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment. She has participated in Central America solidarity activities. Haywood visited Cuba in 1980 while a member of the United Steelworkers union.

Floyd, 25, joined the YSA in Miami following the 1982 rebellion against racist police murders. In 1983, while a garment worker and member of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, Floyd ran as the Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of Miami. Floyd is a member of the National Black Independent Political Party.

The tours will take place during the weeks leading up to the anniversary of the 1983 U.S. invasion and occupation of Grenada. Both Floyd and Haywood visited revolutionary Grenada before the overthrow of its workers and farmers government which was led by slain Prime Minister Maurice Bishop. They will use their tours to build support for activities to protest the continued U.S. occupation of Grenada and the U.S. war in Central America.

Haywood and Floyd will speak at Militant Labor Forums in several cities and at high schools, as well as talking with young workers at plant gates and over dinner.

Haywood will be the featured speaker at



Militant/Charles Ostrofsky



Militant/Alice Sanpere

Ellen Haywood (left) and Jackie Floyd, youth coordinators for the Socialist Workers Party presidential campaign, will tour 12 cities seeking support for SWP ticket and encouraging youth to join the Young Socialist Alliance.

an evening event in Atlanta where the YSA is sponsoring an all-day series of classes on independent working class political action.

Both Haywood and Floyd will return from their tours in time to participate in an October 27 demonstration in New York to protest the U.S. war in Central America and the Caribbean.

Youth tours

Ellen Haywood

Miami

Sept. 27-29

Atlanta
Denver
Indianapolis
Louisville
Cincinnati

Sept. 30-Oct. 2
Oct. 4-6
Oct. 7-9
Oct. 11-13
Oct. 14-17

Jackie Floyd

Detroit
Toledo
Cleveland
Tidewater
Philadelphia
New York

Oct. 11-13
Oct. 14-16
Oct. 18-20
Oct. 21-23
Oct. 25-26
Oct. 27-29

Mason, González to visit coal towns

BY YVONNE HAYES

The Socialist Workers Party presidential and vice-presidential candidates, Mel Mason and Andrea González, are beginning a swing through coal-mining centers on September 30 as part of their tours to more than 40 U.S. cities this fall. Both candidates will be first in West Virginia, holding rallies in Morgantown and Charleston, and then travel to Pittsburgh and Birmingham.

Mason and González will be campaigning at mine portals and towns in southwestern Pennsylvania and West Virginia, discussing with miners why workers need to build solidarity with working people internationally and the importance of fighting against the U.S. war in Central America as a means of strengthening the fight of workers here for a decent life.

Mason will be in West Virginia for the second time since the socialist candidates launched their campaign 10 months ago. Mason traveled to Charleston in April to help launch a massive drive to place the

NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 27—
New York state election officials are attempting to deny ballot status to the Socialist Workers Party presidential candidates, Mel Mason and Andrea González, according to campaign spokesperson, Barry Sheppard.

Ruling on a technicality, authorities are ignoring the signatures of more than 30,000 New York state residents who signed petitions to place the socialist ticket on the November ballot, charged Sheppard.

Vowing that the SWP campaign would fight this "arbitrary and undemocratic decision," Sheppard said supporters of the Mason-González ticket are mounting a public protest campaign and consulting with attorneys about possible legal action.

socialist campaign on the ballot in November. In the course of a three-week effort, more than 14,000 signatures were collected, doubling the legal requirement and placing the SWP on the West Virginia ballot. This was an important victory for democratic rights. West Virginia Secretary of State A.J. Manchin has been waging a campaign to keep the socialist candidates off the West Virginia ballot for years. In

recent weeks, the state has been in league with the Ku Klux Klan in trying to prevent Mason and González from appearing on the November 6 ballot and getting a hearing from working people.

Manchin attempted to turn over to the Klan the names of those who signed petitions, opening these individuals up for victimization by this racist, antilabor, anti-communist organization. Mason and González will be participating in the effort to beat back this challenge. They will campaign with Joan Radin, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate; and Dave Ferguson, SWP

candidate for governor of West Virginia. Both Radin and Ferguson are members of the United Mine Workers union.

A topic of the candidates' discussions with workers in the mining centers will be solidarity with embattled coal miners in Britain and with the struggle of Black gold miners and other workers against apartheid in South Africa. Mason toured Britain this spring and will bring to U.S. coal miners a firsthand account of the British miners' battle to defend their union and their jobs. Ferguson also traveled to Britain to solidize with the strike.

SWP on Rhode Island ballot

BY MIKE GALATI

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Supporters of Socialist Workers Party candidates for president and vice-president, Mel Mason and Andrea González, won an important political victory here when state officials reversed an earlier decision and agreed to place the socialist presidential ticket on the ballot in November.

State officials had originally announced September 4 that the Socialist Workers ticket had failed to qualify for the ballot in spite of the fact that they submitted 2,000 plus signatures — more than twice the 1,000 required to be listed on the ballot in this state.

The Democratic Party-dominated Board of Elections claimed that fewer than 750 of these signatures were "valid."

Supporters of the Socialist Workers campaign here waged a vigorous political fight to reverse this undemocratic decision. They explained that the issue was not the number of so-called valid signatures, but rather that it was the conscious political attack by state officials on democratic rights. Supporters urged trade unionists, civil libertarians, Blacks, and antiwar activists to contact the Board of Elections and protest this exclusion.

The socialist campaigners got an impressive response. Strong statements of support were received from many individuals and organizations concerned with defending civil liberties, including the Rhode Island Urban League, and unions such as the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 1350, Service Employees International Union Local 134, and District 1199 Hospital Workers Union.

As a result of the public support the Mason-González campaign was able to demonstrate, the state Board of Elections

announced on September 18 that they were going to "revalidate" all of the signatures submitted by the campaign, and that they would announce their findings at noon on September 20.

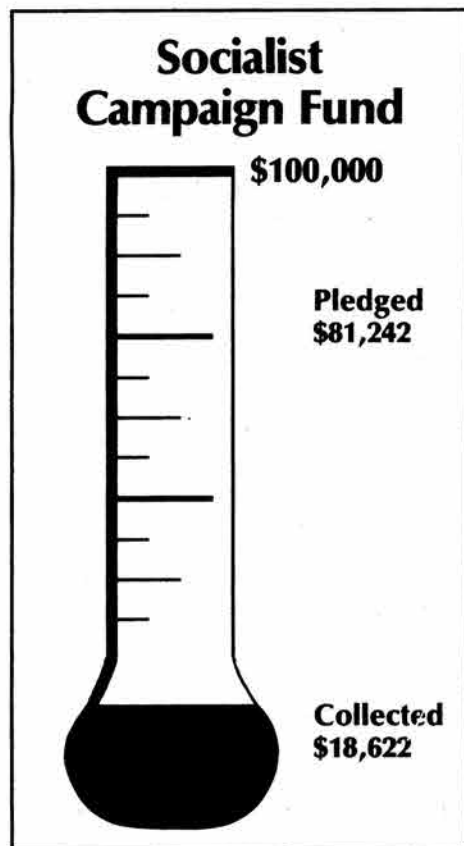
On that date the elections board announced that the SWP had met the legal requirement and that its presidential and vice-presidential candidates would be certified to appear on the November ballot.

At a press conference following this announcement, Chris Gauvreau, New England Regional Coordinator for the Mason-González campaign, explained what this victory meant for working people in the state.

"The state authorities were unwilling to have the Socialist Workers campaign on the ballot because our candidates tell the truth to working people. Our campaign explains that the only way working people can stop the new Vietnam war being waged by Washington in Central America, that the only way we can stop union-busting, racism, and the attacks on women's rights, is by organizing ourselves to wage a massive struggle against the employers, their government, and their two parties — the Democrats and Republicans.

"The Socialist Workers campaign explains to working people that we need political parties that represent *our* interests, not the interests of the bankers and corporate profiteers. We need a labor party, based on a fighting trade union movement, and we need an independent Black political party," she said.

"That's the message of our campaign," Gauvreau said, "and today's decision means that working people in Rhode Island will have a better opportunity to hear this message and to decide for themselves."



To cover the costs of the socialist presidential campaign of Mel Mason and Andrea González, a \$100,000 fund is under way. A big push is needed to collect the remaining \$81,378 by November 6, election day. Contributions can be sent to Socialist Campaign Fund, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014.

☐ Enclosed is my contribution of _____ to the socialist campaign.
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BY JACKIE FLOYD

The September-October *Young Socialist*, bimonthly newspaper of the Young Socialist Alliance, is off the press. This issue focuses on opposition to the U.S. war drive in Central America and the Caribbean and the struggle for a workers and farmers government in the United States.

Supporters of Mel Mason and Andrea González, Socialist Workers Party candidates for U.S. president and vice-president, will be using the *YS* to take their revolutionary ideas to auto workers, coal miners, antiwar activists, fighters for the rights of Blacks and women, and other workers and farmers throughout the country.

The front-page article by Héctor Marroquín, a National Committee member of the YSA, denounces the government's prowar propaganda campaign. He describes how the rulers are using everything from Reagan and Mondale's election campaign to TV programs and movies like "Call to Glory" and "Red Dawn," to promote U.S. chauvinism and support for Washington's intervention in Central America and the Caribbean.

Marroquín also explains why working people should reject the reactionary idea that the solution to the problem of unemployment

for U.S. workers is to oppose imports. By blaming imports rather than the employers for unemployment, says Marroquín, U.S. workers and farmers are led to believe that they have an interest in uniting with bosses and bankers against workers and farmers in other countries.

October 25 is the first anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Grenada. Protests are being planned in some cities to oppose the invasion and continued U.S. military occupation of Grenada.

A *YS* article describes the gains made by the Grenadian workers and farmers during the four and a half years of their revolution. It details the U.S. government's role in setting back those gains.

Socialists will be helping to build these protest activities and will distribute the *YS* as a way to help get out the truth about Grenada.

Throughout October, the last month of the presidential election campaign, socialists will be stepping up discussions with working people about who should run this country.

Featured in the *YS* are several speeches from a socialist campaign rally held this summer. The speeches explain why the problems faced by working people will

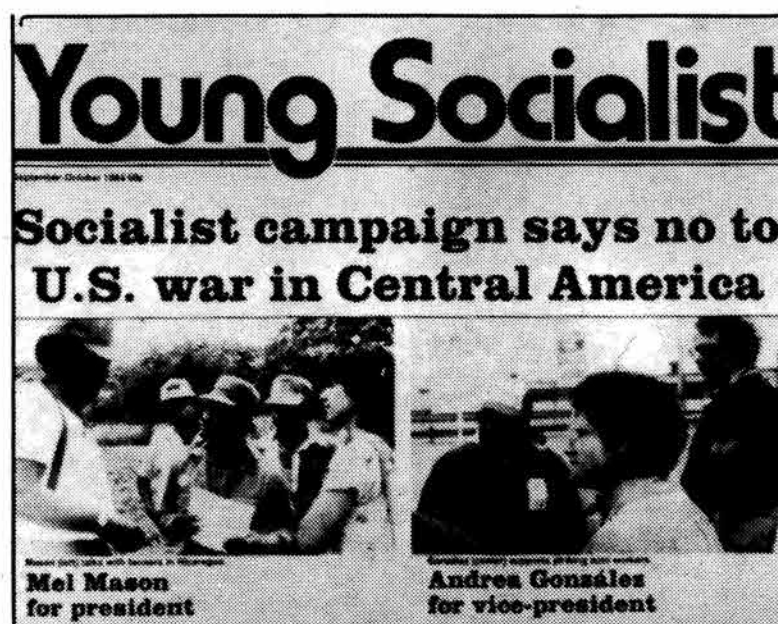
not be solved in the voting booth in November — or in any other election.

Mel Mason speaks on the powerful inspiration provided by the advances Nicaraguan workers and farmers have made through their 1979 revolution. Mason toured Nicaragua in July. He explains why U.S. working people should oppose Washington's war against the workers and farmers government there and how our Nicaraguan brothers and sisters have proved what working people can accomplish when they run the country themselves.

Andrea González talks about her recent campaign trip to Puerto Rico — a direct colony of the United States. González condemns the U.S. government's attacks on the rights of Puerto Rican workers and farmers and the U.S. militarization of that island.

The *YS* also interviews striking British coal miners and the wife of a miner active in the women's action groups there. The British miners came to the United States to build solidarity among U.S. workers and farmers with their struggle against the British government's assault on their jobs and their union.

The *YS* highlights a speech by Laura Garza, a national youth co-



September-October *YS* answers government prowar propaganda

ordinator of the 1984 socialist election campaign and YSA National Committee member. Garza explains that young people who want to fight against the U.S. war drive and for a better future should support the socialist campaign and join the YSA.

Jackie Floyd is a national youth coordinator of the Mason/Gon-

zález campaign and a YSA National Committee member.

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

SWP's González shows solidarity with GM workers

BY BILL WARRICK

INDIANAPOLIS — This is an auto industry city. More than 12,000 United Auto Workers (UAW) members work at General Motors plants here. Thousands more work at Ford and Chrysler.

During her September 14-15 campaign stop in Indianapolis, Socialist Workers vice-presidential candidate Andrea González discussed with GM workers how to win a decent contract and fight union-busting.

On September 14, the day the national UAW contract expired, González met with workers at the GM Truck and Bus plant. She visited the plant during the day shift and evening shift lunch breaks.

"So you're the other woman running for vice-president," one Black worker said as he shook hands with González.

"Yes," she replied. "But unlike Geraldine Ferraro, I'm a worker who supports your union's fight against GM. And I'm on the side of workers and farmers in Central America fighting for freedom against U.S. intervention."

Several hundred copies of a statement by González solidifying with the UAW and blasting the U.S. war in Central America were distributed at the plant. Fifteen copies of the *Militant* were sold.

On September 15 the Young Socialist Alliance hosted a lunch for González attended by campaign supporters. The discussion focused on the kind of political strategy necessary to win a workers and farmers government in the United States. After the lunch, a Black college student asked to join the YSA.

González was the featured speaker at a campaign rally the evening of September 15. The rally was held at Pearl's Lounge, a popular gathering place in the Black com-

munity here.

The SWP vice-presidential candidate was joined on the speakers platform by Mike King, a Vietnam veteran and antiwar activist who recently returned from a five-week trip to Nicaragua, and Dave Ellis, the SWP candidate for U.S. Congress in the 10th Congressional District. In response to an appeal for funds, the audience of 30 contributed more than \$1,000.

'Loyalty to our own class worldwide needed'

BY ALISON DAVIS

ATLANTA — Andrea González, Socialist Workers Party candidate for vice-president, campaigned in Atlanta on September 6-7.

Both Reagan and Mondale are campaigning for a bigger U.S. war machine and preservation of what they call "our traditional American values," said González. González pointed out that these "traditional values" include cops murdering young Blacks, the denial of abortion rights, court injunctions against strikers, frame-ups of union militants, rioting against Latinos as in Lawrence, Massachusetts, and mass murders of Mexicans as in San Ysidro, California.

"They tell us that the United States is the greatest nation in the world; that other nations like the Soviet Union, Cuba, and Nicaragua are out to get us. They say we must be 'Americans' first and be workers, farmers, Blacks, Latinos, and women second. They tell us to walk together with our bosses and the U.S. government against the world so that we can preserve our 'traditional values' against all 'foreigners.'"

"But that kind of patriotism is a dead end for workers and farmers. It is counterposed to the kind of struggle we need, to workers

and farmers of the world uniting against our real enemy — the U.S. employers and their government in Washington.

"The only kind of patriotism we are for is loyalty to our own class worldwide," González said. The workers and farmers are in power in Nicaragua. Washington doesn't tell you that when you go down there to fight it will be to smash unions, foreclose on farmers, take away the ERA [Equal Rights Amendment], close down child-care centers, hospitals, and schools, and replace a government of workers and farmers with a new U.S.-backed dictatorship. This is what they want to do in Nicaragua and what they did do in Grenada 11 months ago."

Instead, said González, the rulers tell you you're fighting to defend "God, family, and country."

Campaign supporters in the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers brought coworkers to a restaurant to meet the socialist candidate. A young Black work-

er was interested in González' tours of Nicaragua and the Caribbean.

Another worker had moved from the Soviet Union to the United States a few years ago. He said he left the Soviet Union because "like a child I believed the propaganda and lies I had heard about the good life in the United States."

He described life for workers in the Soviet Union and compared it with life for workers here. Although there is a scarcity of certain items in the stores that are readily available here, Soviet workers pay a much smaller portion of their wages for rent and food. Education and health care are free. He said he had openly disagreed with some of the Soviet government's policies, particularly in Czechoslovakia. But, he said, "I never knew fear and insecurity the way I have known it since coming to the U.S. Here there is always the fear of layoffs, firings, and unemployment. Here you are forced to work much harder. They treat you like animals."



