

## General strike hits S. Africa; 100,000 march in New York



Part of crowd on June 14 in Central Park

Militant/Lou Howat

### Masses defy 'Break all ties with apartheid'

BY NORTON SANDLER

"A resounding success. The greatest national strike in the history of South Africa. An act of defiance before South African military might." This was how African National Congress President Oliver Tambo described June 16 in South Africa, when millions of workers stayed home. They were protesting the apartheid regime's repression and commemorating the 10th anniversary of the 1976 rebellion in the Black township of Soweto, an important landmark in the history of the South African freedom struggle.

Most of the country came out of a standstill during the strike, which took place in the midst of the most sweeping re-

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BY RASHAAD ALI

NEW YORK — The largest anti-apartheid demonstration ever held in the United States took place here June 14. Close to 100,000 people converged on Central Park's Great Lawn to demand that Washington break all U.S. ties to the racist government of South Africa.

"Remember Soweto" was one of the main chants of the day. The protest was called to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the 1976 uprising in Soweto, South Africa, where hundreds of students were killed in cold blood by the South African rulers.

The action occurred in the midst of a sharp escalation of repression and violence by the Pretoria government, including the banning of any activities commemorating the Soweto events. On June 12 a nationwide state of emergency was imposed, leading to the arrest and imprisonment of thousands of anti-apartheid fighters.

The New York protesters vented their anger at both Pretoria and its supporters in Washington.

The anger was expressed in such chants as "Reagan, Botha you can't hide; we charge you with genocide," "Free Mandela, jail Botha," and "Death to apartheid!"

Support for the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC), which is leading the South African liberation struggle, was evident throughout the day's events. Hundreds of protesters carried the black-green-and-gold flag of the ANC and pictures of jailed ANC leader Nelson Mandela. A big ANC flag was held up on the stage during the rally.

#### Broad opposition to apartheid

Participants reflected the breadth of opposition in this country to the apartheid system. The majority of the marchers were Blacks, but a high percentage were whites. There was a large turnout of Puerto Ricans, Dominicans, and other Hispanics, as well as Asians and Native Americans.

Many protesters were from the unions that are the backbone of the New York Anti-Apartheid Coordinating Council (NYAACC), which called the action.

Last August the forces that later became NYAACC organized a march and rally of 30,000 in New York to demand an end to a previous state of emergency in South Africa, freedom for Nelson Mandela, and the breaking of all U.S. ties with South Africa.

The council was formed in September and has grown to represent more than 200 unions and community organizations.

This year's stormy campus divestment struggles brought many students to the June 14 protest. Many older people also withstood the sweltering heat to add their voices to the call for an end to U.S. support to apartheid.

Nine feeder marches led into the park where the main rally occurred.

#### From Harlem and E. Harlem

A spirited march of about 1,000 Hispanics came from East Harlem.

They joined up with a contingent of more than 5,000 from Harlem, which was

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## All out to back Minn. meatpackers!

Unionists, farmers, students, and fighters for the rights of Blacks, Latinos, and women should come to Austin, Minnesota, June 22-28 to support the struggle of Local P-9 United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) against the Hormel meatpacking company.

A big and broad show of support is urgently needed as this battle against union-

Hansen sent deputies to take over the offices leased by P-9 in the Austin Labor Center. He sent copies of the court order to local banks with a cover letter demanding that they freeze the funds of P-9 and the United Support Group, an independent organization that provides emergency financial relief to the strikers and their families.

On Hansen's request the post office began delivering mail sent to P-9 to the trustee. The post office initially held mail addressed to the United Support Group and P-9's Adopt-A-Family program.

Hansen attempted to issue gag orders to dozens of P-9 members, threatening that their jobs would be jeopardized if they continued to speak out publicly in support of P-9's fight. These were ignored.

UFCW International officials took pictures of unionists' cars that had boycotted Hormel bumper stickers. They also recorded license plate numbers.

A P-9 retiree who is a butcher-shop owner was threatened. His son received a letter explaining that if their shop didn't start selling Hormel meat they would be in violation of the court order.

Despite the brutality of these attacks by the officialdom, backed by the courts, the P-9 membership refused to capitulate. At a June 11 news conference in St. Paul, Minnesota, suspended president Jim Guyette and the local's consultant, Ray Rogers, said the trustee's and court's action would not end the fight. "Just because the courts deem that this strike is over," Rogers said, "doesn't mean that the struggle is over."

Soon after the June 2 court ruling the membership and suspended leadership of Local P-9 met and mapped out a strategy to continue fighting for a decent contract and to maintain a union that can use its power to fight the employers.

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## 10,000 rally in solidarity with Canada meat workers

BY MARY-ELLEN MARUS

EDMONTON, Canada — In a powerful show of solidarity, 10,000 people rallied at the Alberta Legislature at midday June 12 in support of members of the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) on strike against two Alberta meatpacking plants, Gainers and Fletcher's Fine Foods.

Canadian Labor Congress President Shirley Carr condemned Peter Pocklington, well-known Conservative Party leader and multimillionaire owner of Gainers, for labeling strikers "terrorists." She likened the Gainers strike to the Winnipeg general strike in 1919. "In that most famous of Canadian strikes, the forces of the employer, the police, and the courts were used to crush the Winnipeg workers' fight for economic and social justice," she said. "The labor movement will not let Pocklington starve his employees into submission, nor let the police beat our people into submission," she told cheering construction and food workers, nurses, and

teachers. "Keep up the fight. You have the union movement across this land with you."

John Oberg brought the full support of the National Farmers Union, which represents thousands of working farmers. "We have a major mandate to take the message to the country that workers and farmers are in the same boat, that we better work together and support each other," he said. He underlined that the government and the corporations in Alberta have a vested interest in seeing workers work for less and farmers produce food for less.

A prolonged and thunderous roar of "NDP! NDP! NDP!" greeted Alberta New Democratic Party leader Ray Martin. The NDP is Canada's union-based labor party. He told the rally that the NDP will introduce a bill to make it illegal to cross a picket line during a legal strike. Chants of "No more scabs" and "NDP" swept across the crowd again, reflecting the growing labor

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### EDITORIAL

busting enters a new phase. The UFCW top officialdom has taken a series of actions aimed at smashing the militant local and signing a sweetheart contract with Hormel. They have received the backing of the federal courts in their attempt to crush the 10-month-long battle by P-9 to win a decent contract and maintain the union.

On June 2 a federal district judge ruled that a May 7 decision by the UFCW officialdom to impose trusteeship on Local P-9 was legal. The trusteeship allowed the officialdom to suspend P-9's democratically elected leadership and place the local under the control of an appointed UFCW trustee — Joseph Hansen, director of the union's District 13.

Before the June 2 court ruling Hansen was unable to impose the trusteeship because the officials lacked support in the local union. They sought court approval before moving into action.

Immediately after the judge ruled against P-9, the UFCW tops imposed what P-9's suspended president, Jim Guyette, called a "virtual dictatorship" over the membership.

Hansen officially called off the strike. This meant if P-9 members continued to strike and organize a consumer boycott of Hormel products they could be legally fired by the company and face possible imprisonment for violating the court order.

Under protest P-9 members withdrew their pickets from the plant in Austin.

Hansen then proceeded to use the cover of the court ruling to violate the constitutional rights of the P-9 membership.

Acting for the UFCW bureaucracy,



# Arizona copper miners: regular 'Militant' readers

BY DAVE ZILLY

PHOENIX, Ariz. — Since the end of the strike by Arizona copper miners against Phelps Dodge two years ago, *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* sales teams have

Kennecott in Hayden.

The mines are a two-hour drive from Phoenix, but we try to have at least one sale a month at one of

Every time we visit one of these mines our average sales are about 15 papers.

Most of the copper miners are members of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA), but there are also other unions represented. All of them are facing company demands for enormous givebacks when their contracts expire July 1.

Arizona copper miners are aware of the difficulties they face. Their contracts are expiring two years after the serious defeat for the union movement in the Phelps Dodge strike. This has been one of the main topics of conversation between *Militant* sales team mem-

bers and miners since last fall.

From our visits, it's clear the companies are virtually forcing the unions to strike and are preparing to operate the mines whether or not union contracts are signed. Magma Copper Co. has begun ringing its property with barbed wire and has replaced its old security force with Nuckols and Associates, a notorious strikebreaking outfit.

Like other workers, the copper miners are looking for effective ways to fight back. The conclusions some are drawing were illustrated by a Chicano miner at the

Magma mine entrance. "We've got to show these companies we mean business. We should start taking some lessons from the Nicaraguans, the Palestinians, or the Libyans. They don't fool around," he said.

Many copper miners have followed the strike of United Food and Commercial Workers Local P-9 in Austin, Minnesota, with their own contract problems in mind. They buy socialist publications because of their coverage of the Hormel strike and because of the unflinching support both papers gave the Phelps Dodge strikers.

## SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE

*spectiva Mundial* sales teams have sold hundreds of copies of both socialist publications to miners.

The three mines we sell at are Inspiration Consolidated and Magma in Globe, Arizona, and

them. Sometimes we have been able to have two or three.

In the past few months we have sold more than 80 *Militants* and *Perspectiva Mundials* to these workers.

## Nicaragua offers 20,000 acres to U.S. farmers

BY KATHIE FITZGERALD

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — "While Reagan expropriates small and medium farmers in the United States — a policy benefiting the corporations and bankrupting small farmers — here we are making them owners. . . . Surely in Nicaragua, despite our problems, there is room to hand over land to small and medium farmers from the United States, to offer them a place, to offer 20,000 acres."

This statement by Nicaragua's minister of agrarian reform, Jaime Wheelock, was met with cheers and a standing ovation by the delegates at the convention of the National Union of Farmers and Ranchers (UNAG), which met here in April.

Even more enthusiastic was the response of the U.S. farmers in attendance. Merle Hansen, president of the North American Farm Alliance, said in his greetings to the convention that "Commander Wheelock offered a home to landless U.S. farmers because Reagan can only find homes for Marcos and Duvalier."

"We have," Hansen said, "the ability to produce enough food that everyone in the world can have plenty," yet many millions go hungry. It is the right of all people of the world, he continued, "to seek liberty and justice," but this "sacred right is being denied by the Reagan administration."

North American farmers, Hansen told UNAG, are now "colonial people on the homeland. Farmers are producers of raw materials. Corporations want those raw materials cheap. We have much in common with the Third World."

"Low prices force us to borrow money. American farmers now owe more than \$213 billion — a debt which can never be paid back."

In 1985, 399,000 people left U.S. farms. "Many have committed suicide, a growing number are without electricity, food, heat, or money to plant. But many are fighting," Hansen continued, "and they are connecting their problems." He recounted the story of recent farm protests in Missouri where farm leaders demanded that the \$100 million Reagan wants to give the *contras* to fuel the war in Nicaragua



Militant/Jeff Powers  
**Merle Hansen at 1985 farm protest rally in Plattsburg, Missouri. Hansen was one of three U.S. farmers who attended farmers' conference in Nicaragua in April.**

should instead be used to help U.S. farmers. "It's not right to kill people who are just like us" is the view of the farm activists in Missouri.

### Nicaraguan farmers take back land

While U.S. farmers are fighting to hold on to their land, the driving force behind the land reform in Nicaragua is the desire of Nicaraguan farmers to take back land that was stolen from them over the past century. Commander of the Revolution Luis Carrión explained to the congress in his address on behalf of the Sandinista National Liberation Front that tens of thousands of small farmers were dispossessed when large-scale cultivation of coffee and cotton by capitalist entrepreneurs began. Many of the dispossessed became agricultural workers who found jobs only three months out of the year. Others retreated to marginal, unclaimed land on the agricultural frontier in the north, center, and east of the country.

It is descendants of these displaced farmers, still located on the frontier — far from roads, storage facilities, or technical help

— who are today producing most of Nicaragua's food. And they are producing it under conditions that are mindboggling to those accustomed to agricultural production in the United States. In much of Nicaragua the digging stick is still used for plowing. In all of Nicaragua there are fewer than 3,000 tractors, over half of which have been gotten since the 1979 revolution.

In addition to Hansen, two other U.S. farmers attended the conference: Ben Layman, a dairy farmer from Virginia, and Bobbi Polzine, a founder of Minnesota Groundswell. Both Polzine and Layman are currently facing the loss of their farms.

### Response to Sandinista farm program

What were the reactions of these farmers to the agricultural program discussed at the UNAG congress?

"In looking at their short- and long-term solutions for the development of agriculture, I think our administration should be learning from them instead of trying to destroy them," said Polzine, "because what we're seeing is the deforming of agriculture in our country."

Nicaragua to U.S. farmers is "a match made in heaven," said Layman. "Their programs and approach to us are a dream come true." Layman was struck by remarks made by Nicaragua's President Daniel Ortega at a Face the People meeting between the government and the UNAG delegates, which was held during the congress.

"He said that because of other circumstances like the war, the farmers may have to bear only getting cost of production. Goodness!" Layman said, "If we could just get that much!"

Commenting on the U.S.-sponsored aggression against Nicaragua, Layman said that he explains to people in the states, "Anywhere we're in a conflict, it causes us farmers to get a reduced price because money is being spent on arms, not social needs like the farm debt."

"People say back to me," he continued, "that spending this money is insurance to save my farm from enemy attack. Shoot!

My own government is taking my farm!"

The U.S. farmers were enthusiastic about Wheelock's offer of 20,000 acres to landless North American farmers. "It's a very generous offer," said Hansen.

Layman saw the offer of land in two ways. U.S. farmers with their advanced technical skills going to Nicaragua is "definitely one thing to do to help them improve their economy and meet their food demands over the next few years," he said. "They don't have the 50 years we took to learn by trial and error. We can knock off 20 or 30 years for them."

The offer also "fits in with their total democracy, of accepting anyone. It goes along with the fact that they are a nonaligned country, a country that aligns itself with just causes. That's why they offer land to North American farmers. It's a just cause," he pointed out.

All three U.S. farmers agreed that in order to develop agriculture in Nicaragua, the first step is ending the U.S. government-run aggression. "They have real problems," said Merle Hansen, "as do all Third World countries. Problems of feeding their people, of providing clothing and shelter. Of course the first thing that outrages me is that our government resources are being spent to prevent them from having these elementary things of life."

Nicaragua's goals for the next two years, Layman pointed out, are "to put more land into production and to increase production per acre. The main thing is to stop U.S. aggression and take that 50 percent of their budget that now has to go to defense and use it for agricultural development."

Polzine added, "Even though they are forced to live in a warlike economy, they are a joyous, cultured, dedicated, and courageous people. If we can move our administration to cease the aggression, they will be able to live in the total freedom that they have fought so hard for."

Hansen summed up the thinking of U.S. delegates in his concluding remarks to the convention. "We have an old saying for the job that has to be done: 'We have to get the hogs out of the creek before the water will clear.'"

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# Broad protests hit racist attack in Ohio

BY BILL KALMAN  
AND SCOTT WARE

CLEVELAND — The arrest of a young Black man who defended himself against racist thugs has produced an upsurge of protest in the Black community here, as well as repudiation of racist violence by white working-class residents in the area where the incident occurred.

Michael Spraggins, a 23-year-old restaurant worker, was visiting the home of Marlene Armstrong the night of June 10. The Armstrongs had moved into an all-white neighborhood in February as part of a federal program to move low-income families from housing projects into single-family houses. They were quickly confronted by racist harassment. Racist epithets were shouted at them, "KKK" was painted on the house, and a blackface jockey statue was installed across the street. The family received a number of death threats and threats to burn down their house.

Cleveland city officials responded to the Armstrongs' complaints of harassment by sending out a couple of social workers but refused to provide police protection.

On June 10, a crowd of beer-drinking whites began setting off firecrackers outside the Armstrongs' house. Spraggins went out to tell them to stop. A long shouting match ensued. The whites began to display weapons.

The Armstrongs and the two social workers who were with them made repeated phone calls to the police, but no cops came.

In desperation, Spraggins took a shotgun from his car and fired at the crowd. Eight of the thugs were wounded, none of them seriously.

"If Michael had not done what he did, you would have seen a Black man dead and a house full of Black people dead, and no one would have known what happened to us. I am very grateful to Michael for saving our lives," Marlene Armstrong told reporters.

Police arrived quickly after the shooting, stormed into the house, and arrested Spraggins. None of the racists were arrested.

Spraggins' arrest has produced an explosion of anger in the Black community. "The action of this young man has taught some folks that we are tired of being targets," said Spraggins' attorney, Stanley Tolliver.

A rally for Spraggins was quickly organized in East Cleveland. His first court appearance drew 100 supporters. When he appeared before a well-attended meeting of an organization called the 21st Congressional District Caucus on June 16, he was greeted with a standing ovation and chants of "our hero."

This outcry has had an impact on the residents in the neighborhood where the racist assault on the Armstrongs' house occurred.

The Cleveland Plain Dealer reported June 17 that the whites involved in the inci-

dent are not going to press charges against Spraggins.

"We are offering to bring this community back to its feet," said Larry Craig, speaking for the eight who were shot.

"Nobody got seriously hurt. We are willing to swallow our pride and let it ride. From my heart I deeply and seriously apologize for any inconvenience that we have caused her [Armstrong], and that's from all of us," he told the Plain Dealer.

Many white workers were appalled by the racism.

