

## Thousands across U.S. protest war policies

BY ERNEST HARSCH

"CIA out of Nicaragua!" and "We say no, stop the *contra* money flow!" were among the more common chants at the nationally coordinated antiwar demonstrations held in more than a dozen cities across the country October 25.

These actions — initiated by the National Actions for Peace, Jobs and Justice — were called to protest U.S. intervention in Central America, U.S. ties to apartheid, nuclear weapons, and war spending. In each of the cities where they were held, local coalitions had been formed to organize the protests, involving student groups, Central America solidarity and anti-intervention organizations, anti-apartheid committees, and others.

Besides the demonstrations held in 15 cities on October 25, three more are slated to take place November 1 and 2 in Boston, Los Angeles, and Seattle.

Among the largest of the October 25 actions was the one in Washington, D.C., which drew protesters from seven mid-Atlantic states. Organizers estimated that some 4,000 people participated in the march and rally.

The overwhelmingly young crowd included many white, Black, and Latino students from over a dozen college campuses in the region. A large banner reading, "Say No to the U.S. War on Nicaragua" led off the march.

The wide range of speakers included representatives from the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa; the Salvadoran trade union FENASTRAS; Yeshg'vul, an antiwar Israeli soldiers' organization; as well as Haitian, Palestinian, British, and other progressive and peace organizations.

Enthusiastic chants of "No pasarán!" (They shall not pass) greeted Estela Rocha, a Sandinista and trade union leader from Nicaragua, who is currently touring the United States.

Loud applause and chanting was the response of rally participants to Rocha's reference to the shooting down of a CIA plane delivering arms to the *contras* inside Nicaragua.

"We Nicaraguans think that your tax dollars, used to kill our free people, should stay here to solve the problems here," Rocha affirmed. "Why not use them to open the steel mills in Pennsylvania that have been closed, so that unemployed steelworkers can go back to work?"

National Organization for Women (NOW) Vice-president Sherry O'Dell also spoke. "We must again take to the streets to stop the march to militarism. And the place to start is to stop this dirty war on Nicaragua," she said.

A number of speakers referred to the need to organize massive mobilizations in 1987 against Washington's escalating *contra* war.

That was the theme of Griff Jones, who spoke for the Washington Area Coalition to Stop the U.S. War in Nicaragua, which organized the demonstration. "We have watched as Congress caved in under Reagan's red-scare campaign," Jones said. "We recognize [Congress] has failed to represent the 62 percent of the American people who oppose this war. . . . It's clear that we have to build a mass movement in the streets that doesn't go away."

In San Francisco, about 2,000 people marched and rallied.

The protest included a large contingent in opposition to U.S. intervention in Central America, involving Salvadoran and other solidarity groups. "CIA out of Nicaragua!" and "Money for peace, not for war, U.S. out of El Salvador!" were among the



Militant/Arthur Hughes

Demonstrators in Washington demand end to funding of Nicaraguan *contras*

chants. There was also a large anti-nuclear-weapons contingent, with many signs and banners protesting the Reagan administration's "Star Wars" program.

Speakers included representatives from the San Francisco Freeze, the Nicaragua Information Center, the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front-Revolutionary Democratic Front of El Salvador, the ANC, NOW, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, the International Indian Treaty Council,

and other groups. Berkeley Mayor Gus Newport also spoke.

The New York City demonstration, which drew nearly 2,000 protesters, was led by a contingent of the "Great Peace March for Global Nuclear Disarmament," a group of some 900 peace marchers who are crossing the United States to dramatize their opposition to nuclear weapons. New York hospital workers were also prominent in the lead of the march.

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## Volumes of trial evidence in Nicaragua expose CIA role

BY HARVEY McARTHUR

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Nicaragua's attorney general introduced volumes of evidence in the trial of CIA mercenary Eugene Hasenfus here October 29. Hasenfus is the only surviving crew member of a CIA plane shot down October 5 while flying arms and ammunition to U.S.-backed mercenaries in southern Nicaragua.

The evidence included ID cards issued by the Salvadoran Air Force identifying Hasenfus and copilot Wallace Sawyer as U.S. "advisers" with access to restricted areas of the Salvadoran Ilopango airbase. Many of the supply flights to the mercenaries, or *contras*, originated from Ilopango.

Other ID cards identified the pilot, William Cooper, and copilot Sawyer as employees of the Miami-based Southern Air Transport, long known as a front for CIA operations. Cooper also carried business cards from Robert Owen and P.J. Buechler, both involved in channeling "humanitarian aid" from the U.S. government to the *contras*.

Other papers from the plane identified Max Gómez and Ramón Medina, two longtime CIA agents who run the *contra* supply operation from El Salvador, according to Hasenfus.

Nicaraguan Attorney General Rodrigo Reyes requested that the court review a video of the CBS 60 Minutes interview with Hasenfus — in which he admitted working for the CIA — and that it inspect the five tons of arms and ammunition found in the plane.

In the original indictment, Reyes said that he would show that Hasenfus was one of the "tools" of "the official policy of the Government of the United States against the Republic of Nicaragua."

Reyes charged Hasenfus with "actions aimed at subjecting [Nicaragua] to foreign control" and supporting "those who take up arms to attack the national government"; terrorism; and criminal association.

Hasenfus' defense attorney is Enrique Sotelo, a well-known member of the right-

**An interview with the three Nicaraguan soldiers who shot down the CIA plane and captured Eugene Hasenfus appears on page 7.**

ist "Sicilian faction" of the Conservative Democratic Party here. Sotelo is working closely with former U.S. Attorney General Griffin Bell who arrived in Nicaragua on October 22. Bell claims he is working as a private lawyer hired by the Hasenfus family, and has no connections with the U.S. government.

On October 23, Sotelo filed a brief in court attempting to divert attention from Hasenfus' crimes and the facts of illegal U.S. intervention in Nicaragua. At a subsequent news conference, Sotelo admitted that he had not shown the brief to Hasenfus before submitting it.

The brief denounced the Nicaraguan attorney general for taking eight pages of his indictment of Hasenfus to document the

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## Vote Socialist Workers!

The 1986 election campaign is coming to an end, and many working people are thinking about whom to support and vote for — that is, those who are not fed up with the whole business.

We think that the only candidates who have told the plain truth about the scope of the attacks coming down on workers and farmers are those of the Socialist Workers Party. These 62 candidates from 23 states and the District of Columbia have been talking to working people, participating in struggles, and offering proposals for how to move toward ending once and for all the employers' grinding offensive.

The socialist candidates, most of whom

## EDITORIAL

are workers and unionists, and their supporters have been active campaigners. They have taken their ideas to plant gates and rural districts, and to picket lines, antiwar demonstrations, anti-apartheid actions, and other struggles.

Most working people know very well the mounting problems. Real wages are being driven down, and safety on the job is deteriorating. In the midst of a business upturn, unemployment remains high.

The workers who are most vulnerable — the unorganized, the undocumented immigrants, and the targets of racist and sexist discrimination — are taking many of the biggest blows.

When workers are forced to strike to preserve some of what they have won in past battles, the government helps the employers herd scabs, and cops toss unionists behind bars.

Moreover, there has been no letup in farm foreclosures as hundreds of working farmers are driven off the land every week.

Medical care, housing, education, and other basic necessities are getting harder for working people to come by. Yet ever more billions are poured into the weapons budget.

Just to take one example, the aircraft carrier *Theodore Roosevelt*, launched October 25 by the navy, cost upwards of \$3 billion. How many schools and hospitals, and how many homes and apartments for the army of the homeless would that sum have provided?

Washington has organized a mercenary army to wage a war against the people of Nicaragua. This war is being backed up by a steadily growing number of U.S. Green Berets, CIA agents, and soldiers and National Guard personnel.

The government and the owners of the broadcasting networks and newspapers try to convince us that U.S. working people benefit from a massive war budget and from Washington's covert wars against Nicaragua, Angola, Vietnam, and other countries. They argue that it is in our "national interests," as if workers and bosses had the same interests to defend.

Likewise, the bosses tell us that workers should support takebacks in this country "for the good of the company." And, of course, what's good — that is, profitable — for management will be good for workers.

The SWP candidates have challenged these lies. And they have supported and participated in the struggles of working people who are attempting to fight back.

The battle by meat-packers in Austin, Minnesota, and elsewhere against Geo. A. Hormel & Co. is a powerful example. These workers are using their union to fight for their interests and to reach out across

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# Thousands protest U.S. war in Nicaragua

Continued from front page

There were numerous banners proclaiming opposition to U.S. intervention in Central America. Several of the speakers at the rally condemned U.S. intervention, including John Collins, a member of Witness for Peace, who described the impact of the U.S.-backed contra war on Nicaraguan peasants.

Democratic Party politician Jesse Jackson stated, "The thought that we're now conducting a surrogate war out of the White House by fascist murderers against Nicaragua is immoral, illegal, and wrong." To big applause from the crowd, he went on, "We cannot rest while our money is used to kill people in Central America."

## 'To hell with your war'

Despite a steady rain in Chicago, more than 1,000 people turned out in that city. There were many students, as well as trade unionists and others. Chants included, "Money for farms, not arms," "Hey hey, ho ho, contra money has got to go," and "Chicago divest, the ANC will do the rest." The El Salvador Earthquake Relief Fund collected money during the action.

More than 800 people marched and rallied in Austin, Texas, with participants coming from cities throughout the state. The evening before, a send-off rally in Houston featured Ricardo Espinosa of the Nicaraguan embassy.

The crowd in Austin was young, including many students. A large number of Latinos participated.

Antonio Cabral of Chicanos Against Military Intervention in Latin America (CAMILA) told the protesters, "This time it is not going to take as long as it did in the Vietnam War. . . . We will tell Reagan and other warmongers, 'To hell with your war!'"

In Miami, the local October 25 coalition added two of its own demands to those raised nationally: "Equal justice for Haitian refugees, close Krome" — referring to the notorious Haitian refugee detention center — and "No U.S. military aid to the Haitian government."

The crowd of 250 heard Shuping Coapoge, an ANC representative, and Niklak Butler of the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee. The two are on a national tour to demand freedom for Nelson Mandela and Leonard Peltier. Paul Swank from the Original Local P-9 of the United Food and Commercial Workers union in Austin, Minnesota, and Jim Panaro from Irish Northern Aid also spoke.

Traveling to Atlanta from Louisiana, Alabama, North Carolina, Florida, and throughout Georgia, some 200 people marched in the rain. They heard Neo Mnumzana of the ANC, Vernon Bellecourt of the American Indian Movement, and Denny Mealy from the meat-packers struggle in Minnesota.

The next day, representatives from the various groups participating in the Atlanta action attended a conference, at which they passed a resolution urging that a national antiwar demonstration be called for next spring.

Among the other demonstrations around the country, some 350 people protested in Minneapolis, about 300 in Salt Lake City, and nearly 60 at an indoor meeting in Cincinnati. Actions were also held in Denver; Portland, Oregon; San Diego; Providence, Rhode Island; and New Haven, Connecticut.

*Contributing to this report were Ike Nahem in Washington, Steven Fuchs in San Francisco, Ed Berger in Miami, and Peter Seidman in Austin.*



Demonstrators in New York. Many students joined October 25 actions. Militant/Ernest Harsch

## Puerto Ricans in N.Y. prison press for right to bail

BY SELVA NEBBIA

NEW YORK — "Free Puerto Rico now! Free Nicaragua now! Free South Africa now!" chanted a couple dozen protesters in front of the Metropolitan Correctional Center in this city on October 26.

They and others gather here on the last Sunday of every month, holding lit sparklers so as to be seen by nine fighters for Puerto Rican independence held at MCC. The inmates wave back through the thick glass windows of the prison. Many times the relatives of those detained join the picket line.

The nine are victims of an FBI raid in Puerto Rico on Aug. 30, 1985. They have been imprisoned since then. They are accused of taking part in the robbery of \$7.2 million from a Wells Fargo depot in 1983. Seven others arrested under the same charges are free on bail.

On October 21 a federal court of appeals in New York City heard a request for bail for Isaac Camacho Negrón and Orlando González Claudio, two of the nine who are still in prison.

On October 24, the *Militant* talked to Rafael Anglada-López, a member of the legal team defending the independence fighters.

Fourteen months after the arrests, no date for the trial has been set. According to Anglada-López, the trial will not take place until mid 1987. By the time they are brought to trial, the defendants will have

spent at least two years in prison without having been convicted of any crime.

Anglada-López said that even though some small improvements in the prison conditions of the nine have been won, they are still subject to inhuman treatment at MCC.

He cited the example of González Claudio who recently had the measles and was denied medical attention. He had to suffer his illness while locked up in isolation in the "hole."

Earlier this year, González Claudio was also beaten by prison guards because he refused to remove the Puerto Rican flag he had sewn on his prison uniform.

Anglada-López stressed that "the constitutional democratic rights of the independence fighters are being violated." They are being denied their democratic right to bail for allegedly being dangerous and likely to flee, even though nobody was injured or killed during the Wells Fargo heist they are charged with committing.

"We are fighting for such an elementary and democratic right won by the masses in this country over the years as the right to bail. I think this case is very important not only for the independence of our nation, but also for the struggle in the United States," said the Puerto Rican lawyer.

For more information and contributions, contact: Puerto Rican Committee Against Repression, P.O. Box A-840, N.Y.C. 10163, or call (212) 286-0924.

## Aluminum workers fight lockout

BALTIMORE — Members of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) described the employers' attacks on their union in a panel discussion at the Militant Labor Forum here October 4.

Speaking on the panel were Bill Sagle, assistant editor of Local 7886's newspaper at the Eastalco Aluminum Co.'s plant near Frederick, Maryland, and Joe Kleidon, a member of Local 2609 at the Bethlehem Steel Corp.'s Sparrows Point plant.

Sagle detailed the background leading up to Eastalco's lockout of the Steelworkers. The workers had accepted concessions in previous contracts. Alumax Inc., Eastalco's parent company, refused to grant an extension of the current contract when it expired August 1, even though two days earlier the company had agreed to a one-year contract extension at another plant on the West Coast.

Sagle said the company has been using private security guards along with the state

police and the local sheriffs department to harass and intimidate pickets.

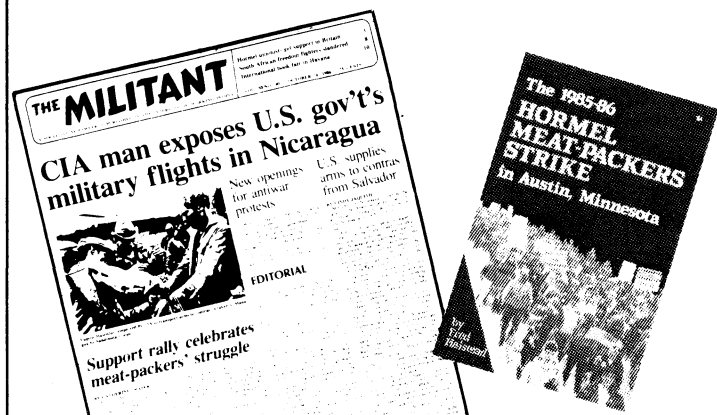
Kleidon said the threat of Chapter 11 federal bankruptcy is being used by Bethlehem Steel to try to force through the elimination of job categories at the Sparrows Point plant.

A message was sent to the forum by John Shisler, president of USWA Local 1245 at the Eastern Stainless Steel plant in Baltimore. The union membership there recently had a harsh contract imposed on them.

"They're sitting back like a hungry lion, waiting for us to fall. Then they're going to come in and pounce on us. They can pay a consultant \$30,000 a month up front, but they can't pay us the 45 cents they've owed us since February," Shisler said.

A lively discussion followed the forum. The antiwar activists encouraged those present to participate in the October 25 protest for "peace, jobs, and justice" to be held in Washington, D.C.

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## The Militant

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# Rally for striking Iowa meat-packers draws broad support

BY BILL LONG

MARSHALLTOWN, Iowa — October 26 was a day of solidarity with 315 striking members of Local 50 of the National Brotherhood of Packinghouse and Industrial Workers (NBPW).

Six hundred and fifty unionists and their families from throughout the region gathered here to show support for the NBPW members who have been on strike at Swift Independent Packing Co. for four weeks.

Members of the United Food and Commercial Workers union (UFCW) from Iowa and Minnesota, auto workers, farmers, and other unionists brought food, donations, and messages of support to the strikers. The unionists participated in a rally and a march around the Swift plant.

NBPW members are demanding that the company withdraw its takeback demands and cease its union-busting attacks.

The mayor of Marshalltown has mobilized state, county, and municipal cops to herd strikebreakers into the plant and to arrest union members on numerous charges. Swift has brought 250 scabs into the plant.

The company has obtained a court injunction limiting the number of pickets to four at each gate.

## Focal point for meat-packers

The strike has become a focal point for other meat-packers in the area, who also face growing attacks from the packinghouse companies.

NBPW Local 50 President Jim Aalfs and chief shop steward Ross Boyer explained that at the last negotiating session the company went back to its original "final offer." The company is trying to exclude new hires from the pension program and is demanding the right to have a "permanent flexible workweek."

Swift is demanding a 19 percent cut in wages on top of a whopping 39 percent cut in pay in 1982. Many strikers explain that speedup, harassment by management, and injuries on the job have all gotten worse since 1982.

"It used to be an okay place to work, but

we had to strike because the conditions are so bad," a mechanic with 32 years in the plant said.

Twenty meat-packers and members of the United Support Group from Austin, Minnesota, participated in the rally and brought a load of food down for Local 50. Over 800 meat-packers who participated in UFCW Local P-9's strike against Hormel are fighting for reinstatement at the Austin plant.

Addressing the rally, Kathy Buck, a member of Local P-9's Executive Board before the local was put in trusteeship in June by the UFCW top officialdom, said that the fight today is "not just in Iowa or in meatpacking. It is a struggle against oppression. It is not just the minorities, the farmers, but the entire working class that is oppressed and we must stand up against it."