Socialist candidate Andrea González is campaigning at plant gates across country

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Auto workers lose ground in new GM pact



Pickets at GM in Linden, New Jersey, before tentative contract settlement was reached and UAW officials called a halt to local strikes.

Continued from front page

over local issues as part of a national selective strike against General Motors that was aimed at the company's best-selling and most profitable lines of cars and trucks.

Many locals were angry and confused at the return to work order. They were not informed of the terms of the national contract, and many crucial local issues were not settled.

Traditionally, local issues have been fought out after the national agreement is signed. Local contracts in the UAW deal with key issues such as line speed, forced overtime, work rules, job combinations, health and safety, working conditions, and layoff and recall procedures. These are especially important as the company seeks to weaken the power of the union and increase productivity.

Some locals angry

At the Linden, New Jersey, plant, a rally of 400 auto workers booed and hissed when told they had to return to work. The chant of "No contract, no work!" went up through the crowd. Others yelled, "Tell the membership."

"We already know what GM wants. We want to know what's in the contract," one worker said. A Latina worker told the *Militant*, "The international told us to go back — too bad, because if they told us to stay out and fight, we would have done it."

Members of UAW Local 595 at Linden were concerned over the unresolved local issues at the plant. These include a fight over "tag relief" or "mass relief." The company wants to institute a system in which all workers take their breaks at the same time, instead of the present, staggered system. The mass relief system could cost the jobs of more than 400 workers. They are also fighting to keep a break that the company wants to eliminate. This demand is trivialized by the media, which has referred to it as the "coffee gap." But it is no small matter to someone working the grueling line in an auto plant.

The major worry of workers at Linden is the scheduled installation of robots on a large scale. "I'm going to be replaced by a robot," a middle-aged worker told the *Militant* unbelievably.

At the Doraville plant in Georgia, the local executive board issued a statement to the workers explaining that it had been the "strong feeling among the Executive Board and the bargaining committee that the strike at Doraville should continue. These feelings were clearly and unmistakably transmitted to the International union in Detroit. Even so, our instructions to end picketing and return to work remain."

At the GM plant in Arlington, Texas, workers were confused and angry that they were not kept informed and that they were not even eligible for strike benefits, since they were not out long enough to qualify. Workers distributed xeroxed copies of a *Wall Street Journal* article on the tentative contract as a way to get at least some information.

Pete Beltran, the president of UAW Local 645 in Van Nuys, California, which has some 4,500 members, said his local's membership wanted to stay out until an agreement was reached on local issues. They went back to work, however, on in-

structions from the international.

Beltran quoted from a telegram received from the top UAW officialdom which said, "The local is instructed to return to work immediately upon receipt of this telegram. Failure to do so means the strike will no longer be authorized [and international officers will take] whatever action deemed necessary to force compliance."

Contract

While the contract has not yet been made public, some key provisions have been reported.

In the 1982 contract, GM workers took a wage freeze and gave up the traditional 3 percent yearly wage increase. General Motors refused demands for restoration of this annual wage increase.

It has offered a divisive, tiered wage increase instead. In the first year of the contract, wage increases are provided ranging from 1 percent for the least skilled workers to 3.5 percent for certain skilled trades

workers. Assemblers — the largest category of workers employed by GM — will receive from 1.3 percent to 2.1 percent increases.

In the second and third years of the contract, workers would get a lump-sum payment amounting to 2.25 percent of their annual wage. Only the first year's raise will be added on to the hourly wage rate. This means that GM will save, because the base rate is used to compute benefits such as overtime, vacation pay, unemployment benefits, and insurance.

'Job security'

The contract proposes the establishment of a \$1 billion fund, paid for by GM, to cover the wages and benefits of laid-off workers, supposedly for up to six years.

Workers eligible for the program would become part of a job "bank" for the corporation. While all the details are not known, workers would have to accept any job offered by the corporation.

The most dangerous aspect of is that while in the "bank," workers could be forced to do any one of a wide range of jobs and made to work in violation of many work rules that are now in force. This means that a section of the union membership can be used by the company to erode work rules and weaken the union.

To be eligible for the program a worker would have to have at least one year's seniority and have been laid off because of productivity gains, automation, or outsourcing. Workers presently laid off, or who lose their jobs because of a slump in the industry, would not be eligible.

Critics of the proposal in the union have pointed out that the \$1 billion, spread over 6 years, would only cover fewer than 10,000 jobs a year before running out.

In an internal memo leaked earlier this year, GM has indicated that it hopes to reduce its workforce by 60,000 to 120,000 workers.

On other issues such as COLA (cost-of-living allowance), pensions, and curbs on forced overtime, the contract reportedly

falls far short of the membership's demands for restoration of the massive concessions made in 1982.

Only a portion — reportedly \$2.39 of the accumulated COLA of \$3.04 an hour — would be rolled into the base wage rate to calculate benefits. In addition, some COLA money would be "diverted" to cover the costs of other benefits.

The contract provides for a total of three additional days off over the three years of the contract. Union members had been demanding the return of the nine paid personal holidays per year they gave up in 1982.

Membership ratification

Pete Kelly, the president of Local 160 at the GM Technical Center in Warren, Michigan, was the one member of the 11-member UAW National Negotiating Committee to vote against the proposed contract. Kelly, the president of the national "Restore and More" anti-concession committee in the UAW, issued a statement in which he said he would recommend against ratification of the contract. The statement said, "The proposed contract failed to accomplish any of the goals we set for 1984. Job security — not one job is protected against plant closings, outsourcing, or new technology. All we get is a job placement scheme, and we pay for it ourselves through cost-of-living concessions."

If the contract is approved by the bargaining council, it must be submitted for approval to the 350,000 UAW members covered by the GM contract. It is expected that the ratification meetings will take place within the next two weeks.

ST. LOUIS — The UAW General Motors Bargaining Council today voted overwhelmingly by a show of hands to approve the proposed contract. The vote came after six hours of discussion. Union officials announced that the deadline for ratification by the membership is October 14.

Danly steelworkers fight union-busting

BY NELSON GONZÁLEZ

CHICAGO — In what is increasingly becoming a very bitter strike, workers organized by Local 15271 of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) at the Danly Machine Corp. in Cicero have now been walking the picket lines for more than five months.

Ogden International, a New York-based conglomerate, acquired Danly in 1982 and provoked a strike on May 1 of this year following expiration of a three-year contract. Ogden demanded that the union accept a three-year wage freeze, elimination of cost-of-living increases in both wages and pension benefits, and elimination of two personal leave days per year. It sought to impose a two-tier wage structure that would drastically reduce the starting wages of new hires.

Ogden demanded that the union accept changes in work rules and job classifications. These would, in effect, eliminate seniority and clearly signaled the company's intention to drive the USWA out of Danly.

In the face of Ogden's union-busting drive, steelworkers at Danly are beginning to organize themselves to get the truth about their fight out to as many other unionists as possible. They are doing this to generate the kind of solidarity needed to defend their union.

Since the strike began, Danly workers have held weekly meetings on Sundays that are also open to supporters of the strike. They hear reports on the status of negotiations and discuss what to do next.

A citizens committee made up of prominent religious, labor, Black, and civil liberties groups and individuals organized a news conference and issued a statement denouncing Ogden's attack on the union and urging support for the strikers.

This statement has been distributed by the tens of thousands at plant gates, concerts, and street corners by the striking union and its supporters.

At the Sloan Valve plant, eight Danly strikers, carrying a huge banner reading,

"Danly strikers will fight until they win," were met by unionists of USWA Local 7999 who discussed the strike with them and helped distribute several hundred of the statements to Sloan workers.

At Chicago's annual Labor Day parade, a well-organized contingent of 100 Danly workers and their supporters was the most enthusiastically received contingent in the parade.

The vicious assault by the Ogden owners has led many workers at Danly to follow more closely the fight of other workers against union-busting.

At the August 19 meeting of more than 300 strikers, two representatives of the British Labor Party were introduced and welcomed with applause. One of them, Councilwoman Ruth Beilheimer, was applauded again when she suggested that U.S. workers need their own labor party to fight for them.

Despite the economic pinch felt by the strikers, a motion from the floor proposing

a collection and message of solidarity for the striking British coal miners was passed unanimously. More than \$100 was contributed.

A week later, Steve Shukla, a member of the striking British National Union of Mineworkers on tour in the United States, visited the Chicago area. He met with leaders of both the Danly local and USWA Local 1010. In a show of solidarity with the Danly strikers, he walked their picket line in front of the plant.

Workers at Danly are thinking out other ways to get the truth out about their fight. A number of Latino leaders of the union planned to organize a Danly contingent at the Mexican independence celebration.

On August 28, Ray Navarro, one of the chief picket captains of the Danly strike, spoke to a meeting organized by the Committee in Solidarity With the People of El Salvador and shared the platform with Noel Beasley from the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union as well as a representative of Salvadoran Trade Unionists in Exile. The 50 participants discussed the connection between the employers' offensive against the unions at home and the employers' war being waged against the people of El Salvador and Nicaragua.

Donations were made to the Danly strikers and after the meeting the Danly union representative invited the Salvadoran trade unionist to speak at a future union meeting.

Danly workers are facing a tough, uphill battle against the powerful owners of Ogden. Ogden, backed by the cops and the courts, has increased the number of scabs crossing the picket line and has organized provocative actions against the strikers to set up more frame-ups and arrests.

At the District 31 conference of the USWA, held September 6-7, a resolution in support of the Danly strike was passed unanimously.

This needs to be translated into a massive outpouring of active solidarity with the fighting strikers in order to beat back Ogden and defend the steelworkers' union at Danly.



Militant/Fred Murphy
British coal miner Steve Shukla

Harlem Grenada rally will build Oct. 27 N.Y. antiwar action

BY OLGA RODRÍGUEZ

NEW YORK — Plans for the October 27 demonstration against the U.S. war in the Caribbean and Central America are beginning to take shape. Called by the October 25 Coalition — which includes Black, Caribbean, anti-intervention, Central American solidarity, women's rights, and political organizations — the demonstration will take place on the first anniversary of the overthrow of the workers and farmers government of Grenada and the brutal invasion of that island by U.S. armed forces. The central theme of the action is a quote from the slain Grenadian leader, Maurice Bishop: "The Caribbean and Central America are nobody's backyard."

The demands of the action are: Remove all U.S. and other foreign troops from Grenada now; stop U.S. military intervention in El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras, and Guatemala; end the U.S. military occupation of Puerto Rico; no more U.S. intervention or economic destabilization in the Caribbean and Central America; and say no to Reaganism.

Among the initial endorsers of the action are: New York Black United Front; Committee in Solidarity With the People of El Salvador; Manhattan and Queens chapters, National Black Independent Political Party; Venceremos Brigade; Coordinadora de Solidaridad Salvadoreña; U.S. Peace Council; Puerto Rican Socialist Party; Unity in Action; Socialist Workers Party; New Afrikan People's Organization; Committee for a Free Grenada; Jamaica Workers Association; Nicaragua Solidarity Network; Union of Democratic Filipinos; Christian Peace Conference; Patrice Lumumba Coalition; Young Socialist Alliance; New York Mobilization for Survival; Communist Party; and War Resisters League.

The October 27 action will consist of several feeder marches to the rally site at Grand Army Plaza in Brooklyn. The fact that the demonstration will take place in Brooklyn is important in reaching out to and involving the massive Caribbean and Black communities that reside in that borough. One of the feeder marches will originate in the Caribbean community and another will assemble in Bedford-Stuyves-

ant, one of the largest Black communities in the country.

In an effort to involve organizations in the Black and Latino communities, the labor movement, and others, the coalition sent out a 1,000-piece mailing urging people to join the coalition, endorse the action, and participate in the work of building October 27. In addition, the last coalition meeting voted to set aside several days leading up to October 27 to mobilize its forces for massive leaflet distribution to build the action.

Several of the Black and Caribbean organizations that are members of the coalition are organizing activities to help boost Black and Caribbean participation in the demonstration.

The Patrice Lumumba Coalition, along with the Caribbean People's Alliance, New Afrikan People's Organization, and others are organizing a rally on October 25, the actual date of the U.S. invasion of Grenada. The event will take place at the Harriet Tubman School, 127th Street and Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Boulevard in Harlem, at 7 p.m.

Elombe Brath, one of the organizers of the event, told the *Militant* that this event is an important one for involving Harlem's Black community in the fight against the U.S. war in the Caribbean and Central America. He pointed out that similar activ-



Militant/Lou Howort

June 9 New York action against U.S. war in Central America and Caribbean. Antiwar forces are mapping plans for another New York protest October 27.

ities around Grenada — before and since the invasion — in Harlem have drawn sizeable participation from community residents.

The October 25 rally is also seen as a major building action for the October 27 demonstration in Brooklyn.

The Grenada Center and other Caribbean and Black organizations in Brooklyn are planning a memorial meeting on October 19, at 7 p.m., at St. Gregory's Church at St. John's Place and Brooklyn

Avenue in Brooklyn. The memorial meeting is to honor Maurice Bishop and all those Grenadians who gave their lives defending their revolution.

The October 25 Coalition will meet on October 4, at 7 p.m., at Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn. For more information on the demonstration, activities leading up to it, or to volunteer to help build October 27, contact the coalition at 451A Nostrand Ave., Brooklyn, New York 11216, or call (718) 638-0811.

Nicaragua announces defense measures

BY ELLEN KRATKA

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — The Nicaraguan government has announced several military, political, and diplomatic steps to protect the country's right to self-determination and defend it from U.S. aggression.

The escalating character of that aggression was exemplified September 17, when three U.S. warships invaded Nicaragua's territorial waters on the Pacific Coast near the towns of Montelimar and San Juan del Sur. The ships came within eight miles of land, and a helicopter took off from one of the U.S. vessels, flying over Nicaraguan territory.

Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto, in a protest letter to the U.S.

government, called the attack a "prelude to a new aggressive stage of greater proportions, with an increased involvement of the U.S. armed forces."

The provocative U.S. action was designed to produce a military clash, as an editorial in *Barricada*, the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) daily, explained. Washington, the editorial noted, "remains faithful to its tactic of sitting down at a table for 'negotiations' while pressing on with the military aggression that typifies its foreign policy."

In an interview in Mexico City while on a diplomatic visit there September 18, Nicaraguan Defense Minister Humberto Ortega charged that the U.S. government is planning to renew the mining of Nicaraguan ports. He said that Sandinista intelligence agencies had also learned that Washington will attempt to provoke new border conflicts between the Nicaraguan government and the governments of Costa Rica and Honduras. CIA-trained mercenary forces operating from the latter two countries will function as the provocateurs.

On his return from Mexico, Ortega reaffirmed Nicaragua's decision to acquire a small number of jet fighters to defend itself from the accelerating U.S.-inspired attacks. Nicaragua, he said, will not renounce its right to have an air force. The Sandinistas are completing an airfield in Punta Huete, near the capital city of Managua. It should be ready by the beginning of 1985. Also at that time, a group of Nicaraguan pilots who are training to operate jet fighters will have finished their courses.

"We lack only the planes," Ortega said, "which we hope to obtain by means of credits or donations." He reported that the "firmest negotiations" the Sandinistas have conducted are for Soviet-built MIG jet fighters or planes of that type.

Meanwhile, the Sandinistas announced that the presidential elections slated for November 4 will take place as planned. The FSLN said that the Nicaraguan workers and peasants need to complete this stage of the institutionalization of their revolution in order to devote more attention to the defense effort.

The FSLN has proposed to the National Council of Political Parties (CNPP) and the Supreme Election Council that they reopen — until September 30 — the period of registration for political parties wishing to take part in the elections.

The CNPP was urged to suspend the decision to revoke the legal status of three

capitalist parties belonging to the Democratic Coordinating Committee so they could register candidates for the elections if they so choose. These three parties automatically lost their legal status recently for failing to participate in the elections. They have been calling for a "national dialogue" with the CIA-run mercenary forces and — encouraged by Washington — have refused to run in the elections unless this and other conditions are met.

In a communiqué to the Nicaraguan people, the FSLN denounced these maneuvers by the right-wing parties to delegitimize the elections, particularly in the international arena. The FSLN said the parties should be given another chance to register so as to cut short their maneuvers and put to the test their claim of concern for democracy.

