

Hormel fires supporters of Minnesota strike



Militant/Peggy Winter
Vernon Bellecourt of American Indian Movement voices solidarity with United Food and Commercial Workers Local P-9 at union hall. P-9 is asking for support from across country to beat back union-busting drive by Hormel Co.

BY MAGGIE McCRAW

AUSTIN, Minn., Jan. 29 — George A. Hormel Co. announced yesterday that it was firing hundreds of workers across the country. The workers, members of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union (UFCW) in Iowa, Texas, and Nebraska, were victimized for refusing to cross picket lines set up at their plants by UFCW Local P-9. The 1,500 members of P-9 have been on strike here against Hormel for five months.

Ray Rogers, a consultant to Local P-9, denounced the firings as "intimidation."

"They are trying," he said, "to negate the tremendous solidarity that is developing among rank-and-file workers." P-9 is demanding the rehiring of all the workers fired for honoring their picket lines.

A spirited membership meeting here Saturday night, January 25, heard a report from the local's executive board on meetings with Boston attorney Arnold Zack in St. Paul. Zack was appointed by Minnesota

Gov. Rudy Perpich as a "fact finder." Zack issued a report that is supposed to clarify a federal mediator's contract proposal. The proposal, supported by Hormel, calls for a two-tier wage system, guts safety and seniority rights, and doesn't restore the wage cuts imposed by the company in 1984. P-9 President Jim Guyette called the fact finder's report "the same thing that has been turned down by our membership twice."

While the company and state officials are pressuring the local to accept the proposal immediately, Saturday's union meeting unanimously voted to make copies of Zack's report available for the membership's consideration. The union will decide in a week whether to vote on it.

At the same meeting P-9 members decided to send more roving pickets to other Hormel and FDL plants. FDL is a Hormel subsidiary. These roving pickets — which had successfully closed down the Hormel plant in Ottumwa, Iowa, for several hours

on January 21 — had been put on hold during the meetings with Zack as a gesture of good faith. P-9 also decided to organize a national consumer boycott of Hormel products.

After the meeting, hundreds of pickets were dispatched to plants in the Hormel chain.

At a January 28 news conference, Ray Rogers discussed the role of the roving pickets. "We're going to keep people out until we shut the plants down," he said. "We're going to expand them. In areas where we haven't shut them down, we'll stay and continue to work with the rank and file to get as close to 100 percent as we can. The dynamics of discussions that are going on are very healthy. We have over 200 people out there generating a lot of goodwill and support."

Spirits were high the last couple of days as the roving pickets reported back to the union hall. The Ottumwa, Iowa, plant was shut down again, this time for two days. Workers from the Ottumwa plant have joined P-9's pickets at the Fremont, Nebraska, plant. In Texas at the Dallas plant the entire union membership honored the picket lines.

At Hormel's FDL plants in Dubuque, Iowa, and its plants in Algona, Iowa, and Fremont and Houston, Texas, many union members are respecting P-9's picket lines. Workers at these plants have also organized meetings for the Local P-9 members to discuss the issues in their strike.

The UFCW International officials have announced that the union will file grievances against Hormel for firing workers who respect the picket line. These officials, however, have also threatened "unspecified action against P-9." This threat comes in the wake of the top officialdom's public attack on the local for refusing to accept the federal mediator's proposal and end the strike.

Here in Austin, P-9 members face the National Guard, which was mobilized by Governor Perpich over a week ago.

Perpich announced that beginning this morning, the National Guard will be with-
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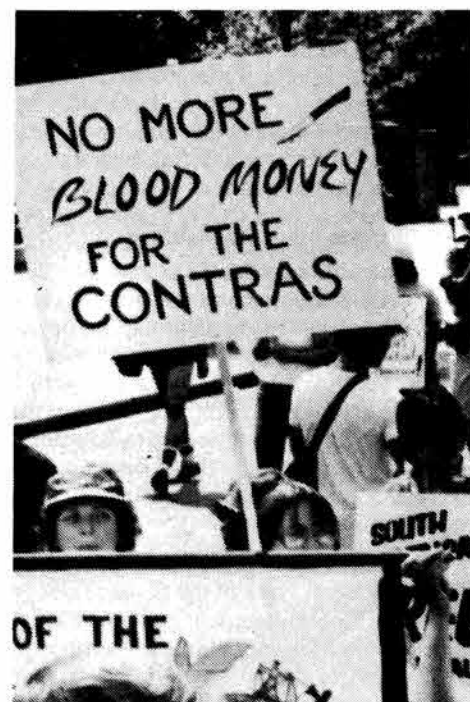
April 19 antiwar march set for S.F.

BY RAÚL GONZÁLEZ

SAN FRANCISCO — One hundred people attended a meeting of the Mobilization for Peace, Jobs, and Justice to help plan an antiwar march and rally in San Francisco on April 19.

The demonstration is in support of four demands: no U.S. intervention in Central America and the Caribbean; end U.S. support for South African apartheid; jobs and justice, not war; and, freeze and reverse the nuclear arms race.

On April 20 of last year more than 100,000 people marched here and in Washington, D.C., around these issues. The call drafted by the coalition explains, "These issues are still with us, the situation even more urgent. We must march again, in



Militant/Fred Murphy
April 20, 1985, march in Washington, D.C. April 19 protest called by Bay Area coalition is important response to escalation of U.S.-organized war against Nicaragua.

Reagan: more aid for Nicaragua 'contras'

BY DOUG JENNESS

President Ronald Reagan announced January 21 that he will ask Congress to approve up to \$100 million in aid to the counterrevolutionaries (contras) waging war against the Nicaraguan government.

A White House official said that at least \$60 million would be used for arms and

other direct military aid. The rest would be earmarked for food, medicine, clothing, boots, and other supplies, which have been characterized by government officials as "humanitarian" aid.

Last June Congress voted to give the contras \$27 million, in this kind of "humanitarian" aid. Spending authority for

that appropriation runs out on March 31.

Reagan's disclosure of the new aid proposal was made at a meeting of Republican senators and came as Congress was returning from a month-long recess. White House officials said the administration expected to send the proposed aid package to Congress by early February.

The proposed increase in funding for the contras is aimed at reinforcing their grinding war against Nicaragua's Sandinista government. The goal of this contra war is to wear down the Nicaraguan people. Washington hopes that divisions will be created and deepened among Nicaragua's working people and that confidence in the Sandinista government will be eroded. The Pentagon is looking for conditions that could lead to an internal revolt, opening the door to overturning that government.

Pentagon strategists are now calling this type of war "low-intensity conflict." But for the Nicaraguan people this conflict is far from low intensity — it is a large-scale and very costly war.

Fifteen thousand Nicaraguans have been killed in the past five years. Proportionate to the population, this is more deaths than the United States suffered in World War II. Thousands more Nicaraguans have been
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Mandela hits U.S. role in Angola

BY FRED FELDMAN

"The South African regime continues with impunity to attack neighboring countries," declared anti-apartheid leader Winnie Mandela January 24. "The American administration not only approves of this conduct but has now followed the examples set by the racist regime by giving aid to and receiving officially in Washington the bandit Savimbi."

She was referring to Jonas Savimbi, head of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola. UNITA, a terrorist outfit that seeks to topple the government of the West African country of Angola, is armed, financed, and provided with military personnel by South Africa. About 4,000 South African troops occupy parts of

southern Angola.

Savimbi arrived in the United States January 28 to begin a tour that is being supported by the U.S. government. The Reagan administration, which says it favors "covert" military aid to UNITA, has urged Congress to publicly declare its support for Savimbi.

At the same time, Mandela noted, the Reagan administration "refuses any assistance to the true representatives of the people in this country, the African National Congress. We can only conclude from this that the American government is determined at all costs to maintain and support the racist white regime in South Africa."

Mandela made her statement as she was
Continued on Page 5

greater numbers than before. . . .

Al Lannon, president of Local 6 of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union, cochaired the meeting and reported on the call to action. The meeting took place on the same day as the explosion of the space shuttle. Lannon said that as participants mourn the seven killed, "let us mourn also the victims of contra terrorism in Nicaragua, the 1,000 killed in South Africa, and the victims of the Salvadoran government's air war."

Mike Davis from the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador reported on an emergency campaign to save the lives of 1,000 peasants trapped by the Salvadoran military. Davis is a member of the coordinating committee for the April 19 action.

Walter Johnson, president of the San Francisco Federation of Labor, said that the march can win strong support in the labor movement. He and Bill Daly, president of the painters' union, explained the importance of linking the struggle against U.S. war in Central America and apartheid to the struggles of working people here.

Other reports at the meeting described the work to build the march and the growing support for it. Leaflets, T-shirts, buttons, and posters were all available in large quantities.

For more information call (415) 621-7326.

D.C. socialists plan 'Militant' sales at airport

BY NANCY BARTLETT

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Socialists here are facing a big challenge this spring — to begin regular distribution of the *Militant*,

are made up and repaired. Over the fall, sales were sometimes modest, with two or three papers being sold each week.

Militant supporters used the oc-

tant supporters has been to organize teams of supporters — who have widely varying work schedules — to sell to airline workers at National Airport. The right to distribute and sell political materials inside airport terminals was established by court decision several years ago, and many airports issue permits for tables and sales teams.

Until now, however, most copies of the *Militant* and *Young Socialist* were distributed by supporters who work at the airport.

The *Militant* has received an excellent response from some workers because of its coverage of anti-apartheid protests, especially around the successful campaign by the Free South Africa Movement to collect 1 million signatures on the Freedom Letter to Bishop

Desmond Tutu of South Africa.

Workers who are members of the International Association of Machinists at Eastern Airlines collected more than 225 signatures on the Freedom Letter, and several participated in the daily picket lines at the South African embassy and at the rallies held with Tutu in early January.

In the past several weeks political discussions among Eastern workers have increased as the company has intensified its attacks against employees. Eastern has announced that it will impose new concessions against all its workers by February 28. On January 20 the airline announced it was laying off 1,000 flight attendants — and cutting the pay and benefits of the remaining attendants. Seventy-eight Washington-based attendants were

cut. Members of the three unions who organize Eastern workers — the Transport Workers Union, International Association of Machinists, and the Air Line Pilots Association — are having serious discussions about how to fight Eastern's latest attacks.

"We need to stick together and fight. That's what Martin Luther King taught us," an Eastern worker told a *Militant* supporter.

Socialists plan not only to regularize sales at the terminal, but also at shopping centers in northern Virginia located near the union hall and airport. One thing we've noticed is that the fight between the unions and Eastern is being discussed by workers in other industries. We want to participate in this discussion by widely circulating the *Militant*.

SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE

Perspectiva Mundial, and the *Young Socialist* to transportation workers in the rail and airline industries in Washington, Maryland, and northern Virginia.

For a year socialists have been distributing the *Militant* and *Young Socialist* to Amtrak workers at Washington's Union Station and coach yard, where the trains

casion of the first Martin Luther King, Jr., national holiday to begin this year's sale at the coach yard. Conversation with workers were brief because, as at many rail yards, the only place to sell is at the traffic light as workers are driving out. Even so, five copies of the *Militant* were sold.

The bigger challenge for *Mili-*

Washington sees Marcos as liability to interests

BY HARRY RING

Lavish campaign promises. Escalated anticommunist rhetoric. Crude sexist denigration of his opponent. Murder of opposition campaign workers.

These are the key pieces in the campaign of Ferdinand Marcos for reelection as president of the Philippines.

Despite an extensive blackout by the Marcos-controlled media and the assassination of nine of her campaign workers, his rival, Corazon Aquino, draws big campaign crowds. For many Filipinos her rallies become, in effect, demonstrations against the hated Marcos regime.

Along with the massive popular opposition, the hard-pressed Marcos has an added large problem — a public declaration by the Reagan administration that it now sees him as a liability to U.S. big-business interests in the Philippines.

Washington takes its distance

Washington may decide to look the other way when Marcos moves to steal the elections. But it has made plain that it considers him a problem.

The administration is concerned with a possible explosive response to a theft of the elections. "People will turn to radical alternatives, specifically, the Communists," warned Paul Wolfowitz, a State Department official.

A White House delegation, headed by Richard Lugar, chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, will go to the Philippines to monitor the February 7 voting.

The aim of the mission is modest. It is hoped, Lugar said, that the presence of the observers will encourage those who want to "keep the fraud down to a dull roar."

Marcos had invited foreign observers, but specified that any foreign observer or reporter who came within 150 feet of a polling place would be jailed.

To lay out Washington's approach to the problem of the deepening popular unrest

and insurgency in the Philippines, several unnamed top administration officials gave special interviews to the *New York Times* for a story in its January 26 issue.

Until the recent escalation of popular opposition, the administration had been stalwart in support of Marcos' dictatorial rule.

In 1981 at a Marcos dinner, Vice-President George Bush had declared with a straight face: "We love your adherence to democratic principles and democratic processes." And, he assured, "We will not leave you in isolation."

But now, the *Times* reports, a consensus has developed in the administration that the departure of Marcos "is critical to a non-communist future for the Philippines and American interests in that country."

Initially, the paper blandly reports, the administration considered organizing a military coup to be rid of Marcos. For reasons undisclosed, that was put aside, they say.

Their main problem seems to be finding a suitable successor and, the *Times* adds, most of the officials interviewed said "they were also wary of his opponent," Aquino. Although one said, "With all the uncertainties about their polemics, we still feel we can protect our interests and deal with her."

If most of the officials had their way, the report continues, "Mr. Marcos would win an election that was not too unfair and then quickly step aside in favor of his vice-presidential candidate."

That's Arturo Tolentino, 75 years old. He's "old, respected, and reasonable," and would presumably also quickly step aside for a more durable successor of U.S. government choosing.

U.S. military bases

Part of Washington's concern is that pressure will continue to build in the Philippines for the scrapping of the two giant U.S. bases there.

More than 14,000 U.S. military are sta-

tioned at the huge Clark Air Base and Subic naval base.

The Subic base includes a shipyard which does most of the repair work on the 90 ships of the 7th Fleet. It's staffed mainly by skilled Filipino workers.

A measure of U.S. exploitation in the Philippines is that repairs at Subic cost about one-seventh of what they would at a U.S. yard.

Both Aquino and Marcos have pledged to allow the bases to stay if elected.

Even more decisive than the bases, though, is U.S. economic domination of the Philippines, which is illustrated by the impoverished country's foreign debt of more than \$24 billion.

Since 1965 Marcos has faithfully protected the interests of U.S. bankers, businessmen, and plantation operators. In return, he and his cronies were permitted to steal freely, which they have.

At a recent congressional inquiry, it was testified that Imelda Marcos, spouse of the president, owns four New York properties worth \$350 million.

And those, said Rep. Stephen Solarz, represent but "the tip of the iceberg" of the billions shipped out by the Marcos family and their pals.

Marcos' big lie

In addition to permitting him a free hand at the trough, Washington was complicit in Marcos' deception of the Filipino people about his record as a heroic guerrilla fighter during Japan's World War II occupation of the Philippines.

For years, Marcos has capitalized on tales of having organized a fighting force of 8,000 guerrillas who struck massive blows at the hated Japanese occupiers.

But on January 22, long-secret U.S. Army documents were released that found, after repeated investigation, that his claims were "fraudulent" and "absurd."

One army investigator found that no

such group had existed and branded Marcos' claim that it did "a malicious criminal act."

Yet, the U.S. government deliberately concealed that information for 35 years — revealing it only when it decided to take its distance from him.

Two years ago, Dr. Arturo Taca, an anti-Marcos Filipino living in St. Louis, tried to obtain the army records. They were denied to him on the grounds it would violate the dictator's privacy.

The suppressed dossier was among army records recently turned over to the National Archives. A staff archivist there made it available to a historian who went to the press with it.

The revelation has provided new campaign ammunition for Corazon Aquino. Condemnation of Marcos and his strong-arm rule has been the principal feature of the capitalist opposition's campaign. A member of one of the wealthiest families in the Philippines, Aquino has berated Marcos as being responsible for the growth of the Communist Party-led guerrilla movement and declared that "he is leaving to us as one of his shameful legacies the difficult task of reversing the drift toward a Communist takeover."

Election boycott

Meanwhile, a significant number of anti-Marcos forces are taking the stand that the elections are designed to perpetuate U.S.-Marcos rule over the country.

A statement by more than a dozen organizations and activists in the United States, including Friends of the Filipino People and the Philippine Support Committee, states that the elections are taking place "under circumstances which make us seriously doubt whether they will, in fact, be free and fair; and whether they will be an expression of the sovereign will of the Filipino people."

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Editor: MALIK MIAH

Managing editor:

MARGARET JAYKO

Business Manager:

LEE MARTINDALE

Editorial Staff: Rashaad Ali, Susan Apstein, Fred Feldman, Andrea González, Pat Grogan, Arthur Hughes, Tom Leonard, Harry Ring, Norton Sandler.

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Phila. antiracist protest gains new support

BY ALISON DAVIS
AND LEE SINGER

PHILADELPHIA — The National March Against Racism taking place here February 15 is continuing to draw new support. Recent endorsers include the West Philadelphia NAACP; National Congress of Puerto Rican Rights; Philadelphia City Council member Angel Ortiz; Gary Kapanowski, president, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Local 1723; New Jersey State National Organization for Women; Rep. Parren Mitchell; and Jeff Brown, president of AFSCME Local 1971. So far 30 cities are organizing transportation to the march.

The action was called in response to mobilizations by racist mobs last November in southwest Philadelphia against the right of Blacks to live where they choose. It will also protest other recent racist and anti-Semitic attacks in Philadelphia, including: the police bombing last year of the home of the Black organization MOVE, in which 11 people were killed; a pipe-bombing of a Black family's home in East Falls; the burning down of a Jewish community center in south Philadelphia in December; and the roundup and illegal detention of some 125 Puerto Rican youths by the police last May.

A press conference announcing the march was held by the National Mobilization Against Racism at Rev. Paul Washington's Church of the Advocate.

Raul Serrano of the Spring Garden United Neighbors, Inc., said the demonstration was "overdue."

Alicia Christian, from the Philadelphia Black Women's Health Project, said, "Economic injustice, oppression, and racism go hand in hand."

Frank Smith, a representative from District 65 of the United Auto Workers union (UAW) and a former resident of southwest Philadelphia, condemned the attacks on Black families.

The coalition is aggressively building the march throughout the area. A coalition representative spoke at a local meeting of UAW District 65 in Vineland, New Jersey, last week to enlist support for the demonstration. At a meeting of 600 people commemorating the 13th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion, everyone attending received a rally leaflet.

An organizing office has been opened, and weekly building meetings are being held. The city's major Black radio station, WUSL-Power 99, is making public service

announcements which have resulted in an increase of phone calls for information.

Despite the rain on Saturday, January 25, about 40 people went out for the third consecutive week to several locations in the city to distribute information about the march. There was a "youth squad" of high school students from Philadelphia and New York City that participated.

One member of the United Transportation Union reported that several of her co-workers support the march. A couple of them had gone with her to hear Bishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa when he was in Philadelphia. They told her they intended to go to the demonstration as well.

At the GM Fisher Body plant in Trenton, New Jersey, UAW members had helped organize a bus from their local to the November 9 anti-apartheid rally in Newark, New Jersey. Several workers are hoping to be able to organize a bus from the local to the March Against Racism as well.

