

Honduran troops stage provocation of Nicaragua

BY HARVEY McARTHUR

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — In a dangerous provocation September 25, Honduran troops opened fire on Nicaraguan army patrols in the north of Nicaragua's Pacific Coast province of Chinandega. Nicaragua's Foreign Ministry condemned the attacks and called on the Honduran government to take measures to prevent similar assaults in the future.

The attacks occurred shortly after a Nicaraguan electric power line near the Honduran border was sabotaged by dynamite. Two Nicaraguan army patrols investigating the explosion were fired on from across the border by Honduran troops. There were no reports of casualties.

The U.S. government has been encouraging such provocations, hoping to draw the Nicaraguan army into major confrontations with the Honduran army. These clashes would be a pretext for further escalation of the U.S.-backed war against Nicaragua.

Meanwhile, there are reports in the press here that Washington has delivered F-5 Tiger II supersonic fighter-bombers to the Honduran air force. These would give Honduras an air attack capability far superior to that of any other Central American nation. The U.S. government also reportedly provided 10 UH-1N helicopters and three C-130 transport planes to Honduras.

Questioned about the delivery of the F-5 aircraft, a U.S. embassy official in Honduras, Robert Pastorino, refused to confirm or deny the report. According to the ACAN-EFE news agency, Pastorino told journalists that "it is true that we are talking with Honduran authorities about the modernization of their air force" and added that "we are collaborating with the [Honduran] air force to maintain its superiority."

Here in Managua on September 26, some 700 women volunteers left for a month of military training as part of Nicaragua's army reserves. A majority of the women were workers from industrial plants in Managua. Others were service workers and students, some as young as 14 years old.

After intensive training in handling weapons and in combat tactics, the women will return to their jobs or studies, ready to mobilize to defend the capital against military attack. Similar reserve battalions, involving tens of thousands of men and women, are being organized and trained in cities throughout Nicaragua's Pacific Coast.

Meatpackers strike FDL for justice, safety on job

Hormel workers, other unionists give solidarity

BY MICHELLE FIELDS AND JIM LITTLE

ROCHELLE, Illinois — A leaflet distributed here by United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1218 explains that meatpackers here and in Dubuque, Iowa, are on strike against FDL Foods "for economic justice, dignity, fair treatment, and a safe place of employment."

The company has responded by attempting to bring in scabs to replace the striking workers. Cops have been mobilized to attack union picket lines.

The Rochelle strikers have been joined on the picket lines by strikers from Dubuque, meatpackers from the Hormel plant in Austin, Minnesota, and other unionists from the Rochelle area.

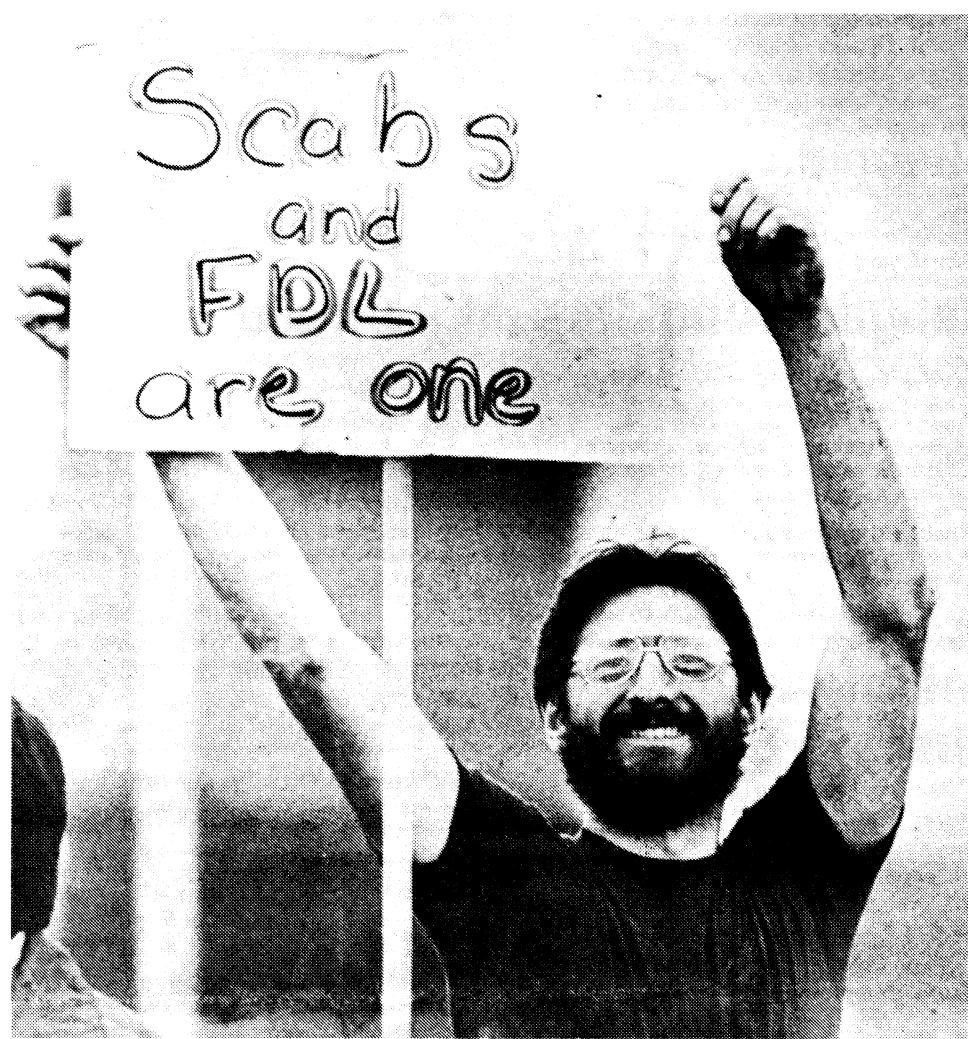
The confrontation heated up here when FDL workers in Rochelle got letters from the company threatening to replace them with scabs unless they returned to work by September 23.

The 550 Rochelle workers, members of UFCW Local 1218, and 1,200 Dubuque FDL workers, members of Local 150-A, went on strike September 11. The Rochelle contract expired in May, but the union had agreed to continue working while negotiations continued.

FDL offered an increase to \$9.00 an hour at Dubuque and \$8.80 at Rochelle by 1989 — still well under the base pay set in the current Hormel contract. FDL products are marketed by Hormel. FDL workers want a contract that will advance their goal of parity with the Hormel and Oscar Mayer workers. They also want a common expiration date for the two plants.

The Rochelle FDL workers' leaflet explains that the union is "fighting for a safe place to work." It points out that between 1977 and 1981 alone, 20,000 workers in the meatpacking industry were killed or permanently disabled by on-the-job injuries.

Since 1982, when the old Dubuque Packing company was shut down, reopened with a revised corporate structure, and renamed FDL, the workers at the two plants have suffered massive takebacks, bringing them down from a \$10.69 wage level. While many workers at the Dubuque plant were hired before FDL



FDL striker picketing Rochelle, Illinois, plant.

was formed, most of the Rochelle workers have been hired since.

Cops attack pickets

September 23 was the first day FDL tried to bring in scabs and applicants for scab jobs in Rochelle. An estimated 500 pickets surrounded the driveway in front of the main entrance to the plant.

The union mobilization included more than 150 workers from Dubuque. "It is important for us to stick together," said Mel Maas, president of Local 150-A in Dubuque. "If one goes back, it's bad for the others."

More than 100 cops were mobilized from a 50-mile radius to help FDL get scabs and would-be scabs into the plant. The cops wore flak jackets and had guns, nightsticks, tear gas canisters, and dogs.

"Everything was peaceful here until the police marched in with the dogs," said Local 1218 President Harlan Johnson.

Cops charged the pickets, knocking some down. Seventeen were arrested. Five of those arrested were meatpackers from Dubuque.

Union member Carl McCaffrey sized up the day's events. "We've done well. We've been able to turn back a lot of cars. It's tense because of the show of force and also because of people trying to take our jobs."

'Possession of an egg'

The next morning hundreds of workers were on the picket line again. Seven more were arrested. The cops dragged one striker to a police car and brutally beat him.

Local 1218 was required to put up more than \$1,300 to bail out the arrested workers.

The cops seized on any pretext to attack the strikers' democratic right to picket. One unionist was arrested and charged with "possession of an egg."

The company got more help from Ogle County Circuit Judge John Payne, who issued a second order further restricting picketing near the plant entrance.

That afternoon, dozens of cops still surrounded the picket line, which numbered 150 despite pouring rain. A school bus full of Ogle County cops was parked across the street from the entrance. State police cars buzzed past the pickets. In a large white van parked at the gate, private cops from

Sanctuary march: 'Stop U.S. war in Nicaragua'

BY LISA AHLBERG

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Carrying banners and signs saying, "Money for shelter, not for war," "Sanctuary, solidarity with Central America," and "Say no to the U.S. war on Nicaragua," more than 3,000 people marched to the Lincoln Memorial on September 28.

Some marchers carried a banner that read, "Sanctuary: the spirit of Harriet Tubman," drawing a parallel between the historic underground railroad that transported freedom-bound slaves and the new "underground railroad" providing sanctuary for Central American refugees.

Joseph Lowery, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, told the crowd, "The civil rights movement has to join with the antiwar movement."

Giving greetings to the rally from the Nicaraguan Mothers of Heroes and Martyrs, Florentina Pérez, a farm cooperative leader and member of a Christian base



Three thousand call for sanctuary to Central America refugees at antiwar protest in Washington, D.C.

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Hormel meatpackers build October 11 day of solidarity

BY FRED FELDMAN

A letter urging participation in the October 11 day of solidarity in Austin, Minnesota, with meatpackers fighting the Geo. A. Hormel & Co. has been sent to 3,000 locals and other union bodies by leaders of the Austin United Support Group. The letter went to union bodies that have contributed to the meatpackers' struggle.

A mailing urging support was also sent to the 1,500 locals and lodges of the International Association of Machinists. Another is going to all locals of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union. These mailings have been financed by contributions from locals and members of the two unions.

In addition to unionists, all other supporters of the struggle against Hormel are being urged to participate in the action.

The October 11 events will begin at 1:00 p.m. with a parade from the Austin United Support Group office. The parade will conclude with a 2:30 p.m. rally, followed by a concert and a social event.

The letter from support group leaders Jan Butts and Carole Apold stressed the importance of helping the Austin fighters resist Hormel's attempt to starve them out. They explain that 850 workers and their families "are still locked out by Hormel" and that the new contract imposed by the company "left the workers without any recall rights."

"Until everyone is back to work," they emphasize, "the struggle will continue."

"As the season changes," Butts and Apold point out, "these families are going to be in greater need of financial assistance...."

"The money you send to Adopt-A-Family goes directly to the neediest families to pay for house payments, rent, utility bills, etc. It cannot be used for anything else. Emergency and Hardship is used for unpredictable emergencies and our Food Shelf, which continues to give out a bag of groceries a week. Emergency and Hardship funds are also used to keep communicating with our union brothers and sisters across the country."

The two leaders conclude by noting that October 11 is the second anniversary of the support group's founding. "We warmly invite you to come to Austin for our anniversary celebration and see for yourself that the 'Fighting P-9ers' are continuing the struggle."

While the efforts to build October 11 continue, antilabor forces have attempted

to smear the North American Meat Packers Union as violent. NAMPU was formed by members of Local P-9 of the United Food and Commercial Workers union after UFCW leaders placed the local under receivership in May, removed its elected leaders, and ordered an end to the struggle against Hormel. NAMPU is seeking to win the right to represent workers at the Austin Hormel plant in an upcoming recertification election.

On September 29 the Austin Chamber of Commerce announced it had canceled a public debate scheduled for October 2 among candidates for sheriff and city council. The chamber of commerce claimed it had received threats that a violent protest would take place at the meeting. Rumors were widely circulated that NAMPU was the source of the alleged threat.



Militant/Tom Jaax

April 1986 solidarity march in Austin, Minnesota. Meatpackers are urging all supporters of fight against Hormel to participate in October 11 events.

Floyd Leno and Randy Emiliusen, two meatpackers who have been denied their jobs by Hormel and who have played an active role in the struggle, had been scheduled to speak at the debate as candidates for city council.

Speaking for NAMPU, Connie Dammen

blasted the rumor campaign. "It has never been and never will be the policy of the North American Meat Packers Union to condone violent actions of any sort," she said. "We have had no such actions planned. Our main job is to get our jobs back." She denounced the "deliberate attempt to discredit" NAMPU.

L.A. rally hits AIDS quarantine proposition

BY KEVIN JONES AND BARRY SCHIER

LOS ANGELES — More than 2,000 opponents of Proposition 64 gathered at Friendship Auditorium here for a spirited rally on September 15. The action was sponsored by the Stop the AIDS Quarantine Committee.

Proposition 64, put on the November ballot by backers of Lyndon LaRouche's fascist National Democratic Policy Committee, proposes mandatory tests for AIDS. It would give California health officials authority to quarantine anyone with "AIDS antibodies." Teachers and workers in food service industries are specifically targeted by this initiative.

"The real hazard to our health is Proposition 64," explained Jackie Goldberg, member of the Los Angeles Board of Education. "We must not only defeat Proposition 64, we must smash it into the ground or it will rear its head again" in the form of similar initiative attempts in California and elsewhere. "We must send a message: Not here, not now, not ever."

Stop AIDS Quarantine Committee Chairman Paul Coleman said bigotry cannot be escaped by ignoring it and stressed the need for education and for mobilizations against Proposition 64 — "a wholesale violation of civil liberties at a time when the rights of all minorities are threatened."

"This initiative is not to stop AIDS. It is to stop the civil rights movements in this country," added comedienne Robin Tyler. She said Proposition 64 is both an attack on

gays and part of a generalized attack on the rights of minorities and labor.

Screen Actors Guild President Patty Duke noted her union's opposition to the initiative.

The rally organizers announced an October 25 "massive anti-64 car caravan" through Los Angeles and plans to distribute one million flyers against Proposition 64 by election day.

Many organizations have declared opposition to the initiative, including the California Medical Association, California

Conference of Catholic Bishops, American Civil Liberties Union, and the AFL-CIO County Federation in Los Angeles and many other California counties. On September 19, the American Red Cross held a news conference denouncing Proposition 64.

A statement distributed by Greg Jackson, Socialist Workers Party candidate for lieutenant governor of California, and campaign supporters at the September 15 rally emphasized the need to mobilize massive opposition to Proposition 64.

Meatpackers strike FDL for justice

Continued from front page

the CPP firm videotaped the pickets for the company.

Company continues attack

So far, FDL management is attempting to keep some production operations going with a small force of about 10 union members who crossed the picket line, foremen, and office personnel. This crew has been getting a taste of the safety conditions that Local 1218 wants changed.

While these reporters were at the picket line, three people who had been injured were taken from the plant to the hospital. One was bleeding profusely. Three supervisory personnel who were working at the plant notified the union by letter that they have quit their jobs with the company. And one union member who crossed the picket

line has rejoined the strike.

But FDL spokesman Charles Naylor threatened that the firm plans to reopen its hog-slaughtering operations "fairly soon" with scab labor. He denounced the pickets for "boorish behavior."

Other unionists are also joining the picket line. Carloads from United Auto Workers Local 245 at Sunstrand Industries in Rockford joined the picket line September 29.

The FDL workers see themselves as fighting for human dignity against bosses who commonly refer to workers with phrases such as, "Send me a couple of bodies to the kill floor."

Carol, a young woman with five years in the plant, said of the strike, "I love it. We've been taking it long enough. Now we're fighting back."

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November 15

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The Militant

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Midwest meatpackers tour Britain

U.S. unionists seek solidarity at Labour Party conference

BY NORTON SANDLER

BLACKPOOL, England — How long are you staying? Can you visit our union branch? How can we help?

These are questions a delegation of fired Hormel meatpackers and their supporters have been frequently asked during their visit to the annual British Labour Party conference here.

Jim Guyette, Bill Cook, Barbara Collette, Bob Langemeier, Kipp Dawson, and Gale Shangold are talking to trade unionists and other Labour Party activists about the struggle meatpackers are waging in the United States against the union-busting drive of packinghouse owners such as Geo. A. Hormel & Co., Oscar Mayer, and FDL. They are particularly relating their own experiences in Austin, Minnesota; Fremont, Nebraska; and Ottumwa, Iowa, against Hormel.

Guyette is the former president of United Food and Commercial Workers Local P-9 in Austin. He was removed from the presidency of the local in June after the local was placed in trusteeship by the top leadership of the UFCW.

Collette has been an activist in the Austin United Support Group for many months. The group has helped raise money to support the strikers and their families, helped on outreach and communication to thousands of union locals around the country, and during the strike organized some of the picketing at the Austin plant.

Cook from Ottumwa and Langemeier from Fremont were fired by Hormel in early 1986 for honoring Local P-9's roving pickets set up outside the plants where they work. Since that time they have been part of outreach and solidarity efforts to union locals around the country.

Shangold, a laid-off California steelworker, and Dawson, a member of the United Mine Workers of America in Pennsylvania, have helped organize solidarity with the Hormel unionists in their areas.

Over the first few days in Blackpool, thousands of leaflets explaining the issues in the Hormel fight have been distributed to delegates and activists attending the conference. The U.S. workers are urging British Labour Party activists to back their campaign to have over 1,200 meatpackers fired by Hormel in Austin, Fremont, and Ottumwa reinstated to their jobs.

They are pointing out that the recent contract Hormel imposed at the Austin plant settled none of the issues in the strike, which began in August 1985 and ended after the trusteeship was imposed. They are also explaining that many U.S. workers are continuing to boycott products as a protest over the company's injustice.

