

## Marroquín wins social security card

BY ERNEST HARSCH

With the May 15 mail came something Héctor Marroquín has been fighting for for years — a social security card. It represents a further step forward in his struggle for U.S. citizenship.

Just 10 days earlier, Marroquín, a Mexican-born socialist, was among the first undocumented immigrants granted a six-month work authorization card under the "amnesty" provision of the new Immigration Reform and Control Act. He will be able to use it while his application for residence in the United States is processed.

For the past decade, the government has prevented Marroquín from working and has been trying to deport him because of his membership in the Socialist Workers Party.

Marroquín called his receipt of the work authorization and social security cards "a big political victory." It will, he told the *Militant*, set a precedent that will help other undocumented workers and foreign-born political activists fight for their rights as well.

With the social-security card, Marroquín can now obtain legal employment. He can also get a driver's license and other things that were previously denied him because of his lack of papers.

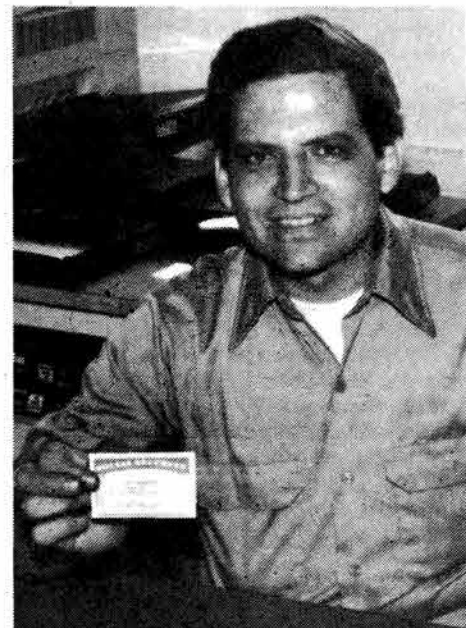
Marroquín asked supporters to send messages to INS Commissioner Alan Nelson in Washington, D.C., urging swift, positive action on his residency application.

He is preparing for a speaking tour across the country, to address rallies sponsored by the Political Rights Defense Fund, which has organized support for his case.

On May 16 Marroquín spoke on his case in Newark, New Jersey. Sharing the platform was Rabab Hadi of the committee that is defending eight Los Angeles Palestinian rights activists who were facing deportation. Just six days after Marroquín got his work authorization, the INS dropped all charges against the eight.

The two cases, Marroquín told the *Militant*, are "clearly related." In both instances, the government "was trying to victimize us for our political ideas."

Marroquín also attended the May 13 congressional hearings in Washington, D.C., which were addressed by David and Elisabeth Linder, parents of Ben Linder, the U.S. engineer murdered by the contras in northern Nicaragua. "I went to extend my solidarity," Marroquín said.



Militant/Arthur Hughes  
Héctor Marroquín with his new social security card: "A big political victory."

## Sandinista army destroys contra camp in Nicaragua

BY ROBERTO KOPEC

SAN ANDRÉS DE BOCAY, Nicaragua — In a massive military operation May 10-12, Sandinista troops wiped out an important contra base here and drove more than 700 U.S.-financed mercenaries across the river into Honduras.

The San Andrés de Bocay region is located in northern Jinotega Province, in the area where the Coco River meets the Bocay and Amaka rivers, less than two miles from the Honduran border. The contra base was set up by the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN), the largest of the terrorist groups sponsored by Washington.

On May 14 a group of 70 reporters was flown in by the Sandinista army to see the remains of the contras' operation and the extent of the defeat they suffered.

First, we attended a press conference by Lt. Col. Manuel Salvatierra, head of Nicaragua's 6th Military Region. He explained that the FDN set up a command post here last February, bringing in about 800 mercenaries. Establishing a supply route and a string of smaller camps, they operated in an area of 40 square miles, from which they infiltrated men and supplies deep into Jinotega and Central Zelaya provinces.

As we flew over the region where the contras were based, we saw no villages, only a few scattered and deserted-looking ranches. Virtually all the peasants who used to live in this region were pushed out by the war some time ago.



Militant/Roberto Kopec  
Sandinista soldiers. U.S. media blacked out news of victory against contra base in northern Nicaragua.

Salvatierra stressed that the contras' choice of this deserted area actually reflected their weakening position. In November 1986, he said, the Sandinista army had ousted the contras from a better supply route west of here.

The Sandinista operation to oust the contras began on April 25 with attacks on their

outlying camps. Then on May 10, Nicaraguan combat and transport helicopters, as well as rocket artillery units and Irregular Warfare Battalions attacked the main base. In all, 3,000 Sandinista soldiers, of which 1,600 were rapid-deployment troops, participated. Thirty-six hours later, the base

Continued on Page 13

## Western coal miners end 5 strikes

BY SUSAN LaMONT

HAYDEN, Colo. — "The main issue in this strike was our future with Peabody Coal. You see, they didn't really want to keep us. We're just a commodity to them. They will pat us on the back, but if the company can get by without you, they will," said Kerry Cobb, president of United Mine Workers of America Local 1385 at the Peabody Seneca mine here.

I spoke with him on May 13. He was explaining the recently concluded strike by the UMWA against Peabody's five surface coal mines in Arizona, Colorado, and Montana.

The strikes against Peabody began on March 21 and ended on May 12 after 590 union members at the five mines voted to accept the three-year contract; 133 members opposed ratification.

For the UMWA, the main issue in the strike against Peabody was the demand that UMWA members get first crack at jobs that open up in new or expanded Peabody mines.

The agreement with Peabody is similar to one the UMWA recently negotiated with Island Creek Coal Co. in the East. While the Island Creek agreement gives UMWA members the right to move to any new mine the company opens, the Peabody agreement covers new mining "in adjacent and contiguous areas" to existing mines. This applies, however, to underground as well as surface mines.

Cobb explained his view that this was a step in the right direction. "It used to be that you worked for the company as a whole, not just for one mine. If the company opened up a new mine somewhere, as a UMWA member you had the right to go with it. We began losing ground on this in 1977, and by 1984 it was gone," he said.

He sees the Island Creek agreement and the new contracts with western surface operators as a step toward regaining some of the ground the union lost in protecting members' jobs. (The UMWA ratified a similar agreement on May 6 at Pittsburg &

Midway's three mines in New Mexico, Wyoming, and Colorado.)

Other provisions of the contract with Peabody include a \$700 bonus in the first year, \$500 the second year, and a 30-cent-an-hour wage increase the third year.

The company also agreed to pay medical benefits retroactive to the beginning of the strike, a small increase in pension fund

payments, and \$30 more per month to pensioners. The company's demand for a probationary period for new hires, a two-tier pay scale, cuts in medical benefits, and other concessions were defeated.

Peabody Coal is owned by Peabody Holdings Co., the largest coal company in the United States. It operates 39 mines and

Continued on Page 3

## Reagan forced to change alibi

BY FRED FELDMAN

Soon after former national security adviser Robert McFarlane told a congressional committee that he had briefed President Ronald Reagan "dozens" of times about covert U.S. operations to aid the contras, the president began to sharply modify his pleas of ignorance.

Among other things, McFarlane testified that Reagan had specifically approved the 1984 mining of Nicaragua's harbors. Worldwide outrage over this act of aggression had led Congress to adopt the Boland Amendment barring aid to the contras.

"As a matter of fact," Reagan conceded May 16, "I was very definitely involved in the decisions about support to the freedom fighters. It was my idea to begin with."

Earlier, Reagan had claimed to know only that money was being raised for television commercials plugging the contra war. He has yet to admit his role in the secret arms airlift for the terrorists that was run out of the White House until it was exposed last fall.

The president and his aides now claim that the White House and National Security Council were exempt from the Boland Amendment, which barred "any agency or entity involved in intelligence activities" from providing "direct or indirect" aid to the contras from October 1984 to October 1985. Congress voted to permit "humanitarian" aid the following year.

White House officials suggest that any

congressional restriction on the president's power to wage covert war on Nicaragua would have been unconstitutional. "The only restriction on me," Reagan told U.S. *News and World Report* magazine, "was

Continued on Page 16

## Interview with Linder family

In this issue we feature a special interview with the parents and brother of Ben Linder, the U.S. engineer who was murdered by contras in Nicaragua.

The interview was obtained while the Linders were in Washington for a special congressional hearing on Ben Linder's death. In the interview, they provide a personal portrait of Ben, explain what his work was in Nicaragua, and what motivated him to be there.

They also explain why his death has deepened their resolve to build opposition to the U.S.-sponsored contra war against Nicaragua.

The interview is on pages 4-5.



# 'Our victory is yours — it can be done'

## Watsonville cannery striker speaks at New York celebration

BY BECKY ELLIS  
AND L PALTRINERI

NEW YORK — "I wasn't always sure that we'd get this far. But we knew we wouldn't give up. They call us stubborn Mexican women. I guess they're right. That's why we won. Our strike victory is your victory. *Si se puede* — it can be done!"

These were the words of Gloria Betancourt, president of the Strikers' Committee of Teamsters Local 912.

That union recently won a victory in their hard-fought 18-month long strike in Watsonville, California, against Watsonville Canning and Frozen Food Co. and its successor Norcal Frozen Foods.

Betancourt spoke at a victory celebration at Hunter College in Manhattan attended by 150 people. The meeting was sponsored by the Hispanic American Club, the Free South Africa Committee at Hunter College, and Local 23-25 of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

Betancourt described how previously inexperienced union members (a large majority of Local 912 members are Mexican women) stepped forward to become leaders of the strike.

"We knew we had to rely on ourselves, to do things we had never done before. We had to hold the strike together and hold our families together too. We had to learn how to organize meetings week after week where everyone could come together and struggle out our differences," she said. "We had to learn how to make leaflets and give speeches. We developed a strong core of fighters."

Betancourt explained that the Watson-

ville unionists felt it was important to have as much support as possible during the strike from the national Teamsters union.

The strikers also reached out to and received support from other unions. And they met with activists from the Chicano and student movements.

She stressed the importance of their victory as an example for Chicanos fighting for their rights. Betancourt also offered solidarity to workers in the fields near Watsonville, many of whom are Latino. She said farm workers face even more difficult conditions than the cannery workers.

"We kept our union. We kept our seniority. We kept wage parity with other canneries. And we kept our health benefits. These," Betancourt continued, "were the concrete victories of the strike. But most important, we are better organized today than when the strike began."

"That's important," she explained, "because now that we are back trimming

spinach and broccoli in the plant we are facing some harassment from management. Some workers have been sent home for working too slowly," she said. But the union has forced the company to pay the workers for the lost time.

"The strike is over," she said, "but the struggle against the bosses continues." She said Local 912 plans to reach out to the 70,000 cannery workers in the Watsonville area. And Local 912 is already preparing for a round of negotiations with the company next February.

Bill Nuchow, secretary-treasurer of Teamsters Local 840, and Kathy Andrade, chairperson of the Coalition of Labor Union Women's Hispanic Committee and ILGWU Local 23-25's education director were also at the meeting. The Chinese ILGWU Chorus and the Children's Dance Group from the Community Association of Progressive Dominicans provided entertainment.



Kurt Ellison/Register Pajaronian  
Watsonville Teamsters march to celebrate victory in 18-month strike.

## Texas rally backs striking LTV workers

BY KATHRYN CROWDER

DALLAS — Unionists and their family members from several states took part in a day-long demonstration here April 20 outside LTV Corp.'s national headquarters.

They were protesting the company's attacks on striking workers at its Camden, Arkansas, plant as well as its attacks on all LTV retirees.

Thirty strikers came in two buses from United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 2216 at the Camden LTV plant. They have been on strike for nearly 11 months. At the heart of this labor battle is the workers' right to be represented by a union.

The local won a bargaining election in early 1986. But LTV's owners refused to negotiate a contract and Local 2216 members were eventually forced on strike.

The plant manufactures missile warheads. Working conditions are extremely dangerous.

The company has thrown the vast resources at its disposal into trying to break the union. Thugs have attacked Local 2216 members on the picket lines and elsewhere. The child of a striker was killed when their home was burned to the ground.

LTV has restarted production with scabs and is trying to have the union decertified.

"What do we want? — Justice," "The time is right for a workers' Bill of Rights," and "Who built the cities? — workers, workers," were chanted for hours. T-shirts, signs, and banners read, "An injury to one is an injury to all," and "We are soldiers of solidarity."

An open microphone rally began in the afternoon. Worker after worker described LTV's attacks. "We have come to tell LTV that we will no longer stand by and give concessions," said Local 2216 leader Donna Burton. "People like us — teachers, government employees, and all working class people — are demanding that we be treated with dignity. Starting here today on April 20 we want you to remember we are going to fight," Burton said.

Last year LTV filed for reorganization under the federal bankruptcy law. The company then suspended medical coverage and pension payments to retired workers. A retired steelworker from Aliquippa, Pennsylvania, told the rally workers are not facing "a war of bullets," but "a war of bankruptcy and corporate greed."

Participants included members of the UAW from Dallas/Forth Worth-area LTV, General Motors, and Bell Helicopter plants. Unionists were there from area Rockwell International, General Dynamics and Boeing plants.

Steelworkers from LTV plants in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Indiana also participated. A spirited contingent of flight attendants involved in a struggle with American Airlines joined the protest later in the day.

Kathryn Crowder is a member of UAW Local 848 at LTV's Grand Prairie, Texas, plant.

## American Airlines flight attendants fight to end two-tier wage scale

BY BOB BRUCE

DALLAS — Three hundred flight attendants and their supporters marched through the downtown area here last month in their fight to win a better contract at American Airlines. The workers are members of the Association of Professional Flight Attendants (APFA).

Their main demand is an end to the two-tier pay scale the airline instituted in 1983. Under this system, "A-scale" attendants are paid about \$25,000 a year while the base pay for "B-scale" attendants begins at under \$12,000.

Over 40 percent of the 10,000 union members are B-scalers. Under the current contract, it takes 15 years to reach A-scale.

The airline recently fired 20 attendants for passing out literature at the Dallas/Fort

Worth International Airport critical of American's safety practices. The union is fighting the firings in court.

The APFA is not on strike. The union is combining legal moves with a public pressure campaign against the airline. Ray Rogers from Corporate Campaign, Inc. is helping to lead that effort.

Other unionists joined the April protest including members of the Independent Federation of Flight Attendants and the United Auto Workers. The 20 fired unionists were introduced individually at the rally.

Speakers included APFA President Patt Gibbs, Dave Perdue from United Auto Workers Local 276, and Crystal Lee Sutton, the textile worker portrayed in the movie *Norma Rae*.

## Connecticut: workers on strike at Uretek vote for garment union

Workers at the Uretek plant in New Haven, Connecticut, voted 25-6 to be represented by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU).

The workers went on strike February 20 protesting the company's unfair labor practices.

A major issue is safety on the job. The company uses dangerous chemicals to coat fabrics, causing a high rate of hepatitis to develop among Uretek workers.

In the days before the representation election, which was held on May 5, workers received up to three letters a day from management trying to convince them not to vote for the union.

ILGWU representative Danny Perez says the union will now try to negotiate a contract with Uretek.

## The Militant tells the truth — Subscribe today!



### Enclosed is

- ☐ \$3.00 for 12 weeks, new readers
- ☐ \$6.00 for 12 weeks, renewals
- ☐ \$12.00 for six months
- ☐ \$24.00 for one year

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Union/School/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Send to THE MILITANT, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014

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.

Subscribe today.

If you already have a subscription, by renewing now for six months or a year you'll receive a free issue of *New International* (cover price \$5.00), a magazine of Marxist politics and theory published in New York. The current issue features the article, "The Coming Revolution in South Africa," by Jack Barnes.

## The Militant

Closing news date: May 20, 1987

Coeditors: MARGARET JAYKO and DOUG JENNESS

Circulation Director: MALIK MIAH

Nicaragua Bureau Director: CINDY JAQUITH

Business Manager: JIM WHITE

Editorial Staff: Susan Apstein, Fred Feldman, Ernest Harsch, Arthur Hughes, Sam Manuel, Harvey McArthur (Nicaragua), Roberto Kopec (Nicaragua), Harry Ring, Norton Sandler.

Published weekly except one week in August and the last week of December by the Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Telephone: Editorial Office, (212) 243-6392; Telex, 497-4278; Business Office, (212) 929-3486.

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to The Militant Business Office, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

Second-class postage paid at New York, N.Y. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Militant, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Subscriptions: U.S., Canada, Latin America: for one-year subscription send \$24, drawn on a U.S. bank, to above address. By first-class (airmail), send \$60. Britain, Ireland, Continental Europe, Africa: send £25 check or international money order made out to Pathfinder Press and send to Pathfinder, 47 The Cut, London SE1 8LL, England. Australia, Asia, Pacific: send Australian \$60 to Pathfinder Press, P.O. Box 37, Leichhardt, Sydney, NSW 2040, Australia.

Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant's* views. These are expressed in editorials.



# Head of mine local describes issues in western strikes

Continued from front page  
employs 12,200 workers.

## Seneca mine strike

After explaining the new contract, Cobb described the strike at the Seneca mine where he has worked since 1973. This Peabody mine is one of several surface mines near this town of 1,500 located on the beautiful western slopes of the Rocky Mountains in northern Colorado. I knew I had reached Hayden when "We support UMWA" signs began to appear on lawns and in windows.

"At one time," Cobb said, "this whole valley was mines." Now many mines have shut down, and many miners have lost their jobs. There are 91 UMWA members at the Seneca mine, including 23 coal-truck drivers who work for another company but who are organized in Local 1385 along with the miners.

After the strike started, the company had about 30 people working in the mine. This included management and some scabs, but no union members crossed the picket line. For the first time since the mine opened, the company used private guards to escort scabs into the mine, reported another UMWA member I spoke with.

Although there aren't many other unions in the area, Cobb explained, the local got a lot of support from the unionists there are — members of the United Food and Commercial Workers, other UMWA locals, and members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers who work at

the nearby power plants that use the coal produced at the Seneca and other area mines.

They sent messages and money and helped walk the picket line. The striking miners also got support from their families and others in the community.

## Strike office

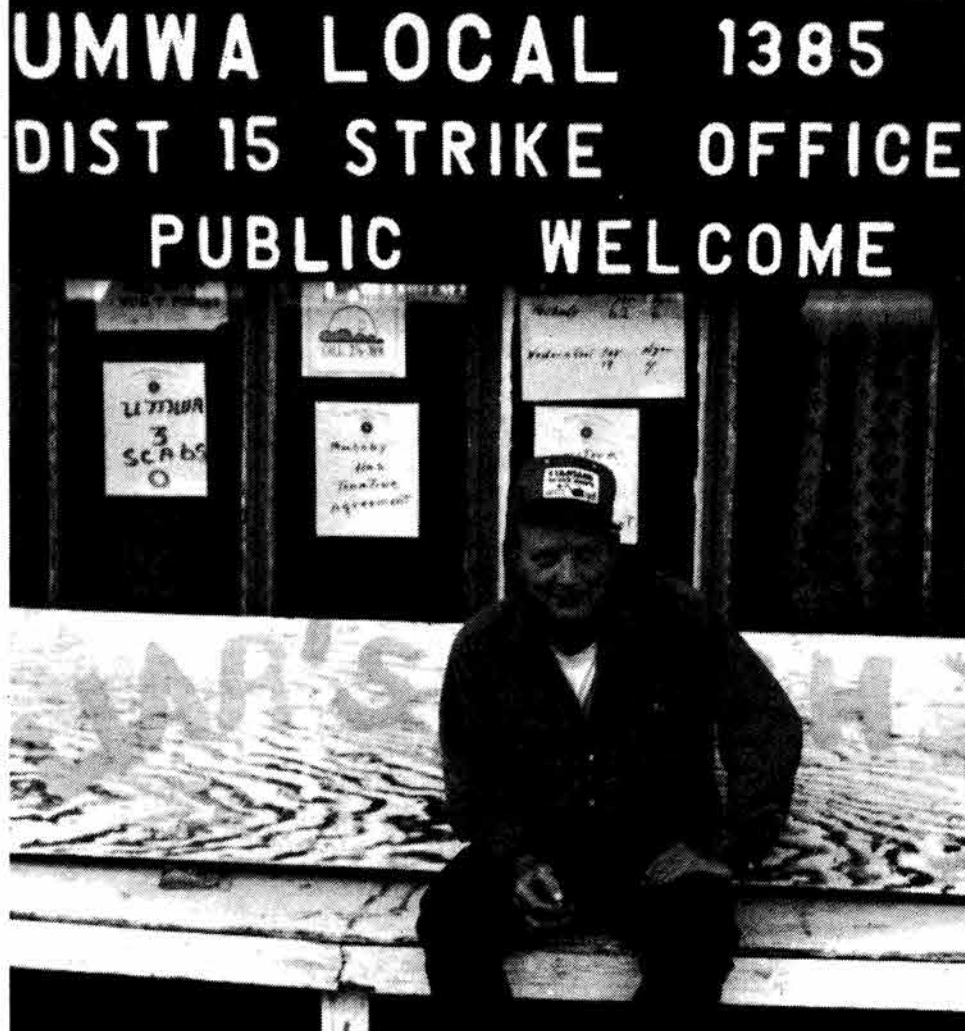
The union took the step of opening a strike office. Cobb said, "We decided to open an office to educate our membership and the townspeople about the issues in this strike." The local got a break in rent from Suellen, who runs the town's cafe right next to strike headquarters. "Suellen is our main supporter," said Cobb with a grin, "her husband is on strike at the Colorado Yampa mine."

The walls of the strike office are covered with union information, letters, pictures, picket lists, posters, and other signs of strike activity. For the first one and a half months of the strike the office was staffed 12 hours a day and used by other UMWA locals as well. Although the strike is over, the local is discussing trying to keep the office open.

Another step was the organization of a women's auxiliary for the first time in the history of the local.

## Women's auxiliary

On May 16 I spoke with several members of the Women's Auxiliary at Kathy Hockin's home, where a fundraising carwash was taking place. Hockin, its presi-



Militant/Nancy Burton

Kerry Cobb, president of UMWA Local 1385.

dent, and Mary Ann Franco, the auxiliary's secretary, took a break from washing cars to talk about their newly formed organization.

Sitting around the kitchen table over iced tea, Hockin explained why the auxiliary had been formed. "This is the fourth strike we've been through [since the mine opened

in 1964], but it is the first time that there has been this kind of hard feelings. The company brought in the private guards and hired scabs. They wrote letters and took out ads. But they wouldn't negotiate with the union."

"The state of Colorado forced men to cross the picket line," she continued. "They said they would take away the unemployment benefits unless they crossed. In one case a man was literally forced to take his brother's job. Others refused to do it and did lose benefits. I don't know what would have happened if the strike hadn't ended."

"But if the men didn't win, if we lost our union, we would lose everything for our children. We are a strong union community now."

"Peabody treated us like we were a bunch of dummies. We showed them that we aren't."

During the strike, the auxiliary organized a food bank for the strikers' families. Now they are raising funds to help out families in which there has been an illness. One is a UMWA family, and one is not. Hockin said this was important to show the auxiliary's concern for the community as a whole, not only miners' families. They are also working on a project to raise money for miners in their fight against Massey Coal Co. in southern West Virginia and eastern Kentucky.

Strikes by the UMWA continue at Colorado Yampa Coal Co. in Oak Creek, Colorado, and at the FMC mine in Kemmerer, Wyoming.

# 200 new subscribers in Puerto Rico

BY JOSÉ ALVARADO,  
MIKE FITZSIMMONS,  
AND MARILEE TAYLOR

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — Our subscription team here, fielded by *Perspectiva Mundial*, the monthly Spanish-language sister publication of the *Militant*, just finished a two-week tour of the island.

The team's goal was to expand the readership of *PM* in this U.S. colony. Prior to the team's arrival, several hundred people were already subscribers to *PM*. Many had bought subscriptions last fall when another sales team toured the island.

We began selling on May 4. In two weeks, our four-person team, headed by *PM* staff writer Selva Nebbia, sold 205 *PM* and one *Militant* subscriptions. The team also sold 183 *PM*s and \$423 worth of Pathfinder literature.

During the second week, a *PM* supporter from Guánica, Magda Moreno, joined the team. She helped sell subscriptions on the University of Puerto Rico campus at Mayagüez, and participated in a sale at the electrical plant in Guayanilla.

Our first week was spent in the San Juan area. We sold 60 *PM* subscriptions the first three days at the University of Puerto Rico-Río Piedras campus, along with \$200 worth of Pathfinder literature. Some students who already subscribe to *PM* told us they were using *PM* for research on Nicaragua and South Africa.

Other students active in the Pro-Independence University Federation are participating in tours and brigades this summer to Nicaragua. We met several University of Puerto Rico students who are going with the Roberto Clemente work brigade to Nicaragua in July.

Santiago, a *PM* supporter, organized a sales table at the technical college in Bayamón, where we sold 13 *PM* subscriptions, 11 single copies, and \$35 worth of Pathfinder literature. This is the first time a *PM* team has visited this two-year college.

