

After 11-year fight, Marroquín wins U.S. permanent residence

'Historic expansion of political rights'

BY CINDY JAQUITH

NEWARK, New Jersey — At 9:00 a.m. the morning of September 20 Héctor Marroquín entered the office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) at Newark International Airport here.

In the plaza outside, a delegation of more than 40 of his supporters waited with determination.

Less than 15 minutes later, a victorious Marroquín emerged from the INS office waving his Mexican passport with its freshly stamped U.S. permanent residence visa.

Cheers went up from the crowd. A Mexican-born National Committee member of the Socialist Workers Party, Marroquín had finally won his fight to live in the United States — after 11 years of government efforts to deport him because of his political activities.

He was quickly surrounded by supporters who embraced him, photographers asking for close-up shots of his stamped passport, and reporters rattling off questions.

After giving a few interviews and shaking many hands, Marroquín climbed up on a bench in the plaza to say a few words about what had just happened.

"This is a historic victory for political rights in this country," he began. "It's an expansion of rights won by working people in the past, rights that we're now extending to immigrants."

"The Newark *Star-Ledger* reporter was just asking me if I plan to stay politically active now that I've won this fight," Marroquín said. "I told him, absolutely!"

"The most important thing I'm going to do immediately is help defend Mark Curtis, a fellow political activist who has just been sent to jail in Iowa on frame-up rape and burglary charges," Marroquín announced. "And I appeal to everyone who has supported my case to back Mark now in his fight for justice."

The final stage of Marroquín's battle for permanent residence began last year. In March the Justice Department decided not to appeal a federal court decision against government spying on and harassment of the Socialist Workers Party and the Young Socialist Alliance and their members. The judge in the case had ruled that the SWP and YSA's activities are legal and pro-

tected under the Bill of Rights. He made no distinction between the organizations' members who are citizens and those who are not.

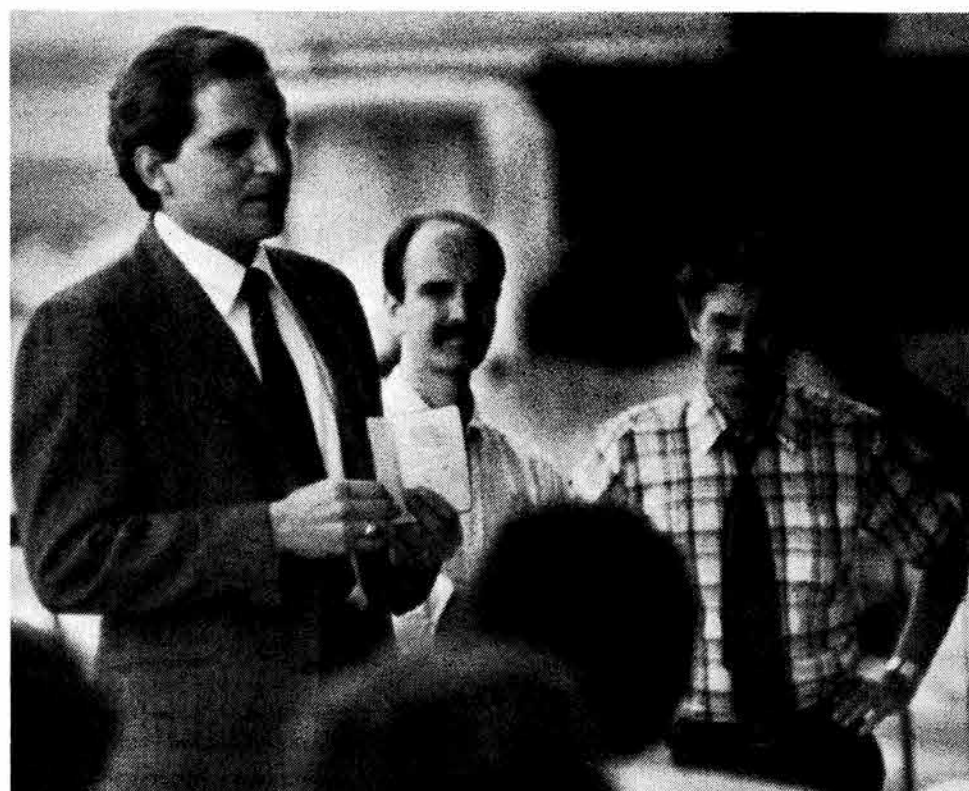
That spurred Marroquín to press the government for action on his five-year-old application for a green card, based on his marriage to a U.S. citizen.

Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, called Marroquín's victory "the most important concrete conquest thus far of the federal court decision in our lawsuit. It was when we won our suit that the government could no longer justify its refusal to grant Héctor a green card."

"I think it's important to note that Héctor got his permanent residence the same week FBI Director William Sessions was forced to admit that the FBI's spying on the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador led to secret investigations of nine other groups and 169 individuals. More and more is coming out about this spying because more and more working people see the question of democratic rights in a different way today."

"Our court victory has been a major help in this. It has given greater confidence to working people — citizen and noncitizen

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Héctor Marroquín shows supporters at Newark International Airport his passport with visa stamp.

Militant/Sandra Lee

Frame-up victim Curtis in Iowa jail

BY MARGARET JAYKO

KNOXVILLE, Iowa — The Marion County Jail sits in the government building in the middle of the town square in this small rural city of some 8,000 people. Mark Curtis arrived here on Wednesday, September 14, the day a 12-person jury in Des Moines convicted him of sexual abuse in the third degree and first-degree burglary.

Curtis — and thousands of unionists, farmers, antiracist activists, antiwar fighters, and partisans of women's rights, from New Zealand to Milwaukee — say he is not guilty, that the charges are a frame-up, directed at him because of his political and union activity.

They also say that the charges of assaulting the police Curtis faces at his next trial

on October 10 are a cover for the unprovoked beating Curtis received in the Des Moines city jail when he was arrested on March 4, 1988. The cops shattered his cheekbone.

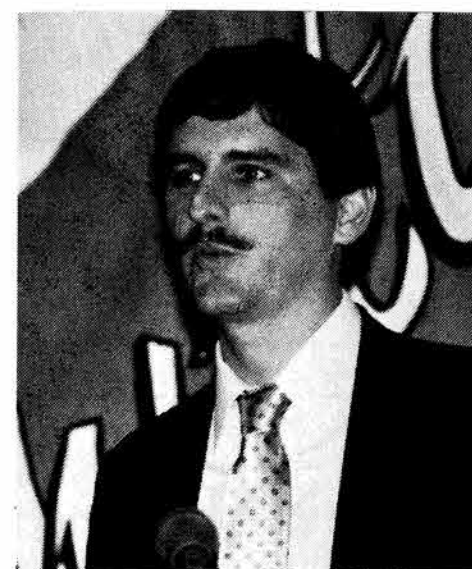
Curtis and his supporters say that they intend to keep fighting this frame-up.

Curtis will be sentenced on October 21. The burglary charge carries a mandatory sentence of 25 years; the sexual abuse charge, a mandatory sentence of 10 years. It's up to the discretion of the judge, Judge Harry Perkins, whether the sentences run consecutively or concurrently, and therefore whether he's sentenced to 35 or 25 years.

After the verdict was announced at the Polk County Courthouse in downtown Des Moines, Curtis was immediately taken across the street to the Polk County Jail. No appeal bond is permitted for the charges Curtis was convicted of, so he must remain in jail while he's appealing the verdict.

The Polk County Jail, like much of Iowa's prison system, is overcrowded so

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Mark Curtis speaking at September 4 international rally in Des Moines. Event highlighted effort by workers and farmers around the globe to smash frame-up of Curtis.

