

N.Y. socialist demands: 'Jail racist vigilante'

Candidate hits Koch's call for more cops

The following is a statement by Andrea González, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of New York City.

The January 25 decision of a Manhattan grand jury not to indict Bernhard Goetz for attempted murder is an outrage to the Black and Latino communities and all working people. By refusing to indict Goetz for attempted murder, the grand jury's ruling is a further step in the racist "law and order" campaign being waged by capitalist politicians and the big-business media. At the heart of this campaign is the implication that all Black youths are criminals.

The grand jury only indicted Goetz for illegal gun possession — a relatively minor offense.

My opponent in this election, Democratic Mayor Edward Koch, praised the grand jury's decision. "I was sympathetic to Mr. Goetz," Koch said. "But if he went past the right to self-defense, I would not have wanted him to be exonerated." Koch, a liberal, said he was "pleased that the grand jury found that he did not go past the right of self-defense."

Self-defense! What an outrageous lie!



Militant

Goetz shot four Black youths in a New York City subway last December — not in self-defense, but in a cold-blooded attempt to commit murder. Two of his victims were shot in the back as they fled.

In a videotaped confession, Goetz claimed he shot the young Blacks because

he thought they were going to rob him. Imagine what would've happened if a Black had shot four whites because it seemed they were going to commit a robbery! That Black would be lucky to survive police custody.

In any case, there's no evidence that the youths even threatened Goetz.

Goetz, whose neighbors have called him a virulent racist, had armed himself after he was allegedly mugged in 1981. He had waited, hoping to get a chance to blow away some Black youths. Goetz had repeatedly told friends that "Sooner or later, I'm going to get them."

Goetz is a racist vigilante. By his own admission, the only reason Goetz stopped shooting was that he ran out of ammunition.

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Chicano leader arrested

BY MAUREEN McDOUGALL

DENVER — Only weeks after being cleared of the last of the decade-old bombing charges against him, Chicano activist Francisco "Kiko" Martínez has again become the victim of government persecution.

On January 23, Martínez' two-room farmhouse in rural Alamosa, Colorado, was surrounded by a 30-man machinegun-toting SWAT team, and he was arrested on charges of lying to federal officers in 1980.

The charges stem from the fact that Martínez was forced to assume a false identity from 1973 to 1980 in order to protect his life. A federal grand jury had accused the radical attorney in the fall of 1973 of mailing three letter bombs to opponents of the Chicano movement. (None of the "bombs" exploded. They were all amazingly "discovered" by the police in the nick of time and destroyed.) A hysterical media campaign portrayed him as a mad bomber, a bounty was put on his head, and the Denver police were issued a "shoot on sight" order.

This occurred at the height of the FBI's "Operation CHAOS" against the rising Chicano movement, and in the context of frame-ups and violent attacks against local Chicano activists. The Chicano alternative school, Escuela Tlatelolco (for which Martínez was an attorney), was attacked in a police shootout in March 1973, leaving one Chicano activist dead.

A few months after Martínez' indictment, in May 1974, his brother and five other people were killed in two mysterious car-bomb explosions. The court clamped a suppression order on all evidence and no one was ever charged with the crime.

Martínez therefore had good reason to fear for his life. He fled to Mexico, where he lived under an assumed name. In Au-

gust 1980, he reentered the United States at Nogales, Arizona, and was stopped by immigration officials. He gave them a false name but was nonetheless identified, and was returned to Colorado to face trial on the bomb charges. The Arizona charges of giving the three immigration officials false

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U.S. farmers tour Nicaragua

BY JOHN GAIGE

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — A group of U.S. farmers and farm workers wrapped up a two-week study tour here of Nicaragua's agricultural policies January 20. On the tour were five farmers, two farm workers, two former farmers, a factory worker, a community organizer, a representative of farm co-ops in the southern United States, three students of environmental science, and five activists involved in Oxfam America aid programs.

An international relief and development agency, Oxfam America sponsored the tour. It was cosponsored by the North American Farm Alliance and the Federation of Southern Cooperatives, which is based in Atlanta.

Nicaragua's National Union of Farmers and Ranchers (UNAG) hosted the tour.

Those of us on the tour came from diverse backgrounds and brought with us many different questions about farming in Nicaragua and the impact of the revolution on the lives of the rural population.

Among the questions were: What is the attitude of small, medium, and big farmers toward Nicaragua's land reform? What role do farmers and farm workers play in deciding government agricultural programs? What is the government's policy

regarding access to land, credit, seed, and equipment? What about farm prices, consumer prices, and the international market? What is the relationship between farmers, farm workers, and urban workers?

Tour participants were also curious to learn more about the role of women in Nicaragua; the Sandinista policy toward Miskito, Sumo, and Rama Indians; the role of the Catholic Church; press censorship; and the relationship of Nicaragua to Cuba and the Soviet Union. We wanted to know what impact the U.S. war against Nicaragua has had on land reform and the entire society.

As our host, UNAG made every effort to give us a direct and varied picture of Nicaragua's agrarian reform. We visited the Otto Casco cooperative farm in Jinotega, where 82 small and medium farmers live. They collectively work 7,563 manzanas of land (1 manzana equals 1.73 acres) and also produce 5,000 liters of milk a day.

Near the city of León, we met with leaders and members of the Ernesto Che Guevara co-op, which mainly grows cotton. Five of the 20 members of the farm had participated in Patriotic Military Service and five had joined volunteer brigades to pick the country's coffee harvest.

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Local areas build April antiwar actions

BY JOHN STUDER

Local coalitions are being organized all across the country to build the April Actions for Peace, Jobs and Justice set for April 19-22. The themes of these actions are: stop U.S. military intervention in Central America; create jobs, cut the military budget; freeze and reverse the arms race; and oppose U.S. government and corporate support for South African apartheid and overcome racism at home.

A massive national march and rally in Washington, D.C., is planned for Saturday, April 20. Supporting demonstrations are being projected for the same day in San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Seattle.

Meetings to build for the demonstrations have taken place or are being organized in dozens of cities. Local coalitions that reflect the broad initial support for the actions, among solidarity, Black, Latino, trade union, religious, political, and other organizations are being formed all across the country.

Local organizing highlights include:

Bay Area, California: More than 350 activists met in San Francisco on January 24 to plan for April 20. The meeting, one of the largest gatherings to plan protest actions in a decade, projected an ambitious series of activities, building up to a march down Market Street and a civic center rally (see story page 10).

Chicago: A call has been sent out to hundreds of individuals and organizations for a "Chicago-area Planning Conference for the National April Actions for Peace, Jobs and Justice." The conference is scheduled to take place on February 5 at 7 p.m. in Ferguson Hall at Columbia College, 610 S. Michigan.

The call was signed by Msgr. John Egan, director of human relations and ecumenism, Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago; Robert Starks, Task Force for Black Political Empowerment; Jesus Garcia, Democratic councilman, 22nd Ward; Mary Brandon, president, Chicago National Organization for Women; and Charlie Williams, Midwest legislative and political coordinator, International Association of Machinists.

Cleveland: The Peace Action Coalition of Northeastern Ohio has already held a number of meetings ranging from 40 to 60 people. The coalition has projected a town meeting to take place on March 3 at 7:30 p.m. in the University Center Auditorium at Cleveland State University. The town meeting is scheduled as a building action for April 20 and will feature speakers addressing the four central themes of the demonstration.

Among those scheduled to speak are Leon Lynch, international vice-president (human affairs) of the United Steelworkers union, who will discuss the fight to dismantle apartheid in South Africa; Francisco Campbell, the Nicaraguan ambassador to the United Nations; and Sister Cindy Drennan, a sanctuary activist who will address the U.S. government's recent crackdown on Central American refugees and their supporters.

Boston: The Boston coalition has already held three meetings of 35 to 40 people, including numerous representatives of Central American solidarity organizations, unions, political groups, proponents of a nuclear weapons freeze, and anti-apartheid groups.

The coalition has secured an office in the Old Cambridge Baptist Church, located at 1151 Massachusetts Avenue in Cambridge, and two part-time staff members

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—SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE—

BY JIM GARRISON

ST. LOUIS — Supporters of the *Militant* here have the opportunity to meet and discuss politics with a wide variety of industrial workers through sales at area plant-gates. They include coal miners, and aerospace, auto, rail, garment, and steelworkers.

Several *Militant* sales teams are made up of coal miners who work on rotating shifts: day shift one month, midnight shift the second month, and then onto an afternoon shift. As a result they had a hard time maintaining consistent plant-gate sales from month to month.

To overcome this problem they have organized rotating plant-gate sales teams that correspond with their monthly work shift changes. Miners who work afternoons, for example, finish their shift and go sell to auto workers coming off the second shift at the local Chrysler assembly plant.

When the miners move to days, they change to an early morning plant-gate sale at a General Motors plant. These rotating sales teams have been able to sell more than 50 *Militants* to auto workers in the last few months.

Across the Mississippi River, in southern Illinois, one regular team made up of auto workers sells the *Militant* to steelworkers at Granite

City Steel — the only basic-steel mill in the area. They found that their discussions with steelworkers picked up after they distributed a leaflet with a reprint of a *Militant* article reporting on the United Steelworkers convention last fall.

The team sells two *Militants* on a regular basis. Sales are a little different every week because of frequent layoffs and callbacks at Granite City.

Another regular team has a noontime sale at several garment shops in downtown St. Louis. This team includes a former-garment worker who used to work in one of the shops, but has since gone to work in an auto plant. Being on this team has given him the opportunity to keep in touch with some of his former coworkers and to continue to have political discussions with them.

Most of the garment workers we sell to are Black women, but there are also women from Southeast Asia. Even though they don't speak English, they appreciate the fact that the *Militant* carries news about struggles going on in their countries. A couple of garment workers who regularly buy the *Militant* talk to us about shop-floor struggles and what's going on with the union.



'No-bid' protest at forced auction of farm. St. Louis *Militant* team reports good sale at action against farm foreclosures.

Socialist auto workers on afternoon shift — when they work nine hours — are able to take on regular sales at the huge McDonnell Douglas aerospace plant, which is organized by the International Association of Machinists. We sell two to four *Militants* to IAM members there each time.

Socialists had to fight for their right to sell at both McDonnell Douglas and the nearby Ford Motor plant, both of which are

partially located in the city of Bridgeton. Bridgeton cops tried to prevent the sale of the *Militant* at the Ford plant, but the Socialist Workers Party, with the help of the American Civil Liberties Union, took the cops to court and won the right to sell at plant gates in Bridgeton.

The Ford plant is currently shut down for retooling for the production of minivans and the *Militant* sales team is looking forward to its

reopening to continue sales there.

Another good sale we recently had was to working farmers. A team of socialist auto workers and coal miners went to sell the *Militant* at a forced farm auction at a small Illinois courthouse. We sold several papers and farmers invited us to have lunch with them at the foreclosed farm. We had a long talk with them about socialist ideas and the crisis facing family farmers.

Socialist declares candidacy for mayor of L.A.

BY SARAH MATTHEWS

LOS ANGELES — Supporters of the Socialist Workers Party campaign of James Harris for mayor of Los Angeles fanned out across the city January 19. It was the first big push of a 15-day petitioning effort to put Harris on the ballot in the city election April 9.

Harris is challenging Black incumbent Democratic mayor, Thomas Bradley, and City Councilman John Ferraro. Harris is a laid-off auto worker and also a member of the National Black Independent Political Party.

His campaign aims to help expose the war in Central America and the Caribbean. A central focus of the campaign is helping to build the April 20 protests against U.S. intervention there. Demonstrations are taking place on that date in Los Angeles; Washington, D.C.; San Francisco; and Seattle.

The socialist mayoral candidate is also promoting protests here against South African apartheid.

Harris stands for full rights for undocumented workers and supports bilingual education and busing as ways to win desegregation and equal education for Blacks and Latinos.

The socialist campaign stands for independent political action on the part of Blacks and all working people.

And the campaign is getting out the truth about the advances that the workers and

peasants of Cuba and Nicaragua have made getting rid of the capitalist exploiters.

Petitioners found that most people quickly agreed that the war in Central America is about protecting the profits of U.S. corporations and that the money wasted on war should be used to create jobs instead. Some people disagreed, saying, "If we don't send aid then Russia will be in our backyard." But even a majority of these people were willing to sign the petitions after a short discussion about the war in Central America and the lessons of the Vietnam War. Many people commented that they really didn't know too much about Central America and agreed that the TV and newspapers don't tell us too much because they are biased in favor of the rich.

Some people were attracted by the idea of a socialist candidate, while others balked at it. Debates were struck up between signers that continued long after the petitioner was gone. Petitioners found that friendly signers often also wanted to buy a copy of the *Militant* or *Perspectiva Mundial*.

Another big topic of discussion was Bradley's record and whether he really represents Blacks. Bradley has publicly ducked key issues facing Blacks and all other working people. He has used his position as mayor, meanwhile, to advance the interests of rich businessmen. He draws his support from the bankers, industrialists, and garment bosses here. He de-

fends the U.S. war in Central America, although a big majority of the Black community and others who voted for him are opposed to it.

In a secret ceremony in 1982, Bradley presented the keys to the city to the South African consul general. He defends raids by immigration police that round up garment workers and others.

As an ex-cop, Bradley has a record of defending or apologizing for police brutality. Despite this, some Blacks that Harris supporters talked to felt Bradley was the only practical alternative. Petitioners had many lively conversations about the civil rights movement, Malcolm X, and independent Black political action.

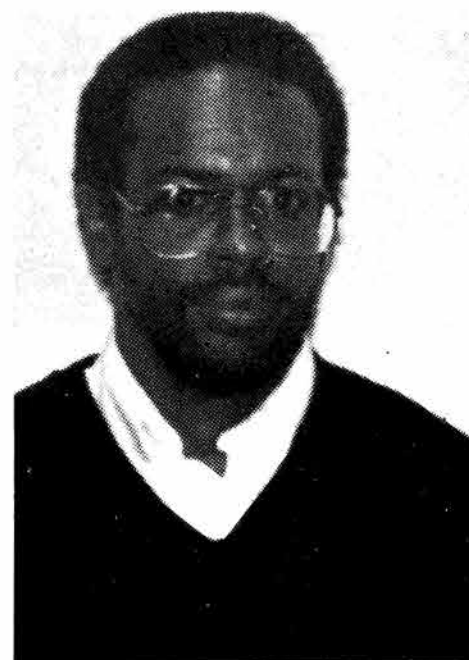
John Ferraro is not much different. His number one campaign issue is more money for the police. He also opposes busing for school desegregation and bilingual education. So far, socialist campaigners here have met few people who mention him.

To try to get the socialist candidate a spot on the April ballot, Harris for Mayor campaign workers must meet the undemocratic legal requirements for ballot status. They must collect 1,000 signatures of registered voters for each office sought, or 500 signatures and pay \$300. The signatures must be collected in only two weeks. These requirements are designed to maintain the capitalist Democrats' and Republicans' monopoly on the ballot.

Organizers of the petitioning intend to

file well over 1,000 signatures collected in the first week, plus pay the \$300, since the Board of Elections here has excluded candidates from the ballot in the past on technicalities.

All who would like to help the campaign or find out more about it should call (213) 380-9460 or visit the campaign headquarters at 2546 West Pico Boulevard.



SWP mayoral candidate James Harris

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Union Carbide Corp. puts profits first in wake of disaster

BY TOM LEONARD

Nearly two months after the Union Carbide disaster in Bhopal, India, doctors and scientists in that country are still working to determine the exact causes of the gas leak and its short- and long-term effects on human life.

The latest reports say that in addition to the already more than 2,000 people who died from the December 3 poison gas leak at the plant, the number of injured has risen to 200,000. And nearly two months after being exposed to the lethal methyl isocyanate gas, long lines of people are continuing to seek medical treatment for eye and respiratory problems.

One doctor said his clinic was still treating 600 patients every day, many of them returning for new treatment after they had been considered well. This is the same number the clinic treated in the days immediately following the disaster. He reported that doctors "are surprised by the recurring symptoms."

So little is known about the lasting effects of exposure to methyl isocyanate that Dr. A.K. Sharma of Calcutta University has proposed a long-term study of possible genetic effects, comparable to the study undertaken of the victims of U.S. atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki during World War II.

Dr. S.V. Chandra of the Indian Toxicological Research Center told a recent meeting of Indian scientists: "The possibility of brain damage in embryos of pregnant mothers who inhaled the toxic methyl isocyanate gas is a cause of concern."

Her observations were based on reports from Bhopal doctors who said the gas at-

tacked the lungs and affected the flow of oxygen in many victims, which could be particularly dangerous to the developing brains of fetuses.

At least one leading Indian scientist, Dr. S. Varadarajan, director general of the Indian government Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, has reportedly blamed Union Carbide for the disaster. He said that Union Carbide had been making the gas in the Bhopal plant without adequate safety measures or contingency plans in case of a leak. His remarks back up statements made by union workers at the plant and at least one former Union Carbide engineer.

Union members had pointed out that the size of the work crew in the gas-producing department had been reduced from 12 to six a year before the accident, which helped lead to a backlog of maintenance work at the time of the leak. They reported that a flare tower, which is a major part of the safety system, had broken down six days before the accident and was not working. A vent gas scrubber designed to keep the plant free of toxic chemicals had not functioned for a month. A cooling system to maintain safe working temperatures for the poison gas had been shut down by plant supervisors, and meters on storage tanks were not functioning properly.

A projects engineer who had quit Union Carbide in disgust before the disaster told reporters: "The plant was losing money and top management decided that saving money was more important than safety. Maintenance practices got poor and things got generally sloppy."

Right after the accident occurred, union

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Bhopal residents suffering aftereffects of gas poisoning line up for medical care

New Jersey toxic fumes: 'Nothing to worry about'

BY FRANK FORRESTAL

NEWARK, N.J. — In the past three months, 13 serious chemical spills, threatening the lives and health of millions, have occurred in northern New Jersey.

The most recent took place on January 21 at the American Cyanamid Company in Linden. Approximately 560 gallons of dimethylate (Cygon 400) leaked from an overheated 2,200-gallon blending tank. Dimethylate, a pesticide used on fruit and forest trees, is a cancer-causing agent. Residents in the immediate area and as far away as Staten Island and Brooklyn were overcome with headaches, nausea, vomiting, and chest pains from the foul-smelling fumes.

American Cyanamid cynically shook off the incident saying that dimethylate is toxic, "but only in extreme concentration."

Just two weeks before the January 21 spill, American Cyanamid released 1,150 gallons of dimethyl phosphorochloridate (DMPCT) from a 1,500 gallon storage tank. DMPCT is a corrosive hazardous material used in the processing of mosquito pesticides.

Complaints about the deadly vapors came from within a 20-mile radius of the plant. Although a Department of Environmental Protection official said the chemical is "highly corrosive and highly toxic" and can cause immediate damage to the nervous system, a Cyanamid official "called the spill relatively minor," according to the *Newark Star-Ledger*.

"I wouldn't drink the stuff but as chemicals go, it's not that hazardous," American Cyanamid spokesman Everett Yacker told the *Ledger*. "I don't think there's anything for people to worry about."

The most serious incident at American Cyanamid took place on Oct. 6, 1984. A toxic cloud of malathion was released from the plant that sickened almost 200 people in Middlesex County and Staten Island. More than 100 people were treated at hospitals.