The Nicaraguan government announced it has decided to sign, "without any modification," a revised version of the Contadora Group's peace accord. The Contadora Group is made up of the governments of Mexico, Panama, Colombia, and Venezuela. It states that its purpose is to seek a peaceful, negotiated settlement of the military conflicts raging in Central America.

The Contadora Group has not yet released the contents of the revised accord, dated September 7. A preliminary version of the accord, drafted last July, had been rejected by Nicaragua and further discussions were held.

In a September 21 letter to the Contadora governments, explaining Nicaragua's decision to ratify the accord, Nicaraguan government coordinator Daniel Ortega said the agreement "will only be sufficient if it can count on a formal and obligatory commitment assumed by the government of the United States." He demanded that Washington sign and ratify the accord and consequently, "immediately cease its aggression against Nicaragua."

Ortega reminded the Contadora Group that "at the same time that the Nicaraguan people support the revised Contadora accord, they also continue defending with their lives their right to self-determination, sovereignty, and independence, which is today threatened by the aggressive policy of the U.S. government."

"As long as the aggression continues," the Sandinista leader said, "the government of Nicaragua will continue to defend its inalienable right to take all measures necessary to guarantee our security and territorial integrity."

SWP wins ballot fight in Michigan

DETROIT — In an important victory for democratic rights, the Michigan state government was forced to grant the Socialist Workers Party candidates a spot on the November ballot.

Faced with protests from across the country and overwhelming evidence of disregard for democratic rights, the Sixth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati issued an injunction September 20 against printing ballots without listing the SWP candidates — Helen Meyers for U.S. Senate, Andrew Pulley for Congress in the 1st C.D., as well as the SWP presidential slate.

"It's an indictment of this system that such a fight was necessary just for working people to run for office," said Meyers, who is a member of United Auto Workers Local 1200 and works at the General Dynamics Tank plant in Warren, Michigan.

Meyers had to take time off from work to go to the state capitol in Lansing to answer the state's claim that the more than 30,000 signatures submitted on petitions did not fulfill the requirement of 19,963 signatures.

The State Board of Canvassers, made up of two Democrats and two Republicans, voted not to put the SWP on the ballot. That decision was upheld by a federal district judge in Detroit September 14.

The American Civil Liberties Union, through attorney Daniel Avrunin, appealed the district court decision on behalf of the SWP. The appeals court halted ballot printing on September 20 and gave the state

until September 25 to check every signature on the petitions.

The state filed an emergency motion to reconsider, saying it was physically impossible to check every signature and asked that the SWP be forced to post a \$220,000 bond to cover the state's costs. The court ordered that no ballots be printed without the SWP candidates.

This victory comes as a result of broad public backing for the right of the SWP to appear on the ballot. Black rights fighters, trade unionists, civil libertarians, and prominent figures across the country sent protest messages and called the state.

These included Rep. John Conyers, Rep. George Crockett, City Council member Mel Ravitz, and Alice Peurla, past president of United Steelworkers Local 65.

Special visits to Michigan by SWP presidential and vice-presidential candidates Mel Mason and Andrea González helped focus media attention on this important democratic rights fight. They explained to Michigan workers how this attack on the SWP fits into the general climate of reaction being whipped up by both the Democrats and Republicans as the U.S. war in Central America escalates, and the attacks on union rights at home increase.

Right after this victory, supporters at the socialist campaign headquarters received two threatening phone calls. "Your building is targeted for extermination" and "We're going to exterminate you comrades," the callers said.

Continued on Page 10

U.S. trade unionists tour Nicaragua

Demand end to U.S. war, urge working-class solidarity

"The single most important lesson I learned on this tour is the need to stop U.S. military intervention which is diverting precious resources away from meeting the basic needs of the Nicaraguan people." George Popyack, international vice-president of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, made that observation upon his return from a recent trade union fact-finding trip to Nicaragua.

Leaders of several major international unions participated in the week-long tour, organized by the West Coast-based Labor Network on Central America.

They met with the national leadership of several Nicaraguan unions, visited workplaces, and talked to Nicaraguan working people.

Other delegation members included Nita Brueggeman, Northwest Region director of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union; Sandra Cooper-Morgan, California president of the Service Employees International Union; Terri Mast, president of International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU) Local 37; Sumi Haru, national recording secretary of the Screen Actors Guild and Roger Auerbach, past president of the Oregon Federation of Teachers.

In a news release announcing their return, the unionists said that they had gone to Nicaragua "to observe firsthand the gains of the Nicaraguan revolution as well as the damage being inflicted by the U.S.-backed *contra* forces. The tour is an expression of the growing disenchantment" in the U.S. labor movement, they said, "with the current support the AFL-CIO executive council is giving to Reagan's policy of war and intervention in the Central American region."

The release points out that "while the Reagan administration has accused Nicaragua of being a growing totalitarian threat to the region, the fact is that the 1979 revolution has brought about a tremendous expansion of democratic rights in the country culminating in the upcoming elections. Through organizing and political activity Nicaraguan labor is playing a central role in building the new Nicaragua."

Printed below is the text of a statement by the delegation that was released in Managua, Nicaragua on September 15.

Angel Doniego, a tour organizer and member of ILWU Local 37, announced that tour participants are willing to speak in front of union local meetings in the Bay Area.

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

* * *

Introduction

We are a delegation of national, state, and local trade union leaders from the West Coast. We visited Nicaragua this past week, September 8-15, 1984, to investigate firsthand the situation in that country.

During our stay in Nicaragua, we traveled freely throughout the country, visiting several factories, a rural agricultural cooperative, the port of Corinto, a hospital, and other workplaces. We spoke with industrial workers, farm workers, community and service workers, and people on the street. We met with the leadership of all the major Nicaraguan trade union federations, the national women's organization, and the Supreme Electoral Council. We met with those who support the Nicaraguan government and those who are some of its fiercest opponents. And while we will be issuing a full report of our findings in a few weeks, what follows is a summary of what we learned and what we experienced on our trip.

Findings

We found Nicaragua to be a country at war, besieged by a military and economic attack from the U.S. government that has murdered thousands of its finest youth, disrupted its fragile economy, and brought hardship and suffering to its people. In the



Labor delegation met with Nicaraguan trade unionists, members of Supreme Electoral Council, and others. Delegation found Nicaraguan workers and farmers making gains despite U.S. war on revolution.

midst of this overwhelming assault on its 3 million people, Nicaragua is conducting its first election since the overthrow of the Somoza dictatorship in 1979 and the establishment of a popular revolutionary government. We were deeply moved by the spirit, intelligence, and sacrifice we found in the Nicaraguan people — their determination to defend their revolution at all costs and their commitment to building a just and lasting future.

Our investigation focused on issues we knew to be of great concern to U.S. workers and the U.S. labor movement. We wanted to learn what life has been like for Nicaraguan workers under their new government, what freedoms they have to organize and express themselves, and what impact the aggressive policies of the U.S. government was having on their lives.

The results of our investigation, stated most concisely are as follows:

1. Since 1979, the workers of Nicaragua have made tremendous gains in the areas of health and education, trade union organizing, improved working conditions, and in the exercise of democracy.

- Illiteracy has been reduced from 50 percent to 12 percent, the lowest in Central America. Polio, malaria, whooping cough, and measles have been virtually eliminated. Hundreds of schools and clinics have been built.

- The right to organize — brutally suppressed under Somoza — has been guaranteed, and the trade union movement has undergone unprecedented growth. Union membership, including industrial and farm worker unions, has increased from 27,000 to over 250,000. Even unions that strongly criticize the government admit to this growth and cite an expansion in their own management. Eleven major union and trade union confederations now exist, reflecting great diversity and pluralism within the trade union movement. Of the many strikes that have taken place since 1979, we heard of none which was suppressed by the police or the courts.

- In spite of Nicaragua's fragile economy, significant improvements have been scored in the working and living conditions of Nicaraguan workers. We noted large salary increments, liberal sick leave provisions, full maternity leave, subsidized meals, paid educational leave, workplace childcare centers, and equalization of salaries between women and men. Moreover we found trade unions extensively involved in the administration of production, especially in the state-owned industries confiscated from Somoza.

- Nicaraguan workers are actively involved in the life of their unions, in the women's and community organizations, and as candidates of many different political parties in the upcoming elections. They freely expressed themselves to us on all issues, including, in some cases, strong criticisms of the government.

- The November 1984 elections repre-

sent a broad democratic expression of the Nicaraguan people. 1,560,000 people have been registered to vote — an estimated 94 percent of those eligible. Seven political parties are running candidates for President, Vice President and the National Assembly, in accordance with an electoral law that guarantees all parties, no matter what their size, 9 million córdobas (\$300,000) in election expenses and equal access to television.

2. The gains that have been made by Nicaraguan workers are being undermined by U.S. aggression against their country. The war is creating tremendous economic hardships and making the democratic process more difficult.

- The effect of U.S. aggression was everywhere to be found. Over 7,000 people have been murdered by *contras*. Crops, storehouses, centers of production, and oil storage facilities have been destroyed, disrupting an already underdeveloped economy. Maintaining an army on the front has depleted the labor force, creating difficulties in maintaining production. Scarce resources must be diverted to the defense of the country.

- The war, combined with the U.S. economic blockade, is resulting in tremendous shortages. Medicines, paper, and machine parts are in critically short supply. Plans to build clinics, childcare centers, schools, and new factories have been dropped. Funds do not exist to improve health and safety conditions in the plants. Food prices have risen considerably, making life extremely hard for many Nicaraguan workers.

- Under the war conditions, Nicaraguan workers and trade unions are devoting their efforts to defense and production. Large numbers of workers have joined the militia and have been sent to the front. Many workers volunteer shifts in addition to long regular hours to maintain production levels. Unions have given first priority to

defense of the country, voluntarily suspending strikes and other activities directed to their immediate economic needs. They are sacrificing heavily, and willingly.

- The war is placing great strains on the electoral process. 120 voter registration centers in the rural areas could not be opened due to *contra* activities, two electoral judges were assassinated by *contras*, and a candidate for the National Assembly, Ray Hooker, was kidnapped by armed counter-revolutionary forces. Nicaraguans expect the *contras* to mount a massive effort to prevent successful elections from taking place on November 4th.

- Every Nicaraguan worker, every organization, and every union we met, including the most strident critics of the government, strongly opposed U.S. intervention in their country.

- We found that in spite of the war that Nicaraguan society was very open. The State of Emergency, enacted in 1982, had been lifted. Opposition parties and political organizations freely expressed themselves, and there was no detectable curtailment of trade union democracy.

Conclusions

In light of these findings, and with an understanding of the mutual interest of U.S. and Nicaraguan workers in promoting peace and in advancing the living and working conditions of workers everywhere,

1. We call on the U.S. government to stop its interference in the affairs of Nicaragua, including all forms of U.S. military intervention, aid to the *contras*, and the U.S. economic blockade of the country.

2. We call on trade unions in the U.S. to develop friendly relations with the labor movement of Nicaragua and to support the efforts of Nicaraguan workers to rebuild their country and defend it from U.S. attack.

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Gov't offers little to U.S. farmers

This week we are running an article on President Reagan's agriculture policy. In following issues we will run articles on the farm programs of Democratic presidential contender Walter Mondale and Socialist Workers Party candidate Mel Mason.

BY DOUG JENNESS

On September 18, President Reagan announced several measures he claimed will lessen the burden on debt-ridden farmers. Timed to occur two days before a campaign trip to Iowa, Reagan's proposals were designed to bolster the sagging opinion many U.S. farmers have of his administration's farm policies.

But as is to be expected from an administration that has responded with stony indifference to the demands of tens of thousands of protesting farmers for relief from high debts, skyrocketing interest, and farm foreclosures, Reagan's election campaign initiatives offer precious little to working farmers.

One measure promises to guarantee bankers payment by the government of 90 percent of the value of loans owed by farmers facing default.

Reagan also pledges to forgive interest payments for five years on 25 percent of any farm loan in danger of not being paid. Local bankers and farm experts will be contracted to help process the backlog of loan applications and to supervise farmers in restructuring their finances.

Too little, too late

When U.S. Secretary of Agriculture John Block described these plans to the media, he was flanked, appropriately enough, by representatives of two bankers' groups. Reagan's initiatives give bankers a lot to cheer about. They insure that the government will bail them out for the lion's share of unpaid loans.

But these measures are too little, too late for working farmers. Thousands have already been foreclosed and forced off their farms. Many, who are hanging on by the skin of their teeth, will not be qualitatively helped by a reprieve on only 25 percent of the interest they owe. The scope of the mortgage debt owed by many farmers is so great that Reagan's remedy will not have much effect.

Working farmers need a moratorium on paying back the entire loan and interest debts they owe until they can get back on their feet. But the Reagan administration adamantly opposes this.

Two years ago in a television interview Block asserted, "It really isn't right and fair

Dominican unionists, leftists freed

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

Leaders of major trade unions in the Dominican Republic and the Dominican Left Front have been released from jail following a round-up by the National Police in that Caribbean country.

On August 29-30, the Dominican government arrested approximately 100 people, including leaders of the Socialist Bloc, Dominican Communist Party, General Workers Federation, dockworkers union, and the Dominican Teachers Association. It also ordered police to close the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo and suspended classes in public schools for two weeks.

The crackdown coincided with the long-expected announcement by Pres. Salvador Jorge Blanco of major increases in the price of fuel. This move was part of a series of harsh austerity measures demanded by the bankers at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) — a U.S.-dominated imperialist institution — as a condition for future loans to the Dominican Republic.

In April, IMF-ordered price increases for many basic commodities sparked a nationwide rebellion by Dominican workers and farmers; government repression left 100 dead.

Anticipating the new austerity measures, the major unions and People's Struggle Committees had been organizing protest activities. The wave of arrests and militarization of major cities by the regime, however, forced the unions to call off a national transport strike planned for September 3.



Squeezed between low produce prices and high interest rates, more and more farmers find their farms and equipment placed on auction block.

to the vast majority of producers that pay their loans and everything to have a blanket moratorium. That just is not fair to them, and I don't think it's fair to the producer behind on his payments."

Is 'management' the problem?

This disregard for the well-being of exploited family farmers was again expressed by Block when he announced the Reagan administration's most recent plans. According to the September 19 *New York Times*, Block said the "benefits would be offered only to well-managed farms that had a chance of surviving if their monthly debt payments could be relieved temporarily."

This has been one of Block's main themes for the last four years. "Creditworthiness" has become his code word for determining which farmers deserve relief. The most needy farmers are considered inevitable, even necessary, casualties. If they can't hack it, they ought to get off the land. In fact, it's best that they do so. These are the guidelines he has given to the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA), which was supposedly set up to be the lender of last resort.

The Reagan administration contends that most farmers who are going bankrupt are poor managers. The banks and the FmHA, therefore, are justified in refusing them credit or foreclosing on their mortgages. This policy has disproportionately affected Black farmers.

But the fact is that management has nothing to do with the plight farmers find themselves in. They are victims of conditions they do not control. These are not primarily natural conditions — bad weather, insect infestations, etc. — but social conditions — monopoly pricing of farm equipment, fertilizer, seeds, and fuel; monopoly control over marketing; and exorbitant interest rates.

President Reagan's agricultural policies are marked by one central feature: they aim to help capitalist farmers, marketing monopolies, and banking vultures. They are not intended to aid the farmers who use only the labor of their families.

Reagan record

This has been clearly demonstrated in the nearly four-year record of the Reagan administration. Let's look at a few examples:

- Beginning in 1981 greater control over land and water resources on federal land was turned over to big cattle ranchers. Ranchers were permitted to increase the number of cattle grazed on public lands with little regard to conservation. They were granted private and exclusive rights to water on public lands.

- In 1982 the Soil Conservation Service budget was substantially slashed, cutting by 75 percent the number of acres on which

some form of soil protection is employed. Yet millions of tons of topsoil continue to be lost each year.

- In 1983 the payment-in-kind (PIK) scheme was devised. This turned over government-owned commodities to farmers to sell on the market in exchange for taking land out of production. Among the principal beneficiaries of PIK were the big grain traders, such as Cargill Inc. and Continental Grain Co., that furnished the government commodities in those areas where it couldn't meet its PIK obligations. In return they were paid storage fees and given their own PIK payments of wheat, corn, and grain sorghum from federal stockpiles in areas with excess supplies. As a result the grain dealers reaped millions of dollars of profit.

Railroads also received handsome fees for transporting PIK grain from one part of the country to another.

On top of this the big capitalist farms got mammoth hand-outs. The giant cotton, rice, and corn-feedlot operations especially brought in a big harvest of PIK commodities. A spot survey in California, for example, turned up seven growers receiving crops valued at \$1 million to \$4 million. In Nebraska, the Herd Company,

owned by Foxley and Company, a giant cattle-feeding enterprise with holdings in at least three states, got \$1.3 million in corn.