## Unity is necessary

Buck told the *Militant* that the delegation from Austin had come to Marshalltown because "it is important for all working men and women everywhere to unite together and support one another when they choose to fight back against corporate greed and injustice. It is one way to practice what we preach," she said.

The business agent from the UFCW-organized Swift plant in Worthington, Minnesota, gave greetings and presented Local 50 with a \$500 check.

UFCW members from the Hormel plant in Ottumwa, Iowa, and the Wilson Foods plant in Cherokee, Iowa, also participated.

Bill Cook gave greetings "from the Hormel workers in Ottumwa who honor picket lines."

Over 200 workers there who honored pickets sent out by Local P-9 earlier this year have not been allowed by Hormel to return to work.

Cook recently explained the issues in the Hormel fight to British workers during a tour of that country. He said he had learned that the unions "aren't the officials, they are the rank and file."

Austin United Support Group member Barbara Collette told the rally, "The United

Swift Independent Packing Co. in Marshalltown, Iowa.

Last summer the top officials of the UFCW succeeded in having Local P-9 placed in trusteeship.

Workers in Austin responded to the attack by forming the North American Meat Packers Union (NAMPU).

Peter Kennedy from NAMPU told the *Militant* that supporters of the new union had been to Marshalltown to "share our experiences with them and try to be of whatever help we can."

On October 8, the UFCW trustees began sandblasting the mural on the wall of the Austin Labor Center. Painted by Hormel meat-packers and their supporters, the mural depicts international labor solidarity. It is dedicated to imprisoned African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela.

After protesting the sandblasting, the meat-packers obtained a temporary restraining order preventing further destruction of the mural. Austin United Support Group member Pat Higgins explained that a hearing will be held November 12 to decide whether the trustees can continue with the mural destruction.

Support Group activists are working on a fundraising concert to be held at Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis November 20. The concert will feature singers Holly Near, Arlo Guthrie, and John McCutcheon. Proceeds will go toward stocking the Support Group's Food Shelter.

Contributions to aid the Hormel workers and their families should be directed to: Hormel Rank & File Hardship Fund, P.O. Box 903, Austin, Minn. 55912.



Militant/Janice Prescott

Kathy Buck, a leader of Hormel meat-packers' struggle in Austin, Minnesota, brought solidarity to meat-packers on strike in Marshalltown. She is shown here at earlier protest against destruction of mural on side of Austin Labor Center.

Support Group helped draw us together and withstand the pressure" in the struggle against Hormel. She explained that in the course of organizing support for the Hormel workers' fight she had met "unionists from El Salvador who had been in jail for four years just for wanting a union."

## Support from auto workers

NBPW members have gotten considerable support from United Auto Workers Local 8-93 in Marshalltown.

A group of auto workers from the John Deere plant in Waterloo chartered a bus and also came down for the day.

The Iowa Farm Unity Coalition was rep-

resented by Gary Janson. "They tried to tell me I lost my farm in 1983 because I was a failure. I didn't fail," he told the rally, "I was taken down by a political system that is destroying farmers and little people."

Janson said that the Iowa Farm Unity Coalition is urging farmers not to cross picket lines and not to sell hogs to plants on strike.

Members of the American Agriculture Movement also attended the rally.

Several Democratic Party politicians addressed the gathering, urging the workers to support their campaigns.

A spirited march around the plant followed the rally.

# Tours win solidarity for Gainers workers

BY BEVERLY BERNARDO

EDMONTON, Alberta — Gainers packinghouse owner Peter Pocklington "is not getting anywhere in British Columbia." So reported Lynn Sharun, a striking member of United Food and Commercial Workers union Local 280P at Gainers, to a rally of fellow strikers here October 22. Sharun was informing this meeting of 500 cheering UFCW Local 280P meat-packers about her recent visit to British Columbia to gain support for their strike. "If you had all been there with me you would have seen the tremendous support we have in the labor movement," she said.

Prior to the beginning of the strike June 1, Sharun was not very involved in her union. But when she saw the treatment her union brothers and sisters were receiving from the cops on the picket line, she decided she had to do something. She went on tour to organize support for the 1,080 members of Local 280P.

The message brought back by all the 19 other touring strikers was the same as hers. Those on tour had covered every one of Canada's 10 provinces to win support for the boycott of Gainers' and Swift's products and to raise financial donations for the strike fund.

"Tremendous support for the Gainers strike exists in the labor movement and with this support we're going to win," said Kelly Conroy who visited Ontario. "A lot of people are looking to UFCW Local 280P and you should be proud of that," he told the assembled strikers.

Conroy reported that the Canadian Auto Workers union had voted to hold a cross-country plant-gate collection in the near future.

In the prairie province of Manitoba, Dan McGee was able to meet with the New Democratic Party governmental caucus. (The NDP is Canada's union-based labor party.) Manitoba Prime Minister Howard Pawley sent out a letter to provincial institutions urging them not to order Gainers products.

"The support out there is unbelievable; it's enough to bring tears to your eyes, and in fact it did," explained striker Ron Rob-

lin. He visited the eastern province of New Brunswick where 700 workers at a convention of the Canadian Paperworkers Union voted to donate \$60,000 to the strike fund.

"Throughout the province of Newfoundland we never got less than 100 percent support," Renee Peevey told the meeting. Even in the town of Chamberlains, where it has been rumored that some layoffs could occur because of the boycott's effectiveness, the workers are supporting the Gainers strike.

Work to build support in the unions and the NDP for UFCW Local 280P's fight continues. Gerry Beauchamp is still in Quebec. In Halifax, the Nova Scotia Federation of Labour's convention voted to send \$8,400. And in Regina, passing the hat among delegates at the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour's convention netted \$1,600.

UFCW 280P members also set up a table at the NDP federal council here in Edmonton on October 26. Federal NDP leader Ed Broadbent declared he was "pleased to be here with a party and a leader [Alberta NDP leader Ray Martin] who were front and center with the Gainers strikers." Broadbent also said the Gainers strikers must by law have the right to return to their jobs.

Support for the strikers is also firm here in Alberta. The executive council of the Alberta Federation of Labour (AFL) and representatives from most of the province's major unions got a standing ovation when they arrived in a show of support to the strikers at the October 22 meeting.

The 40 Alberta union officials had been meeting in another room to discuss the next stages in the AFL's campaign to change the province's repressive labor laws. The campaign will culminate in a demonstration at the provincial legislature on May 1, 1987. AFL President Dave Werlin said that "the courageous Gainers strikers" had been key in getting the whole labor movement to fight to change the "legislation or the legislators."

On October 24 a crowd of 700 strikers and their supporters from many different unions celebrated at a sold-out fundraising dance.

# Hormel fighters speak to unionists

BY NORTON SANDLER

Meat-packers from Austin, Minnesota, are currently touring several cities urging unionists to support their struggle to win their jobs back at Geo. A. Hormel & Co.

Cecil Cain, a coordinator of the tours, told the *Militant* that two meat-packers had just participated in the two-day special convention of the United Mine Workers of America in Atlanta.

Cain said other tours are under way in Gainesville, Florida; Birmingham, Alabama; Clarksburg, West Virginia; Los Angeles; San Jose; and Seattle.

Tours are going to begin soon in Milwaukee, New York, and Detroit, and Cain explained that he hopes to get additional tours on the road soon.

The touring workers are explaining that 850 meat-packers were excluded from getting their jobs back as part of the contract Hormel was able to impose at the Austin plant in September.

Members of United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local P-9 went on strike there in August 1985 after years of company attacks on the union.

More than 200 meat-packers who honored the picket lines P-9 set up at Hormel plants in Ottumwa, Iowa, and Fremont, Nebraska, have also not gotten their jobs back.

Packinghouse workers are under attack across North America. Meat-packers are currently on strike against company takeback demands at John Morrell's Ark City Packing plant in Arkansas City, Kansas; Gainers in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada; FDL in Dubuque, Iowa; and at

# Southern team: 'biggest success at plant gates'

BY KATY KARLIN

The sales team that recently traveled through southern Georgia and Alabama had its biggest success at plant gates. Over the course of two weeks selling the *Militant* at 15 plants, we sold 273

papers, many pamphlets on the Hormel meat-packers' struggle, and a few *Militant* subscriptions. We sold at plants that were or-

ganized by unions and many that were not. We found that in the rural sections of the South, plant gates were simply the only place where we could find a concentration of workers to talk to.

We took advantage of other op-

portunities too. In Albany, Georgia, for example, we sold over 30 *Militants* at a Stevie Wonder concert. In Mobile, Alabama, sales-

people went to the morning shape-up on the docks, where longshoremen get their daily job assignments. In protest against apartheid, the Mobile longshoremen have refused to unload cargo from South Africa. This has forced all ships bearing South African goods to redock at other ports. Of 25 workers at the shape-up, 13 bought *Militants*.

Also in Mobile the team sold 26 *Militants* and 1 subscription to workers at the afternoon shift change at the Scott Paper factory. One worker said, "I'm a militant, and I want that paper."

We sold 68 *Militants* to meat-packers at four different plants. At

the Swift plant in Moultrie, Georgia, workers expressed their solidarity with the struggle against the Hormel Co. by buying the paper. "I need to read this," one worker said.

At the nonunion Sunnyland meat-packing plant in Thomasville, Georgia, two salespeople sold 35 *Militants*. Workers told them how the company had closed the plant and reopened under a different name in order to bust the union. As at other plants where we sold, identification with the Hormel meat-packers was high.

Our greatest success was selling at the Chemical Waste Management toxic dump site at Emelle,

Alabama.

We went to the plant at its morning shift change and talked to workers going in. Many workers and management personnel alike assumed we were union organizers or environmental protesters. "Unless you're here to organize a union, I don't want to talk to you," one worker said.

But once we made clear who we were and what the *Militant* is about, we sold a paper to nearly everyone who passed through the gate. By the time the bosses decided to chase us off, we had sold 41 copies of the *Militant* at a plant that has about 300 employees.

## SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE

# Antiwar sales help bring subscription goal closer

BY MALIK MIAH

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Chanting "USA, CIA Out of Nicaragua" and "Boycott South Africa, Not Nicaragua," several thousand people marched 20 blocks from Malcolm X Park to Lafayette Park across the street from the White House.

The protest was one of 15 that occurred October 25. (See news story on front page.)

Among the demonstrators were dozens of *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* sales people — from D.C.; Baltimore; Philadelphia; Greensboro, North Carolina; Tidewater, Virginia; Charleston and Morgantown, West Virginia; Pittsburgh; and several

other cities.

Despite the drizzle, 91 *Militant* and *PM* subscriptions were sold.

Combined with successful sales at other antiwar protests around the country and our past week's sales, we have surpassed the target of 1,500 new *Perspectiva Mundial* subscriptions, and are closing in on our national goal of 10,000 as of November 15.

As the subscription scoreboard shows, we now have 1,534 *PM* and 5,993 *Militant* subscriptions, for a total of 7,527.

The number of subscriptions received in the business office this week was one of the highest of the drive. With the current national sales target week — November 1-7

— and several new sales teams hitting the road soon, prospects for significantly increasing the number of *PM* and *Militant* subscriptions are good.

If the response to our sales people at the march and rally here is any indication, a big push the final three weeks should give us the momentum to make the local and national goals.

Participants who bought the *Militant* and *PM* at the protest were those who wanted it.

Most radical papers were being distributed free. Our advantage was the *Militant's* on-the-scene coverage from its full time Nicaragua bureau — including reports on the trial of CIA mercenary Eugene Hasenfus. Many subscriptions were sold on the basis that in the following issue we were running an interview with the three young Nicaraguans who shot down the U.S. mercenaries' plane.

Sales people reported that whether a subscription or single issue was sold, many political discussions took place. As a result, a number of new readers joined a total of 130 people at an open house sponsored by the *Militant*, *PM*, and the Young Socialist Alliance after the demonstration. At least one person asked to join the YSA.

Mike Alewitz told me he sold eight subscriptions on the bus from Tidewater, Virginia. Tom Hedley, a railworker in D.C., sold eight subscriptions (five *PM*, three *Militant*) at Malcolm X Park. Mike Penock from Pittsburgh sold nine subscriptions. Many people said they had recently purchased subscriptions, reflecting the efforts of local sales people.

Several hundred copies of the papers and hundreds of dollars of Pathfinder Press literature were also sold.

This good response to the *Militant* and *PM* and socialist literature was repeated in New York, Chicago, and other cities. An open house in Chicago was attended by 200 of the 1,200 people who demonstrated.

A national sales team began selling in Nebraska this past week. So far more than a dozen subscriptions have been sold, and one student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln asked to join the YSA.

Other national sales teams in Iowa, Northern California, Virginia/North Carolina, and Puerto Rico will be on the road soon.

You can still help out. Contact a distribution center listed in the directory on page 12 or call the business office. The 10,000 goal is clearly within reach. All out for the final three weeks.



Militant/Arthur Hughes

Sales table at Washington, D.C., protest. Socialist literature sold well at antiwar actions.

## Subscription expiring? Renew now!

BY MALIK MIAH

Many of you have been reading the *Militant* for the past six or more weeks, after buying an introductory subscription.

We thank you for subscribing and hope you've enjoyed our coverage of national and world events.

Although you have a few more weeks to

go before your subscription expires, we are reminding you now about extending it. This way, you won't have to worry about missing a single issue of the paper.

To help you decide today, we're making a special offer. If you extend your subscription by six or more months (\$15 for six months and \$24 for one year), we'll send you any issue of *New International*, a magazine of Marxist theory and politics, free.

A subscription to *New International* is \$12.00 for three issues. For only \$10 a complete set of the five previous issues is available. That's a saving of over 50 percent on the cover price of a single issue.

All renewals to the *Militant* or the Spanish-language monthly *Perspectiva Mundial* made between now and November 15 will be counted toward the national subscription goal of 10,000.

Because several hundred introductory subscriptions expire by mid-November, we urge supporters to consider recontacting these early subscribers about renewing their subscriptions. Subscribers who are political activists and coworkers on the job, especially, can be talked to before the national campaign is concluded.

We have already received unsolicited renewals from several subscribers. The *Militant* business office is beginning to directly appeal to readers to renew their subscriptions by sending them a series of letters.

The special offer on *New International* will, we hope, increase the long-term circulation base of both publications.

If you haven't done so yet, extend your subscription today. Please fill out the coupon in the ad on page 6. Note the issue of *New International* that you wish to receive free with your renewal.

## Fall Subscription Scoreboard

Area	Goals		Sold		% Sold	Area	Goals		Sold		% Sold
	<i>Perspectiva</i>	<i>Mundial</i>	<i>Perspectiva</i>	<i>Mundial</i>			<i>Perspectiva</i>	<i>Mundial</i>	<i>Perspectiva</i>	<i>Mundial</i>	
New Paltz, N.Y.	5	—	5	—	100	Toledo, Ohio	100	5	73	4	73
Charleston, W. Va.	100	0	94	3	97	Miami	125	40	98	21	72
Columbus, Ohio	18	2	17	1	90	Cleveland	125	15	90	10	71
Milwaukee	100	30	85	27	86	Louisville, Ky.	115	10	83	6	71
San Francisco	170	80	144	71	86	Seattle	200	35	144	23	71
Morgantown, W. Va.	130	—	109	—	84	Kansas City	160	15	111	11	70
Philadelphia	175	50	166	24	84	Houston	290	60	207	31	68
Portland, Ore.	135	15	120	6	84	Chicago	300	50	172	62	67
New York	500	250	383	242	83	Salt Lake City	105	15	75	3	65
San Diego	100	60	81	51	83	Twin Cities, Minn.	250	20	165	11	65
San Jose, Calif.	200	100	164	84	83	Oakland, Calif.	200	30	111	32	62
Boston	235	65	200	43	81	St. Louis	235	5	144	1	60
Newark, N.J.	375	125	250	149	80	Cincinnati	90	10	54	4	58
Baltimore	140	5	108	5	78	Dallas	225	75	115	49	55
Greensboro, N.C.	140	10	109	7	77	Des Moines, Iowa	200	—	103	—	52
Los Angeles	300	200	228	155	77	Price, Utah	50	5	24	1	45
Pittsburgh	100	5	73	8	77	Tidewater, Va.	60	5	29	0	45
Birmingham, Ala.	150	3	115	1	76	Omaha, Neb.	125	0	48	1	39
Capital District, N.Y.	125	10	90	12	76	Denver	135	10	46	4	34
Washington, D.C.	160	40	113	39	76	Austin, Minn.	125	—	17	—	14
Atlanta	140	10	109	4	75	Indiana, Pa.	5	—	0	—	0
New Orleans	90	10	71	4	75	National teams	—	—	522	187	—
Phoenix	100	75	66	66	75	Other	—	—	473	46	—
Detroit	260	30	189	25	74						
Totals						8,500	1,500	5,993	1,534	75	
to be on schedule								5,950	1,050	70	



# Activists celebrate court victory in political rights defense case

NEW YORK — Leonard Boudin, noted constitutional attorney and lawyer for the Socialist Workers Party, told 60 people gathered here October 22 that "after a long, hard fight we have won a significant victory for the constitutional rights of all those who engage in political activity in this country."

Boudin was the featured guest at a cocktail party sponsored by the Political Rights Defense Fund (PRDF) to celebrate the victory won in *Socialist Workers Party v. Attorney General*. On August 25 Judge Thomas Griesa ruled that government spying and disruption efforts aimed at the party and the Young Socialist Alliance were illegal and unconstitutional.

The event drew together representatives of the two plaintiff organizations that brought the lawsuit; Leonard Boudin and other members of the legal team that has worked on the case since it was filed in 1973; longtime partisans of the case; and other political activists who came to lend their support in the next stages of this legal battle in defense of political rights. It was held at the home of actors Hal Studer and Billie Lou Watt.

Among those in attendance at the party were George Harrison, who successfully defeated efforts to deport him back to Ireland to face victimization for his activities in defense of Irish freedom; Jim Houghton, leader of Harlem Fightback; Madnodje Mounoubaï, representing the Burkina Faso mission to the United Nations; Thiago de Mello, Brazilian musician and political activist who testified for the SWP in the case; Ned Ryerson, board member of the PRDF from Cambridge, Massachusetts; and dozens of others.

