

## White House challenges right to legal abortion

BY PAT GROGAN

The Reagan administration has launched a new, direct challenge to women's constitutional right to abortion.

In a brief filed July 15 urging the Supreme Court to uphold state laws restricting access to abortion in Pennsylvania and Illinois, the Justice Department calls on the court to overturn the historic 1973 decision in *Roe vs. Wade* that legalized abortion.

That Supreme Court ruling registered the most important gain for women's rights in decades. It recognized abortion as the constitutional right of a woman, legalized abortion through the first 24 weeks of pregnancy, and struck down all laws that restricted that right.

The Justice Department brief calls on the Supreme Court to "return the law to the condition it was before [*Roe vs. Wade*] was decided." In many states, before the 1973 decision, abortion was a criminal act both for the woman who obtained one and for those who performed them.

### Most fundamental right

The right to control our own bodies is the most fundamental right of women. Precisely because of the stakes involved, the right to abortion has been the target of bipartisan attack since the day it was won.

The Justice Department brief marks an escalation in this battle, with the government now calling not only for restrictions on the right to abortion but for outlawing abortion altogether.

This new assault on abortion rights came just days before the National Organization for Women (NOW) opens its 1985 National Conference in New Orleans.

This latest attack poses sharply the need for NOW, other women's rights groups, unions, Black-rights organizations, and others to unite in defense of legal abortion and women's rights. An all-out campaign aimed at mobilizing the existing majority support for abortion rights is needed — a campaign of educational programs, picket lines, protests, and demonstrations.

This is the central challenge before delegates to this year's NOW conference. The potential for such a campaign is clearly there. The majority of the U.S. population supports the right to legal abortion. This past spring saw thousands participating in protests against bombings of abortion clinics and other antiabortion attacks.

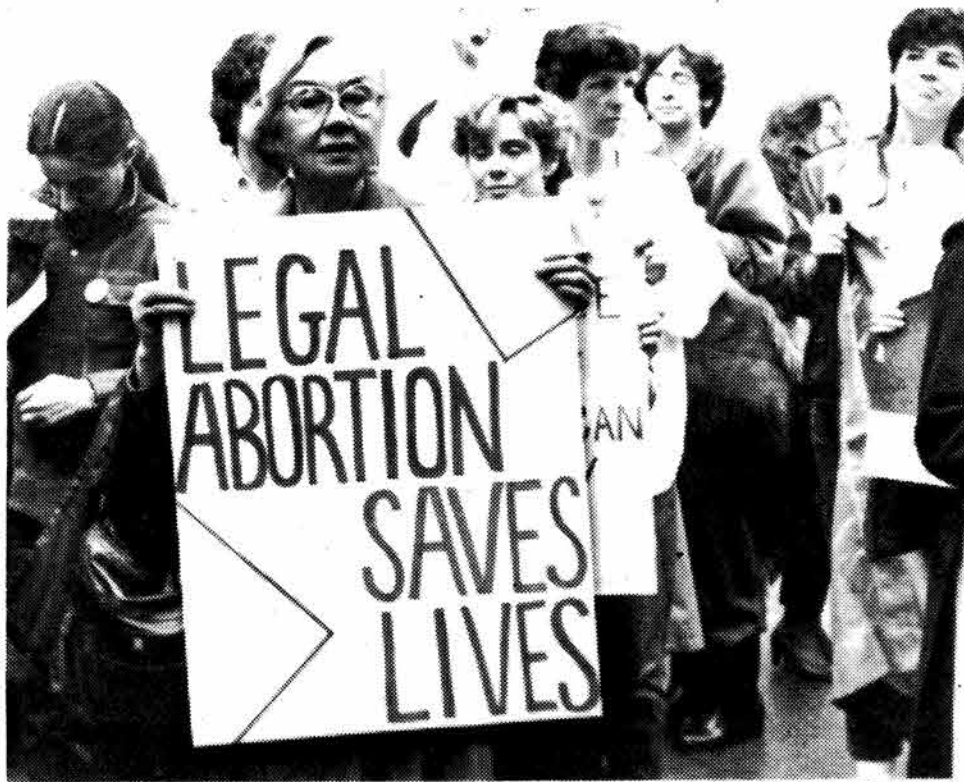
The fight to defend abortion rights is the cutting edge of women's struggle for all of our rights: affirmative action, child care, pay equity, full equality under the law, passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, protection from sexual harassment and violence, and equal opportunities in education and employment.

### Bipartisan attacks on women's rights

Over the past decade, the rulers of this country, who profit from the superexploitation of women, have steadily cut back on all these rights. Their two parties — the Democrats and Republicans — have chipped away at the gains won by women without meeting much organized resistance from supporters of women's rights.

In 1984, both the Republican and Democratic presidential slates, as well as the Catholic church hierarchy, went on an orgy of propaganda that abortion is "murder." Their attacks on legal abortion were allowed to go unanswered. There were virtually no organized protests in support of abortion rights or other rights of women.

NOW, the largest women's rights organization in the country, was silent because its leadership was focusing all the energies of the organization on electing the Democratic ticket of Walter Mondale and



The National Organization for Women initiated this June 8 demonstration in New York in support of abortion rights. Reagan administration is seeking to overturn 1973 Supreme Court ruling legalizing abortion.

Geraldine Ferraro.

The struggle for women's liberation has been subordinated to winning support for capitalist politicians, compromising the demands of women in the process. This has led to downplaying in particular the needs of working-class women, especially those who are Black, Chicana, and Puerto Rican.

A powerful, independent women's rights movement will never be built by suspending our demands and depending upon promises from the Republicans and Democrats. It can only be built by an uncompromising struggle for rights such as abortion and affirmative action that reaches out and mobilizes those who have the most to gain from the battle — the millions of working women who suffer the most from sex discrimination.

NOW can derive strength from important struggles these women have waged. Women clerical workers at Yale University, for example, won a contract last year that included a comparable-worth clause. Their strike won significant support from unions and the local Black community.

In the coal mines, women have waged a decade-long fight to get hired and receive equal treatment on the job. They have not only succeeded in breaking down the barriers that denied women the right to work in the mines, but have won the active support of the United Mine Workers of America.

The attacks against women's rights are not isolated incidents. Women are a special target in a generalized offensive against

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## Thousands at women's conference in Kenya

BY ANDREA GONZÁLEZ

NAIROBI, Kenya — Thousands of women from all over the world waited in the rain to file into the Kenyatta International Center here July 10 for the opening of Forum '85, an international women's

### EYEWITNESS REPORT

conference sponsored by the United Nations for nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). This conference marks the end of the UN-declared "Decade for Women."

This women's rights conference, organized on the themes of peace, equality, and development, is seen by many women as a way to exchange information and influence the decisions of the UN-organized conference on women for government representatives that began here July 15.

Women from various countries and regions of the world have brought documents, position papers, and other materials for discussion in the over 1,000 workshops that make up the conference. In addition to the formal workshops, there are also informal caucuses to discuss common problems and put forward common solutions for women in various regions of the world.

Among the participants are women representing important liberation movements, such as the African National Congress, the organization fighting against the racist apartheid system in South Africa; South West Africa People's Organization, fighting for the independence of Namibia from South Africa; Revolutionary Democratic Front of El Salvador; the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front, which is fighting French colonialism for the liberation of New Caledonia; and representatives of the struggle of the Guatemalan and Chilean people against their respective U.S.-

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## Maine shipyard workers gain support

BY JOHN STUDER AND GARY COHEN

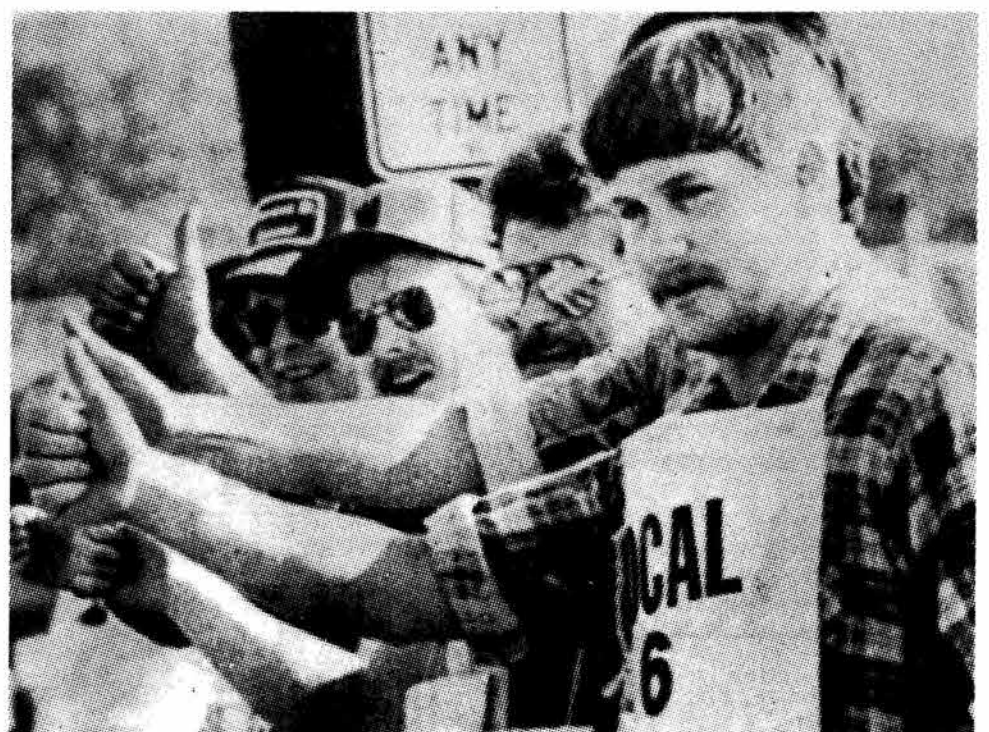
BATH, Maine — The 4,500 members of Local 6 of the Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers of America (IUMSWA), AFL-CIO, remain solidly on strike at the Bath Iron Works, a major East Coast shipyard whose contracts are mainly with the federal government. The company is beginning to lay off salaried employees as work has ground to a halt.

Cars going by honk their horns in support of the strikers. This support has grown so much that the union is now asking supporters to flash their lights instead because the honking is keeping area residents up late into the night.

The company, which was taken over by the national Congoleum conglomerate five years ago, forced the workers out on strike. In interviews with the *Militant*, picketing members of the union explained the central issues in the strike.

The most important thing that workers point to is the demand by the company for a two-tier contract in which newly hired workers would be forced to accept a wage \$3 an hour below that of workers currently in the yard. Most workers view this as the

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Striking members of Local 6 of the Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers of America in Bath, Maine. Solidarity continues to grow as workers stand up to company's takeback demands.

AFL-CIO News



# —SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE—

BY ELLIE GARCÍA

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Socialist workers and other supporters of the *Militant* have worked in many of the plants in this area that are organized by major national industrial unions. However, due to layoffs and little hiring over the last few years, we are no longer working in some of them.

The challenge for the Twin Cities socialist movement was and continues to be to maintain political contact with the work force at plants organized by these unions.

The best way to do this has been to sell the *Militant* and its Spanish-language sister publication, *Perspectiva Mundial*, at these work sites.

A special goal has been to establish sales at rail yards where we can talk to members of the United Transportation Union (UTU). Al-

though the Twin Cities is a rail center with three major rail lines, sales teams lost contact with rail workers over the past few years because of layoffs. Our first challenge was to find a yard entrance where we could introduce the *Militant* to a substantial number of rail workers.

Because of the nature of the rail industry, the shift changes are staggered. The work force is not concentrated at a big plant, but rather is distributed over a large area.

A sales team of two people was established to organize regular sales at the Soo Line railroad. This meant a lot of driving around — first to find a rail yard, and, secondly, to find a shanty or a yard office where there would be a number of rail workers.

After several weeks of searching, the team found a place to sell. Four workers bought the *Militant* at this first sale. Future plans are to sell the *Militant* to rail workers on other lines, including the Burlington Northern, which we've just begun to do.

We regularly distribute the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* at the large Ford plant in St. Paul, organized by the United Auto Workers (UAW).

The sales teams recently discussed whether to sell at the credit union across the street from the plant, where workers have bought four to six *Militants* a week, or at the plant gate, where a fewer number are sold but through which hundreds of auto workers pass. It was decided that at this point the team could be expanded to sell at

both places, but that the plant-gate sale was essential because of the high visibility of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*.

Another regular plant-gate sale has been at the Cornelius Company, which is organized by the United Steelworkers of America (USWA). SWP members and supporters work there.

In the last two months this local has gone through a layoff and has accepted a concession contract. The contract deepened divisions previously instituted through a two-tier wage system that was passed in the preceding contract. SWP members in the plant played an important role in discussions with fellow unionists about the company's campaign to force a part of the work force into a second-class position by giving a higher pay raise to workers in the

top tier than in the lower tier.

*Militant* supporters raised this issue at the union meeting where the contract was voted on and in discussions with coworkers, but the company won this demand and many young workers, newly hired under the two-tier system, were recently laid off.

Sales of the *Militant* at Cornelius had averaged one or two a week. The latest round of layoffs has resulted in increased interest in the *Militant*. Last week the sales team sold three *Militants*. Two of them were bought by workers who were just laid off. They bought them as they were picking up their last pay checks.

Ellie García is a member of USWA Local 1-5199 and is on temporary layoff from Cornelius Co.

## N.Y. SWP campaign petitioning off to fast start

BY FRED MURPHY

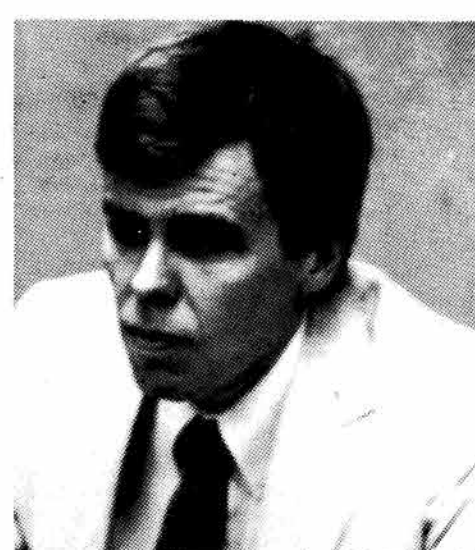
NEW YORK — Dozens of activists took to the streets here July 13 to campaign for the Socialist Workers Party's candidates in the November municipal elections. The day's effort marked the beginning of a two-week drive to collect the 7,500 signatures required on nominating petitions. This is an important part of the fight to win ballot status for Andrea González, Rashaad Ali, and Pat Hayes — SWP candidates for mayor, city council president, and Brooklyn borough president respectively.

The drive got off to an excellent start as petitioners gathered some 5,500 signatures. This surpassed the goal of 4,000 set for the opening day of the campaign. Activists also sold 230 copies of the socialist periodicals, the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and the *Young Socialist*, and more than \$100 worth of books and pamphlets.

By conducting the petition drive, the socialists seek to forestall any attempt by the city's rulers to block the SWP from the ballot. The drive will also help lay the basis for a successful fight if such an attempt is nonetheless made. (In the 1984 presidential elections, the state government of New York did manage to keep the SWP off the ballot.)

Alongside this important fight to maintain and strengthen the SWP's status as a legal political party, the socialists are taking the opportunity of petitioning to talk to as many persons as possible about the party's views on the crisis facing working people and how to surmount it. Campaigners make it a point to talk not only to registered voters but also to young people, immigrant workers, and others the government does not consider qualified to vote in its elections.

A leaflet being widely distributed by petitioners details the mounting attacks on the rights and living standards of working people and Washington's deepening mili-



Socialist Workers Party candidates Andrea González (left) for mayor of New York City, Rashaad Ali (center) for New York City Council president, and Pat Hayes (right) for Brooklyn borough president.

tary intervention in Central America. It explains the SWP candidates' view that "politics . . . begins not in the voting booths but in the streets and on the picket lines, where the real power of working people can be mobilized." The leaflet cites the popular revolutions in Cuba and Nicaragua as examples for U.S. working people to emulate, explaining that a workers' and farmers' government like the one in Nicaragua represents "the only way to halt once and for all the escalating attacks against the unions and against every struggle by working people and the oppressed."

Activists who petitioned on July 13 report getting a very receptive response to these ideas from many of the thousands who were approached on street corners and at shopping malls. Most often those who signed the petition did so either because they believed socialists have a democratic right to ballot status or because they strongly oppose the city's current mayor, Democrat Edward Koch. But a significant

number stopped for longer discussions about the ideas the SWP is presenting.

This was especially true in the city's large Black and Puerto Rican communities, where much of the petition drive is focused. One petitioner reported an animated encounter with a Puerto Rican woman who declared that just because the SWP's mayoral candidate's "name is González, it doesn't mean she is going to be any good for our people." The woman cited the names of several Democratic politicians who are Puerto Rican and who have done nothing to lead a fight against the conditions the community faces. After a rich discussion about the capitalist parties and the need for independent working-class political action, the woman willingly signed the SWP petition.

While the campaigners encountered considerable sentiment against incumbent Mayor Koch, as well as a certain number of outspoken Koch supporters, they reported finding little or no enthusiasm for

the liberals who are challenging Koch in the Democratic Party primary: City Council President Carol Bellamy and State Assembly member Herman Farrell. Farrell, who is Black, had hoped to tap the support that existed in the city last year for Jesse Jackson's bid for the Democrats' presidential nomination.

The SWP petition campaign in New York City will continue through Saturday, July 27. Later that day, a three-pronged celebration of the end of the drive, the 32nd anniversary of the beginning of the Cuban revolution, and the first anniversary of Socialist Books (see story on facing page) will be held.

Supporters of the campaign in the New York area who want to help in the petition drive can call (212) 219-3679. Saturday mobilizations begin at 9:30 a.m., with teams being dispatched from the campaign headquarters at 79 Leonard Street in Manhattan.

### The Militant tells the truth — Subscribe today!

That way you'll get facts about Washington's war against working people at home and abroad: from El Salvador and Nicaragua, to embattled workers and farmers in the United States. Read our proposals on how to stop the bipartisan U.S. war in Central America and the Caribbean and the employer offensive here. Read our ideas on what it will take to replace this system of exploitation, racism, and sexism with a system that's in the interest of working people.

At the plant gates, picket lines, and unemployment lines, the *Militant* is there, reporting the

news, participating in the struggle. To subscribe today, fill out the attached coupon.

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# New pamphlets on abortion rights, fight for equality

BY ELLEN HAYWOOD

The fundamental right of women to safe, legal abortion and to control their own bodies is under attack. In the United States, big social movements during the '60s and early '70s, including the women's liberation movement, won the legalization of abortion in 1973. However, access to safe, legal abortions has been severely restricted since then. The biggest blow was in 1976 with the passage of the Hyde amendment by Congress. This cut off Medicaid funding for abortions, denying many poor, Black, Latina, and Asian women access to their constitutional right to abortion.

In the last few years there has been a dramatic increase in the propaganda campaign led by Democratic and Republican politicians against women's right to abortion. This atmosphere encouraged the wave of terrorist bombings in 1984 and early 1985 which has closed down or severely restricted the operation of abortion clinics. In many cases, these clinics were the only place women could obtain safe, legal abortions in a given community. Due to the public outcry against these terrorist attacks on women's rights, the government has been forced to prosecute a number of right-wing foes of abortion rights for some of the clinic bombings.

However, the government-sponsored restrictions and propaganda campaign against abortion continue. The National Organization for Women and other national organizations have recently launched an effort to get the truth out about the importance of women's right to abortion and are discussing ways to increase the visibility of the majority support that exists for women's rights.