Crude malathion can kill you. Like its sister, parathion, the pesticide is noted for its quick assault on the body, in which it rapidly heads for the nervous system, resulting in tremors, convulsions, and death.

After the tragedy in Bhopal, India, which killed over 2,000 people and injured 200,000 more, American Cyanamid spokesman Dr. Utidjian told the *New York Times* that Indians were to blame for the accident. Their problem, he asserted, was that they didn't have the "North American philosophy of the importance of human life."

Linden, where the dimethylate leaked, lies smack in the middle of "cancer alley." (New Jersey has the highest cancer rate in the nation.) Thousands of industrial workers work and live in Linden. The city has 10 toxic waste sites, one of which is on American Cyanamid property.

The cancer rate is as high as it is because companies like American Cyanamid operate without the slightest care for human life. To argue that American Cyanamid cares about the "importance of human life" is downright laughable. All they care about is the capitalists' "North American philos-

ophy" of raking in profits.

During all of this, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has been sitting on its hands. Its response to the 13 serious spills went like this: We don't have any answers at this time, but rest assured that we are "concerned."

The same cynical indifference also applies to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Like the Federal Environmental Protection Agency, OSHA has been gutted by both capitalist parties. The situation in New Jersey is so bad that many OSHA inspections are done *on the phone*.

At any time a major catastrophe could take place. According to the *Bergen Record*, a northern New Jersey daily, DEP officials have "turned up about 20 chemicals with properties similar to the compound that leaked from a pesticide plant in India, killing more than 2,000 people."

"The chemicals have similar properties to methyl isocyanate. They are highly toxic, highly reactive if released into the air, have a low boiling point, and are poisonous."

The DEP doesn't even know the names of these chemicals or where they are stored.

To make matters worse, a federal judge overruled New Jersey's chemical disclosure law (also known as the right-to-know law), which covered some 14,000 chemical and manufacturing companies. Although limited, the law gave factory and farm workers some measure of control over the cancer-causing chemicals they work with. The new decision means that the American Cyanamids, the Du Ponts, and the Union Carbidés are free to secretly use poisonous chemicals with impunity.

Newark, N.J. nurses strike over wage and contract issues

BY ELOISE LINGER

NEWARK, N.J. — On January 28, 400 registered nurses here, members of the Jersey Nurses Economic Security Organization (JNESO), were forced out on strike over contract and wage issues at United Hospitals. JNESO is gaining support for the strike from unions, Black and other community groups, and even from the temporary nursing services that had supplied scabs on the first day of the strike.

Members of Hospital Workers Union District 1199 and the Committee of Interns and Residents at the hospital have refused to work overtime, or to perform the work of RNs. This has forced supervisors to slash service to 20 percent of capacity. Members of 1199 also have refused management's request they take a layoff, since their contract stipulates four weeks advance notice must be given before any layoffs.

The Black Ministers Organization and the Neighborhood Council have expressed support for the strikers. The RNs scheduled a rally for February 2 to publicize the issues in the strike and win support.

Government refuses to release list of lethal workplaces

BY SARA JEAN JOHNSTON

ATLANTA — Consumer activist Ralph Nader held a national news conference January 23 announcing that the federal government was refusing to make public a list of 249 plants and refineries in the United States where workers are exposed to cancer-causing toxic chemicals. Nader obtained this information from NIOSH (National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health) through the Freedom of Information Act. NIOSH has been studying the effects of toxic chemicals on employees at these workplaces since 1972.

Nader's group, Public Citizen, explained that over 250,000 workers — from those employed in uranium mines to workers in some of the biggest U.S. garment, oil, steel, and chemical companies — were affected. The toxic substances involved include asbestos, coal tar, dioxin, silica dust, radioactive isotopes, formaldehyde, cotton dust, kepone, and bezidine.

Nader demanded that these workers be

notified because some of the diseases, including nine kinds of cancer, "could be curable." In a letter to President Reagan, Nader stated, "We believe that the real reason why your administration was unwilling to fund individual worker notification is that in some instances, workers who learn that they have contracted bladder cancer, for example, because of their work-place exposure, might file suit."

One of the plants used as an example nationally was Arrow Shirt Co. in Atlanta. National and local news reports explained that Arrow workers were exposed to the known carcinogen formaldehyde, as well as cotton dust.

As the news reached the plant, the company's response was to close the entrance gates, keeping TV and news crews away from workers. On both shifts, top management came on the loudspeaker, announcing we should disregard what we heard on the news. They claimed that formaldehyde levels are within the federal safety limits and are "not harmful to humans."

Workers in the sewing plant and those across town in the cutting building and warehouse are stunned and angry. Discussions range from outright despair at the thought of getting or already having cancer, to "how do you sue these criminals?" Despite the company's attempts to cover up the facts, the debate of what to do continues. "This is terrible," said a worker in the Arrow warehouse. "We work like dogs and now we find out we're dying." A sewing-machine operator from assembly stated, "This is because of profits, isn't it? They're not just killing us here, but all over — India, West Virginia, and every place."

"What rights do we have?" said another worker. "We have the right to know what we work around and what we're exposed to. I'm going to the next union meeting to find out what we're going to be doing to fight this."

Sara Jean Johnston works at Arrow Shirt Co. and is a member of Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 365.

What Working People Should Know About the Dangers of Nuclear Power



By
Fred Halstead

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Nicaraguan gov't broadens amnesty offer

BY JOSÉ G. PÉREZ

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — This country's revolutionary government has renewed and broadened its amnesty offer to Nicaraguans involved in the CIA terrorist war against the revolution.

The amnesty, first announced more than a year ago and periodically renewed since then, was formally extended January 22 for six more months. It was broadened to include all counterrevolutionaries (called *contras*) willing to lay down their arms — even the top leaders who had previously been excluded from the offer. Some 1,500 former *contras* have accepted amnesty thus far.

The modified measure was proposed by Pres. Daniel Ortega and adopted by the country's new National Assembly at its first regular session. The law expires July 19, 1985, the sixth anniversary of the revolution.

The key paragraph of the statute says: "Amnesty is granted to all Nicaraguans who are presently involved in counterrevolutionary activities, including those of an armed nature, who turn themselves in to, or lay down their arms before, competent authorities."

The new law also creates new and more flexible mechanisms for those wishing to take advantage of it.

Nicaragua is asking the Costa Rican and Honduran governments to designate ways Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries in those countries can turn their weapons over to local authorities. *Contras* can also take advantage of the amnesty through Nicaraguan consulates or the International Red Cross.

The broadened amnesty measure was announced by Ortega in his January 10 inaugural speech as president of Nicaragua. He said the amnesty would be offered to all *contras* "so that they can join in the nation's process of institutionalization."

The law was approved by the assembly after nearly six hours of debate. The vote on the key paragraph was 56 for, 22 against, with 6 abstentions.

The most trenchant opposition came from members of the three capitalist parties in the assembly.

"This law was made from the brain, not

from the heart," moaned Ulises Terán, of the Conservative Democratic Party, demanding that *contras* currently imprisoned in Nicaragua be released.

"If the *contras* have taken up arms, it must be for some reason," he added, saying that the counterrevolutionaries were waiting to see if the constitution to be written by the assembly will be "western" or "eastern."

"I know if you lean toward the latter they won't accept" amnesty, he said.

This blackmail was denounced by deputies from the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), which has a big majority in the legislature.

FSLN Guerrilla Commander Dora María Téllez warned the capitalist deputies that this "is not a law of impunity," adding that she favored "a democracy of the south, that is of the hungry countries, who need sovereignty and peace to develop."

Representatives of three tiny parties that function in the labor movement but oppose the FSLN proposed that the draft amnesty law be shelved by referring it to a commission. Allan Zambrana of the Communist Party said it was necessary to know "what's behind" the proposal, suggesting there had been a secret deal with the *contras*.

FSLN deputy Federico López retorted that the law should be approved that very day. "The most important problem we Nicaraguans have is achieving peace with dignity and without deals."

"This law," he continued, "is a contribution to the struggle for peace and national sovereignty. It shows world public opinion that, in Nicaragua, everyone has the opportunity to incorporate themselves [into the life of the country], even those who have committed crimes against the homeland."

He described the law as "a weapon of struggle to take apart the mercenary army, as important as cannon and rifles in confronting those who refuse to lay down their weapons."

As for Zambrana's insinuations of a secret deal, Lt. Commander Rafael Solís, secretary of the assembly, told reporters after the session that "neither the Sandinista Front nor the government are raising a dialogue with the counterrevolution or an agreement with them."



'Contra' base in Nicaragua. Sandinista government has offered amnesty to all counterrevolutionaries who will lay down arms.

Refugees in Nicaragua

BY PATTI HIYAMA

During a tour of North American industrial workers to Nicaragua last November, sponsored by Militant/Perspectiva Mundial Tours, Inc., we were able to visit a camp for refugees from El Salvador. The conditions there contrasted sharply with the squalid conditions in the Salvadoran refugee camps in Honduras.

We found a farm of 126 people, mainly women, children, and old men ranging in age from one day to 75 years. The farm is run as an agricultural cooperative with the land and the means of production shared. The fields are worked by 22 people who are the heads of households and the leaders of the farm. Eight women are heads of households and therefore part of the co-op's leadership. Some of the women are widows and some have husbands who are out of the country.

One of the 22 associate leaders explained to us how they had acquired the farm in April 1982. "We had been in Nicaragua for three months in another camp and got transferred here. When the government found out that we were *campesinos* [peasants], they brought us a proposal. They

asked if we wanted to work the land and, since that's what we did in our own country, we said 'yes.'"

He pointed out that the majority of the 7,000 Salvadoran refugees in Nicaragua are peasants, who find it difficult to adapt to a new country and an urban environment, even when well-treated by the government. The Nicaraguan government had provided them with housing and the government social welfare agency had given them food.

"We jumped at the chance to be able to do what we know best — to work the land," he said. "Our biggest surprise, though, was that they gave us such a beautiful part of the land. [Former Nicaraguan dictator] Somoza had owned this land before. It is very fertile. All we had to do was clear the land and plant the crops and they grew big. In El Salvador we worked rough land with low yields. We'd been thrown to the edge of society in our country."

"The vision and the concept of giving land to the people can't be comprehended until you see it here concretely in Nicaragua. This was something our heroes just dreamed of — they always promised to divide the land among the poor but never got to realize that dream until now, in Nicaragua. The only requirement that the government asks us in return for this land is that we make it produce."

The farm has been financed by a Nicaraguan bank. The Salvadorans must sell part of their produce to pay back the loan from the bank. The rest they keep for their own consumption. They have not produced enough yet to pay any interest on their loan, but they are not in danger of losing the farm. The bank will wait until they can pay it back, without penalty.

Although the farm has still not reached its goal of becoming self-sufficient, it now grows cabbage, beans, tomatoes, corn, and watermelons. The Salvadorans take their extra produce to the market and sometimes sell it right in the area with other truck farmers. When they have a high surplus of their harvest, they give it to ENABAS, a government distribution agency, to help overcome the problem of food shortages. ENABAS sells the most basic products to workers at subsidized prices.

The members of the agricultural cooperative live in houses that they built themselves with materials furnished by the Nicaraguan government. They haven't finished building yet because the war waged by the U.S.-sponsored counterrevolutionaries has caused a shortage of lumber and other materials.

That's why some houses still contain three families and there is no electricity. And why there is drinking water available but not running water inside the houses.

The 77 children in this co-op go to a school where they are taught by Nicaraguan and Salvadoran teachers. Although when they first arrived in Nicaragua many of the refugees were traumatized as a result of their experiences in El Salvador, they are now much healthier. A doctor used to come to treat psychological problems but is no longer necessary. The co-op encourages sports (they have a soccer team), exercise, and work to keep the people fit in body and mind.

U.S. farmers, farm workers tour Nicaragua

Continued from front page

We visited Edgar Matos, a family farmer outside Juigalpa, who raises 40 head of cattle for slaughter and also produces milk. A member of UNAG, he has received material benefits and veterinary assistance from the government.

UNAG has also helped Salvador Escoto, a medium farmer, to buy a tractor. Escoto told us he employs 10 permanent workers and hires 30 temporary workers around harvest time.

We also visited a large private rice farm owned by Samuel Amador in the Sébaco Valley. Amador is considered a "patriotic producer" because he works with the government to increase production and efficiency. His farm is 2,000 manzanas and is experimenting with grape production.

The tour joined in picking coffee one day and saw coffee processing operations. We also went to Prolacsa, a milk processing plant which is one-third owned by the government and two-thirds in private hands. In Matagalpa, we visited two hospitals.

We traveled by jeep, pickup, and flatbed truck deep into the mountains one day to see a relocation camp for Miskitos called Abisinia. The government had moved the Miskitos to this camp to protect them from attacks by CIA-organized counterrevolutionaries. We met there with Miskito leaders and with a unit of the Irregular Combat Battalion, specially trained troops that fight the CIA bands.

Later that day we were the guests at a rally of 300 students and workers, armed and in uniform, who were mobilized to pick coffee in the north.

Our tour met both with leaders of the revolutionary organizations in Nicaragua and with opponents of the revolutionary government. We talked to people at the

U.S. Embassy, the big-business newspaper *La Prensa*, and a representative of UPANIC, the association of big farmers who oppose the government. We also talked to Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) leader Gladys Baez, the first woman to join the guerrilla struggle; went to the offices of the FSLN daily *Barricada*; and talked to AMNLAE, the women's organization.

Leaders of UNAG and of the ATC, the Nicaraguan farm workers union, met with us. UNAG President Daniel Nuñez explained to us that "Here, the land belongs to those who work it, and work it efficiently."

He said that only 30 percent of the land is currently being worked. "We have land to settle more producers. We have great potential to develop, particularly toward the Atlantic Coast. We could feed all of Central America if we could develop our valleys. It is the U.S. government's policies that prevent us from doing so."

Everyone on the tour learned about the legacy of oppression Nicaragua suffered under dictator Anastasio Somoza and the struggle and sacrifice it took to throw off his rule. We saw the determination of Nicaraguan producers to defend their revolution, their independence, their progress, and their land. Tour members were struck by the people's generosity, openness, and willingness to discuss their mistakes and their challenges.

Most, if not all, tour members saw the sharp contrast between U.S. farm policy, which is driving family farmers off the land, and Nicaraguan policy, which helps anyone willing to produce. We saw the way the U.S. war disrupts agricultural progress in Nicaragua and why the Nicaraguans say all they want is peace and the opportunity to develop their country.

Tour members discussed ways to spread

this information in the United States — through slideshows, press conferences, material aid projects, urging others to visit Nicaragua, and speaking out against the U.S. war.

We kept in mind what Daniel Nuñez told us: "Internationally, we have knocked hard at the doors of solidarity. Maybe we broke a window. I hope you can help us break down the door."



Barricada/Mauricio Duarte
Miskito child is treated by doctor at relocation camp in Abisinia, Nicaragua. U.S. farmers and farm workers visited Abisinia camp to learn about government policy toward Miskitos.

Nicaragua discusses local autonomy for Atlantic Coast

BY ELLEN KRATKA

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — The Nicaraguan government has established a national commission to draft a Statute of Special Rights for Miskito, Sumo, and Rama Indians, as well as for Blacks, on this country's Atlantic Coast. The perspective is that sometime in 1985 the statute will be presented to the newly elected National Assembly of Nicaragua, to be incorporated into the constitution that body is drafting.

Nicaraguan Indians and Blacks have their own languages, cultures, and religions distinct from those of the country's Spanish-speaking majority. They suffered special forms of national oppression at the hands of Spanish, British, and U.S. rulers, as well as from the dictatorship of Anastasio Somoza, overthrown in the 1979 revolution. The Atlantic Coast remains the most underdeveloped region of the country, a legacy of colonial and imperialist domination.

Washington, as part of its war against Nicaragua, has exploited the differences between the Atlantic and Pacific Coast populations in an effort to mobilize Indians and Blacks against the 1979 revolution. The imperialists had some initial successes, particularly among Miskitos. But as the revolution has brought social and economic gains to the Atlantic region, and as the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) has assessed and corrected initial errors it made in its policy toward the coastal peoples, support for the revolution has grown among Indians and Blacks. The measures being considered by the new commission will further incorporate these peoples into the revolution.

The commission has established "minimal points of reflection" as part of preparing the Statute of Special Rights. These are: local government autonomy; equality of rights for each national group the right to choose their own authorities; access to the land and resources of the area to improve the standard of living and promote social and economic development; the right to an education in their own language; freedom of religion; the preservation and promotion of their different cultures; strengthening national unity; and an understanding that autonomy does not mean separation or independence from Nicaragua. Most of those rights were already guaranteed by the revolutionary government; the autonomy proposal is new.

The commission is headed by Commander of the Revolution Luis Carrión and includes Ray Hooker, a Black, and Hazel Lau, a Miskito. Said Carrión, "We are sure that the cultural and social diversity of the Atlantic Coast enriches the nation, and its development will contribute to the unity of the whole people."

The FSLN daily, *Barricada*, interviewed people from the Atlantic Coast about the proposed measures. Owyng Hodgson, from Bluefields, noted, "Today, for the first time, the autonomy of the Atlantic Coast is being discussed with the people themselves. Before, it was discussed with the United States and the English empire."

Anna Maria Cruz Daniel, a Miskito, said that for her, autonomy means continuing the development projects the revolution has begun on the Atlantic Coast. "The revolution gave us literacy. It builds schools and hospitals, gives us land for our crops, and defends us from aggression." She added, "Now the indigenous people can direct the future of the region."

Since 1979, the FSLN has made development of the Atlantic Coast a high priority. Land has been distributed to landless peasants. Agroindustrial projects have been built. Roads have been put in and hospitals constructed. A literacy campaign has been carried out in the languages of the population.

At the same time, the revolutionary government made errors in its initial approach to the Atlantic Coast. Spanish-speaking FSLN cadres sent there had little knowledge of the cultural and national differences with the Pacific Coast. They acted on the assumption that there was only one

genuine national question in Nicaragua, that of the Nicaraguan nationality as a whole. Attempts to establish structures that were effective in the Pacific region, such as neighborhood defense committees, did not work on the Atlantic. The population by and large did not participate in the revolutionary overthrow of Somoza and while there was some sympathy with the anti-Somoza struggle, many people initially mistrusted the new Sandinista government. The U.S. imperialists took advantage of the situation, targeting the Atlantic Coast as a main arena for counterrevolutionary activity.

In a December 8 interview in *Barricada*, William Ramírez, FSLN political secretary for the Northern Zelaya province of the Atlantic Coast, said the moves toward local autonomy for the region mark "a political advance, an advance of the revolutionary leadership, which today sees things from a different perspective."

"Before, in 1981," he said, "these things we are talking about could not be touched; they were taboo for us. We were terrified to speak of autonomy because we didn't understand it."

Sandinista talks with Rivera disrupted

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — U.S. imperialism is trying to disrupt efforts by the Nicaraguan government to hold cease-fire negotiations with Brooklyn Rivera, Miskito leader of the counterrevolutionary group MISURASATA. The group took up arms against Sandinista forces several years ago.

Rivera's group was part of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE), one of the two main *contra* (counterrevolutionary) groups organized by the CIA to carry out military attacks on Nicaragua.

The other major *contra* group is the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN). It includes the Miskito bands of Steadman Fagoth, who was exposed after the 1979 Nicaraguan revolution as an agent of deposed dictator Anastasio Somoza.