## Champagne toast

The program at the event began with a champagne toast to those who had lent a hand in filing the suit, garnering publicity for it, and raising funds to help keep it in court and before the public, and to the legal team that argued it at each step of the case.

John Studer, executive director of the PRDF, singled out the attorneys present who had worked on the lawsuit: Leonard Boudin; Margaret Winter, who handled the arguments at trial; and Ed Copeland, who works in the Boudin firm on the case.

Studer introduced Boudin, who explained the significance of the court victory, and traced the long struggle to achieve it.

Boudin described several high points of the eight-year battle following the filing of the case and before it went to trial. This period was marked by one skirmish after

another in an effort to force out the truth about the government's covert attacks against the party, he said. As Judge Griesa's decision records, the government attempted at every stage to hide the scope and character of its operation.

"One high point," Boudin pointed out, "was when then attorney general Griffin Bell simply refused to turn over to the court 18 government informer files the judge ordered him to surrender. Judge Griesa held him in contempt. Bell appealed. This produced a kind of constitutional quandary, as the government official designated to see that the country's laws were obeyed was in fact breaking the law."

Boudin then pointed to three central gains won by the court decision. "First, Judge Griesa has found that the FBI's informers, burglaries, and disruption program against the party were clearly unconstitutional," he said. "This ruling is of great importance to all organizations that want to engage in politics today."

"Second, the judge grants a damage award against the government of more than \$250,000."

"Lastly," Boudin continued, "the ruling includes an injunction against government use of any information contained in files illegally obtained or developed from illegally obtained activity."

## Origins of FBI spying on socialists

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. Subheads are by the *Militant*.

As far as the evidence in this case is concerned, the history relating to the FBI's investigation of the SWP starts with a series of directives issued by President [Franklin] Roosevelt to J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the FBI. Roosevelt met with Hoover on Aug. 24, 1936, and this meeting was recorded in a memorandum written by Hoover. According to the memorandum, Roosevelt "was desirous of discussing the question of the subversive activities in the United States, particularly fascism and communism." The president wished to have an investigation which would obtain "a broad picture of the general movement and its activities as may affect the economic and political life of the country as a whole."

Boudin concluded by offering his thanks to some of the groups without whom the fight could never have been conducted. He singled out the SWP and YSA, who filed the suit and participated in developing the strategy for it at each stage; the PRDF, which organized political and financial support for the case; and the Bill of Rights Foundation, which played an important role in gathering the funds necessary to keep the lawsuit going.

## Hearings to be held

Studer outlined the next stages in the legal and political battle to defend Judge Griesa's decision. He pointed to the hearings to be held soon on the court injunction. These, he said, will help determine the scope of the decision and win additional protection for political activists whose names might appear in files gathered illegally by the government.

Once the injunction is issued, the decision will become final, and government appeals can be expected.

Studer thanked those at the party for their past support, and explained that the PRDF has launched a new drive to gain thousands of new supporters to help in the next stage of the case.

A special goal in this sponsor drive,

Due to the then existing system for appropriation of funds, it was arranged to have the president instruct the secretary of state to have the investigation carried out. The secretary of state made a request for the investigation to the attorney general, who gave directions to the director of the FBI. These steps were completed by Sept. 1, 1936.

On Sept. 6, 1939, President Roosevelt issued a public directive announcing that the FBI was the agency of the federal government in charge of investigative work in matters relating to espionage, sabotage, and violations of the neutrality regulations. All law enforcement officials in the country were requested to turn over to the FBI matters relating to these subjects and also matters relating to "subversive activities." A similar directive was issued by President Roosevelt on Jan. 8, 1943.

Succeeding presidents confirmed this investigative authority of the FBI. On July 24, 1950, President [Harry] Truman issued a directive reaffirming those of President Roosevelt and characterizing the FBI authority as relating to "espionage, sabotage, subversive activities, and related matters." President Eisenhower issued a similar directive on Dec. 15, 1953.

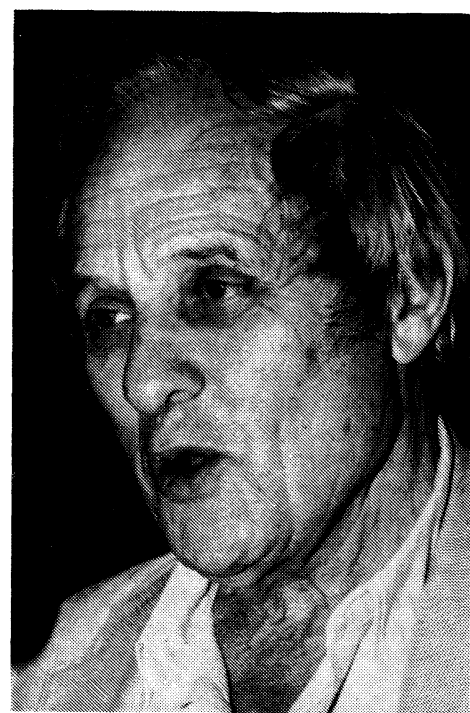
President [John] Kennedy changed the structure somewhat. In a directive dated June 9, 1962, the attorney general was given overall responsibility for the investigation of espionage, sabotage, subversion, and other related matters affecting internal security. The FBI was to continue to conduct the investigations but the supervisory power of the attorney general was expanded.

## Investigation began in 1940

Plaintiffs contend that the investigation of the SWP, stemming from the Roosevelt directive to the FBI, commenced in 1940. The FBI files bear this out. In 1941 Director Hoover wrote the New York office of the FBI complaining about the lack of information regarding the SWP and requesting that every effort be made "to obtain from book shops, informants, and other sources" whatever written materials existed about the SWP.

In the early 1940s the St. Paul office of the FBI was investigating the SWP activities in the labor movement in that area. The St. Paul office generated a comprehensive report on the SWP dated March 10, 1941, which reflects in many ways the views of the SWP held by the FBI during subsequent years.

According to this study, the SWP shared the well-known Marxist goals of overthrow



Militant/Holbrook Mahn

**Attorney Leonard Boudin told guests, "After a long, hard fight we have won a significant victory for all those who engage in political activity."**

Studer noted, is to sign up thousands of unionists who have become active over the last five years due to the increasing antilabor offensive of big business and the government.

As those present finished celebrating what had been accomplished, they picked up piles of leaflets and sponsor cards on their way out to help continue the fight.

of the capitalist state and the transfer of all or most economic activity to a "workers' government." According to the study, the SWP stood for "militant class struggle" and proposed to carry on part of this class struggle within the labor union movement.

The specific program of the SWP was said to involve fomenting strikes and other forms of work stoppages as well as the spreading of Marxist philosophy. It was said that, beyond the trade union program, the SWP was committed to taking leadership in all kinds of "progressive struggles," and was further committed to opposing United States involvement in World War II. The study stated that the position of the SWP was that it would not, under any circumstances, support this country's war effort, but would "fight against it."

On April 5, 1941, a second report was generated in the St. Paul office of the FBI, quoting several signed statements of former members of the SWP in Minnesota to the effect that the leaders of the SWP openly advocated the overthrow of the United States Government by armed force.

The St. Paul office reports were given wide circulation within the FBI.

## Smith Act prosecutions

In 1941, 18 SWP leaders were prosecuted by the federal government for violation of the Smith Act. The charge was that they advocated the violent overthrow of the government. They were convicted in December 1941, and the convictions were upheld on appeal (*Dunne v. United States*).

Following the convictions in the *Dunne* case, the scope of the FBI investigation of the SWP broadened. In December 1942 Director Hoover sent instructions to the various FBI field offices directing that immediate inquiry should be made of confidential informants and confidential sources to determine if the SWP was active in various parts of the country.

FBI investigations are classified as either criminal investigations or national security investigations. An FBI witness has stated that criminal investigation of the SWP and its members for violation of certain federal statutes continued into the early 1950s. The statutes involved were the Smith Act and the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938. However, there is no evidence of any relevant criminal prosecution following the *Dunne* case.

It is safe to characterize the FBI investigation of the SWP from the early 1950s onwards as a national security investigation. The FBI continued its investigation of the SWP until 1976. Attorney General [Edward] Levi terminated the investigation of the SWP on Sept. 9, 1976.

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

# Behind the CIA's 'contra' arms network

## Downed CIA plane reveals direct U.S. involvement in war against Nicaragua

BY ERNEST HARSCH

From the day three young Nicaraguan soldiers shot down a U.S. plane ferrying supplies to the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries and captured the surviving U.S. mercenary on board, Washington has denied any direct role in the affair.

But the wealth of revelations since then — from statements made by captured U.S. mercenary Eugene Hasenfus, from the log books and other documents discovered on the downed plane, and from officials in the United States, El Salvador, and elsewhere — have left the White House's denials hanging in thin air.

What has been exposed is a massive and intricate supply network for the Nicaraguan *contras*, as the counterrevolutionaries are known. It operates out of Salvadoran and Honduran military bases, uses U.S. planes and pilots, and is directed by an array of U.S. personnel, virtually all of whom are present or past employees of the CIA or other U.S. intelligence agencies.

As one unnamed official in El Salvador told *New York Times* correspondent James LeMoine, "If United States officials in Washington are saying the U.S. government had nothing to do with this, they are wrong."

### 'Company people' at Ilopango

In general, the Reagan administration has made little secret of its backing for the *contras*. But a 1984 congressional bar on direct CIA involvement — a prohibition that has now been lifted — prompted it for a time to try to camouflage the extent and nature of its continued role in directing the contra war. One way it did so was by using various "private" right-wing organizations to funnel money and arms to the *contras*.

But as the Hasenfus affair has revealed, little changed in practice. The CIA is still running the show.

According to Hasenfus himself, describing the contra supply operation at the Ilopango air base in El Salvador, "The people I met in El Salvador, that I knew, were all company [CIA] people. . . . They consisted of flight crews, maintenance crews, drivers, and two Cuban nationalized Americans that worked for the CIA that did most of the coordination of these flights."

Initially Hasenfus put the number of

these "company people" at 24 to 26, but later revised his estimate to 14.

Hasenfus named the two U.S. citizens of Cuban origin as Max Gómez and Ramon Medina. Reporters later established that their real names were Félix Rodríguez and Luis Posada Carriles, respectively. Both are veterans of the CIA-organized Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba in 1961. Both served with the U.S. military forces in Vietnam.

U.S. officials have admitted that Rodríguez worked for the CIA. Posada Carriles was also identified as a CIA agent at the time of his conviction in Venezuela of participation in a 1976 bombing of a Cuban airliner that killed 73 people. (He escaped from his Venezuelan prison in 1985.)

Although some U.S. officials have acknowledged that these and other U.S. citizens operating out of the Ilopango air base have had CIA ties in the past, they claim they no longer do. But individuals cannot gain access to the heavily guarded base without identification cards issued with the approval of the U.S. embassy in San Salvador.

Moreover, the ties between these personnel and higher-level U.S. officials are numerous. Salvadoran telephone records show thousands of dollars worth of calls to key figures in Washington from clandestine "safe houses" in San Salvador used by Hasenfus and other contra supply operatives.

Among those figures is retired Maj. Gen. Richard Secord, who was assistant secretary of defense in charge of Middle East arms sales during the first years of the Reagan administration. Secord has admitted providing the *contras* with a plane, as well as with "military guidance."

Another official who received calls from the "safe houses" is Lt. Col. Oliver North, currently with the National Security Council (NSC).

A report prepared by the staff of Sen. John Kerry provided other evidence of North's links to the contra supply operation. According to the report, more than 50 witnesses told about "an interlocking web of bank accounts, airstrips, planes, pilots, and contra bases which have been used in common by weapons smugglers, narcotics smugglers, the *contras*, and organizations assisting the *contras*."

This system, it concluded, was linked to



U.S. "advisers" at El Salvador's Ilopango air base, where many of the CIA's arms flights to Nicaraguan *contras* originate.

a "private network established by Lt. Col. Oliver L. North."

But was North acting in a "private" capacity, beyond his official duties on the NSC? Responding to earlier such accusations about North, then National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane said last year that whatever North's contacts with the *contras*, he was acting on instructions, according to the October 19 *Washington Post*.

Other officials and institutions have also been implicated. The two air companies linked to the downed plane, Corporate Air Services and Southern Air Transport, have extensive CIA ties. Both use the same address in Miami, just across the street from an office of the *contras*' main political front.

On the bodies of the plane's pilot and copilot were the business cards of Robert Owen and P.J. Buechler. Owen is a former associate of Colonel North's, and both men worked for the State Department's Nicaraguan Humanitarian Affairs Office, which was in charge of funneling "humanitarian" assistance to the *contras* over the past year.

Vice-president George Bush, himself a former CIA director, has admitted being in touch with Félix Rodríguez, the CIA agent Hasenfus named as the chief coordinator of the arms flights from Ilopango. Bush called him a "patriot."

Bush also revealed that his national security adviser had recommended Rodríguez to the Salvadoran high command for a job as a counterinsurgency "adviser." Besides aiding Washington's mercenary war against Nicaragua, the Salvadoran military is seeking to crush a popular rebellion in El Salvador itself.

### From Honduras to Nevada

Ilopango is only one of an entire network of military bases in the region used by Washington to ferry arms to the *contras*.

There are others within El Salvador itself.

But especially crucial have been those in neighboring Honduras, where the main contra forces are based near the Nicaraguan border. According to Hasenfus and the downed plane's log books, the Honduran bases of Aguacate, Mocerón, Palmerola, and Rus Rus have been repeatedly used for supply flights.

Most of these airfields were hardened and smoothed by U.S. Army engineering units during U.S. military "exercises" in Honduras. This confirms the key purpose of such exercises — to prepare for further aggression against Nicaragua.

Documents recovered from the plane's wreckage also cited other countries used by the pilots: Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Panama, and Puerto Rico.

In addition, the pilots flew to several military bases in the United States itself, according to the plane's log books. These included the McClellan Air Base in Sacramento, California, and a base in Mercury, Nevada. According to the *New York Times*, the Nevada base is "one of the most highly classified test sites for military aircraft and nuclear weapons," adding that it "may be used for research on the Stealth Bomber and 'Star Wars.'"

Despite the overwhelming evidence of high-level U.S. government involvement in the arms flights to the Nicaraguan *contras*, most members of the various congressional committees set up to "investigate" the revelations have declared themselves satisfied with the administration's denials. A few, such as Sen. Patrick Leahy and Rep. Lee Hamilton, have expressed continued skepticism, however.

In any case, direct CIA involvement again becomes legal as part of the \$100 million contra aid package recently enacted by Congress and put into effect October 23 by President Reagan. The CIA can now discard its mask.

## Special offer for 'New International' if you renew your 'Militant' subscription

If you renew your *Militant* subscription today, you'll receive free an issue of *New International*, a magazine of Marxist politics and theory, published in New York.

Or for only \$10 you can receive all of the five issues of *New International* that have appeared — a big saving.

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

- Vol. 1, No. 1 — Fall 1983  
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"Lenin and the Colonial Question" by Carlos Rafael Rodríguez
- 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 Revolutionary Dictatorship" by Mary-Alice Waters  
"Imperialism and Revolution in Latin America and the Caribbean" by Manuel Piñero  
"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

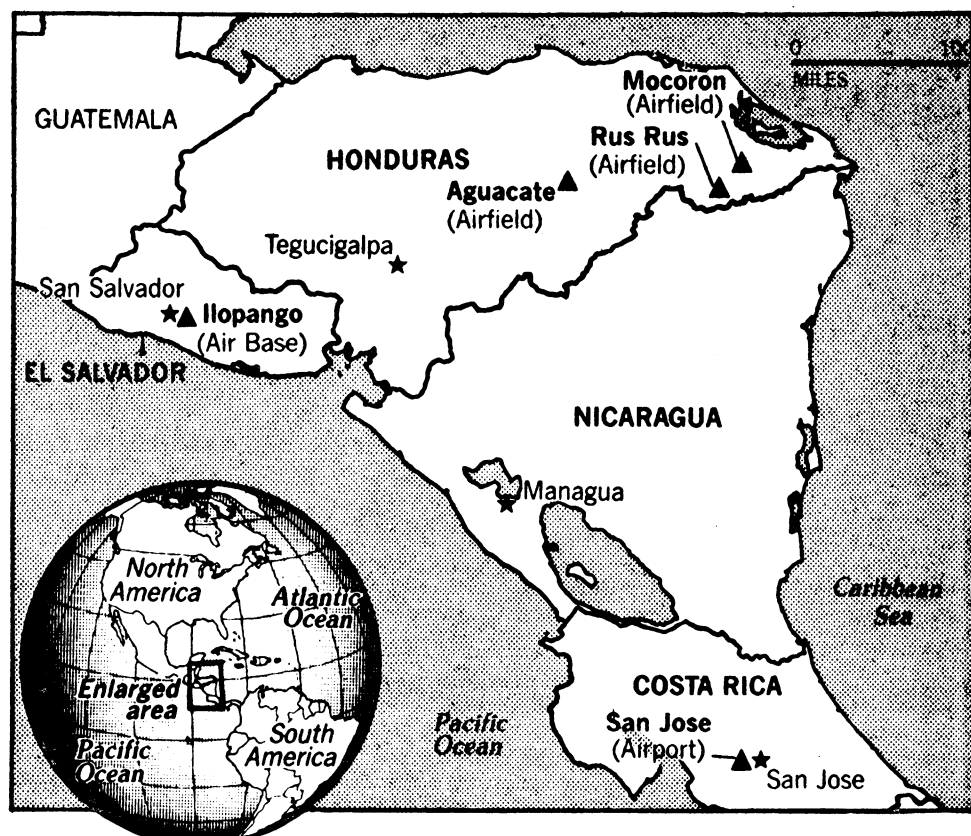
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Militant/Ruth Nebbia

From left to right: Raúl Antonio Acevedo, Byron Montiel Salas, José Fernando Canales.

# Interview with young Nicaraguans who shot down U.S. plane

BY HARVEY McARTHUR

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Several hundred workers and farmers filled the Sandinista Workers Federation meeting hall here October 18 for a national assembly to promote unity in face of the U.S.-backed war against Nicaragua. Suddenly, they rose to their feet and began to applaud as three young soldiers entered.