A petition has been signed by more than 80 local residents. While it places blame on both sides for the events on June 10, it also contains a public apology to the Armstrong family and pledges to "see that all families regardless of race, creed, or color, are welcome to our community."

Kate Button, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate, issued a statement demanding that charges against Spraggins be dropped and those guilty of racist harassment be prosecuted. She also demanded passage of an open housing law in Cleveland. Her statement was carried by several radio stations.

Charges against Spraggins are still pending. A legal defense fund has been established by the local NAACP. Supporters plan to mobilize for his next court appearance June 25.



Marlene Armstrong (center) following racist attack on her Cleveland home June 10. Armstrongs have been repeatedly harassed by bigots since moving into all-white neighborhood last February.

## Company lies anger AT&T strikers

### Miami

BY STU SINGER

MIAMI — The strike against AT&T got a boost here from supporters of the packinghouse workers fighting to defend their union against Hormel Co. in Austin, Minnesota.

Rod Huinker, a member of Local P-9 of the United Food and Commercial Workers, spent several weeks in Miami explaining the issues in the Austin struggle. He also participated on telephone workers' picket lines throughout south Florida and helped organize people from other unions to join in. The presence of these unionists encouraged the Communications Workers of America strikers, who watch police escort scabs through their lines every day.

Huinker, along with members from a number of Miami-area unions, spoke at solidarity rallies June 15 and 16.

The June 15 rally included the local presidents of the American Postal Workers Union, Letter Carriers, and several CWA locals. There were also speakers from the executive board of the United Teachers of Dade and Local 702 of the International Association of Machinists. A delegation of TWA flight attendants participated.

Chuck Treadway, a CWA picket captain, explained how a scab drove a car directly into him, injuring his hand. He and other pickets reported that the police are not neutral — they're backing the company against strikers.

Betty Tsang, a postal workers local vice-president, took up some of the questions being discussed on the CWA picket lines. These include the approach of white pickets to Blacks hired through temporary employment agencies as scabs.

Tsang urged aggressive picket lines to stop the scabs, and she explained the danger of allowing any racist slurs from the pickets. "We have to fight against oppression of workers everywhere," she said. She also spoke about the need for solidarity with the struggle in South Africa. Tsang and other strike supporters participated in a June 14 anti-apartheid rally in front of the Federal Building here. Huinker also spoke at that rally.

Larry Fitzgerald, Miami strike leader for the Independent Federation of Flight Attendants, who are still picketing TWA, spoke of the urgent need for solidarity. He pointed to the confrontation developing between Eastern and airline workers.

Just before leaving Miami to return to Austin, Minnesota, P-9 member Huinker spoke to a meeting of 200 CWA strikers. He urged them to keep up the fight, explaining the need for workers to score a victory.

This CWA meeting also heard a report

on the implications of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), the other main union at AT&T, settling their contract. CWA leaders explained that IBEW members work mostly in equipment manufacturing, but CWA members work in the AT&T plants that make the circuit boards. Without circuit boards, the company will have a hard time getting production out of the IBEW-organized plants.

At the same rally, the CWA reported the decision by the convention of the National Organization for Women to support the telephone workers' strike and get NOW members out on the picket lines.

Stu Singer is a member of International Association of Machinists Local 702 at Eastern Airlines in Miami.

### Houston

BY PETE SEIDMAN

HOUSTON — "Our demand is 'justice.'" That's what an angry Kerry Callaway told a rally of 300 striking Communications Workers of America members and their families here on June 7. Callaway is president of Local 6222, which organizes Houston-area workers at AT&T and Southwest Bell.

Union members at the rally were indignant at all the lies contained in a succession of expensive AT&T advertisements in local papers aimed at countering support for their strike.

Callaway blasted AT&T for refusing invitations to debate union representatives on the "Crossfire" and "MacNeil-Lehrer Newshour" TV news shows. "The company declined to debate and then spent \$400,000 on more lying advertisements," he complained.

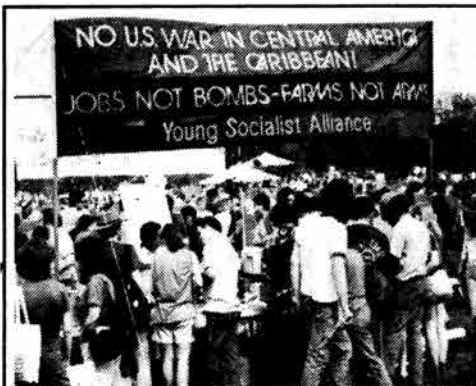
Local 6222 Vice-president Xavier Guerra returned to Houston for the rally from his post on the union negotiating committee.

He said AT&T advertisements falsely claimed that the phone company was not asking for any concessions. Guerra cited a list of nearly 50 concessions, which would slash wages and benefits. To strong applause, he angrily noted that the company's demands would hit female employees particularly hard.

Don Horn, secretary-treasurer of the Harris County AFL-CIO, and Joe Gunn, secretary-treasurer of the Texas AFL-CIO, offered solidarity on behalf of all unionists.

CWA Local 6222 is one of the largest union locals in Houston and one of the largest CWA locals on strike against AT&T.

After the rally, participants marched through pouring rain to picket AT&T's Houston headquarters.



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# How Nicaraguans push back 'contras'

**Continued from back page**  
tional Liberation Front (FSLN) since 1972. Today, he is the FSLN political secretary for the El Cua-Bocay zone. Castro recounted the long history of struggle and sacrifice by peasants in the area — first against the brutal National Guard of the Somoza dictatorship and later against the mercenaries.

Castro pointed to El Cua's new health clinic. Before the 1979 revolution, the National Guard used the building to torture peasants. A nearby estate used to belong to Arturo Chavez, a Somoza ally, and was a center of National Guard operations. Today, the land belongs to the poor peasants, who work it in cooperatives.

Two dozen women, guests of honor, sat behind Castro. They were mothers of local heroes and martyrs — peasants killed by the contras. The most recent victim was Tomás Gonzales, a farmer murdered on April 25.

These "freedom fighters of Mr. Reagan say that they come to help the people," Castro said, "but they were trained under Somoza and have not changed. They continue to commit the same crimes here." He called on the peasants to "unite ourselves even more, in defense and production, always ready to move forward."

## Contras losing support

MINT Lieutenant Commander Sergio Lira explained that this meeting could not have been held here a year before. Then,

the effective military frontier between the Sandinista army and the contras was 40 miles further south. A caravan like ours would have had to travel in armored vehicles just to be sure of reaching El Cua, he said.

A year ago the peasants would not have dared come down from the mountains for a public ceremony here, Lira said. Such open identification with the revolution and the Sandinista-led government brought too great a risk of reprisals by the mercenaries. Today, peasants not only came long distances, but cheered and applauded the FSLN and MINT speakers.

For several years, the contras had prevented the peasants from harvesting coffee in the zone. By the 1985-86 season, however, the army and MINT had driven the contras back so they were able to bring in the harvest. Peasants said that now, if the contras could be kept away, they would expand coffee production and plant grain crops to once again be self-sufficient in food production.

The effective military operations by the Sandinista army and the special MINT units have greatly reduced the size and scope of mercenary activities in the zone, Lira said. Equally important have been the political work carried out by the military units, the FSLN, and UNAG and the steps taken to bring material benefits to the peasants, including health care, education, and better supplies.

"We have to accept that in certain zones



Militant/Harvey McArthur  
Peasants who deserted U.S.-backed contras at May 13 ceremony in El Cua, Nicaragua, where 100 of them were returned to their families.

where we did not have a presence, the enemy had influence, as the peasants themselves know well," Lira told the crowd. This permitted the contras to recruit peasant collaborators "by force or through misleading them," he explained. These recruits swelled the ranks of the mercenary bands and gave them a network of informers and messengers that facilitated their operations in the region.

The recent strengthening of the revolution had reestablished the confidence of the peasants, Lira said. He emphasized the role

of political education: "bringing the message of the revolution, the message of the amnesty law, and the message of the desalados themselves" into the area. This, combined with the peasants' firsthand experiences with contra attacks, had convinced many former collaborators to quit the mercenaries. This explained the increasing number of desertions — 171 in the El Cua-Bocay zone alone this year, he said.

Reporters were able to talk individually with the desalados after the ceremony. Most stressed that they had been forced to join the mercenaries, though some had fought with them for more than two years before deserting. Several admitted to participating in tortures and murders of peasants. Others said that they had not, but their units had. This was often one of the reasons they gave for quitting the contras.

Other peasants at the ceremony said that they agreed with the amnesty program, despite the crimes some individuals had committed. "They were fooled by the contras," said Roberto Zeledon, an UNAG member from a nearby cooperative. "Now we will make them members of our cooperatives, so they can return to work the land — and so we can watch to be sure they do not return to the contras."

## Terrorist attacks continue

Lieutenant Commander Lira explained that the contra units that had infiltrated the area recently were advance forces for larger units that could no longer move on their own now that their network of collaborators, informers, and guides had been broken up.

In the recent incursions, the contras tried to forcibly recruit peasants and rebuild their network through terror attacks — such as the murders and kidnappings Castro had reported. Although the army and MINT were preventing the larger mercenary forces from operating effectively, they were not able to prevent all such attacks on isolated farms or roads.

MINT officials told us that they had reports that mercenaries operating in the area had planned to attack our caravan to try to prevent the May 13 ceremony from occurring and thus score "a propaganda success for Reagan." They had apparently decided that the caravan was too well guarded, and we reached El Cua without incident.

Later, as we returned to Jinotega, a Sandinista army unit stopped us at the community of La Sorpresa. They reported that the contras had ambushed a small group of peasant militia members nearby earlier that morning. We would have to wait while the soldiers combed the hills for the mercenaries and checked the road ahead for mines.

As we watched the troops climb into the nearby hills, several peasant women came up the trail from the valley. One, Cristala Pérez, was in tears and had to be helped up the road by other women.

Pérez told us that the contras had attacked her farm two hours earlier. They shelled the buildings and overran the farm when the peasants ran out of ammunition. Pérez and some others escaped, but the mercenaries kidnapped six members of her family — including two young children.

# Alberta meatpackers fight for jobs

EDMONTON, Canada — The more than 1,000 members of United Food and Commercial Workers Union (UFCW) Local 280-P from Gainers meatpacking plant here have been on strike since the beginning of June. So have 420 UFCW members from Fletcher's Fine Foods in Red Deer.

Gainers strikers have been hit by the bosses' use of an Alberta labor law that allows the company to permanently replace

striking or locked-out workers with scabs 24 hours after a contract expires. Gainers ran newspaper ads for scabs to replace striking workers even before the walkout began.

Use of scab labor to operate the hog-processing plant has led to violent confrontations. Hundreds of police, aided by the riot squad, have tried to escort busloads of scabs across picket lines. Court injunctions have limited picketing. To date more than

400 strikers and their supporters have been arrested.

The Gainers and Fletcher's workers are on strike for parity with the rest of Canada's meatpacking industry. They want \$1.03 over the next three years, as well as the recovery of lost benefits.

Two years ago, faced with management's threat to hire nonunion labor, the union was forced to accept concessions, including a two-tier wage scale, loss of holidays, and inferior benefits.

As we go to press, a tentative settlement, which meets the union's parity demand, has been reached between union officials and company negotiators for Fletcher's. The offer will be put to the local's membership for consideration.

Gainers' vice-president, Stan Harrington, stated that a Fletcher's settlement would have no impact on Gainers' negotiations with Local 280-P. The company has so far refused to make a serious contract offer to striking workers. Gainers' owner, Peter Pocklington, has instead vowed that he will never sign another contract with the union.

At its June 16 meeting, Local 280-P reaffirmed its determination to fight on and mapped out a campaign to win greater public support. — M.M.

# Edmonton rally backs strike

**Continued from front page**  
support in Alberta for the NDP as a result of the economic crisis and the sharpening confrontation between labor and the bosses. The NDP went from two to 16 seats in last May's provincial election.

"People have been watching the television day after day, trying to find the difference between Chile, South Africa, and Edmonton," said Alberta Federation of Labor President David Werlin, in reference to the violence used by the cops and the riot squads against strikers.

The government, scabs, and cops are responsible for the continued violence, he

explained, "not the workers fighting to save their jobs and their union."

"Peter Pocklington," a strike supporter in pig costume, pleaded with rally participants for sympathy. "We don't want to be slaughtered in a scab plant," he said, amid cheers and laughter. "When we go, we want to go with dignity." He advocated a national campaign to boycott Gainers.

Alberta Building Trades Council spokesperson Vair Clendenning got sustained cheers and applause when he was introduced to the rally. With 75 percent of their members out of work for more than two years, the construction unions have mobilized in support of the strike from the beginning. This is an important step toward healing the split that took place in 1981 between the building trades unions and the Canadian Labor Congress. Unemployed Building Trades members passed the hat at the rally and collected \$7,600 for three unionists seriously injured on the Fletcher's picket line.

Also speaking were UFCW Local 280-P President John Ventura and UFCW national Canadian Director Frank Benn.

After singing "Solidarity Forever," 1,000 unionists and supporters converged on the Gainers plant to demonstrate their support for the strike.

The largest labor protest demonstration held in Alberta since the 1930s, this rally reflected the massive support that has been pouring in from across Canada, including from the Montreal Labor Council of the Quebec Federation of Labor. Solidarity has also come from as far away as Australia.

Funds and messages of support can be sent to UFCW Local 280-P, 9588-111 Ave., Edmonton, Alberta T5G 0A7. Telephone: (403) 474-8369.

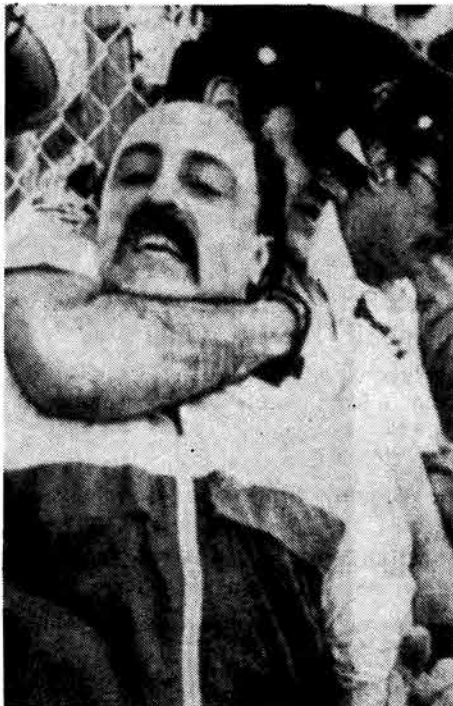
## Boss fires mother of union leader for attending rally

Maria Ventura, mother of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 280-P President John Ventura, was fired from the seamstress job she has held for 12 years at William Trock Furniture Ltd. for attending the June 12 strike support rally.

Two coworkers who also attended the rally were fired by the manager. He said he fired them for "showing disrespect for management."

"If they'd lied and said they were going to a funeral," he said, "I wouldn't give a heck. But that really was the unions fighting management, and we're management."

John Ventura said the incident was "a perfect example of why unions are needed."



Cops drag away picket at Gainers meatpacking plant.



# Socialist campaign reaches thousands in Boston

BY JACK GARFIELD

BOSTON — A signature-gathering effort to put Socialist Workers Party congressional candidate Jon Hillson on the November ballot begins here June 21. Hillson is running in the 8th Congressional District.

The goal of the drive is to obtain more than double the legal minimum of 3,400 signatures, according to campaign director Betsy Soares.

"Hillson is recognized by thousands as a serious candidate," explained Soares. "The petitioning drive will be part of a political campaign to assure that the socialist candidate's right to be on the ballot is not denied," as well as guaranteeing the rights of all working people to vote for the socialist alternative.

Hillson, a textile worker at Malden Mills in Lawrence, Massachusetts, and a member of International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union Local 311, has spoken directly to thousands of people since announcing his campaign.

This election has received national publicity because it will fill the seat of retiring Speaker of the House Thomas O'Neill. Among the liberal Democrats contending for this office are Joseph Kennedy II, son of Robert Kennedy; Rainbow Coalition candidate Melvin King; George Bachrach and Thomas Gallagher, elected state officials who are members of the Democratic Socialists of America; and Carla Johnson, an anti-nuclear weapons activist.

Hillson has participated in a dozen candidates' debates at universities and before community, senior citizens, peace, and women's organizations.

He has spoken at rallies opposing U.S. government backing for the *contra* terrorists attacking Nicaragua, demonstrations opposing the U.S. bombings of Libya, anti-apartheid protests, protests against research for Reagan's Star Wars program, and at marches for abortion rights sponsored by the National Organization for Women.

Hillson has picketed with striking railroad workers, nurses, garment workers, and utility employees. He addressed rallies of TWA flight attendants during their recent strike and spoke to a statewide International Association of Machinists' political action committee. He was interviewed by the nominations committee of the 60,000-member Massachusetts Teachers Association.

The Socialist Workers Party candidate opposed a racist scheme to close down some of Boston's desegregated public schools, a fight in which he joined thousands of protesting high school students. He testified against the closings at hearings of the Boston School Committee.

"Among young fighters," campaign di-

rector Soares pointed out, "Hillson is a recognized figure who supports the Nicaraguan and Cuban revolutions, the South African freedom struggle, and who opposes Washington's war policies from Central America to Libya."