Santiago also organized a university radio station interview with the team. The program focused on the U.S. labor movement, the current U.S. economic crisis, and the deepening war in Central America.

We also sold door-to-door at the university cooperative in Trujillo Alto. Nine subscriptions were sold there in less than an hour.

On May 8 we participated in a march called by the Puerto Rican Federation of Teachers. Hundreds of teachers and supporters demonstrated, demanding the right to collective bargaining and higher wages.

Some 29 subscriptions and \$60 worth of literature were sold.

We also sold 37 *PM*s to workers at a large electrical plant near San Juan.

The second week, the team based its activity in the western area of the island. We set up literature tables and sold subscriptions at the University of Puerto Rico in Mayagüez. Although students there were taking final exams, the team sold more than 60 *PM* subscriptions in three days, as well as many books and single copies.

In addition, the team sold 27 *PM*s at two tuna fish plants, Neptune and Starkist, in Mayagüez. We sold six *PM*s at the Sultan garment factory there and three issues at a high school.

In the nearby town of Guayanilla, the team sold 28 *PM*s to workers at the electrical plant during their lunch hour.

We met with sugarcane workers in Guánica, members of the General Union of Agricultural Workers.

In the town of Cabo Rojo we met with activists who are organizing a national protest on May 24 against the installation of a Voice of America transmitter in that city.

Efforts made by supporters of *PM* on the island contributed to the team's success. Many subscribers were glad to see another team in Puerto Rico. Six, in fact, responded to a letter from the *PM* office announcing the team's arrival. They arranged housing and set up meetings and interviews for us.

Some *PM* supporters helped sell subscriptions, and several subscribers asked us for subscription blanks and *PM*s to continue to introduce the socialist publication to other people.

Several subscribers also volunteered to write articles for *PM* on events in Puerto Rico.

# Youth call for work brigades to Nicaragua

BY MICHAEL BAUMANN

NEW YORK — Six young fighters against the war in Central America and U.S. support to apartheid in South Africa — all of whom had helped build the April 25 antiwar demonstration in Washington, D.C. — spoke at a forum here May 15 sponsored by the Young Socialist Alliance.

The central theme was, as Lisa Ahlberg put it, "How can we take advantage of the new stage of deep crisis the government is in so we can deal a big blow to the U.S.-run war in Nicaragua?"

Ahlberg, a garment worker and a national leader of the YSA, pointed to the opportunities to send more brigades, and more volunteers to Nicaragua, saying, "We can all learn from the example set by Ben Linder, and by Cuba, around the world."

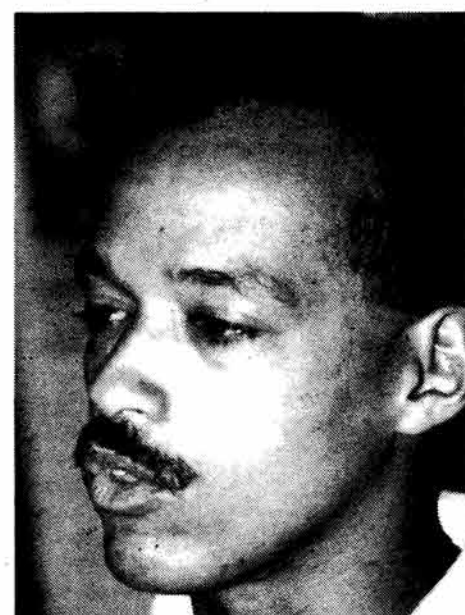
Kermit Beauchamp, a construction worker who has worked on brigades in Nicaragua and currently helps organize them, explained how the brigades can be an important tool in expanding U.S. opposition to the contra war.

Living and working with the Nicaraguan people is a "unique educational experience," he said. What's more, "our meetings grew larger" after Linder was killed. "New people came. They were teed off — not intimidated."

Bill Spencer, national youth organizer of the Democratic Socialists of America, called the April 25 demonstration a "historic occasion for the union movement." He noted the extensive union participation despite red-baiting efforts to halt it by the top leadership of the AFL-CIO.

Other speakers were T. Kuiri, who brought greetings from the South West Africa People's Organisation of Namibia; Mojaki Thulo, a member of the youth section of the African National Congress of South Africa; María Cruz of Project Sister University of El Salvador; and Tricia Feely, a member of the Hunter College Central America Solidarity Committee.

Three of the speakers indicated they were planning to continue the discussion by attending the YSA convention in Chicago on Memorial Day weekend.



Militant/Holbrook Mahn

Kermit Beauchamp, construction worker who has participated in brigades to Nicaragua, spoke at New York forum.



# Interview with Ben Linder's family

## 'My son was killed in Nicaragua doing what he believed in'

BY HARRY RING

WASHINGTON, D.C. — During a visit here, Elisabeth, David, and John Linder granted an interview to the *Militant*.

The parents of Ben Linder, the U.S. engineer slain by contras in Nicaragua April 28, David and Elisabeth Linder were here to testify about their son's murder before a House Foreign Affairs subcommittee.

John Linder, Ben's older brother, joined them in making initial arrangements for a national speaking tour in which they and Ben's sister, Miriam, will participate.

In the interview, their grief over Ben's death was apparent. But equally apparent was a firm resolve that they will not be deterred from speaking out against the U.S.-sponsored contra war that claimed Ben's life.

They were still angry at some of the things they were subjected to. At the congressional hearing Rep. Connie Mack (R-Fla.) accused them of trying to exploit their son's death for political purposes when they should instead be home grieving.

And, in testimony, Assistant Secretary of State Elliott Abrams tried to convey that Ben's death was his own fault because he chose to be in a war zone, and the fault of the Nicaraguan government for permitting him to be there.

"When he [Representative Mack] said we should be home grieving, I think I responded that this was the cruelest thing anyone had said to me," Elisabeth recalled. "And when they said it was Ben's own fault that he died, that made me even angrier."

### 'Like in a fishbowl'

David spoke about when they first received notice of Ben's death. "Our daughter, Miriam, Elisabeth, and I were home, in Portland. With all the publicity, we felt like we were in a fishbowl. We talked, and we felt we had to respond to that by doing what we thought was right, and what Ben would want."

"So we buried Ben in Nicaragua because that was what he wanted. That's where his work was. That's where all of his fulfillment was. We didn't do it for any propaganda motive."

David added, "It became quite apparent too that Ben means something to an awful lot of other people. And I'll honor that close relationship that other people have with him, and support them in their identity

with Ben, with his work, and with his identity with Nicaragua, which I'm very supportive of."

Elisabeth added, "We had been against this war from the very beginning, long before Ben was killed. But his murder brings it home for us and makes it that much more immediate — that the killing has to stop, that the war has to stop, and U.S. policy has to change completely."

John joined in. "Those politicians who say we're politicizing Ben's death, they just want silent victims. It was their policy, their war, that killed him. There's really no other way to remember him — no other way he'd want to be remembered."

"If it were some accidental death, we'd respond by grieving privately. But when it's a conscious policy — when he's one of 15,000 that have been killed in this war — then to respond by simply shutting yourself up in the house, that's not going to stop more Bens from dying."

### The funeral

They talked about Ben's funeral in Matagalpa, near where he had been killed. Along with President Daniel Ortega and other ranking government officials, many area residents came.

"I'm just very glad we went," Elisabeth said. "The kind of care and affection that came pouring out for us was just amazing. It gave me a sense of what Ben's life there must have been like. It told me very clearly that Ben had been happy there, the three years he lived there."

"Ben came home to visit last summer," David recalled. "He told me the situation was dangerous and even gave me details about the danger. I said to him, 'I'm a backseat driver, which is always difficult. But I'm worried about you. What are your concerns?'"

"Ben said, 'My first concern is, can I do the job right as an engineer?' His second concern was whether he could integrate himself into this extremely rural area of El Cuá, be accepted by the people there."

"And, the third thing, he was worried about the war."

"Then," David continued, "I talked with a local doctor who had also gone to work in Nicaragua. And he reacted exactly the same way. The first thing he was thinking about was, 'Can I do the job?' Doing the job seems to take distinct precedent over

the danger."

Why did they feel this way? "I think you have to use the words the Nicaraguans use for their revolution — 'the process.' They were part of 'the process.' They were living the revolution."

John said that when Ben first went to work on an electrical development project in Nicaragua, he didn't plan to stay more than a year or two. "Then it became two or three. And in one of his last letters, he said it looked like it would be another five to complete what he'd started."

"I think he felt that his skill was useful, that he was doing something that made a difference. But more than that, he came to identify more and more with the Nicaraguans and what they were going through."

### What the revolution means

David added, "In his last letter, Ben closed by talking about the victories of the revolutionary process and, as a measure, that despite the adversity, a school was being opened. That's what the revolution

gave," David said.

John has been an active socialist since he was 14. Involved in the high school movement against the Vietnam War, he joined the Young Socialist Alliance and, later, the Socialist Workers Party, in which he remains a member.

Like other SWP members, John said, "the Nicaraguan revolution has meant a lot to me. But I know I felt a special closeness to Nicaragua because Ben was down there. It gave me a closer knowledge. His letters, being able to visit him."

In 1984 John spent several months in Nicaragua. He worked on a brigade harvesting coffee. He then traveled around the country and spent a period of time with Ben.

### 'Fun challenges'

"I got some insights about Ben," he said. "He was like a fish in water. Things that would be hard on other people from this country — be it crowded buses, having to eat on the street, living in a jam-packed



Funeral in Matagalpa. Linder family, left, with Nicaragua's President Daniel Ortega, center, and Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto, far right.

was to him."

How were the Linders so readily able to appreciate and identify with Ben's concerns? I asked about their own backgrounds.

Elisabeth said that for a number of years she's been active in the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and is currently co-chair of the Portland chapter. "But," she added, "other than that, I've never been much of a joiner."

Did she participate in the April 25 antiwar demonstration?

She smiled. "Which one? This year, or 1971?"

She had been in the April 1971 march against the Vietnam War, and in this one against U.S. policy in Central America as well.

And earlier, in the 1960s, she had helped raise funds for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and other civil rights fighters.

When not occupied raising three children, she worked as a welfare advocate in a community action program, "representing welfare recipients when Welfare was mistreating them, or denying their rights." Then for a period she worked in the public defender's office.

"I think these things explain me more than any formal political involvement," she observed.

### A longtime pathologist

And David?

An M.D. specializing in pathology, he never had much time for direct social involvement. "I've been a family man, a father," he said.

"I got a vicarious thrill out of Elisabeth's efforts," he added, "and I identified with these things."

Since his retirement, he has become more directly involved. He's now active in the Portland-Corinto sister city program. Corinto is the big Nicaraguan port that was mined by U.S.-hired mercenaries.

"I focused on that rather than, say El Salvador or Guatemala — there are troubles everywhere — because Ben was in Nicara-

house — these things were like fun challenges to Ben."

"He was very content with who he was and what he was doing. It's not often that you can be both learning and contributing."

John met a number of Ben's friends and this added to his own understanding of the Nicaraguan revolution, as well as giving him added appreciation of the person who had earlier been "the kid brother."

John described Luis, a carpenter and close friend of Ben's in El Cuá.

Luis had recalled to him how after the October 1983 U.S. invasion of Grenada, when Nicaragua feared a similar attack, Ben was new in the area. When Nicaragua declared an alert, Luis and others thought that Ben might split and that would be the last they'd see of him. But, Luis told John, Ben was still there every day and they became good friends.

Luis lives in a modest, dirt-floor house, complete with chicken and small pigs, John said, "and Ben felt totally comfortable there. He would visit and they would have a drink and discuss politics, discuss projects to improve the area."

Since 1983 Ben had worked on energy projects, initially on adding a small unit to the big geothermal plant at Momotombo, near Managua.

### El Cuá project

That completed, he undertook the project of helping to build the mini hydroelectric plant at El Cuá.

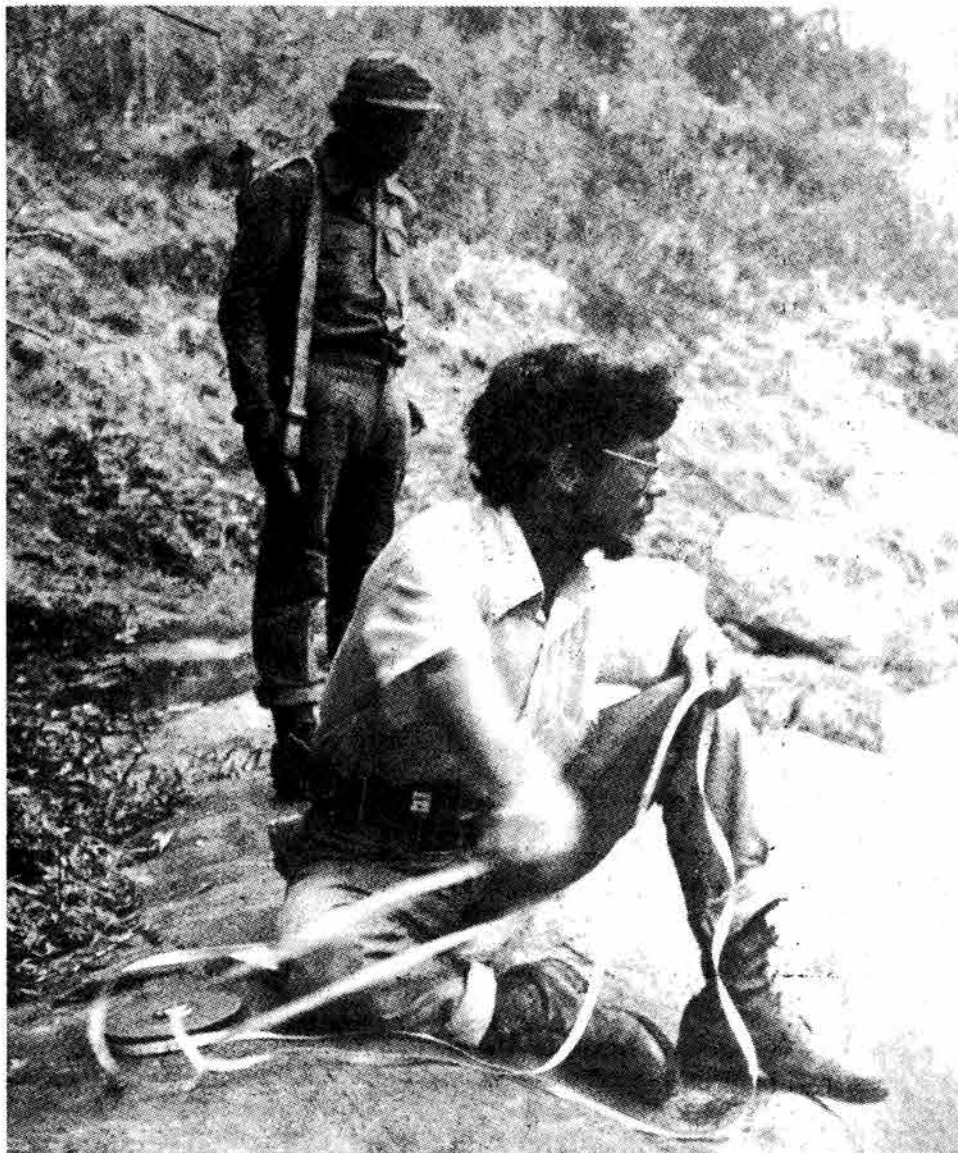
The plant is part of a broader project to make electricity available for homes and to eventually make possible a sawmill, a livestock facility, and a machine shop.

El Cuá is located in a remote area of northern Nicaragua in which the contras operate.

It was there, on April 28, that a contra gang struck, killing Ben and two Nicaraguans. Ben was wounded by a grenade, and then shot at point-blank range.

In Nicaragua for the funeral, David talked with the doctor who did the autopsy and studied his report.

"I concurred with him," David said.



Ben Linder working on El Cuá hydroelectric project



"The claim that Ben was caught in cross fire, that's nonsense. They went right at him at close quarters and they murdered him."

Since his death, a Ben Linder Memorial Fund has been established to help complete the electrification project.

The Linder family feels much involved with this, and Elisabeth made a point of noting the address for potential contributors: Ben Linder Memorial Fund, 3558 SE Hawthorne Blvd., Portland, Ore. 97214.

In Nicaragua, Ben also contributed his talent as a clown and a juggler.

He had first become interested in clowning as a teenager, his family said, and worked at it throughout college.

"At one point," Elisabeth recalled, "he decided to also become a tightrope walker. That's the only time David tried to dissuade one of our children from doing something."

John described seeing Ben perform in Nicaragua. He was invited to entertain at the opening of a *tienda popular*, a "people's store" that provides basic goods more cheaply.

#### 'His hat and a puddle'

"He was dressed up like a clown," John said, "and played some games in the street before things got going. In one act, he used nothing but his hat and a puddle in the street. He did another with an empty soft drink can someone had stepped on."

"Then, using his juggling clubs, he did the story of Nicaragua's hero Augusto César Sandino defeating the U.S. Marines."

"Afterward, he walked through the street, with all these little kids running along shouting 'Clown, clown!'"

John said Ben had shown him his favorite poster, outside the headquarters of the Nicaraguan national circus in Managua. It said, "In the face of this happiness, the enemy trembles."

David said, "A few weeks before he was killed, he was clowning. He wore a gown pockmarked like measles and played a pied piper to bring the kids in for their immunization shots."

The Linders talked about their experience in Nicaragua at the time of Ben's funeral.

David and Elisabeth had visited Nicaragua in 1983, but their visit was cut short by illness.

Elisabeth said that because of this, their initial impressions were limited. Like most U.S. visitors, they were struck by the poverty of the country. But at the same time, she said, "there was definitely a sense of hope and optimism. That was what struck me most."

David spoke of how the new Nicaraguan constitution was adopted. "Instead of selling it to the people," he said, "they presented it to them. And they listened to what people said, and they made changes."

Another thing that made a deep impression on him was the various development projects that are being carried out and the way they are going about it, despite the war.

#### 'More authority to people'

"In the midst of this war," he said, "they're decentralizing authority, giving greater authority to people on a local level. It shows a confidence in the people. Wars have always meant more centralization of authority, but they're decentralizing it."

A one-time GI, David was also struck by "the bearing of the military. They walked with such clarity and briskness. They walked like they were somebody — not arrogant people. But they were people. And I was impressed by the guards they had around. Their guns never seemed dangerous to me or anyone else."

Elisabeth talked about the funeral, relating it to some of the hostile comments at the congressional hearing.

"We've been accused, on the one hand of using this for political advantage, and on the other they suggest we're being duped," she said. "That Ortega went to the funeral because it was a good political show."

"It just didn't seem that way. There wasn't any posturing. Every politician I've



Militant/Harry Ring

John, Elisabeth, and David Linder: brother, mother, and father of engineer murdered by contras.

met here — granted not that many and not that high up — their concern is, How do I look? Whether it's in front of the TV camera, on radio, or in front of the people.

"I got no feeling of that whatever with Ortega. And we spoke with others in government, where there wasn't any radio, any TV. I felt — and I don't think I'm that naive — that there was a real human concern for us, the family."

"There was a desire to talk about Ben's life there, a desire to talk about Nicaragua."

#### An added dimension

In her youth, Elisabeth lived for six years in Mexico and has a working knowledge of Spanish. That added a dimension to the visit for her.

"A lot of people came to talk to us," she said. "To express their condolences, or tell an anecdote about having met Ben, or having known him. Or talking about the mothers of some of the Nicaraguans that have been killed."

"I suppose I could feel the warmth from people like that more than someone who doesn't speak the language, even when you translated it for them."

"I hope too," she continued, "that they felt a little closer because I did speak Spanish. I translated David's remarks at the funeral. I hope that conveyed the closeness that I felt, a closeness that I may not have articulated too well."

John described the experience he and his sister Miriam had of speaking at the huge May Day rally in Managua. They had planned to attend, but had no idea of speaking. A few minutes beforehand they were invited to say a few words if they wished.

"We agreed and put a few ideas together," John recalled. "Miriam said we had known grief following Ben's death that's very deep, deeper than anything we've experienced. And that we know that many Nicaraguan families — 15,000 Nicaraguan families — have experienced the same thing."

"She said thank you to the Nicaraguan people for carrying out their revolution so that Ben could live a full and meaningful life."

Chuckling, he added, "I think she ended by saying, 'Keep up the good work.'"

#### 'A little tension'

John said he couldn't remember too exactly what he had said. "There's a little tension," he explained, "when all of a sudden you have 70,000 people in front of you and you haven't even written a note down."

What he does remember is that "basically I said that it was the United States government that was guilty of killing Ben, and that the people of the United States were much closer to Ben in their opinion of the contra war than they are to the opinion of the government."

#### A postscript

David added another example of the Nicaraguan "process" that made so profound an impression on him. He recalled

that in his testimony before the House committee he had added a postscript:

"I would like to add that Thursday, April 30, the day of Ben's funeral, the canal which directs water to the generator at El Cuá, eroded and partially collapsed."

"The next day, 500 volunteers from El Cuá, nearly every able-bodied person in a town of 2,000, turned out to repair the damage. They were attacked by contra forces that day."

"Some were wounded, none were killed. They returned en masse the next day and continued working. By the following Tuesday, the cement was poured and the canal was ready for full operation."

Elisabeth discussed the anger evoked in this country by Ben's death, and the many reports of a step-up in the number of people volunteering to go to Nicaragua to help with work projects there.

For the Linders, who worried during Ben's stay there and now experience his loss, this is not a matter they take lightly.

They have deep parental concerns and respect that concern in others. At the same time, they take pride in the fact that they've never interfered with their children's lives.

David puts it this way: "Ben went to Nicaragua in order to follow his own star. My son was killed doing what he believed in. If there is one thing I hope the example of his life accomplishes, it is to inspire other young people to follow their star."

Elisabeth said, "Someone asked me what I would say to the parents of someone who wanted to go down there. My response was that all I can do is tell Ben's story and say how I felt about his being there. I would tell how satisfied he was with his life there."

"We never tried to dissuade him. But, yes, we were worried all the time."

#### 'You won't scare us'

In a firm, measured voice, she said: "The message our government is trying to give is to scare people away from this. I think the response is facing up to that and

saying, 'On the contrary, you won't scare us.'"

John emphasized the point. "They say that by going down there, you're putting yourself in harm's way. That was Elliott Abrams' whole defense in Ben's death. That this should be a warning to North Americans to stay out of what he called combat zones."

"But if Abrams had his way, all of Nicaragua would be a combat zone. Ben, who was a North American, had the option of leaving. But what happens to the Nicaraguans? Where do they go if their whole country becomes a free-fire zone?"

"The message the United States government is trying to send to U.S. volunteers is: Give up or you'll be killed. The reason Ben kept working — and the reason the Nicaraguans keep working — is that they understand the choice is: Fight back or give up."

"They've given up too many lives already," John declared, "and they don't have any intention of giving them up in vain. And they see a brighter day ahead of them."

#### Hundreds of messages

Elisabeth described the response she and David have received at home.

"We've gotten literally hundreds of messages," she said. "They fill a big carton. We've only been able to read a fraction so far."

"All the messages convey condolences," she continued. "And many say, 'We want to do something.' Several indicated they were small groups of people that intended to raise money to help send people to Nicaragua. One group said they were setting up a Ben Linder scholarship fund to send people."

She told of a particularly moving experience. The San Francisco Mime Troupe sent them a bouquet of flowers. The person who brought them from the local florist said to her: "I'm just a deliveryman. But I want to tell you how sorry I am. And I want to do something."

## Rally for Political Rights

Chicago

Saturday, May 23, 8:00 p.m.

#### Hear:

**John Studer**, executive director, Political Rights Defense Fund, which is backing landmark lawsuit against illegal political spying by FBI and other government agencies

**Héctor Marroquín**, fighting for U.S. citizenship

**David Linder**, father of Ben Linder, U.S. engineer murdered by Nicaraguan contras

**William Taylor**, president of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 7507

Grand Ballroom, Hyatt-Regency Hotel, 151 E. Wacker Dr., Chicago

Sponsored by Political Rights Defense Fund

For more information, call: PRDF, (212) 691-3270 or (312) 326-5853



# Maryland unionists snap up antiwar coverage

BY RACHELE FRUIT

BALTIMORE — Supporters of the *Militant* have been selling at area industrial sites for some time now.

We work a variety of shifts, including rotating shifts, and mak-

Washington, D.C., full of enthusiasm about the willingness of thousands of workers to march against U.S. foreign policy and about the new generation of youth demanding peace and justice.

We read the report on the march

fence indicated private property ahead. We pulled to the side of the road, opened the hatchback, and leaned a big sign against the car that read, "April 25th march on D.C. Read report here in the *Militant*, \$3 for 12 weeks."

The rain stopped during the shift change. Workers going in approached us and rolled down their car or truck windows. A few pulled over. "I didn't go to the march, but I know some people inside who did," was a common response.

"Is this paper legit?" asked one guy after he bought his copy. About 40 percent of the workers we saw were women, about 15 percent Blacks.