These were the three soldiers who shot down a CIA plane in southern Nicaragua October 5, and captured CIA mercenary Eugene Hasenfus the next day. They immediately became national heroes — symbols of Nicaragua's determination and ability to defeat the U.S.-backed mercenaries called *contras*.

José Fernando Canales addressed the assembly. He described how he shot down the plane with a hand-held ground-to-air missile, and urged the workers and farmers to maintain the same unity and determination that the Sandinista soldiers fighting in the mountains and jungles have.

The *Militant* was able to talk with the three soldiers during breaks in the assembly — though we were frequently interrupted by other participants who wanted to congratulate the young heroes.

## Typical of Nicaraguan youth

The three are typical of the tens of thousands of young Nicaraguans serving in the army, defending their country against the *contras*. José, 19 years old, and Byron Montiel Salas, 17 years old, are an anti-aircraft team. Along with Raúl Antonio Acevedo, the 20-year-old infantryman who actually captured Hasenfus, they are part of the Gaspar García Laviana light infantry battalion operating in Nicaragua's southern jungles.

The Sandinista army had been aware of the CIA flights supplying the mercenaries, and one of the goals of this battalion was to try to shoot down the plane.

"There used to be many attacks by the *contras* in my region," said Byron. He and José are from the town of San Carlos, near

the Costa Rican border and not far from the spot where they downed the CIA plane.

Byron volunteered for the army "to defend my country," he said. "The *contras* used to attack farm cooperatives and ambush vehicles [near San Carlos], killing and kidnapping the peasants. Now, they can't do that — they run into our troops first."

San Carlos was one of the poorest and most neglected parts of Nicaragua before the 1979 revolution that overthrew the U.S.-backed Somoza dictatorship here. The road connecting it to the rest of the country was rained out 10 months of the year. There were no telephones, no radio, and no hospital.

"The revolution brought us new housing, health clinics, roads, and a land reform that gives land to the peasants," Byron explained. José was especially proud of the big African palm agro-industrial project begun near San Carlos to produce cooking oil for Nicaragua.

Raúl, from the city of Carazo near the Pacific Coast, pointed out the important advances in health care. "Medicine is now available for the people," he said. "We

don't have cases of polio like we used to." He added that Nicaragua would have advanced even more, were it not for the cost of the U.S.-organized war.

## From working-class families

All three are from working-class families. José's father is a carpenter. Byron's father is a fisherman and artisan. His mother works as a maid. Before joining the army five months ago, José and Byron worked as stock clerks in the Ministry of Health pharmacies in San Carlos. They continued their high school studies at night.

Raúl worked for the Ministry of Internal Commerce and was a member of the Sandinista Youth before joining the army nearly two years ago. His father worked as a carpenter and farm worker.

All three said they planned to finish high school after their two-year military service. Then, they plan to apply for scholarships to study abroad, and return to work in Nicaragua.

I asked Raúl what the \$100 million in U.S. aid to the mercenaries will mean for Nicaragua.

"The *contras* don't have any way to get stronger here," he replied. "We dominate the territory and we have the support of the people — that's the principal support that we have. You can see this in this assembly, hear what the people have to say, see the love they show for the soldiers fighting in the mountains. Really, even with the \$100 million, the *contras* can't do anything here."

I asked if they had any message for youth in the United States.

"Tell U.S. young people not to support the Reagan government's aid to the *contras*," said Raúl. "Tell them that we're ready for the \$100 million. We are armed and we'll give them hell — whether it's the Yankees or their puppets here." However, he added, "any Yankees that come here as friends will be well received."

José urged U.S. youth to visit Nicaragua as tourists or on solidarity brigades. "They shouldn't support the Reagan government in its interventions against Nicaragua," he concluded. "It is the Nicaraguan people who suffer from [this intervention]. But we will defend our people no matter what it costs."

# Trial evidence exposes CIA role

Continued from front page

long record of U.S. intervention against Nicaragua and U.S. support for the *contras*.

"This is the limit!" complained Sotelo's assistant, Luis Andara Ubeda. "These are accusations against a country with which Nicaragua has diplomatic relations!"

Asked by reporters if he agreed that there were mercenaries attacking Nicaragua, Ubeda replied: "Mercenaries? It's not my job to go looking for mercenaries. I don't go around looking for ghosts."

Ubeda ducked the question when asked if the U.S. embassy had helped prepare the brief.

The brief also claimed that Hasenfus should not be tried before the People's Anti-Somozaist Tribunals (TPAs) because "Somozaism doesn't exist any more." The U.S.-backed Somoza dictatorship ruled Nicaragua for nearly 50 years until it was overthrown by the 1979 Sandinista revolution. Ex-officers of Somoza's hated National Guard are currently commanding the *contra* terrorist units.

The brief presented by his lawyer also argued that Hasenfus "is not a criminal but rather a worker for a legally constituted airline company." It said that his confessions were invalid since they were made while he was being held prisoner of the Ministry of the Interior.

Millions of U.S. workers, however, saw Hasenfus on the *60 Minutes* television program October 19, where he described the CIA-run supply operation he worked for at length.

Even Griffin Bell told reporters here October 29 that Hasenfus "is certainly guilty. He was in the plane and it was carrying arms. We're just trying to figure out what he should plead guilty to."

The court rejected Sotelo's brief on October 27.

That same day, Griffin Bell met with Nicaragua's Foreign Ministry and proposed that Hasenfus be exchanged for one or more Nicaraguans being held in U.S. prisons. He presented a list of 19 Nicaraguan citizens being held on charges of drug trafficking or other crimes.

Bell's proposal was aimed at avoiding the public trial of Hasenfus, where evidence of U.S. military intervention against Nicaragua will be presented and widely publicized. The Sandinista daily *Barricada* pointed out that although Bell claims he is acting only as a private citizen, the offer he made would have to be authorized by the U.S. government.

## Real issue is U.S. contra war

Meanwhile, Ramsey Clark, also a former U.S. attorney general, arrived in Nicaragua October 23. He met with Attorney General Reyes and members of the

court, and reviewed the documents, evidence, and court procedures in the Hasenfus trial.

In a meeting with reporters October 24, Clark pointed to U.S. pressures to make Hasenfus change his story and plead not guilty. "He is obviously under a lot of pressure from his wife and through her, from the U.S. consul," Clark said. "They're certainly telling him that if he wants to see the United States again, he had better do what they say."

"I think that the trial is being carried out fairly," Clark went on. "Accusations about the trial itself are not significant. They are red herrings, designed to divert attention from the real issue, which is U.S. support for the *contras*."

"We know that the *contras* have killed thousands of Nicaraguans, destroyed farms, mined roads and raped women," Clark said. "The Hasenfus case is just one more piece of evidence linking the U.S. government to the *contras*."

## Honduran army attacks across Nicaragua border

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — In October, the Honduran Army carried out a series of attacks on Sandinista troops stationed on Nicaraguan soil near the Honduran border. The attacks were designed to provoke a bigger military conflict that could justify an escalation of the U.S.-sponsored aggression against Nicaragua.

On October 11, Honduran soldiers fired at Sandinista soldiers in Lomas Las Mesas, about nine miles from the northern Nicaraguan town of Jalapa. Three Sandinista soldiers were killed.

On October 22, Honduran troops fired 14 rockets at Nicaraguan positions near the town of Teotecacinte, just south of the Honduran border.

On October 23, Honduran soldiers fired machine guns, rockets, and grenades at the Nicaraguan border post of Las Manos, about 12 miles north of the city of Ocotol.

No injuries were reported in the latter two attacks.

# Socialist candidate defends gains of Sandinista revolution

BOSTON — In the last weeks of the campaign in the 8th Congressional District here, the Democratic and Republican candidates have been attacking the Nicaraguan government. In contrast, Socialist Workers candidate Jon Hillson used his appearances to explain the gains of the Sandinista revolution and urge a big turnout for antiwar protests here November 1.

Hillson's Democratic rival, Joseph Kennedy, termed himself "no friend of the Sandinistas." While currently opposing military aid to the mercenary *contra* army, he favors military support to the Duarte regime in El Salvador.

Republican Clark Abt supports funding for the CIA-trained killers in Nicaragua.

But, Hillson said in a debate with Abt before nearly 300 students, faculty, and staff of the Watertown, Massachusetts, Hosmer East School, "the people of Nicaragua, the children of Nicaragua, have no different aspirations than you. But they must defend their country against a U.S.-backed invasion."

The students, who ranged from grades four to eight, listened attentively as Hillson explained, "Nearly 1,000 people your age have been killed, and 10,000 left without parents because the rich in the United

States won't let Nicaragua decide its own future."

In a mock election, Hillson received 10.5 percent of the students' votes. The debate was televised twice in Watertown.

The *Arlington Advocate*, the *Watertown Sun*, and the *Winchester Star* carried biographies and interviews with Abt, Hillson, and Kennedy.

On October 22 Hillson urged 200 Boston University students "to march against this escalating war and the big lies used by Washington and Congress to cover it up, because your generation will pay with thousands of lives if that escalation is not stopped."

Nicaragua faces this war, Hillson answered one student, "because it, unlike the United States, gives land to the farmers rather than taking it away from them; because health care is free; because the government builds — rather than breaks — trade unions; because human needs come first; and because political power is in the hands of workers and farmers, not the rich. Washington fears the spread of this example — above and below the Rio Grande."

The socialist candidate, a textile worker and member of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union, also spoke to students at Watertown High School.

# Socialists take stands on referendum issues

## AIDS initiative targets rights

BY PETER ANESTOS

SAN FRANCISCO — Proposition 64, often referred to as the AIDS internment initiative, is on the general election ballot in California. It is a direct attack on constitutional rights.

The proposition was put forward by followers of ultrarightist Lyndon LaRouche. They garnered more than 600,000 signatures on petitions to place the initiative on the ballot.

Proposition 64 would add AIDS to the list of contagious, communicable diseases maintained by the state's Department of Health Services. It would designate carriers of the AIDS virus as being in a contagious and communicable condition.

Under current law, this would mandate officials to quarantine people with AIDS or who test positive for the AIDS virus.

All school employees, students, and airline flight attendants, and workers in agriculture, food processing, grocery stores, bars, and restaurants would have to submit to testing for the virus. Workers and students who test positive would be fired from their jobs or removed from school.

The LaRouche supporters set up Prevent AIDS Now Initiative Committee (PANIC). In the ballot argument submitted for publication by the state, the group hid the fact that AIDS cannot be transmitted casually.

Since gay men are a majority of those known to have AIDS and who have tested positive for the AIDS virus, their rights are immediately threatened by Proposition 64.

The California labor movement opposes the measure. The San Francisco Labor Council Executive Board said the initiative "aims at fueling ignorance and hysteria based on unscientific testing, guilt by association, and suspicion."

The 500 delegates to the state AFL-CIO convention voted unanimously to campaign against the initiative and urge a no vote.

César Chávez, president of the United Farm Workers, said the union sees this proposal as "a threat to the job security and public health of every Californian. We resolve to bury this initiative."

The state's Catholic bishops also condemned the initiative.

The Republican and Democratic candidates for U. S. Senate and governor have gone on record against the proposal, but the issue has been largely ignored in their

statements.

Sam Manuel, Matilde Zimmermann, and Greg Jackson, the Socialist Workers Party candidates for U.S. Senate, governor, and lieutenant governor, have spoken out frequently in opposition to Proposition 64.

## Vote no on English as state language

"English is the official language of the State of California," reads a proposed amendment to the state constitution that is listed on the November 4 ballot as Proposition 63.

Sylvia Zapata, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress from the 25th C.D., located in Los Angeles, is voicing strong opposition to the measure.

The amendment would bar passage of any "law which diminishes or ignores the role of English." It gives any Californian or person doing business in California "standing to sue to enforce" the amendment.

Proposition 63 advocate Stanley Diamond, head of the California English Campaign, portrays the amendment as a way for voters to oppose the printing of ballots in English and Spanish, bilingual education, the use of languages other than English on official signs, and immigration from Mexico.

"The aim of this proposition is to re-enforce discrimination and prejudice against immigrant Latinos, Chinese, and other oppressed people," declared Zapata. "The SWP candidates in California are calling on Californians to vote no on this antidemocratic measure."

## Medicaid should pay for abortions

BY MAGGIE PUCCI AND MARK STEVENSON

BOSTON — Some 5,000 abortion rights supporters marched through the streets here October 18 calling for the defeat of an antiabortion amendment to the Massachusetts constitution. A referendum on the amendment is to be voted statewide in the November 4 election.

The action also commemorated the death of Rosie Jiménez, the first woman to die from a back-alley abortion following the 1976 Hyde Amendment that cut off

federal funding for abortions.

Massachusetts is one of 14 states that still offer Medicaid funding of abortion as part of the state constitution.

The proposed amendment, Question 1, would give the state legislature the power to immediately stop all Medicaid funds for abortion and would also allow private insurers to refuse coverage. The legislature would also be able to place restrictions on the provision of services or facilities for performing abortions.

Proponents of a yes vote in this referendum are calling it a move to stop "government coercion of those whose tax dollars are used in part for abortion."

Demonstrators and speakers at the rally answered this by stating that the real coercion is directed at women who would be forced to bear unwanted children or possibly die or be permanently maimed as a result of an illegal and unsafe abortion.

The march was led by activists carrying a banner that read "March for Women's Lives." Hundreds of other banners and signs followed, identifying delegations from throughout the state.

Among them were contingents of unionists from the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, United Steelworkers of America, and the International Union of Electronic Workers.

Among the speakers were Carol Doherty, chairperson of the statewide Campaign for Choice; Eleanor Smeal, president of the National Organization for Women; and Carter Heyward of the Episcopal Divinity School.

## Candidates barred from Utah debates

SALT LAKE CITY — Pickets marched in front of the offices of KUED-TV, the University of Utah public broadcasting station here, October 8. They were protesting the decision of station management and the League of Women Voters to restrict campaign debates to Republican and Democratic candidates, thereby excluding the candidates of the Socialist Workers Party.

League of Women Voters officials said the socialist candidates were barred because they had not received 10 percent of the vote in the last general election.

The picket line was cosponsored by the SWP and the Young Socialist Alliance. The party's candidates on the November 4 ballot are Mary Zins for U.S. Senator and

Socialist Workers Party candidates Jon Hillson, for congress in the 8th C.D., and Ellen Berman for governor participated in the march.

## Oppose gov't money for church schools

Ellen Berman, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of Massachusetts, has called on voters to reject a proposed amendment to the state constitution that calls for allowing "the expenditure of public funds for private schools." The main beneficiary of the measure would be the Catholic school system. The amendment is listed on the ballot as Question 2.

Berman told the *Militant* that the proposed amendment "violates a democratic conquest written into the Bill of Rights — the separation of church and state. No one prevents church officials from establishing Catholic schools. But for state or local governments to use the taxpayers' money to fund religious schools is an attack on democratic rights."

"Question 2 also undermines government funding of the public school system," Berman said. "It is linked to the many cuts that have been made in the most basic educational needs."

She charged that "racist arguments are sometimes used to justify these cuts, and to justify funding private religious schools. For instance, there is the erroneous claim that public schools are unworthy of support because so many Black youth attend them."

Scott Breen and David Hurst for U.S. Congress from the 2nd and 3rd C.D.s.

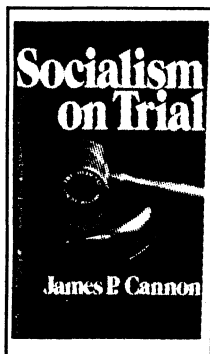
On the same day, the *Daily Utah Chronicle*, the university's student newspaper, published an editorial entitled, "Open up debate!"

"Utahns have the right to hear the opinions of all candidates running for public office."

"But in KUED's coverage of the political debates, the viewing audience will only be given access to the viewpoints of Tom Shimizu and Wayne Owens. . . ."

"Political candidates, such as the Socialist Workers Party's Scott Breen, are entitled to as much publicity and coverage as their mainstream party counterparts."

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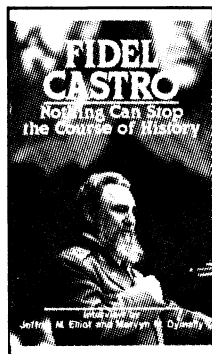
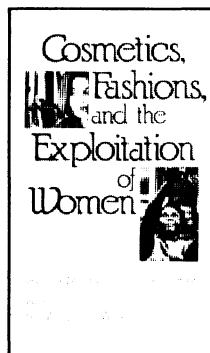
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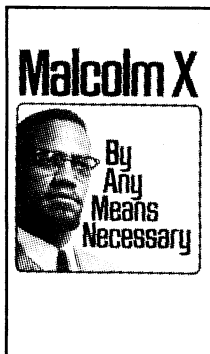
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Militant/Holbrook Mahn  
**Sam Manuel, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from California.**

## Vote Socialist Workers!

Continued from front page  
the United States and in other countries for support from other workers and from farmers.

Struggles such as the one in Austin will be repeated. And experience gained in such battles will lead growing numbers to see that they are not just up against individual employers, but a *class* of employers that controls the entire government apparatus and the Republican and Democratic parties.

Experience will convince workers that to challenge the employers effectively a political movement is necessary that can go beyond the important but limited battles in each plant, industry, city, or sector of the working class, a movement that would mobilize millions of working people to fight their exploiters. The most likely initial form for such a movement in the United States will be a labor party based on the trade unions, which would champion the interests of all working people.

The SWP candidates have been the only ones advocating that workers shape their own destiny by putting forward their own leaders and their own organizations to fight for their interests.

Only this can lay the basis for a fight to oust the government of the small handful of ruling families and replace it with a government of those who work for a living.

As one of its first steps, a workers' and farmers' government would take the funds now spent for armaments and launch a massive program to guarantee free and decent medical care for all, homes for the homeless, and more schools.

Such a government would stop all farm foreclosures. Cheap credit would be provided to working farmers and a pricing system set up that guaranteed working farmers a living income.