In the week preceding the June 14 anti-apartheid rally in New York, the socialist contender urged hundreds who attended three candidates' debates to go to the action. His opponents said nothing about this important action.

At every opportunity, Hillson explains the issues in the struggle by United Food and Commercial Workers Local P-9 against Hormel and calls for maximum labor solidarity with the meatpackers.

The socialist campaign has also won the respect and sympathy of some young staff members and volunteers for the liberal Democratic candidates. "You're the only one who tells the truth," admitted one Kennedy worker.

Three new members of the Boston Young Socialist Alliance, which actively supports the Hillson campaign, joined the YSA after first coming into contact with the SWP through such debates.

The success of the campaign is reflected in wide support for the petitioning effort and other aspects of the political fight for



Petitioning to put SWP congressional candidate Jon Hillson (center) on ballot begins June 21. Hillson has taken part in a dozen candidates' debates and campaigned at rallies, picket lines, and protests.

the Socialist Workers candidate's right to a place on the ballot. The petitioning campaign will include a rally to open the petitioning drive June 21, street-corner rallies during the drive, and another rally July 12 to wind up the effort.

The June 21 rally will also celebrate the opening of the campaign's new offices at 107 Brighton Avenue in the Allston section of Boston.

An initial petitioning effort on campuses last April netted more than 1,000 signatures.

Among those who have voiced support

for Hillson's right to be on the ballot are Democratic Party 8th C.D. contenders Kennedy, King, James Roosevelt, Johnson, Bachrach, and Gallagher; Boston League of Women Voters President Clare Hayes; International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union Local 311 President William Angelone; ILGWU Local 311 Vice-president Paul Coorey; executive board member Charles Ruiter of International Union of Electronic Workers Local 201 at General Electric; and 15 local presidents, vice-presidents, and officers of the International Association of Machinists.

## W.Va. socialist files for ballot spot

BY SAM COTTON

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — David Salner, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress in West Virginia's 3rd C.D., has filed nominating petitions to gain a spot on the November ballot. They contained some 3,000 signatures and were filed May 12 with state officials here. State law requires that a minimum of 1,800 signatures be submitted.

Salner is contending for the seat currently held by Rep. Robert Wise, a Democrat. The 3rd C.D. includes Charleston.

SWP campaign supporters have launched an effort to win broad support for Salner's democratic right to appear on the ballot.

Salner is a power-plant worker and member of the United Steelworkers of America. The party is also running coal miner Kathy Mickells for Congress from the Morgantown area.

The gathering of signatures to place Salner's name on the ballot began April 19, just days after the U.S. bombing raids on Libya. Petitioners circulated a statement by Salner with four headlined demands: "Stop the U.S. wars against Libya and Nicaragua. Solidarity with the Hormel strikers. End U.S. support to apartheid in South Africa. For a workers' and farmers' government!"

More than 1,000 people signed up that day.

"West Virginia's workers and farmers have no interest in fighting against the peoples of other countries," Salner said in the statement. "In a coal-rich state in the richest nation on earth, we face economic disaster. The greed of a handful of billionaires has left workers without jobs. Unions are under attack from companies such as A.T. Massey, Hormel, and TWA. The air, water, and valleys are polluted. The government does not build houses for flood victims or provide decent health care for victims of black lung disease.

"The cause of these problems isn't the Libyans, Nicaraguans, or the unions," Salner explained. "It is the capitalist system, which allows the super-rich to make all the decisions. Workers and farmers ourselves have to run this country."

Petitioners talked to unionists who are inspired by the Hormel strikers, unemployed coal miners who see that corporate greed is keeping them out of work, and farmers who think that a farm protest movement is needed in this state.

To celebrate the successful completion of the petitioning and filing, a campaign rally was held in Charleston May 17.

"The ruling class and their politicians are facing a crisis here and abroad. It's a crisis of profits. They're trying to solve it by making us produce more for lower wages, cutting benefits and social services, trying to bust the unions, and trying to push us toward war," Mickells told the rally. "That's what all these politicians are talking about when they promise to bring a better 'business climate' to the state."

In filing the petitions Salner also paid, under protest, a \$751 filing fee that the state demanded.

Socialist Workers candidates have always had to fight hard for the right to be on the ballot in West Virginia, a state whose election code contains some of the most undemocratic laws in the nation. In 1980,

socialists joined other third-party and independent candidates in a lawsuit that struck down several of these laws.

Two years later, campaign supporters had to beat back attempts by the state to victimize signers of ballot petitions.

And in 1984 election officials threatened to prosecute the socialists' gubernatorial candidate for filing an affidavit stating that she, as a coal miner recently called back from layoff, could not afford to pay the filing fee. After dropping this attack in response to public pressure, the secretary of state then invited representatives of the local Ku Klux Klan chapter to his office to look over the petitions in preparation for a legal challenge that never took place.

## 'Socialist campaign tells truth'

BY JUAN MARTÍNEZ

SAN FRANCISCO — Matilde Zimmermann, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of California, was the featured speaker at a rally for the socialist campaign held here May 31.

Solidarity with those fighters on the front line in the struggle for the rights of working people was the theme of the meeting. It was chaired by Socialist Workers candidate for Congress Miesa Patterson, who is challenging incumbent Democrat Ronald Dellums for the 8th district seat that covers the Oakland and Berkeley area.

A delegation of Hormel strikers from Minnesota was introduced. They had just completed a 60-mile march that they helped organize in solidarity with striking cannery workers in Watsonville, California. A collection was taken to aid the Hormel workers' fight.

Jennifer Kennedy, a member of the Reproductive Rights Task Force of the San Francisco National Organization for Women, voiced support for Zimmermann's candidacy. She expressed appreciation for Zimmermann's past and present contributions to the women's rights movement.

In the early 1970s, Zimmermann was a leader of the Women's National Abortion Action Coalition, which organized demonstrations that contributed to the 1973 victory for abortion rights in the U.S. Supreme Court.

Kennedy sounded the alarm about California Senate Bill 7. If adopted, it will deal a blow to the right of teenage women

to confidentiality when seeking abortions.

Tom Tomasko, active in the struggle to defend the Nicaraguan revolution from U.S.-organized aggression, urged everyone present to go to Nicaragua to see a living revolution that puts the interests of working people first.

Other speakers included Greg Jackson, SWP candidate for lieutenant governor; Greg Nelson, candidate for mayor of San Jose; and Mark Curtis, the national chairperson of the Young Socialist Alliance.

Zimmermann pointed to the factory where she works — Koret of California, a subsidiary of Levi Strauss — as an example of the stepped-up attacks on working people and their unions. The bosses want to cut wages and piece rates by 30 percent. The workers at Koret, mostly Latino and Asian women, want to unite and defend the union.

"This is one of many examples of why we need a fighting union movement and a labor party based on the unions that can fight for the interests of working people on every political issue," Zimmermann said.

"The socialist campaign tells the truth about the struggle at Koret, just as the campaign tells the truth about the U.S.-run war against Nicaragua and Washington's backing of the apartheid regime in South Africa. This campaign stands for the solidarity of working people everywhere — in the factories and in the farming communities, in the country as a whole, and in the world."

More than \$1,500 was pledged to the socialist campaign.

### What Working People Should Know About the Dangers of Nuclear Power

By Fred Halstead

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# N.Y. rally: 'Break all ties with apartheid!'



Contingent from Syracuse University, left, was one of many student contingents in Harlem feeder march that headed south to Central Park. Right, demonstrators marched north from United Nations.

## Continued from front page

led by hundreds of members of American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 420.

About 40,000 people were on the main march, which left from Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza at the United Nations. Contingents of unionists, Blacks, women, students, antiwar activists, gays, and lesbians all marched. Churches and Black organizations were represented there.

Several banners expressing opposition to Washington's aggression in Central America were carried by those who marched from the UN.

While the vast majority of protesters were from New York City, people also came from New Jersey, Long Island, Connecticut, Philadelphia, Boston, Detroit, Washington, D.C., and Atlanta.

## Unions

The largest contingents were from unions. There were banners and signs from Teamsters, garment and textile workers, electrical workers, teachers, hospital workers, postal workers, and government employees.

Also participating were telephone workers, machinists, ironworkers, taxi drivers, hotel workers, actors, and even "parking meter collectors against apartheid," as their yellow T-shirts described them.

A busload of members of the United Auto Workers in Atlanta traveled all night to say "No to apartheid!"

Opponents of the U.S.-organized *contra* war against Nicaragua and all U.S. intervention in Central America marched be-

hind banners reading "Boycott South Africa, not Nicaragua," "No aid to the *contras* in Nicaragua or Angola," and "U.S. out of Central America and Southern Africa."

Security for the march was provided by the Teamsters, Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, United Auto Workers District 65, and many other unions.

People carried signs that read "Break the chains of apartheid," "No aid to Savimbi" (the leader of the U.S.-backed Angolan *contras*), "Support the ANC and SWAPO," and "Solidarity with the Black South African trade unions." SWAPO is the South West Africa People's Organisation, which is in the forefront of the fight for the freedom of South African-occupied Namibia.

## Demands of protest

At the rally, NYAACC coordinator Jim Bell, who is also president of the New York chapter of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, said that the protest was demanding an end to apartheid in South Africa; a halt to South African aggression against Angola, Namibia, and Botswana; and an end to the Reagan administration's backing of the apartheid system through its "constructive engagement" policy.

Bell declared that so-called constructive engagement "does not work and will not work. We call for an end to apartheid now. We call for sanctions against South Africa now!" Most rally speakers echoed these themes.

Cleveland Robinson, chair of NYAACC and secretary-treasurer of UAW District 65, explained that the purpose of the pro-

test was "to take action, action that will bring about drastic change in our government's policies toward South Africa."

"We have," he told the rally, "watched over many years as private corporations go into South Africa to bolster that racist regime. But more than that, to make ungodly profits off the backs of our Black brothers and sisters. This is slavery pure and simple. And if they are enslaved there, we are enslaved here also."

Washington, Robinson pointed out, says nothing about the plight of millions of Black workers in South and southern Africa "who should be ruling their lands."

Jesse Jackson called the apartheid regime in South Africa "the historical successor to Hitler." He demanded that the Reagan administration and the state of New York impose economic sanctions against South Africa.

New York Mayor Edward Koch was not welcomed by the crowd. As N.Y. councilwoman Ruth Messinger began to introduce him, the protesters broke out in a chant "Go home Koch, go home Koch." He waited 90 minutes, then left the rally without speaking.

## Campus divestment movement

Columbia University anti-apartheid student leader Tanaquil Jones said that Koch had a lot of nerve to come to the rally. "We remember Soweto. We remember Eleanor Bumpers, William Perry, Michael Stewart" and other victims of police killings in New York City," she said.

Jones described the student struggles to get universities to divest themselves of fi-

nancial holdings in companies that do business in South Africa. "The divestment and shantytown movements on the campuses are going to continue regardless of the threat by right-wing students and attacks by the campus administrations," she declared.

New York Teamster leader Barry Feinstein said that "Bishop Tutu has accused our president of being a racist. How else does one explain our president's fervor to spend hundreds of millions of dollars to aid so-called freedom fighters in Nicaragua, yet won't ... help 24 million South Africans who yearn to be free?" He also called for economic and political sanctions against South Africa.

Noted entertainer Harry Belafonte read a message from anti-apartheid leader Winnie Mandela. (See page 8 for text.) In the 10 years since Soweto "the Pretoria criminal regime, in connivance with the Reagan administration and the Thatcher government [of Britain], continues the bloody path of onslaught to defend apartheid," said Mandela's message.

"We are irrevocably determined to wage the struggle for the liberation of our coun-

## 'IP' interviews Filipino peasant leader

Since the overthrow of Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos, little has actually changed in the countryside there. The reign of the big landlords and Marcos loyalists remains unbroken, while the army continues to terrorize peasants and farm workers.

The June 30 *Intercontinental Press* features an interview with Felicísimo Patayan, a leader of the 500,000-member Peasant Movement of the Philippines (KMP).

Patayan details the conditions confronting the 55 million Filipino peasants today, both their poverty and exploitation at the hands of the big landlords and the brutality they face from the army.

"We have five basic demands," Patayan explains. "One is for genuine land reform. Another is for national agro-industrial development. A third is for a halt to military harassment in the countryside. The fourth demand is for an end to military aid to the Philippines. And the fifth is for the withdrawal of the two giant U.S. military bases in the

Philippines."

Patayan also describes the KMP's participation in the anti-Marcos struggle, its assessment of the current government of Corazon Aquino, and his own impressions of the land reform in Nicaragua (where this interview was conducted).

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try in the creation of a just, democratic, nonracial, society by demanding the unconditional release of all political prisoners, the return of the exiles, the unbanning of the movements — notably the African National Congress — the abrogation of all unjust laws."

Former congresswoman Bella Abzug came to the march and rally to "pay a special tribute to the women and children of South Africa." She called Winnie Mandela "a true heroine of our time."

New York Central Labor Council President Thomas Van Arsdale pledged the support of the trade union movement to the freedom struggle in South Africa. "We welcome to the United States and to the City of New York," he said, "the secretary-general of the African National Congress, Alfred Nzo."

#### ANC leader speaks

Actor Ossie Davis introduced Nzo to cheers and chants of "ANC! ANC! ANC!"

"On behalf of the leadership, in particular the president, and all the members of the African National Congress, and the entire democratic forces and people of South Africa, we bring warm fraternal greetings to this mammoth rally in solidarity with our people on the 10th anniversary of the Soweto uprising," he began.

Nzo said that "it is in this America, the America that we marched with to this park, that our people draw its inspiration from. Not the America of the oppressive monopolies that support and suck up to the Botha regime."

Soweto was not a "chance event that somehow fell from an otherwise peaceful sky," he said. "Soweto was an endless link in the century-old chain of revolt against a colonial and racist system."

"Soweto demonstrated that oppression and peace cannot exist side by side," declared Nzo. "The regime failed in its murderous mission in 1976. It will once again likewise fail in 1986."



United Auto Workers District 65 played leading role in formation of New York Anti-Apartheid Coordinating Council, which organized June 14.

Nzo told the protesters that the ANC was part of a broader movement "marching side by side with the people of Nicaragua, Cuba, El Salvador, Palestine, Namibia, and all people fighting for a better life." These remarks drew cheers and applause.

#### Tutu message

Mpho Tutu read greetings to the rally from her father, Desmond Tutu. South Africans "are waiting for the international community to act now, to act decisively,"

on sanctions against the Pretoria government, he said.

Greetings from the Congress of South African Trade Unions were brought by Amon Msane, a shop steward for the Commercial Catering and Allied Workers Union at the 3M plant outside of Johannesburg. Workers there walked off their jobs in support of hundreds of U.S. workers whose jobs were threatened by a 3M shut-down of a New Jersey plant.

"Today we started digging the grave of

apartheid," Msane told the rally. "On June 16 in South Africa we will be making it deeper and preparing the coffin to bury South African apartheid once and for all."

Speaking for Latinos Against Apartheid, José Rivera, a New York State assemblyman, drew the connection between the struggles of Puerto Ricans in their fight for independence and the freedom struggle of the South African masses.

He said that the Dominican people will not forget the U.S. invasion of their island in 1965, and declared that "if Ronald Reagan wants to invade a country, don't invade Nicaragua like you did Grenada — invade the racist South Africa." This brought cheers from the crowd.

#### Other speakers

Other speakers included NAACP Executive Director Benjamin Hooks; Manhattan Borough President David Dinkins; Roger Green, chair of the New York State Black and Puerto Rican Legislative Caucus; David Livingston, president of UAW District 65; Randall Robinson, TransAfrica; Rockwell Chin, Chinese Progressive Association; Victor Gotbaum, executive director of District Council 37, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; and Elombe Brath, Patrice Lumumba Coalition.

Little Steven Van Zandt and Johnny Colon headed the list of performers for the event.

Most area Black newspapers carried a full-page ad reproducing the posters for the march, and a number ran editorials urging a big turnout.

At a press conference the day before the protest, at the office of Borough President David Dinkins, June 14 was officially made African National Congress Day in Manhattan.

Jenifer Davis of the American Committee on Africa gave Nzo a check for \$30,000, money that was collected from anti-apartheid fundraising campaigns.

## March of 5,000 in Harlem remembers Soweto

BY SUSAN APSTEIN

NEW YORK — "Harlem remembers Soweto — break the chains of apartheid," demanded thousands who rallied at 125th St. and Adam Clayton Powell Boulevard.

They were flanked by larger-than-life photos of Nelson Mandela, Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, Jr., Marcus Garvey, and Sam Nujoma, a leader of the Namibian freedom struggle.

This was the gathering site for one of the feeder marches to the anti-apartheid rally in Central Park.

The African National Congress has called on the South African people "to make apartheid unworkable," Elombe Brath, chairperson of the Patrice Lumumba Coalition, told the Harlem rally. "It is our duty in the United States to make 'constructive engagement' impossible," he said, referring to Reagan's policy of support for the South African government.

"Harlem is the Soweto of the United States," Brath said. "We also know about police brutality. The police kill us here one or two at a time. In South Africa, they kill by the tens."

"Apartheid is a system devised to destroy a nation, to destroy our children, our most precious possession," Doris Turner, president of Hospital and Health Care Employees Local 1199, said.

