

March against war, apartheid April 25

A final all-out push is needed to organize the largest possible turnout for the April 25 demonstrations in Washington, D.C., and San Francisco.

Buses, trains, and planes are being chartered to get people to the actions from hundreds of cities across the country and from Canada.

The April 25 marches and rallies promise to be the largest protests ever organized

EDITORIAL

to demand an end to the U.S. government's war in Central America and its backing to South African apartheid. And the demonstrations will have far greater participation from the labor movement than previous actions with similar demands.

The demands are particularly timely and warrant the final effort to get the maximum turnout in both cities.

• Since 1981 the White House and Congress have been organizing the contra war against the people of Nicaragua. Thousands of workers and farmers there have been killed, maimed, and crippled.

Favorite targets of Washington's mercenary troops are farm cooperatives, health-care clinics, schools, and day-care centers. Democrats and Republicans alike have voted the appropriations to fund the contra terrorists, including the \$100 million ap-



April 1985 march on Washington. Upcoming protests promise to be biggest actions yet against U.S. war in Central America and U.S. links with South Africa.

proved last year, the final \$40 million of which was released by Congress last month.

Democrats and Republicans who opposed giving the contras the \$40 million focused on the fact that the White House, CIA, and Pentagon couldn't give a proper accounting of previous appropriations. But no voice was heard in the House or Senate

demanding Nicaragua's sovereign right to determine its own future free from U.S. intervention.

• The White House, with congressional approval, has been pouring over a million dollars a day into the coffers of the government of El Salvador. The bulk of the money has gone to finance the Sal-

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Unionists rally for Wis. meat-packers

BY PAT GROGAN

CUDAHY, Wis. — Chanting, "Scabs out, unions in," 2,000 unionists marched to the gates of the Patrick Cudahy meat-packing plant here April 12.

Cheers went up and fists were raised as the contingents passed by the picket lines of United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local P-40. The local was forced on strike in early January after rejecting Cudahy's takeback demands.

Supporters of the striking meat-packers came out for the march and rally from dozens of unions in the Milwaukee area as well as from Illinois, Minnesota, and Iowa. The events were sponsored by the Milwaukee

County Labor Council and other local labor organizations.

Signs and chants proclaimed, "United we stand," "An injury to one is an injury to all," and "Give them hell, P-40."

"When people come out like today, when people from other unions come down and picket with us every week, it means more than you can imagine," P-40 striker Nimrod Allen said. "It feels like the unions are pulling together. Just like we went up to Hormel, sent buses and always donated what we could. They're trying to bust us up, but we're pulling together." Allen was referring to the 1985-86 strike by UFCW Local P-9 against Hormel in Austin, Min-

nesota.

"I've been in the plant for 39 years," Allen continued. "I started out at 75 cents an hour when the Cudahy brothers ran the plant. This is the first time we've had to strike. Things used to work out okay but the last couple of years it has been the most miserable place you can imagine to work."

Allen is a ham-boner. "That's very physical," he explained. "The knives are razor sharp. It takes a lot of concentration. One slip and you could get hurt. The last six months before the strike the bosses were on us all the time. We just couldn't get any peace in the place."

"I have two years to go until I retire," Allen said. "I feel like I'm fighting for the young people's future more than for my own."

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Militant/Jesse Smith

Some 2,000 unionists turned out April 12 to back Cudahy strikers

South Africa activists resist new restrictions

BY ERNEST HARSCH

In a further tightening of the state of emergency that has been in effect in South Africa since last June, the apartheid regime proclaimed on April 11 that it was outlawing all calls for the release of political prisoners and all forms of protest against detention without trial.

But supporters of political liberties immediately announced they would defy the new regulations.

Murphy Morobe, a spokesperson for the United Democratic Front (UDF), the 2-million-member anti-apartheid coalition, declared that the latest crackdown is an indication of "a government that has absolutely no respect for the right of people to express their views on any subject dealing with flagrant abuses of human rights."

Morobe added, "The UDF does not see its way clear to advise its members and affiliates to conform to this totally ridiculous restriction."

On April 13 several leading church figures held a service in Cape Town that included calls for the release of political prisoners. Desmond Tutu, an Anglican archbishop, declared, "I will urge my congregations and others to be involved in campaigning for the release of detainees."

Allan Boesak, president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches and a founder of the UDF, called on people to display bumper stickers on their cars and posters in their churches — two forms of protest explicitly prohibited by the new restrictions. "This service needs to be followed up by action," Boesak affirmed.

The next day, one of the most prominent groups active on behalf of political prisoners, the Detainees' Parents Support Committee, said that it too would continue campaigning for the release of detainees and against the system of detention without trial. Max Coleman, a committee representative, said that it would also challenge the decree's validity in the Johannesburg Supreme Court.

The decree, signed by Commissioner of Police Gen. Johan Coetzee, makes it illegal "to participate in any campaign, project, or action aimed at accomplishing the release" of persons held under the draconian Internal Security Act. Coetzee's decree specified that this included the sending of letters or telegrams to the government, filling in coupons or signing petitions for the release of a prisoner, or wearing stickers, badges, or T-shirts "depicting a slogan protesting or disapproving of the detention." Attendance at meetings held "in honor" of

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Contras nabbed in terror plot

BY ROBERTO KOPEC

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — The Nicaraguan Ministry of the Interior presented nine contra terrorists at a press conference held here April 10.

The contras, all members of the U.S.-sponsored Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN), were captured March 26 near Matagalpa. The group was part of a larger force that entered Nicaragua from Honduras last December with the aim of carrying out sabotage and assassinations.

On March 10 they blew up a high tension electric power line along the Matagalpa-Jinotega road. They were captured two weeks later in the town of Llano Grande — a few miles from Matagalpa — where they had been staying in the homes

of friends.

Reporters were shown the military supplies the captured contras had with them, including 8 plastic explosive charges, 35 grenades, 2 radios, an M-79 grenade launcher with 51 grenades, 5 anti-personnel mines, and 7 AK-47 automatic rifles, plus assorted military garb.

Mission: ambushes, murder

A document captured with the contras detailed their mission. Signed by two leaders of the FDN's Salvador Pérez Regional Command based in San Francisco de Capires, Honduras, it instructs the task force to set ambushes on several roads, and "blow up electric power lines to destabilize the infrastructure and economy of the

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L.A. meeting builds W. Coast demonstration

BY JEAN SAVAGE

LOS ANGELES — St. Vincent's Catholic Church was overflowing as more than a thousand people came together April 4 to commemorate the 20th anniversary of Martin Luther King's "Beyond Vietnam" speech. In that speech King urged an end to the U.S. war in Vietnam, which he called "a symptom of a far deeper malady within the American spirit."

The April 4 event was seen by activists here as one of the main building actions for the San Francisco and Washington, D.C., demonstrations on April 25. Those actions will demand an end to Washington's support to the apartheid regime in South Africa and an end to the U.S.-backed war in Central America.

Speakers at the broadly sponsored event included Rev. J.M. Lawson, Jr., executive director of the Los Angeles Southern Christian Leadership Conference; Father Luis Olivares from La Placita Church; Rev. A. Wright-

Riggins; Dr. Charlie Clements, author of *Witness to War*; Dolores Huerta, vice-president of the United Farm Workers of America; and Bishop Oliver Garver, Jr.

Wright-Riggins detailed the racist policies of the South African regime. He also focused on the importance of the struggle being waged by the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) in Namibia.

Clements, who spent several years in El Salvador in the rebel-controlled Guazapa region, blasted Washington's contra war against Nicaragua.

Huerta linked the policies of the U.S. government in southern Africa and Central America to the attacks on working people at home.

Everyone present was urged to buy a bus ticket for the San Francisco action. More than 20 buses have been chartered from the Los Angeles area for the demonstration.

Bus tickets are \$30 round-trip and can be obtained by calling the Mobilization for Justice and Peace in Central America and Southern Africa at (213) 938-2988 or (714) 547-6282; or by writing the Mobilization at P.O. Box 19266 Los Angeles, Calif. 90019.

D.C. airport Machinists publicize action

BY NANCY BROWN

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Members of the International Association of Machinists (IAM) who work for Eastern Airlines at National Airport here are organizing to attend the April 25 demonstration.

After Local 796 members voted to endorse the demonstration, the local ran a front-page article publicizing the action in its newsletter.

Ramp workers, cleaners, and mechanics have been circulating a petition opposing U.S. government policies in southern Africa and Central America. The signed petitions will be sent to the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), imprisoned South African revolutionary leader Nelson Mandela, and to the Nicaraguan Sandinista Workers Federation (CST).

Union members are using the petition to talk to workers throughout the airport about supporting the April 25 action. They are en-

couraging all Machinists members, pilots, and flight attendants to march behind Local 796's banner.

Airline and airport workers who want to march with the 796 contingent will meet at 9:00 a.m. on April 25 in the crew parking lot at National Airport and then take the metro train to the rally.

Boston activists fill 1,400-seat train

BY JON HILLSON

BOSTON — Protests by labor, peace, and civil liberties groups have forced Amtrak management to back down on its threats to withhold rail cars on the train that will travel from Boston to Washington, D.C., on April 25.

Amtrak management had originally promised the Boston April 25 coalition that 17 cars would be available. Later they tried to reduce the number to 13 cars.

They were forced to reinstate the original number after an intense campaign by local activists.

The 1,400-seat train is filled. Twenty-four buses have also been reserved. More than a third of the

seats on the train and buses have been bought by local unions and individual trade unionists.

San Diego coalition gets good response

BY MARI HAWKES

SAN DIEGO — The April 25 coalition here has been getting a good response to its efforts, showing there is a lot of local support for the April 25 demonstration.

The International Association of Machinists Local 1125 at General Dynamics has endorsed the action and is sending a delegation to it. Other local endorsements include Ed Maudlin, president of IAM District 50; IAM Local 755; Communications Workers of America Local 9400; Rep. Jim Bates; and Associated Students at San Diego City College.

A marine sergeant who recently bought a bus ticket for the San Francisco action explained, "I've been in the marines for four years and I've tried to stay quiet. Now I've got two months left in the reserves and can't wait any longer. Now I want to be involved."

Hundreds march against racist attacks in Brooklyn

BY DAVID ROSENFELD

BROOKLYN, N.Y. — Five hundred protesters marched against racist attacks and discrimination as 2,000 police literally occupied the Black community of Crown Heights here April 11.

The march was in response to a long history of violence and discrimination against Black Crown Heights residents. Most recently, a Black home was firebombed. One banner carried in the march listed the names of 10 Blacks and Latinos killed by cops or racist thugs over the past decade.

Blacks and Latinos make up some 90 percent of the Crown Heights community. About 20,000 Hasidic Jews also live there.

Hasidic church officials, capitalist politicians, and some of the media have tried to create a smoke screen, charging the Black protest was anti-Semitic.

Speakers at the protest explained that the action was not anti-Semitic, and pointed to a pattern of racist victimization of Blacks.

Colin Moore, an attorney, said that historically Jews have been oppressed, but this is no justification for the oppression of Blacks, who want fair and equal treatment. Blacks, he said, don't want to be subjected to the kind of oppression Jews experienced in Europe.

Other speakers described the problems Blacks face in Crown Heights.

In 1977 the city government drew a "line

of demarcation" through Crown Heights, arbitrarily creating two community planning boards. This gave full control of one board, which receives public funds and city services, to the Hasidic enclave. Since then, the Black community charges, a majority of the funding for housing and social services has been directed to that board.

One of the things board money has been used for is a vigilante-type "security patrol" organized by the Crown Heights Jewish Community Council. The all-white patrol regularly harasses Blacks and has committed violence against them.

Symptomatic of the problem, recently the head of the Crown Heights Jewish Community Council had to be replaced by a more "moderate" one — that is, less openly hostile to Blacks and Latinos.

This happened after Police Commissioner Benjamin Ward felt moved to warn of the need to curb the so-called security patrols.

There are also charges of a systematic pressure campaign to push Black property owners and tenants from the area.

The deepest concern and anger came when a Black home was firebombed February 26. No one has ever been arrested.

The massive police turnout for the demonstration was clearly intended to intimi-

date the protesters.

In addition to mounted cops and hundreds on motorcycles, hundreds of riot-helmeted police, clubs in hand, lined the two-mile parade route. At some points, the cops stood shoulder to shoulder for blocks.

"We did make use of several shows of force," said police official Robert Johnson.

The demonstrators were not deterred. The march began with some 250 people but doubled as it made its way through the

community.

The chanting demonstrators stopped at various points that highlighted what the protest was about.

At the home of the Reddish family, the firebomb victims, teenagers Kevin and Chris Reddish described their ordeal.

The demonstration was organized by Crown Heights Africans Networking Together (CHANT).

Join our April 25 sales teams!

If you would like to help sell the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* at the April 25 antiwar actions, come to the socialist distribution centers:

Washington, D.C.: near the bus drop-off point, Constitution Ave. between 15th and 17th streets.

San Francisco: dispatch truck at corner of Mission and Steuart starting at 8 a.m. (in the anti-intervention contingent assembly area).

The Young Socialist Alliance and Socialist Workers Party will sponsor an open house at each action. In **San Francisco** from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. at 26 7th St. on the corner of 7th and Market. In **Washington, D.C.**, at Quality Inn Capitol Hill Hotel, 415 New Jersey Ave. NW, between 4 and 8 p.m.

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The *Militant* is written in the interests of workers and farmers. Every week it tells the truth about the war Washington and the employers are waging against working people at home and abroad. We provide first-hand coverage of events in other countries, such as Cuba, Burkina Faso, and the Philippines. In addition, regular on-the-scene reports come from our Nicaragua Bureau.

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Secret Service claims wide 'right' to spy

BY FRED FELDMAN

Richard McCann describes himself as "the Special Agent in Charge of the Intelligence Division of the United States Secret Service."

He is one of the high government officials who recently submitted affidavits to a federal court in New York City. The affidavits attempt to bolster the Justice Department's opposition to a proposed court injunction barring the government from using millions of files that the FBI illegally gathered on the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance.

Court battle

The battle over the injunction is the latest stage of the suit brought by the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance against the FBI and other government police agencies. Last August federal Judge Thomas Griesa ruled that the FBI's 40-year campaign of surveillance, harassment, and disruption against the SWP and YSA had been illegal and unconstitutional. He stated that the scope of an injunction to bar the use of the ill-gotten files would be determined in future hearings.

To head off such an injunction, the Justice Department filed a memorandum warning Judge Griesa that an injunction might place "the nation's vital interest of self-preservation at risk." The affidavit submitted by Secret Service Agent McCann was intended to back up this claim.

Instead, however, it highlights the government's sweeping insistence of its right to spy on and harass anyone who has, or might in the future, protest any aspect of government policy.

McCann describes the Secret Service as "authorized to protect the person of the President of the United States, the President-elect, the Vice President, or other officer next in order of succession to the Office of the President and the Vice President-elect, and the members of their immediate families."

License to spy

Agent McCann then presents this function as an open-ended license for political surveillance against untold numbers of people whose offense is the advocacy of ideas that the Secret Service regards as dangerous.

If the Secret Service accepted any limits imposed by Judge Griesa or others on its right to spy, he suggests, the lives of the president, vice-president, and others might be gravely endangered.

"Inherent in the performance of this protective function," claims Agent McCann, "is the need to determine and, to the extent possible, anticipate the actions of those individuals and groups . . . who on the basis



Militant/Arthur Hughes

Marchers demand end to contra war last October in Washington, D.C. Secret Service claims task of protecting top officials entitles it to spy on all who protest.

of their past history, ideology, or avowed goals, may constitute a possible threat to the physical safety of the individuals receiving Secret Service protection."

For that purpose, he says, the Secret Service "needs timely, accurate, and complete intelligence information."

McCann offers no evidence for this foul frame-up of the SWP and YSA and their members as potential participants in assassinations or other physical attacks on those under Secret Service protection. He makes no attempt to prove that their "past history, ideology, or avowed goals" make the SWP and YSA a threat to the lives of these individuals.

Frame-up exposed

The SWP and YSA have never considered, planned, or participated in such actions. And McCann, if he is at all familiar with the decades-long "investigation" that the FBI carried on against these organizations, knows it.

As Judge Griesa put it in his ruling, "The FBI conducted an intensive investigation of the SWP for over 30 years. There was not one single prosecution of any member of the SWP or YSA for any terrorist or revolutionary act of any kind. No evidence was introduced at the trial [of the SWP-YSA suit] that any SWP or YSA member ever carried on such activities."

"In the case of the SWP . . . there is no evidence that any FBI informant ever reported an instance of planned or actual espionage, violence, terrorism, or efforts to subvert the governmental structure of the United States. Over the course of approximately 30 years, there is no indication that any informant ever observed any violation of federal law or gave information leading to a single arrest for federal law violations."

"The FBI had accumulated evidence of a

variety of lawful political pursuits by the SWP, but no evidence of sabotage or violence or anything else of that nature. . . . [The FBI's] disruption activities were directed at the kind of political activities that the SWP had a constitutional right to carry out."

The Secret Service cop wants not only permission to use the files obtained by the FBI through burglary and other criminal means. He wants a go-ahead to place any group that advocates socialist, antiwar, or other views on a list of "usual suspects" who lose all right to organize and speak without fear of police surveillance.

Glaring contradiction

There is a glaring contradiction between McCann's insistence on "timely, accurate, and complete intelligence information" on the SWP and then-Attorney General Edward Levi's 1976 order terminating the government's "national security" investi-

gation of the SWP and YSA as unwarranted.

Since the FBI claims to have kept no files on the SWP and YSA after that date, it would be interesting to know how the Secret Service goes about collecting "timely, accurate, and complete intelligence" on them.

In addition to smearing the SWP and YSA as potential assassins, McCann demands the right to spy on the SWP and other groups "regarding matters such as what type of demonstration activity may be expected from the group, the number of protestors which the group is capable of amassing, and the group's ability as well as propensity to disrupt or otherwise interfere with the movement of a protectee." This is a demand for the right to snoop on any one who has, or might, participate in a demonstration.