Anti-apartheid and other campus groups are supporting the demonstration. Now that campuses are back in session, tables are being organized and volunteers are signing up.

The rally will begin at John F. Kennedy Plaza in downtown Philadelphia at noon.

To get involved in this important protest against racism, contact the National Mobilization Against Racism, 4206 Baltimore Ave., Philadelphia, Pa. 19104 (215) 387-7522.

NATIONAL MOBILIZATION FOR EQUALITY AND UNITY

MARCH AGAINST RACISM

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15 IN PHILADELPHIA
12 Noon at JFK Plaza — Center City

IT'S TIME TO TAKE A STAND!

The people of Philadelphia will join with justice-loving people who will be coming here on Feb. 15 from all over the country. Together we can register a powerful blow against the uncontrolled campaign of racism here in this city. The eyes of the country are on Philadelphia. What we do here can deal a setback to racism everywhere!

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!
WE SAY NO MORE!

Racist mobs and arson in Southwest Philadelphia
Pipe bombing in East Falls

PARTIAL LIST OF ENDORSERS: Philadelphia: Active Students for Peace • Bill Barry, Administrative Officer, Local 10, Newspaper Guild • CATA (Comité de Apoyo a Trabajadores Agrícolas) • Comm. for Dignity and Fairness for the Homeless • Delaware County Welfare Rights, PA • Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC) • Rev. Floyd Gamarrá, St. Barnabas Church, Kensington • David Harrison, Pres. Local 1210 ATU (Greyhound) • Teta Matcos, Prof., Rutgers Univ. • Camden, NJ • Alicia Christian, Mental Health Assoc. of S.E. Pennsylvania • Jim Moran, Assoc. Dir., Philadelp. Area Prog. on Occ. Safety and Health • Muslim Student Assoc., Temple Univ. • Philadelphia Black Women's Health Project Inc. • Philadelphia Chapter All Peoples Congress, Phila. Chapter, National Lawyers Guild • Philadelphia Welfare Rights • Project VOTE • David Richardson, State Rep., Pennsylvania • Sonia Sanchez, poet, teacher • Rev. M. Lorenzo Shepherd, Mt. Olivet Tabernacle Bapt. Ch. • Rev. Cordell H. Sloan • Spring Garden United Neighbors • Students for Progressive Action, H.S. of Engineering Sci. • Students for Social Awareness • Temple Univ. Assoc. of Black Journalists • U.S. Out of Southern Africa Network, Temple Univ. • Rev. Paul Washington, Church of the Advocate • Women's Peace Encampment National • African National Congress of South Africa • All Peoples Congress • American Arab Anti-Discrimination Comm., NYC • City Council of Jersey City, NJ • Ramsey Clark, former U.S. Attorney General • John Conyers, Jr., U.S. Congress, MI • District 65, UAW, NJ Region • National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays • National Conference of Black Lawyers • Puerto Rican Socialist Party • Tom Turner, Pres. Metro Detroit AFL-CIO Council • United American Indians of New England • Women for Racial & Economic Equality

VOLUNTEER TO HELP NOW!

Portion of leaflet publicizing antiracist action in Philadelphia. Racist firebombings and other attacks spurred protest.

Unions march for striking Mass. fishermen

BY JOHN STUDER

NEW BEDFORD, Mass. — Representatives of unions from all over the area joined hundreds of striking fishermen and their families in a solidarity demonstration here January 17. More than a thousand unionists marched through downtown streets and rallied in front of City Hall.

Chanting "Union! Union! Union!" the marchers expressed their solidarity with the 600 members of the Seafarers' International Union forced out on strike by the boat owners. They have been walking the picket line since December 27. The owners are demanding that the fishermen take a 10-15 percent cut in the percentage of the catch they receive as wages.

Jack Caffey, vice-president of the Seafarers, read a telegram of support for the strikers from Lane Kirkland, president of the AFL-CIO. Other speakers included Ed Clark, vice-president of the Massachusetts

AFL-CIO and a national vice-president of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union; James Macedo, president of the New Bedford and Cape Cod Labor Council; and other area labor officials and politicians.

Joe Piva, the port agent for the union, told the rally that the union is in "a fight for its life against the boat owners, who want to break the union up."

Piva told the *Militant* that local area businesses have begun to put the squeeze on striking fishermen. "Area banks are refusing to extend due dates for car and home mortgage payments," he explained. Piva told the rally that the union would "never forgive those who have turned their back on us in this fight."

The Seafood Producers' Association, which represents the 32 largest boats in the 253-boat New Bedford fleet, responded to the demonstration with an open strike-breaking attempt. They were aided by the Seafood Dealers' Association, which represents the processors who buy the fishermen's catch.

Flouting a city ordinance that requires that all fish sales be conducted in the city-regulated Pier 3 Fish Auction House, the owners attempted to open their own fish auction market on January 21.

By mounting a large and spirited picket line outside the bosses' illegal attempted auction, the striking fishermen were able to turn away a number of the small-ship captains who showed up and to limit the amount of fish being auctioned. The 200

picketing strikers were confronted by 75 city cops, equipped with riot gear and police dogs. The police did nothing to prevent the illegal sale from taking place, but they arrested 15 strikers.

From the beginning of the strike, the local big-business media has attempted to weaken support for the strike by refusing to tell the truth about it. While none of the Boston-area media, less than an hour away from New Bedford, reported the large solidarity demonstration, the *Boston Globe* did run an article on strikers' efforts to halt the illegal auction — headlined "Violence in New Bedford strike."

Portuguese is the first language of more than half the strikers. They responded enthusiastically to the *Militant* coverage of the strike, which supporters of the paper had translated into Portuguese and xeroxed for distribution. Copies were stapled to strike picket signs and made available for members at the union hall.

The Dealers' Association has announced they will continue to attempt their own fish auctions. The strikers have vowed to continue to protest and to demand that the city uphold the law and close the private sale down.

An estimated 30 small boats have left port in the last two weeks to go fishing. Few have attempted to bring their catch back to New Bedford. The fight over employer attempts to open the new auction terminal will make an important difference.

Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women



a new
book from
**Pathfinder
Press**

By Joseph Hansen
and Evelyn Reed
with an introduction by
Mary-Alice Waters

How do the wealthy owners of the cosmetics industry play on women's insecurities to sell products and rake in profits?

How are the standards of beauty determined in capitalist society?

How has the growing participation of women in the labor force changed their view of themselves and their potential?

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138 pp., \$4.95. Order from Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Please include 75 cents for handling.



Members of Seafarers' International Union, which represents striking New Bedford fishermen, lead solidarity march to New Bedford City Hall January 17. City government, local businesses are helping boat owners' efforts to break strike.

Nicaraguan gov't expands land reform

BY CINDY JAQUITH

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Nicaragua's workers' and peasants' government has begun a major expansion of the country's agrarian reform program in order to meet the demands of hundreds of thousands of peasants with little or no land. The new land-reform measure was first announced Dec. 31, 1985, as part of a New Year's message to the nation from the government and Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN).

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega delivered the New Year's speech at the northern peasant community of Pancasán. This is the site of an important FSLN guerrilla front during the struggle to overthrow dictator Anastasio Somoza. Ortega declared that no peasant in Nicaragua would be left without land.

Following the New Year's message in Pancasán, a mass meeting of peasants was held January 11 in Region IV, in the Pacific Coast town of San Marcos. South of Managua, this region of the country has a particularly high concentration of peasants with either no land or insufficient land to make a decent living.

At this meeting, President Ortega signed a decree changing the land reform act that has been in force since 1981.

Under the 1981 law, the land that was subject to government takeover and distribution to poor peasants was defined in the following manner: in the eastern, or Atlantic, half of the country, landholdings larger than 1,730 acres could be expropriated; and on the more populated Pacific Coast, holdings larger than 850 acres. All smaller properties, even if abandoned or left unused, could not be touched by the land reform.

The new decree basically eliminates the acreage limit on land that can be affected by the agrarian reform. A landlord owning less than 1,730 acres in the east, or less than 850 acres on the Pacific Coast can now be subject to takeover. Abandoned land or land not in use can be expropriated without compensation.

The immediate targets of the new decree are the large tracts of abandoned and unused land, as well as the property of landlords openly collaborating with the U.S.-backed mercenaries. However, big capitalist farmers whose land is being used productively can also be affected under the law. A clause stipulates that "public necessity or social interest" can be a reason to take over land, in which case the government will negotiate with the owner on compensation.

President Ortega's speech to the San Marcos meeting outlining the new decree was punctuated by peasants shouting "Land to those who work it!" Leading up to this meeting there had been demonstrations in various parts of the country by peasants demanding land. Often they carried signs singling out specific big landlords whose property should be expropriated.

Since the enactment in 1981 of the land

reform law, 83,167 families have received 4,355,306 acres of land, according to Ortega. Yet hundreds of thousands of peasants in this country of 3.5 million people still have no land or not enough to support their families.

In an interview that appeared in the FSLN daily *Barricada*, Minister of Agrarian Reform Jaime Wheelock estimated that 20 percent of the peasant population is without land or without adequate acreage. In Region IV, for example, he said there were 40,000 peasants without land.

The inequality of land ownership that still exists can also be shown by the example of Region V, in south central Nicaragua. There, a thousand families own 1,053,000 acres, while 15,000 families are trying to make a living on only 78,300 acres. Several thousand more have no land at all.

Pressure for land has sharply increased as the U.S.-backed war has driven peasants off their land in the far northern parts of the country. A quarter of a million Nicaraguans have been displaced by the war, most of them peasants.

Ortega told the San Marcos meeting that the FSLN had decided last May that the distribution of land must be accelerated. While a large amount of land was handed out in the second half of the year, the government ran into the obstacle of the limits in the 1981 law. Thus the decision to remove the acreage limits on what land can be expropriated.



Farmer holds title to land distributed in July 1983 by Nicaragua's workers' and farmers' government. Hundreds of thousands of peasants with little or no land will benefit from expansion of government land reform program announced Dec. 31, 1985.

The Sandinistas also explained that they have made a policy shift on giving out individual land titles. Before 1985 the emphasis was on distribution of land to cooperatives. Few individual titles were given out.

In 1985, while large quantities of land continued going to cooperatives, the number of individual titles increased dramatically. More families received individual titles in 1985 than the total number receiving them in the preceding four years.

Barricada called the change "a radical break with the tendency in previous years to give land almost exclusively to cooperatives."

At the close of the San Marcos meeting, Ortega and Wheelock gave out 19 land titles benefiting more than 200 families across the country. Several women were among those receiving land. As each peasant representative came forward to accept the title, he or she was also presented with a rifle to defend the land from Washington's mercenaries.

Rally marks growth of Sandinista Front

BY HARVEY McARTHUR

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — "The spirit of sacrifice and selflessness and the appreciation of exemplary activism must be the calling card of each member of the Sandinista National Liberation Front [FSLN].

"If our people face shortages, hardships, and limitations, we must suffer them also. If we call upon our people to mobilize for combat, placing their lives in danger, we must face these dangers ourselves. Not to do so would disqualify us morally from calling ourselves the vanguard of a people as heroic as the Nicaraguans."

With these words, Commander of the Revolution Bayardo Arce addressed an enthusiastic public rally of 3,000 here January 15. The rally was held to admit 381 candidate members into full membership in the FSLN.

More worker and peasant recruits

Enrique Castillo addressed the rally on behalf of the new members. He is a construction worker. His selection as spokesperson for the new members symbolized the determination of the FSLN to recruit more workers and peasants.

The rally helped project the public face of the FSLN as a party seeking to recruit vanguard workers, peasants, and other revolutionary activists. In his speech Arce began by reviewing the challenges facing Nicaragua in 1986 and the role that FSLN members are expected to play.

"President Reagan has initiated new efforts to get the U.S. Congress to give him more funds to continue the mercenary war against our people," Arce said. "As far as we can see at this time, there appears to be no chance that this aggression will change."

"This means that in 1986 we will maintain — and if necessary, increase — the mobilization of our fighters in the Patriotic Military Service [Nicaragua's draft], the Reserves, and the Territorial Militias in the war zones," Arce announced that new reserve battalions would be organized during February and March to strengthen the defense of Pacific Coast cities in the event of a U.S. invasion.

Expand revolutionary vigilance

He also explained the need to expand revolutionary vigilance, the nighttime, block-by-block patrols organized by the Sandinista Defense Committees in the neighborhoods and at factories to guard against sabotage and terrorist attacks. "We must see revolutionary vigilance in a new framework; not only as a nighttime post, but as a permanent readiness to report to our security organizations any signs of danger," he said.

Arce explained that FSLN members must set an example on the economic as well as the defense front. "We must see that the production goals set by our revolutionary government are met," he said. "We cannot hope to have a greater distribution of goods for higher wages if production decreases."

"We are producing under difficult conditions of war and with severe financial problems. Thus the task we set for Sandinistas is to see that the products are distributed fairly." He called for greater efforts by government workers in the mass organizations to guarantee official prices on goods.

Shortly before the rally, the government decreed important changes in the agrarian reform law that now permit it to expropriate more private landholdings for distribution to landless peasants. In his speech, Arce reaffirmed this plan to deepen the land reform and to give "more land and



Cándida Rugama, mother of Sandinista fighter who died in guerrilla struggle against Somoza dictatorship, pins membership button on worker being admitted to membership in Sandinista National Liberation Front at rally of 3,000 in Managua.

more guns to our peasants."

The ceremony was dedicated to Leonel Rugama, Róger Núñez, and Mauricio Hernández, three Sandinista fighters who died on Jan. 15, 1970, in the guerrilla struggle against the Somoza dictatorship.

"An FSLN membership card and button do not give any privileges, except that of being a soldier of our people," said Arce. "We must reaffirm and perhaps in some cases recover the values that not only made the FSLN the vanguard of our people, but also made possible the revolution's triumph."

Arce cited the example of Rugama who, when surrounded by Somoza's troops and facing certain death, refused to surrender and yelled back: "*Que se rinda tu madre!*"

— "Tell your mother to surrender!"

"Valor and courage must be the calling card of the Sandinista member," said Arce. "We cannot conceive of anyone within our ranks who, upon receiving notification of being mobilized for defense, has an 'illness' in the family."

"Efficiency, frugality, and honesty have also been permanent moral and political values in the Sandinista Front ... the FSLN was forged as a vanguard because men like Jorge Navarro or Leonel Rugama could assault a bank and expropriate 50,000 or 70,000 córdobas and then walk to their safe house since they would not spend 30 cents on a bus."

"Today, the FSLN members handle millions of dollars and millions of córdobas that belong to our people. Today as before, we must always remember that these are resources for the future and well-being of our people. We cannot touch one cent for personal use nor waste or misuse one penny."

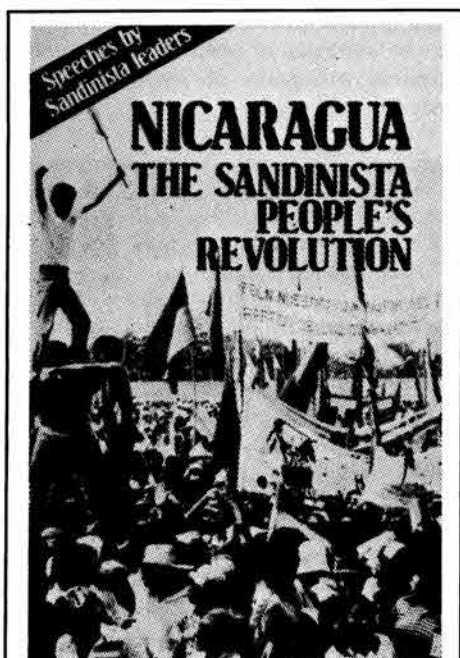
He said that the many revolutionary anniversaries celebrated in 1986 should not be "rhetorical opportunities to say or repeat nice things, but rather a series of landmarks that permit us to check how well we are meeting our revolutionary responsibilities in each arena and to improve our ability to live up to the challenges of the day."

Delay in taking in new recruits

Arce also explained that there had been delays in admitting new members to the party due to "the tasks, the problems, and the difficulties" the FSLN faced, as well as to "some bureaucratic limitations." There are many more people now ready for full membership in the FSLN, and the party is proceeding to process their applications, he said.

Ligia Molina, an attorney working for the Ministry of the Interior and one of the new FSLN members, told the *Militant* how she was recruited. "FSLN members in factories, military units, schools, and the government ministries are always looking for outstanding individuals to recruit to the FSLN. In my case, they noticed my work and then began to explain the responsibilities of a member to me. They assigned me new tasks to see if I could carry out more responsibilities. I had to study the history of Nicaragua and our struggle, and the policies of the FSLN. The FSLN also asked coworkers their opinion of me, to see if I had the qualities of an FSLN member."

"I feel honored that the FSLN and my coworkers consider me worthy of FSLN membership. It means I will work harder and take more responsibility for the revolution," she concluded.



Nicaragua: The Sandinista People's Revolution. A new collection contains more than 40 speeches by leaders of the Nicaraguan revolution. \$7.95 (include 75 cents for postage and handling). Order from Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

Debate on priorities for antiwar fighters

War in Nicaragua or summit talks?

BY DOUG JENNESS

A big international protest campaign is needed to oppose the mercenary war Washington is waging against Nicaragua's Sandinista government.

The U.S. government is attempting to wear the Nicaraguan people down by organizing and financing an army of counter-revolutionaries (*contras*). War weariness, the Reagan administration hopes, will erode confidence in the Sandinista government, leading to an internal revolt, which would open the door to overturning that government.

A central task of antiwar fighters, especially in this country, must be to explain the truth about the war — its massive scale for a country of 3.5 million and its heavy toll on the Nicaraguan people.

Rallies, meetings, and broad distribution of educational material need to be organized to wage this get-out-the-truth campaign.

This antiwar fight can be advanced by broad, united protest demonstrations, like the actions held in several cities on April 20, 1985. Those actions, initiated by the April Actions for Peace, Jobs and Justice, a coalition of many organizations, drew 125,000 protesters. Eight national trade unions were endorsers.

Antiwar protests abandoned

Shortly following that protest, the April Actions Coalition projected further activities against Washington's intervention in Nicaragua. Unfortunately, many groups that are part of this coalition are not making the war in Nicaragua a top priority. They are, in fact, charting a course that undermines the building of the protest movement against U.S. aggression in Central America.

Their energies are centered on a campaign for a nuclear test ban and an arms reduction accord in conjunction with the current round of discussions between the Soviet and U.S. governments. The central demand of this effort is urging President Reagan to join the Soviet Union in a moratorium on underground nuclear testing that can be the first step toward negotiating a comprehensive test ban treaty.

Last August the Soviet government halted underground nuclear arms tests until January 1 and urged Washington to follow suit. On January 15 Soviet leader Mikhail

Gorbachev announced a three-month extension of this moratorium and repeated his proposal that Washington participate too. So far, Reagan has turned thumbs down on this offer.

Gorbachev also projected a three-stage plan for eliminating all nuclear weapons in the next 15 years. The first phase would include an end to plans for space-based defense systems, 50 percent reductions in U.S. and Soviet nuclear arms capable of reaching each other's territory, and the elimination of U.S. and Soviet medium-range weapons in Europe.