Grace Hightower, a flight attendant from the Independent Federation of Flight Attendants, which recently struck TWA, said, "We are 5,000 attendants still out of a job. We are struggling for our livelihood. We understand that our South African brothers and sisters are fighting for their lives. We must show Reagan apartheid has to end now and our brothers and sisters set free."

A contingent of TWA flight attendants carried the banner "Remember Soweto — forget TWA — 5,000 flight attendants jobless" and chanted, "Ronald Reagan, get the word — this is not Johannesburg."

The march was led off by contingents of hundreds from American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 420 and from the hospital workers' Continued on next page



TWA flight attendants in Harlem feeder march to Central Park

## El Barrio: 'South Africa's struggle is ours'

BY FRANCISCO PICADO

NEW YORK — Nearly 1,000 people, mainly young Latinos from different nationalities, marched in the contingent from El Barrio — East Harlem — June 14. This is the oldest Puerto Rican community in the city of New York, but it also includes people from other Caribbean countries, Central Americans, and other Latin Americans.

"We're fighting for the same things Blacks are fighting for in South Africa. By supporting that struggle we're supporting our own struggle," said the representative from Latinos for a Free South Africa.

Rally speakers connected the community's struggles for better housing and bilingual education with the democratic movement in South Africa.

Continued on next page



Banner reads: Solidarity with the ANC; Dominicans against apartheid.



# Winnie Mandela's message to U.S. marchers



Winnie Mandela. Her greetings were read to crowd.

The following is the text of the statement by Winnie Mandela to the June 14 New York anti-apartheid protest. Mandela is a leader of the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa and is married to imprisoned African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela. It was read at the rally by entertainer Harry Belafonte. The statement is called "A Fraternal Message of Gratitude to the Caring American Public."

In my tragic country, 1986 is one of the painful historical periods in our history of resistance to apartheid, the most violent and immoral crime against humanity man ever devised as a sophisticated version of fascism. Unlike Hitler, our criminal, racist, settler, minority regime has respectable allies of legitimate, so-called democratic governments who have vested interests in my country.

## Black paper builds June 14, publicizes Mandela book

BY FRED FELDMAN

NEW YORK — The *City Sun*, a weekly oriented primarily to the Black community here, devoted the whole of its June 11 issue to building the June 14 march and rally against apartheid and educating about the issues in the South African struggle.

The center of the issue is an eight-page pullout reprinting the speech given by imprisoned anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela at his trial on charges of seeking to overthrow the apartheid regime. A prominent place in the centerspread is given to an acknowledgement thanking "Pathfinder Press for its generosity and cooperation in granting permission to reprint this document from *Nelson Mandela: The Struggle Is My Life*. We thank them also for permission to use the rare photographs which appear throughout this section."

*The Struggle Is My Life* is a newly published book of speeches and writings by and about Mandela and the African National Congress.

The *Sun* also published a quarter-page advertisement for *The Struggle Is My Life*.

The special issue included many useful educational articles, including a study of the Israeli rulers' ties to the white minority regime in South Africa, a roundup of the origins and growth of the boycott of South Africa by U.S. entertainers, a page on the growing involvement of New York's labor movement in the battle against apartheid, and the text of "Let My People Go," a 1965 speech by the late Martin Luther King, Jr., on the freedom struggle in South Africa.

An editorial called for full participation in the June 14 protest and stepped-up efforts, especially by the unions, to force the U.S. government to break ties with apartheid. "We hope the labor movement is committed to playing hard ball with this intransigent administration if it is serious about securing human rights and dignity for Black South Africa."

The special issue costs \$.50 and can be obtained from The *City Sun*, P.O. Box 560, Brooklyn, New York 11202.

## 'Struggle Is My Life' and 'Habla' popular at action

BY TOM LEONARD

NEW YORK — More than 1,500 participants at the June 14 anti-apartheid action in New York purchased the new Pathfinder Press books *The Struggle Is My Life* and *Habla Nelson Mandela*, which contain writings and speeches by African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela.

Mandela's name was familiar to rally participants, but for many the two books were their first opportunity to read — in Mandela's words — a history of the ANC and its leadership role in the struggle against apartheid.

Many people began to read the books right away on Central Park benches and on subways and buses on the way home from the demonstration.

Nearly everyone involved in selling the book to the highly political crowd reported an enthusiastic response. Two top sellers, Holbrook and Mark, lost count of their sales when they went over the 300 mark. They said that some people were buying five or six copies at a time.

Holbrook said he was impressed by the number of people who knew about Pathfinder Press. One woman, for example, pointed out to her friends, "Those are the same people who published the books about Maurice Bishop," the slain leader of the revolution in Grenada.

Two other salespersons, Pat and Al, had the same response. Between them they sold 170 copies at the rally in Harlem and later at the main rally in Central Park.

Small Pathfinder tables scattered throughout the demonstration site reported sales of up to 100 copies, while the main

Pathfinder literature table sold a total of 170 copies.

Sales of *The Struggle Is My Life* totaled 1,313 copies. And 255 copies of *Habla Nelson Mandela* were sold to the sizable contingent of Hispanic anti-apartheid fighters who participated in the action.



Militant/Lou Howort  
Mandela book salespeople at anti-apartheid action. Many participants recognized ANC leader's name and wanted to read his writings.

Ten years ago in 1976 on the 16th of June, Soweto, our ghetto, exploded. The political volcano, a product of the ruling Afrikaner ethnic minority tribe, had been a boiling cauldron for decades. In this ghetto the oppressed Black man's anger had reached boiling point. Our pleas to white South Africa to avert the inevitable polarization and confrontation with the security forces and Pretoria fell on deaf ears, typical of deaf white South Africa to the suffering of the majority.

The situation in the country had reached a point whereby no man with any manhood in himself could be a spectator when the Pretoria racist regime was challenging the innermost core of his soul, his dignity, and self-respect.

Ten years ago we watched in horror as our children tried to do what is democratically accepted throughout the world as the right to protest against what is an infringement of one's rights. The horror was the violence unleashed by Pretoria's henchmen in the guise of the South African Defense Force, against an unarmed and defenseless people.

I personally watched, helplessly, as the first attack was made by the might of Pretoria, with all their machine guns and modern weapons supplied to the criminal regime by the "democratic" governments of the Western world, against children.

When seven-year-old Hector Peterson — the first victim — fell to his death, riddled with bullets from the white South African police, I was one of the parents who saw it all. I saw children picking up dust-bin lids to protect themselves against the hail of bullets. But I also saw them so thirsty for freedom that they advanced toward fully armed South African Defense Force murderers with only these dust-bin covers as their protection. We watched in despair as the children picked up stones and threw them back at the machine guns in self-defense.

They fell. They died in pairs. In tens, that became hundreds. Blood flowed

everywhere. We cried. We exhorted God to stop the madness. We asked the Almighty to paralyze the arms of the enemy gone mad.

We couldn't understand why children had to die because they did not want to be taught in the oppressor's language — Afrikaans, an enemy dialect which was spoken only within the borders of this tragic land.

It was the tip of the iceberg. We collected bodies of our children from the streets. We retreated into our ghetto to bury our dead in dignity. The enemy pursued us to our graveyards. There wasn't a fiber of our lives which remained with any respectability.

As we returned from the graveyards with the soiled spades, the enemy accosted us. We were thrown into the country's prisons. The democratic freedom of protest was buried forever.

Ten years later we are burying more dead, defenseless children, mothers, fathers, loved ones. The Pretoria criminal regime, in connivance with the Reagan administration and the Thatcher government, continues the bloody path of onslaught to defend apartheid.

Nineteen eighty-six is the 10th anniversary of the tragic day in June 1976 when South Africa was plunged into more violence. The minority regime's army has acquired more skills in 10 years. They're now attacking us in the form of vigilantes, Terre Blanche's AWB [Afrikaner Resistance Movement] — the new ultraright-wing party — and many others.

Notwithstanding all these problems that beset us, we are irrevocably determined to wage the struggle for the liberation of our country in the creation of a just, democratic, nonracial society by demanding the unconditional release of all political prisoners, the return of the exiles, the unbanning of the movements — notably the African National Congress — the abrogation of all unjust laws.

Victory is certain.  
Amandla! (Power!)

## Harlem remembers Soweto

Continued from previous page

Local 1199. "Local 420 says free South African unionists" and "State workers don't want pensions from South African labor" read their signs, the last demand referring to New York State pension fund income from investments in apartheid.

Student contingents from Columbia University, Hamilton College, Bronx Community College, Borough of Manhattan Community College, and Syracuse University, as well as students from the Irish American Student Coalition, were there.

A contingent from James Monroe High School marched, and a group of 20 students — "apartheid busters" — sold buttons and T-shirts.

Indians Against Apartheid carried a large banner: "Stop American apartheid — no relocation of Native Americans at Big Mountain, Arizona."

Metro Council of Housing, Harlem branch, carried a banner reading, "Stop all evictions." Several churches had contingents.

The march swelled to 5,000 before joining up with a contingent from East Harlem. Chanting, "Death to apartheid, free Mandela" and "Freedom first, then peace will come," marchers brought onlookers out into the streets, many of whom joined in. Others, looking out windows or standing along the sidewalks, chanted and clapped to the music from the march.

## El Barrio: S. Africa struggle is ours

Continued from previous page

"This historic march in Central Park will be an inspiration to the majority of the people of South Africa. Your coming here is giving a signal to Botha and Reagan that the people in this country will not allow people to be massacred day in and day out," said Nomatiz Zobutela of the African National Congress.

"El Barrio, Soweto; same struggle, same fight" was a favorite slogan of the demonstrators.

As they danced to the rhythm of drums, waving handkerchiefs and ribbons of all colors, the Dominican contingent sang: "Long live free Nicaragua, Yankees out of the Caribbean."

"From South Africa to Puerto Rico, free all political prisoners," demanded the banner of the Puerto Rican Committee Against Repression. "Let's break all chains in South Africa and Chile," read the Casa Chile Salvador Allende banner. And many chanted, "Just like Marcos and Duvalier, Pinochet has got to go."

The Comité Latinoamericano, a broad coalition of Latin American solidarity groups and political parties, carried a banner condemning Washington's intervention

in Central America and the apartheid system.

Probably the most popular chant was "Embargo South Africa, not Nicaragua."

A young woman social worker from the Bronx said she thought people should participate in the march "not only because we should give solidarity to others, but because apartheid is not only in South Africa. Here they keep us in separate neighborhoods. This system breathes racism."

Other participants in the East Harlem march included the Dominican Left Front, Casa Honduras, Committee to Save El Barrio, Youth Action Program, Dominican Center for Cultural Information, Committee to Get the U.S. Out of South Africa, Puerto Rican Socialist Party, National Congress for Puerto Rican Rights, Community Association of Progressive Dominicans, Coordinadora Salvadoreña, Antonio Maceo Brigade, Casa de las Americas, Young Socialist Alliance, and others.

Send your contribution today to help us continue sending the *Militant* to our readers behind bars.  
Mail to the Militant, 14 Charles Lane, New York, New York 10014.



# Anti-apartheid youth join YSA



Militant/Norton Sandler  
At June 14 anti-apartheid demonstration, a high school student speaks with Theresa Delgadillo, a leader of the Young Socialist Alliance and candidate for governor of New York. That day he decided to join the YSA.

BY NORTON SANDLER

NEW YORK — "I bumped into a person selling the *Militant* in Newark, New Jersey. I bought it three times. Three weeks straight I went to downtown Newark to get it."

That's how Beverly, a young Black bank worker, found out about the June 14 anti-apartheid demonstration here — and about the Young Socialist Alliance.

"I saw the article in the paper asking for volunteers to help distribute socialist books at the demonstration. So I came and did it. It is what I've always wanted to do," she explained. "I am interested in South Africa. I've always been very political but I had no one to go with to activities. So this time I said I am going to go and do what I feel like doing. I liked it a lot."

"I heard about the YSA for the first time today. I am going to join."

Of the 75 young people who expressed interest in learning more about the YSA at the June 14 protest, three decided to join on the spot.

YSA members had been active for months building the anti-apartheid action in the plants and mills where they work, in their unions, and at colleges and high schools. The YSA has participated in the New York Anti-Apartheid Coordinating Council, the sponsor of the demonstration, since that organization's inception.

YSA banners reading "Boycott South

Africa, not Nicaragua," "Free Nelson Mandela," and "*Romper relaciones entre los E.U. y Sud Africa*" (Break all ties between the United States and South Africa) were carried in the marches that fed into the Central Park rally site.

Young activists were visible throughout the day selling the *Young Socialist*, the newspaper that represents the views of the YSA, as well as selling the *Militant* and the Spanish-language *Perspectiva Mundial*.

A tent staffed by YSA members at the rally site in Central Park featured the socialist press as well as political T-shirts, buttons, and posters.

After the rally, 200 people crowded into an open house sponsored by the YSA. At that event, anti-apartheid activists continued political discussions and exchanged impressions about the day.

The program featured remarks by Theresa Delgadillo, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of New York and a leader of the YSA; Jackie Floyd, the YSA's national secretary; Denise McNerney, a new member of the Boston YSA; and Mel Mason, the SWP's presidential candidate in the 1984 elections.

Mike, 17, a student at the Bronx High School of Science, joined the YSA at the demonstration.

He explained that he has been closely following politics in South Africa.

Angered by Washington's backing of the apartheid regime, he had begun to question the system of government in the United States.

Recently he finished reading a book about socialism and came to the demonstration looking for a socialist organization to join. He spotted the YSA tent and spent several hours talking to SWP candidate Delgadillo. Later he went to the open house.

A young worker from Cleveland who has been in the YSA about eight weeks found the organization in the phone book. After coming to some events, he joined "because I liked what I saw."

"I was sort of fed up with Democratic Party politics," said Cathy, 28, a rail worker from Newark who has been a member for two months.

"I wanted to get involved with a movement that was doing something on women's rights, Nicaragua, and South Africa," she explained.

Terry, 21, is a student at the University of West Virginia in Morgantown. Angry about government and right-wing attacks on abortion rights, she worked to build campus support for the national pro-women's rights action held March 9 in Washington, D.C. She joined the YSA because of its work in defense of abortion rights and the Nicaraguan revolution and for its opposition to apartheid.

John first heard about the YSA in Greensboro, North Carolina, when he attended a forum the chapter there sponsored on the Nicaraguan revolution.

"That's when I first discovered that I agreed with their stances on a whole lot of issues and decided to become a member," he said.

Now a student at Appalachian State College in Boone, North Carolina, he was involved this past spring in an anti-apartheid organization and a Central America solidarity group.

Maggie, 22, just graduated from Boston University. She is one of three people who joined the YSA on that campus this spring.

"We had a debate on campus with candidates from the 8th Congressional District," she said. Jon Hillson, the SWP candidate, participated. "As I was sitting in the audience listening, I kept thinking: nobody says that in public. So I went up to talk to him. Later there was a demonstration on the Boston Common and he was there. He invited me to a campaign rally and it just seemed the natural thing for me to join the YSA," said Maggie.

Denise McNerney, 21, who is also a Boston University student, told those who came to the open house, "We had a shantytown on campus protesting apartheid. University President John Silber called in the cops to tear it down. Students were arrested and manhandled by the police, especially some of the women."

"Another student on campus and myself began talking to the YSA about what could be done to protest the situation. Aided by the YSA, a number of us got together and organized a free-speech fight. We involved both faculty members and District 65 of the United Auto Workers, which organizes workers on campus."

"I saw that the YSA was a serious, effective organization of fighters, like the young fighters in South Africa and Nicaragua, like the members of Local P-9 in Austin, Minnesota. That's why I decided to join," she said.

Two young women I spoke with at the open house were attending their first socialist event. They had received information about it from a *Militant* salesperson. One was a student at Queens College. The other attends a Long Island, New York, high school.

They explained that they had not yet decided to join the YSA but were thinking seriously about it.

Several Black auto workers from Atlanta came to the open house. Stephanie was proud of the fact that activists in Auto Workers Local 10 had been able to win union backing for sending 35 people on the 15-hour bus trip from Atlanta.

A waitress in the hotel where the open house was held listened attentively to the presentations in between carrying out her job duties.

Before the day was over she too signed the mailing list for more information about the YSA.

## 'A great day to sell socialist press'

BY TOM LEONARD

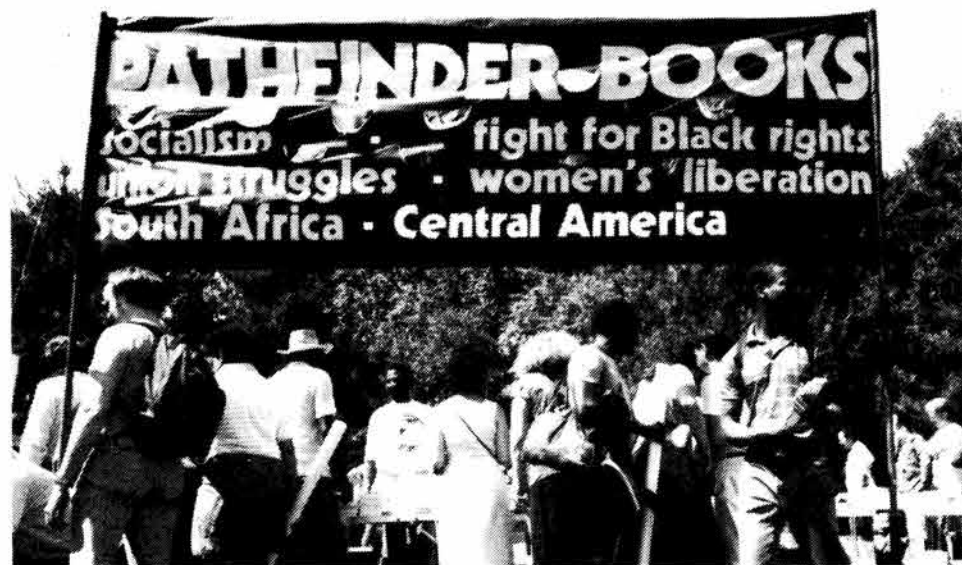
NEW YORK — June 14 was a great day to sell the socialist press. That was the most common description of our sales experiences at the anti-apartheid march and rally in New York City.

