

Supporters unite to demand justice for Mark Curtis



Militant/Linda Marcus



Militant/Eric Simpson

September 4 international defense rally in Des Moines, Iowa. Top photo shows frame-up victim Mark Curtis and co-chair Ellen Whitt.

400 at rally: 'Injury to one is injury to all'

BY MARGARET JAYKO

DES MOINES, Iowa — More than 400 people joined an international defense rally here September 4 for political activist Mark Curtis, just days before his September 7 trial on trumped-up rape and burglary charges began.

A broad array of speakers linked Curtis' fight for justice to their own experiences with the cops and courts in South Africa, in El Salvador, on the streets of U.S. Black and Spanish-speaking communities, on strike picket lines, and on farms facing foreclosure.

Curtis was arrested here last March 4 and accused of attempting to rape a 15-year-old woman who is Black.

A 29-year-old packinghouse worker at the Swift plant here, Curtis had gone to a meeting at the end of work that day. The meeting protested the arrest of 17 Latino Swift workers arrested by immigration cops for allegedly not having proper papers. Curtis spoke up at the meeting — in Spanish — in defense of his coworkers.

Later that evening a woman approached Curtis' car pleading for a ride because she said a man was after her. Curtis drove her a few blocks to where she said she lived. She asked him to wait on the porch and then she disappeared.

A few minutes later, cops arrived and arrested Curtis. At the police station they brutally beat him, breaking his cheekbone. As they clubbed him they asked him if he

Continued on Page 6

Frame-up trial opens in Des Moines courtroom

BY MARGARET JAYKO

DES MOINES, Iowa, Sept. 7 — The battle over the cops' beating and frame-up of political activist Mark Curtis reached a new stage in the week leading up to the opening of his trial on charges of third-degree sexual abuse (rape) and first-degree burglary.

The international campaign to defend Curtis, a packinghouse worker at the Swift plant here, has picked up steam. This was reflected in the September 4 defense rally.

Supporters of the attempt to convict and jail Curtis, led by the liberal daily *Des Moines Register*, have intensified efforts to win the battle for public opinion.

Jury selection began at 9:15 a.m. this morning at the Polk County Courthouse here. Several dozen defenders of Curtis, who say the charges are a frame-up aimed at punishing Curtis for being politically active and at intimidating others, filled the courtroom and gathered in the hallway outside.

Curtis' mother, father, wife, grandmother, and several other family members from as far away as New Mexico and South Dakota were on hand.

Julia Terrell, a neighbor of Curtis, told the news media here, "Curtis has always deplored violence against women and would be among the first to defend a young Black girl so badly treated," referring to the alleged rape victim.

Supporters of Curtis present in the courtroom today included Harold Dunkelberger, who is facing foreclosure on his farm, representing the Iowa chapter of the American Agricultural Movement, Inc.; longtime civil rights activist Edna Griffin; Robert Crandall, pastor of Fort Des Moines United Methodist Church; Iowa Socialist Party members Robert and Nellie Berry; and Deacon Hayes of the New Friendship Church of God in Christ, where Curtis supporters have spoken a number of times.

"Our church is backing him 100 percent," said Hayes.

In addition to activists from this area, Continued on Page 8

Socialists urge aid for Bangladesh

The following statement was issued September 7 by Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate James Warren and vice-presidential candidate Kathleen Mickells.

Massive, immediate, international aid is desperately needed today in the south Asian country of Bangladesh, now suffering the most devastating floods in living memory.

In response to an appeal for aid from President Hussain Ershad, the U.S., British, Japanese, Danish, Canadian, and Australian governments have altogether offered only \$22 million in aid. Washington is offering only \$3.6 million. This in the face of a disaster so vast that an official of the relief agency CARE explained, "What you're confronted with is rebuilding a country."

This miserly amount must be radically and rapidly increased — and delivered without red tape or strings attached.

As of today, about three-quarters of Bangladesh is reportedly under water. Flooding is common in Bangladesh after the annual monsoon rains, but this year the flooding has affected 50 of the country's 64 districts, including the capital city of Dhaka. Dhaka has been cut off from the rest of the country. With more rain on the way,

further flooding is possible.

At least 25 million of the country's 110 million are homeless.

Hundreds are known to have died and the lives of thousands more are in jeopardy. Lack of pure drinking water has caused outbreaks of diarrhea and dysentery affecting tens of thousands of people.

The flood waters have overrun one of the poorest countries in the world. With an annual per capita income of only \$150, Bangladesh has few resources to prevent a deepening of the catastrophe.

So far the flood waters have destroyed at least \$800 million worth of rice and other Continued on Page 13



Tony Savino

Socialist Workers Party candidates for U.S. president and vice-president, James Warren and Kathleen Mickells.

How you can help

The Mark Curtis Defense Committee is urging opponents of the prosecution of Curtis to continue to flood Polk County Prosecutor James Smith's office with messages and petitions demanding that all charges against Curtis be dropped and that the cops who beat him be prosecuted.

The committee urges that protests be addressed to: Polk County Attorney James Smith, Room 408 Courthouse, 500 Mulberry St., Des Moines, Iowa 50309.

Send a copy, along with urgently needed donations, to Mark Curtis Defense Committee, P.O. Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311. Telephone: (515) 246-1695.

Gearing up for plant-gate sales around the world

BY SUSAN LaMONT

At the recent International Educational and Active Workers Conference held in Oberlin, Ohio, several hundred distributors of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* from Canada, Sweden, Britain, New Zealand, Australia, and the United States got together at a workshop to discuss their experiences selling the revolutionary

guage paper is only a relative obstacle," he said. "The main thing is that it's a communist paper."

Another participant from Montreal described how several Turkish garment workers — determined to read the communist press — are learning English by working their way through the *Militant*.

Weekly plant-gate sales in Canada have been organized since last

31 percent to French-speaking and Haitian workers.

Max Pedersen described selling the *Militant* on the job and in working-class neighborhoods in Sweden, which was done for the first time last winter. Pedersen, who works in an auto plant south of Stockholm, described the response of his coworkers when they saw him reading the *Militant*. They said, "That paper must be something special." "Yes, it is," he told them.

In his plant there are many workers who speak English. "My job is to convince them that the *Militant* is for them," he said. Since about half of his coworkers are immigrants from Turkey, Finland, Yugoslavia, and other countries, it doesn't seem strange to be reading a paper printed in another country. *Militant* distributors in Sweden began to establish plant-gate sales in July, he said, and "all we need now is patience."

Alex Coates from Britain said that the weekly rhythm of plant-gate sales is key, and using the *Militant* makes that possible.

Militant supporters in five cities in Britain have begun plant-gate sales," said Coates. "In South Wales,

we sell at four coal mines." Regular sales also are organized at a big Ford plant near London and several other engineering (machine shops) factories and rail depots around the country.

Organizational challenge

Ken Morgan from Baltimore emphasized the need for supporters of the *Militant* and *PM* to carefully lead and organize the sales down to the question of who's going to bring the papers.

Everyone at the workshop identified with Morgan and others' descriptions of the challenges that must be met for teams to maintain regular sales. Illness, car problems, shifting schedules, and more have to be overcome to keep the sales going every week.

In New Zealand, supporters of *Socialist Action*, a biweekly paper published in Auckland, have sold at factories for a long time, explained Nick Swanson. Because there is no significant union press in New Zealand, *Socialist Action* has occupied a unique position since it began to be published in 1969.

There's a real thirst for union news, and it isn't unusual to sell 20

or 30 *Socialist Action* at a plant gate, he said. But this in turn can create pressure to sell the paper on the basis of its union coverage, rather than its communist politics. Plant-gate sales were often seen as "good sales," rather than part of winning more unionists to communism. And because *Socialist Action* is a biweekly, plant-gate sales were only organized every other week, he said.

Socialist Action supporters are now discussing how weekly-plant-gate sales of the *Militant* fit into advancing their political goals.

Not a 'U.S.' paper

Leslie Downs from Brisbane, Australia, sounded a theme that other workshop participants also spoke about. "The *Militant*," he said, "is a political paper. Workers in Australia find that it is relevant to them. It's not a 'U.S.' paper. This was brought home to us recently when British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher came to Australia and visited a factory where there were a lot of laid-off British workers who had come to Australia to find jobs. What Marx said is really true — the workers have no country."

SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE

press at plant and factory gates, mine portals, and rail yards.

Peter Kalman from Montreal described experiences selling the *Militant* at plant gates in Quebec, where 80 percent of the workers speak French. Because defense of French-language rights is an important part of the Québécois struggle against national oppression, Kalman explained, many Québécois workers don't like to speak or read English, even when they are able to.

"But we've found that the fact that the *Militant* is an English-lan-

fall, Kalman explained. Using the *Militant*, which appears every week, has been the key. Sales are carried out at four work places in Toronto, and five in Montreal. The plants are organized by the unions of steel, auto, garment, and meat-packing workers.

During the March-June international circulation drive for the *Militant*, *PM*, and the Marxist magazines *New International* and *Nouvelle Internationale*, plant-gate sales "really took off," Kalman said. Eighty-one *Militant* introductory subscriptions were sold,

INS told, "Give Marroquín 'green card' without delay"

BY CINDY JAQUITH

"It is obvious to me that justice is being impeded at every turn," wrote United Steelworkers District 6 Director Leo Gerard to Alan Nelson, commissioner of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS).

Gerard urged Nelson to "use whatever powers you have to grant to Mr. Héctor Marroquín his green card without delay and prior to September 20, 1988. Justice delayed is justice denied."

Gerard is one of several prominent union officials and other figures who immediately contacted the INS after learning what had happened to Marroquín at the Toronto airport on August 31. A Mexican-born leader of the Socialist Workers Party, Marroquín has fought for 11 years for his right to a green card so he can live and work in the United States. After denying him permanent residence because of his political ideas, the U.S. State Department finally granted him an immigrant visa August 31 at its consulate in Toronto.

Marroquín then proceeded to the Toronto airport, where the normal procedure is for INS agents to stamp the passport of those bearing the immigrant visa, thus confirming their status as permanent U.S. residents. The green card itself arrives later in the mail.

But in Marroquín's case, the INS agents refused to stamp his passport, citing his political affiliations as the reason. He was instead told he would have to go to the INS office in

Newark, New Jersey, on September 20.

As Gerard wrote in his September 2 letter to INS Commissioner Nelson, "There would appear to be no other explanation other than that the American authorities are continuing to harass and discriminate against Héctor Marroquín."

Gerard informed Nelson that a USWA delegation had accompanied Marroquín at the U.S. consulate in Toronto. "We support the cause of Héctor Marroquín in his efforts to receive equal treatment before the Immigration and Naturalization Service," Gerard emphasized.

On that delegation was Harry Hynd, assistant director of District 6, which is based in Toronto. Also accompanying Marroquín at the consulate were activists in the Toronto Héctor Marroquín Defense Committee.

USWA International Representative Oscar Sanchez, based in District 31 in the U.S. Midwest, also wrote September 2 to Nelson. Sanchez explained, "Our union has followed the case of Mr. Héctor Marroquín for many years and we have supported his long battle to acquire his permanent residency in the U.S."

Thus, he continued, "I was disappointed to learn that INS agents at Toronto International Airport would not finalize the process and ratify Mr. Marroquín a permanent resident."

"There can be no justification for this delay," Sanchez insisted. "We will con-

tinue to monitor this case until its final conclusion."

The case has also received extensive coverage in the *Globe and Mail* in Toronto, one of Canada's most widely circulated dailies. The paper ran a six-column article on September 1 announcing that Marroquín had won his immigrant visa from the U.S. State Department and telling the story of his 11-year battle against deportation.

"Thousands of people in the United States and Canada have supported Mr. Marroquín in his battles with the U.S. authorities," wrote reporter Gregory Ip.

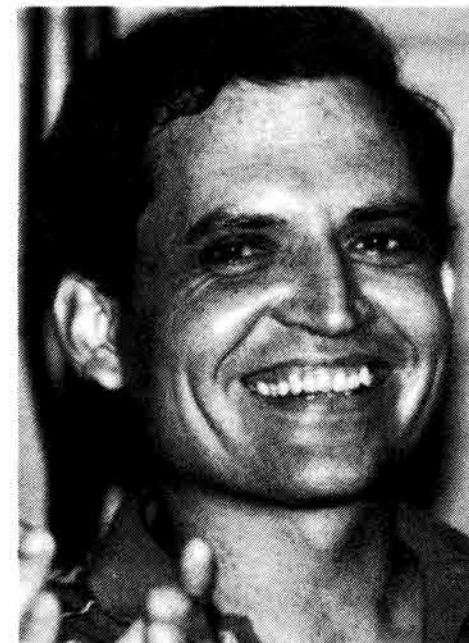
Ip went on to quote Marroquín saying, "It's a victory for a Mexican, an undocumented [worker], who openly tells the world he's a socialist and just happens after 11 years to defeat the U.S. Government. It's not a small victory, it's a gigantic victory."

The next day, Ip did a second interview with Marroquín on the INS treatment he had received at the Toronto airport.

That story was printed in the *Globe and Mail* September 2. It included the reaction of Barbara Moore, a spokesperson for the U.S. consulate in Toronto contacted by Ip for a statement on what had happened to Marroquín at the airport. "While theoretically the INS could veto the State Department's decision to grant a visa, she said this was unlikely," Ip reported.

The Héctor Marroquín Defense Committee is urging all supporters to keep the mes-

sages pouring into the INS office demanding the immediate granting of Marroquín's permanent residency. Send them to Alan Nelson, Commissioner, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Washington, D.C. 20536. Send copies to the Héctor Marroquín Defense Committee, Box 761, Church Street Station, New York, N.Y. 10007.



Militant/Arthur Hughes

Héctor Marroquín

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Yvonne Meléndez, defendant in Hartford frame-up case against 16 supporters of Puerto Rican independence

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Circulation Director: NORTON SANDLER

Nicaragua Bureau Director: LARRY SEIGLE

Business Manager: JIM WHITE

Editorial Staff: Susan Apstein, Fred Feldman, Arthur Hughes, Cindy Jaquith, Susan LaMont, Sam Manuel, Harvey McArthur (Nicaragua), Harry Ring, Judy White (Nicaragua).

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Behind the fight for housing desegregation in Yonkers

BY SUSAN LaMONT

YONKERS, N.Y. — An important battle over housing desegregation is unfolding in this old industrial city of 200,000, located along the Hudson River on New York City's northern boundary.

At issue is Yonkers' compliance with a 1985 court decision by federal judge Leonard Sand in which he found that the city had "illegally and intentionally" maintained a pattern of segregation in public schools and housing for 40 years. The decision was the result of a suit brought in 1980 by the Justice Department, at the urging of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which joined the action a year later.

On one side is the city's Black community of 21,000, and growing numbers of others who support compliance with the court order.

On the other side are racist forces in the city who are fighting to maintain Yonkers' east side as a white enclave. Most visible are four city councilmen: Henry Spallone, Nicholas Longo, Edward Fagan Jr., and Peter Chema. Their refusal to comply with the judge's decision has thus far blocked implementation of the court's housing desegregation plan.

Although the legal tangle surrounding the desegregation fight in Yonkers is a little confusing, the issues are crystal clear:

- For decades, Blacks have been unable to live on the east side of the Saw Mill River Parkway, which divides Yonkers. The only exception has been Runyon Heights, a Black neighborhood kept isolated by a strip of land owned by the neighboring white homeowners' association.

- Virtually all of Yonkers' subsidized housing — 97.7 percent of the city's 6,800 units — is concentrated in the southwest part of the city. Some 81 percent of the city's Black and Latino population lives in that part of the west side. (Yonkers' Latino population, primarily Puerto Rican, is around 17,000.)

- Two of Yonkers' 36 subsidized housing projects are on the east side. One is in Runyon Heights. The other is for senior citizens, and is predominantly white.

- Yonkers' mayor and six city council members are white, although Blacks are 11 percent of the city's population. In 1985 the city redrew voting districts in the city, after admitting — in response to a lawsuit by the NAACP and New York Civil Liberties Union — that it had gerrymandered districts to prevent Black representation on the city council.

- There is one Black on the nine-member school board.

- In the mid-1980s, the city faced several lawsuits charging discrimination in the fire and police departments, which were settled out of court. Currently, there are 11 Black fire fighters out of a force of 423. There are 29 Blacks in the 503-member police department. No Blacks work in the offices of the mayor or city manager.

Segregation

Segregation in Yonkers' school system grew out of entrenched segregation in housing.

"The Black community in Yonkers was small until the 1960s," explains Winston Ross, a longtime leader of the NAACP in Westchester County, where Yonkers is located. Ross was active in getting the first complaints about the city's segregated schools filed against the board of education in 1975, and has remained a central figure in the Yonkers desegregation fight ever since.

"When I grew up in Yonkers, I lived in an all-Black neighborhood right by the train station. It was a unique community, in that it was marketed to Blacks from New York City," Ross explained. "The people who owned the land developed a white community on one end and a Black community on the other, and kept a strip of land between the two that was deeded to the whites so that the street could never go through between the two neighborhoods. That was done in the late 1920s and early 1930s."

Yonkers has always been a working-class city, Ross explained. But when he

was young, only a few Blacks worked in what used to be the main industries in town — the carpet mills and Otis Elevator plant. "Most of the Blacks who had jobs where I grew up worked for the railroad or post office, or were skilled laborers, like carpenters," Ross explained. "The women who worked were mainly domestics." Many of the Blacks who lived in Yonkers didn't work there, he added, and virtually none were employed by the city.

The Black community began to grow in the 1960s. Some Blacks moved to Yonkers from other parts of Westchester County, some from the South, others from New York City. "They couldn't live wherever they wanted to," said Ross. "They had to live on the west side."

When he was president of the Yonkers NAACP chapter in the early 1970s, Ross said, "we got hundreds of complaints" of discrimination from Blacks who tried unsuccessfully to buy or rent homes on the east side. "Of course, real estate brokers tried to hide what they were doing, because it was against the law and they would lose their licenses."

Another way landlords discriminated against Blacks was by refusing to rent to them if they were on welfare, which can be done legally in New York. The same landlords, however, would rent to whites on welfare. "The way we found out was that there was a fire in a building on the east side, and it turned out the tenants, who were on welfare, were white," he said.

In addition to these forms of discrimination, the city blocked virtually all subsidized housing from being built on the east side.

Meanwhile, more and more schools on the west side had become all-Black.

"In 1975 we got a group of community-based organizations to join with the NAACP to complain about the quality of education in the schools on the west side," Ross recalled. "We didn't really have to gather that much evidence — it was so blatant. We just presented the facts to the Yonkers Board of Education, and they agreed that they would do something about

it. We came to an agreement that a task force would be set up, with half its members chosen by us and half chosen by the board."

When it became clear that the school board and task force were serious about integrating the school system, Ross said, the mayor began to remove the school board members who favored desegregation.

This began a process of stonewalling by the city government that left the pro-desegregation forces no recourse but to file suit against the city in 1980.

Desegregation order

The suit went to trial in 1983; and in 1985 a decision was rendered. The judge held that since 1949, Yonkers' public housing had been deliberately restricted to the city's west side. This, in turn, had confined Black students to inferior and predominantly Black schools. The decision was the first to link public-housing policy to school segregation.