A workers' and farmers' government would also put a stop to the criminal war against Nicaragua, and to bullying other countries.

Instead of trying to subject the peoples of Asia, Africa, and Latin America to U.S. domination, massive food shipments would be sent to the hungry. And internationalist volunteers — doctors, teachers, engineers, and skilled workers — would be offered to help the peoples of these continents oppressed for centuries by colonialism and imperialism.

We think workers and farmers who support these goals should endorse, support, and vote for the Socialist Workers Party candidates in the November 4 elections.

## Socialist excluded from Wisconsin debate

MILWAUKEE — "Citizens of Wisconsin have a right to decide for themselves which candidate is a serious one," said Margo Storsteen. Storsteen, who is on the ballot as the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senator, was protesting her exclusion from an October 10 debate among senatorial candidates, which was sponsored by the League of Women Voters.

League officials stated that Storsteen had been barred because she was "not a serious candidate." Only Republican incumbent Robert Kasten and Democratic candidate Edward Garvey were allowed to

# SWP fields 62 candidates across United States

Listed below are the candidates of the Socialist Workers Party in the November 4 elections.

The asterisks indicate the candidates' names that will appear on the printed ballot. Others are write-in candidates.

### ALABAMA

**Andrea Baron** — U.S. Senate; **David Ferguson** — governor; **Martin Boyers** — U.S. Congress, 6th C.D. (Birmingham)\*

### ARIZONA

**David Zilly** — U.S. Senate.

### CALIFORNIA

**Sam Manuel** — U.S. Senate; **Matilde Zimmermann** — governor; **Greg Jackson** — lieutenant governor; **Anibal Yáñez** — U.S. Congress, 5th C.D. (San Francisco); **Miesa Patterson** — U.S. Congress, 8th C.D. (Oakland-Berkeley); **Sandra Nelson** — U.S. Congress, 10th C.D. (San Jose); **Sylvia Zapata** — U.S. Congress, 25th C.D. (Los Angeles); **Allan Grady** — U.S. Congress, 44th C.D. (San Diego).

### COLORADO

**Mike Chamberlain** — U.S. Senate\*

### FLORIDA

**Stuart Singer** — U.S. Senate; **Martin Anderson** — governor.

### GEORGIA

**Maceo Dixon** — U.S. Senate.

### KENTUCKY

**Marilee Taylor** — U.S. Senate; **Jeanette Tracy** — U.S. Congress, 3rd C.D. (Louisville).

### ILLINOIS

**Omari Musa** — U.S. Senate\* **Diane Rolling** — governor\* **Jim Little** — lieutenant governor\* **Holly Harkness** — secretary of state\* **Scott Dombeck** — attorney general\* **Jim Miles** — state comptroller\* **Steven Bloodworth** — University of Illinois Board of Trustees\* **Cathleen Gutekanst** — University of Illinois Board of Trustees\* **Pedro Vásquez** — University of Illinois Board of Trustees\*

### MASSACHUSETTS

**Ellen Berman** — governor; **Jon Hillson** — U.S. Congress, 8th C.D. (Boston-Cambridge).

### MICHIGAN

**Kate Kaku** — governor; **Tim Craine** — lieutenant governor; **Andrew Pulley** — U.S. Congress, 1st C.D. (Detroit)\*

### MINNESOTA

**Tom Jaax** — governor\* **August Nimtz** — lieutenant governor\*

### MISSOURI

**Bob Miller** — U.S. Senate. **Alvino Carrillo** — U.S. Congress, 5th C.D. (Kansas City).

### NEW JERSEY

**Chris Brandlon** — U.S. Congress, 10th C.D. (Newark)\*

### NEW YORK

**Mike Shur** — U.S. Senate\* **Theresa Delgadillo** — governor; **George Kontanis** — lieutenant governor; **Jim Callahan** — U.S. Congress, 23rd C.D. (Capital District)\*

### NORTH CAROLINA

**Rich Stuart** — U.S. Senate.

### OHIO

**Kathleen Button** — U.S. Senate;

**Roberta Scherr** — governor; **Mark Rahn** — lieutenant governor.

### OREGON

**Amy Husk** — U.S. Senate.

### PENNSYLVANIA

**Mike Carper** — U.S. Senate; **Clare Fraenzl** — governor; **Mark Weddleton** — U.S. Congress, 14th C.D. (Pittsburgh)\*

### TEXAS

**Willie Mae Reid** — governor; **Susan Zárate** — lieutenant governor; **Steven Warshell** — agriculture commissioner; **Joanne Kuniansky** — U.S. Congress, 18th C.D. (Houston)\* **Patricia Smith** — U.S. Congress, 24th C.D. (Dallas).

### UTAH

**Mary Zins** — U.S. Senate\* **Scott Breen** — U.S. Congress, 2nd C.D. (Salt Lake City)\* **David Hurst** — U.S. Congress, 3rd C.D.\*

### WASHINGTON

**Jill Fein** — U.S. Senate\*

### WASHINGTON, D.C.

**Deborah Lazar** — mayor\*

### WEST VIRGINIA

**Kathy Mickells** — U.S. Congress, 2nd C.D.; **David Salner** — U.S. Congress, 3rd C.D.

### WISCONSIN

**Margo Storsteen** — U.S. Senate\*



Militant  
**Candidates Chris Brandlon for U.S. Congress, New Jersey; Willie Mae Reid for governor of Texas.**



## Fund helps send 'Militant,' 'PM' team to Puerto Rico

### BY MALIK MIAH

Laura Garza, a national leader of the Young Socialist Alliance, is heading up a four-person sales team traveling through Puerto Rico, November 3-17.

The team will be selling *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* subscriptions to workers, farmers, and students in this U.S. colony in the Caribbean. It will also be selling Pathfinder Press literature.

We are able to finance this and the other 11 teams that have been put on the road so far this subscription drive because of your generous contributions to the Fall Publications Fund.

With two more weeks to go to reach the \$100,000 goal, \$85,000 has been pledged and \$28,800 paid to the Fund. To make the national goal on time, a big effort will be needed.

The Publications Fund is very much connected to the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*'s current campaign to win 10,000 new readers. It is the fund that helps subsidize the inexpensive introductory subscription rates we offer.

The fund also makes it possible for the *Militant*, *PM* and Pathfinder Press to provide papers and literature to the traveling teams at cost. The teams use the money they raise through sales of the literature to help pay their fuel costs and other living expenses.

The first 10 sales teams cost about \$15,000 — an average of \$1,500 per team. The Puerto Rican team will likely cost double that amount because of plane fares to the island.

But as in the case of the teams that have already traveled throughout the United States — and four more to come — the value of taking the *Militant* and *PM* and English- and Spanish-language Pathfinder Press literature to working people and students in Puerto Rico makes the expense politically worthwhile.

To help in the final push to reach the \$100,000 goal, many supporters of the fund around the country are organizing

public events.

Editors and correspondents for the *Militant*, *PM*, and Pathfinder Press will also be speaking at many of the meetings. Larry Seigle, who recently participated in the Havana, Cuba, bookfair for Pathfinder Press, is speaking at a November 15 fund event in Toledo, Ohio.

Margaret Jayko, coeditor of the *Militant*, is speaking at the November 8 Newark, New Jersey, meeting. Martín Koppel, editor of *Perspectiva Mundial*, is speaking in Albany, New York, November 8. And, I, as the *Militant*'s Circulation Director, will be speaking in Chicago, November 2; Atlanta, November 8; and Philadelphia and Pittsburgh the weekend of November 15-16.

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I wish to help the fund.

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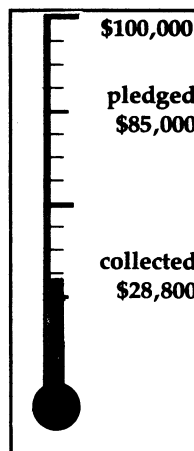
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# Senegal's peasants, workers face mounting misery

## Interview with Senegalese socialist

The following is an interview with Bêlo, a leader of the Socialist Workers Organization (OST), the section of the Fourth International in the West African country of Senegal. It was obtained by Ernest Harsch in New York City in late August.

**Question.** How has Senegal changed since it won its independence from France a quarter of a century ago, in 1960?

**Answer.** There's a saying that's popular among the peasants. "When is this independence finally going to end?" they ask, weighed down as they are by the difficult economic situation and the threat of famine.

That reflects somewhat the evolution of Senegal since independence.

What has happened is that a bourgeoisie has appeared since 1960, a Senegalese bourgeoisie. It has been formed particularly out of the state apparatus through the stealing of public money, through bank loans, and through corruption.

There is no plan for economic development. Around 1973 the government nourished some illusions that it could industrialize the country by the year 2000, because the price of phosphate was rising on the world market and Senegal is one of the big producers of phosphate. It started a plan for an industrial free zone and thought foreign capital was going to come flowing in. But 10 years later there are only two industrial units in the free zone.

Nevertheless, since independence a working class has also developed, a substantial one compared to many other African countries. Even if capital didn't come flowing in, a few sectors did develop, such as the food industry and, to an extent, the mines.

Since 1960 the peasantry has been confronted with greater difficulties. This follows an agrarian reform that benefited mainly the big peasants. Bureaucratic structures were set up to control the peasants, to introduce agricultural techniques favored by imperialism, to commercialize the peanut industry and agricultural prod-

ucts in general, and to sell food and fertilizer to the peasants.

The state exploits the peasantry much more than before. It buys agricultural products at a very low price, and sells them at a higher price on the world market. The state agricultural companies also serve to enrich a very small portion of the peasantry, composed of the *marabouts* [local religious figures] and the political clients of the ruling party.

So this overall agricultural policy has fostered a differentiation among the peasantry, with a big majority of the peasants being very poor and a tiny number being quite rich. It's very hard these days to talk about a middle peasantry; the gap is quite large.

Senegal went through a 10-year drought. The government was in part responsible for the drought's impact, since it had failed to develop irrigation.

Because of the drought, a lot of the rural population could not survive. Many came to the cities, engaging in petty trades or falling into extreme misery.

So, since 1960, Senegal has become poorer and poorer.

**Q.** To what extent is Senegal still dominated by French interests?

A. There are 1,500 French troops stationed in Senegal, ready to intervene throughout Africa. They were used in the war in Chad and against the Polisario fighters in Western Sahara. In the war between Britain and Argentina over the Malvinas Islands, France allowed British forces to use an air base in Senegal to go to the Malvinas.

Most Senegalese industries are in the hands of French companies, 44 percent of the economy. There's also been a growing American entry into the market over the past 10 years. There are other imperialists present as well, Germans, Japanese. But nothing approaches that of the French.

Senegal is part of the French monetary zone. Our currency, the CFA franc, is at a fixed parity with the French franc. This bleeds the Senegalese economy and increases the rate of the debt.



Extreme exploitation and drought have forced peasants to migrate to cities, where they share fate of unemployed and workers living in poverty.

**Q.** In response to Senegal's rising debt, the government imposed an austerity policy several years ago. What has been its goal, and what impact has it had on working people?

A. First, it's necessary to explain something, which is quite ridiculous. Until 1968 the Senegalese bourgeoisie did not even know the amount of the debt. They called upon accounting firms in Europe to find out how much it was. So they don't even know for sure if they owe this money. They were simply told how much they owed.

But they decided to pay it anyway, off the backs of the workers, the peasants, the young, the women.

So the government reduced its social programs, education, health care, etc. It lowered the people's buying power by raising the prices of basic necessities. And it cut the number of workers in the state companies. Unemployment is therefore growing.

The government hoped that these measures would enable it to pay the debt. Yet today the debt is about \$2 billion. In 1980 it was less than \$1 billion. This shows that the policies of the IMF [International Monetary Fund] are a failure. The austerity policies do not help governments pay their debts; they just get further into debt.

On the other side, the masses are suffering. Misery has spread to many families, the peasantry, the working class, women, and the young. The risks of a real social explosion are rising.

**Q.** How have working people responded?

A. In the face of this situation, they are trying to react. But the workers' response is limited by the fact that the majority of the working class is organized in the National Confederation of Senegalese Workers (CNTS), which is controlled by the ruling bourgeois party.

The peasantry, despite its low state of organization, began a series of initiatives two years ago to sabotage the government's peanut policy. They decided not to sell to the regular markets or to the government. They found ways of producing peanut oil themselves, which they went to sell in the markets in the towns. This brought more income to the peasants.

The government was surprised by this movement. It resulted in the loss of a good bit of the revenue that the state drew from this industry.

**Q.** Could you go a little more into the situation in the trade union movement?

A. On the one hand there are the rank-and-file workers, who are confronted with the crisis, who are looking for political and union solutions to their problems. On the other hand, there's the union bureaucracy, which is defending its interests and its policy of class-collaboration with the government. The union bureaucrats have ministerial posts, positions in the National Assembly, and posts in the embassies.

The deepening of the crisis shows one thing: the contradiction between the defense of the workers' interests and the CNTS's continued affiliation to the ruling

party.

Our union members are raising the call for the CNTS to break with the ruling party. They explain this simply, by pointing out that the government is responsible for the austerity policies, that the workers, in order to defend themselves, have to confront this policy of the government, and that the CNTS's affiliation to the ruling party is an obstacle to this struggle.

For 10 years the CNTS has been riding a crisis, which is expressed through local strikes, held in defiance of the leadership. The hardest fought strikes were in the phosphate mines. There have been dozens of strikes in the food industry. Six months ago the transport workers went on strike, paralyzing the whole country. The strike was harshly repressed, and the leaders are still in prison today.

**Q.** Finally, could you describe the anti-apartheid movement in Senegal, what initiatives it has taken?

A. A year ago an alliance of five political parties, including ourselves, called an anti-apartheid demonstration to denounce the repression in South Africa. We requested permission to organize the demonstration, but the government did not respond until two or three days before. It said no.

By then we had already put up posters. So we demonstrated anyway. The police came and repressed the demonstration very violently. They arrested about 15 protesters. The court released all of them, saying that the charges were unfounded.

What the crackdown on this demonstration showed is that while the governments of Africa make a lot of noise about apartheid, the African bourgeoisie is afraid of seeing the South African revolutionary movement deepen. They know what a triumphant South African revolution can represent in Africa, for all the revolutionary movements in Africa.

The best way of exposing the government's demagoguery is to deepen the construction of the solidarity movement with South Africa. We have a real stake in building this movement among the working people of Senegal. It's a way of strengthening the revolutionary process in South Africa today. And it's a political school for the Senegalese masses.

## 200 turn out in Dallas to hear ANC official

BY JIM KENDRICK

DALLAS — Some 200 church members and community activists gathered here on October 12 at St. Luke's Community Methodist Church to protest apartheid in South Africa. The rally heard African National Congress Deputy Representative to the United Nations Solly Simelane explain why Blacks in South Africa call for U.S. sanctions against the minority apartheid regime.

At the invitation of the church's Operation Breadbasket program, Pathfinder Books set up a literature table for two Sunday services and the evening rally on October 12. Church members and others bought 10 subscriptions to the *Militant* and \$540 worth of literature, buttons, and T-shirts.

## Do you know someone who reads Spanish? El Salvador: 'Aid, not war'

The earthquake that devastated the capital of El Salvador hit a nation already ravaged by war, repression, poverty, and U.S. domination.

An article in the new November issue of *Perspectiva Mundial* describes the damage caused by the quake, and explains that the government, rather than help organize the relief, has stood in the way, blocking aid shipments from relief agencies.

The U.S. government is sending aid, as it has in the past, in order to prop up the repressive regime and its war against the Salvadoran people, which has already cost 60,000 lives and created hundreds of thousands of refugees.

The issue of *PM* also carries an interview with Alfredo Represa, European representative of the Salvadoran labor federation FENASTRAS.

*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.



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# British Labour Party debates strategy

## Conference delegates demand removal of U.S. nuclear bases from Britain

BY NORTON SANDLER

BLACKPOOL, England — Thousands of delegates and observers gathered here September 28 to October 3 at the Annual Conference of the British Labour Party to debate what policies the party should adopt on nuclear weapons, nuclear power, U.S. military bases in their country, economic issues, and other questions.

The prospect of elections sometime in the next year and a half was on the minds of many delegates. The Labour Party has been leading both the ruling Conservative (Tory) Party and the Alliance (an electoral bloc between the Liberal and the Social Democratic parties) in the polls for over a year.

Since taking office in 1979, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has led a sustained attack on the rights and living standards of British workers.

The strongest resistance to Thatcher's policies took place during the 1984-85 strike by the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM).

Though they were eventually forced to give up the strike, the miners won considerable support in the British working class and around the world.

Many Labour Party leaders and trade union officials, however, refused to stand by the miners in the struggle. Since the end of the strike, Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock has tried to take the party in the direction of avoiding conflicts with the bosses and their government. Instead he proposes moderate policies that he hopes will attract middle-class voters.

Meanwhile, Thatcher has pushed ahead with the antilabor offensive. At least 30,000 miners have lost their jobs through mine closures. Over 5,000 printers at News International's Wapping printing plant in London have been on strike since January trying to force that company's owner to recognize their unions. The company has been able to keep its new plant running by having an army of police stationed at the printing facility throughout the strike.

As the possibility of an election draws near, the Kinnock leadership is trying to demonstrate to Britain's ruling families and their allies in Washington that they have little to fear from a Labour victory.

Thatcher must schedule an election by June 1988, but can call one sooner if she thinks her chances of winning are better at that time.

### Removal of U.S. nuclear bases

In a decision that sparked controversy both in Britain and in Washington, the Labour Party conference went on record for the dismantling of Britain's nuclear weapons systems. As part of that policy, the delegates voted to commit the next Labour government to the removal of all U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear bases from British soil within 12 months of taking office.

U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger blasted the Labour Party stand on nuclear weapons in a television interview that coincided with the opening of the conference. An antinuclear Labour government in Britain, he warned, could lead to the breakup of NATO.

Opposition to the U.S. military presence in Britain has increased considerably in recent months. Thatcher's decision to allow the U.S. F-111's that bombed Libya in April to take off from bases in Britain sparked an outcry up and down the country.