'Agenda priorities'

Hailing this proposal, Michael Myerson, executive director of the U.S. Peace Council and a leader of the April 20, 1985, protest, issued a statement that said:

"The newest Soviet extension of its unilateral moratorium on nuclear testing, combined with its step-by-step proposal to rid the planet Earth of nuclear weapons by the year 2000, is not only exciting news for all who work for peace, but an opportunity for the world's peace forces which must be seized.

"The U.S. peace movement," he continued, "clearly has its agenda priorities spelled out: we must compel the Reagan administration to join with the USSR in ending nuclear tests; we must compel Congress to stop funding nuclear tests; we must end the fraud of Star Wars and give peace a chance."

Gus Hall, general secretary of the Communist Party, told a mid-January meeting of the CP's Central Committee that the Soviet proposal "presents a new situation, a new challenge to the Reagan administration and to the world."

"How to take advantage of this movement is the challenge for the peace forces," Hall stated. "In fact, for every movement, for everyone, there is enough time to organize mass demonstrations before the new March deadline [of the Soviet test ban]."

Hall told the CP's newspaper, the *Daily World*, "There can be only one focus for all honest peace organizations: pressure on the Reagan administration to join the Soviet moratorium."

Test ban deserves support

The demand that the U.S. government join the Soviet Union in extending the nuclear test ban on underground tests de-

opponents of apartheid opened January 20 in Delmas, a small town east of Johannesburg. The 22 defendants are accused of murder and trying to overthrow the apartheid government.

If convicted, they could be executed.

Frame-up victims include officials of the United Democratic Front, a coalition of 600 anti-apartheid groups with some 2 million members, and anti-apartheid fighters from the Vaal Triangle. The Vaal Triangle is an industrial area south of Johannesburg.

The deaths of local hirelings of the apartheid regime who are Black provided the pretext for the murder charges.

The accused are also charged with furthering the aims of the African National Congress. The Congress aims at a united, democratic, nonracial South Africa.

The apartheid regime and the capitalist media in South Africa are also stepping up attacks on Bishop Desmond Tutu. He returned to South Africa January 27 after a tour of the United States. Statements in the United States by Tutu expressing sympathy for the goals of the African National Congress were the target of the attacks. One racist's threat to kill Tutu was publicized as part of the media campaign.

The reason for the campaign against Tutu is that his denunciations of apartheid spurred wider support in the United States for the demand that Washington break all ties with the apartheid regime.



Militant/Fred Murphy

Antiwar demonstrators at April 20, 1985, march on Washington for peace, jobs, justice.

serves broad support. Working people and all antiwar fighters should unequivocally back this proposal. Moreover, the demand that Washington halt its Star Wars program and take steps to reduce nuclear arms also merits support. There is no quarrel with Myerson and Hall over this.

The problem with their orientation of making the nuclear test ban the *only focus* for antiwar forces is that it subordinates the fight against the U.S. mercenary war in Nicaragua to this campaign.

This doesn't mean that Hall has stopped opposing U.S. intervention in Nicaragua; that the *Daily World* no longer carries articles on Nicaragua (although there have been precious few lately); or that Myerson doesn't talk about Nicaragua any more. But it does mean that the price they pay for making the campaign in support of a test ban their first priority is abandoning the fight against the U.S. war in Nicaragua.

Will arms accord bring peace?

Why do they and many other radicals and peace activists make opposition to nuclear arms their number one priority? The answer they give is that an arms pact between Washington and Moscow can bring world peace.

Myerson, for example, argues that if Reagan and Gorbachev signed an arms agreement along the lines proposed by the Soviet leader, it would lay the basis for "true national and international security." With such great expectations, halting the war in Nicaragua dims by comparison.

This perspective, however, is based on a utopian illusion that war can be ended through summit meetings and arms pacts. But the reality is that none of these will bring world peace. And to preach this is to do a great disservice to working people in the United States and throughout the world.

War, today, is rooted in the imperialist system. As long as imperialism continues to try to crush the struggles of the exploited and oppressed who rebel against the miserable conditions imposed on them and who fight to establish and defend their own governments, there will be wars. This irrepressible conflict cannot be overcome by arms accords and summit meetings.

Contra aid linked to summit

President Reagan made his stance on this clear when he announced on January 21 that he would ask Congress for \$100 million more aid to the *contras*. The president linked this proposal to step up the contra war to his next summit meeting with Gorbachev, scheduled for later this year. Such aid, he said, would demonstrate to the Soviet government Washington's strength and determination in the coming year.

In a statement relayed to reporters by White House spokesperson Larry Speakes, Reagan said, "Make no mistake about it... the ability to succeed in that meeting will be directly affected by Gorbachev's perception of our global position and internal solidarity."

Reagan's stand is unambiguous: neither agreements on arms reductions nor progress on détente between the United States and the Soviet Union will alter one bit Washington's resolve to continue its dirty war against Nicaragua. And those who are trying to get Reagan to ban nuclear tests and negotiate an arms reduction with Moscow must accept this as a fact.

Reagan is willing to talk peace and will very likely reach some kind of accord on nuclear arms with Gorbachev before the summit meetings are all over. His initial response to the Soviet leader's January 15 proposal was to keep the door open to such an agreement. He said he was "very grateful for the offer. We're studying it with

great care, and it is going to depend now on what takes place in Geneva."

When capitalist politicians talk about peace, they are usually waging war or preparing to launch one. This is what Reagan is doing today.

This was shown during the Vietnam War, too. For example, President Richard Nixon went to Moscow in 1972 for a round of meetings with Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union at the time. A number of agreements were signed including a treaty limiting nuclear missiles.

But during the week Nixon was in the Soviet capital, U.S. planes flew more than 1,000 bombing raids against North Vietnam, dropping tons of bombs in a major escalation of the war against that country.

This summit meeting and arms accord did not bring the world one step closer to peace. But it provided Nixon a platform to appear as a peacemaker while he tried to bomb the Vietnamese into submission.

Diversion from antiwar struggle

The course followed by Hall and Myerson plays into Reagan's hands. Once the arms talks are accepted as the main arena for antiwar activists to orient toward, heat is taken off Washington's grinding war against Nicaragua's revolutionary government. The energies of antiwar activists who sincerely want peace are channeled away from fighting a war that is actually taking place right now.

Making arms talks the focus for the peace movement is a *diversion* from what should be the central priority — building a massive movement against Washington's war in Nicaragua. If Reagan can appear to be a peacemaker through this summitry, he will, in fact, have strengthened his hand in waging that war.

The struggle for peace must start by opposing the wars waged by the handful of ruling families in our own country. If Washington can be forced to halt its contra war in Nicaragua, it will be a big victory for working people throughout the world. Such victories weaken imperialism and help advance the goal of defeating it once and for all. And that is the only road to disarming the imperialist warmakers.

It is in that framework that Reagan and Congress should be urged to ban nuclear tests, halt the development of the Star Wars weapons system, and remove nuclear-tipped missiles from Western Europe.

National action needed

A broad protest movement against Washington's contra war is urgently needed. It is not inevitable that the U.S. rulers, even with their massive resources, will succeed in wearing down the Nicaraguan people and imposing on them a government obedient to Washington's commands. In fact, the Nicaraguan army is dealing military blows to the CIA's *contras*, while Nicaragua's workers and farmers are taking new measures to strengthen their revolution.

The outcome of this war is not settled. A big antiwar struggle can make a difference in that outcome.

If the Communist Party, the U.S. Peace Council, and other organizations and individuals who are currently orienting to the summit meetings were to reverse themselves and make the campaign around Nicaragua their first priority, it would add a powerful force to the struggle against U.S. intervention in Central America. It would help to make possible the organization of a broad, nationally focused demonstration like the April 20 action last year. This would be an important step forward in building an effective antiwar movement.

Mandela on U.S., Angola

Continued from front page

presented with the Robert Kennedy Memorial Human Rights Award by former U.S. Congressman John Buchanan. The ceremony took place near Johannesburg.

Mandela's protest came as the new government of Lesotho, product of a coup backed by the apartheid regime, moved to expel supporters of the African National Congress from the country. Sixty were flown out of Lesotho on a Zimbabwean plane January 25. A United Nations plane was scheduled to fly 57 more ANC supporters from Lesotho to Zambia February 2.

Lesotho's government was toppled in a military coup January 20, almost three weeks after the South African government imposed a military blockade on the country. Lesotho is completely encircled by South African territory.

South African Foreign Minister Roelof Botha announced January 25 that the new government of Lesotho had signed a pact barring South African anti-apartheid fighters from Lesotho.

The military blockade against Lesotho was lifted January 26.

The same day the South African government threatened military action against Botswana, another independent Black nation that borders on South Africa, unless it expels ANC supporters.

A new frame-up trial of South African

Abortion rights actions build nat'l march

BY PAT GROGAN

January 22 marked the 13th anniversary of the 1973 Supreme Court decision *Roe v. Wade*, which legalized abortion.

In scores of cities supporters of abortion rights marked the date with picket lines, rallies, speakouts, and other actions. These activities were protests against government and right-wing attacks on abortion rights.

They also helped build support for the National March for Women's Lives. On March 9 in Washington, D.C., and March 16 in Los Angeles, mass demonstrations in defense of a woman's right to safe, legal abortion and contraception will take place. These actions were initiated by the National Organization for Women (NOW) and are winning broad support.

The big-business media gave big play to the January 22 gathering of right-wing opponents of abortion rights in Washington, D.C. — the misnamed "March for Life." Police estimated the march at 40,000 — far smaller than last year's.

President Reagan, in a telephone address to the rally preceding the march, said he would work to overturn the "tragedy of *Roe v. Wade*." In a meeting with leaders of the anti-women's-rights outfits that organized the march, Reagan said he would consider granting pardons to some of those convicted of bombing abortion clinics — an unmistakable message of encouragement from the White House to these criminals.

The National Organization for Women responded to this by vowing to redouble efforts to build the March 9 and March 16 actions.

The scope of the January 22 abortion rights activities signals that supporters of abortion rights are determined to fight back against the efforts of the White House, Congress, the courts, the Catholic church hierarchy, and right-wing antiabortion fanatics to deny women the right to abortion.

On January 22 in **Birmingham, Alabama**, a representative of the Greater Birmingham NOW chapter was invited to address the City's Central Labor Council. Patricia Todd of NOW received a warm response. She spoke about "Abortion rights: why the labor movement should back the fight to keep abortion safe and legal" and the need to build the March 9 action.

NOW members held meetings to discuss publicizing the protest with a number of unions, including the United Steelworkers of America, Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers, and the United Food and Commercial Workers.

On January 18, 75 supporters of abortion rights came out in the pouring rain to rally at the Summit Medical Center, which performs abortions.

NOW leader Michael Wilson announced plans for a local contingent in the March 9 protest. Twenty-five people signed up to attend.

In **Chicago**, 500 people rallied in sup-

port of abortion rights at Daley Plaza and then marched to the Chicago Methodist Temple for a candlelight vigil. When 25 "right-to-lifers" showed up, they were drowned out with chants of, "Right-to-life, that's a lie; they don't care if women die."

The action was sponsored by the Illinois Pro-Choice Alliance, which includes Latino Women in Action, NOW, Planned Parenthood, and Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights. Simultaneous actions took place in six cities in Illinois on January 22.

In **Cleveland, Ohio**, when busloads of antiabortionists disembarked to enter Masonic Temple for their annual "service for the unborn child," they were greeted by some 200 supporters of abortion rights. The prochoice group included a contingent from Oberlin College. Police prevented the pickets from walking peacefully in front of the temple's entrance.

Signs declaring, "Our bodies, our lives, our right to decide" and "Keep your laws off my body," as well as chants of "Anti-abortionists murder women" and "Hey, hey, ho, ho, clinic bombings have got to go!" greeted the participants in the "service."

Following the picket, many of the women's rights fighters attended a concert by Kristin Lens, a feminist folk singer, at Cleveland State University. Sherri Levine of the Cleveland Abortion Rights Action League told the concert-goers that poor women are still fighting for abortion funding, that minors in Ohio who seek abortions must now have their parents notified, and that the latest rash of clinic bombings has hit near home in both Toledo and Cincinnati.

A dozen people signed up to become active in building the national march on Washington.

In **Phoenix, Arizona**, members of the Grey Panthers led a picket line of 150 abortion rights supporters outside the state legislature to protest proposed state restrictions on abortion rights. Three buses are already reserved for the March 16 action in Los Angeles.

West Coast mobilizing for March 16

BY JEAN SAVAGE

LOS ANGELES — On January 22 the National March for Women's Lives/West Coast held a press conference here to announce plans for two national abortion rights demonstrations this spring. One is to be held in Los Angeles on March 16, and the other in Washington, D.C., on March 9.

Kathy Spillar, national march coordinator for the March 16 West Coast action, was joined on the Press Club stage by representatives from nearly 50 organizations



Militant/Susan Ellis

Abortion rights supporters rally in front of Summit Medical Center in Birmingham, Alabama, January 18. Twenty-five participants signed up to go to National March for Women's Lives in Washington, D.C., on March 9.

In **San Francisco**, groups of 25 people in 10 locations formed "human billboards" calling for the defense of safe, legal abortion. They got a good response from passersby.

"Celebrate 13 years of legal abortion and defend reproductive freedom for all women" was the theme of a rally of about 400 people in **New York City**.

Dr. Vicki Alexander, a Black feminist and longtime activist in the fight for abortion rights, told the rally, "We are celebrating this 13th anniversary of a victory because women fought for it. They did not give us the right to legal abortion on a silver platter. And today it is not just a fight to defend legal abortion, but a fight for access to abortion for all women. Today, many poor and minority women don't have that access."

Jennifer Brown, president of New York City NOW, and others spoke of the need for thousands of people from New York to mobilize for the March 9 action.

Buses from New York City will leave from Union Square in Manhattan at 6 a.m.

on March 9. For more information contact: NOW-NYC, 15 West 18th Street, New York, N.Y. 10011; (212) 807-0721.

In **North Carolina**, vigils took place in nine cities. A speakout followed the vigil in Greensboro, in which women described what they went through to obtain abortions before they were legal.

During both events, sign-up sheets were circulated urging participants to join the March for Women's Lives in Washington, D.C., on March 9

* * *

For more information on the National March for Women's Lives:

East Coast, March 9: 1401 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005; (202) 347-2279.

West Coast, March 16: 1242 South La Cienega Boulevard, Los Angeles, California 90035; (213) 652-5576.

This article was based on reports from Militant correspondents Beth Finneas, Jane Rishen, Tamar Rosenfeld, Diana Cantú, Elen Lauper, and Cathy Gutekanst.

Conflict in South Yemen featured in 'IP'

The sharp fighting that has shaken South Yemen since mid-January has inflicted serious damage to the revolutionary struggle in that Middle Eastern country. The imperialists, who have long tried to overturn the revolution there, are now seeking to take advantage of this disastrous split in the South Yemeni leadership.

The February 10 *Intercontinental Press* features two articles on the situation in South Yemen.

One, by Mike Daley and Georges Sayad, provides important background information on the revolution's development. One of the poorest countries in the Middle East, South Yemen won its independence from Britain in 1967, following a popular liberation struggle. The democratic revolution that has unfolded there has brought the masses many social and political gains, including an agrarian reform, greater education and health care, and steps to lessen imperialist oppression.

Many of these gains are now en-

dangered, Ernest Harsch notes in the accompanying news article. The leadership split, resulting from sharp factional disputes going back several years, has erupted in the fiercest internal clash since independence. This has greatly weakened the revolution and leaves it more vulnerable to imperialist threats and pressures.

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INTERCONTINENTAL PRESS

Reagan Seeks More Funds for Nicaraguan 'Contras'

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Disastrous Split
Endangers Revolution

Lesotho
Apartheid-backed Coup
Topples Government

Guatemalan Rulers Put On Civilian Face

to polls to prove the majority of Americans favor legal abortion and birth control. From this point on, we will move beyond polls to demonstrate that there are real people behind the poll figures who are speaking up for the rights and lives of women threatened by efforts to outlaw abortion and birth control."

Volunteers in the national march office reported that buses are being chartered to bring participants to Los Angeles from Oregon, Washington, Colorado, Arizona, and throughout California. And groups are organizing carpools from as far away as Idaho and Montana.

Cosponsoring organizations present at the press conference included the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees District Council 36, Americans for Democratic Action, American Jewish Congress, California Abortion Rights Action League, California Federation of Business and Professional Women, Coalition of Labor Union Women, Comision Femenil de Los Angeles, National Association of Social Workers, National Women's Political Caucus, Service Employees International Union Local 660, and Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles.

Spillar reported that "there is enormous support on college campuses across the West Coast." March organizers are working with campus women's groups and faculty members to set up organizing meetings on major campuses.

"This national mobilization from all sectors of society should set the record straight once and for all that the majority of this country supports safe and legal abortion and birth control," said Spillar.

The press conference was covered widely in the media.

Volunteers are needed at the National March for Women's Lives/West Coast office. It is located at 1242 S. La Cienega, Los Angeles, Calif. 90035. For more information on the march, call (213) 652-5576.

British mine workers battle on against mine closings, firings

Kathy Mickells visited Britain's coalfields in December 1985. She is a coal miner who lives in Morgantown, West Virginia, and is a member of the United Mine Workers of America.

Mickells had also been in Britain in 1984 during the strike of the National Union of Mineworkers. She had gone to learn firsthand about the miners' struggle and to bring them solidarity from her UMW local and from the Coal Employment Project, a women miners' support group.

BY KATHY MICKELLS

"The year of the strike was the best year of my life. And that Christmas was the best ever. I thought we knew who our friends were. Now we really know. Those of us who stood together on the picket lines, in the soup kitchens, collecting money, we learned a lot," explained Mary Davis, a coal miner's wife from South Wales.

She was discussing how she felt about the yearlong coal strike in Britain, which ended last March. The strike aimed to block plans by the National Coal Board — the government agency that oversees this nationalized industry — to close many mines and throw thousands out of work.

In the face of a concerted attack by the British ruling class, the miners were not able to compel the government to drop the shutdown plans.

Ten months ago the miners returned to work, with marching bands and local union banners, and with their heads held high and tears on many faces. All the miners I spoke to last December agreed that this was at the same time the most bitterly fought and the most magnificent strike in 50 years. And they vowed to continue the struggle.

Everywhere I went in the British coalfields a lively discussion was taking place. Miners are thinking about the threat posed by a government-backed split from the union, based in Nottinghamshire. They are deciding how the union should respond to the closing of mines and to other attacks.

Countering demoralization

"With the end of the strike a degree of demoralization and apathy set in," stated Anne Sudick, a leader of the Durham Miners Support Group. "Morale was low. Even though there is no alternative employment, men began accepting voluntary redundancy."

In the British coalfields there is no such thing as a lay-off with the possibility of being called back, as in the United States. If a mine closes, it closes for good.

Miners are offered transfers to other mines or literally sell their jobs by taking "redundancy." Redundancy is a type of severance pay based on number of years of service. A lump-sum payment of £10,000 to £35,000 (\$14,000–\$49,000) can seem like a sizeable amount. But once redun-

dancy has been accepted, that job is gone for good.