It was more difficult to reach the workers who were leaving the factory, as a stream of 50 or 60 cars came flying down the road at 40-50 miles per hour. We gave it a shot anyway. We turned our sign around and lined up ready to talk

to anyone who was willing to slow down and stop.

In the midst of this traffic, we spotted a couple of workers wearing a button that read, "I'm proud to be IUE." The woman who was driving saw our sign, stopped the car, and said, "We were there!"

They were among the 12 workers who bought copies of the *Militant*. We did not sell any subscriptions but think that the *Militant* business office may receive a couple of subscriptions in the mail from around Frederick.

*Militant* supporters who are members of the United Steelworkers of America recently took a goal of selling 10 subscriptions to steelworkers during the current drive. Eight have been sold so far at the huge Bethlehem Steel Mill at Sparrows Point outside Baltimore.

Plant-gate sales at two of the clockhouses have been a weekly occurrence for the past year. We

usually sell two or three papers at each one.

In the midst of massive layoffs and job combinations, Bethlehem Steel reported a profit in the last quarter. Workers at Sparrows Point discussed this a lot. We decided to send a *Militant* reporting and sales team there. We obtained several interviews and sold nine papers.

The discussion focused on the attacks by the company on the workers and anger that the union is not leading a fight against thousands of job cuts.

One worker compared the fighting unions of South Africa and Nicaragua with the labor organizations here in the United States. He pointed out several of the books on our Pathfinder literature table and said, "Our union representatives don't know anything about Nelson Mandela or Malcolm X. They can't relate to these people."

## SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE

ing it out to these plants regularly can get tricky. Sometimes we are in such a hurry that we don't have time to discuss what we are going to do or say when we get there.

We are trying to make our sales at the plant gates more thought out and more connected to what's happening politically in the country and the world.

Recently we had two interesting experiences. We came back from the April 25 antiwar march in

in the *Militant* and saw that 30 workers from the Rotorex plant in Frederick, Maryland, marched on April 25. Rotorex is one of the nearest plants to Baltimore organized by the International Union of Electronic Workers — about 50 miles west of the city. We decided to go out there and meet some of these workers.

Our team of three set off in the rain. We found the plant 15 miles from the interstate. A sign on a

## 'PM' sales near goal, push needed for 'Militant'

BY MALIK MIAH

The *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* business office received the largest number of subscriptions May 14-20 of any week this spring, except the week following the April 25 antiwar and anti-apartheid marches. According to the *Militant's* business manager, Jim White, 544 *Militant* and 407 *PM* subscriptions came into the office.

The weekly scoreboard (see below) is compiled every Wednesday based on the number of subscriptions on hand each week. Generally, most areas of the country have sold more subscriptions than what is indicated on the scoreboard.

As the scoreboard this week shows, we have almost made our national *PM* goal, with 92 percent. The 205 *PM* subscriptions sold by the Puerto Rico sales team helped put us near the top.

However, we are 9 percent behind on the national *Militant* subscription target. Most areas of the country are behind in their *Militant* goals. It will take stepped-up organization to turn this situation around in the next two and a half weeks, as we head toward the June 6 deadline.

New York supporters, who are significantly ahead of schedule, decided last week to shoot to go way over their goal. Just two weeks ago, they raised their goal

by 100 subscriptions — from 750 to 850. Pushing for 950 — 27 percent more than the original target — will be a big aid in making the national goal.

Dick Geyer, New York subscription drive organizer, said the emphasis will be on selling subscriptions to the *Militant* to help make the national target.

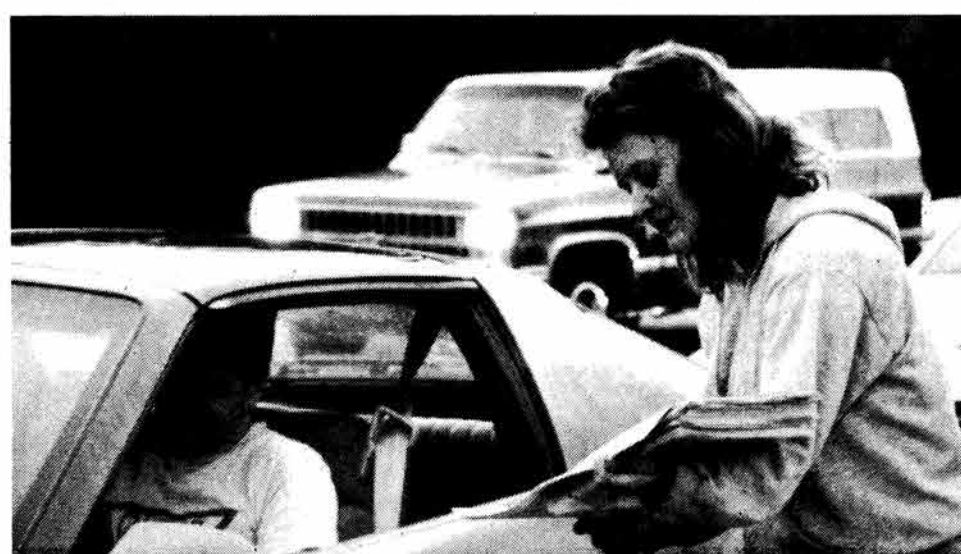
One way New York plans to step up sales, Geyer said, is to set up sales and literature tables every day during the final 12 days of the drive beginning May 26. The bulk of the subscriptions have been sold to people we meet at socialist literature tables.

Our aim is to make both the national and local *Militant* and *PM* goals.

With the warmer weather, most areas around the country can set up more tables during the target 12 days.

### San Jose

San Jose supporters recently sent out a number of regional sales teams. Young Socialist Alliance members from San Jose, Los Angeles, and Oakland sold on college campuses and at plant gates at industrial sites in Fresno, Santa Cruz, Santa Barbara, and Watsonville. They sold 49 subscriptions and distributed literature urging young people to go to the YSA's national



*Militant*/Linda Joyce

Florida team selling to workers at Pratt-Whitney military plant in West Palm Beach

convention in Chicago May 23-25.

Another team of San Jose supporters sold 15 subscriptions to cannery workers in Watsonville. Team member Jesus sold seven *PM* subscriptions at a plant gate.

Another San Jose team fanned out to Salinas, Seaside, Castroville, and Watsonville, selling 26 subscriptions and learning about the situation facing farm workers in

the area.

Two supporters in New Paltz, New York, recently sent in four *Militant* subscriptions with a note saying that at a recent support project meeting, the chairperson of the Nicaragua Support Project there mentioned the *Militant's* fine coverage of the murder of Ben Linder.

### Team sales

In addition to the Puerto Rico team, good sales were reported by teams we sent to the Yakima Valley in Washington State; western coalfields; Chicago; Watsonville, California; and Alabama coalfields.

Team captain Frank Forrestal said the Yakima Valley team found itself in the middle of a farm workers' battle with the growers. The *Militant* and *PM's* support for the workers made selling subscriptions easy. A total of 82 *PM* and 37 *Militant* subscriptions were sold by the team in less than two weeks. Another 210 *Militants* and 187 *PMs* were also sold.

The western coal team sold 19 *Militant* and four *PM* subscriptions, and 177 *Militants* and nine *PMs* as they crossed coalfields in New Mexico and Arizona. Most of the subscriptions and papers were sold by going door to door.

The one-week Watsonville sales team sold 57 *PM* and 22 *Militant* subscriptions in its first five days on the road, according to team member Virginia Angeles.

The YSA convention-building team in Chicago sold 35 subscriptions and signed up 31 new endorsers to the Political Rights Defense Fund. Some 25 people the team met on college campuses said they were planning to attend the YSA convention.

The Alabama team, reports Heather Randle, signed up 125 people who wanted more information about the YSA. A student at Auburn University bought a subscription and asked to join the YSA.

Efforts like these are laying the basis for a successful push during the final weeks of the spring subscription campaign. If you're not on a sales team yet, contact an area listed in the directory on page 16.

## Spring Subscription Scoreboard

| Area                | Goals           |                            | Sold            |                            | % Sold |
|---------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|--------|
|                     | <i>Militant</i> | <i>Perspectiva Mundial</i> | <i>Militant</i> | <i>Perspectiva Mundial</i> |        |
| Milwaukee           | 100             | 25                         | 101             | 13                         | 91     |
| New York            | 550             | 300                        | 443             | 285                        | 86     |
| Phoenix             | 80              | 100                        | 58              | 92                         | 83     |
| Baltimore           | 150             | 8                          | 111             | 18                         | 82     |
| New Paltz, N.Y.     | 10              | -                          | 8               | -                          | 80     |
| Tucson, Ariz.       | 2               | 3                          | 2               | 2                          | 80     |
| Pittsburgh          | 90              | 10                         | 66              | 9                          | 75     |
| Houston             | 75              | 10                         | 57              | 6                          | 74     |
| Des Moines, Iowa    | 100             | 10                         | 63              | 18                         | 74     |
| Los Angeles         | 325             | 200                        | 245             | 140                        | 73     |
| Seattle             | 180             | 50                         | 135             | 33                         | 73     |
| San Jose, Calif.    | 180             | 100                        | 119             | 82                         | 72     |
| Twin Cities, Minn.  | 200             | 15                         | 135             | 18                         | 71     |
| Portland, Ore.      | 125             | 25                         | 81              | 25                         | 71     |
| Oakland, Calif.     | 150             | 50                         | 116             | 25                         | 71     |
| Stony Brook, N.Y.   | 10              | -                          | 7               | -                          | 70     |
| Chicago             | 250             | 100                        | 184             | 60                         | 70     |
| Cleveland           | 125             | 15                         | 82              | 14                         | 69     |
| Boston              | 240             | 60                         | 140             | 65                         | 68     |
| Atlanta             | 110             | 10                         | 73              | 8                          | 68     |
| Capital Dist, N.Y.  | 110             | 12                         | 70              | 11                         | 66     |
| Newark, N.J.        | 375             | 175                        | 250             | 110                        | 65     |
| San Diego           | 85              | 55                         | 58              | 30                         | 63     |
| Greensboro, N.C.    | 115             | 10                         | 76              | 2                          | 62     |
| Detroit             | 190             | 20                         | 116             | 14                         | 62     |
| San Francisco       | 100             | 60                         | 64              | 35                         | 62     |
| Miami               | 110             | 40                         | 73              | 17                         | 60     |
| Morgantown, W.Va.   | 95              | 5                          | 55              | 4                          | 59     |
| Denver              | 100             | 15                         | 62              | 5                          | 58     |
| Charleston, W.Va.   | 100             | -                          | 56              | 2                          | 58     |
| Dallas              | 120             | 60                         | 64              | 34                         | 54     |
| St. Louis           | 250             | 12                         | 135             | 7                          | 54     |
| Philadelphia        | 150             | 50                         | 86              | 22                         | 54     |
| Omaha, Neb.         | 100             | 15                         | 51              | 8                          | 51     |
| Birmingham, Ala.    | 130             | 2                          | 67              | 0                          | 51     |
| Kansas City         | 120             | 20                         | 68              | 3                          | 51     |
| Amherst, Mass.      | 10              | -                          | 4               | 1                          | 50     |
| Austin, Minn.       | 80              | 10                         | 43              | 2                          | 50     |
| Toledo, Ohio        | 100             | 5                          | 48              | 2                          | 48     |
| Washington, D.C.    | 160             | 50                         | 77              | 15                         | 44     |
| Cincinnati          | 70              | 5                          | 28              | 4                          | 43     |
| Oberlin, Ohio       | 5               | -                          | 2               | -                          | 40     |
| Wilmington, Del.    | 5               | -                          | 2               | -                          | 40     |
| Salt Lake City      | 100             | 30                         | 45              | 6                          | 39     |
| New Orleans         | 90              | 10                         | 29              | 1                          | 30     |
| Price, Utah         | 45              | 2                          | 12              | 0                          | 26     |
| Annandale, N.Y.     | 70              | 10                         | 19              | 0                          | 24     |
| Ames, Iowa          | 5               | 0                          | -               | 1                          | 20     |
| Columbus, Ohio      | 25              | 5                          | 4               | 2                          | 20     |
| West Haven, Conn.   | 5               | -                          | 1               | -                          | 20     |
| Honolulu, Hawaii    | 7               | -                          | 1               | -                          | 14     |
| Clovis, Calif.      | 5               | -                          | 0               | -                          | 0      |
| Edmond, Okla.       | 5               | -                          | 0               | -                          | 0      |
| W. Palm Beach, Fla. | 5               | -                          | 0               | -                          | 0      |
| Teams               | -               | -                          | 367             | 348                        | -      |
| Other               | -               | -                          | 65              | 50                         | -      |
| Totals              | 6,700           | 1,800                      | 4,324           | 1,649                      | 70     |
| To be on schedule   | -               | -                          | 4,740           | 1,274                      | 71     |



# International Socialist Review

Supplement to the Militant June 1987

## 'The youth are the guarantee of the continuity of our revolution'

### Fidel Castro's speech to Young Communist congress in Havana

The following speech was given by Cuban President Fidel Castro April 5, 1987, to the closing session of the Union of Young Communists' (UJC) Fifth Congress. The speech is reprinted from the April 19 issue of the English-language *Granma Weekly Review*.

Castro's reference to Moncada is to the July 26, 1953, attack on the Moncada Barracks by the Castro-led revolutionaries who became the July 26th Movement.

The reference to Girón is to the invasion of Cuba by CIA-organized Cuban counterrevolutionaries on April 17, 1961. Playa Girón is the beach on the Bay of Pigs where the invaders landed.

The October Crisis of 1962 refers to Washington's threats against Cuba and the Soviet government, in which it pressed for the removal of nuclear-armed missiles in Cuba.

I must admit I was very surprised and indescribably moved to see the La Demajagua bell here, since for a few seconds it helped us recall a long history of struggle and, above all, that incident which, in an effort to evoke the patriotic feelings and the spirit of justice of those who started our struggle for independence, led to a request of the independence war veterans in Manzanillo to lend the university students the bell for a protest against a corrupt sellout government.

To tell the truth, at the time the symbol was abused, because late one night, in an incident anybody would have considered inconceivable, armed groups at the service of the prevailing regime broke into the university's Hall of Martyrs and made off with the La Demajagua bell, which later appeared in the Presidential Palace. At that time we would never have imagined that on a day like this the symbol would be renewed and honored, not just by students but by the entire population, and receive the tribute of a victorious revolution.

Its presence here tonight is very symbolic, as the congress has just ended, because I think that if any tribute can be worthy of that 10th of October, of that day when we started our struggles for independence, of those who for more than 100 years battled for freedom and justice in our country, it would be the UJC Congress which we have just witnessed. More than the congress itself, the truly worthy tribute is that of Cuban youth who have participated in it, because it represents the finest result of so many struggles, sacrifices, and lives in the history of our country.

When the comrade who heads the Federation of University Students gave us the bell clapper, I was reminded of the day when the slaves were freed at La Demajagua sugar mill, and now, 119 years later, a black student who heads the federation made the presentation of the clapper. For a second I was struck by the idea that perhaps this young man or many others like him who now work, study, or struggle as part of the revolution were descendants of the slaves freed on Oct. 10, 1868.

I sincerely feel that the work of the revolution, and among the works of the revolution the most brilliant of all, our youth, what they feel and express, what they are, the full rights they now enjoy, are, in our opinion, the most profound dreams of the founders.

If at a time like this I were asked what would have pleased the comrades who fought and died with us at the Moncada, what would have pleased all the young people and revolutionaries who gave their lives during these years of struggle, I am absolutely sure that nothing could have made them happier than the youth which you represent at the Fifth Congress.

#### A qualitative leap

This congress reflects what we could call a qualitative leap. We recall the others; we even recall the time when it was decided to adopt the name Communist.

That may seem very easy now, when "communist" is a



Fidel Castro addresses congress of Union of Young Communists April 5 in Havana

Militant/Mary-Alice Waters

respected, prestigious, and beloved word among our people. But in the early years of the revolution the youth organization adopted various names. It was called Association of Young Rebels and when the First Congress was held on April 4, 1962, after Girón and before the October Crisis — for on April 16, 1961, after the sneak attack on our air bases, at the funeral for a group of brave comrades who died, the socialist nature of the revolution was announced — the attitude of our people was one of total defiance toward imperialism. So when young people gathered in that month and year and knowing how much that word annoyed the imperialists, how much it annoyed the reactionaries, we proposed, in keeping with our ideals and objectives, that the youth organization be openly called the Union of Young Communists. (Applause) Now we feel that it was a wise decision.

The youth of the time was patriotic, revolutionary, zealous, and heroic but did not have the political education of our youth today. They did not have the communist awareness, they were not strong on theory, although their willingness and determination were unshakable. Today, among all of us, those who have attended all the sessions of the congress, comrades of the revolutionary generation of the Moncada — some even before the Moncada — there was the unanimous view that this congress which has just concluded can be called a congress of genuinely communist youth. (Applause)

This spirit was reflected in everyone and everything. I think it reflects the finest virtues of our young people, their courage, honesty, security, self-confidence, revolutionary consciousness, and high educational level. The work of the revolution and the effort of all these years were evident. It was no longer the youth of the early years of the revolution, peasants newly emerged from illiteracy, workers with a first- or second-grade education, fighters many of whom had learned to read and write after the war. It was a very different climate with different people.

It's impossible to omit the fact that many of you hadn't been born that 4th of April and many of you were only two, three, four, or six years old, few were more than five or six. We have often seen you in the schools, Pioneer centers, ceremonies and anniversaries of Pioneer and student organizations, and now we see you as delegates to the Fifth Congress. We see you as cadres of the organization or the economy, science, and even adminis-

tration.

Something else that draws our attention is that the call to form the student-teacher detachment was made at the Second Congress to deal with the boom in intermediate-level students that we faced, and one of those who responded to the call is the present-day first secretary of the UJC. (Applause)

#### The problems of the country

For those of us who attended the congress it comes as no surprise to see many party leaders happy and enthusiastic, all of them comrades who had witnessed the debate, the dialogues. There were comrades who even embraced me. It was a way of expressing their joy over what was happening at the congress. I thought about that; they were simply expressing happiness over the level achieved by our youth, a source of great pride for all of us.

Now then, at the UJC Congress we didn't just discuss youth's problems. At the congress we have really discussed the problems of the country and the congress was attended by party and state leaders. To tell the truth, this UJC Congress bore striking resemblance to a party congress. (Applause)

We reviewed all the problems of the economy, industry, agriculture, not just in terms of young people but in terms of the interests of the people as a whole. We broadly analyzed problems of public health, education, and culture. Problems related to national defense were analyzed in depth and policies were formulated on these issues.

It was necessary to extend the congress to allow time for discussion and, in some cases, merely to point out problems that had to be taken into account. And issues were discussed in great depth. Out of the dialogue and debate we derived ideas of great value which will help us in coming years.

Of course, a UJC congress, like a party congress, isn't something that happens overnight. Both the UJC and party congresses require preparation, and the preparations start many months ahead of time.

When we reach the congress many of the problems have been debated in detail from the grass-roots level on up, and ideas and opinions of great value have been voiced on a number of issues and problems. As a result of

Continued on next page





A farmers' market in Havana in 1984. These markets were set up in 1980 to help Cuban farmers sell their surplus produce. But profiteering middlemen dominated markets, and they were closed down in 1986.

Militant/Matilde Zimmermann

## Continued from previous page

this process of analysis and debate the Main Report was drafted. The debate by all the youth of the draft Main Report was part of the congress and there is a record of what was discussed and the conclusions reached in the discussions.

It was impossible to consider all problems at the congress and I know many brilliant ideas went unexpressed and many fine remarks could not be made. If we could extend the congress to last 10 or 15 days, I am sure we would have heard fine ideas and magnificent contributions. Given the desire of the delegates to participate, we can safely say many did not have the opportunity to say what they wanted. But I am sure that the many remarks that were made covered the spirit of their ideas.

On the other hand, the Main Report covers all the key problems, and I think one of the basic mandates of this congress is the idea or goal to closely follow the study and analysis of all the problems listed in the Main Report.

But we shouldn't believe that the problems we will face in coming years are only those mentioned in the Main Report or those debated at the congress. New things turn up every day out of life itself and we must be

**“I feel that of the works of the revolution, the most brilliant of all is our youth, what they feel and express, what they are . . .”**

alert and aware to deal not only with the problems we're already aware of but also new issues and problems that turn up along the way.

There is, for example, the case of the family doctors. They didn't exist at the Fourth Congress, for the institution developed in the succeeding years. Progress is being made with this institution. Thousands of family doctors are already providing services; homes are being built for those doctors along with their offices, and then there are new problems. For example, some of the doctors don't live in the home-offices, and that was one of the issues which came up. And as that institution develops, like many others, problems will appear and tasks will emerge as a result.

The same thing happens with all new things, the youth clubs, the video clubs, or the student-teacher detachment formed 15 years ago, with every new or not so new thing, the senior high schools for the exact sciences, which are really new and recent. Different issues and problems will appear.

## Excellent organization and leadership

But the main thing is that we have an excellent organization and excellent leadership. I had the privilege of being present at the moment when the UJC National Committee elected at this congress met; when the first and second secretaries were reelected and the other members of the Bureau and the head of the Control Commission were elected.

I really think you elected excellent cadres, comrades with great ability and prestige, to the committee and the leadership. The quality that was evident at the congress was also evident in the comrades who were elected, although among so many capable comrades it is very difficult to select a National Committee or leadership.

It doesn't simply mean we selected the best; they are undoubtedly among the best, but we have selected a committee and leadership in which the great majority, with their tremendous virtues and revolutionary spirit, feels that it is represented. The comrades who were elected represent a means of expression for a large mass of worthy young people.

That's what we need, because the congress process continues. We agreed today that some issues must continue to be discussed at UJC plenums and plenums of the National Committee, which will be facing a tight schedule.

In our country the communist youth organization really means a great deal. That can be understood if we keep in mind that 35 percent of the workers are young; that the UJC supervises and leads the organizations for Pioneers, intermediate-level students, and university students; if we keep in mind that many thousands of technicians, scientists, and professionals in the most varied fields work and participate in the ranks of the UJC; if we keep in mind that the great majority of the fighters charged with the sacred task of defending the country and upholding internal order are young; if we keep in mind that the UJC plays a decisive role in the education of our children and young people; if we keep in mind the tasks undertaken by the organization in the cultural field, in the field of technology with the Technical Youth Brigades, whose members now number more than 300,000; and if we keep in mind the many publications of the UJC — magazines and newspapers for children, students, and the population as a whole, because I think there are many avid readers and subscribers to youth publications, including the newspaper *Juventud Rebelde*.

If we keep all this in mind, we can see how it is impossible to underestimate in any way the role played by the UJC in our revolutionary process and in the country as a whole. The party has no more important instrument for revolutionary work with the new generations than the Union of Young Communists.

And we have talked here about preparing for the year 2000. About three years ago — if memory serves — we formulated this slogan at a congress of the Federation of Students in Intermediate Education. We said the date wasn't so far off and that all those young students who were in junior high school, and especially those in senior high and the intermediate level, would be 30, 31, or 32 years old in the year 2000 and that the world we were building was for them.

We said, "This is your world" and called on them to think not of consumerism but of the effort needed to develop the country, to think of investments and development, of the world in which they were to live. I explained the difficult economic circumstances facing the great majority of Third World nations; the economic crisis, the debt.

Essentially, we wanted to prevent our youth from being swept up by notions of consumerism and to embrace ideas of development. And I think our youth clearly understood those ideas.

Later we were obliged to adopt special measures to cope with the economic difficulties that were also affecting all the other countries; but also the specific problems derived from our situation, aggravated by two years of severe drought, a hurricane, low sugar prices, falling oil prices that considerably reduced our foreign exchange earnings, and other factors which forced us this year to undertake a really heroic effort: the effort to implement economic programs with half the foreign exchange imports considered vital and with a fourth of the imports from the hard currency area that were made in 1984, be-

cause in 1984 the figure was \$1.5 billion and those dollars were worth much more than they are now.

The 1984 figure of \$1.5 billion is the equivalent of \$2 billion now. The dollar has been devalued by 40 percent, which means the other currencies we use to import are much more expensive and \$650 million of hard currency imports in 1987 is the equivalent of less than \$500 million in 1984. If we compare the figures for 1984 and 1987, we will see a nearly 25 percent drop.

That was what gave rise to the need for special measures, the measures presented to the National Assembly late last year.

I think these new realities, which didn't exist when we spoke to the students, indicate the objective problems facing a given Third World nation in this world where economic relations are basically those set by the developed capitalist nations, which have imposed on the Third World an intolerable burden. The conditions in which they must undertake development are really very difficult.

Therefore, the 1984 idea about the effort which the country must make for development with an eye on the year 2000 is now even more valid.

At the congress we discussed many things. But there was no time to stress the need for this effort, the need for efficiency in all activities, the need for economizing in every sense.