Militant/Eric Simpson

Protests mount in Burma

BY FRED FELDMAN

Hundreds of students, Buddhist monks, and other protesters have reportedly been gunned down in the streets of Rangoon, the capital city of Burma, since September 18. On that day the military high command replaced the government of President Maung Maung, a civilian who took office in August, with an avowedly military regime. The new government is headed by armed forces chief of staff Saw Maung.

The crackdown is the latest move to preserve the military dictatorship that was established in 1962, when Ne Win engineered a coup in this southeast Asian country of 39 million people.

For 26 years Ne Win and other top commanders have run the country through the Burma Socialist Program Party, which serves them as a political front and patronage machine.

In recent months the regime has been challenged by general strikes and massive,

countrywide demonstrations demanding the government step down and democracy be established.

In an unsuccessful effort to get the opposition off the streets, the Maung Maung government had proposed to hold democratic, multiparty elections under the regime's control. Gen. Saw Maung's government has also promised multiparty elections to be held after the military completes the restoration of what it calls law and order.

The regime banned "gathering, walking, marching in procession, chanting slogans, delivering speeches, agitating, and creating disturbances on the streets by a group of more than five people."

Thousands of people, with students in the forefront, poured into the streets of Rangoon to protest the new government. Troops reportedly fired on crowds from rooftops and other concealed locations. A

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'Cancel Jamaica's debt,' say U.S. socialist candidates

The following statement was issued September 19 by James Warren and Kathleen Mickells, Socialist Workers Party candidates for U.S. president and vice-president.

Hurricane Gilbert, the most intense tropical storm of the century with gusts peaking at nearly 220 miles per hour, has cut a path of death and destruction across the Caribbean, Central America, and parts of Mexico.

At least 200 people were killed and hundreds more are missing. A minimum of

136 were killed in Mexico, at least 90 of them by sudden floods spurred by the storm in the area around Monterrey. Evacuation of working people from storm-threatened areas was hampered because, in many cases, they simply could not afford to move to safer areas.

About 200,000 people were rendered homeless in Mexico. The Dominican Republic and Haiti were also hard hit. Deaths and damage to crops and herds were reported in Honduras, Guatemala, and Nicaragua.

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Pathfinder mural wins new supporters after coverage in 'Times'

BY FRED FELDMAN

NEW YORK — A steady stream of people have been coming to the Pathfinder Building here in recent days to have a look at the mural being painted on the outer south wall. The mural has been attracting increased attention since it was the subject of a spread in the September 7 *New York Times* headlined, "7-Story Village Mural of Stars of the Left."

Although the headline slightly overstated the height of the six-story mural, reporter Grace Glueck gave an accurate capsule description:

"The main image is a press churning out Pathfinder publications with their authors depicted on sheets of paper that thicken into books. Beneath the press, a horde of workers, farmers, and civil rights leaders feed into it a banner that proclaims, 'A World Without Borders' in French, Spanish, and English."

The article named a number of working-class leaders whose portraits had been or would be included in the mural, including V.I. Lenin; Nelson Mandela; Nicaraguan revolutionists Augusto César Sandino and Carlos Fonseca Amador; U.S. union organizer Mary (Mother) Jones; Thomas Sankara, the assassinated leader of the 1983-87 revolution in Burkina Faso; and Maurice Bishop, who headed the revolutionary government that existed in Grenada from 1979 until Bishop's murder in 1983.

In the wake of the *Times* article, New York's Channel 2 TV News reported on the mural, and Pathfinder Mural Project director Sam Manuel was interviewed by Television España, the main state-owned station in Spain, with outlets in countries around the world.

Meryl Lynn Farber, a representative of the mural project, described meeting a woman from upstate New York who was attending a meeting in the city. She told Farber, "When I read about a mural going up that had Lenin's picture on it, I had to see it." She donated \$10.

An elderly man came by to watch the painting. He told Farber that he was happy that a portrait of leaders of the Communist International in its early years would appear on the mural. The portrait will include Lenin, Leon Trotsky, Gregory Zinoviev, Nikolas Bukharin, and Karl Radek.

"Several people who came by," Manuel noted, "have jumped at the chance to take a hand in painting the mural."

One of them is Abe Graber.

White-haired and wiry-looking, Graber is a painter with decades of experience in painting frescoes — paintings done on wet plastered wall or panels. He volunteered to paint a portrait of John Reed on the mural.

Reed was an early supporter of the October 1917 Russian revolution, a founding leader of the communist movement in the United States, and an accomplished revolutionary journalist. He was the author of such books as *Ten Days That Shook the World*, an eyewitness description of the insurrection that brought the Bolshevik Party to power in Russia, and *Insurgent Mexico*, which reports on the Mexican revolution that began in 1910.

Reed was a delegate to the Second Congress of the Communist International in Moscow and died there in 1920. After his death, artists and writers who admired Reed's work and identified with his views and activities formed John Reed clubs. Graber belonged to one of these clubs in the early 1920s.

As a club member, Graber participated in what he describes as "the first class on fresco painting held in the United States. The instructor was a Japanese artist who had worked with Diego Rivera," the revolutionary Mexican muralist.

Today Graber works mainly at his home, painting oils, water colors, and wood blocks, although he continues to teach fresco painting to small groups. "When I read the article in the *Times*," Graber said, "I had to see it."

"I talked to Mike [Mike Alewitz, designer and art director of the mural], who told me about the project and then asked if I would like to paint."

Katherine Hellman also works on the mural every morning before leaving for the classes she is taking at the Art Students League. "I read about the mural, and I came by to see it. I am interested in murals," she said. "I live on the Lower East Side, near the *La Lucha* murals."

La Lucha is a set of murals protesting gentrification of the area. They were created by Artmakers, headed by Eva Cockcroft.

Hellman says she has enjoyed the work. "I've been working on painting the rolls of paper that feed into the press, and I'm looking forward to trying my hand at some of the more colorful parts as well."

The *Times* article has brought a step-up in efforts to raise the thousands of dollars needed to finance completion of the mural. In addition to collecting donations of \$1, \$5, \$10 or more from visitors and passersby, the Pathfinder Mural Project is widely distributing copies of an appeal for funds signed by nationally known muralist Eva Cockcroft, filmmaker Emile de Antonio, poet Sonia Sanchez, and folksinger Pete Seeger.

The Pathfinder Mural Project urges that donations be sent to it at 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.



South African painter Dumile and portrait of Nelson Mandela

Militant/Alicia Merel

Response to 'Sankara Speaks' highlights Pathfinder's role

BY CINDY JAQUITH

African Concord, published in Lagos, Nigeria, is one of the most widely circulated African newsweeklies and also reaches many English-speaking Africans who live abroad. The August 26 issue features on its front cover the new Pathfinder book *Thomas Sankara Speaks*.

Inside, an advertisement reads: "You can get your free copy of *Thomas Sankara Speaks: The Burkina Faso Revolution 1983-87* published by Pathfinder Press in New York (\$9.95) if you subscribe to *African Concord* magazine today. But hurry! The offer cannot last..."

Sankara was the president of the West African country of Burkina Faso and the central leader of the 1983 revolution that took power there. He was assassinated in a counterrevolutionary military coup in October 1987.

The new collection by Pathfinder makes Sankara's speeches and interviews available to be studied in English for the first time.

The August 26 *African Concord*, in addition to its subscription offer, runs a review of the book by free-lance journalist Ernest Harsch and a full page of selections from the book, quoting Sankara on such topics as the foreign debt, forging unity of the many ethnic groups in Burkina Faso, developing agriculture in a country oppressed by imperialism, and women's rights.

The September 2 issue of *African Concord* devotes the inside front cover to the special subscription offer once more, urging prospective subscribers to get their free copy of "the book that preserves the message of President Thomas Sankara published on the fifth anniversary of the revolution he led."