At Cortonwood in South Yorkshire and Penrkyber in South Wales, two of the most militant mines during the strike, the miners voted to accept the closing of their pits.

Len Davis, a miner from Penrkyber, told me why. "We lost the strike, we didn't have much choice. The government had introduced a new review procedure and we didn't know how to go about using it." The procedure allows the unions at a mine scheduled for closing to challenge the Coal Board's decision. The local union branch votes on whether or not to fight it.

"We were blackmailed. The board told us that if we didn't accept closure within 12 weeks we'd lose all benefits. That's the redundancy payments. And since we'd been on strike for a year we wouldn't be eligible for any other benefits."

To counter such demoralization and blackmail, the National Union of Mineworkers renewed its campaign against mine closings.

Campaign against pit closings

"The miners' wives and support groups have been in the leadership of the fight against pit [mine] closures. We've leafleted all the pits proposed for closure to encourage the men to fight and not to take redundancy." That's how Ann Jones, a leader of the South Wales Women's Support Group, explained the driving force behind the campaign.

The union and the support groups have produced numerous leaflets and pamphlets stating why the miners should not give in to the government's Coal Board. They explain in these leaflets that the initial bonanza of a severance payment rapidly dwindles and that the payment really leaves miners and their families extremely vulnerable to the government's cutbacks in social services.

A leaflet produced by the South Wales Women's Support Group stated, "The conditions of work, pay, and the future for our children lie in the hands of the miners and we would ask you to consider most carefully not just your own future, but that of the children and the local communities. Miners are in the forefront of the struggle for jobs in the valleys and we must continue to fight redundancies and forced unemployment on principle. There is nothing to offer but tremendous struggle and sacrifice for those concerned, but without this struggle there will be less of a future for those who will come behind us."

Demonstrations have been organized in many of the areas where pits have been targeted for shutdown.

Miners in Yorkshire and Durham both voted to fight the closing of their mines.

As one Mineworkers member told the media after casting his vote, "We have no choice but to fight. This is what we struck



Peter Smith, one of 900 miners fired from their jobs because of strike-related activities, shown with family. National Union of Mineworkers is fighting for reinstatement of all fired miners.

for and we can't give up now. We've got to fight."

Another coal mine scheduled to be shut down is Eppleton in Durham. The local union branch delegate explained to me his reasons for fighting the closing. "They're trying to shut our colliery. And on the economic argument we could lose but if we have a fight then we might save the next pit. We have to meet and fight the Coal Board inch by inch."

Solidarity is the theme of a public campaign the National Union of Mineworkers voted to carry out in defense of miners fired for strike activity.

900 miners fired

More than 10,000 miners were arrested during the course of the strike. Nationally, over 900 miners were fired from their jobs because of strike-related activities. Like A.T. Massey Coal Co. in the United States, which refuses to hire back union miners accused of violence during the recent strike, the Coal Board has stated that it will not hire back miners who it claims caused damage to Coal Board property or to people. But many of those who scabbed on the strike and were convicted of assault charges against pickets were never dismissed, while union pickets who were charged and never convicted were given the boot.

Many of the fired miners had only been charged with breaches of the peace or obstruction, and the vast majority have been cleared of all charges.

In Scotland, 206 workers have been fired. More than 40 percent of those fired held official union positions, and an additional 28 percent played an active role in the strike.

"The vast majority of our members were dismissed for one simple fact — for being 100 percent supporters of this union," stated Peter Heathfield, the National Union of Mineworkers' general secretary.

The case of Terry Harrison, Betteshanger NUM branch secretary, is an example.

Terry was fired in June 1984. He had negotiated a withdrawal of an occupation of the mine by some union men during the strike. Initially congratulated for his efforts, he was then dismissed for "gross misconduct" stemming from the occupation.

Management refuses to discuss his firing as well as that of seven other union officials from the branch. To make matters worse, the Coal Board got injunctions to prevent fired persons from trespassing on board property. Hence, the union officials cannot use the union office at the mine, making it very difficult to carry on the work of the union.

Union fights for victimized members

Five hundred fifty British miners remain fired. And of those dismissed miners that have now been taken back by the board,

the great majority have been rehired, not reinstated. They get no back pay for the time they were unjustly dismissed. And in many cases the board has refused to honor the recommendations of the industry tribunals that have ruled in favor of the miners. Instead of rehiring or reinstating, the board refuses them their jobs and offers severance pay.

The case of the fired miners is the focus of a campaign by the union. At the Oct. 28, 1985, national Special Delegates Conference, a seven-point resolution mapping out this campaign was adopted unanimously.

This resolution reaffirmed the union's commitment to those victimized during the strike. It commended and vowed to force action on the positions of support for the reinstatement of the miners adopted by the Trades Union Congress and the Labor Party.

The Trades Union Congress is comparable to the AFL-CIO in this country. The Labor Party is based on the trade unions.

This conference initiated a "campaign to win the widest support, from all sections of the community towards winning re-instatement of sacked [fired] miners." It instructed the National Executive Committee of the NUM to organize "a lobby of Parliament to bring to the attention of Members of Parliament the plight" of the fired miners.

Putting forward this resolution, NUM President Arthur Scargill urged the mobilization of dismissed miners "as fund-raisers and campaigners for this union." They would "show other workers that what happened to us could happen to them."

"We cannot," he said "leave them isolated. We have to show in a very positive and powerful way that people do not stand alone."

"In 1985, the worst thing we can do in society is to condemn any person to a life of helplessness and hopelessness and inactivity. Let's utilize them — let's organize them."

Fired miners in many areas have begun to put this resolution into practice by organizing themselves.

"We meet on a monthly basis or biweekly basis, we've elected a leadership, decided on and organized activities to win support and collect funds," Mick Boyle, secretary of the South Yorkshire Sacked Miners, explained.

Along with the support groups, they have held numerous events to raise money for the National Solidarity Fund established by the union to sustain the men and their families. Marches and rallies have been organized to win support for the fired and jailed miners. Nine miners remain in prison and their cause is linked to the campaign for the fired miners.

These "Jobs not jail" and "Re-instate" demonstrations explain that the victimized miners are political victims and prisoners, not the criminals Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher portrays them as. To miners and other workers, they're heroes.

1,000 rally for abortion rights

Continued from back page

This January 22, Miller said, the Coalition of Labor Union Women "celebrates 13 years of reproductive freedom." But, she warned, assaults on abortion also now focus on birth control.

Connecticut National Organization for Women President Gail Brooks described the successful struggle against opponents of abortion rights in a nonbinding referendum held in Bristol, Connecticut.

After "every landlord in the city refused" to rent the local reproductive rights coalition an office, "the United Auto Workers rented us space," Brooks said to applause.

The campaign to "keep the government out of our lives," Brooks said, overturned early leads in the polls by the antiwomen forces, giving abortion rights activists a 56 to 44 percent victory and the conviction that the "American public shares our commitment to freedom."

In that spirit, tables for reserving bus

seats for NOW's national march on Washington March 9 in defense of reproductive rights did a brisk business. Scores of rally participants were already committed to go and wore buttons promoting the demonstration.

Also speaking at the rally were Catholics for a Free Choice leader Mary Hunt and Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis.

Widely covered in the Boston media, the event was endorsed by dozens of women's, civil liberties, religious, health, labor, and Black rights organizations.

Union support included ACTWU's New England Regional Board; Ed Clark, ACTWU district director and international vice-president; United Electrical Workers District 2; Domenic Bozzotto, president of Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Local 26; United Auto Workers District 65; Service Employees Local 509 Women's Committee; and United Steelworkers Local 8751.

Navajos demand gov't halt relocations

BY CHRIS DRISCOLL

HARD ROCKS, Navajo Nation, Ariz. — The Hard Rocks Chapter House was the sight of a gathering of Navajos on December 28 to protest the forced removal of thousands of people from the Hopi side of the former Joint Use Area. This "relocation" is the result of a plan imposed by the federal government to divide land that for generations has been used jointly by Navajos and Hopis.

More than 200 people, mostly Navajo, attended the meeting and candlelight ceremony that followed. Speakers representing those already relocated, those resisting eviction, and those on the Navajo side of the partitioned land spoke forcefully, in Navajo, for an immediate halt to the relocations.

The small Navajo community of Hard Rocks is on the Navajo side of a partition fence that now runs through the Joint Use Area. On the other side of the fence is the Big Mountain area, which has become the center of resistance.

Presently, no Hopi families live on the former JUA land now ceded to the Hopi Tribal Council, although there are still about 300 Navajo families resisting eviction from that land. Public Law 93-531 provides that all Navajos will be evicted by July 8, 1986, from this area. Congress recently added a stipulation that housing must be found for all who are being evicted before they can be moved. Thousands have already been moved over the last nine years without receiving the housing the government promised them.

Lurking in the background of these events is the Peabody Coal Company. The Hopi Tribal Council has struck deals with Peabody to strip-mine vast portions of the land now occupied by the Navajo families. Enormous coal deposits are the motivation behind the Hopi Tribal Council's intention to forcibly evict the Navajos.

Ivan Sidney, the Hopi tribal chairman, has stated that he intends to call on state and federal cops to help with the forced evictions after the July deadline. Coming to his aid have been a number of nationally prominent Arizona capitalist politicians. Sen. Barry Goldwater recently stated that he has alerted the Arizona National Guard

and they are ready for action.

Washington, Peabody, and the Hopi Tribal Council, with the help of much of the big-business media, have tried to present this as a dispute between Hopis and Navajos. Hopi elders and traditional leaders, however, have indicated otherwise. They have sent letters several times over the last decade to the president, Congress, and the United Nations, asking that the relocations be stopped.

Speakers at the Hard Rocks meeting who had already been relocated to towns off the reservation urged those remaining to continue their resistance. They testified that Public Law 93-531 was unworkable and should be repealed. The law set up a Relocation Commission which has been moving people off the land since 1977.

"We've been lied to. We've been cheated by the Relocation Commission," one man who had been moved out of the Joint Use Area told the meeting. He explained that they had not received most of the benefits they were promised by the federal government. He went on to explain that the trauma and shock of adjusting to the foreign culture of towns off the reservation had ruined the lives of many relocatees. Many of the older people who've been moved speak no English and have fallen prey to real estate racketeers and loan sharks.

Chapter President Percy Deal told the *Militant* after the meeting, "We were promised certain services and benefits by the Relocation Commission. Now, years down the road, we have not received them yet. And I have learned that we may never receive them. Our people are really angry about that. Many have already volunteered to obey the law. They did their part. The U.S. government is failing to do theirs. And then there are those that are still out there [resisting relocation] saying 'we know what you [relocatees] went through. We are not going to be treated that way.'"

Deal said that the meeting on the relocations and the candlelight ceremony that followed were meant to "help unify our forces and bring national attention to the issue."

The Hard Rocks chapter has voted to ask the Navajo Tribal Council to file a lawsuit against the Relocation Commission.



Militant
Navajos meeting to protest forced relocations by government and Peabody Coal Co.

Reagan: more money for Nicaraguan 'contras'

Continued from front page

wounded and permanently maimed. Others have been kidnapped, tortured, raped, or otherwise brutalized.

The total economic damage exceeds \$1.3 billion, a staggering sum for a country of 3.5 million people that earns less than \$400 million per year in foreign exchange.

Administration officials and Reagan supporters on Capitol Hill are expressing optimism about winning congressional support for stepping up aid to the contras.

The January 22 *New York Times* reported that some White House officials "believed the mood in Congress had markedly shifted in recent months in favor of increased aid to the Nicaraguan rebels. 'We believe there has been a change in attitude,' a White House official said."

One administration spokesperson asserted that actions of the Sandinistas have contributed to this changed attitude, turning "friends into enemies in Congress with increasing internal repression of the church and the press, with the increased Cuban combat role, with their support for terrorism."

The initial reaction of several prominent congressional Democrats, however, indicates that there will be a debate in Congress over the aid proposal.

When Speaker of the House Thomas O'Neill was asked on January 22 whether the proposal would pass, he replied, "Unless there's a big change in the House, I'd have to say no."

Congressman Michael Barnes from Maryland wrote a letter to the president arguing that "this would be a particularly bad time for the United States to increase the level of conflict in Central America."

The Senate minority leader, Robert Byrd of West Virginia, said he would "just have to wait and see" the details of Reagan's proposal.

The resistance of many in congress to increasing aid to the contras reflects differences in the U.S. ruling class over policy in Central America. There is concern among many that the war will be escalated to the point where Washington will be committing massive numbers of its own combat forces.

The prevailing view in U.S. ruling circles, at this time, is that the political price for such an escalation would be too high. They know it would meet fierce resistance from Nicaragua's workers and peasants and would rapidly provoke a massive international protest movement.

The outcome of the debate that is opening in Congress is not a settled matter. It will hinge on many things, including international developments, the course of the war, and the level of antiwar opposition in the United States and internationally.

One point should be noted, however. Many liberal journalists and legislators who are critical of Reagan's proposal to substantially strengthen the contras are increasingly outspoken in condemning the Sandinista government. Wartime measures curtailing certain democratic rights, imposed by the Nicaraguan government to deal with internal sabotage, are being pointed to as evidence that the Sandinistas have become "totalitarian."

By sounding this theme, many liberals are echoing the lies of the Reagan administration. The result is to undermine opposition to financing the contra gangs. If U.S. lawmakers are attacking the Sandinistas as "totalitarian," it is more difficult for them to be persuaded to argue against aid to the contras, especially when it has a "humanitarian" sugarcoating.

But "to Nicaraguans who have been killed, raped, and mutilated by the contras, the appellation 'humanitarian' aid rings brutally hollow," wrote Carlos Tunnermann, Nicaragua's ambassador to the United States, in a letter to the editor published in the January 23 *New York Times*.

"Foreign aid designed to improve the poor military performance of the contras," Tunnermann emphasized, "does not, under any reasonable definition, constitute humanitarian assistance."

The liberals' complaints about the Sandinistas and their fake distinction between military and "humanitarian" aid only help to grease the skids for Reagan's drive to get more help for the contras.

Reagan spokesman Larry Speakes told reporters that the White House would also seek government funding for the Angolan counterrevolutionaries, especially the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA).

However, a few days later Reagan withdrew the proposal. According to the January 26 *New York Times*, Secretary of State George Shultz looked into "the possibility of covert military aid with the intelligence committees in Congress and had found considerable opposition."

The White House and leading Republicans are now urging Congress to adopt a resolution that will present a general expression of support to UNITA when Jonas Savimbi, the principal leader of the South African-backed group, comes to Washington at the end of January. Savimbi is scheduled to meet with Reagan during his visit.

Washington sees Marcos as liability

Continued from Page 2

The statement notes that some Filipinos are supporting the Aquino candidacy and adds: "While we in the U.S. certainly understand and respect their choice, we are nevertheless obliged to point to the two powerful obstacles which stand in their way: the Marcos dictatorship and the Reagan administration."

A similar view was expressed by the New Democratic Front, a major coalition in the Philippines embracing labor, church, and community groups. It assessed the elections as a "sham that is mainly designed to blunt a rapidly developing popular protest movement."

The NDF declared it "supports the call for a boycott of the polls, even as it calls on the Filipino people to intensify the armed struggle and other militant forms of struggle to end the hated dictatorship."

The Communist Party of the Philippines — the leading force in the guerrilla formation, the New People's Army — also favors a boycott of the elections.

Arizona sanctuary activists protest government frame-up

BY BARBARA GREENWAY AND KAREN STOCKARD

TUCSON, Ariz. — "The refugees have given a face to that war," Sister Darlene Nicgorski told the *Militant* during a recent interview. She was referring to Washington's military intervention in Central America.

Nicgorski is one of the 11 activists currently on trial here for helping refugees from El Salvador and Guatemala who are fleeing repression at the hands of U.S.-backed regimes in their homelands.

Nicgorski explained that the sanctuary movement — the national network of churches and synagogues that provide refuge for these immigrants — was being victimized by the U.S. government because it has helped to expose the truth about Washington's war.

"We are being targeted because the refugees and the defendants are speaking publicly ... about foreign and immigration policies," she said.

Nicgorski knows firsthand about the U.S.-sponsored terror in Central America. She witnessed it while working in Guatemala in 1981. Indians, union activists, and church groups were particular victims of repression there. "Two whole In-

dian dialect groups have been annihilated," she noted.

Nicgorski herself was forced to flee Guatemala after a death squad murdered the priest she was working with and threatened her.

Turning to the current trial, Nicgorski explained that the government's star witness is Jesus Cruz, a paid informer for the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). Cruz is also a professional smuggler. He brings immigrants across the U.S.-Mexican border to work in the fields of the big growers in this country.

Calling Cruz a "flesh trader," Nicgorski's co-defendant Nena MacDonald told the *Militant* that after infiltrating the sanctuary movement, Cruz had secretly recorded church meetings. "But," MacDonald said, "he would turn it [a hidden recorder] on and off. He only taped what he thought would hurt us."

The government has charged the 11 activists with being part of a conspiracy to bring these refugees into the country. But Nicgorski explained that "many of us never even met each other until the indictments."

Looking back on how the government infiltrated the movement, MacDonald commented, "It makes one wonder who the real conspirator is."

Nicgorski said that she had gotten letters of support and money from Canada, Ireland, Holland, Sweden, and elsewhere.

Both activists agreed that their best support has been the continued growth of the sanctuary movement. Since their arrest last year, more and more churches have opened their doors to refugees, and 13 city governments have declared their cities sanctuaries for Central American refugees.

Revolutions in Central America and the Caribbean

Don't go looking in the capitalist 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 rates.

1st anniversary of Nicaraguan's inauguration

BY FRANCISCO PICADO

NEW YORK — On January 11 about 150 people — Nicaraguans, Cubans, Puerto Ricans, Dominicans, North Americans, and others — celebrated the first anniversary of the inauguration of Nicaragua's President Daniel Ortega.

Greetings came from many organizations, including Casa de las Americas and the Coordinadora Salvadoreña.

Jesenia Elizander, representing the Sandinista Youth, spoke about the courage and determination of Nicaragua's young people.

Denis Torres, first secretary of the Nicaraguan mission to the United Nations, pointed out that the elections in Nicaragua were an important and necessary event. But the true elections took place on July 19, 1979, when the people

of Nicaragua, arms in hand, overthrew the bloody, U.S.-backed dictatorship and created the kind of government they wanted.

He explained that although the CIA-organized counterrevolutionaries have been getting weapons and funding from Washington, they have not been able to take control of any Nicaraguan territory.

But the war has cost the Nicaraguan people thousands of lives.

Torres said that the people of Nicaragua were thankful for the work done by activists in this country to stop U.S. intervention.

Picket hits U.S. attack on Salvadoran rebels

BY DAVE MAINELLI

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Nearly 50 people braved the cold to picket in front of the White House January 14. Organized on

short notice, the picket line demanded an end to the U.S.-organized naval and air war in El Salvador.

The protest was in response to reports that a U.S. warship fired on liberation fighters in El Salvador. A press release from the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN)-Revolutionary Democratic Front stated, "On Tuesday, January 7, at 4 p.m., an armed clash took place between forces of the FMLN and the Cuzcatlán Battalion in Cerro la Ventana, Jucuarán. Government forces asked for reinforcements and a U.S. warship, which was stationed off the coast of Usulután Province, arrived in support. The U.S. ship shot three artillery rounds against the combat zone without inflicting any casualties."