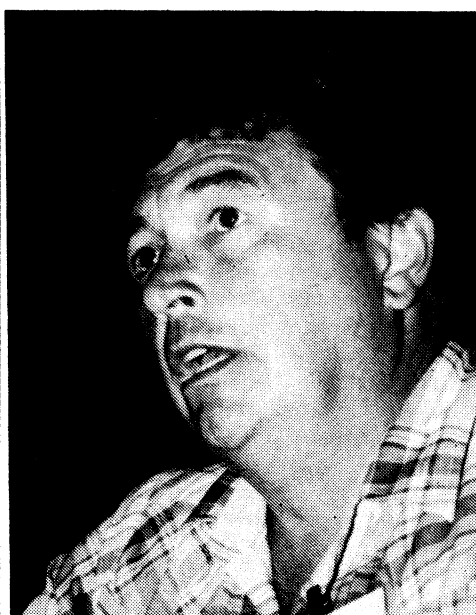
Workers in unions that cover the spectrum of the British labor movement have stopped to talk. Many have compared the Austin, Fremont, and Ottumwa fights to the 1984-85 British coal miners' strike. A number of miners and members of Women Against Pit Closures (WAPC), a support group for the miners, have exchanged experiences in discussion with the U.S. delegation. "I listened to them, and our story is the same," Collette said.

Many contacts have been made with miners and WAPC members for a follow-up trip to the mining areas of Barnsley, Rotherham, and Durham to take place following the party conference.

Other workers involved in bitter struggles in Britain have gone out of their way to seek out the U.S. workers. Several printers on strike at the News International Wapping plant in London since early this year have held discussions with the meatpackers and invited them to join the picket lines when they come to London.

A well-organized group of unionists locked out at the Silent Night furniture plant in Lancashire have also spent a great deal of time talking about the similarities and problems that workers on both sides of the Atlantic are facing. Dozens of other unionists have exchanged addresses with the Austin, Fremont, and Ottumwa workers.

An important aspect of the Labour Party conferences are events called "fringe meetings." At a "fringe meeting" delegations and visitors speak out and debate important topics that mirror and expand on the conference proceedings. Such a meeting will often attract several hundred Labour Party activists. During the first three days here, the U.S. workers spoke to seven fringe meetings with a combined attendance of 1,700 people. Several of the meetings were



Militant photos by Holbrook Mahn
Jim Guyette (left) and Bob Langemeier are now touring Britain, along with other supporters of meatpackers' struggle. They are gaining support for demands that Hormel negotiate a decent contract and reinstate all workers denied jobs because of their participation in the struggle.

sponsored by *Campaign Group News*, a newspaper put out under the auspices of 30 members of the British Parliament and the British delegation to the European Parliament.

The Campaign Group has also worked to deepen collaboration between members of the parliamentary Labour Party and key unions in Britain such as the National Union of Mineworkers.

At a rally of 600 sponsored by the Campaign Group on October 1, Guyette shared the platform with Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers; members of Parliament Joan Maynard, Eric Heffer, Dennis Skinner,

Claire Short, and Tony Benn; and Marc Wadsworth, head of the Black Sections of the Labour Party.

Tony Benn, a leader of the Campaign Group, has introduced Jim Guyette at several of the meetings. "I'm glad to introduce Jim Guyette and the others," Benn said. "We need to develop international links in the [Labour] party. This should be an important part of the conference."

Guyette has explained in his remarks at the fringe meetings that "we will continue to struggle until all the people in Austin, Ottumwa, and Fremont have their jobs back under conditions of justice and dignity."

Canada strikers protest gov't role

BY JOE YOUNG

EDMONTON, Alberta — Two hundred and fifty strikers, members of Local 280P of the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW), confronted Prime Minister Brian Mulroney on September 25 during an election rally at Sherwood Park, near Edmonton. Mulroney was there to help the Conservative Party candidate in the federal by-election in the Pembina electoral district.

The 1,080 members of Local 280P have been on strike against the Gainers meatpacking company since June 1. The owner, Peter Pocklington, a well-known Conservative, is out to break the union.

The strikers turned out in great numbers on the occasion of Mulroney's visit because the federal government has consistently supported Pocklington in his union-busting drive. They chanted, "We want jobs" and held signs that said, "Tainted meat stinks."

The signs referred to the federal government cover-up after tainted Gainers Eversweet ham was found in the Maritime provinces. On September 29 it came to light that four cases of mouldy hams from Gainers were found at the Red Deer Regional Hospital, south of Edmonton. Only a week before, a federal government inspection had given the Gainers plant a clean bill of health.

Mulroney shouted back at the strikers, "These aren't hard times. This is a piece of cake."

Alberta's unemployment rate is more than 11 percent, and 50,000 workers in the oil industry have lost their jobs. There are also several bitter struggles against union-busting going on in Alberta. The 90 workers at Zeidler Forest Products have been on strike since April 11, and 1,100 workers at Suncor, an oil company, have been locked out since May 1. Both plants are operating with scabs, as is the Gainers plant.

Mulroney tried to slander the strikers as chauvinists. He claimed that someone shouted, "Go home, frog." "Frog" is a derogatory term used to describe the Québécois, an oppressed nation within Canada.

However, Local 280P, with the support of the UFCW as a whole, has reached out for support in Quebec, where the UFCW has many members. One of the leaders of the local, Jerry Beauchamp, who speaks French, is presently touring Quebec to win support for the strike there.

John Ventura, the president of Local 280P, said he was pleased with the turnout and felt that the workers had gotten their point across. Explaining their anger, Ventura pointed out, "These people are very frustrated and upset with the way things are going. These people have been facing reality. They have been put in jail just for walking down the street."

The strikers' dramatic confrontation

with the prime minister reflects the anger of working people, which is fueling support for the New Democratic Party (NDP), Canada's labor party. The NDP increased its support considerably in the Pembina and St. Maurice by-elections, both held on September 29. St. Maurice is in Quebec.

In Pembina, the Conservatives' majority was substantially reduced. The NDP's vote climbed from 15.7 percent in the 1984 general election to 36.4 percent. In Quebec, the NDP's support also increased dramatically from 3.5 percent in 1984 to 19 percent.

The mobilization by Local 280P members against the Conservative government contributed greatly to these results.

Socialism on Trial

by James P. Cannon

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Air controllers form new union

BY FRED FELDMAN

"We are working six-day weeks all the time at the busiest spots in the system," air traffic controller R. Steve Bell told a *Washington Post* reporter. "They keep saying it's getting better, and it keeps getting worse."

"Too much traffic divided among too few controllers equals a disaster," warned John Thornton.

Thornton is national organizer for the National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA), which is seeking to unionize more than 14,000 air control workers. Bell is the new union's eastern representative.

Bell and Thornton were among 200 air controllers who voted to formally establish NATCA at a September 23 meeting in Chicago. About 4,200 controllers have signed a NATCA petition calling for a representation election, more than the 30 percent required by law.

NATCA's organizing effort gained recently when a federal arbitrator ruled that the National Marine Engineers Beneficial Association, which NATCA works with, had the right to carry out an organizing drive among the air control workers.

If NATCA succeeds, air control workers will have union representation for the first time since 1981, when the Reagan administration broke the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization (PATCO) by firing 11,000 strikers.

The September 24 *New York Times* reported that the new union will oppose "overwork, poor management, erosion of safety margins, and abuse of controllers' rights in the recent handling of charges of drug abuse."

The way the drug issue is being used against controllers was a big issue at the NATCA meeting. "It has really been a witch-hunt," said Karl Grundmann, a NATCA supporter from Los Angeles.

Last month, 34 controllers at the Air Route Traffic Center in Palmdale, California, were suspended while charges of use of illegal drugs were investigated. All the workers were denied legal representation.

The drug witch-hunt spread to the air traffic control center in Olathe, Kansas, where five workers were fired for alleged off-duty use of marijuana and cocaine.

John Leyden, a supporter of the new union who is a former president of PATCO, said a union was needed because air control workers have "no voice now."

Literature tables give sales teams more visibility

BY HALKET ALLEN

PHILADELPHIA — Readers of the *Militant* and the Spanish-language magazine *Perspectiva Mundial* have been selling the two

paign. This target is a lot higher than in recent years.

To make the goal, we decided to ask everyone who bought a *Militant* or *PM* in community and

So we decided to try to use the same approach in our plant-gate sales. Where possible, we set up a literature table outside a plant gate. And it worked.

A literature table gives our sales teams more political visibility. There are many workers who enter and leave their workplace and don't hear the 15-second presentation a salesperson makes.

But if there's a literature table with books by Malcolm X, Nelson Mandela, Fidel Castro, and leaders of the Nicaraguan revolution, it tends to catch workers' attention. This literature spread also gives workers a better idea what the *Militant* and *PM* stand for.

In addition, a table allows us to distribute leaflets on *Militant* forums and on antiwar, anti-apartheid, and other protests, as well as information on Young Socialist Alliance classes.

A literature table should generally have Spanish-language material too. Sometimes workers who only speak Spanish don't know the language we're trying to speak is Spanish. I spoke to a young garment worker for several minutes in what I thought was pretty good Spanish. She gave me a puzzled look and said she didn't speak English.

Well, I took her over to the table and showed her our Spanish-language books. After a while, she bought a *PM*.

We've been selling at the Budd auto assembly plant for several years. The plant is in the city. About half the work force is Black, and there have been some struggles against racism in the plant.

When a white worker's picture recently appeared in the daily paper in connection with a racist attack against a Black family mov-

ing into a white neighborhood, a copy of the picture went up around the plant. "KKK" was written across it, and the guy hasn't returned to work.

Budd is like a giant prison. All the windows have bars. Workers are kept behind the bars until a whistle blows for lunch and the end of the shift. Then they rush out of the plant to buy lunch like a tidal wave.

At the last sale, one worker saw our table with a Nelson Mandela T-shirt on it. It wasn't break time yet so he poked some money through the bars for the T-shirt and asked about the *Militant*. He took a subscription blank and bought a single issue.

We have sold 26 subscriptions to coworkers where supporters of the *Militant* and *PM* work. We have seven more weeks to increase that number. We're confident we'll do so.

SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE

socialist publications at garment shops, oil refineries, and auto assembly plant gates for many years. We have sold at morning breaks, at lunch wagons — known here as "roach coaches" — and at the end of shifts.

We sometimes sell no papers. But we have always found that if we are persistent workers will sooner or later become interested and buy papers.

This fall, our goal is 225 subscriptions for the 10-week cam-

campus sales to buy a subscription.

We also tried something new: setting up a literature table with a sales team around it. We got this idea from the way petitions were circulated over the summer in Chicago, New York, and Boston to place socialist candidates on the ballot.

By the end of September, we had sold 55 percent of our *Militant* and 26 percent of our *PM* goal. We had sold 126 subscriptions.

Team effort is key to big gains in sales drive

BY MALIK MIAH

We're one-third through the fall subscription drive. As the scoreboard below shows, we are 19 percent ahead of schedule to reach our national goal of 10,000 new readers of the *Militant* and the Spanish-language monthly *Perspectiva Mundial* by November 15.

The business office is receiving an average of 813 subscriptions per week. The number of *Perspectiva Mundial* subscriptions on hand is three times more than the 291 sold in the spring subscription drive.

Of the 4,880 new subscribers, 1,091 have bought the new Pathfinder Press pamphlet, "The 1985-86 Hormel Meat-Packers Strike in Austin, Minnesota," by Fred Halstead. This includes 219 copies of the Spanish-language edition.

Our impressive start indicates what is possible. It is why we must not let up in our campaign to get the two working-class publications into the hands of as many working people and other fighters for social justice as we can.

We have already talked to tens of thousands of workers, farmers, students, and other people. We have won several thousand new readers as *Militant* and *PM* subscribers.

There is every reason to expect our success in the first month to be repeated over the next six weeks of the campaign. We are confident that the national target of 10,000 can easily be met by sustaining an organized, collective effort.

Our aim is to sell the maximum number of subscriptions over the 10 weeks of the campaign. At the rate we're going, we

could sell well over the 10,000 goal.

If *Militant* supporters who are way ahead — perhaps those with more than 40 percent of their initial targets — raise their goals now, this could spur on even greater national sales.

What explains our greater success is not only increased receptivity to the two publications. We've also learned what it takes to sell subscriptions. The team effort is key. And the most effective example of this approach is the use of a literature table accompanied by a sales team.

The bulk of *Militant* and *PM* subscriptions in New York, for example, were sold using this method. It is a technique used on street corners, college campuses, and, where possible, in front of many plant gates. (See plant-gate column above on the experiences of *Militant* supporters in Philadelphia.)

The big advantage to the literature table-sales team approach is political visibility. The table attracts people walking or rushing by to notice the *Militant*, *PM*, and leaflets on forums sponsored by the publications, as well as books and pamphlets published and distributed by Pathfinder bookstores in the area.

In general, there are opportunities for a lot of political discussions and, as a result, more sales.

The collective effort on campuses, especially by the *Militant*-*PM* traveling sales teams, has also encouraged some young people to join the Young Socialist Alliance.

Greater confidence is gained by those participating on the teams, too. It can lead



Militant/Jim Little

Students at Northern Illinois University buy socialist publications and literature

to more confidence in selling the *Militant* and *PM* on the job, in door-to-door sales to students on campus, and to people living in Black, Latino, and other working-class communities.

These gains in the subscription drive place *Militant* supporters in a better position to reach out to many more people. All *Militant* and *PM* readers can help in this effort by taking a goal and ordering a bundle of *Militants* or *PMs* (see coupon at the end

of this article), or by contacting the distribution centers listed in the directory on page 12 to join a sales team.

* * *

Sales to meatpackers continue to get a good response. Ellen Haywood reports: "Two *Militant* salespeople from St. Louis sold 22 single copies and two subscriptions in one hour at a supermarket by the Hormel plant in Ottumwa, Iowa.

"One of the subscriptions was to one of the Hormel workers recently reinstated to her job after being fired for honoring the roving picket lines from Hormel's Austin, Minnesota, plant. She said, 'I've got to get that. I care. People asked me how I could honor the picket line and stay out of work for seven months when I've got kids. But it's because of the kids that I did it. We've got to stand up to these companies.'"

Sandra Nelson from the Southern California sales team reports good results at Ventura College, where one student joined the YSA. In one week the team sold 37 *Militant* and 29 *PM* subscriptions, 132 single copies (69 *Militants*, 63 *PMs*), and 12 pamphlets on the meatpackers' fight.

According to Illinois-Wisconsin team member Mitchel Rosenberg, the response by college students was great. The team sold most of their literature, including two "Organizing the YSA" handbooks.

* * *

☐ I would like to order a bundle of _____ *Militants* and _____ *PMs*.

☐ I would like to take a subscription goal of _____ *Militants* and _____ *PMs*.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Mail to: Militant Business Office, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014. Or phone: (212) 929-3486.

Fall Subscription Scoreboard

Area	Goals		Sold		% Sold
	<i>Militant</i>	<i>Mundial</i>	<i>Militant</i>	<i>Mundial</i>	
Milwaukee	100	5	55	22	73
Portland, Ore.	105	15	75	2	64
Atlanta	140	10	86	3	59
Detroit	260	30	145	23	58
New York	500	250	266	156	56
Morgantown, W. Va.	100	—	55	—	55
San Diego	85	45	42	30	55
Miami	100	15	53	9	54
Philadelphia	175	50	107	9	52
Kansas City	150	10	74	7	51
Newark	375	125	163	91	51
New Orleans	90	10	46	4	50
Toledo	100	5	49	4	50
Cleveland	125	15	60	3	45
San Jose	200	100	88	43	44
Boston	225	50	98	18	42
Capital District, N.Y.	125	10	48	9	42
Greensboro, N.C.	140	10	59	4	42
Twin Cities, Minn.	250	20	108	5	42
Houston	290	60	124	19	41
Seattle	140	35	55	17	41
New Paltz, N.Y.	5	—	2	—	40
Totals					
to be on schedule					
Los Angeles	300	200	103	92	39
Pittsburgh	100	5	39	2	39
Charleston, W. Va.	100	—	38	—	38
Baltimore	120	5	45	1	37
Birmingham, Ala.	150	3	57	0	37
Phoenix	100	60	36	20	35
Salt Lake City	105	15	40	2	35
San Francisco	170	80	57	30	35
St. Louis	235	5	82	0	34
Washington, D.C.	160	40	57	11	34
Chicago	300	50	81	23	30
Cincinnati	90	10	26	3	29
Dallas	225	75	60	28	29
Oakland	200	30	55	12	29
Louisville	115	10	34	1	28
Price, Utah	50	5	15	0	27
Denver	135	10	34	3	26
Columbus, Ohio	20	—	3	—	15
Tidewater, Va.	60	5	5	0	8
National teams	—	—	594	186	—
Other	—	—	663	6	—
Totals					
to be on schedule					
8,500 1,500 3,982 898 49					
2,550 450 30					

Ohio socialist condemns racist violence

TOLEDO, Ohio — Roberta Scherr, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of Ohio, visited the south end of Toledo a few weeks ago at a time when Blacks were coming under violent attack in the predominantly white area.

Kevin Gordon and Linda Jimenez found a cross burning in front of their home. Another woman discovered a swastika and KKK scrawled on the wall of her house. Shots have been fired through windows in the homes of Black families.

The city officials' initial response was to arrest a Black man who had gone outside with a rifle after his windows had been shot out.

Scherr found that the few Blacks living on Lorain Street had left their homes in fear. Most of the whites who lived nearby blamed a racist minority for the violence. But some said they did not want Black neighbors.

An elderly white woman disagreed. She was angry that a little girl had been forced into taking

taxi to school because of racist harassment on the buses.

The socialist candidate issued a statement on August 28: "The City of Toledo must do more than talk about the possibility that racist violence is occurring in South Toledo. The violence is a fact plain to all.

"The city administration and the police must utilize every resource to apprehend and prosecute the racist thugs who are carrying out this terror campaign. Foot-dragging by the authorities encourages these criminals to continue their brutality against families and individuals who have the right to live wherever they choose, free from fear."

D.C. candidate hits mayor's eviction plan

WASHINGTON, D.C. — "Stop the evictions from public housing now!" was a socialist campaign slogan highlighted in the September 15 issue of the George Washington University newspaper the *GW Hatchet*. The article was an interview with Deborah Lazar.

Lazar will be on the November



Militant/Holbrook Mahn
Railroad worker Deborah Lazar will be on November ballot as Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of Washington, D.C.

ballot as the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Washington. Other candidates include Democratic incumbent Marion Barry, Republican Carol Schwartz, and Statehood Party candidate Josephine Butler.

Geoff Brown, the *GW Hatchet* interviewer, quoted Lazar as saying, "Here you have a mayor [Barry] who on the one hand talks about solving the problem of homelessness; on the other hand his way to solve that is by throw-

ing thousands of people" out of their homes.