## We have to finish sugar harvest

This very year we still have an extremely important task ahead of us: we have to finish the sugar harvest. The harvest has been constantly interrupted, above all in the central and eastern areas of the country, by the rains, which surpassed the normal amount. There hasn't been enough to fill the reservoirs or to replenish the groundwater, but enough to slow down the harvest.

Our harvests are now highly mechanized. There are provinces with up to almost 90 percent mechanization. Mechanization has freed the country from huge efforts, from mobilizing hundreds of thousands of citizens that had to leave their factories to cut cane. But now we're getting 35, 40, 50 millimeters of rainfall during the sugar harvest. In some areas it rains for longer periods, in others less. In some places it rains for several days, above all in the lowlands, like those in the northern area of the provinces of Villa Clara and Sancti Spiritus.

We've advanced very much in mechanization, but we are more vulnerable now to some climatic factors like unexpected rain. There's a considerable delay in raw sugar production of approximately 800,000 tons. This means we'll have to make a considerable effort during what's left of April and all of May. We have to plant about 400,000 hectares [1 hectare equals about 2.5 acres] of cane this year to be able to make up for the effects of hurricanes, the drought, and the sum of both factors. Harvesting and planting during April, May, and June imply a very serious task.

Ending the harvest, preparing the land, and early planting of some 270,000 hectares make for a great challenge, which we have no right to forget regardless of the great satisfactions and happiness we've felt at this congress. Serious efforts lie ahead of us. We trust that we are going to make the effort and do everything we can to cope with these new and unexpected difficulties.

The task that lies before us is great, but even so, we can't jeopardize the future. The measures adopted by the revolution to be able to advance amid these limitations have implied a minimum of sacrifice for the population — a minimum of sacrifice. That's why I say that drawing up and applying the 1987 plan is a great feat, under conditions that seemed impossible with such a high level of imports from the convertible currency area. However, with this type of plan, I repeat that the sacrifices for the population were minimal. I'm referring to those made known at the end of last year in the National Assembly.

What's most important is that development is not sacrificed. We're exploring for oil. We're building thermoelectric plants, chemical factories, the oil refinery in Cienfuegos, and the nuclear power plant, which, together with the hydro backup plant, will raise the country's generating capacity to 2,000 megawatts, or 2 million kilowatts; that's over five times the capacity before the revolution. Mining investments, those in the machine industry and in agriculture are going ahead full speed. We are even reinstating and increasing water conservation projects, and a lot of important infrastructure projects are being carried out.

That is, in programs drawn up with such scarce means, we are not sacrificing the development of the nation. And that is very important for our young people; it's very important for our young people who speak about the year 2000.

But it's not only that. By adopting some elemental measures — reinstating the tremendous force of the minibrigades — we are dealing with very important social problems, such as beginning an ambitious housing program, starting with the capital of the republic. In spite of the 1984 and 1985 imports, the state was building approximately 3,500 housing units a year. They didn't even amount to 4,000! This year alone, the minibrigades are building 5,000 new homes, or better said, 5,000 homes



additional to those already being built.

We are carrying out an ambitious hospital enlargement program. Fifty day-care centers are being built — this is a much higher figure than the entire program that existed for the whole country during the five-year period — 50 day-care centers! Plus 12 special schools, 10 polyclinics and, as we already discussed here, other activities: video clubs, student clubs, youth clubs.

#### Doing more with less

Thus, using less resources, we are doing many more things, using the workers resulting from cutting down on

**“We called on youth not to think of consumerism, but of the effort needed to develop the country . . . of the world in which they were to live . . .”**

unnecessary personnel and having them join the minibrigades, without this having the slightest impact on factory production costs. Why? Because the money paid out by factories for minibrigade salaries will be returned to them by the state. Therefore, this won't affect the cost or profitability of the enterprises. This scheme also encourages work places to make more rational use of personnel and to send men and women to join the minibrigades.

That's how the problem of the work force was solved, to cope with the many pressing needs for construction, without which, in all truth, economic and social development is impossible. The construction enterprises in the capital had lost their workers. This year there are between 2,000 and 3,000 construction workers from the provinces who have come to help out with major economic and social projects. The housing construction enterprises had lost their workers; the architectural enterprises that build social projects had lost their workers.

In such difficult conditions it is virtually a feat to carry out the economic plan this year. It's not easy for sure. At times there are very difficult situations with raw materials that are arriving, but we've hardly affected the population. We haven't sacrificed the development plans, which are very important. And we're doing more things: we're starting to solve important problems, major savings of money are being made by eliminating excess payments and waste. And all this is a result of the process of rectification of errors and the struggle against negative tendencies that began after the Third Congress of the party.

We've been using the word rectification. That's fine — we don't need to use a lot of words to get across the idea. But that isn't all; it isn't only rectification of errors or the struggle against negative tendencies. It's doing away with stupid things, because in many cases they weren't even mistakes, they were stupid things and in other cases we had fallen into unprincipled positions.

Among the negative tendencies we can include all that chaos — where a crane would turn up here and another there — which was denounced on April 19, nearly a year ago. How should we describe it? They weren't errors. They were violations of principles, irresponsible behavior, crimes against the people's economy.

I think we have rectified really negative tendencies. They are being rectified and we must continue to struggle forcefully against those tendencies and errors. We have worked out new criteria and concepts to govern our path and in many cases we are not breaking new ground, only demanding enforcement of the provisions established under the economic management and planning system.

Economic management and planning systems may be better or worse; they may be more or less efficient. But in our case, in our country the bad thing was that alongside the system, with its strong and weak points — and I must admit the weak points were many and we are trying to rectify them — the bad thing, the serious thing, was the belief that mechanisms would automatically solve problems; the idyllic notion, the stupid notion that mechanisms would do the party's work for it, that they would build socialism, that they would promote development.

I think that right here at our congress, in a few days we've had many examples of how mechanisms can clash with the interests of society. For example, those in charge of distributing loudspeakers for schools would sell them to cultural groups because it was more profitable. They weren't interested in the schools but in profits. They started to act like capitalists and didn't care if the loudspeakers reached the schools or not. There was no way of getting loudspeakers to schools in this way, because they would buy them as soon as they got the money and started dealing, and nobody knew where the loudspeakers were going.

We've heard strange things such as a school run by the state having to pay 30,000 pesos to a culture enterprise run by the state so that girls can practice dance. Things

like that. Or we found that our budding capitalists weren't interested in teaching and therefore our universities could be shut down, because no matter what they were told from above they didn't want to teach. It obstructed their work; they went on about linking work to wages and goals. Thus the socialist state was faced with the unusual situation of not being able to use its enterprises, the property of the entire people, the property of the socialist state, so that students at state universities, universities of the entire people, could do practice work.

And often we found things popping up where the interests of the enterprise system clashed with those of society. In one way or the other, countless instances were turning up all the time, even the famous example of why there was no parsley for sale anywhere. Things like that: profits, profits, profits. What's this have to do with socialism? What's it have to do with the revolution?

The mistake was not so much in the mechanisms, because there must be some mechanisms for the sake of control, to have accurate information on costs and the efficiency of a factory. This requires certain mechanisms.

I also gave an example: the culture enterprises are enterprises; then somebody decides where to organize a show, where it will be more profitable and what country to go to, not what country he should visit for cultural or political reasons. There are endless examples.

To think that a few mechanisms which are carbon copies of capitalist mechanisms will solve the problems of development and socialism is very naive; I would go further and say it's stupid, if we think we can do without the work of the party, of people, revolutionary work.

Such mechanisms cannot be allowed to prevail over the aims of the revolution and the party. They must be subordinate to the party and the revolution. Whenever there is a clash between the interests of an enterprise and the interests of the revolution and society — be it to distribute loudspeakers, books, or anything else, be it to get people to study in a factory or an agricultural enterprise, the interests of the revolution and of society must prevail. And if instead of an idiotic budding capitalist we have a genuine revolutionary cadre, a Communist, no matter how many mechanisms must be used, he will never permit the interests of an enterprise to clash with the most sacred interests of society. (Applause)

These ideas are basic, which is why we spoke of revolutionary teachings and Marxism-Leninism, which is a revolutionary theory that must be applied consistently and in a revolutionary way. There are principles which cannot be forgotten and I think our UJC and party cadres and teachers of Marxism-Leninism will have to think about these things, about the dynamic, consistent, revolutionary application of Marxist-Leninist ideas. People interpret and do so in many different ways, but we must have our way of interpreting the revolutionary ideas of Marxism-Leninism! (Applause)

I think the revolution is old enough and experienced enough to do so. It has enough experience to realize that being revolutionary is a frame of mind, a conduct born of the spirit, of awareness. It is not born of mere book reading, of pressure, or of a veritable overdose to the brain of theoretical ideas.

I think revolutionary theory must be given all the importance it deserves. We mustn't allow it to be weakened in the slightest. It is vital to the revolution, to the future, and essential particularly to the youth. This is very important and decisive: the need for solid theoretical grounding, solid political knowledge, political interpre-

tation, the ability to apply these ideas in a creative manner and see the results.

Many delegates talked about example, and they're right. A teacher must give 400 hours of Marxism in a semester, but if he doesn't set a good example all the books and the 400 hours of Marxism will be of no value to the students. (Applause)

The importance of example was stressed at the congress. Example is a way of applying theory, of educating the new generations. It is of tremendous importance. There can't be a contradiction between what we do and what we say. Example creates virtues and revolutionary spirit.

Sometimes we have made the silly mistake — similar to the one of wanting to build socialism and develop the country with mechanisms alone — of thinking that a revolutionary is forged by bombarding him with slogans and revolutionary ideas. I think that here again another approach is called for, a rectification in which we really come to realize that deeds must accompany revolutionary theory to develop revolutionary awareness.

I think we are making progress in this process, but much more must be done. This is a long and difficult struggle, and it won't take just a month, a day or a year. It must be day in, day out, year in, year out.

We must never make the mistake or deceive ourselves into thinking that socialism and communism can be built without the party, without the dedicated work of the party and the UJC, without revolutionary and political work — because we may think we are developing the country, increasing its wealth, while at the same time corrupting the people. The construction of socialism implies using mechanisms and formulas that are right for a specific time or circumstance, a transitional period. Our doctrine — which is undoubtedly the most inspiring and revolutionary, the most humane that has ever existed — seeks a communist society.

I think young people have to think about this: how communism is achieved. Will humanity renounce the goal of communism, given the reality of certain material limitations and of certain human characteristics? We talked about this during the meeting with the journalists.

#### Need political awareness

As yet, there is no communist society. We were saying that a communist society couldn't be built on the brute, mediocre idea of an unlimited abundance of material goods and riches.

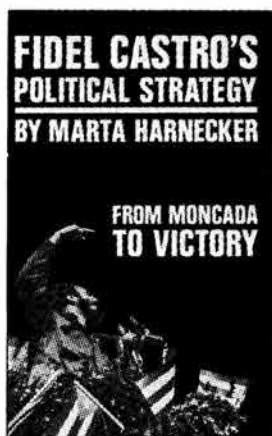
Communism must also be built with awareness and education, because we all know that an unlimited abundance of material goods will never exist. Other problems will arise, such as environmental pollution, the depletion of irreplaceable resources, of mineral resources, energy resources, etc. The world of today has so many inhabitants; so much poverty; and such an amount of hunger, ignorance, unsanitary conditions, unemployment, and tragedy in which billions of people live, that we can't ignore the reality of limited economic and even material resources, that rules out any idea of possessing as many material goods as can be conceived in man's imagination or fantasy.

Many times we have asked ourselves: Can Third World countries adopt the model of developed capitalist society, a society that took shape at a given moment in history at the cost of plundering a great part of humanity, entire continents? These so-called consumer societies: an

Continued on next page

## NEW FROM PATHFINDER!

### Fidel Castro's Political Strategy From Moncada to Victory



160 pp., \$7.95

This new book tells the story of the young Cuban men and women, most of them in their teens and 20s, who forged the revolutionary movement that brought down the U.S.-backed Batista dictatorship in 1959.

a new book by

**Marta Harnecker**

Author of *Cuba: Dictatorship or Democracy* and *The Great Challenge: An Interview with Jaime Wheelock*

Available June 1 from Pathfinder, 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014 (include \$.75 for postage) or from your local Pathfinder bookstore (see directory on p. 16). Write for a catalog.



Continued from previous page

automobile for each family. Imagine China having an automobile for each family, or India conceiving a societal development program in which each family was to have an automobile.

In the first place, just calculate how long all the world's oil supplies would last if societies which have a billion inhabitants, between them all several billion, were to adopt the behavior, life-style and consumer patterns of the capitalist, imperialist West that exploits the Third World.

Everyone knows what the levels of abundance and waste reached in those countries are due to. They cannot be models for Third World countries, neither a model of development or living. There is no way they can be models for Third World societies that are building socialism and are set on building communism.

In a capitalist society, sometimes 25 meters of fabric per capita aren't enough, nor 30, nor 40, nor 45, nor 50. But, really, there is a limit to a human being's real clothing and food needs, and the rest is a product of fantasy, of capitalist invention and the capitalist model. Third World peoples' needs for food, in the first place, and for clothing, shoes, housing, education, medical attention, culture, recreation, and employment — they don't even have jobs — are enormous.

“**By reinstating the tremendous force of the minibrigades, we are dealing with very important social problems . . .**”

If a Third World society is able to solve these fundamental problems, it will have taken a gigantic historical step. If society can reasonably satisfy its needs for all these things — food, clothing, health, culture, recreation, transportation — it will have really come closer to meeting a historical objective that man could set for himself for the first time in the long period of evolution to his becoming the thinking being he is today.

You know about the different kinds of material and human sufferings of many people in these capitalist consumer societies: inequality, racial or sexual discrimination, unemployment, social oppression, injustice of all kinds. In these famous consumer societies, we find multimillionaires and beggars, vices of all kinds, drugs of all kinds, alienation of all kinds.

We have to ask ourselves which type of economic and social objectives, which type of material and moral objectives a Third World society should set itself in the world of today, in the real world of today. And I believe that, in setting, understanding, and seeking out these objectives, the role of education, the role of awareness is fundamental.

I believe that the strength of our revolution, and the future of our revolution, will depend on how far the younger generations are able to further their truly revolutionary awareness.

There are those who have been very pleased and satisfied with this congress, and it seems to me that this was more than just a passing emotion, more than just a passing feeling of happiness. It seems to me that the satisfaction expressed by many comrades of our generation in the answers that they gave to each question related to the congress, went a little further, a little more to the heart of the matter: to a feeling of security. The idea that this new generation, that is a product of the revolution, that is a fruit of the revolution, that is a child of the revolution, is more revolutionary, more profoundly revolutionary than the generation that made the revolution; that its ideas are more advanced, that its ideas are more profound.

#### Youth are continuity of the revolution

I think those comrades were seeing something called security, the security that, when each of us fades from the scene, those coming after us are better and more solid. If we ever felt that our generation was the guarantee of the revolution, ours which opened this historical period — and if the enemy feels ours is a very radical generation, very intransigent — then what brought joy or must have brought joy to so many comrades is the idea that the younger generation is an even more solid guarantee of the revolution and the continuity of the revolution in our country. (Applause)

We must beware of the tendency people have of feeling too important, feeling themselves to be indispensable and irreplaceable. Many of us have had the privilege of having survived the initial years of the revolution, having participated in it for an important number of years. Of course, they were all your age when the struggle started and even when it ended — that is, the first stage of the struggle. We must beware of such a temptation.

Clearly, it cannot be denied that the prolonged participation of a revolutionary generation was useful in that it was able to act, make mistakes, rectify those mistakes,

and learn from them, but, thinking things through calmly and objectively, the individual role of people in a historic process is limited to a given period of time.

But, since all men have to be concerned with their work in the revolution — our generation and then you, like us, and those who will take your place, those children who are in day care now, the Pioneers in first, second, or third grade, what they will be like in 20 or 25 years — there is no doubt that the good impressions of the congress touched upon this sensitive nerve that might be called security in the work that is being done.

I think it is ridiculous and vain for some to feel they are irreplaceable, indispensable. On the other hand, it is legitimate that people should worry about their work, their achievements, and the durability of those achievements, especially when they are convinced that it is the most humane and just. I think you touched upon that nerve in your interventions at the congress, especially when they were of such a substantive nature. That's the secret behind the happiness and satisfaction of so many comrades. This can only come about through thinking about the revolutionary ideas and feelings of every new generation. We must think about them very seriously.

This will make our revolution the most privileged of revolutions, and it appears that our revolution will undoubtedly be among the most privileged of revolutions, because we are seeing younger generations furthering revolutionary ideas and feelings.

On a day like today which marks the 25th anniversary of the name, Union of Young Communists, I think it is the right time to call on our youth to be always worthy of the name, Communists, of the term, to be ever more communist, because in the world today and tomorrow being revolutionary means, and will increasingly mean, being Communists, (Applause) and being Communists in the full revolutionary sense. You have lived these days as Communists, with communist honesty, sincerity, integrity and courage, with communist feelings and ideals. By the same token you must go into theory and practice more deeply.

We are very pleased by the way you have taken initiatives and undertaken labor feats, done thousands of hours of voluntary work, spoken out clearly about deviations, errors, and negative tendencies. We were very pleased by your natural and spontaneous expression of communist spirit.

You also know that the conquest of power, the establishment of a much more human, just, and humane society isn't easy. You have seen it during these days and reflected it by speaking out about all the problems: if it was an agricultural enterprise, the problems of that agricultural enterprise; if a sugar mill, the problems of the sugar mill; quality control, organization, responsibility, preparation, and discipline. Socialism and communism are very different from capitalism. Under capitalism, you have blind laws, the rule of the strongest. The law of the jungle prevails under capitalism. The gullible and the indolent are crushed. Capitalist society has no compassion; it functions unto itself, with its problems and its contradictions, and by virtue of ruthless laws.

#### Socialism based on solidarity

Socialism is something different. In it man doesn't act out of hunger, despair, fear of the dreadful consequences of unemployment, of his family dying for lack of a doctor, medicines, no education, nothing! Working his heart out because he needs minimum security. That isn't the way socialism functions, that is not the way to build a communist society. Socialism is an entirely different thing in which everything is based fundamentally on conscience, on solidarity, cooperation among men and women, conscious discipline, the struggle against individualism and selfishness. People must be organized, prepared. A lot must be demanded of them morally speaking. Thus, it involves a tireless struggle against negligence, irresponsibility, insensitivity.

When you have been analyzing the problems in the schools, health, education, and culture, you were constantly making a critical examination of what was being done wrong and why, and what should be done to make it right. This gives us an idea of the effort made.

The comrades here raised several questions: over here, why did such and such a thing happen that they didn't understand; over there, why something else was happening. Many of these things can, of course, be cleared up with logical and valid explanations. But many others can only be solved by fighting against them energetically. We got the impression that you knew which things were going wrong and why they were going wrong — you knew; and what everyone had to do and what the youth had to do.

You were honest enough to say with absolute clarity that the Young Communists often were responsible for problems, because you didn't pay sufficient attention to such and such a thing, such and such a school or detachment, or else you didn't work with the teachers or work with the students or do UJC work in the factories, or you weren't militant enough in the face of things done badly, or you weren't militant enough in the face of negative tendencies.

Although I admit that often our workers, even party and UJC members, were confused for they saw so many



Since the Territorial Troop Militia was announced in 1961, it has been a reality, independence, and existence to our will to defend it.

things happening and came to view them as the established practice, like when some people were earning five times what they should earn, or a man in the Free Peasant Market was getting 50,000, 100,000 pesos a year and another was earning piles of money from hole-in-the-wall operations, or when some people began earning hundreds

“**The future of our revolution will depend on how far the younger generations are able to further their truly revolutionary awareness . . .**”

of thousands of pesos by painting pictures, making sculptures, decorating places, etc. I imagine there were many people a bit surprised and they'd say: "Well, this must be okay because it's established practice."

Naturally, that's something else, it is the responsibility of the party leadership, of all of us, for all the negative things that may have come up — although many of these things were really snakes in embryo. No one knew what kind of poison they had until they began to grow up, make noise and bite. (Applause) We didn't know what kind of vipers were being engendered until we began to see a house being bought here, another there, all the other things, the thousands of pesos, the money, millions being spent all over the place. "This is not going well, this isn't any good," we said, "this must be reviewed, all these causes, all these phenomena, all these things."

For we wanted a healthier environment; and we began to have a healthier environment. But this implied a commitment to solve the problems and solve them in a correct, revolutionary way, as I explained in today's session as we discussed some aspects of agriculture, vegetable production, etc. It involves a very serious commitment, for no one can resign himself to the idea that the job will be done through mechanisms. The job must be done by the party, the UJC, and the mass organizations.

That's why you mentioned here the lack of militancy — because there has been a lack of militancy, it's true on the part of party and UJC members. Naturally, the prevailing confusion abetted that tolerance, that relaxation of discipline and, I almost dare to say, that enervation of discipline.

Indeed, for today we are discussing the meaning of that word. And since I had my doubts, I asked the doc-





0, more than 1 million Cuban men and women have enrolled. "We would never for a second forget we owe our integrity," Castro told Communist youth.

Prensa Latina

tors, the wise men, Machadito, the comrade on my left and the comrade on my right. I think I even asked Carlos Rafael and everybody else. "No, enervation means excitement, that nerves become agitated, and what have you." So I looked around in the afternoon for a dictionary. (Applause) I got one and brought it with me. Some of you thought I was bringing *Capital* and others asked me, "What are you carrying, there, a Bible?" (Laughter) "No," I said, "it's a dictionary." It says, "Enervation: action of enervating, weakening. Enervating, enervative: that which enervates or weakens. Enervate: weaken. To weaken a rationale or argument. Incorrectly used to denote nervousness." The dictionary says it's an error to confuse enervation with getting nervous. (Laughter) It says, "Antonym: fortify." (Applause)

With so many teachers in our congress, we were all unsure. And they fooled us, we were told it was the opposite. And so now I can say that there was an enervation of our revolutionary guard, revolutionary vigilance and revolutionary spirit in these years. You yourselves admitted it frankly.

As I've said before, these years witnessed the decline of voluntary work, the decline of many things. It's not that we must do voluntary work every day, every hour, as something imposed on us, but do it as a healthy practice which had become quite natural in our revolution. But then everybody was busy doing other things — for things done spontaneously before, now people were saying: "I'll clean a little bit here and you pay me so much and pay me, pay me," and there was almost no one around willing to do something unless they paid him a lot of money, fulfilling production targets once, twice, 17 times over, while the administrators kept spreading money around.

I'd like to know whether they were going to develop communism that way, indeed! Whether they were going to shape a communist consciousness that way or lead to degeneration and corruption of revolutionary spirit. That's the truth, there was a certain amount of enervation.

#### Still working intensely concerning defense

But, during this period, I would say that the revolutionary spirit found shelter in defense activities, in the Territorial Troop Militia mobilizations, in military training, in the millions of hours dedicated to these activities, which, by the way, when I spoke about not having sacrificed development and not having sacrificed the population, I forgot to say that we hadn't sacrificed the nation's defense plans in the least. We are still working intensely on everything concerning defense, building fortifications, training the country. That is something we can

never give up doing. Well, that's where the revolutionary spirit of our people found shelter during these years.

As I said, you were brave enough to analyze all these things very frankly during the congress. You really reflected your political, technical, and educational development.

Since you speak of the year 2000, I think that you must understand how important it is to be truly politically prepared, to have deep revolutionary, socialist, communist consciousness — and you will have to educate this new generation, above all the children that belong to the Pioneers and also the youngsters that belong to the Federation of Students in Intermediate Education — and the importance of being equipped with a profound technical and scientific knowledge. These are two basic requirements for the year 2000; apart from what we may do today concerning development, in the fields of energy, the machine industry, agriculture; apart from what we may do today, and in all that, we have to do still more.

You saw how a representative of the young workers from the thermoelectric plant in Matanzas explained what it will mean for our economy. If the workers from the nuclear plant had spoken in the same terms, they would have told you what that plant will mean. The same holds for the refinery in Cienfuegos and the one in Santiago de Cuba. In short, all this is very important.

From now on we have to work hard, without consumerist illusions which, I repeat, have nothing to do with young people wanting to do something useful and healthy with their free time. It's correct for all of us not to think of spending July and August in Varadero, but it's perfectly possible for us to go to El Abra, to go to lots of those camping sites, lovely places, nice places, quiet places where families can get together, places where there are no drugs, where there aren't even alcoholic beverages.

There are many ways of facing these problems, using our resources wisely, with student clubs or with youth clubs that require very little of our resources and very little money. The same way we have been able to build day-care centers, polyclinics, special schools — by using our material, and above all human resources, wisely. Don't forget that work is the source of wealth. When we are able to mobilize people to work and have work enough for them to do, many problems can be solved.

Of course, building day-care centers isn't recreation, they allow women engineers, architects, doctors, lots of women who have a high educational level to work — because they don't constitute over 50 percent of the technical work force of the country for nothing. The day-care centers are of great utility in the economic and social de-

velopment of the country.

But in short, many things can be done without consumerist illusions, with rationally using our resources to improve our material living conditions as much as possible.