Most family farmers, however, did not fare so well, and the wave of foreclosures was not halted.

- In April 1984 the administration backed a Congressional bill to reduce price supports on several basic agricultural commodities and to freeze them at the new amount through 1985. This may mean that some farmers will get a lower price for their commodities this year.

Reagan's price support programs, like many in the past, require that a certain percentage of land be taken out of production. While setting land aside periodically can be an effective conservation measure, the government, representing the big growers and grain merchants, has a less worthy objective. Its goal is to drive up prices in order to increase profits.

The big capitalist farmers, who have a proportionately greater amount of land and greater financial flexibility, get giant subsidies from the programs. But many working farmers who need to use their entire land to try to make a living income are often less likely to enter the programs. If they do, they often don't receive supports high enough to meet expenses.

Furthermore, by idling land the full food-producing capacity of the country is not utilized at a time when there remains great hunger and famines throughout the world.

Waging war for profits

The same profit drive behind the Reagan administration's farm policies also guides its foreign policy.

Farmers and workers who are exploited here in the United States have different foreign policy interests than the bankers, food merchants, industrial titans, and capitalist farmers.

The ruling families strive to defend their markets, investments, and sources of raw materials. They wage bloody wars to prevent working people in oppressed countries from kicking them out and taking over their interests. That is what Washington is trying to prevent the workers and farmers of El Salvador from doing. That is why it is conducting a war against the revolutionary government in Nicaragua. That is why President Reagan invaded Grenada last year.

Working people have no interest in supporting such wars. To the contrary we have a common struggle with the workers and farmers of the Caribbean and Central America, and throughout the world, against a common enemy — U.S. big business and banking interests.

What kind of farmer is Block?

John Block, President Reagan's secretary of agriculture, boasts that being a farmer himself he understands the problems of farmers. But there are farmers and there are farmers.

The overwhelming majority of farmers work their own land with the help of their families. Most have difficulty making ends meet with just the income from farming and are forced to take off-the-farm jobs.

As farmers they are exploited by the banks and landlords who parasitically profit off interests and rents. As wage workers they are exploited by capitalist employers.

But there is another kind of farmer, a small minority, who profits off the labor of wage workers. They often have off-the-farm income too — from marketing operations, banking interests, real estate speculation, etc.

Block is part of this latter category.

The 3,500-acre Block farm in Illinois produces 6,000 hogs, 230,000 bushels of corn, and 50,000 bushels of soy beans each year. It is among the country's top 1 percent in annual income and employs, in addition to family members, seven workers.

In addition to farming, Block has also gone into real estate speculation. In 1970 he formed a partnership with John Curry and Rolland Main to buy up plots of farmland. Some of it was subdivided to build houses and apartments. The resale of these plots turned a tidy profit for the business partners.

At first most of the purchases were in the

local area but later spread to other states. Block, for example, owns a 1,000-acre farm in Minnesota. Curry has put together deals of his own in Iowa and Missouri amounting to more than 10,000 acres. Block's involvement in these ventures remains murky.

Before joining Reagan's cabinet, Block was not only a prominent customer of the First Farmers National Bank of Knoxville (Illinois), he was a director of the bank.



U.S. Secretary of Agriculture John Block on his Illinois farm.

'Raza won't fight U.S. wars no more!'

U.S. war in Central America protested on anniversary of Chicano Moratorium

BY RAÚL GONZÁLEZ

SAN FRANCISCO — As the U.S. government gears up for a new Vietnam-style war in Central America, commemorations of the Aug. 29, 1970, Chicano Moratorium Against the War in Vietnam were held in several cities in California and elsewhere.

Here, some 2,500 to 3,000 people attended a spirited rally August 26 in Dolores Park. In Los Angeles and Fresno rallies of 300-400 people were held September 1. Meetings were also held in Denver, Colorado, and San Antonio, Texas. The thrust of the rallies was opposition to the U.S. war against the revolutions in El Salvador and Nicaragua.

The original Chicano Moratorium demonstration was held in Los Angeles.

Opposition to conscription

In late 1969 the first Chicano Youth Liberation Conference was held in Denver. A major theme of the gathering was organizing opposition to the draft. Conscription was hitting the Chicano community particularly hard, and in Vietnam Chicanos accounted for over 20 percent of all combat casualties, a figure way out of proportion to the number of Chicano G.I.s in Vietnam.

It was at the Denver conference that the Chicano Moratorium Committee Against the War in Vietnam was organized.

The Moratorium selected the August 29 date for a major national demonstration against the Vietnam War. Between 25,000 and 30,000 Chicanos and Mexicans marched through the streets of East Los Angeles on that day while tens of thousands of others lined the march route. It was the largest antiwar demonstration held up until that time in Southern California. It was also the largest show of opposition to the U.S. government's policies in Vietnam organized by an oppressed nationality in the United States.

As the marchers reached the rally site, the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department launched a murderous attack on them. The

unprovoked assault led to hundreds of beatings and arrests and to the death of three Chicanos. One of those killed was the well-known Chicano journalist Rubén Salazar, a reporter for the *Los Angeles Times* and for KMEX radio. The park in which the rally was held was later renamed Salazar Park by the community in honor of the martyred reporter.

It is in direct response to Washington's current war that the commemoration rallies were organized.

In San Francisco, throughout the course of the day thousands of people, mostly youth, attended the activity. A delegation of striking workers from the Mission Foods tortilla plant in Richmond, California, were cheered as they called for a boycott of Mission Foods tortillas and explained the history of their fight.

Same struggle

Most of the speakers directed their fire against the U.S. war. Andrea Carmen of La Raza Unida Party said, "What the people of El Salvador and Nicaragua are fighting for are the same things which we here want for our communities. . . . We must say no to the draft and no to the war. We will not send our brothers and sons to fight and kill people who look like us and speak like us in Central America!"

Other speakers attacked the Simpson-Mazzoli anti-immigrant bill, draft registration, right-wing religious organizations (which are being seen increasingly in *barrios* across the country), and the lack of job opportunities for Chicano and other Latino youth.

Felix Koury, the western United States regional representative of the Revolutionary Democratic Front-Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FDR-FMLN) of El Salvador also spoke. He spoke of the importance that demonstrations like the Chicano Moratorium played in ending the war in Vietnam and emphasized the role that they could play in mobilizing opposition to U.S. military involvement in Central America today.

This theme was also touched on by Vilma Nuñez, the vice-president of the Supreme Court of Nicaragua, when she addressed the rally in Los Angeles. "When you say that you will not go to fight your brothers in Nicaragua," she told the crowd, "it gives us hope." She emphasized the fighting spirit and determination of the Nicaraguan people to be free from U.S. imperialism, and pointed to the importance of explaining to the people of the United States the gains and accomplishments which the Nicaraguan revolution has made under the leadership of the Sandinista National Liberation Front.

Unlike the actions in San Francisco and Fresno, which were organized on an antiwar basis, the Los Angeles rally, sponsored by the Latino Agenda Coalition, was built as a "Dump Reagan" event. However, it also had an antiwar tone to it.

Among the speakers there were Mario Obledo of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), Mario Velásquez of the FDR, and Andrew Jacobo speaking for the Arizona Copper Strikers Solidarity Committee.

Solidarity with copper miners

Many of the trade unionists at the Los Angeles action boarded a bus after the rally to go to the Arizona mining town of Clifton. There on the next day they joined the Labor Day march of the striking copper miners, many of whom are Chicano and Native American. The delegations of Los Angeles workers came from the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union Local 645; the United Auto Workers at the General Motors Sloan plant; and workers of Star Kist tuna, whose employers are threatening to close the plant. They went to Clifton to express their solidarity with the embattled copper miners and to report back to their unions on the Arizona action.

A statement by Silvia Zapata, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress and a leader of the Young Socialist Alliance, was distributed at the Los Angeles rally. "On this anniversary of the Chicano Moratorium it is important to recall its les-



Militant/Della Rossa

Aug. 29, 1970, Chicano Moratorium. Mass mobilization of Chicano people against war in Vietnam was attacked by police, leading to murder of Chicano journalist, Rubén Salazar.

sons," Zapata said. "The most important was the independence of that movement. . . . It was independent of the two capitalist parties. It put the interests of the Chicano people first. It relied on its own strength to fight for its demands — the fight against *la migra* [the Immigration and Naturalization Service] and the fight

against the U.S. war in Vietnam.

"Today our generation must face these questions again. . . . We believe the finest tribute that can be made to those who mobilized in the past is to recommit ourselves to building a new movement against *la migra* and against the U.S. war in Central America."

S.F. restaurant workers strike

BY RAÚL GONZÁLEZ

SAN FRANCISCO — On September 1, Local 2 of the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees union went on strike against eight of San Francisco's best-known tourist restaurants on Fisherman's Wharf. Since then, an additional 14 restaurants have been struck.

The owners of the original eight struck restaurants were members of an umbrella association of restaurant bosses known as the Golden Gate Restaurant Association (GGRA) which acts as a joint board when negotiating with the members of Local 2. The GGRA represents 77 of "the best" restaurants here, which employ a total of 2,200 members of Local 2.

Negotiations between Local 2 and the GGRA began last August prior to the contract expiration date of September 1. While negotiations were proceeding, the group of eight restaurants broke away from the GGRA, hired a group of fancy lawyers, and adopted a separate bargaining stance. In addition to demanding givebacks in health, medical, and retirement benefits, these bosses demanded a three-year wage freeze, and new work rules that would limit the access of union representatives to worksites. They then broke off negotiations with the union, forcing the workers out on strike.

Within a week, emboldened by the action of the owners of the eight restaurants, another group of bosses suspended negotiations, bringing the total number of struck restaurants to 22. There are now 1,300 workers on strike.

An additional blow was aimed at the union with five of the restaurants beginning union decertification drives.

Marilee Taylor, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for the 16th Assembly District and a leader of the Young Socialist Alliance, went to the picket lines at Fisherman's Wharf to lend her solidarity to the strike.

The group of 15 or so pickets at Fisherman's Grotto No. 9 were on their first day of strike action and were in high spirits. The strikers are mostly Filipino and Chinese waiters, "busboys," and cooks. The few women present at the various picket lines were mostly cashiers, cocktail waitresses, or checkroom attendants. At Fisherman's Grotto No. 9 the bosses had hired two "rent-a-cops," complete with

dark suits, walkie-talkies, and cameras with telephoto lenses in an attempt to intimidate the strikers.

One Filipino worker I spoke with laughingly said, "It doesn't matter how many times they take my picture, because to them all Filipinos look alike."

At the Franciscan, socialist candidate Taylor spoke to one woman who had 27 years on the job at the famous restaurant and conclave of local politicians. She explained that in mid-August, weeks before the strike began, the owners of the Franciscan and some other restaurants had taken out big ads in the papers looking to hire people for their jobs.

The Franciscan is one of the restaurants where the decertification drive was begun by the bosses. The striking woman explained how they did this. "They went mostly to the young workers who only spoke Spanish, told them all kinds of lies about the union and more or less forced them to sign up against the union."

She also said the threat of deportation was hinted at by the bosses. Taylor suggested that the union should put out literature in Spanish. The woman explained that they had some but that the bosses were trying to control what union materials are distributed on the job. "They're demanding in the contract the right to censor all union literature. . . . We won't let them get that."

At each of the picket lines that Taylor visited, the strikers emphasized their need for solidarity from other unions and workers. "If we lose here all the other unions in this town will be threatened," one Chinese worker put it.

The workers at Scoma's restaurant (which so far this year has brought in close to \$9 million in sales), were particularly spirited. Their picket line of 50 turned away many tourists. When an appeal for solidarity with the strikers did not work with them, the news that all the cooks and waiters were on picket duty often did.

Taylor pledged that she would do all she could to build solidarity with their strike, especially within her union — the International Ladies' Garment Workers'.

On September 15, the union held a solidarity rally in Aquatic Park (adjacent to Fisherman's Wharf) which drew some 400 strikers and supporters. Speakers addressed the rally in Spanish, English, and Chinese.

Irish freedom fighter in U.S. prison wins hunger strike demands

BY MARC LICHTMAN

NEW YORK — With his demands granted, Colm Murphy ended the nine-day hunger strike he began on September 9. Murphy, a victim of an FBI "sting" operation, was imprisoned for attempting to buy weapons to aid the struggle against the British occupation of the north of Ireland, where he is originally from.

Federal officials promised Murphy they would review his parole determination and consider his request for transfer to a prison near his family on the East Coast.

In order to keep pressure on the U.S. government to carry through on its promise, the New York H-Block/Armagh Committee called a demonstration for September 29 at the Reagan Reelection Headquarters here.

The H-Block/Armagh Committee requests that supporters of Colm Murphy write to him at the U.S. Medical Center for Federal Prisoners, Springfield, Mo. 65802, where he was moved during the hunger strike, as well as the prison he was originally held in, the Federal Correctional Institute, Milan, Mich. 48160. Murphy's prison number is 19705-03.

Meanwhile, five other activists convicted on charges of running guns to the Irish Republican Army started serving their sentences in September: Gabriel Megahey, Andrew Duggan, Barney McKeon, Colm Meehan, and Eamon Meehan. The five were honored by a large meeting at the Tower View Ballroom in Queens on September 16, sponsored by the Irish American Defense Fund.

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United Mine Workers vote on new contract

Continued from front page

another miner following the local meeting at which the terms of the proposed contract were explained (these took place across the country on September 25). This miner was planning to vote no on the settlement.

"If we don't fight," he said, "we begin to forget how to fight." He said he believed the operators had made new inroads against the union on work rules, safety practices, and other matters through the use of arbitration procedures, in part because the union has not fought some of these challenges with the necessary degree of militancy and solidarity.

The companies, he continued, have to see that miners can and will fight. Otherwise after this contract, or any contract, is signed, they'll just go after the union for more.

"The question you have to ask yourself," said Mickells, "is: is the union strong enough to fight for more? How do we take on the entire idea that our starting point should be whether or not we take concessions. Our starting point has to be how do we fight for what we deserve."

Massive unemployment

One of the biggest problems facing miners today is massive unemployment. While tens of thousands are out of work, thousands of other miners are forced to work six-day weeks. Several workers in Pennsylvania expressed the view that the contract should ban such forced overtime.

Another source of coalfield unemployment is the growing problem of operators subleasing UMW-organized mining operations to nonunion coal companies. The new operators, in turn, either hire new, nonunion workers or refuse to abide by the UMW contract.

Socialist candidates win fight for spot on Michigan ballot

Continued from Page 6

Arriving at the headquarters the morning of September 24, supporters discovered the walls spray painted with a swastika, and anti-Semitic, racist, and anticommunist slogans.

"We hold the authorities responsible for this attack," said Pulley and Meyers in a statement issued the next day. "The right-wing scum who carried out this attack are emboldened by the prowar policies that the president and Congress carry out in Grenada, Central America, and the Middle East, as well as the prowar stance of both Reagan's and Mondale's campaigns."

The state's attempts to keep the SWP off the ballot, the socialists pointed out, undoubtedly emboldened these labor-hating racists.

Far from being intimidated, the socialist campaigners will be using their ballot victory as an example of how workers can win gains by putting up a fight.

The Michigan socialist campaign is planning a victory rally, to which all supporters are invited, on Saturday, October 6, at 8 p.m. at the campaign headquarters at 7146 W McNichols. The telephone number is: (313) 862-7755.



Militant/Naomi Eraine
Michigan SWP senatorial candidate
Helen Meyers.

Militant correspondent Bruce Kimball reports that some southern Illinois miners expressed concern that despite changes in the contract on this issue, it could remain a big problem for the union. While subleasing is not widespread in Illinois, Kimball reports that a number of miners wanted to know "what do people in the East think about this?" referring to miners in West Virginia, Kentucky, and Virginia, where this problem is more pressing.

A more immediate problem facing Illinois miners is growing company disciplinary crackdowns. Only a few days before the contract vote two miners were fired by Exxon for allegedly sleeping on the job. Kimball reports these are two of a larger number of recent firings.

Cecelia Moriarity, a Utah miner, told the Militant that the first thing she looked for in the proposed contract was language safeguarding workers from arbitrary company discipline concerning absenteeism. "We've had big problems with our company — Emery Mining — rewriting the attendance rules," as part of the drive to get more coal production from fewer workers. "It's a real problem in our mine and nationally," she said. However, Moriarity said she found the proposed agreement didn't address this concern.