Resolutions calling for the removal of all U.S. conventional military bases and for withdrawal from NATO were also submitted to the conference.

In the discussion on the resolutions one delegate pointed out that there are 5,000 U.S. troops stationed in Britain at over 100 military installations.

Moving to appease U.S. criticism of Labour's stand against nuclear bases and weapons, the Labour Party leadership pledged to keep Britain in NATO and build up Britain's conventional weapons systems.

The resolutions calling for removal of all U.S. military bases and for withdrawal from NATO were defeated by a substantial margin and a pro-NATO resolution submitted by the party's National Executive Committee (NEC) passed overwhelmingly.

Most trade unions are affiliated to the Labour Party. The majority of trade union delegates at conferences come from the officialdom. They vote based on the size of the membership of their organizations, so each trade union delegate casts votes for tens of thousands of union members.

The vote reaffirming Britain's commitment to remain in NATO carried 5,417,000 to 1,023,000, an indication that the majority of the trade union officialdom want to maintain the status quo in terms of Britain's foreign policy.

Opposition to nuclear power has increased in Britain following the accident last spring at the Chernobyl nuclear reactor in the Soviet Union.

The conference reaffirmed Labour's support for phasing out nuclear power plants. A definite timetable for ending the use of nuclear power, however, was not incorporated in the resolution that was adopted by the delegates. Kinnock claimed that it would take longer than the life of one parliament to complete the task.

The Tories blasted the phase-out decision as a "sop" to Arthur Scargill, president of the NUM. The miners have been in the forefront of the fight against nuclear power.

Scargill and other NUM leaders spoke to many meetings during the conference about the dangers of nuclear power.

A group of pronuclear members of the electricians' union who work at nuclear

power plants intervened in some of the meetings, arguing and shouting at opponents of nuclear power.

On the day the antinuclear resolution came to a vote, the electricians staged a pronuclear picket line outside the conference.

### Maintaining Tory policies

Kinnock succeeded in having the Labour Party endorse some of the economic policies initiated by Thatcher. Among them was Thatcher's turning over to private hands of some industries nationalized by earlier Labour governments.

Demands by many delegates to re-nationalize these industries without compensation for their private owners were rejected.

The Kinnock leadership and the trade union officialdom blocked against recognizing the Labour Party Black Sections.

Black Sections have been organized in recent years on an ad hoc basis. They arose out of the specific demand of Britain's Blacks for increased political representation to fight against discrimination in employment, housing, and education, as well as against police brutality and racist violence.

Many Labour Party activists are de-

manding that Black Sections be granted the same affiliated status to the Labour Party as other organizations, including Labour Party Young Socialists and the Labour Women's Action Committee.

As part of its drive to the right, the Kinnock leadership has launched a witch-hunt against the party's left wing. Members of the Liverpool City Council, who have been in the forefront of opposition to Thatcher's attempt to slash social services, have been the main target.

Kinnock charged the Liverpool activists with membership in the Militant Tendency, a grouping in the Labour Party centered around a newspaper of the same name.

Eight Militant backers from Liverpool were expelled at the Blackpool conference and a mechanism was put in place to carry out further investigations of party activists.

Though Kinnock got his way on most issues that came to the floor there was opposition to his general course. Forces grouped around Mineworkers' leader Scargill and an organization of members of Parliament called the Campaign Group of MPs (whose most prominent member is Tony Benn) were active throughout the conference projecting an alternative course to that of the party leadership.

## — WORLD NEWS BRIEFS —

### French public workers stage one-day strike

Millions of French public workers staged a 24-hour strike October 21 to protest the decline in their real wages over the last four years and government plans to cut 17,000 civil service jobs in fiscal year 1987.

The strike, called by four union federations, disrupted airline and train service, schools, public transportation, postal services, and television and radio broadcasts. Some areas also experienced power cuts.

Each of the four union federations staged rallies in Paris on the day of the strike. According to police estimates, 50,000 people participated in these actions.

The strike was the first protest organized by French unions since the March 16 National Assembly elections in which the Socialist Party lost its majority and Jacques Chirac became prime minister at the head of a bloc of rightist parties.

### Polish opposition leader opposes U.S. sanctions

Lech Walesa, the leader of the outlawed Solidarity trade union movement, was one of 10 well-known critics of the Polish government to sign an October 15 public statement calling on U.S. President Ronald Reagan to lift economic sanctions against Poland and help the country toward economic recovery.

Reagan imposed sanctions when the Polish regime declared martial law and outlawed Solidarity in 1981. Martial law ended in 1983 and some of the sanctions were lifted in 1984.

On September 11 the Polish government declared an amnesty for 225 prisoners being held for their political views and activities. Among those released were a number of Solidarity leaders.

### U.S. planes, crews to patrol Afghan border?

Speaking on October 15, Pakistani President Mohammad Zia ul-Haq declared that his government may ask the U.S. Air Force to mount patrols along Pakistan's northern border with Afghanistan using radar early warning aircraft.

His statement came a day before the beginning of talks with U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger about a

six-year \$1.74 billion military aid package for Pakistan. The aid would begin in 1988.

After two days of talks Weinberger told journalists in the Pakistani capital of Islamabad that the possibility of air patrols with U.S. crews had not been ruled out, at least until Pakistan could obtain its own air-warning system.

In a separate news conference, Pakistani Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo said that his government's first priority in spending the military aid would be to buy AWACS, the Airborne Warning and Control System.

### Salvadoran rebels call off truce

On October 21 the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) and the Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR) called off the temporary truce



José Napoleón Duarte

they had proclaimed October 10. The truce was called in the wake of an earthquake in El Salvador's capital city that left at least 1,200 people dead and thousands more homeless.

The FMLN and FDR called for international solidarity for those left homeless. The rebels also warned that the government of José Napoleón Duarte could use the need for aid in cleaning up after the earthquake as an excuse to call in U.S. troops.

On October 12 the Salvadoran government had rejected the guerrillas' truce. "The constitution forbids us to neglect the country's security," Defense Minister Gen. Eugenio Vides Casanova declared. "Therefore, we will not suspend military actions throughout the national territory."



Members of electricians' union picket conference in support of nuclear power. Led by delegates from Mineworkers' union, Labour Party conference opposed nuclear power.

**Miami gangbusters** — "We have broken up a major international bicycle smuggling ring."



Harry Ring

Cori Zywtow, spokesperson for the Miami police department.

**Federal standards** — Auditors said that engineering work was "out of control" at the govern-

ment-owned Hanford facility in the State of Washington, which produces plutonium for nuke bombs. Also, a news account added, "Various plants here engage in practices that are unheard of in the civilian nuclear industry, including dumping liquids contaminated with radioisotopes into the ground."

**Pardon the skepticism** — We don't doubt for a minute that radioactive material is dumped into the ground at the Hanford site. But the thought did pass through our mind: Are such practices really "unheard of" at privately-owned nuke plants?

**Mounties get their man** — Canadian Mounties guarding the homes of foreign ambassadors have been stripped of the semiautomatic rifles they were assigned to combat possible terrorism. One Mountie sent a bullet through the roof of the security hut at the Turkish ambassador's. And a Mountie at the U.S. ambassador's shot himself in the thigh.

**What's a cat without a plate** — Neiman-Marcus is offering what it describes as a rare new breed, the California Spangled Cat. \$1,400. But breeders claim it's simply a copy of the oiccat, which is available at half the price.

However, oiccat breeders concede that, unlike N-M, they don't offer a silver dish for an extra \$25.

**Have a ball** — Tired of those BYOs? Have a blowout at the site of your choice — Grand Central Station, Grand Canyon, etc. Peter Duchin will tinkle the ivories and Disney characters will serve champagne and caviar. Above, a chopper, coated with "diamond dust," will tow a rhinestone banner with a message of your choice. \$1 million.

**Nice and tidy** — "Kids no longer want to be ragtag," says the

prez of Bergdorf Goodman, which features a Hermès boutique. Hermès offers such items as men's crocodile and leather shoes, \$750, or a matching suede skirt and jacket, \$4,000 plus.

**Thought for the week** — "Since 1980 the real median income of the top 10 percent of the population has risen by \$7,130, while that of the bottom 40 percent has fallen by \$236. More remarkable, these trends are taking place against a backdrop of already enormous inequality. . . . The richest 1 percent own more assets than the bottom 90 percent." — U. of Mass. Prof. David Kotz.

## CALENDAR

### ARIZONA

#### Phoenix

**Socialist Legality and Justice in Contemporary Cuba.** Speaker: Marjorie Zatz, recently visited Cuba to study its criminal justice system. Slideshow presentation. Sat., Nov. 8, 7 p.m. 1809 W Indian School Rd. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (602) 279-5850.

### CALIFORNIA

#### Los Angeles

**Eyewitness Report from Southern Africa.** Speaker: Sam Manuel, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Nov. 1. Open house and dinner, 5 p.m.; program, 6 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

### LOUISIANA

#### New Orleans

**More Taxes or More Cutbacks — Is There Another Solution for New Orleans?** Speakers: A panel of unionists. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Nov. 1, 7:30 p.m. 3640 Magazine St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (504) 895-1961.

### MARYLAND

#### Baltimore

**Why We Must Have Sanctions Against South Africa.** A panel discussion. Sat., Nov. 1, 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

### MASSACHUSETTS

#### Boston

**Campaign Open House** following peace, jobs, and justice demonstration. Speakers: Ellen Ber- man, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor; Jon Hillson, SWP candidate for Congress, 8th C.D. Sat., Nov. 1, 3-6 p.m. St. Paul's Cathedral basement, 138 Tremont St. (Park St. T). Ausp: Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (617) 787-0275.

### MINNESOTA

#### St. Paul

**Socialist Campaign Rally.** Speakers: Tom Jaax, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor; August Nimtz, SWP candidate for lieutenant governor. Sun., Nov. 2. Social, 6:30 p.m.; rally, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Ausp: 1986 Minnesota Socialist Workers Campaign Committee. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

### NEW YORK

#### Albany

**Socialist Campaign Celebration.** Speakers: George Kontanis, Socialist Workers Party candidate for lieutenant governor; Jim Callahan, SWP candidate for Congress, 23rd C.D. Tue., Nov. 4, 7:30 p.m. 114E Quail St. Ausp: Socialist Workers '86 Campaign and Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (518) 434-3247.

**Socialist Publications Rally.** Speakers: Martín Koppel, editor of *Perspectiva Mundial*; others. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Nov. 8. Reception, 6:30 p.m.; rally, 7:30 p.m. 114E Quail St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Socialist Workers Party. For more information call (518) 434-3247.

#### Manhattan

**Ten Days That Shook the World.** Film on the Russian revolution, followed by discussion. Translation to Spanish. Fri., Nov. 7. Preforum dinner, 6:30 p.m.; film, 7:30 p.m. 79 Leonard St. Donation: film \$3; dinner \$3. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (212) 219-3679.

### OHIO

#### Cleveland

**1986 Socialist Workers Campaign: Fighting in the Interests of Working People.** Speakers: Kate Button, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate; Roberta Scherr, SWP candidate for governor; Martha Petrie, participant in recent *Militant* subscription team. Sat., Nov. 1, 7:30 p.m. 2521 Market Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (216) 861-6150.

### PENNSYLVANIA

#### Pittsburgh

**The Decline of the American Empire: What Does the Future Hold?** Speaker: Mark Wed- dleton, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress, 14th C.D. Sat., Nov. 1, 7:30 p.m. 402 N Highland Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Socialist Workers Party Campaign. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

### TEXAS

#### Dallas

**Socialist Campaign Meeting.** Speaker: Susan Zárate, Socialist Workers Party candidate for lieutenant governor. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Nov. 1, 7:30 p.m. 336 W Jefferson Blvd. Donation: \$2. Ausp: North Texas Socialist Workers 1986 Campaign. For more information call (214) 943-5195.

#### Houston

**Socialist Workers Party Texas Campaign Rally.** Speakers: Willie Mae Reid, SWP candidate for governor; Joanne Kuniansky, candidate

for Congress, 18th C.D.; Steve Warshell, candidate for agriculture commissioner. Sat., Nov. 1, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Socialist Workers Texas Campaign. For more information call (713) 522-8054.

**Celebrate 69 years of the Russian Revolution.** Speakers to be announced. Sat., Nov. 8, 8 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (713) 522-8054.

### UTAH

#### Salt Lake City

**The Struggle Against Apartheid in South Africa.** Video showing of *Nelson and Winnie Mandela*. Speaker: Scott Breen, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress, 2nd C.D. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Nov. 1, 7:30 p.m. 767 S State St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (801) 355-1124.

**Celebrate the Accomplishments of the Socialist Press.** Speakers to be announced. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Nov. 8, 7:30 p.m.; reception to follow. 767 S State, 3rd floor. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Pathfinder Books. For more information call (801) 355-1124.

### WASHINGTON, D.C.

**Open House and Campaign Brunch.** Hear Deborah Lazar, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor. Translation to Spanish. Sun., Nov. 2, 11 a.m. 3106 Mt. Pleasant St. NW.

## N.Y. dairy farmers use direct action

BY JIM CALLAHAN, ANDY COATES, AND JON TEITELBAUM

ALBANY, New York — Dairy farmers have held "Farm Crisis Awareness Meetings" all across New York in recent weeks to discuss the milk withholding action that began September 1.

Protest actions have also been organized, including picket lines, tractor-cades, public dumping of milk, and a nationally coordinated milk giveaway. A tractorcade was held in Malone, the site of the largest "Farm Crisis" meeting.

Picket lines have been organized at several milk processing plants, including in South Edmeston, where 25 farmers picketed a Breakstone plant owned by Kraft, Inc.

In Albany, farmers were joined by unionists at a picket line outside a Dairylea plant. In Little Falls, strike supporters

bought all the milk off the shelves of a grocery store.

Strike activists point out that "collective bargaining without direct action is meaningless."

Dairy farmers from Maine who have been attending some of the New York meetings report that milk processing plants in that state are virtually shut down. Milk sold in Maine has had to be shipped in from other states. In Maine, the strike began to be effective when one-third of the dairy farmers in the state joined the strike.

The protest was sparked by the steady decline in the prices farmers receive for their milk when they market it. The strikers point out that consumer prices in the supermarket don't have to rise for them to get a price high enough to make a living.

Rather, they argue, processors and retail chains that are raking in big profits should pay.

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**CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles:** SWP, YSA, 2546 W. Pico Blvd. Zip: 90006. Tel: (213) 380-9460. **Oakland:** SWP, YSA, 3808 E 14th St. Zip: 94601. Tel: (415) 261-3014. **San Diego:** SWP, YSA, 2803 B St. Zip: 92102. Tel: (619) 234-4630. **San Francisco:** SWP, YSA, 3284 23rd St. Zip: 94110. Tel: (415) 282-6255. **San Jose:** SWP, YSA, 46½ Race St. Zip: 95126. Tel: (408) 998-4007.

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**NORTH CAROLINA: Greensboro:** SWP, YSA, 2219 E Market. Zip: 27401. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

**OHIO: Cincinnati:** SWP, YSA, 4945 Pad- dock Rd. Zip: 45237. Tel: (513) 242-7161. **Cleveland:** SWP, YSA, 2521 Market Ave. Zip: 44113. Tel: (216) 861-6150. **Columbus:** YSA, P.O. Box 02097. Zip: 43202. **Toledo:** SWP, YSA, 1701 W Bancroft St. Zip: 43606. Tel: (419) 536-0383.

**OREGON: Portland:** SWP, YSA, 2732 NE Union. Zip: 97212. Tel: (503) 287-7416.

**PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia:** SWP, YSA, 2744 Germantown Ave. Zip: 19133. Tel: (215) 225-0213. **Pittsburgh:** SWP, YSA, 402 N. Highland Ave. Zip: 15206. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

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

**Dallas:** SWP, YSA, 336 W. Jefferson. Zip: 75208. Tel: (214) 943-5195. **Houston:** SWP, YSA, 4806 Alameda. Zip: 77004. Tel: (713) 522-8054.

**UTAH: Price:** SWP, YSA, 23 S. Carbon Ave., Suite 19, P.O. Box 758. Zip: 84501. Tel: (801) 637-6294. **Salt Lake City:** SWP, YSA, 767 S. State, 3rd floor. Zip: 84111. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

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

**WASHINGTON, D.C.:** SWP, YSA, 3106 Mt. Pleasant St. NW. Zip: 20010. Tel: (202) 797-7699, 797-7021.

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

**WEST VIRGINIA: Charleston:** SWP, YSA, 116 McFarland St. Zip: 25301. Tel: (304) 345-3040. **Morgantown:** SWP, YSA, 221 Pleasant St. Zip: 26505. Tel: (304) 296-0055.

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



# Blacks, whites fight Alabama toxic dump

BY KATY KARLIN

SUMTER COUNTY, Ala. — This rural county, which lies on the Mississippi-Alabama border, is one of the most impoverished in the state. Seventy percent of its residents are Black, 25 percent are out of work, and over half the adults in the county have not graduated from high school.

Illiteracy and infant mortality rates here are the highest in Alabama, which ranks among the highest states in the country in both categories. Over one-third of the population lives below the poverty level, and the farmers in this county, who have been struggling to survive, were hard hit by this year's southeast drought.

Sumter County is also the site of Chemical Waste Management Inc.'s 2,400-acre hazardous-waste landfill at Emelle, one of the largest toxic dump sites in the country.

In its promotional material ChemWaste describes the dump as the "Cadillac of all hazardous landfills." It explains, "Because of its unique geology, Sumter County was specifically recommended by the EPA [Environmental Protection Agency] in a 1974 report to Congress as an ideal location for isolating hazardous wastes from the environment."

"They say it's got the best geology," said Doug Kiker of Alabamians for a Clean Environment (ACE), a local organization established to fight the dump. "There is no good geology. It's political."

"They chose Sumter County because they think the hicks here don't know any better," said Linda Munoz, also of ACE. "But we're not letting them get away with it."