When students have a youth club it denotes a standard of living. To many of those dime-a-dozen economists who can't understand that there is a standard of living denoted in the existence of a botanical garden because it can't be measured in terms of tons of cement or steel, this seems like garbage because it doesn't increase our standard of living. The fact that over 100,000 people go to Lenin Park every week represents a standard of living here and in any part of the world, and one of the highest quality; or that someone should visit a botanical garden, or go to a museum, an aquarium, a youth club, or on an excursion; for someone to spend his free time visiting a city where there are lots of trees, that represents a standard of living and a standard of living of the highest quality.

A standard of living is not only material, or anything like that. It's a cluster of factors that, once other material needs are satisfied, acquire an enormous value. Education represents the standard of living, culture represents the standard of living, health care represents the standard of living, happiness represents the standard of living, security represents the standard of living, all these things that don't prevail in developed capitalist societies. And we can increase our standard of living without absurd and excessive material consumerist longings that aren't logical, that are impossible, that are — we could even say — absurd in a world full of so many problems, so many needs, so much sorrow, so much hunger.

#### Science and technology

In addition to the programs for economic and social development — and the Young Communists must take an increasing interest in the economic and social development programs that are under way, that are being created for them — the Young Communists must also take an interest in economic efficiency, in economizing and reducing costs, and the correct use of the mechanisms available to national administration. All that is very important, but, above all, it is very important to reach the year 2000 with profound revolutionary awareness and a high level of science and technology.

At the congress we talked about computers, the importance of computers and introducing computer studies into higher education, and the advantages of this in terms of productivity, controls, and administration. I think it will be very difficult to build socialism fully without computers, because they are needed even more than in capitalist society, and present-day capitalist society can't live without computers.

That's why we talked about the importance of introducing computer studies into the university as we have been doing in intermediate education. We have had the privilege of having senior high schools for the exact sciences in which by the next school year there will be a selective enrollment of nearly 40,000 young people. We mentioned this, because we must make electronics, biotechnology, automation, and other forms of advanced technology ours.

In the light of all this, it is really wonderful to have 310,000 young people in the Technical Youth Brigades! We must have science, we must develop revolutionary theory, and master technology! We must improve our political and mass organizations!

In this sense, the UJC is a great school. You are al-

“Many things can be done without consumerist illusions, with rationally using our resources to improve our material living conditions as much as possible . . .”

ready playing an important role in society, one I listed when mentioning all that you do right now. That role will increase as new things come up.

You are currently running a camping program, and running it well. You have the Society for Patriotic and Military Education. You are responsible for that institution which is so important in many ways for our country. But you have the committees, the organization, which is a formidable school for entering the party. You must improve those institutions and gain experience, as we did over a number of years. But our starting point was much more distant, much more backward than yours.

If you think of how old you are now and the experience you have — the revolutionary and political experience — in 15 or 20 years you will have tremendous experience. You must continue improving these institutions, since you will have to deal with complex problems.

Continued on next page



## Continued from previous page

When the time comes you will have the responsibilities we have. You already have many of the responsibilities and many of the more important tasks we have.

If comrades felt optimistic as they watched you discuss the issues — as you displayed such a high degree of education, intelligence, and capability — I think they were right, and I share those feelings.

Moreover, you have the good fortune and privilege of approaching the year 2000, the year about which so much is said, in a truly difficult and complex world, a world in which a great battle is now being waged for survival, a world now debating whether or not the many thousands of nuclear weapons threatening the extermination of humanity should be done away with.

Ours is also one of the riskiest periods in human history.

Apart from that, our country has lived 20-odd years, and will live many more — none can tell — under added imperialist threat. We are not advocating indefinite hos-

**“Mechanisms cannot be allowed to prevail over the aims of the revolution and the party; they must be subordinate to the party and the revolution . . .”**

tility toward any country. Perhaps one day more intelligent political leaders in the United States will be a little more realistic and realize the futility of aggression, pressure, and threats wielded with great force against our country. But it has to be said that ever since that certain gentleman threatened us, and increased the threats, we have become stronger and stronger over these years, we have multiplied our forces, we have become as hard as bone, not just hard to gnaw away at, but impossible! (Applause)

## Result of imperialist threats

As a result of the imperialist threats, we are much stronger. As a result of the imperialist threats, the Nicaraguans are much stronger. As a result of imperialist threats, the Salvadoran revolutionaries are much stronger, in spite of the weapons, resources, and money that have flooded to the butchers in that country. Imperialism has been unable to crush them, and they are increasingly stronger and more seasoned.

Perhaps one day the imperialists will realize this. They will realize that now we are a sort of moral revenge for the oppressed of the world.

Recently I told some visitors we had here, “Use us, use us because I know the imperialists only too well, and I know how nervous they get when a delegation visits Cuba, when there is a smile for Cuba, a greeting for Cuba.” (Applause) The imperialists don’t respect the docile or meek. I told them, “Use us if you want to solve problems. They’ll get nervous right away.”

We were speaking to our friends, the Dominicans, who were ruthlessly deprived of their sugar quota. I told them, “Demand resources, go to the international organizations to get what you need to make up for the loss and the sacrifice.” This is because lately there has been a steady stream of visitors from the Dominican Republic to our country. People-to-people relations are improving with the acceptance of the current government in the country, which had held a similar position previously. We told them, “Use us, use us to make them nervous!” We have become a means to make the imperialists nervous, (laughter) and whenever others want to take revenge for some of their abuses, they make gestures toward us, friendly gestures toward our country, and that drives the Yankees mad.

They are furious right now, because they felt things in the region were the same as 30 years ago. They failed to realize the changes, they hadn’t seen the impressive determination of the Latin American countries, who refused to bend to their wretched campaign against our country, who refused to lend themselves to the dirty, cynical, shameless imperialist maneuvering against our country, attempting to set us up as an example of human rights violations. It was the height of cynicism and gall on the part of the United States and its NATO allies, who all went to accuse Cuba! Of what?

Of human rights violations, accused by the government of the most brutal imperialist nation in history, in the name of a system which enslaved black Africans and kept them in bondage for so long, even after its famous Declaration of Independence, which speaks of freedom as an inalienable right; a system which exterminated the Indians in that country; a system which abused, humiliated, and discriminated against, and still discriminates against, the black and Hispanic minorities; the empire responsible for the death of millions of children all over the world, as a result of its greed and exploitation; responsible for the hunger, the squalor, and lack of edu-

cation of billions all over the world; the country which attacked Vietnam and dropped more bombs on it than all those used in World War II, killing and mutilating millions of people; the country which invaded Grenada; the country responsible for the dirty war against Nicaragua which has led to the loss of many thousands of lives in that heroic country; the country which invaded the Dominican Republic; the country which tried to assassinate the family of Libya’s head of state; the country of Star Wars and nuclear weapons, attempting to present a case of human rights violations against the political process which has done the most in the history of our country, and in the entire history of the continent, for the human rights of the people. (Applause and shouts of “Fidel, Fidel, give the Yankees hell!”)

The country which has reduced infant mortality to less than 15 per 1,000 live births and raised life expectancy to 74; the country which is working toward each family having a local doctor; the country which has built thousands of schools, polyclinics, and hospitals; the country where 300,000 people are enrolled in institutions of higher learning; the country which wiped out gambling, prostitution, begging, and drugs; which wiped out poverty in the countryside and the city and which has no slums as such; which found jobs for all its citizens; which eradicated illiteracy and has achieved a minimum 9th-grade, and in many cases 12th-grade education — when visitors tour our factories and ask any worker, any young worker, they will most likely find they have a 12th-grade education; 7 or 8 out of every 10 have a 12th-grade education and the others have at least a 9th-grade education — is presented as a case of human rights violations.

The country where there are no missing and where nobody has ever been tortured, no matter what the infamous and miserable CIA agents say. Because, as I have said before, our people are the first who would never tolerate torture, (applause) and when they dare slanderously to speak of torture in our prisons, what makes us most indignant is the insult to our people, because our people were educated in the revolutionary struggle and carried out the revolution based on absolute respect for human dignity and integrity. Neither during nor after the war was there ever a case of a prisoner being the victim of physical violence.

## No precedent in history of Latin America

I think finding such an unblemished page as the pages of our revolution in this field is difficult. All our people know this. There are some idiots or even people of good faith who ask and I tell them. “Go into the streets and ask the citizens what happens here; those who fought or served at Playa Girón; all the nearly 1,500 mercenary traitors sold out to U.S. imperialism who surrendered were presented to the courts unscathed, not a hair on their heads was touched.”

I wonder what other country has written such a page in the history of the liberation struggle and in revolutionary history. Not even our Latin American ancestors; for even Bolívar, whom we greatly admired for his defense of Latin American independence, declared war to the death against Spaniards merely because of their nationality. There is no precedent in the history of the Latin American

**“The communist youth organization really means a great deal and that can be understood if we keep in mind that 35 percent of workers are young . . .”**

revolutionary movement of conduct more irreproachable than that of our country.

It takes amazing gall to try to accuse a country whose sons and daughters have not hesitated to shed their blood or sacrifice their lives while aiding the cause of independence and liberation in other countries; a country which has more than 1,000 doctors working in nearly 30 Third World nations, saving lives and bringing health; the country with the highest per capita rate of foreign students in the world. Twenty-two thousand students in intermediate-level schools and universities; a country helping to solve problems of health and training technicians in other countries!

The imperialist government that tried to put us in the dock by pulling all its strings, all of them, is utterly shameless. It resorted to all sorts of threats. It threatened to suspend credits to members of the Commission, suspend aid, block resources in the international credit organizations, economic and political threats, all sorts of threats, acting like the Mafia with the help of the NATO member nations where every so often we see the police throwing tear gas bombs — those superdemocratic nations of Europe — using dogs, clubs, helmets, and rubber bullets against students, workers, and pacifists. Those countries which plunder the world, exploit the world and with an evident lack of dignity and national in-

dependence yielded to the shameful maneuver of U.S. imperialism against Cuba, where since the victory of the revolution no policeman has ever acted against the people. In spite of everything they didn’t get the majority of votes they expected and were irritated, furious, insulting the governments which did not yield to their maneuvers.

And they were mistaken, because they thought that Latin America was the same as 28 years ago. They encountered the resistance, dignity, and determination of the Latin American governments on the Commission. Only Costa Rica yielded to the wretched imperialist campaign. This, of course, made the Yankees furious and it irritated them tremendously. They fail to realize that a volcano is erupting in this hemisphere; that so much abuse, injustice, exploitation, protectionism, plunder, debts, and dumping have created conditions which generate rebellion and unity in the hemisphere!

That’s why I say perhaps someday they will realize how stupid that policy of threats and aggression against our country has been. Perhaps some day they will think twice. That’s why we say we are not advocating eternal hostility between the United States and Cuba. But even if

**“We must be ready for the world of the year 2000 and the world of the years between now and the year 2000; those are the realities . . .”**

the day were to come when we lived in peace, we would never neglect our defense. We would never for a second forget that we owe our integrity, independence, and existence to our will to defend ourselves, to struggle, fight, and die down to the last man and woman in this country to defend the revolution and the country. (Applause) We must never forget that in this world where the law of the jungle still prevails, only those who do not give up the will to struggle and defend themselves are respected.

That’s why even if we live someday in peace, we will continue digging trenches and tunnels, acquiring weapons, and training the people. We will not fall prey to the peaceful illusions of a powerful neighbor who any day might feel tempted to attack our country when it goes through any of its many changes of administration, capable of the most stupid policies.

That’s why I said we live in a hemisphere with a very complex international situation, a hemisphere in turmoil, faced with a powerful neighbor for which our new generations must be ready and very prepared in every sense — mastering revolutionary political theory; mastering science and technology, mastering the experience to know what must be done to cope with every problem, how every issue must be tackled; aware of the era we live in, complex and difficult; the powerful neighbor we face; the hemisphere in turmoil that surrounds us and a complex world.

We must be ready for that world, that is the world of the year 2000 and the world of the years between now and the year 2000; those are the realities and such is the world for which our young people must prepare.

If we look back, we will see how everything has developed over the past 25 years, since the worthy name of Union of Young Communists was decided on, how we have made progress at every congress. I said you will have to continue a profound analysis of these problems in the coming years, at the plenums of the UJC National Committee. You must start preparing for the Sixth Congress, thinking about a rendering of accounts for what has been done in these difficult and complex years, these decisive years, decisive for the future, the future which we will never sacrifice under any circumstances, the future for which we are working so hard.

The present problems, the lean years, droughts, hurricanes, low prices, getting by with a minimum of imports must teach us to save more and better and make better use of our human and material resources. We must derive lessons in this difficult period and obtain experiences which will be even more useful when objective conditions are more favorable.

That’s why I say we must work every day and every minute, knowing that in five years, five years of progress in all fields, we must render an account to young people of what has been done and how this congress’ resolutions were implemented, an account to the UJC and the party.

As we are about to conclude, I must say we are leaving here with unforgettable memories, and an increased admiration, affection, and pride in our youth. If as of now all of us work and struggle with greater vigor and optimism, with each contributing every last atom of energy to the cause of the revolution, socialism, and communism, the added effort will be due to the extraordinary and unforgettable impressions left by you at this Fifth Congress.

*¡Patria o Muerte!  
¡Venceremos!  
(Ovation)*



# Workers force Nestlé to sell milk to gov't agency

"Notes from Nicaragua" is a column prepared by Cindy Jaquith, Roberto Kopec, and Harvey McArthur of the Militant's bureau in Managua.

Following a March 31 demonstration by more than a thousand Nicaraguan workers at its Managua offices, the Swiss company Nestlé agreed to sell most of the powdered milk it produces here

## NOTES FROM NICARAGUA

through government-controlled channels.

The demonstration, called by the Sandinista Workers Federation, protested the fact that PROLACSA, the Nestlé subsidiary in Nicaragua, was selling 70 percent of its production to private retailers, while only 30 percent was sold to the Ministry of Internal Commerce for distribution to workers at subsidized prices.

Nicaragua suffers a severe shortage of milk. According to an article in the March 31 Sandinista daily *Barricada*, PROLACSA's total production satisfies only 36 percent of the demand for children up to two years old.

This shortage has helped drive up the price of a one-pound can of powdered milk to 9,000 córdobas in the free market. This is more than many workers make in a week. In a government-run workers' supply store, such a can — if available — costs 400 córdobas.

"We cannot let the speculators enrich themselves at the expense of a worker's wages," said a unionist from a pharmaceutical company at the rally. "The working class cannot remain passive,

either in the factories or in the distribution centers. We must act in an organized way, like we're doing today, to demand a more just distribution."

While the rally was going on, a delegation headed by Sandinista union leader Dámaso Vargas met with the management of Nestlé. Vargas later reported that Nestlé was willing to discuss with the government ways of better controlling the sale of milk.

Ramón Cabañes, minister of internal commerce, announced two days later that Nestlé agreed to have the state distribute 60 to 70 percent of the powdered milk.

Vice-Minister of Agriculture Salvador Mayorga announced April 3 that Nicaragua is on the verge of reaching and surpassing its goal of harvesting 310 million pounds of cotton in the 1986-87 crop. By the end of March, 306 million pounds had been processed, with more waiting to be collected.

Cotton was once Nicaragua's major cash crop, but world prices have dropped so low in recent years that its sale does not cover the cost of production. While cotton-producing lands are being gradually converted to other crops, there are no plans to eliminate cotton altogether, as other countries, such as Costa Rica and Honduras, have done.

Government officials point out that tens of thousands of farm workers depend on cotton for a living and a sudden conversion to less labor-intensive crops would throw them out of work with no other jobs immediately available. Also, the production of cottonseed oil saves Nicaragua the dollars it would otherwise have to spend to import more cooking oil.

In addition, the textile industry here uses some of the cotton fiber.

The long-term goal is to gradually limit cotton production to the best lands, and use the remaining fields for growing crops such as soybeans and sorghum. In 1986, some 162,000 acres of cotton were planted, 50,000 less than in 1985. The total production for both years was nevertheless the same. For the 1987-88 growing season the goal is to plant only 147,000 acres of cotton.

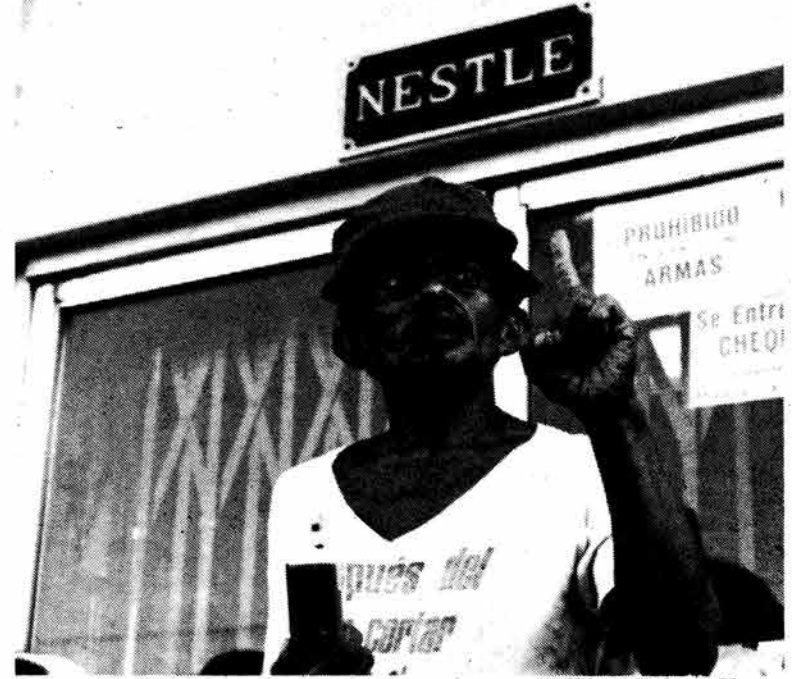
In a meeting in Managua in March, Honduran and Nicaraguan officials agreed on new measures to expedite the return of Nicaraguan refugees from Honduras. Officials of the United Nations office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which provides transportation and logistical support for some of the refugees, also participated.

The new agreement includes plans for the UNHCR to run direct flights for up to 300 refugees a month from Honduras to Puerto Cabezas on Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast. Previously, the UNHCR brought refugees only by road, a long and slow journey.

There are now between 20,000 and 25,000 Nicaraguan refugees in Honduras, the product of the U.S.-organized contra war and early conflicts between the Sandinista government and the indigenous peoples of the Atlantic Coast. A majority of the refugees are Miskito Indians.

Nicaragua began developing a program of local autonomy for the Atlantic Coast, and as the contras were isolated politically and defeated militarily, a growing number of refugees decided to return home.

In 1984 the UNHCR repatriated



Construction worker at protest outside Nestlé plant in Managua

only 217 Nicaraguan refugees from Honduras. In 1985 this grew to 1,100; in 1986 to 2,000; and in the first four months of 1987 to 1,300. In addition, many refugees have returned on their own, some 8,000 during 1986 alone.

Writings of Augusto César Sandino; Omar Cabezas' *Fire from the Mountain*, on the Sandinistas' struggle against the Somoza dictatorship; and an anthology by Nicaraguan poet Rubén Darío, are now available in Spanish braille editions published by the one-year-old Rubén Darío Braille Press here.

The braille press is also "planning to put out a political magazine for the blind in our country and Latin America," José

María Avendaño, director of the braille publishing house, told the Sandinista daily *Barricada* March 4. He added that they have received requests from blind people in other countries seeking information on the Nicaraguan revolutionary process.

"Our work is important," said Osvaldo Bravo Ramírez, who was recently demobilized from the army and now works composing braille texts. "We work for the social participation of a sector that used to be rejected and that is now being integrated by the revolution," he said.

The press plans to train blind people from the Atlantic Coast to compose braille materials in English and the Indian languages of the area.

## Sandinista army destroys contra camp in Nicaragua

Continued from front page was taken.

Most of the contras escaped into Honduras. Because the base was so close to the border, the Sandinistas could not encircle it without entering Honduras and risking a clash with Honduran troops. At a May 13 Managua news conference, Nicaraguan Defense Minister Humberto Ortega explained that this was especially important to avoid, since thousands of U.S. troops were also in Honduras, engaged in the massive "Solid Shield" military maneuvers.

Ninety-four contras had been killed in the operation since April 25. The Sandinista army lost eight soldiers, four of them in a helicopter shot down by the contras.

Asked why Nicaragua waited more than two months to oust the contras from the area, Salvatierra answered, "We needed to have a clearer view of what the enemy had there." Defense Minister Humberto Ortega said that they had decided to allow more contras to gather "so we could strike at them better."

Reporters were taken to one of the destroyed contra camps, near the Amaka River.

Reminders of the ousted mercenaries' presence littered the ground: empty bags of La Vaquita powdered milk from Honduras, soap bars provided by the Honduran army, empty shell casings, and an open parachute in the bushes with the slogan "FDN nunca se detiene" (FDN never stops) printed on it in blue letters.

After visiting this camp, we were taken to a landing strip a couple of miles away on the Nicaraguan side of the Coco River. Across the river in Honduras we could see another landing strip. Both were used to supply mercenary bands inside Nicaragua, army officers told us.

The bulk of the 800 contras were concentrated on the shore of the Coco River, Captain Silvio González told reporters. Their weapons included .50-caliber ma-

chine guns and 81-millimeter mortars, he said.

The contras who managed to escape are now some six miles inside Honduras, but can still shell Nicaraguan territory, González said. There had been a bombardment at 10 a.m. that morning, just a few hours before our arrival. "They tried to prevent you from coming here," he told us.

Defense Minister Ortega said that the CIA set up the Amaka-Bocay contra base so they could bring foreign reporters into the area. The aim, he said, was to claim that "the mercenary forces had managed to stabilize and consolidate their control over this territory" and were thus a viable military force.

According to Ortega, the U.S. government also planned to bring top contra leaders such as FDN head Enrique Bermúdez to

the Amaka-Bocay base in order to claim that the contra leadership functions inside Nicaragua. Bermúdez, whose headquarters is in Honduras, has been promising to move here for a long time.

In the last two months, the big-business media in the United States has carried several glowing accounts of the contras' ability to stage a comeback written by journalists who were brought here by the FDN. One such account appeared in the March 3 *New York Times*. Reporter James LeMoyne described his visit to this area "near the Amaka River in Jinotega Department," and concluded that "the contras may prove stronger foes in battle than some observers have predicted." *Newsweek* reporter Rod Nordland also visited the contras here in April. He wrote in the May 11 issue that contra leaders were "thrilled at the prospect of combat," and that the con-

tras were "ready — and eager — to meet the enemy."

The Nicaraguan soldiers here disagreed. Noel Gutiérrez, a young recruit who participated in the fighting, told me that the contras did not offer much resistance to the rapid Sandinista offensive.

"They lacked morale, and you know in these situations what counts is having a high morale," he commented. "They can be well entrenched, armed to the teeth, but if their morale is low then there is nothing left for them but to withdraw like they did."

Dozens of U.S. reporters were on the trip here and witnessed the destroyed contra base. But the story has received very little coverage in the U.S. media. Now that the contra "showcase" is gone and Washington's terrorists routed, the Amaka-Bocay base is no longer page one.

## Humberto Ortega: 'There is no death penalty'

BY HARVEY McARTHUR

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Last week's *Militant* reported on Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega reaffirming his government's opposition to the death penalty and its offer of amnesty to all U.S.-backed contras who turn themselves in.

The article also reported a statement by Gen. Humberto Ortega, head of the Sandinista People's Army and minister of defense, calling on Nicaraguans to carry out "revolutionary justice" against contras caught in acts of sabotage or terror.

At a press conference here May 13, a reporter for the *Los Angeles Times* asked Humberto Ortega if his remarks didn't contradict the government's policy of offering amnesty to all who decide to quit the mercenary forces.

"The last time you spoke with us," said the reporter, "you said that the civilian population should use what you called 'revolutionary violence' against those ele-

ments who were blowing up power lines and collaborating with sabotage. A few hours later that same day, President Daniel Ortega spoke in a Face the People program and said just the opposite, it seems to me.

"He said, in effect, that if from today on we were to say that all those tied directly or indirectly to the counterrevolution should die, that this would have a negative effect. None of the contras who are now ready to give themselves up under the amnesty law would do it, since they would know that they would die anyway."

"I would like to ask you if this obvious contradiction between your position and the position taken by the president has been resolved and what is the policy today. Should all the contras be killed, or treated in a more gentle manner to encourage more to give up their arms?"

Humberto Ortega replied, "There is no contradiction. I was referring to the fact that the civilian population should carry out

its people's justice more rigorously to confront, discourage, and intimidate those elements who are directly linked to terrorist actions against children, volunteers, and civilian targets. I said this in the sense of increasing the involvement of the civilian population to strengthen this situation."

"This is not in contradiction with the policy of the government of giving amnesty to all those who seek it," Ortega continued. "The government respects those who turn themselves in, and there is no contradiction with this."