Demonstrators are not 'suspects'

But demonstrating is not a criminal act, and the Secret Service has no right to treat those who plan, participate in, or voice support for demonstrations as "suspects" — whether for assassinations or obstructing traffic.

The right to demonstrate is guaranteed by the Bill of Rights. But this is just a scrap of paper to the Justice Department, and to the Secret Service and the other federal cop agencies. They argue that the constitutional right to freely assemble must be overridden because strikers' picket lines or demonstrations against the war in Central America inherently place "the Nation's vital interest of self-preservation at risk."

Regardless of the Bill of Rights, the cop agencies insist that there is only one true right — a right that stands above the Constitution. That is the right of the cops to spy on, harass, and disrupt strikers, demonstrators, advocates of socialism, and anyone else whose "ideology" or "avowed goals" the rulers disapprove of.

Unionists sign for political rights at meat-packers' rally

The Political Rights Defense Fund got a positive response from among the hundreds of unionists who rallied outside the gates of the Patrick Cudahy meat-packing plant in Cudahy, Wisconsin. They were protesting the use of scabs, backed up by cops, to try to break a strike by United Food and Commercial Workers Local P-40.

Joe Swanson, a longtime member of the United Transportation Union who joined the April 12 labor solidarity action, told the

Militant that more than a dozen unionists there signed up as sponsors of the Political Rights Defense Fund. Swanson is the PRDF's Midwest representative.

The defense fund is an organization that helps finance and publicize the suit brought by the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance against unconstitutional spying, harassment, and disruption by the U.S. government and its police agencies.

PRDF supporters around the country are now campaigning to raise \$90,000 by June 15 and win thousands of new sponsors.

In Charleston, West Virginia, PRDF backers have circulated a letter urging support to the fight against government spying. The letter was signed by Rev. Sandy Dreyton, head of the Charleston National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; Roger Forman, president of the West Virginia Civil Liberties Union; Dave Evans of the West Virginia Vietnam Veterans of America; Rev. Nat Turner-Lacy, co-coordinator of the West Virginia Coalition Against Apartheid; Bob Hall of the Office of Peace and Justice Education; and civil libertarian Maggie Beller.

Four members of the United Steelworkers of America in the John Amos power plant also signed up. Thus far PRDF activists in Charleston have signed up 60 new sponsors.

Franklin Cleckley, a prominent lawyer and educator in Morgantown, West Virginia, added his name as a sponsor and donated \$25. Other sponsors from the Morgantown area include Dianne Welch, a member of the executive board of International Union of Electronic Workers Local 627; Penny Haddix, financial secretary of United Steelworkers of America Local 13071; and several coal miners.

Virginia dairy farmer Ben Layman, who has been prominent in both the struggle against farm foreclosures and in opposition to the U.S.-run war against Nicaragua, has also signed up to support the suit against illegal spying. So did Arturo Taca of St. Louis, an activist in the Movement for a Free Philippines. — F.F.

Join the fight for democratic rights . . .

Help the Political Rights Defense Fund protect the Bill of Rights. Support the suit brought by the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance against government spying.

- Contribute to the \$90,000 fund
- Sponsor the suit against FBI spying
- Get & distribute information on the suit

☐ Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution of:
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☐ Send me _____ copies of the federal judge's decision against FBI spying and harassment (\$1 each).

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

Washington refuses action on acid rain

Deadly pollution poisons fish and vegetation in U.S. and Canada

BY HARRY RING

Reagan's statement to the Canadian Parliament that he would "consider" a joint treaty to curb acid rain points up a problem that has become increasingly serious for Canadians and people of this country. On both sides of the U.S.-Canadian border, acid rain has become a particularly destructive form of pollution.

Typically, Reagan's statement to the Canadian Parliament, April 6, was a shameless fraud.

Safely back at the White House, he had an aide explain he had agreed only to consider the possibility of an acid rain agreement, but had not committed himself to signing one.

Prior to his trip north, Reagan was aware the issue had become explosive in Canada, and the public demonstration that greeted him confirmed this.

Eastern Canada has been particularly afflicted by acid rain — most of which originates in U.S. power plants and is borne across the border by prevailing winds.

A fast shuffle

This past March, Reagan grandly announced that \$2.5 billion would be allocated by the government over a five-year period for acid rain research. But this was not something new. A full year previous, Reagan had made a commitment to Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney for such a project.

But in the budget he submitted to Congress in January, Reagan requested \$350 million for the plan — not the \$2.5 billion he had promised. The current pledge is simply a reaffirmation of the initial commitment, on which he had tried to renege.

More decisive, the insistence of a study project is simply a dodge to avoid compelling big utilities and other polluters to curb the acid rain they create, and do it now.

Ongoing research may develop more effective and less expensive techniques for doing this. But there is no reason to wait. The means for curbing acid rain exist today.

Responding to Reagan's "study" proposal, the Canadian Coalition on Acid Rain tagged it a "fig leaf."

Surely, Canadians have cause for insisting on action, not "study." It is estimated that 3.2 million tons of sulphur dioxide is

dumped on Canada annually by U.S. polluters.

'Acid dead'

An estimated 14,000 lakes in eastern Canada are now "acid dead," incapable of sustaining fish or plant life.

The same goes for 13 salmon-bearing rivers in Nova Scotia.

Canadian maple syrup production has been devastated by acid rain. The acid attacks maple leaves by stripping away a waxy protective coating, leaving them vulnerable to sunburn, ozone burn, insects, and fungus.

In Quebec, where 90 percent of Canada's maple syrup is produced, a 1982 aerial survey showed 32 percent of the area's maple trees were dead or dying. A similar survey this year boosted the figure to 82 percent.

While Canada is getting the brunt of this, maple trees in this country are being hit hard too.

From 1985 to 1986, New York maple sugar production dropped 26 percent. In Vermont it was 38 percent.

New Hampshire, a major producer that normally supplies 12,000 gallons of syrup a year, tapped more trees than ever this year and produced but 7,600 gallons.

A lethal mix

Just what is acid rain?

Primarily, sulphur dioxide from coal-burning power plants, plus nitrogen oxides from these plants and from motor vehicles.

Discharged into the air, these chemicals fall to the earth as microscopic particles of dry acid, or mix with moisture to fall as acid rain. (In the winter, it becomes acid snow.)

In rivers and lakes, the concentrated acidic material — sometimes as strong as vinegar — kills living organisms or inhibits their growth, altering the ecosystem of the afflicted waters.

From reservoirs, the acid-contaminated drinking water leaches metals in the pipes that transport the water for consumption.

The Canadian government estimates that 50 percent of the acidic pollution blighting its waters and forests originates in U.S. factories. In the areas hardest hit, it's 70 percent "Made in the USA."

Not all to Canada

But that doesn't mean that acid rain waits until it crosses the border before it



Militant/Martin Koppel
Canadian students protesting acid rain during Reagan's recent visit to Canada. More than 14,000 lakes in eastern Canada are now "acid dead."

starts falling. A recent study of more than 300 U.S. riversites showed an alarming increase in nitrate levels. At 116 sampling sites, the nitrate concentrations had jumped 50 percent in less than a decade.

The researchers also found new concentrations of air-borne arsenic and cadmium, both toxic.

Scientists fear that the nitrate in drinking water can be converted by the body into nitrosamines, which cause cancer.

A group of medical specialists testified before a Senate subcommittee on pollution February 3. They warned that the health dangers of acid rain are too serious to permit further delay in taking protective steps.

They testified that the pollutants linked to acid rain are an important cause of asthma and bronchitis. Children, they said, are at particular risk, but so are people over 65, pregnant women, and people with heart disease.

One specialist told the senators that "acid rain is probably third after active and

passive smoking as a cause of lung disease."

'Doesn't make sense'

The president-elect of the American Academy of Pediatrics said, "Technology to significantly reduce pollutants has been in operation for many years in Japan. Doesn't it make more sense to eliminate the cause of the health problem whenever possible rather than have children suffer?"

It's bad enough to have children, and adults, suffer. But more so when there's no need for it. As the doctor indicated, the means for reducing acid rain are available and new ones are being developed. In addition to Japan, West Germany is using a new system that eliminates up to 90 percent of harmful oxides before the fumes leave the smokestack.

The Canadian government has announced a program, with a target date of 1994, to reduce by half the sulfur dioxide belched out by its power plants, copper and nickel smelters, and other industrial offenders.

In this country, some coal-burning plants already use smokestack scrubbers.

Currently there are two bills in Congress to establish some kind of acid rain control. These are meeting stiff bipartisan opposition.

From the outset, the Reagan administration has fought any kind of environment control. (In 1980, Reagan speculated that trees and vegetation cause most pollution.)

No emergency?

On April 8 Senate Democratic leader Robert Byrd of West Virginia denounced the bills aimed at acid rain. "Acid rain," he declared, "is not an emergency."

A major operation to create public opposition to curbing acid rain is being conducted by an outfit calling itself, "Citizens for Sensible Control of Acid Rain."

With extensive phone calling and mailings by the ton, people are being fed the hokum that acid rain control will mean higher taxes, higher utility rates, higher prices, and a loss of jobs in coal-burning plants.

Since 1983 this committee of "sensible citizens" has raised \$3.35 million for this drive.

Where did those millions come from? You guessed it, the companies that would be affected. Contributors include American Electric Power Service Corp., comprising eight utilities in the Midwest and South; Southern Company Services, four utilities in the Southeast; Union Electric of St. Louis; plus two major coal producers.

Meanwhile, the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment estimates that 50,000 people in this country die prematurely each year from inhaling acid gases, particles, and mists.

Acid rain poses the issue: profits or people?

Miners open contract negotiations

BY KATHY MICKELLS

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. — The United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) has announced that Island Creek Coal Co. and four smaller coal operators have signed "me too" agreements with the union as part of the opening round of negotiations on the 1988 contract.

Island Creek Coal has 20 mines in West Virginia, Virginia, and Kentucky. It is the 13th largest U.S. coal company.

The "me too" agreements — letters of intent — have been utilized by the UMWA since the 1984 contract negotiations. At that time, the UMWA adopted a "selective strike" strategy against operators who refused to sign contracts modeled after the national agreement the union negotiates with the Bituminous Coal Operators Association (BCOA).

Non-BCOA companies like Island Creek Coal are approached before their contract with the union expires and asked to sign letters of intent that bind them to the terms of the BCOA contract retroactive to the previous contract's expiration date.

If they sign the letter of intent, the union agrees not to strike that company.

The UMWA's letter of intent with Island Creek is named the "1987 Employment and Economic Security Pact" (EESP).

In announcing the Island Creek settlement, UMWA President Richard Trumka said, "I believe this kind of agreement serves as a model for the kind of cooperation that can exist between the coal industry and the union."

"The UMWA stands ready to bargain in good faith for nonconcessionary contracts that provide the fair measure of economic justice that our members so rightly deserve and, in return, maintain the stability and ever-increasing productivity in the coalfields that has been so beneficial to the industry."

Trumka said the EESP will help the union membership attain "job security."

UMWA spokespeople have been highlighting the EESP at press conferences, rallies, and at regional UMWA conferences.

Panel rights

Under the current BCOA contract, miners have what are referred to as "panel rights." A miner on layoff gets recall rights not only where he or she used to work but also at other UMWA-organized mines owned by the same company in that UMWA district or one other contiguous district.

Under the EESP, panel rights will be extended to all Island Creek mines, unionized or nonunion, regardless of district. Laid-off Island Creek UMWA members will get first crack at jobs openings, but if they are not filled any laid-off union miner qualifies for them.

Trumka says this process will aid the union's ability to organize nonunion mines.

A key problem facing the UMWA in recent years has been contracting out. When a union mine is shut down, the operators try to subcontract out or lease coal reserves

and mining work to nonunion companies.

Under the EESP, all employment offers will first have to go to laid-off Island Creek miners. The nonunion operators will then have 90 days to pay wages and benefits equivalent to those in UMWA contracts.

Health and pension benefits

Island Creek and the other EESP signers have agreed to endorse the union's effort to get the UMWA health-services card restored.

Medical-care payments are currently administered through insurance companies chosen by the coal companies.

Before 1978 the operators had to pay into a fund that was administered by the union. With a UMWA health-service card, a miner and their family got virtually free medical care anywhere in the coalfields with a minimum of hassles. Winning back the medical card has become a union priority.

The UMWA has two pension funds. The "1950 Pensions Fund" covers miners who retired before 1976. The other fund covers miners who have retired after that date.

The union spokespeople say the 1950 Pensions Fund will be totally funded by May 1, 1987. Under the current BCOA contract, the operators have to pay \$1.11 into the 1950 Fund for every ton of coal mined. Under the EESP, they will pay 25 cents per ton.

Kathy Mickells is laid off from the Cumberland mine in Kirby, Pennsylvania. She is a member of UMWA Local 2300.

Issues in the 'Baby M' court case

Part I: How 'surrogate mother' contracts exploit children, women

BY CINDY JAQUITH

The New Jersey court case of "Baby M" reveals a brazen disregard for children. The very term "Baby M" captures the callousness with which this infant has been treated, more as an anonymous object than as a human being deserving all the protection and nurture society can offer.

By taking the child away from her mother, Mary Beth Whitehead, and by upholding a "surrogate mother" contract, Judge Harvey Sorkow has struck a blow against rights the working class has fought for for more than a century and a half.

You would never know this from the debates that raged for weeks in the courtroom and the media. Instead, a myriad of prejudices against women and working people — some falsely presented as feminist ideas — were put forward, along with a generous dose of pseudoscience and mysticism.

If we peel away each layer of the arguments presented, it becomes clear that Sorkow's March 31 ruling is reactionary and should be reversed. The child should be returned to Whitehead.

Facts of case

The case began when William and Elizabeth Stern went to a surrogacy agency to hire a woman to bear them a child.

Agency head Noel Keane arranged a contract between William Stern and Mary Beth Whitehead. Whitehead signed papers agreeing to be artificially inseminated with Stern's sperm, carry a pregnancy to term, and then deliver her baby to the Sterns for \$10,000 plus medical expenses.

But in the course of pregnancy and the birth of the baby, in March 1986, Whitehead decided she wanted to keep her child, whom she named Sara. She informed the Sterns and said they should keep their \$10,000.

The Sterns filed suit and immediately got Judge Sorkow to order Whitehead to hand her daughter over to the Sterns. The Sterns then went to Whitehead's house with five cops to seize five-week-old Sara.

Whitehead escaped with the child to Florida, but private detectives hired by the Sterns tracked them down. The detectives took Sara away and turned her over to the Sterns, who renamed her Melissa.

Indentured servitude

Judge Sorkow had no right to intervene and take Whitehead's child away. This was not a custody case.

The moment the Sterns asked Sorkow for a court order, he should have refused, since a surrogacy contract has no validity. There is no way a court can make it binding within the framework of the rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution.

In previous centuries, many working

people were forced to immigrate to this country as indentured servants. They got passage in return for contracting their labor, and often that of their children, as servants for a specific time period once they arrived. If they ceased working for the person who held the contract before the time was up, they went to jail.

This practice of semi-slavery was outlawed through struggles of workers and farmers in the first half of the 19th century. Along with indentured servitude, property qualifications for voting and debtors' prisons were also abolished. So was the practice of shipping companies forcibly dragging seamen back on board if they failed to return to the ship at the end of port calls.

Today, workers cannot be forced to carry out the terms of a contract with an employer if they choose to terminate it for whatever reason. The 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution — won by the victory of the Union in the Civil War — outlaws such contracts.

Whitehead's contract

Surrogate mother contracts are similar to involuntary servitude contracts in many respects, and just as exploitative, unjust, and invalid. The woman signs a contract guaranteeing she will carry a pregnancy for someone else for nine months. According to Judge Sorkow's ruling, she is legally bound to this contract whether or not she changes her mind.

This is bad enough — but even worse given the nature of the rights she gives up. Whitehead relinquished control of her body for nine months with the contract she signed. She had to agree to "assume all risks" of the pregnancy, "including the risk of death." She had to agree to "abortion on demand of William Stern" if the fetus showed signs of "physiological abnormalities," determined by the doctor being paid by Stern.

Whitehead herself could not choose to have an abortion without "breaking" the contract. She also had to agree not to smoke, drink liquor, or use medications not prescribed by the Stern-paid doctor during her pregnancy.

While these conditions were imposed on Whitehead, the contract allowed Stern to terminate the agreement immediately if Whitehead had a miscarriage in the first five months. And he wouldn't have to pay her a cent.

The other side of the contract that has no validity is that Whitehead agreed *nine months beforehand* to surrender a child she planned to bear. This is completely inhumane, both to the child and mother. Under adoption law, a woman has a period of time after her baby is born to decide if she wants to put the child up for adoption, even if she concluded at some point in her pregnancy that this is what she wanted to do.

Women's right to choose?

Gary Skoloff, the Sterns' lawyer, made the fantastic argument in court that surrogacy contracts are actually an advance for women's rights. "You prevent women from becoming surrogate mothers and deny them the freedom to decide ... it's being unfairly paternalistic and it's an insult to the female population of this country," he claimed.

This argument was defended by Jan Sutton, spokeswoman of a group called National Association of Surrogate Mothers. "[S]urrogate child-bearing is not exploitation of women," she wrote in a letter to the *New York Times*. "It is our individual right voluntarily to create a child for another family. To deprive women of this right is clearly a threat to feminist concerns."

Surrogate contracts are not an extension of the fight for women's right to control their own bodies. That fight is to secure the right of the woman to decide when and if to have children, free from interference from the government, church officials, doctors, husbands, lovers, boyfriends, or any other individuals.

This struggle has embodied the fight for birth control; sex education; safe, legal abortion; and protection from forced sterilization. It is interconnected with the



Militant/Howard Petrick

"The children are our priority" reads sign at rally for government-provided child care in 1970s. "Surrogate mother" contract business runs counter to fight to improve care of children and increase rights of women.

broader struggle by women to be treated equally with men in all aspects of society and not be disqualified because of pregnancy, children, or lack of children.

Surrogacy contracts run completely counter to this struggle, what it has already achieved, and the future it points to. Far from an expansion of women's rights, these contracts deny rights previously conquered by women and working people as a whole.

'Right' to be prostitutes?