A year later the board of education began to implement a desegregation plan for the city's schools — a result of the court decision. The plan is based largely on "magnet school" programs that draw students from throughout the system.

The other part of the court's decision dealt with housing desegregation.

In January 1988 Yonkers City Council finally approved a consent decree in which the city government agreed to take some initial steps to desegregate housing. Racist forces howled that they had been betrayed.

The plan called for building 1,000 units of low- and middle-income housing in white areas of the city over the next four years.

These 1,000 units include two types of housing. The first 200 units would be public housing for low-income families, financed by the federal government. They would be built as two- or three-story buildings, on seven separate sites on the east side.

The other 800 units of housing would be for families with "moderate" incomes — between \$14,750 and \$35,400 a year. They



Winston Ross, longtime leader in fight against discrimination in Yonkers.

would be included in larger housing developments built by commercial developers over the next four years on the city's north and east sides.

On August 1 the city council rejected by a four-to-three vote an amendment to the city's zoning ordinance that would have made construction of the 800 units possible, while racists inside and outside city hall chanted "Justice, justice!"

A white woman, Laurie April Recht, spoke in favor of integration at the meeting, as she did earlier this year. She had to be removed for her own protection, as racists menaced her, shouting "Move to Harlem."

Held in contempt

The next day, Judge Sand found the City of Yonkers and the four city council members who had voted to block the housing plan in contempt of court. He fined the four council members \$500 a day, and said that those who opposed the desegregation plan after 10 days would be jailed. An outfit called the Save Yonkers Federation, which urges defiance of the court order, said they would raise the money to pay the council members' fines.

The judge also fined the city, starting at \$100 the first day, with the fines doubling each consecutive day. By November 13, Yonkers' fines would reach nearly \$67 million and the city would be out of money. Yonkers has already spent \$29 million fighting the desegregation suit and court order.

On August 9 a federal appeals court panel suspended both sets of fines, pending a full Second U.S. Court of Appeals hearing.

The contempt rulings against the city and city council members were upheld by the appeals court August 26. The fines against the city, however, were limited to \$1 million a day, once they reach that amount in the doubling-each-day schedule. The city was given seven days to appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court before the fines were to be reimposed.

The Supreme Court decided September 1 to reject Yonkers' final appeal of the desegregation plan, and reimposed the fines against the city.

On September 6 Yonkers sent a check for \$192,000 to the United States Treasury. The \$1-million-a-day penalty level will be reached September 9.

The Supreme Court also decided, however, not to reimpose the \$500-a-day fines and jail terms on the city council members, pending a decision this fall on whether to hear an appeal of their case. The council members are challenging the court's power to order them to enact a specific law — in this case, Judge Sand's order to pass the legislation necessary to build the public housing called for in the desegregation order. They also rejected the judge's offer to set up an independent commission to carry out the housing plan.

Politicians

Meanwhile, New York State's Emergency Financial Control Board has taken over Yonkers' finances, and a phase-out of

Continued on Page 13

Poverty rate for U.S. Blacks climbs to 33%

The official poverty rate among Blacks in the United States rose in 1987 to 33.1 percent from 31.1 percent in 1986. The percentage of Latinos living in poverty, according to a report from the U.S. Census Bureau released August 31, rose to 28.2 percent from 27.3 percent.

The bureau's official poverty line ranges from \$5,800 per year or less for one person to \$11,600 or less for a family of four to \$23,000 or less for a family of nine.

The increase in the official rate of poverty for Blacks was the first since 1983, when the U.S. economy was in a recession. At that time the poverty rate among Blacks hit 35.7 percent.

Before 1987 the official poverty rate among Blacks declined somewhat in the course of the current economic upturn. But it remained above the 30.6 percent level reached a decade ago in 1978.

The rate of poverty among whites dropped to 10.5 percent from the 1986 rate of 11 percent.

The number of Blacks recognized as poor rose by 700,000 to nearly 9.7 million. The number of Latinos below the poverty line rose by 360,000 to nearly 5.5 million.

There were 32.5 million people in the United States living below the poverty line in 1987 — more than one-eighth of the population.

The official overall poverty rate of 13.5 percent, down from 13.6 percent in 1986, was higher than for any year in the 1970s, including the 1974-75 recession. Robert Greenstein, an economist cited in the September 2 *New York Times*, said that there are 8 million more people below the poverty line than in 1978.

Moreover, the share of the national in-

come that goes to the poorest working people — Black, white, and Latino — has shrunk — while that going to the richest sector of the population has increased.

The richest 20 percent of U.S. families, with incomes over \$52,910, received 43.7 percent of income, up from 40.4 percent in 1967. The poorest 20 percent received 4.6 percent, down from 5.5 percent in 1967. About two-thirds of those the government classifies as poor are white.

Even those with regular jobs have been hit. A report by the private Economic Policy Institute reported that the number of full-time, year-round workers with incomes below the official poverty level increased by 600,000 between 1979 and 1986.

Reasons for this, according to the institute's figures, included a 9 percent drop in weekly wages adjusted for inflation since 1979, and a 12 percent drop since 1973 in the income of the average family headed by a person between the ages of 25 and 34.

Twenty percent of children in the United States lived below the poverty line, while 45.8 percent of Black children did so. Of people over 65 years of age, 12.6 were officially regarded as living in poverty.

The Census Bureau reported that the median income for all families — a figure that lumps together families ranging from billionaires to the homeless — rose in the 1986-87 period by 1 percent, to \$30,850. (After inflation is taken into account, however, this figure has been essentially stagnant since 1973 — rising only \$30.)

Among Black families, income slipped almost 1 percent to \$18,098. The income of Hispanic families dropped 2 percent to \$20,306. The median income for white families rose to \$32,274.

Sept. 17-24 is 'target week' in drive to sell socialist press

Goal of 10,400 set for 10-week campaign

BY JIM WHITE

Distributors of the *Militant* are fanning out in nearly 50 cities around the world this week to kick off our 10-week international drive to win new readers.

Supporters have also set a target week for September 17-24 to get the drive going at top momentum and to establish the drive as the center of their political activity for the coming weeks.

The chart on this page shows that our supporters have raised the goal for the drive to 10,400:

- 6,630 subscriptions to the *Militant*;
- 1,875 subscriptions to the Spanish-language monthly *Perspectiva Mundial*;
- 1,895 copies of the Marxist magazines *New International* and *Nouvelle Internationale*.

In addition, goals have been adopted that total well over 20,000 copies of the Pathfinder pamphlet *An Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis*, which puts forward a series of proposals by the Socialist Workers Party. The pamphlet is published in both English and Spanish and the Spanish-language edition just came off the press this week.

We will chart the progress of the drive every week with a scoreboard for the *Mili-*

tant, *PM*, and combined totals of the *New International* and *Nouvelle Internationale*. We will also report the total for sales of the Action Program each week. We will run a full scoreboard for the Action Program a couple of times during the drive.

Reports are beginning to come in from a variety of places as we build toward the kick-off of the drive.

Kathleen Mickells, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. vice-president, explains the importance of the *Militant*, *PM*, and the *New International* in each of her campaign speeches. After her talk and a discussion at the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana, one student bought a set of all six issues of the *New International*. Another student got a subscription to the *Militant* and asked to join the Young Socialist Alliance.

In Sweden, our distributors set up a table in downtown Stockholm. Dag Tirsén explained that their first effort netted sales of three copies of the *Militant* and \$15 worth of literature, and that this will now be a regular activity.

Joanne Kuniansky reports that in Houston a group of *Militant* supporters are newly off probation at a small foundry or-

ganized by the International Association of Machinists. They got to know their co-workers by explaining the frame-up of Des Moines political activist Mark Curtis, and 48 of them signed petitions in support of his case. In the process, they began to circulate the *Militant*, and copies of the catalog of books and pamphlets distributed by Pathfinder. This week, they won their first new *Militant* subscriber on the job.

Three tables at the Caribbean Day celebration in New York on September 5 won 19 new subscribers to the *Militant*, and 9 new readers for *New International* and *Nouvelle Internationale*. Some \$721 of Pathfinder books were sold.

A crucial part of this campaign is the effort to win long-term readers from among the thousands of new subscribers that signed up during the drive earlier this year. The *Militant* circulation office has started sending out lists to each city every two weeks to make it possible to organize to contact a large number of these readers.

The first international subscription blanks for the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* have been produced and shipped out this week. There is a different form for each country where our supporters have taken a goal, including the subscription prices in that country's currency and the



Militant/Charles Ostrofsky

Literature table at August 28 rally in Washington, D.C., commemorating 1963 civil rights march. Some 200 copies of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* were sold.

address where a prospective new reader can find us.

This circulation campaign requires massive outreach in order to succeed. Every reader's efforts are welcome. If you want to participate in the drive, look us up in the international directory on page 12 or contact the *Militant*'s business office at (212) 929-3486.

\$250,000 fund will help carry Pathfinder books to Africa

BY CINDY JAQUITH

The first launching on the African continent of the book *Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution* takes place September 9 in Harare, capital of Zimbabwe.

The book was edited by Pathfinder/Pacific and Asia in collaboration with the José Martí Publishing House in Havana.

The launching in Harare is being organized by Grassroots Books, a major publisher in Zimbabwe that operates two Harare bookstores.

Speakers at the event will include representatives of the Zimbabwean government and of the Cuban embassy in Harare; David Deutschmann, editor of *Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution*; and a speaker from the José Martí Publishing House.

Also invited are representatives of many Zimbabwean organizations, including the Congress of Trade Unions, Writers' Union, University of Zimbabwe, Economics Society, and Association of Democratic Jurists.

Grassroots has ordered 200 copies of the book for the launching. It has also scheduled a seminar on the political ideas of Che Guevara for the following day.

The Harare meeting is a good illustration of why a Pathfinder Fund has been set up to raise \$250,000 by December 1. As opportunities grow to publish and distribute revolutionary books around the world, the expense of doing so grows at least as fast. It will cost several thousand dollars for Pathfinder to fully participate in the Harare meeting — including sending a Pathfinder London representative.

About 620 readers of Pathfinder books have thus far made pledges to the Pathfinder Fund. They come not only from the United States, but from Australia, Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Iceland, New Zealand, and Sweden.

The total pledged is \$166,000, with about \$9,350 already collected. That shows there's still a long way to go. To raise an additional \$100,000 in pledges means convincing roughly 500 more people to become contributors to this fund.

Just about everyone reading this article knows at least one coworker who would be proud to give a donation to the Pathfinder Fund to help make Che's works more available in Africa. And some Pathfinder supporters who've already made a pledge will surely decide to increase their contribution.

Clip and mail to: Pathfinder Fund, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

- ☐ Enclosed is \$ _____ for the Pathfinder Fund.
- ☐ I want to pledge \$ _____ to the Pathfinder Fund.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

Country _____

250 in N.Y. see Cuban video on Angola

NEW YORK — Two hundred fifty people packed into the New York Militant Labor Forum here September 3 for the first U.S. showing of the Cuban TV documentary "Response to the South African Escalation."

The film was first shown on Cuban television in three parts July 14-16, and was rebroadcast twice.

The three-hour film shows how Cuban internationalist fighters, together with troops from Angola and the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO), smashed a South African army offensive against Cuito Cuanavale, Angola, earlier this year.

Introducing the documentary at the forum was David Deutschmann, editor of the book *Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution*, published last year by Pathfinder/Pacific and Asia. Simultaneous translation

of the Spanish-language film was provided in English and French.

Among those who turned out for the showing were activists from Casa de las Américas, a New York center that sponsors activities in defense of Cuba and anti-imperialist struggles of other countries; the Antonio Maceo Brigade, made up of Cuban-Americans seeking to educate about Cuba; and *Areíto* magazine, published by Cubans in the United States.

Viewers also came from the African National Congress of South Africa; SWAPO; Botswana's Mission to the United Nations; Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front of El Salvador; Dominican Socialist Bloc; Grupo de Origen, a Dominican cultural group; Ventana, an artists' group in solidarity with Nicaragua; and the newspaper *Haiti Progrès*.

Sales drive goals

Area	Drive Goals	Militant subscriptions	New International* single copies	Perspectiva Mundial subscriptions
Goal	Goal	Goal	Goal	Goal
UNITED STATES				
Atlanta	220	160	40	20
Austin, Minn.	110	85	15	10
Baltimore	215	175	30	10
Birmingham, Ala.	185	145	30	10
Boston	350	230	50	70
Charleston, WV	105	85	15	5
Chicago	350	215	60	75
Cleveland	145	110	20	15
Des Moines, Iowa	210	150	40	20
Detroit	265	200	40	25
Greensboro, NC	145	110	20	15
Houston	215	140	30	45
Kansas City	120	75	20	25
Los Angeles	700	375	125	200
Miami	300	185	55	60
Milwaukee	170	110	35	25
Morgantown, WV	175	135	30	10
New York	1,200	600	300	300
Newark, NJ	500	275	110	115
Oakland, Calif.	215	120	45	50
Omaha, Neb.	135	90	25	20
Philadelphia	210	140	30	40
Phoenix	240	120	40	80
Pittsburgh	250	185	45	20
Portland, Ore.	140	100	25	15
Price, Utah	70	50	10	10
Salt Lake City	125	90	20	15
San Francisco	350	200	75	75
Seattle	275	200	25	50
St. Louis	220	170	40	10
Twin Cities, Minn.	350	270	50	30
Washington, DC	250	150	50	50
National teams	203	130	23	50
U.S. totals	8,713	5,575	1,568	1,570
AUSTRALIA				
	50	35	5	10
BRITAIN				
London	145	75	30	40
Manchester	70	50	5	15
Nottingham	61	35	20	6
South Wales	80	40	30	10
South Yorks	90	50	20	20
Other Britain	54	25	20	9
Britain totals	500	275	125	100
CANADA				
	775	475	150	150
ICELAND				
	32	25	5	2
NEW ZEALAND				
	250	210	30	10
PUERTO RICO				
	30	5	2	23
SWEDEN				
	50	30	10	10
Totals	10,400	6,630	1,895	1,875

*Includes *Nouvelle Internationale*

How Washington organizes capitalists in Caribbean

Since 1981 one of the Reagan administration's economic priorities for the Caribbean Basin has been the creation and support of associations of business owners. In other words, U.S. capital is attempting to organize the region's bourgeoisies as a way to contain the potential power of a progressive and revolutionary Caribbean labor movement. It is trying to strengthen the regional mechanism for the continuous expropriation and transfer of surplus value from this semicolonial region, which Washington considers its backyard, to the financial centers of the U.S. empire.

In the United States itself, the private group Caribbean/Central American Action (CCAA) provides most of



CARIB NOTES Don Rojas

the nongovernmental support for this type of activity, receiving substantial U.S. Aid for International Development (USAID) funds. This is used to increase coordination between the various chambers of commerce in the region and to sponsor the annual Miami Conference on the Caribbean to which all the region's neocolonial leaders dutifully flock.

Procapitalist labor organizations are not left out either. Included among CCAA members are the American Institute for Free Labor Development (AIFLD) and the Caribbean Congress of Labour (CCL).

Not only does the U.S.-based CCAA largely set the policies of the Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce (CAIC), but the two organizations share common directors. Using CAIC as its front organization to build chambers of commerce and manufacturers' associations throughout the Caribbean, USAID and CCAA are seeking to make private business a powerful political force in the region. This effort is beginning to show some results, since in the past two years the private sector in the region has become more publicly assertive, making pronouncements and offering advice on a range of polit-

ical issues, including the current move toward political unity of the Eastern Caribbean states.

We are finding today more spokesmen for local and foreign business and commerce not only owning and controlling the region's mass media from behind the scenes, but actually projecting themselves as commentators on Caribbean social reality and as those who possess the "real solutions" to the ills of the region. That way they attempt to propagate the false notion that the private sector (the capitalist class) is the only engine of development for the peoples of the region.

The dismal failure of Jamaican Prime Minister Edward Seaga's laissez-faire, dependent capitalist model concretely contradicts this idea. It's as if the perpetrators of the crime have suddenly become the impartial judge lecturing the jury.

As I've pointed out in previous columns, foreign capital in the Caribbean today dominates all the leading sectors of the region's economy: banking, tourism, mining, manufacturing, petroleum, and export agriculture.

Foreign corporations use and abuse the Caribbean in five basic ways:

- as a source of raw materials (e.g. bauxite, oil, agricultural commodities);
- as a center for low-wage assembly industries;
- as a haven for offshore insurance, corporate finance, and banking;
- as a marketing outlet for their products;
- as a market for products of transnational corporation-controlled import-substitution industries.

Retailing of consumer goods, small farming, and some professional services, such as law and medicine, are the only sectors of the Caribbean economy that transnational corporations do not dominate. They even own or manage most of the region's utilities, a sector controlled by governments in most Latin American countries.

This widespread economic and political control by foreign monopoly capital and their state representatives makes a mockery of the anticolonial independence that Caribbean working people have struggled and died for since the 1930s. Our countries today remain poor and underdeveloped because of this domination and exploitation.

Yet, we have neocolonial misleaders who continue to prescribe a stifling dependency as the only way forward

for our peoples. Take for example the appeal of a prime minister from the Eastern Caribbean in his opening address to the Caribbean Community Heads of Government Conference in July 1987. He said, "Let us invite Canada, the United States, and those countries of Europe which have historical links to the Caribbean to put together a development plan for this region to be called the Columbus Plan, to be launched on the anniversary date of the first landing of Christopher Columbus in this hemisphere."

What our "honorable" prime minister, who is himself a prominent leader of the rightist Caribbean Democratic Union, either forgets, overlooks, or is ignorant of is that Columbus' arrival in the Caribbean triggered off a wanton genocide of the region's indigenous peoples and institutionalized the enslavement of millions of Africans and Asians. What a cruel irony to then suggest that those condemned by humanity for these monstrous historical crimes are the very ones to whom we must turn unreservedly and unconditionally for salvation.

We are not arguing against any form of economic cooperation with the developed capitalist powers. Instead, we are saying that our economic relations with them must be carefully and consciously controlled and managed by governments that truly represent the working people of the Caribbean.

Contrast this prime minister's vulgarity, however, with the following comments by U.S. Congressman Mervyn Dymally (born in Trinidad and Tobago) who, curiously enough, was one of the cofounders of the same Caribbean/Central American Action referred to above, and who today heads the Congressional Black Caucus.

"What the White House believes," he said, "is that this private sector, this monied, elite group of people who oppose humanitarian concerns in favor of the military, in order to resist the communists and thereby safeguard their interests — this same private sector you say is going to help 'stabilize democracy.' I would suggest to you that the private sector is suspect as a partner. It is suspect because by and large it is the problem. It has been the problem throughout our turbulent history in the islands. Three hundred years of racism and greed have now brought the world to the brink of fiscal and nuclear disaster. Still, some of us are willing to look to these same sources for our salvation."

Leading South African artist adds Mandela to mural

BY FRED FELDMAN

NEW YORK — A portrait of Nelson Mandela, the leader of the African National Congress who has spent 26 years in South Africa's prisons, now greets tens of thousands of motorists and pedestrian passersby who daily go by the six-story mural going up on the south wall of the Pathfinder Building. His portrait is one of those that have been painted on the sheets of paper shown being churned out by a printing press, which is the centerpiece of the mural.