Lazar said Barry had threatened to evict 40,000 people whose names were not listed on leases for public housing. He later reduced the number of the targeted group to 4,000.

Lazar told Brown she is "for a workers' and farmers' government in the U.S." to take political power out of the hands of the Rockefellers and other ruling rich.

"But didn't they work for the money and power they now have?" asked the interviewer.

"I think they stole what they got from working people," answered Lazar.

'Stand up to foes of Nicaragua'

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — "We cannot expect those who vote to arm the Pentagon to disarm the war machine," Socialist Workers Party congressional candidate Jon Hillson told an audience of 250 people September 12. "We cannot expect the liberal wing of the Democratic Party, which helped carry out a brutal war to dominate Vietnam, to end U.S. intervention

in Central America."

Hillson was speaking to a meeting at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, held to protest the government's "star wars" arms program. Other speakers included disarmament activists and several of the liberal Democratic Party contenders for the 8th Congressional District seat in the U.S. House.

Hillson was applauded when he urged the predominantly student audience to "stand up to the foes of Nicaragua, whoever they are. It's time to say 'enough!' to a U.S. Congress in which not a single voice speaks up to say that the Nicaraguan revolution has been a great advance for the Nicaraguan people."

"Even a penny is too much for the Pentagon," declared Hillson, contrasting Washington's war spending with Nicaragua's defense effort. "Nicaragua's arms spending defends a government that gives land to farmers, that provides free medical care, that works to eliminate illiteracy, that abolished college tuition. It helps defend the country's sovereignty against U.S. aggression."

Hillson urged all to join in building the November 1 march in Boston for peace, jobs, and justice.

'Militant' reader makes powerful case for fund drive

BY DOUG JENNESS

A powerful case for subscribing to the *Militant* and contributing to it financially is made by one of our readers in a letter that appears this week on page 15.

Frank Pavelho, a coal miner in Utah, describes how, over a period of several years, he became convinced to read the *Militant*. What finally persuaded him was our "refreshingly accurate" reporting on something he knew about firsthand — an accident in the mine where he works. In comparison, he notes, the big-business press and television networks "acted more like publicity agents" for the employers.

Pavelho adds that the *Militant's* coverage of the meatpackers' struggle in Austin, Minnesota, against Geo. A. Hormel & Co.

Protesters in Virginia show Klan is unwelcome in their town

BY MARY MARTIN

RADFORD, Va. — A crowd of 500, including hundreds of white college students in sorority and fraternity T-shirts, blocked a Ku Klux Klan march here, forcing the Klan to turn around and leave town.

About 50 KKK members, some wearing green robes and carrying confederate flags, had planned to march past the gates of Radford University on September 20. As the KKK procession came into view three blocks from the campus, the protesters surrounded them and forced them off the street into a gas station.

The Klan's chants of "Be a man — join the Klan" and "KKK all the way" were drowned out by boos, hissing, and chants of "Black and white together."

After consulting with police officials, who tried to position themselves between the students and the Klan, KKK members headed back out of town on the sidewalk.

The night before the Klan march, a "Brotherhood Service" was held at a church in nearby Christiansburg. Two local mayors, the county sheriff, a university representative, three local ministers, and the president of the Virginia National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) all urged the audience of 100 students and local residents to stay away from the Klan march.

"A cold shoulder and empty street makes the most effective response" was a phrase repeated by virtually every speaker. The 500 protesters, who sent a clear message to the Klan that racism was not welcome in their town, showed that a militant protest was the most effective response.

has reaffirmed its "value to us as against the capitalist press."

When we say that the *Militant* has the best coverage of the fight meatpackers are waging today against the big packinghouse owners in the United States and Canada, it is not an idle boast. We challenge any newspaper or magazine in North America, daily or weekly, to show that it is offering its readers more regular, timely, and accurate reporting of this important development in the labor movement than the *Militant*.

Just this week, for example, we have an on-the-scene report from the picket lines at the FDL plant in Rochelle, Illinois.

We also have an update from Edmonton, Alberta, one of Canada's prairie provinces, on the meatpackers' strike against Gainers. This is the latest in what has become regular weekly coverage from that battleground.

Moreover, we have a firsthand report from the British Labour Party conference in Blackpool, England, where meatpackers from Austin, Minnesota; Ottumwa, Iowa; and Fremont, Nebraska, are talking to hun-

dreds of unionists and Labour Party activists about their struggle. Next week we will carry a report on the meatpackers' upcoming tour of several towns in Britain's coal mining region.

Our reporters will also be participating in the October 11 solidarity rally called by the United Support Group in Austin, Minnesota.

Week after week we have attempted to bring our readers the facts about the important struggle shaping up against the employers in the meatpacking industry. And to report, in their own words, what those who are leading this struggle say. The steady stream of lies from the boss press makes this particularly important.

We have put a priority on this coverage because the experiences meatpackers are going through are especially valuable for all workers. A great deal can be learned from them about finding a road forward for the entire labor movement.

Organizing this kind of reporting — sending reporters where the fight is taking place and transmitting articles by telephone

— takes money. Income from subscriptions and sales of single copies are not enough to meet our costs. And as you can readily see, our pages aren't filled with advertising.

So we are participating in the Fall Publications Fund, which is raising \$100,000 by November 15 for the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and Pathfinder Press. So far, \$5,500 has been collected, and another \$9,500 has been pledged. If you can help, fill out the coupon below. Every contribution, no matter the amount, will be appreciated.

* * *

Enclosed is \$500 _____ \$100 _____
\$50 _____ \$10 _____ other _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Fall Publications Fund, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014. Checks should be made out to the Publications Fund.

Special offer for 'New International'



All five issues of *New International*, a magazine of Marxist politics and theory, published in New York, are still available. If *Militant* readers send their order by October 30, they can receive all five issues for US\$10, which is a big saving.

The following is a partial listing of the contents of the issues:

- Vol. 1, No. 1 — Fall 1983
"Their Trotsky and Ours: Communist Continuity Today" by Jack Barnes
"Lenin and the Colonial Question" by Carlos Rafael Rodriguez
- Vol. 1, No. 2 — Winter 1983-84
"The Working-Class Road to Peace" by Brian Grogan
"The Development of the Marxist Position on the Aristocracy of Labor" by Steve Clark
"The Social Roots of Opportunism" by Gregory Zinoviev
- Vol. 1, No. 3 — Spring-Summer 1984
"The Workers' and Farmers' Government: A Popular Revolution"

tionary Dictatorship" by Mary-Alice Waters

"Imperialism and Revolution in Latin America and the Caribbean" by Manuel Piñeiro

"The FSLN and the Nicaraguan Revolution" by Tomás Borge

• Vol. 2, No. 1 — Spring 1985
"The Workers' and Farmers' Alliance in the U.S." articles by Jack Barnes and Doug Jenness
"Land Reform and Cooperatives in Cuba"

• Vol. 2, No. 2 — Fall 1985
"The Coming Revolution in South Africa" by Jack Barnes
"The Future Belongs to the Majority," Speech by Oliver Tambo

"Cuba's Internationalist Volunteers in Angola," Speech by Fidel Castro

Send \$10 if you want all five issues, or \$3 each, to *New International*, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014. Include the number and date of the issues along with your name and address.

Farmers, unionists welcome rights gain

BY ERNEST HARSCH

"This is an important victory. We need to take it and use it."

That was the conclusion of Ada Edwards, chairperson of the Houston Free South Africa Movement, at a September 27 forum there. It captured the response of many political activists across the country to the recent victory in the Socialist Workers Party suit against the FBI, in which Federal Judge Thomas Griesa ruled that government surveillance and disruption of political activities are unconstitutional.

As activists in the antiwar, union, women's, farmers', and anti-apartheid movements learn more about the case, they see that it helps defend their own rights to speak out and organize.

Dennis Brutus, an exiled South African poet who won a victory against government efforts to deport him for his anti-apartheid activities, hailed the decision in the SWP suit at a September 20 meeting in Pittsburgh.

"We have forced the courts to restate the basic values of this country," Brutus said. "This ruling condemns COINTELPRO, the informers, the dossiers, the black-bag jobs. These things attacked people at the point where they are organizing to defend themselves. It defends the rights of all Americans."

Farm activists endorse PRDF

Sponsors of the Political Rights Defense Fund (PRDF), which is raising funds and support for the ongoing litigation in the case, took news of the suit ruling to a farm activists' conference held in St. Louis, Missouri, September 11-13. They were able to sign up a number of prominent leaders in the farm protest movement as new sponsors of the PRDF.

Among the new sponsors were: George Naylor, a member of the board of the North American Farm Alliance (NAFA); Hal Hamilton, a NAFA board member and coordinator of the Community Farm Alliance in Pleasureville, Kentucky; and Ben Layman, a dairy farmer from Virginia who

is participating in efforts to develop a dairy project with Nicaraguan farmers.

These new sponsors and the generally friendly response of other farmers at the conference who took information and sponsor cards to study later reflect an increasing interest in the SWP suit among farm activists, especially in light of their own experiences with government surveillance and harassment.

At a September 20 meeting in Portland, Oregon, to celebrate the suit ruling, Dave Weyeneth, president of Carpenters' union Local 247, said of the decision, "It means a great deal to me as a union organizer. It means a lot to peace activists, to other political parties."

Gloria Fisher, representing the Communist Party, told the audience, "We want to congratulate you on your great victory in court and your courage and tenacity to stick to it all these years, until you won."

'Important protection for all groups'

In a congratulatory message, the Portland Labor Committee on Central America and the Caribbean noted that Griesa's decision was "an important protection for all groups opposing U.S. government policies."

The kinds of FBI harassment and disruption that the SWP suffered are widespread. The committee noted that "those of us in the Central America and labor solidarity movements are increasingly attacked for our relations with so-called 'subversive' and 'terrorist' workers' organizations in the Third World."

"Already," the committee went on, "Central America sanctuary movement leaders have been convicted. . . . Opposition leaders from El Salvador and pro-government leaders from Nicaragua are being denied U.S. visitation visas. Travelers to Nicaragua have been harassed by customs and the FBI."

One traveler to Nicaragua who was harassed in this way was Amy Good, a member of the Central America Solidarity



Militant/Caroline Lund

At Pittsburgh meeting on suit victory, South African poet Dennis Brutus (left) and Barry Sheppard, SWP National Committee member and a plaintiff in suit.

Committee in Detroit. Speaking at a September 28 meeting on the suit in that city, she told how FBI agents had visited her home five months after a trip to Nicaragua, claiming they had come after "positive intelligence" and that they visited everyone

who went to Nicaragua.

She commended the SWP's persistence in pursuing its case. "This decision opens the door for all of us," she said.

Also speaking at the Detroit meeting was Richard Soble, an attorney in a suit against the Michigan Red Squad, which has compiled files on 1.1 million people. "The government will not stop this kind of activity itself," he stated. "We need to organize, expose what is occurring, and condemn it. And it's only then that we have a chance of stopping it."

Upholding right to privacy

Faith Robinson, president of the Detroit chapter of the National Organization for Women, talked about the ruling's importance in maintaining the right to privacy. Pointing to the banner behind the speakers, she said, "I'm glad to be with you to say, 'An injury to one is an injury to all.'"

Merle Evans, a charter member of the North American Meat Packers Union, spoke at a suit rally in St. Paul, Minnesota. He described how the Austin workers in their year-long battle against the Hormel meatpacking company had their constitutional rights repeatedly stepped on by Gov. Rudy Perpich, the police, and the courts.

The SWP and YSA court victory, Evans said, will aid the continuing fight of Austin workers against Hormel. "The victory you won in this judgement goes a long way toward what we're trying to do," he said.

Sanctuary activists back PRDF

BY LISA AHLBERG

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Sponsors of the Political Rights Defense Fund (PRDF) attended the "Sanctuary Celebration — from Captivity to Covenant" September 26-29. (See article on front page.) They discussed with sanctuary and antiwar activists the significance of the August 25 federal court ruling that declared government spying, disruption, and harassment of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance illegal and unconstitutional.

The victory in the lawsuit filed by the SWP and YSA was welcomed by participants, who clearly saw it as an advance for democratic rights.

The government's arrest and conviction of sanctuary activists and use of informants and wiretaps against the movement was an important discussion at the conference. Several participants pointed out that it was the government's aim to create fear and division within the sanctuary movement.

PRDF supporters participated in a number of workshops, where they explained the meaning of the victory in the

SWP and YSA suit. This included the following workshops: "Surveillance and First Amendment Rights;" "The Sanctuary Challenge: Building a Movement;" "Criminal Convictions/Faith Convictions: Legal and Moral Issues in Sanctuary;" and "The War at Home: the Hearts and Minds of North Americans."

Several prominent activists signed up to become sponsors of the PRDF. These included John Fife, pastor of one of the first churches to declare itself a public sanctuary; Guillermo Chavez, Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church; Darlene Nicgorski, one of the eight convicted sanctuary workers in the Tucson trial; and Brian Willson, one of the four U.S. veterans fasting to protest the U.S. war against Nicaragua.

More than 100 copies of a fund letter were distributed outlining the key points in Judge Thomas Griesa's decision and their significance in the fight to defend democratic rights.

Five copies of Judge Griesa's decision, now in booklet form, were sold to conference participants.

Bosses' drug testing programs target workers' democratic rights

BY FRED FELDMAN

"Corporate America is high on drug testing," proclaimed an article in the September 21 *Washington Post*.

An estimated one-third of the 500 largest U.S. corporations now carry out drug testing of job applicants or employees.

In September, General Electric and Kodak announced they would require drug tests of all job applicants.

They joined such companies as DuPont, Amoco, Lockheed, IBM, United Airlines, American Airlines, New York Times Co., and US Air in imposing drug testing.

In August, 19 employees at a Boeing plant in Los Angeles were suspended from their jobs on charges of illegal drug use.

The U.S. Department of Transportation is urging expanded drug testing by airlines. Under the department's proposal, drug tests would be administered routinely after accidents. Brushing aside evidence that drugs have played no significant role in airline accidents, a U.S. official painted illegal drug use as a "frightening" threat to airline safety.

Even some big business specialists voice hesitation about this attack on democratic rights. "I'm really concerned that this is an invasion of privacy to some extent," economist Henrick J. Harwood told the *Post*, "because the vast majority of employees in any place have had no encounter or use of drugs in the recent past, and are being asked and forced to prove innocence of something they have had absolutely no part in."

The *Washington Post* noted, "Despite the sudden concern over drugs in the workplace, there is little or no evidence that the problem has suddenly intensified."

The push for drug testing, however, is not primarily aimed at eliminating illegal drug use. Such invasions of privacy and violations of other constitutional rights are used to create an atmosphere of fear in the workplace.

For instance, General Motors managers



Militant/Jim Little

Protest march against drug testing at Northern Illinois University.

are empowered to ask workers whose job performance they regard as poor to take drug tests. This is a green light for using charges and rumors about drug abuse against unionists who resist the brutal speedup in the auto industry.

Drug testing also helps the employers blame deteriorating safety conditions on alleged use of alcohol or illegal drugs by workers. The government of Ohio recently amended the state's workmen's compensation law to make it virtually impossible for workers to get compensation for injuries if they test positive for traces of alcohol or illegal drugs.

PRDF Political Rights Defense Fund

Help us win more victories for democratic rights

Now that a federal judge has ruled that the FBI's spying against the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance was illegal, the case is going back to court to determine what will happen to the millions of secret files the government spies accumulated.

Every supporter of democratic rights has a stake in helping bring about another victory against the FBI in the upcoming hearings. The Political Rights Defense Fund needs your endorsement and your financial help to make the next stage in this battle a success.

☐ I want to be a sponsor of the Political Rights Defense Fund.

☐ Send me a copy of the federal court decision against the FBI.
Enclosed is \$10.

☐ Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution to keep up the fight.
\$500 _____ \$100 _____ \$50 _____ \$10 _____ other _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Organization _____

Signature _____

Send to: Political Rights Defense Fund, P.O. Box 649, Cooper Station, New York, N.Y. 10003.

Bill of Rights: democratic conquest won in struggle

BY CATHERINE FRASER

Next year marks the bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution. Two hundred years after this document was written it is still a battleground in the fight to protect and extend democratic rights.

For working people the most important political conquests of the Constitution weren't even contained in the original document. They are found in the first 10 amendments, known as the Bill of Rights, and subsequent amendments. It is these additions to the Constitution that embody the most important legal defenses of democratic rights — from freedom of speech and association, to the right of Blacks and women to vote, to what has become known as the right to privacy.

These rights were not a gift from the "Founding Fathers," who met in Philadelphia in 1787 to draw up the Constitution. They were won in struggle.

Immediately following the War of Independence against British colonialism — the first American revolution — most governmental power was held at the level of individual states. This stood in the way of the country's economic development. The Constitution was born out of the need to create a strong central government with the power to regulate economic and political life.

The Constitution reflected the recent revolutionary struggle. It created a republican form of government rather than a monarchy and avoided proclaiming a state religion. It provided for the existence of a militia and legal rights such as trial by jury.

Fundamentally, however, it was a document written by property-owners for property-owners. The main liberty they were interested in defending was the liberty to own and dispose of property.

The Constitution's protection of property rights extended to the southern slaveholders. Slave trafficking was declared legal, and a clause in the Constitution obliged each state to return runaway slaves to their masters.

Campaign for bill of rights

A powerful campaign to demand a bill of rights developed that won backing from both opponents and supporters of the Constitution and of a strong central government. An important part in this campaign was played by farmers and by working men in the cities, who had begun forming societies and running their own candidates in state elections.

Faced with this popular pressure and worried about persuading enough states to ratify the Constitution, its drafters agreed to introduce amendments protecting civil liberties. In December 1791 the 10 constitutional amendments making up the Bill of Rights came into effect.

Some of the provisions in the Bill of Rights came out of the experiences of the American people before and during the War of Independence. Others have become the cutting edge of some of the most important fights around civil liberties to have taken place over the last 200 years. These amendments include:

- The First Amendment, which guarantees freedom of speech and of the press; the free exercise of religion; the right of peaceful assembly; and the right to petition the government.

- The Second Amendment, which affirms the right of the people to keep and bear arms in order to maintain a well-regulated militia.