Similar arguments to those on surrogate motherhood have been raised by some feminists about women's "right" to be prostitutes. Of course this is a degrading, antiwoman institution, they argue, but shouldn't a woman be able to sell her body if she "wants to"?

The "right" of women to sell their bodies is not the issue in prostitution — the oppression and exploitation of women is.

Prostitution involves a "contract" too. A man pays a woman for sex, and she's supposed to deliver. If she decides not to — if she "breaks" the contract — does he have a right to carry through the contract by forcibly having sex with her? No. If he tries to do that, he should be jailed for rape.

Another example is "homework" — through which textile, garment, and other employers superexploit a layer of workers. Some argue homework is okay if the work-

ers do it "voluntarily." But the labor movement has fought long and hard against this practice, which not only denies decent wages, working conditions, and union rights to the workers directly involved, but drags down the wages and rights of all workers.

Interviews done with women who enter surrogacy contracts indicate they do so for a combination of emotional and financial reasons, all reflections of the pressures that bear down on women in this society. But whatever their motivations, the fact is that they are being brutally exploited.

And they are exploited by more than just the parties to whom they sign over their bodies for nine months. Some 24 surrogacy agencies now exist in this country, profiting handsomely from this traffic in women's bodies.

Visit to a surrogacy agency

A *New York Times Magazine* reporter visited the offices of Noel Keane. "[H]is comfortable, two-story offices in Dearborn, Mich., were full of prospective surrogate mothers, often with husbands and babies in tow, and infertile couples who had come to check out the candidates for surrogacy," wrote reporter Anne Taylor Fleming.

"The well-groomed couples ... were each assigned a private office, through which the surrogates were rotated, to proffer their fertility and show off the living, gurgling proof thereof."

For each woman and eventual baby he successfully markets, Keane pulls down \$10,000 for himself.

Male companions of the women also get into the business. One man who accompanied his female friend to the office told Fleming, "I'll take care of her when she's pregnant again, but the baby means absolutely nothing. It's like watching someone's car for nine months. We're in it for the money; it's a business."

Keane argues that he provides a public service, that he is showing sensitivity to "the pain and cries" of the "infertile."

Judge Sorkow upheld this notion of the "rights" of the infertile. He ruled that state "refusal to enforce these [surrogate] contracts ... would constitute an unconstitutional interference with procreative liberty since it would prevent childless couples from obtaining the means to have families."

'Rights' of 'infertile'

To believe Keane and Sorkow, a new class of oppressed people — "the infertile" — has arisen. No one should deny them their "right" to "their own" child, a "right" supposedly guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution.

But Keane and Sorkow have things turned upside down. The government has an obligation to guarantee that every child has protection and nurture — health care, education, and decent living conditions. This obligation extends to other dependent human beings as well, such as the aged and people who are incapacitated by physical or mental illness.

But the government has *no* obligation to guarantee every adult the "right" to "their own" child.

Judge Sorkow claims the law should recognize surrogacy contracts in order to satisfy an "intense drive to procreate." There is no instinctual drive to procreate, however. There is an instinct to have sex

Continued on Page 8

Cosmetics,
Fashions,
and the
Exploitation
of
Women

By Joseph Hansen & Evelyn Reed
With an introduction
by Mary-Alice Waters

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Boys working in coal mines in 19th century. Working class has forced outlaw of child labor and many other reactionary practices exploiting children.

'Militant' sales drive lags; teams launched

BY MALIK MIAH

We have fallen behind in our national campaign to sell 8,500 subscriptions to the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* by June 6.

As the scoreboard below shows, we are 3 percent behind schedule. To stay on time, we need to average close to 775 *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* subscriptions per week. Last week only 536 subscriptions came into the business office, according to Eric Huffman, a volunteer who now works fulltime in the office.

Our national goal of 8,500 subscriptions includes winning 6,700 new readers of the *Militant* and 1,800 new readers of the Spanish-language monthly *PM*.

A number of areas report that they were late in launching the spring sales campaign. But all are planning to use the interest in and support for the upcoming April 25 national antiwar, anti-apartheid marches in Washington, D.C., and San Francisco to catch up.

All signs indicate a big turnout for April 25. Supporters of the two socialist publications will be selling to marchers at departure sites, on the buses and trains, and at the protests.

If you want to order a bundle or participate in the sales efforts, contact either the Militant Business Office at (212) 929-3486 or local supporters listed in the directory on page 12. You can also come to the large Pathfinder Press/*Militant* and *PM* literature tables at the demonstration sites in Washington and San Francisco. (For exact locations, see information on page 2.)

Young Socialist Alliance team

The National Executive Committee of the Young Socialist Alliance sent out a one-week, two-person team to upstate New York, Massachusetts, and Connecticut in early April. Headed up by NEC member and *PM* staff writer Francisco Picado, the team sold 56 subscriptions (38 *Militant*, 18 *PM*) and 175 *Militants*, 50 *PMs*, 40 *Young Socialists* (newspaper of the YSA); signed up 10 sponsors to the Political Rights Defense Fund and sold 18 PRDF booklets with the court's decision on the socialist suit against the FBI; and signed up 30 people who expressed interest in the Young Socialist Alliance.

Picado and New York YSA activist Bob-

bis Misailides were joined by other supporters of the *Militant* and *PM* as they went to plant gates, high school and college campuses, and working-class communities. With the help of YSA member Peter Krala in New Haven, Connecticut, the team sold 8 *PM* subscriptions to strikers and one to a garment workers' union organizer.

At a Holyoke, Massachusetts, high school, the team sold 17 YSs, 1 *Militant*, and 3 *PMs*. Later at Amherst in Massachusetts, YSA members David Warshawski and Maggi Pucci helped the team set up tables and sell papers at several campuses.

A special two-day regional team organized by two laid-off textile workers in Greensboro, North Carolina, also netted good results.

Jane Roland, a member of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, called me to report on sales at the University of South Carolina at Columbia and at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. The team sold 9 *Militant* subscriptions, 12 single copies, and over \$45 in Pathfinder Press literature.

National sales teams

Several national subscription teams have been on the road. A team traveled in northern West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and eastern Ohio for nine days. Team head Andrew Pulley, a laid-off auto worker, reported a positive response by coal miners and their families. Of 181 *Militants* sold, 40 were to miners at portals, and 52 to miners or their families in working-class communities. Overall, 25 subscriptions and \$140 in literature were sold.

The southern West Virginia and eastern Kentucky team did even better. According to laid-off coal miner Kathy Mickells, the team sold 5 *Militant* subscriptions and 24 singles in door-to-door sales in the mining communities of Thomas and Davis, West Virginia.

At the Island Creek Company's Dobbins Mine in Bayard, West Virginia, the team sold 43 *Militants* and 5 subscriptions at the portal.

The team also sold at Davis and Elkins College April 9 during a debate on the U.S. Constitution between *Militant* coeditor Doug Jenness and William Stanmyer, director of the Lincoln Center for Legal Studies. Some 150 students — a fourth of the student body — came to the debate. Thirty *Militants* were sold.

Several students attended a "Meet the YSA" meeting at Marshall University. And 17 *Militants* were sold to steelworkers



Militant/Kathy Mickells
Southern West Virginia subscription team member Holly Harkness selling *Militant*. Several national teams are currently on the road.

at the Steel of West Virginia mill at two shift changes.

Southern Illinois team

A third coal field team hit the road in southern Illinois on April 10. Team captain Maggie McCraw reports that at the Consol mine in Sesser, Illinois, 23 *Militants* were sold. The team's sign, "No to union-busting! No to the war in Central America! Buy the *Militant*!" was popular.

Team member Jim Altenberg said the response was also good among other workers they met. For example, 17 *Militants* were sold at the gate of a large General Tire plant that the United Rubber Workers Union is trying to organize.

"At a farm auction we attended," Altenberg added, "one of the three held on April 11, farmers told us that land prices have fallen from \$1,100 per acre in the early 1980s to \$600 today. Many farmers hold jobs in the mines and at General Tire. They were interested in the *Militant*."

In Mt. Vernon, Illinois, the team sold 6 *Militant* subscriptions and 20 singles at a shopping center located in the Black community.

Two teams in the Midwest were on the road last week too. Tony Dutrow's three-person team went to Nebraska, South Dakota, and Iowa. During their first few days, 11 *Militant* subscriptions and more than 60 singles were sold to meat-packers and students. Workers at Hormel, Wilson

Foods, and Iowa Beef Processors all bought papers. Twenty-two were sold at the gate of Hormel's Algona, Iowa, plant.

A four-person team began selling subscriptions April 13 in southern Florida.

A second team is traveling through Iowa and Minnesota. Initial reports indicate more than 30 subscriptions sold.

Next week a fourth coal-field team will be in Alabama. After the April 25 national antiwar marches, three more teams will be launched: a western coal team out of Utah, a Yakima Valley team in Washington State, and a team to the U.S. colony of Puerto Rico.

If you are interested in helping us win 8,500 new readers this spring and you live in one of the cities listed on the scoreboard (if you don't, you can take a goal and have your area listed), you can get involved by checking the directory on page 12 and calling the city nearest you.

☐ I would like to order a bundle of _____ *Militants* and _____ *PMs*.
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Name _____
Address _____
City, State _____
Zip _____ Phone _____
Mail to: Militant Business Office, 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014. Or phone: (212) 929-3486.

New trial to open in racist killing of Vincent Chin

A new trial is slated to begin in Cincinnati April 21 for Ronald Ebens, who clubbed Vincent Chin, a Chinese-American, to death with a baseball bat.

The retrial was scheduled to take place in Detroit where the killing occurred, but Ebens won a change of venue with the argument that publicity around the case in Detroit precluded his getting a fair trial there.

The racist killing of Chin took place on June 19, 1982.

Chin was in a bar with friends. Two whites were seated across from them, Ronald Ebens and his stepson, Michael Nitz.

Ebens began directing abusive racist remarks at Chin, starting a fight. All were ejected by bar employees.

Outside, Ebens and Nitz pursued Chin and another Asian-American. They finally caught Chin and Ebens beat him with the baseball bat. Chin died four days later.

In a legal proceeding that created a public outcry, Detroit area officials made a plea bargain deal with Ebens, reducing the charge against him from murder to manslaughter. Pleading guilty to the charge, Ebens was fined \$3,720 and freed on probation.

Protest was so strong that finally the federal government indicted Ebens on charges of violating Chin's civil rights. Found guilty in a jury trial, Ebens was sentenced to 25 years.

But an appeals court reversed that, arguing the prosecution had erred legally on two issues in the trial.

With a retrial ordered, Ebens was granted the change of venue to Cincinnati.

Spring Subscription Scoreboard

| Area | Goals | | Sold | | % Sold |
|--------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|-----------|
| | <i>Militant</i> | <i>Perspectiva Mundial</i> | <i>Militant</i> | <i>Perspectiva Mundial</i> | |
| Stony Brook, N.Y. | 10 | — | 4 | — | 40 |
| Toledo, Ohio | 100 | 5 | 38 | 2 | 38 |
| Phoenix | 80 | 80 | 28 | 32 | 38 |
| Atlanta | 110 | 10 | 36 | 6 | 35 |
| Milwaukee | 100 | 25 | 35 | 7 | 34 |
| New York | 500 | 250 | 154 | 90 | 33 |
| Detroit | 190 | 20 | 63 | 5 | 32 |
| Los Angeles | 250 | 200 | 91 | 50 | 31 |
| Amherst, Mass. | 10 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 30 |
| Denver | 100 | 15 | 30 | 4 | 30 |
| San Diego | 85 | 55 | 27 | 11 | 27 |
| Baltimore | 130 | 8 | 27 | 10 | 27 |
| Austin, Minn. | 80 | 10 | 22 | 1 | 26 |
| Pittsburgh | 90 | 10 | 20 | 5 | 25 |
| Greensboro, N.C. | 115 | 10 | 29 | 2 | 25 |
| Twin Cities, Minn. | 200 | 15 | 46 | 4 | 23 |
| San Francisco | 100 | 60 | 20 | 17 | 23 |
| Charleston, W.Va. | 100 | 0 | 22 | 1 | 23 |
| Annandale, N.Y. | 70 | 10 | 18 | 0 | 23 |
| Philadelphia | 150 | 50 | 36 | 9 | 23 |
| Chicago | 225 | 75 | 43 | 23 | 22 |
| Miami | 110 | 40 | 28 | 4 | 21 |
| Seattle | 180 | 50 | 34 | 14 | 21 |
| Des Moines, Iowa | 100 | 10 | 18 | 4 | 20 |
| Capital Dist., N.Y. | 110 | 12 | 21 | 3 | 20 |
| Boston | 240 | 60 | 40 | 16 | 19 |
| Houston | 125 | 25 | 25 | 3 | 19 |
| Newark, N.J. | 375 | 175 | 74 | 27 | 18 |
| Kansas City, Mo. | 120 | 20 | 24 | 1 | 18 |
| Oakland, Calif. | 150 | 50 | 26 | 8 | 17 |
| Salt Lake City | 100 | 30 | 18 | 3 | 16 |
| New Orleans | 90 | 10 | 16 | 0 | 16 |
| Dallas | 120 | 60 | 24 | 4 | 16 |
| San Jose, Calif. | 180 | 100 | 31 | 9 | 14 |
| Omaha, Neb. | 100 | 15 | 13 | 3 | 14 |
| Morgantown, W.Va. | 75 | 5 | 8 | 1 | 11 |
| St. Louis | 250 | 12 | 24 | 3 | 10 |
| Columbus, Ohio | 25 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 10 |
| Birmingham, Ala. | 130 | 2 | 13 | 0 | 10 |
| Portland, Ore. | 125 | 25 | 12 | 1 | 9 |
| Washington, D.C. | 160 | 50 | 14 | 3 | 8 |
| Cleveland | 125 | 15 | 10 | 0 | 7 |
| Ames, Iowa | 5 | — | 0 | — | 0 |
| Athens, Ohio | 8 | — | 0 | — | 0 |
| Clovis, Calif. | 5 | — | 0 | — | 0 |
| Edmond, Okla. | 5 | — | 0 | — | 0 |
| Honolulu, Hawaii | 15 | — | 0 | — | 0 |
| Lawrence, Kan. | 20 | — | 0 | — | 0 |
| Oberlin, Ohio | 5 | — | 0 | — | 0 |
| Price, Utah | 45 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Tucson, Ariz. | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| West Haven, Conn. | 5 | — | 0 | — | 0 |
| W. Palm Beach, Fla. | 5 | — | 0 | — | 0 |
| Cincinnati | * | * | 15 | 2 | — |
| Louisville, Ky. | * | * | 7 | 2 | — |
| Norfolk, Va. | * | * | 7 | 0 | — |
| Teams | — | — | 114 | 19 | — |
| Other | — | — | 38 | 28 | — |
| Totals | 6,700 | 1,800 | 1,446 | 440 | 22 |
| To be on schedule | | | 1,655 | 445 | 25 |

*Goal not yet set.

Peasants in Burkina describe gains of revolution

BY ERNEST HARSCH

DOUNDOUNI, Burkina Faso — This village in Bazega Province is like many of the more than 7,000 others scattered throughout Burkina. Its 5,600 inhabitants are engaged mainly in the cultivation of millet, sorghum, and other food crops. Some raise livestock and a few practice artisanal crafts.

Three of us — two organizers from the Ministry of Peasant Affairs and myself — drove here from the capital, Ouagadougou, some 40 miles away. Waiting for us in the shade of the village's sole schoolhouse were a literacy teacher and several members of the local peasants' organization.

As we talked, they told of some of the changes in Doundouni since the beginning of this West African country's revolution in August 1983. A primary health post had been set up to provide the villagers with some basic medical attention. An entertainment hall had been built, as well as a headquarters for Doundouni's Committee for the Defense of the Revolution (CDR).

The villagers were especially proud of the literacy classes held in the simple, one-room schoolhouse. The teacher invited me in to observe one of her classes.

Afterward, about 50 peasants packed into the classroom to meet and talk with this visitor. They came not just from Doundouni, but from five other villages in the area as well. They were all activists of their respective Revolutionary Village Groups.

With the help of the organizers from the Ministry of Peasant Affairs — who translated between French and Mooré, the language of the region — I was able to ask these peasants some questions:

Question. How has the revolution affected the way you organize things?

Answer. We're from the village of Kayao. We've come here, to this center, to learn how to read and write. Before we didn't know the people of Doundouni, but now we're helping each other.

A. The revolution has clarified things for us women. In the past, women couldn't take part with men in literacy classes like this. This is beginning to change. We are all here together.

Q. For you, what have been the most important aspects of the agrarian reform?

A. We know that our entire lives are tied to the existence of trees. The trees help us in all our activities. If there are trees and it rains, there will no longer be drought. So we have decided to plant many more trees to improve our environment.

A. In the old days, we cultivated our fields on small pieces of land. The owner could come one day and chase the peasant away, since he had set himself up on the land without asking permission, or the owner had decided to reoccupy the land.

But now if someone cultivates a field this year but doesn't return the next year, he can no longer prevent someone else from exploiting that land. Everything that exists around us belongs to us.*

A. Before, we were hungry. Since the change, we can see cereal banks in our villages. Before we had to walk 50 kilometers [30 miles] to get supplies. Now we don't have to go more than five kilometers to find a cereal bank.

A. Since the revolution, we are really happy. We've made much progress. There's water. We have improved the system of wells.

Q. What are your relations like with the merchants?

A. Before, to get over the lean period, we would sell a sack of grain for 500 francs. And then they would later sell it

back to us for 1,000 francs. But since the revolution we've opened our eyes.

The cereal banks are under the management of the village groups. This allows the groups to buy the grain from the producers, stock it, and then sell it back to them when they need it. When we buy a sack for 500 francs, we sell it back for 550 francs.

We say thank you very much to the revolution and ask it to be strong enough to look after us for a long time.

A. As for selling market products, before we couldn't sell them and make a profit. But now, even though the profit is not high, we have something to put in our pockets.

What we still lack is organization of the local production of market crops.

Q. I see only two women in this room, the teacher and a student. Where are the other women?

A. This is still a problem that we have to work out. We haven't been clear on this issue, even though we work with women everyday. We recognize our error concerning the women's question that you have raised.