Pathfinder, the publishing house with offices in the building, is the publisher of *The Struggle is My Life*, a collection of Mandela's writings and speeches about the battle to topple apartheid in South Africa.

The mural depicts the role of Pathfinder in making available internationally the writings of past and present-day revolutionary leaders.

The portrait of Mandela was added to the

mural by Mslaba Zwelidumile Geelboi Mgxaji Feni, known as Dumile. Dumile is a veteran fighter against apartheid, a member of the African National Congress, and "one of Africa's greatest contemporary artists," according to critic E.J. DeJager in *Contemporary Sculpture in South Africa*.

Dumile was born in 1939 in Capetown, but grew up in Johannesburg. Inspired in part as a child by the cave paintings created by his African ancestors, he began making watercolor paintings, but sculpture soon became his main interest.

In order to learn more about casting sculpture and to have opportunities and material for work, he and other Black artists got work in a plastics foundry that produced sculptures in the town of Jeppe.

Dumile's life as an artist has been a decades-long struggle against the apartheid system. The apartheid setup denies Blacks the right to vote and own land, imposing

segregation and racist discrimination to force Blacks into providing cheap labor for the country's capitalists.

"I began to fight cultural apartheid in the only way I know how," he said. He began to organize cultural shows, where jazz musicians — Black and white — would perform and poets read their works. Dumile designed posters and painted backdrops.

Inevitably, the struggle against the apartheid system became themes of the shows. Supporters of the African National Congress were able to express their views.

"The government eventually caught on, and they decided to make my life miserable," he says.

The hostility of the South African regime was also aroused by his sculptures and paintings of anti-apartheid leaders such as the late ANC leader and Nobel Prize winner Albert Luthuli. The officials resented the anti-apartheid comments that Dumile made through the titles he gave his works.

The government set out to put a stop to the shows. Dumile was arrested many times, serving a total of five years in prison. "I was never charged with a serious offense, and often I was not charged with anything at all," he said. "I would serve three months one time, six months another. Once I was in prison for 15 months."

"Once they ordered me to leave Johannesburg and go to Capetown," he said. "When I got to Capetown, I got an order to leave within 14 days. They put pressure on me to move to a 'homeland.'" "Homeland" is the term used by the apartheid regime for the reserves where millions of Blacks are compelled to live. Dumile was forced into hiding, and then into exile.

Though he considers himself a sculptor first, Dumile has made posters, murals, and calendars for the liberation struggle.

Along with six other South African artists, Dumile's work is being exhibited in a traveling show, "Voices From Exile," that is touring U.S. cities the next few months.



Dumile, one of Africa's outstanding artists and a veteran foe of apartheid, paints portrait of Nelson Mandela as part of Pathfinder mural.

Cuba opens drive to study and circulate Castro's July 26 speech

A campaign to widely distribute the speech given on July 26 by Cuban President Fidel Castro has been announced in Cuba.

Some 650,000 copies of the speech have been printed by Editora Politica, the publishing house of the Communist Party of Cuba. The pamphlet has been put out in Spanish, Russian, English, and French.

As well as being broadly distributed within Cuba, plans have been announced to circulate the pamphlet internationally.

Editora Politica has also published copies of the speech in tabloid form, to be circulated as part of study and discussion material within the Communist Party and the Union of Young Communists (UJC).

The Communist Party daily paper *Granma* announced in its August 12 edition that organized discussions of the speech would be held by members throughout the party and the UJC in September and October. The two-month discussion pro-

gram will culminate in seminars that will be conducted among the party's ranks. In announcing the study program, *Granma* highlighted the "notable political and ideological importance" of the speech.

Castro began the speech by describing the accomplishments of the working people of Santiago region — the site of many of the major developments in the history of the Cuban revolution — in advancing industrial and agricultural developments, education, and health care.

The Cuban leader then went on to explain the current stage of Cuba's rectification process and the role of Cuban troops in the victory won this spring in southern Angola against invading troops of South Africa's apartheid regime.

The bulk of the speech was printed in the September 2 *Militant*.

Copies of that issue can be obtained by sending \$1 to the Militant Business Office, 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014.

400 at Des Moines defense rally

Continued from front page

was a "Mexican-lover" and a "colored-lover."

Curtis was eventually to be charged with third-degree rape, first-degree burglary, and assaulting police officers. If convicted he faces 25-years in jail, with no bail allowed.

'Not the first'

"Mark is not the first person to be involved in something like this, and he won't be the last," explained speaker Susan Mnumzana, secretary for women's affairs at the United Nations observer mission of the African National Congress of South Africa.

"A repressive regime will always find ways of silencing the majority," she continued. "It is an irony to me that in the United States, which is a capitalist country like South Africa, where victims of rape are humiliated and it takes years to actually convince the authorities that they have been raped, it appears at least in this city [the cops] are so benevolent, so righteous, that I just have to say the word and somebody like Mark is arrested."

Mnumzana said that when she was a lawyer in South Africa, she came across many cases where Black men were put to death as a result of false accusations of rape by white women.

Edna Griffin, a 78-year-old civil rights activist who was part of the successful fight to desegregate public accommodations here in Des Moines, also spoke. She told the crowd that when she read in the papers that a white man accused of raping a young Black woman was being vigorously prosecuted by the authorities, she wondered, "What's this new arrangement? When has there been such concern about sexual abuse, never mind rape, of our young Black women?"

Griffin's experience with frame-ups dates way back, having been active in the defense of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, who were murdered in the electric chair in 1953 on phony charges of giving the "secret" of the atom bomb to the Soviet government.

Griffin pledged to get all her friends involved in the fight to defend Curtis. "Color doesn't mean a damn thing today when it comes to the battle for justice," she said.

Other activists attending from Iowa included coworkers of Curtis from the Swift packinghouse; Robert Crandall, an antiwar activist and pastor of the Fort Des Moines United Methodist Church; George Naylor,

a farmer from Churden who is a member of the North American Farm Alliance; Nellie Berry, a member of the Iowa Socialist Party and Women's International League for Peace and Freedom; Robert Berry, a member of the Iowa Socialist Party; and Rev. Daye and Deacon Hayes of the New Friendship Church of God in Christ in Des Moines.

Chairing the rally were two packinghouse workers: Nan Bailey, who is also the Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress from Iowa's 4th Congressional District, and Ellen Whitt, who works at the same plant as Curtis.

Kate Kaku, a packinghouse worker married to Curtis, introduced his father, mother, grandmother, and cousins to the audience. All had come in for the trial.

There were supporters in the audience from other cities, including Miami, Seattle, New Orleans, and throughout the Midwest. A chartered bus brought people from Montreal, Toronto, Detroit, and Cleveland. Reflecting the international breadth of support for Curtis, there were also supporters from Britain, Burkina Faso, El Salvador, Iceland, India, Kenya, Mexico, Namibia, and New Zealand.

Some in the audience had just learned of the case. Two young workers, Stacy and Charlie, for example, who happened to walk by the convention center where the rally was held and decided to check out the meeting.

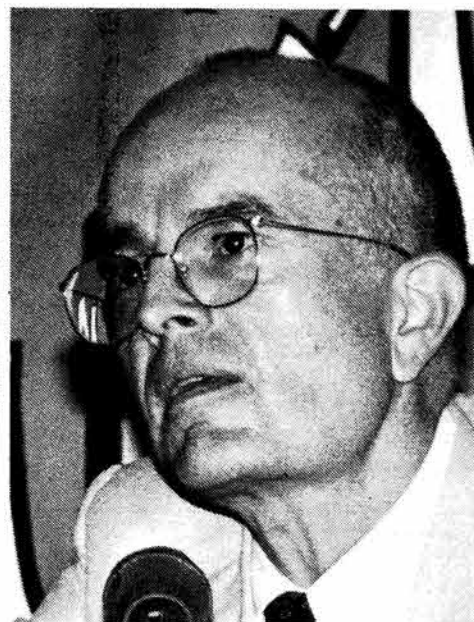
Charlie, who is Black, said friends in prison had told him about people getting beaten up in the Des Moines jail. He himself spent four years behind bars in an Iowa penitentiary. Referring to Curtis, he said, "That could have been me, in the wrong place at the wrong time."

Stakes in case

Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, at Curtis' request, gave extended remarks on the stakes in this case. Curtis is a long-time SWP member and has also served as the national chairperson of the Young Socialist Alliance.

Barnes said that two key issues unite those around the world who are defending Curtis: defense of the presumption of innocence for fellow workers, and the principle that an injury to one is an injury to all.

"Mark's innocence is not a question," Barnes explained. "The presumption of innocence has taken hundreds of years for working people to win. It is not a legal fiction. It is not something you have a right to pick or choose depending on whether or



Among speakers at September 4 Des Moines rally were (clockwise from top left) Edna Griffin, Des Moines civil rights fighter; Jack Barnes, national secretary of Socialist Workers Party; Susan Mnumzana, African National Congress; Piri Thomas, author and poet.

not you like or identify with the individual.

"It is one of the most important milestones on the march to human solidarity, and to the ability of the great majority of the world to act as fully human beings.

"No one in the world is obligated to prove Mark's innocence, and neither will Mark be obligated to do so at the trial.

"It's not that you're innocent until proven guilty. *You are innocent.*"

Barnes insisted that "what happened to Mark is not unusual at all. It happens every day, all over this country. One of the most common charges is that a young person used his head to try to smash the flashlights and blackjacks of the police department somewhere."

This is because "it is the presumption of guilt that predominates in the 'democratic' United States," Barnes continued.

"Saturday night is open season on every young Black man in the United States, on every young Puerto Rican. It's open season on women much of the time."

The cops, explained Barnes, told Curtis exactly what the charges against him were as they beat him up, when they called him a "Mexican-lover" and someone who loves "coloreds."

No 'fair' trial

"We have an obligation to defend an innocent and free human being. Mark Curtis will not get a fair trial. The courtroom will not be where innocence or guilt will be decided. And it is not where justice will be found," the SWP leader said.

It's the conviction that a frame-up is taking place that unites Curtis' supporters around the world, said Barnes.

He took up an editorial in the liberal *Des Moines Register*. The editorial claimed it "strains credulity" to believe that the cops, county prosecutor, family of the alleged victim, and the courts would conspire against Curtis because of his politics.

Barnes noted that the conspiracy against Curtis is tiny compared to the 50 years of federal cop conspiracy against the SWP brought out in the party's successful lawsuit against the FBI. He asked the audience if it was not logical to think that the police are railroading Curtis to jail given that they are notorious for beating up prisoners and given recent revelations of racist and sexist attacks within the police department against cops who are Black or female.

Barnes explained the enormous stakes for working people in not letting the state

get away with the beating and frame-up of Curtis.

"The attack on Mark was an injury to us all, because it encourages the cops everywhere to do the same thing. Every time they beat someone and nothing is done, they will be encouraged to be a little quicker and a little harder the next time," he pointed out.

"When women's rights are pawns in the hands of the police, women are set up for more abuse. This frame-up, if it is not smashed, makes the world less safe for women."

Attempts to revoke Curtis' bail and the law denying him bail if convicted are also threats to all workers' rights, Barnes stressed.

Barnes said it wasn't accurate to say that this is happening to Curtis because of his political ideas. "It's because of his political *deeds* and their effectiveness that this is being done," he explained. "And it is a sign of the times, because this is not being done from a position of strength, but from a position of weakness."

The authorities' goals "are large in this case," said Barnes. "They want cities like Des Moines to be places where people will not fight for social change."

"They want people like Mark Curtis to quit moving to Des Moines. They want workers to get the message that their fight will fail. They want to spread the message: Don't be like Mark Curtis."

The question, said Barnes, "is can they get away with this?" He said the government authorities "have misjudged." They "couldn't believe" that Blacks and whites would unite on a defense platform for Curtis, or that women would be convinced to support him.

"We have little control over what will happen in the courtroom," Barnes concluded, "but we know if this international defense effort doesn't stop, there is no way on earth they can succeed in their goal."

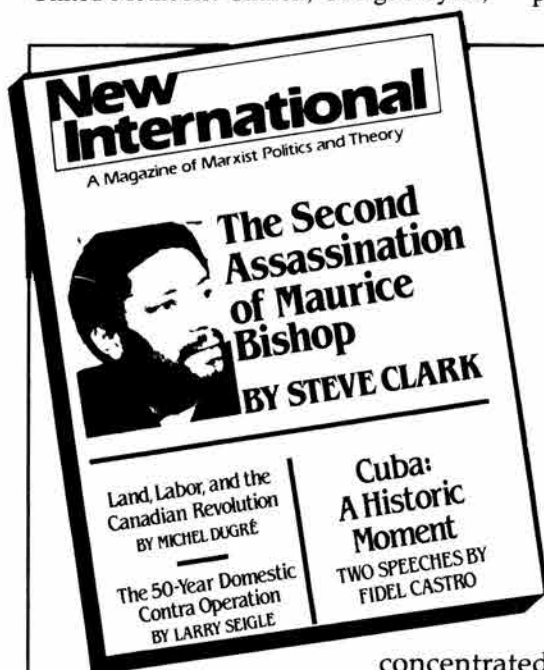
"They will not put Mark in prison for 25 years."

"They will not get him down on his knees."

"They will not prevent him from continuing to be the same person he is today, fighting for the same things, the same deeply held convictions, and telling them to the entire world no matter where he finds himself, for however long."

Curtis' defense has won support from locals of the United Paperworkers Interna-

Continued on next page



"The 50-year Domestic Contra Operation"

By Larry Seigle

How the government has concentrated ever more police powers into its hands to attack trade unionists, Black-rights fighters, and other foes of government policy.

Please send me this issue of *New International*

Name _____

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Clip and mail \$6.50 to New International, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

Unionists, Blacks, come to Curtis' support

BY NORTON SANDLER

DES MOINES, Iowa — "UPIU Local 6288 calls on Polk County Attorney James Smith to drop the charges against Mark Curtis and prosecute the police who beat him."

This message — signed by Jerry Herwald, president of the striking paperworkers' union local at the International Paper Co. mill in De Pere, Wisconsin — was one of dozens sent by unionists to the Mark Curtis support rally here September 4.

More than 100 strikers and family members signed petitions at their September 1 meeting of Local 6288.

The volume of support messages pouring into Des Moines increased substantially as the rally and Curtis' September 7 trial approached.

Other U.S. unionists sending messages in support of Curtis included Tomás Villanueva, president of the United Farm Workers of Washington State; Dave Dowling, president of United Steelworkers of America Local 67 in Granite City, Illinois; Ted Krukowski, president of United Electrical Workers Local 1111 in Milwaukee; Juan Laboriel, international representative of the United Food and Commercial Workers in New York; and Nita Brueggeman, manager of the Pacific Northwest Joint Board of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union.

At the rally, excerpts were read from a letter to Curtis from Donnie Thornsby, president of United Mine Workers of America Local 2496. Thornsby is in jail after being convicted on frame-up charges cooked up after the 1984-85 strike at A.T. Massey coal mines in West Virginia and Kentucky.

"When you defend a fellow worker," wrote Thornsby, "or try to push for rights for working people, you become a target. They are so dirty, but sooner or later we will win."

Support from Canada

Al Cappe, a member of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union in Montreal, read messages from several Canadian unionists and civil rights activists. Included was a message from Pierre Paquette, president of the Montreal council of the Federation of National Trade Unions (CSN).

The Black Action Defence Committee in Toronto has been leading protests over the police murder of Lester Donaldson, a Jamaican-born worker. "It is international knowledge," its statement read, "that when a progressive and committed person such as Mark Curtis takes up the fight against racism and other types of discrimination, they are confronted by the police and the legal system that has no interest in human rights or human justice."

"Police brutality and frame-ups of political activists, unionists, and civil rights and peace campaigners make much too long a list of victims in the great and proud history of United States labor," Ken Douglas wrote in a message to Des Moines prosecutor James Smith. Douglas is president of the New Zealand Council of Trade Unions.

Sixty Swedish trade unionists sent a statement, as did the Kurdistan National Liberation Front based in Malmö, Sweden. Messages were also sent to the rally from Iceland, Britain, and Haiti.

Some messages directly took up the campaign against Curtis being carried out by County Attorney Smith and the editors of the *Des Moines Register*.

"I have been accused of blind trust by supporting Mark's case and cause," actor Ed Asner wrote. "But I have been told what happened to Mark, of his arrest and brutal treatment, and I have heard time and time again of how the 'system' treats unionists and those who try to ripple the waters of the 'status quo.'"

Loretta Ross, director of Women of Color Programs at the National Organization for Women's National NOW Action Center, addressed the false rape charge against Curtis.

As former director of a rape crisis center, Ross said she found it difficult to believe that the Des Moines police force demonstrates such vigor in prosecuting sexual assault crimes on behalf of a Black woman.

Ralph Paige, executive director of the Federation of Southern Cooperatives Land Assistance Fund, a group which defends working farmers and addresses the problems of Black farmers, wrote: "We are not surprised or distracted by the false accusation of rape," said Paige. "Rural Blacks in the South have seen this tactic used many times."

Detroit auxiliary Bishop Thomas Gumbleton also sent a message.

Many statements were received from Central America solidarity activists. Curtis' name appears prominently in illegally obtained FBI spy files on the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES) because of his antiwar activity in Birmingham, Alabama.

CISPES protests

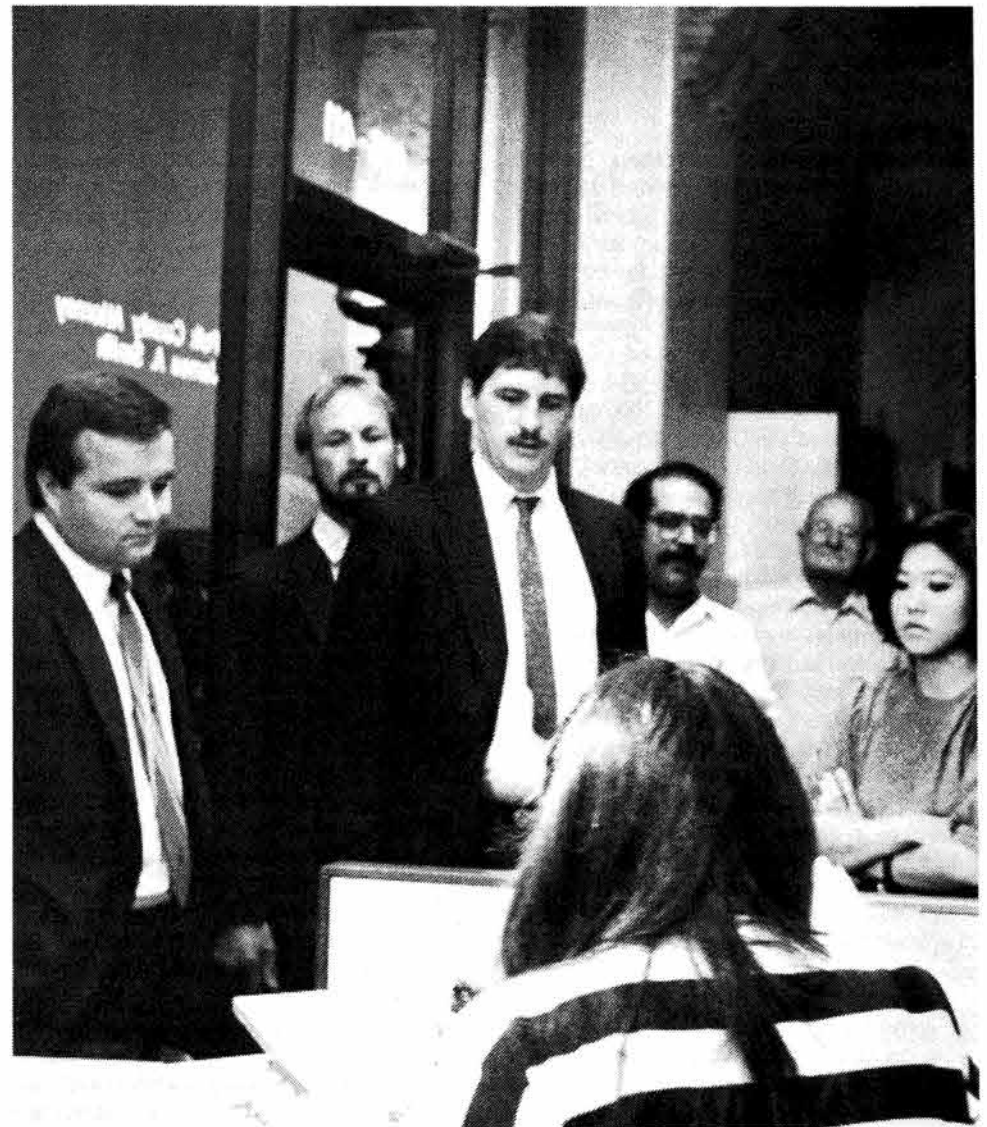
In her message, CISPES National Coordinator Angela Sanbrano said, "It is clear that Mark Curtis has been framed up for his political activities in defense of undocumented workers, workers in general, and for his opposition to U.S. intervention in Central America."