ACE's president, Kaye Kiker, explained how the organization got started. "There were two environmental organizations here," she said. One was an all-white group and the other was the Minority People's Council, a Black organization headed by Black rights leader Wendell Paris.

Black workers in the plant were going to Paris with stories of faulty equipment, lack of safety gear, rashes and sickness. "Wendell later told us that some of the workers' shoes were disintegrating from the acid at the dump," Kaye Kiker said.

Kaye Kiker became concerned about the dump in 1983 when a distant cousin who was in the white environmental group told her about reports of cyanide dumping. "I'm a Christian, and I prayed for two weeks," she said. After the two weeks she called the EPA.

The EPA, said Kiker, gave ChemWaste "a glowing report." Frustrated, she contacted the Alabama Department for Environmental Management. "ADEM admitted the company was dumping cyanide, but said it was at 'acceptable levels,'" Kiker said. "Well, they would accept anything out there."

It became apparent to Kiker that "we would have to rely on ourselves" to fight against ChemWaste's hazards, and that it would be impossible to do it with two separate organizations. She contacted environmental activists and civil rights leaders in the county to organize ACE, which is, she proudly points out, Sumter County's first biracial organization.

Doug Kiker said, "We have to get over the

hump and make people see it's not a racial issue. Everybody's affected."

"In our first year we set a date for a party when the dump would close," Kaye Kiker said. "We were pretty naive."

What ACE members found was that the county's "entire power structure" sided with ChemWaste.

ChemWaste donated enormous sums of money to local politicians, the industrial board, the library, and civic organizations. "Wendell [Paris] says that we're addicted to ChemWaste's money," Kaye Kiker said. The editor of the local paper publicly refused to run letters protesting the dump. The Public Board of Health refused to run tests on the drinking water, claiming they "had never done it before."

Nor could ACE find any assistance from the national or statewide level. The Kikers point out that the dump was started by James Parsons, son-in-law of Alabama Gov. George Wallace. Since Parsons sold it to ChemWaste he has received royalties that are expected to total \$30 million by 1990. Wallace's wife owns stock in Chemical Waste Management.

## 'Sweetheart agreement'

The EPA has a "sweetheart agreement" with ChemWaste, Kaye Kiker says. "The EPA gives the company waivers on all the infractions."

The ChemWaste plant accepts waste from 46 states and 6 foreign countries. It also holds the largest contract for accepting defense waste.

Thousands of trucks hauling toxic cargo travel through Sumter County's rural roads monthly. Last year there were over 700 reports of cargo leaks. One of ACE's campaigns is to educate residents to watch for and report leaky trucks.

In a creek a mile away from the facility, ACE found PCB (polychlorinated biphenyls) levels at 3.75 parts per million. The governmental standards top off at 2 parts per million.

"People around here drink out of 20-foot wells," Kaye Kiker said. "They make a living out of fishing from that creek. The PCBs accumulate in the bass and catfish."

Kiker recalls conducting a tour at the plant in October 1985 and witnessing a truck bearing acid cargo being mistakenly unloaded into an alkaline lagoon. There was an explosion, she said, and an orange cloud hovered over the site, and eventually dissipated.

The next day two infants in different parts of the region died suddenly. It took ADEM two days to come to the county to investigate and it concluded there was "no cause for alarm." No autopsies were authorized.

The big-business backers of the dump site charge that ACE doesn't care about the workers at the facility, who would lose their jobs should the dump close.

## Workers' safety

"We care about their safety," Kiker argues. In fact, most of ACE's information is passed on from workers inside the plant. Workers who refuse to take dangerous assignments are routinely fired. They are asked to drive around open pits of toxins in trucks with faulty brakes. Workers have suffered burns and fume inhalation. Some of the men in the plant are illiterate and not told what the labeling on the chemical containers says.

ACE member Linda Munoz recalled a union organizing drive in the plant a couple of years ago. "The company crushed it," she said. The worker who initiated the drive was bought off with a cash settlement, Munoz said, and quickly left town. In case the message wasn't clear to the other workers, a photo appeared on the front page of the local paper of the worker receiving a check from a company representative.

Doug Kiker points out that jobs have gotten scarcer since ChemWaste opened the dump. "There are no other jobs," he said. Most of the other factories in the county have shut down, and the county cannot attract any more industry. "For a company to move here would mean some of the managers would have to live in the county," he said. "And no one wants to live near a waste dump." Even ChemWaste's managers don't own property in



Militant/Katy Karlin

From left, Alabamians for a Clean Environment leaders Kaye and Doug Kiker and (holding child) Linda Munoz. ACE is coalition of Black and white environmentalists and civil rights activists resisting ChemWaste landfill.

the county. "They know the value of property is low here," he said. "They rent."

This year, while seeking to expand its membership on a statewide basis, ACE is trying to keep a giant toxic incinerator from being built on the site. They are also fighting to keep a permanent operation permit from being issued; the facility is now operating on a temporary permit.

## 'Set an example'

"We want to set an example for the rest of the country," Kaye Kiker said of the fight against ChemWaste. "My family has been here for 150 years. And we intend to

stay. We're going to fight this thing.

"I've really grown personally," she added. "I could never have spoken in public when we got started. I used to trust the government, and now I watch what it's doing. And I'm a better citizen for it."

When asked how her Sumter County neighbors reacted to her heading up the county's first integrated organization, Kiker responded: "In the South, if you're white and your family goes way back, you're in the in crowd. But now we're ostracized. We're missing everything. But I don't care. I'm wiser now and I'm happy, and I'd never go back."

## — 10 AND 25 YEARS AGO —

### THE MILITANT

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

November 5, 1976

NEW YORK — At a court hearing here October 18 U.S. District Judge Thomas Griesa ordered the CIA to give him a section of its files on the Socialist Workers Party, the Young Socialist Alliance, and the Fourth International.

Griesa ordered the files brought to him in New York. This was a reversal of his earlier agreement to examine the spy agency's files at the CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia.

Griesa will examine the files so that he can rule on whether they must be turned over to the socialists for their lawsuit against the CIA, FBI, and other government agencies.

CIA Director George Bush admitted in a sworn affidavit last summer that the spy agency had burglarized and wiretapped SWP and YSA members who had traveled overseas. But he refused to turn over CIA documents for the lawsuit, claiming they were state secrets.

The CIA gave the judge a heavily censored version of the records to examine in private. The files had so many deletions, however, that Griesa felt more information was required.

When the judge demanded more complete files, the CIA insisted that he examine them at the agency's headquarters in Virginia.

At an October 8 court hearing, the socialists' attorney, Leonard Boudin, objected to the trip. "This would not be done in the case of my client, the Socialist Workers Party, which I regard as having the same standing in this lawsuit as the CIA," said Boudin.

He scoffed at the CIA's claim that the files were so secret they could not leave the Langley offices:

"I do not believe that anything that touches upon the CIA's violation of the constitutional rights of the plaintiffs — that could be the only material that is given to Your Honor — any of that can possibly affect national security."

"I haven't seen the material," Boudin said, "... but I can tell Your Honor that any espionage on the Socialist Workers Party, any break-ins, any electronic operations against the Socialist Workers Party by the CIA, cannot be subject to executive privilege."

**THE MILITANT**  
Published in the interests of the Working People  
November 6, 1961 Price 10c

Gen. Maxwell Taylor, [President John] Kennedy's special military adviser, has returned from Saigon with a request from the government of Ngo Dinh Diem for U.S. combat units to be committed to the guerrilla warfare in South Vietnam.

The U.S. government has already sunk \$1.5 billion into Diem's government and already has a group of U.S. military men "in the field" against the guerrillas. But even the U.S. commercial press, which is hell-bent for "saving" Vietnam from the Viet Cong peasant revolutionaries, cannot conceal the fact that Diem's government is hated by the mass of the people of South Vietnam.

The liberal *New York Post* writes: "Diem is well meaning, but he is insecure and in his insecurity he is oppressive. The peasant is afraid because of this oppression, which takes the form of secret police, unrestrained conduct of troops, peremptory and unexplained government actions..."

The conservative *New York World Telegram* writes: "Diem's rule, it is said by anti-Communist critics, began as authoritarian, and became by stages autocratic, personal, clannish, and finally an old-fashioned despotic Oriental government compromised by corruption. ... It is not without significance that 'Diemocracy' includes 'political re-education' camps where about 25,000 'opponents' are confined."

It is an outrage that U.S. soldiers should be sent to risk their lives defending such a regime against the justified wrath of the Vietnamese population.

## New Jerseyans to march against apartheid

JERSEY CITY, N.J. — The November 8 statewide anti-apartheid march in Liberty State Park is expected to be the largest protest here in decades.

The N.J. Anti-apartheid Mobilization Coalition, coordinator of last year's November 9 demonstration of 10,000 in Newark, has joined forces with the Church World Service/CROP to mobilize a broader array of groups. Eight New Jersey International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union locals along with International Union of Electronics Workers District 3, United Auto Workers Region 9, the New Jersey AFL-CIO, and its Council of Industrial Unions are participating.

The Jersey City National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is helping to organize a special Jersey City anti-apartheid coalition.

# Next steps in antiwar fight

The thousands of antiwar protesters who took to the streets of more than a dozen cities across the country on October 25 were just the tip of an iceberg. They reflect a much deeper and broader sentiment among the U.S. people in opposition to Washington's war policies — in particular to its ever more direct role in the terrorist aggression being waged against the people of Nicaragua.

Antiwar activists are discussing how to mobilize this sentiment into further action, how to build a movement that is broad enough and powerful enough to stay Washington's hand. They are doing so at a time when more people are becoming concerned about the deepening U.S. intervention in the region.

The shooting down of a CIA plane over Nicaragua and the capture of a U.S. mercenary there has revealed the existence of an extensive and elaborate CIA supply network for the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries, known as *contras*. Many of the past and present CIA employees now making the arms drops to the *contras* flew similar missions over Vietnam, Kampuchea, and Laos just a little more than a decade ago. And some were involved in the CIA-organized Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba 25 years ago.

On top of this exposure, Congress' approval of \$100 million more to the *contras* over the next year shows the extent of support for Washington's war moves among the leaderships of both major parties, the Democrats and Republicans.

The parallels with the early days of the Vietnam War are inescapable. Even Sen. David Durenberger, the Republican chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and a vocal supporter of the contra war, admitted as much after the White House began allocating the \$100 million. "Regardless of what anyone says," Durenberger pointed out, "this is Vietnam."

It is this realization among growing layers of the U.S. people that has spurred actions like the one on October 25, and the three related antiwar protests that will be held November 1 and 2 in Boston, Los Angeles, and Seattle.

These actions mark an important success in the struggle to build a broader, more massive antiwar movement. They were the first such nationally coordinated demonstrations in a year and a half, giving some visibility to the domestic opposition to Washington's war policies.

These actions were especially significant coming on the eve of the elections. In part because of the congressional approval of the \$100 million in contra aid, some of those who had previously focused on congressional lobbying and electoral activities are now more open to the prospect of organizing and participating in mass street demonstrations.

The National Actions for Peace, Jobs and Justice have not been the only recent antiwar protests.

In August and September, there were demonstrations in Austin, Texas, and Washington, D.C. From September 1 to October 16, four veterans conducted a Fast for Life to protest the U.S.-backed war in Nicaragua, winning considerable support from people across the

United States.

All these actions can serve as stepping stones toward the construction of a more massive, national movement against Washington's Central America war policies.

To mobilize this potential, it is necessary to organize more demonstrations. Such visible protests will in turn show others that they are not alone in opposing the war, helping convince them that they too should take action.

Coming out of the October 25 and November 1 and 2 protests, antiwar activists are asking themselves, "What next?" Many see the need for a broadly sponsored national protest. Proposals for a national action in the spring are being discussed. Such an action could open the way for broader endorsement and participation, including by trade unions.

Following the October 25 demonstration in Atlanta, many of the activists who helped organize that action attended a conference the next day. The conference participants, who came from at least five southern states, unanimously adopted a resolution urging that a national antiwar demonstration be called for the spring. They also decided to take the resolution to various national organizations to win their backing for the proposal.

This will also be a topic of discussion at a range of other meetings planned over the next few weeks. These include:

- a mid-Atlantic meeting of the Nicaragua Network November 8 in Baltimore;
- a National Mobilization for Survival conference that same day in Minneapolis;
- a November 23 meeting in Washington, D.C., of the coalition that built the October 25 action there, to which all antiwar and solidarity groups in the Washington area are invited.

Similarly in Canada, the Toronto Anti-Intervention Coalition has called a conference for November 15-16, to be held at the University of Toronto. It has already been endorsed by a broad range of organizations, and will be the first such pan-Canadian anti-intervention conference, involving activists from both English Canada and Quebec. The conference will discuss the deepening U.S. intervention in Central America, as well as Canadian government complicity with Washington's war moves. It will also consider plans for educational and protest activities, including a major cross-Canada demonstration for the spring of 1987.

Building an antiwar movement in North America that is able to help stop U.S. military intervention in Central America is a process that will take time and hard work.

In their drive to crush the Nicaraguan revolution and bring that country back under the U.S. thumb, the rulers in Washington have a long-term perspective. They know they cannot achieve their goal quickly, and they will not give up at the first setbacks.

Understanding this, the people of Nicaragua are digging the trenches for a prolonged war in defense of their revolution and their sovereignty. Antiwar activists in this country need a similar long-term outlook. They should concentrate their efforts on digging a domestic trench against Washington's war.

# Stop bullying Syria!

The British government's announcement October 24 that it was breaking diplomatic relations with Syria has opened a new round of aggressive moves and threats against that Middle Eastern country.

In solidarity with their London ally, the U.S. and Canadian governments immediately pulled their ambassadors out of Damascus. White House spokesman Larry Speakes announced that Washington was weighing moves aimed at isolating Syria "politically, diplomatically, economically."

The British government also urged the European Economic Community to adopt punitive sanctions against Syria and called on its 12 member countries to withdraw their ambassadors. Both these proposals were rejected, however.

Moreover, Margaret Thatcher's government pressed the Soviet Union to publicly disassociate itself from the kind of "state-supported terrorism" that Syria has been accused of organizing.

The pretext for London's attacks against Syria was the conviction of Jordanian Nezar Hindawi in a British court on charges of having plotted to place a bomb on an Israeli airliner. British police testified that while in their custody, Hindawi had confessed and implicated Syrian officials. In court, Hindawi repudiated the statements attributed to him.

The Syrian government of Hafez al-Assad strongly denied the charges. It insists that the bombing plot was an Israeli frame-up and responded to the British actions by closing Syrian airspace and waters to British planes and ships.

Last spring, Washington, backed by London, used a

similar accusation of "state terrorism" to conduct a bombing raid against Libya that murdered dozens of children and other civilians. The British government allowed U.S. bases to be used for this attack.

The venomous campaign against "Syrian terrorism" is also being used to justify murderous attacks inside Syria. "Terrorists have killed more people in Syria this year than in the Paris bombings, the Istanbul synagogue massacre and the Karachi airline hijacking combined," reported *Newsweek*, conceding that at least some of these incidents were engineered by imperialist intelligence agencies.

The magazine cited sources in French intelligence who boasted of responsibility for a November 1981 car bomb explosion that killed 110 Syrians.

The charges of "terrorism" against Syria are a cover for London and Washington's real annoyance with Syria. And that is the Assad government's refusal to subordinate its policies to their dictates.

The Syrian government is under attack because it won't change stands that are obstacles to the domination of the Middle East by U.S., British, Israeli, and other imperialist governments.

Damascus refuses to accept Israeli occupation of the Golan Heights, Syrian territory that was seized by the Israeli rulers in 1967. It opposes Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon, and allies itself with forces in Lebanon who oppose the unpopular imperialist-supported government there. It also refused to line up against Iran when that country was invaded by the Iraqi regime.

Washington and London's attempts to bully and terrorize Syria should be stopped now.

# When working people created their first gov't

BY DOUG JENNESS

Sometimes in discussions coworkers will ask socialists, "What you're saying about working people getting rid of the capitalist government and setting up their own government sounds real good, but can it ever happen?"

The answer to that question is not only can it happen, it has happened — most recently in Nicaragua.

The first time was in Russia 69 years ago. On November 7, the anniversary of that revolution, tens of

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millions of workers throughout the world will participate in some form of homage to it.

Most workers in the United States don't yet celebrate this event, and a great many are unfamiliar with it. This revolution, however, deserves our regard for it registered an earthshaking gain for all working people, including in North America.

Before the 1917 Russian revolution, the question of whether the exploited producers, the most downtrodden classes of a country, could remove their oppressors from political power and establish their own government was unresolved.

Revolutionary socialists — the most far-sighted section of the working class internationally — had for 70 years been explaining that crises of the capitalist system would lead to opportunities for working people to take power. But their explanations had a hypothetical character to them until the Russian workers and peasants proved that it was possible.

The Russian revolution began in February 1917 when a massive strike wave, primarily among industrial workers in Petrograd, brought down the centuries-old tsarist monarchy in less than a week.

This success greatly heightened the self-confidence of the workers and whetted their appetite for further gains. Many of them refused to go back to work, for example, until the work day was reduced to eight hours.

During the course of this massive outpouring, workers and soldiers (most of whom were peasants in uniform) set up councils to organize their struggle. The councils (called soviets in Russian) were composed of delegates elected from the factories, and from soldiers' and sailors' regiments. Delegates could be immediately recalled, and elections were held frequently. As the revolutionary wave swept through the countryside, peasant councils were also established.

The soviets helped to unite all parts of the working population in a way that even the unions were unable to do. Soviet delegates, for example, included members of all the workers' political parties, unions, cooperatives, and other working-class organizations.

A continuous debate took place in the soviets over how to get rid of all remnants of feudal medievalism and landlordism, advance the fight for democratic rights, and begin carrying out social and economic measures that would benefit workers and peasants.

At first the majority in the soviets supported the Provisional Government that came to power after the fall of the tsar. This unstable regime, however, increasingly took the side of the employers and the landlords in conflicts with workers and peasants.

It attempted to forcibly prevent peasants from taking over and distributing the lands of big landowners. And it continued to carry out the predatory war aims of the previous government.