- The Fourth Amendment, which protects people against unreasonable searches and seizures of their persons, homes, papers, and belongings.

- The Fifth, Sixth, and Eighth Amendments, which provide legal protections for those accused of crimes. This includes the right to a speedy trial and protection from excessive bail and fines and cruel and unusual punishments.

Slaveholders defeated

It took another revolution — the U.S. Civil War — to overturn slavery. The de-

feat of the Southern slaveholders brought three new amendments to the Constitution that widened democratic rights.

- The 13th Amendment, passed in 1865, abolished slavery.

- The 14th Amendment (1868) declared, among other things, "No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States . . . nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the law."

- The 15th Amendment (1870) gave Blacks the right to vote.

None of these constitutional rights and protections was a gift from a benevolent court or a wise judge. They were all won in struggle. And they have been extended and given real, practical meaning in the course of struggle also.

For example, it wasn't until the late 1930s — a period of massive labor battles and the consolidation of industrial unionism — that the courts began to rule that the 14th Amendment guaranteed the right to peacefully picket.

How FBI conducted illegal break-ins

Excerpt from federal court decision in SWP lawsuit

The following is from the August 25 ruling by U.S. District Judge Thomas Griesa in the lawsuit against the FBI by the Socialist Workers Party and the Young Socialist Alliance. These excerpts are taken from the section on surreptitious entries — "bag jobs."

In the course of its SWP investigation, FBI agents surreptitiously entered various premises to install microphone surveillance equipment or "bugs." However, the evidence indicates that there were relatively few entries for the purpose of bugging. Most of the entries were for the purpose of photographing or removing documents. The FBI referred to entries where documents were obtained as "bag jobs" or "black bag jobs."

In toto the FBI made at least 204 surreptitious entries of SWP and YSA offices and at least four such entries of SWP members' homes. During these entries at least 9,864 documents were removed or photographed. The first such entry was of the SWP offices in Minneapolis in January 1945. Those offices were also entered twice in 1947. By far the largest number of surreptitious entries took place in New York City between 1958 and 1966 and occurred at SWP and YSA offices. There were 193 such incidents. Often more than one office would be located in the same building. When the FBI broke into multiple offices in the same building, each break-in would be recorded as a separate bag job, since each office had its own separate locks and keys.

Other cities in which the FBI entered into SWP or YSA offices include Newark (in 1947 and 1957), Chicago (1949), Detroit (1954), Boston (1959), and Milwaukee (1965). In addition, the FBI entered the homes of SWP members in Detroit (1957), Newark (1951), Hamden, Connecticut (1960), and Los Angeles (1960).

George Baxtrum, who was in charge of the FBI's New York office from 1953 to 1966, testified about the surreptitious entries made in New York.

The first entry took place on Nov. 22, 1958, at 116 University Place. The FBI was interested in covering an upcoming SWP National Committee meeting with microphone surveillance. The New York office obtained the approval of FBI headquarters for surreptitiously entering these premises.



Martin Luther King leading 1965 protest march in Montgomery, Alabama. It took massive civil rights movement to enforce Blacks' constitutional rights.

And it took the massive civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s to enforce the rights and protections the 14th and 15th Amendments were supposed to guarantee to Blacks.

Right to privacy

Battles by women's rights fighters throughout the 20th century led to the passing of the 19th Amendment in 1920 giving women the vote and the Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision extending the constitutional right to privacy from state interference to include a woman's decision about whether or not to have an abortion.

The August 25 court decision in the

Socialist Workers Party's suit against the U.S. government strengthens and extends the gains won by the civil rights and women's rights movements. The right to privacy, both of political organizations and individuals, was further expanded when the court ruled that government use of informers, electronic surveillance methods, and thefts of documents was illegal.

This court victory is a product of the massive social movements of the past 30 years and the ongoing struggle by working people to defend and expand their constitutional and democratic rights. In turn, it has made an important contribution to this struggle.

The purpose of the first entry was to determine both the feasibility of microphone coverage of the meeting and the feasibility of photographing documents. The entry was made between midnight and 5 a.m. Seven or eight FBI agents went to 116 University Place, where one agent obtained access and then admitted the others, including Baxtrum. The agents found that both microphone coverage and the photographing of documents were feasible. Keys were made to ease future access.

A microphone was installed shortly thereafter to cover the upcoming meeting of the SWP's National Committee.

The entries subsequent to the "trial run" were, with the possible exception of three or four instances, black bag jobs for the purpose of obtaining documents. Each was authorized by FBI headquarters.

Several FBI agents would go to the building in question late at night, equipped with walkie-talkies, but not weapons or FBI identification. Usually three agents would go inside, one to take pictures and two to search for documents to be photographed. In their searches, the FBI agents would open file cabinets and desk drawers.

They were looking, Baxtrum testified, for three types of documents: (a) those connecting the SWP to the Fourth International, (b) those showing that the SWP was working to overthrow the United States Government, and (c) those showing the travel of members on the FBI Security Index. Other agents would remain outside as lookouts.

As a result of the surreptitious entries, the FBI photographed or removed documents containing information concerning the political activities and finances of the SWP and YSA, legal matters, and the personal lives of the members. Presumably some of the documents had to do with the SWP's relationship with the Fourth International and the travel of members. However, there is no indication that the FBI obtained any documents showing any violence or any action to overthrow the Government.

A memorandum dated July 19, 1966, that circulated among certain FBI officials in Washington summarized the FBI policy on black bag jobs:

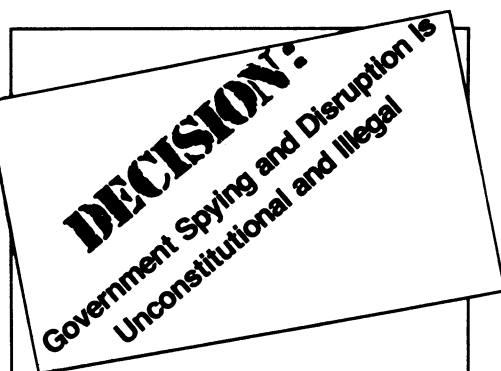
"We do not obtain authorization for 'black bag' jobs from outside the Bureau. Such a technique involves trespass and is clearly illegal; therefore, it would be impossible to obtain any legal sanction for it.

"Despite this, 'black bag' jobs have been used because they represent an invaluable technique in combatting subversive activities of a clandestine nature aimed directly at undermining and destroying our nation.

"The present procedure followed in the use of this technique calls for the Special Agent in Charge of a field office to make his request for the use of the technique to the appropriate Assistant Director. The Special Agent in Charge must completely justify the need for the use of the technique and at the same time assure that it can be safely used without any danger of embarrassment to the Bureau.

"The facts are incorporated in a memorandum which, in accordance with the Director's instructions, is sent to Mr. Tolson or to the Director for approval. Subsequently this memorandum is filed in the Assistant Director's office under a 'Do Not File' procedure.

"In the field the Special Agent in Charge prepares an informal memorandum showing that he obtained Bureau authority and this memorandum is filed in his safe until the next inspection by Bureau Inspectors, at which time it is destroyed."



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Tamil minority in Sri Lanka resists gov't -inspired terror

BY MALIK MIAH

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka — This is no island paradise as the travel brochures tell you. The sandy beaches and lush countryside hide the brutal reality for the oppressed Tamil minority and an increasing number of Sinhala people who oppose the state terrorist policies of the United National Party-led government of President Junius Jayewardene.

Since the island-nation won its independence from British colonial rule in 1948, the Tamil people — some 18 percent of the 16 million people — have been denied full equality. Soon after independence, Indian Tamils (6 percent of the population) were stripped of their Sri Lankan citizenship. The language of the largest ethnic group, Sinhala, was made the official national language even though few Tamils speak Sinhalese, and even fewer Sinhalese speak Tamil.

This national oppression fueled a democratic struggle for equality and self-determination, leading in the mid-1970s to armed groups demanding Tamil Eelam — an independent homeland in the northeastern part of the island.

The Sinhala-dominated government and army responded with violence and repression. A pogrom in 1983 claimed more than 2,000 Tamil lives, including in the capital, Colombo, which until then had seen little of the civil war.

State-sponsored terrorism this year alone has cost 2,500 people their lives, mostly Tamil civilians. Thousands have been detained or "disappeared."

The civil war is centered in the north and east. In the south, democratic rights' groups are able to function publicly, at least so far. The government seeks to present an image of a "democratic society" under siege by Tamil "terrorists." Most people in the south are Sinhala.

Civil rights groups

I was able to talk to civil rights activists, including leaders of the Movement for Inter-Racial Justice and Equality (MIRJE) and the Campaign for the Release of Political Prisoners (CROPP). These mainly Sinhala groups operate a small office here.

Leaders of both groups told me that the government attacks unarmed and defenseless civilians, as well as those bearing arms. More and more, Ranjit, a leader of CROPP, said, "it includes Sinhala supporters of democratic rights."

"But the main victims, Redley Silva, secretary of MIRJE, emphasized, "are Tamil workers and youths."

In the eastern port city of Trincomalee, local monitoring groups report that 217 people have been missing since January of this year. They fear as many as 80 percent are dead.

Most people suspect it is the dirty work of the paramilitary Home Guard. The Guard is primarily recruited from among Sinhala thugs, who are given arms and the "right" to terrorize Tamils.

Silva explained that "there are now more than 3,000 detainees imprisoned in jails and camps throughout the island." Under the draconian Prevention of Terrorism Act and the Emergency Regulations, anyone can be detained by the government for up to 18 months without notification of family or lawyer and without being taken before a judge. Torture is used to extract confessions, linking victims to "terrorists."

Silva noted that while there isn't a big crackdown in the south yet, the MIRJE office receives regular visits from the CID (Criminal Investigation Department, the Sri Lankan FBI). Members of MIRJE have been detained.

Form of repression

A CROPP newsletter describes how the government conducts its repression:

- "People are followed and picked up from the street, from public transport, in unmarked vehicles by persons in civil clothes.
- "Houses and boarding houses are

raided at night.

- "Torches are flashed into the faces of suspects to 'blind' them and prevent identification.

- "Private homes and offices are used as places of detention and interrogation.

- "Families are never informed as to the cause of arrest; deliberate deception is also resorted to, to prevent families pursuing inquiries."

A United Nations Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances issued a report in January documenting 194 cases of "disappearances."

Bala Tampoe, a prominent Tamil lawyer and trade union leader, told me about the case of a Sri Lanka Tamil, Roy Esanesan. Esanesan was traveling with two companions — a Sinhala and a Muslim — in Trincomalee when stopped by the Home Guard. While his companions were let go, Esanesan disappeared and hasn't been heard from since.

A national organizer for MIRJE, Susil George Seneviratne, was picked up by a person in civilian clothes in April.

For months, no one knew what had happened to him. The police said they knew nothing. Sustained public pressure finally led the police to inform Tampoe, Seneviratne's attorney, that he was in custody.

Tampoe pointed to the case of a Tamil priest charged with aiding "terrorists." The priest, A. Singarayer, was arrested in November 1982 and held in prison under horrible conditions. Singarayer was charged with failure to inform police of the whereabouts of "terrorists."

The government is attempting to use this case to intimidate all Tamils by letting

Interview with Zimbabwe trade union leader

The following is an interview with Jeffrey Mutandare, president of the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions. It was obtained by *Militant* correspondent Sam Manuel in Harare, Zimbabwe.

Question. Tell me a little about the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions.

Answer. We have 31 unions. Most of them have existed since before independence. They exist in many industries, including mineworkers, building and construction workers, air transport, rail, agriculture, chemical, municipal, and domestic workers.

We are currently attempting to rationalize the organization. We would like to reduce the number of unions from 31 to around 15. We feel the reason we have so many different unions is a legacy of the colonial government. In many cases, you would have three unions organizing against each other in the same industry. This weakened these unions under the colonial regime, and that has carried over today.

Q. What is the average wage?

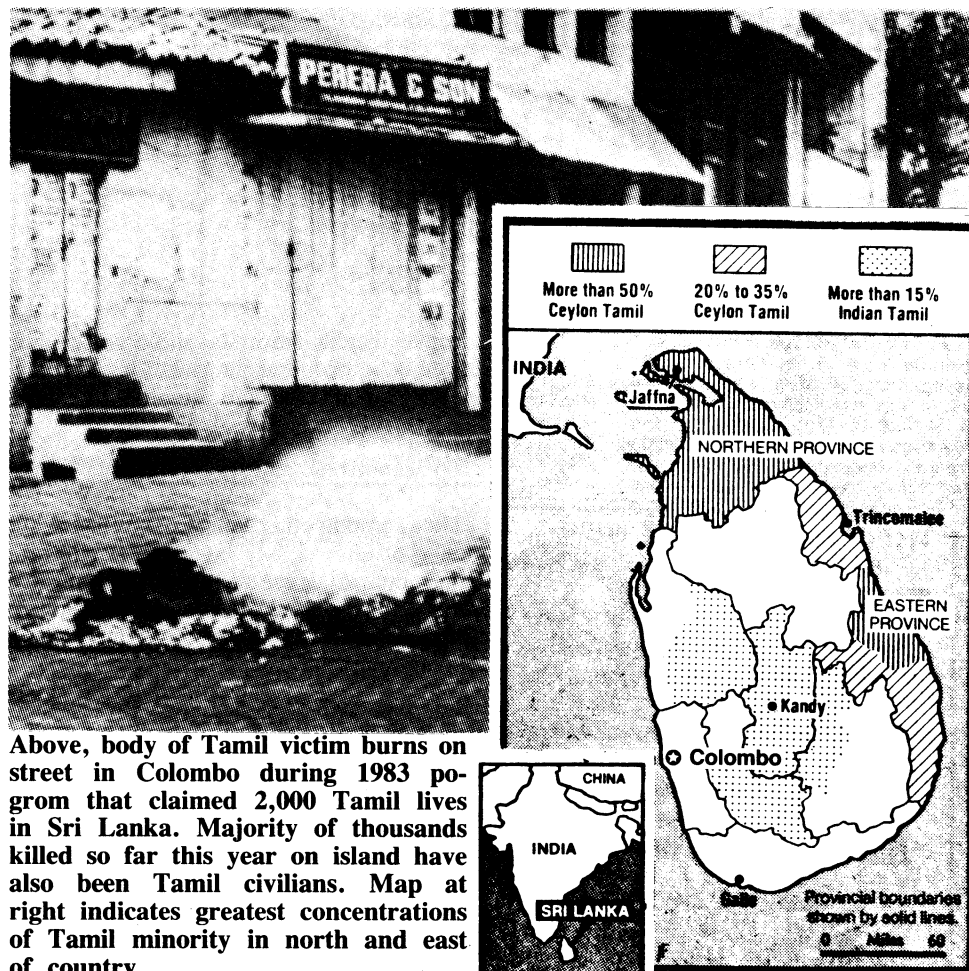
A. Well, there is a minimum wage, which is 158 Zimbabwe dollars per month. But the wage for miners, for example, is higher, at about 200 a month. Also, the miners get subsidies for housing, transportation, and food from the companies.

The big problem is that the employers in the country have turned the minimum wage into a ceiling. Many of them simply refuse to negotiate.

Q. Has this forced you to strike some companies?

A. At this time we prefer not to. Strikes could be very disruptive of the economy. Some of the companies would like to force us to strike, to place us in conflict with the government.

Q. How does this minimum wage compare to before independence?



Above, body of Tamil victim burns on street in Colombo during 1983 pogrom that claimed 2,000 Tamil lives in Sri Lanka. Majority of thousands killed so far this year on island have also been Tamil civilians. Map at right indicates greatest concentrations of Tamil minority in north and east of country.

them know that no one is outside its reach. Broad support for Singarayer, including from the Vatican, led to his acquittal in March 1986. The government, however, continues to hold Singarayer on other charges.

Increased determination

The stepped-up repression is increasing the determination of Tamils to win their rights. More youths are joining the armed rebellion as support for self-determination grows.

Last April 11 predominantly Tamil-speaking groups in the north organized the Coordinating Committee for Struggle Against Oppression of Tamil-speaking

People, in Jaffna, the largest city in the north, where the militant groups are the strongest. (The army stays in its barracks except to launch attacks on the local population.)

The committee includes unionists, students, professionals, and others.

The delegates at the founding conference adopted resolutions demanding that the government cease all military operations against Tamils and withdraw from Tamil-speaking areas; release unconditionally all political prisoners and detainees; end the emergency; and stop the state-sponsored colonization of Tamil areas by Sinhala people and the arming of these colonists.

A. Under the colonial regime, there was no minimum wage. In some sectors, such as mining, the government and the companies simply set the wage. But for many others, the companies were free to set whatever wage they wished.

There were no standards of conditions for the African workers, and you could be dismissed at any time. Oftentimes, in the mines, for example, workers would not get paid at all. We had many strikes on this issue.

Q. What about the white workers?

A. They had their own unions, and Africans could not join. Conditions were better for them, and they were given the better and less risky jobs. Today, there is only one union for all miners.

Q. What is the rate of unemployment?

A. It is around 23 percent. We were hit very hard by the recession in 1983-84. A number of companies closed. For example, the Mineworkers Union's membership dropped from 75,000 to 66,000.

This unemployment is a more serious problem when you take into consideration that we have no social programs to aid those who are laid off. We are currently in discussion with the government to develop a national social security program. But right now there is none. So those workers who get laid off are left to their own means to get work.

Q. Have any steps been taken by the government to relieve this problem?

A. One place there has been some progress is in some of the more skilled areas. At the time of independence, many of the whites who had skills ran away to South Africa or other countries. Initially, the mining industry was hit very hard, especially for engineers.

Now, with the situation in South Africa heating up, many of them have returned here. They have seen that all the terrible things that we were supposed to do to the

whites did not happen here. So they have come back.

But many of them took jobs that we were training people for. So Prime Minister [Robert] Mugabe made a special decree. It provided that no expatriate could be hired in these skilled areas unless no Zimbabwean could be found to fill the position. Why should someone who fled the country be able to return and take these jobs?

Q. What role do women play in the unions here?

A. Well, we have a women's affairs department. It has been very active in organizing women, especially in the textile areas. It also works closely with the government in organizing women in the sewing cooperatives.