Bob Livesey and Jerry Condon, participants in the Veterans Peace Convoy to Nicaragua, also sent greetings.

Joe Doherty, an Irish rights activist imprisoned in New York, wrote that "the system fears Mark and many other individuals who speak out and take a stand." Doherty is fighting Washington's attempt to deport him to Britain.

On September 2 Curtis and a dozen supporters delivered a stack of 300 petitions with 4,000 names on them to prosecutor Smith's office.

Reporters rushed to talk to Curtis after leaving Smith's office. Interviews with him received prominent coverage on the television news that night.



Mark Curtis (center) delivers 4,000 signatures in his support to office of Polk County Attorney James Smith on September 2. Defense effort was extensively covered by TV stations that evening.

400 at Des Moines defense rally

Continued from previous page

national Union (UPIU) that are on strike against International Paper. Ed Long, from UPIU Local 1787 in Lock Haven, Pennsylvania, described to the rally how strikers could identify with Curtis after having been victimized themselves for resisting the company. Some 110 strikers have been arrested, while procompany people who have violently attacked strikers have gotten off easy.

Cindy Bennett, a striker from UPIU Local 14 in Jay, Maine, told the crowd that the first time she heard about the case, it was hard to believe such a beating and frame-up could happen. But "we have learned a lot" through the strike, she said. "Mark has to win this — because if he doesn't, we will all lose."

"I've been warned since my youth to avoid socialists and communists — and the warnings have continued right up to this week," said William Callahan, coordinator of the Quest for Peace campaign for material aid to Nicaragua.

A Jesuit priest, Callahan also works with the Quixote Center in Washington, D.C. He linked U.S. government violence against the people of Nicaragua with the frame-up of Curtis, who is a longtime antiwar activist. The FBI kept files on Curtis, in fact, for his role in the Committee in Solidarity With Central America, in Birmingham, Alabama.

The executive board of the Iowa State American Agriculture Movement, Inc. (AAM) sent its president, Caroll Nearnmyer, to speak. Two other farmers from the AAM also attended the rally.

Describing how the courts treat farmers facing foreclosure, Nearnmyer told a moving story of one farmer who was found guilty of trespassing on his own farm, as his hogs were being taken away by the sheriff's office. The farmer was sentenced to 60 days in jail.

'Mark could be any of us'

Another frame-up victim, Julie Mungai, said that the attack on Curtis involves "utilization of the legal system to frame activists who dare to express political opinions that go outside the mainstream of this society. Mark Curtis could be any one of us."

Mungai is one of the Los Angeles Eight.

She is from Kenya; the other seven defendants are Palestinians. The U.S. government arrested them for their political activity on behalf of the Palestinian people.

The director of the Latin American Human Rights Advocacy Center of Iowa City, Mike Henry, talked about Washington's professed concern for human rights around the world. "Human rights must begin at home," he said, "and home is Des Moines, Iowa, today."

Henry said he had never met Curtis prior to his arrest, but the picture of Curtis with his cheekbone shattered by cops' nightsticks was familiar. "I've seen that face before — in Chile, in Guatemala, and in El Salvador."

"Only by banding together like we have this afternoon and publicly demanding accountability, and by keeping up the pressure" can "we preserve the rights that people like Mark Curtis have long fought to make available to all," he concluded.

Salvadoran torture victim

Marta Alicia Rivera said that when she found out what happened to Curtis, it reminded her of her experiences in El Salvador. Rivera is a representative of the Association of Salvadoran Educators. She was tortured at the hands of the Salvadoran military.

Mike Zmolek, a member of the Iowa Coalition Against Apartheid at the University of Iowa in Iowa City, solidarized with Curtis's fight.

Personally, Zmolek said, "I'd like to express my sympathy for Demetria Morris," the woman the cops claim Curtis tried to rape. "I hope," Zmolek continued, that Curtis "is telling the truth and I have no reason to doubt that." If he is, Zmolek said, Demetria Morris will have to carry the burden of having put an innocent person in jail.

Zmolek pointed to a headline in the Sunday *Des Moines Register* that read "Politics cloud sex-abuse trial." The opposite is the truth, said Zmolek: the charge of sexual abuse is being used to cloud a political case.

Héctor Marroquín, a Mexican-born worker who has been fighting for 11 years for permanent residence in the United States, also spoke. He is a well-known campaigner for Curtis.

Four days before the rally here, the U.S. State Department was forced to finally grant Marroquín, a national committee member of the SWP, an immigrant visa. He has a September 20 appointment with the Immigration and Naturalization Service on his permanent resident status.

Marroquín held up his visa, calling it "a new conquest to advance the fight for democratic rights and a new conquest for my fellow fighter, Mark Curtis. This is, in a sense, a present to Mark."

Also speaking were Puerto Rican author and poet Piri Thomas; Estelle DeBates, of the Young Socialist Alliance National Executive Committee; and Al Cappe, a leader of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee in Canada.

Outside the rally, three women and one man picketed till early evening. They distributed a leaflet on National Black United Front letterhead, repeating the cops' charges against Curtis.

Conrad Worrell, national chairperson of NBUF, however, has signed a petition in support of Curtis.

\$11,000 raised

More than \$11,000 was raised at the rally after an appeal for funds by Hazel Zimmerman, a leading activist in the Mark Curtis Defense Committee. She had first met Curtis at a protest march for the Swift workers rounded up by immigration police.

Zimmerman reported that \$58,000 had been raised — and spent — so far in the case. But much more is needed.

Mark Curtis was the final speaker. He thanked all those who are supporting his case. "This is what has made it possible to sustain this fight," he said.

Curtis described the support he has gotten from unionists and farmers around the country, as well as the reactions he's seen from working people in Des Moines. "I'm often asked," he said, "Why are all these people supporting you?"

"They support me because I'm on the side of social justice," he answered.

Defying those trying to railroad him to jail, Curtis said, "They are so wrong if they think they can defeat me by putting me in prison."

The audience jumped to its feet chanting, "Jail the cops! Drop the charges!"

Frame-up trial of Mark Curtis opens

Continued from front page

there were unionists and others present from around the country, as well as from Canada and India. United Steelworkers Local 1014 in Gary, Indiana, one of the largest Steelworkers' locals in the country, sent Mitch Rosenberg as an official representative.

"Mark Curtis is being charged falsely in efforts to deter his union and solidarity activity," wrote Marc Stepp, international vice-president of the United Auto Workers union, to Polk County prosecutor James Smith in a protest received here today.

Curtis' attorney

Curtis' lawyer is Mark Pennington of the firm Kutmus and Pennington, the most prestigious criminal law firm in the state. The prosecution is being conducted by Assistant County Attorney Catherine Thune.

Judge Harry Perkins opened the proceedings by noting that the case had received much media attention. The large number of people interested in the trial, he said, was evidenced by what he called the unusually large number of spectators.

There was a panel of 40 potential jurors. None were Black. Thune questioned the potential jurors first to begin the process of selecting 12.

Defense attorney Pennington spoke to the jurors next.

He pointed out that while it is a principle of law that the accused is innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, only rarely do people genuinely assume the innocence of someone indicted for a crime. By far the most common response, said Pennington, is the opposite — to want the accused to prove they didn't do it and explain why they shouldn't be punished.

Pennington explained that there will be a tendency in the trial to want Mark Curtis to prove his innocence, even though the burden of proof is entirely on the prosecution. He pointed to jurors' obligation to keep an open mind to what the defense has to say and not assume Curtis' guilt.

The jury that was selected has eight women and four men. The one person who identified himself as a Swift packinghouse worker was excluded from the jury.

Thune and Pennington outlined their cases in opening statements. Then the first two witnesses for the prosecution took the stand.

They were Demetria Morris, the 16-year old Black woman whom Curtis is accused of raping in her home on March 4, 1988, when she was 15 years old; and her 12 year old brother Jason, who was 11 at the time he allegedly interrupted the rape by calling the police.

For more than an hour and a half, under questioning by prosecutor Thune, Demetria Morris detailed her allegations that Curtis forced his way into her home and then beat and sexually abused her until the cops came. Two officers, she said, chased Curtis into the back of the house and handcuffed him while his pants were still down.

Jason Morris testified that he was in the house when Curtis assaulted his sister and

hid in the basement after calling the police.

In his opening statement, Pennington explained that there will be many contradictions between the testimony given by the defense and that of the prosecution.

He reported that Curtis himself will be the main defense witness. Pennington acknowledged that this highly unusual move could open the door to a danger for his client. The state of Iowa could then bring into the trial anything derogatory it could find about Curtis and what he has done at any time in his life, forcing him to incriminate himself.

Pennington challenged the prosecution to do so.

Pennington then went to the heart of his case by telling the story of Mark Curtis and what he has dedicated his life to.

He said that Curtis had grown up on a Navajo Indian reservation in New Mexico, where he was moved by the conditions the Indians were forced to live in and their ill-treatment at the hands of the authorities. This helped make Curtis the political activist he has been for more than a decade, dedicating his life to banding together with other working people to struggle against racism, sexism, war, and class exploitation and for a new society. This is what led Curtis to join the Young Socialist Alliance and Socialist Workers Party.

Curtis was a mechanic and a factory worker, Pennington continued, who was a union activist. He fought, along with his coworkers, for better working conditions. He participated in demonstrations against U.S. intervention in Central America.

In November 1986, the defense attorney said, Curtis and his wife Kate Kaku, who is also a socialist, moved to Des Moines. Both got jobs in meatpacking plants. Curtis worked at Swift — a "hot, dirty, dangerous place," said Pennington.

Curtis had learned to speak some Spanish as a youth and was able to talk with Spanish-speaking coworkers. This, Pennington said, was important at Swift where the work force includes many Latinos.

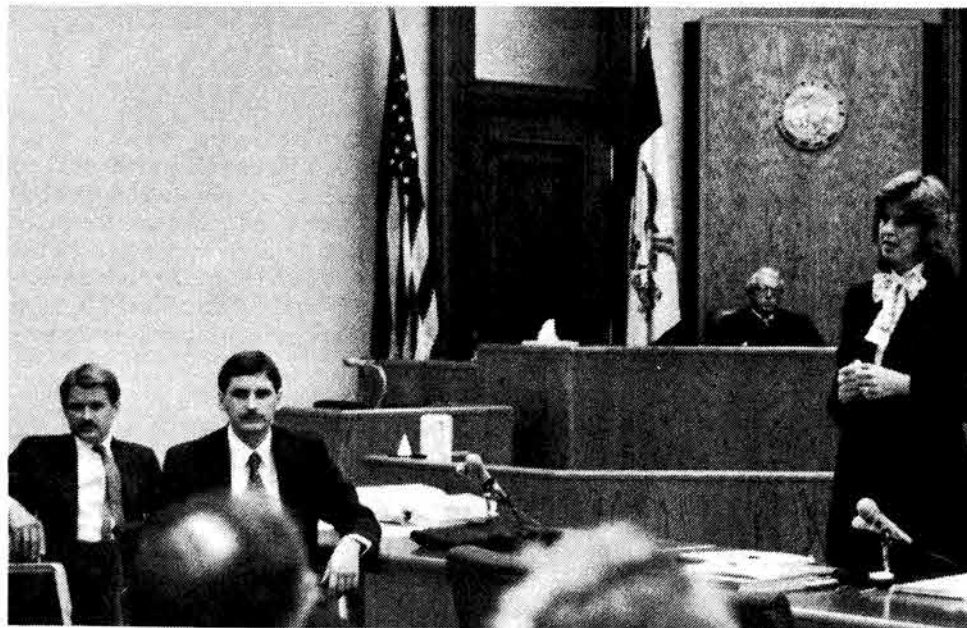
Two weeks before his arrest, Pennington continued, Curtis participated in a protest in Clive, Iowa, against racist attacks by police. As part of the protest, Pennington told the jurors, Curtis had set up a literature table on the lawn of the police department, where he was seen by the cops.

Immigration raid at Swift

On March 1, three days before Curtis was arrested, cops from the Immigration and Naturalization Service raided the Swift plant, arrested 17 of Curtis' Latino coworkers, and charged them with not having proper papers.

This caused a great deal of discussion at the plant. Curtis defended the right of immigrants to live and work in the United States.

March 4, the day of his arrest, was an important day for Curtis, said Pennington. A meeting to protest the raid was to be held at the Mexican-American Community



Des Moines courtroom on opening day of trial, September 7. Left to right: Mark Pennington, defense attorney; Mark Curtis; Judge Harry Perkins, at bench; Assistant County Attorney Catherine Thune, prosecutor.

Center that afternoon.

Several workers at Swift walked off the production line when the company tried to prevent them from attending. They returned after management assured them that another meeting would be held later that day that they could attend.

Curtis went to that meeting, Pennington said, and spoke in Spanish about the importance of involving the union at the plant, the United Food and Commercial Workers, in what he said was an attack on all workers in the plant. Officials of the INS and the U.S. Attorney's office attended the meeting, Pennington stated.

This meeting was one indication, Pennington said, that the things Curtis had been fighting for over many years were beginning to come to fruition. Workers were joining together to fight for their interests.

After the meeting, Curtis was on his way to the store to pick up some food. He was carrying both his and his wife's paychecks to cash there. He never made it, Pennington said.

When Curtis takes the stand, said Pennington, he will explain how he ended up on the Morris' porch that evening.

(Curtis faces another trial October 10 on charges of assaulting a police officer.)

The first day of the trial received extensive television coverage this evening.

One commentator described the trial as the most important to take place in Des Moines in a decade.

The big stakes involved were highlighted in the week before the trial.

On September 1, prosecutor Thune claimed in a court hearing that Curtis had violated a court order prohibiting contact between Curtis and the alleged victim and her family. Curtis' supporters had been distributing leaflets at work sites, campuses, and high schools around the city, including the high school that Demetria Morris attends.

Thune's goals were to have Curtis' bail revoked, so that he would appear before the jury as a prisoner in handcuffs, and to restrict the right of his supporters to explain the facts about the frame-up.

Judge Anthony Critelli ruled that his court order had not been violated.

The next day a pretrial hearing was held

in Judge Perkins' courtroom. He ruled in favor of three motions submitted by Thune that limited the scope of the defense Curtis can present during the trial.

Judge Perkins said he would not allow witnesses to be called who would testify about the cops' beating of Curtis after he was taken into custody March 4.

He prohibited calling FBI agents as witnesses. Curtis' name appears prominently in FBI spy files that document his activity in the Birmingham, Alabama, affiliate of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES). Perkins ruled that the files were not relevant to the case and might prejudice the jury.

He also barred testimony on the July 15 physical assault by Keith Morris, Demetria Morris' father, on the office of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, located in the Pathfinder Bookstore in Des Moines.

The coalition of forces that support the frame-up and beating of Curtis were also represented at the courthouse when the trial began, although in much smaller numbers than his supporters. This reflected their relative isolation in the city and their lack of broader national and international support.

They included representatives of Victim Services, a Polk County agency that works closely with the cops. The agency's function is supposedly providing counseling to "crime victims."

A self-proclaimed member of the Des Moines National Black United Front (NBUF) also attended. A couple of NBUF members picketed the September 4 rally in defense of Curtis, and have begun nightly pickets at the Mark Curtis Defense Committee headquarters.

The Workers League, a small sect that publishes a paper called the *Bulletin*, also had people at the courthouse. They spent much of their time photographing Curtis' family members and other supporters.

On Channel 8 television news tonight, as well as in the September 4 *Des Moines Register*, the *Bulletin's* attack on Curtis entitled, "The Strange Case of Mark Curtis," was pointed to as an example of a "socialist" group that is backing the cops' case.

Curtis' supporters have found — as they spoke this week to hundreds of workers, farmers, and students about the case — that most people find it easy to believe that this is a frame-up from start to finish. Many agree that if the authorities can get away with what they're doing in the case of Curtis, the police can do the same to anybody else who stands up for what they believe in.

Top union officials in Britain back Curtis

BOURNEMOUTH, England — Several top union officials attending a national meeting of the Trades Union Congress that opened here September 5 signed petitions demanding charges be dropped against Iowa political activist Mark Curtis. The TUC is Britain's principal trade union federation. Among the most prominent signers were: Ron Todd, general secretary, Transport and General Workers, the largest union in Britain with a membership of 1.4 million; Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers; Jimmy Knapp, general secretary, National Union of Railwaymen; Alan Sapper, general secretary, Association of Cinematograph, Television, and Allied Technicians.

'Militant' sales spark discussion, debate

BY NORTON SANDLER

DES MOINES, Iowa — Forty supporters of justice for Mark Curtis took to the streets here September 3, distributing material defending the framed-up political activist and selling the *Militant* and the Spanish-language magazine *Perspectiva Mundial*.

As the teams returned to the Des Moines Pathfinder bookstore, they reported that the majority of people they had spoken with knew something about the frame-up.

About half of those the Curtis backers spoke with expressed an opinion about the case, many in support of Curtis. A smaller number, influenced by hostile media coverage and the prosecutor and cops' campaign against Curtis, were convinced that he is "guilty of rape" and argued that he should be jailed.

"Most people we talked to were no strangers to arrests and other problems with the police," said Diane Shur. "Some used the word 'frame-up' to describe what happened to them."

Virginia, who was visiting Des Moines from Chicago, recounted her discussion with a couple of workers in a pickup truck in a shopping center parking lot. Virginia was born in Mexico.

"One of the two was a Chicano," she said. "He asked me if Curtis is Mexican, because only 'minorities' get beaten by the cops. I argued that the police, while they especially hate Blacks and Latinos, often beat up any working people they arrest. His friend, who was white, was listening carefully and started nodding his head."