In August, some military officers attempted a coup. The government was impotent in the face of this threat, but the armed workers' movement rapidly mobilized to crush the coup attempt.

From this and other experiences, the majority of working people concluded that the Provisional Government should be replaced with a government of the soviets.

On November 7 (October 26 according to the calendar used under the tsar), the Provisional Government was overturned and replaced with a republic of soviets of workers', soldiers', and peasants' deputies.

The Bolshevik Party, which had already won a majority of deputies in the workers' and soldiers' soviets, and the Left Social Revolutionary Party, which held a majority in the peasant soviets, jointly became the leadership of the new government.

The new government had no interests other than those of working people.

It immediately signed a peace treaty pulling the country out of the war being waged by the imperialist powers for new territories and markets.

It expropriated the landlords and launched a redistribution of the land to the poor peasants.

It recognized the right of self-determination for nations oppressed in the former tsarist empire.

And it sided with workers against their bosses. Within a year the workers had expropriated most of the employing class.



# Should unionists call for closing the border?

BY FRED FELDMAN

In a banner front-page headline the October 18 *AFL-CIO News* hailed the passage by Congress of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986. The paper's editors declared it a victory for "key labor goals."

The *News* wasn't referring to such goals as the right of immigrant workers, regardless of legal status, to decent

## AS I SEE IT

wages, safe working conditions, or the right to join unions.

On the contrary, the main goal it cited was to "cut a flood of illegal immigration to a trickle" by "the cutoff of work opportunities" for unauthorized immigrants. This refers to provisions of the bill that forbid the hiring of workers who cannot produce documents proving their right to work in the United States. Employers who hire workers without requiring such proof will be subject to fines and imprisonment.

The *AFL-CIO News* portrays these provisions as "employer sanctions." But their main target is not the employers but undocumented workers from other countries.

The top officials of the AFL-CIO have been promoting

such restrictions for well over a decade. They often claim that outlawing the employment of these workers will mean more jobs and higher wages for those with citizenship. There is no evidence to support this claim. Legally barring undocumented workers from jobs is no more an answer to unemployment and low wages than it would be to legally bar Blacks, women, or any other group of workers.

Relief from these problems can only come when the labor movement unites workers to fight against the employers.

Undocumented workers will continue to be part of the work force. The new immigration law, like its predecessors, will not eliminate them nor is it intended to. Rather it reinforces the pariah status of this section of the working class, stripping it of the legal rights other workers have.

That makes these workers more subject to employer superexploitation and police repression. And that deals a blow to the whole union movement.

Such legalized discrimination strengthens the divisions in the working class that are one of the employers' main weapons.

The starting point of the AFL-CIO officials' stand is that the U.S. workers and employers have a common interest in protecting the U.S. borders. "Each year the army of undocumented workers crossing the porous border

with Mexico grew larger," complained the *News* editors.

But from the standpoint of the interests of U.S. working people, the problem with the U.S. border is not that it is "porous" but that it is not open. Workers should have the right to go anywhere they wish in search of employment and a better life. The crime at the border is not committed by the Mexicans and others who cross it, but by the Border Patrol that arrests and brutalizes more than 1 million a year just for the crime of coming to the United States.

The U.S. border is a weapon used by the employing class to create a caste of "illegals," which it attempts to divide from their brothers and sisters in the rest of the U.S. working class.

One goal of the employing class is to make it more difficult for undocumented workers to join unions and to further weaken unions like the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union and the United Farm Workers that have undocumented immigrants among their members.

The new law will encourage the employers' expanding use of homework — the parceling out of jobs to workers who carry them out at home — to weaken the unions and cut wages and benefits.

The stand of the top AFL-CIO officials adds to this damage. They portray the labor federation not as a potentially powerful defender of the rights of the undocumented, but as an ally of the Border Patrol.

## LETTERS

### Nonviolent action

Having been a reader of the *Militant* off and on for more than 40 years, I have appreciated your willingness to print letters from viewpoints that do not coincide with yours.

In the October 17 issue, your coeditor, Doug Jenness, asked the question, "Do socialists advocate violence?" He then sketched the systematic violence of the capitalist system.

As to whether socialists advocate violence, he says, "the answer is no." Socialists prefer "a mass revolutionary movement of workers and farmers to overturn capitalist political rule" peacefully.

"But history shows that no propertied class gives up its power to the exploited majority without a ferocious fight," he says. In other words, Jenness is really saying that workers will defend themselves with violence.

The question I would raise for my Socialist Workers Party friends to consider is whether killing force is the most effective means today to defend the mass movement when attacked by capitalist violence.

History has given us many examples where nonviolent action by the people has overcome organized violence. There was the defeat of the Kapp putsch in Germany in 1920, the teachers' resistance in Norway during the Nazi occupation, the Bulgarian and Danish resistance to Hitler's demand for deportation of the Jews, the Czechoslovakian resistance in 1968-69, and many others.

Currently we have seen the resistance to Marcos in the Philippines and to "Baby Doc" in Haiti.

When the capitalist state has such tremendous violent instruments to use, isn't it utopian to think that workers, being less well-armed, can fight on the same grounds and win? If workers were trained in the techniques of the general strike and massive nonviolent resistance, there would be many killed, but not as many as if they used violent action. And there would be a better chance of winning.

Furthermore, the use of nonviolence elicits support from people who would be alienated by the use of killing force.

Also, the organization of violence to defend the mass of workers and farmers would require extensive training. This would immediately result in the movement being outlawed, while nonviolent

action would not be as likely to be outlawed.

If violence is the superior force, then nations will have to use it for defense. And modern war can lead to the extermination of humankind. But if nonviolence organized action can defend, we may be on the brink of a new era where nonviolence will overcome and humanity may live.

John McCartney  
Detroit, Michigan

### Nicaragua's prisons

I am a prisoner at the California Institute for Women and would like a subscription to the *Militant*. (I'd also like a small bundle of back issues to pass around the yard.)

The *Militant* is still one of the best papers for prisoners to get coverage of universal and international struggles, including what's going on in the prisons.

I'd appreciate an article on Nicaragua's prisons, because my understanding is they don't operate from a revenge or a punishment point of view. The prisoners (mostly former Somoza guards) run the prisons with the option of spending weekends in town on an honor system. No term is longer than 10 years. There is no death penalty and no hopelessness toward any human being, regardless of his or her crime. May North America live to see that day!

A prisoner  
Frontera, California

### Pornography commission

I have recently been thinking about the Meese antipornography (pro-censorship?) commission.

In part, this is because of two books — one from the American Civil Liberties Union, *Polluting the Censorship Debate* by ACLU Legislative Counsel Barry Lynn, and the other by journalists Philip Nobile and Eric Nadler, *United States of America vs. Sex*.

As well, I attended a debate between a local censor, John Price, who also represents antiabortion pickets harassing local abortion clinics, and Barry Lynn.

Lynn led off the debate and Price then attempted to smear him. Similarly, members of the Meese commission had tried to smear those who testified against the commission's obvious censorship predilections.

It became clear to me that these smear attempts reveal the deeper mission of antiporn "activists."

The smears are all of a pattern — they attempt to link all opposed to

censorship, and thus all fighters for democratic rights, with pornographers.

Defenders of working peoples' civil liberties, including those who defend a woman's right to abortion and who call for greater spending on education and more student rights, thus become a threat to "our children" and women.

"Antiporn" is thus a smoke screen designed to tighten controls over the rights of working people. That the federal government has backed up this effort only serves to doubly underscore the point.

By the way, I've really enjoyed the recent "Learning About Socialism" columns. An excellent and successful effort at presenting socialist ideas in digestible form. Kudos to the *Militant* staff and Doug Jenness!

J.W.  
Indianapolis, Indiana

### Needs literature

I would like to bring to your attention that I am a prisoner, and in the position I am in at this time I do not have any money. But, as history shows, the future changes.

Your friends told me that you would help me out in finding books and other literature. If that is so, I would like to ask for the *Militant* newspaper.

I am studying, and sometimes come to a point that is confusing and I don't know if I can get the problem solved. But anyway, I'm trying.

I'm also trying to get a full grasp on international issues. Can you direct me to someone who could send me *New Internationalist*, the magazine about Marxist politics? That would be appreciated a lot.

A prisoner  
Lovelady, Texas

### Support for P-9

I was really angered when I read that William Bywater, president of the International Union of Electronic Workers (IUE), speaking at the September 24-29 IUE convention in Miami, urged rejection of a resolution in support of United Food and Commercial Workers Local P-9's strike against the Hormel Co. (*Militant*, October 17.)

He reminded the delegates that they had passed a resolution opposing the felony riot charges [against several P-9 members and supporters] a couple of days before and stressed that many IUE locals had supported the Austin meat-packers and were free to



continue doing so.

Bywater said that the IUE International could not get "involved in the internal affairs of another international union." This is a cop-out if I ever heard one. When the internal affairs of another international union are as flagrantly pro-company and unjust as the UFCW's, it is time — in fact, way past time — to take an international stand.

I think the IUE missed the chance of a lifetime to support UFCW Local P-9 on the international level.

I should think the IUE would have been honored to support such a shining example as UFCW Local P-9 in their fight for dignity.

Carol Rogers  
Fairmont, West Virginia

### Denied Social Security

I am incarcerated and 66 years old. As you no doubt know, as of 1983 a law was passed barring any prisoner convicted of a felony from receiving Social Security benefits. What this has to do with a person working and contributing for years (in my case, since 1936 when it was first started) to the Social Security fund, I have no idea. The American Civil Liberties Union has a class-action suit against this law that is getting nowhere fast.

A prisoner  
Lucasville, Ohio

### Suggestions

The *Militant* by featuring Mexico on the front cover a few weeks ago seemed like an error. It hurt sales.

An article on Daniloff and the expulsion of Soviet diplomats would have been nice. In my war plant, seven of eight coworkers thought Daniloff was a spy.

Using the word "dirty" to de-

scribe the U.S. war against Nicaragua does not seem too descriptive — it sounds like empty rhetoric.

Is there a faster way to get subscriptions to people? By the time people receive the paper the news is two weeks old.

The "Notes from Nicaragua" column is great. It helps me sell here in San Francisco where many people consider themselves friendly to Nicaragua.

Despite my minor complaints, you are doing a good job — especially considering your small staff.

D.B.  
San Francisco, California

### 'War on drugs'

The *Militant* is not merely another socialist weekly newspaper, but the most informative and accurate of all. I would certainly recommend it for all the working class and those who seek the truth about the necessity for social government to prevail over the present system.

I feel it necessary to comment on your story "Government 'war on drugs' attacks Bill of Rights." (*Militant*, September 26). We need to rid society of the trafficking, sale, and use of illegal drugs, true. However, this should be at the cost of those who have benefited most from it — those prominent figures in the capitalist power structure.

A prisoner  
Huntingdon, Pennsylvania

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.

## Contract proposal angers Machinists

### Lockheed attempts to cut workers' medical benefits

BY GREG NELSON

SUNNYVALE, Calif. — Members of International Association of Machinists (IAM) District 508 voted to reject a contract offer by Lockheed Missiles and Space Co. (LMSC) at a mass meeting October 19.

A total of 57 percent of the valid votes cast also authorized a strike against LMSC.

IAM rules call for a 67 percent majority vote before a strike is authorized, however, and the district negotiating committee returned to the bargaining table on October 21.

The vote for a strike authorization was actually higher than the 57 percent reported, but a number of ballots were disqualified because they had eraser marks and other changes on them. A number of workers changed their ballots after listening to the negotiating committee's presentation, which came two hours into the meeting.

The negotiating committee reversed its previous position and recommended a vote against the contract and for a strike.

Unlike the rest of the aerospace industry, IAM District 508 bylaws require that the company's contract proposals be distributed to the members five days before a contract vote. On October 14 the members had the proposed agreement, 229 pages in all. The next day the negotiating committee distributed its two-page summary of the document.

The contract called for maintaining the two-tier pay system that has weakened the union.

It also called for a wage freeze, even though the company is reporting high profits. Instead of raises, the company dangled

lump-sum bonuses of 12 percent this year and 5 percent the next two years in front of the workers.

"We pay bills monthly. You try and tell your bill collectors to wait till you get your bonus and see what they say," District President Ken Benda pointed out.

"Even a 4 percent raise each year would pay more over the life of the contract than this bonus," he said.

On October 15, after most of the workers had gone home, the company brought a "clarification" of the contract to the union hall. Union members were then told that this clarification meant that for the first time ever they would begin co-payments for any increases in the medical plan coverage costs.

Previously, all medical plan increases were paid by the company.

This attack on the medical coverage and the underhanded way it was slipped in is what caused the negotiating committee to reconsider its position and oppose the contract.

Over 50 percent of the 5,800 union members turned out for the vote on the contract.

Chaos ensued. Hundreds of unionists never made it into the union hall. After standing outside for over an hour and a half many simply left. Like the union members who did not come to the meeting, those that left knew nothing of the changes in the medical coverage.

Even with the confusion the strike sentiment was strong.

Three days later the union officials reported that the company had withdrawn the proposed medical plan takeback. A new vote on the contract was scheduled for



Militant/Jim Levitt

Large aerospace companies are demanding new takebacks in current contract talks. Above, Seattle Machinists at a meeting last month to discuss Boeing contract.

November 2.

Wide ranging discussions are taking place in the plant about the union, the contract, and the confusing course of the negotiations.

"Are we going on strike or not?" is the central question being asked.

A number of activists from the district strike committee are convinced that with a

fighting perspective the union can win more than what the company has offered so far, including a pay increase and an adjustment of the two-tier set-up.

They have begun organizing the "vote no, vote strike" sentiment.

Greg Nelson is a member of IAM District 508 at the LMSC plant in Sunnyvale, California.

## McDonnell Douglas seeks to impose new takebacks

BY SUE SKINNER

TORRANCE, Calif. — Contracts expired at seven McDonnell Douglas aerospace plants in October. They include plants organized by the International Association of Machinists (IAM) in Torrance and Huntington Beach, California, and plants organized by the United Auto Workers (UAW) in Tulsa, Oklahoma; Melbourne, Arkansas; and Long Beach, California.

Workers at the McDonnell Douglas plant in Canada, where the contract also expired, are represented by the Canadian Auto Workers union.

The contract at the large IAM-organized plant in St. Louis, Missouri, expires next year.

McDonnell Douglas' millionaire owners were able to impose deep concessions on the workers in negotiations in 1983.

Givebacks included a multi-tiered wage system where newly hired workers could be paid \$2 an hour less than those working alongside them, elimination of cost-of-living payments for the lower labor grades, and a three-year wage freeze.

The Long Beach UAW local waged an 117-day strike against the cuts, but with the threat of losing their jobs hanging over their heads, the workers were forced reluctantly back to work under the terms of the concession contract.

Last month the 9,500-member UAW Local 148 in Long Beach voted to reject the company's offer by a 10-to-1 margin. The entire negotiating committee, including union President Bob Berghoff, urged rejection of the contract. It objected to the company's demands for significant cuts in medical benefits that would have forced the workers to make a weekly payment for their medical coverage and also pay an additional medical deductible.

The company is also trying to force the UAW members to work out of their job classifications for 60 days at a time.

The rejected contract called for a wage increase of 3 percent the first two years of the contract and no wage increase the third year. The company proposal also contained a lump-sum bonus of 2 percent of gross wages the first year, 2 percent the second year, and 4 percent the third year.

Representatives from the bargaining committees at the Arkansas and Oklahoma

plants told the Long Beach meeting on October 17 that they were going to recommend a vote against the contract when they returned home.

Officials from IAM District 720 at the Huntington Beach and Torrance plants expect a similar offer to be put on the table by McDonnell Douglas.

A mass meeting to discuss the contract will be held November 2 at the Anaheim stadium.

The sentiment at the Torrance plant has

been to reject the offer. Many workers are angry that despite huge profits the company is still attempting to cut medical benefits and force us to work out of our job classifications.

All plants are still working under the terms of the old contract while the negotiations continue.

Sue Skinner is a member of IAM District 720 and works at the Torrance McDonnell Douglas plant.

## Thousands of Quebec students strike

BY CAROLE CARON

MONTREAL — "The children of the working class have the right to go to university!"

"Money for schools, not the corporations!"

These were two of the slogans and banners of students from more than 20 community colleges and universities who joined together October 27 in a Quebec-wide student strike.

The strike movement, involving tens of thousands of students, is led by the National Association of Quebec Students (ANEQ). It is the broadest and most important mobilization taking place against social service cutbacks, which are being implemented by the Liberal Party government of Prime Minister Robert Bourassa and by the employers.

The students are raising three central demands:

- Maintenance of the current freeze on university tuition fees;
- Maintenance of free education at the community college level;

- Reform of the system of loans and grants to better meet the needs of the poorest students.

The Bourassa government has threatened to raise university fees and to end free education in the community colleges.

The student action is the first mass mobilization in Quebec since the 1983 Common Front of public service unions, which fought to defend gains in health services and education won by the Québécois during the past 25 years.

Following a series of mobilizations last spring, ANEQ continued to map out action. Over the fall, general assemblies were organized where thousands of students discussed how to struggle against the Quebec government's attacks on education.

On October 21, following a strike vote by over 2,000 students at the University of Quebec at Montreal (UQAM), some 15,000 liberal arts students there walked out.

At a meeting on October 23, the students reaffirmed the strike, despite police violence against their picket lines and despite

a court injunction obtained by the university prohibiting pickets from blocking access to the university.

Since then, at least 10 students have been charged with contempt of court and will appear before the Quebec Superior Court on October 29.

Despite this intimidation, on October 24, students from 16 community colleges joined the UQAM students and went out on strike.

Moreover, the teaching assistants' union at UQAM is supporting the strike and has condemned the cop violence on the picket lines.

The big-business media lost no time in slandering the strike, charging it with being led by a small minority of radicals.

In fact, the student struggle is showing the way forward for the 300,000 public service unionists whose contract negotiations with the government are moving at a snail's pace. The student strike movement is part of the broad resistance to concessions and cutbacks that is sweeping Canada from Newfoundland, through Alberta, to British Columbia.