The *African Concord* response gives a

glimpse of the possibilities that exist to circulate *Thomas Sankara Speaks* widely around the world. Pathfinder will be able to do that to the degree it is successful in raising a quarter of a million dollars this fall to meet its publishing, circulation, and promotion costs.

The Pathfinder Fund for \$250,000 has a deadline of December 1.

So far only \$12,931 has been collected, and \$168,624 pledged. That means Pathfinder supporters have their work cut out: collecting more than \$235,000 over the next two months.

One of the ways this will be done is the series of meetings slated for October by all Pathfinder bookstores in the United States. Each meeting will center on a Pathfinder book — *Thomas Sankara Speaks* is one of them — and bring together local speakers from the labor movement, anti-apartheid groups, Black rights organizations, and other political activists. The goal is to inspire all in attendance to read Pathfinder books and to contribute to the Pathfinder Fund so the publisher can continue and expand its work.

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

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FBI's anti-CISPES program cast wide net

Sessions admits broad list of targets

BY CINDY JAQUITH

FBI Director William Sessions has admitted that a spy program begun in 1981 against the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES) later led to separate investigations targeting nine other organizations and 169 individuals. He declined to reveal who the individuals and groups were.

Testifying before the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence September 14, the FBI chief also announced that six FBI agents had been disciplined for the anti-CISPES surveillance.

Reacting to Sessions' testimony, CISPES National Executive Director Angela Sanbrano called for the FBI to release the names of the groups and individuals who were victimized. She also demanded that the government turn over the rest of its files on the CISPES spy operation.

In a telephone interview, Sanbrano said Sessions' testimony revealed that "there's a lot more organizations and files than we originally thought." The illegal spy program "was broader and more extensive" than CISPES had been aware of, she said.

Spied on unions, Black groups

Working with the Center for Constitutional Rights, CISPES has pried 1,200 pages of FBI documents out of the government through a lawsuit under the Freedom of Information Act. They are only one-third of the files the FBI admits it has.

From 1981 to at least 1985, the FBI used informers and undercover agents to identify those who participated in CISPES-initiated activities, opening files on these people and organizations they belonged to. The surveillance spread to include well over 100 groups.

Trade unionists who attended activities opposing U.S. policy in Central America were singled out, among others. The files show that some of the unions spied on were the United Auto Workers, Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers, United Steelworkers, and the Longshoremen and Warehousemen on the West Coast.

Also targeted were the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Maryknoll Sisters and other church groups, members of Congress, Young Socialist Alliance, and Socialist Workers Party.

The spy program was initiated, under classified "Foreign Intelligence/Terrorism" guidelines, on the pretext of investigating alleged CISPES connections with terrorism. No evidence of such connections was ever discovered. Nevertheless, the FBI kept widening the net of its illegal surveillance to include more groups opposed to U.S. war policy in Central America.

The issues involved have similarities to the illegal FBI spying exposed in the Socialist Workers Party lawsuit against the government. There, a federal judge ruled in 1986 that the government operation against the SWP — justified for "national security" reasons — actually constituted a massive violation of the right to freedom of association and to privacy. He barred the FBI from using any of the voluminous files it had illegally collected on the SWP and forced the government to pay extensive damages.

Despite the unconstitutional character of the spying against CISPES, government officials have contended that the original "antiterrorist" investigation launched in 1981 was legitimate. Sessions did not waver from that stand in his testimony before the Senate committee.

He said "mistakes in judgment" were made in the course of the operation, which became "unnecessarily broad." This all "cumulatively led to an investigation of which the FBI is not proud," he added, reporting that three FBI agents involved had been suspended without pay for two weeks and three others officially reprimanded.

Sessions claimed the root of the problem was an untrustworthy informer, Frank Varcelli, and FBI officers who handled him improperly. (It was Varcelli who first brought the spy operation to public attention, testifying before a congressional committee.)

Sessions also argued that then-FBI chief William Webster and his top aides "had no reasonable way to know" what was actually happening in the CISPES investigation.

Sanbrano told the *Militant* that the investigation of CISPES was illegal from the very day it started and that "slapping the hands of a few agents is not enough."

"This was a politically motivated investigation as part of a campaign to harass and destroy organizations that opposed the policy of the administration," she said. "That's the issue. Short of stopping the harassment and investigation of people who dissent, our rights will not be vindicated."

She said that in addition to demanding the FBI turn over the rest of its files and reveal what further organizations and individuals were victimized, her organization is calling for the names of all people and organizations in the FBI's files on CISPES to be expunged.

Sessions told a House Judiciary subcommittee September 16 that he was "perfectly willing to consider, on a case-by-case basis" requests by individuals and groups to have their names removed. But he did not agree with expunging the names of all those illegally spied upon.

Sanbrano said there is increased resolve among the FBI's victims to get out the full truth on the surveillance. "The first reaction of people is being outraged that they're being spied on," she said. "People want to do something to ensure that the FBI does not continue doing this kind of thing. We need to keep up the pressure."



Unionists at Washington, D.C., antiwar protest. Unions that participated in such actions were among those singled out for FBI surveillance as part of operation against CISPES. Angela Sanbrano, head of CISPES, is demanding names of all groups and individuals FBI spied on.

Inquest probes murder of Irish activists

BY RICH PALSER AND AILEAN O'CALLAGHAN

LONDON — "It was like a frenzied attack," said pathologist Alan Watson of the gunning down of Irish Republican Army member Sean Savage on Gibraltar by a British Special Air Services (SAS) team. (Gibraltar is the British-held portion of a rocky peninsula extending from southwestern Spain into the Mediterranean.)

Watson had been retained by the British government to testify at the inquest that opened September 6 in Gibraltar on the killing of Savage and two other unarmed Irish republicans there last March.

Savage, Watson said, was shot at least 16 times. He conceded that four bullets appeared to have been pumped into Savage's head as he lay wounded.

Another victim, Mairead Farrell, was shot twice in the head and three times in the back, he said. Derrick Pounder, a pathologist retained by the families of the victims, said that the bullets in her back had been fired from a distance of three feet.

Daniel McCann was shot twice in the back and twice in the head while lying face down.

Watson, who performed autopsies the day after the killings, complained about the government's withholding of information and general lack of cooperation. This, he said, had forced him to work in an unprofessional way.

Asked by journalists whether the killings were murder, Watson replied, "It has to be, hasn't it?"

Other testimony pointed to government efforts to cover up evidence that might indicate that the killings were planned assassinations.

Police Constable Raheman Kassam described being ordered by a police sergeant to remove cartridges from the ground, before the arrival of the "scene of the crime" officer who is supposed to oversee inspection of the area.

The gunning down of Farrell, Savage, and McCann by an undercover British Army squad brought an international outcry, including from Amnesty International.

SAS action in Northern Ireland

On August 30 three more republicans were gunned down in Northern Ireland by British forces.

A helicopter whisked away the plainclothes and SAS men after they carried out the killings, and regular army and police units came on the scene. There are no known witnesses.

This recent operation has been portrayed

in some of the major British media as revenge against the republican movement, which favors the end of British rule and occupation in Northern Ireland and establishment of a united, independent Ireland.

On August 20 eight British soldiers had been killed and 28 wounded when a British Army bus was blown up by the Irish Republican Army. The Thatcher government had promised new repressive measures in the wake of this incident.

This year 17 people have died and 60 have been injured in Northern Ireland in gun and bomb attacks carried out by loyalist paramilitary outfits. Loyalists are forces in Northern Ireland who support British rule in order to maintain a privileged position granted them by the British rulers.

On August 16 Michael Lavery was picked out at random by two loyalist gunmen and shot dead.