Many of the Curtis backers ran into workers from the Swift beef-packing plant where Curtis works. Matt Munro was part of the team that sold six papers to Swift workers while going door to door in working-class neighborhoods.

"One guy who bought a paper worked with Mark at Swift and has been trying to keep up with what is going on," said Munro.

Craig Honts met a Black woman who works at Swift. She described an incident the night before where a coworker had taunted her with racist remarks. "She was very interested in the Curtis fight," Honts said, "so she bought a subscription."

Gale Shangold ran into a few people hostile to Curtis. "One woman claimed Mark was using his credentials as a political activist to cover an attack on a young girl," Shangold said.

"A man hanging out with three friends took the leaflet and threw it on the ground," she added.

Eugene Johnson sold 18 copies of the *Militant*. "Most everybody was friendly," he noted. "They were curious about the Curtis case and wanted more information. 'I would open up to the *Militant* center-spread interview with Curtis and they would buy a copy.'"

By the end of the day, 150 *Militants* and *Perspectiva Mundials*, and several subscriptions were sold.

Wisconsin paper strikers welcome Mickells

BY MARGARET JAYKO

DE PERE, Wis. — Striking paperworkers invited Kathleen Mickells, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. vice-president, to address their September 1 union meeting. Mickells made a three-day stop in the eastern part of Wisconsin on her national campaign tour.

De Pere, which is south of Green Bay, has a population of 15,000. More than 100 strikers and family members were at the meeting. United Paperworkers International Union Local 6288 has been on strike against International Paper since June 1987. Some 374 union members walked out at the time; there are about 350 replacement workers operating the mill here now. The local faces a union decertification election on September 14.

Mickells was the first speaker at the meeting. Local President Jerry Herwald introduced her, explaining that she is a laid-off coal miner and member of the United Mine Workers union.

Mickells said she was there to bring solidarity from the Socialist Workers campaign. Many campaign supporters are members of industrial unions who have been active in winning backing for paperworkers on strike or locked out in De Pere; Jay, Maine; Lock Haven, Pennsylvania; and Mobile, Alabama.

Working people pushed back

"Your struggle is important for working people across the United States and the rest of the world," said Mickells. Since the deep economic recession of 1981-82, the employers have been on the prod against the unions, attacking workers' living stan-

dards and job conditions.

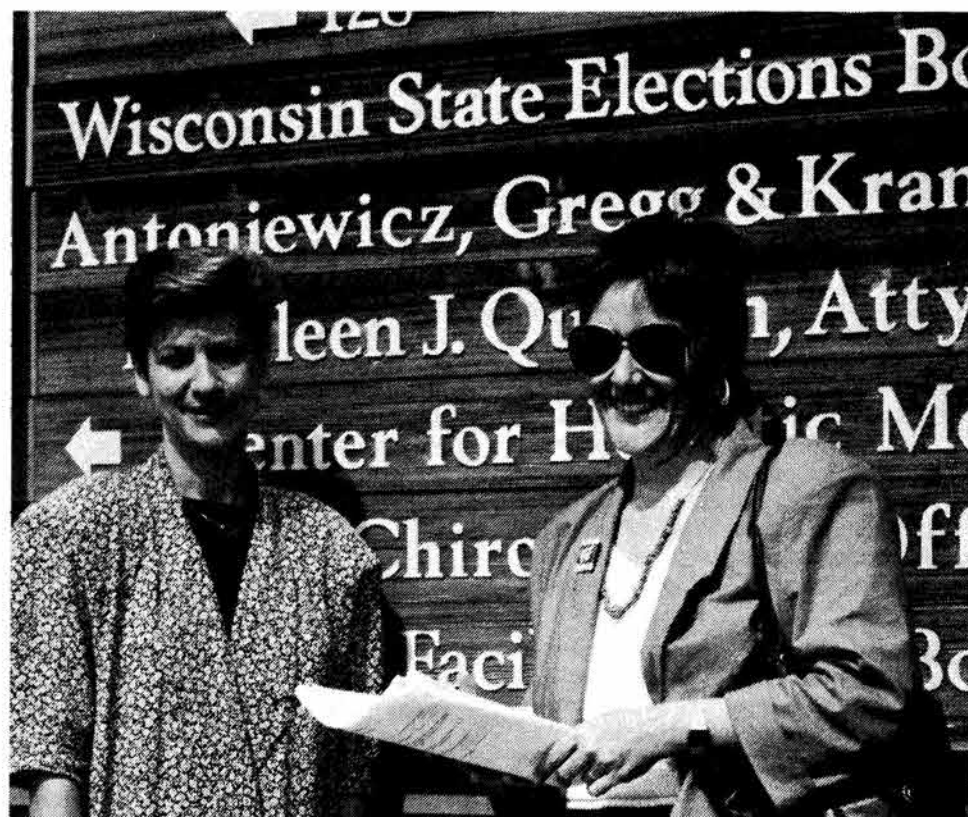
Initially, said Mickells, "most workers accepted the employers' line that if we agreed to concessions on wages, benefits, and working conditions, the company would make more money and our jobs would be secure. So rather than fighting against the bosses' demands, in most cases we simply felt like we had no choice but to go along with them."

But several years of experience, Mickells said, showed many workers that concessions did not save jobs. In fact, they led to employer demands for even more wage cuts and a faster and more dangerous pace of production. "So some workers began to say 'Enough!' and stand up and fight — from meat-packers in Austin, Minnesota, to cannery workers in Watsonville, California," said Mickells. "Your strike is part of this."

When workers did decide to strike, she pointed out, "We learned how weak our unions had become as a result of decades of acting as though we and the bosses have the same interests, and that if we just work together with them everything will be okay." The unions have become increasingly isolated from the majority of working people, who see them more as job trusts than as organizations that fight for the interests of the entire working class, she noted.

Most of the struggles workers have waged, therefore, "have not won their immediate demands. In some cases, like that of the Austin meat-packers, hundreds of strikers lost their jobs."

Nonetheless, the socialist candidate explained, through these struggles a layer of working people are learning crucial lessons



Militant/Margaret Jayko
SWP vice-presidential candidate Kathleen Mickells (left) and supporter Sandi Sherman filed nominating petitions in Madison September 1 for Wisconsin ballot status.

about the conflict between the employers and the working class. They will be part of the decisive human material that will help lead the bigger battles that are ahead.

The crash of the world's stock markets last October, the vice-presidential candi-

date said, signaled that an international depression is coming. It will cause a deep-going social crisis and spark massive class conflicts. The ruling class, emphasized Mickells, will use even rougher methods to repress those who fight back.

Working people around the world will all be victims of the capitalist crisis. But some have already been hit — and hit hard. Many people in Asia, Africa, and Latin America are today living in depression-level conditions.

In the United States the biggest division of all is between workers who currently have jobs and those who don't. Workers who are Black and Latino are at the bottom of the barrel.

In order to unify working people, Mickells told the meeting, the SWP is putting forward the Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis, which calls on working people to fight for affirmative action, cancellation of the Third World countries' foreign debt, and a shorter workweek with no cut in pay.

"The future won't be decided by who is elected in November," concluded Mickells. "It will be decided by us — working people — what we do or don't do." She urged everyone to pick up a copy of the Action Program and the campaign newspaper, the *Militant*.

A little later, local President Herwald explained that SWP members in the region had been instrumental in helping the local win support for its strike. He asked those present to give the socialists a round of

Continued on Page 13

Warren to Atlanta garment workers: 'Our actions are key to progress'

BY GREG McCARTAN

ATLANTA — James Warren, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president, spoke with a group of garment workers here during their dinner break. About 20 came over to a picnic table to meet Warren.

Members of Local 365 of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, they had rejected a takeback contract by the Arrow Shirt Co. earlier in the week and voted to strike the company. The strike was scheduled to begin at the end of the shift change the night Warren talked to them.

One worker, Bill, told Warren that some workers didn't think the strike would accomplish much. Another unionist, Derrick, pointed out that he, like other younger workers in the plant, had car payments to meet.

"Right now we do lose most strikes," Warren said. "Union officials today don't generally organize strikes, but simply work stoppages, and tell us they will take care of it. In this situation," he continued, "workers end up sitting there watching the company run scabs into the plant."

Warren pointed out that not trying to resist company takebacks "is even worse. When we vote for concession contracts, the companies will take even more." He noted that workers will be unable to wage an effective struggle as long "as we think somebody else will win gains for us or give us progress. No. We have to fight and take them. It is our actions that are key to whether progress is made."

"We must take the struggles we are waging and make them into social struggles — part of defending yourself is defending others. There is no fight," Warren added, "without this social content."

The garment workers told Warren they had been following the Socialist Workers campaign in the *Militant*, wished him good luck, and invited him to the picket line later that night.

Defending Nicaraguan revolution

Several students, a hospital worker, and a laid-off auto worker were among those attending a picnic hosted by campaign supporters the following day. All were active in protesting U.S. aid to the contra army that waged war on the Nicaraguan people for seven years.

Warren explained that following the October 1987 stock market crash, increasing numbers of workers and students are beginning to see politics in a different way. More people, he said, are open to looking at politics from the viewpoint of the working class.

The socialist candidate noted that "it becomes more possible and necessary to explain why the Nicaraguan government is a government of workers and farmers, that the U.S. government hates this government, and wants to overthrow it."

The U.S. rulers, Warren explained, "must both turn on workers here and try to prevent losses in the world. They will do everything they can to make sure workers and farmers don't take political power and move to transform the economy. These are the stakes for the working class in defending the Nicaraguan revolution."

"This is also why the U.S. government has been unable to send troops to invade Nicaragua," the presidential candidate said. "It has never been a military, but a political question for them. The main obstacle for them is the working class in the U.S. itself. The U.S. government was able to wage war in Korea, Vietnam, the Dominican Republic, and elsewhere on the basis of seeming to have gotten rid of the class struggle in this country. Today, there is nothing in our conditions of life to make workers believe it is necessary to sacrifice our lives to go to war."

How to effect change

Lee, who works at an Atlanta hospital, asked Warren what he recommended people who are politically active do to effect change.

"It isn't possible to overcome 50 years of class collaboration and lack of class consciousness in one fell swoop," Warren said. "What begins to happen through the initial struggles of working people today is the transformation of individual workers who can come into politics."

"I suggest you take these ideas to as broad a number of people as possible, which is how to find those whose experiences in life and politics have led them to begin to see politics from the point of view of the working class," Warren said.

A wide range of workers from the city were part of nearly 40 people who attended

a campaign forum September 2 featuring Warren.

One of them, Stephanie, an assembly line worker at General Motors, was part of a protest by other laid-off auto workers denied inclusion in the "jobs bank" set up by the company. Up to 1,300 workers face indefinite layoff by the company. GM claims these workers are ineligible to be part of the jobs bank because the layoff is due to slow car sales.

"The discussion we had here at the forum really put it all in perspective for me," she said. "This will help me talk with other workers involved in this fight."

Lee, who attended the picnic, returned to hear Warren's presentation. She had read the SWP's Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis between the two meetings, and bought several more copies to distribute to others. She is one of several people who expressed interest in joining the SWP during Warren's tour stop.

Students at Univ. of Illinois hear socialist candidate

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. — Kathleen Mickells made an unscheduled stop here September 3 during her nationwide campaign tour.

Supporters at the giant Champaign-Urbana campus of the University of Illinois set up a Saturday morning meeting for Mickells on Labor Day weekend. Champaign and Urbana are adjacent cities in central Illinois. Even though many of the 45,000 students had left for the holiday, more than 20 turned out to hear Mickells.

Campaign activists in Chicago had visited the campus earlier in the week and signed up 60 people who were interested in the Young Socialist Alliance. This prompted the Chicago YSA to ask Mickells to speak to students and to send another team here to publicize the meeting.

Much of the discussion after Mickells' presentation centered on the current economic and political policies of the Soviet government, the struggle of the Polish workers, and the role of Cuban volunteer troops in Ethiopia.

Alex, a sophomore who had previously

heard SWP presidential candidate James Warren speak in Chicago, decided to join the YSA. He first met the socialist youth organization at a literature table on campus and had bought some copies of the *Militant*. "I read every article and couldn't find anything I disagreed with," he said. —M.J.

No medical insurance for 37 million in U.S.

Some 37 million people in the United States have neither private nor public health insurance. That's 7 million more than in 1980, according to witnesses who testified before the Senate Finance subcommittee on health a few weeks ago.

Robert Blendon of the Harvard School of Public Health stated that the backup for the uninsured is also declining. The number of public neighborhood health centers has decreased and philanthropic spending in health care has declined from 4.6 percent of national health expenditures in 1970 to 2.7 percent today, he said.

Farm labor union marches in Oregon against pesticides, declining wages

BY JOHN CHARBONNET

WOODBURN, Ore. — Chanting “¡Si, se puede!” (“It can be done”), “¡Justicia!” and “¡Viva PCUN!,” some 400 farm workers and their supporters participated in the first public demonstration of the Northwest Tree Planters and Farm Workers United, a union organizing Oregon farm workers. The union is known by its Spanish initials, PCUN.

Preceded by a winding three-mile “march for justice” through the streets of Woodburn, the August 21 rally called for support to the campaign by César Chávez and the United Farm Workers (UFW) in California against the use of deadly pesticides in the fields. It also targeted the scandalous living conditions and low wages that resulted from the growers’ recruitment efforts to flood the labor market during Oregon’s harvest this year. Thousands of farm workers arriving early were stranded without food or shelter.

PCUN President Cipriano Ferrel told the rally, “Today farm workers here in the Willamette Valley have come out in the street. They’ve made a decision. They’ve decided that they’re going to change these conditions.

“Twenty-five years ago,” he continued, “this decision was made in the small town of Delano, California, by the United Farm Workers. Seventeen years ago this same decision was made in Toledo, Ohio, by the Farm Labor Organizing Committee. And two years ago, this decision was made in Granger, Washington, by the United Farm Workers of Washington.”

Ferrel explained that “everyday we see the overcrowding. We see our brothers and sisters suffering without medical attention. We’re in the strawberry fields working at 50 percent less than what they were paying us last year.

“What we need is to come together and move forward,” he concluded.

Tomás Villanueva, president of the United Farm Workers of Washington State, told the rally that the agricultural industry’s solu-

tion to farm workers fighting back “is to recruit more workers, to create hunger, to create misery — not to raise wages, not to improve working conditions.”

“In the state of Washington,” he continued, “we already have had a total of 15 strikes, and in each one of them we have won something, but we have not been able to get a collective bargaining agreement. But the farm worker is respected in those strikes, and is bringing fear to the hearts” of the growers.

When the growers tried to bring in workers from other orchards to break a strike during the peach harvest, Villanueva said, the workers refused to cross the picket lines.

The growers then obtained an injunction limiting the number of pickets. Pickets were prohibited from using public parking on a country highway.

“Agricultural workers are tired and they are saying ¡Ya basta! (‘Enough’),” said Villanueva.

The union leader concluded his talk by calling for equal protection for farm workers under labor laws. “There has always been a double standard,” he said. “Farm workers have been left out of every labor legislation. And it is time to say we are part of this great country; we have made this country rich. We do not ask for charity. We ask for the same benefits that have been provided to our brothers and sisters in other industries for over 50 years.”

Also speaking at the rally were Arlene Collins, second vice-president of the Oregon AFL-CIO, and Ron Herndon, chair of the Portland Black United Front and co-chair of the Oregon Rainbow Coalition.

Dolores Huerta, first vice-president of the California UFW, sent a message to the rally. She had been scheduled to speak, but stayed in Delano because Chávez ended his 36-day fast the same day. Delegations from the Amagated Clothing and Textile Workers Union and the Oregon Public Employees Union also participated in the rally.



Militant photos by John Charbonnet

August 21 march in Woodburn, Oregon, by Northwest Tree Planters and Farm Workers United (PCUN). Bottom photo shows PCUN President Cipriano Ferrel, Washington farm union leader Tomás Villanueva, and Arlene Collins, Oregon AFL-CIO official.

Unemployed farm workers demand gov't benefits

BY MATT HERRESHOFF

YAKIMA, Wash. — “Like other farm workers, I’ve gone from ranch to ranch looking for work,” said Pablo, a veteran farm worker here. “It’s been two months since I had a job,” he said.

“I’ve lived here for 10 years,” said another farm worker. “I know the whole valley. I’ve gone from one farm to the next seeking work. But I’ve only been offered one job — paying \$2 an hour. Think about it. How can you live on \$2 an hour? How can you support a family?”

They were speaking to a rally of over 100 unemployed farm workers here, organized by the United Farm Workers of Washington State (UFWWS). Despite the hops harvest, which started last month, the union estimates that 3,000 farm workers are out of work. Thousands more have only worked a few days in the past months.

One after another, jobless farm workers took the microphone to tell their stories. “I came to this country with the hope of improving my condition. For our own well-being, we must unite and protest,” said Hilario Salinas. Like many of the workers, Salinas has been without work since the cherry harvest ended in June.

“We demand immediate aid,” said Bill Nicasio, UFWWS vice-president. “How many billions does the government spend to aid the ranchers? The farm workers have the need. The government has the responsibility.”

The rally was broadcast on live radio throughout the Yakima Valley. In the weeks leading up to the August 22 rally, the union organized picket lines at the state unemployment office to press its demands. And plans are set to hold more actions in towns throughout the valley.

Last fall, tens of thousands of farm workers were stranded in Washington State without food, shelter, or gas. They slept under bridges, in cars, and on the banks of the Yakima River. The UFWWS waged a big campaign to demand relief for those workers.

This spring, thousands more were stranded in Oregon without work. Similar crises have been reported in California, Arizona, and other states, Nicasio explained.

Today, thousands of migrant farm workers have been left jobless in the drought-hit Midwest, without food, shelter, or money

to return to their homes.

“The struggle is not just for today,” Nicasio told the rally. “We must think of tomorrow and the day after, because the winter will be hard.” The union is demanding the right of farm workers to receive unemployment compensation. Under state law, almost no farm workers are eligible for these benefits.

Ike Turner, the head of the state unemployment department, represented Gov. Booth Gardner at the rally. The governor “has asked five state agencies to come up with some resources for food, and perhaps some housing assistance,” he said.

“It’s always too little too late,” replied one of the unemployed farm workers.

Two days later, in a meeting with UFWWS President Tomás Villanueva, state officials promised \$15,000 in immediate relief, and \$10,000 to be put into a reserve fund for later use.

Victoria García, who has been without work since late May, brought a bag to the rally to demonstrate the kind of relief that has been provided so far. It contained a can of grapefruit juice, a can of condensed soup, eight ounces of tomato sauce, a handful of oats, and a one-pound bag of tortilla chips. “And sometimes a loaf of moldy bread,” she added. “They only give you one bag like that a month. We’re poor, but we’re not that poor,” she said.

The last farm worker to take the mike was Jorge Romero. “I am one of those who took part in the strike against Carson Orchards,” he told the rally. On August 2, some 60 workers in the peach harvest walked off the job at Carson when the grower arbitrarily cut their wages from \$4 an hour plus \$5 a bin to \$14 a bin with no hourly rate. Workers there could pick about two bins a day.