But on the whole, women are restricted to either textile, sewing, domestic work, or office work.

Q. The government of Zimbabwe has announced that it will impose sanctions soon against South Africa. How do you view this proposal?

A. Well, if there was another way to affect the struggle in South Africa, I personally would prefer it. But there is no other way.

We are very concerned. Zimbabwe is still largely a capitalist country. Many of the big companies, such as [the South African-owned] Anglo American Corp., are still here and play a big role in the country. These companies still have big interests in South Africa. For example, the mining industry here is dependent on South Africa for much of the heavy equipment that we need. So this will be very hard for us.

Much of the goods that we produce are shipped through South Africa. When we impose sanctions, South Africa may respond by closing those export lines to us.

But sanctions are the only weapon left to the government. It is a sacrifice that we are forced to make in the fight against the racist regime.

Castro: apartheid 'must be destroyed'

BY ERNEST HARSCH

In early September, Cuban President Fidel Castro made a brief tour of several African countries. After first participating in the eighth summit conference of the Movement of Nonaligned Countries in Harare, Zimbabwe, he went on to Angola and Algeria.

The struggle against apartheid and against imperialist intervention in southern Africa featured prominently in all of Castro's speeches.

His September 2 address to the Nonaligned summit, however, also touched on a wide range of other issues, including the imperialist arms buildup and the economic crisis facing the countries of the Third World.

Among those countries' greatest difficulties, Castro pointed out, was their staggering debt to the giant international banks. By 1985 that debt had climbed to \$950 billion. That same year, Castro noted, "Africa spent 32 percent of its export revenues to pay the debt service, and Latin America spent 44 percent."

This debt is not only an onerous burden for the Third World countries, but it is also "unpayable and uncollectible," Castro said. "The debt must be erased."

In reality, Castro continued, "Our countries are not debtors but creditors. Capitalism's development was financed with the blood, sweat, and wealth of the Asian, African, and Latin American colonies."

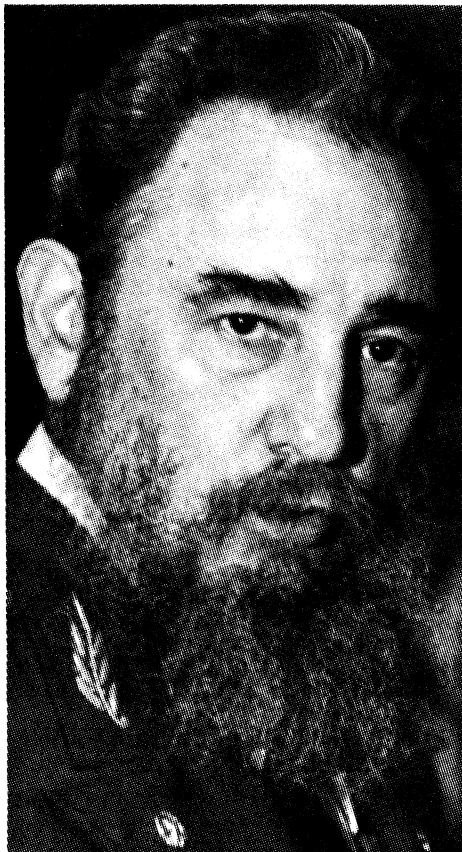
'Nicaragua is a symbol'

Castro also stressed the importance of Nicaragua's struggle against imperialist domination. He condemned "the U.S. determination to destroy the Sandinista revolution by blood and fire and smash the liberation movement in Central America."

He urged the Nonaligned movement to hold its next summit conference in Nicaragua. "Today," Castro stressed, "Nicaragua is not only a symbol of the struggle for independence of a Central American country, it is also a symbol of the struggle for independence of the peoples of an entire continent, a symbol of the right of any Third World country to be master of its own destiny."

Turning to other international questions, Castro reaffirmed Cuba's support for the Palestine Liberation Organization and condemned Washington's military attacks against Libya.

He hailed the "self-sacrificing and admirable struggle of the Western Saharan people for their unquestionable and inalienable right to national independence" from Moroccan rule. He went on, "It is difficult to explain why the Saharan Arab



Militant/Sam Manuel
Castro at Nonaligned summit in Zimbabwe

Democratic Republic, whose people are facing the most modern weapons that Yankee imperialism provides to the foreign occupation forces, has not yet been admitted to our [Nonaligned] movement."

During his subsequent visit to Algeria, Castro reaffirmed Cuba's support for the struggle in the Western Sahara during a meeting with the Saharan republic's president, Mohamed Abdelaziz.

Just across Zimbabwe's border to the south, Castro said, "more than 25 million people, the vast majority of [South Africa's] population, are deprived of the most basic conditions of human beings."

The apartheid regime "not only defies the world with the continuation and hardening of apartheid," Castro went on, "but also persists in its occupation of Namibia." It has likewise organized mercenary bands to destabilize and attack neighboring coun-

tries such as Angola, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Zambia, Lesotho, and Botswana, Castro said.

"Apartheid," he continued, "has been able to survive thanks solely to the support of the United States and NATO countries, which see South Africa as a strategic ally, a source of raw materials, a market for the transnational corporations' investments and juicy profits, at the expense of the sweat and blood of millions of Africans."

The apartheid regime, Castro declared, "cannot be reformed, it must be destroyed." He hailed the "African National Congress and its dedicated fighters."

Cuba's defense of Angola

In his address to the Nonaligned summit, Castro also discussed the Cuban role in helping to defend Angola from South African attack. That theme was developed more fully in his speeches in Angola, which he visited September 7-10.

At the end of the 1975-76 South African invasion of Angola, Castro said in a September 9 speech to thousands of Cuban volunteers in Angola, Pretoria's troops were "repulsed, forced to retreat more than 800 kilometers through the united action of the Cuban internationalists and the Angolan fighters."

Following that South African defeat, some of the 36,000 Cuban troops that were then in Angola were pulled out, Castro revealed.

But, he went on, "immediately after we began to withdraw, the plots began, as are happening today in Nicaragua, as happened yesterday in Cuba, and as has happened in many other countries. The mercenary bands were armed. They began to sabotage Angola's communications and economy. . . . Once more the South African racists attacked and invaded with their troops, helicopters, commandos, and aircraft."

Rather than withdraw from Angola, as Washington insisted, Cuba reinforced its presence there. Today, Castro said, there are 40,000 Cubans in Angola, troops as well as civilian doctors, teachers, nurses, construction workers, and others.

At the Nonaligned summit, Castro declared that once Namibia gains its indepen-

dence and support for the South African-backed Angolan mercenary bands ceases, the 20,000 Cuban troops who hold strategic lines in southern Angola could be withdrawn.

'Another form of linkage'

But, he went on, "the rest of the Cuban military personnel will be withdrawn only when the sovereign governments of Angola and Cuba consider it convenient, with no conditions whatsoever."

"The real key to the matter," Castro said, "is that so long as apartheid exists in South Africa, so long as that country is governed by a racist and fascist government, there will be no security for Angola nor any other country in southern Africa, and Namibia's independence will be nothing but a fiction."

Castro made the same points in his speeches in Angola. "There will be no security for any country of Black Africa as long as apartheid exists," he said. "Our people and party are willing to maintain the Cuban internationalist troops in Angola as long as apartheid exists."

This, Castro said, is "another form of linkage," referring to the U.S. "linkage" policy of tying Namibia's independence to a Cuban withdrawal from Angola. "They want to link the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola to Namibia's independence and we link the withdrawal of Cuban troops to the end of apartheid," he said.

Although all Cuban troops could be pulled out of Angola once the apartheid regime is overthrown, Castro said, there would still be a need for Cuban doctors, teachers, and other civilian assistants — "peace and progress fighters," as he called them.

Concluding his speech to the Cuban volunteers, Castro stated, "Instead of expecting gratitude from those with whom we have collaborated, instead of expecting gratitude from those with whom we have fulfilled our internationalist duty, we should say to our brothers: Thank you! Thank you because the fulfillment of those duties has made us better people, because the fulfillment of those duties has made us more honorable, because the fulfillment of those duties has made our people greater."

Dairy farmer: 'We need more to survive'

NEW YORK — "We're on a strike that now includes 30 percent of the state's dairy farmers. We need more to survive. What we ask for is a doubling of the price paid us for our milk. There is no surplus of milk, it's just not distributed evenly."

So testified Jo Bates, a dairy farmer for 23 years from Greenwich, New York, speaking here before hearings of the New York Legislative Commission on Dairy Industry Development.

The commission was formed by the legislature to review the situation in the state's dairy industry, where disastrously low prices to producers have spurred a growing number of farmers to go on strike and begin dumping out their milk in an effort to raise the price.

It costs a New York dairy farmer \$1.50 to produce a gallon of milk, for which the farmer is paid only 75 cents. There was almost no discussion of this fact at the hearing, and the commission cut Bates off after she had spoken for only a few minutes.

Most of those testifying at the hearing were dairy processors and their lawyers. The commission allowed them plenty of time to describe how the government could help them improve their profits by relaxing regulations. One attorney, for example, testified in favor of eliminating the requirement that there be two drivers on every milk delivery truck.

According to the processors, it costs them between 9 and 20 cents a gallon to process milk. The milk is sold in supermarkets for \$2.11 to \$2.34 a gallon. How much profit the dairy processors and supermarkets make is a tightly guarded secret.

Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor, Theresa Delgadillo, also tes-

tified at the hearing. She noted that her union, the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, with 86,000 members in the state, recently passed a resolution on supporting the right of working farmers to hold on to their land. She also pointed out that the Troy Central Labor Council and Tri-County AFL-CIO have lent support to the dairy strike and resources to help publicize it.

Later that evening at the Militant Labor Forum in New York City, Bates discussed the difficulties farmers face.

She described her farm: "We have 100 cows, 60 that we milk, and 40 young ones

to replace the older milk cows. They have to have food and shelter and constant medical attention. My husband, our daughter, and myself do all the work, which includes feeding and milking twice a day, as well as taking care of the corn and hay crops we grow.

"When I sat down with a couple of neighbors who were as mad as I was about how the price for our milk keeps going down while everything we buy keeps going up," Bates explained, "we decided we had to do something because nobody was listening. That's when we came up with the idea of the strike."

Police fail to stop literature tables

BY LINDA GRYTING

NEW ORLEANS — The Socialist Workers Party has beaten back police attempts to stop it from setting up literature tables in downtown here.

On August 24 the city's police commissioner contacted the Human Rights Office at city hall to convey a message that a memo had been sent to all police captains stating that the Socialist Workers Party could set up tables without interference from the police.

For several years the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance have regularly set up literature tables in the central business district to canvass support for party candidates and to publicize upcoming demonstrations.

But then on May 31 after three socialists set up a table several police cars pulled up. Three policemen approached the table. One pointed to an anti-apartheid T-shirt with a picture of South African anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela on it. He said,

"Who's that?" Another picked up a copy of the *Young Socialist* newspaper. Noting the headline "Stop attacks on Libya, Nicaragua!" he said, "That's it! There's too much freedom in this country." Picking up a Spanish-language pamphlet that had a photograph of Fidel Castro on the cover, one of the three harassers said, "Oh, pretty good publicity for Castro! What are you — Communists?"

The socialists were questioned as to whether they had a permit and then ordered to take down the table.

The Socialist Workers Party contacted the American Civil Liberties Union of Louisiana. In an ACLU letter to the chief of police the civil libertarians wrote, "It is our view that the action of the police officers is a clear violation of the First Amendment rights of freedom of speech and assembly of the Socialist Workers Party. . . . There are no express city restrictions, such as obtaining a prior permit, for the exercise of social and political views."

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Women farm workers in Nicaragua meet

BY RUTH NEBBIA

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — More than 600 unionists participated in the Second National Assembly of Women Farm Workers, held here September 6-7. These union leaders and exemplary workers represented 18,760 women working on state-owned and private farms. They are organized in the Rural Workers Association (ATC).

The delegates discussed the advances made by women farm workers in becoming integrated into production and participating in the union movement, as well as the problems that remain.

The gathering registered advances made since the first national assembly, held in 1983, which 100 women attended. This year, women came from all regions of Nicaragua except the Atlantic Coast. Dozens of ATC leaders who are male and a delegation of 208 female industrial workers from Managua also participated. Glenda Monterrey, national organizational secretary of the Sandinista Workers Federation, and Silvia McEwan of the Nicaraguan



Rachel Field

Glenda Monterrey, national organizational secretary of Sandinista Workers Federation, brought greetings to assembly.

Women's Association brought greetings.

Heliette Ehler, head of the ATC Women's Commission, presented the central document that was adopted by the assembly.

"Defense and production have been our main tasks," the document states. Many Nicaraguan women participate in militia, self-defense, and army units, fighting against U.S.-backed mercenary attacks.

The document cited "as a small example of our courage" the 500 women farm workers in two regions of the country who are participating in defense.

Women in production

Before the Sandinista revolution overthrew the Somoza dictatorship in 1979, women farm workers generally found jobs only during the peak harvest periods. This has now changed: in 1985, women were 35 percent of the farm work force, and they will be more than 50 percent in the 1986 harvest. These changes have been spurred on by the war, since women have had to replace men mobilized in the army.

Women now do many traditionally male jobs in agriculture. "In tobacco, for example," the document states, "we participate in all agricultural tasks. This means that many of us work year round or almost year round and are therefore more permanent."

The document states that more women must be integrated in administrative and skilled jobs. "We cannot be satisfied with only 30 women tractor drivers and 25 beginning a course in machine operation," it says.

Women discuss productivity and wages

For several years, the ATC and the Nicaraguan government have taken steps to increase the workday and raise agricultural production. Until recently many farm women worked as little as two and a half hours a day.

In June 1986 new production quotas based on a six-hour workday and a new pay scale were introduced. Most farm workers are now paid according to production quotas, and those who surpass their quota receive extra incentive pay.

The workers at most farms are meeting and surpassing these new quotas, delegates to the assembly reported. Women, however, have had the most trouble due to the double workday they face between their job and home.

Child care, for example, is a major concern. Many women have to go home to take care of their children before the end of the workday, without meeting their quota. On some farms, women, together with the union and the administration, have built child-care centers. This has helped women meet and surpass their quotas, thus raising their productivity and earnings.

Since 1983, a total of 30 rural child-care centers have been built, serving 6,485 children and benefiting 1,923 working mothers. Many more need to be built, the document states, noting that none have been built on privately owned farms.



Militant/Michael Baumann

More than 18,000 women farm workers were represented at national assembly

Today, with the new system of payment, women and men work with the same quotas and are paid equally. Until recently, the document points out, "there were places where, regardless of the law, women were paid less than men, even though they did the same job." Today however, the document adds, "there are many women who are more productive than the men, and hence [because of the extra incentive pay] receive higher salaries."

Women in the union

By 1984 women were 40 percent of the ATC membership. Today, 177 women are local union officers. Twenty women are general secretaries of their locals, representing 1,500 workers. However, the document explains, women need to increase their participation in the union. The assembly also called on women to increase participation in adult education, technical, political, and labor courses.

"Our demands are not just the demands of women," the document concludes, "but the problems of the union movement. De-

spite the gains and efforts made by our union, there is still resistance to taking on these tasks as an integral part of the working-class struggle. We must confront backward positions resolutely. We are convinced that our interests are also the interests of the union."

'You are building socialism'

Commander Víctor Tirado, a member of the National Directorate of the Sandinista National Liberation Front, addressed the closing session. "This assembly, with the presence of so many women, is enough to show that the revolution has been consolidated," he said. He urged the women to continue to demand equal job opportunities and pay.

"You recognize the advances, errors, faults, problems, and difficulties," he continued. "You also recognize that the gains made in the state farms are greater than those in the private ones. And what does that mean when you — as a sector of production — recognize this? It means that you are building a new society."

"When you say that the production quotas must be surpassed," Tirado explained, "you are making a revolution. You are helping to transform society. You are building socialism, a Nicaraguan socialism."

Maintaining and defending the revolution requires a constant ideological battle against imperialism and its propaganda, Tirado said. There is no reason to be afraid of Marx, Lenin, Sandino, Martí, Zedón, and Bolívar — "all the great thinkers who have helped make the victory possible," he added. "We must make them ours, just as Sandino belongs to all humanity, not only to Nicaragua."

Unions in Honduras, Costa Rica protest U.S. war on Nicaragua

BY HARVEY McARTHUR

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — The deepening U.S. military intervention in Central America has provoked public protests by major union federations in Costa Rica and Honduras.

On September 18 Mariano González, president of the Confederation of Honduran Workers (CTH), announced that the union was calling for "the immediate departure of foreign troops and any armed groups operating within the country." More than 1,000 U.S. troops are stationed in Honduras, and thousands of U.S.-backed mercenaries are based there.

The CTH is the largest union federation in Honduras, representing some 200,000 workers and peasants. González said that the CTH would also demand that Honduran President José Azcona revise the military treaties between Honduras and the United States.

On September 17 a delegation of Costa Rican union leaders met with Nicaragua's Rural Workers Association at the Loredo Pravia rice farm in southern Nicaragua.

José Picado, general secretary of the Costa Rican Federation of Labor, said, "We want to show the Nicaraguan people that the Costa Rican people are also fighting for peace and against the strategic plans of the United States. Imperialism wants to involve us in this dirty war [against Nicaragua], and we will not allow it."

Picado announced that Costa Rican workers will hold a peace march in solidarity with Nicaragua in October. He also called on the Costa Rican government to end restrictions on travel between Nicaragua and Costa Rica and invited the Nicaraguan farm workers to visit Costa Rican workers.

Do you know someone who reads Spanish? 'PM' on Puerto Rico meeting

"Puerto Rico, with almost a century of U.S. colonial rule, aspires to have the right to self-determination," said Luis Rocha, a member of Nicaragua's National Assembly, at the opening session of the Latin American and Caribbean Conference for the Peoples' Sovereignty and Human Rights held recently in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The conference participants, from 16 countries and 35 Puerto Rican organizations, condemned the U.S. war on Nicaragua and discussed other struggles against imperialist rule, particularly in Haiti.

Perspectiva Mundial correspondent Selva Nebbia covered the conference and the 3,000-strong march in San Juan demanding freedom for independence fighters victimized by the United States. This issue also includes coverage on a simultaneous march in Hartford, Connecticut.