No COLA

The economic section of the package is also not strong. The 10 percent wage increase is substantially less than the 37.5 to 45 percent increases won in each of the last three national contract strikes. Kimball reports that one miner asked whether the union had won a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) from the BCOA (currently miners have no COLA protection). When he was told no, his response was that the wage increase was "nothing." As Kimball explained, "It's dangerous to think that total inflation over the next 40 months will be less than 10 percent. Our standard of living could be badly eroded over the life of this contract."

In UMW District 5 in Pennsylvania, miner Kipp Dawson reports that several pensioners (who do not vote on the pact) attended union meetings to express concern over the paltry increase in pension benefits offered by the BCOA (two \$10-a-month hikes over the life of the contract). This also came up in UMW District 17 in southern West Virginia, where Militant correspondent Joan Radin reports that several miners asked when the time would come to launch a real fight to protect widows and pensioners.

Radin also reported that many workers were concerned with contract language which allows the operators to reschedule three "floating vacation days" — ones that miners have been able to take at their own discretion — and tie them to Christmas mine shutdowns. Some miners believe this is a concession of sorts, one that gives the companies more control over miners' time and lives. Mickells reports that similar questions were raised by workers she spoke with.

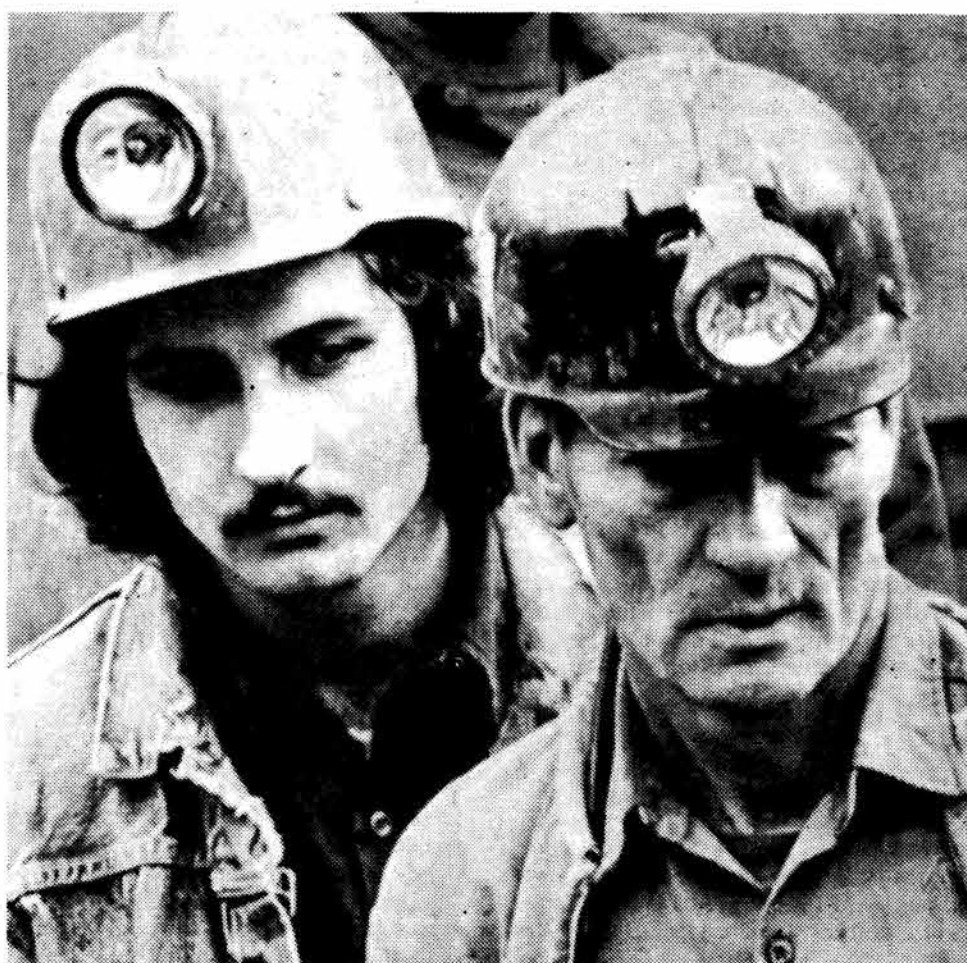
Serious discussion

All the Militant's correspondents report that the mood of discussion among most miners has been serious and sober. Many miners recognize that despite its weaknesses, the proposed contract is better than what many other industrial workers have been able to win over the past several years. Some question whether the union is strong enough to fight for more.

"This contract sheds a little more light on the last two national contract strikes (the 111-day 1977-78 strike and the one lasting 72 days in 1981)," Kimball told the Militant. "By fighting we strengthened the union and pushed back the coal operators. We didn't win everything we needed and we gave back some things, but the coal operators knew they had been in a fight. I think it's one of the reasons they didn't push for bigger concessions this time. The

British miners strike

British coal miners have been on strike against mine closures since March 1984. The Militant features regular coverage of this important class battle.



All UMW members received copies of the proposed contract at local union meetings where contract terms were explained and discussed. Miners voted September 27.

companies knew that the ranks of the union were prepared to fight again," Kimball said.

Earlier in the year the coal operators had floated such ideas, including a two-tier wage structure, a seven-day work week, and a probationary period for new hires. But none of these appear in the proposed agreement.

It is in part because the ranks of the UMW have been through two hard-fought and bitter strikes in the past six years, that many miners think seriously before rejecting a proposed contract and voting to strike the operators. "Everyone knows," Kimball said, "that it would be a real battle. A strike would not be won easily." He said he believed this was a big reason why ratification appears more likely than not.

Big challenge

Regardless of the outcome of the vote on the tentative settlement, the UMW will face a big challenge. The coal operators have a long-term perspective of wearing down the UMW and eroding union power.

Cecelia Moriarity reported that one miner, who had been a strike leader in Utah in 1981, told her, "I'm not just worried about this contract. I'm worried about the

next one." He explained that the operators are biding their time until they think the union is weak enough to be dealt some substantial blows.

"Whether or not we think we're strong enough," said Kimball, "the fight is on." The coal operators, like the entire employing class, are on the offensive against working people. That offensive has deepened as new blows have been struck against the union movement through concession contracts and other setbacks such as the strikebreaking aimed at copper miners who have been on picket lines in Arizona for more than a year.

While that offensive is deepening in the United States, it is escalating even more sharply in Central America where the U.S. government is moving steadily toward even deeper involvement in the war against the Nicaraguan revolution and the Salvadoran liberation struggle.

"Whatever the outcome of our contract vote," said Kimball, "the UMW and the entire labor movement is posed with the challenge of fighting against this war and all the attacks on working people. We have to do everything we can to support other workers who are fighting, such as the British miners and our brothers and sisters in Central America. Our fight for a decent contract is directly connected to their battles."

UMW fights to organize Benjamin Co.

BY GEOFF MIRELOWITZ

The United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) has taken a new step in its ongoing fight to win union representation for miners at the Benjamin Coal Co. in Clearfield County, Pennsylvania. Based on a complaint filed by the UMW, the National Labor Relations Board's Pittsburgh office will ask an administrative law judge to order Benjamin Coal to bargain with the union.

A November 5 hearing has been scheduled to rule on this request based on NLRB Regional Director Gerald Kobelt's decision that the company has engaged in extensive and pervasive unfair labor practices that denied the possibility of a fair union election.

The UMW complaint asserted these practices included various threats of mine closure if workers voted for UMW representation, as well as physical violence and the layoff of several employees in retaliation for union activities.

The UMW has been trying to organize Benjamin Coal for more than a year. Miners sought out the union when the company cut wages by 10 percent and reduced benefits.

The UMW won a November 1983 representation election by a 261 to 209 vote.

The company challenged the election, claiming improper campaign activities by the union. In January the union agreed to hold another election because, as UMW attorney Kurt Kobelt explained, "although we knew we'd be vindicated, it would take three years to prove. In order to avoid delay we chose to have a new election."

But the company's union-busting tactics resulted in a 268 to 211 vote against the union last March. The company formed a group called Benjamin Employees Against the Union (BEAU). But, according to Kobelt, the speeches and other material put out by this group were written by an outside consultant hired by the company to fight the UMW. Kobelt said this is illegal.

At the November 5 hearing the judge will have the authority to recommend that the results of the second election be set aside. However, the employer has the right to appeal, which can tie the dispute up for months more.

The obstacles to the exercise of union rights posed by national labor law has been the subject of much criticism recently by top UMW officials as the coal operators have resorted to these tactics more frequently to block UMW organizing.

Auto workers rip INS factory raids

BY HÉCTOR MARROQUÍN

RACINE, Wisc. — "We are happy because the union is defending all of its members regardless of whether they have papers or not," said Gilberto Delgado, a member of United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 180 which represents workers at J.I. Case.

J.I. Case is a large plant here which produces tractors. It employs approximately 1,800 UAW members, around 250 of whom are Mexicans or Chicanos. Local 180 is the largest UAW local in the area.

"The only way in which we can keep our union strong is standing in solidarity with each other," Delgado, who is Chicano, said. I met with him and other workers who are part of a discussion in the union movement in the area about how to best respond to the recent racist attacks against union members conducted by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS).

'Must educate unionists'

"The INS goes after those with brown skin or who don't speak English well. They know nothing about your legal status, but based on the way we look they harass us," Delgado said. "There is some apathy among union members who don't quite understand the seriousness of this problem, but we must keep trying to educate them. It can happen to others."

"We should learn to see each individual's problem as our problem."

The discussion in the union movement here in Racine was sparked by a number of INS raids against UAW-organized plants.

The first one took place June 26 when 13 workers — 12 Mexicans and one U.S. citizen — were rounded up by INS agents at Racine Steel Castings, organized by UAW Local 553. Workers were loaded into vans by armed INS thugs and charged with being "illegal aliens."

Most of them were released on bond after an outpouring of protests from union officials and community leaders.

"It's hard to see them hauled out," said the auto workers Local 553 Pres. Richard Fought. "The people here are like family, and it's tough to see this."

"It really makes you wonder what the hell kind of country we're living in."

Following the release of some of the arrested workers, the INS sought to have them fired from Racine Steel Castings. But Local 553 declared that it would oppose such actions on the grounds that they were entitled to due process.

"Our position is that these people are in the country legally, until proven otherwise," declared Fought. "We have a collective bargaining agreement to enforce," he added. "We will not cooperate by tolerating the firing of the 12. Our members can only be dismissed for cause and these people haven't done anything that could be considered cause."

The INS disagreed. Donald Radcliffe,

N.Y. protest says: 'Haiti, yes! With Duvalier, no!'

BY MARY SELVAS

NEW YORK — Shouts of "À bas Duvalier!" ("Down with Duvalier!"), "Haiti yes! With Duvalier, no!" and "Liberty or death!" rang out at a spirited demonstration here September 22. The action was called to protest U.S. support for the dictatorship in Haiti and the treatment of Haitian refugees here.

The demonstration, organized by the Committee against the Wave of Repression in Haiti, drew a mostly Black crowd of about 200, including many Haitians. Participants came from as far away as Boston, Canada, and Miami.

The speeches and entertainment were in both English and Creole. Among the speakers was Rev. Gerard Jean-Juste of the Miami Center for Haitian Refugees. He explained that more than 300 Haitians are in concentration camps in Miami.

Many of the speakers and entertainers linked the struggle of the Haitian people with the struggles of the peoples of El Salvador, South Africa, and Nicaragua.

More than \$260 worth of socialist literature was sold at the action.



Member of United Auto Workers Local 553 (left) being taken from Racine Steel Castings plant by immigration cops. Twelve members of union local were arrested on charges that they were in United States illegally.

assistant director of the Milwaukee office of *la migra*, claimed the workers did not have visas and thus could be deported. "It is being considered at a higher level," he threatened. "We aren't going to stand for it. The U.S. government takes precedence over what the union feels."

Ronald Swan, director of the Milwaukee INS office, warned the UAW Local 553 president, "You are making a big mistake."

More raids

The INS launched two more brutal raids at Racine Steel Castings aimed at victimizing Local 553.

On July 12 they arrested 5 more immigrant workers, bringing to 17 the number of Local 553 members arrested.

On July 25 about 60 people from the labor movement and Latino community met at UAW Local 180 to express solidarity with Local 553.

In explaining his local's position Fought stated, "We must defend the rights of all union workers." Then he went on to blame the government for this attack on working people. "Acting now is clearly a political act by the INS," he said. It was "a Reagan administration effort to focus blame for unemployment on immigrant workers rather than its own policies," said Fought.

In addition to discussing the attacks on Local 553 members, the meeting expressed concern that the INS could do the same thing at J.I. Case.

Gilberto Delgado was one among several Chicanos who helped get this meeting together and who have been centrally involved in this discussion.

These workers were particularly outraged by what some right-wingers had to say on this question. For example, Delgado showed me the June 6 issue of *Racine Labor*, the AFL-CIO newspaper here, which ran a letter that said:

"The news in your paper should carry titles like Buy American or fight automation. Instead, it's a sympathy card for people that have entered this country illegally to steal our work. . . ."

"We are supporting these Latin countries and their people who breed like rats while our elderly eat dog food and pay through the nose for medical care. . . ."

The letter then posed the question, "Is this what America is all about?"

Outrage

Not just Chicanos and Mexicans were outraged at such racist statements. A re-

sponse was published a week later by Teddie Klinkhammer, member of UAW Local 82. He said, "I was really amazed that Melster would care to let the public see in print his simple-minded attitude. . . ."

"He didn't say whether he is a union brother nor did he say what sort of work he does. . . ."

"At this time, our country is going to renovate the Statue of Liberty. I wonder how many of us know who she is, why she is here, and what she represents. We who are so fortunate cannot imagine the desperation from which our immigrants, all the way back to the Pilgrims, drew the immense courage to leave their homelands and their families to come to that great lady."

"I don't think that there has been a time since the '30's when the brothers and sisters more and more need to stand behind one another and our country and extend a hand to those who reach to us."

"Isn't that what America is all about?"

Racists win in Shockley suit

BY WYNSTON JEFFRIES

ATLANTA — Blacks and other opponents of racial discrimination got a slap in the face September 14 when a jury in federal court here decided in favor of William Shockley in a libel suit.

Shockley, a Nobel Prize-winning physicist who preaches racist pseudo-scientific genetic theories, sued the Atlanta *Constitution* and Roger Witherspoon, a Black journalist who used to work for the paper, for a 1980 article Witherspoon wrote attacking Shockley's theories.

Although the judge only awarded \$1 to Shockley, who had demanded \$1.25 million in punitive damages, the decision upholds Shockley's false charge of libel and encourages similar attacks on other journalists who oppose reactionary ideas.

Moreover, the decision fits into the employers' broader campaign to bolster anti-Black, antiwoman, and other reactionary ideas.

Shockley tries to hide his crude racism with a "scientific" mask. He maintains that evidence shows that the second-class status of Blacks isn't the result of racial discrimination, but rather the genetic inferiority of Blacks. Shockley argues therefore that social programs aimed at alleviating aspects

of racial discrimination are of no value. Instead, he advocates a "voluntary" sterilization plan for Blacks. Such a program, he claims, would help remedy the fact that "the lowest component of black people are the ones that are growing most rapidly."

No Spanish speaking allowed

Delgado is a "descendant of immigrants past" also.

"My family came from Mexico," he told me. "When I grew up in the United States they trained me not to speak Spanish in school. I have always been opposed to that. My relatives spoke Spanish. I was viewed as retarded because I couldn't understand English. But I think the same goes the other way for those who don't speak Spanish. It's unfair. However, I learned English because I wanted to communicate and get by, to socialize and do politics with people. But, since I grew up with Mexican immigrants, I decided to preserve Spanish too because of my people. One thing I've learned is not to call people illegal aliens. They are just workers without documents. And I think workers with or without documents can be organized. That's the best way to fight the INS and the government."

Many of Delgado's coworkers and friends respect his commitment to the fight for labor and Latino rights.

He told me that in 1973 he sued his employer for discrimination. Delgado kept a file of complaints from fellow workers in a similar situation as his to back up his discrimination claim. "Then the management came after me. One day I had a jacket with a sign of the United Farm Workers and another sign that said 'Chicano power' with a fist holding a broken chain. The management said that I was being like Blacks and the whole thing about Black Power."

"I just told them to stop messing with me and kept on wearing my jacket."

Delgado won the suit against the company and then he was called a radical and troublemaker. But that didn't bother him because, he said, Mexican revolutionist Pancho Villa "was also called a troublemaker."