On Dec. 8, 1984, Nicaraguan Commander of the Revolution Luis Carrión opened negotiations with Rivera in Bogotá, Colombia. As Carrión had explained earlier, this was an important move because "even if Rivera doesn't represent all the armed Miskitos, an agreement with this group would weaken the Somozaist Steadman Fagoth forces, and even though it wouldn't end the war, it would be a great step toward achieving peace."

Rivera's armed supporters have carried out their attacks mainly on Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast. An end to hostilities there, explained Carrión, would be "a blow to the war policies of the imperialist aggressors."

A cease-fire agreement would also hasten the return of the nearly 20,000 Miskitos who left Nicaragua for Honduras — some voluntarily and others against their will — in the years following the 1979 revolution.

Rivera's decision to begin talks with the Sandinistas came in the context of military defeats for his organization, as well as the growing support for the Sandinista revolu-



Militant/José G. Pérez
Sandinista leader Luis Carrión: cease-fire agreement with Brooklyn Rivera would be "a blow to the war policies of the imperialist aggressors."



Militant/Duane Stilwell
Rama Ky Island, where most of Nicaragua's Rama Indians live, off Atlantic Coast of country. New commission is discussing local autonomy for coast's Rama, Miskito, and Sumo Indians, as well as Blacks.

"The struggle of the indigenous people themselves has helped us to reflect," he explained, to recognize the genuine interests and demands of Indians and Blacks.

Nicaraguans as a whole are developing "a recognition of the right [Indians and Blacks] have to participate in the direction of their own affairs in addition to par-

ticipating in national affairs," he said.

Ramírez explained that the FSLN's course in the Atlantic Coast is "an example for the indigenous groups of Latin America and the world of how a revolution can be a true revolution, so that other peoples of the world can join the struggle for the freedom of their own peoples."

tion among Miskitos.

Last October, taking advantage of an amnesty offered by the Nicaraguan government, Rivera returned to Nicaragua. He freed Sandinista leaders Ray Hooker and Patricia Delgado, who had been kidnapped on the Atlantic Coast by MISURASATA forces.

He also toured Miskito communities in Nicaragua, speaking about MISURASATA's demands, the possibilities for a truce, and for the return from Honduras of the layer of Miskitos who look to him.

At one meeting Rivera addressed, he suggested that troops of the Sandinista People's Army had no business being in Miskito villages. A Miskito militia man responded, "We are the Miskito people in arms, defending the communities from the *contra* attacks." Another bluntly told Rivera that people in the village carried rifles "to defend ourselves against what you and your people have done to us."

Rivera refused during his tour to meet with leaders of the newly formed Miskito group MISATAN, which works to advance Miskito rights within the framework of the Sandinista revolution. Fornes Rabonias, coordinator of MISATAN, asked, "What are we, if not Miskito?"

"If Brooklyn came to Nicaragua to bring about the unification of the Miskitos around the search for peace," said Rabonias, "he has our support. But we will not allow him to sow more divisions."

At the first negotiating session with Luis Carrión, Rivera refused the Sandinistas' proposal for a cease-fire. Carrión said afterward that MISURASATA "put as a condition for ceasing of hostilities that a certain concept of autonomy should be recognized beforehand." According to Carrión, Rivera demanded that the government recognize the Miskito, Sumo, and Rama Indians as "sovereign" and accept the definition of the Atlantic Coast as basically a separate territory under MISURASATA control.

At the same time, Carrión has stressed the difference between talks with Rivera and "any impossible conversation with the mercenaries of the FDN and the ARDE." While these two *contra* groups pursue the overthrow of the Sandinista government, Rivera "has declared that he has a specific and local banner, which tries to defend the rights of the indigenous groups."

Rivera's followers, Carrión points out, "know that if the counterrevolution triumphs in Nicaragua, their demands [for land, language rights, and some form of self-rule] would have no perspective of being recognized."

Following the December talks, another

negotiating session was scheduled for January.

Meanwhile, Rivera and his supporters increasingly came under attack from U.S. imperialism, the Honduran government, and the *contra* groups. On November 24, Honduras expelled Rivera for allegedly "attempting to violate the neutrality of the country." Rivera had gone to Honduras to talk to Miskitos there about reunification with their families in Nicaragua.

The FDN mercenaries, who are based in Honduras, made threats against the Miskito leader. MISURASATA responded by accusing the Honduran army and the FDN of "brazen interference" in the internal affairs of the Miskito people.

Alfonso Robelo and Edén Pastora, leaders of the *contra* group ARDE, charged Rivera was being used by the Sandinistas. Pastora called on MISURASATA to expel Rivera.

Luis Carrión explained that "To the degree that Rivera's actions coincided with imperialism's interest in destroying the revolution, he received support. But to the degree that he made a turn and separated himself, he exposed himself, even to the point that they might kill him, and we have warned him of that."

In fact, the first week of January, 1985, there was an attempt on Rivera's life. U.S. wire service and *contra* reports charged that the Miskito leader had been wounded in Nicaragua by Sandinista troops. The Nicaraguan government denied this, calling the reports a cover-up for the mercenaries' own attempts to silence Rivera.

Rivera failed to show up for cease-fire talks with the Sandinistas that were scheduled for January 19-20. On January 22, individuals claiming to represent MISURASATA announced in Costa Rica that the group had expelled Rivera. The following day, MISURASATA's political secretary, Julián Holder, denounced the expulsion story as an attempt to disrupt the negotiations with the Nicaraguan government.

The Sandinistas have pointed to the blatant hypocrisy of the U.S. government throughout this entire matter. As Carrión put it, "The United States has appeared as the great protector of the Miskito population which flees 'desperately' from the 'repression' of the Sandinista government."

"Nevertheless, now that an initiative arises that could put an end to the Miskito participation in the counterrevolutionary war — an initiative that our government supports — then the Miskito leaders are captured, harassed; now they are no longer legitimate representatives and overnight they become targets of persecution."

— E.K.

N.Y. coroner lied to cover up cop killings

Falsified autopsy worksheet reporting death of José López, who was killed by cops. The cause of López's death was later crossed out by coroner Elliot Gross and changed to "pending further study and investigation." Gross was appointed medical examiner in 1979 by New York City mayor Edward Koch.

BY MOHAMMED OLIVER

NEW YORK — The chief medical examiner here, Dr. Elliot Gross, has lied, falsified autopsy reports, and given misleading information in order to cover up cop guilt in the killings of several people over the last few years.

Such charges have been leveled against Gross by Black rights activists and others. But in a four-part series in the January 27-30 issues of the *New York Times*, the big-business newspaper presented documented evidence of Gross' illegal actions.

Koch is guilty, too

"What's been exposed," said Andrea González, the Socialist-Workers Party candidate for New York City mayor, "is that top city officials, first of all, send their cops into our communities to terrorize, maim, and kill working people, and then these same officials whitewash these crimes. This makes them — from Democratic Mayor Edward Koch on down — just as guilty of the terror as the cops who pull the trigger."

Koch, obviously miffed at the *Times*, announced January 27 that he had ordered "a comprehensive review of all the matters raised" by the paper. The "investigation" will be carried out by the city's lawyer and its health commissioner.

Koch appointed Gross as chief medical examiner in 1979 after demoting Dr. Michael Baden, the previous coroner, for not cooperating sufficiently with city prosecutors. Two of the city's district attorneys, Robert Morgenthau of Manhattan and Elizabeth Holtzman of Brooklyn, both defended Gross, saying the medical examiner didn't tamper with autopsy findings.

Gross first became notorious for his handling of the cop killing of Michael Stewart. In September 1983, Stewart, a 25-year-old Black artist, was jumped by a pack of New York City transit cops. They beat Stewart into a coma from which he never recovered.

Gross performed the autopsy on Stewart with two transit cops in the room. Following the examination, Gross met privately with at least one of the two cops. Then Gross held a news conference in which he announced that Stewart had died of a heart attack.

'I was horrified'

Siegfried Oppenheim, the medical stenographer who took the official notes at the autopsy, said, "I was horrified."

After protests from the Stewart family and many other Blacks and supporters of democratic rights, Gross "changed his mind," calling the final cause of Stewart's death a spinal cord injury.

Dr. Robert Wolf, one of the Stewart family's physicians, charged, "Dr. Gross has lied." Wolf said that Stewart was choked to death by the cops.

This case is now before a grand jury.

Gross' "special handling" of killings by

the cops also came to public attention around the Eleanor Bumpurs case. Bumpurs, a 66-year-old Black woman, was shotgunned to death by cops while they were evicting her from her apartment last October.

The doctor performing the autopsy found that Bumpurs had been shot twice. Gross intervened and ordered the report

Socialist: 'Jail racist vigilante'

Continued from front page

I support efforts by the Rev. Herbert Daughtry, chairman of the National Black United Front, and others to force the federal government to prosecute Goetz for violating the civil rights of the four Black youths he tried to kill.

I also hail the \$50-million civil suit filed against Goetz by attorneys William Kunstler and C. Vernon Mason on behalf of victim Darrell Cabey's family. Cabey, 19, is in critical condition in a coma in St. Vincent's Hospital. One of Goetz's bullets tore through the Black teenager's spine.

Goetz's right-wing supporters as well as liberal "opponents" of vigilantism have both taken this opportunity to argue that the city needs more cops. On January 7, Koch announced his plans to make budget proposals to add 3,000 more cops to the city's more than 31,000-person police force.

changed to leave open the possibility that Bumpurs was hit by only one shotgun blast, as the cops claimed.

Cops kill worker

The *Times* exposé revealed several other cases where Gross covered up for the cops. For example, there's the case of Ralph Tarantino, a 29-year-old Brooklyn worker. Cops beat him to death in August 1980. Eyewitnesses report that one cop cracked Tarantino's skull with a baseball bat.

Six cops then dragged Tarantino into a hallway and closed the door behind them. "I heard the sound of blows being struck, followed by the horrifying screams of Ralph Tarantino," said Tarantino's landlord. "He was crying and begging for mercy."

An autopsy by two Brooklyn coroners found Tarantino's death to be the result of head injuries that included a fractured skull.

Two years later, the police department asked Gross to review the autopsy findings. Gross obliged, changing the cause of death. Gross' report said that Tarantino died from heart failure during the hospital operation to save his life.

No action has been taken against the cops involved in killing Tarantino.

Gross also covered up the cop murder of Mark Safdie, a 32-year-old Brooklyn storeowner. In June 1983, Safdie became wildly irrational while at home. Shelley Safdie, his wife, called his two brothers and then the cops.

When the cops arrived, they threw Safdie on the hallway floor, handcuffed him, and tied his legs together. Safdie's unsupported neck was draped across the top step, and at least two cops sat on him. The pres-

sure on his neck was so intense that Safdie began vomiting and gasping for air.

"They killed him before my eyes," said Shelley Safdie.

Gross' autopsy report was written to give the false impression that Safdie died of "manic depressive psychosis with acute violent behavior." Nor did Gross list the death as a homicide.

The Safdie case is still in the courts.

Shot in the back

In another case in October 1982, an off-duty cop shot and killed Alfredo De Jesús, a 20-year-old, laid-off bakery worker. The cop shot De Jesús in the back, claiming he fired on De Jesús from a distance of about five car lengths.

The autopsy report found that De Jesús was shot from a distance of no more than 18 inches.

Nearly a year later, Gross performed another autopsy on the exhumed body of De Jesús. Gross issued a report saying that there was no evidence that De Jesús was shot from close range.

The cop who shot De Jesús was never indicted.

In the autopsy of 29-year-old José López, who was killed by cops last December, Dr. Josette Montas found that he died of "Mechanical asphyxia. Contusions and abrasions of body surface. Incurred while in police custody." Choked to death by the cops.

Gross ordered Montas to change the finding. The worksheet, pictured in the *Times*, shows the initial finding scratched out and replaced with "pending further study and investigation."

Whitewashing such murders by cops seems to be Gross' chief job.

In a January 27 editorial, the *New York Times* asked why it was that Goetz was receiving "public" support. The reason, according to the *Times*, is that "Government has failed them in its most basic responsibility: public safety. To take the law into your own hands implies taking it out of official hands. But the law, on that subway car on December 22, was in no one's hands."

The *Times* then goes on to praise a proposal that would give college scholarships to 30,000 recruits who agree to serve three years as cops.

Thirty thousand more cops would mean hundreds of more killings of Blacks, Latinos, and other workers. A recent exposé of New York City's coroner's office by the *Times* shows how the cops are murdering workers, especially Blacks and Latinos, and get away with it. The coverup of these cop killings and other acts of

police brutality is condoned by the top officials in government.

Mayor Koch, the district attorneys, the coroner — the entire city administration — back up the brutal repressive force of the cops. Transit cops killed 25-year-old Michael Stewart in September 1983. New York City cops shotgunned to death 66-year-old Eleanor Bumpurs last October. In each case, the city administration came to the defense of the killer cops.

The cops — who terrorize the Black and Latino communities and brutally repress struggles by the labor movement — and their chiefs in the government are the real criminals. They should be locked up and the key thrown away.

I will use my campaign to demand just that and to ensure that the racist, anti-working-class law-and-order propaganda campaign coming from the capitalist media and government doesn't go unanswered.

Interview with Irish activist in 'IP'

The forthcoming, February 28, issue of *Intercontinental Press* features an interview with Joe Austin, Belfast, Northern Ireland, chairperson of Sinn Féin, the political organization that supports the armed struggle of the Irish Republican Army.

The interview focuses on the relationship between the class struggle in Ireland and the fight for Irish unification and independence from Britain, which Austin calls "two sides of the same coin."

"People very easily identify the enemy as the British soldier on the street," says Austin. "But the politicization has to spill over from that to identify the class enemy in order to understand that the struggle is not simply against the British military presence... but also against the economic presence that the political imperialism of the Brits will leave in their wake."

Austin also discusses the role of armed struggle, election campaigns, and trade union work.

He points to the "complete and unequivocal support" of Sinn Féin

for the striking British coal miners. "The nationalist population of the North... sees miners getting battered by the police every morning on TV, and they view anyone that's involved in struggle as comrades."

The current issue of *IP* carries two articles on how the fight of British rail workers has been strengthened in the course of organizing solidarity with the miners.

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Copper unions decertified; Phelps Dodge closes smelter



Militant
On January 5 Phelps Dodge shut down smelter in Morenci, Arizona, firing 450 scabs.

BY KAREN KOPPERUD
AND ELEN LAUPER

PHOENIX — On January 14 negotiations began in Albuquerque, New Mexico, between the Nonferrous Bargaining Council of 20 unions, representing copper workers, and the major copper companies. The companies are demanding sweeping concessions throughout the industry. The aggressive stance of the copper bosses comes on the heels of the decertifications of unions representing copper workers forced out on a bitter 18-month strike against Phelps Dodge in Arizona and Texas.

Phelps Dodge has been the spearhead of the wage-cutting, union-busting drive in copper. It forced the United Steelworkers of America and 12 other unions out on strike by the elimination of cost-of-living clauses, a slash in wages, a two-tier contract that would pay new hires less, an in-

crease in workers' share in payments for health care, cuts in pensions, and lessening of work-rule protection.

When workers struck on July 1, 1983, the company launched a full-scale union-busting campaign at its operations in Morenci, Ajo, Douglas, and Bisbee in Arizona, and its El Paso, Texas, refinery.

The company had the active support of Arizona's Democratic governor, Bruce Babbitt, who ordered two National Guard attacks and several State Police riots against the strikers. The strikers also faced arrests, the increasing use of scabs, beatings and incidents of harassment and evictions. Workers were hit with an unbroken propaganda campaign from Phelps Dodge and the big-business media, portraying them as "greedy," "drunken," "violent," and "animals."

From the early stages of the strike,

Phelps Dodge began bringing in scabs in order to keep its operations open and to try to demoralize the strikers.

Last year, the company demanded elections be held by the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) to decertify the unions. The elections were held in September and October of 1984.

NLRB Regional Director Merlo Price ruled that striking workers could not vote in the election. Since this meant that the scabs were the only ones allowed to vote, the outcome was a foregone conclusion. The El Paso unions were quickly decertified, but the Arizona ballots were impounded pending union appeal of Price's ruling to Washington. These ballots were counted on January 24 in Phoenix.

The decertification votes — which codify the loss of union contracts at Phelps Dodge — are a bitter blow to copper workers and the entire labor movement. They weaken the Steelworkers union, especially in its battle with the copper bosses.

A couple of months after the decertification votes, on December 22, Phelps Dodge announced it was shutting down its smelter in Morenci for "an indefinite period." This smelter, the company's largest, has been one of the central battle sites in the strike. In announcing the closure of the smelter, the company also announced it would terminate the 450 scabs who had been keeping the facility open. The Morenci mine and concentrator will remain working.

On December 31 more than 300 strikers and their supporters gathered to cheer the closing of the smelter. The sentiment on the New Year's Eve picket line was captured by a Chicano Steelworker, who said, "If we can't work union here, then don't let it work at all!" The Morenci Miners Women's Auxiliary, which has played a crucial role throughout the strike, released 450 balloons to symbolize the termination of the scabs.

The universal comment on the picket line was that the company was closing the smelter because "they just weren't making enough money." One striking Machinist said, "Phelps Dodge got everything they wanted in terms of cuts from the scabs and promised them 'jobs for life.' And they still are closing the place down. They were just using the scabs to break the union."

The strikers are proud of their unity and their militant resistance. They feel it upped the cost Phelps Dodge had to pay to carry out their union-busting strategy.

The deep loyalty of the workers to the unions was forged in generations of struggle against Phelps Dodge carried out by the largely Chicano, Mexican, and Native American miners. These battles have been fought out in small, isolated towns controlled by the company. It was such battles led by the unions that finally smashed the racist segregation practiced by the company on the job and in the company towns.

Throughout the 18 bitter months of the strike, the majority of workers and community residents did not cross the picket line. However, many were forced to move and seek work elsewhere rather than scab.

Despite the presence of 250 State Department of Public Safety police, an equal number of strikers and community supporters held another rally on January 5. This was the official last day of work for the scabs. Dr. Jorge O'Leary, a former Phelps Dodge company doctor fired for his support to the strike, spoke briefly. Balloons were again released as a mariachi band made up of strikers played "Taps."

Aquino killing was military plot

BY MOHAMMED OLIVER

Gen. Fabian Ver, chief of staff of the Philippine armed forces, and 25 other men were indicted January 23 in Manila, the capital of the Philippines, for their involvement in the 1983 assassination of capitalist opposition leader Benigno Aquino. All but one of those indicted are military or police personnel.

In handing down the charges, government prosecutors agreed with the majority report issued by a citizens' board last October that showed a military plot to murder Aquino, who was gunned down as he stepped off a plane in Manila after having spent several years in exile in the United States. The board's chairperson, Corazón Agrava, issued a separate report saying that only seven military men were involved in the assassination. Ferdinand Marcos, Philippine president, supported Agrava's report.

The indictments unmask Marcos' false claim that "communists" had conspired to kill Aquino in order to foment popular revolt against the U.S.-backed dictatorship. The indictments acknowledge a fact long known by millions of Filipinos — it was the dictatorship itself that killed Aquino. The Marcos regime brooks no opposition — either from capitalist politicians like Aquino or, especially, from the Filipino workers and peasants and their organizations. Brutal repression of the workers movement has been the keystone of the Marcos regime.