Nearly everyone selling reported serious political discussions with the workers and students who bought 2,151 *Militants*, its Spanish-language sister publication *Perspectiva Mundial*, and the *Young Socialist*.

The breakdown was: 1,801 *Militants*, 96 *Perspectiva Mundials*, and 254 *Young Socialists*. We also sold 53 subscriptions.

There were some exceptionally high sales by individuals. Mark from Toledo, Ohio, for example, sold 277 *Militants*. Frank from New York City sold 70 *Militants*, and there were several others in the 40 to 50 range. Some said their sales would have been higher except that a lot of people buying the paper wanted to have lengthy political discussions.

A lot of sales were to bystanders at the four separate rally sites in Harlem, East Harlem, lower Manhattan, and at the United Nations. One woman bought the *Militant* from Kay from Newark, New Jersey, and donated \$5 after learning the *Militant* had a bureau in Nicaragua and also published eyewitness reports from Haiti



Pathfinder Books tables and *Militant* salespeople did brisk business on June 14

and the Philippines.

Young Socialist Alliance member Pete from Charleston, West Virginia, sold five of his 27 *Young Socialists* to a group of high school students who had formed an anti-apartheid committee at their school.

Pete especially liked his discussion with a Filipino worker who bought the *Militant*

for himself and a copy of the *Young Socialist* for his daughter.

Andy, a YSA member from Albany, New York, had similar experiences. "I sold eight copies of the *Young Socialist* in a very short period of time. All kinds of people bought the paper, all ages, too. I had discussions with antinuclear activists, high school students, and Central America solidarity activists."

John from New York City sold 15 *Militants* and four *Young Socialists* to students and union members riding the Long Island Railroad to the rally. One student had already seen the article in the *Militant* about the YSA chapter in Dallas. "That's what I need on my campus," she told John.

Supporters of the SWP and YSA helped out on sales. A young Black woman helped staff the main Pathfinder Books table and later joined the YSA. An unemployed rail worker from upstate New York helped sell the *Militant*.

Anti-apartheid fighters from Puerto Rico, Peru, Honduras, El Salvador, Chile, Nicaragua, and elsewhere in Latin America were especially interested in the socialist press.

Rafael, a YSA member from Greensboro, North Carolina, was particularly excited about selling to these workers. There are not very many Hispanic workers in Greensboro, he said, so he brought all the books in Spanish from the Pathfinder Bookstore there and sold them pretty quickly.

There were brisk sales of books and pamphlets at all 10 of the Pathfinder Books literature tables. In addition to the two new books of writings by Nelson Mandela, the most popular sellers were about South Africa, Malcolm X, and Nicaragua.

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# Labor march backs striking Teamsters

## Minnesota meatpackers, TWA flight attendants support Calif. cannery workers

BY RICK TRUJILLO

SAN JOSE, Calif. — "We will not give up our fights until we get just and fair contracts." This was the title on a leaflet publicizing a 60-mile labor solidarity march from San Jose to Watsonville, California, May 29-31.

Members of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 912 have been waging a bitter nine-month strike against deep wage and benefits cuts demanded by the Watsonville Canning Co.

Organizers of the march included United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local P-9 meatpackers, Watsonville cannery workers, and TWA flight attendants who are members of the Independent Federation of Flight Attendants.

Fernando Gonzalez, a UFCW Local P-9 meatpacker from the Hormel plant in Austin, Minnesota, came up with the idea of the march to Watsonville. The demonstration was a gesture of support in return for the backing Teamsters Local 912 and other unions gave to the striking Hormel workers.

At a kickoff rally and press conference in front of San Jose City Hall May 29, Gonzalez emphasized the importance of letting cannery strikers know that "we believe in their struggle."

Maria Lomali, a 22-year-old Teamster, said, "We're fighting for our rights, for our salary, and for a better future for our children. We want our benefits and what is just. That is all we want, nothing more."

The cannery strikers include some 500 single parents who get only \$55 a week in strike benefits.

Kathleen Irvine, a TWA flight attendant for 23 years, said members of her union "felt that it was time for unions to stick with each other and help each other out."

The marchers spent their first night in Morgan Hill, where they met with community and union supporters of their action. The next day they visited Gavilan Community College in Gilroy where students belonging to MEChA, a Chicano student organization, had organized a campus solidarity meeting for the marchers. MEChAs statewide have backed the cannery strike.

From Gilroy the marchers were bused to

Santa Cruz where the Central Labor Council hosted a dinner for them at the labor temple.

The next morning they began the final leg of their march to the Santa Cruz County fairgrounds just outside of Watsonville. They were joined along the way by 200 marchers. Gonzalez and some 30 Teamsters members and supporters had walked the full distance.

A mariachi band and more than 350 supporters greeted the marchers in an emo-

tional hand-clapping and hand-shaking ceremonial welcome as they entered the fairgrounds.

Chuck Mack, president of Teamsters Joint Council 7, which includes most of Northern California, and Sergio Lopez, secretary-treasurer of the striking Teamsters local, co-chaired the rally. Mack spoke in English while Lopez translated into Spanish. Ninety percent of the striking Teamsters are Mexicans and Chicanos.

Union representatives were introduced first. They included ones from Teamsters locals 921, 315, 78, and 70; and representatives from the central labor councils of San Francisco, Contra Costa, Santa Clara, Alameda, and Santa Cruz counties.

Mack and Lopez told the rally that 2,000 delegates to the recent Teamsters convention, including the Canadian Conference, supported the strike and unanimously voted to institute economic sanctions, one of which is a boycott of Watsonville Canning products.

## S. Africa strike defies repression

Continued from front page

pressive measures ever mounted by the South African government.

As part of its clampdown, the apartheid regime made it nearly impossible for reporters to cover events in the country. A picture of what happened June 16, however, is beginning to emerge in spite of the restrictions.

On a normal day hundreds of thousands of Blacks pack into buses and minivans to make the trip from Soweto to jobs in Johannesburg.

Roads leading into Johannesburg were deserted June 16. Almost no Blacks were seen on that city's streets. Block after block of shops, department stores, and restaurants were closed down.

The government admitted that at least 90 percent of the Blacks who normally work in Johannesburg stayed away.

Similar reports about the effectiveness of the strike were received from Port Elizabeth, Cape Town, and the capital, Pretoria.

The breadth of the organizations that backed the call for the June 16 action was reflected in the success of the strike. These groups included the country's largest union federation, the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU); United Democratic Front (UDF), a 2 million member anti-apartheid coalition; National Education Crisis Committee; and the African Na-

tional Congress (ANC).

The *New York Times* reported that this strike was far larger than the one that took place on May 1 when 2 million workers stayed off the job.

President Pieter Botha's regime mobilized massive force in an effort to crush the protests and strikes in advance. Early in the month the regime announced that protests commemorating the Soweto events were banned. On June 12 a sweeping state of emergency was declared.

The decree was accompanied by hysterical reports from government officials, who claimed the slated protests would lead to widespread arson, assaults on government buildings, and attacks on white residential areas.

Security forces stormed into the homes and offices of unionists, political activists, church figures, and others involved in the anti-apartheid fight. There are reports that at least 47 well-known trade union leaders, including COSATU leader Jay Naidoo, were arrested. Among those detained are white members of an organization opposing the military draft.

Estimates are that from 3,000 to 4,000 people are being detained.

Under the provisions of the law, which applies to all parts of the country, cops and soldiers can arrest and detain people for indefinite periods without warrants.

Promotion of strikes, boycotts, and protests are illegal.

Soldiers and cops have full authority to fire into crowds without fear of prosecution.

New press restrictions are in effect making it illegal to report on protests or acts of government repression, or to quote so-called "subversive" statements.

A mostly Black church service in Cape Town on June 15 was busted up and all 250 people present detained.

Thousands of troops and cops were deployed in Soweto and Black townships near Pretoria, Pietermaritzburg, Port Elizabeth, Cape Town, and Durban.

In Soweto, armored personnel carriers roamed the streets, and Blacks moving through the city on foot or by car were searched at army roadblocks. Phone service into the area was cut.

On June 18 the government said that 45 people were killed in the first week of the state of emergency.

Political protest activity continued even under these conditions.

As soon as the state of emergency was announced, COSATU, the UDF, and other organizations said they would go ahead with the June 16 strike.

Allan Boesak and Desmond Tutu, well-known opponents of apartheid, announced that they would defy the ban on political gatherings.

At a Cape Town church service marking the 10th anniversary, Boesak condemned Reagan and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher for being the main backers of the apartheid government.

Speaking at another service before a mostly white congregation on the eve of the strike, Tutu said, "the government is trampling our dignity under foot and rubbing our noses in the dust." He urged the removal of troops from the townships and an end to the state of emergency.

In a gesture of solidarity on the day of the Soweto anniversary, a group of whites placed flowers on the edge of the township. Troops quickly removed them. Later flow-

ers were dropped into the township from a plane.

In Soweto most people stayed off the streets to avoid almost certain bloodshed at the hands of the army.

Some youths distributed leaflets calling for a boycott of rent payments.

At least one rally was held in a Soweto church that day. African National Congress flags draped the walls. Anti-apartheid activists who were being hunted by the cops spoke. Youths in the area created diversions that prevented the security forces from being able to attack the rally.

Clashes with the cops took place in other cities. In a township outside Port Elizabeth, an illegal outdoor funeral for two victims of the regime was attacked by the cops.

South African officials tried to downplay the impact of the June 16 strike. Deputy Information Minister Louis Nel claimed that Pretoria's "iron fist" policy had stabilized the country.

But strikes and work stoppages protesting the detention of union leaders are continuing.

On June 18 some 1,200 workers went on strike at a fish-canning plant in Cape Town. Farm workers refused to pick fruit in the Western Cape area.

Workers at supermarkets in Johannesburg walked off the job, and milk truck drivers refused to make deliveries in the wealthy suburbs there.

Meanwhile, the worldwide clamor for economic sanctions against the outlaw regime in Pretoria is growing. Delegates from some 100 countries began meeting in Paris under UN auspices June 17 to discuss sanctions.

The governments of the United States, Britain, and West Germany — countries that are South Africa's largest trading partners — boycotted the meeting because of their opposition to sanctions.

Addressing the gathering, ANC President Tambo explained that governments that refuse to impose economic sanctions are "co-conspirators in a crime" and "allies of a murderous regime."

On June 18 the U.S. House of Representatives approved a measure calling for all U.S. firms to pull out of South Africa in 180 days.

A White House spokesperson said the congressional vote would have no impact on the Reagan administration, which remains adamantly opposed to sanctions.

Defying the state of emergency, Tutu urged sanctions against the apartheid regime in a telephone interview from South Africa with ABC News. "I made a call to the international community to apply sanctions to South Africa. I have no reason to have had to revise that view."

"When President Reagan was putting in place his so-called constructive engagement policy over five years ago, I said it was going to be an unmitigated disaster for blacks. Very, very sadly and tragically, I have been proved true and he is an accomplice, yes, after the fact. They are supporting racists," he said.

### Labor News

The *Militant* stays on top of the most important developments in the labor movement. You won't miss any of it if you subscribe. See the ad on page 2 of this issue for subscription rates.

### Do you know someone who reads Spanish? 'PM' on the Irish struggle

"None of the British intimidation tactics have been successful [in Ireland] because the nationalist struggle is so deeply rooted and flows out of the collective consciousness of the Catholic population," said Martin Collins, leader of the Labour Committee on Ireland, a body affiliated to the British Labour Party.

Collins was on tour in the United States to build support for an end to British rule in Northern Ireland and for Ireland's reunification.

"The sectarian state of the North," explained Collins, "has proven itself irreformable, and Catholics have learned that the only way to get justice and civil rights is by completing the struggle for national independence for Ireland."

The current issue of *Perspectiva Mundial* carries an extensive interview with the British Labour activist, conducted during his U.S. tour.

Also in this issue is a review of *Habla Nelson Mandela*, a new Pathfinder Press book in Spanish, containing major statements on the South African freedom struggle by this central leader of the African National Congress.

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# How Steelworkers at Burns Harbor plant organized discussion with other locals

BY HOLLY HARKNESS

CHICAGO — On May 27 United Steelworkers of America (USWA) presidents of Bethlehem steel locals voted 20 to 6 in favor of a new contract with the company. Two days later 29 members of USWA Local 6787 from Bethlehem's Burns Harbor, Indiana, plant headed east with thousands of leaflets urging other Bethlehem Steelworkers to vote "no" when they mailed in their ballots. (See story on trip to Sparrows Point, Maryland, on back page.)

The Burns Harbor Steelworkers sent teams to Steelton and Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and Sparrows Point, Maryland. Along with Burns Harbor, the workers at these plants make up the vast majority of those voting on the new contract. The Indiana Steelworkers leafleted mass contract meetings held by the locals the weekend of May 31 to June 1. And they leafleted at the gates of Bethlehem mills.

The Burns Harbor leaflet explained what workers would be forced to give up under the contract. It exposed the phoniness of the stock plan the company was offering and warned that the proposal would not save jobs. In fact, the leaflet explained, the \$1.97 cut in wages would give the company the profit edge it needed to afford more plant shutdowns.

Traveling teams of leafleters are not a tradition in the USWA. In fact, union members in basic steel didn't even have the right to vote on their own contract until this year.

Local 6787 strike committee chair Frank Ripley coordinated the teams. "I sent 17 out of the 29 to Bethlehem because a local president down there warned that if we showed up, there'd be trouble. The International called and told us not to send anybody. But we sent them anyway, and the membership at all three places stood up for us." The International officials had representatives at the contract meetings urging approval of the proposal.

"Paul McHale, chief negotiator for the union on the Bethlehem contract, even went so far as to tell people at the

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, meeting that all Burns Harbor wanted to do was shut Pennsylvania plants down so we could feed their scrap in our furnaces. So there was almost a ruckus until our people explained that if we were just out for ourselves, why the hell did we bother to drive all the way out there?" said Ripley.

Local 6787 has tried to forge some unity among the Bethlehem locals in the face of company attacks. As far back as January, Ripley and 6787 President Paul Gipson sent out a letter to Bethlehem locals with a proposal to form a corporatwide "solidarity and defense pact" to protect the weaker locals. Other local presidents rejected the plan.

Back at home the local leadership has organized to inform the membership at every step in the negotiations and to prepare for a strike.

The strike committee was formed in August 1985. Ripley was inspired by the fight being waged by the Hormel workers when he visited Austin, Minnesota, in January. When he returned from Austin, Ripley printed information on the strike on the back of the strike committee bulletins, which are distributed almost daily in the mill.

The 6787 strike committee has organized three mass pickets at the Burns Harbor plant in recent weeks as a "dress rehearsal for a possible strike." The demonstrations mobilized more than a thousand members from a work force of 5,100 each time. The second demonstration, held in early May, was believed to be instrumental in forcing the company back to the bargaining table after negotiations broke off.

A strike kitchen is under construction, and plans are under way to set up a medical clinic. "When we first got started with the strike committee, people looked at us like we were nuts," Ripley said. "Now every day people I don't even know are volunteering to help. And we've got a lot of very talented people in that plant."

Holly Harkness is a member of United Steelworkers of America Local 758.

## Hormel meatpackers tour Texas, win support for union fight

BY PETE SEIDMAN

HOUSTON — Prior to a federal judge's decision legally backing the trusteeship imposed on Local P-9 by top officials of the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW), P-9 member Mark Ferguson spent two months in Texas seeking solidarity for his embattled local.

Joining Ferguson on the tour was Bill Wilson, a member of UFCW Local 431, which organizes the Hormel plant in Ottumwa, Iowa. More than 500 Ottumwa meatpackers were fired for honoring P-9 roving picket lines at their plant.

During their Texas visit, Ferguson and Wilson spoke before 24 union locals explaining their struggle against Hormel.

At a Shell refinery 200 members of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW) Local 4-367 signed petitions supporting P-9. The local later voted to donate \$1,000 to the Austin meatpackers.

OCAW Local 4-227 at the Arco refinery organized a plant-gate collection that raised more than \$1,000.

Members of OCAW Local 4-16000 at Ethyl voted to adopt a P-9 family before the tour began. At a solidarity day picnic involving members of four unions at the plant (Pipefitters, Electricians, Sheetmetal Workers, and OCAW), another donation of more than \$400 was collected.

Ferguson joined the picket line of OCAW Local 4-449, whose members were on strike against Marathon Oil. He also

brought P-9's solidarity to a local meeting of the International Longshoremen's Association after cops attacked an ILA picket line in Galveston. The longshore picket was protesting company plans to use lower-paid workers from another union to do longshore work. Both the Galveston and Texas City central labor councils voted to endorse the national boycott of Hormel products initiated by P-9.