Ever since he won — with wide support from the union and his community — he continued to educate people about racism and labor rights. He and many of his friends have had an impact on the union and played a key role in discussing how the union should respond to INS attacks.

That impact was shown in the stand that the union took on the question of immigrants: publicly speaking out in defense of the INS's victims; providing legal assistance; publishing the rights of immigrant workers both in English and Spanish; reaching out for solidarity; and taking some measures at the workplace to prevent INS harassment.

Delgado now hopes the entire union movement will do the same.

of racial discrimination are of no value. Instead, he advocates a "voluntary" sterilization plan for Blacks. Such a program, he claims, would help remedy the fact that "the lowest component of black people are the ones that are growing most rapidly."

As Shockley sees it, Blacks "may be reproducing themselves into a very much lower capacity minority group."

In his 1980 article, Witherspoon correctly labeled Shockley "a man with an idea that there are too many Black people around, and he is asking them to eliminate themselves."

Witherspoon went on to say, "The Shockley program was tried out in Germany during World War II, when scientists under the direction of the government experimented on Jews and defectives in an effort to study genetic development."

In his testimony, Shockley said that the comparison was false because his policy on sterilization was "voluntary" and that Germany made the mistake of practicing racial genocide on Jews, who, he says, are of high intellect. Shockley said his plan differs from the Nazis' because he would have private enterprise administer the program, not the government.

ALABAMA

Birmingham

Meet and Hear the Socialist Candidates. Speakers: Andrea González, Socialist Workers Party candidate for vice-president; Mark Curtis, SWP candidate for Congress. Fri., Oct. 5, 7:30 p.m. 205 18th St. S. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Socialist Workers Campaign Committee. For more information call (205) 323-3079.

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

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.

South Africa: the Fight for Black Majority Rule. Speakers: Thabiti Mtambuzi, representative of National Black United Front; Sam Manuel, Socialist Workers Party National Committee member. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 13, 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.

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.

KENTUCKY

Louisville

We Are Driven. Documentary on life in a Japanese auto factory. Discussion of its lessons for U.S. workers. Sun., Sept. 30, 7 p.m. 809 E Broadway. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (502) 587-8418.

The 1984 Socialist Campaign vs. the Reagan-Mondale War Drive. Speaker: Ellen Haywood, National Committee member of Young Socialist Alliance and National Youth

Coordinator of Socialist Workers presidential campaign. Sat., Oct. 13, 7:30 p.m. 809 E Broadway. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (502) 587-8418.

LOUISIANA

New Orleans

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

South Africa Freedom Struggle. Speakers: William Shisana, representative of African National Congress; John Lemon, Socialist Workers Party campaign. Translation to Spanish. Sun., Sept. 30, 7 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

Socialist Workers Campaign Rally. Speakers: Mel Mason, Socialist Workers Party candidate for president; Joey Rothenberg, steelworker and SWP candidate for Congress, 7th C.D.; Ted Leonard, machinist and SWP candidate for Congress, 2nd C.D. Translation to Spanish. Sun., Oct. 7. Reception, 6 p.m.; rally, 7 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: D.C.-Maryland Socialist Workers Campaign Committee. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

Defend the Right to Abortion: Stop Violence Against Clinics! Speakers: Lisa Ahlberg, Young Socialist Alliance; others. Sun., Sept. 30, 4 p.m. 508 N Snelling. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Minnesota Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

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.

Religion and Politics: the Socialist View. Speaker: Steve Marshall, Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Friday, Oct. 5, 7:30 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.

Americas in Focus: A Central American and Caribbean Film Festival. *El Norte*, Fri., Oct. 5, 12:30, 4:40, and 9:20 p.m. *Alsino and the Condor*, Fri., Oct. 5, 3:00 and 7:10 p.m. *Mis-sing*, Sat., Oct. 6, 2:15, 5:35, and 9:30 p.m. *Chile: I Don't Take Your Name in Vain*, Sat., Oct. 6, 4:30 and 7:50 p.m. St. Mark's Cinema, 133 Second Ave. Ausp: Central America and Caribbean Film Series Project and New York CIRCUS.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

Black Revolt in South Africa. Videotape and guest speaker. Sat., Sept. 29, 7:30 p.m. 301 S

Elm St. Suite 522. Donation requested. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (919) 272-5996.

OHIO

Cincinnati

The Struggle for Justice in South Africa. Film: *Adapt or Die*, a documentary on plight of South African unionists. Panel discussion with Sara Gardner, president, Cincinnati Coalition of Black Trade Unionists; Nozipo Glenn, Pan African Congress and American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees union; Diana Porter, Coalition of Labor Union Women. Fri., Sept. 28, 7:30 p.m. Cement Masons' Hall, 3032 Woodburn Ave. Ausp: CBTU, CLUW, Ohio Divest. For more information call (513) 861-4282.

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, Maryland. 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

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.

Eyewitness Report on British Coal Miners Strike. Speaker: Bev Bernardo, recently returned from tour of British coalfields. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 6, 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.

South Africa: The Current Struggle for Human Rights. Speakers: Godfrey Sithole, representative of African National Congress; representative of Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Oct. 6, 7:30 p.m. 2744 Germantown Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (215) 225-0213.

Pittsburgh

United Mine Workers-United Auto Workers Contracts: Workers Resist Union-busting. Speakers: Alan Epstein, UAW Local 12, Toledo; Clare Fraenzl, UAW Local 1197. Sat., Sept. 29, 7:30 p.m. 141 S. Highland Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

The Elections in Nicaragua. Speaker: Linda Simms, toured Nicaragua on fifth anniversary of revolution. Sat., Oct. 6, 7:30 p.m. 141 S. Highland Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

TEXAS

Houston

Solidarity: How U.S. Workers Can Support the British Coal Miners Strike. Speaker: John Sarge, United Steelworkers Local 1472 and Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Sept. 29, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (713) 522-8054.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

Workers Solidarity vs. "Buy American." Video showing of *We Are Driven*, a documentary on Nissan auto workers in Japan. Speaker: David McDonald, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Sept. 29, 7:30 p.m. 5517 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

Report Back From British Coal Miners Strike. Speaker: Bev Bernardo, recently returned from Britain. Sun., Oct. 7, 7 p.m. 5517 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$2. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

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

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.

Behind U.S. Attacks On Libya. Speakers: Salah Elshukri, Jamahiriya Student Conference; Anita Spark, former president, Black Student Union; Margo Storsteen, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Oct. 13, 7:30 p.m. 4707 W Lisbon. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (414) 445-2076.

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CALIFORNIA: Bay Area District: 3808 E 14th St., Oakland. Zip: 94601. Tel: (415) 534-1242. Los Angeles: SWP, YSA, 2546 W. Pico Blvd. Zip: 90006. Tel: (213) 380-9460. Oakland: SWP, YSA, 3808 E 14th St. Zip: 94601. Tel: (415) 261-3014. San Diego: SWP, YSA, 1053 15th St. Zip: 92101. Tel: (619) 234-4630. San Francisco: SWP, YSA, 3284 23rd St. Zip: 94110. Tel: (415) 282-6255. San Jose: SWP, YSA, 46 1/2 Race St. Zip: 95126. Tel: (408) 998-4007. Seaside: SWP, YSA, 1184 Broadway. Zip: 93955. Tel: (408) 394-1855.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MINNESOTA: Twin Cities: SWP, YSA, 508 N. Snelling Ave., St. Paul. Zip: 55104. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI: Kansas City: SWP, YSA,

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

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

NEW YORK: Capital District (Albany): SWP, YSA, 352 Central Ave. 2nd floor. Zip: 12206. Tel: (518) 434-3247. New York: SWP, YSA, 79 Leonard St. Zip: 10013. Tel: (212) 219-3679 or 925-1668.

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

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

OREGON: Portland: SWP, YSA, 2732 NE Union. Zip: 97212. Tel: (503) 287-7416.

PENNSYLVANIA: Edinboro: YSA, Edinboro State College. Zip: 16444. Tel: (814) 734-4415. Philadelphia: SWP, YSA, 2744 Germantown Ave. Zip: 19133. Tel: (215) 225-0213. Pittsburgh: SWP, YSA, 141 S. Highland Ave. Zip: 15206. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

State College: YSA, P.O. Box 464, Bellefonte. Zip: 16823. Tel: (814) 238-3296.

RHODE ISLAND: Providence: YSA, P.O.

Box 261, Annex Station. Zip: 02901.

TEXAS: Austin: YSA, c/o Mike Rose, 7409 Berkman Dr. Zip: 78752. Tel: (512) 452-3923.

Dallas: SWP, YSA, 2817 Live Oak. Zip: 75204. Tel: (214) 826-4711. Houston: SWP, YSA, 4806 Alameda. Zip: 77004. Tel: (713) 522-8054.

UTAH: Price: SWP, YSA, 23 S. Carbon Ave., Suite 19, P.O. Box 758. Zip: 84501. Tel: (801) 637-6294. Salt Lake City: SWP, YSA, 767 S. State. Zip: 84111. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

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

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

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

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

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

Ethiopians starve as U.S. gov't balks at giving aid

More than 200,000 Ethiopians will starve to death this year. The U.S. government can stop that, but won't. It's worse than murderous neglect — the famine that now grips Ethiopia is the direct result of the country's underdevelopment by U.S. and European imperialism.

U.S. officials claim the famine is caused by drought — an unfortunate, but unavoidable accident of nature. Moreover, they charge the Ethiopian government "mis-handles" what aid it does receive as an excuse to dole out almost nothing to alleviate famine. Both claims are false.

True, drought has ravaged Ethiopia for several years. But it doesn't necessarily follow that tens of

perialism and its lackeys was the underlying cause of Ethiopia's 1973-74 famine. It's been estimated that up to 400,000 people died in that famine in which Selassie and other landowners raked in great profits from skyrocketing food prices, corruption, and usury.

Ethiopian workers and peasants rose up in rebellion against the Selassie regime beginning in February 1974. In September of that year, radical officers overthrew the Selassie regime and abolished the monarchy.

The Ethiopian revolution of 1974 brought many gains, the most important of which was an extensive land reform, which wiped out the landed aristocracy. But Ethiopian peasants, who make up 80 percent of the country's population, are still mostly involved in subsistence farming. In "good" times Ethiopia isn't self-sufficient in food production.

The Ethiopian government has explained for several years that farmers there can produce only 6.2 million tons of grain a year, 1 million less than what the country needs.

Years of drought have cut into Ethiopia's already meager agricultural production. The government, headed by Lt. Col. Mengistu Haile Mariam, set up a Relief and Rehabilitation Commission to aid hunger victims. In March, May, and August, the commission warned that the country would suffer a death toll of "truly catastrophic proportions" unless developed nations provided Ethiopia with grain and help in transporting it.

The imperialist countries have refused to give the needed aid. This year the United Nations World Food Program estimates that only 354,000 tons of grain will be shipped to Ethiopia, 600,000 tons short of its actual needs.

The U.S. capitalist class and its allies have opposed the Ethiopian government, which they distrust because it arose from the 1974 revolution. They hope withholding badly needed food aid will help topple the government,

which has often come into conflict with U.S. imperialism.

Peter McPherson, administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID), accused the Ethiopian government of hampering the delivery of food to the famine-stricken country. "The Ethiopian government," McPherson recently told a Senate hearing, "frankly isn't especially responsive to the United States government, and I don't think we've had much impact on them."

Similar charges were made against the Ethiopian government last year when the famine first came to international attention. The London *Sunday Times*, for example, claimed that the Ethiopian government was directing food aid to its army that was battling Eritrean liberation fighters. The Canadian embassy in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital, carried out an investigation and found no evidence that food aid was being diverted.

Tamene Eshete, the Ethiopian envoy in Washington, D.C., told a September 20 news conference that delays in the distribution of food aid in his country are caused by poor transportation facilities, and not by a lack of cooperation by his government. Eshete appealed to "all donor organizations, governmental and private, to provide relief assistance to avert calamity."

Mel Mason, the Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate, blasted the U.S. government for its piddling aid to Ethiopia. "The U.S. government, and the employers on whose behalf it rules, have more than enough wealth to end the famine in Ethiopia — and everywhere else for that matter. With the \$2.5 billion the government spent on the MX missile alone last year, it could have financed the total amount of African wheat imports in 1979!"

"Instead of feeding its massive war machine in preparation for a new Vietnam-style war in Central America, the U.S. government should be helping to feed the working people of the world."



BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY

Mohammed Oliver

thousands of people should die as a result. Droughts, floods, blights, and other natural disasters strike U.S. farmers from time to time without causing famine. The stockpiling of foodstuffs, efficient irrigation and water storage, and a highly developed transportation system help prevent such a tragedy.

However, decades of imperialist domination and the existence, until 1974, of semifeudal relations retarded Ethiopia's development. Emperor Haile Selassie's regime forced Ethiopian serfs to pay the feudal landowners 60-70 percent of their crops. Selassie was Ethiopia's largest landowner. He and the rest of the aristocracy hoarded foodstuffs to jack up prices.

The domination of Ethiopian agriculture by U.S. im-

Indianapolis forum discusses 'antipornography' law

BY KATHY OWENS

INDIANAPOLIS — An "anti-pornography" ordinance recently passed by the City-County Council here has sparked a debate on the causes of pornography, censorship, and violence against women.

The reactionary, procensorship ordinance, signed into law at the end of April, defines pornography as a form of sexual discrimination and a violation of a woman's civil rights. It allows individuals to file civil complaints asking for court orders to ban material they deem pornographic or to fine the makers or sellers of such material.

The measure defines pornography as "graphically depicted and sexually explicit subordination of women — including presenting women as sexual objects who enjoy pain or humiliation, who experience sexual pleasure in being raped; who are tied, cut, bruised or mutilated in a sexual context."

Supporters of the measure include Catherine McKinnon, an attorney and professor at the University of Minnesota, who drafted a similar bill that was defeated by the Minneapolis city government last January.

The sponsor of the ordinance here is Beulah Coughenour, a staunch opponent of women's rights who led the Indiana effort to stop passage of the Equal Rights Amendment. Also backing the measure is Rev. Greg Dixon of the Indianapolis Baptist Temple and former national secretary of the rightist outfit, Moral Majority.

A lawsuit filed by the Indiana Civil Liberties Union has challenged the ordinance on the grounds that it restricts the availability of First Amendment-protected materials. The suit was heard in federal court at the end of July, but no decision has yet been reached.

As a contribution to the discussion taking place around the measure, the Indianapolis Militant Forum recently held a panel discussion on the issue of violence against women.

Susan Labaj, staff attorney for the United Auto Workers and an activist in the struggle for abortion rights, spoke. Labaj echoed the concerns of many advocates of women's rights who support this measure, stating that whatever its shortcomings, it is a valid attempt to begin to deal with the problem of violence against women. She explained that as a supporter of civil liberties, however, she felt the measure may be too broad, and could potentially affect areas like works of art and literature.

Michael Gradison, of the Indiana Civil Liberties Union, expressed his opposition to the ordinance from the standpoint that it

would legalize censorship. Claiming that "there are ample laws on the books to deal with the issue of violence against women," Gradison argued that the ordinance would lead to the broad censorship of literature and art.

Gradison went on to say that it is impossible to drive pornographers from the market, and that, after all, no woman is forced to enter a pornographic bookstore if she doesn't want to.

Marge Thomas, representing the Socialist Workers Party, also spoke in opposition to the measure, but from a different standpoint than Gradison.

Thomas explained, "We're not against this law because it limits the pornographers' 'right' to freedom of speech." Pornographers, who make millions off women's oppression and degradation, are not the major targets of this law, said Thomas.

"We oppose the law because it would be used against progressive movements for social change, like the women's rights movement." That's why rightist foes of women are for the measure, Thomas

pointed out. As Washington steps up its war in Central America, it will increasingly move to restrict the democratic rights of working people. Censorship laws will be one of the warmakers' weapons.

"The enforcement is left to a government that doesn't act in the interest of women — a capitalist government," said Thomas. She backed up this statement by citing two recent attacks on women by the city government.

Last winter, in the midst of violent attacks on abortion clinics, Indianapolis Mayor William Hudnut proclaimed a citywide "Right-to-Life" Day. And recently, the city administration and cops have combined efforts in harassing gay men and lesbians on the downtown streets.

Thomas responded to assertions by women's rights activists in the audience that feminists could enforce the ordinance differently than the government and right-wing backers want. Working people don't run the government, the employers do, said Thomas. She explained that the government has always used censorship laws the way it wants — against women, Blacks,

and the labor movement.

One woman in the audience stated that although the ordinance might have weaknesses, "women need to find some way to begin to fight for the right to walk safely in the streets."