Support for the protest came from the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, People's Anti-War Mobilization, Young Socialist Alliance, Casa El

Salvador, and Socialist Workers Party.

Help harvest Nicaragua's coffee

On February 22 another brigade of internationalists from the United States will leave to participate in the coffee harvest in Nicaragua.

These brigades are an important show of solidarity for the Nicaraguan revolution by opponents of the U.S.-backed mercenary war against that country. Coffee is Nicaragua's major source of foreign exchange. The harvest is a target of the mercenaries' terrorist attacks.

Brigadistas will live and work on farms alongside Nicaraguan peasants, Nicaraguan volunteers from the cities, and internationalists from Europe and Latin America.

For more information contact the Nicaraguan Exchange, 239 Centre St., New York, N.Y.

10013, (212) 219-8620.

Divestment bill vetoed

BY ROY INGLEE

WILMINGTON, Del. — On the evening of January 14, more than 200 anti-apartheid demonstrators braved freezing winds to rally in front of the City-County Building here. The crowd then packed the county council chambers to urge the passage of an ordinance divesting all county pension funds from corporations that do business in South Africa.

At stake is about \$6 million — the 20 percent of the county's pension fund that is invested in General Motors and IBM.

A majority of members of the county council unsuccessfully tried to override the veto of County Executive Rita Justice.

Larry Morris, president of the NAACP, and several labor officials spoke in favor of divestment.

March, rallies mark first nat'l holiday for King



Striking Watsonville workers at Martin Luther King Day march in San Francisco

Last week's *Militant* reported on the massive outpouring in Atlanta that celebrated the first national holiday for Martin Luther King, Jr., on January 20. This week we give a round-up of some of the other actions around the country taking place on that day.

San Francisco

BY RAÚL GONZÁLEZ AND SAM MANUEL

SAN FRANCISCO — Fifty thousand people marched here on January 20 to commemorate the first official observation of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The majority of marchers were Black.

The action capped a week of holiday-related activity throughout the area. Concerts, dinners, meetings, and other events were held in virtually every city. These included a breakfast hosted by the San Francisco Central Labor Council attended by 700 unionists.

The official committee sponsoring the event included Democratic Party leaders and labor officials. Speakers at the rally included Mayor Diane Feinstein, State Assemblyman Willie Brown, and Jack Henning, secretary-treasurer of the California Federation of Labor.

Thousands lined the march route, many of them workers who did not have the day off. They cheered as contingents passed.

The crowd came from throughout the Bay Area. Thirty buses had been rented by the King Day Committee to bring people from nearby Oakland.

A packed freedom train came from San Jose carrying 3,000 marchers.

Several hundred striking cannery workers from Watsonville, California, were also on the train. The strikers are mostly Chicana. They are members of Teamsters Local 912 and have been out for some five months.

Striker Josie Hancock told the *Militant*, "This march inspires us. We should have a

march like this in Watsonville to support our strike and show unity."

Labor had a substantial presence in the march. Thirty-five members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union participated, carrying signs that said, "Working for the dream from Selma to San Francisco."

They, along with members of the International Association of Machinists, did not have the day off. But the two unions were able to get the company to let the workers take the day off without pay. Many workers explained they hoped the holiday would be added in their next contract.

A large group marched from the Association of Black Firefighters. The affirmative action gains that got them their jobs are now under attack by the Reagan administration.

Other union contingents included: Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union; United Farm Workers; American Federation of Teachers; National Maritime Union; transit workers; Asian American Federation of Union Members; and others.

Thousands of marchers were too young to have participated in the civil rights movement, which overthrew the system of legalized Jim Crow segregation in the South in the 1960s. All that these young people knew about King was what they had learned in school or heard from their parents. A group of Black youths were monitors for the march. When asked why they were there, one responded, "Dr. King is special to us."

"He belongs to us," said another.

One Chicano family drove in from Santa Rosa, California. The father explained, "We didn't want our children to miss this. We want to expose them to the fact that people like Dr. King fought so that people could have a purpose in life."

Six hundred people, many of them stu-

dents, marched in an anti-apartheid contingent under a large banner that read, "Living the dream from Selma to Soweto." The local Free South Africa Movement circulated copies of a speech by King condemning South African apartheid.

A large peace and Central America solidarity contingent was also present.

Bill Watkins of the Santa Cruz post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) received some of the most enthusiastic applause of the day when he explained, "How can we honor Dr. King today? We can honor him by doing all that we can to stop the U.S. war in Central America."

The VFW post in Santa Cruz came to national attention when it took a stand against U.S. intervention in Central America.

SAN FRANCISCO — Socialist workers sold more than 500 copies of the *Militant* and more than 100 copies of the *Young Socialist* at the King march here on January 20.

In addition, the Socialist Bookstore set up a booth at the rally, which was crowded the entire day. Over \$1,000 worth of literature was sold, including books by Malcolm X, Nelson Mandela, Winnie Mandela, Fidel Castro, and others.

Forty people attended an open house at the bookstore later that day.

San Diego

BY ALLAN GRADY

SAN DIEGO — Twenty thousand people turned out for the annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Day Parade January 18. Over 100 brightly colored floats, bands, and cars participated.

The most well-received entry was the pickup driven by supporters of Sagon Penn.

Penn is a 23-year-old Black man who was stopped by two white cops and savagely beaten last March 31. The struggle resulted in the death of one cop and the wounding of another. More than 30 witnesses saw the brutal police attack. They will testify in Penn's defense in the trial, which began January 27.

"Free Sagon Penn" was chanted by hundreds of onlookers on each block as the truck driven by his father passed.

The pickup was covered with signs that read, "Justice on trial," "Martin Luther King fought for justice too," and "Sagon Penn Defense Committee."

Several thousand leaflets were handed out at the parade and more than \$240 was collected in donations.

Pittsburgh

BY CAROLINE LUND

PITTSBURGH — On January 15 the NAACP and the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU) joined forces to sponsor a meeting commemorating Martin Luther

King, Jr.'s, birthday in Homewood, one of Pittsburgh's Black communities.

Irene Thomas, chairperson of the Pittsburgh CBTU and a leader of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, told the story of the 1968 strike by Memphis sanitation workers that King was supporting when he was assassinated.

Oliver Montgomery, a staff member for the United Steelworkers of America and a member of the Executive Council of the CBTU, described his experience in the steel mills in the 1950s, which were segregated, with Blacks confined to certain departments.

Montgomery said that the "real gainers" from the civil rights movement "were the majority of the American people, not just Black people."

More than 100 students and others turned out for a rally honoring King on January 17, demanding that the University of Pittsburgh divest the \$37 million it has invested in South Africa.

Dennis Brutus, an exiled South African and longtime fighter against apartheid, called on everyone at the university, be they "janitor or professor, it doesn't matter, to demand divestment of Pitt from South Africa."

Kansas City

BY DIANE SHUR

KANSAS CITY — "Reagan is determined to overthrow the governments of countries like Angola and Nicaragua. Well, if he wants to overthrow a government, why doesn't he deal with South Africa? If he can aid the so-called freedom fighters, the *contras* [counterrevolutionaries], let him support the real freedom fighters like Nelson Mandela."

"Dr. King said, 'Let freedom ring from the mountain tops of New Hampshire to the hills of Tennessee.' I'm sure if he were alive today he would also say, 'Let freedom ring from Johannesburg, let freedom ring from Soweto.'"

Applause greeted these remarks by Mickey Dean, chairperson of the Kansas City Anti-apartheid Network. A crowd of more than 8,000 packed the Municipal Auditorium here on King Day.

Also speaking at the January 20 rally was Rev. Mac-Charles Jones, pastor of the St. Stevens Baptist Church and a leader of the Black Community Coalition. He began his presentation by introducing Perry Wilson, Sr., a local farmer who has become a symbol of the farm movement's fight against foreclosures.

Many United Auto Workers members were angry that they did not have January 20 off this year and took the day off anyway. And many of those who went to work listened to radio programs about the slain leader of the civil rights movement.

Hormel fires workers who back strike

Continued from front page

drawn from the Hormel plant to the Austin Armory.

According to Perpich's official statement, the Guard will remain in the armory "in a support role for local police." Three hundred of the 800 Guardsmen have been totally withdrawn.

The National Guard was mobilized January 21 after P-9 had successfully kept the plant closed in the face of a concerted effort by Hormel to reopen it with scabs. The local had circled the plant with hundreds of cars and organized large, peaceful demonstrations to keep Hormel closed.

Initially the Guard closed the plant. But on January 23, the Guard began to herd scabs for Hormel. Hormel's plant manager, Deryl Arnold, told the press that day, "I can't compliment the Guard and local law enforcement enough for the job they have done today."

When the Guard was mobilized, P-9 President Guyette called for a national campaign to demand the Guard be withdrawn from Austin. (See article on facing page.)

Prior to assigning the Guard to the armory, Perpich said that he would withdraw the Guard if the city's mayor requested it. That same day, Austin Mayor Tom Kough, a striking P-9 member, asked that the Guard be withdrawn from the plant but not from the city. Kough had originally called on the governor to send the National Guard to Austin, an action many strikers disagreed with.

In requesting the withdrawal of the Guard from the plant, Kough said, "I believe it is unlawful to use the National Guard to assist nonunion workers to cross a sanctioned picket line."

The Guard's role as a strike-breaking force was clearly seen in the course of the last week.

On January 22 the National Guard enforced a court injunction limiting pickets at each gate to three strikers. Other unionists were kept over 200 yards away. The Guard then escorted 75 cars carrying scabs and management personnel into the plant.

The next day, the Guard blocked off parts of city streets and Interstate 90 to bring in scabs. Austin residents could not travel to or from certain neighborhoods. One P-9 member described the situation to the press as "being held hostage by Hormel who is using the troops to protect their own business interest."

Two armored personnel carriers were brought to the plant entrance January 23 after local cops heard rumors the union was planning to block roads into the plant.

On that same day, union members were harassed, beaten, and arrested when they attempted to slow traffic coming off I-90 into the plant.

P-9 member Greg Bell, his face scraped and cut, described the cop attack at a news conference that morning. "One officer said, 'that car was here yesterday.' The other officer said, 'well let's get him then.' They picked me up and threw me face first onto the concrete. The National Guard and other cops handcuffed me and frisked me. They wanted to make an example of me. I was scared to death."

Jerry Vlasaty described how two city cops broke his car window to unlock the door and pull him out. "It was a state trooper who hit me on the back of the head. I was on the ground. I didn't resist."

"The state trooper," he continued, "jumped in the car with my wife and gave it the gas. He took off and jumped a snow bank. My wife was thrown all over the car."

A total of 12 union members and supporters were arrested that day on charges ranging from stopping improperly to obstructing legal process and criminal damage of property.

In addition to these attacks by the Guard and cops, P-9 members face other daily pressure from the company and government. Eight P-9 strikers have been fired for "picket-line misconduct." Supporters are often harassed on the city streets by Hormel security cops.

Other supporters, such as the workers at Austin Utility, have been disciplined for

wearing "P-9 Proud" stickers and hats.

On January 30, the P-9 executive board and consultant Ray Rogers face an arraignment hearing in district court on criminal contempt charges. The government claims they violated a court injunction limiting union activities at the Hormel plant. These charges stem from a January 20 demonstration at the plant.

Although an estimated 400 people have crossed the picket line, less than half of these are P-9 members. Reports are that many of the new hires have already been injured on the job due to dangerous working conditions. Pointing to this high injury rate, union members have urged those who crossed the line to come back out.

Despite this pressure, morale is high among union activists. Members and supporters continue to look to the success of the roving pickets. Strikers report there is already broad interest in the consumer boycott.

P-9 is planning a solidarity day on Friday, February 1. Supporters from the labor movement, community organizations, churches, and campuses across Minnesota will be coming to Austin to show that they support P-9.

300 in St. Paul demand 'Guard out!'

BY BILL ARTH

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Three hundred unionists and antiwar and Native American activists picketed the governor's mansion January 25 to protest the use of the National Guard to herd scabs into the Hormel plant in Austin, Minnesota.

Signs carried by the protesters read: "Hormel security paid by the taxpayer," "Withdraw the National Guard," "Workers can't negotiate at gunpoint," and "I-90, private driveway for scabs?"

In an important display of labor solidarity with the strikers from United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local P-9, union officials and rank-and-file workers from all over St. Paul and Minneapolis participated in the protest. Signs identifying local unions were carried by many of the pickets. These included International Union of Electronic Workers Local 1140, Graphic Communications International Union Local 229, Brotherhood of Railway and Airline Clerks locals 902 and 1310, United Auto Workers Local 879, Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 6-662, and United Electrical Workers Local 1139.

Dozens of other unionists were on the picket line as well, including members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, International Association of Machinists, Teamsters, and United Steelworkers.

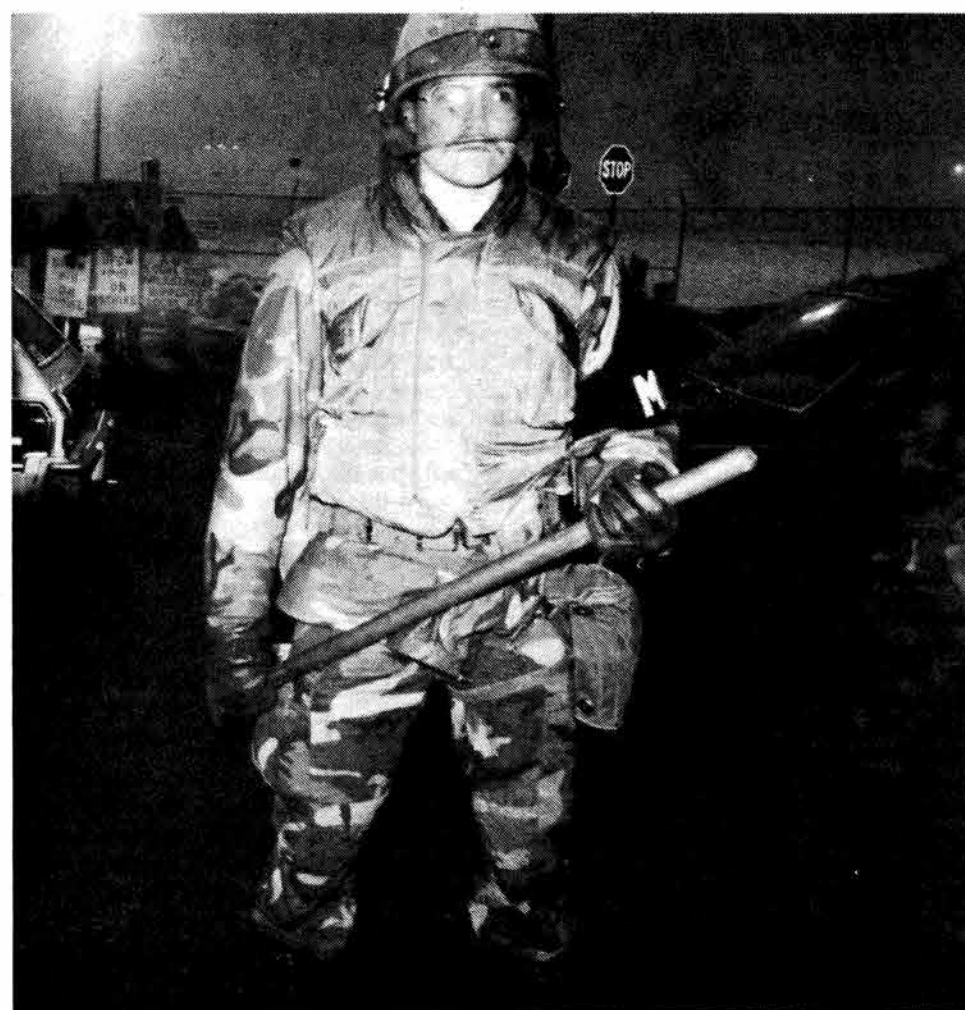
These unionists came out to demonstrate against company and government strike-breaking. One member of Auto Workers Local 683 commented, "We don't like the National Guard being down there. We realize that, if they get away with this, they will break every other union. Our contract is up July 30. Are they going to bring the National Guard out on us?"

He said his local was sending a busload of members to Austin to show their solidarity with Local P-9.

A significant number of activists from area antiwar organizations, Central American solidarity groups, the Honeywell Project, and Anishinabe Akeeng, a Native American organization, also participated.

At the rally following the picket, Kevin O'Keefe, secretary-treasurer of the Graphic Communications International Union Local 229 told the crowd, "What's going on in Austin is a national disgrace. Pull the goddamned National Guard out of Austin!" This drew cheers from the crowd.

Bud Schulte, a steward from UFCW Local 789 at Iowa Pork Industries, reported that 10 police cars met workers arriving at the plant where he works on January 24. The police had been called in by the company to prevent a rumored visit to the plant by pickets from UFCW Local P-9. No such visit, in fact, was ever planned, he said.



Militant/Peggy Winter
National Guardsman protecting scabs outside Hormel plant in Austin. On January 28 governor reassigned Guard to Austin armory "in support role for local police."

This showed the complicity of the cops with Hormel's union-busting, Schulte pointed out.

Other speakers at the rally included Clyde Millebrand, business manager of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 110; Dick Taylor, vice-president of International Union of Electronic Workers Local 1042; Tom Laney, president of United Auto Workers Local 879; Verne Ruggard, recording secretary of International Association of Machinists Local 780; Tom Beer, political coordinator of District Council 6 of American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; and Rocky DeMaio, from United

Electrical Workers Local 1139.

Several members and officers of P-9 addressed the crowd.

Also speaking was a leader of protests organized by farmers several years ago against the building of a powerline. The governor at that time mobilized hundreds of state troopers against them.

A member of a group of protesters staging a sit-in at the governor's office against the mobilization of the Guard in Austin spoke as well.

A collection was taken at the picket line to cover legal fees and to repair damage done to cars by the State Patrol during a protest against reopening the Hormel plant.

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The article explains the character of the national, democratic revolution in South Africa, the vanguard role of the African National Congress, and the international impact of this struggle.

Also in this issue is coverage of the escalating U.S. war on Nicaragua, and Washington's aggressive moves against Libya.

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Farmers' tractorcade backs Hormel strikers

BY GEOFF MIRELOWITZ

AUSTIN, Minn. — On January 22 this strike-divided town was the scene of a powerful example of farmer-labor solidarity. As night fell, some 30 tractors, their yellow lights blinking, led a procession of hundreds of cars and trucks from the Austin Labor Temple to the National Guard roadblock erected at the gate of the Hormel plant.

Heading the demonstration were several of the central leaders of Minnesota's family farm movement. Behind the tractors were hundreds of United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local P-9 strikers and their supporters. As the procession weaved its way through the town's streets, many onlookers gave the "thumbs up" sign or a raised fist.

The tractor-led picket-line-on-wheels capped an eventful day in the bitter five-month-old strike.

At 4 a.m. 800 National Guard troops secured one of the plant gates and escorted strikebreakers in to work.

Hundreds of strikers packed into the main meeting room at 11 a.m. for a news conference where union leaders denounced the government strikebreaking and announced plans to return to the plant gates in force when the tractorcade arrived.