Ferguson participated in a program for student leaders from El Salvador and South Africa, who spoke about the liberation struggles in their countries. He and Wilson also spoke to a meeting of the Free South Africa Movement and participated in the March 22 anti-apartheid action called by the Harris County AFL-CIO Central Labor Council. They joined the regular Wednesday picket line at Shell Oil's Houston headquarters, which is part of the AFL-CIO and Free South Africa Movement's campaign to boycott Shell because of its role in South Africa.

The P-9ers also spoke to classes at the College of the Mainland in Texas City and to students at Texas Southern University.

An example of the broad union membership support for the P-9 strike was a plant-gate collection at the South Texas Nuclear Project construction site 90 miles from Houston in Bay City. One pipefitter put \$20 in the collection, saying, "We're watching that strike very closely down here."



Militant/Ron Richards

Bethlehem Steel plant in Steelton, Pennsylvania, was visited by team of Steelworkers from Burns Harbor, Indiana. They defied warnings from top union officials not to go to Bethlehem mills to argue against contract.

## Steelworkers on givebacks

Continued from back page

"Two weeks ago, Bethlehem still wanted \$5 an hour in cuts. Now they're down to \$2. Send the negotiating committee back to Pittsburgh. We've still got two months until the contract expires. We can get a better deal," explained a young Steelworker from Burns Harbor, sporting a Bruce Springsteen-style headband.

Al, another Burns Harbor Steelworker, said, "They are insulting our intelligence with this proposal." At first he wore a hat that said "Local 6787 Strike Force," but later got a Baltimore Orioles hat as a memento of his 12-hour trip here.

### Baltimore Tin Plate strikers

Also on hand were Steelworkers from Baltimore Tin Plate, who are on strike in response to the firing of two union organizers at their plant.

Bethlehem Steel had started sending its shearing work to Baltimore Tin Plate, taking advantage of BTP's low-paid and nonunion work force after shutting down the shears lines in the Tin Mill at the Point. So Sparrows Point Steelworkers were appreciative when USWA District 8 successfully organized Baltimore Tin Plate. Some Steelworkers from the Point have joined the strikers' picket line.

"We had a Hormel striker come here," said a woman from Tin Plate, who was collecting contributions for the local's strike outside the union meeting. "He came to our picket line and one of our meetings. He told us about their fight. It really meant a lot to us."

At the meeting, representatives of the USWA International officialdom attempted to build support for the contract proposal.

They stressed that sacrifices would have to be made to help Bethlehem Steel achieve profitability. These so-called "wage and salary investments" include an average wage reduction of \$.98 an hour and an average incentive reduction of \$.16 an hour.

Under the category of Payroll Fringe Benefit Investments, Sunday premium pay is to revert from time and a half to time and a quarter, COLA (cost-of-living adjustment) is eliminated, three holidays are lost, and vacation pay calculation is decreased. The total "investment" by an average employee is said to be in the range of \$1.97.

Further losses include limits on insurance payments for dental work, requiring laid-off workers to be back on the job three months before full benefits are restored, an increase in major medical deductible from \$75 to \$150 per individual and from \$150 to \$300 for families, and tighter restrictions on hospital admission, length of stay, and surgery.

"Highlights of the Bethlehem Agreement," as they are referred to in the contract summary, are vote-seeking measures that address special concerns in a limited way. These include increasing the monthly pension benefit by \$1 per year of service, along with some reform of the grievance procedure; alleged "tough language on contracting out"; and a special one-time supplementary unemployment benefit (SUB) bonus.

The profit-sharing and stock ownership plan, presented as "repayment" for "employee investment," was taken on head-on in the Burns Harbor Local 6787 flyers:

"Is the stock plan fair? No. It is essentially worthless. This plan is nothing more

than an interest-free loan from us to Bethlehem Steel.

"The stock plan in the proposed contract ... is not a real stock. This so-called stock, which is valued at \$32, cannot be traded in for 'common' stock until at least 1989. The current value of Bethlehem's common stock is around \$16 per share, which would be all we would get even though the company valued this new 'stock' at \$32 a share.

"Right now \$5.25 of our wages are a result of COLA payments. What is not part of any 'profit sharing' or 'stock plan' is any COLA losses beyond 4 cents/hr. ... We lost 90 cents/hr. in COLA on our last contract that was never recovered. If inflation is just at a very low 5% level, then the cost of our COLA will be at least \$1.20/hr. over three years and we won't even get phony stock for that loss."

Perhaps the most blatant attempt to weaken basic union solidarity is the Experimental Gain Sharing Plans. As the proposed contract language states, "The plans developed under this agreement will be designed to insure that workers share in the gains produced by new technology, reduced force levels and improved quality" (emphasis added).

The Local 6787 "Vote no" flyer rebutted, "Is gain-sharing a good plan? Not if you're one of the 3,000 people whose jobs it will be used to eliminate."

One Sparrows Point Steelworker drew an appreciative response from workers when he vented his frustration at the meeting: "It comes time when enough is enough! We're scraping the bottom of the barrel now. We had about 13,000 working in '81. What's it going to be for the next contract, down to 5,000?"

A number of Steelworkers have expressed a lack of confidence in the mail-in ballot on the contract and have stated a preference for voting at their own local union hall. Whatever the results of the Bethlehem Steel contract vote, it's clear from looking at the recent vote totals for the LTV and National Steel contracts that a significant number of steelworkers want to fight back.

Joe Kleidon has worked for eight years at Bethlehem Steel's plant in Sparrows Point, Maryland. He is a member of United Steelworkers of America Local 2609.

### Steelworkers ratify Bethlehem contract

BALTIMORE, June 18 — The results of the mail-in ballot on the Bethlehem Steel contract became known today. Steelworkers accepted the contract by a vote of 11,604 in favor to 8,368 opposed.

At United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 6787 in Burns Harbor, Indiana — which had organized an educational campaign against the contract — the membership overwhelmingly rejected the concession contract. The vote at Local 6787 was 666 in favor to 3,624 against.

At Local 2610 in Sparrows Point, Maryland, the contract was approved by a vote of 2,144 in favor to 969 against. Local 2609 at Sparrows Point voted 1,646 in favor to 1,109 against.



**Order a gross and relax** — For use in a nuclear blowout, Nuclear Safety Resources, Inc., is advertising a tablet form of iodine to prevent the absorption of radioactive



**Harry Ring**

tive iodine. Four bottles, \$20, "with a satisfaction guarantee." ????

**Like from Central Casting** — Ex-CIA spook Edward Howard is

being sought for allegedly selling info to the Soviets. A news item describes him thusly: "He had a quick mind, could manipulate people and lie when necessary. He was ... a hard drinker with a nasty temper ... a drug user, a man who liked to turn a quick dollar, and a womanizer. Many of these characteristics were part of the 'profile' of an ideal CIA undercover agent."

**What else is new?** — A study found that investor-owned hospitals charge higher prices and provide less free care than nonprofit institutions. It also found that nonprofit hospitals are beginning to look more like the for-profit ones in their efforts to maximize reve-

nues and "minimize their exposure to poor people."

**Our heart goes out to them** — According to a survey, 84 percent of corporate execs suffered tension headaches last year, as compared to 73 percent of the general population.

**Relax and enjoy** — Following settlement of an interfamily battle over the \$500 million estate of J. Seward Johnson (Johnson & Johnson band-aids), the widow offered a tour of Jasna Polana, the family home. Some 40 rooms, indoor and outdoor pools, his and hers gardens, art works by Rembrandt, Raphael, and Botticelli. Plus dozens of TV cameras turning endlessly.

**Added insurance** — At Jasna Polana, the Johnson estate, a chapel is being built atop the family atomic bomb shelter. The shelter has two steel entry doors weighing 10,000 pounds each. There are four periscopes, "presumably," a reporter commented, "so the survivors can see what is left of Jasna Polana before they emerge."

**A job worth hanging on to** — The declared net worth of 14 of 27 senators seeking reelection increased by at least 50 percent since 1980, when they last ran. Seven of those running again at least doubled their money. And one fast-moving senator — Quayle of Indiana — is now "worth" at least 12 times what he was six years ago.

**Lotsa luck** — Uniroyal's Alar makes apples riper, firmer, and easier to harvest uniformly. Also, independent scientists insist, it causes cancer. Responds John Lacadie, a Uniroyal veep: "I had an apple for lunch today. I had apple pie yesterday. My kids still eat applesauce and drink apple juice."

**P.S.** — Uniroyal apparently forgot to give Mr. Lacadie, who feeds his kids applesauce, a copy of a memo to processors suggesting they not use Alar-treated apples in applesauce because the intensive processing may result in the release of a compound which few dispute is highly carcinogenic.

## —CALENDAR—

### ARIZONA

#### Phoenix

**Lessons of the TWA Strike.** Speaker: Dixie Daniels, member Independent Federation of Flight Attendants. Translation to Spanish. Sat., June 21, 7 p.m. 3750 W McDowell Rd. Donation: \$2. Aup: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (602) 272-4026.

**Pornography and Violence Against Women.** Class and discussion. Speaker: Sue Adley, member Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat., June 28, 7 p.m. 3750 W McDowell Rd. Donation: \$2. Aup: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (602) 272-4026.

### MASSACHUSETTS

#### Boston

**Socialist Campaign Rally and Grand Opening of the Campaign Headquarters.** Speakers: Jon Hillson, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress; Ellen Berman, SWP candidate for governor; others. Sat., June 21. Reception, 7

p.m.; rally, 8 p.m. 107 Brighton Ave., Allston. Donation: \$2. Aup: Socialist Workers Campaign '86. For more information call (617) 262-4621.

### MICHIGAN

#### Detroit

**Protests Shake South African Apartheid Regime.** Presentation with slideshow on June 14 anti-apartheid demonstration in New York. Translation to Spanish. Sat., June 21, 8 p.m. 2135 Woodward Ave. Donation: \$2. Aup: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (313) 961-0395.

**The AIDS Hysteria and the Attack on Gay Rights in the '80s.** Speakers: representatives of Michigan Organization for Human Rights; National Organization for Women, Detroit chapter; and Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat., June 28, 8 p.m. 2135 Woodward Ave. Donation: \$2. Aup: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (313) 961-0395.

### MISSOURI

#### Kansas City

**The Dangers of Nuclear Power.** Speakers: Joseph Duerksen, M.D., coordinator, Physicians for Social Responsibility; Elsa Blum, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., June 22, 7 p.m. 4725 Troost. Donation: \$2. Aup: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (816) 753-0404.

#### St. Louis

**Stop Abortion Clinic Bombings!** Speaker: Hilde Elder, member Young Socialist Alliance and United Mine Workers of America Local 2295. Sun., June 22, 7 p.m. 4709 Martin Luther King Dr. Donation: \$2. Aup: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (314) 361-0250.

### NEW JERSEY

#### Newark

**Lessons of Vietnam in the Fight Against U.S. War in Central America.** Speakers: Clarence Fitch, part of recent Vietnam Veterans Against the War delegation to Nicaragua; Leroy Watson, Vietnam veteran, member of Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Fri., June 21, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St. Donation: \$2. Aup: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

### OHIO

#### Cincinnati

**Evolution vs. Creationism. In Defense of Scientific Thinking.** Speaker: Robert Connolly, member United Auto Workers Local 647. Sun., June 29, 7 p.m. 4945 Paddock Rd. Donation: \$2.50. Aup: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (513) 242-7161.

### PENNSYLVANIA

#### Philadelphia

#### Socialist Workers Campaign Weekend.

Rally: "From South Africa to Nicaragua to Austin, Minnesota — Stop the War at Home and Abroad." Speakers: Mike Carper, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate; Godfrey Sithole, African National Congress of South Africa; Mark Weddleton, SWP candidate for Congress, 14th C.D.; representative of ISTMO, a group of Nicaraguans in the United States who support Sandinista revolution; Roy Inglee, antiwar activist; Zoe Strauss, high school student supporter of SWP campaign. Sat., June 28, 7 p.m. 2744 Germantown Ave. Donation: \$2. Aup: Socialist Workers Campaign. For more information call (215) 225-0213.

### TEXAS

#### Houston

**Behind the Oil Crisis.** Speaker: Joanne Kuniansky, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress, 18th C.D., and member Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union. Fri., June 27, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$2. Aup: Militant Forum. For more information call (713) 522-8054.

### UTAH

#### Salt Lake City

**Nicaragua Today: An Answer to Washington's Lies.** Eyewitness report and slideshow. Speaker: Rachel Knapik, lived in Estelí, Nicaragua, in February and March, member of Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat., June 28, 7:30 p.m. 767 S State, 3rd floor. Donation: \$2. Aup: Militant Forum. For more information call (801) 355-1124.

### WASHINGTON

#### Seattle

**Video showing of Talking About Women and Report-back from National NOW Conference.** Speakers: Jill Fein, delegate to NOW convention and Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate; Julie Nelson, member, International Association of Machinists District 751. Translation to Spanish. Sat., June 21, 7:30 p.m. 5517 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$2. Aup: Militant Forum. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

### WASHINGTON, D.C.

**Eyewitness Report from Nicaragua.** Speaker: Héctor Carrión, former staff member of Militant bureau in Managua. Translation to Spanish. Sat., June 28, 7 p.m. 3106 Mt. Pleasant St. NW. Donation: \$2. Aup: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (202) 797-7699.

### NEW YORK

#### Manhattan

**Launch New York Socialist Campaign.** Chairperson: Mel Mason, 1984 Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate. Speakers: Theresa Delgadillo, SWP candidate for governor of New York; Mike Shur, candidate for U.S. Senate. Translation to Spanish. Sat., June 28. Reception, 6 p.m.; program, 7 p.m. 79 Leonard St. Donation: \$2. Aup: Socialist Workers Campaign. For more information call (212) 925-1668.

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# Judge backs cop political spying in Canada

The following two articles are reprinted from the June 2 issue of *Socialist Voice*, the biweekly newspaper that presents the views of the Revolutionary Workers League of Canada.

BY STEVE PENNER

When two senior officers of Ottawa's security police circulated fake letters in the early 1970s to disrupt an organization of socialist workers, they were merely doing their job, Ontario provincial court judge Marvin Zuker ruled December 12.

The two officers, Stanley Chisholm and Ronald Yaworski, admitted circulating the phony letters in 1972 in an attempt to disrupt the League for Socialist Action (LSA). Yet Judge Zuker dismissed a damage claim against the officers, offering the excuse that "they were clearly acting in the performance of their functions."

Judge Zuker's decision highlights the threat posed to all working people by police spying, harassment, and persecution of fighters for social justice.

"The forged letters against the LSA were only a very small part of the massive police disruption campaign," commented John Riddell, who as executive secretary of the LSA was singled out for attack in the fraudulent letters. "This harassment continues against the LSA's successor today, the Revolutionary Workers League [RWL]," Riddell explained.

"The RCMP's [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] 'Security Service' did more than forge letters," Riddell continued. "They are shown to have carried out break-ins and thefts, set fires, illegally tapped wires, illegally opened mail, and used confidential medical records, as well as employing 'legal' means of harassment such as spying, intimidation, raids and seizures, arbitrary arrest, and deportation."

"When word got out about some of the RCMP's secret activities," said Riddell, "the federal government felt compelled in 1983 to dissolve the RCMP Security Service, organizing the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) to continue its dirty work."

Bringing Chisholm and Yaworski to trial required 13 years' effort by the victims of their forgeries.

The case began in 1972, when RCMP superintendents Chisholm and Yaworski sent letters to LSA members and supporters, unsigned but supposedly from a disaffected member, containing slanders against its leadership.

Most of the letters were aimed against Riddell. One of them revealed the supposedly damaging fact, gleaned from medical records, that he had once consulted a psychiatrist.

Responding to this and similar cases, the Ontario government established in 1977 a commission of inquiry, headed by Horace Krever, into police use of private medical records. Krever concluded that the RCMP had "routinely" broken the law by lifting confidential information from the files of the Ontario Health Insurance Plan.

In 1979 RCMP superintendent Ian Taylor testified to the commission under oath that police agents had written false letters containing false information to discredit Riddell. This was a clear confession

of forgery. Yet the Ontario government refused to prosecute.

Prosecution was initiated in 1980 by Riddell and Ross Dowson, chairman of the LSA until he resigned from the organization in 1974. The Ontario government blocked these proceedings as "contrary to the public interest." H.G. Black, spokesman for the attorney general, explained that circulation of such letters by the police might well be against the law, but it was "commission of crime in the national interest."

Dowson then sued the RCMP officers shown to have written the letters against Riddell, and his suit finally reached court in October.

Chisholm, who authorized the letters, sought to justify them before the court by referring to a 1969 resolution of the Fourth International, the world revolutionary socialist organization to which the LSA belonged, which endorsed the use of guerrilla warfare in Latin American liberation struggles.

It is no violation of Canadian law, however, to solidarize and associate with liberation fighters in Latin America and elsewhere who resist blood-soaked tyrannies with guerrilla warfare and other measures of self-defense.

Yaworski, the author of the letters, told the court that Riddell had been singled out as a target of the police letters because he "presented a greater security risk at the head of the organization than Mr. Dowson." Chisholm went further, charging that Riddell favored guerrilla warfare in Canada.