A. We now know that women, in reality, do the same work as men. Often in the groups there are many women and they do a lot.

The women were told about this meeting, but we think they didn't understand it well enough. If they had been sufficiently



Militant/Ernest Harsch
Woman drawing water from a well in Doundouni. Organized in Revolutionary Village Groups, peasants have improved system of wells.

informed, there would have been more of them in this room than men.

While that's true, it's also because the women are preparing the meals. We're certainly at fault for thinking too much about our bellies.

Q. How do the Revolutionary Village Groups and the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution work together?

A. The village group and the CDR — the people belonging to them help each other out. It's only together that we will solve the problems.

Battling hunger on the Sahara's edge

BY ERNEST HARSCH

OUAHIGOUYA, Burkina Faso — The hot, dry winds from the nearby Sahara Desert blew up the dust around us. In some spots the ground was flat and hard, its baked surface like slate. Here and there were patches of sandy soil, an inch or two at most, with shriveled stubs of grain poking through.

There was nothing green to break the monotony of the desolate landscape, just rocks, parched brown brush, and a rare tree, its branches bare and jagged.

But to Traoré, this was more than the inhospitable patch of earth it seemed to be. It was the land on which he and his two brothers were trying to farm.

Shortly after we drove up in a land rover, Traoré walked over from his baked-mud hut a quarter of a mile away to greet the visitors. With a *daba* over his shoulder (the short-handled hoe that is this country's main farming tool), he proudly showed us the rocks the three brothers had piled up in long rows to obstruct soil erosion. In the spaces between them were the remains of millet and sorghum plants that had been harvested a few months ago.

Such poverty is the norm for most of the half million people of this province, known as the Yatenga. Located in northwestern Burkina, it is one of the poorest regions in this poor country.

Legacy of French colonialism

Many of the Yatenga's problems today have their roots in the period of French colonial rule over this country from 1895 to 1960. The authorities instituted a policy of forced labor, deporting many of the Yatenga's most productive inhabitants to work on French-owned plantations and projects in other African colonies.

This cut the amount of labor available to produce food crops. So did the colonial policies that forced peasants to grow peanuts and cotton for export.

Although the policy of forced labor was later abandoned, many of the Yatenga's residents continue to seek work elsewhere (about 150,000 are absent at any one time).

Peanut and cotton cultivation has declined considerably since the colonial days, but the policies of that period have left a devastating mark. The fragile soil

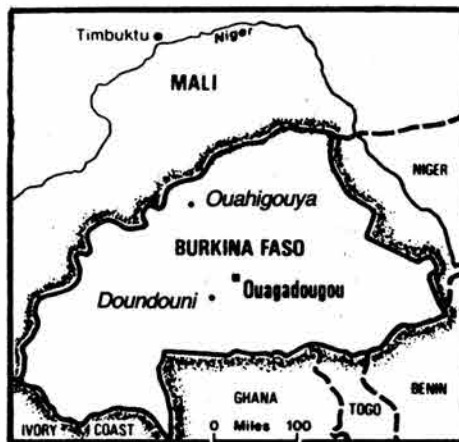
was severely overtaxed, bringing a loss of vegetation and allowing the Sahara Desert to steadily creep southward.

Under such precarious conditions, the Yatenga has been hit especially hard by the droughts and famines that have repeatedly struck this part of Africa. Between 1975 and 1984 more than half of the Yatenga's farmland was lost.

Rain and revolution

Over the past year or so, the situation has improved somewhat. This is largely thanks to better rains (only a few parts of the Yatenga are still experiencing drought conditions).

But it is also thanks to the new programs and policies introduced by the revolutionary government that took power in



Militant/Ernest Harsch
Yatenga farmer tilling soil with *daba*

Ouagadougou, more than 100 miles south of here, in August 1983.

New health clinics and schools are apparent. Most children have been vaccinated against malaria and other diseases. Several thousand peasants have been able to attend literacy classes here.

Peasants are being organized in Revolutionary Village Groups (GVRs). Some of these are new, while others have their roots in older peasant associations that have become radicalized since the beginning of the revolution. Most peasants also belong to the mass-based Committees for the Defense of the Revolution (CDRs).

Emphasis on agriculture

To avert the threat of future famines, the CDRs, GVRs, and other organizations are going all out to provide peasants with more resources and improved farming techniques.

Since rainfall is limited here even in the best of times, securing sources of water is essential. New wells have been dug. A few hand pumps can be seen here and there. Many small dams and channels have been built to capture and direct water when it does rain.

In an effort to hold back the spread of the desert, an extensive campaign of tree planting is under way. Stock herders are being shown how to better control their animals so as to reduce damage to the existing vegetation.

At one project directed by Oxfam, the international famine relief agency, row upon row of millet plants cover several acres. Water is drawn from a recently dug well, and several young trees are thriving.

Just a few miles away is a more striking image: Like an oasis, the scenery suddenly turns green. Peasants are tending fields of carrots, cabbage, okra, and other vegetables, irrigating them from large watering cans filled from a nearby reservoir.

The results are visible in this provincial capital's central marketplace. Though this is the dry season, a wide variety of vegetables and fruits are piled up for sale.

The danger of drought and famine has not been banished. But through their hard work and effort, the people of the Yatenga have begun to make some headway against it.

*Under an agrarian reform law enacted in August 1984, all land in Burkina was nationalized. The right to occupy land now rests only with those who actively cultivate it.

Issues in 'Baby M' court case

Continued from Page 5

— procreation is sometimes a consequence.

The attitude that people must have "their" child with "their" genes so they can continue "their bloodline" or "family name" is deeply rooted in class society. William Stern presented this reactionary notion in the court case, explaining he had no living relatives because many were killed by the Nazis. He said he needed Whitehead's baby to continue "his" bloodline.

The Nazis, of course, are the most famous advocates of continuing certain bloodlines. They also ended up trying to exterminate other bloodlines they deemed socially unfit.

Under capitalism, the welfare of the child is not the principal concern nor are the rights of the woman who gives birth. Defining the line of inheritance is.

The working class, which has no property to pass on to its offspring, is nevertheless affected by ruling-class ideology about the family. Fears, insecurities, and hopes of immortality, all bred by class society, lead many working people to try to "continue the family name." This introduces enormous pressures, with the children being the greatest victims.

Surrogacy vs. adoption

Surrogate mother contracts are simply the latest — and one of the most degrading — manifestations of the way capitalism treats children. If surrogacy served some socially useful purpose, it could be argued that society should promote its practice. But it serves no progressive purpose. Humanity is not on the brink of extinction. Many children are being born and many more will be. There is not a social need to increase the number of babies.

Surrogacy is not like adoption, which is socially necessary today. Despite the fact that adoption is immersed in profit-making and that abuses against the children and parents involved do occur, there is a need for this institution to help children without care.

And this is its starting point — not the "need" of some adults to have "their" child. The concept of adoption is that society must find a way to provide care to all children lacking it. That's progressive.

The concept of surrogacy is that society owes all adults the "right" to "their" child. There's nothing progressive at all about that — it is reactionary.

It opens the door to such things as the international baby racket that has received so much publicity and condemnation. According to the *New York Times*, the number of foreign-born babies adopted in the United States shot up from 4,868 in 1981 to 9,945 in 1986. The real number is undoubtedly much higher. Most come from Asia or Latin America. Some are outright stolen from their mothers by baby dealers; others are torn away under extreme duress by these merchants.

This happens because there are fewer children in this country available for adoption than there used to be, even though racist prejudices still prevent the adoption of many U.S.-born children who are "not white." Capitalist businessmen preying on couples without children see a profit to be made, because the baby "shortage" has driven the price of babies up.

Mark of human progress

But the fact that there are fewer homeless babies in the United States is good. It marks human progress on several fronts — in relation to society's treatment of children and other human beings, the advance of science and technology, and the advance of women's rights.

In many primitive societies, when it wasn't possible to feed everybody, it was the practice to kill some infants and other dependents.

Under feudalism and lasting beyond, the first-born son in the families of the landed nobility had special rights over other children. This practice has also been wiped out.

The brutal exploitation of child labor in textile mills, coal mines, and agriculture

has become illegal in this country. The labor movement won this victory, as it won the right to free, compulsory education through high school.

A century ago, many children were still losing their parents in shipwrecks, epidemics, or other events. The number of human beings perishing under such circumstances is greatly reduced today in this country. And children without parents live under much better conditions.

Social attitudes toward "orphans" and "adopted children" have also been changing in a progressive direction. These children are less often seen as somehow abnormal and deserving different treatment than children who live with a biological parent. Prejudices have also subsided with regard to children born to unmarried women — so-called "bastards" or "illegitimate children."

Humanity as a whole has advanced and deepened its solidarity for all members of society. This has been the product of struggle by workers and farmers. And it is linked to advances in science and technology that have helped working people shed various aspects of exploitation, inequality, and prejudice.

Is technology the enemy?

It is important to recognize the progressive role science and technology play — including under capitalism. This is especially true in light of arguments that surrogate births show society is becoming the victim of technology and predictions that science will turn most working-class women into "breeders" of babies for the rich.

The trend is actually the opposite — women are having fewer children today than ever before and they have taken giant steps away from their socially imposed role as "breeders." This has happened because of women's victories in the fight for abortion rights and birth control; changing attitudes toward women, changes in women's own self-perception; and science.

Scientific discoveries mean that women today are better informed about sex and health. Access to birth control and abortion, while still restricted to some degree, allows them far more decision-making

Unionists rally for Wisconsin meat-packers

Continued from front page

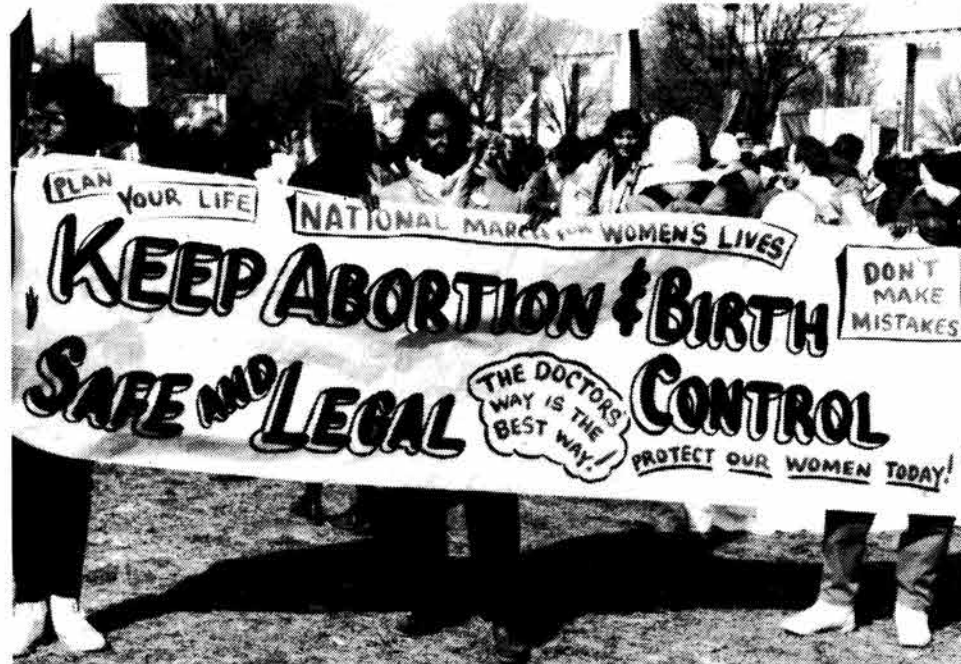
Vida Davis, who has 25 years in the plant, said the strikers were confident and ready to stay out until they won. "If we had fought them in 1984," she said, "we could be a lot better off today. But they said they would close the plant if we didn't give them concessions. They said we would get our money back. It wasn't true, they lied. We were ready to compromise, but they took everything."

A large number of workers at the march and rally had been active building support in their unions for the P-40 strikers. Many take regular shifts walking the picket lines.

"What they do to them, they do to us," said Neal Pascagnella, a member of Boilermakers Local 1509 at Ladish Company, one of Milwaukee's largest plants. The Machinists, Boilermakers, and other unions that organize Ladish got together and raised \$10,000 for Local P-40. The check was presented at the rally. "All the employees are 100 percent with P-40," Pascagnella explained.

Carrie Brown marched with a contingent of 100 workers from UFCW Local 100 in Chicago. That local organizes Oscar Mayer and other meat-packing plants. Unionists at Oscar Mayer beat an attempt to bust the union, Brown said, "but it's not just one or two plants, it's the whole meat-packing industry. Over the last three years, it has gotten so bad. We know if we don't stick together, there's no way we're going to win anything."

Chanting, "No surrender, no retreat, let's all boycott Cudahy meat," 15 meat-packers and supporters from Austin, Minnesota, marched behind a banner that read "Original P-9 supports P-40." The former



Militant/Holbrook Mahn

Scientific advances, such as safe abortion and birth control, have helped women move further away from socially imposed role as "breeders."

power about when and if to have children. Technology has also produced labor-saving devices that have greatly reduced the hours women spend on domestic labor, further freeing them to participate in the labor force and society as a whole.

Women have seized on these advances to struggle for and win greater rights.

One result of this is a decline in the number of children women have, now that they have more freedom to plan pregnancy or decide to not have children at all. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the average number of people per household was 2.67 in 1986, down from 3.14 in 1970.

There is also greater social acceptance of couples who live together and decide not to have children, and of adults who choose to live alone, also a growing category, according to the Census Bureau.

One consequence is the "shortage" of children to adopt. A new phenomenon has arisen in relation to this, that of couples frantically seeking "their own" child, frequently after not having had children earlier in life. Prior to this, many children were adopted by relatives or neighbors who already had children and took in others as an elementary act of social responsibility.

Technology has helped make possible the current situation where there are fewer children to adopt. Technology has benefited women and all working people — increasing life spans, lowering infant mortality, boosting food production, and reduc-

ing labor time. And as such, it is being used by the working class to lessen exploitation and reduce class, race, and sex inequalities.

It is not technology that is responsible for abuses like surrogacy, it is capitalism, with its drive for profit and its warping of human values.

Surrogacy is and will remain a marginal practice. Far from being "the wave of the future," it is actually a throwback to the past. Judge Sorkow's ruling upholding surrogacy contracts has simply opened up the debate about this practice, exposing its real nature to many working people for the first time.

Further questions

On April 10, the New Jersey Supreme Court overturned Sorkow's ban on visitation rights for Whitehead. She now has the right to see her daughter once a week for two hours. The State Supreme Court will take up Whitehead's appeal of Sorkow's overall ruling on September 14.

In our next article, we will look at other aspects of that ruling, including the reasons why the Sterns have no right to raise Whitehead's child, and why the child should be allowed to live with the woman who gave birth to her.

We will also take up how working people can fight for the best possible care for children and for the rights women need to participate equally in society.

P-9 members are fighting to get the Hormel Company to rehire the 850 unionists who lost their jobs when their militant strike was defeated.

'Union people have to stick together'

"They tried to tell us we don't have much in common," said Nadine Becker-Brumen, a supermarket worker and member of UFCW Local 1484. "But we've taken concessions the last three years too. We've got to be able to support our families. It's got to stop. All union people have to stick together," she said.

A contingent of nurses who regularly staff a health clinic for the strikers and their families at the P-40 union hall also participated in the march.

"Without you, we couldn't carry on," P-

40 President Mark Rosenbaum told the marchers as they assembled at the Cudahy Senior High School field house for the rally. "We made a mistake with PATCO," he said, referring to the government's busting of the 1981 strike by the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization. "The labor movement didn't back them up. But now we have to come alive and come together and we have to keep going just like the Patrick Cudahys keep going."

The featured speaker was Jesse Jackson. "This may not be a short struggle, but no matter how difficult, you must never surrender. You must never surrender your self-respect," Jackson said. Also on the platform were Wisconsin State AFL-CIO President Jack Reihl and U.S. Rep. Charles Hayes.

South Africa restrictions resisted

Continued from front page

political prisoners was also outlawed.

Previous state of emergency regulations had already made it illegal to publish the names of detainees.

Violation of these restrictions carries penalties of up to 10 years in prison and fines up to \$10,000.

Since the most recent state of emergency was imposed in June, some 30,000 people are estimated to have been detained, according to the Detainees' Parents Support Committee. About 10,000 of them are under 18 years of age, and there have been many reports of torture and other police brutalities against them.

Last month, the committee organized scores of protests around the country calling for the release of the detainees. It has also been spearheading a campaign known as "Release the Children."

The determination of such groups to defy the regime's latest restrictions is part of the broader, ongoing resistance to the apartheid system.

In recent weeks, students have held protests, mass-based "street committees" have extended their organization, transport workers in Johannesburg have gone on strike, and the country's largest labor federation, the Congress of South African Trade Unions, has launched a national campaign for a "living wage."

Puerto Rican leader exposes gov't frame-up of nationalists

BY MARY-ALICE WATERS
AND SAM MANUEL

GEORGETOWN, Guyana — At the recent Special Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Movement of Nonaligned Countries here, foreign ministers of more than 80 countries adopted a communiqué expressing concern at "reports pertaining to the imprisonment of Puerto Rican patriots in the United States and urged the country to respect the civil rights of all Puerto Rican patriots."

Representing the Puerto Rican independence movement at the conference was a delegation from the Puerto Rican Socialist Party (PSP), which has had observer status in the Nonaligned movement since 1972. The delegation was headed by Olga Sanabria.

We had a chance to speak with Rafael Anglada-López, member of the PSP delegation, about the significance of this stand, which was adopted by government representatives after considerable debate, as well as about the situation of Puerto Rican political prisoners in the United States.

"We got the support of many countries in Latin America, not only from Cuba and Nicaragua, but also from Peru, Panama," and others, he told us.

"The totality of the Puerto Rican prisoners in the United States are eagerly awaiting the results of this conference, not only the Hartford defendants, but also those we call prisoners of war, grand jury resisters, and others," he added.

Governments wanting to curry favor with the United States tried to prevent the final statement from noting the existence of Puerto Rican political prisoners in the United States, Anglada-López commented. "But in the end," he said, "we prevailed."