Under pressure from popular Ireland-wide outrage at the ambushes of republicans by British forces, the government of the Republic of Ireland (the 26 southern counties that became independent in 1922) has demanded a meeting of the Anglo-Irish council. This is a liaison body established under the terms of the Anglo-Irish pact signed in 1985.

Irish Prime Minister Charles Haughey's government has faced a storm of protest, including mass demonstrations in the north and south, over its extradition of republican Robert Russell to British authorities in Northern Ireland.

The SAS role as a hit squad goes back some years. In 1982 the SAS trained Headquarters Mobile Support Units of the Northern Ireland police, which killed six people in three ambushes.

The British government was eventually forced to stage an investigation, initially headed by Deputy Chief Constable John Stalker of Manchester, England. Stalker was dismissed when he began to expose the cover-up of the assassinations.

At the opening of the inquest into the Gibraltar murders, Paddy McGrory, counsel for the families of the victims, called for disbanding the jury.

He said that people living in Gibraltar "had had their minds prejudiced by stories that the IRA had intended to murder local people indiscriminately, with no evidence for this assertion. They had been fed a poison to which there is no antidote." The plea was dismissed.

At the inquest, Gibraltar Police Chief Joseph Canepa admitted that SAS forces had carried out the killings — the first official admission of this.

Canepa had twice refused to tell the inquest whether the SAS was involved.

Witnesses have testified that the republicans tried to surrender, but were mowed down and then repeatedly shot.

To conceal their identities, the SAS men who killed the three republicans testified from behind a curtain and were identified as Soldier A, Soldier F, and so on. The coroner warned reporters against sketching or describing any of the soldiers the journalists caught a glimpse of.

SAS team members claimed to have been informed that the victims had a remote-control device capable of detonating a bomb they were supposedly believed to have planted in a car in Gibraltar. But the car — which proved to contain no bomb — was left undisturbed for hours after the bomb was allegedly believed to have been planted. Evacuation of the area was ordered only 10 minutes after the three had been killed.

The killers admitted that they did not search the victims to find the nonexistent detonator.

"There are more holes in it than in poor Sean Savage's body," Niall Farrell, brother of Mairead Farrell, said of the soldiers' testimony. "It is clear that they contradict civilian eyewitnesses, the coroner's report, even each other. [The three victims] were killed in a premeditated way and now they are trying to cover it up."

Farrell announced that he is taking legal action against the British government for his sister's killing. The case, he said, will ultimately be taken to the European Court of Human Rights as well.

Coming in our next issue ...

Origins of the Sandinista National Liberation Front

Our next issue will feature, in the *International Socialist Review* magazine supplement, a 1970 interview with Carlos Fonseca Amador that has never appeared in English before. Fonseca, a founder and central leader of the FSLN until his death in 1976, describes the origins and early activities of that revolutionary organization.

Warren, paperworkers discuss state of unions, social crisis

BY JON HILLSON

JAY, Maine — More than 30 striking paperworkers, other unionists, Nicaragua solidarity activists, students, and environmentalists spent five hours exchanging ideas with Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate James Warren at a campaign picnic here September 4.

The event was held at the home of Henry and Lee DiSoto. Henry DiSoto is a 40-year veteran of United Paperworkers International Union Local 14. The 1,250 members of Local 14 and Firemen and Oilers Local 246 have been on strike at International Paper Co.'s (IP) Androscoggin mill in Jay since June 1987. Lee DiSoto is an active strike supporter.

Six other strikers and their spouses also came to the barbeque and gave Warren — who visited Jay four months ago — an update on their fight against IP. After lunch and informal discussion, Warren spoke to the group.

The difficulties faced by the paper strikers and working people in general, Warren said, can be traced to the "great compromise" established by U.S. employers and the officialdom of the industrial unions coming out of World War II.

The capitalists, explained Warren, met a militant upsurge of strike resistance in

1945-46 when they tried to maintain wartime antilabor measures after the war ended.

The bosses decided to "make concessions in the form of higher wages and benefits to a certain sector of the working class — those better off, better organized, in major unions," he continued. "For a pretty cheap price, the bosses got labor peace at home and a free hand to plunder the world."

"They took the fight out of us. They stopped picking fights and took us out of struggle," Warren said. "But many working people — especially Blacks, Latinos, the unorganized — got no crumbs in this deal."

The other side of these economic concessions was "the McCarthy period, the anticommunist witch-hunt," he said. "This was not, as many believe, aimed at only the communists. It was aimed at all thinking workers, workers who never believed they had something in common with the boss."

The witch-hunt "tried to drive workers out of politics," Warren explained, "to keep workers from thinking and close them off from ideas. And this was largely successful."

"Millions and millions of workers were affected by this," said Warren. "That's why there is so much our class doesn't know. When the capitalists attack us, we find we don't have any idea of what to do, of how to wage an effective fight."

The central idea of the socialist campaign, Warren said, is to convince as many people as possible that "every worker is capable of thinking, of being part of the world. And every issue — from the environment to war and peace — is something we must discuss, figure out, think and talk about from the point of view of our class."

This has to be our approach, he said, because of the impact the growing social and economic crisis is having on working peo-



Militant/Jon Hillson
James Warren talks to picketing striker at International Paper mill during May visit to Jay, Maine. He returned in September to address meeting there.

ple today, and what we will face in the coming worldwide depression that was signaled by the October 1987 stock market crash.

The Democratic and Republican candidates don't talk about this, Warren explained, "because they have no solution, no confidence in what to say or do."

But workers, he said, shouldn't "run from this crisis, or shake in our boots. We have to face it and think about it."

The capitalists, continued Warren, "think of us in the same way they think of workers in Latin America — as animals. And they'd like to pay us the same. It is possible to beat the capitalists, if we fight, if we mobilize, if we organize, and if we resist. But not by saying to some unorganized worker, 'This is my job, defend

me.' We can only win by saying, 'This is our fight, our class against theirs. These are our struggles and our solutions.'"

Example of Nicaragua

Looking at the world from the point of view of our class helps us understand why Washington hates Nicaragua, Warren said. "Because the Nicaraguan government is our government, a workers' and farmers' government. And the capitalists hate and fear that and try to stamp out that example." This is what we have to explain about Nicaragua to other working people, he stressed, and how we can win support and aid for that embattled country.

In the discussion that followed Warren's presentation, Veterans Peace Convoy national coordinator Bob Livesey said he liked the way the socialist candidate "put things together."

A woman who used to work as a maid in a Maine resort hotel told Warren she had become frustrated talking to her coworkers about how their cheap labor made the boss rich and why they deserved higher wages.

"But you're here," Warren answered. "Socialist Workers Party members talk to everybody. We approach everybody. Some people like some of what we say, others agree more. We explain to workers we talk with that we can't look at the world starting with ourselves, or our plant, or our job. For example, we can't wait until we go out on strike to think about the people we need to defend us. Some people understand this now; later, others will too."

After the discussion ended, Warren continued to field questions inside the DiSoto's home, as rain poured outside.

"These meetings keep getting better," said one strike activist who had been at other campaign meetings in Jay for Warren and his running mate Kathleen Mickells earlier in the year.

Where socialists stand in fight for place on state ballots

Supporters of the Socialist Workers Party presidential ticket of James Warren and Kathleen Mickells are working to get ballot status in 18 states and the District of Columbia. Here's where the ballot drive stands:

- The SWP ticket has been certified on the ballot in Iowa, Rhode Island, Minnesota, North Dakota, Tennessee, New Jersey, South Dakota, Utah, Washington State, Washington, D.C., and Michigan.

- Despite compliance with election laws, the SWP ticket has been ruled off the ballot in Ohio, Nebraska, and Louisiana.

- Petitioning has been completed in New York, Vermont, Wisconsin, and Alabama, and a nominating convention has been held in New Mexico.