"We are clear that it is important to maintain this policy of amnesty, but it is also necessary that the country apply its justice, its laws, and the vigilance and willingness of everyone, especially against those elements who most cold-bloodedly attack civilian targets."

"There is no death penalty in this country, and we cannot kill any citizen outside of combat situations," he concluded.



# Gov't invasions of privacy violate rights

## Socialists' memorandum answers agencies' arguments in court case

On Aug. 25, 1986, federal Judge Thomas Griesa ruled that the FBI's decades-long spying and disruption operation against the Socialist Workers Party and the Young Socialist Alliance was unconstitutional and illegal. This decision came in response to a lawsuit the SWP and YSA filed against the FBI and other government defendants in 1973.

Griesa stated that a further hearing would decide the scope of an injunction barring the government from using material obtained by such methods. The SWP and YSA presented the judge with their proposal, which would forbid any use of the files by the government.

The Justice Department filed a memorandum and 11 other government agencies filed affidavits arguing that barring the use of illegally obtained files on the SWP and YSA would seriously hamper their work.

On April 21 Leonard Boudin, attorney for the SWP and YSA, filed a memorandum replying to the affidavits. The memorandum dissects the Justice Department's argument that the use of illegally obtained materials on the SWP and YSA is vital to national security. Government lawyers say that these materials are necessary for "loyalty" investigations of individuals and for the protection of the president, other government officials, and foreign dignitaries.

The *Militant* began serializing the SWP and YSA response in our May 8 issue. So far we've printed the introduction and parts A-C of the first section.

The memorandum argues that the spy files the government has were obtained illegally and refutes the Justice Department's claim that it needs the files for "national security" reasons. It shows how the record in the case contradicts the government's claim.

This week we are publishing the last two parts of section one.

### D. The Nature of the Information In the Illegally Obtained Records Undercuts Any Claim of Need.

The [government] defendants argue as if the illegally obtained records reflect plots by potential spies and saboteurs and terrorist conspiracies. These arguments fly in the face of the record in this case.

"In the case of the SWP, however 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" and "no indication that any informant ever observed any violation of federal law or gave information leading to a single arrest for any federal law violation."

What the illegally obtained records do contain is "thousands of reports recording peaceful, lawful activity by the SWP and YSA." The informers provided documents, including private documents such as membership lists, financial records, financial budgets and projections, minutes of meetings, mailing lists, and correspondence.

### Invasion of privacy

The informers obtained information "not only about organizational subjects but also about purely personal matters." For instance, one informer provided the FBI with the hospital records of SWP members and their relatives.

Informers were used to "ferret out private matters," and

reported constantly on the names, addresses, telephone numbers, places and changes of employment, unemployment, marital or cohabitational status, marital strife, health, travel plans, and personal habits of SWP and YSA members.

So too, the bag jobs [break-ins] were simply "stealthy invasions of private premises for the purpose of obtaining private information."

The [FBI's] Disruption Program records reflect information from informers as well as information which is there precisely because of its potential to harm individuals and organizations. Information from mail covers contains the names and addresses of individuals who wrote to the SWP for any reason.

What possible legitimate need can the defendants have for information on the medical records of SWP members or their relatives, their personal problems, the ups and downs of their relationship with their spouses or lovers, their decisions to take a vacation or to find a new job, their plans to support a candidate for office, to support a union on strike, to oppose police brutality, or to engage in debate on a variety of subjects ranging from political theory to how to end the government's involvement in foreign wars.

### Cannot bear scrutiny

The defendants' sweeping assertion of need to use this sort of private information



— private from an organizational point of view as well as from an individual's perspective — cannot bear scrutiny. "Inviolability of privacy in group association may in many circumstances be indispensable to preservation of freedom of association, particularly where a group espouses dissident beliefs." *NAACP v. Alabama*

Here, of course, the files are not merely lists of membership or contributions, support and association in days long gone by — which could not be lawfully obtained by the government even with a legitimate state interest as weighty as fair and honest elections, see *Brown v. Socialist Workers '74 Campaign Committee* — but files containing massive and intimate details of everyday organizational and personal lives. The relevance of such information to any interest offered by the defendants is scant; the degree to which it intrudes upon the most intimate and private affairs is enormous.

### E. The Generalized Claims of Need Do Not Override the Substantial Constitutional Interests

The defendants' entire argument is premised on the proposition that their need to use the illegally obtained information and records on the SWP and YSA is so great that it "implicates the vital interest of self-preservation of this Nation's form of government under the Constitution."

Collecting generalized quotations taken totally out of context from judicial decisions, the defendants seem to think that by invoking phrases such as "vital national interest" and "national security" they can dispense with any consideration of or concern for the constitutional protections of the Bill of Rights.

To the contrary, the courts have consistently held that the executive branch's responsibilities for "domestic security," must be exercised in a manner compatible with the protections of the Bill of Rights.

In *United States v. United States District Court*, the court was faced with a far-ranging argument that the executive's need to engage in warrantless wiretaps in domestic security cases required an exception to the Fourth Amendment's warrant requirement. The government argued that the warrantless wiretaps were directed primarily at "subversive forces," that disclosure even to a magistrate threatened the lives of informers and agents, that they were conducted pursuant to the Attorney General's responsibility to "obtain all information that will be helpful to the President in protecting the Government" and that to require a warrant would "obstruct the President in the discharge of his constitutional duty to protect domestic security."

The court soundly rejected the argument, warning that "[t]he danger to political dissent is acute where the Government attempts to act under so vague a concept as the power to protect 'domestic security'" and holding:

Security surveillances are especially sensitive because of the inherent vagueness of the domestic security concept, the necessarily broad and

continuing nature of intelligence gathering, and the temptation to utilize such surveillance to oversee political dissent. We recognize, as we have before, the constitutional basis of the President's domestic security role, but we think it must be exercised in a manner compatible with the Fourth Amendment.

The court was aware that the protections of the Constitution are particularly necessary when the targets of the government's surveillance are "those suspected of unorthodoxy in their political beliefs."

### No license to trample First Amendment

So too in *New York Times Co. v. United States*, the court reaffirmed that invocation of "national security" gives the government no license to disregard the protections of the First Amendment.

There the government argued that the responsibility of the executive for the conduct of foreign affairs and to protect the security of the nation is so basic that it was entitled to enjoin publication of a newspaper story if the information to be revealed threatened a grave and irreparable injury to the public interest.

Although not doubting the executive's authority in the area, the court nonetheless reaffirmed that the First Amendment places a heavy burden upon the government to justify any prior restraint.

In a separate concurrence, Justice Black warned that the "word 'security' is a broad, vague generality whose contours should not be invoked to abrogate the fundamental law embodied in the First Amendment."

### 'National defense'

Again, in *United States v. Robel*, a case cited by the defendants, the court rejected the invocation of the talisman of national security or risks of internal subversion as a license to trample the Bill of Rights, recognizing that

Implicit in the term "national defense" is the notion of defending those values and ideals which set this Nation apart. For almost two centuries our country has taken singular pride in the democratic ideals enshrined in its Constitution, and the most cherished of those ideals have found expression in the First Amendment. It would indeed be ironic if, in the name of national defense, we would sanction the subversion of one of those liberties — the freedom of association — which makes the defense of the Nation worthwhile.

Applying these principles, the court struck down as unconstitutional a government program designed "to reduce the threat of sabotage and espionage in our Nation's defense plants," not because the interest was deemed insubstantial but because the means chosen "cut deeply into the right of association."

Similarly *Brandenburg v. Ohio* emphasizes the important difference between "the mere abstract teaching . . . of the moral propriety or even moral necessity for a resort to force and violence [and] preparing a group for violent action and steeling it to such action."

When the government fails to recognize that distinction, whether by legislation or administrative fiat, it impermissibly infringes upon First Amendment freedoms.

The lesson of the cases is not, as the defendants would have it, that "domestic security," "national security," and so-called vital interests override all other interests, but rather that freedom of speech and of association and the right to privacy lie at the heart of our values and cannot be sacrificed at the altar of such vague and malleable concepts.

However hard the defendants may press in their efforts, they cannot escape the salient facts in this case: 1. the FBI records and information in question were obtained by means that were unconstitutional, illegal, and beyond the government's authority; 2. the files developed through these means contain information about the most private and intimate affairs; and 3. the record shows no evidence of anything on the part of the SWP or YSA other than activities protected by the First Amendment. To allow continued use of the records would "cut deeply into the right of association."

In these circumstances, the Constitution and basic First and Fourth Amendment principles compel rejection of the defendant's position.

## Do you know someone who reads Spanish? Cuban youth speak

Tens of thousands of Cuban youth take part in missions of international solidarity around the world. "If there is a country that needs our technical or medical skills, or . . . our help to defend their sovereignty, it's a moral obligation, even a privilege for us to do this," said Raúl Castellanos Lage, outgoing member of the National Bureau of the Union of Young Communists (UJC) in Cuba.

For its May issue, *Perspectiva Mundial* did an exclusive interview with Castellanos and another Cuban youth leader, Juan Contino Asláñ, at the end of the recent UJC convention in Havana.

Contino had just come back from an internationalist mission in Angola, which is under attack by South Africa's apartheid regime. Castellanos served as a doctor in Nicaragua for 26 months.

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

### Perspectiva Mundial

200 mil dicen 'no' a los  
contras y al apartheid



FBI exige  
derecho de usar  
archivos ilegales

Cómo triunfó  
la huelga de  
Watsonville

Subscriptions: \$7 for one year;  
\$4 for six months; Introductory  
offer, \$2.00 for five months.

☐ Begin my sub with current  
issue.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Clip and mail to PM, 410 West St.,  
New York, NY 10014.



# Rightist coup attempt in Fiji targets Labour Party gov't

BY ERNEST HARSCH

The attempted rightist military coup that began in the South Pacific country of Fiji May 14 ran up against opposition from important sectors of the population.

On May 18 much of the economy was paralyzed by the first day of a general strike called by the major trade unions and by some business associations. Most shops and businesses in Suva, the capital, and other large towns were closed.

Demonstrations forced the release of Prime Minister Timoci Bavadra and other government officials who were seized by troops on the first day of the coup. Lt. Col. Sitiveni Rabuka, the third-ranking officer in Fiji's 2,000-man army, led the coup.

Some 1,400 miles to the west of Fiji, in Australia, Sydney's Waterside Workers Union has announced that it will boycott the movement of all cargo to and from Fiji to protest the military takeover.

Confronted by widespread opposition, including criticisms of the coup by Governor General Penaia Ganilau, Rabuka was unable to consolidate his position.

## Background to coup bid

In an attempt to win support for the coup from native Fijians, Rabuka claimed that the Bavadra government was controlled by Fijians of Indian descent. "I am only looking after the Fijians' interests," Rabuka maintained.

Of Fiji's population of 715,000, about 47 percent are of native Melanesian ancestry. Slightly more, about 49 percent, are of Indian origin, most descended from Indian indentured workers brought to Fiji by the British colonial authorities in the 19th century.

This claim that the Bavadra government represented Indo-Fijians and that the coup was carried out on behalf of native Fijians has also been featured in most coverage on the coup in the imperialist news media. But this obscures the real reasons for the coup attempt: opposition by the most reactionary and proimperialist forces in Fiji to the outcome of the general election just a month earlier.

On April 12, a coalition led by Bavadra's Fiji Labour Party was declared the winner, defeating the Alliance Party of Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, who has led every government since Fiji gained its independence in 1970. The coalition won 28 seats in the Fijian House of Representatives, compared with 24 held by the Alliance Party.

It was also the first time since independence that an election was not exclusively determined by voting along racial lines.

Significant numbers of Indo-Fijians and indigenous Fijians voted for a coalition that stood on a platform of multiracialism, an antinuclear foreign policy, and increased emphasis on health, education, and social welfare programs.

## Electoral system

Fiji's 1970 constitution — drawn up with the help of Britain, the country's

## Socialist candidates open Boston campaign

BY GARY COHEN

BOSTON — Mark Emanation, a member of Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 1, is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Boston.

Denise McNerney, a student at Boston University and activist in the Young Socialist Alliance, is the party's candidate for member of the Boston School Committee.

McNerney recently participated in a work brigade of U.S. students that went to Nicaragua.

The socialists opened their campaign with a rally April 11.

Carl Koechlin, a leader of the student brigade and organizer of the Massachusetts Senior Action Council, and Charles Welch, Northeast coordinator of TecNica (an organization that provides skilled technical help to Nicaragua), spoke in support of the campaign.

former colonial master — contains a racially segregated system of voting.

Until now, Ratu Mara's Alliance Party had captured all the indigenous Fijian seats. The National Federation Party, on the other hand, was supported by the majority of Indian voters.

The Alliance Party did not govern in the interests of the majority of Fijians, however. Instead, it represented the most powerful local capitalists, who are largely of European and Asian origin, ruling through the hereditary Fijian chiefs.

Similarly, the National Federation Party is dominated by businessmen and lawyers, rather than the Indian workers and tenant farmers who have been its electoral base.

## Labour Party

The Fiji Labour Party was formed in 1985 during a wage freeze imposed by the Ratu Mara government. The founding meeting was attended by representatives of more than 35 unions affiliated to the 40,000-member Fiji Trade Union Congress.

The new party won its major allegiance from urban workers and unemployed (the official unemployment rate is 12.2 percent). As well, it drew support from rural workers and farmers suffering the effects of drought, cyclones, and rock-bottom world prices for sugar and copra.



Coup leader Lt. Col. Sitiveni Rabuka: supports discrimination against Indians, closer ties with Washington.

Labour's formation of an electoral coalition with the National Federation Party to contest the elections has been pointed to as evidence of "Indian" domination of the new government.

In fact, however, Labour was the dominant force in the coalition — a fact that led a section of the National Federation Party to split away and run independently in the elections. This split group did not succeed in winning the allegiance of Indian workers and farmers, however.

Nine of the 14 members of Prime Minister Bavadra's cabinet were Labour Party members — both Indian and indigenous Fijian.

## Imperialist concern

The defeat of Ratu Mara aroused concern among the imperialist powers. Located at the hub of the Pacific, Fiji is the most economically developed of the independent island countries. It has important capitalist investments.

Australia and New Zealand, in particular, economically dominate Fiji.

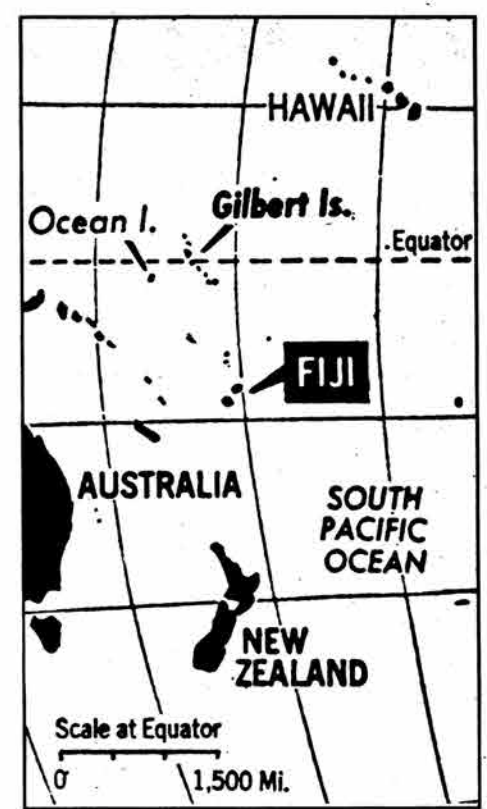
The imperialist powers in the Pacific were especially worried about the new government's declared intention to ban visits to Fijian ports by nuclear-armed and nuclear-powered warships. Members of the governing coalition also raised the possibility of Fiji joining the Movement of Nonaligned Countries, following the ex-

ample of neighboring Vanuatu.

Rabuka, just a few days after his coup attempt, cited the Bavadra government's foreign policy stance as one of the factors in his decision to depose it. He maintained that the government was leading the country away from its previous close ties with Washington. He also red-baited various cabinet ministers, claiming that some of them were "friends" of the Soviet Union or Libya.

Rabuka likewise objected to the multiracial composition and approach of the Bavadra government. Rabuka said he favored a rewriting of the constitution to further limit the rights of Indians.

But the stiff resistance to the coup, including by native Fijian supporters of the Labour Party, may bury this reactionary assault.



## — WORLD NEWS BRIEFS —

### Honduran workers demand U.S. troops leave

Tens of thousands of Honduran unionists, marching on May Day, demanded the expulsion of U.S. troops and U.S.-supported contra forces from Honduras.

The marches, held in Tegucigalpa and other major cities, were organized by the United Federation of Honduran Workers and other unions.

Some of the banners and posters carried in the Tegucigalpa march proclaimed, "Yankee troops, get out," "Contra trash, out of Honduras," "Respect for free trade unionism," "Less arms and more education," and "We demand social justice."

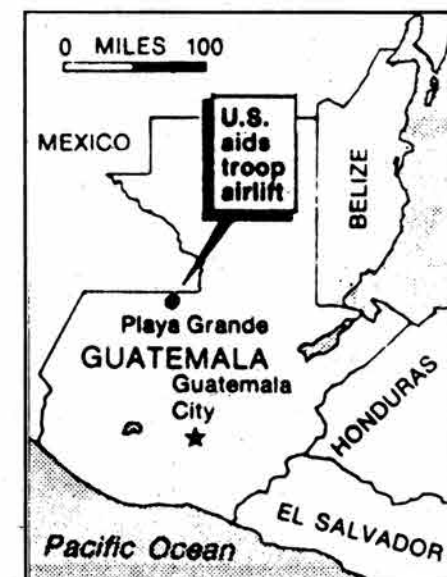
The demonstrators also condemned Washington's "Solid Shield '87" military maneuvers, involving some 10,000 U.S. troops, the largest such exercise ever held in Honduras. Held annually, these maneuvers are part of Washington's preparations for a possible invasion of Nicaragua.

Meanwhile, the Reagan administration has asked Congress to approve the sale of 12 F-5E jet fighters to the Honduran military. If the sale goes through, they would be the first advanced jet fighters in Central America.

### U.S. pilots ferry Guatemalan troops

For the first time in nearly 10 years of a peasant-based insurgency in Guatemala, U.S. military forces have become actively involved in operational activities by the Guatemalan army.

On May 3-4, U.S. pilots and crew members ferried hundreds of Guatemalan troops to the Playa Grande army garrison in the northern part of that country. It is an area where guerrilla insurgents have been



particularly active, carrying out at least four attacks on army posts since January. The Guatemalan troops were flown to

Playa Grande aboard three U.S. Chinook helicopters that are normally stationed at Palmerola air base in Honduras.

This airlift came just a few days before Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo visited Washington to press for increased U.S. military assistance. According to State Department officials, the Pentagon agreed to the U.S. airlift "because Cerezo asked us for it and we needed to come through for him."

### Namibians protest plan to dump nuclear waste

According to officials of the South African-imposed administration in Namibia, the West German government of Helmut Kohl is negotiating a deal to deposit nuclear wastes in Namibia's Kalahari desert. It has offered to pay more than \$2 billion for a dump site.

Sam Nujoma, president of the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO), which is fighting for Namibia's independence from South African rule, has condemned the proposal.

Citing the damage that leaked radioactivity could cause to ground water and grazing lands, Nujoma said that the dumping of nuclear wastes in Namibia "will certainly cause disaster to the future entire Namibian nation."

"Therefore," Nujoma said, "this is a question for the entire Namibian nation to stand up and fight against this conspiracy of racist South Africa and the Kohl West German government."

He called on all Namibians, and especially those white Namibians of German descent, to demonstrate against the nuclear waste dump plans.

### Sri Lankan regime seeks S. African arms

A South African radio broadcast has revealed that the government of Sri Lanka is seeking to purchase South African arms for its war against Tamil insurgents.

The April 29 Johannesburg radio broadcast, citing "highly placed government sources" in Colombo, Sri Lanka's capital, reported that the government there is "currently negotiating both with South Africa and Israel to purchase arms."

Although the Sri Lanka regime has been getting Israeli arms for some time, the approaches to South Africa mark a shift.

In the past, Sri Lanka formally supported U.N. resolutions for a boycott of trade with South Africa. But now "the Sri Lankan government would not play an active role against South Africa in world trade," the sources told the radio's correspondent. They also expressed pleasure with South Africa's continued interest in purchasing Sri Lankan tea.



**Soldier of misfortune** — Eugene Hasenfus, whose capture in Nicaragua helped pry open the contragate, complains he feels like "a lost soul," abandoned by

**Watch yourself, buster** — "Just because we support free enterprise doesn't mean that we can't be critical of its excesses." — Presidential hopeful George Bush.

with loans from the Farmers Home Administration are declaring bankruptcy, just as the agency is intensifying efforts to collect overdue loans."

Since I'm a pacifist, I was very impressed." — Fashion designer Joan Vass, who exhibited her designs at Cuba Moda, Havana's first international fashion convention.

unload about \$6 million worth of Chrysler stock to pay all his taxes.



Harry Ring

former employers and government. He says he's jobless and in hock and "demoralized a little bit, down in the dumps for the way I've been neglected."

**A relevant theology** — For fees ranging up to \$1,500 an hour, you can get wise advice from a reincarnated spirit inhabiting the body of a "channel." A sociologist says "channeling" is doing well because, "It assuages guilt, tells people that what they are doing is all right, says even a certain amount of ruthlessness is all right. In a way, it's the perfect yuppie religion."

**That's strange** — "WASHINGTON (AP) — More farmers

**A toss-up** — We couldn't figure out which was the funniest story of the week — the one about the New York rept-gougers' lobby wanting a change in the state rent law to protect landlords from harassment by tenants, or the one about the New York cop convicted of heisting cash, crack, and cocaine who said he gave most of the proceeds to charity.

**No two-headed demons** — "I expected guns and tanks. But there were only a couple of soldiers.

**Don't leave home without it** — Busy as we are, it struck us as a good deal — a handmade Swiss watch with a perpetual calendar that doesn't have to be reset for 214 years. But what really sold us is that along with day and date, it gives you the year, something we're often fuzzy about. \$14,500.

**See, it's not all gray** — Lee Iacocca, who knocked down \$20.5 million in wages and fringes at Chrysler last year, says he has to

**What better proof** — Marlborough, Mass., city council member Gerald Spratt apologized for using the term "nigger in the woodpile," but denied he was a racist. He pointed to his 32-year tenure as a cop, which, he advised, he served "with love for everyone."

**Ol' picklehead** — For National Pickle Week, the pickle packers' association tapped Rep. J.J. Pickle as Pickle of the Year. The Texas Democrat says the high point of his career was when he cosponsored a bill with Rep. Claude Pepper and Sen. John Heinz — the Heinz-Pickle-Pepper bill.

## CALENDAR

### CALIFORNIA

#### Los Angeles

**The New Immigration Law: Why It Is an Attack on All Working People.** Speakers: Olga Rodriguez, Socialist Workers Party; Alejandro Molina Lara, representative, United Electrical Workers Union; Eduardo Estevez, representative, Guatemalan organizations. Sat., May 30, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

#### Oakland

**Youth Speak Out Against War and Apartheid.** Report back from Young Socialist Alliance convention in Chicago. Panel of speakers. Sat., May 30, 7:30 p.m. 3808 E 14 St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Forum and Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (415) 261-3014.

#### San Francisco

**Youth Speak Out Against War and Apartheid.** Speakers: Luis Madrid, chairperson, San Francisco Young Socialist Alliance, just back from YSA national convention; Carlos Hernandez, former Watsonville cannery striker; others. Translation to Spanish. Sat., May 30, 7 p.m. 3284 23rd St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (415) 282-6255.

**The Myth of the Happy Japanese Worker.** Speaker: Ken Honda, Socialist Workers Party, former auto worker in Japan. Translation to Spanish. Sun., June 7, 2 p.m. 3284 23rd St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (415) 282-6255.

### FLORIDA

#### Miami

**Eyewitness to War: Report from El Salvador and Nicaragua.** Speakers: Bill Rayson, National Association of Letter Carriers Local 1701; Ernest Mailhot, Socialist Workers Party, member International Association of Machinists Local 702. Translation to Spanish. Sat., May 23, 8 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (305) 756-1020.

### GEORGIA

#### Atlanta

**Crisis in Grenada?** Speaker: Terry Marryshow, general secretary of Maurice Bishop

Youth Organisation. Wed., May 27, 7 p.m. American Friends Service Committee, 92 Piedmont Ave. NE. Sponsor: Atlanta Committee on Latin America, Caribbean Oriented Students Association (Atlanta University Center), others.

### ILLINOIS

#### Chicago

**The U.S. War Against Nicaragua: An Inside View.** Speakers: Lee Ravenscroft, member TecNica; Jan Gangel, Socialist Workers Party, member International Association of Machinists Local 1487. Translation to Spanish. Sat., May 30, 7:30 p.m. 3455 S Michigan Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (312) 326-5853.

### LOUISIANA

#### New Orleans

**Eyewitness Report from Nicaragua.** George Paris, land development chief of Federation of Southern Cooperatives. Sat., May 30, 7:30 p.m. 3640 Magazine St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (504) 895-1961.