Anglada-López is one of the lawyers working on the case of 15 Puerto Rican patriots who were arrested Aug. 30, 1985, and March 21, 1986. They are being tried in a courtroom in Hartford, Connecticut, on charges that they robbed a Wells Fargo depot there in 1983.

"They were arrested in Puerto Rico by an invasion of FBI agents and were extradited — that would be a legalistic formula for what actually was a kidnapping — and removed from Puerto Rico and brought to the United States," Anglada-López said.

PSP members at the conference met with many delegations and brought an impressive packet of information on the colonial status of Puerto Rico and the situation of Puerto Rican political prisoners.

Among the materials was an open letter addressed to the foreign ministers by Filiberto Ojeda Ríos and Juan Segarra Palmer.

UAW local fights Pentair lockout

BY JOE ALLOR

ST. LOUIS — In spite of having been locked out since July 1986, United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 691 members recently rejected the "final offer" of Pentair Corp.'s Lincoln Division.

The unionists rejected a takeback agreement that would have cut wages and medical benefits and given the company, which produces commercial and automotive lubricating equipment, the right to outsource operations to nonunion shops.

UAW International Representative Mike Cannon said, "Each time we go to the bargaining table, the company demands even more concessions. It's obvious that they're not interested in reaching a fair settlement."

The company has hired over 200 scabs in its attempt to break the union.

The UAW members have been reaching out to the working people in St. Louis for solidarity and support. On March 28 over a hundred workers and their supporters set up an informational picket line in front of city hall. They demanded a meeting with the mayor.

On April 5, UAW Local 325 sponsored a support rally for the locked-out workers.

Palmer, two of those arrested on August 30. They are the two defendants who are still in jail, having not yet been granted the right to bail. (See story elsewhere on this page.)

Right to bail, jury of peers

"We are going to be stressing both the bail question as well as the other very important campaign, that the case be transferred to Puerto Rico. Because both the bail question and the right to be tried by a jury of your peers are very basic components of human rights," Anglada-López told us.

One of the top grievances, he noted, of the people in the 13 colonies was that the British empire took those accused out of the colonies to be tried "for pretended offenses." One of those pretended offenses, he pointed out, was "the obstruction of commerce by the Boston Tea Party. The colonists were tried in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and in Britain." This is the same thing the current U.S. government is doing to Puerto Rican political prisoners, he said.

Segarra Palmer and Ojeda Ríos have been imprisoned more than 1,600 miles away from Puerto Rico since their arrests 20 months ago. And more than 20 months after the arrests, the trial has not begun.

"This is a case where there are over 1,100 hours of wiretaps, with tapes of up to 90 minutes each; 5,300 photos; and over 600 hours of videotapes, taken by the FBI. And also — what I think is a historical and world precedent — 32 hours of video surveillance out of airplanes and helicopters, plus the audio for that," he told us.

"In one audio, you can hear an FBI pilot surveilling one of the defendants washing his car. The pilot transmits to the car following the defendant: 'I didn't know that Puerto Ricans washed their cars,'" said Anglada-López, illustrating an example of the contents of the tapes and of the racism that permeates the material.

Transcripts of the tapes provided by the prosecution are worse than useless, Anglada-López noted. Every word has to be double checked. "If the voice on the tape

says, 'I spoke to Juano,' the transcript will say, 'I spoke to the Cubanos.'"

Illegal evidence

Under the provisions of the constitution of Puerto Rico, wiretappings are illegal. "It absolutely prohibits wiretappings."

The defendants have analyzed the tapes and "submitted a list of 134 electronic erasures or violations of the videotapes," added the lawyer.

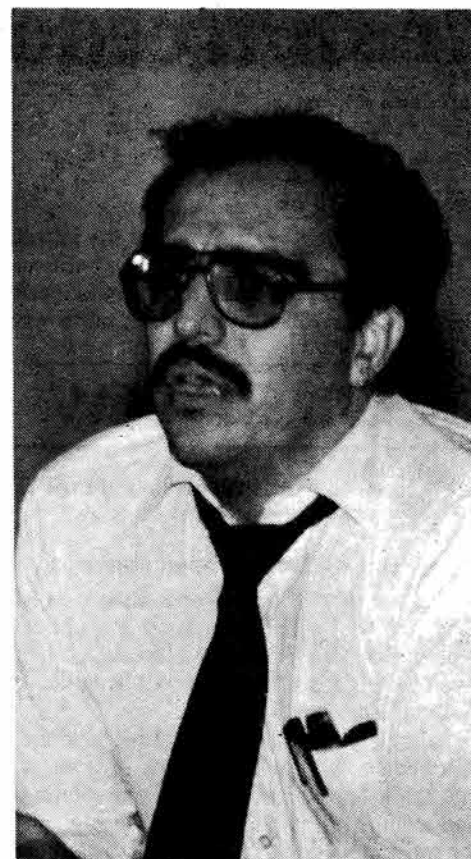
He explained how U.S. law requires that the tapes being offered as evidence in criminal proceedings be sealed immediately after being made, or at most 15 days after being obtained. Yet in this case the tapes were not sealed until 90 days after they were recorded.

The purpose of current court hearings in Hartford is to declare this evidence illegal and inadmissible for the trial. A lot more has come out during the pretrial hearings on this.

"For example, one document that was seized was a 1976 political education document belonging to the PSP, from a time when one of the defendants was a member of that party — 12 years ago. At the hearing, an FBI agent was asked why this document on political education was seized. He replied that for him every member of the PSP was a terrorist," Anglada-López told us.

To give an idea of the broad range of frame-up "evidence" the government has gathered in the case of the Wells Fargo heist, Anglada-López pointed out that the government agents even seized a video cassette of the popular song "We are the World" from the residence of one of the defendants.

Anglada-López stressed the fight to continue to try to have the trial moved to Puerto Rico as being a central aspect of the defense. "The only reason why the Puerto Ricans are being tried in Hartford is because the U.S. government knows very well that a Puerto Rican jury would never convict Puerto Rican patriots," he explained. Throughout the 1970s, he noted, despite repeated prosecutions, not



Militant/Selva Nebbia
Lawyer Rafael Anglada-López was in Puerto Rican Socialist Party's delegation to Nonaligned meeting in Guyana.

once did a jury in Puerto Rico convict any patriots.

'Puerto Rico is part of Latin America'

Referring to the declaration approved at the Nonaligned ministerial meeting here, Anglada-López pointed to the importance of the section that reads: "Puerto Rico is an integral part of Latin America and the Caribbean by reason of its historic, cultural, and geographic ties."

"The history of many of the nonaligned countries is rather similar," he said. "Over 100 years ago Puerto Rican patriots of El Grito de Lares [an 1868 independence revolt crushed by the Spanish] were taken to Cadiz, Spain, to be tried, convicted, and imprisoned. Cuban patriots during the 19th century served sentences in the heart of Africa, in Fernando Póo — then called Spanish Equatorial Guinea, a Spanish prison colony."

"So historically speaking, this is a colonial pattern. And we have to look at it that way."

Political prisoners seek bail rights

BY SELVA NEBBIA

NEW YORK — "CIA, FBI, U.S. justice is a lie," and "We demand the right to bail for all political prisoners," chanted 75 people gathered in front of the federal courthouse here on April 14. They came to show their solidarity with Filiberto Ojeda Ríos and Juan Segarra Palmer.

Ojeda Ríos and Segarra Palmer are among the 13 fighters for the independence of Puerto Rico who were arrested during a raid by more than 200 FBI agents on August 30, 1985, in Puerto Rico. Another raid seven months later brought the total of ac-

tivists arrested to 15.

They are charged with being members of the Macheteros, a proindependence organization, and of conspiring to rob a Wells Fargo depot in Hartford, Connecticut, in 1983.

While most of the other defendants are free on bail, Ojeda Ríos and Segarra Palmer are still in prison, 20 months after their arrests.

After the picketing, participants packed the courtroom of the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. A panel of judges heard the appeal from the lawyers of the two impris-

oned men to have their clients be granted the right to bail.

Michael Deutsch, Ojeda Ríos' lawyer, pointed out that the earliest trial will take place is September 1987. He and Leonard Weinglass, lawyer for Segarra Palmer, told the court that the defendants could end up spending as much as three years in jail before a decision is reached in their case.

This prolonged pretrial imprisonment "is entering into the realm of punishment," said Deutsch. "This is not only a violation of constitutional rights but of human rights as recognized by international law." The government "cannot obliterate 200 years of the Bill of Rights," he added.

The government lawyer argued that there is a "risk of flight" factor involved in the case of the two defendants that justifies their being incarcerated without bail. This argument has been used by the government against other defendants in this case, but after appeals, the defense was able to win their release on bail.

Following the hearing, the defense lawyers, six of the 15 activists, and family members and other supporters held a brief rally on the steps of the Federal Building.

"I think the fact that so many came out to participate in this activity shows the growing support that exists for the case," said Esperanza Martell, spokesperson for the Puerto Rican Committee Against Repression. The committee organized the protest.

Also present were members of the New York 8+, New Movement in Solidarity with Puerto Rican Independence and Socialism, and National Committee for the Freedom of Prisoners of War.

For more information contact: Puerto Rican Committee Against Repression, P.O. Box A-840, New York, N.Y. 10163.



Militant/Selva Nebbia
Protesters at federal court building in Manhattan demanded freedom for Puerto Rican independence advocates Filiberto Ojeda Ríos and Juan Segarra Palmer. They have been held without bail for 20 months.

Irish freedom fighter discusses road to liberation

The Politics of Irish Freedom, by Gerry Adams, Brandon Press, Ireland, 1986, 176 pp.

BY RICH PALSER

This important book, explains the introduction, "is an expression by Gerry Adams of his politics. As president of Sinn Féin it falls to him to articulate party policy, but in this book he has set aside the narrow role of official

BOOK REVIEW

spokesperson in order to be able to explore more widely and freely his politics as a republican."

Discussion within liberation movement

The Politics of Irish Freedom is part of a discussion taking place within the Irish Republican movement, which Sinn Féin leads. The discussion has been spurred by a new generation of Republican leaders, of whom Adams is the best known.

"There have always been three tendencies within the republican movement," writes Adams. "A militaristic and fairly apolitical tendency, a revolutionary tendency, and a constitutional tendency. Throughout the history of the movement one or other of these has been in the ascendancy. Since partition, however, there has been no dominant tendency capable of giving proper and relevant leadership to the mass of the Irish people."

The remainder of the book outlines Adams' case for the views of what he calls the "revolutionary tendency."

Partition took place in 1921 after the Irish masses had fought a war of independence against the British occupiers and their allies in Ireland. The British imperialists conceded self-government to 26 southern counties that now make up the Republic of Ireland, but retained their economic and political dominance. In exchange, the southern regime had to recognize continued British occupation and rule of six northern counties (Northern Ireland).

Sinn Féin and the Irish Republican Army have since continued to battle for a united Ireland, free of British imperialist domination.

"The movement," Adams continues, "had its origins in the armed struggle, which had dominated to the extent of

being considered the only form of struggle; in such circumstances conspiratorial methods were of course essential. But what we were slowly and unevenly realizing was that one could not build a political intervention on the basis of conspiratorial methods and approaches."

In 1981 the Republican movement built the broadest mass movement that the north of Ireland had seen in a decade, including the biggest single nationalist protest that had occurred in 60 years. The movement was in support of hunger strikes by nationalist prisoners who were subjected to brutal treatment and denied recognition as political prisoners by the British rulers.

The Republican movement also gained experience in fielding candidates in elections in order to explain the revolutionary stance of the movement to a wider audience. "Our electoral experiences provoked a sporadic debate about abstentionism," said Adams.

Abstentionism was the policy of refusing to take seats in either the British Parliament, as representatives of occupied Northern Ireland, or in the Republic of Ireland.

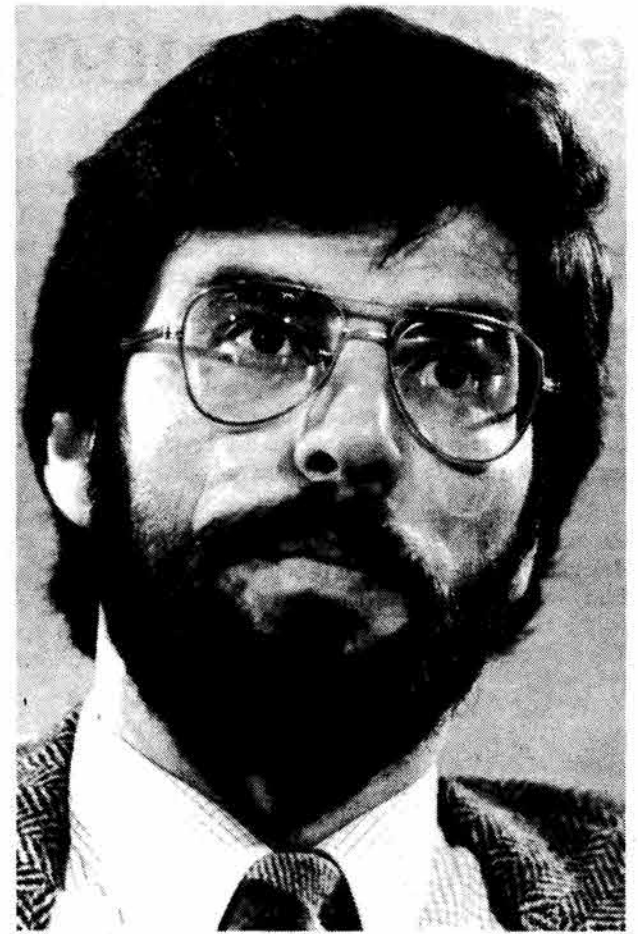
Sinn Féin still holds an abstentionist policy regarding the British Parliament because this is the legislature of the occupying power whose sovereignty over Ireland they refuse to recognize. But that policy was ended with regard to Leinster House (the southern legislative body) at the 1986 conference of Sinn Féin.

Republicanism and socialism

The discussion of abstention is linked to a debate over strategy, including over what class alliances can be forged to win national liberation. In a chapter devoted to discussing the relationship between Republicanism and socialism, Adams writes:

"A struggle for national independence needs to encompass all the social elements in the nation which are opposed, oppressed, or held back by imperialism. Independence struggles which are led by the conservative or middle classes, as in Ireland in 1921, tend to compromise with imperialism because their leading sections benefit from such a compromise. That is why those on the left in Ireland who regard themselves as socialists and as representing the working class should be the most uncompromising republicans."

Adams presents recent changes in Sinn Féin as the reconquest of politics. "In the past the republican movement was a separatist movement with radical tendencies.



G.M. Cookson

Gerry Adams, president of Sinn Féin.

In its current embodiment the radical tendency is for the first time in control, and in institutionalizing the radical tendency a very important, historic job has been done. In our thinking we have brought to light elements which were obscured in the past. The philosophers and thinkers of the 1916 rising did not survive it, and this set the scene for counterrevolution. What we have done is that we have taken a step towards reversing the effects of the counterrevolution."

Denver rally hits loan agency's ripoff of farmers

BY JEFF POWERS

DENVER — Two hundred people from five states gathered here April 4 to protest the policies of the Farm Credit System, a federally regulated loan agency that has drastically stepped up farm foreclosures.

The rally drew farmers from Colorado, Kansas, South Dakota, New Mexico, and Missouri. It was sponsored by the Colorado Coalition to Save Rural America.

Bud Mekelburg, chairperson of the coalition, explained it "is a grassroots response to the agricultural crisis affecting Colorado."

"Our members come from several different farm organizations and from religious and city folks," he said.

At the protest, many farmers wore American Agriculture Movement hats, and speakers gave greetings from the United Auto Workers, United Steelworkers, Teamsters, and the nurses' union.

A tractorcade that began two days before the rally brought 17 tractors to the city from 40 miles away. Once there, farmers parked their vehicles in the lot of the Farm Credit Corporation of America, which is housed in a brand new seven-story building. It is also the Farm Credit System's national headquarters.

The Farm Credit System is made up of

37 credit banks, land banks, and banks of cooperatives, which provide credit to about 500 local Production Credit associations and Federal Land Bank associations. The system, which holds about one-third of the nation's farm debt, is the largest farm lender.

In February the system reported that it lost \$1.91 billion in 1986. During the last year, the amount of "bad assets," loans, and repossessed farm land grew to \$13.9 billion from \$10.2 billion.

Since 1982, when the price of farm land and income from farmers' crops plummeted, the Farm Credit System has carried out an increasingly aggressive policy of farm foreclosures.

"No one thing provoked this rally," a Colorado farmer and a veteran of the 1979 tractorcade on Washington, D.C., told the *Militant*. "If we don't fight to change the credit system, we will all be foreclosed on."

Farmers were particularly angered by a recent Farm Credit System decision to place ads in the *Wall Street Journal* offering to sell farm land they had foreclosed on to urban speculators at 4.9 percent interest. "If we could get low interest like that on our loans, we could easily save our farms," another farmer explained.

the union, the takebacks would have meant a loss of \$2,100 during the first year of the contract. Colt, which manufactures M-16 rifles and Colt .45 handguns at the Hartford facility, reported profits of \$132 million in 1985.

In September 1986 the unionists offered to return to their jobs, but the company refused. The UAW members have been locked out ever since.

Meanwhile, Colt is operating the plant with 800 replacement workers and 200 to 300 former strikers who returned to work.

The company is also threatening to shut down the Hartford operation and transfer its production to North Carolina. Colt recently broke the union at its Menasco Corp. plant in Burbank, California.

The Farm Credit System was set up as a cooperative to help farmers get cheaper credit than the private banks offered. Under this plan farmers who take out loans become stockholders and get a vote in their local association.

But under the Farm Credit System bailout bill adopted in December 1985, local autonomy has been undermined. A demand of the rally was to return more local control to the system.

The featured speaker at the protest was

Larry Jones, a TV evangelist from Tulsa, Oklahoma, who is well known by many of the demonstrators as one who raises funds for famine victims in Ethiopia and for the hungry in the United States.