Tour schedules set for Warren and Mickells

James Warren, Socialist Workers Party candidate for president, and Kathleen Mickells, his vice-presidential running mate, are traveling across the country campaigning.

Warren is scheduled to be in Charleston, West Virginia, September 28; Athens, Ohio, September 29; Morgantown, West Virginia, September 30-October 1; Charleston, West Virginia, October 2-3; Washington, D.C., October 6-7; Baltimore, October 9-10; Newark, New Jersey, October 11; Toronto, Canada, October 14-15; Montreal, Canada, October 16-17; Boston, October 20-22; Houston, October 23-26; St. Louis, Missouri, October 28-29; Kansas City, Missouri, October 30-November 1; Detroit, November 3-4; and New York, November 6-8.

Mickells' schedule takes her to: Omaha, Nebraska, September 29-October 1; Des Moines, Iowa, October 2-3; Seattle, October 6-8; Portland, Oregon, October 9-11; Price, Utah, October 14-15; Salt Lake City, Utah, October 16-18; Phoenix, Arizona, October 21-23; Oakland/San Francisco, October 26-30; and Los Angeles, November 2-6.

Socialist candidates: cancel Jamaica's \$4 billion debt

Continued from front page
ragua.

On the island of Jamaica, Hurricane Gilbert brought massive, countrywide devastation. At least 36 people are known to have been killed and hundreds of thousands were left homeless.

About 80 percent of houses have been

damaged, 20 percent of them beyond repair. The country's sugar, coconut, and banana crops have been massively damaged, as have many small family farms and gardens that produce food for the people.

Some coastal villages, said Prime Minister Edward Seaga, "looked like Hiroshima after the atomic bomb." He estimated the total damage at \$7 billion — the equivalent of two years of Jamaica's gross national product.

In the rural areas, which were hardest hit, many people face shortages of food and water.

The consequences of Hurricane Gilbert threaten to worsen the many social problems that the working people of Jamaica confront, which include an unemployment rate of 20 percent.

But the efforts of Jamaica's people to overcome the effects of Hurricane Gilbert may be strangled by the never-ending demands of U.S. and other bankers for payments on Jamaica's foreign debt. The debt stood at \$4 billion in 1986 — that's \$1,600 for each of Jamaica's 2.5 million people.

Jamaica is required to come up with \$1 billion over the next two years to placate the loan sharks.

"Jamaica has become, on a per capita basis, the most indebted nation in the world," stated a recent policy paper by the opposition People's National Party. "About 50 percent of our export earnings and 40 percent of the national budget is absorbed by the servicing of this debt."

If Jamaica is to recover from the devastation of Hurricane Gilbert, the debt burden must be lifted now.

Washington and other governments must provide Jamaica with all the assistance needed to begin rebuilding. Step number one should be the immediate cancellation of the immoral and unpayable foreign debt.

Socialist Workers 1988 Campaign

Campaign volunteers needed!

- ☐ I endorse Warren-Mickells campaign
- ☐ Send me candidates' biographies. English _____ Spanish _____
- ☐ Here is \$4 for a subscription to the *Militant*.
- ☐ Here is \$3 for a subscription to *Perspectiva Mundial*.
- ☐ Send me Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis. \$1 each; 10 and up, 50¢ each. Specify English or Spanish. Enclosed is \$ _____.
- ☐ Send me campaign button (pictured above). \$1 each; 10 or more, 75¢ each. Enclosed is \$ _____.
- ☐ Enclosed is my \$ _____ contribution to the campaign.
- ☐ I want to join the Young Socialist Alliance.

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Paid for by the 1988 Socialist Workers National Campaign Committee



Behind split in British union federation

Does ousting electricians mark turn from officialdom's capitulation to bosses?

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

BOURNEMOUTH, England — On the opening day of the annual Trades Union Congress (TUC) here, the 330,000-member Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbing Union (EETPU) was expelled. The TUC is the only trade union federation in Britain and has an affiliated membership of more than 9 million. The expulsion of the EETPU constitutes the most substantial split in the federation's 120-year history.

Affiliates have been suspended from the TUC on previous occasions. In 1972, for example, 20 unions were suspended after they had registered under antiunion laws enacted by the Tory (Conservative Party) administration. But the expulsion of the EETPU is unlike this earlier case.

The 1972 suspensions strengthened the trade union movement, drawing the line between working within the legal framework set by the government and fighting against it. This had become a central issue in a series of major trade union battles.

But today those moving the current expulsion of the EETPU share the general course of its leadership. For almost a decade, the TUC leaders have been in sharp retreat in the face of the employers' offensive. The leaders have capitulated before the employers or the government in every major challenge they have presented.

The decision to expel the EETPU represented no break from the character of the rest of the five-day TUC congress, which began here September 5. TUC General Secretary Norman Willis, who moved the expulsion motion on behalf of the TUC General Council, pointed out that the central TUC leaders had no desire to oppose the overall orientation of the EETPU officialdom. Willis agreed that "many other unions are now also signing deals which in many, but not all ways, are similar to those" offered by the EETPU. "The real issue," he said, is "how to cope with the increased competition between unions for new members and in particular how to reconcile the sort of deals which you [the EETPU] advocate with the views of other unions who feel they are being subject to unfair competition."

Such a squabble over their dues base has been the union leaders' response to the Tory government and bosses' offensive against the unions.

This offensive has seen the defeat of major groups of workers and unions — mainly through the trade union leaderships throwing in the towel. In the case of the 1984-85 miners' strike, union leaderships stood by while the government threw its weight against the miners and their communities. This abstention contributed to the defeat of the miners' union.

Antiunion laws

On the backs of these victories, the government has enacted a succession of antiunion laws that now make it almost impossible to conduct a major strike without breaking the law.

Laws have been passed against secondary picketing. Trade union immunity from prosecution for damages as the result of industrial action — itself the product of major class battles — has been eroded. Secret ballots before industrial action, even of the most minimal character, have been imposed.

The closed shop has been significantly weakened and current antiunion legislation about to go through Parliament will definitively end it. This legislation will also end a union's right to discipline members who cross picket lines during an industrial dispute. Union rules have been brought under legal constraint. It will soon be a matter of law that balloting for election of union officials be removed from the workplace and be conducted through the mail.

Industry by industry the employers have sought to "restructure" and "rationalize," with devastating consequences for working people. Conditions in the workplace have shifted in favor of the employers with the erosion of union organization and the acceleration of speed-up and overtime. Workers in Britain are working longer hours today than at any time since the 1950s.



G.M. Cookson

Support rally for miner's strike in 1984. Top labor union bureaucrats stood by while government threw its weight against embattled mine workers. Recent congress of trade union federation continued this abstentionist course.

Cuts have been made in government-funded health care and education. Speed-up, work-rule flexibility, and de-skilling has been the order of the day. The lowest 10 percent of wage earners at work, especially women and Black workers, have experienced an absolute decline in living standards. And to this must be added the more than 4 million unemployed (3 million by official figures) — some 12 percent of the work force.

Union membership has declined in line with the growth of unemployment and employer attacks. Membership of TUC-affiliated unions has dropped from over 12 million to 9 million.

'New realism'

The central union and Labour Party officialdom have adopted a perspective that ties workers to the bosses' proposals for the regeneration of "British industry." Arguing that workers in Britain should fear competition from workers internationally, they have pressed the government to take steps to protect products made in Britain at the expense of those made in other countries. They have accepted as given the new rules and legal framework imposed by the Tory government, painting their outlook in the press-catching phrase "new realism."

They've won a hearing for this perspective from within the working class because many employed workers have won some improvement in their take-home pay, especially the highest paid.