Perspectiva Mundial is the Spanish-language socialist magazine that every month brings you the truth about the struggles of working people and the oppressed in the U.S. and around the world.

Perspectiva Mundial

25 de octubre y 1 de noviembre

Marchas contra la guerra de EU en Nicaragua

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A cheap labor 'paradise' in the Philippines

Landlords, U.S. companies reap benefits

BY RUSSELL JOHNSON

MANILA, Philippines — Wage levels in the Philippines are lower than in any other major country in Asia or the South Pacific. According to 1978 figures, for example, Filipino production workers earned only one-quarter the amount paid to their South Korean counterparts.

In 1985 the minimum wages that employers were legally required to pay for an eight-hour day were set at 57.08 pesos (\$2.82) per day in the Metro Manila area, 56 pesos for nonagricultural workers outside the capital, and only 32 pesos (\$1.58) for agricultural workers.

In reality, however, few employers pay even these meager amounts. Through piecework schemes many sweatshop owners are able to pay substantially less than the minimum wage, while extending the workday to as long as 12 hours, six days a week.

According to Crispin Beltran, a spokesperson for the May 1 Movement (KMU) union federation, one of the issues in the current working-class upsurge is daily wage levels that sometimes are as low as 14 or 15 pesos (about 75 cents). In 1984 the minimum cost of maintaining a family of six in Metro Manila was estimated at over 105 pesos a day, and the figure would be even higher in 1986.

Agricultural workers fare no better. Most farm work is temporary or seasonal, so farm workers must often fend for themselves for long periods without employment or incomes.

High rural unemployment means minimum wage laws are ignored. According to a 1985 report by the *Philippine Labor Monitor*, "Skilled sugar workers, comprising 10 per cent of all sugar workers, get an average of 515 pesos to 524 pesos [about \$25] monthly income while the majority who are unskilled receive between 229 pesos to 350 pesos monthly."

Cheap labor 'paradise'

Such a cheap labor "paradise" has encouraged big U.S. agribusiness corporations such as Dole and Del Monte to wind down their investments in Hawaii and establish vast pineapple and banana plantations in the Philippines.

These starvation wages force every member of the peasant family into the work force. Child labor is widespread. An article in the July 27 issue of the Manila daily *Malaya*, for example, cited the case of a nine-year-old boy who works for a farmer 10 hours a day, six-and-a-half days a week for 10 pesos (50 cents) per day, plus board and lodging.

How have Filipino working people come to be so brutally exploited, and who have been the principal beneficiaries? The answers are rooted in hundreds of years of colonial and neocolonial domination, and the landlord system that has developed out of it.

The Philippines was taken as a colony by Spain in the 16th century. In 1898 it was annexed by Washington, along with Puerto Rico, Hawaii, and Guam. The Philippine independence movement was crushed at a cost of 200,000 Filipino lives.

More than 400 years of colonial and imperialist exploitation have wrought profound changes in Philippine society. These changes accelerated from the late 18th century as British and then U.S. economic penetration began to pull the Philippines into the world market.

Philippine handicrafts succumbed to cheap foreign competition. The *encomienda* system in the countryside, through which the Spanish colonialists and clergy extracted tribute and labor services from the Filipino tribes largely for the colonialists' own immediate consumption, gave way to an agricultural system geared to the

production of cash crops and based on private property in land.

Landlessness

Largely dispossessed of their lands, tribal members were compelled to work as wage laborers or sharecroppers on huge landed estates owned by Spanish or Chinese-Filipino landlords and U.S. corporations. These haciendas produced either export crops such as sugar, copra and, later, pineapples, or rice and corn to feed the working population now unable to grow its own food.

Marcos' highly publicized "green revolution" land reform of the 1970s weakened the sharecropping system and led to more owner-operators.

But the overall effect of Marcos' "reform" was simply to make the peasants with small plots of land even more vulnerable to exploitation and dispossession by the big landlords, bankers, seed and fertilizer companies, and the marketing monopolies.

More than 50 percent of the peasantry have no access to land and must survive as best they can as casual or permanent agricultural laborers. Their only alternative is to migrate to the cities in search of work. They have done this in their millions in recent decades, as the crowded shantytowns of Manila attest.

But here they also run into the reality of the colonial legacy. Official figures from October 1984 give the underemployment rate as 36.2 percent throughout the country and 42.9 percent in Metro Manila. Some current estimates have put the number of unemployed and underemployed at more than 50 percent of the work force.

Economy distorted

Imperialist domination has prevented the kind of thoroughgoing industrialization of the Philippines that could absorb the surplus rural population.

U.S. colonialism imposed free access for U.S. industrial goods into the Philippine market, while denying the same right for Philippine exports to the United States. Other measures were taken that tended to limit local industry to repackaging or assembling imported goods for the domestic market or for reexport.

Similar measures have continued to shape the period since 1946 when the Philippines became formally independent. Development projects that have been funded by the World Bank and other imperialist agencies have favored the penetration of the multinationals rather than the expansion of employment. Repaying these loans has further drained the resources of the country.

Since independence the Philippines has been dominated by a class of wealthy capitalist landowning families. Both Ferdinand Marcos and Corazon Aquino, along with leading members of the Aquino administration, come from this landlord class.

These ruling families expanded their landholdings at the expense of bankrupted small landlords, indebted peasants, and remaining tribal lands. They also tightened their hold over the local end of the import-export trade, banking, and "repackaging" industries — all of which only reinforced the situation of foreign economic domination and few job openings.

It is this situation that underlies the superexploitation of the Philippine working class. But it is also fueling the growth and combativity of the labor movement, as Filipino workers truly come to feel that they have nothing to lose but their chains.

A growing number are coming to see that to break those chains the labor movement must come forward to lead the fight to overthrow the entire system of imperialist and landlord domination.



Filipino garment workers. Their pay is lower than in any other major country in Asia or the South Pacific.

—WORLD NEWS BRIEFS—

Israeli air force bombs Lebanon

Two Israeli bombing raids against Lebanon in the space of three days bring the number of such raids this year to 11.

On September 23 Israeli air force jets hit four villages in the mountains south-east of Beirut. According to Israeli government spokesmen their targets were two Palestinian guerrilla bases.

Two days later a similar raid was conducted against a Palestinian refugee camp in the southern Lebanese port of Sidon.

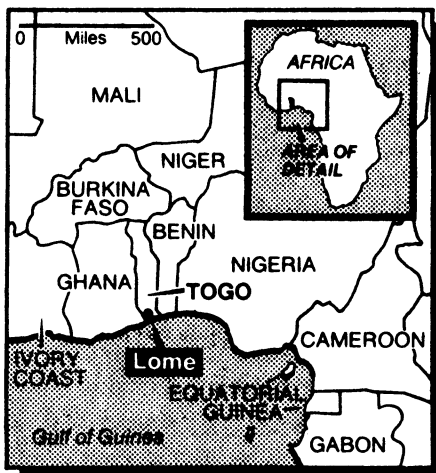
The bomb attacks followed warnings that a new Israeli troop buildup along the southern Lebanese border could be the signal for another military offensive against Lebanon. Journalists in the border area reported the presence of hundreds of additional Israeli troops backed by tanks, armored personnel carriers, and helicopter gunships.

The Israeli government invaded Lebanon in 1982 in order to drive the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) out of the country. In June 1985 it withdrew most of its army, but a 1,000-strong force has remained and controls a so-called "security zone" 6 to 10 miles inside the Lebanese border.

French paratroopers, warship, sent to Togo

About 200 French paratroopers and a French navy minesweeper were sent to the West African country of Togo on September 25. This is the second military intervention by France in a former African colony this year. In February troops were sent to Chad to repel an offensive by antigovernment rebels from the north.

France has military bases in four of its



former African colonies — the Ivory Coast, Central African Republic, Senegal, and Gabon. It has also kept a smaller force in Togo for the past 10 years.

The French troops were requested by the Togolese president, Gen. Gnassingbé Eyadéma, following an attack by 50 antigovernment dissidents on his residence in Lomé, the capital, on September 23. The attack was crushed by Togolese troops and warplanes.

General Eyadéma, a French-trained army officer, seized power in a January 1967 coup. A close ally of French imperialism, he has ruthlessly crushed any signs of dissent in Togo.

Togo's government has accused the neighboring country of Ghana of involvement in the attack. Relations between the two governments have been tense since the government headed by Jerry Rawlings came to power in Ghana on Dec. 31, 1981, with popular support.

Togo has served as a base for right-wing Ghanaian exile groups. In March 1984 several groups of armed counter-revolutionaries infiltrated into Ghana simultaneously from the Ivory Coast and Togo. They were quickly defeated, however.

Bolivian gov't signs pact with mineworkers

Almost 70 unionists and political activists were released from prison following the signing of an agreement between the Bolivian government and the Trade Union Federation of Bolivian Mine Workers (FSTMB) on September 14. The prisoners were among those arrested after the proclamation of a state of siege on August 28.

Under the pact the government also agreed to back off from plans to privatize the state-owned mines. Moreover, it assented to set up an employment program to help find new jobs for miners affected by mine closures. Over the last year, 7,000 miners have lost their jobs.

The signing of the pact brought to an end a hunger strike by over 2,000 miners. About 100 peasants had also joined the strike, and the Single Trade Union Confederation of Bolivian Peasant Workers (CSUTCB) had announced a policy of setting up road blocks in support of the miners' demands and to call for the release of all detained persons.

The FSTMB's public relations secretary, Simon Reyes, said on September 14 that the new agreement offers social solutions to the problems facing miners. He pointed out, however, that the state of siege was still in place.

There was a new round of arrests only days before the signing of the agreement. Among those arrested were Eduardo Siles, a leader of the Federation of Factory Workers of La Paz, and FSTMB leader Valentin (Loausa) Miranda.

How rational can they get? — If you think advertising is whacko, how explain Pepto-Bismol's sponsorship of a Chile cook-off?

A homey touch — For the



Harry Ring

female figurine on the family Rolls, an ankle-length sable coat. \$495.

Thick-headed Russians —

"Western scientists noted that the Chernobyl reactor had the best operating record of any in the Soviet Union and said that operators had gotten into a 'mindset' that nothing could go wrong. . . . Energy Dept. officials in the United States, however, said that their study of the Chernobyl accident . . . concluded that a similar runaway accident could not occur at any American reactor." — *New York Times*

Esthetics Dept. — What with a slump in construction, California architects and builders are turning to a growth area — state and local slammers. One ex-screw, now an architectural consultant, says the emphasis is on more windows,

brighter interiors, etc. "Architecture," he advises, "is not the total solution, but we try to turn out an inmate who's less hostile."

Not to worry — Flooding at a Dow Chemical plant in Midland, Mich., dumped 10 times the allowable amount of cancer-causing hexachlorobenzene into a local river. Since the chemical accumulates rapidly in fish, officials will keep an eye open. But, happily, they see "no immediate health or environmental concern."

Banking class — You feel unwanted at your local bank? Nonsense. If you rake in at least \$250,000 a year and you're "worth" a million, you can enjoy such services as having your pool

dle walked, or a supply of starched shirts in your vault. It's not "an intentional form of discrimination," assures one banking exec. "It's truly an example of how free enterprise works."

The hand upon the till — Associated Communications quietly dropped David Miller from his \$130,000 post after he pocketed \$1.3 million, but promised to pay back the uninsured portions. Similarly with six previous employers. Miller assures a shrink has now cured him. Of getting caught?

Housing dep't — If you're tired of the family cat preempting your TV chair consider a little cat home shaped like an Egyptian temple and finished in lapis, tur-

quoise, and quartz. \$1.1 million.

And what about grounds maintenance? — Florida officials have put the whammy on Space Services, the private rocket outfit that will reduce your remains to 2 inches of ashes and, along with 5,000 others, whip them into space. The state charges this is an unlicensed cemetery, noting that a proper one requires at least 15 acres of land, and an access road to a highway.

Beat the competition — At first glance, it seemed like a useless gadget. A \$350 hand-held copier that can only copy text 1.6" wide. But that would be neat for zipping through the help-wanted column.

—CALENDAR—

ALABAMA

Birmingham

Government's "War on Drugs": An Attack on Democratic Rights. Speaker: Bob Schwarz, Socialist Workers Party, member, United Steelworkers of America. Sun., Oct. 5, 6:30 p.m. 1306 1st Ave. N. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (205) 323-3079.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Open House to Celebrate Anti-apartheid March. Meet the socialist candidates. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 11, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Ausp: Socialist Workers Party. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

The 1985-86 Hormel Strike: Its Meaning for Labor Today. Speaker: Fred Halstead, author of pamphlet "Hormel Meat-Packers Strike in Austin, Minnesota." Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 18, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

MARYLAND

Baltimore

Labor's Struggle Against Concessions and the Challenges Facing the Unions Today. Panel of trade unionists. Bill Sagie, assistant editor, United Steelworkers of America Local 7886, East Alco plant; Milt Kaminski, USWA Local 1245, Eastern Stainless Steel; Joe Kleidon, Socialist Workers Party and member USWA Local 2609, Bethlehem Steel. Sat., Oct. 4, 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

Government's "War on Drugs" — An Attack on Workers' Rights. Speakers: Tim Craine, Socialist Workers Party candidate for lieutenant governor; others. Sat., Oct. 4, 8 p.m. 2135 Woodward Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (313) 961-0395.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

Memorial Meeting for Lee Martindale, 1954-86. Speakers: Jim White, *Militant* business manager; others. Sun., Oct. 5, 4 p.m. 141 Halsey St. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

Mexico and the Fight Against the Debt

Crisis. Speaker: Martín Koppel, editor *Perspectiva Mundial*, recently returned from trip to Mexico. Translation to Spanish. Fri., Oct. 10, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

NEW YORK

Albany

Report From Nicaragua. Speaker: Estela Rocha, teacher and member of ANDEN teachers' union in Nicaragua. Forum in Spanish with English translation. Fri., Oct. 10, 7:30 p.m. 114E Quail St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (518) 434-3247.

Manhattan

Socialist Publications Fund Rally. Speakers: Sam Manuel, Socialist Workers Party National Committee, recently returned from summit of Movement of Nonaligned Countries held in Zimbabwe; others to be announced. Translation to Spanish. Fri., Oct. 10, 7:30 p.m. 79 Leonard St. For more information call (212) 219-3679.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

Reception and Book Signing of Fidel Castro: Nothing Can Stop the Course of History, with Professor Jeffrey M. Elliot. Elliot is a political science professor at North Carolina Central University and a free-lance journalist who conducted, with Rep. Mervyn M. Dymally, the interview with Castro on which the book is based. Sun., Oct. 5, 5 p.m. 2219 E Market St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Pathfinder Books. For more information call (919) 272-5996.

PENNSYLVANIA

Pittsburgh

Anti-apartheid Divestment Rally. Wed., Oct. 8, noon to 2 p.m. Cathedral of Learning, Pitt Campus. Ausp: Pitt Coalition for Divestment.

TEXAS

Dallas

Government "War on Drugs" Attacks Bill of Rights. Speakers: Bob Bruce, Socialist Workers Party, member International Association of Machinists Local 776. Sat., Oct. 4, 7:30 p.m. 336 W Jefferson. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (214) 943-5195.

Celebrate Victory in Socialist Workers Party Lawsuit Against FBI

CALIFORNIA

San Jose

Speakers: Harry Adams, president of International Association of Machinists Local 565; Jody Sleeper, South Bay Sanctuary Covenant; representative of the No on 64 — Stop LaRouche Campaign; Clifton DeBerry, 1964 presidential candidate of Socialist Workers Party; Sandra Nelson, SWP candidate for Congress, 10th C.D. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 4. Reception, 6:30; program, 7:30 p.m. 46½ Race St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (408) 998-4007.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

Speakers to be announced. Sat., Oct. 4. Reception, 7 p.m.; rally, 8 p.m. Church of the Covenant, 67 Newbury St., Arlington subway stop. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Political Rights Defense Fund. For more information call (617) 787-0275.

MISSOURI

St. Louis

Panel discussion, including representatives of Coalition for a Free Ireland, National Abortion Rights Action League, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., Oct. 5, 7 p.m. 4907 Martin Luther King Dr. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (314) 361-0250.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

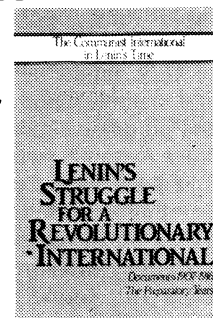
Speakers: Abe Bloom, peace activist and plaintiff in *Julius Hobson v. Wilson* (case against D.C. cops); Michael Gaffney, National Lawyers Guild; Rhonda Dahlman, activist lawyer and member of Student Coalition Against Apartheid; representative, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Oct. 4, 7:30 p.m. 3106 Mt. Pleasant St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (202) 797-7699.

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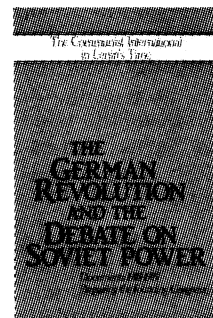
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TEXAS: Austin: YSA, c/o Mike Rose, 7409 Berkman Dr. Zip: 78752. Tel: (512) 452-3923.

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

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

Rally backs sanctuary for victims of U.S. war

Continued from front page

community, said, "To see such solidarity with our people pleases me. We suffer because of the war by the government of the United States."

Sara Nelson, from the Christic Institute in Washington, D.C., announced the upcoming regional Actions for Peace, Jobs and Justice on October 25 and November 1 in more than 12 cities. She pointed to this as the next opportunity for all opponents of Washington's war on Nicaragua to mobilize.

The march was part of a four-day gathering September 26-29 entitled "Sanctuary Celebration — from Captivity to Covenant," which brought together close to 1,500 sanctuary and antiwar activists and refugees from all across the country. Participants also came from Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala, Canada, and Europe.

Endorsed by a wide range of peace groups and religious bodies, the conference participants vowed to continue their efforts to oppose Washington's mercenary war in Central America. And they affirmed their commitment to expand efforts to provide sanctuary to refugees fleeing repression from U.S.-sponsored dictatorships in El Salvador and Guatemala.