A member of a farm family from near St. Joseph, Missouri, who I had met at last year's big protests in Chillicothe, Missouri, told me, "I don't know of any farmers in our neck of the woods who are making it. All the farmers are going broke. Everybody is either being foreclosed on or just about to be foreclosed on."

Do you know someone who reads Spanish? 'PM' builds April 25 march

On April 25 thousands of people from all over the country will demonstrate against the U.S.-run war in Nicaragua and Washington's support to the apartheid regime in South Africa.

A prominent article in the current issue of *Perspectiva Mundial* explains that the marches in Washington, D.C., and San Francisco give us a chance to mobilize against the bipartisan war in Central America. Details of that war are coming to light with the contragate revelations.

Some 120 local coalitions are building the actions, and many union locals are organizing members to get to the demonstrations.

The April issue also covers recent attempts by the Honduran army, at the urging of Washington, to provoke a conflict with Nicaragua.

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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Lockout at Colt Firearms protested

BY PAT HUNT

NEW YORK — Six hundred unionists rallied here April 1 in support of United Auto Workers (UAW) members locked out at Colt Firearms in Hartford, Connecticut. UAW Local 376 members drove from Hartford to New York to place their demands at the door of David Margolis, chief executive officer of Colt Industries.

The rally had the support of the New York Central Labor Council and UAW Region 9A. Speakers from several different unions offered their support for the locked-out workers.

Eleven hundred members of Local 376 went on strike in early 1986 after rejecting Colt's takeback demands.

According to a brochure distributed by

What you can hear on the radio in Nicaragua

BY ROBERTO KOPEC

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Radio is by far the most important means of information and entertainment in Nicaragua. There are some 50 radio stations, 20 of them state-owned. In the capital city of Managua alone, there are a dozen stations broadcasting on the AM and FM bands. Eight are nationalized and the rest privately owned, including one evangelical religious station.

Government radio station popular

The government's Voz de Nicaragua (Voice of Nicaragua) is at the top of the charts in popularity, something uncommon for an official government station in Latin America. It carries a lively combination of popular music, news, commentary, and talk shows. Its most popular space is "Contacto 6-20," a five-hour program broadcast every morning from Monday to Saturday. News briefs and hit songs share the time with a phone-in talk show and live on-site investigative reports.

People from Managua and elsewhere call in to air their complaints, suggestions, and opinions on Nicaraguan daily life. The complaints, which make up the bulk of the program, range from a lack of running water in their neighborhoods, abuses by government employees, shortages of basic goods, and the high cost of living.

"Contacto 6-20" reporters are often dispatched in mobile radio units to follow up on a listener's complaint. One day, for example, when callers said that the prices at a certain market were too high, reporters went to check for themselves and interview the merchants there. Other reporters called on the government agency responsible for controlling prices to find out what they were doing. Meanwhile the public was kept informed on the reporters' whereabouts.

What news do Nicaraguans hear?

In Managua there are several news programs to choose from each morning.

In response to the U.S.-imposed contra war, the Nicaraguan government decreed a state of emergency which gives it authority to censor the news media. In practice however, radio broadcasts, including the news, are not subject to prior censorship.

News programs often raise criticism of deficiencies, bureaucratism, or corruption

in government or private business. These are reported, sometimes with painstaking detail, along with any efforts being made to solve or ameliorate these problems. It is not unusual for leaders of the country's opposition political parties and unions to be interviewed on the air.

A working peoples' radio

The opinions of working people are given prominent treatment, especially by the nationalized stations. As a regular feature, the governing Sandinista National Liberation Front's Radio Sandino broadcasts "Workers in Action" live from a factory or work site. Workers and union leaders discuss the challenges and problems in their industry, the efforts to supply workers with essential goods, and their participation in the country's defense, among other things.

Each day, Radio Sandino broadcasts "Sandino's Cubs," a program dedicated to the young soldiers who are defending Nicaragua against the U.S.-sponsored contra mercenaries. This half-hour program includes messages from the soldiers to their families and friends — some taped, some read by the announcer, and occasional accounts by the soldiers themselves of a particular battle. All this spiced with the latest hit songs.

All stations link their broadcasts every afternoon for "Puño en Alto" (Raised Fist), a half-hour adult education program dedicated to the literacy campaign.

For peasants especially, radio news and other programs are an important means of contact with the rest of the country. Most stations here also provide a sort of mail service, airing messages between family members and friends across the country.

People's correspondents

The state-owned People's Radio Corporation (CORADEP) — which has 18 stations throughout the country — makes a big effort, especially in the rural areas, to develop "people's correspondents" as a way to increase the participation of workers and peasants in their programming. These correspondents send reports to the station on events at their work sites, farms, or neighborhoods. These reports are integrated into regular news broadcasts.

Contras nabbed in terror plot

Continued from front page

country." The orders also include a hit list of 33 civilians and local members of the Nicaraguan army and state security forces.

Two of the captured contras gave statements to the press and answered reporters' questions. Commander of the group José Alfredo Picado García, alias "Juddy," said he joined the FDN in 1983. In 1984 he was sent to Honduras for the first of several training courses in that country, returning on four occasions to Nicaragua to carry out terrorist missions.

He denied having participated in assassinations of supporters of the revolution, but said he did witness such incidents. One of his commanders had received "special" training in the United States, he added.

Asked by a reporter why he joined the contras, Picado said he was "fooled into joining."

'Many contras want to come back'

"Many [contras] have told me they would like to come back to Nicaragua," he said. "They were recruited [by the FDN] and don't want to stay in Honduras. But we're told that if we come back we'd be killed," he added. Mario García Montenegro, alias "The Engineer," was the task force's second in command. He has been with the counterrevolution since 1980, collaborating with some of their first armed bands.

In 1984 and 1986 he received explosives

training in Honduras. In 1985 García Montenegro barely escaped being arrested when a group he was part of was captured by Nicaraguan state security. They had plans to destroy power lines in Managua and place bombs in the city's supermarkets.

There has been a rash of bombings of power lines in the last few weeks in Nicaragua, including an attempt to destroy a high tension tower in one of Managua's neighborhoods. This campaign has affected Costa Rica and Panama as well, since these two countries buy electricity from Honduras that is sent over some of the sabotaged power lines in Nicaragua.

These bombings are part of a general increase in contra terror attacks reported in late March and early April. On April 4 nine peasant militia members were killed and nine others kidnapped by a force of 40 contras who attacked the Atlantic Coast town of Pueblo Nuevo, some 30 miles north of Bluefields. The contras also destroyed five houses, one warehouse, and a sewing workshop.

On April 9 three boatloads of mercenaries operating out of Honduras attacked two Nicaraguan fishing boats in the Gulf of Fonseca. They forced the crew members to jump overboard and then seriously damaged the boats. Fortunately, other Nicaraguan boats were able to rescue the crew members, who spent up to 12 hours afloat in the ocean.



Textile mill in Managua. As a regular feature, Sandinista National Liberation Front's Radio Sandino broadcasts "Workers in Action" live from a factory or other work site.

Militant/Arthur Hughes

—WORLD NEWS BRIEFS—

Secret U.S.-Japan nuclear pact exposed

In 1960 the U.S. and Japanese governments concluded a secret "transit agreement" that allowed U.S. warships and warplanes to bring nuclear weapons into Japanese waters, ports, and airfields.

This was recently revealed when a member of Japan's parliament, from the Japanese Communist Party, uncovered a declassified telegram in the Library of Congress in Washington. The telegram, sent to the U.S. embassy in Tokyo in 1966, was signed by then Secretary of State Dean Rusk. The telegram referred to "confidential arrangements with U.S. on introduction of nuclear weapons under 1960 security treaty."

Because of the widespread antinuclear sentiment in Japan (reinforced by the U.S. atomic bombing of 1945), every Japanese government has publicly pledged to keep nuclear arms out of the country. In the wake of the treaty's exposure, Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone flatly denied its existence.

The U.S. government has refused to comment, claiming that the telegram has not yet been authenticated. But a reporter for the *New York Times* was able to confirm its authenticity through a check of the library's microfilm files.

Israeli copters hit Palestinian refugees

For the eighth time this year, an Israeli air attack was mounted April 9 against the Ain Khilwe district near the Lebanese city of Sidon. Located in the south of that country, the district is a major concentration for Palestinian refugees.

Several people were killed and wounded, according to local radio reports. The Lebanese government said that one Israeli helicopter was shot down by anti-aircraft fire from Ain Khilwe's defenders.

New U.S. military base in Zaire?

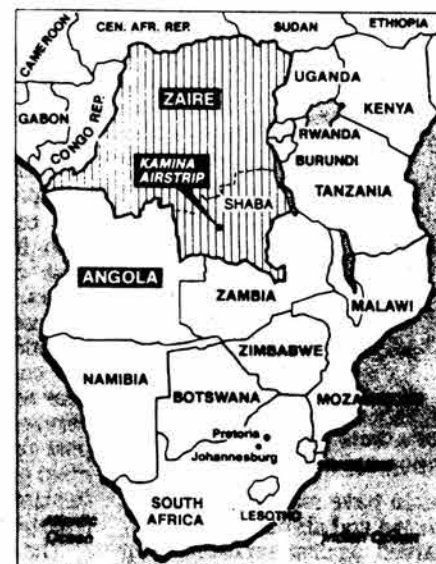
Zaire's President Mobutu Sese Seko confirmed in early March that the U.S. government has agreed to the "rehabilitation" of the Kamina air base in that Central African country. Mobutu also said that joint U.S.-Zairean military exercises were being planned.

The March 24 *Christian Science Monitor* reported that the Pentagon has agreed to provide a "few million dollars" for refurbishing the rundown base in exchange for the right of the U.S. Air Force to have full access to its facilities.

Located in Zaire's Shaba Province, Kamina is not far from the border with Angola. It was reported two months ago

that the CIA has already been using the base to fly arms and other supplies to the U.S.-supported UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola), which specializes in massacring Angolan villagers and sabotaging that country's economy.

UNITA forces are believed to have a base in Zaire, near Kamina. They also



operate from South African-ruled Namibia.

The prospect of Kamina becoming a U.S. air base, so close to much of southern Africa, has prompted protests from the Angolan government and others. Sam Nujoma, the president of the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO), which is fighting for Namibia's independence, warned, "The Frontline States could become the victims of American actions like the bombing of Libya last year."

Strikes in Spain defy austerity policies

Spain's state-run transportation system was paralyzed April 10, and its national health service curtailed, as workers walked off their jobs to protest a government ceiling on wage increases.

The transport strike was called by the Workers Commissions, the second largest labor federation in the country, led by the Communist Party. Members of the Socialist Party-led General Workers Union, the largest federation, also joined the strike.

They were challenging the austerity policies of the Socialist Party government of Prime Minister Felipe González, who has decreed that wage increases cannot exceed 5 percent.

These labor actions are part of a much broader wave of strikes. At the end of March, a 24-hour work stoppage hit the northern province of Asturias, in response to the government closing of some coal mines. Strikes by workers at state-run gasoline stations and a government-operated hotel chain are planned.

You better believe it — "I was born in a little two-room cabin in Oklahoma with a lean-to. Now I live in one of the finest homes. I



Harry Ring

drive one of the finest, safest cars. . . . God designed life for believers to be an abundant life." — Oral Roberts, shortly after his \$8 million reprieve.

The upbeat paper — "EPA Study Finds Lakes of West Are Free of Acid Rain" — *New York Times*, Jan. 16, 1987. "Acid Rain Threatens Western Lakes — EPA Study Contends Problem Is National" — *Washington Post*, same day. "Reagan Says He'll Consider Talks With the Canadians on Acid Rain" — *The Times*, April 7, 1987. "Reagan Rejects Acid-Rain Plan Offered by Canada" — *New York Newsday*, same day.

Sounds like par for the course — British Labour Party leaders Neil Kinnock and Denis Healey said that when they met with Reagan to outline their views on the arms issue, the prez was badly

briefed and muddled. Also, he mistook Healey for the British ambassador, "Nice to see you again, Mr. Ambassador," he assured Healey.

Red carpet treatment (I) — Qantas, the Australian airline, drew flack for compelling Father Lini, prime minister of the Pacific island country of Vanuatu, to submit to a body search when he boarded a plane at Honolulu. He had suffered a stroke in the United States and was in a wheelchair.

Red carpet treatment (II) — Hawaiian Airlines, a U.S. outfit, lost its bid to manage Western Samoa's Polynesian Airlines.

Also at Honolulu, Immigration held the Western Samoan prime minister for four hours for lack of a visa when he came to discuss the proposed deal.

You can't win 'em all — The sporting goods and leisure products industries felt their lobbying on behalf of extending daylight savings time paid off. But the candy pushers failed to get their goal of an extra week of daylight time in the fall. They wanted it extended through Halloween.

Mass transit anyone? — In 1995, the average U.S. car will cost an estimated \$13,800. That's in 1986 dollars, more when inflation is factored in. Plus, the cars

will be more complex, meaning less do it yourself and more repair bills.

Trouble in Yuppieland? — What with the tightening job market, some corporations are offering college graduates six-month "internships" — that is working for free. And, since they accept that, it's assumed that when a regular job comes up, they'll accept lower pay.

Thought for the week — "Last year, 14,000 employers regularly eavesdropped on telephone conversations of close to 1.5 million employees." — Rep. Don Edwards (D-Calif.)

—CALENDAR—

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Is Racism on the Rise? Speaker: Greg Jackson, member of Young Socialist Alliance National Committee and International Association of Machinists District 720. Translation to Spanish. Sat., April 18, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

San Diego

Contergate: Behind the Government Crisis. Speaker: Fred Halstead, Author of *Out Now! A Participant's View of the Movement Against the Vietnam War*, leader of Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat., April 18, 7:30 p.m. 2803 B St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (619) 234-4630.

FLORIDA

Miami

U.S. Handed Major Defeat in Geneva: Washington's Phony Concern for Human Rights in Cuba. Speakers to be announced. Translation to Spanish. Sat., April 18, 7:30 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (305) 756-1020.

LOUISIANA

New Orleans

Crisis in the Third World: The Unpayable Debt. Speakers: to be announced. Sat., April 18, 7:30 p.m. 3640 Magazine St. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (504) 895-1961.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

No More Vietnam Wars. A panel discussion. Translation to Spanish. Sat., April 18, 7:30 p.m. 107 Brighton Ave. 2nd floor. Allston. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (617) 787-0275.

MINNESOTA

Minneapolis

End U.S. Intervention in Central America. End U.S. Support for South African Apartheid. Mobilize on April 25! Send-off rally for those going to the national antiwar, anti-apartheid march in Washington, D.C. Thurs., April 23, 8 p.m. University Lutheran Church of Hope, 601 13th Ave. NE. For more information on bus transportation to Washington, call Central America Resource Center (612) 379-8799.

St. Paul

No More Vietnam Wars (What Was the First

One All About?) Speaker: Will Reissner, former staff writer for *Intercontinental Press*, member United Steelworkers of America Local 2814. Sat., April 18, 7 p.m. 508 N Snelling. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 664-6325.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

Burkina Faso: Eyewitness Account of an African Revolution. Speaker: Ernest Harsch, staffwriter for *Militant* newspaper, recently returned from three weeks in West African country of Burkina. Translation to Spanish. Sat., April 18, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

NEW YORK

Albany

Fighting Apartheid in the United States and Southern Africa. A video interview with Win-

nie Mandela. Translation to Spanish. Sat., April 18, 7:30 p.m. 114E Quail St. Donation: \$2. Sponsors: Young Socialist Alliance and Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (518) 434-3247.

Manhattan

Burkina Faso: Eyewitness Account of the Revolution. Slideshow and discussion. Speaker: Ernest Harsch, staff writer for *Militant*, recently returned from three weeks in Burkina. Translation to Spanish. Fri., April 17. Preforum dinner, 6:30 p.m.; forum, 7:30 p.m. 79 Leonard St. Donation: dinner, \$3; forum, \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

The Future of the Soviet Union: Lenin's Unfinished Fight. Speaker: Doug Jenness, coeditor of the *Militant*. Translation to Spanish. Fri., May 1. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; forum, 7:30 p.m. 79 Leonard St. Donation: forum, \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

L.A. garment workers beat back concessions

BY SETH GALINSKY

LOS ANGELES — After working without a contract for nearly four months, workers at Manny Industries here finally won a contract on March 18. Manny's manufactures bedspreads and comforters. The plant is organized by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU) Local 482.

Last June the company's owners demanded a 12 percent wage cut, reductions in holidays and vacation time, and changes in medical benefits. Union members immediately began organizing to stop Manny's takeback drive. Most of the workers at the plant are immigrants from Mexico and Central America.

A strike preparation committee was formed that sent delegations to meetings of other unions, religious groups, and campus organizations asking for support if the local was forced out on strike.

On several occasions up to 200 workers participated in protest demonstrations outside the plant during their lunch breaks. A similar number walked the picket line to

show solidarity with workers on strike at the nearby Supreme Lighting plant.

In December, after the last contract expired, the handguided quilting department walked out for a week.

The cutting department walked out for two hours and also conducted slow-downs to pressure the company during negotiations.

Union members also participated in an August 1986 demonstration here against deportations and a November 1 action protesting U.S. intervention in Central America.

The company was finally forced to withdraw its initial takeback demands. Though the recently ratified contract includes a wage-freeze the first year, it also includes pay raises of 7 percent over the next two years. If the national minimum wage gets raised during the life of the contract, the bottom pay scale at Manny's is supposed to get raised by the same percentage.

The contract also includes small improvements in seniority provisions and in health-care coverage for workers on lay-

off. The company promised to improve the lunchroom and to give workers the profits from the newly installed vending machines.

Union members won the right to read the contract in English and Spanish before any vote was taken.

There was a setback, however, for workers in the handguided quilting department, who work on piece rates. Prior to this contract, once the piece rates were set they couldn't be altered. Under the new system, the rates will be determined by an industrial engineer jointly chosen by the company and the union. Now either the company or the union can at any time request that the engineer reevaluate the rates.

The general sentiment in the plant about the contract was expressed by Enor Juárez, one of the main leaders of the fight against the concessions. "This contract is not all we wanted," he said, "but it is better than what the company offered us at the beginning."