It's against this background of open submission by the TUC central leadership in the face of the employers' offensive that the split in the TUC has been brought to a head. The concern to shore up declining dues bases has been expressed in interunion rivalry and the proliferation of offers of insurance, pensions, and other financial services to attract members. This is presented rather than a perspective of fighting the bosses, let alone challenging the government's imperialist foreign policy and expressing solidarity with working people in other countries.

Integral to this "modern" approach to trade unionism has been individual union leadership's projection of no-strike deals, which exclude recognition of other unions and are negotiated prior even to the work force being hired.

In order to spread as much confusion as possible, the capitalist media has described this as merely the pursuit of "single union" deals.

There are a number of industries where a single union has predominated for decades. But that's different than the "single union" aspect of these new deals, which is only the necessary corollary of their no-strike char-

acter. This is all of a piece with endorsing management's pursuit of profit, speed-up, and labor mobility.

No-strike deals

It was two such no-strike deals — at Orion Electronics and at Christian Salvesen, a nationwide distribution company — that were the immediate cause of the EETPU's expulsion from the TUC. When the EETPU concluded the deals the union had no members in either company. Other unions that did have members were excluded from the deals.

The EETPU has been particularly aggressive in pursuing this "new realist" approach, which miners' union leader Arthur Scargill has described as "neither new nor realistic, just age-old class collaboration."

However, such an approach is characteristic of the TUC leadership in general. All the main leaders of the TUC repeat the talk about saving "our" economy, "my" industry, "my" factory, or "my" job. They are therefore incapable of making any reply to the EETPU leadership in a way that speaks in the interests of working people.

Listen to the rebuttal by John Edmonds, general secretary of the third-largest TUC affiliate, the General Municipal and Boilermakers (GMB). Edmonds told the TUC congress he was tired of hearing that the EETPU was the only union that had come to terms with the 20th century. Other unions had embraced modernity, he said. The National Union of Public Employees, for instance, had installed a "state of the art" computer system, he explained. The Transport and General Workers Union is building modern offices; the Amalgamated Engineering Union owns the most up-to-date video studio in London; and the first single-union deal signed by the GMB was 99 years ago at Beckton gas works in East London.

Not only does such a reply have nothing to do with the sort of "modernity" EETPU leader Eric Hammond has talked about. But it clouds the real issues to compare the historic battle by East London gas workers, which was part of the struggle to organize industrial workers, with the current activities of the EETPU on the grounds that they are both single-union deals.

Nothing new

The two cases for which the EETPU was expelled represented nothing new, nor were they those instances where the EETPU had been involved in inflicting the most damage on the workers' movement. Far more notorious was its jointly working with newspaper tycoon Rupert Murdoch in recruiting an entire new printing trades work force for his News International company's new site at Wapping in London's docklands area. The activity of the EETPU facilitated Murdoch's firing of 6,000 employees — who worked at the old Fleet Street location just a few miles away — and thereby undermine union organization and wages and conditions throughout the printing industry. The 6,000 went on strike for over a year before their militant struggle finally went down to defeat in February 1987.

The TUC was unprepared to deal with the EETPU's strikebreaking because it was itself opposed to organizing any serious action against Murdoch and News International. The EETPU's strikebreaking would have been dealt with as a byproduct of organizing a serious fight against Murdoch. Instead the TUC top leadership presented itself in the fake role of "arbitrator" between the unions directly involved and Murdoch — using the excuse of the antiunion laws for not organizing support.

As a result, legitimate demands for dis-

Continued on Page 13

ACTION PROGRAM TO CONFRONT THE COMING ECONOMIC CRISIS

Pathfinder has published an Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis proposed by the Socialist Workers Party National Committee. This pamphlet has a preface by James Warren, SWP candidate for U.S. president. Also includes "The Fight for a Shorter Workweek, Yesterday and Today" by Doug Jenness. The pamphlet is available in English and Spanish.

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Why ambitious circulation goal can be met

BY NORTON SANDLER

This week's circulation scoreboard contains initial results from the drive to win 10,400 new readers. Included are totals from the first couple of days of the September 17-24 target week.

Ambitious goals have been set for the 10-week international effort between now and the end of the drive on November 19.

Distributors aim to sell 6,630 new or renewal subscriptions to the *Militant*; 1,875 subscriptions to *Perspectiva Mundial*, a Spanish-language monthly; and 1,895 copies of the Marxist magazines of theory and politics, *New International* and the French-language *Nouvelle Internationale*.

At the same time, they are going to sell 21,615 copies of *An Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis*, a Pathfinder pamphlet available in English and Spanish that contains proposals put forward by the Socialist Workers Party. So far, 2,704 or 13 percent of the Action Program goal has been sold.

To hit these targets will require a big effort and a lot of conscious and well-organized attention. But supporters are confident they can be made because there is growing interest in ideas that offer answers to problems working people face today.

The drive is taking place a year after the worldwide stock market crash. That event has jarred millions of people into recognizing that the prospect of a deep international depression is very real. Moreover, that depression will hit at a time when millions, including the most impoverished layers in the developed capitalist countries, are already suffering the ravages of unemployment, homelessness, intensified speed-up and deteriorating living conditions.

Working people sense that the coming depression will force similar conditions on hundreds of millions more. But this far-reaching economic and social crisis will also give rise to gigantic class battles that will pose, for the first time in decades, the possibility of the working class leading a revolution that can put an end to imperialist domination and exploitation.

SWP presidential campaign

In the United States, supporters of the Socialist Workers Party presidential ticket of James Warren and Kathleen Mickells and local SWP candidates have put the circulation drive at the center of their campaigning. That's because the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* carry articles that accurately describe the growing crisis facing working people. They report the activities of the SWP candidates and their proposals to unify working people in a fight to protect ourselves against the devastating effects of the crisis.

Workers, farmers, and young people who read, study, and discuss the Action Program get an introduction to the fighting perspective being advanced by the SWP campaign.

Our international distributors — from Australia to Sweden to Iceland — are also circulating the Action Program.

A focus of the drive is increasing the readership of all the periodicals among industrial workers. Several supporters who are industrial workers have reported that when they initiate conversations with their coworkers about the Action Program, it often leads to a discussion about why it's important to also purchase a *Militant* or *Perspectiva Mundial* subscription.

We are already receiving encouraging results from this integrated circulation effort.

In Pittsburgh, Warren-Mickells campaign supporters have sold 43 Action Programs, 48 subscriptions, and 2 copies of *New International*.

Price, Utah, supporters have sold 7 subscriptions, a copy of *New International*, and more than 40 Action Programs, in coal-mining communities.

An afternoon team in Vancouver, Canada's East End — an area where workers born in El Salvador, Mexico, and India live — sold 7 subscriptions and 5 Action Programs and \$51 in Pathfinder literature.

At the 5th Avenue Book Fair in New York, supporters sold another 46 copies of the Action Program, \$700 in Pathfinder literature, and 6 *Militant* subscriptions.

Defend Mark Curtis

Distributors are also selling many copies of the *Militant* because of its coverage of the recent frame-up trial and jailing of union and political activist Mark Curtis.

A full-time team visiting campuses, factories, and working-class communities in Iowa is using the periodicals to help explain the stakes involved in the growing international campaign to defend Curtis. They sold 18 copies of the *Militant* and *PM* and a few subscriptions their first couple of

days out. The team met several campus activists who expressed interest in setting up meetings for Curtis defense committee representatives.

Readers who want to go more into depth on topics covered in the *Militant* will be interested in *New International* or *Nouvelle Internationale*.

A new issue of *Nouvelle Internationale* has just come off the press. It features "The Second Assassination of Maurice Bishop," an article by Steve Clark that takes up the lessons of the overturn of Grenada's revolutionary government in 1983. Also in the issue are two speeches by Cuban President Fidel Castro that explain the process the Cuban people refer to as rectification, where working people are taking increasing control over the running of the state and the economy.