Some 20 of the tractors had left Minnesota's State Capitol building in St. Paul, January 21, immediately following a demonstration to demand government action to deal with the economic crisis in rural areas.

The tractors rolled into Austin at about 5 p.m. the next day. They were welcomed by hundreds of cheering P-9 members, who crowded the sidewalks in front of the union hall.

Earlier in the day 10 other tractors had been welcomed in similar style. These were driven by P-9 members who are also farmers. Bobbi Polzine, a central leader of the Minnesota farm activist organization Groundswell, drove down from St. Paul, met the P-9 tractors, and arrived at the union hall with them.

Word that the farmers had arrived spread

quickly and the parking lot filled with hundreds of strike supporters and their vehicles. The demonstration headed on its way to the plant.

Charlie Smith, a 24-year-old farmer from Stillwater, Minnesota, described the scene. "We pulled the tractors directly up to the roadblock. There were probably 200 Guardsmen facing us in military formation holding batons. So we held a dialogue with the media that was assembled there about why we had come to support the strike."

Smith said that Gene Irlbeck, a farmer from Wabasso, Minnesota, who is a leader of Groundswell, pointed out that the estimated \$60,000 per day the government paid to maintain the Guard in Austin could better be used to help farmers facing economic crisis, rather than helping open a plant that won't pay fair wages.

Continued on Page 13



Farmers' strike solidarity tractorcade arriving in Austin, Minnesota.

Support grows for Local P-9 fight

BY TOM JAAX

AUSTIN, Minn., Jan. 29 — "We cannot reconcile your [Minnesota Gov. Rudy Perpich] two opposing actions on Monday, Jan. 20, 1986. You paid homage to Dr. Martin Luther King's memory at the State Capitol. You also called out the Minnesota National Guard against striking meat cutters of Local P-9, United Food and Commercial Workers Union (UFCW) in Austin....

"On the day set aside as a national holiday commemorating [King's] life, you defiled his memory and turned your back on his example. May God forgive you, the working people of Minnesota cannot.

"Kevin O'Keefe, secretary treasurer, Graphic Communications International Union Local 229"

Protest messages like this have been sent from all over the country to Governor Perpich in response to a call last week from

Local P-9 asking support for its demand that the National Guard be withdrawn from Austin.

Consistent support for the strike has come from UFCW Local P-6 in neighboring Albert Lea. Most of their members work at Farmstead, which is not part of the Hormel chain. They often participate in P-9's activities. For example, they sent 30 cars to greet the tractorcade when it arrived in Austin.

From northern Minnesota, the Duluth Building Trades Council wrote, "Your order to send 800 Minnesota Guardsmen to subsidize the Hormel company to open its plant and protect the scum of the United States, which Hormel has solicited to Austin, is incredible." He was referring to the scabs Hormel is recruiting.

From Virginia, Minnesota, also in the north, Robert Bratulich — president of United Steelworkers of America Local

1938, representing iron ore miners — wrote that sending in the Guard "is a major step in breaking up unions and violating our rights to collective bargaining. [This] sets us back many years. These are the same actions used against our fathers and grandfathers when they were suppressed in their efforts to organize. We ask you to reconsider the actions you have taken. This is nothing more than a strikebreaking act, and you are an accomplice."

Stanley Fisher, president of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 8-760 in Freehold, New Jersey, sent a message of solidarity: "From our hometown to your hometown we salute you with the words of our native son Bruce Springsteen, 'no retreat, no surrender.'"

In response to P-9 President Jim Guyette's invitation to come to Austin "to show support and find out for themselves who the aggressor is," many unionists have come to the union hall and gone to the picket line. Each day there is an 11 a.m. union press conference and a 7 p.m. strategy and support meeting.

Three construction workers drove three hours to Austin after work to meet P-9 members and present \$3,200 in cash from four days of on-site collection.

Bobbi Polzine, a leader of Groundswell, a farmers' group, spoke at the January 23 press conference protesting the presence of the National Guard. "I can think of nothing more violent than what is happening to our laboring people and farmers. There's nothing more violent than stripping a man of his land, foreclosing on his home and farm and business, and taking it all away. That is violence.

"Keep in mind one thing," Polzine continued, a "bloody conflict in our history, the Vietnam War, lasted for 16 years. It was not ended in Vietnam at all. It was ended here, in towns like Austin and Worthington. It was ended at home. It was never ended with bigger bombs, more guns, more bloodshed. It was ended with three things: people, protest, and publicity."

Many supporters have been put up in strikers' homes. One of two visiting members from UFCW Local 405 in Nashville, Tennessee, which is also on strike, spoke at a January 24 meeting. "The work force is a sleeping giant. P-9 has opened our eyes. We all need to join you. When I came down here I told my husband I wanted to be with those people because they are fighting and I want to fight with them."

Also staying were six women from Independent Union Local 610 in Sparta, Wisconsin. They are on strike against Spartec Corporation. "We're boycotting all Hormel products. The National Guard here is uncalled for. We think they should close the plant," said one Spartec striker.

A group of 46 members of Steelworkers Local 7263 in St. Paul went to the Hormel picket line. "We're here to let Gov. Rudy Perpich know that it's not only Austin that's unhappy with the right-to-work committee, otherwise known as the National Guard," said Nyals Kittle, Local 7263 president.

Activists from the Twin Cities Central America solidarity movement came to the

Continued on Page 13

Young farmer's view of solidarity action

ST. PAUL — It is not a simple matter to organize 20 tractors to make the 100-mile trip from St. Paul to Austin, Minnesota. Charlie Smith, a 24-year-old farmer from Stillwater who participated in the tractorcade, told the *Militant* how it came about.

"This was a very conscious decision to go to Austin," Smith explained. The farm leaders and activists who made the trip looked at what was happening to the embattled strikers "and we saw people in similar situations as ourselves. The government and big business are putting us all up against the wall.

"It was an act of solidarity with people who are facing problems," Smith continued. "When the governor called out the National Guard, that had a big impact" on the farm leaders, he explained. "Plus we knew P-9 had supported Jim Langman last spring when he was fighting foreclosure of

his farm."

Langman, a leader of the American Agriculture Movement (AAM), and AAM leader Pat Schimmel were the chief organizers of the tractorcade. The farmers they organized had started out on the road the previous week heading toward St. Paul for a January 21 farm protest action at the State Capitol. Before any decision was made to go to Austin, these farmers had already traveled hundreds of miles.

The idea of a tractorcade to Austin was first raised publicly by Gene Irlbeck, a farmer from Wabasso, Minnesota, and leader of Groundswell. He spoke about it at a January 19 solidarity rally for United Food and Commercial Workers Local P-9 at United Auto Workers Local 879's hall in St. Paul. During the rally, Local P-9 President Jim Guyette appealed for strike supporters to come to Austin. Irlbeck, who

was on the stage, jumped up and asked, "Can you use some tractors, Jim?"

After the farm protest demonstration at the Capitol, Smith said, "Jim Langman and Pat Schimmel called a meeting of all the tractorcade participants right there. We met outside the governor's office and Jim asked the P-9ers who had come to the rally to join us."

Not every farmer who had traveled by tractor to St. Paul could make the Austin trip. Smith himself drove a tractor belonging to another farmer who couldn't go but wanted his tractor to be part of the solidarity effort.

Altogether the group included about 35 people, Smith said. "It's not just tractors," he explained. "You need support vehicles to haul fuel and check the route ahead."

"The trip took nine hours driving time. You can't travel on the freeway. You have to take secondary roads."

The tractorcade included men and women and spanned an age range from 18 to 70 years old. One older farmer, Smith said, told them how he had worked for Hormel many years ago before the union was formed. "He made \$.77 an hour. His room cost \$10 a week. He only had enough money to eat two meals a day," Smith said.

The trip was a real learning experience for both farmers and workers. "We all learned again that you can't trust the big-business media," he said. "Most of the farmers thought P-9's biggest gripe was wages. We learned it has much more to do with safety and union rights," he said.

"Once we got to Austin, we found out workers had lots of questions about the farm crisis for us too. There was a real interaction."

It took some sacrifices for many farmers to make the trip. Some, like Smith, still have crops in the ground that they need to harvest, and the trip to Austin delayed that further. "But all of us were glad we went," he said. "We all had a real feeling of solidarity. This was an example of what needs to happen, of a process that needs to be furthered," said Smith.

— G.M.

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An employees' discount? — STUTTGART, West Germany — Daimler-Benz A.G., maker of Mercedes cars and trucks, has



Harry Ring

commissioned a study to determine the use of forced labor by the company under the Nazis, a company spokesman said. When the study is completed, the company said it would consider reparations to former factory slaves. — News

item.

They try — A partisan of peace and brotherhood, Charlie Chaplin was, naturally, the subject of an FBI dossier from 1922 until after his death. When grave robbers in Switzerland snatched his body for ransom in 1978, a clairvoyant advised the FBI the body was in a cellar in Germany. Carefully stamped "secret," the report was filed at headquarters and then passed on to German police. The body turned up where it had been, in Switzerland.

Not to worry — The Environmental Protection Agency said it will permit continued, limited use of Uniroyal's pesticide Alar be-

cause it can't definitely prove it causes cancer. If further studies do find definite proof, it will be barred, but this could take more than four years.

Obviously, we can't waste money — An EPA official said that if Alar was a new product it would be barred from the market. But the law says that if a product is already being sold, the burden is on the government to prove it's an "unacceptable" risk.

It does get cramped — The average low-income apartment in the Southeastern United States is infested with about 26,000 cockroaches, according to a recent survey by the Agriculture Department. — News item.

Far out — "Imagine!" snorts *Crain's New York Business*. The sheet got wind that Gov. Cuomo will ask industry to assure a job to each student who finishes high school. "Why guarantee a job? Socialism isn't our way of life. Free enterprise is. And should continue to be," *Crain's* stoutly declared.

Just making a buck — Burton Marsteller, a big-time PR outfit, boasts that its specialty is "crisis communications." It handled the Jewel Food chain after poorly pasteurized milk killed two; Jalisco cheese when bacteria killed several; and — perhaps proudest of all — Union Carbide after the 2,000-death Bhopal disaster.

Modest but nice — The *New York Times* assures a bathroom "need not be large" to include amenities. For instance, with about 8'x9' you can install an Environmental Masterbath. Features sunlamps, misting rain, steam, whirlpool jets, and warm breezes. \$18,430. The *Times* to the contrary, it would be a tight fit in our bathroom, but we could squeeze it into the bedroom if we junked the bed.

Ask the experts — The University of Rhode Island is offering a seminar on profitable boatyard and marina management. And, to set a good example, it will charge a \$1,200 fee for the five-day session.

—CALENDAR—

CALIFORNIA

Bay Area

Socialist Educational Conference: Lessons of the Civil Rights Struggle.

Class 1. "Reconstruction, Migration, and the Fight for Equality." Sat., Feb. 1, 11 a.m.

Class 2. "Rise of the Civil Rights Movement," Sat., Feb. 1, 2:30 p.m.

Speaker: Mac Warren, National Organization Secretary of Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. 3284 23rd St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Young Socialist Alliance and SWP. For more information call San Francisco (415) 282-6255, Oakland (415) 261-3014, San Jose (408) 998-4007.

Los Angeles

Eyewitness Report and Slide Show from the Philippines. Speakers: Steve Graw, representative of Vietnam Aid; representative of Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

San Francisco

Lynching in Concord: The Killing of Timothy Lee. Speakers: Tammy Lee, sister of Timothy Lee; Thurdie Ashley, secretary of Emeryville NAACP. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Feb. 8, 7 p.m. 3284 23rd St. (at Mission). Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (415) 282-6255.

The Coming Revolution in South Africa. Speakers to be announced. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m. 3284 23rd St. (at Mission). Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (415) 282-6255.

San Jose

Workers Fight Back Against Union-Busting. The Hormel and Watsonville Cannery Strikes. Speakers: Ron Lind, organizer, United Food and Commercial Workers Local 428; representative of Teamsters Local 912. Translation to Spanish. Sat. Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m. 46 1/2 Race St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (408) 998-4007.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

Freedom Struggle from South Africa to Central America. Speakers: Francisco Campbell, representative of the Nicaraguan embassy; Nmonbe Ngubo, National Union of Mine-workers of South Africa; Vernon Bellecourt, American Indian Movement; representatives of the African National Congress of South Africa and the South West Africa People's Organiza-

tion. Sat., Feb. 8, 7 p.m. General Lectures Building, Wayne State University, Warren at Anthony Wayne Dr.

Teach-in on South Africa and Central America. Fri. and Sat., Feb. 7 & 8. Wayne State University Student Center. For information call (313) 577-5053 or 577-3146.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

National Guard Out of Austin, Support Local P-9! Speakers: representative from Local P-9; Charlie Smith, farmer and participant in solidarity tractorcade to Austin; others to be announced. Sun., Feb. 2, 4 p.m. 508 N Snelling. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI

Kansas City

Freedom Struggle in Southern Africa, a Decade of Advances Against Imperialism. Speakers: Nana Ngobese, South African student at KU; Marcia Gallo, Socialist Workers Party, member of United Auto Workers Local 31. Sat., Feb. 1, 7 p.m.; preforum dinner at 6 p.m. 4725 Troost. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum and Young Socialist Alliance. Donation: \$2. For more information call (816) 753-0404. Forum to be preceded by **Grand Opening of Socialist Books** beginning at 11 a.m. Videos will be shown during the day on struggle in South Africa.

NEW YORK

Albany

The Politics Behind the AIDS Hysteria: An Attack on Democratic Rights. Speakers: representative of AIDS Council of Northeast New York; representative of Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Fri., Feb. 7, 8 p.m. 352 Central Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (518) 434-3247.

Manhattan

Report-back from El Salvador: Salvadoran Trade Unionists Fight Back Against Government War and Repression. Speaker: Don Gurewitz, observed National Federation of Salvadoran Workers' Unions (FENASTRAS) convention November 7-9. Sat., Feb. 1, 7:30 p.m. 79 Leonard St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

Washington's War Against Nicaragua. How the Sandinista revolution is fighting to defend gains for working people, farmers, indigenous peoples, and women. Speaker: Cindy Jaquith, chief correspondent of the *Militant* and *Per-*

spectiva Mundial's Managua bureau. Translation to Spanish. Fri., Feb. 7, 7:30 p.m. 79 Leonard St. Donation: \$2. Preforum dinner \$3. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

Bitter Cane. A film documentary on life under the Duvalier dictatorship in Haiti. Introduction by film's director, Ben Dupuy, who is also editor of *Haiti Progrès* and spokesperson for the Committee Against Repression in Haiti. Fri., Feb. 14, 7:30 p.m. Preforum dinner at 6:30 p.m. 79 Leonard St. Donation: film \$3; dinner \$3. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

Celebrate Black History Month. A series of forums on the struggle for Black liberation nationally and internationally.

1. **Libya: Target of U.S. Terrorism.** Sun., Feb. 2, 5 p.m.

2. **Malcolm X and the Strategy for Black Liberation Today.** Sun., Feb. 9, 5 p.m.

3. **Blacks in Nicaragua: Ending Centuries of Discrimination.** Sun., Feb. 16, 5 p.m.

4. **Black Women and the Fight to Defend Abortion Rights.** Sun., Feb. 23, 5 p.m. 2219 E. Market St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum, 15 percent off all titles in Militant Bookstore during Black history month. For more information call (919) 272-5996.

OHIO

Cleveland

Women's Rights and the Fight Against Racism. Speakers: Ione Biggs, co-coordinator of Northeast Ohio Anti-apartheid Coalition; Kathy Leen Geathers, chair, Civil Rights Committee of Women Speak Out for Peace and Justice; Helen Woods; and Celeste Welch, National Black Independent Political Party. Mon., Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m. Lakewood Public Library, 15425 Detroit Ave. Ausp: Cleveland National Organization for Women and NBIPP. For more information call (216) 226-6514.

PENNSYLVANIA

Pittsburgh

Stop the U.S. War Drive Against Libya and Nicaragua. Speaker: Clare Fraenzl, member of United Mine Workers of America Local 1197 and Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m. 402 N Highland Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

Unionists Look at Plant Closings: What is the Solution? Speaker: Doug Hord, member United Auto Workers and Socialist Workers

Party. Sat., Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m. 402 N Highland Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

UTAH

Salt Lake City

How Workers and Peasants in Nicaragua Use Union Power to Advance the Revolution. Speaker: Scott Breen, member of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers, visited Nicaragua in January. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m. 767 S State St., 3rd floor. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (801) 355-1124.

VIRGINIA

Newport News

Dynamics of the South African revolution. Speakers: Davis Manganye, South African student in exile; Diana Chappell, Black Vanguard Resource Center; representative of Socialist Workers Party. Sun., Feb. 2, 7:30 p.m. 5412 Jefferson. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (804) 380-0133.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

The Philippine Elections and the Struggle Against the Marcos Dictatorship. A panel discussion. Speakers: representative of the Filipino Association for Community Education (FACE); representative of the Committee Against the Marcos Dictatorship/Philippine Solidarity Network (CAMD/PSN); Chris Horner, Socialist Workers Party and member of International Union of Electronic Workers Local 1002. Sun., Feb. 2, 7 p.m. 5517 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Demonstration: Stop Aid to 'Contras', Stop War on Nicaragua! Fri., Feb. 21. Assemble 5 p.m. Eastern Market Metro Stop, march to the Capitol. Ausp: Coalition to Stop the U.S. War on Nicaragua. For more information call the Washington-area NICA at (202) 265-3800.

Women and the Nicaraguan Revolution. Speaker: Aida Oliver, attaché of Nicaraguan embassy. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Feb. 8, 7 p.m. 3106 Mt. Pleasant St. NW. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum and Nica. For more information call (202) 797-7699.

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Should union back GE competition drive: a debate

The following debate appeared in recent issues of the *Electrical Union News*, the newspaper of the International Union of Electronic Workers (IUE) Local 201. The local has some 8,000 members and organizes workers at the General Electric plant in Lynn, Massachusetts.

The first article is from a regular column by the local's fulltime assistant business agent, Michael McManus. It presents a procompany view, defending GE's "cost reduction" drive in the name of keeping GE competitive.

The second article is a response from six workers in

UNION TALK

the plant. It appeared in the letters column of the December 6 issue. They explain how McManus' position cuts across solidarity and promotes divisive competition among workers. They also point out that GE's "cost reduction" means more concessions on wages, working conditions, and rights on the job, such as GE won in the 1985 contract with the IUE and is trying to implement today.

The letter was signed by: Mike Bonislowski, Ronald Carpenter, Ric Casilli, Kip Hedges, Charlie LeBlanc, Cary J. Magnusan, and Armand Porro.

BY MICHAEL McMANUS

For the past few years at various State of the Business Meetings in Aircraft and Turbine, the company has hammered home a message of cost reduction. What drives it... profit gouging or a legitimate concern for competition?

Competition appears to be the foremost reason. GE is no longer the sole source for any of its Lynn manufactured products. In fact, the list of competitors grows

yearly, and valued customers driven by tight wages are turning to them with alarming frequency.

The military, the newest scapegoat for the record deficit of the U.S. government, is being forced by public pressure and federal politicians to sacrifice, in some cases, quality and performance for lower cost. As a result, even the U.S. military is looking overseas for some purchases.