“It was a strike for a just wage, and to be respected,” Romero explained. The strike was broken when the grower got an injunction against picketing. The judge did not allow the union to challenge the injunction, an action that the union is appealing. Seven of the strikers, fired from their jobs, attended the rally.

“We want to thank the many compañeros here for their moral and material support,” Romero told the rally. “We are here to work, but we should also be treated justly in our jobs.”

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Castro’s July 26 speech

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“Cuba will never adopt methods of capitalism,” said Cuban President Fidel Castro during a speech he gave in Santiago, Cuba, on July 26, 1988.

The bulk of this speech is featured in PM’s September issue.

In this speech Castro focuses on Cuba’s rectification process and the decisive role Cuban troops played in the historic victory this spring in southern Angola against invading troops of South Africa’s apartheid regime.



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Quebec chemical fire is health disaster

BY BEVERLY BERNARDO

MONTREAL, Quebec — In one of Canada's worst ever environmental disasters, thousands of working people have had their lives disrupted and face a serious threat to their health from the effects of a chemical fire.

In the early evening of August 23, a fire broke out in a warehouse in St-Basile-le-Grand, a small community about nine miles from Montreal.

The warehouse was used to store 24,000 gallons of PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls), a highly toxic substance used as a coolant in electrical equipment and for other industrial purposes.

Explosions rocked the building and thick clouds of poisonous smoke escaped into the atmosphere above one of Quebec's most fertile farming areas.

Fire fighters were unable to bring the blaze under control until 1:30 a.m. By then, government authorities had evacuated 3,000 people from their homes in the communities of St-Basile-le-Grand, St-Bruno, and Ste-Julie. The next day PCB levels 20 times the official acceptable level were found in parts of Ste-Julie.

Lab tests in animals have linked PCBs to cancer. They are known to cause birth defects, brain and liver damage, and when they burn they produce dioxins and furans, two extremely toxic compounds that are proven cancer-causing agents.

PCBs are practically indestructible. A special high-temperature incinerator that can destroy them exists in the province of Alberta, however, the Alberta government refuses to handle PCBs from other provinces.

Because of their toxicity, Canada's federal government banned the manufacture of PCBs in 1977. Those manufactured before this date are still in use across Canada in thousands of electrical transformers. Today, there are 1,500 PCB storage sites

across Canada, with more than half of them in Quebec.

Government responsibility

The events leading up to the disaster reveal a record of criminal negligence on the part of the warehouse owner Marc Levy, who lives in Florida.

However, the finger of responsibility points above all to the Quebec provincial government, which shut its eyes to repeated violations of safety standards at the warehouse even though local residents had petitioned several times to improve conditions on the site.

At the time of the fire no watchman had been hired to guard the premises — in reality an old barn — nor had a fence been built around the storage area, which was often entered by neighborhood children. The Quebec government refused to do anything about the situation even though it refused to renew Levy's business license in 1986.

No one really knows the extent of or the long-term consequences of the disaster. On August 28, some 500 more residents were ordered to leave their homes because of a shift in the winds carrying PCB particles. Women in the area have been told to stop breast-feeding their children, and people have been instructed not to eat vegetables from their gardens or use local swimming pools.

As of August 30, those evacuated had not been permitted to return to their homes.

Demands for the truth

More and more victims of the disaster are becoming convinced that the government is hiding the truth. One resident of St-Basile-le-Grand stuck a sign on his pickup truck that said simply, "Chernobyl-le-Grand," referring to the nuclear reactor disaster that took place in the Soviet Union in 1986.

The Quebec Union of Farmers has demanded that the government extend the

range of testing beyond the 1,500 acres currently being analyzed because it fears widespread soil, water, crop, and livestock contamination.

Meetings between residents and government officials have turned into tense confrontations.

Some St-Basile-le-Grand residents decided to form a citizens' committee to fight for their rights. Five hundred people gathered August 29 at its first meeting.

Repeated applause was given to Jean-Pierre Fortin, a member of the Canadian Auto Workers Union who works as a machinist at the big Pratt and Whitney aircraft plant near here. He reported that his two-and-a-half-year-old son who suffers from meningitis is now in the hospital.

"Yesterday he went into convulsions five times," he said. "They don't know whether it was because of the fire directly, or whether there was an effect on his medicine," he said.

"I have the clear impression that the government is preparing to move innocent men, women, and children back into an area that has been ruined by unscrupulous businessmen and politicians," he charged. "There is a single acceptable level of PCB. It's zero!"

When Fortin sat down the room rose in an ovation and he was asked to join the interim steering committee.

By the end of the meeting people were shouting out that they would refuse to go back to their homes.

—WORLD NEWS BRIEFS—

South Africa bans antidraft activity

The South African government issued a decree August 22 prohibiting the anti-draft group End Conscription Campaign from "performing any activity or act." The decree is similar to the order served against 17 anti-apartheid organizations on February 24.

Only whites are subject to compulsory military service in South Africa. Many serve in Namibia or in suppressing revolts in South Africa's Black townships. The government's admission to the deaths of about 60 white soldiers in fighting in Angola this year has increased opposition to the military draft.

At the beginning of August, 143 white men publicly refused to serve in the South African armed forces, citing moral and political beliefs. Their action followed the sentencing of David Bruce, a young white draft resister, to the maximum of six years in prison. Bruce explained that serving in the apartheid army would amount to "upholding a racist system by violence."



South African troops patrol Black neighborhood. Antidraft sentiment is rising.

U.S. gov't resumes aid to Zimbabwe

The U.S. government ended a two-year freeze on economic aid to Zimbabwe by signing a \$17 million aid grant to that southern African country at the end of August.

Washington suspended aid to Zimbabwe following an incident at a U.S. Independence Day celebration held at the U.S. embassy in Harare, the capital. Former president James Carter and other U.S. officials walked out of that event when a Zimbabwean government representative denounced the U.S. government's refusal to impose sanctions against the apartheid regime in South Africa. State Department officials also demanded an apology, which was rejected by the Zimbabwean government.

U.S. economic aid to Zimbabwe was then ended in September 1986 when the Zimbabwean government served as host of the eighth summit meeting of the

Movement of Nonaligned Countries. That meeting roundly condemned Washington's support to the South African government. Zimbabwean Prime Minister Robert Mugabe was elected as chairman of the movement.

The Zimbabwean government has remained a sharp opponent of Washington's support to the South African regime. Some 10,000 Zimbabwean troops have been stationed in Mozambique to help fight off military attacks on that country by the South African-backed Mozambican National Resistance.

Cost-of-living spurs Guatemala protest

Some 30,000 Guatemalan laborers, peasants, students, and government employees marched in a demonstration August 23 protesting the rising cost-of-living. The action, held in the western city of Quezaltenango, was organized by the Labor and Popular Action Union.

The demonstrators demanded that President Vinicio Cerezo's government establish price ceilings for basic food products, the cost of which spiraled in August along with fuel prices. The protesters also demanded that the government end the repression and murder of peasants and students.

The marchers proceeded through the city's main streets and then gathered in Central Park in front of city hall. There were no reports of attacks by police or the army on the protest.

British troops murder three in Ireland

Three members of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) were shot to death by British troops August 30. The Royal Ulster Constabulary issued a statement claiming the shooting occurred when "soldiers encountered armed men in a car and opened fire." A priest who administered the last rites to the victims said there were guns on the roadside but he could not determine to whom they belonged.

A statement from Sinn Féin, an Irish revolutionary political organization with close ties to the IRA, said those killed were Irish nationalists and that the British government had "cold-bloodedly ordered their murder."

The shootings took place 10 days after eight British soldiers were killed when a bomb went off in the bus they were riding. According to the August 31 *New York Times*, leading Irish supporters of continuing British rule in Ireland said they had given British security officials the names of IRA members they believed were responsible for the bombing.

The British Broadcasting Corporation said the three men shot to death were "well-known" Irish nationalists and that one had been questioned in connection with an investigation of the bus bombing. British troops also murdered three unarmed members of the IRA in Gibraltar in March, prompting widespread protests and criticism in Ireland and Britain.

Union Carbide explosion angers West Virginians

BY CECILIA MORIARITY

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — An explosion at the Rhone-Poulenc plant in Institute shattered doors and windows of nearby buildings on the morning of August 13. The explosion sent flames shooting 25 feet into the air and was heard in the surrounding communities of South Charleston and St. Albans.

The company made no effort to inform the Emergency Broadcast Systems police, or local radio stations about whether evacuation was required and whether there was any danger of exposure to toxic MIC (methyl isocyanate).

A public meeting on the incident was held August 21 by People Concerned About MIC. The group was formed here after an explosion and leak of MIC at the Union Carbide plant in Bhopal, India, killed more than 2,000 people in 1984.

An officer of the local volunteer fire department joined 21 other residents in voicing outrage at the company's refusal to inform people about the seriousness of the event. Many homes, West Virginia State

College, other schools, and a nursing home are adjacent to the plant, and some residents evacuated on their own when they heard the blast and could get no information about it.

Union Carbide and Rhone-Poulenc, the companies responsible for plant operations, said that officials had kept quiet because the explosion had been classified as a "minor incident."

The explosion took place on a Saturday in a part of the plant owned by Union Carbide, which owns about half the units in the facility. Rhone-Poulenc employees operate the units for Carbide.

The explosion was far from minor, however, according to Jim Gotesky, a member of the International Association of Machinists who works at the plant. He told the meeting that two construction trailers near the explosion and fire were burned, and that one had melted completely.

"If this had happened on a weekday," he said, "people working at the plant would have been killed." Although the company maintains there was no MIC in the line when it exploded, Gotesky said, some of his coworkers thought MIC was being transferred at the time.

A Union Carbide spokesperson urged residents to attend the companies' monthly "safety assessment meetings," where, he said, their questions would be answered. One woman commented, "We need facts to base our judgement on. What's the point in asking questions if you never get any answers."

A former chemical plant worker said that Bhopal has "changed forever" the standard of what is acceptable risk.

Andrew Pulley, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor, and Gotesky, who is the SWP candidate for Congress in the 3rd District, issued a joint statement on the blast at Rhone-Poulenc. They urged a continuing struggle for measures including strict enforcement of existing regulations and prosecution of company officials who violate them.



Militant/Margrethe Siem
Socialist candidate Jim Gotesky, who works at plant where blast took place.

Foolproof — A Savannah River nuclear reactor used in weapons production went out of control briefly because of an unreviewed math calculation that was wrong



Harry Ring

four different ways. An official called the episode "a complete collapse" of safety procedures that could have created another Chernobyl.

Coke, the Master Beverage — After protests, Coca-Cola withdrew posters it had supplied Britain's Pizzaland chain. They were

replicas of a 1936 Berlin Olympics poster issued by the Nazi regime and featured a blond athlete on a background of black, red and white, the Nazi colors.

How big a lie can fit into two sentences? — "When we went into Vietnam, our intentions were noble. When the anti-war left triumphed and the U.S. abandoned its friends, the consequences were a human and moral disaster." — Richard Nixon defending Senator Quayle.

The morality man — "My greatest regret as president was that I had not blockaded North Vietnam's harbors sooner." — Nixon on his 1972 bombing and mining of Haiphong harbor, a last-ditch effort to save the U.S. puppet dictatorship in South Vietnam. By then he had unleashed more

bombs on Indochina than were dropped in World War II and Korea combined.

Another "moral" war — The London *Guardian* reported a study of 37 veterans of the 1982 war Britain waged against Argentina to retain its colonial grip on the Malvinas Islands. Twenty-two of the vets suffered combat trauma. The *Guardian* said the findings "mirror case studies from Vietnam," adding that some 60,000 Vietnam vets suffer "post-traumatic stress disorders."

Sounds irritable — Observing that forgiveness is a "loaded" word much favored by nonbankers, Allan Taylor, head of the Royal Bank of Canada, was skeptical about its relevance to the Third World debt. "For us," the moneyman declared, "forgiveness is logically, pragmatically, and

commercially unacceptable."

None of that commie stuff — San Francisco cops in riot gear busted 29 people trying to give food to the homeless in Golden Gate Park. The free eats had been distributed for several months by a group, Food Not Bombs. Then local businesspeople complained.

Birthday boy — For his 71st, Ferdinand Marcos, ex-tyrant of the Philippines, will get a \$150,000 armored-plated Mercedes with numerous safety features. Including, we trust, a bulletproof shoe rack for Imelda.

Mass chemotherapy? — Debunking findings of a higher leukemia rate near a British nuclear plant, two government writers argue this is mere random chance. Furthermore, they advise, for most types of cancer, the rate is actually

lower near nuclear installations.

Flexible — The Farmers Group, a U.S. firm that pioneered in anti-smoking insurance policies, was taken over by BAT, the British tobacco trust. Responding to critics, BAT noted that its insurance subsidiaries in Britain also offer discounts to nonsmokers.

Get away from it all — We're always intrigued by the gadgets in the Hammacher Schlemmer catalog. Like the two-seater submarine that will take you down 60 feet. \$18,000.

May have to take in laundry — Venard Gaudet, the Canadian broker who was put in receivership amid charges of financial hanky-panky, asked the court to let loose with \$6,000 a week for living expenses. A stern judge chopped that down to \$3,000.

CALENDAR

ALABAMA

Birmingham

The Decline of the U.S. Empire and the Road Forward for Working People. Speaker: James Warren, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president. Fri., Sept. 16. Reception, 6 p.m.; program, 7 p.m. 1306 1st Ave. N. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Socialist Workers Campaign. For more information call (205) 323-3079.

CALIFORNIA

San Francisco

Breaking the Information Blockade: An Evening in Solidarity With Nicaragua. Speakers: Alexander Cockburn, journalist and *Nation* columnist; Arturo Zamora, director of international relations for daily *Barricada*; Ruth Warner, English-language editor of *Barricada Internacional*. Fri., Sept. 23, 7:30 p.m. First Congregation Church, Post and Mason streets. Donation: \$5. Sponsor: Friends of Barricada Internacional. For more information call (415) 654-0104.

FLORIDA

Miami

The Decline of the U.S. Empire and the Road Forward for Working People. Speaker: James Warren, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president. Sat., Sept. 10. Reception, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Florida Socialist Workers 1988 Campaign. For more information call (305) 756-1020.

ILLINOIS

Chicago

The Decline of the U.S. Empire and the Road Forward for Working People. Speaker: Kathleen Mickells, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. vice-president. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Sept. 10, 6 p.m. 6826 S Stony Island Ave. Donation: \$4. Sponsor: Socialist Workers Campaign. For more information call (312) 363-7322 or 363-7136.

Open House at Pathfinder Books/Libros Pathfinder. Meet Omari Musa, Socialist Workers

Party candidate for mayor, and Kathleen Mickells, SWP vice-presidential candidate. Sat., Sept. 10, 3-6 p.m. Refreshments served. 6826 S Stony Island Ave. For more information call (312) 363-7322 or 363-7136.

MINNESOTA

Austin

The Decline of the U.S. Empire and the Road Forward for Working People. Speaker: Kathleen Mickells, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. vice-president. Sat., Sept. 17. Reception, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7 p.m. 407 1/2 N Main St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Socialist Workers Campaign. For more information call (507) 433-3461.

MISSOURI

St. Louis

Eyewitness Report of French Striking Miners' Victory Rally. Speaker: Mary Zins, member United Mine Workers of America Local 2295, part of international delegation to France. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Sept. 10, 7 p.m. 4907 Martin Luther King Dr. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (314) 361-0250.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

The Right and Its Campaign Against Cuba. Speakers: Andrés Gómez, editor of *Areito*; others. A conference conducted in Spanish. Fri., Sept. 16, 8 p.m. Casa de las Américas, 104 W 14 St. Donation: \$1. Sponsors: Casa de las Américas, *Areito*, and Antonio Maceo Brigade.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

Victory in Southern Africa. Speaker to be announced. Sun., Sept. 11, 7 p.m. 2219 E Market. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (919) 272-5996.

Young Women and the Struggle for Abortion Rights. Sun., Sept. 18, 7 p.m. 2219 E Market. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum.

For more information call (919) 272-5996.

The Legacy of Malcolm X. Sun., Sept. 25, 7 p.m. 2219 E Market. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (919) 272-5996.

OHIO

Cleveland

The Decline of the U.S. Empire and the Road Forward for Working People. Speaker: Kathleen Mickells, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. vice-president. Sun., Sept. 11, 4 p.m. 2521 Market Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Socialist Workers Campaign. For more information call (216) 861-6150.

OREGON

Portland

Children in Debt. A film. Speaker: Lisa Hickler, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress. Sat., Sept. 10, 7:30 p.m. 2732 NE Union. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (503) 287-7416.

Nicaragua Today: Report From Recent Visitors. Speakers: John Linder, Socialist Workers Party, brother of Ben Linder; members of second Ben Linder Construction Brigade. Sat., Sept. 17, 7:30 p.m. 2732 NE Union. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (503) 287-7416.

TEXAS

Houston

Stop Government Attacks on Veterans Peace Convoy. Speakers: John Dickerson, Veterans for Peace; Raul Valdez, Chicanos Against Military Intervention in Latin America; others. Sat., Sept. 10, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (713) 522-8054.

UTAH

Salt Lake City

The Debate Over Surrogate Motherhood and Women's Rights. Speakers: Robin Blumner, American Civil Liberties Union; representative

of Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Sept. 10, 7:30 p.m. 147 E 900 S. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (801) 355-1124.

The Peace Accords in Southern Africa. Speakers: Andrew Hunt, managing editor *Utah Daily Chronicle*; representative of Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Sept. 24, 7:30 p.m. 147 E 900 S. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (801) 355-1124.

WEST VIRGINIA

Charleston

Profits, Leaks, and Explosions: The Kanawha Valley Chemical Industry. Speakers: Jim Gotesky, Socialist Workers Party, member International Association of Machinists Local 656; others. Sat., Sept. 10, 7 p.m. 116 McFarland St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 345-3040.

Victory in Southern Africa. Speaker: Andrew Pulley, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Sept. 17, 7 p.m. 116 McFarland St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 345-3040.

WISCONSIN

Milwaukee

Fight for Immigrant Rights. Speakers: Gil Delgado, United Auto Workers Civil Rights Committee; Pat Grogan, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Sept. 17, 7:30 p.m. 4707 W Lisbon Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (414) 445-2076.

Korea: the Truth Behind the Olympic Hype. Class: "Hidden History of the Korean War." Speaker: Will Reissner, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Sept. 24, 4 p.m. Forum: "Korea: Dictatorship, Upsurge, and the Fight for Reunification." Speaker: Will Reissner. Sat., Sept. 24, 7:30 p.m. 4707 W Lisbon Ave. Donation: \$2 per event. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (414) 445-2076.

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Glebe. Postal address: P.O. Box 153 Glebe, Sydney NSW 2037. Tel: 02-660 1673.

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London: 47 The Cut, SE1 8LL. Tel: 01-401 2293.

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Stockholm: P.O. Box 5024, S-12505 Älvsjö. Tel: (08) 722-9342.

Behind the Yonkers desegregation fight

Continued from Page 3

city services has begun. Initial cutbacks — canceling a trip for senior citizens, eliminating use of city cars by council members, a hiring freeze, cuts in funds for the city's animal shelter — are to be followed by more drastic steps.