More than 10,000 arrested

Jonathon Moore of the Rio Grande Defense Committee, at a press briefing following the conference, explained that in the Rio Grande border area, "More than 10,000 Central American refugees were arrested this year. The INS [Immigration and Naturalization Service] is attempting to convert the entire valley into a detention zone."

In the face of this reactionary policy, hundreds of church activists have or-

ganized to offer their churches as sanctuary. "The meaning of the sanctuary movement is a group of human beings trying to alleviate the consequences of war in El Salvador and Guatemala," explained Jon Sobrino, a prominent theologian and director of the Pastoral Center at the University of Central America, San Salvador.

Sobrino noted the effort by the U.S. government and media to convince people that El Salvador is on the road to peace and democracy as a result of the elections that took place there in 1984. "But," he claimed, "the truth is quite different. It is more difficult to live in El Salvador than five or six years ago. There is a war — not a low intensity war — a terrible war."

One of four U.S. war veterans who have been fasting since September 1 to protest Congress' \$100-million aid package to the *contras* gave special greetings to the conference.

Returned medal

Charles Liteky, who was recognized for his bravery as a chaplain in Vietnam by being awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, in August became the first recipient in history to return his medal to the government as a protest against the U.S. war in Nicaragua. He pointed out that "an emergency situation exists in Nicaragua. Our government is developing another war, just like Vietnam," he said to applause.

The sanctuary movement has been successful in helping to get out the truth about the U.S. government's role in Central America. Because of this, they have been a target of government attacks. Government acts of harassment have been documented, including searches and burglaries of homes and churches, wire-tapping of phone con-



Militant photos by Lisa Ahlberg
Darlene Nicgorski and Ramon Dagoberto Quiñones, two activists convicted of giving sanctuary to Central American refugees, attended conference.

versations, and placing of informants in church meetings and bible classes.

In January 1985 a federal grand jury handed down indictments against 16 sanctuary workers, mainly from Arizona, following 10 months of surveillance and infiltration by paid government informants. In May of this year, eight of the sanctuary workers were convicted. Sixty refugees were arrested and named as indicted co-conspirators.

Darlene Nicgorski is a missionary who had worked in Guatemala and one of the sanctuary workers convicted on charges of conspiracy to violate immigration law and two counts each of transporting and abetting the harboring of illegal aliens. She explained, "The government's intent was to intimidate and discredit the sanctuary movement. To silence it and close it down."

Despite these attacks, the conference registered that the sanctuary movement has grown stronger. Gus Schultz, chair of the National Sanctuary Defense Fund, which raised \$1 million for the legal defense in the Tucson trial, said the conference participants were "renewing their commitment to the people of Central America."

At this time, 335 countries, 22 cities, and several universities and colleges have

declared sanctuary. Most recently, on September 19, the governor of Wisconsin joined New Mexico in declaring their states sanctuary for Salvadoran and Guatemalan refugees.

The conference included workshops and plenaries geared toward arming participants with facts on the war in Central America and ideas on building the sanctuary movement.

A special church service was held Saturday night. Participants recited a Litany of Repentance, which said, in part:

"Before the murders by the *contras* sponsored by the CIA and the lies by our government about Nicaragua, we can only wonder at the eventual judgement this implies for us;

"We therefore dedicate ourselves to always tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth about Nicaragua and Central America, whatever the opposition. . . . Before all the exiles from El Salvador and Guatemala, from Haiti and Chile and so many other places we can do no less than to welcome these strangers in our midst."

Nicgorski summed up the spirit of the conference. She said, "We're in this for the long haul. It is not over until we've reversed the railroad and Guatemala and El Salvador are places of sanctuary."

USX workers block shipment of steel from Ohio plant

BY BILL KALMAN

LORAIN, Ohio — Fifty members of the United Steelworkers of America face charges for participating in protests against attempts by USX Corp. to ship steel pipe.

Since the company locked out 21,000 steelworkers July 31, USX has shipped steel from several of its plants.

The confrontation here occurred when USX tried to extend this practice to the Lorain plant. Steelworkers realize this puts the union in a weaker position in combatting the lockout.

On September 21 pickets noticed that overhead cranes operated by management personnel had begun to load rail cars with steel pipe.

The alarm went out, and more than 200 steelworkers converged at the main plant gate. A company van carrying some management people who had been doing union work tried to leave the plant area. Workers formed a human chain and eventually forced the van back into the plant.

Local cops then moved in, arresting 12 steelworkers.

The following day, the cops arrested 38 more workers for obstructing management

employees leaving the plant. Those arrested included Al Peña and Ron Nau, president and vice-president of Local 1104. The 50 workers were charged with disorderly conduct and failure to disperse.

Meanwhile, Lorain steelworkers mobilized to keep anything from leaving the plant, whether it was steel shipments or scabbing bosses. Previously, each gate had been monitored by a half dozen pickets who permitted management personnel to enter and leave provided they did no production work.

Now several hundred steelworkers blockaded the plant and even blocked off the rail spur that runs out of it.

On September 23 the company agreed to stop the shipments in exchange for the union's agreement that management personnel and food could go in. One USX official said, "The food supply [inside the plant] is dwindling, so obviously there is a concern for us."

The next day a Lorain County judge granted the company's request for an injunction limiting pickets to five per gate and prohibiting pickets from blocking any entrance. The judge also barred USX from loading or shipping pipe from the plant.

— 10 AND 25 YEARS AGO —

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE 25¢

October 7, 1976

"We close cases all the time on groups, but if someone subsequently furnishes information on that group, we normally put it in the record. . . ."

That's how FBI spokesman Homer Boynton explained what the Justice Department's announced closing of the investigation of the Socialist Workers Party means. Boynton and other Justice Department officials told the *Christian Science Monitor* that the G-men will continue to collect material about the socialists.

On September 13 the Justice Department announced that it had decided there was no legal basis to continue an investigation of the socialists.

The socialists immediately demanded that the FBI put the decision into practice by turning over all the files on the SWP and getting out the 66 informers the FBI admits having in the SWP.

Boynton told the *Christian Science Monitor*, "I don't know how they're going to handle it," when asked what the FBI would do about the SWP's demands.

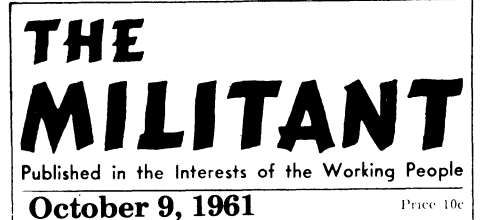
Robert Havel from the Justice Department told the *Monitor*, "The informants are in the party. It will be up to them to decide."

The socialists have insisted that since the government planted the informers in the first place, the government must turn over files on them and pull them out.

The importance of the government getting its informers out of the SWP is underlined by what FBI officials have admitted about informers.

"You can't set up the same standards as you would in hiring an agent," W. Mark Felt, former acting associate FBI director, told the *Christian Science Monitor*. "The chances are that he's not going to be the

most upright citizen in the community. . . . You have to be as careful as you can, but you have to take what you can get, too."



Cuba's revolutionary government on October 3 announced that it was granting political asylum to Robert F. Williams, North Carolina Negro leader. Williams, who was indicted on framed-up kidnap charges following white-supremacist rioting against Freedom Riders and Negroes in Monroe, North Carolina, on August 27, had been the object of an FBI manhunt covering the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

First word that the militant civil rights leader had outwitted the FBI and Canadian "Mounties" and had arrived safely in Cuba came in dispatches September 29 from William Worthy, an American Negro newspaperman now in Havana.

In granting a haven of safety to Williams, the Cuban government stated that a paramount consideration was the fact that Negroes "are mistreated and persecuted as animals" in the United States.

Worthy said in his dispatches that Williams' escape had been coordinated by a veritable modern underground railway. Various groups and individuals had cooperated to speed the fugitive on his way. Frequently they arranged for attorneys to be at Williams' side in case of his sudden capture and to refute any false charges of "shot while resisting arrest."

The FBI Wanted Circular for Williams contained false and inciting information calculated to encourage police officers encountering him to shoot on sight.

From Pathfinder Press

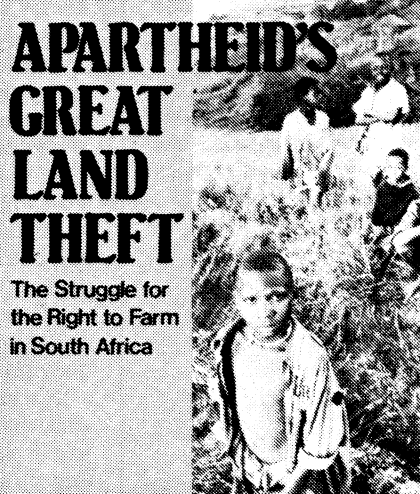
Apartheid's Great Land Theft: The Struggle for the Right to Farm in South Africa by Ernest Harsch.

Tells the story of the fight over land, which has been at the center of the struggle between South Africa's white rulers and its subjugated Black majority.

This pamphlet is an important tool to help build the movement to break all U.S. ties with the apartheid regime.

It is available at the Pathfinder Bookstore nearest you (see directory on page 12) or from Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. 56 pp., \$1.25. Please include \$.75 for handling.

ERNEST HARSCH



Support the FDL strikers!

The strike by 1,750 union meatpackers against FDL Foods is a vitally important battle for the entire labor movement.

The high stakes are shown by the police attacks against picket lines at the FDL plant in Rochelle, Illinois, and by the company's announced plans to restart hog-killing operations at that plant with scab labor unless the workers capitulate.

FDL's attack on United Food and Commercial Workers Locals 1218 and 150-A at its plants in Rochelle and in Dubuque, Iowa, is the latest step in a calculated drive by the meatpacking bosses to deal further blows to the workers and their unions in the current round of negotiations.

The experience of FDL workers in recent years is typical of the meatpacking industry. From a wage of \$10.69 in 1982, they were forced down to the current base wage of \$8.00. A change of corporate name and structure was used to terminate the pension plan, cut health care and sick leave benefits by 50 percent, and undercut safety.

The FDL workers are standing up to the company's attempt to break their strike and further weaken their union.

A leaflet they issued sums up their goals: "A decent standard of living. . . . Dignity on the job instead of being treated like a number, a piece of machinery or a mere tool to be used and cast aside. A place of employment free from conditions that injure, maim, and kill them on the job. And finally, job security. . . ."

If the FDL's attack is successful, it will be a major new blow to all meatpacking workers and to workers everywhere.

However, if the FDL workers succeed in winning a better contract, it will be a gain for meatpackers everywhere — from the Oscar Mayer workers in Davenport, Iowa, to Hormel workers fighting to get their jobs back in Ottumwa, Iowa; Fremont, Nebraska; and Austin, Minnesota.

It will help workers on strike against John Morrell in Arkansas City, Kansas, and Hebrew National in New York City.

And it will give a boost to the struggle of meatpackers on strike in Edmonton, Alberta, in Canada.

Already, contingents of meatpackers from Austin; United Auto Workers from Rockford, Illinois; and scores of Dubuque FDL workers have joined the picket line in Rochelle, where the company's union-busting attack is focused at present.

Other unions should emulate this example by sending contingents to support the picket lines of their union brothers and sisters in Rochelle and Dubuque.

And the labor movement should seek to get out the truth about what the FDL workers are fighting for and the serious attack they are facing.

Organizations of working farmers also have a stake in throwing their support behind the FDL workers. The same bosses who are trying to hold down the wages of meatpackers also conspire to keep the prices paid hog farmers too low to provide a decent living.

Now is the time for active solidarity with the FDL workers. As their leaflet states, they are fighting for what every worker "believes in and deserves to have."

Shielding the apartheid regime

Claiming that a new congressional bill mandating limited economic sanctions against South Africa would "seriously impede the prospects for a peaceful end to apartheid," President Reagan vetoed the bill September 26.

Reagan's "anti-apartheid" rhetoric aside, the veto marked the latest step in the administration's effort to shield the apartheid regime from international ostracism. Reagan's policy of "constructive engagement" has included extensive economic and political relations with Pretoria, as well as continual resistance to the mounting demands within the United States and abroad for an end to all apartheid links.

But Reagan's veto may not stand. On September 29 the House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly to override the veto, and the administration is waging a stiff fight within the Senate to prevent a similar override vote. If the veto falls, the bill, known as the Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act of 1986, will become law.

The measure calls for a ban, with some broad exceptions, of new U.S. investments in South Africa. It also seeks to prohibit the import of South African steel, iron, uranium, coal, and textiles, as well as South African landing rights in the United States.

Compared with an earlier House bill that would have barred all U.S. trade with and investment in South Africa, this measure is relatively mild, reflecting the strong opposition within Congress itself to more sweeping sanctions. But for the White House, it was still too much.

In his message announcing the veto, Reagan argued that sanctions amounted to "economic warfare against the

people of South Africa" and would increase their suffering. The same thing would happen, he said, to the neighboring African states.

This is a false argument that seeks to divert attention from the real cause of Black suffering in South Africa and the rest of the region — the apartheid state itself. U.S. and West European investments in South Africa do not alleviate the misery of the oppressed Black majority, as Reagan claimed in his message, but instead help to shore up the embattled apartheid regime.

That is why the most representative Black leaders and anti-apartheid organizations in South Africa favor sanctions.

The other governments of southern Africa also reject Reagan's justifications. In late August, a meeting of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference, which groups nine states in the region, reaffirmed its stance that those countries' economic vulnerability should not be used as a pretext for refusing to apply sanctions against South Africa.

A day after Reagan's veto, prominent anti-apartheid figure Desmond Tutu declared of the U.S. president, "He gives the ritual verbal condemnation of apartheid and expresses his abhorrence of it, but the man who has applied sanctions against Poland, Nicaragua, and Libya at the drop of a hat refuses steadfastly to take any effective action against one of the most vicious policies the world has known."

Reagan, Tutu added, "will be judged harshly by history."

INS targets Belgian journalist

The overnight detention of Belgian journalist Tom Ronse at Newark Airport on September 25 is one more example of the use of the undemocratic McCarran-Walter Immigration and Nationality Act to deny people entry to the U.S. simply on the basis of their political ideas.

Ronse, a correspondent for *De Morgen*, was detained because Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) officials found some "communist" literature in his suitcase. The McCarran-Walter Act gives immigration officials the power to deny entry to noncitizens whose works advocate communism or who are or have been members of a communist organization.

Commenting on the Ronse case, INS spokesman Duane Austin revealed just how routinely these provisions in the act are applied. He told journalists that people trying to enter the U.S. are questioned on these grounds "about 33,000 times a year."

The aim of the McCarran-Walter Act is to cut working people in the United States off from contact with those holding political ideas this country's rulers oppose. As such, it is a blatant violation of constitutional guarantees of freedom of speech and of association and its latest use should be strongly protested.

The biggest robbery of all

BY DOUG JENNESS

We've all read press reports at one time or another about a youth lifting a few bucks from a cash register and ending up in the slammer for a long stretch, or worse, getting a bullet in the head from a trigger-happy cop or merchant.

We've also seen the accounts of retired men and women getting caught not paying for a few extra items they've picked up in the supermarket because their Social

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

Security payments and food stamps are not enough to live on.

These kinds of incidents are closely monitored by government agencies and sociologists to determine whether or not "crime" is on the rise or declining.

Most of what are called "robberies" in our society are really nickel-and-dime affairs. Even the grander ones like the famous Great Train Robbery or spectacular jewel heists, which make good material for screenwriters, are really small potatoes.

There is, however, one robbery that is so big it makes all the bank jobs and grocery store holdups put together seem trivial in comparison. This robbery doesn't make the newspapers or movies, yet the total loot can be counted in the trillions of dollars. Moreover, the thieves are never rounded up and thrown in jail.

This robbery is carried out by the owners of the big industrial, banking, and commercial operations who steal from the producers of our society's wealth.

We're not just talking here about those employers who engage in "unfair business practices" or are head over heels in organized crime. It's the *entire* class of employers, bankers, and landlords who steal from working people. And it's *natural* for them to do so. It's part of the social relation that exists between them and working people. They have to do it.

In organizing production the employers hire wage laborers to do the work. By this, they are actually buying the workers' capacities to work, their potential ability to contribute to producing a product that can be sold.

To get hired the worker agrees to provide his or her labor power for a certain number of hours a week in return for a wage.

During the course of the laboring process workers add value to raw materials provided by the employer. They create value equivalent to their wages long before the time they've agreed to work is up. But they continue working according to the agreement. It is the value created during this unpaid labor time that ends up as profits in the coffers of the boss. The employers compete among themselves for the biggest shares.

The bankers who charge interest for lending money to manufacturers and the landlords who collect rents also have their snouts in the trough.

Moreover, these robber barons steal from working farmers who hire no wage labor and rely on their own labor and that of other family members to produce a product. Unlike wage workers, they own what they have produced and consume it or sell it on the market.

Like wage workers, however, working farmers do not end up with the equivalent value of the labor time they have put into producing these commodities.

As a result of this massive plundering, the robber class lives in splendor. Their children go to the finest schools, they get the best medical care money can buy, they have no worry of hunger, and they generally have more homes than they can live in at any one time.

But even the cost of their affluent living only accounts for part of what they have stolen from working people.

They also make huge investments that are socially worthless — like the billions spent on advertising and on research and development of many useless goods. That's not to speak of the hundreds of billions spent on military hardware and for waging war against working people in other countries.

To visualize the magnitude of this crime, it's only necessary to point out that the wealth working people have created is sufficient to offer every child in this country a free education all the way through college, to provide every person with free medical care, to eliminate hunger and malnourishment, to furnish free child care for those who need it, to give adequate pensions and free nursing care to the elderly, and to provide decent housing at low cost to every single person.

At the same time, a gigantic program of international aid could be offered to countries where the robbers' pilaging has been the most devastating.

Working people have waged fights for decades through their unions to get a little bit more of the wealth they produce. But can we ever get it all back?

Socialists point out that the history of the working-class movement and the workings of the capitalist system itself show that working people are capable of organizing a mass revolutionary movement that can overthrow the robber class and regain their stolen wealth.

Women workers plagued by stricter rules, less pay

BY RONI LEROUGE

At the General Dynamics plant in Fort Worth, Texas, the company has been on a campaign to increase production by cracking down on what it terms "idle time."