In response, Thomas explained that the kind of solutions necessary begin with women relying on themselves and their working-class allies — not the capitalist government — to end pornography and the degraded position of women. Doing this, she explained, requires that women wage an independent fight for their rights — not only against pornography, but for abortion rights, affirmative action, and the Equal Rights Amendment.

Ending pornography, said Thomas, is not an impossible dream. In countries where working people are in power — like Cuba and Nicaragua, and Grenada before the U.S. invasion — the government actively opposes women's degradation and oppression. In Nicaragua, the Sandinista government has banned pornography and made it illegal to exploit women's bodies for commercial purposes.

Socialists rip U.S. hypocrisy on Lebanon

Continued from front page

politicians have charged that the Iranian, Syrian, and Libyan governments were responsible for the bombing attack on the embassy. The U.S. rulers raise this false charge to try to justify their attacks on Arab peoples and the Iranian revolution, attacks designed to maintain the imperialists' grip on the peoples and resources of the region.

Mondale's complaint about "lax security" at the Beirut and other U.S. embassies is also claptrap. The U.S. State Department's request to Congress for an additional \$372 million to improve "security" at U.S. embassies in "high-threat areas" is nothing more than a request for funding increased U.S. intervention — from Lebanon to Central America.

Revealing their own imperialist arrogance, Democratic liberals have joined in demanding that the U.S. government "retaliate" for the bombing attack.

"I think some punishment is clearly appropriate and I think we would stand behind reasonable measures to do so," was Mondale's response. Democratic Sen. Daniel Moynihan said "We can retaliate, and the time has come for us to find these people."

As the presidential campaign goes into its final weeks, Reagan and Mondale both

posture as "peace" candidates. Reagan even delivered a speech to the United Nations calling for "peace."

But the U.S. interventions in Lebanon and Central America show what these capitalist politicians mean when they call for "peace." They want more guns, bullets, bombs, and troops to impose a "peace" in which the U.S. rulers can squeeze enormous wealth from the world's toilers without fear of revolt.

Reagan and Mondale are trying to outdo each other as to who can be "tougher" in defending the interests of the wealthy rulers of the United States and best sell Washington's military interventions around the world.

This campaign of lies about who is to blame for the deaths in Beirut is aimed at chipping away at the opposition to deeper U.S. intervention among working people. The capitalist class' propaganda is also meant to justify the rulers' attacks on democratic rights here in the United States.

The bosses and their government argue that their police and domestic spy network must be strengthened to "protect" us from "terrorists" in this country. In fact these secret police are used to spy on, disrupt, and intimidate U.S. trade unionists, Black

rights fighters, and activists in antiwar and Central American solidarity groups.

U.S. working people have no stake in supporting U.S. intervention in Lebanon. We should demand that the U.S. government get out, and get out now!

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Why U.S. won't sign Contadora

Further revealing its own war aims, the U.S. government is refusing to sign a peace accord on Central America drafted by the Contadora Group, which is made up of the governments of Mexico, Panama, Colombia, and Venezuela. The accord seeks agreement among the governments of Nicaragua, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Honduras, and Guatemala for a political solution to the war in the region.

On September 21, the Nicaraguan government announced it was ready to sign the accord and demanded that the U.S. government also put its name to it. The Nicaraguans pointed out that since Washington is the source of the military conflict in Central America, the accord will be meaningless without U.S. ratification (see story on page 6).

The text of the accord, revised after the Sandinistas rejected an earlier draft, has not yet been released. Reports in the press indicate it takes up the issues of foreign military bases and personnel in Central America, as well as weapons procurement, elections, and the arming of forces attempting to overthrow governments in the region.

Why does Washington object to the accord, after years of claiming it wants a peaceful solution to the war?

In Honduras, to take only one country, the U.S. government has set up eight military bases and airfields. They are being used to stage murderous assaults on Nicaragua by CIA-organized mercenaries and to train Honduran and Salvadoran troops to better carry out U.S. imperialism's war against workers and peasants of the region.

Thousands of U.S. troops are permanently based in Honduras — against the will of that nation's working people — as an ever-present threat to both Nicaragua and the revolutionary forces fighting the U.S. puppet dictatorship in El Salvador. The U.S. military personnel are far from passive. They fly surveillance runs over rebel-held territory in El Salvador, setting up saturation bombing raids by the Salvadoran air force. U.S. pilots also regularly carry out spy flights over Nicaragua to aid the mercenary forces attacking that country and to attempt to provoke an incident that could be used as a pretext for a more direct U.S. attack.

Nicaragua, on the other hand, has no troops on the soil of any other Central American country. Nor are there any Cuban and Soviet military bases, or Cuban and Soviet troops, in any Central American nation, despite what Washington claims.

By challenging the U.S. government to accept the Contadora accord, the Sandinistas are helping expose Washington's claim to be for peace in the region as rhetoric designed to cover its massive military buildup and plans to use U.S. troops directly against Nicaragua and El Salvador.

Thrown on the defensive, the U.S. State Department said the Nicaraguans are being "hypocritical" about the Contadora accord because they are "refusing to allow full participation in their elections."

But who's really the hypocrite on Nicaragua's elections? For the past five years, the U.S. imperialists have demanded that Nicaragua hold elections and charged it was "totalitarian" for not doing so. Now that the Sandinistas have scheduled presidential elections for November 4, the imperialists have turned around and

said they should be postponed!

The forces that Washington says should "fully participate" in Nicaragua's elections are the U.S.-armed terrorist leaders who have been assassinating voter registration workers in that country. The Sandinistas have said these killers will not be allowed to participate.

At the same time, the Nicaraguan government has encouraged the main capitalist parties in Nicaragua to run in the elections. It has even postponed filing deadlines among other concessions. But these parties still refuse to participate, recognizing that the workers and peasants of Nicaragua will reject their candidacies and poke more holes in the myth of the unpopularity of the Sandinista government.

The war policy against Nicaragua is not a Republican or Reagan policy — it is dictated by the needs of the U.S. employing class. The goal is to weaken and overthrow the Nicaraguan revolution and push back the workers and peasants throughout the region.

The Democratic Party shares this objective and is actively working with the Republicans to carry out the war.

Democratic presidential candidate Walter Mondale reaffirmed this in an interview with the *New York Times* printed September 18. Echoing the Reagan administration charge that Sandinista troops threaten other Central American countries, Mondale said, "we should try to quarantine Nicaragua if it uses any force outside its borders."

More ominously, Mondale endorsed Reagan's threat to carry out a military strike against Nicaragua if it exercises its democratic right to acquire Soviet-built MIG jet fighters to defend itself against the superior air power of Washington and its allies. Mondale told the *Times* that if the Sandinistas obtained such jets, "What it means is that the Soviets have to get out of there and we have to take such steps as to bring about that result."

"Such steps" raises the threat of the kind of military action that Washington carried out when it invaded the Caribbean island of Grenada last year, using the pretext there too of a "Cuban-Soviet base." Mondale told the *Times* he fully supported the invasion of Grenada and would have done the same had he been president.

The Sandinistas have rejected the idea that anyone can deny them their sovereign right to have an air force with adequate power to defend their country. As Defense Minister Humberto Ortega explained in outlining the Sandinistas' efforts to acquire jets, such efforts would cease if Washington would cease its aggression.

In the meantime, the Nicaraguan revolutionaries have signalled their intention to use all means — diplomatic, political, and military — to slow down Washington's relentless drive toward a full-scale war.

Nicaraguan government coordinator Daniel Ortega expressed this in his letter to the Contadora Group explaining under what conditions the Sandinistas are prepared to sign a peace accord: "As long as the [U.S.] aggression continues, the government of Nicaragua will continue to defend its inalienable right to take all measures necessary to guarantee our security and territorial integrity."

U.S. working people have a responsibility to defend Nicaragua's right to self-determination by countering the lies of the Democrats and Republicans against the Sandinista revolution and demanding U.S. hands off Nicaragua and the rest of Central America and the Caribbean.

Congress pushes 'terrorism' bill

The U.S. government is seizing upon the recent bombing of the U.S. embassy in Beirut to make yet another move to restrict democratic rights.

Using the bombing as a pretext, Congress is trying to push through a package of laws allegedly aimed at combatting "international terrorism."

Among the measures the Democrats and Republicans in Congress hope to pass is one that will provide rewards of as much as \$500,000 for "information on terrorism." The reward will be paid to individuals who provide information leading to the arrest or conviction of "terrorists" or those "conspiring to commit terrorist acts," according to the *Wall Street Journal*.

This provides a huge incentive to finks, undercover cops, paid informers, and other low-lives to manufacture "proof" to help the government frame up antiwar activists; union militants; Blacks, Puerto Ricans, and Chicanos struggling against racism; and women's rights fighters. It places yet another weapon in the hands of the government to be used against anyone the government and employers want to get.

It's no surprise that deepening U.S. military intervention around the world and attacks on democratic rights go hand in hand. The rulers make these moves in an attempt to prevent organized opposition by working people to such military adventures — wars in which the children of workers and farmers are forced to do the fighting and

dying to protect the bosses' economic and political interests.

Because the central concern of Washington today is to roll back the popular revolutionary struggles in Central America and the Caribbean, it's in conjunction with the U.S. war in that region that the most inroads are being made against democratic rights here at home.

The government has denied U.S. citizens the right to travel to Cuba. It has stepped up its harassment of Marazul Tours, an organizer of travel to Cuba and Nicaragua. The U.S. government does not want U.S. workers to know that the governments of Cuba and Nicaragua are not totalitarian dictatorships, but rather governments that represent the interests of the working people of those countries and of the world.

U.S. travelers returning from visits to Nicaragua are being subjected to unconstitutional harassment at the hands of customs cops.

The FBI has stepped up its "visits" to antiwar and Central American solidarity activists.

These attacks on democratic rights will increase as the war escalates. They must be fought every step of the way. The fight against the war in Central America and the Caribbean and the fight to defend democratic rights are two essential parts of the struggle against the real terrorists — the U.S. rulers.

Fidel Castro speaks on fight to end world hunger

At the Seventh Summit Conference of the Movement of Nonaligned Countries in 1983, Cuban Pres. Fidel Castro delivered a report on "The World Economic and Social Crisis." The study analyzed the world capitalist crisis and its effect on the underdeveloped countries.

Given the spreading famine in Ethiopia and other African countries, the section in Castro's report that takes up the disastrous impact of the capitalist crisis on agricultural development becomes especially important to study. The following is a short excerpt from that section, after which we reprint a few words from the epilogue. The entire 216-page report costs \$8 and can be ordered from Pathfinder Press, 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014. Please include \$.75 for handling.

The so-called food crisis is not a recent phenomenon, although the current deep economic crisis contributes to its worsening. Strictly speaking, the food crisis, understood as widespread hunger and malnutrition among broad masses of the population — so paradoxically in contrast with food overconsumption by some minorities — has always been an unavoidable component of colonialism, neo-colonialism, and underdevelopment.

The food crisis must be considered by the majority of the underdeveloped world as a secular, permanent condition of their precarious life. For them, the hypothetical recovery of the developed capitalist economies has al-

OUR REVOLUTIONARY HERITAGE

most no meaning, since not even the greatest economic booms of the system have been able to prevent the presence of hunger and undernourishment in the Third World.

While in many developed countries greater attention is being paid to the growing incidence of diseases related to overeating and hundreds of millions of dollars are spent on feeding pets, in India alone, according to FAO [Food and Agriculture Organization], there are 201 million seriously undernourished human beings; 33 million in Indonesia; 27 million in Bangladesh; 14 million in Nigeria; 12 million in Brazil, Ethiopia and Pakistan; 10 million in the Philippines; 6 million in Afghanistan; 5 million in Burma, Colombia and Thailand. Over 40 percent of the population of Chad, Haiti, Mali, and Mauritania go hungry.

The painful truth is that, despite the goals to eradicate it, hunger persists and tends to grow. In the '70s, food production increased by an annual 3 percent in the Third World, thus falling short by 25 percent of the rate established by the UN International Development Strategy, and, should the present trends continue, the number of hungry people would rise to no less than 750 million by the 21st century.

And all this is happening in the midst of an unbridled arms race, senseless both because of its essence, dangerousness, and dimensions, and because of the contrast between the huge resources spent in developing means for man's extermination and our peoples' vital and daily needs. Indeed, U.S. spending budgeted for the development of the MX missile in 1983 alone — \$2.5 billion — could have financed the total amount of African wheat imports in 1979 or total Asian rice imports that same year, or the cost of developing 10 million hectares of pastureland in the Third World, or the cost of flood control in 2 million hectares of land [1 hectare = 2.5 acres].

In this analysis, it is also impossible to disregard the action of agro-food transnationals in the present Third World agricultural and food situation. Their role has been the subject of studies that have showed the great responsibility they have in this field. They have been appropriately termed veritable dealers in the underdeveloped countries' wants since their economic power and big profits have been built on the hunger and weak agricultural sectors of the Third World.

* * *

These facts and realities are irrefutable. Everyone must be aware that such complex and difficult problems do not have easy solutions. Our aspirations and demands clash with the lack of understanding; selfishness; colossal interests; and enormous technological, economic, military, and political power of imperialism and its neo-colonialist forms and with the rigid, inexorable laws that govern that system, which has imposed brutally exploiting, unequal, asphyxiating, and unjust economic relations on the Third World — relations that are even worse and more sophisticated than those of the colonial system, whose eradication following World War II gave rise to so many hopes.

We have no alternative but to struggle for recognition of our demands. We constitute the vast majority of mankind, and our rights and interests cannot continue to be trampled underfoot forever.

Do workers benefit from 'employee ownership'?

BY SARAH MATTHEWS

We had just returned to work after a three-week strike against company efforts to cut or freeze our wages. On the bulletin board in the lunchroom was a letter. It read in part, "Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Corporation is discussing the potential sale of most of the assets of its refractories division [where heat-resistant bricks and other materials are made for use in steel and glass-making furnaces]. . . . The potential sale . . . would involve the use of an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP)."

"Under the ESOP concept, every participating em-

UNION TALK

ployee owns stock in the company, at no cost to the employee. . . .

"As our debts are paid, the new company will increase in value, which will be directly reflected in each of our ESOP stock accounts as owners of the company."

It sounds better than what we just went through — a strike that got us no pay raise. And the company succeeded in splitting the biggest factory off under a separate contract.

But the company's ESOP proposal is no solution to the problems we face.

The idea that we employees will own the company is about as true as saying you own a house when you first sign the papers — before you put any money on it. The banker owns your house. The banks, government agencies, or other financial institutions will own the refractories division until we pay for it. I guess Con Smith, the former Kaiser division manager plans to distribute pieces of paper to us saying we each own some shares of the new company. But it's our share of nothing until, as he says, "our debts are paid."

The letter states, "The new company pays the full cost of the plan by contributing annually to the ESOP." (Actually to the bank that finances our ESOP.) "Each employee's share grows as the company grows, and contributions can range from 0 to 25% of the total annual wages and salaries."

The idea is that the new company pays into an ESOP fund profits equivalent to 10-25 percent of workers' pay. Every cent of profits — the money going into the workers' accounts, the money going into Con Smith's account, and the money going places we don't know about — comes from the sale of goods we make with our labor, so we will pay.

Con Smith explains the other way we'll pay. Everybody, not just those who choose to, contribute to ESOP. "The only change will be the replacement of existing retirement programs with the employee stock ownership plan, subject to union approval. All retirement benefits earned as a KACC employee will be guaranteed as of the date of the ESOP formation."

Does this mean that a worker who has put in 10 years will draw the \$170 per month we are entitled to, no matter when we retire? Let's assume the best — yes. But we will be trading in any guarantee of additional retirement cash in exchange for stock in the company.

You might argue, it's all right to take pay cuts and give up the retirement plan because we'll get it back in profits. But there are some problems.

First, the bank or financial institution that loans us the money will be making a profit off the loan. If we can prove to the bankers that we are willing to sacrifice and make a lean, mean, profit-making machine out of ourselves, maybe we'll get a good interest rate.

And the bankers use their position as lenders to impose conditions on the "worker-owners." Example Number 1: Weirton Steel in West Virginia, the biggest ESOP company in the country. In order to persuade the bankers to loan the money to buy the plant, the workers had to agree to a wage cut, a six-year wage freeze, a six-year no-strike pledge, an end to cost-of-living protection, less vacation, more overtime, and less supplemental unemployment benefits.

Example Number 2: Rath Packing Co. in Waterloo, Iowa. The workers pay \$20 per week for stock. They took a \$2.50 an hour pay cut for three years, plus other cuts in benefits amounting to an additional \$5 million. Further cuts are being demanded by the banks.