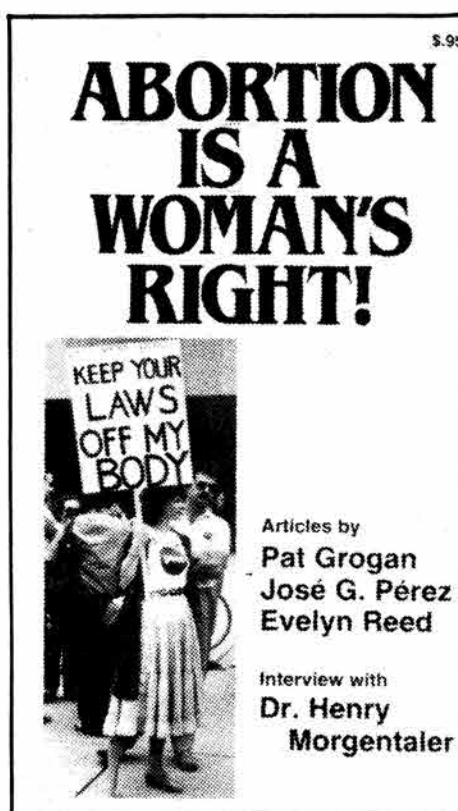
Pathfinder Press has published two pamphlets that are important weapons in the fight to defend and extend women's right to abortion.

*Is Biology Women's Destiny?* is a reissue of an important article by Evelyn Reed, a women's liberation fighter and longtime leader of the Socialist Workers Party, who died in 1979.

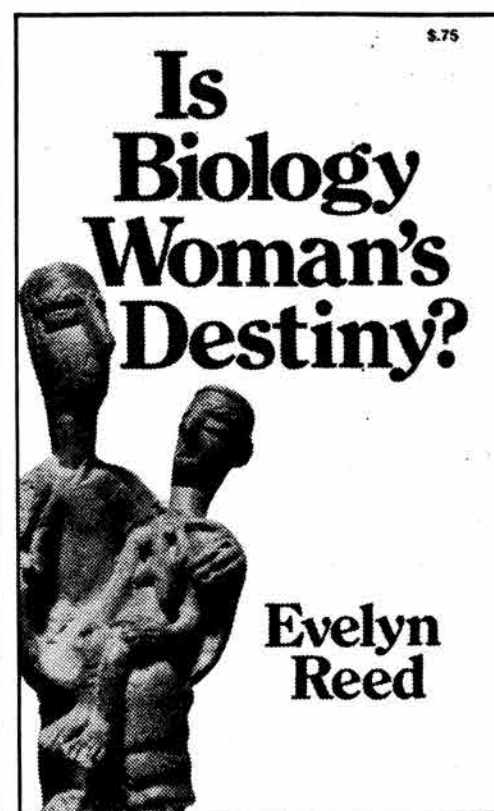
Reed explains that women's oppression was caused by the division of society into ruling and ruled classes — that is, as a result of social factors, not biological ones. It can be ended through a determined struggle by the working class, allied with women and all the exploited and oppressed, to take political power out of the hands of the bankers and businessmen, and to begin to build a new, socialist society.

The second pamphlet, *Abortion is a Woman's Right*, by Pat Grogan, José G. Pérez, and Evelyn Reed, is a collection of articles about the struggle for abortion rights in the United States and Canada. It includes an interview with Dr. Henry Morgentaler, a key figure in the fight for abortion rights being waged in both Eng-

land Canada and the oppressed French-speaking nation of Quebec. As the preface explains, "This pamphlet is intended to be part of the effort to defend abortion rights. It is designed to be circulated broadly — on the job, among unionists, Blacks, Latinos, family farmers, and students. It answers the antiabortion propaganda of the ruling class and provides a basic explanation of why working people should support abortion rights. It is also intended for use by women's rights activists,



Articles by  
Pat Grogan  
José G. Pérez  
Evelyn Reed  
  
Interview with  
Dr. Henry  
Morgentaler



Evelyn  
Reed

*Is Biology Women's Destiny?* and *Abortion is a Woman's Right* are two new pamphlets published by Pathfinder Press.

lish Canada and the oppressed French-speaking nation of Quebec.

who will find it a valuable source of information and political argumentation in the fight to defend abortion rights."

To obtain the pamphlets and to help distribute them, visit the nearest socialist bookstore (see directory on page 12) or order them from Pathfinder Press, 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014. Enclose \$ .95 for *Abortion is a Woman's Right* and \$ .75 for *Is Biology Women's Destiny?* Please include \$ .75 postage and handling for each order.

## Socialist offices in Seattle hit by arson attack

BY DAN FEIN

SEATTLE, Wash. — On July 14, the Socialist Workers Party campaign offices here were subject to an arson attack. Fortunately, this terrorist attack was unsuccessful and no damage was done to the offices.

When informed the next morning, the Arson Department in Seattle refused to conduct an on-the-spot investigation and report.

This attack comes on top of a phone threat two weeks earlier to Chris Horner, SWP candidate for mayor. The caller, sounding enraged, called Horner a "nigger lover" and threatened Horner saying, "You will pay." The caller screamed, "U.S. out of Grenada, that's bullshit."

A police report was then made, and two requests were made to Mayor Charles Royer. One was for police protection for the Horner-for-mayor campaign office; and the second, for a public statement by Royer denouncing intimidation in the 1985 Seattle mayoral race. Royer refused both requests.

The Chris Horner for Mayor campaign holds Mayor Royer responsible for any future attacks on their offices or on Horner. It is his responsibility to uphold free speech in Seattle.

Letters of protest and telegrams demanding an immediate arson squad investigation to find and prosecute those responsible for the attack; police protection for the socialist campaign headquarters; and a statement by the mayor denouncing the use of intimidation of the socialist candidate and his campaign supporters should be sent to Mayor Charles Royer, the Municipal Building, 600 4th Ave., Seattle, Wash. 98164.

Copies of telegrams and letters should be sent to the socialist campaign headquarters at 5517 Rainier Ave. S., Seattle, Wash. 98118.

## Goodman defense rally set for July 27

BY DUNCAN WILLIAMS

DENVER — The Political Rights Defense Fund (PRDF) has scheduled a "Rally for Democratic Rights" here for July 27. The event, to be held at the hall of United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 766, will culminate two months of intensive work in defense of the rights of Sally Goodman.

Goodman, a 27-year-old electrician at the Martin Marietta plant here, and a member of UAW Local 766, had her security clearance suspended in late April. This action by the Department of Defense capped more than three years of investigation and harassment of Goodman.

The investigation was initiated when a "confidential source" told the Defense Investigative Service that Goodman was a socialist and a lesbian. Since neither of these things is illegal or relevant to her job, Goodman has consistently refused to answer questions related to her political beliefs or personal life. For this "noncooperation," her clearance was suspended.

Supporters of Goodman's rights have moved quickly to protest this attack on workers' rights and to broaden the base of support in her fight.

At the recent national women miners' conference sponsored by the Coal Employment Project (CEP) in Price, Utah, several participants signed up as endorsers of Goodman's fight to regain her clearance. These included: Betty Jean Hall, director of the CEP; Carol Davis, vice-president of United Mine Workers Local 2874 and president of the Pennsylvania Women Miners Support Group; and Cosby Totten, chair of the board of the CEP.

Betty Robinson, a UAW international representative, and Corrae Benson, co-chair of UAW Local 110 Community Action Program council, added their names to the list of endorsers at a UAW regional women's conference in Oklahoma.

Joe Gordon, president of UAW Local 1805 in New Orleans, is another new supporter.

In June the Goodman case was the subject of a page-one article in *Westword*, a Denver weekly paper. (See the July 19 *Militant* for substantial excerpts from the *Westword* article.)

Goodman was a speaker at a local gay pride rally here in June; more than 200 people at the event signed petitions on her behalf and donated \$40 to cover the expenses of the case. A fundraiser in late June raised nearly \$700.

Speakers already confirmed for the June

27 rally include Goodman; James Joye, executive director of the Rocky Mountain American Civil Liberties Union; and Héctor Marroquín, a Socialist Workers Party member and immigrant from Mexico who has been fighting against the government's attempts to deport him.

The rally will be held at 3774 S. Kalamath in the Denver suburb of Englewood. It begins at 7:30 p.m. and a \$1 donation is requested. For more information call (303) 698-2550.

PRDF has produced a new brochure on the Goodman case as well as petitions and reprints of newspaper articles. Contributions and requests for materials should be sent to PRDF, 25 W 3rd Ave., Denver, Colo. 80223.

## New York Socialist Books to celebrate Cuban revolution

BY MICHAEL BAUMANN

NEW YORK — To celebrate the Cuban revolution — and the first anniversary of the opening of Manhattan's newest political bookstore — Socialist Books is hosting a benefit concert July 27.

Performing will be Puerto Rican composer and singer Roy Brown, one of the city's most popular musicians.

The concert, to be held in the large meeting hall adjacent to the bookstore, will also kick off a campaign to publicize and distribute the new volume of Fidel Castro's speeches just off the presses — *War and Crisis in the Americas*.

Proceeds will help maintain and expand Socialist Books, which in one short year has already become one of the city's largest outlets for political books, pamphlets, and periodicals.

Socialist Books presents  
**ROY BROWN**  
in concert  
  
Celebrate  
• Cuban Revolution  
• New Book by Fidel Castro  
• 1st Year of Socialist Books  
  
SATURDAY, JULY 27, 7:30 P.M.

Concert will be held at Socialist Books, 79 Leonard St. in Manhattan. A \$5 donation is requested. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

In a city the size of New York, most forms of advertising are prohibitively expensive. But supporters of the store have found a few ways to get around this obstacle.

One of the most productive has been to set up street-corner tables in various parts of the city. By far the most successful sales spot so far has been a busy street corner in the heart of Brooklyn's Caribbean community.

Nearly every Saturday supporters of Socialist Books take a mammoth selection of books — in English, French, and Spanish — to this sales spot and display them on a series of folding tables 20 feet long.

The tables there have now become a regular fixture. Regular customers stop by each week. One has even begun to call the store in advance to make sure that particular books are included in the selection. Others, after seeing the table, have made the trip into Manhattan to see the rest of the store.

On three different occasions, sales have averaged \$100 an hour, and rarely are they less than two-thirds that.

To get out the word to political activists about the breadth and scope of books the store carries, supporters make a point of setting up book tables at as many political events as possible. Sales at picket lines and demonstrations against U.S. intervention in Central America have not only helped get out valuable literature on these revolutionary struggles. They have also let people know there is a bookstore that specializes in making this kind of material available.

In its second year, kicked off by the benefit concert, we hope to do even better in getting out the word. Socialist Books is located at 79 Leonard St. The phone number is (212) 226-8445.





Some of the \$5 million in damage caused by 1983 CIA-organized terrorist attack on fuel storage tanks in Corinto. War drains resources that would otherwise go toward solving social and economic problems.

# How 'contra' war affects port city in Nicaragua

## U.S. unionists meet with dockers

The following article was prepared by Willie M. Reid and Patricia Sánchez, who are members of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 4-367 in Houston, and by Bill Warrick.

"Traitors, imposters, false prophets — get down on your knees, because I am going to invoke the sacred names of my unconquerable brothers that have died defending the liberty of Nicaragua."

This is the message on a banner in the hall of the local Sandinista Defense Committee (CDS) in the Nicaraguan seaport of Corinto. The banner also lists the names of 16 local people who fell defending Nicaragua from the U.S.-sponsored *contra* war in 1984.

Félix Manuel Ruiz Lezcano, CDS zonal coordinator, explained the challenges facing working people in Corinto in a meeting with a group of U.S. trade unionists last February. We visited Nicaragua on a trip sponsored by Militant/Perspectiva Mundial Tours, Inc.

"In Nicaragua we hold our heroes very high," Ruiz said. "We cannot give in, or their deaths would mean nothing. The names on that banner belonged to workers from right here in this neighborhood. All but three worked on the docks. Those listed died this last year; more have died since, defending the revolution."

### Port is military target

Corinto is Nicaragua's only deepwater port. The city's 25,000 people depend

He described with pride how as the entire city was organizing to evacuate, people formed a human chain to remove every bag of coffee — a main source of foreign exchange for Nicaragua — from a warehouse near the burning tanks.

"We had only as much water as three fire engines could pump," he explained. "The lives of 1,800 people living closest to the tanks were immediately threatened. The whole city faced the danger of health problems from the fumes, particularly the children."

"It took firefighters called in from all over the country — and chemical foam donated by Cuba, Mexico and Colombia, along with their assistance — to put out the fire."

"It burned for three days. We lost 1.2 million gallons of diesel fuel. The installations will cost \$5 million to rebuild. But the port was back in operation quickly."

A supply of chemical foam, donated by Cuba, is now a permanent part of Corinto's firefighting equipment.

In 1984, the CIA organized the mining of the Corinto port. Seven boats were damaged, one a merchant ship, but none were sunk. The mining stopped after international protests on Nicaragua's behalf. In Corinto some fishermen devised ways to make metal nets to sweep for mines. Small fishing boats, turned minesweepers, lead all merchant ships in and out of the harbor now.

### Affects of war

The constant military threat against the port means that permanent preparations for defense are the priority of the CDS here. The war has meant that local residents cannot dedicate their main efforts to tackling social and economic problems left over from the dictatorship of Anastasio Somoza, who was overthrown in 1979.

Despite this, Ruiz told us, robbery and violent crimes have been drastically reduced in the city. But drugs, alcoholism, and prostitution are still problems, as is unemployment. The port provides only 6,000 jobs; fishing and shell-gathering employ another 2,000.

The few factories in Corinto are limited by their dependency on imported materials and spare parts. Ruiz explained, "Many acres of cotton grow here, but we can't make cloth. The small cloth factory here uses imported thread. The one fertilizer plant here is a blending station, mixing products from other areas and its machinery depends on imported parts."

After the 1979 revolution, Corinto set up a readjustment center for former prostitutes, where they could get job training. The success of the center is tied to creating more jobs, Ruiz said.

"Without jobs, the positive effects of the readjustment program are shortlived and some of the women return to prostitution. Many of the young people are idle with no skills and little education. They have had no future except jobs on the docks, when they exist."

One of the first steps of the new revolutionary government that came to power in 1979 was to create jobs. Unemployment was reduced from over 30 percent to 17.5 percent by the end of 1980. But as the mercenary war financed by Washington intensified, more and more of the national budget has had to go to defense. This year's budget allocates 40 percent of the nation's revenues to the war effort. Top priority for the scarce resources available

to make jobs, develop agriculture and industry, and provide social services goes to regions of the country much harder hit by war than Corinto.

### Changes in union movement

Despite the hardships faced by working people in Corinto, their living conditions have improved since the downfall of Somoza. Ruiz described what the local labor movement was like under the dictatorship and the evolution of the unions in the city since.

"Only three unions existed here under Somoza," he said. Their leaderships were trained in the "schools of free unionism" set up by the CIA-financed American Institute for Free Labor Development (AIFLD). Corruption ran rampant. "Snitches informed on the membership," said Ruiz, "and a general backwardness prevailed."

"Somoza allowed no opposition of any kind. And the dockworkers, kept isolated, lived in constant fear for their jobs. In 1962 some workers protested their conditions. The dictator sent a battalion of National Guardsmen to violently crush their strike. These men were identified, fired, and blacklisted."

Ruiz reported that today there are 12 unions in Corinto, most of them affiliated to the Sandinista Workers Federation (CST).

The process of transforming the unions in Corinto into instruments defending the workers was not automatic after the revolution.

The revolutionary movement against Somoza had been weaker in Corinto than in some other parts of the country. The union officials themselves were Somozaists, Ruiz explained. And although they suffer periodic unemployment, many dockworkers

have a privileged position relative to other workers in the country. Ruiz said that the dockers are paid based on the tonnage they unload from ships each week. In a busy week, they can make three or four times the wages of a low-paid factory worker in Managua.

After Somoza was overthrown, the Somozaist union officials were still in office in Corinto. Some fled shortly after the revolution, taking union funds with them. The general head of the warehouse stevedores union, Sacaría Hernández, left the country, teaming up with ex-Sandinista Edén Pastora, who set up a CIA-financed mercenary group in Costa Rica. Hernández maintained contact with some forces in the Corinto dockworkers union, seeking to undermine support for the revolution.

### War raises consciousness

When the U.S.-backed mercenaries stepped up their attacks on Nicaragua, the government mobilized 150 Corinto stevedores as part of the reserve battalions sent to the war front to defend the country from the *contras*. The stevedores sent back messages from the front, explaining the importance of the war effort. When they returned home, they began trying to raise the consciousness of others in the union on the importance of the revolution and the need for sacrifices to defend it.

Meanwhile, reactionary union officials on the docks were trying to whip up the workers to go on strike for higher wages.

When they struck, the government negotiated with the union officials. They sought to explain the great difficulties the young revolution faced, the drain on the limited national resources, and the priority that had to be placed on defense of the

Continued on next page



Militant/Michael Pennock  
Félix Ruiz, leader of Sandinista neighborhood committee, described transformation of dockers' union under impact of revolution and war.

mainly on the port and related service jobs for their livelihood.

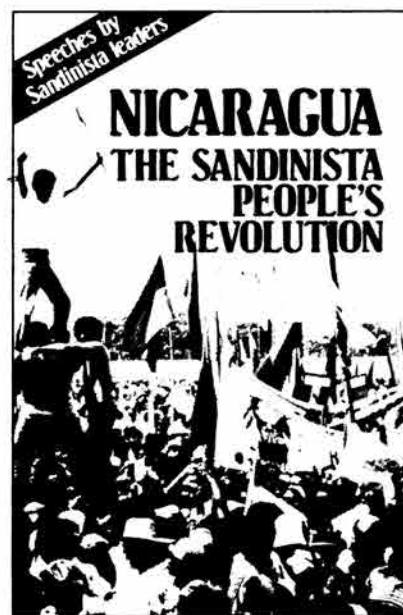
"We are also a primary military target," Ruiz continued. "That poses a continuing security problem for the people. *Contra* attacks started in 1982 and have not stopped."

"At first, enemy planes flew overhead trying to bomb the harbor. But key sites, like the fuel storage tanks, were successfully defended with anti-aircraft guns."

"Then, on Oct. 10, 1983, in a surprise sea attack a high-speed boat fired self-exploding bullets into one of the diesel fuel storage tanks, setting off a raging fire."

We viewed the destruction later when we toured the harbor. Ruiz pointed to a pile of burnt, crumpled steel — the only thing left of the three tanks lost — the brick rubble that housed the Esso import-export administrative offices, and the surrounding scorched tanks whose roofs collapsed from the intense heat.

## What they're saying about Nicaragua: The Sandinista People's Revolution Speeches by Sandinista leaders



"We have so little opportunity to hear directly what the Nicaraguans think and feel, why they are so proud of the gains that they have made since July 19, 1979, that this collection of speeches fills a significant void."

Debbie Reuben  
National Coordinator  
National Network in Solidarity  
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This new collection contains more than 40 speeches by leaders of the Nicaraguan revolution. 400 pages, \$7.95 (include \$.75 for postage and handling). Available from Pathfinder Press, 410 West Street, New York, NY 10014.



# Nicaragua celebrates revolution's 6th year

BY BILL GRETTER

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Throughout the country Nicaraguans are mobilizing to celebrate the sixth anniversary of their Sandinista People's Revolution. A mass rally will take place here in the capital on July 19, the date six years ago that the workers and peasants overthrew the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Anastasio Somoza.

This year's demonstration in the Carlos Fonseca Plaza takes place under the slogan "Nicaragua, victorious, will never sell out or surrender."