The fact is the U.S. dollar is worth more than similar foreign currencies. GE is being forced to offset the gap in currency worth with superior manufacturing methods. We may not like the pace of this change. Unfortunately, the factors creating the need are not within our control. The U.S. auto and steel industry virtually ignored these factors, causing the loss of thousands of jobs to foreign competition.

The auto industry has come back somewhat, but major steel manufacturing in the United States has gone... lack of investment in new technologies dealt the killing blow.

I am determined as a union official to keep work in Lynn. A lot of the change is painful, but, at least, it is not fatal. American industry has no choice except adapt.

In the last issue of *IUE 201 News*, Mike McManus raised several basic issues in his column. They were the following:

1- GE wants cost reduction not because of desire for huge profits but because of legitimate concern about competition.

2- In order to be competitive, GE will have to take actions similar to those taken by auto and steel.

3- We as union members should back the company's actions. We should buy the line "What's good for GE is good for us."

We have serious problems with all these points.

For GE, cost reduction means fewer workers putting out more work with less union protection. GE already

makes \$76,000 profit per employee per year. This is the highest of any major corporation.

This high rate of return did not mean GE workers sharing in the benefits. Just look at our last contract. Just look at what the company has been doing since the contract. They also did not use much of their profits for reinvestment in core industry. According to the *Boston Globe* GE has one of the lowest rates of reinvestment of any major US corporation.

It's true that GE will try to take the "auto route" to secure its position as top dog in the engine and turbine businesses. But what did that mean for auto workers? Hundreds of thousands laid off, work rule concessions, and billions lost in financial concessions.

By and large the auto and steel companies did not reinvest in those industries with money gained from union givebacks. US Steel bought Marathon Oil for \$6 billion. GM bought Hughes Aircraft for \$5 billion.

Even though the auto companies became profitable again, it did not mean workers gained back all they had given. GE, GM, and Pratt and Whitney are not interested in the well being of the workers they employ or in the health of the US economy. They are interested in profit gouging — pure and simple.

It seems clear that the line "What's good for GE is good for us" is just a rehash of the trickle down theory.

What GE is trying to promote is competition among workers. "Let's get the workers to cut their own throats." They want to pit GE worker against P&W worker, non-union against union, Japanese against American. If we go along with this it's a sure plan for disaster.

We need to organize the unorganized; satellite plants, vendor plants — all of them. We need joint bargaining and communication with P&W union workers and others. We need joint action and communication with German, Japanese and French workers so that one can't be pitted against the other. In a word — we need solidarity not division and competition among ourselves.

Minn. farmers' tractorcade backs Hormel strikers

Continued from Page 11

Following the dialogue at the gate, the tractorcade led the demonstration back to the Labor Temple. The union hall was overflowing with people as workers and farmers assembled for the 7 p.m. meeting that is frequently held for strikers and their supporters.

From the stage, Ray Rogers, a consultant to P-9, thanked the farmers and other supporters who had traveled to Austin. From the crowd, workers began to shout, "Bring 'em on the stage." When the farmers stood up and began walking toward the front of the room, a standing ovation began.

With more than 30 farmers on the stage, Irlbeck told the crowd, "We appreciate the chance to see this type of cooperation and unity. You need us and we need you," he continued. "Together we can win!"

After Irlbeck's remarks, Bobbi Polzine spoke. "It was easy to unite" in order to bring off the day's events, she explained, "because we sat down to discuss what we

have in common." Unfortunately, Polzine continued, most of what farmers and workers have in common is problems.

"I saw sons of farmers and labor" on the National Guard lines, said Polzine. "They've set blood against blood. It's rotten wrong, and we're not going to stop 'til we get them the hell out of here!" The crowd erupted.

This show of solidarity by farmers was not the only example of support offered to P-9. Earlier in the afternoon, a 30-car caravan of UFCW P-6 members from Farmstead's plant in Albert Lea arrived. A short time later a delegation of four members of the American Indian Movement (AIM), led by Vernon Bellecourt, showed up at the union hall. During an impromptu gathering in the basement, the AIM members put on a performance of a traditional Indian drum song.

At the evening meeting, Bellecourt explained that AIM members had come to Austin because "we want to be with you. The American Indian, farmer, and worker should lock arms and close ranks."

Solidarity against National Guard

Continued from Page 11

union hall to talk to P-9 members, and to walk the picket lines at the plant gates.

At a press conference today, Ray Rogers, a consultant to Local P-9, announced he had received a letter from the former president of the Screen Actors Guild, Ed Asner, asking P-9 how he could help and offering to join the picket line in Austin. Rogers said Asner will also be putting his name on a letter for the local's "adopt a P-9 family" program.

So far, 210 strikers' families have been adopted. Many union locals and individuals have been corresponding with their P-9 families and have sent in additional financial support for this program.

A huge map of the United States in the union hall shows the support for the program — 600 unions and individuals from every state as well as Puerto Rico have sent in donations.

Rogers also announced that \$10,000 has just been donated by the UFCW local at Oscar Meyer in Madison, Wisconsin.

Since January 22, supporters of P-9 from the labor movement in St. Paul and Minneapolis have been conducting a sit-in at the governor's office in St. Paul. Their demands include withdrawing the National Guard and state police from Austin. Some

P-9 members have joined the sit-in.

Meetings with elected officials were held in the governor's office to explain Local P-9's view of the situation in Austin. Other citizens of Austin who were victims of the National Guard were also present.

P-9 members point out that it costs \$60,000 a day to keep the National Guard in Austin and contrast this to proposed government cuts in education and farm programs.

Messages of support have come in from all over the country, including from: Jerry Jones, United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) District 22, Springfield, Illinois; UMWA Local 1766, Charleston, West Virginia; Alice Peuralla, president of United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 65, Chicago; USWA Local 1014, Gary, Indiana; USWA Local 1033, Chicago; a local of the Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers, Mobile, Alabama; and many others.

Plans are under way to bring as many people to Austin as possible on Friday, January 31, to go to the picket line at 4 a.m. and to attend a rally that night.

Messages of support or financial contributions can be sent to United Food and Commercial Workers Local P-9, 316 Fourth Ave. NE, Austin, Minn. 55912.

In addition to offering solidarity, Bellecourt appealed for support to the struggles of Indian peoples who are fighting to retain land that the government and big-business interests are trying to take away on Minnesota's White Earth reservation.

"The politicians," Bellecourt said, "come together with big business against labor," as well as against farmers. A message must be sent to the politicians, bankers, and financial institutions," said Bellecourt. "We need a real redistribution of land. They need to respect the rights of the farmer, the Indian, and the American worker."

Following the speeches by Bellecourt and farm leaders, Bobbi Polzine called

'Militant': 'A good paper'

BY BILL ARTH

ST. PAUL — The *Militant* was warmly received by farmers and their supporters at the January 21 farm rally here. A team of 17 salespeople distributed 172 copies of the *Militant*.

In addition to 139 copies of last week's issue, 33 copies of the previous *Militant*, which contained an analysis of the farm bill recently passed in Congress, were also sold in a two-for-\$1 offer.

Quite a few participants were familiar with the *Militant* from earlier farm protests. One farmer, urging his two friends to buy the paper, said, "That's that socialist newspaper. It's a good paper."

But the majority of those who bought the *Militant* were seeing it for the first time. Key to their buying it was the breadth of coverage.

Ed Garcia, who sold 24 papers, explained how he approached farmers. "I said this paper defends workers and farmers, from Nicaragua to South Africa to this country."

Many rally participants said they were fed up with politicians and tired of having to protest at the Capitol. Others said they thought this year's rally was smaller than the one last year because many farmers see no way out of the crisis. One young farmer, however, pointed to the tractorcade to Austin, Minnesota, to join the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local P-9 picket lines as a promising development for the future.

After the rally, an open house was sponsored by the *Militant*. More than 35 protesters attended. They included farmers, union members, and others who support

Local P-9 President Jim Guyette up to the stage. There she, Guyette, Irlbeck, and Bellecourt clasped hands as Polzine declared "this is for the benefit of the whole world" to see the solidarity behind the strike.

The jubilation demonstrated in the union hall was mixed with the sober understanding that the strike is far from being won and that much more solidarity is needed. Throughout the evening and into the night at a gathering at a local bar that donated free beer for the occasion, the participants in the day's events talked about the importance of what had been accomplished and the need to deepen the alliances that are being built.

the farmers' struggle.

During the open house, John Enestvedt, a veteran of the Farm Holiday Movement, spoke on the lessons of the 1930s protests.

Ernie Lechnir, a member of UFCW Local P-9, spoke on the issues in their strike against Hormel.

John Gaige, National Farm Organizer for the Socialist Workers Party, gave a presentation on the need for an alliance of workers and farmers to defend working people today and fight for a government that defends their interests. A lively political discussion followed.

Demand aid for farmers

Continued from back page

cochairs Bobbi Polzine and Norm Larson. Polzine demanded, "How dare our government refuse to respond and turn a deaf ear to those who elect them? We can't pay our debts with promises. We can't feed our children with apologies."

Larson also demanded action from the government. "We should not be governed by the military, nor by the lenders, nor by big conglomerates, but by the people. We, the people, demand a moratorium on foreclosures, minimum pricing, and debt restructuring."

Using the P-9 strike as an example, Larson reminded the protesters that when "Hormel asked the governor to send in the National Guard, it took him four hours to make up his mind. He's been working on agricultural problems for a year, and he's done nothing. We need to continue to fight side by side."

Washington hands off Libya!

The great majority of the world's people oppose the bullying of Libya by the U.S. government and demand that it be stopped now.

The massive mobilization of air and naval power against a country of less than 4 million people is a threat to the independence and rights of all the nations of Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

This is the meaning of Deputy Secretary of State John Whitehead's January 25 statement that Washington "reserved the right" to attack Libya if Libyan head of state Muammar el-Qaddafi "doesn't change the pattern of his actions."

Two U.S. aircraft carriers, 13 other ships, and nine squadrons of combat aircraft are maneuvering off the Libyan coast. Some U.S. officials hint that these forces may enter Libya's Gulf of Sidra in an effort to provoke a clash. A similar provocation by Washington in 1981 resulted in the shooting down of two Libyan planes.

Whitehead also reiterated Washington's order that virtually all U.S. citizens leave Libya by February 1.

"Americans cannot tolerate a man living in the world" with Qaddafi's policies, Whitehead said. His statement is

the most open admission yet by a top administration official that it is U.S. government policy to assassinate Qaddafi.

Clearly, Qaddafi was right when he described Washington's approach to Libya as one of "international terrorism."

The military mobilization against Libya is intended to assert Washington's domination of North Africa and the Middle East. It is intended to intimidate Palestinians and other Arabs, the people of Nicaragua and El Salvador, and any others who fail to tailor "the pattern of their actions" to Washington's demands.

U.S. working people are another target of the mobilization in the Mediterranean. Like the racist media campaign against "Arab terrorists" and "madman Qaddafi," the buildup is aimed at softening up U.S. working people to accept the steady escalation of U.S. war moves around the world.

Working people internationally, including here in the United States, are the victims of those war moves.

U.S. hands off Libya!

Protest Randall deportation order

On March 17 the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) office in El Paso, Texas, will review the deportation order issued against writer Margaret Randall. She faces exclusion from the country of her birth because of what she has written.

The attempt to deport Randall is an attack on everyone's democratic rights. The government claims the right to exclude anyone whose ideas it doesn't like and the right to prevent people in the United States from hearing those ideas.

Many people, including faculty members at the University of New Mexico where she is teaching, have strongly protested the reactionary government move to get rid of her. A group of literary notables have filed suit on her behalf, challenging sections of the McCarthyite McCarran-Walter Act, which provided the basis for the move against her.

Author and editor of more than 40 books, Randall lived abroad for some 23 years, in Mexico, Cuba, and Nicaragua. Her books include *Women in Cuba*, *Sandino's Daughters*, and *Spirit of the People*, which contains interviews with Vietnamese women.

These and other writings by Randall were the basis for the government finding that "her activities for the past 20 years speak for themselves. Her writings go far beyond mere dissent, disagreement with, or criticism of the United States or its policies."

That simply means that the government sees her writings as an indictment of U.S. aggression against the Nicaraguan, Cuban, and Vietnamese revolutions.

Randall had moved to Mexico in 1961. To obtain employment there, she became a Mexican citizen and, misinformed on the need to do so, yielded her U.S. citizenship. She moved to Cuba in 1968 and in 1979 accepted an invitation to go to Nicaragua to write on the status of women under the revolution.

In 1984 she returned home to Albuquerque, New Mexico. She then applied for permanent residence as a

step toward renewing her citizenship. The INS stalled on her application and then moved against her.

Its investigation included a study of her writings and an interrogation of her about them. She was also questioned about the countries she had lived in and her visit to Vietnam. There were additional questions about what organizations she had joined since returning to Albuquerque and what she knew about a local organization in support of the Salvadoran people.

Last October the INS denied her request for permanent residency. Citing passages from her writings, the agency asserted, "She has failed to show that she is clearly and beyond a reasonable doubt entitled to the benefits for which she applied."

Citing the McCarran Act, the INS district director ruled against her as a matter of administrative discretion.

Many people have been excluded from the United States on the basis of the McCarran Act, which bars entry to those deemed to be advocates of the "overthrow" of the U.S. government.

In a countermove on Randall's behalf, writers Alice Walker, Arthur Miller, Norman Mailer, and others have joined her in a suit charging that their constitutional right to associate with Randall and receive information from her have been violated by the INS action. The suit seeks to have certain sections of the McCarran Act declared unconstitutional. It was filed by the Center for Constitutional Rights, which is representing Randall.

The government's determination to be rid of Randall coincides with a persistent drive to silence those opposed to the U.S. war drive in Central America.

It is important for all supporters of democratic rights to back Randall's just fight against deportation. Letters of protest should be sent to INS Commissioner Allen Nelson, 425 Eye St., Washington, D.C. 20536.

Contributions to the Margaret Randall Defense Fund should be sent care of the Center for Constitutional Rights, 853 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10003.

New moves against Angola

Chester Crocker, U.S. assistant secretary of state for African affairs, strongly suggested January 28 that Chevron Oil Corp. terminate operations in Angola.

"They are in the middle of a war zone," Crocker said. "They should be thinking about U.S. national interests, as well as their own corporate interests."

Angola is an independent West African nation under military attack from the apartheid regime in South Africa.

Crocker's call on Chevron to divest from Angola contrasts sharply with his firm opposition to U.S. corporate divestment from South Africa.

Last May 21, South African commandos unsuccessfully attempted to attack oil installations operated by Gulf, a subsidiary of Chevron, in Angola's Cabinda Province. At that time, U.S. officials publicly criticized the South African action.

By designating Cabinda a "war zone" and encouraging Chevron to get out, Crocker is now signaling U.S. government support for expanded South African attacks in Cabinda and elsewhere in Angola.

At the same time, Washington wants to tighten the economic squeeze on Angola, an underdeveloped country of about 8 million people that was plundered by the colonialists and imperialists for centuries before winning its independence in 1975.

Washington says it wants to force the Angolan government to send home tens of thousands of Cuban volunteer

troops who have been stationed there since 1975. The Cubans form a line of defense against any repetition of the all-out South African invasion that took place in 1975.

Washington wants the Cubans out — but that is not the ultimate goal. The target is the Angolan government.

The U.S. and South African rulers are opposed to the Angolan government because it expresses political solidarity with the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa and with the independence struggle of Namibia — a country that shares a border with Angola and is occupied by the apartheid regime.

If the Cuban fighters were sent home now, South Africa's massive military machine would have a much freer hand to occupy Angola and impose a government that would take orders from Pretoria and Washington.

Jonas Savimbi, who is the central leader of UNITA, which carries out terrorist attacks against Angola, collaborates with South Africa's rulers. He is being groomed as a possible figurehead in such a South African-backed government. He is now touring the United States, and Crocker called on Congress to adopt a resolution supporting him.

Opponents of apartheid and of Washington's aggression around the world should demand that Washington end all support to this war, break all ties with the apartheid regime, and establish diplomatic and trade relations with Angola.

National Guard: long history of strikebreaking

The use of the National Guard against strikers from United Food and Commercial Workers Local P-9 in Austin, Minnesota, is the second time in the last few years that the government has used the Guard as strikebreakers. In August 1983 Gov. Bruce Babbitt, a Democrat, called out the Arizona National Guard to help break the strike against Phelps Dodge by copper miners organized in the United Steelworkers and other unions.

The use of the National Guard has been part of the union-busting strategy of the bosses since the labor up-

OUR REVOLUTIONARY HERITAGE

surge following the U.S. Civil War.

In Samuel Yellen's book, *American Labor Struggles, 1877-1934*, he traces the use of the Guard as strikebreakers from the 1877 rail strikes to the 1934 San Francisco general strike.

A second book, *Teamster Rebellion* by Farrell Dobbs, explains the successful strategy and tactics used by Teamsters Local 574 in their Minneapolis strike, including how they dealt with the National Guard when it was called out against them. We are reprinting below two excerpts from that episode in the Teamsters' strike. They are © 1972 and reprinted by permission of Anchor Foundation, Inc.

Both books are available from Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Send \$7.95 for *American Labor Struggles* and \$5.95 for *Teamster Rebellion*, plus \$.75 for postage and handling.

* * *

By its very nature the National Guard is a strikebreaking instrument, intended for use by the bosses against the workers. To assure reliability its key officers are generally men of wealth and social position, blood brothers to the whole capitalist class. . . .

With the conflict between Local 574 and the Citizens Alliance [organization of the bosses] at a point of extreme tension, Governor Olson decided to take a direct hand in the dispute. Military forces for the purpose had already been mobilized. At the outset of the strike, part of the National Guard had been called up; the troops were billeted at the State Fair Grounds; and a military headquarters was set up at the armory on Sixth Street and Fourth Avenue South. So far the guard had been used only for a brief time on Bloody Friday [the July 20, 1934, police riot against strikers in which two workers were killed and 65 wounded].

In the aftermath of the police assault on the pickets that day, troops had been rushed to the scene of the shooting and about an hour later they had been withdrawn to their quarters.

At the same time, Olson had sent a reported 4,000 additional guardsmen into the city and had ordered another 2,000 to ready themselves for strike duty. The *Minneapolis Daily Star* of July 21, 1934, quoted him as saying that if he found it necessary to assume military control, "I will make the city of Minneapolis as quiet as a Sunday school."

Local 574 responded to the governor's threat through a stinging editorial in *The Organizer*. The union paper noted that martial law meant the existence of a state of war that could not be dealt with by the ordinary police. It said that there was a war going on in Minneapolis, and described the conflict as one of poverty against wealth, of labor against capital.

"We never asked for protection from the guard," the editorial continued. "We have no 'property' to protect. The employers have. It is their properties and their profits extorted from our labor that they want protected. It is their scabs and their scab trucks, sent out to rob us of our bread, that they want protected. We never called for the troops. The employers did. We call for their withdrawal. . . . We don't need the guard to stop scab trucks. But the employers need it to convoy them through. . . . Guardsmen's bayonets, tear gas guns or trench helmets cannot move trucks. . . . You need truck drivers and helpers and platform men and inside men to move trucks. And they are all in the ranks of 574. And that's where they are going to stay. And under its banner they are going to win."