Massive protests

Massive protests by Filipino working people forced the dictatorship to make scapegoats of some of its officials in order to cover up the fact that Marcos himself was behind the conspiracy to murder Aquino.

Hundreds of thousands of Filipinos poured into the streets in the months following Aquino's assassination to demand that his murderers be brought to justice. They also demanded an end to the Marcos dictatorship.

Aquino had been an opposition leader in the Philippine parliament, and many people believe that Marcos ordered Aquino's murder. There are many threads connecting Marcos to those indicted. Ver, for example, is a lifelong friend and former chauffeur of Marcos.

But, so far, no charges have been brought against Marcos. Agapito Aquino, Benigno's brother, said that while the January 23 indictments are a step forward, "what is missing is the mastermind."

Only 17 of those indicted were charged with murder. Gen. Ver and seven others, including the chief of police for metropolitan Manila, were named as accessories in the assassination plot. The lone civilian, a Philippine businessman, was charged with being an accomplice.

The case is expected to go before a three-judge panel — chosen by President Marcos.

Meanwhile, the U.S. imperialists fear

that the Marcos regime's ability to keep the Filipino toilers in check may be slipping. There has been a rash of articles and editorials in the big-business media here warning of a supposed "threat" of a communist takeover in the Philippines. High-level discussions between the Marcos regime and the Reagan administration have taken place recently to map out plans for bolstering the dictatorship.

In January, both U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Paul Wolfowitz and U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense Richard Armitage visited Manila. Following their

trips the Philippine regime appealed to the U.S. government for more military aid to help it combat the insurgent New People's Army. The rebel group has a guerrilla force of some 11,000 troops and controls about 20 percent of the countryside.

U.S. officials said they are considering a "modest increase" in military aid to the Marcos regime. Washington has already earmarked \$900 million in military and so-called economic aid to the Philippines over the next five years. The Marcos regime is receiving the aid as the U.S. "rent" for the use of the massive Clark and Subic military bases.

Chicano leader is arrested

Continued from front page

information were dropped in favor of the Colorado letter-bomb indictment.

A four-year legal and political battle ensued. The government put tremendous resources into trying to convict Martínez, although they had the flimsiest of "evidence." Organized by the Francisco E. Martínez Defense Committee, Chicano activists and other supporters of democratic rights rallied to Martínez' defense, holding protest meetings and picket lines and packing the courtroom at every court appearance.

In 1981, the trial on the first of the bomb charges ended in a mistrial, after it was revealed that the judge, prosecutors, and prosecution witnesses had illegally met behind the backs of the defense to plot how to convict Martínez. After a six-week trial in 1982 on the second bomb charge, a jury took only a few hours to find Martínez not guilty. And the charges relating to the third bomb were dismissed in late November 1984, due to lack of evidence. Martínez' name was cleared at last.

Furious at their failure, the government has vindictively reinstated the charges of lying to 3 federal officers in 1980. "It's a bunch of sour grapes on the part of the U.S. government and its naked oppression," said Martínez after his arrest. "All that was involved was giving a different name at the border," said Martínez' lawyer Ken Padilla at a press conference January 25. "There was no fraud, no illegal business dealings, etc." He faces three different felony counts, explained Padilla, each of which carries a possible five-year sentence.

Real criminals go free

"Those people caught committing illegal acts... such as Judge Winner and the prosecuting attorneys — nothing has ever been done to them. They committed serious crimes of obstruction of justice," said Padilla, referring to the 1981 mistrial. He called for their prosecution and for an end to the "harassing proceedings" against Martínez.

A U.S. attorney informed Padilla that the FBI had told her "the best way to handle Mr. Martínez is to treat him like a dog."

Neither Martínez nor Padilla was in-

formed of the Arizona indictment, although it was handed down on January 18. The first that Martínez knew of it was at 1:00 p.m. on January 23, just after he had sent his young son off to school. A neighbor stopped by to inform him that men with binoculars and machine guns were watching his farmhouse (since losing his license to practice law during the bomb case, Martínez has been a farmer).

Martínez went outside and the cops jumped out at him. "I counted 11 cars and 32 agents with automatic weapons," Martínez recalled. The SWAT-team method of the arrest is particularly ominous. At best it continues the government's portrayal of him as a crazed, violent criminal, despite the fact that he has been cleared of all bomb charges. At worst, it was aimed to provoke some sort of violent confrontation which could have left Martínez, his wife, and child injured or dead.

He was arrested and taken to Denver in a small plane. He was not allowed to take any clothes with him, not even a coat for the cold plane ride in freezing weather.

'Unite to defeat incarceration attempt'

In Denver, he was released on a \$5,000 bond. (The Arizona court had recommended a bond of \$500,000!). He is scheduled to appear at Denver Federal Court on February 1 at 11:00 a.m. to face extradition proceedings. Martínez and Padilla said they would fight the attempt to remove him to Tucson, Arizona, to face the new charges, and supporters are encouraged to attend the hearing.

A statement released by the Francisco E. Martínez Defense Committee called on "all people to unite to defeat this government's renewed attempts to incarcerate" freedom-loving people.

In addition to defending Martínez against the Arizona charges, the committee is pursuing the fight for the release of government files on Martínez. The government claims that disclosure would harm "national security" and expose "confidential informants."

The committee also demands that Martínez be reinstated to the Colorado bar; and that the judges, prosecutors, and police who engaged in criminal acts in their zeal to prosecute Martínez be punished.

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Doctors, teachers, soldiers: Cuban volunteers in Angola

BY JOHN STUDER

The big business press has consistently distorted and slandered the role of Cuban troops and volunteers in Angola since they arrived there in 1975. The *New York Times*, however, was forced to acknowledge a little bit of the truth about the role of these volunteers in an article in its January 22 edition.

The *Times* page 2 story, "The Cubans in Angola: They're Not All Soldiers," gave a glimpse of facts its readers aren't often permitted to learn. James Brooke began the article by interviewing Dr. Emilio Pérez Souto, 29 years old, who is one of four Cuban doctors — one-half the medical staff — at the Augusto N'Gangula Hospital in Luanda, Angola's capital.

"Treating 50 children a day at N'Gangula's walk-in clinic, Dr. Souto is an 'internationalist volunteer' in what is perhaps the largest Peace Corps style program of civilian aid in the world. Cuba adopted the program in the 1970's as a key element of its foreign policy and now maintains about 16,000 teachers, doctors, construction engineers and other aid workers in 22 third world countries," said Brooke.

He contrasted this to "The United States Peace Corps, the largest program of its kind by a Western country, [which] has 5,200 aid workers in 59 countries." That is less than one-third the number of Cubans.

Angola was kept in a state of extreme underdevelopment by its Portuguese colonial rulers. Even in the few industries that the Portuguese developed, the work force was almost entirely imported from Portugal. The vast majority of Angolans were forced to remain in the countryside, excluded from the urban economy, living, as they had for centuries, an impoverished tribal life. The extent of the colonial underdevelopment facing Angolans is graphically illustrated by the *Times* report that "independence left them with a population of seven million and one doctor."

This imperialist domination fueled a massive revolt against Portugal, led by the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), which culminated in victory in 1975. The new government immediately faced the hostility of the imperialist powers, including a U.S.-backed South African military invasion. And colonial underdevelopment left Angola with a lack of trained workers and professionals, worsened by the flight of over 90 percent of Angola's Portuguese population with the victory of the MPLA.

The Angolan government turned to revolutionary Cuba for military assistance and for economic and volunteer aid. The Cubans, who see providing such aid as a basic internationalist duty, responded with tens of thousands of troops and thousands of volunteers.

The Cuban troops were decisive in helping Angola defeat the South African invasion. And they have remained ever since to frustrate further imperialist aggression and to aid the Angolans in meeting economic and military disruption by imperialist-backed guerrilla forces.

It is the presence of these troops — and their role in preventing imperialism from crushing the Angolan revolution — that draws continual howls of protest from Washington and Pretoria.

The centerpieces of Cuban volunteer aid are in the medical and educational fields. The *Times* reported that "On the elementary school level, Xiomara Guerra Mora, 33, of Santiago de Cuba teaches science to first through fourth graders at Luanda's May 1 Elementary School. She said that 33 of the 75 teachers at her school were Cubans, 22 were Angolans, and the rest were from Portugal and Brazil.

"Almost all the students want to go to study in Cuba," Miss Mora said, "adding that 'every year 12 of the school's best stu-

dents win scholarships to study at boarding schools on Cuba's Isle of Youth."

It is no wonder, as Brooke noted, that "Pro-Western guerillas ... have targeted Cuban workers for kidnapping and assassination." But such attacks, which have killed dozens of Cubans, have not stopped new waves of volunteers from coming to aid the Angolan people. And this knits bonds of solidarity between the Angolan and Cuban people.

"When a Cuban work brigade in Cabinda Province surpassed a quota of cutting 100 million cubic meters of lumber last October, Mr. Castro sent a letter to the brigade expressing his 'real joy.' Manuel Alexandre Rodrigues, Angola's Interior Minister and de facto vice-president, traveled to the remote forest where he helped the Cuban Ambassador bestow Internationalist Worker awards on the 296 Cubans," reported Brooke.



Cuban teacher, member of the Che Guevara Internationalist Pedagogical Detachment, with Angolan student.

Archuleta: a revolutionary fighter

BY HARRY RING

We just learned of the death in Albuquerque of Manuel Archuleta, a widely respected figure in New Mexico's Chicano liberation movement. He succumbed this past November to carbon monoxide poisoning from a faulty gas heater. He was 38.

He was a founding leader of La Raza Unida Party (RUP) in New Mexico. A significant movement in the Southwest during the 1970s, La Raza Unida was built in opposition to the two major capitalist parties.

In 1978, Archuleta joined the Socialist Workers Party and was for several years a leading activist in its Albuquerque branch.

I first met Manuel in 1976 in Las Vegas — a small, poor, mainly Chicano town that was the state center of the New Mexico Raza Unida Party.

The SWP's 1976 presidential candidate, Pedro Camejo, was on a speaking tour of New Mexico organized by the RUP. Earlier that year, the *partido's* state convention had endorsed the SWP presidential campaign. I was reporting on the tour for the *Militant*.

The proposal to sponsor the socialist campaign tour had been initiated by Manuel and Juan José Peña, the principal leader of the state RUP.

During our visit, I had the opportunity for many political discussions with Raza Unida activists. But the most intensive discussions were with Manuel. He was one of those people with an unquenchable thirst for politics. He wanted to talk about everything, from the broadest general political issues to the most concrete problems of movement building. He was evolving rapidly toward Marxism at the time, and



Militant/Joel Hdroff

Manuel Archuleta

his enthusiasm was a wonderful thing to share.

I did a *Militant* interview with Manuel about his evolution as a revolutionary Chicano leader. On learning of his death, I went back and reread it.

Manuel had grown up in Espanola, a small town in northern New Mexico.

When he was 19, he moved to Los Angeles and got a job at Douglas aircraft.

A Black coworker who was a member of the Nation of Islam helped kindle his consciousness. He did a lot, Manuel recalled, to convince him to take pride in his Chicano identity.

A year's duty as a GI in Vietnam deepened his consciousness.

In 1969, Manuel returned to New Mexico, enrolling under the GI Bill at New Mexico Highlands University in Las Vegas.

Like the town, the school was predom-

antly Chicano, and Manuel plunged into campus political activity.

It was there that the initial nucleus of La Raza Unida was established. Later they began organizing, with encouraging success, within the Las Vegas community and then branched out to various areas of the state.

Manuel was chairperson of the party for San Miguel County, of which Las Vegas is the seat. He also edited a small, bilingual paper for the state party.

In the *Militant* interview, Manuel explained how his political experience led him from an initial ultraleftism to a socialist perspective and the realization of the need for building a broadly based movement for liberation.

He said that the *Militant* and literature of the Socialist Workers Party he had obtained at various conferences had deeply affected his thinking.

He and others in La Raza Unida combined education about socialism with their day-to-day work of party building.

"We try to explain," he said at the time, "why you can't have Chicano culture, Indian culture, Black culture, in a capitalist society that's profit oriented."

"So," he continued, "the next question is, 'Are you a communist, a socialist?' I tell them I am. And I tell them what that means to me, why it's a more humane system. If you take the trouble to explain it, it doesn't turn people off."

In 1978, Manuel moved to Albuquerque and joined the local branch of the Socialist Workers Party.

He became a mill operator at the General Electric aircraft engine plant there and a member of the International Association of Machinists Local 794.

In 1980, he was the SWP candidate for Congress in the Albuquerque-area First District.

Drawing on his experience in La Raza Unida, he was an effective campaigner with a capacity for explaining socialist ideas in a popular way. And he aggressively knocked on the doors of labor unions and Chicano organizations, winning hearings from a number of both.

Later, Manuel fell victim to the personal difficulties so prevalent in capitalist society, as well as the pressures that can bear down on revolutionaries, and he withdrew from the party.

But he remained a political person. An SWP supporter who was a coworker of Manuel's at GE said that even while holding two jobs and burdened with personal difficulties, Manuel pursued political discussions with the same intense interest as earlier. And he remained committed to his socialist beliefs.

Manuel Archuleta will be remembered with respect and affection by those who knew him and worked with him. He was an authentic revolutionary.

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Garment union defends victims of INS raid

BY JUDITH ANNE SINGER

MILWAUKEE — The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), in keeping with its increased attacks on workers in this country, raided Junior House here on Wednesday, January 23. Junior House is a garment shop organized by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU) Local 188.

An effective response by the garment workers union prevented the deportation to Mexico and El Salvador of 15 Junior House employees. Betty Fries, secretary-treasurer of Local 188, stated, "Most of the people worked in my department, so as the department steward I saw it as my duty to respond to my union members and to see to it that their legal rights were protected."

In all, 24 Mexicans and one Salvadoran were picked up. The racism of the raid was illustrated by the fact that workers of other nationalities were also questioned by the INS but released.

Ten of those picked up were later let go, having shown documentation to the INS regarding their status. The remaining 15 were taken to Chicago for deportation.

The ILGWU contacted three immigration attorneys in Chicago to represent these union brothers and sisters. The union also contacted family members and arranged for the credit union to release money due these members to use to make bond.

The union's attorneys got the total bond reduced from \$45,000 to \$11,750. Of the 15 members picked up by the INS, three took "voluntary departure" to Mexico and seven made bail. One worker who had no money to make bail was released when a family came up with the necessary funds. Most were released the next day pending individual hearings. Two remained in custody, including the Salvadoran.

The union knew that this worker might be killed upon returning to El Salvador, where the U.S.-backed dictatorship has a history of "disappearing" and killing union members. He was released a day later after precautions were taken to prevent his immediate deportation.

Those released were told by the attorneys to return to work on Monday. This was confirmed by the union officials at a meeting held at the union hall Thursday evening. They were told at this meeting that the union would stick by them to make sure their rights under collective bargaining with the employer would be upheld.

Don Kret, the business agent for Local 188, stated, "It is the position of the union that these people are citizens of our union and that they've established rights under collective bargaining with the employer. They are ready and able to work, and upon returning to the workplace they should be put back to work."

On Friday these workers stopped by the plant, some with their children. The response by most workers in the plant was one of relief and solidarity.

On Monday all but two returned to work; one because she was on maternity leave and the other because he was a probationary employee who was also under age.

At the time of the raid many workers didn't know what the INS does to its victims after a raid. Phone calls are not allowed. Stops are not made to pick up personal belongings or arrangements made for child care.

Some workers made comments about "these people stealing our jobs." But after discussion, many realized that unemployment came from layoffs and plant closings carried out by the employers.

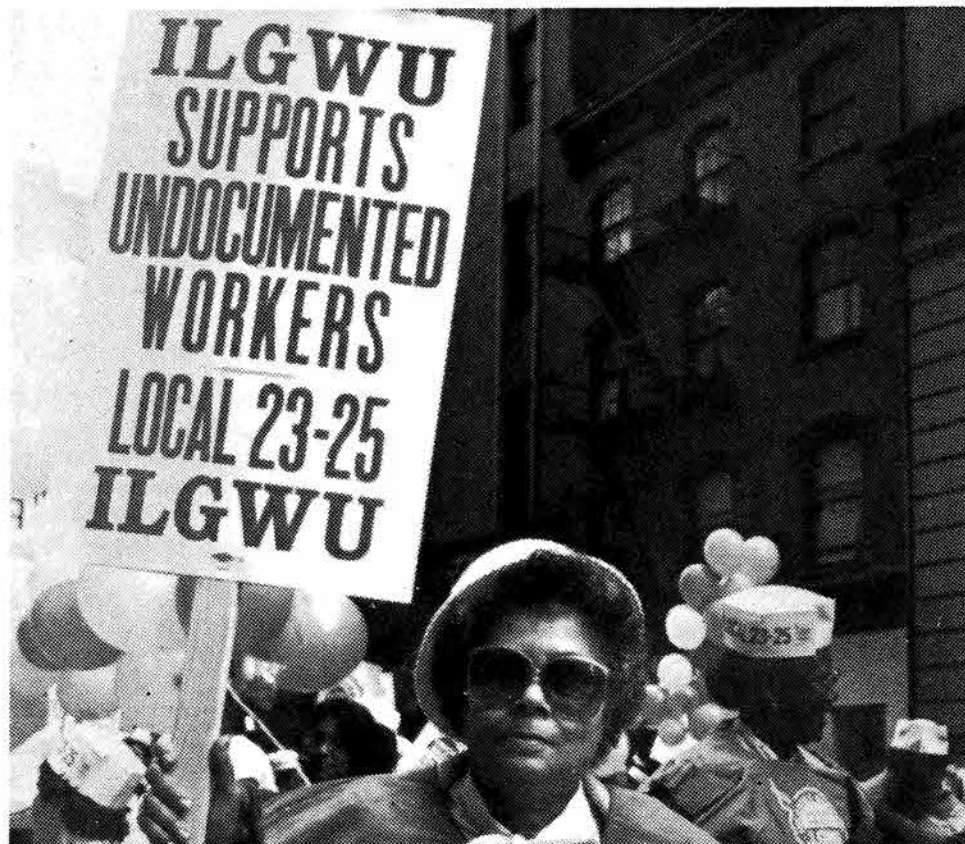
One worker commented that, "They shouldn't be here anyway, they're illegal." Another coworker said that the bosses and their government always victimized the latest arrivals, previously discriminating against the Irish and Italians, now against Latinos.

What was brought to the forefront at this time was that even workers born in the United States can become victims of the INS. One worker, a Chicano born in Texas, had to show proof of citizenship. Had she not been able to, she may have been deported to Mexico. Simply being Latino can result in deportation.

As a result of the threat to deport the Salvadoran worker, there was talk in the shop about the U.S. war in Central America and the fight to end it.

Don Kret summed it up this way, "If the people from the religious community can put their heads on the block offering sanctuary for political refugees how could we, the International Ladies' Garment Workers, in good conscience ignore the plight of our union members and neglect to do even this little bit."

Judith Anne Singer works at Junior House and is a member of ILGWU Local 188.



Garment worker at 1981 New York City Labor Day parade illustrates broad membership support in ILGWU for rights of undocumented workers.