The RCMP's "evidence" for this slander, presented to the Krever commission in 1979, was a press report of a 1970 meeting where Riddell was the main speaker. A person was said to have told the meeting that "three Manitoba Indians are being trained in guerrilla warfare in Cuba." The person making this remark had no connection to Riddell or the LSA.

In fact, incitement of the Native peoples to take up arms came not from socialists in Canada nor from Cuba but from the RCMP itself. That was proven by the activities of Warren Hart, a confessed RCMP provocateur, who toured Native reservations in 1975 urging militants to begin guerrilla warfare.

Commissioner Horace Krever argued during his inquiry that the LSA traced its historical continuity back to the foundation in 1919 of the communist Third International led by V.I. Lenin and other central leaders of the Russian revolution.

While supporters of the social-democratic Second International were committed to "gradual evolution ... by electoral means," Krever stated, adherents of the Third International believed then and now in "the necessity and inevitability of proletarian revolution." Krever thought this justified police in concluding that LSA members "believe in the violent overthrow of existing government."

Riddell testified that the LSA regarded the Russian revolution of 1917 as an example for workers in Canada. Revolution would come about in Canada, as in Russia, "through the will of the majority of the people," Riddell said.

Revolutionary socialists did not advocate violence, he added. But neither did they believe that the capitalist ruling class would permit itself to be peacefully voted out of office. This class is already using violent or illegal means to defend its rule against workers and farmers, Riddell pointed out. Already today, police routinely "break up workers' picket lines, arrest strikers, and spy on and disrupt unions, socialist and other progressive organizations."

The RWL and its predecessor, the LSA, trace their continuity from the founding of the Communist Party of Canada in 1921. Throughout these 65 years, the revolutionary socialist movement in Canada has been a central target of police harassment.

Ross Dowson told Judge Zuker that RCMP harassment "blocked and diverted" the LSA, hastening his resignation from the organization in 1974. In fact, police repression showed no such power. The LSA fought back successfully in the 1970s in the front ranks of those exposing police harassment. The LSA strengthened its fighting capacity in those years, and in 1977 it fused with two other socialist organizations also affiliated to the Fourth International, the Revolutionary Marxist Group and the Groupe marxiste révolutionnaire, to form the RWL.

Since that time, most of the socialist left in Canada has been in full political retreat and many groups have dissolved. The RWL's membership, however, has established itself in key industrial unions and has stood in the forefront of defense of Nicaragua and of revolutionary struggles in other countries. It has strengthened its work among Québécois, Black, Latino, and other oppressed workers!

Ottawa's secret police also continue



Militant/Lou Howort  
**John Riddell, target of Royal Canadian Mounted Police campaign to disrupt League for Socialist Action.**

their work. While Chisholm has retired, Ronald Yaworski has been rewarded for his labors with the post of head of intelligence for the Ottawa region of the CSIS. The CSIS's work is facilitated by "reforms" that have legalized most types of police disruption that were illegal in the 1970s.

Every form of police harassment has a common aim: to make it harder for working people and the oppressed to act politically in defense of their interests. It must receive a common response: all victims of police harassment must be vigorously defended; Ottawa's security police must be abolished.

## Lawyer cited for contempt for criticizing courts

Civil rights lawyer Harry Kopyto was cited February 7 by the Ontario attorney general for contempt of court because he criticized the legal system for its persistent failure to bring lawbreakers in Canada's "security" police to justice.

Kopyto has represented Ross Dowson in an eight-year campaign of legal action against harassment of socialists in the 1970s by the RCMP's Security Service.

Kopyto was charged for a statement he made when Judge Marvin Zuker dismissed Dowson's suit for damages against two former RCMP superintendents on December 17. Kopyto commented that the courts in Canada "are warped in favor of protecting the police. The courts and the RCMP are sticking so close together you'd think they were put together with Krazy Glue."

If convicted, Kopyto could be fined, jailed for six months, and suspended from practicing law.

"The real issue in this case is freedom of speech," Kopyto told *Socialist Voice*. "The

attorney general aims to shield the police from accountability for acts against trade unionists, oppressed minorities, and poor people in general."

An energetic defense campaign is under way. A fund drive has raised \$10,000, 20 percent of its goal. Thirty lawyers have volunteered to serve together as defense counsels for Kopyto in his trial, which is scheduled for September.

At a defense rally of over 100 in Toronto May 17, [New Democratic Party Member of Parliament] Svend Robinson expressed "sympathy" with Kopyto's criticism of the court system. The justice system is an "instrument of injustice in too many cases," he said, challenging Ontario Attorney General Ian Scott to lay charges against him too. Messages of solidarity were read from Toronto and District Labor Council President Mike Lyons and from John Riddell on behalf of the Revolutionary Workers League.

Kopyto should be defended by the labor movement and by all partisans of freedom of speech. Contributions and statements of support can be sent to the Harry Kopyto Defense Committee, Suite 1708, 372 Bay St., Toronto, Ontario M5H 2W9, Canada. — S.P.

## 4,000 march for abortion rights in Denver

Continued from back page

ponents of abortion rights.

Smeal demanded that the Justice Department protect the constitutional right of women to choose abortion by defending women's health centers, including using federal marshals to protect the clinics and the women trying to use them.

"There's no question that the vast majority of Americans are with us today," Smeal said.

The NOW president pointed to the overthrow of the Marcos regime in the Philippines as an inspiration to fighters here. "Think of what happened with Cory Aquino," she said. "The opposition had violence, guns, and tanks. But 2 million people stood in the streets and overthrew tyranny."

Dr. Warren Hern, director of the Boulder Abortion Clinic, was presented with the "unsung hero" award at the rally.

This was in recognition of his courage and that of clinic personnel across the country who continue to provide abortion services to women in the face of right-wing assaults. The award also recognized the activists from NOW, National Abortion Rights Action League, and other organizations that stand up to the right-wingers by serving as escorts for clinic patients.

The Boulder clinic has been targeted by antiabortion fanatics and in particular by Joseph Scheidler's Pro-Life Action League. Scheidler picketed the clinic last October and vowed that he would return to permanently close it. Days before his visit, a concrete block was hurled through the clinic's front window, which is boarded up with the sign: "This window was broken by those who hate freedom."

The clinic has been barraged by harassing phone calls, including death threats against Hern and other clinic workers. Patients are harassed as they enter.

Hern expressed his outrage that two days after the Supreme Court affirmed abortion as a constitutional right, he was forced to perform abortions behind armed guards who had to be called to protect the clinic.

"But we have a message for the right-wing goons and thugs," he said. "We are showing by this march today that we care enough for freedom to fight for it. They will not succeed in their repressive plan to strangle liberty."

Hern also said that abortion rights activists in Colorado are determined to repeal Amendment 3, which cut off state funding for Medicaid abortions.

The NOW conference reaffirmed its support for the Hormel meatpackers in Austin, Minnesota, and the TWA flight attendants. It also backed the fight of the Hopi and Navajo peoples against forced relocation from Big Mountain, Arizona.

Next week's *Militant* will carry further coverage of the NOW conference.

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# All out to Austin, Minnesota!

Continued from front page

On June 5 a petition with signatures of over 30 percent of the P-9 membership was filed with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) to ask for a union recertification election. The petition asked that a union called "original Local P-9" be recertified as the bargaining agent in place of the local now run by the trustee.

Five days later additional signatures representing over 50 percent of the P-9 membership were filed with the NLRB. This means the NLRB can block the trustee from implementing a new contract, if negotiated, until the recertification election is held. The election must be held within 50 days.

P-9's decision to fight for recertification should be backed by working people. The UFCW officialdom's decision to smash the local and, in effect, attempt to drive the leadership — and those other P-9 members who refuse to bow to Hansen's dictates — out of the labor movement left the local only one choice to defend their union: fight for recertification.

For P-9 to accept the situation as is would mean accepting loss of all rights within the UFCW and the defeat of their struggle. The UFCW tops — as Hansen's brutal actions show — had already decided that Jim Guyette and the militant membership were outcasts. The fight for recertification opens the door for P-9 continuing the struggle for a decent contract and maintaining a fighting union.

Furthermore, this approach by P-9 means the Hormel owners and the UFCW top bureaucracy cannot easily impose a sweetheart pact on the backs of the work force, as they clearly intended to do. The officialdom must now wage a campaign among the strikers and those who crossed the picket line to get a majority to reject the recertification of the original Local P-9. This will not be an easy task.

Instead of the militant local being crushed and disappearing as the top officials had hoped, the suspended P-9 leaders and membership have taken the fight onto a new plane.

The struggle for recertification makes it more possible to increase solidarity among union members within the

Hormel chain, where five of eight contracts expire this summer. P-9 has always favored a common expiration date for all the contracts in the chain in order to be able to wage a united fight against Hormel. A victory for the original Local P-9 can make this more possible. It also becomes more difficult for the top officialdom to run roughshod over the other locals in the chain.

The determination of P-9 to win a decent contract and defend their union against great odds gives encouragement to other working people who face similar attacks by the bosses and the government. It is why more and more workers, farmers, students, and other people are supporting the strike in spite of the slanders and attacks by the UFCW officialdom and their allies in the AFL-CIO bureaucracy.

The immediate task is to mobilize this solidarity June 22-28. As Jim Guyette told the June 11 news conference, Solidarity City Week will be a "tremendous opportunity for working people to spend a week in Austin discussing our common problems."

"My view of Solidarity City is that it is shaping up to be a massive gathering of trade unionists, civil rights activists, embattled family farmers, and justice-minded people from many walks of life, who have been encouraged and inspired by what has happened in Austin over the past 10 months."

Solidarity City, he added, will provide a "special opportunity for packinghouse workers from the Hormel chain and other companies to spend time discussing our common interests and how to build on the solidarity and unity that the Austin struggle has promoted in the meat-packing locals across the country. And solidarity and unity above all."

Members of Local P-9 can and should be invited to your local union meeting, organization, or campus to explain the stakes in their battle. Funds can be sent to American Labor Relief Fund, c/o NRFAC, 312 21st St., Newport, Minn. 55055. Boycott of Hormel products should continue.

It is through such solidarity efforts that the fight of P-9 can continue and the common interests of working people advanced.

# Capitalism heaps catastrophes on working people

Reprinted below is an excerpt from the main political resolution adopted by the 1979 convention of the Socialist Workers Party. This portion is taken from the section of the resolution titled "The Catastrophe Facing American Working People."

In light of the recent nuclear disaster at Chernobyl, the explosion of the space shuttle Challenger, and the increasing employer offensive against on-the-job health and safety, the excerpt is especially relevant.

The entire resolution, along with other SWP documents, are in the book *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics*. It is available at the Pathfinder bookstore nearest you (see directory page 12) or from Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. The price is \$7.95 plus \$.75 postage.

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\* \* \*

Growing insecurity plagues the lives of American working people: recurring shortages of essential goods and breakdowns of services; the ever-present threat of war; chronic high rates of inflation, with double-digit

## LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

levels becoming the norm for extended periods; mounting permanent joblessness for youth and periodic layoffs in the millions; nuclear disasters and other environmental nightmares; job-related health and safety calamities; continuing pressure to reverse past gains of Blacks, Latinos, and women and the continuation of discriminatory treatment in all fields; restrictions on democratic rights; the collapse of pension funds and medical programs; slashes in public education and other social services; deterioration of transportation and housing, combined with fare and rent hikes; and much more.

Such products of the decaying capitalist system inflict genuine catastrophes upon millions. They take an increasing toll in human misery, more and more imperiling humanity's very survival.

The expectation among American working people that things will get a little better with each passing year has given way to the growing awareness that even what we have won through past struggles is no longer secure. Capitalism's apologists sing a pessimistic tune. Their watchword is austerity, not prosperity. They berate the American people for becoming "too comfortable," for being "wasteful" and "gasoholics." They insist we must learn to live with the deadly dangers of nuclear power. They warn us that we must be ready to pay more and have less in the coming years. The inevitable ups and downs of the business cycle add to the insecurity and remind us that another Great Depression is somewhere down the road.

At the same time, the American workers continue to believe we have a right to peace, job stability and a secure retirement, protection from inflation, decent health care, quality public education, comfortable housing, greater leisure, freedom from the dangers of nuclear power and weapons, real steps to eliminate all aspects of discrimination, privacy from government snooping on our political and personal lives, and an overall improvement in the quality of life.

The catastrophe facing working people at home and abroad is the result of the increasingly destructive anarchy of capitalism. It is the inevitable outcome of a system ruled by the drive for profits and capital accumulation. Only the conquest of political power by the working class can bring science and technology under rational control, place the productive forces under the command of society, institute rational international planning to meet human needs, and take decisive and radical steps to eliminate the material foundation of the oppression of national minorities and women.

A central aspect of the deadly peril created by Washington's war drive is the nuclear arms buildup. The development of "peaceful" uses of atomic energy — nuclear power plants — was a direct offshoot of this weapons production.

As the near-meltdown at Three Mile Island, Pennsylvania, and subsequent revelations showed, the government and energy corporations have lied to the American people about the danger of low-level radiation and catastrophic atomic accidents. Nuclear power production is inevitably fraught with deadly hazards — from the mining and processing of uranium to the day-to-day operation of the plant. In addition, there is no solution to the problems of radioactive waste disposal or what to do with out-of-use reactors, which remain "hot" for centuries. The very same hazards are posed by the production of nuclear arms — not to mention the holocaust their use would mean.

Despite growing demands, backed by ironclad scientific evidence, that all nuclear power plants should be immediately shut down, Washington and Wall Street are pushing ahead with plans for more reactors, promising only that greater "safeguards" will be implemented in light of the Three Mile Island accident.



Union members from across the country came to Austin April 12 to support Local P-9

# Cancel Mexico's debt now!

"Loans to rescue Mexico." That's what the *New York Times* called the reported agreement by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and other capitalist financial institutions to lend the Mexican government up to \$6 billion. The Mexican government is to use the loans to meet the up to \$10 billion in interest it owes this year on its foreign debt of \$100 billion.

Some rescue! The imperialist loan sharks are draining the life blood out of a nation hit by a devastating earthquake last fall — a nation where real wages have dropped by 50 percent since 1983 because of austerity plans demanded by the IMF and the U.S. government.

These austerity plans are having the impact of a devastating social earthquake in Mexico.

In exchange for loans to keep up with interest payments to U.S. and other imperialist financial institutions, Mexico is being forced further into debt. The added debt will mean even more interest payments in the future. More of Mexico's wealth will stream out of the country and into the coffers of U.S. and other imperialist billionaires.

Another target of the "rescuers" is a degree of economic independence from imperialism that the Mexican people have won through decades of struggle. The Mexican government reportedly agreed, according to the June 11 *New York Times*, "to redouble its efforts to facilitate new foreign investment in its industries and to sell state-owned companies to foreign investors."

In fact, those who were really rescued in these agree-

ments were the imperialist bankers themselves. They headed off the possibility, hinted at by some Mexican officials, that the government would declare a moratorium on interest payments.

Among top U.S. banks, Manufacturers Hanover has \$1.8 billion sunk into loan-sharking operations in Mexico, Bank of America has \$2.7 billion, and Citicorp has \$2.8 billion.

Mexico's economic difficulties are a result of a century of economic domination by imperialism. The debt is only the most glaring example of this.

The debt burden must be lifted from the Mexican people. The debt cannot be paid and must be canceled.

Fidel Castro summed up the issue well in a March 21, 1985, interview in the Mexican daily *Excelsior*, a translation of which is reprinted in the Pathfinder book *War and Crisis in the Americas: Fidel Castro Speeches 1984-85*.

"The debt is an economic and political impossibility. It is also a moral impossibility. The immense sacrifice that would have to be demanded of the people and the blood that would have to be shed to force them to pay that immense sum of money... would be unjustifiable... Any attempt to pay the debt under present social, economic, and political circumstances in Latin America would cost our suffering and impoverished nations rivers of blood, and it could never be done. Our peoples are not to blame for underdevelopment or for the debt."

Cancel Mexico's debt now!



# Nevada nuclear test victims: still no justice

**"Thirty Years to Justice: An American Nightmare."** A production of the University of Utah's TV station, KUED. Written and directed by Ken Verdoia. Shown recently on public television stations.

BY ALICIA MEREL

"Thirty Years to Justice: An American Nightmare" is a grim reminder of the dangers of nuclear radiation and of the U.S. government's role in covering up the truth about

## TELEVISION REVIEWS

these dangers. The show tells the story of a group of Utah sheep ranchers who were victims of Washington's atomic weapons testing program.

Earlier weapons testing had been carried out in the Pacific, but this was remote, expensive, and time-consuming. So, in the early 1950s, testing was begun in the western desert area of the United States. In 1953 a series of tests code-named "Operation Upshot Knothole" was begun in the Nevada desert. Residents were told that the tests posed no danger to them.

Sheep ranchers from Iron County, Utah, were accustomed to grazing their herds during the winter in the open range of eastern Nevada, just 40 miles from the spot chosen for atomic testing.

Kern Bulloch describes his experience in 1953 in Nevada with his father, his brother, and their herd of sheep. As they watched some military aircraft fly by, "All of a sudden there was a big flash and a big mushroom cloud." Later some army personnel drove by and suggested they get out of the area or find cover. "You're in a hot spot," they were told.

No further information was given, and the Bullochs and other ranchers drove their herds home to Iron County along the path of greatest fallout.