The days leading up to July 19 have been filled with activities commemorating events in the war of liberation. Smaller cities, which were liberated in 1979 before Managua itself, have held rallies and festivals to celebrate their triumph over the dictator's National Guard.

In Managua, July 17 will be celebrated as the "Day of Joy." This marks the date on which the hated dictator fled, just before the final collapse of his regime.

An all-day event will combine a children's party, sports spectacular, parade, and street dancing.

The sixth anniversary campaign in Managua also takes the form of an "economic insurrection," recalling the combative general strike that began six weeks before Somoza's downfall. The goal is to "get Managua up to date" in the tasks of production and defense.

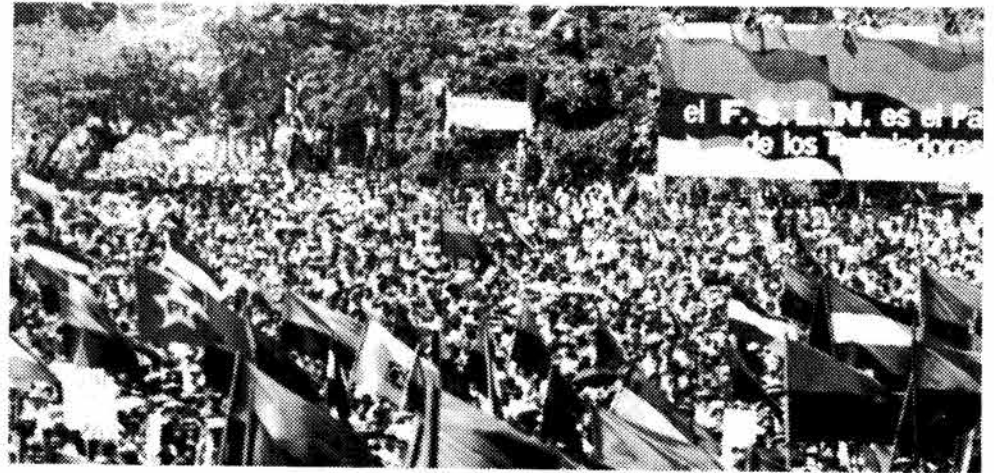
On May 1, the Sandinista National Liberation Front leadership presented a 12-point plan, laying out the challenge facing the nation of defeating U.S.-financed and trained counterrevolutionaries attacking Nicaraguan territory. The Sandinista statement emphasized in its first point the need

"to guarantee the defense of the revolution, which makes possible the survival of the gains of the people, and is the only way to fulfill our dreams, our future, and the future of our children."

Other points stressed participation in the militias and Patriotic Military Service, and the need to improve labor productivity and efficiency to support the military effort. The "Managua up to date" campaign is a mobilization to carry out this perspective.

In the countryside being "up to date" means, more than anything else, advancing the land reform. In a wave of ceremonies in all parts of the country, more than a million acres of land will be given to individuals and farm cooperatives.

The plan is to distribute more land under the agrarian reform this year than in any previous year of the revolution.



Militant/Ellen Kratka

Last year's commemoration of July 19, 1979, victory. Sign says, "Sandinista National Liberation Front is the party of workers."

## Corinto under the gun of 'contra' war

Continued from previous page

country and aiding the lowest-paid workers and peasants.

The negotiations lasted a week. The reactionary union leaders agreed to end the strike only after a modest wage increase was granted.

Discussions deepened inside the union as more class-conscious workers returned from the front. Slowly the majority of the membership was won away from the policies of the ossified misleadership.

"New leaders were chosen out of this process," Ruiz explained, "which led to the disclosure of the connection between the

old leadership and the traitor Edén Pastora. Their plan was to fan the workers' problems into work stoppages in order to sabotage port operations that could eventually help bring down the Sandinista government."

The Sandinistas approached the Corinto situation with maturity, not using coercion against the workers, nor manipulating decisions they made. The old officialdom became discredited and some of the stevedores active in the war effort were elected to office in their place.

"The CST here learned a lot from this experience," Ruiz said. "As more information was exposed, we learned, most of all, what things the union membership must decide and what acts carried out by union members are crimes against the people and must be treated as such."

After our meeting with Ruiz, he took us down to the docks to talk with some of the workers. We had a discussion with a couple of dozen workers taking their lunch break. The discussion indicated the unevenness in consciousness that still exists among these unionists, as well as the progress that has been made.

Our visit coincided with sharp price increases on basic goods, part of new economic measures approved by the government the week before. Many of the dockworkers, though informed of these measures, were not prepared for the new reality. Some did not understand that wages would also be raised soon.

"The prices are rising and our salaries are low," one worker complained. "Most of us are the only family member working."

"Our salaries go up and down," said another, "because we only work when something is delivered. We spend a lot of time sitting here, waiting for work."

"We're behind every other place," the first worker chimed in. "Many factories have commissaries. We need one here." The commissaries are distribution centers at the workplace making it possible for workers to buy their basic food, cleaning, and clothing goods cheaply.

At this point, an older worker entered the discussion, pointing out that the main source of the economic problems facing dockworkers was the contra war backed by Washington.

"The problem is the war," he explained. "For instance, it makes it impossible to get parts to do the work we have."

"Yes," said another, "we need parts for the forklifts and the overhead-crane cables are rotting."

### Views on war

We asked the workers about the 1983 harbor fire set by the contras. The worker who had complained most bitterly about the price increases said the war was "politics, and we don't know about that. We just work and take care of our families." Others quietly said the fire had "hurt us."

At lunch with us later, Ruiz thanked us for talking with the dockworkers.

"We're glad you did this," he said. "Now we understand better the work we must do. We did not do enough to prepare these workers for the new economic measures. We need to do more than inform them. We need to have more meetings in the neighborhoods to go over the new measures."

Ruiz explained that the new measures would help stabilize the economy, but "we also need to produce more." This is a big challenge, he said, because "we are forced to prepare militarily" at the same time. "Many of our best people are mobilized at the front. Almost every family has lost a loved one."

We left Corinto with a firmer sense of our obligation as U.S. trade unionists to speak out against the war the U.S. government has imposed on Nicaragua. That was underscored by the message the older dockworkers asked us to bring to the people of the United States: "We want peace. We could solve our problems if we had peace."

## Texas town hears truth about Nicaragua

BY FLOYD CURETON

KERRVILLE, Tex. — The truth about the Nicaraguan revolution was brought to this small, conservative-controlled Texas town last month.

Cindy Evans, a representative of Witness For Peace, gave a slideshow presentation on June 20 about the group's visit earlier this year to Nicaragua.

Evans was impressed by the progress the revolution had made in eradicating most childhood diseases, including polio, and in making available land, housing, schools, and day-care centers. Tour-group members were also impressed with the progress made in combating illiteracy and the government's willingness to listen to the opinions and ideas of the workers and farmers.

The people Evans met were open and not afraid to express their opinions. This is in sharp contrast to neighboring El Salvador, whose U.S.-backed government responds to dissent with brutal repression.

While in the northern part of Nicaragua, Evans saw the atrocities committed by the U.S.-organized contras (counterrevolutionaries). She met women whose children had been murdered by these mercenaries.

After the slideshow, there was a lively discussion on U.S. government harassment of people returning from Nicaragua. Participants were urged to go to Nicaragua and see the revolution for themselves.

## Menchú tells of Guatemala war

BY JANET POST

SEATTLE — "Our task is to stop the war." That was the message hundreds of people heard at a meeting for Rigoberta Menchú.

Menchú, a Quiche Indian woman from Guatemala, is the narrator of *When the Mountains Tremble*, a film on political repression in her country. She is also author of the book *I, Rigoberta Menchú: An Indian Woman in Guatemala*. The June 19 meeting was sponsored by the Guatemalan Solidarity Committee.

Menchú, who recently returned from the mountains of Guatemala, gave a moving account of the political situation in her homeland where a repressive dictatorship is being resisted by a popular guerrilla insurgency.

"Many Indians," she said, "will live in the mountains as long as necessary. They are refugees, always on the move from the army. They survive just by eating plants and roots, have no medical or surgical supplies, and no sanitary facilities."

Menchú's own family was killed by the Guatemalan army. Her brother was burned to death when the army occupied her village. Her father, a leader of the peasant resistance movement, participated in the 1980 occupation of the Spanish embassy to protest government killings. He was murdered along with 36 others when the army set fire to the embassy and blocked the exits. Menchú's mother was tortured by the army and left abandoned to be eaten by wild animals.

The military regime, she explained, says it "must stop communism." This, she said, means "anyone accused of being a communist is destined to be tortured, exiled, and killed."

Menchú told the audience that "El Salvador and Guatemala receive millions of dollars from the U.S. government. Nicaragua has confronted mines put in its harbors and an economic blockade. War came to us and was imposed on us."

"Those who are caught fleeing the army, suspected of being resistance organizers, or in contact with the popular guerrilla movement," said Menchú, "are put into government 'model villages.'" Some 100,000 peasants have already been placed in these model villages.

"These villages are more like concentration camps," Menchú said. "Residents of the model villages," she explained, "are forced to build road and air strips for the army."

Menchú pointed to the demonstrations

by U.S. working people against military aid to Central America as crucial to the Guatemalan workers' and peasants' struggle. "We also need more delegations from the United States to find out what is going on in Guatemala," she said.



Militant/Janet Post

Rigoberta Menchú, a Guatemalan Indian, reports on war and repression in countryside.

## Sandinista book well-received in Denver

BY MIKE HEBERT

DENVER — Since its publication in April, *Nicaragua: The Sandinista People's Revolution* has been the best seller at the Militant Bookstore here.

Seventy-seven copies of this new collection of speeches by leaders of the Nicaraguan revolution and government were sold in the first two months since its release.

More than half the sales were either at political events or to antiwar activists. At the April 20 antiwar demonstration of more than 1,000 people here, two people circulated through the crowd selling the book. At the march and the socialist open house afterward the entire stock was sold out.

Floyd Fowler, one of the salespeople, said the key was "getting people to look at the book and at its table of contents. Once they saw what was inside it was easy to

convince them that they should buy it."

At the end of April Nicaragua's minister of culture, Ernesto Cardenal, visited Colorado. Thirteen copies of the new book were sold at two large public meetings he addressed.

Other sales have been to coworkers on and off the job, through the mail, at the bookstore, at street fairs, and combined with *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* sales.

Socialists discovered two things through our campaign to sell this book: first, those interested in Central America and stopping the U.S.-backed war there often want to buy it; and second, sales of the Nicaragua book increased the sales of other titles and of the *Militant* and *Perspectivas Mundial* in the bookstore.



# Fight for abortion rights in Canada, Quebec

BY PAT GROGAN

Women's rights fighters in the United States can learn important lessons and draw strength from a determined fight for abortion rights being waged in both English-speaking Canada and the oppressed, French-speaking nation of Quebec.

In the last year, the largest abortion-rights actions in Canada's history have taken place. Women's rights fighters, unionists, and students have organized to meet new attacks and have taken the offensive in an attempt to win new rights.

In 1969, Canada's federal law was changed to make abortion legal, but only under extremely restricted conditions — only when performed in a hospital after a three-doctor committee has granted its consent on the basis that the woman's health or life is endangered.

One of the key battles against this anti-woman law was fought in Quebec. The women's liberation movement, together with the mass struggle against the national oppression of the Québécois people, led in 1976 to the establishment of a network of abortion clinics in Quebec. This is a violation of the federal law and these clinics are under attack by the government today.

In 1983, women's rights fighters took the offensive in issuing a new challenge to the restrictive federal law.

Abortion-rights leader Dr. Henry Morgentaler opened two clinics outside of Quebec. One in Toronto, Ontario; and another in Winnipeg, Manitoba. He was brought to trial in Toronto, and for the fourth time a Canadian jury acquitted him.

That acquittal is being appealed. Mass mobilizations of abortion-rights supporters were organized. They succeeded in keeping the Ontario clinic open against efforts of the government and the "right-to-life" organization to shut it down.

The fight today to bring down the federal law, establish clinics in English-speaking Canada, and protect the gains in Quebec is growing.

The following are excerpts from interviews I conducted on a trip to Canada in April with leaders of the abortion-rights movements there. An interview with Dr. Henry Morgentaler, reprinted from the *Militant*, is available in the new Pathfinder Press pamphlet, *Abortion is a Woman's Right* (see review on page 3).

**Cliff Pilkey is the president of the 800,000-strong Ontario Federation of Labor (OFL), the equivalent of a state affiliate of the AFL-CIO in the United States. The OFL favors women's right to abortion, reflecting the strong pro-choice sentiment among working people.**

**Question.** You have been very active in the fight here for abortion rights. Why do you think this is an important question for the labor movement to get involved in?

**Answer.** Well, what we're for here in

Ontario is choice. We feel very strongly that women should make the determination as to whether or not to have an abortion. It's up to them. It's not a question to be determined by the state or any group.

Even some of our members who are against abortion come to me and say that while they don't support abortion, they do think that women ought to make their own determination. It's their right. It's their body.

And for me personally, I think that when women do make that choice, it ought to be done in a safe, reasonable way. I think we have to say that the butchers have got to be put on the sidelines. The moment that you have strong antiabortion legislation, then these butchers will emerge. And many women will die, and others will suffer impairment to their bodies and health.

**Q.** How deep is the support for abortion rights among working people, among union members?

**A.** I think the labor movement reflects the general attitude among Canadians. In terms of the polls, it's about 70 percent who support the right of women to make that choice. And I think that reflects the attitude of the labor movement.

There is no question that the labor movement has taken a strong stand on this issue. There is a strong women's movement, and many of them are members of the labor movement. So, the labor movement has been historically on the side of a woman's right to choose, and it continues to be.

**Q.** Under the present system, access to abortion is limited and the decisions by the hospital committees are arbitrary. How does this affect working women, poor women?

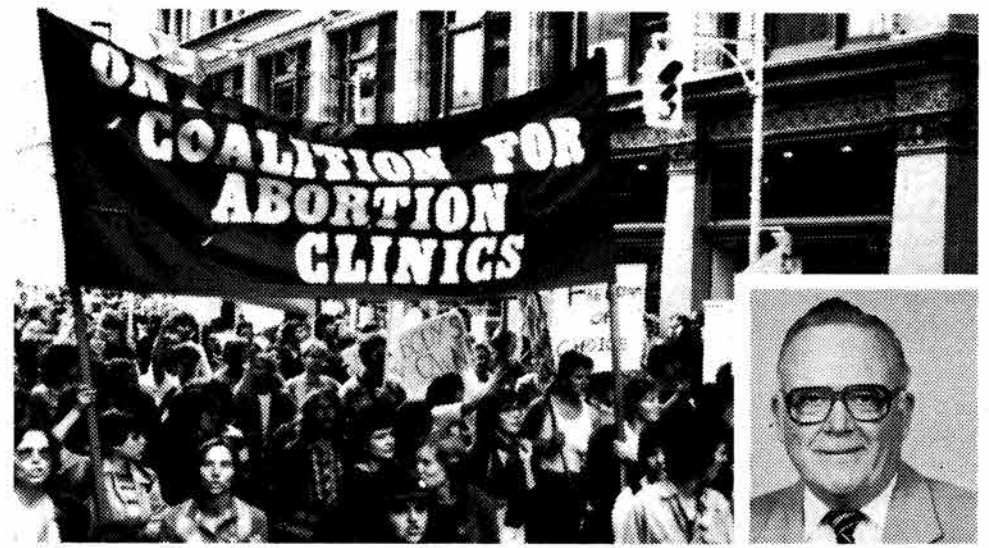
**A.** This is a critical point. First of all on the question of poor women. This is why I think this is a working-class issue. Poor women do not have the same opportunity as the rich. Rich women have always been able to get abortions. They could fly to other countries if they had to. Working-class people didn't have that opportunity. They don't have the financial resources. So it has always impacted on the working woman, and I strongly believe that it ought to be addressed as a working-class issue.

If we are serious in advancing the cause of working people, then this is part of it.

**Josée Chapdelaine is a member of the Executive Committee of the National Students Association of Quebec (ANEQ) at the Lionel Groulx College just outside Montreal.**

**ANEQ has taken the lead in mobilizing the support that exists among Quebec's working people to oppose the attacks on abortion rights.**

**One target of the "right-to-life" has been the community health clinics (CLSCs) that perform abortions. Chap-**



1983 demonstration for abortion rights in Toronto, Canada. Cliff Pilkey (inset) is president of Ontario Federation of Labor, which favors women's right to abortion.

**delaine is a leader of the ongoing struggle to maintain abortion services at the Ste. Therese clinic. This interview with her was obtained following a demonstration of women's rights supporters at the clinic board meeting, which was set to discuss "right-to-life" demands that the clinic cease performing abortions.**

**Question.** Could you give some background to the struggle here at Ste. Therese clinic?

**Answer.** In February, members of the "right-to-life," some 200 of them, organized a demonstration at the clinic. The clinic's advisory board decided to review their position of providing abortions at the clinic.

ANEQ had been involved in a campaign for women's rights. So after a debate at an ANEQ meeting at the college, we decided to form a committee to fight for abortion at the clinic. In four hours of work, we collected 520 names on a petition and presented it to the next board meeting, but they didn't make a decision at that meeting.

The "right-to-life" is going after the Ste. Therese clinic as part of an attack against all the CLSCs that perform abortions in Quebec. There are only 10 that perform abortions. But they are such an important step forward.

If one goes, it could knock out all of them. The "right-to-life" groups are trying to start in the smallest centers, where they think they are stronger. This is the first one they've gone after. That's why it's so important to take a stand here. If we lose here, we could lose everywhere. And it's not just an attack against the CLSCs. It's an attack on abortion rights throughout Quebec.

So, when something as important as this happens, we have to move. Women move to protect their rights.

**Q.** You've organized very broad support in a short time.

**A.** Yes, I have been so impressed with the support we've gotten in just one week. The letters just keep pouring in. The support is so strong.

There are 67 organizations that have supported the call to maintain abortion at the clinic. I read the list at the board meeting. It includes student groups, unions, women's organizations. And we are not going to stop there. We are going to go out and get more support. We want to get all of Quebec behind this. ANEQ voted to organize a petition campaign throughout Quebec for abortion rights. This will be important.

**Q.** What other attacks on abortion rights have there been?

**A.** Well, for one thing, the "right-to-life" have started showing *The Silent Scream* [an antiabortion film] everywhere. In the churches, they tell everybody to go see it. It was shown on the campus. This is one of the things that alerted us, that made us realize that we had to go on a campaign.

And recently, [Robert] Bourassa said that if he got elected, he would look into applying the federal law. [Bourassa is head of the Liberal Party in Quebec.]

And in the city of Dorval, the municipal council tried to pass an ordinance that would zone strip joints, massage parlors, pornography shops, and abortion clinics to an isolated part of town. Like here, there was a lot of protest. A hundred people came out to the next council meeting. They got a lot of different organizations to back the protest. And the council was pushed back.

**Q.** How do you see the connection between the struggle in Quebec and the rest of Canada?

**A.** Well, as I said, Bourassa has said that if he got elected, he would look into applying the federal law against abortion rights. It's a federal law. ANEQ has voted to participate in any demonstrations called in Ontario or in any other part of the country to support Dr. Morgentaler and the struggle to set up clinics in the rest of Canada. It's connected. We could lose everything. We could lose what we have won here and have nothing.

**Q.** How do you answer the lies about abortion?

**A.** The main thing is to answer on the political level, on the level of a woman's right to abortion. Because the "right-to-life" never talks about women — about real, live women.

It's really the rights of women, the right of a woman to choose, that is under attack, and it's on this basis that we have to fight.