Boston pickets protest gov't attack on refugees

BY JON HILLSON

BOSTON — More than 300 demonstrators braved bitter wind and cold in a January 23 march and rally at the Federal Building here. The action protested U.S. government attacks on sanctuary movement activists and Central American workers in the United States.

The protest — built by word of mouth and involving sanctuary movement, anti-war, and Central America solidarity activists — came in response to raids and arrests by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) in Arizona and elsewhere on January 16. The event also defended the rights of a Guatemalan refugee and a Salvadoran trade unionist who now are being given sanctuary in Boston and Cambridge churches.

As picket-line organizers leafleted rush-hour passers-by with informational material, the demonstrators chanted "Hands off the refugees, no more raids!" and "INS, FBI, U.S. justice is a lie," along with anti-war slogans.

Barbara Rice, a staff person representing the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees union, which has many undocumented workers as members, told the crowd "the labor movement must take up this issue. Our unions have to represent the interests of all working people, in Latin America, Central America, and the United States."

She saluted the sanctuary movement.

slammed the raids and deportations, and said, to cheers, "labor is for justice: justice in the workplace, justice in the community, and justice for all workers."

The picket line turned into a march, winding and chanting its way through the city's nearby North End, to the newly opened federal detention center, which was constructed specifically to hold undocumented workers until they are deported.

Among the first residents of the massive windowless building were four Salvadorans, a Honduran, and a Colombian picked up in a January 10 raid in East Boston. The six have been released pending trial.

The prison is next to a U.S. Coast Guard facility and encircled by a chain-link fence. Local television cameras covered the march at the center, as armed guards emerged from within the complex.

Scott Mehlenbacher of the Central America Solidarity Association spoke: "We're here at this center to say that an attack on the sanctuary movement, an attack on undocumented workers, is an attack on every one of us and on the struggle against intervention. We have to be united to defend our Central American brothers and sisters and to build a movement against the war."

The crowd responded with cheers and a chant aimed at the detention center: "Shut it down! Shut it down!"

Pa. USWA leader faces jail for protesting union-busting

BY FRED FELDMAN

PITTSBURGH — Ron Weisen, president of United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 1397 at the Homestead Mill, was sentenced to six months in prison January 24 for participating in a protest against union-busting held at a local church. Four other protesters received identical sentences.

Imprisoning Weisen could open the door to attempts to remove him as president of USWA Local 1397. He has been a vocal critic of concession contracts, union-busting, and plant shutdowns. He challenged Steelworkers president Lynn Williams for the USWA presidency last year.

The sentences marked a further extension of attacks on the democratic rights of the union movement here. The attacks include the continuing imprisonment of Darrell Becker, president of Local 61 of the United Shipbuilders and Drydock Workers. Local 61 has been on strike for two years against the Dravo Corporation. Dravo shut down shortly after the strike began.

Rev. Douglas Roth, a Lutheran minister, is another imprisoned activist. He was jailed in November for refusing to obey the hierarchy's order to give up his pulpit.

Weisen was arrested on October 28 for participating in a protest staged during services at St. John's Lutheran church. The protesters denounced the local Lutheran hierarchy for its complicity in an attempt to bust the Teamsters union local at Passavant Hospital outside Pittsburgh. The Lutheran-controlled board of the hospital hired strikebreakers and forced hospital workers

into a 14-month strike. The union succeeded in holding off the union-busters in a lengthy battle that included the church protest. But it was forced to accept significant concessions.

The jailings stem from protests at Passavant and Dravo, organized by the Network to Save the Mon/Ohio Valleys, a group of ministers and union activists in which Weisen plays a leading role.

The jailings have been accompanied by an intensive propaganda campaign in the capitalist media intended to create the impression that everyone in the Mon Valley condemns the Network for its denunciations of big business and its protest actions.

The *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* praised the stiff sentence against Weisen in an editorial headlined "Jail for the Disrupters." "To invade a church for a political purpose is a deeply offensive act to many Americans," the editors intoned piously. No such editorials were forthcoming, of course, when federal agents recently raided churches to round up antiwar ministers and Central American immigrants.

"The penalty is harsh," the editorial concluded. "Let us hope it is sobering."

The media barrage is providing cover for further attacks on democratic rights. Police in a the nearby suburb of Upper St. Clair dispersed a picket organized by the Network January 27 outside the residence of Judge Emil Narick, who had jailed Becker, Roth, and others. "You cannot protest at a judge's residence to influence a decision," proclaimed the deputy police chief.

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Berkeley, California, mayor Gus Newport told coalition meeting, "We will build the largest demonstration San Francisco has ever seen."

San Francisco: broad coalition calls April 20 antiwar march

BY ANÍBAL YÁÑEZ

SAN FRANCISCO — On January 24 more than 350 people gathered at the First Unitarian Church here to launch the Spring Mobilization for Peace, Jobs, and Justice. This Bay Area coalition was drawn together in response to the call for April Actions for Peace, Jobs, and Justice organized by a broad national coalition.

The national actions are scheduled for April 19-22, highlighted by a massive march on Washington on April 20 demanding: Stop U.S. military intervention in Central America; create jobs, cut the military budget; freeze and reverse the arms race; and oppose apartheid in South Africa and end racism at home.

The Bay Area coalition decided to mount a broad protest action in the streets of San Francisco on April 20. It projected a march down Market Street to a rally at the downtown Civic Center.

"What we're beginning is history mak-

ing and very important for our country," said Sister Margaret Cafferty as she opened the meeting. She urged those present to mobilize against Reagan's attacks on working people at home and abroad.

"The people represented here," she pointed out, "are the same kind of people who put the Civil Rights Act on the books, who went into the streets to end the war in Vietnam."

Charlene Tschirhart, director of the San Francisco Freeze Campaign, and Berkeley mayor Gus Newport also gave opening remarks, highlighting the breadth and potential strength of the coalition. Mayor Newport said, "We will build the largest demonstration San Francisco has ever seen."

Al Lannon, president of Local 6 of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union, who chaired the rest of the meeting, described himself and other unionists in the hall as "the generation of labor leadership that comes directly out of

the struggles of the '60s: for civil rights and against the Vietnam War.

"Labor arrived late to the movement against the war in Vietnam," Lannon went on, "but it got there. And labor involvement now is early, based on the simple idea that we can and should influence our country's life." He pointed to problems faced by the labor movement from unemployment to the looming war in Central America, which, he pointed out, "We don't need, like we now know we didn't need the war in Vietnam."

Lannon especially noted the role of Ignacio de la Fuente, business representative of Molders' Union Local 164, in helping to draw together the broad meeting.

The coalition has an office, Lannon reported, located in the Service Employees International Union hall in downtown San Francisco. Duplicating services have been made available by the union, and it is being staffed by volunteers from the Alameda County Central Labor Council, among others. But, Lannon was quick to add, "More volunteers are needed. We need supplies, typewriters, artists, all the talents that may be available to us."

A structure for the local April 20 coalition was adopted. There will be four co-chairs: Tschirhart, Newport, Lannon, and Sister Judy Cannon. There is a steering committee made up of 35 people from peace, religious and solidarity groups; Black, Latino, and women's rights activists; and trade unionists. Places were left open for all the central labor councils, building-trades councils, and the Teamsters Joint Council in the Bay Area. The steering committee's next meeting on January 31 was announced. In addition, an advisory council of 102 people was established.

The meeting then approved reports from the four working committees that have been established: outreach, finances, media, and logistics.

Mary Bergan, vice-president of the State Coalition of Labor Union Women reported on the perspectives of the outreach committee to broaden the coalition.

Tschirhart reported for the finance committee the plans for various fundraising activities, including a square dance to be held March 9. She reported that 20,000 flyers for April 20 had already been printed.

Howard Wallace, cochair of the Lesbian and Gay Labor Alliance, reported that the media committee has scheduled a press conference February 5 to announce the coalition's plans.

Byron Ackerman of the Nicaragua Information Center reported the logistics committee's efforts to secure the necessary permit for the April 20 march.

Participants came away from the meeting with the sense that something important had been set in motion and that there is plenty of work to do.

The Spring Mobilization coalition office is located at 240 Golden Gate, Room 112, San Francisco, Calif. 94102. The telephone number is: (415) 771-0882.

Local areas build antiwar activities

Continued from front page

have been hired. The coalition is projecting a big area-wide planning meeting at the church on noon, February 9.

Detroit: More than 30 people met on January 23 to form the Detroit Coalition for Peace, Jobs and Justice. The meeting, initiated by local leaders of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador and the Nuclear Freeze Campaign, drew representatives from the U.S. Peace Council, TransAfrica, the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, the Socialist Workers Party, and others. The coalition projected its next planning meeting for February 12 at the Unitarian-Universalist Church, located at Cass and Forest.

Washington, D.C.: The national coalition is in the process of setting up an office and assembling a staff. Volunteers to help in organizing the April actions are urgently needed. To volunteer, call (202) 667-9485.

YSA backs anti-intervention protests

The National Executive Committee of the Young Socialist Alliance released the following statement on January 23 in support of the April 20 antiwar march on Washington, D.C., which is part of the April Actions for Peace, Jobs and Justice.

On April 20, an important protest against the U.S. war in Central America and the Caribbean will take place. Thousands will join together to march on Washington, D.C., to demand a stop to U.S. military intervention in Central America. Coordinated actions will also be taking place on the West Coast.

Sponsored by a broad coalition of peace, church, community, and labor organizations, this action will cap off a four-day program of national activities and is a needed response to the U.S. government's war and escalating military aggression in Central America. Already plans are under way by both the Reagan administration and the Congress to further fund CIA-backed counterrevolutionary activities against Nicaragua's Sandinista government and build up the military forces of El Salvador's U.S.-backed regime.

A successful action that mobilizes the

broadest forces possible will strike a blow against Washington's war aims, which ultimately require the use of U.S. ground troops. An aggressive, energetic, and united response by all those opposed to U.S. intervention in Central America and the Caribbean is therefore required. April 20 will be a meaningful way for opponents of the war to express their opposition and advance the important task of winning new forces to the cause.

The demands of the demonstration also call for the creation of jobs and a cut in the military budget, an end to racist and sexist attacks, and opposition to the racist apartheid regime in South Africa. Together these demands make April 20 a more powerful protest against the U.S. government's attacks on working people in the U.S. and around the world.

A significant fact is the involvement of two major U.S. unions, the United Food and Commercial Workers Union and the International Association of Machinists, in the initiation and planning of April 20. This shows the potential to begin to involve and mobilize the power of organized labor in the fight against the war.

Antiwar forces in the labor movement

will want to focus on April 20 and escalate their activities in the unions to educate on the war, to get out the truth, and to organize union participation in the action.

Local April 20 coalitions can help reach out to antiwar forces in the union, as well as to the Black and Latino communities. Winning the unions and the communities of the oppressed nationalities to take the lead in the fight against this war will be an important part of defeating the U.S. government's war. Activities to build April 20 can be a step in this direction.

Across the country, members of the Young Socialist Alliance (YSA) will be active participants in local and regional coalitions to build April 20 and will work to involve everyone opposed to Washington's war in Central America and the Caribbean. YSA members will be active in high school and college campuses, in the Black and Latino communities, in the unions, and in the countryside among farmers and farm workers to promote April 20.

Building the April 20 protest in Washington should be a number one priority for all opponents of the U.S. war in Central America and the Caribbean. All out for the April 20 march on Washington, D.C.!

Aftermath of India disaster

Continued from Page 3

officials at the plant said they had complained about safety violations but the company ignored them.

In the meantime, thousands of people are unable to work because of the effects of the gas. An example is Bhagan Das Oija, a 45-year-old carpenter who can't work due to dizziness, breathlessness, and constant abdominal pains. He, his wife, and two children are forced to live on monthly emergency relief rations consisting of 24 pounds of wheat and rice, one pound of sugar, and two pounds of cooking oil.

Tens of thousands of victims of Union Carbide's greed have joined in legal suits demanding compensation for their injuries.

As of January 25 three dozen court suits have been filed in New York, West Virginia, and New Jersey.

In addition, the city of Bhopal has obtained a U.S. lawyer to represent another 60,000 victims who are trying to negotiate an out-of-court settlement because they can't afford to wait years for a possible award from a drawn-out lawsuit.

The decision over whether Bhopal disaster compensation suits can be heard in U.S. courts has yet to be decided by federal judges.

In addition to filing legal suits, at least one new protest group has been organized in Bhopal. It is called Poison Gas Case Struggle Front and is made up of student activists and environmentalists.

The aim of the group, according to the *Washington Post*, is to "organize stricken residents of stricken neighborhoods into pressing for adequate compensation and

environmental relief programs." Activities of the group include organizing hunger strikes to protest the indifference of Indian state officials.

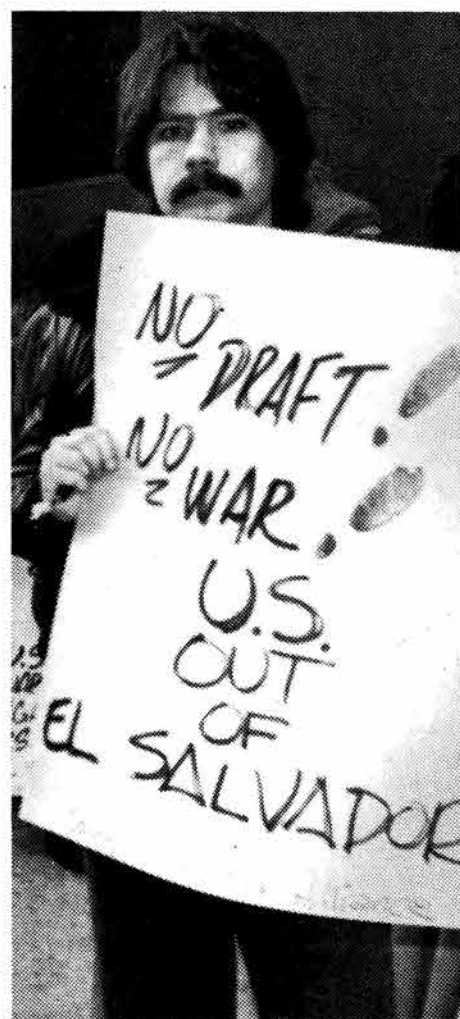
Despite its glaring responsibility for the deaths and hardship in Bhopal, Union Carbide's response since the disaster has been concern solely for its profitability.

Company chairman Warren Anderson, for example, explained that one of the reasons he went to India right after the disaster was to try to head off compensation suits.

He told a recent press conference that the company would like to resolve the whole compensation problem by next July through private negotiations. He said Union Carbide had enough assets and insurance to do this without "undue harm" to the company. But when Union Carbide's profits for the fourth quarter of 1984 were announced, none of it was earmarked to pay compensation claims. Instead, \$13 million was declared as a dividend to stockholders at 19 cents per share.

Another \$17.8 million in profit was held out for "operating, distribution, and administrative costs" to cover company expenses connected with the Bhopal disaster. The company emphasized that none of that money was intended to meet compensation claims.

It's pretty clear that in addition to being responsible for the biggest industrial disaster in history, Union Carbide has every intention of being the biggest cheater in history on industrial injury compensation claims as well.



Militant/Eric Simpson
Young Socialist Alliance members across country have targeted building April 20 antiwar demonstration in Washington, D.C., as central activity in coming months.

Actions held to defend abortion rights

400 march in Maryland Jan. 22

BY DANA BURROUGHS

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — More than 400 abortion-rights supporters gathered here on the evening of January 22, the 12th anniversary of the legalization of abortion, to participate in a rally and candlelight procession.

The event was organized by Marylanders for the Right to Choose, a coalition of some 90 organizations. MRC members include the National Organization for Women and other women's rights groups, religious organizations, Planned Parenthood, Baltimore AFL-CIO, Upper South Department of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, and the Maryland State Teachers Association.

The rally, held in the state's capital with a candlelight march to the state house, demanded Medicaid funding for abortion.

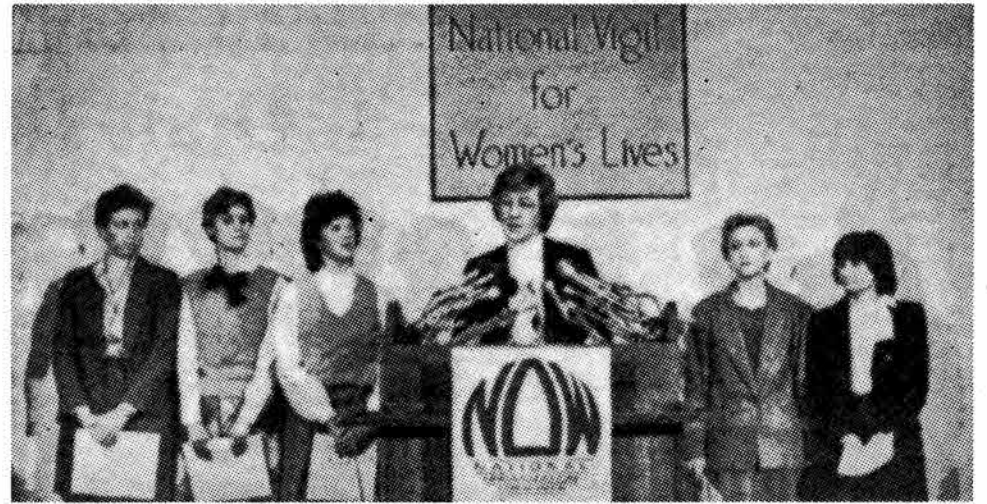
During the past year, five bombings of abortion clinics have occurred in different parts of the state.

A rally was held in St. Anne's Episcopal Church and chaired by Chae Herzig from

the American Jewish Congress.

Laurie Zaskin, assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology at Johns Hopkins University, explained that before abortion was legal, the leading cause of maternal death was illegal abortion. "Four out of every 10 women who had abortions before 1973 ended up in the hospital due to complications in procedure. In 1972, hundreds of women's deaths were related to abortion, whereas in 1976 only three deaths were abortion related," she said.

One of the most powerful parts of the program was the testimonies of women who had been forced to have illegal abortions. Three members of the Marylanders coalition read transcripts of the testimonies of women from the *Abramowicz vs. Lefkowitz* abortion hearings in New York in 1970. These hearings, which brought to light the suffering of women who had been forced to have illegal abortions, were a turning point in the campaign that culminated in the legalization of abortion in New York state in 1970.



National Organization for Women president Judy Goldsmith at D.C. press conference announcing vigils at abortion clinics the weekend of January 18-20.

Pa. — 'Issue is women's rights'

BY FRED FELDMAN

PITTSBURGH — Fighters for women's rights voiced their determination to defend the right to abortion at a Militant Labor Forum held here January 26. The meeting was addressed by Jeanne Clark, chair of NOW's National Task Force on Reproductive Rights; Anne Pride, director of Women's Health Services; and Linda Slodki, a member of the United Steelworkers union and the Socialist Workers Party.

The meeting protested the spate of bombings of abortion clinics and the cutoff in Medicaid funding for abortions that state officials say will take effect in Pennsylvania on February 15.

National NOW leader Clark spoke about the vigils at abortion clinics NOW organized in response to government suggestions that antiabortion groups might select January 20 as a target date for new attacks. She noted that this initial move had put the antiwoman forces on the spot. "Their refusal to condemn the violence tainted them very badly." As for the government, she pointed out, "The same weekend of the vigil they suddenly solved 20 of the 30 bombings. Every person arrested was a member of a mainstream antiabortion group, despite efforts to paint them as isolated religious fanatics."