Campus sales

Members of the Young Socialist Alliance have thrown themselves into the drive. They are putting an emphasis on setting up campus literature tables that feature the *Militant*, *PM*, and *New International*.

A one-day team at Essex Community college in downtown Newark, New Jersey, sold 8 subscriptions, 8 copies of *Nouvelle Internationale*, 1 *New International*, 5 Action Programs and more than \$300 in Pathfinder literature.



Perspectiva Mundial sales at farm worker protest in Washington State. There is growing interest in ideas that offer answers to problems faced by working people.

Expulsion of Cuban diplomats spurs discussion in Britain

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

LONDON — The Thatcher government's September 13 expulsion of Cuban diplomats Dr. Oscar Fernández Mell and Carlos Medina Pérez has spurred a big discussion here.

The two diplomats were ordered to leave Britain following a CIA and British-government provoked shooting incident. The expulsion move was backed up by a chorus of reaction from the media.

Industrial workers who distribute the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and *New International* are participating in the discussion, helping to get out the truth about the Cuban revolution. In addition to circulating the September 23 issue of the *Militant*, which contains a news article on the expulsion, they are also selling issue No.

34 with the speech Cuban President Fidel Castro delivered on July 26.

"Your communist friends in Cuba have been shooting on the streets of London. How do you defend that?" was a question put to Martyn, an engineering worker at a north London factory. The next day, after the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Relations explained that Medina Pérez had fired in self-defense, the same man told Martyn, "The secret services were behind what happened."

A railway brakeman at a depot in Doncaster in Yorkshire reported that initially "many were taken in by the media hysteria. They knew I supported Cuba so it became quite an issue of discussion." This worker also noted that opinion began to change after the Cuban version of the events started to get out.

Sales drive scoreboard

Area	Drive Goals			Militant subscriptions		New International* single copies		Perspectiva Mundial subscriptions	
	Goal	Sold	% Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold
UNITED STATES									
Philadelphia	210	53	25	140	38	30	12	40	3
Newark, NJ	500	112	22	275	68	110	23	115	21
Oakland, Calif.	215	44	20	120	35	45	0	50	9
Des Moines, Iowa	210	42	20	150	35	40	1	20	6
Pittsburgh	250	50	20	185	46	45	2	20	2
Kansas City	120	22	18	75	20	20	0	25	2
New York	1,200	220	18	600	148	300	35	300	37
Boston	350	64	18	230	47	50	10	70	7
Greensboro, NC	145	25	17	110	22	20	3	15	0
Morgantown, WV	175	28	16	135	26	30	1	10	1
St. Louis	220	35	16	170	25	40	8	10	2
Los Angeles	700	110	16	375	62	125	15	200	33
Chicago	435	67	15	300	52	60	0	75	15
Portland, Ore.	140	21	15	100	18	25	3	15	0
Detroit	265	39	15	200	38	40	0	25	1
Birmingham, Ala.	185	26	14	145	26	30	0	10	0
Milwaukee	170	23	14	110	18	35	2	25	3
Houston	215	27	13	140	25	30	1	45	1
Seattle	275	33	12	200	24	25	3	50	6
Price, Utah	70	8	11	50	6	10	1	10	1
Miami	300	32	11	185	10	55	16	60	6
Salt Lake City	125	13	10	90	11	20	2	15	0
Baltimore	215	21	10	175	21	30	0	10	0
San Francisco	350	31	9	200	24	75	4	75	3
Cleveland	145	12	8	110	10	20	2	15	0
Atlanta	220	17	8	160	15	40	1	20	1
Twin Cities, Minn.	350	27	8	270	20	50	7	30	0
Washington, DC	250	18	7	150	12	50	5	50	1
Charleston, WV	105	7	7	85	7	15	0	5	0
Phoenix	240	15	6	120	9	40	0	80	6
Austin, Minn.	110	6	5	85	4	15	0	10	2
Omaha, Neb.	135	3	2	90	3	25	0	20	0
National teams	203	40	-	130	39	23	0	50	1
Other U.S.	-	5	-	-	4	-	1	-	0
U.S. totals	8,798	1,296	15	5,660	968	1,568	158	1,570	170
AUSTRALIA	50	12	24	35	10	5	2	10	0
BRITAIN									
Nottingham	61	17	28	35	15	20	2	6	0
London	145	27	19	75	13	30	4	40	10
South Yorks	90	4	4	50	4	20	0	20	0
Manchester	70	3	4	50	3	5	0	15	0
South Wales	80	1	1	40	1	30	0	10	0
Other Britain	54	9	-	25	5	20	3	9	1
Britain totals	500	61	12	275	41	125	9	100	11
CANADA									
Toronto	475	56	12	325	41	75	9	75	6
Montreal	325	32	10	175	22	75	6	75	4
Other Canada	-	4	-	-	4	-	-	-	-
Canada totals	800	92	12	500	67	150	15	150	10
ICELAND	32	4	13	25	2	5	2	2	0
NEW ZEALAND	250	46	18	210	40	30	0	10	6
PUERTO RICO	30	1	3	5	1	2	0	23	0
SWEDEN	50	14	28	30	7	10	1	10	6
Other International	-	25	-	-	16	-	3	-	6
Totals	10,510	1,551	15%	6,740	1,152	1,895	190	1,875	209
Drive Goals	10,400			6,630		1,895		1,875	
Should be		1,184	11%		760		214		211

*Includes *Nouvelle Internationale*

New steps for communist papers in Canada

French-language paper goes monthly, will supplement weekly 'Militant'

BY JOHN STEELE

MONTREAL, Canada — Starting in November, the biweekly French-language communist newspaper *Lutte Ouvrière* (LO) will become a monthly 24-page magazine and will be circulated as a supplement to the *Militant*. The *Militant* is an English-language communist newsweekly published in New York. As part of this package of changes, *Socialist Voice* (SV), the English-language counterpart of LO, has ceased publication.

These decisions recently taken by the SV/LO editors reflect important changes in the class struggle on a world scale and new opportunities for building a world communist movement. They also take into account the role the *Militant* is increasingly playing in countries around the world as the political organizer of workers fighting to build communist parties rooted in the industrial unions.

For example, *Militant* distributors in the United States, Canada, Britain, New Zealand, Puerto Rico, Sweden, Australia, Iceland, and other countries are currently waging a 10-week campaign for thousands of new *Militant* readers. In Canada, *Militant* supporters have adopted a goal of 475 new subscribers. The campaign also includes winning new readers of the monthly Spanish-language *Perspectiva Mundial* and the Marxist magazines *New International* and *Nouvelle Internationale*.

Work strengthened

Lutte Ouvrière editor and former SV editor Michel Prairie, who is also coeditor of *Nouvelle Internationale* and a leader of the Revolutionary Workers League, explained why the decision to change the format of LO and use it as a supplement to the *Militant* will strengthen the work of socialists in Canada.

"Many articles concerning major developments in the class struggle in Canada that previously appeared in *Socialist Voice* will now be published in the *Militant*," explained Prairie. Articles on the abortion rights movement in Canada, the free trade deal between the United States and Canada, or the struggle of Canada's Native people for their land are of interest to *Militant* readers throughout the world. They will also be published in the new format LO.

But now, workers who previously bought and subscribed to SV will have weekly access to the articles in the *Militant*, many of them written by worker activists in the United States and other countries.

"These include firsthand reports from the *Militant*'s bureau in Nicaragua on the unfolding revolutionary process in that country. Other important material, such as the July 26 speech by Cuban President Fidel Castro on the rectification struggle in Cuba, will now be available to these readers.