**Q.** Why are abortion rights under attack?

**A.** In times of crisis, economic crisis, there is always an attack on women's rights. Sexist publicity against women is on the rise.

This is a very bad period in Quebec, against working people, men and women, against the unions. We have Law 101 under attack. [Law 101 protects French-language rights.] We are on the defensive. Our fight right now is to maintain our gains. This is true of women's rights, too.

## Castro's call for debt strike in 'IP'

The Final Appeal of the Havana conference of the Continental Front of Women Against Intervention is reprinted in this issue of the *Militant*.

Cuban President Fidel Castro attended many of the sessions of this conference and addressed the entire group on the closing day. His speech on the threat of war and the debt crisis will be published in the upcoming, August 5 issue of *Intercontinental Press*.

After describing the history and mechanisms of imperialist plunder of the semicolonial world, Castro called for a general strike of all debtor countries.

He emphasized that no solution can be won by individual countries begging the big capitalist banks for renegotiation of their debts. "If we don't force them," he said, "they're not going to talk."

He also explained that wiping out the debts need not take a cent from working people in the United States and other imperialist coun-

tries. "We want to resolve this problem ... at the expense of battleships, aircraft carriers, missiles, fantasies, madness, star wars, and interplanetary wars," he said.

The current issue of *IP* includes a statement by the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front of El Salvador condemning the government's recent assault on hospitals where workers were on strike.

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# New York 8+ trial poses threat to democratic rights

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

NEW YORK — This summer an important trial is occurring in a federal courthouse here. It is a serious attack on the democratic rights of the defendants and all working people.

The case involves nine political activists — eight Blacks and one Puerto Rican — who identify themselves as the New York 8+. If convicted, each defendant faces a possible 100-year prison sentence.

The trial opened on May 13 and is expected to run through the middle of August. The government has used every dirty trick in the book in an effort to frame up these activists.

This reporter attended the proceedings on July 8 when the trial reconvened after an 11-day recess. Government attorneys were placing on the stand a number of FBI agents who were involved in 1984 in massive raids against the defendants' offices and homes.

The FBI claims that it found fingerprints of Coltrane Chimurenga, one of the defendants, on a six-year-old newspaper about Zimbabwe in a Pittsburgh home, along with the prints of Asata Shakur (Joanne Chesimard) on a can of insecticide there. Shakur has been sought by the FBI since 1979, when she escaped from state prison.

## 1984 raid

In the early morning hours of Oct. 18, 1984, nearly 500 heavily armed FBI agents and New York City cops, operating together in an outfit called the Joint Terrorist Task Force, invaded several neighborhoods in Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Queens. They arrested at gunpoint eight Black activists.

Those arrested were: Coltrane Chimurenga, 41, who is working on his doctoral thesis at Harvard University; Viola Plummer, 47, and Omowale Clay, 38, who work for New York City's Department of Housing Preservation and Development; Roger Wareham, 35, a lawyer who graduated from Harvard College and Columbia Law School; Yvette Kelley, 32, a law clerk at the Newark, N.J., public defenders office; Ruth (Lateefah) Carter, 39, a clerical worker at Bantam Books for the past 18 years; Collette Pean, 25, a clerk typist at Pace University; and Robert

Taylor, 28, a worker at Waldes Kohinoor machine parts factory in Queens. A month later a ninth arrest was made of José Ríos, 34, an ITT telephone repairman.

The scope of force used in this operation shocked many New Yorkers. Cops in bullet-proof vests cordoned off entire blocks and set up their machine guns and bazookas. Apartment doors were smashed in and guns were placed at the heads of the suspects' children.

The defendants are not charged with committing any crime, but with "conspiring" to rob armored trucks and "plotting" to free two individuals who were convicted of being part of an October 1981 attempted robbery of a Brink's armored car in Nyack, New York.

By charging the defendants with conspiracy, the government is placing on trial their thoughts and dissenting ideas.

## 'Son of Brink's'

The government views this case as a way of continuing and deepening the blows struck against democratic rights in the original Brink's trial. In fact, the U.S. attorney charged with prosecuting the case — Rudolph Giuliani — describes the current case as "Son of Brink's."

In the original Brink's trial, the defendants were also charged with conspiracy. They were held without bail as their case was sensationalized in the pages of the capitalist press. Brink's defendant Kathy Boudin, for example, was imprisoned without bail for two and a half years before ever coming to trial.

The New York 8+ are charged with violating a 1970 racketeering statute known as the RICO Act (Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act). This law was supposedly enacted to counter organized crime in the labor movement. RICO conveniently provides the government with broad powers in defining what constitutes a conspiracy. Under RICO, any defendant who commits at least two overt acts intended to further a criminal enterprise becomes liable for all the other acts involved in the conspiracy. Thus the New York 8+ are charged under a 51-count joint indictment.

Immediately after being seized, the New York 8+ defendants were jailed under the new federal Bail Reform Act, which was included in the Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984 that Congressional Democrats and Republicans passed the week before. This law is a sweeping attack on the constitutional right to bail. It allows the government to indefinitely hold "dangerous" individuals in preventive detention. Upon appeal, two federal court judges ruled against the use of preventive detention in this case. All the defendants were finally released on bail.

In a brief supporting the New York 8+, noted civil liberties attorney William Kunstler condemned the undemocratic nature of this trial. "The most that the evidence shows is that the defendants, or some of them, disagree with the present system of government, believe that armed resistance to an unjust social order may be necessary, and have acquired and trained themselves in the use of weapons. To make such beliefs and conduct the basis for a criminal prosecution is reprehensible."

Coltrane Chimurenga, a central leader of the group, summed up his view of the trial like this: "We are forced into a very anti-ethical and confrontational relationship with the U.S. government, not because we are taking ... up armed struggle, but because of our advocacy."

## Political activists

The defendants in this case have been political activists for a number of years. In 1968, both Chimurenga and Wareham were campus activists at Harvard College. They participated in struggles demanding an Afro-American studies department and an end to the Vietnam War.

In the mid-1970s, members of the New York 8+ began working together in a



Victims of U.S. government conspiracy trial include (clockwise from left) Collette Pean, José Ríos, Roger Wareham, Viola Plummer (in white), Omowale Clay, Ruth Carter, Yvette Kelley, and Robert Taylor.

group called Mobilization Committee Against Police Brutality. In 1981, they organized a conference in Newark to help Black unemployed youth fight for jobs.

Several of them have participated in the African Liberation Support Committee. Collette Pean was a founding member of the New York Grenada Friendship Society. The defendants had also worked together in publishing and distributing a newspaper called *Arm The Masses*.

A May 20 opening statement presented to the court by defendant Omowale Clay explained the political importance of this trial.

"We will demonstrate in this court that the only conspiracy that has been committed is a conspiracy by the Government. ... We are black freedom fighters, fighters because freedom has never come any other way. We believe in socialism ... we arrived at that through a process of struggle concerned with the very lives of not only black people but working people in general. ... We understand that the reason that this case is taking place is because of our politics, not because of any crime."

## Cointelpro-type operation.

The scope of surveillance used against the New York 8+ is reminiscent of Cointelpro (Counterintelligence Program) type disruption operations that the FBI routinely carried out against Black rights fighters and anti-Vietnam War protesters. During the 1960s and early 70s, Cointelpro operations helped to destroy the Black Panther Party. Both Martin Luther King and Malcolm X were victims of Cointelpro plots, which in the words of FBI documents were designed to "discredit," "neutralize," and "prevent the rise of a messiah." The government claims that Cointelpro was halted in the mid-1970s. However, government harassment of the New York 8+ shows that these policies are still in operation today.

Prior to their arrest, the New York 8+ were subject to 22 months of virtual round-the-clock surveillance that involved tapping their phones, following the defendants everywhere, collecting volumes of notes, and utilizing informers. Up to 500 phone conversations were recorded by the government. In August 1984, Judge Robert Carter, who is currently presiding over this case, authorized the use of wiretapping against the defendants.

## Government informers

The heart of the government's case revolves around testimony of government informer Howard Bonds. Bonds worked with the New York 8+ for several years prior to surfacing as a government agent. At the trial, Bonds charged that he, together with the other defendants, was conspiring to carry out jailbreaks and armored-car robberies. Under cross-examination, Bonds contradicted himself and exposed the ridiculousness of these charges. Bonds originally approached Chimurenga

in 1981, professing military expertise. He took charge of coordinating the group's weapons procurement and training. Bonds constantly attempted to get the group involved in adventurous military activities. He proposed, for example, ripping off a check-cashing facility in the Bronx. In February 1984, the cops staked out a Metropolitan Transportation Authority building in Brooklyn on a tip they claimed to have received that an armed robbery was about to occur. They arrested on gun possession charges none other than Howard Bonds. Bonds left the group in September 1984, one month before the cops' massive roundup.

The FBI investigation of Chimurenga and the other defendants was justified as a result of charges made in 1983 by another government informer — Peter Middleton. Middleton, who admitted carrying out the Brink's robbery, charged Chimurenga with becoming the leader of a new military unit. Middleton has also admitted perjuring himself in previous testimony.

A further bizarre twist to this case involves revelations about defendant Collette Pean's court-appointed attorney — James Silver. Two weeks into the trial, Silver revealed that he had never been admitted to the bar, despite the fact that he's been a practicing attorney for 14 years. Silver had requested to be appointed to the case the day after the arrests and has been in the midst of all the legal and political activities of the defendants ever since. The defendants suspect that Silver may also end up as a government witness before this trial ends. The judge separated Pean's trial from the others, while denying a defense motion that the entire case be thrown out of court.

## Grand jury

Another weapon in the government's attack is to utilize the grand-jury system to jail supporters of the defendants.

Beginning last November, three spouses and five friends were incarcerated at the Metropolitan Correctional Center in downtown Manhattan on contempt-of-court charges for refusing to answer questions designed to indict the New York 8+ defendants. While the trial defendants are free on bail, the grand-jury victims remain in prison. Some have been in jail for as long as eight months.

On June 18, Wanda Wareham, the wife of defendant Roger Wareham, was released when the term of her grand jury expired. However, she was immediately subpoenaed again to appear before another grand jury. The government has now indicated that they will request that she testify before a new grand jury after the New York 8+ trial is over.

As of this writing, five grand jury victims currently remain incarcerated. They are Jean Ford, a physician at Harlem Hospital and husband of defendant Collette Pean; Michelle Thomas, a third-year med-

Continued on Page 13

## Come to SWP Convention

The Socialist Workers Party invites you to attend our national convention and educational conference in Oberlin, Ohio, August 10-15.

Participants will include unionists, fighters for the rights of Blacks, Latinos, and women; antiwar and anti-apartheid activists, family farmers, and revolutionaries from around the world.

In addition to convention sessions, there will be a wide range of classes, workshops, and special events.

Two Socialist Workers Party resolutions — "The Workers' and Farmers' Alliance in the U.S." and "Revolutionary Perspective and Leninist Continuity in the U.S." — that appear in the Spring 1985 issue of *New International* provide the framework for discussion at the convention.

If you are interested in attending, contact the SWP branch nearest you (see directory on page 12) or write to SWP, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014.

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# Latin American women meet in Havana

## The struggle for women's equality is part of fight against imperialism

A conference entitled the Situation of Latin American and Caribbean Women Today was held June 3-7 in Havana, Cuba. It was convened by the Continental Front of Women Against Intervention and was attended by 296 delegates from 27 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The conference was organized into four working commissions: 1. "Economic situation of women in Latin America and the Caribbean," chaired by Ifigenia Martínez of Mexico; 2. "Integration of women in the political reality of the continent and of their own countries," chaired by Amalia Alonso of Uruguay; 3. "Multiplicity of forms of struggle," chaired by Amalia Bécquer of Bolivia; and 4. "Women, art, and culture on the continent," chaired by Suzy Castor of Haiti.

Among those participating in the conference were women commanders of El Salvador's rebel forces, delegates from human

rights organizations, trade unionists, peasant leaders, and representatives from governing parties in several countries. There was a sizeable delegation from the Federation of Cuban Women.

Cuban President Fidel Castro addressed the closing session of the conference. In evaluating the conference, he noted, "I think one of its main features has been its broad-based nature, pluralism, diversity of political, ideological, and social sectors represented. I would say that it is one of the most broad-based events ever held in our country. . . . I sincerely feel this is one of the best international events I have witnessed in this country. . . ."

"This event was also characterized by the fact that each and every one of the delegates was able to speak out and provide information about the current situation and experiences in their countries."

The women's conference was one of several international meetings held recently in Havana that discussed the economic and social conditions in Latin America and the Caribbean and the threat of U.S. military intervention in Central America.

On June 12-14 representatives of Communist and other workers parties meeting in Cuba took up these questions.

On July 15-17, Havana hosted a conference of Latin American and Caribbean trade unionists, who discussed the gigantic foreign debt weighing down on countries of the region.

At the final session of the women's conference the four chairwomen reported on the results of each commission and the final appeal was adopted. It is reprinted here in full from the June 16 issue of the English-language *Granma Weekly Review*,

published in Havana by the Cuban Communist Party.

The meeting on the Situation of Latin American and Caribbean Women Today was held June 3-7, 1985, in Havana, convened by the Continental Front of Women Against Intervention. It was attended by 296 delegates from 27 countries in the region, representing the broadest and most diverse political, social, cultural, and religious sectors.

We women participating in this event have unanimously coincided in our analysis of the grave situation facing our peoples and the need for concrete efforts to further the united action of all Latin American and Caribbean peoples in facing the crisis.

Aware of our strength and that the problems of women are the problems of their peoples, that the crisis is a double burden because of the inequality and discrimination which for centuries have affected generations of women, we are agreed in that the struggle against the discrimination of women and for full equality is an inseparable part of the struggle against dependency and underdevelopment.

Ours is a continent rich in natural resources with a priceless human potential.

And yet:

- 50 million human beings go hungry.
- A million children die each year from hunger and malnutrition.
- There are 45 million illiterates, of whom more than half are women.
- The number of unemployed and underemployed is more than 52 million.
- The levels of inflation are frightening; in 1984 there was a 175.4-percent increase in consumer prices in the nations of Latin America and the Caribbean.
- There has been a drop of 50 percent in real wages in some Latin American countries.
- The daily lives of millions of women are made unbearable by impoverishment, insecurity, and uncertainty.

We don't want such a way of life!

We are unwilling to pay for the effects of the crisis with greater sacrifice.

The growing foreign debt is one of the major expressions of the crisis and a destabilizing factor for the majority of Latin American and Caribbean countries.

The foreign debt comes to \$360 billion.

In 1983 and 1984, in interest and profits alone, the huge sum of 56.7 billion has left the region.

Every dollar which leaves the region via the debt and interest is a dollar which does not contribute to development and to the solution of such pressing problems as hunger, health, housing, employment, and education.

Women are half the population of Latin America and the Caribbean.

We have a right to be heard and be part of the solution to the crisis.

We logically ask ourselves how the nations of Latin America and the Caribbean will pay the interest on the foreign debt if the means to do so do not exist?

It is not a matter of willingness, it is impossible.

The measures of the International Monetary Fund would place all our economies simply at the service of paying the debt and the interest, with absolute contempt for the social costs involved in terms of hunger and poverty. These measures are rejected and resisted by the peoples, as shown by the Dominican people.

Repression will not solve the crisis!

We, the women of Latin America and the Caribbean, have agreed that a way towards a solution is the integration of the region based on common interest and mutual benefit, mobilizing all our energy and our potential resources, together with the cultural heritage of our peoples.

We urge the governments of Latin America and the Caribbean to seek lasting and equitable solutions.

We call for unity of words and deeds among the peoples.

We call for resolute struggle against underdevelopment and dependency and for the establishment of a just new international economic order which will assure and protect the lives and well-being of pre-

## Cuban, Nicaraguan leaders address meeting

Below are excerpts of remarks delivered to the conference by Vilma Espín, president of the Federation of Cuban Women. They are reprinted from the June 16 issue of *Granma Weekly Review*.

This meeting is yet another demonstration of women's strength, of their increasingly powerful movement. It also offers us the opportunity to join our efforts in order to achieve objectives of vital importance to the future of our peoples.

Women's participation in the struggle for national independence and sovereignty and for paving the way to development has grown steadily in the last few years. The days when a major role in the economic, political, and social life of their countries could only be played by exceptional women are a thing of the past. We have come to a new stage in which numerous

**"This meeting is yet another demonstration of women's strength."**

women participate and play important roles in society.

Latin America is going through one of the most difficult times in its history. The worst economic crisis of all time, exacerbated by the imperatives of the foreign debt and the bitter conflict in Central America, where there is an imminent danger of imperialist intervention, give us a good idea of this continent's serious situation.

Women suffer the full dramatic impact of inflation; the high cost of living; the lack of food, schools, and medical attention for their children; poverty, hunger, and hopelessness. They are the ones who work under inhuman conditions for miserable wages, who work in runaway industries, who are underpaid no matter what kind of work they do, and who are the first to be fired when a personnel cut becomes necessary.

We are very proud of the fact that our country has had the honor of hosting this important meeting, in which we have the opportunity to meet with numerous representatives of countries that have recently begun their processes of democratization — with Nicaraguan women who, while confronting an attack, are defending Latin America's peace; with Central American fighters; with Chilean fighters; with Puerto Rican women struggling for their country's independence; and with noted figures from Latin America and the Caribbean who have the same objectives as we do at this moment.

This meeting, the quality of the participants, and the agenda demonstrate how deeply women are involved in our countries' economic, political, and social problems. It also demonstrates the determination of the continent's women to act and respond to the needs of the time.

Why are the imperialists trying to prevent these fundamental topics from being



Vilma Espín (left), president of Federation of Cuban Women, and Nicaraguan Commander Doris Tijerino (right).

brought up at the UN Conference on the Decade on Women; to be held in Nairobi? How far will they go in discriminating against women in their attempts to isolate them from reality?

This meeting will further strengthen the common struggle for women's equality, for solidarity with those who are struggling for national independence, self-determination, and peace; a far better future; and for the best treasure of all — the new generations determined to place their immense strength at the service of Latin America and the Caribbean.

**Sandinista Commander Doris Tijerino of Nicaragua addressed the opening session of the conference. Tijerino is coordinator of the Continental Front of Women Against Intervention. Excerpts of her remarks are reprinted below. They are taken from the June 16 issue of *Granma Weekly Review*.**

Never before have women been so much the agents of social change.

The undeniable reality that the effects of the economic crisis are felt with greater force in the daily lives of women has led to our growing incorporation into both popular social movements and armed struggle in defense of national sovereignty.

In this regard, we have all realized the need for consensus and unity, a shared

**"Our emancipation will be impossible as long as inequality and injustice in relations between states continue."**

awareness of the need for unity to reject the prevailing unjust order. We must point out that the process of development is inextricably linked to peace.

The struggle for peace is the watchword of those who support the right to life and freedom of the peoples.

Within the world economic crisis comes



Militant/José G. Pérez

the Reagan administration's present effort to revitalize its worn-out imperial hegemony everywhere. This leads to a high degree of tension on the international scene as reflected in trouble spots and wars which jeopardize the very existence of the human race.

During mass cutbacks women are always fired first. More and more young girls are leaving the countryside driven away by the progressive impoverishment of the Latin American peasantry. They are seeking subsistence in the cities. Prostitutes in Latin America are getting younger all the time and there is a very high percentage of families headed by women. Given the pressure of unemployment and the high cost of basic necessities, women are forced into all kinds of informal work together with their children, as part of the strategy for the survival of the family unit.