### MINNESOTA

#### Austin

**The Truth About Nicaragua — Oppose Aid to the Contras.** A panel discussion and slideshow presentation. Sat., May 30, 7:30 p.m. 407 1/2 N Main Street. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (507) 433-3461.

### NEW JERSEY

#### Newark

**Issues in the "Baby M" Court Case.** Speaker: Alicia Merel, Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat., May 30, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St. (1 block from Broad). Donation \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

### NEW YORK

#### Manhattan

**From the African National Congress: How to Win Democracy in South Africa.** Speaker: Fred Dube, spokesperson for African National Congress, professor at Stony Brook campus of State University of New York denied tenure because of his political views. Translation to

Spanish. Fri., May 29, 7:30 p.m. 79 Leonard St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

**Julius and Ethel Rosenberg 34th Annual Commemoration — Remembering Friday, June 19, 1953.** Demonstration Fri., June 19, noon to 2 p.m. at United States Courthouse, Foley Sq. Memorial Meeting, Fri., June 19, 6:30 p.m. New York University Law School, 40 Washington Sq. S. Sponsor: National Committee to Reopen the Rosenberg Case. For more information call (212) 228-4500.

### WASHINGTON

#### Seattle

**Democratic Rights vs. Government Spying.**

## Reagan forced to change his alibi

Continued from front page

that I couldn't approve the sending of help or arms out of our budget."

Robert Owen, who acted as a courier for National Security Council official Lt. Col. Oliver North, testified before the congressional investigating committee May 14 and 19. He described how CIA personnel in Washington, Honduras, and Costa Rica — along with the U.S. ambassador to Costa Rica — assisted the contras militarily during the period when such aid was banned.

According to Owen, the CIA provided military maps for use in contra terrorist attacks, helped locate a site in Costa Rica for a clandestine air base to aid the contras, and facilitated efforts to provide arms for the contras' unsuccessful attempts to build a southern front in Nicaragua.

Owen showed how the "humanitarian" aid voted by Congress in 1985 formed an integral part of the arms supply program and was used to pay much of the cost.

Owen said that he and White House aide Johnathan Miller funneled cash from North's White House safe to contra aid operations.

Despite White House suggestions that

A rally to defend the Bill of Rights. Speakers: Tomas Villanueva, president of United Farm Workers of Washington State; John Gilbert, Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador; Barbara Nelson, Ad Hoc Committee for Justice (for the Los Angeles 8); Terri Mast, president, Cannery Workers Local 37 International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union; Chris Horner, Northwest spokesperson for Political Rights Defense Fund, member International Union of Electronic Workers Local 1002, Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat., May 30. Reception, 6 p.m.; rally, 7 p.m. Seattle American Postal Workers Hall, 2450 6th Ave. S. (at Lander). Donation: \$3. Sponsor: PRDF. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

such activities would be entirely legal and proper, Miller immediately resigned his post. And administration officials disclaimed responsibility for his actions.

Owen described providing about \$30,000 in payoffs to top leaders of the contras in the United States.

He indicated that no one — least of all the leaders of the mercenary army themselves — believed that this terrorist outfit could overturn the Nicaraguan government.

"This war has become a business to many of them," he wrote in a March 1986 memo to North. "There is still a belief the marines are going to have to invade, so let's get set so we will automatically be the ones put in power."

"What was in your mind about who you were deceiving?" Owen was asked. He began by mumbling about fooling the Nicaraguans and Cubans, although he conceded that "they obviously had very good intelligence."

"And unfortunately," he went on, "I think, in hindsight, the people we were deceiving may have been the American public."

## IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP

Where to find the Socialist Workers Party, Young Socialist Alliance, and Pathfinder bookstores.

**ALABAMA:** Birmingham: SWP, YSA, 1306 1st Ave. N. Zip: 35203. Tel: (205) 323-3079.

**ARIZONA:** Phoenix: SWP, YSA, 1809 W. Indian School Rd. Zip: 85015. Tel: (602) 279-5850. Tucson: YSA, c/o Ursula Kolb, P.O. Box 853. Zip: 85702. Tel: (602) 795-5810.

**CALIFORNIA:** Los Angeles: SWP, YSA, 2546 W. Pico Blvd. Zip: 90006. Tel: (213) 380-9460. Oakland: SWP, YSA, 3808 E 14th St. Zip: 94601. Tel: (415) 261-3014. San Diego: SWP, YSA, 2803 B St. Zip: 92102. Tel: (619) 234-4630. San Francisco: SWP, YSA, 3284 23rd St. Zip: 94110. Tel: (415) 282-6255. San Jose: SWP, YSA, 46 1/2 Race St. Zip: 95126. Tel: (408) 998-4007. Seaside: YSA, P.O. Box 1645. Zip: 93955. Tel: (408) 394-1855. Stockton: YSA, c/o Ted Barratt and Gustavo Mendoza, 825 N. San Jose St. Zip: 95203. Tel: (209) 941-8544.

**COLORADO:** Denver: SWP, YSA, 25 W. 3rd Ave. Zip: 80223. Tel: (303) 698-2550.

**FLORIDA:** Miami: SWP, YSA, 137 NE 54th St. Mailing address: P.O. Box 370486. Zip: 33137. Tel: (305) 756-1020. Tallahassee: YSA, P.O. Box 20715. Zip: 32316. Tel: (904) 222-4434.

**GEORGIA:** Atlanta: SWP, YSA, 132 Cone

St. NW, 2nd Floor. Zip: 30303. Tel: (404) 577-4065.

**ILLINOIS:** Chicago: SWP, YSA, 3455 S. Michigan Ave. Zip: 60616. Tel: (312) 326-5853 or 326-5453.

**IOWA:** Des Moines: SWP, YSA, 2105 Forest Ave. Zip: 50311. Tel: (515) 246-1695.

**KANSAS:** Lawrence: YSA, c/o Rob Binns, 1039 Rhode Island. Zip: 66044.

**LOUISIANA:** Baton Rouge: YSA, 4264 Oxford Ave. #4, Zip: 70808. Tel: (504) 766-0510. New Orleans: SWP, YSA, 3640 Magazine St. Zip: 70115. Tel: (504) 895-1961.

**MARYLAND:** Baltimore: SWP, YSA, 2913 Greenmount Ave. Zip: 21218. Tel: (301) 235-0013.

**MASSACHUSETTS:** Amherst: YSA, P.O. Box 1383 Hampshire College. Zip: 01002. Boston: SWP, YSA, 107 Brighton Ave., 2nd floor, Allston. Zip: 02134. Tel: (617) 787-0275.

**MICHIGAN:** Detroit: SWP, YSA, 2135 Woodward Ave. Zip: 48201. Tel: (313) 961-0395.

**MINNESOTA:** Austin: SWP, YSA, 407 1/2 N. Main. Zip: 55912. Tel: (507) 433-3461. Northfield: YSA, c/o Heiko Koester and Pat Romero, Carlton College. Zip: 55057. Tel: (507) 663-4000, ext. 4570 or 4563. Twin Cities: SWP, YSA, 508 N. Snelling Ave., St. Paul. Zip: 55104. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

**MISSOURI:** Kansas City: SWP, YSA, 4725 Troost. Zip: 64110. Tel: (816) 753-0224.

**St. Louis:** SWP, YSA, 4907 Martin Luther King Dr. Zip: 63113. Tel: (314) 361-0250.

**NEBRASKA:** Omaha: SWP, YSA, 140 S. 40th St. Zip: 68131. Tel: (402) 553-0245.

**NEW JERSEY:** Newark: SWP, YSA, 141 Halsey. Zip: 07102. Tel: (201) 643-3341.

**NEW YORK:** Capital District (Albany): SWP, YSA, 114E Quail St. Zip: 12206. Tel: (518) 434-3247. Mid-Hudson: YSA, Box 650, Annandale. Zip: 12504. Tel: (914) 758-0408. New York: SWP, YSA, 79 Leonard St. Zip: 10013. Tel: (212) 219-3679 or 925-1668. Pathfinder Books, 226-8445. Stony Brook: YSA, c/o Jordy Rockowitz, Wagner 120, Stony Brook College. Zip: 11794.

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

**OHIO:** Athens: c/o Jake Hiles, 189 1/2 W. Washington, Apt. A. Zip: 45701. Tel: (614) 594-8450. Cincinnati: SWP, YSA, 4945 Paddock Rd. Zip: 45237. Tel: (513) 242-7161. Cleveland: SWP, YSA, 2521 Market Ave. Zip: 44113. Tel: (216) 861-6150. Columbus: YSA, P.O. Box 02097. Zip: 43202. Toledo: SWP, YSA, 1701 W. Bancroft St. Zip: 43606. Tel: (419) 536-0383.

**OKLAHOMA:** Edmond: YSA, c/o Ricky Garcia, 1308 N. Blvd. F-46. Zip: 73033. Tel: (405) 340-3868.

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

**PENNSYLVANIA:** Edinboro: YSA, c/o Mark Mateja, Edinboro University of Pa. Zip: 16412. Tel: (814) 398-2574. Philadelphia: SWP, YSA, 2744 Germantown Ave. Zip: 19133. Tel: (215) 225-0213. Pittsburgh: SWP, YSA, 402 N. Highland Ave. Zip: 15206. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

**TEXAS:** Austin: YSA, c/o Mike Rose, 7409 Berkman Dr. Zip: 78752. Tel: (512) 452-3923. Dallas: SWP, YSA, 336 W. Jefferson. Zip: 75208. Tel: (214) 943-5195. Houston: SWP, YSA, 4806 Alameda. Zip: 77004. Tel: (713) 522-8054.

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

**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.



# Maurice Bishop Youth leader in Brooklyn



Militant/Francisco Picado

**Terry Marryshow at Medgar Evers: "I speak to you as a Caribbean and Latin American youth because I believe our struggle is a common one and our history and destiny is a common one."**

**Continued from back page**

struggle is a common one, our history is a common one, our enemy is a common one, and our destiny is a common one."

"I'm also happy to be here because your support is vitally necessary to the success or failure of any political movement in the Caribbean. You, from Caribbean and Latin American countries especially, represent a significant link between Caribbean society and U.S. society. It is a link that should never be underestimated."

Turning to the situation in Grenada, Marryshow said that three and a half years after the collapse of the Grenada revolution, the people of Grenada "are beginning to wake up once again and compare this period under U.S. influence to the period of the revolution" from 1979 to 1983. During those years, health care, education, and the rights and living standards of the people were advanced by the revolutionary government headed by Bishop.

When the U.S.-imposed government of Prime Minister Herbert Blaize's New National Party came into office, Marryshow said, many people adopted a wait-and-see attitude as to what it would do to improve the lives of the people. But "after two and a half years," Marryshow said, "the NNP government is probably the most unpopular government in the history of Grenada. There has been a rapid deterioration in the social and economic life of the people."

Recently the regime announced plans to lay off 1,800 public workers by the end of the year. Even prior to these layoffs, unemployment was estimated at 40 percent.

The planned cuts have led to protests by trade unions and the resignation of three government ministers.

As a result of blows such as these, Marryshow explained, the Grenadian people have become more politicized over the past year.

Former supporters of the Grenada revolution still face political victimization, Marryshow said. Marryshow, who attended medical school in Cuba, is still being barred from practicing medicine; another MBYO leader, Einstein Louison, has had his passport revoked.

Marryshow pointed out that Grenada today has a foreign debt of \$200 million. In 1983 under the People's Revolutionary Government, Grenada's foreign debt was only \$8.5 million.

Marryshow said Grenada is not unique in this regard. It is like many Third World countries that are "becoming poorer and poorer as the Western powers become richer and richer."

"The foreign debt of these Third World nations," he said, "is politically, economically, and morally unpayable."

The U.S. government, Marryshow said, bleeds Grenada, while it sends \$100 million to the contras, who seek to overturn Nicaragua's revolutionary government. Imperialism, he said, also squanders billions of dollars each year for weapons of mass destruction.

As regards the prospects for Grenadian working people today, Marryshow said, there is an alternative to the capitalist parties and their politicians. It is the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM).

Marryshow commented on the recent resignations from the NNP government by leaders of two of the three parties that had formed the NNP in 1984. "In essence there is no difference between any of these parties," he said. "They all stand for the same thing. They are all right-wing parties, all proimperialist, and strongly anticommunist."

The MBPM, on the other hand, he said, "stands for a return to sovereignty and independence, which was lost to imperialist domination."

Both the MBYO and MBPM stand on the revolutionary program and ideas of

Maurice Bishop, which remain the way forward for Grenada today, Marryshow said.

The MBPM and MBYO still have only a small following, he said. The population was demoralized and politically disoriented by Coard's bloody counterrevolution.

"The struggle today requires a lot more dedication, a lot more commitment than it ever did before," he added. "We are still fighting an uphill battle at this time. We are fighting to regain a situation that was lost in a country that is occupied and is under heavy manners."

"The youth remain apathetic," he said. "But we are trying to get them involved in activity — beginning with sports and cultural activities."

The meeting was chaired by Wilton DeCoteau, a leader of Brooklyn's Grenadian community. The event was sponsored by the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement Support Group, Grenada Foundation, and the Student Government and the Center for Women's Development of Medgar Evers College.

## Marryshow to address public meeting in Atlanta May 27

ATLANTA — Grenadian revolutionary youth leader Terry Marryshow will speak here at a broadly sponsored meeting Wednesday, May 27.

Sponsors of the meeting include: Atlanta Committee on Latin America; Caribbean Oriented Students Association (Atlanta University Center); Concerned Black Clergy; State Rep. Mabel Thomas; Georgia Coalition for Divestment in South Africa; Emory University Central America Network; Vietnam Veterans Against the War (Atlanta Chapter); Techwood Tenants Association; Joe Beasley, Rainbow Coalition; and Rev. Timothy McDonald, Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

The meeting will be held at the American Friends Service Committee, 92 Piedmont Ave. NE, at 7:00 p.m.

## May Day protest in Grenada

BY MALIK MIAH

The recent May Day celebration on the small east Caribbean island of Grenada turned into an antigovernment protest. Workers and trade union leaders sharply condemned the plans of the U.S.-imposed government of Herbert Blaize to dismiss 1,800 public workers over the coming year.

The layoffs would eliminate more than one-quarter of the country's 7,000 public employees.

According to the Caribbean news agency CANA, "Several workers carried anti-retrenchment placards during a two-mile march [in St. George's] and later booed new Labor Minister George McGuire repeatedly as he addressed them at the Queen's Park pavillion."

Public Workers Union President Basil Harford said his union opposed the layoffs and called on the government to hold a dialogue with the labor movement.

"The public workers in this country," he stated, "must not be asked to make the sacrifice for an inefficient fiscal policy of the government."

Elliot Bishop of the Commercial and In-

dustrial Workers Union said the dismissals would lead to a deterioration of industrial relations and significantly increase unemployment, which is estimated at 40 percent.

Bank and General Workers Union President Derek Allard said the government is incompetent, inhumane, and would face the consequences of its actions if it did not reverse its course.

Anslem De Bourg, president of the Trade Union Council, called on workers not to allow themselves to sink into complacency. He said workers must become more active, more organized, and more willing to struggle for their just demands.

"Politics is not for the employers," he said, "but also the workers."

Prior to the labor rally, the Blaize government said the number of layoffs will be smaller than first announced. Labor Minister McGuire told the crowd that teachers will not be affected.

The growing opposition to the proposed firings has also led to a shake-up in the regime. On April 13 three cabinet ministers resigned, stating disagreement with the layoffs as the reason for their resignation.

## Asparagus cutters' strike in Wash.

**Continued from back page**

supporters have to park a quarter of a mile away.

SKD Farms and other growers gave their best shot on Saturday, May 16, to bust the strike. The Eastern Washington Growers League, formed earlier in the year to counter the growing influence of the union, financed radio commercials soliciting scabs to harvest the struck fields.

On Saturday, seven of the 55 strikers crossed the picket line. Union President Villanueva appealed to them from the picket line. "Brothers, we need to end exploitation. Support us, because together we can win. We can put a stop to slavery, to injustice in the fields."

"This is an important fight. We are fighting for our people, brothers, our children... join us."

Paraphrasing Emiliano Zapata, a leader of the Mexican revolution, Villanueva appealed to their Mexican heritage. "Brothers, it's better to die fighting on your feet than to live on your knees."

One worker who had crossed the picket line immediately walked off the job and shook Villanueva's hand. Strikers and their supporters were clapping and chanting in Spanish, "Strike, strike, strike." A little

later the other six scabs walked off.

Later in the morning three carloads of scabs were brought from other farms. They were told that in order to get paid, they had to work for SKD Farms. Through intimidation, the majority of them stayed and worked for a few hours.

To prevent the union from appealing to the scabs, SKD Farms rented a huge sound system to drown out the strikers.

Some of the scabs were not farm workers. The strikers found it amusing to watch the wife of Lowell Lancaster, general manager of Pyramid Orchards, working in the field.

The scabs were paid \$5 an hour, twice the average wage of the striking farm workers.

Meanwhile, the union continues its four-month-old strike against Pyramid Orchards, demanding union recognition, higher wages, and better working conditions.

The union has also stepped up its informational picket line calling for a boycott of Chateau Ste. Michelle, the largest winery in the state.

Contributions and messages of solidarity can be sent to: UFWWS, Box 899, Granger, Wash. 98932.

## —10 AND 25 YEARS AGO—

### THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

May 27, 1977

The liberal California State Supreme Court last September struck down a minority admissions program at the University of California at Davis Medical School. The ruling — known as the *Bakke* decision — found the University of California Board of Regents guilty of "reverse discrimination" for operating the minority admissions program.

The decision came in response to a suit filed by Allan Bakke, a white medical school applicant. Bakke had been refused admission to the Davis medical school.

The *Bakke* decision is a threat to minority health care in this country. It is a threat to all attempts to achieve equal access to education and higher-paying jobs.

The Davis medical school was, until a few years ago, accessible only to whites. Under the impact of the civil rights movement and growing struggles by minority students for an end to discriminatory admissions practices, special minority admissions programs were established across the country.

In 1969 the Davis medical school established such a program. It was a modest step toward opening the school to minority students. A special task force recommended that each year 16 "disadvantaged" students be among the 100 students admitted. Since the program began, only 33 Chicanos, 26 Blacks, and 1 Native American have been admitted through it.

After Bakke's application to the school was rejected in 1973, he persisted in his attempt to be admitted.

After being rejected, Bakke filed in California state court against the University of California Board of Regents. He claimed he had been discriminated against

because of his race.

Judge F. Leslie Manker ruled that Bakke's right to equal protection under the law had been violated and declared the minority admissions program unconstitutional.

Both Bakke and the board of regents appealed Manker's decision to the California State Supreme Court. The court, in September 1976, upheld six-to-one Manker's decision overturning the minority admissions program. In addition, it ordered the school to admit Bakke.

**THE MILITANT**  
Published in the Interests of the Working People  
**May 28, 1962** Price 10c

A wildcat strike broke out last week at the Waldorf-Astoria — America's most famous luxury hotel and busiest center for elegant banquets.

The revolt at the Waldorf started Sunday May 13 at a \$75-a-plate banquet sponsored by a committee of philanthropists. The usual procedure at such affairs is for the committee to pay a percentage of the dinner's cost (exclusive of the charitable donation) for the waiters' tips, but sometimes at the Waldorf that arrangement is not made. This was one of those times.

The waiters would have to pass a basket at the end of the meal, a procedure which they resented and had repeatedly protested.

Their complaints had come to nothing, however, so this time, between the fruit cup and the soup, the 120 waiters disappeared from the Grand Ballroom leaving 1,400 guests to listen to speeches on empty stomachs. After 90 minutes of negotiation, the waiters returned. On the tables were placed cards reading: "On this occasion your committee has taken care of gratuities for your waiter."



## New antidiscrimination ruling

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled May 18 in two cases that Arabs, Jews, and others can use an 1866 law to combat acts of discrimination. The law provides that all citizens have the same rights as white people to make contracts, including employment contracts, and to "inherit, purchase, lease, sell, hold, and convey real and personal property."

It authorizes the victims to seek large punitive damage, compensation for pain and suffering, and guarantees them the right to a jury trial.

The ruling marks a further advance in codifying rights won through struggles of working people against discrimination and persecution on racial, religious, nationality, and other grounds.

One case concerned a suit by Shaare Tefila Congregation, a synagogue in Silver Spring, Maryland, which sued in 1984 to recover damages from eight men accused of spray-painting swastikas and anti-Semitic slogans on the walls.

A lower court had held that Jews were not entitled to use the 1866 law, claiming that it applied only to non-whites.

In the second case, the Supreme Court upheld a lower court ruling that a teacher, a U.S. citizen born in Iraq, could use the law to sue St. Francis College in Pennsylvania, which he charges denied him tenure because of his nationality.

Officials of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund hailed the ruling as consolidating the right of Mexican Americans to use the 1866 law, which, they point out, has "more teeth" than the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

"What the court is saying," declared Abdeen Jabara, president of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, "is that we have equal rights to equal protection of the laws."

The B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League stated: "From now on, perpetrators of anti-Semitic vandalism and other forms of discrimination can be subjected to financial penalties. This adds an important new weapon in combating discrimination and could serve as a further deterrent."

Bruce Fein, from the right-wing Heritage Foundation, an ally of the Reagan administration, criticized the decision, saying it "opened opportunities for abuse of the civil rights laws."

But Fein and his cronies' main concern is not alleged abuse of the law. Their real beef is that far from making

headway on narrowing democratic freedoms and restoring some legitimacy to racial and other forms of discrimination, the Supreme Court, in a series of decisions, has been forced to reaffirm and further codify equal rights.

On March 25, for example, the Supreme Court upheld affirmative action programs, ruling that an employer may promote women or Blacks over whites or males who score higher on tests, in order to "remedy an imbalance in traditionally segregated job categories."

On March 3 the court ruled that recipients of federal funds may not discriminate against people suffering from contagious diseases, upholding the rights of a Florida schoolteacher who had been fired because she was suffering from tuberculosis.

This decision was widely seen as a gain for the civil rights of those suffering from AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) as well. A Justice Department memorandum issued last June argued that AIDS victims were not protected by laws barring discrimination against the handicapped, and could be fired from jobs because of their condition.

These decisions codify and reinforce gains won over many decades through struggles by working people against the employers and the government. The 1866 law was a product of the U.S. Civil War, which resulted in the abolition of slavery, and of the struggles of Black working people and their allies that followed the war.

Above all, the court's decision reflects the victories won by the civil rights movement, which overturned the system of legal racial segregation in the South, where it was most deeply entrenched, and elsewhere in the country. The heroic struggles of millions of Black workers and farmers and their allies against official segregation inspired women, Latinos, and many others to fight against the discrimination they face.

These gains greatly weakened the ability of the employers and government to use discrimination to superexploit, oppress, and divide working people. Although institutionalized discrimination remains pervasive in U.S. society, and racial prejudices still run deep, an important conquest of the civil rights movement was a growing consensus among workers, farmers, and other democratic-minded people that all such discrimination is harmful, unfair, and should be abolished.

The May 18 ruling reinforces the legal weapons available to the victims of discrimination and reflects how deeply entrenched this antidiscrimination sentiment has become.

## Rights Commission in disarray

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights voted May 15 to reject a statement criticizing the recent Supreme Court ruling upholding affirmative action programs for women and Blacks. This registered the failure of several years of government efforts to turn this body into an effective propagandist against the expanded rights won by Blacks and women in the 1960s and 1970s.

The vote came as a surprise to some who assumed that the Reagan administration, despite the deep crisis it is in, could count on the commission to echo its policies. For example, the *New York Times* erroneously reported May 14 that the commission had approved the statement, which portrayed the court decision as a "license" for discrimination against "innocent whites."

The vote in the commission reflected growing disarray among the administration's supporters, and the growing isolation of ultrarightists like commission Chairman Clarence Pendleton, who have been pushed forward as propagandists for reactionary administration positions.

Commission member Robert Destro, a zealous foe of abortion rights who usually backs administration policy, explained his vote against the statement by expressing fear that it "would have left the impression that the commission believes somehow that getting rid of sex discrimination is not important."

The commission was formed in 1957, mandated by civil rights legislation enacted that year. Over the next two decades, it often took stands reflecting some of the demands of the massive civil rights battles waged by Blacks, as well as the struggles of women, Chicanos, and other oppressed groups.

As U.S. big business ran into growing economic difficulties in the mid-1970s, the employers, backed by the Republican and Democratic parties, began to cut the living standards of workers and farmers and chip away at their rights.

In the 1980s the rulers' attacks on working people stepped up, accompanied by a high-powered campaign of reactionary propaganda to soften up workers and farmers for more austerity and war moves, and more attacks on democratic rights. The Reagan administration revamped the personnel of the civil rights commission to reflect this.

The White House estimated that a "civil rights commission" that took strident stands against civil rights could help rally popular support for turning back these gains.

Thus the commission proclaimed in January 1984 that affirmative action programs were creating a "new class of victims" — white males. This reversed an earlier commission stand in support of affirmative action.