Mayor Nicholas Wasicco, who favors implementation of the court order, told reporters September 6 that by mid-September, "libraries will close, some city hall personnel will be let go, and all community programs will be phased out."

On August 10 a \$100-million class-action suit was filed against the four city council members for wasting taxpayers' money.

Top Democratic and Republican politicians in the state have stood by in silence while all this has been unfolding in Yonkers.

When Gov. Mario Cuomo finally commented August 4 on what was happening in Yonkers, he urged "understanding" for the opponents of desegregation.

Echoing those in Yonkers who mask their opposition to desegregation by claiming they are simply opposed to poor people living in their neighborhoods, Cuomo said that he thought opposition to building subsidized housing on the east side was based on class, not race.

"I don't believe that people would object to Lena Horne as a neighbor. I don't think they would object to Harry Belafonte," the governor said.

Cuomo finally said August 29 that he would remove the four city council members who were blocking implementation of the court order. The Supreme Court's action in suspending the penalties against the city council members, however, gave him an excuse not to act. The court's action "raises troublesome legal questions regarding the issue of removal," Cuomo said. The Westchester County district attorney has also refused to act against the council members.

COMPLY

At the end of August, the Committee of Organizations Meeting to Preserve Law in Yonkers was formed — COMPLY. The group, which urges compliance with the court order, includes the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, the regional AFL-CIO, the Health and Hospital Employees Union Local 1199, Yonkers Council of Churches, League of Women Voters, Hispanics for Political Action, Black Women's Political Caucus, and other organizations. The Yonkers Federation of Teachers has also joined COMPLY, marking the first time the union has backed implementation of the court order.

This is a welcome change, Winston Ross notes. The teachers' union used to be part of the problem with the Yonkers' school system. For years, he said, their contract enabled them to transfer from west side schools attended by Black and Latino students to all-white schools on the east side.

Other organizations backing the desegregation order include the American Jewish Committee, the American Civil Liberties Union, and American Jewish Congress.

Although there haven't been demonstrations and other significant public activities in support of the desegregation suit, the Black community is completely behind this fight, Ross explains.

Support for compliance with the court's desegregation order also extends beyond Yonkers' Black and Latino community, as the formation of COMPLY indicates. Some — even if they don't agree with the court's decision — are concerned that Yonkers will be damaged

by the city council members' actions, and are urging compliance. Others agree that segregation in schools and housing should be fought.

This includes Anthony Cancellaro, a retired postal worker who lives on the west side, as do many other white working people. "Those people are just like us," he said, referring to the Black families who live in a small project across the street from his house. "They're working hard, they're struggling. How can you discriminate against people like that?"

A middle-aged white woman, heading back to work at the Kawasaki factory on the west side after a lunch break, expressed a similar view. Laughing and talking with two Black coworkers, she said she disagreed with the city council members' actions. What about desegregation? The Black coworkers chimed in, "Yes, what about desegregation?"

"Well, yes, I guess it's wrong for Black people to be all on one side of the city. Poor people should be able to live on the east side too," she answered.

Paper strikers greet Mickells

Continued from Page 9

applause. The meeting responded with a standing ovation.

Afterwards, Bob, a striker in his 20s, told Mickells, "I come from a poor family and I always hated the big corporations."

He said this strike has been very important for him. Although he has gotten another job, he goes to the picket line and attends union meetings. "I used to be one of those who didn't care, because I had a good-paying job. I used to play golf. But I'll never give this up," he said, referring to the strike.

He works at a nonunion shop now and talks about the need for a union with his coworkers. He bought a copy of the *Militant* and the Action Program pamphlet.

Technology under capitalism

The next day Mickells spoke at a lunchtime meeting at Marquette University, a Catholic college in downtown Milwaukee. Ten students attended. Mike Friend, a member of the Progressive Students Organization, chaired the meeting. He had helped collect 2,600 signatures on petitions to get Mickells and her running mate, James Warren, on the Wisconsin ballot for the November election. Mickells went to Madison, the state capital, the day before to file the petitions with the board of elections.

During the discussion period, Buz, a supporter of Michael Dukakis, asked Mickells her views on computerization and other new technology.

"Technological advances in capitalist society are not used to benefit working people," responded Mickells. Rather, "they are used to make us work longer and harder. And that means health-and-safety standards go out the window. Far from

being labor saving, under capitalism these advances are labor abusive," she continued.

"If workers and farmers ran the government, as they do in Cuba, such technology could be used to lighten our load, giving working people more time to be politically active. It could be used for our benefit, rather than to make more profits for the employers."

Why Cuba?

One student had just returned from a trip to West Virginia where he talked to some coal miners as part of a school Christian ministry program. He agreed that working people in Appalachia suffer economic hardship. But he wanted to know why Mickells thought Cuba was a model for working people. After all, the Cuban government, he said, ruled in the name of socialism, but was just as "imperialistic and oppressive as the U.S. government."

Mickells responded that the deeds of the Cuban government — in the rest of the world and in Cuba — are the opposite of what the U.S. ruling class does. She described the decisive aid the Cuban government has given the people of Angola to prevent their country from being overrun by the military forces of the South African apartheid regime.

She also described how the leadership of the Communist Party of Cuba is mobilizing the workers and farmers of that country to solve the pressing economic and social problems they face.

Buz bought a subscription to the *Militant*. He said he had never heard a socialist candidate before and he liked much of what Mickells said.

Socialists urge Bangladesh flood aid

Continued from front page

crops, more than 2,200 miles of roads, and nearly 250 bridges.

Boats of all kinds are desperately needed to carry out rescue missions, and to bring food, medicine, and doctors to flood-stricken regions. The Bangladesh authorities have given up efforts to rescue 2 million people because of a lack of small boats, and state that they do not have the means to deliver food to flood-stricken areas.

In some areas, helicopters and other aircraft are badly needed to make drops of relief aid and conduct rescue operations. Hundreds of doctors and other medical personnel are needed.

Emergency shipments of food and of cooking fuel, such as kerosene and firewood, are required to prevent starvation, provide lighting and heating, and to begin rebuilding.

Massive economic and technical assis-

tance will be needed to rebuild homes, bridges, roads, and schools; restore communications and transport; and to rebuild livestock herds and bring farmland back to full production.

In the midst of this catastrophe, Bangladesh is burdened with an \$8-billion foreign debt. In 1986, the government paid more than \$270 million in debt service to bankers in the United States and other countries.

That's well over 10 times the wretched pittance that Bangladesh is receiving in flood aid from the U.S., British, Japanese, Australian, and Canadian governments. Bangladesh's foreign debt should be canceled immediately.

In this emergency situation, the White House and Congress should act immediately to place the financial, technical, and human resources of the United States at the disposal of the people of Bangladesh.

Vets Peace Convoy faces 'weapons smuggling' probe

BY KATY KARLIN

HOUSTON — The Veterans Peace Convoy, which delivered 30 tons of material aid to social service organizations in Nicaragua in July, came under attack as the press here circulated a story of a federal investigation into alleged smuggling activities of convoy participants.

The story, which appeared in the *San Antonio Express-News* and was picked up by other Texas newspapers, stated that intelligence documents of the FBI, Air Force Office of Special Investigations, and U.S. Customs Service name five men who are suspected of using the convoy to transport anti-aircraft weaponry into Guatemala.

The five named are John Dickerson, a Houston schoolteacher who went to Nicaragua with the convoy; Raul Valdez, a member of the Austin, Texas, chapter of Chicanos Against Military Intervention in Latin America (CAMILA) and a national coordinator of the convoy; veteran and prominent antiwar activist Brian Willson; Doug Bernhardt; and Ray Ellington.

The last two are not associated with the convoy and are unknown to convoy leaders. An article in the *Houston Chronicle* reported that the two are "believed to have been antiwar activists in Houston during the 60s," adding that "a Doug Bernhardt was a leader of the Students for a Democratic Society in Houston."

At an August 25 press conference in Austin, Gilberto Rivera, a leader of CAMILA, responded to the charges. "Of course this is ridiculous," Rivera said. "We sent hu-

manitarian aid: food, clothing, baby food. The government is trying to give us a bad rap because we succeeded in exposing the U.S. policy in Nicaragua. They tried to stop us at the border, they beat us at the border, they jailed us. For what? For trying to send baby food."

Rivera was referring to repeated attempts by U.S. border cops to prevent the convoy from crossing the border into Mexico.

John Dickerson, who joined the convoy in Houston and is a leader of the Veterans for Peace chapter here said that as far as he knew the investigation of him began as early as last April, when a coworker of his was approached by a man who identified himself as an FBI agent.

According to Dickerson's coworker, the agent asked him for any information he could provide on Dickerson, Valdez, or Bernhardt, and anything he knew about the convoy. He also asked about a tour of Soviet war veterans to Houston that Veterans for Peace sponsored last spring.

Dickerson believes that the connection made by the investigation to Brian Willson was a way to tie the convoy to a well-known activist, "either as a way to discredit him or discredit us," he said. The inclusion of the names of Bernhardt and Ellington, Dickerson said, "may have been a way to tie us to some activists who used to be known to have weapons. They're just fishing around for a way to put us in a bad light."

— 10 AND 25 YEARS AGO —

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE 25¢
Sept. 15, 1978

A friend in need is a friend indeed.

That seems to have been the guiding principle of Chinese Communist Party Chairman Hua Kuo-feng's three-day official visit to Iran beginning August 29.

Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi is indeed a friend in need.

Ever since the turn of the year, this bloody tyrant has seen his dictatorial rule come under ever more powerful challenges as mass demonstrations have spread throughout the country. Most recently the shah's regime has been rocked by the largest outbreak of protests in its history, following the Abadan theater disaster.

Typically, the shah has tried to drown this upsurge in blood; scores of protesters have been gunned down by government troops and police. But each week has brought a new outbreak of demonstrations demanding, "We want an end to 50 years of Pahlavi tyranny!"

It was at the height of this tumultuous popular uprising that Chairman Hua flew in for a cordial three days with the shah.

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The South Vietnamese elite troops that raided pagodas and crushed the Buddhist movement of protest against the Catholic-dominated Ngo Dinh Diem regime's religious oppression were and still are secretly financed by the CIA with the full knowledge of the Kennedy administration.

The Special Forces of Col. Le Quang Tung, close confidant of President Diem and right-hand man of secret police chief Ngo Dinh Nhu, are supported by "direct, under-the-table aid" amounting to \$3 million a year.

Although Kennedy, in a hypocritical gesture, publicly disavowed the Diem government's attacks on the Buddhists and called for changes "in policy and perhaps in personnel" in South Vietnam, secret payments to the temple-wreckers were continued by the CIA for the current month.

Jobs: hot air and harsh facts

The September 2 announcement by the U.S. Labor Department that the official unemployment rate had risen to 5.5 percent in August, the second straight month the percentage had gone up, came in the midst of a flurry of statements about jobs and wages by the Democratic and Republican presidential nominees.

"We've created 17 million new jobs the past five years," George Bush boasted to the Republican convention in August — using the bottom of the last recession as his starting point. He promised that his administration would "create" 30 million additional jobs in the coming eight years.

Democratic nominee Michael Dukakis has made the pledge to "create" what he calls "good jobs at good wages" a theme of his campaign. Real wages are down 9 percent since 1979, and one-third of U.S. workers now receive less than \$5 per hour.

In weeks of electioneering, the candidates have had little or nothing to say, however, about how they would perform the promised feats. Nor about the depth of the problem that exists today.

The 5.5 percent figure represents more than 6 million people without jobs, yet these official unemployment statistics are a pale reflection of the pauperization of millions of working people that is taking place at an accelerating rate.

The data hide millions of other people who are wholly or partially unemployed. Those among the unemployed who have stopped looking for work are not counted. Nor are those who have not begun looking because of pessimism about their prospects.

The current high level of unemployment comes near the peak of the boom phase of the longest economic upturn since World War II.

Bush and Dukakis each suggest that electing him will

assure that the economic upturn continues indefinitely — maybe even forever.

But it is in the nature of the capitalist business cycle that this upswing will be followed by a downturn and a sharp rise in unemployment — no matter who is elected. The depth of the October 1987 stock market crash was a sign that this downturn is likely to be a severe one.

The trail of hot air being left by Bush and Dukakis won't do anything to improve the situation of the unemployed or other working people.

The division within the working class between employed and unemployed workers is one of the most powerful weapons that the employers possess. A reserve army of unemployed workers makes it easier for the capitalists to hold down wages, increase working hours, cut ever more corners on safety, and find replacement workers for those who go on strike against these attacks.

For the same reasons that unemployment benefits the capitalist employers, combating unemployment and its consequences is vital to workers in the battle to unify our ranks for the struggle to advance our interests.

The Socialist Workers Party candidates in the 1988 elections are promoting measures that can help to carry on such a struggle. They include:

- the fight for a 30-hour workweek with 40 hours' pay to make more jobs available.
- defending and extending affirmative action programs to help overcome the systematic discrimination that is used to divide the ranks of working people along the lines of race and sex;
- unemployment compensation at union-scale wages for all the jobless and with no time limit.

We urge our readers to join the effort to explain these proposals to working people across the country — an effort that will continue beyond November 8 and become increasingly urgent.

Affirmative action needed

The battle over housing desegregation in Yonkers, New York, and the latest official figures on unemployment and poverty shed light on pervasive racist discrimination in the United States. The facts drive home the importance of the fight for affirmative action in employment, education, and housing.

In Yonkers, the majority of the City Council is defying court rulings, which order the building of integrated low-income housing in neighborhoods that were previously virtually all-white. The court found that housing segregation had been fostered by a decades-long pattern of discrimination by city officials.

In August, the official unemployment rate stood at 11.3 percent among workers who are Black, 8.4 percent for those who are Latino, and 4.9 percent for workers who are white.

According to the most recent government statistics, about one out of three Blacks and one out of four Latinos has an income below the poverty level. The figure for whites is about one out of 10.

Far from disappearing after the victories won by the civil rights movement, patterns of discrimination have been reinforced in key areas against Black and Latino working people.

As the employers have pressed hard to squeeze more out of working people and push down their living standards, Blacks and Latinos have been hit especially hard. They make up a vastly disproportionate number of the poor, the long-term unemployed, the homeless, and prisoners.

The impact of the developing crisis in the United States and world capitalist economy has reinforced the effects of discrimination practiced at every level of gov-

ernment, big business, and other institutions. The result has been a significant degree of resegregation in neighborhoods, on the job, and in schools.

These patterns of discrimination enrich big business by making it possible to pay sub-living wages to many Black and Latino workers, pulling down the living standards of all workers. Segregationist practices also serve to reinforce racial divisions and prejudices among workers and farmers, which are an obstacle to united struggles by working people.

As events in Yonkers are showing, moves to maintain or reinforce segregation often meet tough resistance. The success of the civil rights movement in overturning open, legal "Jim Crow" segregation strengthened the confidence of millions of Blacks and changed the thinking of millions of other working people.

The solution isn't adoption of more civil rights laws. What is needed is affirmative government action to enforce the Constitution and existing laws by carrying out thoroughgoing desegregation of jobs, housing, and education across the country.

The fight for affirmative action is required to begin overcoming discrimination and its harmful effects on the lives and struggles of all working people. The existing affirmative action programs, which barely scratch the surface of what is needed, must be defended against attacks. And these programs need to be vastly extended — with substantial quotas insisted on to assure real changes in the discriminatory status quo.

The struggle for affirmative action is a fight for all workers — Black and white, Anglo and Latino. And it is essential for uniting working people in the struggle against the employing class.

Reinstate Fred Dube!

Fred Dube, a leader of the African National Congress of South Africa, is waging a fight to regain his post as a professor at the State University of New York's Stony Brook campus. Dube was fired last year after a smear campaign portrayed him as anti-Semitic. At issue is the right of students and teachers to objectively discuss racism and the state of Israel.

A federal court hearing will be held September 14 on the university officials' motion to dismiss the case. Every defender of democratic rights should rally to Dube's support. His firing is an attack on the First Amendment right of free speech and on the right of teachers and students at universities to express and discuss views without harassment.

The charges of unprofessional conduct in the classroom against Dube are a fraud. The case is a political one. The logic has been to brand not only Dube, but all South African anti-apartheid fighters as bigots.

Dube was imprisoned on South Africa's Robben Island for four years and forced into exile for his stand against apartheid. Like other leaders of the ANC, he has unrelentingly fought against all forms of racism and anti-

Semitism — at home in South Africa and in exile in the United States.

The Faculty Senate at Stony Brook investigated the charges against Dube, and concluded by an overwhelming majority that they were unfounded.

If the firing of Dube is upheld, the pressure on students and teachers to conform to the political views of the government and school administrators will be intensified. The rights of all will be dealt a blow.

Far from encouraging objectivity on the subject of Israeli policies and racism, the firing of Dube is a gag order.

One of the best ways to defend Fred Dube is to provide him with the opportunity to express his real views and discuss the issues at stake in his case. Dube should be invited to speak wherever potential defenders of the Bill of Rights gather.

Supporters of the First Amendment and academic freedom should send letters of protest to New York Gov. Mario Cuomo, demanding that he take action now to insure that Dube is reinstated. Letters to Cuomo should be addressed to him at the Executive Chamber, State Capitol, Albany, N.Y. 12224.

Is canceling Third World debt 'too extreme'?

BY DOUG JENNESS

A few months ago the Socialist Workers Party National Committee presented an Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis. First published in the *Militant*, it has since appeared in Pathfinder pamphlets in English and, just this week, in Spanish.

Supporters of the *Militant* are currently on an international campaign to sell 20,000 copies of this program and are meeting a good response. The proposals put forward

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

in the Action Program are generating considerable discussion, which today is a necessary step in winning people to the fight for them.

As part of this process, the *Militant* has urged readers to submit comments and questions about the program to the paper in order to stimulate discussion on it in our pages. The letter from C.D. in Somerville, Massachusetts, published on the facing page, is a contribution to this discussion.

C.D. says that some people object to the proposal in the Action Program calling for the Third World's foreign debt to be canceled. It is "too extreme," they contend, and would "result in the banking system in this country, and indeed, worldwide, collapsing," thus adversely affecting working people.

The Action Program explains that working people the world over should call for canceling the debt — "for the sake of justice and for our own self-interest."

The justice of the demand is hard to dispute. The big banks suck billions of dollars in interest payments out of the semicolonial countries every year. The effects are devastating — absolute declines in income, massive joblessness, and reduction in social expenditures. The human toll resulting from these conditions — hunger, malnourishment, disease, homelessness, more hazardous working conditions, and longer hours — is staggering. And it is getting worse.

There are those who echo the rulers' contention that the just thing is for these countries to pay back the debts. "They borrowed the money didn't they? So they should pay it back!"

But by any reasonable standard they have repaid the debt in full. The interest paid by semicolonial countries since 1980, for example, has been equivalent to paying the principal on the 1980 debt plus 6 percent interest.

In spite of these hefty payments, their debts have continued to spiral upwards. In order to make their interest payments, they have had to borrow more money, because export earnings have been insufficient to provide the necessary revenue.

These countries face a situation where the cards are stacked against them — high interest rates; unequal trade relations with the imperialist countries; and restrictive tariffs, quotas, and other trade barriers imposed by the latter. The entire relationship is a nightmarish trap.