Seth Galinsky is a member of ILGWU Local 482 at Manny Industries.

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4065.

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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.

Trinidad union plans meetings on Caribbean

BY SAM MANUEL

SAN FERNANDO, Trinidad and Tobago — June and July of this year will mark the 50th anniversary of the massive strike wave that swept the English-speaking Caribbean in 1937 and established the modern trade union movement in the region.

One of the unions born of this strike wave was the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union (OWTU) of this two-island country of Trinidad and Tobago. Errol McLeod, the union's first vice-president, told me that the union has taken the initiative to host a broad range of activities to commemorate the strike wave.

Among them are two important conferences. The first is a trade union gathering that will discuss the situation of the labor movement in the Caribbean, the impact of the international economic crisis on workers in the region, and the place of the Caribbean labor movement internationally. In addition to leaders of trade unions in the English-, French-, and Spanish-speaking Caribbean, representatives are expected to attend from several international trade union federations.

The second meeting will be a Caribbean women's conference scheduled for some time in mid-July. It will discuss the problems and challenges faced by women trade unionists in the Caribbean and the broader role of women in Caribbean society. Interest in and discussion about women's liberation is currently very high in Trinidad and Tobago. A series of women's studies classes and forums have been started at the island's affiliate of the University of the West Indies.

Caribbean anti-apartheid movement

Another feature of the 50th anniversary celebrations will be a forum on the international trade union movement and the struggle against the apartheid system in South Africa. The forum is expected to feature representatives of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU).

Sentiment against apartheid runs very deep in the West Indies. These island countries regularly boycott sporting events in which South Africa participates. The West Indian Cricket Control Board prohibits cricket players who have competed in South Africa from representing the West Indies in international games. Cricket is the national sport of the West Indies.

In March of last year the OWTU, along with other unions and anti-apartheid activists, organized the Committee in Defense of West Indian Cricket. The committee organized protests against a tour here of British cricket players who had earlier played in South Africa. The slogan of the protests was "We love cricket but we hate apartheid more!"

The commemoration of the 1937 strike wave takes on added significance in light of the current political and economic situation faced by the unions in Trinidad and Tobago.

Attack on workers' living standards

In the 1986 legislative elections here, the capitalist People's National Movement — which had ruled for the last 30 years — was defeated by a coalition of opposition capitalist parties.

McLeod explained that many workers voted for the new governing coalition, the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR), because of the corruption and anti-worker policies of the PNM. The first months of the new government, however, have shown that its policies are not fundamentally different.

While addressing a recent budget session of the legislature, Prime Minister Paul Robinson announced that cost-of-living adjustments in wages would be indefinitely suspended for all government employees. He claimed this cutback was necessary to revitalize the economy and to provide the government with much-needed cash.

Unemployment in Trinidad and Tobago now stands at 20 percent. Between 1981 and 1986, 45,000 workers in the oil, sugar, light manufacturing, and construction industries, have lost their jobs. The employers have taken advantage of this situation to press harder against the unions. More and more workers face lockouts. According to McLeod, in 1986 there were 22 lockouts and only one strike. Many unions — in-

cluding the OWTU — have continued to work without a contract for the past three years. The employers simply refuse to negotiate.

In the case of British Tyre and Rubber (formerly Dunlop), an industrial court ruled its lockout illegal and fined the company the maximum legal penalty of \$20,000 (US\$5,600). It also held BTR liable for workers' back wages. McLeod said that so far the company has simply ignored the court's ruling.

Opportunity to strengthen labor unity

"The 50th anniversary celebrations are an opportunity to bring together trade unionists from all over the region to share experiences," McLeod explained. "We hope that it will also complement the efforts we have been making to bring about stronger unity in the labor movement."

In addition to the conferences and forums there will also be an international book fair and festival. The festival will include cultural and sports activities and reenactment of scenes from the 1937 strike. It is scheduled for June 21 through July 5.

Distributors from around the world have been invited to participate in the book fair, which will take place June 27-30.

For further information write to: 50th Anniversary Celebrations, Oilfields Workers' Trade Union, Paramount Building, 99A Circular Rd., San Fernando, Trinidad, West Indies; or call (809) 652-2701.

Castro book hailed at Philippine meeting

BY DEB SHNOOKAL

MANILA, Philippines — As part of the Manila International Book Fair, which took place in February of this year, Pathfinder Press/Pacific and Asia held a meeting to celebrate the publication of *Fidel Castro: Nothing Can Stop the Course of History*. The book consists of an interview with Cuban President Fidel Castro conducted by U.S. Prof. Jeffrey Elliot and U.S. Congressperson Mervyn Dymally.

The book launching, which attracted over a hundred people, was supported by the Latin America Forum. Cuban Ambassador Ana María González and Randolph David, director of the Third World Studies Center at the University of the Philippines, both spoke.

González began by thanking Pathfinder for providing another opportunity for the views of the Cuban government to be presented and discussed. It was Pathfinder that last year published the first English-language edition of *Fidel and Religion: Conversations with Frei Betto*.

David explained that most of the books by Castro that have been made available in the Philippines recently have been a result of the initiatives of Pathfinder.

"Why should *Nothing Can Stop the Course of History* be of interest to Filipinos?" David asked. "Because we share a common history of colonial subjugation and the Catholic religion. Another thing we have in common with Latin America is the huge foreign debt."

"Therefore, if what Fidel Castro is talking about sounds familiar to us Filipinos, it's only because we are dealing with the same banks and the same global economic system," David emphasized.

"How does Fidel Castro propose to handle the foreign debt problem? The most important proposal is the cancellation of the Third World debt," he continued.

"The only way this argument can be carried forward throughout the Third World is for people like us who find ourselves in the same situation to be articulating, expressing, and explaining the same argument to our own people. And I'm confident that this book will go a long way towards doing that precise thing," he concluded.

As a Pathfinder representative, I addressed the meeting, pointing out that this was Pathfinder's fourth book launching in the Philippines. I thanked Virginia Gapuz of Great Books Trading for aiding Pathfinder's participation in the book fair and in the distribution of books in this country. I also said that Pathfinder was hoping to arrange further reprints of its titles in the Philippines as had been done by Popular Bookstore with *Fidel and Religion*, thus



Logo of the First Caribbean Peoples International Bookfair and Bookfair Festival to take place in Trinidad and Tobago June 21-July 5. Event is organized by Oilfields Workers' Trade Union and will be held in conjunction with conferences on Caribbean labor movement and women.

making the books cheaper and more widely available.

A last-minute addition to the program was the Cuban ambassador's seven-year-old daughter, Ariana, who recited in Spanish some verses in tribute to Cuban revolutionary heroes Che Guevara and Camilo Cienfuegos.

The evening concluded with performances by two musical groups: the young

students of Tanglaw, and Inang Laya, a well-known duo of women.

The Pathfinder Press table at the book fair was also a big hit. It probably did the best business of any single stall at the event. About 150 people left their names and addresses on the mailing list. A considerable number also expressed interest in the *Militant*, which was on display and for sale at the booth.

— 10 AND 25 YEARS AGO —

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE
April 22, 1977

Using its French and Belgian junior partners as front men, Washington is masterminding a dangerous escalation of imperialist war moves in Africa.

On April 12 the Carter administration dispatched \$13 million in "nonlethal" military equipment to aid the Mobutu regime in Zaire. Mobutu is at war with antigovernment forces in the southern province of Shaba (formerly called Katanga).

Carter's announcement came on the heels of the French government's airlift of 1,500 Moroccan troops to Shaba. Paris also admitted that French military advisers are now in Shaba. Belgium, Zaire's former colonial master, is also arming Mobutu.

Washington and its NATO cronies have lost a lot of sleep recently over the paralysis of the Zairian army in the face of advancing Katangan troops. Commenting on the French rescue operation, a top State Department official said the airlift "underscores the seriousness of the situation."

The stakes in Shaba are high for the United States, France, and Belgium. They have millions of dollars invested in the region's rich copper, cobalt, and uranium fields.

THE MILITANT

Published in the Interests of the Working People
April 23, 1962 Price 10c

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — The 1962 Easter attire here will be print dresses for girls and women, blue jeans for boys and men. The Easter sermons will be presented from the pulpits by ministers also wearing this uniform of struggle. Some have already

begun.

This is the culmination of a process that began with a sit-in demonstration in which two ministers — Reverend Fred L. Shuttlesworth and Reverend J.S. Phifer, both members of the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights — were arrested.

In reaction to the jailing of these leaders, the Negro community began "Operation Selective Buying" on a modest scale. The authorities considered this a boycott. On April 16 Mayor Arthur Hanes issued a "Stop the Boycott" ultimatum. Otherwise, he threatened, he would discontinue city distribution of surplus federal food to needy families. This threat is now actually being carried out.

The boycott really began in earnest after the release from jail of Reverend Shuttlesworth and Reverend Phifer. Police in the downtown area ordered them to move on. "Can't we window shop?" asked Reverend Shuttlesworth. "No," was the reply, "just move on!"

The report of this harassment of the two ministers angered the Negro community. Since then Birmingham Negroes have neither shopped nor window-shopped. They have kept moving on past the stores in the downtown area.

On April 13, between 10:30 in the morning and 7 p.m., I toured the entire downtown area, looking into each store, entering several and talking to some storekeepers.

There were no Negro customers in any of the stores and very few whites.

I went into one store on 8th Ave. and introduced myself to the white storekeeper as a reporter from the *Militant*. He asked: "Where're you from?" I replied, New York. He then asked: "Is that a nigger newspaper?" I asked if I could have his name. He declined. I then inquired whether the drop in Negro patronage had affected his business.

With deep anger, he replied: "Those damn niggers! Those damn niggers!"

Desegregation fight continues

A federal judge in Topeka, Kansas, claims that substantial racial segregation in the schools is constitutional if it is the result of basing racial composition of schools on segregated neighborhoods.

On the basis of this outrageous pretext, U.S. District Court Judge Richard Rogers ruled April 9 that the Topeka Public School District does not discriminate against Blacks and other minorities. He denied justice to the parents who had reopened the historic case of *Oliver Brown et al. v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas* to demand further steps toward equal, desegregated education.

Although the Topeka school system is 74 percent white, Blacks and other oppressed minorities make up 54.7 to 62 percent of the students at some schools. Moreover, Black faculty members are disproportionately concentrated at these schools. The parents explained that creating racially distinct schools constitutes segregation and is inherently unequal and unconstitutional.

"The district's neighborhood school approach," claimed Judge Rogers in response, "has achieved a high level of integration but not racial balance by any measure. The racially imbalanced schools are not the product of overt or covert intentional segregative conduct."

"I read Judge Rogers' decision as approving continuing segregation in Topeka under the guise of neighborhood schools," said Chris Hansen, attorney for the plaintiffs.

Judge Rogers' argument is transparently wrong. A school board that uses racially segregated neighborhoods as a basis for determining where students should go to school is intentionally — and none too covertly — imposing school segregation.

Oliver Brown et al. v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas was the most prominent of the court cases which, in 1954, led to the U.S. Supreme Court ruling that school segregation is unconstitutional.

That landmark decision overturned an 1896 court ruling that had given the federal and state governments a green light to impose Jim Crow segregation on Blacks on the pretense of providing "separate but equal" facilities.

Hard-fought struggles by Blacks and their allies forced the court to reject that doctrine in 1954.

At the time of the 1954 decision, the Southern states, where segregation was most entrenched, were spending \$165 a year for the average white pupil, \$115 for the Black student.

Now, with openly imposed segregation outlawed, some school officials are using a new version of the "separate but equal" doctrine.

School board attorney Gary Sebelius downplayed the racial imbalance in schools by stating that "regardless of which schools they attend in Topeka, [students] will receive a good education."

In fact, school segregation — open or covert — is imposed precisely to block equal education and reinforce discrimination against Blacks in the job market and every area of society.

If "neighborhood schools" result in segregated schools, then "neighborhood schools" are unconstitutional. That is the unmistakable meaning of the 1954 decision. Busing and all other required means must be used to put an end to every trace of segregation and to guarantee equal opportunity to education.

All workers and farmers should support the struggle of the Black parents and students of Topeka.

Getting past second base

Few people missed the irony of it.

Al Campanis, Los Angeles Dodgers vice-president in charge of personnel, was on ABC's "Nightline" program. The show marked the 40th anniversary of Jackie Robinson's breaking the barrier against hiring Black baseball players on major league teams.

Asked why the major leagues had no Black managers, general managers, or owners, Campanis replied that Blacks lacked the "necessities" to fill such posts.

In the uproar that followed, Campanis' resignation was asked for and accepted.

"I truly believe," Campanis had told TV host Ted Koppel, "that they may not have some of the necessities to be, let's say, a field manager or perhaps a general manager."

Asked if he really believed that, the baseball executive responded, "Well, I don't say all of them, but they certainly are short. How many quarterbacks do you have, how many pitchers do you have that are Black?"

He added: "Why are Black men or Black people not good swimmers? Because they don't have the buoyancy."

Campanis is not known as a fanatic racist. But his remarks show how deep racial prejudice still is and how acceptance of racial stereotypes can get expressed so matter-of-factly.

On the other hand, the speed with which pressure mounted to force Campanis' resignation testifies to the profound changes that have taken place in this country regarding what are considered acceptable attitudes toward Blacks.

When Jackie Robinson broke into major league

baseball in 1947, anti-Black hostility and prejudice was commonplace.

As the Dodger second baseman, Robinson was subjected to a steady barrage of racist epithets shouted by members of rival teams.

On the road he was booked into segregated hotels. He took his meals in dining cars and restaurants that were for Blacks only.

In a ceremony on the 25th anniversary of his breakthrough in 1972, Robinson commented that he had come in as a second baseman but the Black athlete hadn't really moved beyond second base. He said he awaited the day when he could look down the third-base line and see a Black manager.

That day has yet to arrive. In the past 40 years there have been only three Black managers. Today there are none.

The next important step in the process that began with Jackie Robinson is wiping out segregation in other positions and posts such as third-base coach, manager, and front-office executives.

And that won't be accomplished by a few token appointments. It means the immediate hiring of Blacks in all areas of the sport. It requires a program of affirmative action, with goals that will ensure Black players the opportunity to overcome decades of discrimination.

The decision to fire Campanis was a recognition of the ground that antiracist forces have gained in this country since the days of Jackie Robinson. Taking it past second base is part of the ongoing fight against racism in all its forms.

All out for April 25 protests!

Continued from front page

vadoran army's terror campaign against the people of that country. Under the direction of the CIA and Pentagon, the Salvadoran military carries out massive bombing attacks on any targets they claim are strongholds of the popular guerrilla forces. And union activists who fight against the José Napoleón Duarte government's austerity policies or demand an end to the war are subject to arrest, torture, and murder at the hands of the government-backed death squads and police.

- Washington is the major prop of the hated South African apartheid regime. For the tiny handful of wealthy U.S. ruling families, Pretoria stands as a bulwark protecting their business interests throughout southern Africa.

The U.S. government is determined to prevent the creation of a united, democratic, nonracial republic in South Africa. That's why it has winked at Pretoria's crackdown on democratic rights and its murders and jailings of opponents of apartheid.

- From the Persian Gulf to the Philippines and Korea, Washington's massive military buildup is directed against workers and farmers who want to advance their own interests free from the domination of Wall Street and the Pentagon.

While Washington has been carrying out these attacks

abroad, the employers and their government have been waging a war against working people here at home. They have been slashing wages while they demand greater and greater production.

Hundreds of thousands of farmers have lost their land through foreclosures. The government and the employers have stepped up their attacks on Black and women's rights.

The government also has civil liberties in its sights. Activists involved in opposing Washington's policies in Central America have become targets of illegal government spying, burglaries, wiretaps, and disruption programs.

Over the past year, resistance to these attacks has stiffened. Demonstrations like April 25 provide working people the opportunity to gather in the same place at the same time to make the strongest possible political impact. These actions also are educational for those who have not yet made up their minds to oppose U.S. intervention or who have not yet been convinced of the need to demonstrate.

That's why the April 25 protests are an important bridge to building an even larger movement against the U.S.-backed aggression in Central America and against all U.S. links with apartheid.

The struggle to win constitutional rights for all

BY DOUG JENNESS

Shortly after the U.S. Constitution was adopted, Thomas Jefferson sent a letter to James Madison expressing his opinion that one generation doesn't have the

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

right to bind another to its policies. One of the fundamental concepts of government, he said, is "that the earth belongs . . . to the living, that the dead have neither powers nor rights over it."

Whatever one thinks of Jefferson, this point has merit.

When the "Founding Fathers" enacted the Constitution, chattel slavery and indentured servitude were important, legal forms of labor in the new republic. The Constitution explicitly stated that persons attempting to escape from this labor or service by going to other states would be sent back to their owner or master.

Women, the propertyless, and Indians were not recognized as full citizens either. In fact the big majority of the population was not guaranteed full rights and protection under the law. Only white, male, property owners were full citizens.

We've advanced beyond this situation because many living generations refused to be bound by what the "Founding Fathers" did, and they fought to broaden the sectors of the population that are protected under the Constitution.

This fight was totally intertwined with the fight of working people for social justice and equality, including the struggles of farmers for land and of wage workers for a shorter workweek and better working conditions.

During the first few decades of the 1800s, the fight to eliminate property ownership as a qualification for white males to vote was linked to the struggle against debtors' prisons. At that time if people were unable to pay their debts, creditors didn't just take implements, stock, and other belongings, but had them thrown in jail if some of the debt remained unpaid.

When imprisonment for debt was abolished state by state, the final required element of legal force for indentured servitude was wiped out too.

Bonded labor was made unconstitutional when slavery was eliminated as a result of the Civil War (1861-65). The 13th Amendment states, "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude . . . shall exist within the United States."

The momentous struggle that ended slavery also led to two other important gains that were codified in the Constitution as the 14th and 15th amendments. The 14th Amendment explicitly bars states from passing laws depriving any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law. It guarantees equal protection under the law.

The 15th Amendment states that voting rights cannot be denied citizens on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

But these conquests received a severe setback when Radical Reconstruction was defeated by the end of the 1870s and legal segregation was established throughout the South by the turn of the century. The Supreme Court upheld racial segregation in 1896 with the sham doctrine of "separate but equal."