This is worsened by the unfavorable conditions under which women are generally employed: with lower pay in the most alienating jobs, in seasonal work, or at a time when there is a great demand for labor and then they are dismissed. This is strengthened by the *machista* [sexist] idea that the man is the household head, while the woman's work is merely a supplement to the family income.

Women have used various forms of struggle to combat discrimination of all kinds, but our emancipation will be impossible as long as inequality and injustice in relations between states continue, and as long as the economic and political structures of dependency, exploitation, and poverty persist.

Our strategy must be to give support in every conceivable form to the establishment of a new international order. Women realize that this model for new international relations must be guided so that it includes development strategies and policies which would speed up the improvement of the situation of women from the oppressed social classes.

We must participate as women with a clear class consciousness in decision-making, in culture, in the mass media and in ideological guidelines. We must participate in the struggle of the workers, peasants, young people, Indians, blacks and all minorities struggling against injustice, and those struggles must embrace that of women.



sent and future generations.

For the women of Latin America and the Caribbean are joined by the struggle for peace, equality, and development, seeking concrete effective solutions.

The irrational arms race, senseless in a nuclear context, runs counter to peace, increases tension, and absorbs resources needed for development.

Military expenditures already amount to a trillion dollars, part of which could help relieve the suffering, poverty, and isolation of millions of human beings on this continent.

Latin America and the Caribbean have been for many years the political backyard of our powerful neighbor to the north.

Today, the peoples are demanding their legitimate right to exercise their sovereignty and national independence.

We Latin American women join our voices to this demand. Day after day, by diverse means, ways, and demonstrations, creatively and with imagination, we are involved in the struggle to restore our independence and our identity.

At this crucial hour, solidarity must prevail as a living expression of our founding fathers' Latin Americanist spirit. We Latin American women can and should be the promoters of the broadest solidarity with the struggle against all kinds of intervention, against all kinds of foreign interference.

The participants in this meeting share the same opinion: that the right to self-determination is a basic principle as well as an inalienable right of all peoples. Therefore, we reject the policy of strength, the military aggression, and the economic blockade in force against the sister people of Nicaragua.

Not only the defense of national sovereignty but also every people's right to self-determination are at stake in that Cen-



**Argentine mothers of disappeared demonstrate against repression by previous military regime. Final appeal of conference points to foreign debt and austerity demands of International Monetary Fund as major cause of social crisis in Latin America. It states, "Repression will not solve this crisis!"**

tral American country.

In the same spirit we support the Contadora Group's peace efforts as a political, negotiated solution to the Central American conflict.

We are aware of the fact that stability in Latin America will never be achieved as long as there is the cumulative social injustice, exploitation, repression, and poverty of so many years that have led the peoples of El Salvador and Guatemala to wage a frontal battle for their sovereignty, rights, and freedoms.

The U.S. military bases in Honduras and the occupation of part of that Latin American territory by foreign forces constitute an insult to our independence and dignity as free peoples.

We support Argentina's sovereign rights over the Malvinas and we reject the establishment of military and nuclear bases on those islands and on Easter Island, owned by Chile, viewing them as a threat to peace and security in the area.

The continent has entered a new era that reflects the peoples' desire for change and aspirations to a better life.

The process of democratization supported by the great majority in Argentina, Uruguay, and Brazil evidences this spirit. Women have always played a major role in these changes and constitute an integral part of the forces struggling for the success, advance, and consolidation of the process.

The women of Paraguay and Haiti, vic-

tims of the continent's oldest dictatorships, also share the same aspirations.

We are in solidarity with the Chilean people's growing struggle for democracy, in which women's fighting spirit is an invaluable contribution to the popular rebellion that has made the tyrannical regime untenable.

As the personality and identity of Our America, based on common links, is being reasserted, we express our solidarity with women who are still living in the continent's remaining colonies and neocolonies, especially in Puerto Rico — a nation under intervention and under threat of being torn from our roots — whose people are waging a tireless struggle for self-determination and independence.

We denounce the excessive growth of the military apparatus, the constant maneuvers, and plans to utilize the Caribbean as one big military base for the continent.

We Latin American and Caribbean women have taken a historic step on the difficult yet not impossible path to unity.

We have been divided for centuries.

We have learned that there are no insoluble differences, that we are united rather than separated in the diversity from which we derive strength and inspiration for creative action.

We must unite to guarantee the life of our peoples!

Women of America, unite!

## Rabid opponents of abortion rights assault D.C. clinic

BY DEBBIE LAZAR

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A mob of 150-200 opponents of abortion rights assaulted the Preterm Center for Reproductive Health in Northwest Washington on June 22. The attack, which lasted from 7:30 a.m. until noon, occurred while the national convention of the reactionary "Right to Life" group was meeting at the Hyatt Regency Hotel here.

About 40 women's rights supporters and members of the National Organization for Women (NOW) formed a human chain around the clinic to prevent the mob from forcing its way inside. The attackers leaned on and assaulted the women in the chain to try to break through it, but they were unsuccessful.

The police were present at the Preterm Center but did not throw up a police barrier and escort women into the clinic until about two hours after the assault began. When the police began escorting women, the right-wing mob swarmed around the police and began attacking them. At this point a barrier was thrown up and the police began arresting the attackers; 29 were arrested.

The response of passersby in the Dupont Circle area was supportive of the abortion rights activists. People were outraged at the violent mob. Some shouted "Go home!" at them. Several passersby offered to help defend the clinic.

Meanwhile outside the "Right to Life" convention, NOW sponsored a spirited picket line of 150 supporters of women's right to abortion.

There were many young women and some men who picketed, chanting "Not the church, not the state, women must decide their fate" and "Right to life remains a lie, you don't care if women die."

Signs read "Our minds and bodies are our own," "Clinic bombing is terrorism," and "Women's screams are not silent," a response to the antiabortion propaganda film, *The Silent Scream*.

### Revolutions in Central America and the Caribbean

Don't go looking in the big-business press for the truth about Cuba and Nicaragua. It isn't there. It is, however, in the Militant. See the ad on page 2 for subscription details.

# Thousands of women at int'l conference

Continued from front page  
backed dictatorships.

Also participating are U.S. civil rights leader Coretta Scott King and antiwar and solidarity activists Cora Weiss from the Riverside Disarmament Program, and Marjorie Tuite of the Women's Coalition Against U.S. Intervention in Central America and the Caribbean.

The July 10 ceremony was opened by Dame Nita Barrow from Barbados, the convener of Forum '85. Barrow said that an estimated 10,000 women would be participating in the conference, more than three times the number originally expected. Dr. Eddah Gachukia, chair of the Kenyan NGO Organizing Committee, welcomed the overflow crowd at the Kenyatta Center to the conference.

Gachukia pointed with pride to the large number of women from Kenya and other African countries that were able to attend the conference. Some one-third of the participants are from Africa. Gachukia said that Forum '85 would concentrate on the situation of women in the semicolonial countries. The time and energy of these women, she explained, "are directed towards meeting basic human needs . . . of the family, community, and the nation."

Greetings from the Kenyan government were brought to the opening event by Kenneth Matiba, minister of culture and social services, who commended the non-governmental organizations for their work in advancing women's rights.

Margaret Kenyatta, a member of the organizing committee and of the Kenyan parliament, also brought greetings.

The keynote address was given by Leticia R. Shahani of the Philippines, secretary general of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the UN Decade for Women, the conference on women for government representatives. Shahani told the audience that "your dedication has kept the women's issue on the agenda of the international community."

Shahani explained that the UN Decade on Women opened with an international conference in Mexico City in 1975. Its halfway point was marked at a conference in Copenhagen in 1980. Coming at the end

of the decade, Forum '85 is the largest of the UN-organized women's conferences and is "a clear indication of the growing involvement of women in their issue," she said.

Major obstacles Shahani cited to the advancement of women included the worsening world economic situation and the continuation of traditional, reactionary social attitudes toward women. Shahani took special note of one important obstacle to women's rights — "the absence of peace."

"There's no question that peace . . . looms large in the minds of the peoples the world over . . ." she said. "We can no longer say that peace is just an absence of war and armed conflict. Instead, it must be seen in its broadest sense, where resources, both material and human, are used positively in order to improve living conditions, health, welfare, and happiness for all people. . . . World peace would release sig-

nificant economic and human resources . . . so sorely needed to promote social development."

One woman from El Salvador summed this up best in a workshop on development: "The government bombs the people [in El Salvador] every day," she said. "How can we talk of development in Latin America without fighting for peace?"

On July 11, while hundreds of women continued to arrive here for the conference, the workshops began. So far, the fight against the U.S.-backed war in Central America, the struggle against apartheid in South Africa, and the poverty and repression caused by imperialist domination and the massive foreign debt of the Third World countries are clearly the central questions before the conference.

Andrea González is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of New York.

## Md. pastor sentenced in clinic bombing

BY NANCY BROWN

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A federal judge has ordered abortion-clinic bomber Michael Bray to serve 10 years in prison and pay \$43,782 in restitution.

Bray was convicted on May 21 of conspiracy charges in the nighttime bombings of 10 Washington-Maryland area abortion clinics and related facilities. The blasts left more than \$1 million in damages.

Two other men — Thomas Spinks and Kenneth Shields — pleaded guilty, but no trials were held. Judges say they will be sentenced later.

Bray, a copastor of the Reformation Lutheran Church in Bowie, Maryland, had been a participant in numerous reactionary picket lines and sit-ins at abortion clinics. He had been photographed attempting to prevent women from entering clinics, some of which were later bombed.

Before the trial, Bray proclaimed his innocence and adherence to nonviolence. At the trial, Spinks testified against him, saying Bray had been at two of the bombings and helped plan the other eight. Explosives

were found in Bray's possession.

Bray's attorney, Robert Muse, urged the judge to weigh the bombing conviction against Bray's alleged reputation as a devoted father. "He's more than a good family man," Muse argued. "He's a man who has helped the poor, the aged . . . the lowly and the destitute. . . . In his whole life he has shown mercy for others."

The judge disagreed. At the sentencing Judge Alexander Harvey called the bombings "among the most cowardly and despicable of all criminal acts." He charged that "many innocent persons suffered substantial trauma and psychological damage" in the series of bombings.

A sentencing memorandum filed by the prosecution stated that the damage from the bombings is still not fully tabulated, but "far exceeds \$1 million." This includes damages to the abortion clinics and related facilities, neighboring businesses, and "neighbors in the vicinities of the various bomb sites," including their homes.

Court officials said that the restitution was set at a figure that Bray could reasonably be expected to pay.



# Sanctuary refugee caravan heads north

BY ANDY ENGLISH

PHOENIX — Eight Central American refugees left Phoenix on June 30 as part of a car caravan organized by sanctuary activists. The caravan is traveling to northeastern churches that shelter refugees.

More than 200 churches are part of the nationwide sanctuary network which aids refugees from El Salvador and Guatemala. This movement has developed because of the U.S. government's refusal to give legal asylum to those fleeing U.S.-backed dictatorships in Central America.

The group consists of one Salvadoran and a family of seven Guatemalans. Víctor, the Salvadoran refugee, was involved in union organizing in his native land. He fled El Salvador after being put on a government "subversive" list and tortured.

The Guatemalan family includes 30-year-old María Teresa, her husband Juan José, 33, and their three children: Matías, 6, Marisol, 4, and José María, 4 months. María Teresa's brothers Joaquín and Pedro are also part of the caravan. All of the adults were involved in the grassroots Christian community movement in Guatemala. They fled Guatemala after members of their group were assassinated by army-backed death squads.

The caravan was billed as a "freedom train." The sanctuary movement draws its inspiration from the "underground railroad" that helped Black slaves escape to freedom in the north before the Civil War. Sanctuary activists also bring refugees from the southern and southwestern regions of the United States to shelters in the north. Just like the "underground railroad" of 130 years ago, the government has declared the sanctuary movement to be a criminal conspiracy and is attempting to jail its leaders.

Local Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) officials, while declaring the caravan illegal, have stated that they would not try to arrest participants.

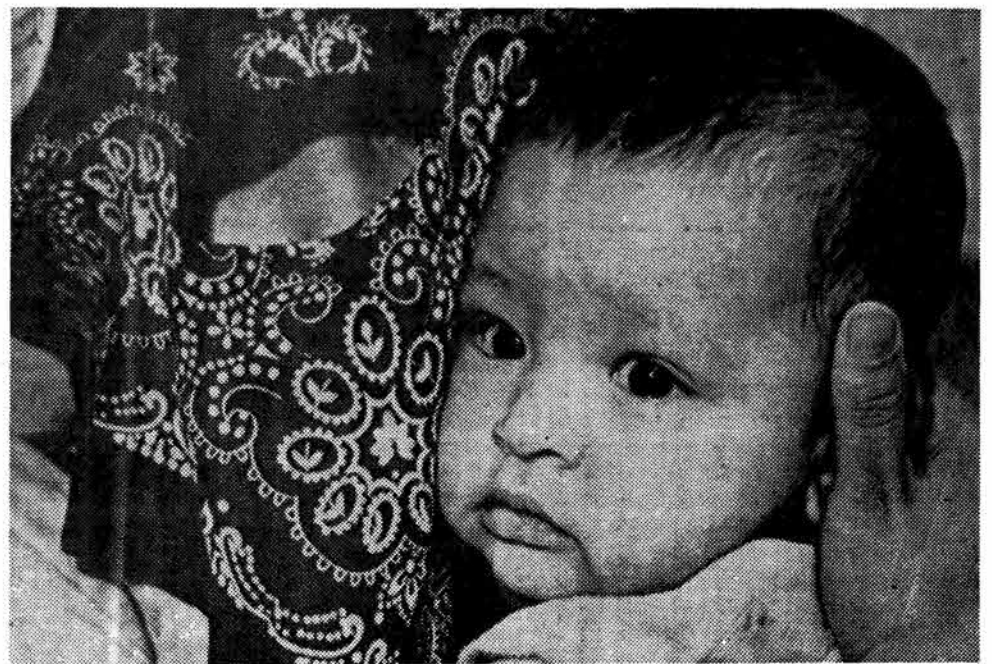
More than 100 cars participated in the caravan. Among the sanctuary supporters present were Elen Lauper, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Phoenix, and Mike Enríquez, the Republican candidate. Conspicuously absent was the incumbent Democratic mayor of Phoenix, Terry Goddard.

Lauper supports making Phoenix "a sanctuary city" by providing legal aid, health care, and food aid to refugees and prohibiting city employees from cooperating with the INS. INS regional commissioner Harold Ezell has publicly attacked Lauper for her position.

The freedom train was also a demonstration of the movement's determination to continue helping Central American refugees despite the government's indictment of sanctuary activists for "alien-smuggling." Twelve activists are facing trial in Phoenix. If convicted they face possible penalties of up to 30 years in prison.

Pretrial hearings in the case, which is expected to come to trial on September 17, resumed in federal court on June 25-26. Testimony centered on the activities of two INS informants, Solomon Graham and Jesús Cruz. The two were paid more than \$16,000 by the INS to infiltrate the sanctuary movement and secretly tape meetings, religious services, and Bible-study sessions attended by refugees. It was revealed that in addition to their spying activities, the two were also involved in prostitution-rings and in transporting undocumented workers for profit while they were working for the government.

Federal prosecutor Don Reno described the informers as "less than perfect" but said "you can't use choirboys to investigate criminal acts." U.S. District Court judge



Two of seven members of family escaping death squads in Guatemala.

Earl Carroll, who is hearing the case, described the government's spying as "not acceptable ... but not outrageous" and ruled that evidence gathered by the informers could be heard in the trial.

The government's secret spying on sanctuary activists, who have carried out their activities in public and before TV

cameras, has generated much public concern. On June 23, 400 people attended a conference in Phoenix where leaders of the sanctuary movement and legal experts discussed the government's infiltration of the churches. Local ministers have expressed concern that the infiltration of their services might be continuing.

## New assault on women's right to abortion

Continued from front page

working people waged by the wealthy families who rule the United States.

The attacks on women's rights are not separate from attempts to drive down the standard of living of working people, bust the unions, and erode democratic rights.

Nor are they separate from the attempts to push back the political and social gains won by the struggles of Blacks. Like the assaults on women's rights, these attacks are aimed at pushing back the steps toward equality and unity among working people in order to weaken our capacity to resist.

The attacks on women's rights are also

not separate from the bankers' driving of hundreds of thousands of working farmers off the land.

### Allies

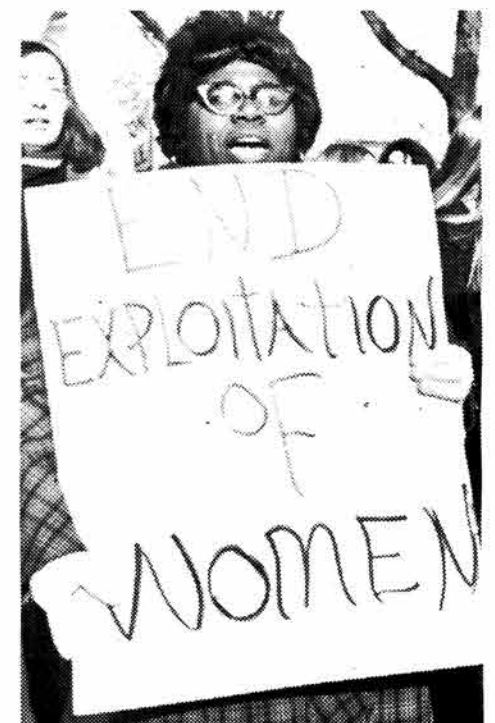
Women's rights fighters must look to our allies among unionists, working farmers, fighters for the rights of Blacks, Latinos, and immigrant workers. We also have firm allies among those fighting against U.S. intervention in Central America and U.S. government support for apartheid in South Africa.

The fight for women's liberation doesn't stop at the borders. Women's rights fighters in this country have nothing in common with the aims of the U.S. ruling class, and its Democratic and Republican parties, who are bankrolling the gangs of *contra* (counterrevolutionary) terrorists and rapists attacking the people of Nicaragua.

Many women's rights fighters, including members of NOW, have traveled to Nicaragua and witnessed the gains for women's rights made through the Sandinista revolution. They have learned that the first targets of the U.S.-backed *contras* have been child-care and health centers set up by the Nicaraguan government.

Many NOW members and chapters participated in the April 20 antiwar actions in Washington, D.C., and other cities, and have been part of anti-intervention and anti-apartheid actions locally and nationally.

Fall activities will occur around demands against U.S. military intervention in Central America, opposing U.S. government and corporate support for South African apartheid, against racism, and against the U.S. nuclear arms build-up. The actions will demand jobs and social justice in the United States. They deserve the full support of NOW and other women's rights groups.



Militant/Flax Hermes  
Black women have been particularly hard hit by the government's offensive against women's rights.

Supporters of women's rights need to begin now building an action movement to defend abortion rights; a movement that organizes protest marches, speak-outs, teach-ins, and picket lines and that seeks to actively involve labor, Blacks, Puerto Ricans, Chicanos, working farmers, and youth.

By orienting the fight for women's rights toward mobilizing women, and our allies among other oppressed and exploited layers, against the government and employers, we can begin to effectively fight to defend and extend women's rights.

Do you know someone who reads Spanish?

### Fighting strategy for unions in "PM"

The labor upsurge of the 1930s holds important lessons for working-class fighters today. Under the impact of the economic crisis then, the struggle to organize the unorganized took the form of a huge social movement that fought for the creation of industrywide trade unions. This resulted in the formation of the Congress of Industrial Organizations.

Farrell Dobbs, a central leader of the Minneapolis Teamsters union during that time, as well as a leader of the Socialist Workers Party, wrote a four-volume series about the strikes, organizing drives, and other rich experiences of his union in this struggle.