Another problem with depending on profits from an ESOP plan is that you can't always cash in stock or even profits like you cash a paycheck. There are often limits imposed on "worker-owner" sale of stock.

And what if we don't make a profit? Workers around the world are being forced to accept pay cuts, speedup, and layoffs to make businesses more competitive. We will have to impose similar cuts on ourselves or go belly-up as a company.

If the company fails, we could be out of our jobs and lose the stock we would depend on using for our retirement.

The ESOP is a way to get working people to pay for the economic crisis the capitalists have gotten us into. It's especially effective because it confuses things. Instead of

uniting against takeback contracts, we will be writing them ourselves, fighting among ourselves over which union members to lay off, who to speed up, and whose wages to cut.

At Rath Co. the management that has imposed all the cuts was elected by a majority of the workers. The former union president now heads management. He is responsible for deciding to close one plant permanently. At another, he rode out a three-month strike by the "worker-owners" against the cuts.

I suggest a solution on three levels. One, vote down the company proposal to cut out the pension plan in exchange for stock.

Two, maintain our union consciousness. We have to prepare for the future just like the capitalists. Working people need more unity on a national and international level to fight these wage cuts.

We can get an idea of the sort of fighting unionism we need by looking at the coal strike in Britain. Workers aren't at each other's throats trying to make "their own" coal mine profitable. They are uniting the whole union movement behind them to tell the government: "It's not our concern if the rich don't make money from our work. We need our jobs, our towns, our futures. And the world needs coal."

Unions were formed to defend working people from the inevitable results of the drive for profit, which is what capitalism is all about. Today our unions should tell the employers: "We won't pay the price for the crisis of your system."

We can demand unemployment benefits at union wages for as long as anyone is out of work; retraining programs; a public-works effort that would produce the goods that society, in this country and around the world, needs; and a shorter workweek with no cut in pay to spread the available work around.

This would take a fight. The government will continue to stand behind the employers it represents. Which should make it clear that we have to fight against the government and the bosses. We have to fight against their attacks on us at home, and their wars abroad.

And third, to put an end to these attacks for good we will have to fight to change the government and establish a government of workers and farmers, a government that will fight alongside us — not against us.

Sarah Matthews works at the Brick Plant of the Kaiser Refractories in Moss Landing, California. She's a member of the Aluminum, Glass, and Brick Workers Local 998.

LETTERS

Auto absentee programs

There was a slight mistake in my article on the Ford and General Motors contract proposals that appeared in the September 14 issue of the *Militant*.

In the section that deals with both companies' absentee programs, the article said, "workers absent over 20 percent of scheduled work days, regardless of the reason, lose that same percentage of all fringe benefits."

What actually happens is far more insidious. A joint company-union panel determines whether workers with 20 percent absenteeism have excuses that are valid. If so, benefits remain. If not, a percentage of benefits are taken away. In this way, the union is placed in a position of being one of the parties which disciplines workers.

Anger over this program is so widespread in the plants that delegates at this year's prebargaining convention held in Pittsburgh voted to demand that it be completely eliminated from the contract.

One example that I heard about will give *Militant* readers a small idea of how this program is used.

A worker in a plant in Ohio sprained his ankle at work and filed for and received workmen's compensation. Because he was absent due to his injury for over 20 percent of his scheduled work time, his benefits were cut. He is now suing both the union and the company for the return of his benefits saying that their action violated Ohio's workmen's compensation laws. His case appears to have an excellent chance of winning.

Jeff Powers
Kansas City, Missouri

Ferraro for nukes

Geraldine Ferraro has stated that she "could conceive" of first use of nuclear weapons, but refuses to discuss it. She said that "Mr. Reagan and Mr. Bush would [also] not discuss . . . the level at which we would move for a first strike." This got into the news because of the slip of saying "first strike" instead of "first use." First use supposedly means only "limited, tactical use of . . . small [nuclear] weapons."

Ferraro is under pressure, as one capitalist commentator put it, to show that she can fight like a "man," as opposed to being only a "female" peace candidate.

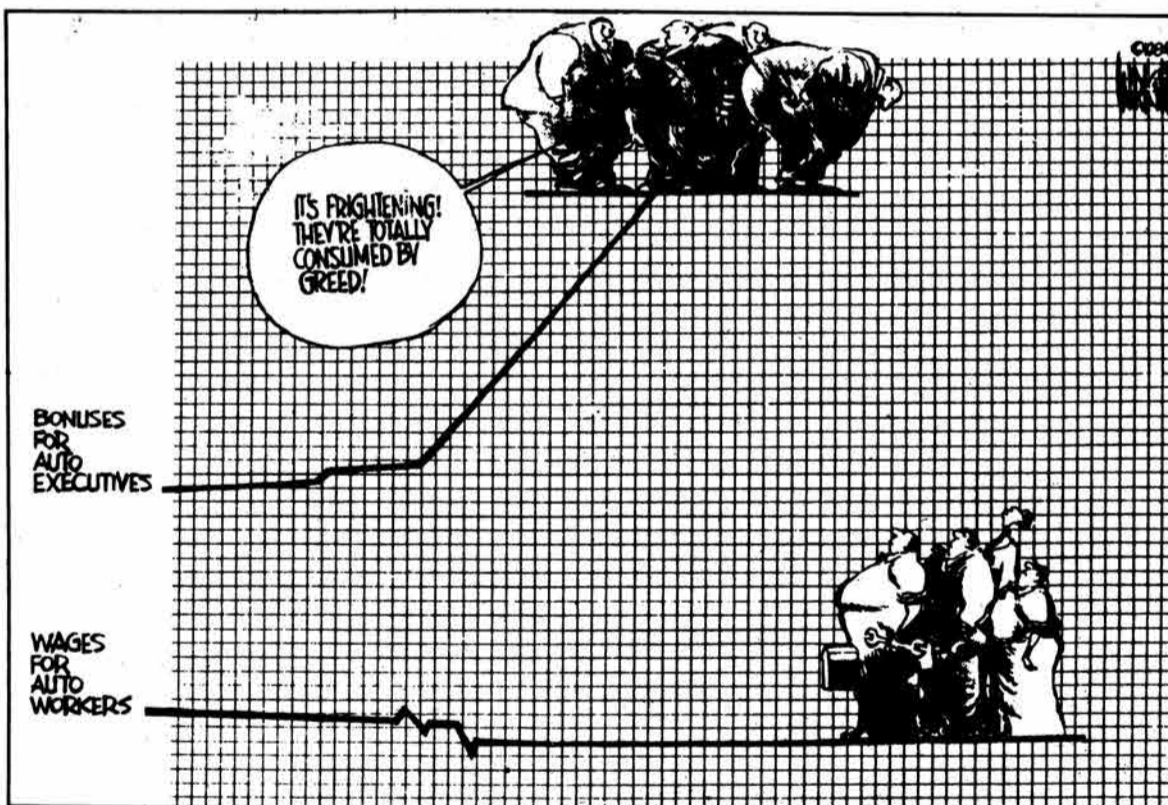
The whole framework of capitalist politics is insane. There's little difference between Ferraro's nuclear blackmail and Reagan's infamous nuclear fantasy joke. Sane people should refuse to vote for either capitalist party on principle.

Tim Knaak
Menlo Park, California

San Ysidro racist murder

Héctor Marroquín's article on the racist mass murder in San Ysidro, California (*Militant*, September 7), was a welcome one. The author correctly pointed out that James Huberty was not a man who one day simply went insane and decided to go "hunt people." No, Huberty's insanity was fed and goaded by the government's racist, prowar propaganda campaign against immigrant workers. Huberty did not just go out to hunt people, he went to hunt Mexicans — a distinct type of people.

Marroquín cites one of these articles which quotes some of Huberty's neighbors as saying that Huberty "hated both children and



people of Mexican descent."

Yet this fact was omitted from the major accounts of the massacre which appeared in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the *Examiner*, and the *Los Angeles Times*. It was not mentioned in the many TV news broadcasts of the murder.

Why omit a crucial fact from the portrait of Huberty given in the media?

Well, these are the same papers that on the eve of U.S. entry into World War II whipped up racist campaigns against Chicano "zoot-suiters" and the Japanese farmers in California. Whipping up racist sentiment is a crucial part of the current drive against the revolutions in Central America.

Isn't it kind of "wild" to think that several different papers would intentionally not print the fact that Huberty was a known racist? Yes

it is. As wild as their coverage of the invasion of Grenada.

Raúl González
San Francisco, California

Prison reform

At this time I am here in the Galveston County Jail, and will be here for an indeterminate period of time.

I am one of the directors of the Committee for Prison Reform and Defense of Human Rights.

The state tries to jail and silence us because of our outspokenness in exposing injustices and state crimes against all poor and oppressed working people.

Our committee is not a purely "reformist" organization. To us, "reforms" are a means to extend bourgeois democracy to the working class in order to awaken them

and prepare them for the socialist revolution.

A prisoner
Galveston, Texas

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.

Blacks back British miners strike

BY TREVOR SHELDON
AND HO BO

LONDON.— "Black people have been under the hammer for years. The Black communities have been persecuted. My eyes have been opened to this now, like they never were before. The Black communities have been stalwarts behind the miners, bringing us donations and support."

This is how South Nottingham striking coal miner Terry Martin welcomed the solidarity of Britain's Black and Asian communities when he spoke at a public meeting in East London in September.

'SUS' laws

Blacks in Britain have been brutalized for decades. Dawn raids on houses. Arrests under the infamous "SUS" laws under which a racist cop's suspicion of a "potential crime" is enough to place Black youth in police cells. Beatings and deaths in police custody.

During the miners strike, members of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) have been subjected to the same treatment. And just as the media portrays Blacks as "street muggers," pickets are presented as "industrial thugs."

This common experience of state violence, oppression, and a common struggle against a system and government that condemns whole communities to unemployment, decay, and violent abuse, has cemented a firm bond of solidarity between the miners on strike against mine closures, and Blacks and Asians.

Collections and meetings for the miners have been held at Sikh temples. Asian shopkeepers have made regular financial contributions and donations of food. Black community organizations have joined local solidarity efforts to raise funds for the striking miners. Black rail workers and trade unionists have been in the forefront of industrial solidarity such as the refusal to move coal and oil stocks.

Black Delegation

A group of Black militants has been formed to push forward this solidarity. One of the founders of the Black Delegation explained its aims to the *Militant*.

"The Black Delegation came together in June when a delegation of Black organizations and trade unionists took a solidarity message to the mining villages of Kent. The Black Delegation was set up by many different progressive Black organizations to come to the aid of the miners and to make sure that a victory for the miners is a



British cops grab Black youth (left), charge miners' picket line (right). Many Blacks in Britain identify with coal union's fight for jobs and against cop violence. Miners are learning about real role of cops and racist victimization of Blacks and Asians.



victory for us all.

"We hope that the struggle of the Black communities will now be better recognized by larger sections of the British working class. In general, Black struggles have been ignored by labor movement organizations, although a higher proportion of Black workers are unionized compared to the working class as a whole.

"In the mid-1970s Asian women led the battle for trade union rights at the Grunwick factory, which became the focus of labor movement solidarity and police violence. But this was viewed simply as a trade union rights issue, and the particular struggle of Black women for their rights was not given much attention. Through our activities the Black Delegation hopes to make the efforts of Black people more visible and understood."

On the last weekend of August, the Black Delegation organized its most effective initiative to date. This is the traditional three-day weekend for the Carnival in the Notting Hill area of London. The event is along the lines of a Caribbean carnival and brings together the Black community for two days of celebration and culture. It is

the biggest festival in the whole of London, with about a quarter of a million people taking part on the Monday alone.

Miners at Caribbean carnival

This year, the Black Delegation, aided by the Kensington Labor Party, organized together with striking miners from Nottingham and North Derbyshire, most of whom were Black, to raise funds at the carnival and bring their message of solidarity.

Around 3,500 of Britain's 180,000 miners are Black. This is the first time in the 20 or so years of the festival that a political group or struggle like the miners' has been allowed to organize at the carnival. This year the Carnival and Arts Committee which organized the two-day event gave the delegation of Black miners two free stalls and allowed the NUM to have a float in the procession with a Black band and a party of miners.

The truck carried a banner, "Black people support the miners," and an enormous miners' helmet, as well as antiracist and antideportation posters. The reception from the carnival and the Black community was tremendous. Stickers and badges were

produced by the Black Delegation with the slogan, "Black people support the miners, oppose police violence." Fifty-five thousand were distributed and worn over the weekend. Over £3,000 [\$3,700] was collected in the crowd.

The police were surprised by the presence of an official stall, with posters exposing police violence and supporting the miners strike. They harassed collectors and constantly threatened to close the stall down.

One of the NUM members described what happened in the *Notts Striker*, a news sheet produced for striking miners in Nottingham: "As usual the police had to stick their noses in," said Brother Featherstone. "At one stage they tried to take the money we had collected on the grounds of 'illegal collecting.' As the police moved in, so did the Black Delegation and many supporters, forcing the police to make a quick retreat."

Mutual solidarity

The mutual solidarity between miners and the Black community left a deep impression. The miners who were white promised that they would never forget the support the Black community had given. They would now be more aware of the treatment of Black people and committed to join in the fight against racism, they said. In turn, the Black community recognized that a victory for the miners would strengthen the resistance of all the oppressed.

Brother Featherstone, in the *Notts* newsletter, summed this up. "Many people told us of the riots in Brixton and Notting Hill, frustrations of high unemployment, and constant, daily harassment and intimidation and watching their civil liberties disappearing. It sounded all too familiar.

"I saw a Catholic school being used as a barracks [during the carnival] — one of three, I was told. Streets were blocked off and hundreds of police vehicles were kept out of the public eye. That was what the press and media did not report.

"Many other people we talked to understood the media's attempt to suppress our struggle and the police's constant harassment of our families regardless of color. They understood our stand to save jobs and safeguard our communities. We enjoyed the carnival, not as Blacks and whites, but as people, brought together through prejudice and harassment, aiming for the same goals — the right to work."

Minnesota unionists hear British miner

BY RENA CACOULOS

ST. PAUL, Minn. — After learning that Steve Shukla, a striking British coal miner, was in town, officers of United Auto Workers Local 879 invited him to a picnic for union members held at the house of the local's president. There Shukla spoke with more than 40 auto workers from Ford's Twin Cities Assembly plant.

Local 879 then sponsored a special meeting for Shukla, who has been on strike for 29 weeks along with 150,000 other coal miners of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM). Thirty-three Ford workers and other unionists attended the meeting.

Shukla's description of the NUM strike sparked a discussion about the situation labor faces worldwide and the need for international working-class solidarity — from the General Motors strikers to the Black South African gold miners and Irish freedom fighters.

Local 879 President Tom Laney explained that the British coal miners are setting an example for the United Auto Workers, which, he said, made a big mis-

take by giving \$3.5 billion in concessions to GM and Ford in 1982.

Three steelworkers from United Steelworkers of America Local 15199 made a videotape of the auto workers local meeting to show to their own local. One of them gave Shukla a union button, "A woman's place is in her union," to give to the Women's Action Group, the organization of British miners' wives, daughters and other women who actively support the strike.

Shukla was also invited to speak at the regular meeting of United Auto Workers Local 125 and the Minnesota-Central area UAW Community Action Program meeting, where he received a standing ovation.

A meeting of International Association of Machinists Lodge 1286 of Northwest and Republic Airlines mechanics voted to donate \$500 to the NUM after hearing Shukla's appeal for solidarity.

When Shukla announced he was next flying to Arizona in order to talk with the striking copper miners there, the IAM local decided to pay his air fare.

Members of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 4-P played a videotape of the Arizona copper strike before Shukla spoke to them. Their plant, Iowa Pork Industries, was shut down by its owners following a bitter eight-month strike.

The soundtrack was difficult to hear because the Iowa Pork workers were booing and yelling "dogs" each time members of the Arizona National Guard appeared on the screen. The Local 4-P members gave Shukla \$28.

Under the title "Talking Union in a Yorkshire Accent," the *Union Advocate*, the newspaper connected to the St. Paul Trades and Labor Assembly, printed an interview with Shukla in its September 29 issue. Shukla was also interviewed by the *Minneapolis Star and Tribune*, as well as the *St. Paul Pioneer Press-Dispatch*.

On Minnesota's Iron Range Shukla was interviewed by the *Mesabi Daily News* and by the USWA Local 1938 newsletter.

During the course of Shukla's Minnesota tour, approximately \$1,500 was collected to help support the NUM strike.