Clark declared that the issue of women's rights must be at the center of the struggle over abortion rights. "When they're saying 'life' and we're saying 'choice,' we lose. We have to talk about abortion rights, women's rights, and women's lives."

Clark reported that 45 percent of the

women seeking abortions at the Allegheny Women's Center where she works will be affected by the upcoming fund cutoff.

Pride described her response to an attack on abortion that appeared in a recent issue of *Newsweek* magazine. "What was missing was the coat hanger. There was not a mention of the thousands of women killed and maimed in illegal abortions. The issue isn't whether there will be abortions but whether women will have the right to choose an abortion that doesn't mean losing their lives or the ability to have children in the future." She described the intense pressures that women are working under at the abortion clinics as a consequence of the antiabortion terror campaign.

Slodki challenged the attempts to turn the abortion issue into a scientific or legal debate over when life begins or an exchange over the rights of fetuses. "The issue is women's rights. Without the right to abortion women can never win equality and control of their own lives." She blasted the role played by Democratic and Republican politicians in pushing the drive to end legal abortions and pointed to Cuba as an example of "a country founded on the idea that women should be free and equal."

All three speakers agreed that women's rights fighters will have to mobilize to defeat the opponents of abortion rights.

A lively and extended discussion followed. Several unionists in the audience described on-the-job discussions set off by the bombings and the vigils. They reported that despite much confusion and quite a few divisions, many workers continue to stand for abortion rights.

600 at Boston pro-choice rally

BY HELEN LOWENTHAL

BOSTON — About 600 supporters of abortion rights rallied here on January 22.

Speakers included representatives of trade unions and religious and civic groups. The rally was sponsored by the Coalition for Choice, a group of 33 organizations formed to fight against a state constitutional amendment which would end Medicaid funding for abortion in Massachusetts.

Carol Knox, an organizer for District 65, United Auto Workers (UAW), discussed her union's decision to join the coalition and the fight for abortion rights. UAW District 65's members are predominantly women, she explained, and the consensus of the union's membership is that women must be able to control when and if they will have children. She urged other unions to join the struggle.

Nancy Gertner, a civil rights lawyer, also spoke. She is best known in Massachusetts for having argued a case to preserve the use of state Medicaid funding for abortions. "Support for repressive measures from the highest levels of government has inspired zealous terrorists to eliminate abortion through violent means," she said.

Other speakers at the demonstration included Susan Shaer, president of the Massachusetts League of Women Voters, and Rabbi Michael Mayersohn.

In another abortion rights action, the National Organization for Women (NOW) led a picket line of 50 people in front of the home of Archbishop Bernard Law, a leader in the crusade against abortion rights. NOW explained that 79 percent of U.S. Catholics support some form of legalized abortion.

B'ham: 'Stop clinic bombings!'

BY ANDREA BARON

BIRMINGHAM — The anniversary of the Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion was marked here by a day of activities January 19 organized by a coalition of women's rights groups and community organizations.

The Saturday actions began at 7:00 a.m. with a support vigil at two abortion clinics. Both clinics are regularly picketed by anti-abortion groups that harass patients entering the clinics. The vigil participants held placards supporting the right to abortion, and escorted patients into the clinics. The vigil continued for over four hours and was well-received by passersby.

The right-wing opponents of abortion

rights held a march estimated at approximately 1,000 people. As the right-wing march passed each clinic, women's rights supporters raised a vigorous chant of "Keep abortion safe and legal" until the last marcher had passed.

Birmingham clinics have suffered several cases of vandalism, harassment of staff members, and bomb threats. The most serious attack involved a Catholic priest who entered a clinic armed with a sledgehammer, threatened staff members, and smashed \$10,000 worth of equipment. His trial is still pending.

Several staff members have been followed and called by name as they leave the clinics at night. The home of one abortion counselor has been broken into several times and her cat was decapitated and left on her doorstep with a threatening message.

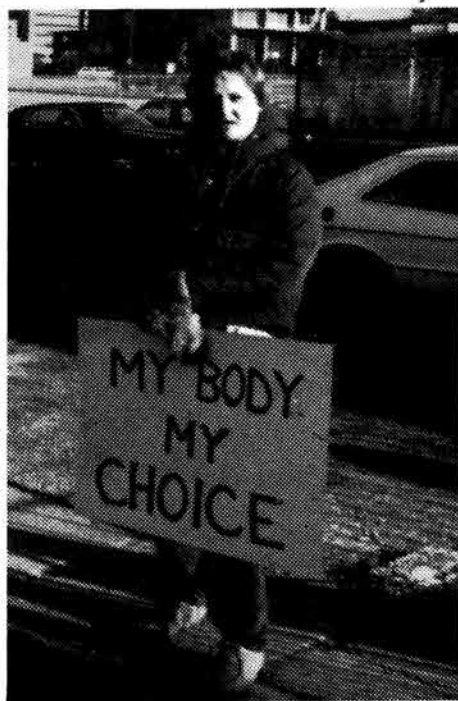
A clinic in Huntsville, Alabama, that has been vandalized in the past, received a bomb threat on the evening of January 18. The clinic was evacuated and searched, but no bomb was found.

The January 19 pro-abortion rights events concluded with an evening rally and candlelight vigil attended by more than 200 people.

The speakers were introduced by Michele Wilson, president of the Greater Birmingham National Organization for Women. The main speaker was abortion-rights activist Bill Baird. He called on the crowd to continue public actions to demand an end to the terrorist attacks on the clinics and to defend women's right to choose abortion.

At the end of the rally, demonstrators placed candles before a wreath dedicated to all the women who have died from illegal abortions.

The Birmingham coalition plans to hold a teach-in on abortion rights in early March.



Militant/Susan Ellis
Abortion-rights picket at support vigil at Birmingham Women's Medical Clinic.

Rally, vigil in Philadelphia

BY CLAIRE MORIARTY

PHILADELPHIA — Braving near-zero temperatures, some 200 abortion rights activists gathered here January 19 outside the offices of Planned Parenthood of Southeast Pennsylvania.

The demonstration, which drew passersby with chants of "They say no choice, we say pro-choice!" took place in response to the call for nationally coordinated actions issued only days before at a Washington, D.C., press conference by Judy Goldsmith, president of the National Organization for Women (NOW). Goldsmith told reporters: "If the antiabortionists are determined to end safe, legal abortion, they are not as determined as we are to preserve that right."

Goldsmith's confidence was borne out in Philadelphia as 150 opponents of legal abortion, who squared off against the pro-choice demonstrators, dispersed early. Their provocative picket wilted in the face of the militant and disciplined pro-choice assembly.

Following the successful action at Planned Parenthood, Philadelphia NOW president Doris Pechkurow and others opened a day-long vigil at the Elizabeth Blackwell Health Center for Women to highlight NOW's commitment to defend clinics against terrorist attacks.

NOW members held similar vigils at 25 clinics in 18 states around the country.

On January 22 three dozen women took up posts in defense of abortion rights, this

time on the steps of the Cathedral of Sts. Peter and Paul, the seat of the Philadelphia archdiocese. They were there to protest the role of the Catholic Church hierarchy, particularly of Philadelphia's Cardinal John Krol, in the assault on the legal right to abortion. Women from NOW, Philadelphia Reproductive Rights Organization, Catholics for a Free Choice, and others, took part.

A few hours later, 50 women packed a conference room at the offices of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) for a showing of *Our Lives on the Line*, a film in which Black women discuss their experiences with abortion and the need to defend its legality.

The film, sponsored by the Philadelphia Reproductive Rights Organization, Black Women's Health Network, and the Nationwide Women's Program of the AFSC, was followed by a round table discussion.

On January 25 the Militant Forum here heard Carol Coady, president of Northeast Philadelphia NOW and coordinator of Catholics for a Free Choice.

Coady said she was alarmed by terrorist attacks on clinics and threats to her own life. She noted what she called the media "propaganda campaign against the right to abortion." "Maybe we need to get back into the streets like we did in the march on Washington for the ERA and in the AFL-CIO organized Solidarity Day of 1981," suggested Coady.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Stop the Deportation of Héctor Marroquín! Speakers: Héctor Marroquín, Mexican-born socialist fighting deportation; Marta Alicia Rivera, member of National Association of Educators of El Salvador. Translation to Spanish. Fri., Feb. 8, 7 p.m. Music, food, and dancing to follow program. Casa Nicaragua, 2121 W Pico Blvd. Ausp: Political Rights Defense Fund. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

Oakland

Abortion Rights Under Attack: What Is Needed to Defend Women's Rights? A panel discussion by abortion-rights activists. Translation to Spanish. Fri., Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m. 3808 E 14 St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (415) 261-3014.

COLORADO

Denver

Grand Opening of Militant Bookstore. Open house and sale. All books 10 percent off. Sat., Feb. 2, noon to 5 p.m. 25 W 3 Ave. (near Broadway). For more information call (303) 698-2550.

Nicaragua: Fifth Year of Revolution in Review. Slideshow and presentation by Dan Adams. Sat., Feb. 2, 7:30 p.m. 25 W 3 Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (303) 698-2550.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

Murder For Profit, From India to Utah and Atlanta. Why the corporations are killing people. Speaker: Sara Jean Johnston, worker at Arrow Shirt Co., member Socialist Workers Party and Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 365. Sun., Feb. 3, 7:30 p.m. 504 Flat Shoals Ave. SE. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

ILLINOIS

Chicago

Protest Terrorist Attacks on Women's Right to Abortion! Speakers: Cathy Christeller, representative of Women Organized for Reproductive Choice (WORC); Barbara Shaw, public information spokesperson for Planned Parenthood; Diane Rollings, Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Feb. 2, 7:30 p.m. 3455 S Michigan Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum and WORC. For more information call (312) 326-5853.

Maurice. A Cuban film about the life and achievements of Maurice Bishop, prime minister of revolutionary Grenada 1979-83. Sat., Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m. 3455 S Michigan Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (312) 326-5853.

The Revolutionary Legacy of Malcolm X. A panel discussion on the ideas of Malcolm X on the 20th anniversary of his assassination. Sat., Feb. 16, 7:30 p.m. 3455 S Michigan Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (312) 326-5853.

KENTUCKY

Louisville

Famine in Ethiopia: Who Is Responsible? Speaker: Bob Quigley, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m. 809 Broadway (near Shelby). Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (502) 587-8418.

LOUISIANA

New Orleans

The Sanctuary Movement for Central American Refugees: A Modern-day Underground

Railroad. Translation to Spanish. Fri., Feb. 8, 8 p.m. 3207 Dublin. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (504) 486-8048.

Malcolm X: Sandino of the United States. Fri., Feb. 22, 8 p.m. 3207 Dublin. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (504) 486-8048.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

Bernhard Goetz: Hero or Racist Killer? Speakers to be announced. Sun., Feb. 3, 7:30 p.m. 510 Commonwealth Ave., 4th floor (Kenmore T). Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (617) 262-4621.

U.S. Hands Off Central America: Stop U.S. Government Attacks on Antiwar Movement! Demonstrate April 20! A panel discussion. Sun., Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m. 510 Commonwealth Ave., 4th floor (Kenmore T). Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (617) 262-4621.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

How the Nicaraguan Revolution Defends Farmers and Farm Workers. A farmer's eyewitness report by Charles Smith, member of North American Farm Alliance and Young Socialist Alliance. Sun., Feb. 3, 4 p.m. 508 N Snelling. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI

St. Louis

El Salvador — Current Stage of the Revolutionary Struggle. Sun., Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m. 3109 S Grand, #22. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (314) 772-4410.

NEW YORK

Albany

Socialist Educational Weekend on Vietnam and Kampuchea.

1. Forum: "Eyewitness Report From Vietnam and Kampuchea." Slideshow and presentation by Diane Wang, garment worker recently returned from fact-finding tour. Fri., Feb. 8, 8 p.m.

2. Class: "What Is a Workers State?" Speaker: Diane Wang. Sat., Feb. 9, 10:30 a.m.

3. Class: "Revolutionary Struggle Against Washington's War in Central America." Speaker: Rich Ariza, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress in 1984. Sat., Feb. 9, 2 p.m. Dinner to follow.

Translation to Spanish. 352 Central, 2nd floor. Donation: Forum, \$2; each class, \$1; dinner, \$2. Ausp: Young Socialist Alliance and Socialist Workers Party. For more information call (518) 434-3247.

Manhattan

U.S. Policy in Central America: A Feminist Perspective. Speakers: Representatives of AMES, the women's association of El Salvador, and AMNLAE, the Nicaraguan Association of Women; Ruth Messinger, New York City councilwoman. Film: *Americas in Transition*. Fri., Feb. 1, 7 p.m. NOW-New York City office, 15 W 18 St. Donation: \$5. Ausp: New York City chapter of the National Organization for Women. For more information call (212) 807-0721.

The Anti-apartheid Struggle — From South Africa to the United States. Speakers: representative of African National Congress of South Africa; Sandy Boyer, co-coordinator, Labor Committee Against Apartheid; Pat Hayes, Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Fri., Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m. 79 Leonard St. (5 blks. south of Canal). Donation: \$2. Ausp:

Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

Video on Colombia. Videotape on the cease-fire between M-19 and Peace Commission. Includes interviews with M-19 founder Jaime Bateman and Carlos Toledo Plata, footage of breaking of truce by army attack, and update on current situation. First time shown in U.S. Presentation in Spanish and English. Sun., Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m. Casa de las Americas, 104 W 14 St. Donation: \$5. Ausp: Informe Colombiano; Comité Colombia. For more information call (212) 982-8255.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

Report from Vietnam and Kampuchea. Speaker: Diane Wang, coauthor, *Report from Vietnam and Kampuchea*. Sat., Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m. 301 S Elm, Suite 522. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (919) 272-5996.

OREGON

Portland

New York Subway Shooting: Racist Vigilantism or Self-defense? Speaker: Chris Brandon, Young Socialist Alliance, member of International Association of Machinists Local 1005. Sat., Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m. 2732 NE Union. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (503) 287-7416.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

Tribute to Malcolm X. Film showing of *Walk in My Shoes* followed by panel discussion on lessons of Malcolm X for Black struggle today. Fri., Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m. 2744 Germantown Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (215) 225-0213.

End Apartheid in South Africa. Panel discussion with Godfrey Sithole, representative of African National Congress of South Africa and other speakers. Fri., Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m. 2744 Germantown Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (215) 225-0213.

UTAH

Price

Defend the Right to Abortion! Speakers to be announced. Sat., Feb. 2, 7 p.m. 23 S Carbon Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (801) 637-6294.

Salt Lake City

Vigilantes and "Law and Order": A Socialist Perspective. Speaker: representative of Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m. 767 S State, 3rd floor. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (801) 355-1124.

VIRGINIA

Newport News

Celebration of Black History Month. Two film showings.

1. *Maurice.* Tidewater premiere of Cuban film on Maurice Bishop and the Grenada revolution 1979-83. Sat., Feb. 9, 7 p.m.

2. *Malcolm X, the Struggle for Freedom.* Sat., Feb. 23, 7 p.m. 5412 Jefferson Ave. Donation: \$2 each film. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (804) 380-0133.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

Famine in Ethiopia — Who's Responsible? Slideshow and discussion. Speakers: Ed Stoner, an engineer who traveled and worked in Ethiopia 1977-84, member of Canadian New Democratic Party; representative of Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Feb. 2, 7:30 p.m. 5517

Rainier Ave. S. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

Stop Attacks on the Sanctuary Movement! Defend Political Asylum for Salvadoran Refugees! Speaker: Kaethe Jean Bleicher, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m. 5517 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

WEST VIRGINIA

Morgantown

Stop Clinic Bombings: Defend Abortion Rights! Speakers: Jeanne Clark, executive director, Allegheny Women's Center and chair of national NOW's Advisory Committee on Reproductive and Health Rights; others. Sat. Feb. 2, 8 p.m. 221 Pleasant St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 296-0055.

Socialist Educational Conference and Bookstore Grand Opening.

Two classes on the founding of the Socialist Workers Party. Presentations by Fred Feldman, member National Committee SWP. Sat., Feb. 9, 2 p.m. and Sun., Feb. 10, noon.

Forum: "War, Politics, and the Working Class." Speaker: Cindy Jaquith, member National Committee SWP, staff writer for *Militant* newspaper. Sat., Feb. 9, 7 p.m. Party to follow.

221 Pleasant St. Donation: \$5 for conference or \$2 per class and forum. Ausp: Young Socialist Alliance, SWP, and Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 296-0055.

St. Louis celebration of African New Year protests apartheid

BY BOB ALLEN

ST. LOUIS — The end of 1984 was marked by the St. Louis Black community's celebration of the African New Year, called "Kwanzaa." An evening of Black culture brought out more than 700 people in pouring rain to hear Afro-American poetry, jazz music, and choir performances. Traditional African dances performed by Black youth from East St. Louis were a highlight of the evening. The keynote address was given by Randall Robinson, the head of TransAfrica — the organization that initiated the current round of protests in the United States against the apartheid regime in South Africa and U.S. government support for that regime.

Robinson said his talk in St. Louis was the end of a 15-city tour designed to build support for the continuing protests against South Africa. He said that the struggle by Blacks in South Africa is more than a struggle for democratic rights. It is a struggle by the majority for political power. This accounts for the brutal repression practiced by the apartheid regime.

Robinson stressed that the armed struggle in South Africa is a fight for majority political rule.

Robinson ridiculed the idea that the U.S. invasion of Grenada was designed to bring democracy to the island, pointing out that Washington supports a minority, racist government in South Africa.

Robinson ended with an appeal to join the ongoing protests demanding an end to U.S. investments in South Africa, the freeing of political prisoner Nelson Mandela, and Black majority rule in South Africa.

IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP

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

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

ARIZONA: Phoenix: SWP, YSA, 3750 West McDowell Road #3. Zip: 85009. Tel: (602) 272-4026.

CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles: SWP, YSA, 2546 W. Pico Blvd. Zip: 90006. Tel: (213) 380-9460. Oakland: SWP, YSA, 3808 E 14th St. Zip: 94601. Tel: (415) 261-3014. San Diego: SWP, YSA, 1053 15th St. Zip: 92101. Tel: (619) 234-4630. San Francisco: SWP, YSA, 3284 23rd St. Zip: 94110. Tel: (415) 282-6255. San Jose: SWP, YSA, 46½ Race St. Zip: 95126. Tel: (408) 998-4007. Seaside: SWP, YSA, P.O. Box 1645. Zip: 93955. Tel: (408) 394-1855.

COLORADO: Denver: SWP, YSA, 25 W 3rd Ave. Zip: 80223. Tel: (303) 698-2550.

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. Tel: (904) 222-1018.

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: Indianapolis: SWP, YSA, 4850 N. College. Zip: 46205. Tel: (317) 283-6149.

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. Columbus: YSA, P.O. Box 02097. Zip: 43202. 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: 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.

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

Dallas: SWP, YSA, 132 N. Beckley Road. Zip: 75208. Tel: (214) 826-4711. Houston: SWP, YSA, 4806 Almeda. 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, 3rd floor. 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, 221 Pleasant St. Zip: 26505. Tel: (304) 296-0055.

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

Un-military and un-American — The Secretary of the Army and the Army Chief of Staff have "disapproved the use of umbrellas." An aide explained, "They feel it is an artificial affectation that army



Harry Ring

officers need not have." An obviously subversive GI, interviewed on the issue, responded, "You would think there could be some flexibility. The women use them."