Linda Chavez, the commission's staff director, announced that the commission would now be giving high priority to "the adverse consequences of affirmative action programs on Americans of eastern and southern European descent."

Commission Chairman Clarence Pendleton blasted affirmative action in March 1985 as "the new racism."

"Who are these new racists?" he said, referring to supporters of such programs. "They are typically supporters of civil rights."

The administration's followers on the commission proclaimed their devotion to a "color blind" society. But this catch-phrase was just a demagogic attempt to blind people to the pervasive and institutionalized racist and sexist discrimination that imbues this society.

The expected shift in public opinion against affirmative action, busing, abortion rights, and equality in general never materialized, and the commission — like the administration — found itself increasingly isolated. Support for affirmative action programs, in fact, has grown among working people as many unionists realized that eliminating them would deepen divisions and strengthen the employers' power to use discrimination as a weapon against wages, working conditions, and union rights.

An upswing in struggles against racist violence in 1987, from Howard Beach in New York to Forsyth County, Georgia, signaled a growing demand for further advances in civil rights. And the Supreme Court was forced to uphold affirmative action programs in a series of cases, as well as the right of women workers to pregnancy disability leaves.

The recent vote by the commissioners not to release their own statement is one more reflection of the growing difficulties Washington has in advancing the employers' interests at home as well as abroad.

## Do farmers produce too much food?

BY DOUG JENNESS

Government ministers from 24 capitalist countries, including the United States, have concluded that farmers in their countries are producing too much food and steps are needed to curtail production.

"Overproduction," they assert in a May 13 communiqué issued in Paris, is driving food prices down on

## LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

the world market. Their proposed remedy: reduce price supports and other aid to farmers.

These government officials argue that such programs are a form of "protectionism" that allows farmers to receive an artificially high price for sales in their domestic markets, while their products are sold more competitively on the world market. They contend that this encourages farmers to increase production.

The ministers call for allowing market forces to play a larger role in determining farm production and prices.

The statement was issued at the end of a conference of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. Agricultural policy will be discussed again next month in Venice at a seven-nation summit of the dominant capitalist countries.

Underlying these talks, but not of much concern to the participants, is the worsening plight of working farmers in these countries. U.S. farmers are not unique; they are in the same boat as farmers in many other countries. They face high production costs and low prices for what they produce and are driven off the land when they can't pay their debts.

Seen as an international problem, then, what policies are in the best interests of working farmers from France to India and from the United States to Brazil? Should farmers support the call for reducing price supports? Should they call for government measures that will make farm exports produced in their own countries more competitive? What does it mean for farmers to let market forces play a larger role when a handful of giant grain merchants and other trade monopolies dominate the world market?

In the next several columns, I intend to explore these and other questions. This week, I'm focusing on the issue: do farmers produce too much food?

If the answer to this question is yes, it might give some credence to the argument that farmers should reduce production, even if it means many will be forced out of farming. A case might be made, then, that they could help contribute to society in some other way.

There is no doubt that food production has soared in the past few decades as a result of modern technology and chemicals. Figures from the Food and Agriculture Organization's *FAO Production Yearbook* show that during the past 25 years, food production has outstripped the world's unprecedented population growth by about 16 percent.

Farmers produce enough grain alone to provide every human being on earth with 3,600 calories a day.

In U.S.-government-financed storage depots, there is enough cheese, milk, and butter to provide every person in the United States with about 50 pounds and enough wheat to bake seven loaves of bread for every human being in the world.

(These figures should give pause for thought to doom-sayers who call for population control because there are supposedly too many mouths to feed. But that's a topic for another column.)

In spite of these impressive figures, however, a person doesn't have to be an expert on current affairs to know that there's plenty of hunger in the world.

According to a 1986 World Bank report, 700 million people go to bed hungry every night. And this is very likely a conservative estimate. In addition, there is the costly toll of famines created by the money-grubbing policies of the big traders.

The big majority of people lacking enough food live in Asia, Latin America, and Africa. But even the United States, sometimes called the breadbasket of the world, is not immune. A 1985 report from the Physician Task Force on Hunger in America estimated that as many as 20 million people in the United States do not have an adequate diet. Another report the same year, *Hunger in America: the Federal Response* by Nick Kotz, stated that 12 percent of the nation's children living in poverty are stunted by malnourishment.

From the standpoint of its social usefulness, then, none of the food that farmers around the world produce is "surplus." Indeed, it is badly needed, and farmers should be encouraged to produce more.

The problem is getting this "surplus" food to the people who need it. The obstacle isn't the lack of ships, railroads, and trucks to do the job, rather it's that distribution in the capitalist countries is determined by the market, where profits are the guiding principle. Even though there's lots of food, millions of people are too poor to afford it.

It's only in relation to the capitalist market that a food glut exists.



# 'Rosa Luxemburg' shortchanges revolutionary leader

**Rosa Luxemburg**, a film by Margarethe von Trotta. Released by New Yorker Films. In German and Polish with English subtitles. 122 minutes. 1985.

BY ROBERT DEES

From the late 1890s to her murder in early 1919, Rosa Luxemburg was a prominent leader of the international revolutionary workers' movement. The outstanding

## FILM REVIEW

Marxist leader in her native Poland, she became the central figure in building the revolutionary wing of the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD) and in founding the Communist Party of Germany.

Margarethe von Trotta's new film, released this month in several U.S. cities, is sparking well-deserved interest in Luxemburg's life.

### 'Ardent pacifist?'

While well made, with a fine lead performance by Barbara Sukowa, von Trotta's dramatization does not do justice either to Luxemburg or the times in which she lived. The filmmaker opens with a few paragraphs introducing Luxemburg, in which she is described as an "ardent pacifist." This is a misrepresentation of Luxemburg's political course throughout her lifelong fight against the barbarities of imperialist war, colonialism, and the death penalty.

In the opening years of this century, workers and farmers across Europe faced the challenge of approaching imperialist war. Revolutionaries in the Socialist International waged a political fight in the workers' movement for a militant struggle against the capitalist governments and their drive toward colonial expansion and war. Russian Bolshevik leader V.I. Lenin and Rosa Luxemburg were the most prominent voices of this revolutionary current.

Rather than being a pacifist, however, Luxemburg saw the fight against imperialist war as central to the workers' revolutionary struggle to overturn capitalist rule. And she recognized that this struggle would require that the workers be armed to defend themselves against the violence of the capitalist cops, armies, and counterrevolutionary gangs.

This revolutionary political orientation is what animated Luxemburg's stirring denunciation of militarism

before crowds of German workers, as is effectively portrayed in several scenes from von Trotta's film.

### Revolutionary leader

The film focuses on Luxemburg "the woman" — at the expense of Luxemburg the revolutionary working-class leader. While some scenes show Luxemburg's fight to be treated by SPD leaders as a political equal, the weight von Trotta gives to personal matters in Luxemburg's life is not true to the revolutionary herself.

In fact, Luxemburg's own attitude is shown in the film when, reproached by a reformist party official for not occupying herself more with "women's concerns," she shot back that she would do so gladly, if only the men in the party leadership would concern themselves more with the revolution.

The film is strongest when Luxemburg is leading the political attack against the growing layer of SPD leaders who are in flight from the cause of the working people in Germany and worldwide.

This growing chasm between Luxemburg's revolutionary commitment and the orientation of the party tops is humorously captured by a dinner party when a toast is proposed "to life." Luxemburg raises her glass and responds, "To the revolution!" — causing a central party leader to choke on his wine.

### World War I

In August 1914 the war came. The SPD leadership, betraying all internationalist principles, rallied behind Germany's ruling landlords and capitalists to support the war effort. Luxemburg organized an opposition, assembling the revolutionaries who later founded the Communist Party. She was sent to prison by a government that feared her growing influence.

The war, betrayal by the party, and imprisonment were heavy blows. But Luxemburg's courage and dedication to the cause of revolution enabled her not only to prevail over the big personal setbacks of these years, but also to rally others, even from behind prison walls. This chapter in Luxemburg's life is movingly portrayed by Sukowa in von Trotta's film.

Luxemburg was released from prison in November 1918 by the outbreak in Germany of the revolution that ousted the monarchy and brought the world war to a sudden halt. The SPD tops stepped into the breach. They formed a government committed to defending capitalist rule and blocking the German working people from taking the course of their Russian counterparts, who had taken power in October 1917 under the leadership of the Bolshevik Party.

Luxemburg's last weeks, spent trying to lead the revolution forward to the establishment of a government of the oppressed and exploited, are portrayed in the film in a dramatic but confusing swirl.

### International context

Missing entirely from the film is the international context of these events. Von Trotta seems to have gone to great lengths to avoid any reference to Luxemburg's political collaboration with Lenin — to the point of barely mentioning the Bolshevik-led victory in Russia and its decisive impact on events in Germany.

In Germany, where the film was made, it has been viewed by some 600,000 people and has revived many debates surrounding Luxemburg's life. The main SPD newspaper ran a favorable review noting the continuity between those responsible for Luxemburg's murder and present-day Social Democratic leaders; the party leadership was furious.

Despite its shortcomings, the film's appearance will promote interest in Luxemburg and the revolutionary struggles she participated in. Luxemburg was involved in many of the most important political debates of her time — not only against the Social Democrats who betrayed the workers' cause, but also with other revolutionaries, such as Lenin, over how to fight against imperialist war, national self-determination, land reform, and some of the policies of the Bolshevik-led government in Russia.

Following Luxemburg's murder, Lenin wrote, "In spite of her mistakes she was — and remains for us — an eagle." Not only "will Communists all over the world cherish her memory," Lenin said, "but her biography and her complete works . . . will serve as useful manuals for training many generations of Communists all over the world."

A good place to start is with four Pathfinder books: *Reform and Revolution* (\$2.95) is her classic attack on reformism; *Rosa Luxemburg Speaks* (\$8.95) is a collection of writings spanning her lifetime with an introduction by Mary-Alice Waters that summarizes her life and political activity.

Two recent volumes, *Lenin's Struggle for a Revolutionary International, 1907-1916* and *The German Revolution and the Debate on Soviet Power* contain key writings, newly translated, from the last dozen years of her life, reflecting the evolution of her views in the context of the debates and revolutionary events of the time. Their price is \$12.95 each and can be ordered, along with the other Luxemburg books, from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Include 75 cents for postage and handling.

## LETTERS

### ERA

Doug Jenness, in reference to his debate on the Bill of Rights [May 15 *Militant*, "Debating a conservative on the Bill of Rights"], makes an ambiguous comment with respect to the fight for an Equal Rights Amendment:

"But the fact is that the constitutional guarantee of equal protection for women already exists, in the 14th Amendment and other measures. . . ."

Does this imply that the ERA struggle is superfluous?

Please clarify.

Nat Simon

New York, New York

Jenness replies: If the ERA had been ratified, the struggle for it would have been far from superfluous. As I explained, "... it would have given all those fighting for women's rights greater confidence to push ahead and break down barriers based on sex — in the workplace, in schools, in public services, etc."

My point was that the momentum of a victory won through struggle would have given a big boost to the fight for women's rights.

I noted, however, that the failure to get this amendment added to the Constitution doesn't mean that it's legal to discriminate against women nor that struggles for affirmative action and other rights shouldn't be pressed as hard as possible.

The 14th Amendment, which has been the constitutional underpinning for much of the civil rights legislation of the past 25 years, also applies to women. According to that amendment, no person can be denied "the equal protection of the law."

Simon refers to the ERA strug-

gle in the present tense. The latest drive to get the ERA ratified, which after 10 years was defeated in 1982, has not been revived.

### Anti-CIA protest

Several hundred students gathered at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst recently to celebrate a court victory for protesters arrested at a campus demonstration against the CIA held last November.

The university has a policy that limits on-campus recruiting to "legal and legitimate" organizations. The students have repeatedly asked Chancellor John Duffy to follow that policy and bar the CIA from campus. After the trial that acquitted the defendants, Duffy again refused.

One of the points he raised was that a number of major corporations had been found guilty of violations of the law recently and he did not see the difference between the violations of the CIA and lawbreakers like General Dynamics or General Electric.

Ron Richards

Amherst, Massachusetts

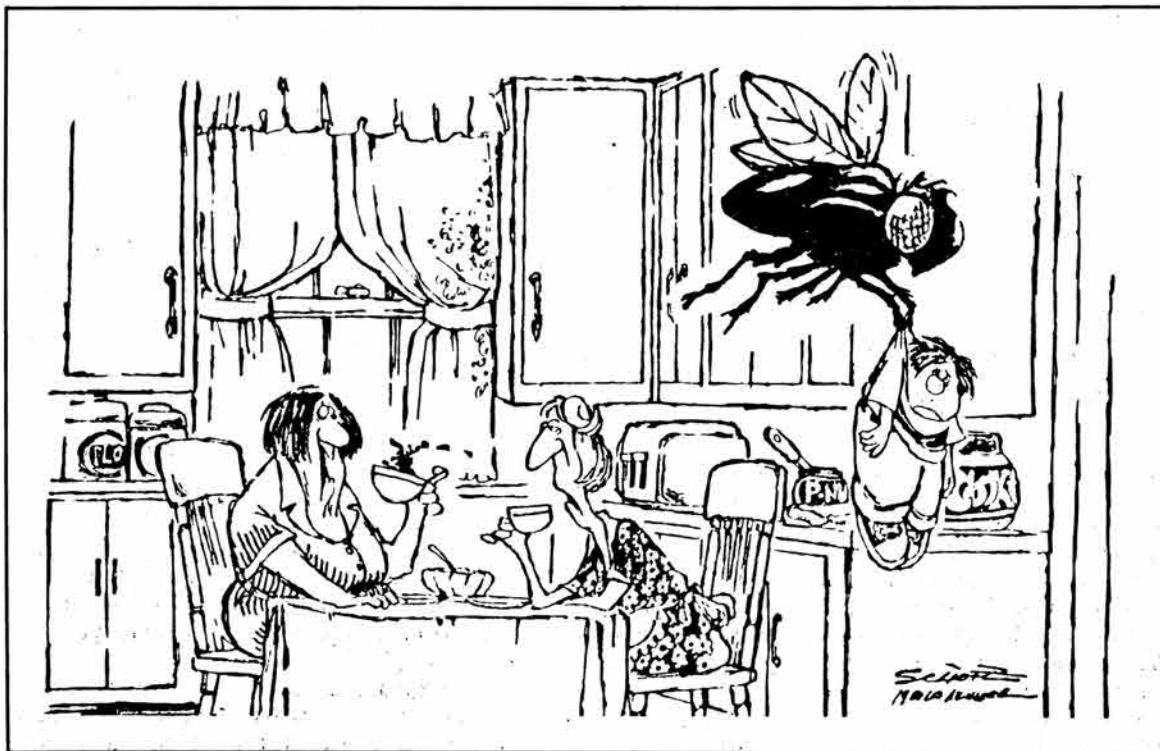
### Gary Hart

I hope the *Militant* will not waste valuable time and newsprint on the Gary Hart affair. It is simply a nonevent.

Personally, even if there was the possibility of Hart becoming a president of the people, even if he embraced socialist policies, still I would not give a tinker's cuss for Hart's alleged extramarital affairs.

It is the kind of ridiculous rubbish that maintains the circulation of the nation's big daily newspapers.

The editorial policies of the establishment press are governed not



"Frankly, Lois . . . I don't know how much longer I can take living next to a chemical waste dump. . . ."

by the principles of responsible journalism but by greed and the preferences of advertisers and their revenues.

I think it was Isaac Bashevis Singer who said that starting one's day by reading a newspaper is akin to taking poison for breakfast.

Harry Turnbull

League City, Texas

### A serious omission

In general, the *Militant* provides a responsible and reasonable perspective, from a progressive viewpoint, concerning the real matters of interest in contemporary America.

However, let me point to a serious omission in *Militant* coverage: no real information appears with

respect to business and economics, other than the doings of some unions.

Oliver Henry

Chicago, Illinois

### Workers must unite

Your editorial of May 1, "Behind U.S. tariffs against Japan" highlights the crisis of capitalism in an imperialist epoch. This epoch has outrun its recovery from World War II and is once again facing the crisis of markets for its surplus products.

After the war American imperialism resorted to exporting of capital to overcome its surpluses. However, in the end those debtor countries have become competitors of American manufacturers.

Unless workers are shown that unemployment, fascism, and war for markets are the only alternatives of capitalism, with its mode of production for profit, they will be sucked into fighting for capitalist solutions.

Instead, workers of all countries must unite and establish a socialist society based on production for use and exchange of products on a mutually acceptable basis.

J.G. Carrol

Newark, New Jersey

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.



## Asparagus cutters strike for contract

### United Farm Workers of Washington State expands organizing drive

BY FRANK FORRESTAL

TOPPENISH, Wash. — Hours before sunrise, 55 Mexican asparagus cutters struck SKD Farms here on May 13, demanding that the company sign a union contract. SKD, which includes 125 acres of asparagus fields, is owned by three brothers of the Bouche family.

"The Bouche family has been starving Mexicans for 40 years," said one older farm worker on the picket line.

The strike was called by the United Farm Workers of Washington State, which is on an organizing drive in the Yakima Valley. There are between 10,000 and 15,000 asparagus workers in the valley.

A week prior to the strike, SKD Farms fired 13 asparagus workers for protesting the growers' cheating on their wages and harassment in the fields.

#### Slavery in the fields

Asparagus cutters are paid according to piece-rate. In theory, they are paid 12 cents per pound of cut asparagus and at the end of the season receive a bonus of two cents per pound.

In reality, however, because of a blatant cheating system, they are paid much less. And many are laid off or fired before the season ends, thus never getting their bonus.

After the asparagus is cut, it is sent to a processor, such as Del Monte or Green Giant, where it is graded and processed. Asparagus is graded according to circumference and the proportion of green to white. In addition, it has to be uniformly trimmed and even in length.

Farm workers report that the growers do not pay them for up to 30 percent of what they pick. "They say it's not their problem that Del Monte and the warehouses won't

buy it because it's damaged," said Tomas Villanueva, president of the United Farm Workers of Washington State. "But you don't see anyone throwing away asparagus, at least not 30 percent. What they're not paying workers for picking you still see in stores at a pretty good price."

Many of the pickets summed up their feelings by carrying placards that read: "No more slavery."

The union interviewed some 200 farm workers and found that the average wage was \$2.50 an hour. This forces farm workers to have their children work with them in the fields. Many children will work three or four hours before going to school. The union reports that 73 percent of farm worker children do not even reach high school.

The union is demanding that farm workers be paid a minimum of \$5.50 an hour. They are also demanding that a fixed price per box be set so that at the height of the season, farm workers can make more than the minimum.

#### SKD goes on offensive

Following the first day of the strike, SKD Farms offered to pay four cents more per pound and two cents more bonus. They refused, however, to sign a contract with the union. But a contract is the bottom line for the farm workers.

Midway through the asparagus season, the Bouche family stands a good chance of losing its harvest because asparagus is one of the fastest-growing crops in the valley. It can grow five to six inches in one day.

Backed by other growers, SKD went on the offensive. A day into the strike they brought scabs into the field. With the help of bullhorns, the strikers convinced most of the scabs to honor the picket line.



Militant/Matt Herreshoff

UFWWS President Tomas Villanueva speaking to striking orchard workers earlier this year. Last week, in an appeal to cutters crossing picket line, he said, "Brothers, we need to end exploitation; together we can win and put a stop to slavery in the fields."

By the second day of the strike the Boucheys had lost between \$6,000 and \$8,000. SKD Farms went to court and got an injunction restricting farm workers from using bullhorns and from blocking entrances to the farm. The union filed a countersuit.

The union won a partial victory when the court ruled against SKD's request that the strikers be limited to only two pickets at

each entrance.

On May 15, after the picket line was taken down, the Bouche family bulldozed a four-foot ditch on either side of the road in front of their farm. By doing this, the union was deprived of the land it had used for parking cars. The area was also used for a bathroom, which was on the back of a pickup truck. Now the strikers and their

Continued on Page 17

## 5,400 walk out at Colorado's King Soopers chain

BY DUNCAN WILLIAMS

DENVER — A statewide strike against the King Soopers grocery chain has become the biggest rallying point for the labor movement here in many years.

The 5,400 employees are represented by United Food and Commercial Workers

(UFCW) Local 7. They have been out since May 8, when they rejected the company's "last, best and final offer." At that time, the company refused a union offer to extend the old contract indefinitely.

None of the workers has had a good thing to say about the contract. Here's some of what they don't like:

- Changes in seniority and job classifications to allow the company to drop a full-time clerk to part-time status at will and to allow new, lower-paid "utility clerks" to do jobs of other workers.
- Requiring 30 hours a week work for part-time workers to qualify for benefits, instead of the present 16.
- Wage reductions and the loss of one week's vacation for everyone.

These concessions are being demanded by a company that made \$23 million in profits last year.

In general, the part-time workers, who are a majority of the work force and the union, are the main target of the company. There is no organized promotion procedure, and full-timers are selected at management discretion. It is not uncommon to meet people with 10 or more years on the job who are still part-time.

The mood of almost everyone was summed up by one checker: "If we take this contract, we've lost anyway, so we might as well fight."

At strike-vote meetings and at a May 13 support rally of well over 2,000, the morale of the strikers was high.

Mike Mitchell, an all-purpose clerk, estimated that everyone at his store "thinks we can fight and win." Union President Charles Mercer received terrific applause when he told the members, "If you stand united, you will prevail, because your fight is right."

One reason for their optimism is that the strikers have worked hard to get customer support. Thousands of cards and leaflets were given out in preparation for the strike. The picket lines have become small sidewalk rallies, with passing motorists honking and waving to show support.

At the May 13 rally, Tom Frank, the husband of a striking clerk, said he was "glad everybody struck." He and his wife had "no doubts about going out, even if she loses her job."

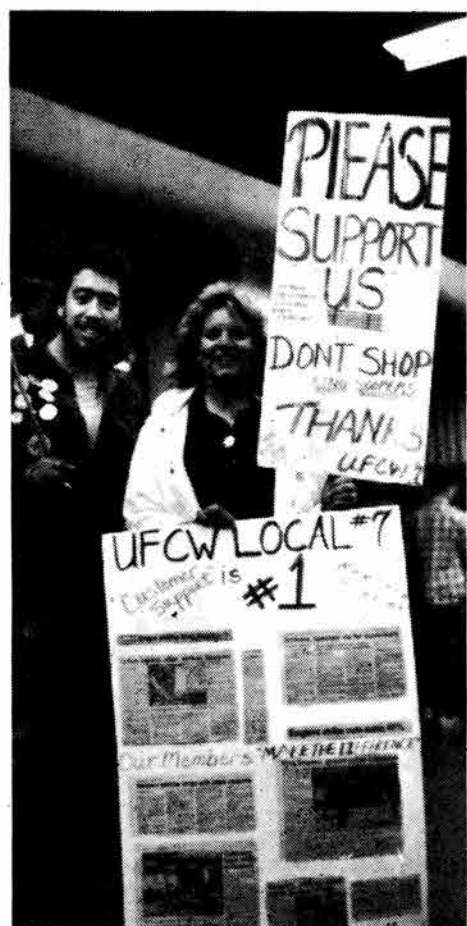
King Soopers, which hired 8,000 scabs before the strike began, had to admit that its sales at one point were down by 40 percent. Now, through \$.25 video rentals and \$5 discounts on prescriptions, it claims to be operating at 80 percent of prestrike ca-

capacity. The union says 70 percent is more likely.

Many customers — unionists and others — have joined in the boycott of King Soopers and some have joined picket lines.

The May 13 rally was addressed by Eldon Cooper, president of the Colorado AFL-CIO, as well as representatives of the American Federation of Government Employees, Teamsters, United Auto Workers, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Service Employees International Union, Denver Area Labor Federation, and Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers.

At several stores in the chain where the UFCW was not yet recognized, the strike has helped win a majority of workers to the union, since they are already working under the new contract.



Militant/Duncan Williams

Pickets ask shoppers for support

## Revolutionary youth leader tells of situation in Grenada

BY MALIK MIAH

BROOKLYN, New York — Some 90 people came to a public forum at Medgar Evers College May 16 to hear Grenadian revolutionary youth leader Terry Marryshow.

Marryshow is general secretary of the Maurice Bishop Youth Organisation. The MBYO is the youth group of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement of Grenada, an island in the eastern Caribbean.

The MBYO, Marryshow explained, was formed in November 1983 by Grenadian youth studying in Cuba, soon after the assassination of Grenada's late prime minister Maurice Bishop. Bishop and other rev-

olutionary leaders were murdered in an October 1983 counterrevolutionary coup led by Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard. Less than a week later, the U.S. government invaded Grenada and imposed a subservient regime.

The MBYO was launched in Grenada itself following the formation of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement in 1984.

"I speak to you today as a revolutionary youth who has actively fought for the Grenada revolution and is willing to struggle for it once again," Marryshow said. "And I speak to you as a Caribbean and Latin American youth, because I believe our

Continued on Page 17