Roughly what it means by this is time used for something other than doing your work. Each supervisor, how-

UNION TALK

ever, has a different definition of idle time and attempts to apply it arbitrarily in their particular area.

Department 73, which consists of some 700 workers, mostly women, has been the special target of this campaign. This department is where the electrical harness, the "heart of the airplane," is assembled. This job, like all others in the plant, is essential to getting the finished aircraft off the ground.

Management's campaign has meant more meetings in Department 73 on idle time. One particularly strict proposal is to ban all talking on the job.

Idle time is not the only subject on which the rules seem to be enforced more stringently in this department than in other parts of the plant. Another one is the attendance program, which is based on a series of steps where a number of points (days off) are allowed each worker per month. Certain disciplinary actions are taken if a person misses more than the allowed points.

The company presents this program as if it were a gift to the workers, which they shouldn't take advantage of

by using up their points each month. But it did not come as a gift.

The attendance program was fought for and won during the 1984 contract negotiations that resulted in a strike. This program, which allows workers time off for emergencies, personal business, or illness is a gain for all General Dynamics workers. It is also a possible target when the November 1987 negotiations begin.

This conquest is especially important for workers in Department 73 because it is usually the women who have to take time off to attend to sick children or to take care of other family responsibilities. In other parts of the plant if a worker misses more than the allowed time due to illness and returns with a doctor's excuse, it does not necessarily result in disciplinary action.

One extreme situation in Department 73 was that of a worker whose house burned to the ground. She had to take three days off. While her coworkers collected money to help this woman and her family, the company took disciplinary action.

Department 73 is somewhat physically removed from the rest of the factory. This, and the fact that most of the workers are women, makes it more vulnerable to company attacks and to treating the workers there as if they are "different."

"What society has taught women is to sit down and listen and not stand up and give their opinions," was one coworker's comment on how the company takes advantage of this department. "Attitudes of management," she continued, "are condescending, which breaks down communication. If you have good ideas and you're a woman,

chances are you won't be taken as seriously."

This fits into the employers' campaign across the country to discredit women. Employers have no intention of driving women, who make up nearly half the U.S. work force, back into the home. But they do want workers who are female to believe that the home is their first "job" and that their job is only a family's "second income," "pin money." This is apparent at General Dynamics where the pay scale in Department 73 is one of the lowest in the plant.

The employers' arguments are contradicted by the fact that many women are the heads of households, single parents, or the sole supporters of themselves and their families.

All of this underlines the need for women to play a big role in building and being active in the union at General Dynamics. Not only by taking problems that arise to our shop stewards, who are serious trade unionists themselves, but also by going to union meetings and raising our ideas. Education about the union is also important since many workers in Department 73 are new hires.

Department 73 makes up an important component of General Dynamics-Fort Worth and women played a vital part in the 1984 strike and continue to actively participate in the union today. Department 73 is discriminated against in a special way and we need to let our needs be known to the company through the union.

Roni Lerouge works at General Dynamics, Fort Worth, and is a member of International Association of Machinists Local 776A.

LETTERS

Refreshingly accurate

I first saw the *Militant* newspaper in 1981 during the United Mine Workers contract strike. An old lady came to my house and my answer was, "No, thank you." I gave the same answer over the next few years.

Then, in 1984 we had the fire at the Wilberg mine, where I work, and I got a firsthand view as to how badly the capitalist press handles the news. To be blunt, they acted more like publicity agents for the Utah Power & Light mine owners than unbiased reporters.

Later a friend showed me a copy of the *Militant* with the news article on the fire. It was refreshingly accurate.

While laid off after the fire, I watched a lot of TV news with the intention of checking out how a variety of sources covered the same story. What I got were different bits and pieces, but on stories of strikes and other political happenings, whole chunks were still missing.

I've been reading the paper for a year now, and the strike by Local P-9 meatpackers has again showed this paper's value to us as against the capitalist press. To me this is only one drop in the bucket. My favorite articles have been the ones on how the people are reorganizing themselves in Nicaragua and the parts of South Africa where the Blacks have taken control.

*Frank Pavelko
Orangeville, Utah*

'Saving children'

On both the abortion and marijuana issues, advocates of repression have cloaked their agenda in the pious guise of "saving children."

Who can argue against "saving the lives of innocent babies" — even if that means bombing abortion clinics and returning to the days when women died at the hands of back-alley butchers? And who can argue against "saving our children from the drug menace," even if that means waging war against peaceful people whose only crime is to use a mild natural herb?

The women's movement made an excellent move in January by demonstrating, not just for freedom of choice, but for women's lives. The issue is not whether women should have abortions, but whether women who *do* have abortions should risk serious in-

jury and even death, or whether these women should have access to safe, legal medical procedure.

Similarly with regard to marijuana, the issue is not whether people should smoke marijuana, but whether people who *do* smoke it should be designated as criminals by the government.

Many people, including many women, have legitimate concerns about the lives of unborn children. It is reasonable and necessary to discourage abortion by providing positive alternatives, by educating women about what an abortion actually entails, and by alleviating the conditions that cause most women to seek abortions. This can be done by restoring funding to income assistance and food assistance programs, providing women with jobs at decent pay, extending family planning services, and making greater efforts to deter rape and incest. But it is not appropriate to attack women who have abortions.

*R.B. Wilk
Bloomfield, New Jersey*

Congratulations to Penn

It gave me great pleasure to read the article, "Jury finds Sagon Penn innocent of murder."

For much too long the police have been unnecessarily brutal, and sometimes even fatal, to Black people. This is true especially during an arrest or raid, or just stopping a Black suspect for questioning. The Black always seems to turn out to be a victim of either a severe beating, shameful racial verbal abuse, or ends up another customer for the morgue.

Congratulations are in order for the victim of such abuse, Sagon Penn, and for his courage to defend his life against barbaric treatment and abusive racial slurs.

It is not that I advocate the killing or shooting of police officers in general, but I believe that in many cases the police invite defensive action from their victims by the way they handle them.

With regard to the *Militant* newspaper, let me express my view by quoting the late Black revolutionary and intrepid leader, Malcolm X — El-Hajj Malik el-Shabazz:

"I want to thank the *Militant* Labor Forum for the invitation to speak here this evening. I think . . . the paper is one of the best that I've ever read. We always encourage those who live in Harlem to buy it when we see it up there, or

wherever else we may see it. It's a very good newspaper. I hope they continue to have success, make progress."

*A prisoner
Huntingdon, Pennsylvania*

Coard trial

Because of the closure of *Intercontinental Press*, my subscription to that magazine was transferred to the *Militant*. I have just received two issues of that newspaper and would like to comment on the article "Grenada murder trial serves as U.S. propaganda tool."

The article uses the following quote from Fidel Castro: "Washington does not have the right to keep the extremist group in prison or to try them because no invading force has the right to run the courts and enforce the law."

C.L.R. James has stated that Coard and his gang of right-opportunists, mistakenly called ultra-left, had a pro-Moscow leadership program. Foreign leftists and journalists are giving Fidel's massive propaganda campaign against the people of the Eastern Caribbean too much coverage. The people of Grenada and the Caribbean want Coard and his bandits in jail and before the courts where they must be prosecuted for the murder of our heroes.

We in the Caribbean must be allowed to develop along our own path; our system of individual capitalism and the small size of each of our islands will make it easier for us to achieve a truly socialist society than for Cuba's massive state bureaucracy that sustains its state capitalist policies.

*Angela Cole
Carrington Village, Barbados*

Reaganites' hypocrisy

As intelligent Black men from across the capitalist United States, we, the U.S. Penitentiary-Marion POWs, wish to express our resentment and outrage at the Reaganites for their duplicity and hypocrisy in dealing with America's current "massive" drug problem.

We're from America's larger urban centers where in the Black and Hispanic communities drug sales and their abuse run rampant and have done so since World War II. Entire families and their means of survival have been completely destroyed by this insatiable plague. Men, women, and children alike — none are spared. Mother Hale's House is living tes-



timony of this American tragedy today.

Only, however, when drug sales and their abuse became evident in white suburbia and in the major U.S. industrial sectors and when they posed an actual threat to national security because of their use in the military and in domestic air traffic control centers, did the Reaganites launch their "war" on drugs.

Why shouldn't we overthrow the capitalist system?

*A prisoner
Marion, Illinois*

State terrorism

I read the article "Death penalty is weapon of terror." I agree very much with it. In fact, isn't the entire justice system in both the bourgeois democracies and the Eastern bureaucracies (especially evident in Poland, where Solidarity activists are jailed), not to mention the torturers in the Third World, yet another form of state terrorism?

Poland, Turkey, South Africa, Chile, and the United States illustrate this fact eloquently and that is yet another reason why we need publications such as the *Militant*.

I read the news of the merger of *Intercontinental Press* with the *Militant*. I am very enthusiastic about it. I wish all the best to the "new" *Militant*. It is a great tool for social change and I am certain with this new step, it will keep up to the challenges of the new political upsurge in the "snakes den."

*A prisoner
Bath, Ontario, Canada*

Student athletes' rights

As schools open around the country, the rights of student athletes are under attack.

The National Collegiate Athletic Association, NCAA, has

adopted its controversial Proposition 48. The ruling sets mandatory SAT/ACT scores and grade point averages for all male and female athletes. Thousands of student athletes are already being turned away by many colleges.

Proposition 48 is opposed by many predominantly Black colleges since the college tests are racially discriminatory. "I know you are familiar with apartheid," said Grambling State University President Joseph Johnson. "I ask the question, will Proposition 48 be the NCAA's apartheid?"

The ruling comes in the context of drug testing currently under way. In addition to random drug tests, a stricter rule was enacted September 24. Before and after championship games, any athlete testing positive for drugs will be banned from the NCAA (all sports) and the winning team will forfeit the game.

The government, media, and academic elite are on a campaign to portray athletes as not only "illiterate" but "immoral."

*Janet Post
Portland, Oregon*

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

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.

Watsonville strike one year old

BY SARAH MATTHEWS
AND KEVIN KELLOGG

WATSONVILLE, Calif. — The sharp smell of rotting broccoli lingered over this small town as we headed into the industrial area to talk with workers who have been on strike against Watsonville Canning & Frozen Food Co. for more than a year.

There are a thousand striking workers, mostly *mexicanas* and Chicanas, who are members of Teamsters Local 912.

Watsonville's nine canneries, which today mostly freeze food, produce 40 percent of the country's frozen food.

The other five unionized canneries in Watsonville squeezed contracts out of Local 912 that cut pay from \$7.05 to \$5.85 an hour in 1985.

But Mort Console, owner of Watsonville Canning, demanded a cut to \$4.25 an hour, which he later upped to \$5.05. He demanded that a worker put in 1,000 hours each year on these seasonal jobs before they could qualify for medical coverage.

The other canneries put "me too" clauses in their contracts, meaning that they could reopen wage negotiations if Watsonville Canning got a settlement of less than \$5.85 an hour.

The mounting attacks on the workers "are not fair," one worker stated. "We're fighting because we have to."

Other workers described standing in water up to their knees, the fast-paced production line, and the cold.

Jesus, a woman in her 60s, showed how she would repeatedly nick the skin where the thumb joins the hand while rapidly cutting broccoli with a knife. She showed us her thick and misshapen fingernails that "get sick because of the pesticides in the water. They're getting better now."

When the strike started, the workers were unprepared. "I had back rent to pay," said one man. "I didn't know I was going to go two weeks without a paycheck."

They organized mass picketing to stop busloads of strikebreakers from entering, and convinced others to leave. Cops beat and tear-gassed hundreds of strikers and their supporters. The courts limited the union to four pickets at each gate.

When strikers demanded that the city council put an end to police violence, the council commended the cops. A striker who sought to testify was denied a translator.

Watsonville Canning managed to get 800 scabs working in the plant. Guillermina, a frequent picketer, thinks the company "bought the cops, the judges, the newspapers, and the TV."

Lidia Lerna, a striker who heads the food committee, said, "At first I was embarrassed to ask for food but not any more. We give a box of food to 500 or 600 strikers every other Friday."

The strikers get \$55 each week from the Teamsters union.

The union is now waging a campaign to persuade banks and other businesses not to do business with Watsonville Canning.

Many strikers have lost cars and homes. Some families live in their cars. Most have found part-time or other low-paying work. Only about 100 regularly participate now in the round-the-clock picketing. But only a handful of employees have gone back to work. Mechanics rejected a pay raise offered by the company to get them to cross the picket line.

The women come under pressure to spend less time on the strike. "My husband



The 1,000 striking members of Local 912 have stood firm while Watsonville Canning operates with scabs.

didn't like it at first. But then I told him this is where I'm going to be to the end. He didn't say anything after that," said one, laughing.

A certification vote was held August 14, and 919 strikers turned out. Console managed to get only 844 scabs to the vote, and some voted union. Legal objections by both company and union stopped the vote count, but the company is acting as though the union was decertified.

Strikers watch the truckloads of products

coming out the gate. They realize that the company is producing and marketing enough to keep going, and they wish something could be done to stop the trucks.

One man concluded, "We have learned some things that can help others."

"That's for sure," a woman chimed in. "We should thank that boss for that much. Going out got a little of the stupidity out of our heads. I was always shy. I never opened my mouth at work. Now that's changed."

Newfoundland strike ends, wage issues unresolved

The following article appeared in the October 6 issue of *Socialist Voice*, a Canadian biweekly newspaper published in Montreal, Canada.

BY BOB BRAXTON
AND TOM LEYS

ST. JOHN'S, Newfoundland — The 5,500 members of the Newfoundland Association of Public Employees (NAPE) returned to work September 29 after the government of Canada's Newfoundland Province and the union accepted a proposal by church officials to end the 25-day strike and resume bargaining.

Negotiations between NAPE and the Conservative Party government of Brian Peckford are to take place in the presence of a team of observers set up under the church officials' proposal. NAPE has said that if the demand for contract parity with other public employees is not met, the union will return to the picket line.

The agreement followed the failure of a strikebreaking campaign by the government. The campaign was pushed back by mobilizations across the province of NAPE strikers and the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Labour in support of the strike.

The dispute began in March 1986 when road maintenance and office employees of the provincial government first went on strike in defiance of anti-strike legislation and a court injunction.

Most of the strikers make only between \$13,000 and \$16,000 a year. They are paid approximately \$3,500 a year less than other organized provincial employees doing essentially the same jobs. Their battle cry was "parity now!"

Despite 126 arrests during last spring's strike, NAPE won massive labor and public support in Newfoundland and growing union solidarity across the country.

The strike ended in April when Peckford promised to pay parity and to introduce amendments to antiunion legislation.

Once the strikers were back at work, Peckford reneged on his promises. He offered wage increases dragged over six years and flatly rejected the demand for parity with other government employees.

Angry at this betrayal, NAPE members resumed their strike September 3. The government tried to intimidate the strikers, arresting 80 the first week.

At the same time, the government and big-business media poured out antiunion propaganda in an attempt to turn public opinion against the strike, divide the union, and promote a back-to-work movement among the strikers.

The response to these attacks has been an unprecedented mobilization, including 16-hour daily picketing of the provincial legislature building in St. John's, sleep-ins, and occupations. Near daily marches and rallies of up to 2,500 strikers all but closed government offices down.

Membership meetings

Responding to government claims that most strikers wanted to return to work, NAPE organized a series of membership meetings in the third week of the strike. On September 22, some 2,500 strikers filled a stadium here to discuss the situation. The meeting turned into a mass rally for continuing the strike until parity was won.

The Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Labour (NLFL) held strike support rallies in Grand Falls, Corner Brook, and St. John's.

About 3,000 unionists marched in St. John's on September 20 in support of the strikers, including contingents from the Canadian Union of Public Employees, the Fishermen's Union (affiliated with the United Food and Commercial Workers), Public Service Alliance of Canada, United Steelworkers of America, and other unions.

NLFL President Bill Parsons vowed that if the government "ever tries to fire the

workers and bring scabs into the building, the whole labor movement will lock their tool boxes and join you."

At this point the top church officials made their proposal that the union end picketing and that negotiations resume in the presence of a tripartite "observer" committee.

Catholic Archbishop Alphonsus Penney warned that the labor battle was becoming "volatile, explosive" and "frightening."

The NAPE leadership accepted the proposal, stating that if the union had turned it down, it would have lost public support and found itself in an untenable position. While a minority of union members opposed returning to work, many felt that this special form of mediation would work in their favor.

But as the eighth issue of *Strike Information News*, published by NAPE members, put it:

"We have every reason to distrust the government. Our membership knows that resumption of negotiations does not mean our struggle is over. . . . Until a collective agreement is signed, our dispute with the government goes on."

Labor support needed

Fraser March, the union president, told *Socialist Voice*, "The support of the labor movement across Canada remains crucial to winning this fight." Not only will the outcome of this strike have a major impact on the right to strike in the public sector, "it is important for all workers fighting to defend their rights."

March continued: "The problems that private sector workers are facing are quite similar to the problems of the public sector. That is why there's been such a spontaneous, intense feeling of solidarity" among the Newfoundland strikers for the meat-packers in Edmonton, Alberta, who are on strike against Gainers Corp. Two Gainers strikers are currently touring Newfoundland to win more support.

"When workers are on strike," said March, "they understand the problems of other people who are on strike. They understand the use of the police. They understand what it's like to be dragged off in paddy wagons."

Money or messages of solidarity can be sent to Newfoundland Association of Public Employees, P.O. Box 1085, St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada, A1C 5M5.

Prisoners irradiated in government tests

Government-sponsored radiation experiments were performed on 131 prison inmates in the states of Oregon and Washington between 1963 and 1973, the U.S. Department of Energy admitted September 23.

The prisoners' testicles were irradiated by X rays to study the effects of radiation on capacity to reproduce.

Vasectomies were performed on inmates at Washington State Penitentiary who participated in the experiment "to eliminate the possibility of defective offspring," the Department of Energy report said.

"They wanted to know if the world could be repopulated safely" after a nuclear war, said Mike Briggs, one of the inmates who spoke out against the experiments at a September 26 news conference.

"They led us to believe they knew what they were doing," said Patrick Sweet, another inmate who was experimented on. "There wasn't any question as to after-effects or side effects."

The prisoners said they were offered money for participation in the radiation experiments.

The experiments were funded by the Atomic Energy Commission, predecessor of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and the Energy Research and Development Administration.