Tsk, tsk — "Nuclear power's ever darker future — It may not pay to finish any plant that is not yet running" — News headline.

The march of American culture — A boom is anticipated in Chinese fast-food enterprises, mostly run by non-Chinese entrepreneurs, with non-Chinese staffs.

Entrants in the field say they've reduced the Chinese art of cooking to a science and can reduce 80 percent of Chinese recipes to a four-step process. "All the magic can be taken out of it," one franchiser assured. "It can be pretty standardized."

Knuckleheads United — Securely ensconced in their ornate

limestone mansion on D.C.'s Embassy Row, the members of the Cosmos Club elected a slate of officers dedicated to preserving the group's all-male character. Cosmos modestly defines itself as "a social club for men of intellectual distinction."

Small-change dep't — The *Wall Street Journal* has discovered that oil company management personnel accept kickbacks from subcontractors, advising: "From the wellhead to the executive suite, say investigators, fraud flourishes in the oil patch. Nurtured by traditions of clubbiness, lax controls, and acceptance of petty crimes, kickbacks today involve sports cars, boats, cocaine, prostitutes

and, increasingly, money." No mention was made of oil trust price rigging.

With water beds and adult movies? — Southfork Ranch, J.R. Ewing's pad in the TV series, "Dallas," will be available for rental as a kind of hotel. Week nights, \$2,500, week-ends, \$3,500 a night. More intriguing, shorter stays — \$2,000 for the first two hours, and \$250 for additional hours.

Bon appetit! — La Côte Basque, one of New York's more prestigious — that is, expensive — restaurants, was cited for health-code

violations. City inspectors found the dumbwaiter was "encrusted" with old food, the interior of the ice machines "slime laden" and "old and fresh mouse excreta" on pantry shelves. Uncovered pots and trays of food were stored on the floor. Total fines, \$850, which will take at least six dinner tabs to cover.

Qualifies for food stamps — A saddened *Wall Street Journal* reports that Clinton Murchison, the Texas tycoon who could once borrow millions on a promissory note, is now saddled with "a crumbling empire." A financial study indicates that after paying all his debts he may be left with a pitiful \$39 million.

Big majority supports right to legal abortion

On January 22, the 12th anniversary of the legalization of abortion, ABC News did a poll in New York City. They asked: "Should a woman be able to get an abortion if she wants one, no matter what the reason?"

Fifty-two percent responded yes. Another 36 percent said they supported legal abortion under some cir-

cumstances, and 22 percent were for making abortion illegal.

In 1985 the figures are almost identical: 21 percent favor abortion on demand, 55 percent under some circumstances, and 21 percent oppose legal abortion.

This poll sheds some light on why support has remained so high.

Asked what they thought would happen if abortion were to become illegal again, 88 percent said they thought many women would get illegal abortions.

Eighty-seven percent of those asked said they thought many women would be physically harmed in abortions performed by unqualified persons. And 81 percent said they thought wealthy women would still be able to get safe abortions.

It is this real-life experience of women, combined with the broad support for women's equality, that is the bedrock of support for abortion rights.

But some of the figures should make us stop and think. All the polls show that among those who support legal abortion, a substantial number, nevertheless, think there should be restrictions on access to abortion. According to *Newsweek*, as many as 58 percent think abortion should be allowed only in cases of rape, incest, or when the life of the woman is in danger.

This represents genuine reservations about abortion.

Abortion is presented by many, even by some of those who support legal abortion, as at best a necessary evil, a dread last resort for women in dire circumstances.

This is false. Abortion is a simple, safe, medical procedure that allows a woman the freedom to terminate an unwanted pregnancy.

Before abortion was legal, women were forced into the hands of back-alley abortionists or they attempted dangerous, self-induced abortions. Abortion was shrouded in secrecy and guilt. Under those circumstances, abortion was physically dangerous and psychologically damaging. The "right to lifers" want to go back to those "good old days" when thousands of women were maimed and hundreds died each year.

By screaming that women are "murderers" and by blowing up abortion clinics, the opponents of legal abortion do all they can to make having an abortion a frightening, harrowing experience.

One of the big antiabortion propaganda tricks the right wing pulls is to try to give the impression that many, or most, abortions are performed very late in the pregnancy.

In fact, 90 percent of all abortions are performed before the 13th week of pregnancy. Only 1 percent take place after the 20th week.

Newsweek reported that 44 percent of all late abortions are performed on teenage women, many of whom are uninformed, are too frightened to tell their parents, and lack independent access to abortion.

Others are poor women who have trouble coming up with the money for an abortion. Through measures that restrict access to abortion, it is the opponents of legal abortion who are responsible for forcing women to have late abortions, when there may be greater dangers of complications.

The antiabortion ideological offensive, which brands as murderers women who fight for the right to control our own bodies, must be met by a loud and clear declaration that abortion is a woman's right.



WOMEN IN REVOLT
Pat Grogan

cumstances. In all, 88 percent of those interviewed favored legal abortion in some form. Only 11 percent wanted abortion to be illegal again.

One thing is strikingly clear from the many articles and polls that have been published recently — despite the intense campaign against abortion rights by the government, the church hierarchy, and antiabortion groups, a majority still support legal abortion.

A major article in the January 14 issue of *Newsweek* tried hard to prove otherwise. Though it was titled "Divisions and growing doubts," *Newsweek's* own polls showed that the 76 percent who supported some form of legal abortion has remained virtually the same for the past 10 years.

In 1975, of those polled 21 percent favored abortion on demand, 54 percent supported legal abortion under some

1,300 activists meet, press fight for sanctuary

BY ANDY ENGLISH

TUCSON, Ariz. — More than 1,300 people gathered here January 23-24 for an "Inter-American Symposium on Sanctuary." The conference coincided with the arraignment of 13 sanctuary activists in Tucson and Phoenix (see story on back page).

Six of the defendants held a press conference on the first day of the gathering. Jim Corbett read a statement on behalf of the Tucson indictees saying that while "we are required as a condition of our release to commit no crimes while awaiting trial... we have signed our release agreement under the conviction that our faith is consistent with the laws of this country."

The sanctuary movement points out that its activities are legal and that it is the U.S. government that is breaking the law by refusing to grant asylum to refugees from Central America.

Rev. John Fife, one of the defendants, said that the sanctuary movement has continued to help refugees enter the United States since the indictments occurred and that new routes of entry were being developed.

When asked whether U.S. government plans to escalate its war in Central America could have entered into the timing of the indictment, Reverend Fife stated, "We don't know that. But what we do know is that a rational person looking at the situation would understand that if they are planning a major military escalation in Central America, then one of the things that has to be done is to shut off the witnesses to that kind of increased terror and campaign of death against the people of Central America. "It simply won't work if witnesses to

the bloodbath that is taking place there show up in churches in Tucson, Phoenix, and Des Moines."

Corbett pointed out that Washington is using the same kind of "pacification" program in El Salvador that it used in Vietnam. The U.S. government and its client regime in El Salvador are trying to drive the peasants out of the countryside through massive terrorism and bombing in order to

force them into military-controlled "model villages," he explained. What is happening instead, however, is that increasing numbers of Salvadorans are choosing to flee to the United States.

Reverend Fife told the *Militant* that one of the items to be discussed at leadership meetings following the conference would be seeking support from the labor, civil rights, and feminist movements for refugee

rights.

On the second day of the conference, the news came that Jack Elder, a sanctuary worker in Texas, had just been acquitted by a jury on charges of transporting Salvadoran refugees. This was received by the conference with a standing ovation and chants of "El pueblo unido, jamás sera vencido" — the people united will never be defeated!

Indicted nun answers her gov't accusers

The following are excerpts from a statement made by Sister Darlene Nicgorski at a Jan. 23, 1985, press conference in Phoenix.

I was informed last Monday, January 14, that I had been indicted in Phoenix on several counts of violating federal immigration law.

Also, 57 refugees here in Phoenix, my friends, who participated in a Bible study group, were arrested. My convent was entered by armed agents who took away Margarita, a young Salvadoran woman whose two brothers had been killed and whose husband was shot in the head.

Our government has called us criminals, yet it is this administration that violates the U.S. Refugee Act of 1980 and the UN Protocol Accords of 1967, which state that any person having a grave fear of persecution if returned to their homeland should be granted asylum.

Our government indicts us for conspiracy. Yet our government conspires to suppress the right of Central Americans to determine their own future. Our government has indicted us for transporting, yet our

government has transported 30,000 refugees back to their homelands to face possible torture and death.

Our government indicts us for aiding and abetting refugees, yet the State Department aids and abets their killers. Our government leaders indict our communities for in-

ducing the refugees to cross the border, but our government has induced thousands of refugees to cross the border in flight by sending to their rulers howitzers, Huey helicopters with mounted machine guns, and gun boats. We ask the American people to judge us on this basis.

Stop the deportation of refugees!

Continued from back page

rael, who compared U.S. immigration policies towards Central Americans to the U.S. government's refusal to accept Jewish refugees from Nazi Germany in the 1940s.

After the march arrived at the federal building, the six Phoenix defendants went inside while the 700 protesters held a rally.

Ed Mendoza, a Native American activist, condemned the genocide against the indigenous people of Central America, saying, "Reagan is not our president. We were here before he was. Central America is not

his back yard."

After an hour and a half, the Phoenix defendants emerged from the courtroom. Wendy LeWin spoke for the group. "Last week Monday, immigration officials took my apartment apart looking for I don't know what. I have been helping people from Central America. If I have been running a risk, then the risk being run by someone from El Salvador or Guatemala is incomparable. I am not sorry for anything that I have done."

It was announced to the marchers that the next court date for the sanctuary activists would be April 2.

Congressional debate on 'contras'

President Reagan is pushing hard to get Congress to release \$14 million for the counterrevolutionary terrorists (*contras*) waging war against the people of Nicaragua. The money was appropriated by Congress last year, but the Democrats and Republicans must vote to approve its release.

Some in Congress are leery of granting the aid request. They complain that the *contras*, who have been badly beaten by the Sandinistas, are not effective, and nervously point to the international condemnation of the U.S.-run war.

However, with full congressional knowledge, the U.S. government is continuing to deepen its bloody war, supplying the mercenaries through "private" and other less open means.

These CIA-organized terrorists continue to murder Nicaraguan civilians and soldiers with U.S. weapons; they march in U.S.-manufactured uniforms and boots; eat U.S.-supplied rations; and are treated with U.S.-supplied medical equipment.

And in the last month Washington has escalated arms shipments to the dictatorship in El Salvador to include two propeller-driven gunships capable of firing 1,500 rounds a minute. Promised for future delivery are helicopter gunships capable of firing 5,000 rounds a minute. Both are modelled on aircraft used with murderous effect by U.S. forces in Vietnam.

The Pentagon has also just announced joint U.S.-Honduran military maneuvers — Big Pine III — that will last for three months, involving 4,500 U.S. troops, and covering areas bordering both Nicaragua and El Salvador.

There is no secret about the political aims of the maneuvers. U.S. officials have openly stated, according to the *Washington Post*, that the Big Pine exercises "are intended to bolster the Honduran military and intimidate the Sandinista government."

It is further openly stated that while in Honduras the U.S. troops will improve runways at military bases (used for air supply of the *contras* and to coordinate bombing missions against the Salvadoran rebels) and for the first time implement tank training.

Three earlier exercises were used as a pretext to permanently station 1,500 U.S. troops in Honduras, build field hospitals, improve roads near the Nicaraguan border, install radar facilities and air traffic control towers, and run spy flights over Managua, the Nicaraguan capital. In short — essential steps in preparing Honduras for use as a staging ground for further escalation of the war.

Another side of the maneuvers — not so openly discussed — is the fact that they are used to rearm and resupply the mercenaries — without Congress having to openly take any responsibility for it.

After the exercises, "excess" U.S. equipment is turned over to the Honduran armed forces. They, in exchange, hand over their "old" equipment to the *contras*. No public records are kept, and U.S. officials brazenly disclaim any responsibility for the thousands of weapons and millions of rounds of ammunition that suddenly appear in *contra* hands.

No matter how the present congressional debate over aid turns out, Central America is not a war waiting to happen. It is a war now.

25th anniversary: Greensboro sit-ins for civil rights

February 1 marks the 25th anniversary of the Greensboro, North Carolina, Woolworth sit-ins. The young activists were protesting the store's refusal to grant lunch-counter service to Blacks. These actions sparked a wave of protest that quickly swept both the South and the North. They gave a significant impetus to the civil rights movement's fight to overturn Jim Crow — the system of legalized segregation that denied equal rights to Blacks in the South.

The *Militant* helped to popularize the sit-in movement — and to launch the boycott movement that accompanied it in the North against Woolworth's and other national department stores.

The following excerpt from the February 22, 1960, *Militant* describes the first sit-ins in Greensboro. They drew tens of thousands of students and youth into the civil rights movement. This movement won lasting victories in the battle against racist discrimination and helped fuel a broad youth radicalization.

A tide of youthful militancy in the struggle against Jim Crow is flooding the South. Already it has swept into cities in North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee and Florida. Begun by Negro college students in Greensboro, North Carolina, on Feb. 1, it has been surging on Southern campuses for three weeks and is now involving large numbers of Negro high-school students.

The Greensboro action was planned by four freshmen at the Agricultural and Technical College, a state-sup-

OUR REVOLUTIONARY HERITAGE

ported Negro institution in that city. These four pioneers — Ezell Blair, David Richmond, Franklin McLain and Joseph MacNeil — had formed a Student Executive Committee for Justice. They chose a nearby five-and-ten-cent store (F.W. Woolworth), heavily patronized by the 3,000-member student body, as the first place to bring some justice.

The four student leaders entered the store Monday afternoon (Feb. 1) and sat down at the lunch counter, which is "for whites only."

When they were refused service, they continued to sit quietly at the counter till the store closed at 5:30 p.m. Next day they returned and were joined by 27 more students from A & T and from Bennett, a college for Negro women.

On Wednesday, the sit-down group increased to 45, including a few courageous students from several white colleges.

Attempts to negotiate a settlement with the store failed when management refused to talk with student representatives. The local manager had wired F.W. Woolworth headquarters in New York and had been given orders to deal with the situation as a local problem.

By Friday, scores of Negro townspeople, some of them displaying American flags, had joined the demonstration.

On Saturday, Woolworth management, claiming it had received a bomb threat, had the police clear the store and then closed.

The Negro students considered the closing of lily-white facilities the next best thing to their desegregation. They jubilantly proceeded to the S. H. Kress lunch counter. This store quickly shut down.

On Monday, Feb. 8, the Woolworth and Kress stores in Greensboro reopened but with their lunch counters closed.

At 10 a.m. that morning, 22 Negro students from North Carolina College and four white students from Duke University took seats at Woolworth's lunch counter in Durham.

At noon in Winston-Salem, a lone Negro sat down at the Kress lunch counter and, when refused service, continued sitting. The item was broadcast on the radio and within a few hours he was joined by scores of students from the Negro Teachers' College in that city. By the end of the next day they had caused the closing of five lunch counters in the downtown area.

[On February 12] it spread to Rock Hill, South Carolina, when students from two Negro junior colleges took seats at the Woolworth and McCrory lunch counters. When these were closed, the demonstrators proceeded to two large drug stores with similar results.

Here the first violence occurred. A white youth struck a Negro knocking him off a counter stool, and a bottle of ammonia and an egg were thrown at the Negro students. Police made no arrests.

The student movement in the South is giving new inspiration as well as providing valuable lessons in direct mass action to the Negro people and their white allies throughout the country. It is the most important thing now happening in the United States.

Yale: victory for labor, women

A significant victory has been won at Yale University — a victory for the entire union movement and for women's rights.

Local 34 of the Federation of University Employees, which represents the school's 2,600 clerical and technical workers, has won a two-year struggle for union recognition and a decent contract.

They were supported wholeheartedly by their sister union, Local 35, representing 1,000 service and maintenance workers. Local 35's members honored the picket lines during the clerks' 10-week strike last fall. Local 35, by a 362 to 17 vote, has also just ratified a new contract that also contained significant advances for the workers.

The successful Yale organizing drive and contract gains are an exception to the takeaway contracts and union membership losses being forced on much of the labor movement today. These gains stand as a tribute to the militancy, inventiveness, and tenacity of the Yale workers and their allies.

This victory is especially worth noting because the fight was led by women workers — a section of the work force which has traditionally been unorganized, low paid, and shunted into jobs with no opportunity for advancement. Local 34's membership is 82 percent women and 13 percent Black.

Central to this fight has been the issue of comparable worth — that women in predominantly female jobs should get the same wages as men for work involving comparable responsibilities, skill, and effort. The fact

that women are oppressed in this class-divided society means that employers can pocket billions more in profits by paying women less.

In addition to an across the board wage increase of 35 percent over the next three and a half years, Yale clerical workers made strides toward achieving comparable worth. Their contract contains a new system for salary advancement that John Wilhelm, chief negotiator for the union, says will take big steps toward ending "Yale's 284-year practice of capturing people and holding them down for the rest of their work life."

The struggle at Yale — and the broad support it received nationally — reflects the intertwining of the defense of women's rights and the fight to defend the whole labor movement. The efforts of the union movement to organize and defend women workers and Black workers — the lowest paid and most exploited — are central to defending all workers from the intensifying ruling-class offensive.

The power of the comparable-worth issue, the dynamism of the strike, and scope of the gains won, all combine to make the Yale victory a powerful example. Clerical workers involved in bitter organizing-drive fights at Harvard and Columbia universities have been inspired by the victory of their sisters and brothers at Yale. Unionists at Columbia have announced a deadline of February 4 for the school to either begin serious negotiations or face a strike.

This victory represents a step forward for the fighting capacity of the labor movement.

High court cuts student rights

"One of the greatest decisions in education in the last decade," said New Jersey high-school principal James Koch.

Was several billion just cut from the war budget to build more schools? Had the president ordered immediate desegregation of the country's most racist school systems?

Hardly. This so-called educator was referring to the U.S. Supreme Court's easing of restrictions on searching students.

The decision, handed down by a 6-3 vote January 15, is part of the U.S. rulers' continuing effort to chip away at democratic rights. In this case, the attack is aimed at the expansion of rights students fought for and won as part of the struggle for civil rights and against the Vietnam War.

In 1969, during the fight against the Vietnam War, students won the right to wear armbands protesting the war. This for the first time established the principle that the constitutional right of students to privacy doesn't end at the schoolhouse door.

With the latest Supreme Court decision, the law of the land now says teachers and school officials may search students if there are "reasonable grounds" for believing there has been a violation of law or even of school regulations.

Who determines if the grounds are "reasonable"? The court doesn't say. But in many cases it will obviously be the school officials themselves, who will do whatever

they think they can get away with.

In a dissenting opinion one of the court's own judges, William Brennan, criticized the ruling as an "unprecedented" and "dangerous" weakening of democratic rights. But even his dissent agreed on the basic point that school officials "generally may conduct a search of their students' belongings without first obtaining a warrant."

The case stems from a 1980 incident in New Jersey in which Principal Koch argued that officials at his high school had the right to search a student for evidence that she had violated the school rule against smoking.