Are there some measures less "extreme" than canceling the foreign debts that can also bring justice? Many have been tried — rescheduling, more stringent conditions, partial forgiving — but none have ended this deadly cycle. They have only propped up the creditors' ability to keep interest payments coming in.

But what about the question our reader from Massachusetts got when selling the SWP's Action Program? Won't canceling the debt lead to disaster for working people?

This line of reasoning has the issue turned on its head. The Action Program points out that as the foreign debt "spirals ever higher, it can lead only to one end: massive bank failures that will trigger a world economic disaster."

We have to face up to the fact that the unfolding debt crisis is going to lead to massive bank failures. Moreover, it's part of the general economic and social crisis that was signaled by the 1987 stock market crash and that will engulf working people wherever the capitalist market reaches.

The challenge in front of us isn't hunting up things to do or not to do that will avert the coming depression. There's nothing working people, nor the capitalists for that matter, can do to prevent its arrival.

This doesn't mean, however, that we are doomed to being crushed and destroyed by the coming onslaught. But we can't cope with the situation by trying to protect just the interests of workers in our plant, our industry, our city, or our country. The scope of the crisis that is coming is going to engulf all of us.

Working people must, as the Action Program states, "chart a course of action that will draw us together, help us recognize our common interests, and thus strengthen our ability to fight back and win." We can mobilize a fight around demands that correspond to the immediate need to provide us protection — today and as the crisis breaks over us.

The demand for canceling the foreign debt is part of this perspective. It can help unify working people around the world — in imperialist and semicolonial countries alike. It is both just and in our self-interest.

Do prisoners have the right to freedom of speech?

BY RONALD DEL RAINE

While starting the 21st year of my 209-year federal prison sentence, I chanced upon a 1987 decision from the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals in the case of *Rios v. Lane*.

"Victor Rios," the ruling stated, "is an Hispanic American formerly imprisoned at Graham Correctional Center in Illinois. While in Graham on February 4, 1983, Rios

AS I SEE IT

became acquainted with fellow inmate Adolfo Matos."

Matos was said to belong to the Armed Forces of National Liberation (FALN), a group demanding independence for Puerto Rico.

The court continued: "Matos had recently been transferred to Graham and asked Rios for information concerning Spanish radio programs that could be received at the prison. Subsequently, on February 18, 1983, Rios encountered Matos in the Graham dining area during breakfast. Rios handed Matos a 3x5 note card..."

Beginning with the slogan in Spanish, "Until the final victory," the note card contained information on how to receive radio broadcasts from Radio Venceremos in El Salvador, the radio station of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN); Radio Havana; the Voice of Nicaragua; and Radio Free Grenada.

The message also included, in Spanish, the slogans, "Nicaragua won, Guatemala will win, and El Salvador will follow" and "Long live free and socialist Puerto Rico!"

According to the circuit court, an Inmate Disciplinary Report "was issued against Rios for engaging in gang activity in violation of Administration Regulation 804, Rule 205. Rule 205 defines 'Gang Activity' as 'engaging in or pressuring others to engage in gang activities or meetings, displaying, wearing or using gang insignia, or giving gang signals.'"

At a disciplinary hearing, the court continued, "Rios told the investigator that the card merely contained a schedule of Spanish-speaking stations, information he had obtained from a magazine called *The Militant*, a socialist newspaper which had been approved by the Graham administration for Rios to receive. . . . Rios was demoted and transferred to Stateville prison, a maximum security institution.

"After his transfer, Rios appealed the decision of the Adjustment Committee to the Illinois Department of Correction's ('IDOC') Administrative Review Board. . . . The Board stated, 'After reviewing the information that has been provided, the Panel is of the opinion that the list of radio frequencies and broadcasts as listed on the documentation constitute gang activity.'"

A federal district court dismissed Rios' petition. He then appealed to the Circuit Court of Appeals, claiming that his First Amendment right of free speech had been violated and that the "gang activity" regulation was too vague and broad. The court decided the First Amendment issue by stating:

"Inmate Matos, to whom Rios passed the note card, is a known member of the FALN and was subject to close supervision by prison officials. Although Rios maintains that neither he, nor the FMLN organization inscribed on

the note card, are associated with the violent pursuits of the FALN, Rios' attempted association with a known FALN member legitimately subjected him to increased observation by prison officials. Additionally, unlike mail censorship cases, the heightened volatility inherent in direct person-to-person contact only serves to increase the discretion afforded prison administrators. . . .

"While Rios' message did contain a significant element of political speech, we do not believe he was punished solely because of his personal views. Nor do we believe that prison officials unduly restrained his free speech rights in attempting to enforce Rule 205. Prison officials properly acted upon the probable consequences of the situation which confronted them.

"As the Supreme Court recognized in *Martinez*, prison administrators are not required to 'show with certainty that adverse consequences would follow from a failure to [act]'. . . . Rather they are to be given '[s]ome latitude in anticipating the probable consequences of allowing certain speech in a prison environment.'" The court concluded, "That latitude was not exceeded under these circumstances."

So much for our First Amendment rights. And forget about any radio rights!

However, on different grounds the appeals court reversed the lower court ruling against Rios, remanding it to the lower court for reconsideration. The grounds were that the gang activity regulation was overbroad and vague.

Del Raine is an inmate at the federal penitentiary in Marion, Illinois.

LETTERS

Discussion of debt

While petitioning in Rhode Island to get the Socialist Workers Party ticket on the ballot, we sold the SWP's Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis and discussed it. One particular question was asked a couple of times.

One of the demands in the program is for the Third World debt to be canceled. And the question fired back at us on the street was that perhaps this demand was too extreme. "Wouldn't it result in the banking system in this country and the world collapsing?" we were asked. "How could we demand something that would so adversely affect working people?"

C.D.

Somerville, Massachusetts

Simon and Makanda

You may recognize the town of Makanda, Illinois, as the widely touted home of former presidential candidate Paul Simon, the "Makanda Democrat."

In this impoverished town of 300 people, none of us know him and he is considered a carpetbagger. (This part of Illinois considers itself part of the South.)

When Simon's campaign was short of money, the rumor around town was that to raise money he was going to sell us.

We are all poor and he lives in the mansion outside of town. It is obvious that in a different era he would have been called "massa." S.S.

Makanda, Illinois

Miners and acid rain

I am a working miner, and have been a member of the United Mine Workers of America for nine years. In my opinion, your editorial on acid rain in the August 12 issue did not go far enough.

In the nine years I have been active in my union, I have seen it move from being an active participant in the fight against nuclear power, particularly following the Three Mile Island accident, to becoming an opponent of the fight to preserve the environment against such killers as acid rain.

Not only is my union's stance in opposition to the needs of its membership, who are human beings who share the earth's problems, but I see its counterposition of saving jobs to clean air as suicidal.

How can a union with such a stance expect solidarity and support in its legitimate fights for safety and justice for coal miners?

Coal could be mined safely and burned cleanly, if it were not for the profits-first frenzy that drives both the coal operators and those who run the coal-fired industries and utilities. This is where my union should be aiming its fire.

There is an ongoing discussion among coal miners on acid rain, and many miners share concerns about the environment with their fellow human beings. Hopefully these concerns will find a stronger voice in the UMWA.

Kipp Dawson
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Changes for better

I find the *Militant* very informative and it helps me a lot to get a better understanding of international news. It also helps me by giving me concrete suggestions of how I can become involved to get some changes for the better happening.

E.K.
Middletown, Connecticut

Strike on campus

"In the United Kingdom and the United States, there is no difference in working people. We all work and want to live by honest values. There is no difference between the cops in the United Kingdom or the United States. We saw how cops functioned in our miners' strike. We saw which side they were on."

Andrew Richards of the Wales Transport and General Workers Union, said this at a rally at Wayne State University, protesting attacks by cops and the college administration on pickets from United Auto Workers Local 2071. Local 2071, which organizes campus office workers, is on strike.

Pickets have been arrested, and one was dragged by the hair by the police. University President David Adamany has ordered that anyone carrying picket signs be arrested.

The administration wants the union to accept a 2 percent wage increase, and have union members train nonunion members to fill posts in the event of a work stoppage, absenteeism, etc.

Richards was part of an international delegation at the rally, which included unionists from West Germany and Sweden.



UAW local 600, which organizes the Ford River Rouge plant, sent a big contingent. The rally was supported by other unions and groups, including the American Civil Liberties Union.

The student Committee Against Racism and Apartheid passed out leaflets urging students not to cross picket lines.

Juliette Montauk
Detroit, Michigan

Likes 'Great Society'

I have been a *Militant* reader for nearly 20 years, and I have a confession to make. When the news is bleaker than usual, I always turn first to "The Great Society" at the tail end of the paper for an antidote to all the bull I have to listen to. Harry Ring is as sharp as ever. The two recent 'major party' conventions should keep his column supplied for the next five years.

Dan Caine
Munster, Indiana

Accurate picture

When I was in Nicaragua, I heard several people recommend the *Militant* as the only U.S.-based paper that reported an accurate picture of Nicaragua.

Keep up the good work!
S.G.
Austin, Minnesota

Pledge of Allegiance

I thought the editorial on the Pledge of Allegiance in the September 9 issue made a good point about how such classroom rituals are used to intimidate people.

A column by attorney Jon Blue in the September 2 *New York Times* bore this out. He pointed to events after the Supreme Court upheld compulsory flag-salute laws in June 1940. The main targets were Jehovah's Witnesses, whose religious beliefs bar them from participating in such ceremonies.

"Six days after the opinion was handed down," Blue wrote, "a mob of 2,500 sacked and burned a Jehovah's Witnesses church in Kennebunk, Maine. . . . The citizens of Litchfield, Illinois, attacked 60 Jehovah's Witnesses, who were put in jail for their own protection."

"On June 29 seven Jehovah's Witnesses in Richwood, West Virginia, were rounded up by the police chief, placed in the center of a mass Pledge of Allegiance recital, force-fed large quantities of castor oil, and marched out of town. Throughout the country people broke into the homes of Jehovah's Witnesses, confronted them with flags, and demanded they recite the pledge."

By the time the Supreme Court reversed itself in 1943, hundreds of children belonging to the Jehovah's Witnesses had been expelled from school.

As the *Militant* pointed out, that kind of bullying would be even more repugnant to working people now than it was then. But the lynch-mob atmosphere that Blue described is very much in the spirit of the right-wingers who advocate compulsory flag-worship.

George Kaplan
Brooklyn, New York

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.

The *Militant* special prisoner fund makes it possible to send reduced-rate subscriptions to prisoners who can't pay for them. Where possible the fund also tries to fill prisoners' requests for other literature. To help this important cause, send your contribution to: *Militant Prisoner Subscription Fund*, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

Trial of Puerto Rican activists begins

Defendant Segarra: 'All I am guilty of is opposition to colonialism'

BY TIM CRAINE

HARTFORD, Conn. — The process of jury selection began September 6 in the trial of five of the Hartford 15 defendants. All are activists framed up by the U.S. government because they support independence for Puerto Rico.

Their supporters are organizing for a major rally here September 24 to demand that all charges be dropped.

The case began on Aug. 30, 1985, when an army of FBI agents invaded the homes of independence supporters in Puerto Rico, arresting them on charges of conspiracy in a 1983 Wells Fargo robbery here in Hartford. That began a massive wave of violations of democratic rights for the frame-up victims.

Falsely labeled "terrorists" by the U.S. government, most of the defendants were refused bail for more than a year, despite the fact they had been convicted of nothing. Two defendants were kept locked up for more than two and a half years.

The FBI conducted massive electronic surveillance of defendants, which is illegal in Puerto Rico. At least 50 of the FBI tapes the prosecution wants to use as evidence have been tampered with and the judge has thrown them out of the case. The government is appealing that decision. Nine defendants' trials are postponed until that appeal is resolved.

The five defendants whose trial is beginning now are Juan Segarra Palmer, Carlos Ayes Suárez, Norman Ramírez Talavera, Antonio Comacho Negrón, and Roberto José Maldonado Rivera. As Segarra has explained, "All I am guilty of is opposition to colonialism, which is a crime against humanity, like apartheid."

As part of the long-standing government effort to portray the activists as dangerous, Judge T. Emmet Clarie has ruled that the jurors' identities will be kept secret, over the protest of defense attorneys.

Originally seven defendants were to face trial now. But on September 6 two defendants entered into plea bargains with the prosecution. Luz Berríos Berríos pleaded guilty to the charge of conspiracy to transport up to \$12,000 in stolen money to be used to purchase toys given away to Puerto Rican children in Hartford in January 1985.

In exchange for her plea, all other charges against Berríos will be dropped and she will not be required to testify at the trials of the other defendants. She faces a sentence of thousands of dollars in fines and up to five years in prison, to which the 16 months she served in pretrial detention may be credited.

Berríos said her decision to plead guilty was based on her belief that it would be im-



Puerto Rican independence advocates labeled as "terrorists": from left, Isaac Camacho Negrón, Juan Segarra Palmer, Luz Berríos, Luis Alfredo Colón Osorio, and Filiberto Ojeda Ríos.

possible to receive a fair trial in the United States. She said she wanted to assure that her children have at least one parent free to take care of them. Berríos' husband is Juan Segarra.

In addition, Paul Weinberg, the only North

American to be charged in the case, pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor in exchange for the dropping of all felony charges. The government alleged that Weinberg loaned his truck to Segarra to aid in the transportation of stolen money.

In a further violation of democratic rights, defendant Filiberto Ojeda Ríos was rearrested in late August on charges of wounding an FBI agent during the 1985 raid in Puerto Rico. He was flown back to Puerto Rico August 29 for a bail hearing.

Ojeda had been kept in jail the longest of any of the Hartford defendants, and then only released last May on \$2.5 million in bail. Practically placed under house arrest, he was required to observe a 7 p.m. to 8 a.m. curfew and was confined to the city of Hartford. Every day he was required to report to the court.

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, on August 28, more than 1,000 demonstrators protested the rearrest of Ojeda.

Here in Hartford, some 200 people protested at a rally the same day. Speakers here included defendant Juan Segarra; Rafael Cancel Miranda, who himself served many years in U.S. prisons for his proindependence activities; and a representative of the Antielectoral Front in Puerto Rico. Greetings were heard from the Socialist Workers Party and All Peoples' Congress.

Seventy-five participants signed petitions protesting the frame-up in Des Moines of political activist Mark Curtis, whose trial on trumped-up rape and burglary charges began September 7.

Mike Fitzsimmons in New York and Ron Richards in San Juan, Puerto Rico, contributed to this article.

How U.S. gov't barred Cuban posters

BY CINDY JAQUITH

Liberation Graphics in Alexandria, Virginia, specializes in selling posters by Nicaraguan, Palestinian, Soviet, and South African artists. For years owner Dan Walsh has wanted to feature Cuban posters, but U.S. government restrictions on importing these posters in quantity denied him the right to do so.

The restrictions were lifted in late August as part of the new trade bill adopted by Congress. Walsh says, however, that he's now encountering new barriers to bringing Cuban poster art to the United States.

In a telephone interview Walsh said that he and friends are "trying to create a vital, oppositional poster press" in the United States. That's been impossible to do, he added, without Cuban posters, which he considers very much "on the mark politically."

The U.S. prohibition on importing Cu-

ban posters, literature, film, and tapes was instituted in 1962. It had "a devastating, negative impact," in Walsh's opinion. "Here — where we're supposed to be so big on the First Amendment — we've lost 26 years of access to Cuban graphics, which are among the best in the world."

He recounted his experiences over the years in trying to introduce Cuban posters in this country. Under the ban, only single copies of such items as posters or books could be brought in easily, he explained, without complying with highly complex, undemocratic requirements.

But Walsh wanted to import thousands of copies because his goal was to get Cuban poster art known in the United States. So his Liberation Graphics company managed to get a Treasury Department license to import commercially from Cuba. But the conditions deliberately attached to the license made it impossible.

"Every single poster had to be counted and accounted for," he explained, "including notifying Treasury of the name of each artist and even translating the words on the poster if they were in Spanish!"

"Every 30 days you were supposed to report how many you had sold, the name of the purchaser, and their address," he emphasized.

The money collected from sales had to be deposited in a blocked bank account selected by the State Department. The money could not be sent to Cuba. A report had to be filed with the State Department every 30 days on where the bank account stood.

The net result was that Liberation Graphics, until now, had to be satisfied with carrying just a single copy of each Cuban poster available.

Walsh is glad the restrictions are now dropped. But his efforts to import posters from Cuba are still being thwarted by the Treasury Department.

As soon as he heard the restrictions had been eliminated, Walsh went to the Treasury Department to apply for a permit to travel to Cuba, where he planned to meet with poster artists and shippers to arrange for importing the materials he wants to sell.

He had to apply for a permit because travel by U.S. citizens to Cuba is prohibited if the visitor spends U.S. dollars there. The only exceptions are Cuban-Americans visiting their families and certain categories of professional trips.

Clara David, at the department's Office of Foreign Assets Control, told Walsh he couldn't have a travel permit. Walsh protested that if it's now legal to sell the posters, it ought to be legal for him to go to Cuba to make the necessary business arrangements.

David replied that the Treasury Department's lawyers would be taking six to nine months to decide on their interpretation of the new law. "We've made no changes in provisions to travel to Cuba so you will not be traveling there," she curtly informed him.

Walsh says he is seeking further legal advice on this new obstacle.

Meanwhile, the Treasury Department is trying to send a man in Wisconsin to jail for 10 years for having sold a Nicaraguan painting to an undercover federal cop.

Leonard Cizewski's Madison apartment was raided by six U.S. Customs Service agents August 30. They seized postage stamps, coffee, and two paintings, all from Nicaragua. The customs service, a division of the Treasury Department, claims selling these items in the United States violates the trade embargo against Nicaragua.

Cizewski, a registered nurse, is the leader of Trade for Peace, a group that opposes the anti-Nicaragua embargo.

U.S. Attorney Patrick Fiedler says he is considering prosecuting Cizewski on charges that carry a 10-year prison term and a \$50,000 fine.

ANC leader fights firing by university

BY MAREA HIMELGRIN

NEW YORK — On September 14 at the federal courthouse in Uniondale, Long Island, the administration of the State University of New York will argue that a lawsuit filed by a leading member of the African National Congress (ANC), Fred Dube, should be dismissed.

Dube was denied tenure at the State University of New York at Stony Brook in 1987 because of his political views. His lawsuit demands his job back and a half million dollars in damages.

The Committee to Support Professor Dube is urging supporters of freedom of speech to attend the September 14 hearing. (Uniondale can be reached by train or by driving. By car, from the Northern State Parkway go south on Meadowbrook Parkway to Hempstead Turnpike; on Hempstead Turnpike go to Uniondale Boulevard;

turn left on Uniondale, the courthouse is on the right.)

The ANC leader has spoken at many campuses and before many groups on the freedom struggle in South Africa and the politics of race and racism. He has won broad support for his right to teach at Stony Brook.

Abdeen Jabara, president of the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee is one of the latest supporters to send a protest letter to New York Gov. Mario Cuomo.

An ad demanding tenure for Dube, signed by more than 200 prominent defenders of civil liberties, is scheduled to appear in the September 9 edition of *New York Newsday*.

A column on Dube appearing several months ago in *Newsday* quotes the ANC leader saying of his former employers, "I am an albatross around their neck... I will not go away quietly."