It took another massive struggle to reverse the legal form of segregation, called Jim Crow. Bloody battles against the clubs, dogs, guns — and lynching — of the cops and racist terror outfits were necessary to wrest democratic rights for Blacks.

The civil rights fighters demanded that the government uphold the Constitution to guarantee the rights already ratified in the 14th and 15th amendments. And they forced the courts to recognize these rights. Two amendments were also incorporated into the Constitution as a result of the civil rights struggle.

In 1961 Washington, D.C., residents, a majority of whom are Black, won the right to vote in presidential elections. And in 1964, an amendment was ratified outlawing poll taxes as a voting requirement. This had been one of the maneuvers used by segregationists to get around the 15th Amendment.

It also took a sustained fight to win the right of suffrage for women in 1920. Advances for women's rights continue to be won and have been registered in court rulings on abortion and affirmative action.

As a result of the movement against the Vietnam War in which youth played such a prominent part, a constitutional amendment was approved granting persons 18 years or over the right to vote.

This struggle to extend constitutional rights to more people continues. One of the important battles today is winning the rights and protection of the Constitution for people from other countries residing in the United States with work permits, student visas, or no documents at all.

As we've continued to make social and political advances we have broadened the arenas of activity and behavior that are protected under the Bill of Rights. This will be the subject of next week's column.

Why April 25 demonstrations are a union issue

BY BOB CUSTER

A recent incident at the McDonnell Douglas plant in Long Beach, California, brought the question of democratic rights on the job into sharp relief.

The Long Beach McDonnell Douglas plant produces military and commercial aircraft. It is organized by

UNION TALK

United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 148.

Over the years, Local 148 has solidarized with several other union struggles. It has offered solidarity to the United Farm Workers union, the Teamsters, and the Hormel meat-packers in Austin, Minnesota. The local has endorsed and participated in actions against U.S. policy in South Africa.

On April 2 Douglas management tried to draw the line on such activity. The company halted a plant-gate distribution of Local 148's leaflet urging union members to attend the April 25 demonstration in San Francisco against the U.S. war in Central America and U.S. support to the apartheid regime in South Africa.

Local 148 members had voted to endorse the action and had contributed \$500 toward a bus for union members to get to San Francisco. Seven thousand leaflets were produced explaining the issues that will be addressed by the march and rally.

As the flyers were being distributed at the plant gates,

Douglas security guards demanded that union members stop handing them out and began snatching them out of people's hands.

Many of my coworkers were shocked by this move. A union representative who asked the company to explain its undemocratic stance was simply told by Industrial Relations Office that the flyer was bad for business and was "too political."

Douglas management is trying to tell workers what issues we can and can't discuss. They are saying, in effect, that apartheid in South Africa and the U.S.-organized war against Nicaragua are not union issues.

McDonnell Douglas is one of the nation's largest producers of war materials. We who work at the Long Beach plant are only too familiar with the fact that Douglas is not concerned with the problems of working people. We have been fighting since last October to get a decent contract. It is therefore not surprising that they would attack the April 25 demonstrations.

My view is that we should fight for the right of the union to take up not only these issues, but any other questions we want. We can't allow McDonnell Douglas' billionaire owners to decide for us what we can and can't protest. They have their own foreign policy, and working people need our own.

Douglas' management knows that the government and corporate support for apartheid and the U.S.-financed contra war are very unpopular with working people. That's why it works hand in glove with the government in trying to stifle discussion about Washington's role in

those areas.

On the other hand, U.S. workers and the union movement have a real interest in the struggle against apartheid and the war in Central America. After all, it will be working people who will die in Central America if the U.S. government uses combat troops there.

The struggles of workers and farmers in these countries also concern us. Every time the South African government crushes a strike by Black workers or jails trade unionists, or every time a Salvadoran unionist disappears or is murdered, it affects us.

The advances by workers and peasants in these countries weaken the U.S. ruling families and their government in Washington. And their advances aid us in our struggles here at home. So we have a right and duty to protest our government's complicity in attacking working people around the globe.

It is good that many unions are supporting the April 25 demonstration. Several Local 148 members have already indicated that they are interested in getting to the San Francisco action. That is one of the best ways to assert our democratic right to organize around any question we want without harassment by the company.

It has taken action by workers and farmers to make social change and progress in the past. The degree of success in future battles will be determined by how united, socially conscious, and political we are.

Bob Custer is a member of UAW Local 148.

LETTERS

East Timor

I have been receiving copies of the *Militant* for some time and would like to say how much I value the paper.

At first, I bought the paper because of its unbeatable weekly coverage of Central America, Africa, and the Philippines. But it also made me aware that there are people in the United States who care about the rights of working people and oppose their government's imperialist intentions.

I was particularly interested to read the articles about Burkina Faso in the April 3 issue. I have been trying to find out about Burkina Faso for some time without success so I hope there are more articles in the pipeline.

While I have been a regular reader of the *Militant* I have not seen any articles about East Timor. East Timor, invaded in 1975 by Indonesia, a friend of NATO, has suffered 12 years of death and destruction at the hands of Indonesian groups.

Despite this, the people of East Timor, under the leadership of Fretilin, the Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor, have battled against the invaders in isolation from the rest of the world. The plight of the East Timorese is one which should be taken up by all working people. I wonder if the *Militant* could run an item on East Timor?

A.F.
Kent, England

Puerto Rico

I am writing you to request a free subscription to your paper.

I find your paper to be very enlightening, and it would keep me in tune with the struggle for Puerto Rican independence.

A prisoner
Stormville, New York

How can you?

How can you open your mouth to destroy the very freedom that permits you to print the *Militant* when you know that your mouth would be closed forever if you lived on communist soils?

W.C.L.
New Orleans, Louisiana

Abortion rights

I recently had the opportunity to attend a trial in which the Atlanta Feminist Women's Health Center won a victory against harassment of abortion clinics. A jury found two antiabortion protesters guilty

of criminal trespass for their participation in attempts to disrupt the clinic's activities on Jan. 4, 1986.

Beginning in July 1985, anti-abortion pickets had been set up every Saturday to harass women attending the clinic. The center responded by changing its entranceway and providing an escort service so women did not have to face the up to 70 pickets who shouted such things as, "babykiller," "Don't let those dykes touch you," and "You'll get AIDS if you go in there."

So long as the pickets remained on the public street, the center could not do anything legally about their presence.

On January 4, however, Madia Bowman and Michael Hirsh refused to remove themselves from a spot right next to the new entranceway, which they were repeatedly told was private property. Finally, they were arrested.

In his closing statement to the jury, one of the defense lawyers claimed that what was at stake were "First Amendment rights." "Society is built on the right to protest," he said. The lawyer said that this was how slavery and Jim Crow segregation were ended, how civil rights and women's right to vote were won, and how the U.S. government was forced to leave Vietnam.

These right-wingers felt compelled to demagogically identify themselves with the progressive movements of the past in order to justify their reactionary positions.

I guess it was obvious to them — with the overwhelming evidence that most people support a woman's right to abortion — that they couldn't depend on the jury to sympathize with their antiabortion stance. Instead they tried to turn the issue of First Amendment rights on its head.

The jury wasn't convinced. Neither was the judge, who decided on the maximum \$250 fine for each defendant. Hopefully this victory will send a message to antiabortionists that they can't get away with this type of harassment.

E.B.
Atlanta, Georgia

Essential instrument

The *Militant* is an essential instrument in the education and politicization of the most revolutionary class on the earth — the working class.

I am greatly appreciative of the working-class solidarity that allows me, a prisoner of im-

perialism, my longstanding complimentary subscription.

I look impatiently to the time when I, too, can contribute materially.

A prisoner
Rosharon, Texas

Steelworkers speakout

Four unionists recently participated in a forum entitled "Which Way Forward: Bethlehem Steelworkers Speak Out." It was hosted by the Baltimore Militant Labor Forum.

Bethlehem Steel, located at Sparrows Point outside Baltimore, once employed more than 30,000 people. Today, there are 8,000 and 2,000 of those are threatened with layoffs. The panelists were all members of United Steelworkers of America locals 2609 and 2610.

Rodney Orange, with 22 years at "the Point," explained the devastating effects of layoffs — how this had led to destroyed families, home foreclosures, and drug addiction.

He said that the influx of foreign steel had hurt U.S. workers and that what was needed was a Marshall Plan to revitalize U.S. industry.

Orange stressed the need for steelworkers to unify against company attacks on jobs and benefits.

Francis Brown, a veteran of 31 years at Sparrows Point, recounted the struggle of Blacks there. The company would hire people from Virginia or South Carolina rather than Blacks who lived right in Baltimore.

He pointed out Francis Jones, sitting in the audience, as the "Rosa Parks" of Bethlehem Steel. Brown explained how he and Jones had to sit-in at the whites-only cafeteria to break down the segregated facilities.

Daniel "Butch" Allen said that greed and discrimination were part of the problem — that the establishment pits us against each other and we need to fight back to stop the power structure from controlling our lives.

Joe Kleidon, a Bethlehem steelworker and member of the Socialist Workers Party, said the problems at Bethlehem Steel were part of what was happening in all U.S. industry. The increasing attacks at Bethlehem were part of a pattern — the driving down of the standard of living of working people by the U.S. capitalist class.

Edwin Fruit
Baltimore, Maryland



'Stop plant closings'

More than 2,000 unionists and supporters gathered in Detroit March 21 for a "Stop plant closings rally."

Demonstrators were angered over General Motors' decision to close 11 plants, throwing thousands of auto workers onto the unemployment lines.

Many United Auto Workers locals from Michigan participated in the rally.

Large contingents also came by bus from Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. Signs carried by Local 14 from the AP Parts plant in Toledo, Ohio, Local 674 from Cincinnati, and Local 719 from Chicago made their contingents particularly visible.

Some speakers called for plant closing moratorium legislation and passage of "fair trade laws."

Other speakers, in one form or another, urged solidarity among workers, farmers, youth, retirees, and the unemployed to win a gov-

ernment that responds to the needs of the people and not the corporations.

Dennis Konciewicz
UAW Local 1200
Detroit, Michigan

Correction

The article, "Miners hit white-wash of Wilberg disaster," in last week's *Militant* incorrectly states that the United Mine Workers of America pressured the Mine Safety and Health Administration into rejecting Kaiser Steel Corp.'s plan for two-entry mining at its Sunnyside, Utah, mine. The UMWA played no part in MSHA's decision.

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.

Philippine military bombs peasants Attacks by Aquino gov't leave thousands homeless

BY FRED FELDMAN

As helicopter gunships strafe the hill-sides, more than 23,000 peasants from the region around the city of Davao on the Philippine island of Mindanao have fled to crowded refugee centers.

There they, like other residents, are kept under surveillance by Alsa Masa (Arise Masses), an armed right-wing vigilante group backed by the military.

Thousands more were driven from their homes on Luzon Island when government F-5 fighter jets staged bombing raids against Kalinga Apayao Province, the first bombing missions in the 18-year counter-insurgency war.

The refugees are among the initial victims of the renewed war by the government's "New Armed Forces of the Philippines" against the peasant-based New People's Army (NPA) guerrilla movement.

The fighting resumed after negotiations broke down between the government and the National Democratic Front, a political coalition that supports the NPA, and the expiration of a 60-day cease-fire on February 8.

On March 22, Philippine President Corazon Aquino declared to a graduating class at the Philippine Military Academy: "The answer to the terrorism of the left and the right is not social and economic reform but police and military action."

"I want a string of honorable military victories," she insisted, giving a "solemn oath" that the military would "permanently end all threats to freedom before my term as president is over."

Despite the rhetorical equation of her opponents on the right with those on the left, the armed forces commanders interpreted Aquino's speech to be a green light for their policy of mobilizing "the terrorism of the right" against the NPA and other workers' and peasants' organizations.

Gen. Edgardo Abenina, a military commander on Cebu Island, told the *New York Times* that his soldiers were eager to fight. In the past, he boasted, soldiers would "just go out shooting, and bring home the heads or the ears." But since the popular upsurge that toppled Marcos, the troops had been restrained because "there are so many investigators, churchmen and so on watching over you."

Aquino's statement, he said, marked "a

most welcome change — we are now more fully convinced that the president is behind us."

Right-wing vigilantism

On Mindanao, the army is putting the squeeze on peasants and city-dwellers to join vigilante groups like Alsa Masa. "In the fight between democracy and communism, there is no way to be neutral," declared Col. Franco Calida, armed forces commander in Davao. "Anybody who would not like to join Alsa Masa is a communist." Alsa Masa members report that each home in Davao is required to contribute one member to the vigilante group. The houses of those who refuse are likely to be marked with a red "X".

Calida boasts that the vigilantes have assassinated 11 suspected NPA fighters.

On the island of Negros, sugar planters have organized El Tigre, a vigilante network that has recently driven 78 families from their homes.

Aquino announced March 12 that Joker Arroyo, who had been serving as executive secretary to her government, was resigning his post. The dismissal of Arroyo, who was a prominent defender of political prisoners under the Marcos dictatorship, had been demanded by General Fidel Ramos, the armed forces chief of staff.

U.S. government's moves

The April 9 *Far Eastern Economic Review* reported that Washington has authorized the Central Intelligence Agency to "spend US\$10 million on a two-year programme for covert operations and to provide technical intelligence, including aerial surveillance and mapping out of insurgent controlled zones." The program has reportedly been approved by Aquino.

"Retired" U.S. Gen. John Singlaub, who has played a part in CIA-backed operations in Central America and elsewhere, has been in the Philippines frequently in recent months.

The Reagan administration is also asking Congress for \$260 million in military and other aid for the Aquino government.

Aquino is now backing a full slate of 28 candidates in the May 11 elections for the 24-member Philippine Senate. A 250-member House of Representatives will be



Militant/Deb Shnookal

Peasants on island of Negros. Right-wing vigilantes organized by sugar planters have recently driven 78 families from their homes. Military backs up vigilantes.

elected on the same date. Jaime Ferrer, secretary for local government in Aquino's cabinet, has ordered all appointed officials to campaign for her choices on pain of dismissal.

Nearly 1,000 candidates are being fielded by 70 parties. The great majority of prominent contenders represent factions of the ruling class of landlords and capitalists.

The rightist opponents of Aquino include the New Society Movement, founded by Ferdinand Marcos, and the Grand Alliance for Democracy, which is headed by Juan Ponce Enrile, former defense minister under both Marcos and Aquino.

Some candidates are also being fielded by the Alliance for New Politics, a coalition that calls for removing U.S. bases and distributing land to the peasants.

Agreement on foreign debt

On March 27 the Philippine government and a consortium of U.S. and other giant banks announced agreement on rescheduling \$13.2 billion of the country's \$26 bil-

lion debt to foreign creditors.

In order to keep up interest payments, the Philippine central bank is to sell (or give directly to creditors) Philippine Investment Notes enabling the recipient to purchase Philippine pesos at a profit and buy shares of Philippine banks and other property.

The Aquino government had voiced hope that major new loans would enable it to finance some land distribution to peasants, while compensating landlords. The bankers apparently turned thumbs down.

The *Far Eastern Economic Review* reported that one banker criticized even Aquino's stingy land distribution program as "perhaps weakening the country's agricultural productivity." (Peasant farmers might use more land to meet basic food needs and less for export crops that are used to make interest payments.) The land reform proposal, he said, "did not make economic sense."

National vigil to stop deportation of Palestinian-rights supporters

Los Angeles, Tuesday, April 28, noon to 2 p.m.
Federal Building, 300 N. Los Angeles Street.

Endorsers include: Asia Bennett, president, American Friends Service Committee; Julian Bond; former U.S. attorney general Ramsey Clark; Rep. Ronald Dellums; Rep. Mervyn Dymally, chair, Congressional Black Caucus; Kathy Spiller, president, Los Angeles National Organization for Women; Ron Wakabayashi, national director, Japanese American Citizens League; Council of Arab-American Organizations of Southern California; Committee In Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES), Southwest Region; Jews United for Peace and Justice, Los Angeles; Union of Legal Service Workers, United Auto Workers District 65.

For more information call (213) 413-2935 or 413-3232.

Actions will protest deportation of Palestinian-rights activists

BY JON HILLSON

BOSTON — The Committee for Justice, the defense committee of seven Palestinians and one Kenyan threatened with deportation under the witchhunt provisions of the McCarran-Walter Act, is calling for a national day of vigils and protest April 28 to demand deportation proceedings be halted. That's the date their trial begins in Los Angeles Immigration Court. The protests will target Immigration and Naturalization Service offices.

The actions were announced by Kahder Musa Hamide to a packed meeting of supporters here April 4.

Deportation proceedings were initiated against the "LA 8" — residents of Los Angeles — after an early morning raid on their homes January 26. The eight were charged with associating with an organization that espouses "world communism" through its "printed material." The organization in question is the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), a com-

ponent of the Palestine Liberation Organization. All eight deny membership in the PFLP.

The real crimes of the defendants in the eyes of the U.S. government, Hamide explained, is being Palestinian. (Julie Nyungugi Mungai, a Kenyan citizen, is married to Hamide.)

Under the banner of fighting "terrorism," FBI, Immigration and Naturalization Service, and Los Angeles Police Department agents raided the Palestinians' homes, Hamide explained, barging through houses, handcuffing the defendants, and subjecting them to extensive interrogation without lawyers present.

At times, the defendants were shackled in foot and waist chains, held in solitary confinement, and denied normal medical care and visitation rights.

As word got out about this blatant violation of democratic rights, outrage began to spread.

Although they were initially denied bond, protests enabled five of the eight to be freed on personal recognizance, and the other three on minimal bail.

Widespread support has been won. Hamide noted that there has been an especially warm response among defenders of Latin American immigrant rights, particularly among Salvadorans, along with support in the Arab community.

He termed the government attack a "test case" that represented a challenge to the "weakest minority community" in the United States.

But the support won by the eight, Hamide said, has been "heartwarming and incredible," including "from people who never touched anything having to do with the Arab community."

The fight against the deportation of these Palestinian-rights supporters is a fight to defend everyone's civil liberties and deserves broad support, Hamide said.