The current issue of *Perspectiva Mundial* publishes — for the first time in Spanish — the first half of the afterword to these books.

Here, reviewing the role that revolutionaries played in the 1930s Teamsters struggles in Minnesota, Dobbs draws some relevant conclusions on the strategy needed to transform the unions into effective working-class instruments of struggle against the bosses and their system.

*Perspectiva Mundial* is the Spanish-language socialist magazine that every two weeks brings you the truth about the struggles of working people and the oppressed

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## Socialist hits attack on 'Roe v. Wade'

NEW YORK, July 15 — Andrea González, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of New York City, issued a statement today blasting the Reagan Administration's latest attack on abortion rights.

"Today's announcement that the Justice Department is formally asking the Supreme Court to overturn the 1973 *Roe vs. Wade* decision, which upheld a woman's right to choose abortion, marks an escalation of the antiwoman offensive being waged by the rulers of this country," González said.

She pointed out that this attack comes on the heels of Reagan administration attacks

on affirmative action programs.

By openly challenging the 1973 abortion-rights decision, González said, the government is "rewarding the terrorists who have planted bombs in clinics in an attempt to deny women the right to choose abortion." Reagan's move, she said, "gives a fresh spur to these would-be killers."

González pledged that her campaign will "join with all those who want to take action to defend this hard-won right," and urged women's rights groups, labor organizations, Black and Puerto Rican rights fighters, and others to unite to map out a campaign to defend abortion rights.



# Farm workers launch new grape boycott

BY SARAH MATTHEWS

LOS ANGELES — Three hundred demonstrators with flags and signs emblazoned with the United Farm Workers (UFW) eagle and the message, "Boycott grapes," lined the sidewalk outside Ralph's Supermarket at 3rd and Vermont streets on June 24. The picket officially launched in Los Angeles the new UFW nationwide boycott of table grapes. The boycott is aimed at pressuring scores of growers to bargain with the union.

Over the last 10 years, a concerted employer drive against the union has left only 5 percent of grape production in California organized.

Farm workers who came on buses from nearby Oxnard and Azusa for the picket explained to me what this means for them. Several shook their heads, saying, "It's bad! There's no work."

One man said that a few years ago a worker was required to tend 1,000 plants in the nurseries. Now it's 3,000. They were glad to see the support on the picket, especially from other unions. "We've got to unite," they said. "We need more of this."

Representatives from more than 15 unions marched. Among them were pilots and flight attendants from the unions at both United and Continental. One United flight attendant walking with her friend told me, referring to the UFW, "You were out there to support us, so we had to come support you. We decided that anytime we heard about a labor march, we'd just go."

There were unionists from the United Auto Workers; United Steelworkers; United Electrical Workers; International

Union of Electronic Workers; National Association of Letter Carriers; International Association of Machinists; Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers; Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees; and others.

Representatives of the United Food and Commercial Workers, which organizes the workers at Ralph's, passed out a brochure protesting the company's illegal pay cuts, layoffs, and improper payment of new and temporary clerks.

At the rally after the picket, many of the union representatives spoke. They urged labor to stick together or get picked apart and pledged support for the grape boycott.

UFW President César Chávez explained the worsening of pay and conditions in the fields. He said the recent Agricultural Labor Relations Board decision to no longer require employers to provide drinking water and toilets in the fields was only one part of the overall situation.

Chávez pointed to the "great dedication and sacrifice you people gave to build this union 15 years ago. Protect that investment," he said. "This union here in California is the only hope for farm workers across the country. If this union goes under, that's it for farm workers for another 100 years. But it will not go under! Because people like you will continue to make the sacrifices necessary to keep it alive."

He said the union plans to find the millions of people who boycotted grapes 10 years ago, and to send out 2.5 million letters here in Los Angeles, urging a grape boycott.



United Airlines pilots joined June 24 farm workers demonstration at Los Angeles supermarket. Demonstration helped launch new grape boycott in Los Angeles.

## Ohio socialist hits cover-up of nuclear plant malfunction

BY GARY BAKER

TOLEDO, Ohio — A serious malfunction at the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station just east of here occurred on June 9. The plant has remained closed since the incident.

The potential disaster was triggered by the failure of Davis-Besse's No. 1 main feedwater pump, which cools the steam generator. The No. 2 main feedwater pump can also service the generator, but it failed as well. Davis-Besse has two auxiliary pumps designed to begin operations if the main pumps should fail. The auxiliary pumps kicked on as planned, but both of these failed within 30 seconds. It took operators nearly 11 minutes to manually restart the auxiliary pumps.

While this was happening, a valve designed to control the pressure within the reactor malfunctioned, releasing excessive

amounts of water from the reactor coolant system. This posed the real possibility of a meltdown of the reactor core, which is what happened at the Three Mile Island (TMI) plant in Pennsylvania in 1979. The Davis-Besse plant was designed and built by Babcock and Wilcox, the same company that built TMI. It is considered a "twin" of the latter. Fortunately, operators were able to block the flow of coolant before a core meltdown began or any radiation was released.

Nuclear critics and supporters alike see the June 9 events as the most serious incident at a nuclear power plant since the accident at TMI.

The federal government's Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has been quick to promise a complete investigation. They say that the major problem with the breakdown-plagued Davis-Besse plant is "bad management." A vice-president of Toledo Edison, which co-owns the plant with Cleveland Electric Illuminating Co., said the vast majority of shutdowns have been due to equipment failures, with less than 0.5 percent due to personnel errors.

Toledo Edison is using the shutdown of Davis-Besse as an excuse to raise the electric rates paid by its customers.

Toby Emmerich, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Toledo, has denounced the cover-up by the NRC and Toledo Edison. "We are being led to believe that all the problems with nuclear power at Davis-Besse can be solved by an investigation and the hiring of new managers. This is a blatant cover-up of the real dangers inherent in the use of nuclear reactors. These dangers are so serious that they make any use of nuclear power totally unjustifiable." She has called for Davis-Besse to be converted to a coal-burning facility.

Emmerich, a member of United Auto Workers Local 12 at Toledo's Jeep plant, has found a very friendly response to her socialist views. More than 2,800 signatures to place Emmerich on the ballot were collected in less than two weeks. Nearly 100 of the signers were coworkers of Emmerich at Jeep who were signed up by plant-gate petitioning teams and campaign supporters inside the plant.



Militant/Robbie Scherr  
Toby Emmerich, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Toledo, Ohio.

## Detroit Blacks outraged at brutal cop killing

BY ANDREW PAULSON

DETROIT — Alleane Richardson, a 64-year-old deaf Black woman, was killed by cops on May 23.

Richardson was locked out of her apartment and neighbors called police to help. Claiming she was threatened with a knife, Officer Beverly Harris shot her once between the eyes and twice in the chest.

Neighbors expressed outrage at the murder of the woman they knew as "mama." The murdered woman's speech and mental capacity had been impaired by a stroke.

Cecelia Henderson Jordan, the victim's niece, issued a statement from the family that said, "We are heartbroken and angry about her killing. Because she was physically unable to present any threat to anyone, the taking of her life based upon claims of police self defense can be considered nothing but murder!"

The statement continued, "And the brutality to Alleane Richardson continued after her killing. There has been no personal or public expression of sensitivity or humanity for Alleane or her family from Mayor Coleman Young or any other city official."

"Our family had to rely totally upon news media reports and neighbors for information for the first 24 hours after Alleane's killing!"

Jordan called for "an impartial and independent investigation in this matter," to disclose the truth.

Meanwhile, the cop who killed Richardson has been suspended *with pay* while the cops conduct their own investigation.

Detroit cops have gunned down a number of other Blacks recently, including 16-year-old Darrin Hill, who was shot March 29 by an off-duty cop who first hurled racist remarks at the youth.

Even as cop violence against the Black community here increases, more cops are being hired by the authorities with support from labor officials and prominent Blacks. One of Mayor Young's reelection promises is to build a new prison on the city's eastside. A new Detroit Metropolitan Anti-Crime Coalition (MACC) gathered 1,000 people at its inaugural conference March 30 to press for more police and more prisons.

## Militant Forum defends Vietnam's gains

BY JOANNE MURPHY

DETROIT — The need to get out the truth about Vietnam was underlined here June 29 at a Militant Labor Forum in defense of the right to speak out on U.S. foreign policy.

In addition to Militant correspondent Diane Wang's eyewitness report from Vietnam, the meeting heard Bob Fitrakis of the Democratic Socialists of America and Andrew Jones of the Detroit Nuclear Freeze.

Fitrakis emphasized the importance of the Socialist Workers Party organizing forums answering the barrage of anti-Vietnam propaganda around the 10th anniversary of the Vietnamese victory.

"When all the others folded their tents and went away, the SWP never folded its tent," he said.

Jones recounted his experience as a draftee during the Vietnam War and pointed to the need, especially in the Black community, to answer promilitary propaganda.

Under banners saying "Rebuild Vietnam Ten Times More Beautiful" and "Pay reparations now," Wang described the progress in food production, health care, and education the Vietnamese people have been making since 1975.

She also described the continuing suffer-

ing caused by the extensive U.S. government bombing and use of the defoliant Agent Orange during the war. The lack of medicine caused by the U.S. trade embargo against Vietnam brings added hardships.

The audience viewed a video tape from San Jose, California, showing recent attempts by right-wing Vietnamese to close down the socialist bookstore there. Many of them had been part of U.S.-backed dictator Nguyen Van Thieu's army prior to its defeat in 1975.

Local messages of support against these attacks were received from Detroit city council members Mel Ravitz and Maryann Mahaffey; Horace Sheffield of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists; Carol King, director of the Great Lakes Regional National Organization for Women; and the Michigan Interfaith Committee on Central American Human Rights. Many others in the Detroit area also signed letters and petitions demanding a halt to the attacks. They were sent to the city authorities of San Jose in the weeks leading up to the meeting.

Wang gave two classes the following day along with a presentation of slides from her 1984 trip. Several of those in attendance bought copies of her pamphlet *Report from Vietnam and Kampuchea*.



# —THE GREAT SOCIETY—

**Our rational society** — Sure millions of children around the world go to bed hungry, but we can't let that interfere with the



Harry Ring

miracle of the capitalist marketplace, right? Meanwhile, the government is storing 10.4 billion pounds of surplus powdered milk, butter, and cheese.

**Socialized medicine anyone?** — Dr. Olga Jonasson, a federal consultant on organ transplants, recommended that hospitals be required to give preference to people from the United States on scarce organ transplants. She argued that doctors are soliciting foreign patients at ripoff prices. Meanwhile, others charged that some hospitals distribute the scarce organs to relatives of staff members and wealthy hospital donors.

**Brighten their day** — A Connecticut outfit called the J. Edward Slavin Foundation tours an exhibit to New England public spots and features displays of an electric chair, a gas chamber, a jail cell, and other like symbols of en-

lightenment. A sign urges parents to bring the kiddies.

**Housing question** — We've been thinking of moving to Saddle River, N.J. In one neighborhood they have a limit of one house for every two acres, giving you a little elbow room. It does cost a million for a house and a lot, so we were concerned that you'd need really good references. But then we remembered Dick Nixon lives there.

**Ain't that cute** — "Introducing the extraordinary new WaterJet BathWomb. Featuring Touch-Tone speaker phone system, superb four-speaker stereo integrated into the acoustic canopy... oh-so-soothing Pillow Mas-

sage... hidden toiletries compartment... And, room for two." — Advertisement.

**Tax tip** — Take your spouse, or whoever, for a weekend in Hawaii, and you can deduct half as a business expense, right? Nope. A bit more if you know the tax angles. For instance, check into the Kahala Hilton, \$235 a night. Instead of deducting half, \$117.50, you can deduct the full cost of a \$200 single. All of this, of course, provided you're a businessperson.

**Blessed are the poor** — Dollar General and a number of other retailers are making big bucks by

orienting toward poor people. Low-income shoppers are an attractive business proposition, one researcher confides, because "there are so many of them."

**Sensibly priced too** — "I think simplicity and honesty are the two words that best describe my line of clothing." — Bijan, the purveyor of men's wear who offers shirts at \$400 and suits for \$2,000.

**Free-enterprise dessert** — "It's amazing. It's the same scoop of ice cream I couldn't get \$1.25 for before. But I add 30 cents worth of liqueur and nuts and sauce and I can get \$3.75 for it." — The proprietor of Nikolaisen's in St. Louis.

## —CALENDAR—

### CALIFORNIA

#### Los Angeles

**What's Happening in Lebanon.** Speaker: John Rubinstein, Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat., July 20, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

**Party for Peace.** Music by the Porter Denham Band and others. Fri., July 26, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Dr. Donation: \$10. Ausp: Committee to Support the Congressional Lobby on El Salvador. For more information call (213) 663-0583.

**El Salvador: the Situation Today.** Speaker: a representative of the Revolutionary Democratic Front-Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front of El Salvador. Translation to English. Sat., July 27, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (213) 663-0583.

#### San Francisco

**U.S. Hands Off Nicaragua — End the Embargo!** Speakers: Roberto Chávez, director of urban planning in Nicaragua and member of Ministry of Housing and Human Settlements; Rodger McAfee, U.S. farmer and member Our Land Movement, American Agriculture Movement, and North American Farm Alliance; recently returned from farmers tour of Nicaragua. Fri., July 26, 7:30 p.m. 3284 23rd St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (415) 282-6255.

### GEORGIA

#### Atlanta

**How Can Workers and Farmers Fight Back: A Rally to Defend Democratic Rights.** Speaker: Sara Jean Johnston, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Atlanta; representative of the Young Socialist Alliance; others. Sat., July 27. Reception, 6:30 p.m.; rally, 7:30 p.m. 504 Flat Shoals Ave. SE. Donation: \$3. Ausp: Socialist Workers '85 Campaign. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

### ILLINOIS

#### Chicago

**Celebrate and Defend the Cuban Revolution.** Speakers: Frank Boehm, producer of documentary film on Alicia Alonso; Debra Evanson, National Lawyers Guild, participated in 1984 tour of Cuba; representative of Young Socialist Alliance. Sat., July 27, 7 p.m. 3455 S. Michigan Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (312) 326-5853.

### KENTUCKY

#### Louisville

**U.S. Out of Nicaragua Now! Film: Nicaragua: A Dangerous Example.** followed by a panel discussion. Sat., July 20, 7 p.m. Allied Printing Trades Union Hall, 659 S 8th St. Donation: \$3. Ausp: Pathfinder Press. For more information call (502) 587-8418.

### MICHIGAN

#### Detroit

**Celebrate Cuban Revolution.** Video: *Fidel and Cuba.* Translation to Spanish. Sat., July 27, 8 p.m. 7146 W McNichols. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (313) 862-7755.

### MISSOURI

#### St. Louis

**A Celebration of the Sixth Anniversary of Nicaragua's Revolution.** Nicaraguan dinner followed by film showing of *No Pasaran!* and speak-out by those who have been to Nicaragua. Sat., July 20, 6 p.m. Unitarian Church, 5007 Waterman. Donation: \$5. Ausp: St. Louis Latin America Solidarity Committee. For more information call (314) 725-2393.

**Young Socialist Alliance Open House: Socialism in Cuba.** Speaker: Sheila Ostrow, member Socialist Workers Party and United Mine Workers Local 2295. Sat., July 27, 7 p.m. 3109 Grand, #22. Donation: \$3. Ausp: YSA. For more information call (314) 772-4410.

### NEW YORK

#### Albany

**Cuba and Nicaragua: the March Toward Socialism in the Americas.** A socialist educational weekend.

Forum: "Cuba and Nicaragua and the Struggle in Central America." Speakers: Peter Thierjung, National Secretary of Young Socialist Alliance; Jane Birks, Pledge of Resistance; representative from El Salvador. Fri., July 26, 8 p.m. 352 Central Ave., 2nd floor. Donation: \$2.

Classes: "Nicaragua: Fighting for Workers' and Peasants' Power." Sat., July 27, 11 a.m. "Cuba: 26 Years of Socialism." Sat., July 27, 2 p.m. Followed by barbecue at 6 p.m. 352 Central Ave. 2nd floor. Donation: \$1 per class.

Ausp: Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (518) 434-3247.

### TEXAS

#### Dallas

**Our Unions Under Attack: How to Fight**

**Back.** Speaker: Kathryn Crowder, United Auto Workers Local 848, recently on strike against LTV-Vought, member Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sun., July 21, 7 p.m. 132 N Beckley. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (214) 943-5195.

**Come Celebrate the Sixth Anniversary of the Nicaraguan Revolution.** Slideshow and dinner, live music. Translation to Spanish. Tue., July 23, 6 p.m. Cuatro Milpas Restaurant, 110 W Jefferson. Donation: \$10. Ausp: Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador. For more information call (214) 375-3715.

### Houston

**Celebration of the Nicaraguan Revolution.** Music, food, video, speakers. Translation to Spanish. Sat., July 20, 7:30 p.m. Casa de Amigos, 1235 Lorraine. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Texas Mobilization for Peace, Jobs, and Justice; Casa El Salvador. For more information call (713) 529-0446.

### WASHINGTON

#### Seattle

**Stop Farm Foreclosures. Defend the Family Farmer!** Speakers: Dave Howard, editor of *Grange News*; Dan Fein, director of Chris Horner for Mayor Committee. Sun., July 28, 7 p.m. 5517 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

### WEST VIRGINIA

#### Morgantown

**Socialist Educational Weekend.**

Forum: "U.S. Out of Central America and the Caribbean! Celebrate the Cuban and Nicaraguan Revolutions." Speakers: Tom Leonard, *Militant* staff writer, visited Cuba and Nicaragua; Sister M. Brendan Conlon, visited Nicaragua in 1984 with Witness for Peace, director of Christian Health; representative of Latin America Solidarity Project. Sat., July 27, 7:30 p.m. 221 Pleasant. Donation: \$2.

Classes: "The Miners Fight for Democracy — Its History and Lessons for Today." Speaker: Bruce Kimball, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of St. Louis. Sat., July 27, 2 p.m. "The United Mine Workers as a Social Movement." Speaker: Kathy Mickells, member UMW Local 2300 and Socialist Workers Party. Sun., July 28, 11 a.m. Donation: \$2 each class or \$5 for forum and classes.

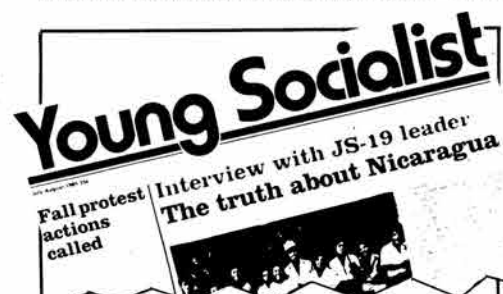
Ausp: Militant Labor Forum Series. For more information call (304) 296-0055.

### WISCONSIN

#### Milwaukee

**Celebrate the Sixth Anniversary of the New**

**Nicaragua.** Speakers: Tony Baez; Myrtle Lacy; Doug LaFollette, Wisconsin Secretary of State; Martha Love, vice-president American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 1055; Sister Nancy Hansen, former health worker in Nicaragua; Jorge, Guatemalan refugee; Tom Quinn, Wisconsin Farm Unity Alliance. Entertainment with Conjunto Charanbó, Friends Mime Theatre, folksinger Larry Penn, Chicano poet Oscar Mireles, breakdancing. Sun., July 28, 11:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. Walker Square Park (S 9th St. and Washington). Ausp: Central America Solidarity Coalition. For more information call (414) 543-3023.



## Subscribe!

Current issue of the *Young Socialist* contains an interview with a leader of Nicaragua's Sandinista Youth organization, who describes the critical role Nicaraguan youth play in defending their country against the U.S.-backed 'contra' terrorists.