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Chicano youth: "A free Nicaragua means I'm freer"

The following is a guest column by Francisco Picado. He has recently joined the staff of *Perspectiva Mundial*, the Spanish-language sister publication of the *Militant*. Before that, Picado was a member of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union in Los Angeles.

"The fact that Nicaragua is free means that I, as a Chicano, am more free. I'm closer to my freedom. And if we allow them to send us to fight our brothers in Central America, Aztlán will never be free." Aztlán is the name



¡BASTA YA!

Andrea González

used by Chicanos to designate the Southwestern states which were once part of Mexico.

This statement by one young Chicano expressed the identification with the Nicaraguan revolution shared by many of the 200 youths who participated in the California statewide conference of the Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán (Chicano Student Movement of Aztlán — MEChA) in Northridge last November.

The U.S.-backed war in Central America was the major issue discussed.

The conference began with a keynote address by Angela Sanbrano, the National Coordinator of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES).

The workshop on Central America, led by Ramón Díaz from Casa Nicaragua and Jorge Chinchilla from the Guatemalan Information Center, was packed. The discussion focused on the gains of the Sandinista revolution — especially the autonomy proposal by the revolutionary government for the people of Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast — and on the effects of the U.S.-backed war.

As a Nicaraguan I was inspired by the discussion. It was an important contribution to building a movement against U.S. intervention in the region.

Another important aspect of the conference was the discussion on immigration. It centered on the Simpson bill, a racist, anti-immigrant law being discussed in Congress, as well as on the stepped-up attacks on Central American, Mexican, and Chicano communities throughout the state by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS).

Antonio Rodríguez, long-time activist against deportations and former independent candidate for Los Angeles City Council, spoke at the immigration workshop. Rodríguez gave a graphic description of the escalating attacks on immigrant workers and all Latinos. Unfortunately, he only offered his own election to a government post as the solution to these attacks.

In the discussion I explained that the garment shop where I worked had been raided by the INS. I pointed to the need for independent political action by Chicanos and other working people as key to effectively opposing this kind of attack on the rights of immigrants. I used the Aug. 29, 1970, Chicano Moratorium, when tens of thousands of Chicanos marched to protest the U.S. war in Vietnam as one example of the kind of mass action we need to carry out today.

In the discussion others started to talk about the need for marches and made proposals for actions. A young



Aug. 29, 1970, Chicano Moratorium in Los Angeles

MEChA activist from San Diego State University talked about their participation in picket lines and a demonstration on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border, demanding justice in the case of Humberto Carrillo Estrada. Carrillo Estrada, a 13-year-old Mexican, was shot and seriously wounded by an INS cop in April 1985 while on the Mexican side of the border. This presentation was met with chants of "Raza sí, migra no!" (Latinos yes, INS no!).

Solidarity with the trade unions has been a traditional part of the Chicano's fight against racist oppression. This tradition was very much alive at the conference. Workers from La Superior auto parts plant in Van Nuys, California, who are on a union-organizing drive to win representation for United Auto Workers Local 645, showed a film. They also organized a fund-raising breakfast at the conference. The United Farm Workers made a presentation appealing for support for the union's grape boycott.

LETTERS

Right on, Nicaragua!

First of all, I want to congratulate and show my complete support for the Sandinistas in their effort to deepen the revolution in Nicaragua.

In Nicaragua, the people who have suffered so long as the voiceless, the powerless — these people have won. As they absorb even more power and control over their own lives, the privileged and the satisfied no longer dictate policy in Nicaragua — the poor and the suffering and the formerly oppressed do.

I say, right on, Nicaragua! Go for it, brothers and sisters in Cuba and Angola; fight for it in South Africa and Palestine and be an example for us to follow.

Your example cannot fail to cut through the haze of distortion that is "freedom" in the United States. And by your example we, too, will eventually win hearts and minds with a little assistance from a faltering economic system and a lowering of the standard of living, which, as we are seeing, is an inevitable process on the road toward the demise of capitalism.
Eddie Meredith
Caneyville, Kentucky

Apartheid close to home

Thanks for the informative news reports in the *Militant* concerning Pretoria's apartheid policies regarding the South African majority. I write this letter to express solidarity and to commend all revolutionary groups seeking to rid the world of apartheid.

I would like to also call your attention to the apartheid regime much closer to home, namely the Texas Department of Corrections. Here again is a minority of white people in control of the lives of over 35,000, mostly Black, prisoners, who are maimed, killed, locked up, and generally hindered from exercising their basic constitutional civil rights without lengthy court battles, which in most cases are always favorable to the administration.

Some of the atrocious crimes committed against prisoners are too horrible to mention. Suffice it to say that the apartheid regime here in TDC is alive and very much for real.

Most recently, an added dimension to the terrorism applied by the

administration of TDC has taken form in the establishment of an offshoot of the S.W.A.T. teams (S.O.R.T. in TDC), who are used in the same manner as the Gestapo units were used during the days of Hitler.

As prisoners seek to identify themselves by establishing Organizations of Concern for all Prisoners, the administration retaliates by using S.O.R.T. to harass, intimidate, and generally apply violence to discourage prisoners from coming together.

Infiltration of the organizations is also practiced by the administration in order to bring about disunity and confusion. We would appreciate your taking an interest in our cause.

A prisoner
Angleton, Texas

Impressed by coverage

I have been receiving the *Militant* for a couple of weeks, and I am impressed by the coverage on major issues facing the working class throughout the world. I look forward to articles focusing on problems of the Third World: mass poverty, unemployment, monopolistic markets, role of the IMF [International Monetary Fund], to name a few. The news and views expressed in your paper are extremely noteworthy.

Sangram Mudali
Houston, Texas

King Day

I was present in the West Palm Beach City Council chambers on January 6 when the council voted unanimously to make Jan. 20, 1986, a paid holiday for city employees in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday.

The decision was greeted by applause from the audience, which crowded the chamber.

Previously, the council had offered to grant the holiday in place of Columbus Day. However the employee's union refused to accept this trade-off, and a *Palm Beach Post* editorial agreed, saying, "Making employees pick and choose diminishes King's memory and trivializes the holiday."

Following the January 6 vote, a number of speakers rose to express their delight with the outcome, including Derek King, pastor of

Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church and a nephew of Martin Luther King, Jr.; Eva Mack, former mayor of West Palm Beach; and William Schmidt, president of the West Palm Beach Classroom Teachers Association, a National Education Association affiliate.

Harry Fruit
Lake Worth, Florida

Women and Hispanics

I enjoyed the article "Working people poorer after last decade" in the *Militant* recently about the falling standard of living of working people. It was a good follow-up to the article on poverty in the United States. It's crucial that revolutionaries know the facts about how our class is living through the rulers' attacks.

That is why the one mistake in the article bothered me even though, in a sense, there was no actual mistake. Rather, it is the glaring omission of additional facts that are needed before an overall assessment can be made. Most of the article was right on the money.

The article said that Black workers are the hardest hit, but did not demonstrate this to be true.

In comparison with white workers this is obviously true. But as a blanket statement about the whole class, it is not true.

Here are the average weekly earnings of workers as of the third quarter in 1985, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics: white male, \$412; Black male, \$301; "Hispanic origin" male, \$297; white female, \$280; Black female, \$242; "Hispanic origin" female, \$223.

The points about these figures are: 1) they show the lower income of Blacks as compared with whites; 2) they show that the hardest hit are those workers of "Hispanic origin"; and 3) that women workers, as compared with male workers across the board, are the hardest hit. Males — "Hispanic," Black, and white — all have higher incomes than women — "Hispanic," Black, and white.

And this has been true for at least 20 years. It is not new.

What is new is that women workers comprise 43 percent of the working class, and the "Hispanic" worker is a growing per-

centage. Therefore it is impossible to make broad characterizations about the working class without considering the criminal and severe exploitation of these workers as well as that of the Black and white male workers.

Ruth Cheney
New York, N.Y.

Red-baiting tactics

Liberals and conservatives in the U.S. media may not agree on what the United States should do to Ferdinand Marcos, but all of them share the same fear of the consequences of a Peoples Republic of the Philippines if and when the New People's Army ousts the evil dictator.

All of them try to outdo each other in depicting the nationalist insurgents as a bunch of murderous Marxist lackeys bent on rebuilding a new social order on the bones of its fellow Filipinos.

Evidently, there is a concerted effort by the U.S. government and influential sectors in the U.S. media for such red-baiting tactics. It is clear the United States has practically given up on its hope to be a broker in a peaceful transition from the dark reign of Marcos into another dawn of democracy.

In the Philippines, it is grossly unfair to portray the insurgency as communistic. Besides, material aid from communist countries to the rebels is, as yet, largely nonexistent while U.S. aid to the dictatorship continues to flow. So who is the client of whom?

The United States cannot sanctimoniously determine for the Filipinos what is best for their interests. They alone as a people have a right to that.

Soon, the United States will be faced with two prospects — an orderly withdrawal with minimal anti-American backlash or a hasty panic-driven retreat from the Philippines with a resultant deep and mutual hatred that will surely take a full generation to dissipate.
Arturo Taca, vice-chairman,
National Executive Council
Movement For A Free Philippines
Town and Country, Missouri

Prisoner subscription

I am writing to request that you continue to send me the *Militant*.

I know of no place else that I could receive the kind of informa-

tion supplied by your paper.

At whatever time I come into some money, I will make a donation to your special fund for prisoners' subscriptions.

Thank you in advance for your continued support in this worthwhile effort in getting the truth out.

A prisoner
Attica, New York

Tells the truth

I want to thank the *Militant* for printing the news about the working people's struggles and also the truth about them.

Keep up the good work, and keep telling it like it is.

A prisoner
Auburn, New York

One person, one vote

I've noticed in articles against apartheid that "one man, one vote" was the goal. I support the idea of "one person, one vote" instead, if the revolution in South Africa is to end oppression of all.

G.W. McCutire
St. Paris, Ohio

Prisoner request

I am writing to you concerning my receiving the *Militant*. I am imprisoned and housed at Menard, Illinois. I'm financially poor and cannot afford to pay the required fees. I was reading an issue of the *Militant*, and I observed that poor prisoners can receive issues free. I would appreciate this. Thank you for your time and consideration.

A prisoner
Menard, Illinois

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.

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

Minn. farmers demand gov't aid

BY MAGGIE McCRAW

ST. PAUL, Minn. — More than 2,500 farmers and their supporters rallied at the State Capitol here to demand a special session of the legislature to take immediate action to help working farmers. The January 21 rally culminated the Tractorcade and March for Justice in Rural America.

The rally marked the one-year anniversary of last year's farm protest of 10,000 here. Speakers and participants agreed that the crisis facing family farmers has worsened in the past year.

The demonstration focused on demands for a one-year moratorium on foreclosures and repossessions to cover farms, homes, small businesses, and banks; minimum price legislation for farm products; and a debt restructuring program, including emergency survival programs.

The rally also called for closing tax loopholes that aid big business, for an end to cuts in unemployment benefits, and for no cuts in government programs that serve the poor.

The tractorcade, march, and rally were backed by the farm activist group Groundswell, the American Agriculture Movement, Farmers Union, National Farmers Organization, North American Farm Alliance, and Citizens Organizing Acting Together (COACT), as well as other community and labor organizations.

More than 75 tractors hit the road days before the rally, some driving as far as 350 miles to the Capitol. Traveling approximately 15 miles per hour, they were decorated with signs reading "Parity not charity" and "Support Local P-9" (referring to the meatpackers' strike in Austin, Minnesota).

One of the central organizers of the tractorcade was Jim Langman of the American Agriculture Movement. In his speech, Langman thanked the various farm organizations for making the rally a success. Encouraging farmers to continue building a movement, Langman said, "There are no easy answers, but we need action and quickly. It takes public pressure. And more public pressure and more."

Paul Sobocinski from Groundswell pledged "not to let the rural crisis destroy us. Groundswell has been at many [forced farm] sales. We gather peacefully and non-violently. But we also want to say that what's going on is wrong."

In his speech, Carmen Fernholz from the National Farmers Organization proposed a "marketing vacation" to win farmers' demands. He called on all agricultural producers nationally to "lock your graineries and lock up or load out your livestock" beginning on February 3.

Vernon Bellecourt from the American Indian Movement (AIM) also spoke. He pledged AIM's support, explaining that Native Americans and farmers are "natural allies who need to close ranks to preserve the land."

Father Mendoza, a Catholic priest from Nicaragua, was warmly received when he spoke in support of the farmers. "The struggle for justice knows no borders," he said. Mendoza pointed out that money that could go to farmers is being used by the U.S. government "to finance aggression against the Nicaraguan people." Carrying a banner that read, "No U.S. intervention in Central America," activists from the Central American Coalition distributed a leaflet headlined, "Farms not arms." The leaflet urged farmers to join the annual commemoration of the assassination by right-wing death squads of El Salvador's Bishop Oscar Romero in March.

Labor speakers at the rally included a representative of the Minnesota Federation of Teachers and Dan Gustafson, president of the Minnesota AFL-CIO.

Ernie Lechnir from striking United Food and Commercial Workers Local P-9 also spoke. Just the day before, Gov. Rudy Perpich had deployed 500 National Guard troops to Austin at the request of Hormel

Company.

Lechnir said, "You are fighting for your rights and a decent standard of living. We in P-9 are trying to achieve the same thing. We request your help. On Wednesday we need a lot of tractors at the plant. We also ask you not to cross our picket line. We also want to ask you not to let Hormel use your product, and please don't use Hormel products."

"Get the National Guard out of Austin," Lechnir said to loud applause. "Don't let the banks and the corporations pit the different classes against each other. The working class and the farmers need to back each other."

Soon after the rally, dozens of striking P-9 members marched into the Capitol rotunda where the farmers had gathered. They carried a sign reading, "Workers and Farmers Unite." One striker, Sheryl Rawn, was loudly applauded when she explained, "All six of us in our car are farmers — we know what you're going through."

P-9 members and tractor drivers then met in the hallway outside the governor's office to make plans for the tractorcade to continue the 100 miles to Austin.

The rally was closed by Groundswell
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Militant/Irene Kilanowski

January 21 rally at the State Capitol demands aid for farmers

Eastern Airlines presses wage cuts

BY STU SINGER

MIAMI — Management attacks against Eastern Airlines workers are accelerating. On January 27 the company refused an offer of binding arbitration and broke off negotiations with the Air Line Pilots Association. This set up a 30-day countdown to either a strike or a company-imposed contract on February 26.

That is very close to the February 28 deadline the company has set for all three unions at Eastern to accept pay cuts averaging 20 percent. The other two unions are the Transport Workers Union, which organizes the flight attendants, and the International Association of Machinists (IAM), which organizes mechanics, freight and baggage handlers, cleaners, and stock clerks.

The company already imposed 20 percent pay cuts on nonunion clerks, and agents.

On January 20 the company imposed draconian new contract terms on the flight attendants, to go into effect at the beginning of February. Wages and work rules are slashed, working hours extended, and 1,010 of the 7,200 Eastern flight attendants will be laid off.

To counteract hostile public reaction, the company bought newspaper ads throughout the country crudely lying about the new conditions.

The ads claim flight attendants are overpaid and under worked. Not mentioned is that new pay scales start at \$1,000 a month, going up to a maximum of \$1,250. The company also plans to use more flight attendants who are citizens of other countries, who are paid much less and not allowed to join the union.

It was revealed that company strike preparations include use of Disney World employees as scabs.

The IAM is the largest union at Eastern, representing over 12,000 workers. It has a signed contract through the end of 1987. IAM District 100 President Charles Bryan has said repeatedly that the IAM will not reopen the contract, and in case of a strike will not cross the pilots' or flight attendants' picket lines.

But Bryan is also leading a campaign to convince Eastern workers — union and nonunion — to each buy \$3,000 worth of company stock. Bryan claims if workers buy enough shares the board of directors will be forced to replace the current management with one that will operate the air-

line in a "more efficient, profitable, and humane way." Bryan is the IAM representative on the Eastern board of directors.

The stock-buying plan has been explained in leaflets to the members, in interviews in the big-business media, and at mass meetings in New York, Atlanta, and Miami.

Opinions of the stock-buying plan are mixed. But there is not much vocal opposition to the plan since the leadership is not presenting a clear alternative strategy for taking on the company's attack.

There is strong support among the ranks for the union campaign to get rid of company chairman Frank Borman. This former air force colonel runs Eastern for the Rockefeller family, banks, and insurance com-

panies. Borman has presided over 10 years of company concession demands that have transferred up to \$1 billion out of workers' pockets into the company's coffers. In 1984 alone over \$300,000 was withheld by the company from contract "guaranteed" pay.

Borman is well-paid for his work. He makes \$400,000 a year plus expenses. The Rockefellers' Chase Manhattan Bank and the other banks holding Eastern loans were paid \$270 million in interest payments in 1985. While the company reported a \$6 million profit last year, they also stashed away \$417 million in cash as a fund to break a possible strike. Of that, \$100 million was accumulated in the middle of 1985 when Eastern issued and sold new stock.

1,000 rally for abortion rights

BY JON HILLSON

BOSTON — Nearly 1,000 people at a rally here in support of abortion rights cheered calls for stepped-up action in defense of the 1973 Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion. Rally speakers represented labor, the Black community, and women's rights fighters.

The January 22 celebration of the *Roe v. Wade* decision filled the Church of the Covenant. It was sponsored by the Massachusetts Coalition for Choice.

The broadly sponsored gathering helped the coalition's effort to counter moves by antichoice reactionaries to place a "human life amendment" on the state's fall ballot.

The proposal would severely restrict access to abortion services, including cutting Medicaid benefits for the operation. It would prohibit private insurers from covering abortion and deny tax-exempt bonding to facilities performing the procedure.

The Massachusetts State Legislature passed the amendment in 1984, and will place it on the ballot if it is voted up again this year.

In the face of this frontal attack, the charged mood here January 22 was one of defiance.

"We will never go back," Dr. Kenneth Edelin, head of obstetrics and gynecology at Boston City Hospital, told the crowd.

Edelin, who is Black, was framed and convicted in 1974-75 on charges of "manslaughter" for performing a legal abortion.

His trial took place during the peak of racist resistance to school desegregation — a resistance that fueled a "right to life" crusade, which was led by many of the same racists who were fighting busing.

"We will never go back to the back alleys, never go back to lysol douches, never go back to knitting needles," Edelin said, his quiet voice rising as the crowd roared its approval.

Foes of women's rights can "march on Washington forever," Edelin said. "They can pass out roses forever. They can bomb churches and threaten our lives. But we have fought too long and too hard and we will never go back," he concluded as the crowd rose.

The Coalition of Labor Union Women's national president, Joyce Miller, told the crowd, "Not only are we with you; we will never give up!"

Calling abortion rights an issue for the entire labor movement, Miller, who is also vice-president of the AFL-CIO Executive Council and of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU), said the antichoice effort is aimed at driving women "back into the kitchen, to keep them barefoot and pregnant."

The job discrimination and marginal employment that women workers face can be fought and reversed, Miller said, "but only if we have the right to plan our own families and on our own timetables."

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