The spring of 1953 was a bad one for the sheep-ranching community. Adult sheep died mysteriously, developing lesions and losing their wool. Lambs were born abnormally developed, and many died as well. Herds were decimated, and ranchers, some of whose families had been sheep ranchers for more than 100 years, went into debt. Many lost their land. Only those sheep that had grazed near the test site were affected.

The ranchers received some initial cooperation from agents of the Atomic Energy Commission. However, the government later suppressed the results of the investigation into the deaths of the sheep. The AEC reported to the ranchers that their sheep had died of malnutrition. Following this, the government began showing propaganda films in the region, explaining how safe nuclear testing was both to residents and to livestock grazing nearby.

The ranchers sought compensation for their losses through suing the government. The judge refused to rule, however, that the government had knowingly en-

dangered its citizens, and they lost the case.

By the late 1970s, it became clear that residents of southern Utah were dying of cancer at a high rate. Thousands of U.S. soldiers, as well as area residents, were exposed to the deadly radiation. The soldiers were forced to carry out maneuvers near ground zero. In 1979 then-governor of Utah Scott Matheson launched an investigation into the atomic testing and its relationship to the cancer deaths. Several years later a suit was brought against the government by the families of many of the victims.

In the wake of this investigation, the ranchers went back to court to try to reopen their case. U.S. District Judge Sherman Christensen ruled that the government had lied and hidden information in the case. The government appealed and won.

Finally, in January 1986 the Supreme Court refused to hear the ranchers' request to reopen their suit.

Rancher Ken Clark summed up the feelings of many about the government's atomic testing program. "They used us as guinea pigs, and they didn't give a damn. Those tests were going to go on regardless of human life or business. They didn't care."

"Thirty Years to Justice" increases awareness of the ever-present nuclear threat. There are still some 16 tests carried out each year underground in the Nevada desert. After 30 years, the ranchers still have received no justice. And Washington continues to cover up the deadly dangers of nuclear weapons testing.

# Vietnam vets' story has message for youth today

**"A Program for Vietnam Vets . . . And Everyone Else Who Should Care."** 90 minutes. Public Broadcasting Service.

BY MARY MARTIN

Thirteen men and women, all Vietnam veterans, tell their stories to a packed audience at the University of Wisconsin. Their message is the same. The destruction caused by the U.S. government's war against Vietnam did not end with the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese and U.S. citizens. The physical and psychological damage continues daily for every survivor.

And with it is the sure knowledge that their sacrifices had nothing to do with defending democracy or "helping" the Vietnamese people.

In the context of the current U.S. war drive in Central America, the words of these Vietnam veterans take on an urgent meaning for the many young people, students, and veterans' children who sit in the audience listening intently. Their response is almost as powerful as the vets' stories. The camera pans the faces in the audience throughout the presentations. More than once, the vets pause in their remarks, overcome by tears. Many in the audience weep with them.

This remarkable program, produced and directed by Vietnam vets, aired in New York recently. It will be shown on PBS stations across the country at their own discretion. It's worth tracking down.

The vets tell about returning home, enraged at the massive fraud perpetrated against them by their government, poisoned by chemicals they were told were safe, saddled with survivor guilt and grief. Some attempted suicide.

Healing comes slowly and only when they begin to talk to each other and then to anyone else who will listen. They call upon all veterans to come forward out of their private agony to seek counseling at Vet Centers, run by

vets themselves, and to speak out about Vietnam.

Steve was a radio operator in Vietnam. He climbs to the podium with a limp. His right arm is severed, the result of a direct hit by a rocket-propelled grenade. "At no time while I was in Vietnam did I feel like I was stopping communism. It's increasingly popular now for the government, media, and some vets themselves to say that the lesson of Vietnam is never again will we fight a war without going all out. That's not the lesson. The lesson is no more war."

Jim was a K-9 attack-dog handler in Vietnam. Although he suffered no external wounds, his two children were born with multiple birth defects as a result of his exposure to the chemical dioxin in Agent Orange. He sings a ballad about his children's suffering and the indifference of the governmental agencies he seeks help from.

Roger was a machine gunner in Vietnam. "I was brought up on hard work and America. I really was a true believer. After those first few months of war, we realized that there was no winning. All there was was the dying. People dying for nothing. Half the time we couldn't tell if they were civilians. The only honor or glory in war is just to survive. That's what I want the whole country to know, whether it's Vietnam, or the Korean war, or God forbid, any future war."

Charles, a Black veteran, was a member of the Green Beret special forces. He was sent on a spying operation inside the Kampuchean border. When he found himself surrounded by 800 Vietnamese troops, he radioed back to base to be pulled out.

He was told he was on his own. "An unspeakable rage rose within me. I felt like my mind and body had been abused." He survived that mission but brought the war home with him.

"When I walked down the street and a car backfired, I would hit the ground and cover my head. My rage was so

intense that when a driver in front of me put on his right turn signal and then turned left, I would follow him around the corner and pull my gun on him. I knew I had a problem!" Today Charles is a team leader at a Vet Center.

One vet who became a drill sergeant after he returned home read a poem about "training young men to die":

I fought the Vietnamese in '67  
I killed Americans in '68 and '69  
No, I didn't fire the shot that  
took their lives . . .

But I didn't tell them to go home either  
The young, the lied to, the confused . . .

A former B-57 bomber pilot received a thundering ovation when he said: "For those of you who in the future may be called upon to stand in a room and raise your hand and say you'll give your life for your country, I'd like you to think about just what you mean by that and whether defending your country extends to imposing your ideology on a country some distance away that doesn't have the same ideology that you do."

Rose was a head nurse in army field hospitals in Vietnam. She describes a day she let her feelings show. The commanding officer of the hospital where she worked decided it would be a good public relations gimmick to award a watch to the 20,000th soldier admitted to the hospital. That GI was a double amputee. When the officer presented the watch, engraved with the number 20,000 and the name of the hospital, the soldier shoved it back, saying, "I'm sorry sir, I can't accept this. It won't help me walk." The army brass left on the double. Rose burst into tears, hugged the GI, and told him how proud she was of his defiant action.

A TV show that tells some of the truth about Vietnam is a rarity. This one could help arm young people to take defiant action against Washington's wars before they become combat casualties.

## LETTERS

### Draft registration

In 1980 when Jimmy Carter reinstituted draft registration, Selective Service was in "deep standby." Today, the agency is ready for the draft.

Draft boards have been appointed and trained throughout the country. Regulations and procedures have been developed. And military reservists have been designated to serve as the draft board's initial staff.

According to Selective Service Director Thomas Turnage, his agency could force 100,000 men into the military within 30 days after Congress authorizes the draft.

In an effort to counter the government's preparations for the draft, the Committee Against Registration and the Draft (CARD) is urging young men to "un-register" for the draft. CARD's National Un-registration Campaign offers men who have already registered a safe, legal way to voice their opposition to the draft, registration, and U.S. intervention in the Third

World.

By sending an "Un-registration Card" to Selective Service, a young man asks to have his name removed from the registration rolls. Un-registration is perfectly legal and can't result in the denial of federal student aid, job training, or other benefits.

In fact, Selective Service regulations permit its director to "cancel the registration of any particular registrant," although it is unlikely that he will do so. Rather, the un-registration campaign is intended to be a symbolic expression of opposition to the reinstatement of the draft.

By focusing on men who have already registered and are therefore subject to the draft, the campaign is drawing public attention to the government's preparations for conscription.

To obtain an un-registration card, write the CARD Midwest Office, 731 State St., Madison, Wis. 53703. An organizer's packet, including 100 cards and additional resource materials, is avail-

able for a suggested donation of \$5 from the same address.

Gillam Kerely  
Coordinator Midwest Office  
CARD

### A true story

I am an inmate in the Texas Department of Corrections and read the *Militant* whenever I find a copy laying around somewhere.

On April 20, 1986, inmate Ronnie Beller, who is Black, got into an argument with several guards working the night shift. The guards are mostly white. Inmate Beller was trying to get moved to another cell because his sink was broken. When the guards would not move him, an argument broke out.

Sergeant Rollo put Beller in handcuffs and led him downstairs from the fourth tier where Beller was housed.

Sergeant Rollo started pushing Beller down the stairs. As Beller reached the bottom of the stairs, he fell down, and other officers,

not knowing what was going on, started jumping on him. One officer kicked him in the head. The officer's name was Gates.

They then carried Beller to a high security management cell, which has a big solid metal door on the outside of the cell. Before putting Beller in his management cell, it was stripped of all trash, blankets, sheets, and property left by prior occupants. Beller had only his shorts on and was left handcuffed during the whole night. He was not given his property, sheets, or any blankets.

An inmate reported that he heard cries for help coming from Beller's cell, saying "Please no . . . help me . . . oh God, no . . . don't do this to me." All was quiet after that. The next morning Ronnie Beller was found dead in his cell.

Texas Department of Corrections (TDC) officials are trying to say that Ronnie Beller committed suicide by hanging himself. It is quite obvious that he did not hang himself.

TDC is denying everything. Recently the story came out on the radio and newspapers in Houston. An investigation is now under way.

If the inmate had been white, chances are that would not have happened to him. I see discrimination every day against Blacks here in prison. I am a white male.

A prisoner  
Huntsville, Texas

### Correction

The article "Socialist Workers petition for Illinois ballot status" in the June 20 issue of the *Militant* states that Sohotra Sarkar is a representative of the African National Congress. Sarkar is a member, not a representative, of the ANC.

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.



## Denver 'March for Women's Lives': 4,000 demand abortion rights

### Protest kicks off NOW national conference

BY PAT GROGAN

DENVER — Some 4,000 supporters of women's right to choose abortion demonstrated here on June 14 in the largest women's rights action this city has ever seen. The protest was part of the June 13-15 national conference of the National Organization for Women (NOW).

The battle to defend abortion rights was at the heart of the discussions at the NOW meeting.

Just days before the conference opened, the Supreme Court, in strongly worded language, reaffirmed abortion as a woman's constitutional right. In a 5-4 ruling issued June 11, the court struck down a Pennsylvania law that restricted a woman's right to choose abortion. The judges refused a request by the Reagan administration to use the case to overturn the historic 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision legalizing abortion.

"The states are not free, under the guise of protecting maternal health or potential life, to intimidate women into continuing pregnancies," the ruling stated. "Few decisions are more personal and intimate, more properly private, or more basic to individual dignity and autonomy, than a woman's decision . . . whether to end her pregnancy. A woman's right to make that choice freely is fundamental," the majority decision said.

Despite the Supreme Court ruling, on June 14 at 12:06 a.m. a bomb destroyed the Reproductive Health Services clinic in St. Louis. Earlier that week, a pipe bomb exploded at the Women's Health Care Service clinic in Wichita, Kansas.

The St. Louis clinic has been a target of the Pro-Life Action League headed by Joseph Scheidler.

Scheidler has been named as a defendant in a lawsuit filed by NOW against illegal

activities aimed at closing women's health care centers.

Denver police arrested Scheidler June 12 on an outstanding warrant issued last March for his role in organizing an attack on a Pensacola, Florida, clinic in which two clinic workers were injured and medical equipment smashed.

Scheidler was in Denver to attend the national conference of the National Right-to-Life Committee that took place just a few blocks from the NOW conference.

The antiabortion outfit scheduled its convention in Denver well after the NOW conference was set. The Right-to-Life Convention was considerably smaller than the NOW conference.

Small groups of antiabortion fanatics picketed outside the Radisson Hotel where the NOW meeting was held. "The debate is over. Abortionists deserve death," "NOW, you'll keep butchering those babies," and "You made your choice when you decided to sleep with him" were among the rantings of the right-wingers as they pushed grisly posters of fetuses in the faces of NOW members entering and leaving the hotel.

On Saturday morning when the 1,500 conference participants left the hotel to march to the state capitol, they were met by another 2,500 women's rights supporters from the Denver area who responded to NOW's call for a "March for Women's Lives."

The protest was 10 times the size of the National Right-to-Life Committee's candlelight vigil the previous evening.

The marchers chose as their theme the civil rights song "We shall not be moved."

They chanted, "We will never go back, stop the clinic bombings," "Not the church, not the state: women will decide



June 14 protest in Denver

Militant/Peter Verner

our fate," and "Keep abortion safe and legal."

A contingent of 100 striking members of the Communications Workers of America marched. They chanted, "What do we want? Justice! When do we want it? Now!" The strikers carried signs that read, "NOW-CWA, in it together. We want justice." The NOW National Board voted the day before the conference began to back the telephone workers' strike.

About a dozen right-wingers attempted unsuccessfully to provoke the marchers,

screaming, "Repent NOW. Repent, you filthy women!" They were drowned out by chants of "Right to life, your name's a lie. You don't care if women die."

Commenting on the unexpectedly large turnout, NOW President Eleanor Smeal told the crowd, "The citizens of Colorado have been listening to the debate unfolding in Denver this weekend, and they have joined us today to tell the Justice Department, to tell the president that we are outraged by the violence and terrorism" of op-

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## How Nicaragua is pushing back 'contras' in north

BY HARVEY McARTHUR

EL CUA, Nicaragua—This farming region deep in the mountains of northern Nicaragua is an area where the U.S.-backed counterrevolutionaries (*contras*) have carried out extensive operations in recent years.

The *Militant* visited El Cua on May 13 to attend a ceremony where Nicaragua's Ministry of the Interior released 100 members of contra bands to their families. These were *desalzados* — peasants who had deserted the contras, turned in their weapons, and returned to their communities to take advantage of Nicaragua's 1983 amnesty law. Under this law, they will not be imprisoned, but allowed to return to their families and given land to work.

This was the first such ceremony in the zone of Jinotega Province. It showed the progress the Sandinista-led government has made in driving back the mercenaries and in deepening peasant support for the revolution.

To reach El Cua, we had to leave our bus at Jinotega, the nearest city, and squeeze into Jeeps and pickups full of Sandinista troops for a two-and-a-half-hour drive. A one-lane dirt road is the only access to the El Cua-Bocay region. There were bridges across some streams, but more often we drove straight through the water, thankful for four-wheel drives and glad that the rainy season had not yet begun.

Most peasants that we saw traveled by foot or on horseback. Small trucks carried passengers, farm products, and supplies on longer trips to local markets or to Jinotega. Rusty, tangled hulks of trucks and Jeeps

lay along the roadside, testimony to the scope of previous mercenary ambushes.

### Peasants organize production, defense

We were told that there would just be a press conference in El Cua. When we arrived however, we found an outdoor stage and more than 1,000 peasants waiting. Local leaders of the National Union of Farmers and Ranchers (UNAG) had invited them to witness the ceremony and hear the reports from government officials. The peasants had walked, ridden on horseback, or spent hours in the back of a truck to get there — turning the press conference into a rally.

UNAG's presence was visible everywhere in El Cua. Small wooden homes and the slightly larger buildings that served as shops and government centers displayed the bright yellow posters from UNAG's recent national congress. Many peasants, including a group of 100 who rode in on horseback to salute the ceremony, proudly wore UNAG caps. Most were members of the 48 farm cooperatives that have been organized in this area since the 1979 revolution that overthrew dictator Anastasio Somoza.

Ministry of the Interior (MINT) officials told the *Militant* that UNAG was the most important mass organization in the area. It

has helped strengthen the cooperatives and relocate peasants who have left isolated farms for fear of contra attack. UNAG also helps with credit, supplies, tools, and education — in short, bringing the benefits of the revolution to the peasants.

"The historic leaders of the peasantry are now the leaders of UNAG," a MINT officer explained. "When a peasant decides to quit the contras, he usually contacts UNAG to be sure he benefits from the amnesty program."

The first speaker at the May 13 ceremony was Miguel Castro, a peasant fighter who had worked with the Sandinista Na-

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## Indiana Steelworkers urge fight on givebacks

BY JOE KLEIDON

SPARROWS POINT, Md. — On June 1 about a thousand Steelworkers from the large Bethlehem Steel plant here just outside Baltimore turned out at each of two special local union meetings. The meetings were held by United Steelworkers of America locals 2609 and 2610 to hear about the new contract proposal. The proposed agreement had been approved by a vote of 20 to 6 by USWA local union presidents from Bethlehem Steel plants across the country.

Outside Local 2609's union hall, well before the morning meeting started, an unusual event was taking place. Three carloads of USWA Local 6787 members from the Burns Harbor, Indiana, Bethlehem

Steel plant had arrived with 8,000 leaflets that urged Steelworkers at Sparrows Point to "Think before you vote" and "Vote no."

### Bethlehem demands major concessions

Since the beginning of the year, rumors had circulated that the company was demanding major concessions. In April the union negotiating committee halted discussions with the company amid reports that Bethlehem Steel wanted a \$5 an hour cut in wages and benefits.

When Steelworkers heard last January that the union's Basic Steel Industry Conference had decided that workers at each company could vote on their own contracts, many viewed it as a setup by the top officials to put the blame for the coming

concession contracts on the membership. However, armed with the newly gained power to vote "yes" or "no" on the contract, some members of the steel union are beginning to feel more inspired to say no to corporation demands.

The flyer distributed throughout the mill to publicize the meetings promised that "a special committee will be here from Pittsburgh to answer all your questions." The USWA's International headquarters is in Pittsburgh.

With a real campaign spirit, the unionists from Burns Harbor — armed with stacks of flyers — immediately began to hand them out to Bethlehem Steelworkers coming to the meeting.

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