Also in this YS are reports on the recent convention of the Young Socialist Alliance and the fall actions of the antiwar, anti-apartheid movement.

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**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, 46 1/2 Race St. Zip: 95126. Tel: (408) 998-4007.

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

**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.

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**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, 2219 E. Market. 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, 402 N. 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 Ave., Zip: 75203. Tel: (214) 943-5195. **Houston:** SWP, YSA, 4806 Alameda. Zip: 77004. Tel: (713) 522-8054.

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

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

**WEST VIRGINIA: Charleston:** SWP, YSA, 611A Tennessee. Zip: 25302. 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.



# Maine shipyard strikers gaining support

Continued from front page

most important company demand. The second major demand by the bosses is to break down and combine job classifications in the shipyard which would result in the elimination of jobs.

The company is also demanding cutbacks in medical insurance. One woman on the picket line explained that she had just had a baby and under the medical insurance she had only had to pay \$200. Under the company's proposed medical plan it would cost thousands to have a child.

In addition the company is demanding a wage freeze and other concessions. One worker summed up the situation by saying, "This company is like a prison and we're out here on parole."

Pickets explained that the company has stepped up harassment of the work force. As an example they pointed to cameras that have recently been installed on buildings throughout the shipyard for spying on the workers.

The striking workers are encouraged by solidarity they are receiving from other workers. Several pickets pointed to the fact that a number of workers from Local 5 of the IUMSWA, who are employed by the Quincy shipyard in Boston, came up here on July 15 to picket with them in solidarity. The owners of the Quincy shipyard are planning to close it down in the near future.

In an interview with the *Militant*, Milt Dudley, the strike coordinator of Local 6, explained that most striking workers see company efforts to win contract provisions that would divide the work force and weaken the union as the most important question, especially the demand for a two-tier wage system.

This is "a national fight," he explained. "One in which we are trying to stand tall against this demand for all the workers in the country. This would force a two-class system within the union and in the long term it would be a deadly threat to the entire union in the shipyard."

"In our shipyard," Dudley explained, "there is only a six tenths of one percent turnover in workers, which means that families have followed each other generation after generation into this shipyard and we are not going to exchange our children's rights for our rights today."

The company has attempted to reach out and weaken solidarity with these strikers by a lying campaign in the press. In a full page ad in the *Maine Sunday Telegram* on June 30, the company argued its point of view: "It's a time when sacrifices are demanded of everyone. BIW [Bath Iron Works] will insist on concessions because it is the only way to maintain a competitive position within the industry, a healthy company and protect the jobs of people we

truly care about. Think about it."

The union responded to this ad by sending a letter to William Haggett, the president of BIW, saying, "Gentlemen: We applaud your appreciation that the interests surrounding our present situation are, and should be, of public interest. To this end you placed a full-page advertisement in the *Maine Sunday Telegram*."

"We wish to follow your lead in bringing the full story before the people of the state of Maine. Therefore, we are extending the invitation to you to meet my strike coordinator, Milton Dudley, and myself, in a

televised discussion.

"Think about it."

To win this strike will require support from working people across the country. Everyone expects the strike to be a long one.

Local 6 is planning a solidarity rally on the afternoon of July 28. Unionists and other strike supporters are urged to attend.

Financial contributions for food and benefits for union members can be sent to Local 6 Strike Fund, 722 Washington St., Bath, Maine 04530.

## Solidarity picnic held for Hormel workers

Continued from back page

Olgood, of an Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers local in Mobile, Alabama, told the crowd.

After World War II plants were opened in the South to escape the unionized North. There were no organizing efforts in the South after the war, and the government made it even more difficult with its "right to work" laws.

Olgood said that the Supreme Court's recent decision to allow scabs to quit a union during a strike was an extension of right-to-

work laws. The decision gives the government and bosses another club to use in weakening a union's ability to organize its members against the employers. But, as Guyette told the *Militant*, "One can quit any time, but the membership determines what happens in a strike."

Guyette closed the rally by summing up what the speakers had said. The "commonality of fighting against oppression" is drawing us together. "Our struggle is not unlike struggles elsewhere. What we're talking about is fighting for the dignity and self-respect we all deserve," he said.

## Spirited Minn. rally helps launch socialist campaign

BY NATASHA TERLEXIS

ST. PAUL, Minn. — "Thanks from all my comrades to all those individuals and organizations who have participated in the divestment struggle for their dedication. Our people are encouraged and strengthened by all these displays of solidarity." Clarice Duma, a member of the Youth League of the African National Congress of South Africa, addressed these words to an enthusiastic audience at the June 29 rally kicking off the Socialist Workers Party mayoral campaigns in St. Paul and Minneapolis — the Twin Cities.

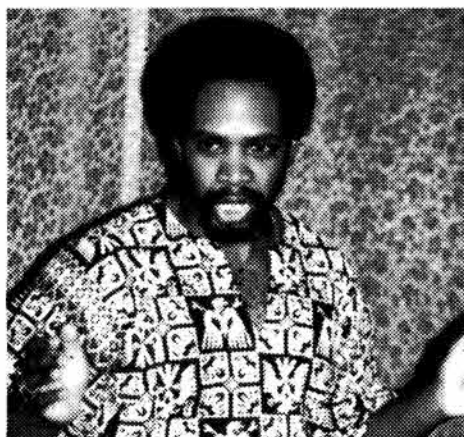
Maggie McCraw is the SWP candidate for mayor of St. Paul, and August Nimtz is the SWP candidate for mayor of Minneapolis.

"Boycott South Africa not Nicaragua" was the fighting theme of the rally, which drew activists in the recent struggle to get the University of Minnesota to divest its funds from companies doing business in South Africa.

"We look to Nicaragua as a model state," Duma said in closing. "We hope our struggles will be even more interlinked." The crowd included the rest of the Duma family, which has been active in the anti-apartheid struggle here.

"I was very excited to hear about the campaign. . . . I may not be a member" of the SWP, "but that is where my heart is," said Bassim Sabri, a Palestinian activist and former president of the International Students Association at the university. He also hit the prowar climate that the U.S. government attempted to whip up around the hijacking of the TWA plane.

"The intent of the Shiites is not to kill anybody, it is to get their people back. Their people who have been taken hostage,



Militant/Michael Carper

August Nimtz

terrorized, and some killed [by Israel]," Sabri stated.

Nimtz is a leader of the divestment fight at the university, where he teaches.

McCraw is a textile worker and a member of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 168-T. She had just returned from Austin, Minnesota, where United Food and Commercial Workers Local P-9 hosted a rally in solidarity with their fight against Hormel (see article on back page).

"Local P-9," McCraw said, "is fighting a 23 percent wage cut by the Hormel Co. They are fighting for their livelihood and their dignity, and they are inspiring all of us with two ideas. One is that you can fight. The other is how to reach out to others under attack. P-9 has linked up with farmers fighting for their land and for a fair price. They have linked up with the anti-apartheid movement. They have made us all proud of being trade unionists."

## Socialist candidate's support statement warmly received by union fighters

Supporters of the Socialist Workers Party campaign of Maggie McCraw for mayor of St. Paul and August Nimtz for mayor of Minneapolis were warmly received at the picnic. They distributed the following letter expressing their solidarity with Local P-9.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We stand with you 100 percent in your fight against the Hormel Corporation's wage cuts, concession demands, and their whole union-busting drive.

Your struggle has been an inspiration to us, and to workers and farmers throughout Minnesota looking for a way to fight back against the profit-hungry banks and corporations who are attacking our unions, taking our farms, and gutting the rights and living standards we have won through years of struggle. UFCW Local P-9 is

showing working people everywhere that a fight can be waged, and that solidarity can be won.

You have also demonstrated in action how to cement a firm alliance with others under attack by reaching out to working farmers fighting foreclosures, Blacks fighting the racist regime in South Africa, and the students at the University of Minnesota today demanding that the university stop its financial support to the South African government. Through actions such as these, you are giving real meaning to labor's motto "An injury to one is an injury to all."

The stakes in your struggle are high for all working people. A victory in Austin would strike a blow on behalf of workers and farmers across Minnesota.

We pledge to use our campaigns and our newspaper, the *Militant*, to tell the truth about and win support for your fight!

## Rights under attack in N.Y. 8+ trial

Continued from Page 7

ical student at Rutgers University; writer Milton Parrish; Olive Armstrong; and Jackie Bernard.

The grand jury resisters had filed a joint legal motion seeking their release from prison on grounds that the New York 8+ defendants had already been indicted and are currently on trial. The judge rejected this joint motion.

The government's case "is meant to establish that political dissent and crime are the same," stated defendant Roger Wareham. "The long-range signal that's being sent by our trial is not only that it's dangerous to dissent, but that it's dangerous to know someone who dissents."

Rashaad Ali, Socialist Workers Party candidate for New York City Council President, condemned the government's actions as "an attack on democratic rights."

"The aim of this trial is to intimidate everyone opposed to racism and Washington's escalating intervention in Central America and the Caribbean," stated Ali. "Everyone who supports democratic rights must join together to demand, 'Drop the charges against the New York 8+ and free the grand-jury victims!'"

Ben Chavis, deputy director of the United Church of Christ's Commission for Racial Justice, is chairperson for the New York 8+ national defense efforts. In the early 1970s, Chavis had been a victim of a similar government frame-up attempt known as the Wilmington 10 case.

Each month the New York 8+ Defense

Committee sponsors a spirited picket line in front of the Metropolitan Correctional Center at 150 Park Row to demand freedom for the grand-jury victims. The next one is scheduled for Sunday, July 28, from 5-7 p.m.

Supporters of democratic rights are also invited to attend the trial proceedings, which occur in downtown Manhattan at 40 Centre Street, Room 518, Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The New York 8+ Defense Committee can be contacted at 2415 Coney Island Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11223. The telephone number is (718) 615-3955.

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# U.S., S. Africa - hands off Angola!

Congress has increased U.S. government support to the war being waged by the racist rulers of South Africa against Angola.

With support from both the Democrats and Republicans, the House and Senate have voted to repeal the Clark amendment, adopted in 1976, which barred Washington from openly aiding the South African-backed counterrevolutionary group UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola). UNITA is armed, trained, supplied, and largely directed by the apartheid regime. It aims to bring down the Angolan government.

The Reagan administration supported the congressional move.

At the same time, Congress attempted to obscure its support for the South African rulers by adopting proposals for mild economic sanctions against South Africa. (See editorial below.)

Congressional support for the South African-backed reactionaries in Angola coincided with stepped up South African military operations against Angola.

On May 21 Angolan troops prevented a South African commando unit from blowing up oil-storage tanks in northern Angola. On June 29-30 South African troops invaded Angola — as they have done repeatedly — on the pretext of searching for supporters of the South West African People's Organization (SWAPO).

SWAPO is fighting for the independence of Namibia, a Black nation occupied by the South African regime.

The Angolan government responded to the open congressional support for the war against Angola by breaking off talks it had been holding with U.S. officials. The Reagan administration has been attempting to negotiate an agreement that would lead to the independence of Namibia only if Cuban troops withdraw from Angola. This "linkage," as it is known, is aimed at diverting attention from the real obstacle to Namibian independence — South Africa and its U.S. backers.

"The repeal of the Clark amendment at this particular moment," the Angolan government explained, "when the forces of the racist Pretoria regime and its UNITA puppets are desperately attempting to destabilize the economy of the People's Republic of Angola, is further evidence of the complicity which has always existed between the U.S. administration and the reactionary and racist Pretoria regime."

The Angolan government denounced Washington and the apartheid regime as responsible for the "escalation of violence in this part of the continent." It accused them of working jointly to "destabilize the legitimate governments of Southern Africa."

The Angolans are right. Washington has long been lined up with the apartheid regime in opposition to the independence struggles of the Angolans and other peoples of southern Africa.

When the peoples of Angola and Mozambique were fighting for independence from Portugal, Washington

helped bankroll the brutal colonial war waged by the Portuguese imperialists.

Portugal was forced to withdraw in November 1975, leaving the central government in the hands of the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA). Washington then attempted to undermine and, if possible, topple the new government. Together with the South African government, they backed UNITA and other dissidents in a civil war. UNITA's forces were heavily aided by South Africa and honeycombed with racist white mercenaries.

When it appeared that the MPLA would win the civil war, thousands of South African troops poured into Angola.

According to John Stockwell, the head of the Central Intelligence Agency's Angola Task Force during the war, Washington worked closely with the South African rulers every step of the way.

The war against Angola might have been successful had it not been for the arrival of thousands of Cuban troops who responded to the call of the Angolan government for help in beating back the imperialist attacks. The South African troops were forced to pull back, but they have continued to launch raids deep into Angola and their forces back the UNITA counterrevolutionaries. Cuban troops remain in Angola to help the government resist these attacks.

In a recent interview Cuban President Fidel Castro explained, "We are the only country that has actually fought the South African racists and fascists, the only country in the world — in addition to Angola, of course, which was under attack. You can be sure that all the African countries have always admired and been thankful for this action by Cuba. The troops are still there, to defend Angola against another operation by the South Africans."

The exposure of the U.S.-South African imperialist alliance against Angola was highly embarrassing to the U.S. rulers in the wake of their defeat in Vietnam. As a result, the Clark amendment was adopted by Congress in 1976.

Angola's victory was a great inspiration to freedom fighters in South Africa and Namibia. It also helped make it possible for the people of Zimbabwe to put an end to white minority rule.

And all this was a threat to the U.S. and South African rulers, who make billions off the brutally exploited labor of Black workers and peasants in southern Africa.

The repeal of the Clark amendment reaffirms that Washington is working closely with the South African rulers to weaken and bring down the government of Angola.

Opponents of apartheid and of the U.S.-backed war in Central America should answer Washington's latest moves by saying: "Hands off Angola! No U.S. support to apartheid!"

# Farrell Dobbs on perspectives for changing the unions

Before his death in 1983, Farrell Dobbs was a longtime leader of the Socialist Workers Party. He was also a central leader of the successful Teamster strikes in Minneapolis in the 1930s. It was at this time that he developed the strategy that led to the organization of over-the-road drivers into the Teamsters union.

The following excerpts are from the Afterword to his 1977 book *Teamster Bureaucracy*, which is the last volume in his four-part series on the Teamsters.

*Teamster Bureaucracy* can be ordered by sending \$6.95 (plus \$.75 for postage) to Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

One of the major factors preventing effective struggle against economic and social deterioration has been accelerated degeneration of the labor officialdom since World War II. Right after the war, from 1945 to 1947, bureaucratic control over the trade unions was temporarily shaken by a massive resurgence of working-class militancy. But once again the misleaders of labor succeeded in pre-

# OUR REVOLUTIONARY HERITAGE

venting the formation of an independent labor party and thus kept the workers tied to capitalist politics. Since that time they have moved, one step after another, toward intensified subservience to the ruling class.

These officials have gone a long way toward converting the trade unions into auxiliary instruments of repression-acting in collusion with the capitalist authorities. Among the consequences has been the clamping of collective bargaining into an iron vise. One jaw consists of restrictions imposed upon organized labor by the bosses' government. The other takes the form of bureaucratic controls within the unions themselves. Through this combination of repressive forces the workers have been subjected to steadily intensifying exploitation at the hands of the capitalists.

An equally reprehensible situation exists concerning struggles by doubly oppressed layers of society, such as oppressed nationalities and women. Those movements are largely ignored, or at best given little more than lip service, by the trade union bureaucracy. If, however, the ruling class shows open hostility toward a particular oppositional tendency — as it did in the case of Malcolm X, for example — the labor fakers are quick to oppose that tendency as well.

In the sphere of capitalist foreign policy, especially, the top union officials play the role of lickspittles. That has been illustrated most fully in the criminal support given by [AFL-CIO President] George Meany and his cohorts to the brutal assault on the Vietnamese by the U.S. imperialists and in their reactionary opposition to the American antiwar movement.

Up to now the labor bureaucrats have gotten away with this treachery. But new trends are developing that will undermine their control over the workers' movement. U.S. imperialism is falling into increasing difficulties at the center of the developing world capitalist crisis.

As things get worse under the present officers, broadening layers of the membership will become more open-minded toward new ideas and methods of action. Awareness will grow that organized labor is on the wrong track programmatically. Pressures will mount for a major shift in line. When the incumbents fail to respond adequately, more and more workers will come to recognize that the leadership personnel must be changed, and they will be ready to act accordingly.

Proposals for immediate action should center on problems involving the workers' urgent material needs and the defense of their democratic rights. It is also important that the fight around those issues be attuned to the existing levels of consciousness in the union membership. Then, as significant forces are set into motion through that approach, several things take place. Rank-and-file militancy rises. Increasingly sharp clashes with the bosses result, during which the workers begin to shed class-collaborationist illusions and acquire class-struggle concepts. Lessons thus learned during industrial conflicts can prepare the union ranks for an advance toward action on a political plane. In short, a foundation is laid from which to initiate transformation of the trade unions themselves into instruments capable of developing far-reaching revolutionary perspectives.

If during the course of their experiences in struggle, the labor militants are helped to analyze the causes of the social and economic ills facing them; if they are aided in perceiving the essence of an outlived capitalism — they will learn that the existing problems are not incidental and episodic at all, but the consequence of a deep structural crisis of the system. They will then see why governmental control must be taken away from the capitalists by labor and its allies.

# Behind anti-apartheid sanctions

The Senate and House of Representatives recently voted to impose mild economic sanctions against the racist South African regime.

The Senate voted 80 to 12 on July 11 to ban new U.S. bank loans and nuclear technology to South Africa, curb computer sales, and to tighten the sanctions further if no progress is made on ending apartheid within 18 months.

The House voted 295 to 127 to impose similar sanctions as well as immediately banning importation of South African Kruggerand gold coins and halting private U.S. investment there.

The House and Senate will now seek to hammer out a common bill before sending it to the White House. The Reagan administration has already indicated its opposition to both bills.

While neither bill will end Washington's support to the South African regime, the fact that Congress was forced to adopt them reflects the mounting domestic and international opposition to the U.S. rulers' support to the South African government.

Over the past year, tens of thousands of trade unionists, Black rights activists, students, and others have joined anti-apartheid protests in front of the South African embassy in Washington, at consulates in other cities, on college campuses, and elsewhere. More than 100,000 people marched in Washington, D.C., San Francisco, and other cities on April 20 to hit U.S. policy in Central America and southern Africa. More national protests are set for October 11.

This growing international movement against apartheid comes in the context of increasing ferment in South Africa itself. Over the past year there have been daily protests inside that country by the Black majority. The South African police have responded by gunning down Black protesters virtually every day, claiming nearly 500 lives in the last year alone.

In addition, the racist government in Pretoria has stepped up its policy of regional terrorism. This has included attacks — either directly or through its surrogates

— in Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, and Zambia, as well as an ongoing war against the Namibian independence struggle.

This has increased South Africa's political isolation in the world — with its main political backer being the U.S. government.

Washington's support is based on Pretoria's role as imperialism's main cop in the region as well as on the huge profits U.S. capitalists reap from their superexploitation of the Black majority. This is why Washington has been reluctant to criticize South Africa's policies — and why it opposes moves to impose even mild economic and political sanctions against the racist regime.

For several years, Washington has pursued a policy it calls "constructive engagement." This policy has led to closer economic and political ties with Pretoria. U.S. officials argue that this will induce South Africa's rulers to institute reforms in the apartheid system.

In truth, the aim of this approach — as with all previous U.S. governmental policy since apartheid became official South African governmental policy in 1948 — is to give Pretoria full support in maintaining its domination over the Black majority at home and throughout the region.