The state supreme court disagreed. So state and school officials took the case all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Schools "stand in" for parents, they argued, and should be as free in searching students as parents would be at home. The final ruling in their favor did not go this far. But it left the field wide open for school officials anywhere to try to manufacture "reasonable" grounds.

The new ruling is part of a stepped-up offensive against young people that includes court decisions okaying school prayer, the media-hyped campaign over "crime," and government tolerance of the bombing of clinics that offer them and others access to birth control and abortion.

U.S. imperialism's plans to drive down wages at home and draft an army for war abroad requires constant intimidation — both "legal" and violent — aimed at those most likely to protest.

Salvadoran marries Black; INS tells her to leave

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) is deporting Maria Silverio. As far as the INS is concerned, Silverio is guilty of two crimes: being Salvadoran and marrying a Black man.

The INS, of course, denies any racist motives in the case. Scott Blackman, an INS supervisor in New York City, said, "An allegation of discrimination is simply absurd and doesn't merit comment."

Silverio is married to a U.S. citizen of Dominican origin. They have a son who was born in the United States.



BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY

Mohammed Oliver

Her marriage entitles Silverio to permanent resident status here.

Nevertheless, the INS has ordered Silverio to leave the country "voluntarily" by January 28, or be thrown out.

According to her attorney, Barry Oppenheim, the INS agreed to give Silverio permanent resident status when she was married to a white U.S. citizen in a previous marriage. "Now that she is married to a Black," noted Oppenheim, "they've decided to deport her."

Silverio fears returning to El Salvador — and rightly so. Four of her relatives have been murdered there. Tens

of thousands of Salvadorans have left their country, fleeing imprisonment, torture and assassination. Many of those forced to return have fallen victim to the U.S.-backed dictatorship's cops or death squads.

In addition to fearing for her life if she should return to El Salvador, Silverio also explained that her husband is an invalid who requires constant attention. Disabled by a gunshot wound, he needs medical care and help around the house.

Oppenheim explained that on December 30 the INS promised Silverio that she could leave the country voluntarily and go to Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, under conditions of "Stateside Criteria Processing." These conditions would supposedly guarantee Silverio's right to return to the United States.

The idea is that since Silverio is considered "illegal," she must first leave the country before she can apply for legal entry.

But, explained Oppenheim, "I found out that on December 11 Immigration had sent a secret cable to the consulate in Ciudad Juárez annulling the 'Stateside Criteria.' Therefore, the INS promise was a trap."

"The only place she can go to now is El Salvador," said Oppenheim. "There, she would have the possibility of getting an entry visa to the United States, but you realize that the same INS that deported her will study her entry papers."

"Since her husband has an injury and is living on welfare, when the INS officials in El Salvador are informed that Maria would come to the United States and live on public assistance, her visa will be denied. Therefore, her possibilities of returning to this country are minimal."

Silverio's case has many parallels with the case of Héctor Marroquín, a socialist the INS is trying to deport to Mexico. The INS is requiring Marroquín to go to Toronto, Canada, for Stateside Criteria Processing in order to apply for his green card.

As with Silverio, Marroquín is married to a U.S. citizen and meets all the requirements for getting a green card. Nevertheless, the INS is delaying his application, hoping to find a way to deport him. INS cops arrested Marroquín in 1977 and moved to deport him on the grounds that he was undocumented. The actual reason is his socialist beliefs and activity. Marroquín is a leader of the Young Socialist Alliance and Socialist Workers Party.

Marroquín's antideportation fight has won broad support, including from prominent individuals in labor, Black, Chicano and women's rights organizations. Part of his defense effort has been to expose the racist and antilabor character of the INS.

The INS treatment of Silverio underscores this cop outfit's racist nature.

Like the recent crackdown on the church sanctuary movement, Silverio's case also highlights the fact that the government is on a major drive against the rights of Salvadoran and other Central American working people to live and work in this country. While the U.S. rulers wage war in Central America, they're also waging a racist war against the democratic rights of Latinos and Blacks in this country. The entire labor movement should demand a halt to the deportations and an end to the U.S. war in Central America.

LETTERS

Packer's life inspiring

I really enjoyed the article "Howard Packer: 40 years in the socialist movement." It was very inspirational and morale building.

I would like to suggest having profiles on Socialist Workers Party activists and Young Socialist Alliance activists. Also, profiles on different branches of the SWP and their activities. I feel that getting to know fellow militants and branches would help solidarity.

One last thing, how about a small ad section for rural people to find other supporters of the SWP in their area?

Floyd Cureton, Jr.
Kerrville, Texas

Wants to read 'Che'

I am glad to receive the *Militant*. The United States imperialist aggression by proxy against the peace-loving Nicaraguan revolutionary government is testimony to the inability of the imperialists to let people decide how to run their country.

It is also a racist demonstration against the Sandinistas. Every Third-World person and Latino should realize that the United States racist imperialists have never been able to deal fairly with people of color.

Everyone should learn the real truth about war-mongering monopoly capitalism by reading the *Militant* and should demonstrate in the streets against it.

I hope all militants, trade union militants, and conscious working-class brothers and sisters will band together and demonstrate to stop the imperialist aggression against the Sandinistas and to remove all troops from Grenada.

I would like to read the speeches of Che Guevara. The fact that that mealy-mouthed Mondale labeled Guevara one of the most despicable characters in the 20th century assures me that Guevara must have been an admirable man. Any enemy of the ruling class snobs and parasites is a friend of mine.

A prisoner
Menard, Illinois

Rights victory

At the beginning of January, I finally received a check from Teledyne Ryan Corp. for five months back wages in settlement of a grievance dating back to September 1983. At that time the company had refused to grant my

change-of-status request to go into the machine shop as a burr hand (the least skilled job in the department) on the grounds that I was not qualified.

My union local, United Auto Workers 506, fought for and won my grievance on the basis that as a jig and fixture builder (one of the most highly skilled jobs in the plant), I certainly was qualified to go on the burr bench.

However, everyone involved in the case — both on the union side and on the company side — knew that what was really involved in the company's harassment was my union activity and political views. I had been active in getting my union local to sponsor a visit of exiled Salvadoran trade union leader Alejandro Molina Lara to our local in March 1983, where Molina documented the denial of trade union freedoms in El Salvador and the role of the U.S. government in suppressing trade union activity in his country.

My reinstatement is an important victory for antiwar activists, and Local 506's defense of my right to stay in the plant is an important precedent for trade union activists everywhere.

Judy White
San Diego, California

Prisoners need support

In the Dec. 21, 1984, issue of the *Militant*, you printed my letter entitled "Justice," (with the exclusion of my name.) I appreciate your making this matter known to the public.

So many people are blind to the barbaric conditions and daily suffering our brothers and sisters in prison must endure. Your column serves a great purpose in that it opens the steel gates and sheds a ray of light on a hidden world.

I would like my name to be known. I do not fear retaliation and I sincerely hope you will print it in your column.

In general, prison conditions are no different now than a hundred years ago. Not even our families can come and visit us in peace, as I pointed out in my previous letter. [The letter described an attack by prison guards during a visit with his wife and child — ed.] My little boy or the child of another could have been killed that day.

It's good that the public is becoming aware of the dehumanizing prison conditions. But just being aware is not enough. We

prisoners need support. Presently my wife and son have a substantial lawsuit in effect against the state of New York for that visiting room incident. Possibly there is a legal organization or private law firm that would like to help.

On a wider range, there are organizations throughout the country who support their imprisoned brothers and sisters.

Seek them out, my brothers and sisters; help us in this struggle to help ourselves.

Disarick A. Agosto
Stormville, New York

Liberty or death

I do not promote violence. But as a member of an oppressed race, I do, however, advocate violence as a means of getting rid of that oppression, and as a means of obtaining one's humanity when it is brutally denied.

The sacrifices that Blacks have made over here (that opened the door to every kind of right from women's rights to gay rights) were made with innocent people bleeding for it, rebelling for it, rioting for it. This shook this nation from L.A. to New York. This is what made the government sign concessions to better the conditions of Blacks here in the States. It was not nonviolence that made them think about equal rights.

The U.S. Constitution was intelligently designed with humanity in mind, but look what it took to get them to abide by it.

Now the South African constitution is a totally different story. It was designed very arrogantly with racism in mind. And it is evident as shown through American history that racial arrogance will never give way to a humane society without civil strife, bloodshed, and yes, even deaths.

The examples of nonviolent demonstrations here in the U.S. will not work for South Africa — not when their nonviolence is being met with cold-blooded, mass murder. Every time they open their mouths to protest, they get brutally repressed.

So don't give the people Ghandian-King methods. Show and tell the people that struggling and dying for humanity is right, it's not wrong. It's the highest honor one can achieve for his people. As one great man said, "Give me liberty or give me death" — death standing up fighting for liberty.

A prisoner
Soledad, California



Vote totals

The article in the January 11, 1985, *Militant* "Vote totals of left parties in 1984," had some errors.

The Socialist Workers Party presidential total in 1980 was 49,118, not 40,105 as the article said. Part of the confusion probably arose because in 1980 the SWP presidential candidate, Andrew Pulley, was under age 35, so in some states that won't print the names of under-age-35 presidential candidates on the ballot, the SWP substituted another presidential candidate, either Rick Congress or Clifton DeBerry.

In 1984 the Workers World presidential vote was similarly confused since Workers World presidential candidate Larry Holmes was under age 35 and the party substituted his wife, Gabrielle Holmes, in a few states. The actual 1984 Workers World presidential vote was 17,968, not 15,220 as the *Militant* stated.

The 1980 SWP presidential vote total was the largest total in the history of the U.S. for any Black presidential candidate in a general election.

Richard Winger
San Francisco, California

'Stick together'

I must comment on the two letters that appeared in the November 30, 1984, issue of the *Militant* about the U.S. Federal Prison at Marion, Illinois.

Even a layman at law studies

can see that Marion Prison is definitely breaking just about every law of the U.S. Constitution and of human rights, too. It is my hope that when the lawyers are able to bring this matter to the courts of the United States of America, that those who are responsible — those guards who take part in cowardly "mob style" beatings of the prisoners who are always outnumbered, and those in the administration who turn their heads and plug their ears — are punished to the maximum.

To all prisoners at Marion who are of the oppressed: "Keep on keeping on" and "stick together." A prisoner
Huntingdon, Pennsylvania

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.

Defend Central American refugees!

700 picket Phoenix court in support of sanctuary activists



March 1983 rally in New York City against U.S. aid to repressive Salvadoran regime. Washington's policies in Central America are responsible for terror that refugees from those countries are fleeing.

BY ANDY ENGLISH

PHOENIX — Thirteen sanctuary activists pleaded innocent in federal courts in Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona, on January 23. The 13 were part of a group of 16 activists indicted by a federal grand jury in Phoenix the previous week on charges of "smuggling" Central American refugees into the United States.

The sanctuary movement is a national network of over 200 churches that provides

shelter to people fleeing U.S.-backed repression in El Salvador and Guatemala. The movement began three years ago at Southside Presbyterian Church in Tucson in response to the U.S. government's refusal to give political asylum to refugees from those countries, despite U.S. and international laws that require the granting of asylum to refugees who would face persecution in their homelands.

Appearing before Judge Morton Sitver

in Phoenix were six women: Sister Mary Waddell, Sister Darlene Nicgorski, Sister Anna Priester, Cecilia del Carmen Juarez de Emery, Wendy LeWin, and Bertha Martel-Benadidec.

In Tucson, seven defendants were arraigned before Judge Raymond Terlizzi. They were Father Anthony Clark and Mary Kay Espinoza of Nogales, Arizona; Nena McDonald of Lubbock, Texas; and Rev. John Fife, Philip Willis-Conger, James Corbett, and Margaret Hutchison of Tucson.

Two defendants from Nogales, Mexico, Father Dagoberto Quiñones and Maria del Socorro Pardo de Aguilar, have not yet been served with indictment papers. It was reported in the Phoenix newspapers that the Mexican consul in Phoenix has retained attorneys for their defense.

The 16th defendant, Catherine Flaherty, was arraigned later in Tucson.

In Phoenix, more than 700 supporters marched to the federal building with the six Phoenix defendants.

The marchers carried signs saying, "Support sanctuary," "Stop the war in Central America," and "Stop the deportations."

Members of the Arizona Farm Workers Union carried a banner.

The march was preceded by a prayer service at St. Mary's Catholic Church. The audience in the densely-packed church rose for a tumultuous 10-minute standing ovation when the sanctuary defendants entered.

Among the speakers at the service was a masked Salvadoran man. He greeted the assembly "in the name of the half million Salvadorans in the U.S."

He continued by saying, "I am a witness to the lies the U.S. government is telling us in making you believe that we have come only for economic reasons. My family has known repression. The members of my family were detained by government forces because I and my brother struggled in solidarity with the peasants who were being massacred by the U.S.-trained Salvadoran Army."

"What they want is to stop us from communicating with you so that we can't tell you the truth about what is happening in my country: massacres, misery, hunger."

Sister Darlene Nicgorski, who is facing five counts of indictment for "transporting and harboring illegal aliens," spoke next, saying, "We cannot ask those in need what color their skin is, what country they are from, what their political orientation is, or if they have a green card."

Father Antonio Sotelo, a local Catholic priest, called upon the Latino community to support the sanctuary movement. "We who are Hispanic have a special connection with our brothers and sisters in Central America. The nations of Central America should have the freedom to make their own destiny" without U.S. intervention, he said.

Also participating in the service was Rabbi Albert Plotkin of Temple Beth Is-

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Burkina ambassador: 'Help us fight hunger'

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

NEW YORK — "I bring militant greetings from the people of Burkina Faso to you tonight," Ambassador Leandre Bassolé told an enthusiastic crowd of more than 100 people at a meeting hosted by the Militant Labor Forum January 25. Bassolé, who represents the West African country of Burkina (formerly Upper Volta) at the United Nations, spoke of the revolutionary developments in his country since Aug. 4, 1983, when a group of radical junior officers, led by Capt. Thomas Sankara, took governmental power as part of a wave of popular protest sweeping the country.

The ambassador's talk was presented in French with English translation provided for the audience. Radio station WBAI taped the talk for use on a future program.

Introducing the ambassador was Ernest Harsch, managing editor of *Intercontinental Press* and author of the book *South Africa: White Rule, Black Revolt*. Harsch has written several articles for *IP* about the revolutionary upsurge in Burkina.

Imperialist profiteering

"Why did so few of you hear about our country until it became Burkina Faso?" asked Ambassador Bassolé. "It was because when our country existed under the name of Upper Volta, it drew the attention of the imperialist powers only because of profits that could be drawn from this country. It was best for the imperialists to keep from you the type of struggle being waged by our people. The August 4 revolution put an end to this way of treating human beings."

Upper Volta was a French colony until 1960. However, even with political independence, it was ruled for the next 23 years by governments totally subservient to Paris. French domination impoverished this country of 7 million people and maintained its economy in a state of extreme underdevelopment. The average life expectancy in Burkina Faso is just 40 years. The illiteracy rate is 92 percent. The per capita

Gross Domestic Product is only \$155. Disease is rampant. The infant mortality rate is a staggering 180 for every 1,000 live births.

Immediately upon coming to power in August 1983, the governing National Council of the Revolution (CNR) took steps to tackle these huge problems. First and foremost was to encourage the mobilization and organization of Burkina's people. Committees for Defense of the Revolution (CDRs) were initiated in neighborhoods, towns, and villages to draw broader sectors of the population into the political life of the country. Within just two months, more than 10,000 CDRs had been formed.

Gains of the revolution

The government also launched a mass immunization program against yellow fever and measles, with plans to vaccinate 3.5 million people. Health clinics have been built in the countryside. Prices for most medical procedures have been reduced by 70 percent.

In addition, plans are being made to launch a major literacy drive to teach 5.5 million people how to read and write over the next decade. The campaign will be conducted in Burkina's three main indigenous languages — Mooré, Jula, and Fulfuldé.

One of the priorities of the revolution has been to champion women's rights. "The government of Burkina Faso has three women at the ministerial level, and it's not tokenism," explained Bassolé. The National Council, reported Bassolé, has "decided to put a woman at the head of the national budget." A woman is also head of the sports and recreation ministry and the National Solidarity Ministry.

"Not only in government but in every aspect women participate the same as men," stated Bassolé. "We're trying to get everyone involved in building the revolution and a new society."

In Burkina more than 90 percent of the people live and work on the land under

very difficult conditions. Only 10 percent of the peasants use oxen. The rest rely on hand tools. Under French colonial rule cotton was imposed as the chief crop for export. This was done at the expense of domestic food production. This legacy of a century of colonial exploitation combined with a severe drought has created serious famine conditions in the northern part of the country.

Appeal for aid

Ambassador Bassolé made a public appeal for aid. "Hungry people can still be thinking and sometimes can think more than someone with a full belly. . . . More than 200,000 persons will certainly die of hunger if aid is not given to them."

The ambassador explained that the sufferings of the people of Ethiopia is just like that of the peoples of Burkina. To avert famine in Burkina, 250,000 tons of grain is immediately needed. In an act of solidarity, forum participants passed the hat and contributed \$150.

"No revolution in any part of the world has been born out of joy," said Bassolé. "Each one has gone through its period of difficulty, and we accept ours."

Burkina's government has undertaken an agrarian reform. Last August the government passed a law nationalizing all land and mineral wealth beneath it. Steps have also been taken toward a more equitable distribution of land.

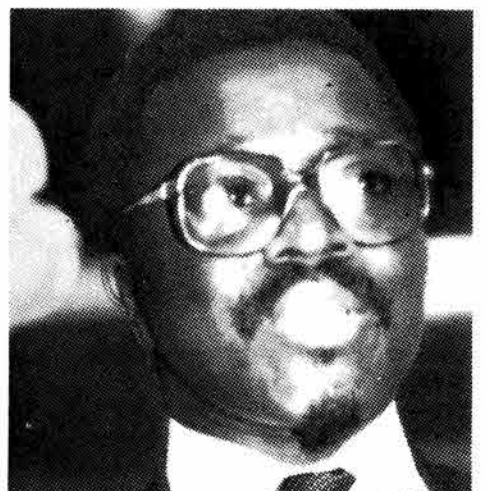
The government has set a goal of boosting the country's extremely small industrial base. In October 1984 a People's Program for Development was launched. Its aim is to obtain loans toward \$330 million of investment in various agricultural and industrial projects by December 1985. The International Monetary Fund opposes these initial plans, demanding instead austerity policies and repayment of Burkina's \$460 million foreign debt. Cuba has provided technical assistance, as have other countries.

Burkina has friendly ties with two bordering countries — Ghana and Benin. Last year Burkina held joint military maneuvers with Ghana, whose radical nationalist government led by Jerry Rawlings has come into conflicts with imperialism. "We made it clear [to the imperialists] that to touch one hair on Ghana would be to declare war on Burkina Faso and vice versa," said Bassolé.

A constant theme of Bassolé's talk was the importance of international solidarity. He concluded with a message from the National Revolutionary Council to all forum participants:

"We want to think that we can count on every one of you to be our voice, to talk and defend our political views so we don't have to live once again the experience we had in Grenada," he said, referring to the U.S. invasion of that island. The National Revolutionary Council would like to think of each of you as ambassadors to the United States."

The audience agreed. They responded by giving the ambassador a standing ovation.



Leandre Bassolé, ambassador to UN from Burkina, speaks at New York Militant Labor Forum.