While Washington is embarrassed by many of Pretoria's aggressive actions against the Black majority inside South Africa and against its neighbors, the U.S. government remains firmly on the side of the South African imperialists against the people of Africa.

Expanding the movement against U.S. governmental support to the racist regime is the best aid working people here and around the world can give the Black majority in their fight to end imperialist domination of their homelands.

Joining the protests at South African consulates and building actions like the October 11 national anti-apartheid protests are a good way to help raise the political price the U.S. policymakers have to pay for their support for the apartheid regime.



# Why Black women have big stake in abortion rights

The following is a guest column by Jackie Floyd, a member of the National Committee of the Young Socialist Alliance.

The National Right to Life Committee (NRLC), the reactionary outfit that aims to outlaw abortion, had a "special focus on the abortion issue as it relates to Black Americans" at its convention in June.

"The deliberate killing of Black babies in abortion is genocide. . . . The quality of life for the poor, the Black



## WOMEN IN REVOLT Pat Grogan

and the oppressed will not be served by destroying their children," they say in a book distributed at their convention.

This argument turns reality on its head. The truth is that the Jan. 22, 1973, Supreme Court decision codifying abortion as women's constitutional right was a victory for Black women, who suffered the most from the anti-abortion laws.

Before abortion was legalized, the majority of women who died from illegal, back-alley abortions were Blacks,

Puerto Ricans, and Chicanas. And almost all of them were workers — rich women could just fly to some other country to get their abortions.

Far from being an attempt at genocide, having the right to safe and legal abortion has saved the lives of thousands of women — particularly Blacks and Latinas.

The abortion-rights victory also helped change the conditions that forced many sisters to submit to sterilization as a means of obtaining an abortion. Social welfare agencies and hospitals often coerced women who were recipients of welfare funds into being sterilized. In some states, racist politicians even tried to pass laws forcing these women to be sterilized if they had more than one child.

But the victorious fight for the right of women to control our own bodies; for our right to decide if and when we want children, and how many, has also strengthened our ability to oppose the racist practice of forced sterilization.

The first serious blow against abortion rights was the passage of the Hyde Amendment by Congressional Democrats and Republicans. It cut off Medicaid funding for abortions, except in cases of rape, incest, or when a woman's life is in danger. In May 1981, these capitalist politicians cut off funds even in cases of rape and incest.

The Hyde Amendment was a racist, anti-working-class attack. It strikes hardest at Black women, Latinas, and the poorest women. The elimination of Medicaid funding for abortion is part of the attack against the right of all women to abortion, and it laid the basis for further

restrictions on abortion rights.

The Hyde Amendment has made it more difficult for many women to exercise their constitutional right to control their own bodies.

Legal abortion has by no means solved all the problems faced by Black women. But it has certainly placed us in a better position to struggle against all the forms of oppression we face as Black women in this capitalist society — a system based upon racism, sexism, and the exploitation of working people.

Defending the right to abortion is part of the struggle for Black rights. The fight for Black rights is advanced when half of the Black nationality, Black women, can gain control of our bodies, thus gaining greater confidence that we can make the decisions that affect our lives in all areas.

Under slavery, Black women had no right to control our own bodies. Slave women were often forced to bear children against their will and were used as breeders to enrich the plantation owners.

Our history teaches us, perhaps better than anyone, how precious is the right to control our own bodies. No one has the right to decide for us whether or not we will bear children. This means that we must have access to abortion and freedom from forced sterilization.

The right to abortion is part and parcel of the fight to eliminate the oppression we face. Eliminating women's right to control their bodies can only serve the interest of the modern day slavemasters — the rich and the politicians that serve them.

## Another case of putting profits before people

BY JOANNE TORTORICI PICADO

LOS ANGELES — Some 50 deaths in California alone have been attributed to the eating of contaminated Jalisco cheese, the result of a conspiracy to deliberately sell the deadly stuff to the public.

Jalisco produces a fresh dairy product that is widely

### AS I SEE IT

sold in this city's Latino communities, as well as in the rest of California and other states.

Nationwide, the cheese has accounted for a still unknown number of deaths and serious illnesses. As the death toll mounts weekly, the rising number of dead here has been underreported by Los Angeles County health officials and downplayed by the capitalist media, according to charges made by California Sen. Art Torres. And an unknown number of people who get sick after eating the cheese, but recover (including this writer and another family member), never even make it into the statistics.

The Los Angeles County district attorney recently an-

nounced he suspects that unpasteurized milk was deliberately mixed into the cheese and then sold to an unknowing public. An initial investigation has uncovered information which, thus far, points to just such a cynical scheme:

- Jalisco regularly received 200,000 pounds of milk per day, while its daily pasteurizing capacity is only 150,000.

- A fire was reported in the Jalisco company's safe on June 13, the same day its products were recalled from grocery shelves.

- A Jalisco company attorney removed company records at the beginning of the probe, then reported them stolen from his briefcase.

The human tragedy that has resulted from Jalisco's apparent efforts to shave costs in production has been given only brief mention in this city's big-business media.

Lack of pasteurization in milk allows a bacteria, called *Listeria monocytogenes*, to thrive. This bacteria, which also lives well under refrigeration, is particularly dangerous to pregnant women, children, old people, or anyone with a decreased immunity to illness.

Although there have been reports of listeriosis-related deaths here in recent years, there had apparently been no attempts to link these to a particular product, until the recent epidemic. Furthermore, laboratories are not even required to report listeria infections to the county or the state. When deaths finally reached epidemic proportions, there were further delays before any recall attempts were made.

Contamination has also been isolated in Cacique brand cheeses, and the Food and Drug Administration was forced to order a national recall of Cacique dairy products on July 11.

It would seem that human life, particularly that of Latinos, is considered cheap by businessmen and county and state officials, when compared with the health and well-being of the dairy industry.

The women who gave birth to dead infants and the families that lost parents and children are victims of just one more get-rich-quick scam that puts profits ahead of human life. Their tragic losses add to the growing list of reasons why this system, which routinely destroys life in order to benefit a few, should be replaced by one which puts human needs first and foremost — socialism.

## —LETTERS

### Pendleton Prison I

The following letter was received from a prisoner in Pendleton, Indiana. It is addressed to prisoners who were involved in the February 1 takeover of that prison and who were subsequently transferred.

A cover letter explains that "in the aftermath of the February takeover, many comrades were transferred throughout the State of Indiana. The authorities of the state do not allow correspondence between its prisoners in the institutions. I would like your paper to publish the enclosed letter."

Please be advised that you have not been forgotten, and also, that I am doing everything within my power to make sure that our grievances are heard.

I should also inform you that we were forced to accept the Federal Bureau of Investigation regarding our complaint. You are aware that we were limited in that investigation. However, we attempted to reveal "all human and civil rights violations" known to us and brought to our attention.

Also, we did request an independent investigation concerning the brutality committed upon the prisoners here. However, our request has been suppressed by the administration.

The question here is, when will the Justice Department render its decision regarding the official re-

port of the investigation? Hopefully, it will be before the State of Indiana starts its prosecution process. But we know that this system will not reveal any wrongdoing by its agents until after their attempt to prosecute you. This is why an independent investigation is needed in order to bring the truth to light.

Being that this is the only line of communication at this point, I hope all involved receive this message. Also, I must sternly stress, that what you and the rest did was a courageous act, it will never be forgotten by me or the rest that are concerned for the welfare of human life.

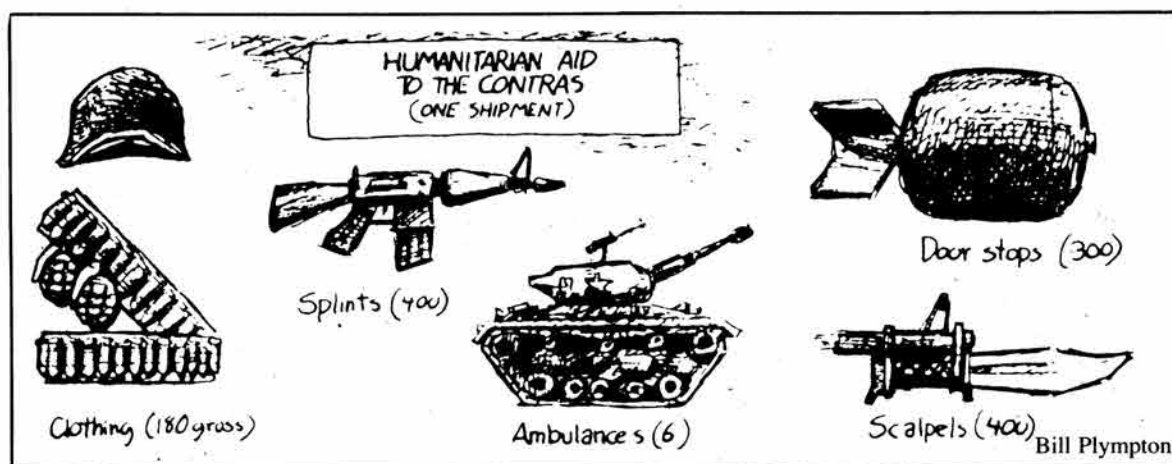
### Pendleton Prison II

Prisoners in general, and black prisoners in particular, across the United States are organizing themselves. They seek to break the isolation imposed by the right-wing drift in the political and social landscape of the United States and are doing so in a number of ways.

Recently here in Indiana at the Pendleton Prison, black prisoners revolted against police violence and inhuman conditions.

Revolts, riots, and hostage seizures, unfortunately, have become the only concrete means for desperate prisoners to engage prison-crats and tax-payers in meaningful dialog concerning life in the inside.

We are the Indiana Black Pris-



oners' Organization (IBPO)-News Service. We have the expressed and intended purpose of giving voice to the plight of black prisoners' and black peoples' relationship to the United States prisons.

We know there is a genuine need to break the isolation prison walls cast over the imprisoned. We have, through sources such as the African National Prison Organization, found that "one out of every four black men goes to prison in his lifetime! And nearly 80 percent of all women in prison are African."

We think that in understanding the why of these statistics, we'll be able to truly understand the phenomena of "black on black crime," and why a bomb could be dropped on an African community in Philadelphia in the name of "America" in the year 1985!

The IBPO-News Service will keep black prisoners, our family,

friends, and allies in touch with the movement of our people in the community and evolving struggles inside the prisons for freedom and justice.

Write to IBPO-News Service, Box 44157, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204.

### Expensive prejudice

An unmarried woman teacher just won a lawsuit against the Hawthorne, Illinois, school board. She was awarded \$3.3 million in damages because the board had fired her when she decided to keep her baby. She became pregnant after a rape.

The woman's lawyer said this decision will send a message to school boards across the nation that they can't discriminate against women teachers who get pregnant "out of wedlock."

It's nice to know that those who

acted out of such deep antiwoman prejudice will have to pay a hefty price for it.

J.L.  
Chicago, Illinois

### Correction

Last week's article on the New Jersey socialist campaign incorrectly identified the air force base in Wrightstown, New Jersey, as Andrews Air Force Base. It should have been identified as McGuire A.F.B.

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.



## Big takebacks forced on AMC workers

Auto union members angry at company blackmail

BY BILL BREIHAN

MILWAUKEE — On July 12, auto workers in Milwaukee and Kenosha, Wisconsin, voted to approve a three-year concession contract with the American Motors Corp. (AMC).

United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 72 members in Kenosha voted 3,555 to 916 in favor of the proposed contract. The vote in the Milwaukee AMC parts plant organized by Local 75 was 86 percent in favor.

The turnout was heavy despite recent mass layoffs. Seventy-five percent of the membership voted in Kenosha and over 90 percent in Milwaukee.

With the announcement of the vote, AMC immediately withdrew the plant-closing notices sent out to all union members on May 25. Chief negotiator for AMC, Vice-president Richard Calmes, was elated over the results of the vote. "I think it's just great! A vote of confidence in the executive board and in the company."

Raymond Majerus, UAW international Secretary-Treasurer and the chief negotiator for the union, had a similar reaction. He called the new concession contract "a victory for the union, for the community and for the company."

In a July 1 interview with the *Milwaukee Journal*, Majerus said that in the past the union "put a gun to the company's head." But this time around the company and the union "just reversed roles."

The response to the vote by the local UAW leadership was of a different type. Rudy Kuzel, Local 72 president at the big Kenosha assembly plant, pointed to workers dissatisfaction with the contract despite

the favorable vote. "I think the membership generally resents the tactics the company used," he said, referring to AMC's threats during bargaining to close all its Wisconsin operations unless it got a long list of concessions.

Among other things, the new contract will cut wages, relief time, and days off, and significantly reduce union representation on the shop floor.

It will limit seniority and transfer rights, eliminate voluntary overtime, and restrict the grievance procedure.

It will also commit the union to a profit-sharing method of repayment on \$65 million in "investments" made by employees through deferred wage increases since 1982, and to extend the repayment period until 1991. It also committed the union to negotiate future concessions before the company would even consider introducing a new model at the Kenosha plant. This includes reducing labor costs to the lowest level of other UAW auto agreements in effect at that time. An example of such a contract today cited by AMC is the one signed recently by the UAW and New United Motors Manufacturing in Fremont, California, which is jointly operated by General Motors and Toyota.

In return for these concessions AMC has guaranteed that production of Alliance and Encore cars will continue in Kenosha and Milwaukee as long as profits from sales of these models justify making them.

The vote at the Milwaukee AMC plants on July 12 was the second time UAW members there had voted on the proposed



Assembly-line worker at American Motors Corporation's Kenosha, Wisconsin, plant.

contract. A week earlier, Local 75 workers at the parts plant had rejected the contract by a 60 to 40 ratio.

After that vote, one parts-plant worker told the press that workers there were aware that the company could close the plant if there was no vote, but that parts workers were willing to take that chance. "You can't work with an agreement like they want you to work under," he said. "That's back to the 1930s again."

Unhappy with the results of the Milwaukee vote, the UAW international officialdom ordered a second vote at Local

75. This time, under increased pressure, the parts workers finally gave in and approved the settlement.

Many workers at both the Milwaukee and Kenosha plants said they voted for the contract, though they were unhappy with it. As one worker put it, "If you're under the gun and they are going to pull the trigger, what's left? What else are you going to do?"

A number of workers and local officials also expressed dissatisfaction with the role of UAW international union officials in the bargaining with AMC.

## N.C. Blacks protest racist frame-up trial

BY MIKE NICHOLSON

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — More than 350 people gathered at Emmanuel Baptist Church here on June 29 to protest the frame-up of Darryl Hunt.

The Black community has been actively involved in a number of protest actions in the past few months around the Hunt case.

Darryl Hunt is a 20-year-old Black worker who was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to life imprisonment here on June 17. He was convicted of killing Deborah Sykes, a young white copy editor for the *Winston-Salem Journal*, who was raped and killed on Aug. 10, 1984. An

all-points-bulletin was put out after the killing, with a description that could have fit most of the Black men in Winston-Salem.

Hunt was picked up in what has clearly become a case of finding any Black man to blame for the crime. The district attorney prosecuting the case, Donald Tisdale, claimed the Hunt case doesn't involve racism at all — a Black man committed the crime and a Black man is on trial for the crime!

The case has been railroaded through the court to get a conviction. There was only one Black on the jury. Evidence presented was mostly circumstantial and full of

holes.

The two key witnesses for the district attorney were Johnny Gray and Thomas Murphy.

Murphy is a former member of the Ku Klux Klan.

Gray said that he witnessed the crime. But when he called the cops he falsely identified himself as Hunt's best friend. He later claimed not to know Hunt. The police department's tape recording of his message has been destroyed. Gray initially identified another person as the killer, but this person was found to be in jail the day of the killing. Gray himself was up on charges of

armed robbery. After Hunt's verdict, the charges against Gray were dropped. Gray also admits that his rent has been paid by the police the last two months.

A third witness said that the man he saw had a Michael Jackson-style geri-curl, while Hunt wore his hair in corn rows. And the blood evidence taken from the dead body does not match Hunt's blood type.

The trial has become a center of discussion in the Winston-Salem area, especially in the Black community. The Darryl Hunt Defense Committee organized a march of 400 supporters at the beginning of the trial and has produced buttons, T-shirts, and bulletins, as well as holding community meetings. Supporters of Hunt attended the trial daily, with up to 250 present.

Organizers of the June 29 rally made a special appeal to get the truth out about the case. A speakers bureau has been set up along with an outreach committee. A brochure with all the facts about the case is being produced. It was also emphasized that it will take everyone in Winston-Salem to become involved — both white and Black — to win Hunt's freedom.

The rally was attended by all four of Winston-Salem's Black aldermen. The defense committee collected \$3,200 in cash and \$2,800 was pledged.

The defense committee is headed by the president of the Winston-Salem NAACP and one of the Winston-Salem aldermen, Larry Little. The district attorney has threatened to prosecute Little, accusing him of abusing his elected office.

The prosecutor has also threatened to go after others involved in Hunt's defense. Hunt was offered \$12,000 — the reward money — to accuse his best friend of the murder.

The Darryl Hunt Defense Committee plans to expand the campaign to win Hunt's freedom. For more information, contact the Darryl Hunt Defense Committee, P.O. Box 2911, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102.

## Solidarity rally held for Hormel workers

BY JIM ALTENBERG

AUSTIN, Minn. — As the preliminary contract negotiations opened between the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local P-9 and the Hormel Corp., 400 unionists, their families, and supporters held a solidarity rally and picnic here June 29. The union has been fighting to regain a 23 percent wage cut imposed by the company in October 1984, and to put an end to years of concessions forced on them in negotiations and arbitration decisions.

Local P-9's fight has won the support of working people throughout the country. Rally participants came from as far as Seattle, Washington, and Mobile, Alabama, to show their solidarity.

"The meat industry is a disaster for workers," Jim Guyette, president of Local P-9, told reporters. "Companies have broken wage rates and common expiration dates" for contracts.

In Austin agreements of the past few years had become so confusing and contradictory that the union is forced to await an arbitrator's decision determining the actual date that the contract expires.

At the picnic a worker who retired after 43 years at Hormel told this correspondent that the company takebacks meant that he and his wife take home \$3,000 per year more from his Hormel pensions and their Social Security than his son-in-law does working full-time at the plant today. The pension formula is again being cut he said, as he wondered what his son-in-law would get when he retires.

But the union continues to stand firm against concessions in the talks. An agreement can be reached, Guyette said, if both sides are willing to talk.

Should Hormel force a strike, workers are prepared. They will go to First Bank branches, supermarkets carrying Hormel products, and elsewhere to let people know how they can help.

Rally speakers from around the country described the national importance of the fight at Hormel, as well as their own fights against the employers' takeback demands.

Ron Weisen, president of United Steelworkers of America Local 1397 in Homestead, Pennsylvania, spoke of four recent labor battles.

"We lost the first two, at AP Parts and Phelps Dodge," he said, referring to the 1984 battle between Toledo auto workers and AP Parts, and to the long, militant strike by Arizona and Texas copper miners against Phelps Dodge. "But we can win at A.T. Massey and in Austin," Weisen concluded. The United Mine Workers is striking A.T. Massey coal company.

Others said that concessions don't save jobs, that they only invite more attacks. Jorge Aguilar, of Ironworkers Local 637 in Spring Valley, California, explained that locals are pitted against each other under the threat of plant closures and layoffs. The plants are then closed anyway, concessions or no.

Unemployed workers are also set against those with jobs. "We need to demand jobs, not cuts," Aguilar said. And as Brian Lange, of a UFCW local in Boston stated, "We thought the company would ease up after cuts were taken, but they only want more."

The government is behind the corporations in their drive for concessions, Tony

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