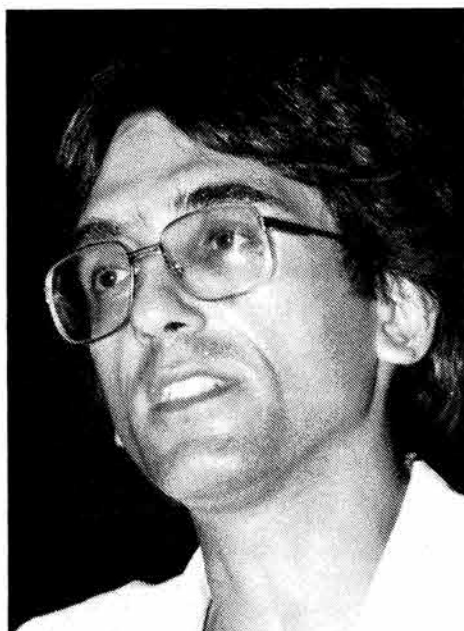
"Our aim is to ensure that all politically thinking workers read the *Militant* regularly, regardless of whether or not English is their first language — simply because to participate most effectively in the class struggle today you have to read the *Militant* each week," said Prairie.

French is the mother tongue of about one-third of Canada's population — that is, about 7 million people. These include Québécois, francophones living outside of Québec, almost 50,000 workers of Haitian origin living in Montreal, and immigrants from the French-speaking countries of Africa and Asia.

The Québécois are the biggest oppressed nationality in Canada. They, along with francophones outside of Québec, such as the Acadians in New Brunswick, suffer discrimination based on their language. Canada's rulers use this oppression to create divisions between French-speaking and English-speaking workers.

A significant portion of these workers cannot read the *Militant*. By translating and publishing key articles from the *Militant* into French, along with articles written in French on the class struggle in Canada, the monthly LO will become a more effective tool for explaining socialist ideas and helping to overcome the divisions in the working class.

For example, the first issue of the new format LO will contain the *Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis* that has been published by Pathfinder in



Militant/Holbrook Mahn
Lutte Ouvrière and Nouvelle Internationale editor Michel Prairie said changes will strengthen work of socialists in Canada.

English and Spanish pamphlets. The Action Program is a proposal put forward by the Socialist Workers Party in the United States.

The subsequent issue of LO will contain Fidel Castro's July 26 speech, which was previously published in the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*.

"The increased effectiveness of LO will not only be felt in Canada," explained Prairie, "but also in French-speaking countries around the world where LO already has a significant number of subscribers, and in the United States where about 1 million workers of Haitian origin live.

"Last year LO reporters visited Haiti, Burkina Faso in Africa, and New Caledonia and Tahiti in the South Pacific to report on the anti-imperialist struggles of the workers and peasants in those regions," said Prairie. "This year, one of our reporters covered a conference of anti-imperialist youth in the Dominican Republic. We continually receive letters in our offices from subscribers abroad who find both LO and *Nouvelle Internationale* necessary for their political work."

Continuity of collaboration

There is a long continuity of collaboration between socialists in Canada and the *Militant*.

In November 1928, when communist fighters who were striving to continue their activities as revolutionary Marxists were expelled from the communist parties in the United States and Canada, they immediately began publishing the *Militant* — even before they established the Communist League of America. The editorial board included prominent communist leaders from both the United States and Canada.

From the outset the *Militant*, which was then published every two weeks, was distributed internationally and attempted to link up with other revolutionary forces in the world.

For decades the *Militant* has reported on the struggles of workers and oppressed peoples in North America and throughout the world.

In 1932 supporters of the *Militant* in Canada started publishing the *Vanguard*. This newspaper was a forerunner of *Socialist Voice* and *Lutte Ouvrière*.

SV and LO were launched in September 1977. The lead editorial in the first issue of SV, entitled "A new voice for socialism," explained: "The appearance of the *Voice* is one expression of the unification and expansion of the revolutionary socialist movement in Canada and Quebec. This process took an enormous step forward in August with the formation of a new political organization, the Revolutionary Workers League."

Editorial board members of both SV and LO were leading members of the Revolutionary Workers League.

The *Voice* editors explained that the biweekly paper would "champion the interests of working people against those of the bosses, banks, and landlords and their parties and governments."

For more than a decade SV and LO and their supporters have worked to carry out that perspective.

For example, in 1986 SV/LO reporters traveled to Alberta to provide eyewitness reports and build solidarity for the landmark strike of the Gainers meat-packing workers against concessions.

That same year SV/LO reporters also covered the strike of the Newfoundland Association of Public Employees against government union-busting efforts.

Last spring, when Mohawk Indians blockaded the Khanawake reserve near Montreal to protest a Royal Canadian Mounted Police armed invasion of their reserve, SV/LO reporters were there to get out the truth.

Special editions of SV and LO were published at critical points in the class struggle — for example, following the overthrow of the revolutionary government led by Maurice Bishop in Grenada in October 1983. A special SV/LO supplement was published in the wake of the assassination of the president of Burkina Faso, Thomas Sankara, and the counterrevolutionary coup that overthrew his government last October.

Over the past several years, to help workers keep up with the increasing pace and changes in the worldwide class struggle, collaboration with the *Militant* was stepped up. A larger portion of SV and LO was devoted to reprints of *Militant* articles on the class struggle in the United States and in other countries.

However, because each issue of SV and LO was equivalent to only four pages of a 16-page *Militant*, the SV/LO editor was forced to abridge the articles to such an extent that their impact and value were considerably reduced.

The political changes behind the decision to change the format of LO and cease publishing SV were discussed by the more than 1,100 workers, farmers, and students from 22 countries who attended the 34th Constitutional Convention of the Socialist Workers Party and an international educational and active workers conference in Oberlin, Ohio, between August 6 and 11.

Participants at the conference discussed the meaning of the Oct. 19, 1987, stock market crash that announced the coming of a worldwide economic and social crisis and the new political period that has opened for the building of communist parties rooted in the industrial unions.

An international circulation workshop reviewed the experiences of selling the *Militant* to working people in a number of countries over the past year. The participants agreed that weekly sales of the *Militant* are an integral part of the strategy of building communist parties today.

"Working-class political life has a weekly rhythm that's determined by how the capitalists organize production," Bill Harmon explained to the workshop participants. Harmon is a leader of the Revolutionary Workers League and was a member of the conference steering committee. "A weekly paper is necessary to respond to political developments in a timely way, as well as being crucial to establishing weekly sales at the gates of the mines, mills, and factories," he said. "The *Militant*, as the only weekly English-language communist paper at this time, plays that role."

Paper-mill scabs in union decertification vote

A decertification vote took place September 14 at International Paper Co.'s Nicolet mill in De Pere, Wisconsin. Some 370 members of United Paperworkers International Union Local 6288 have been on strike there since June 1987.

The mill is being run by scabs, who filed a petition June 9 with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) requesting the vote. The election will determine whether those currently working in the mill will be represented by the UPIU, another union, or have no union at all.

The NLRB ruled that the strikers would be ineligible to vote in the election because they have been out of the mill for more than one year, and are "permanently replaced." The union is challenging this ruling. UPIU Local 6288 President Jerry Herwald explained that pending a decision on the union's challenge, strikers were allowed to vote. "The question," he said, "is whether the vote will count." The local does not expect the voting results to be announced until September 22 at the earliest.

In addition to the workers at De Pere, some 3,100 other paperworkers are on strike or locked out at International Paper (IP) mills in Jay, Maine; Lock Haven, Pennsylvania; and Mobile, Alabama. The strikes and lock-out began last year after workers at the four sites refused to accept the company's demands for concessions in

wages, work rules, holidays, and on other issues.

Petitions for a decertification vote at IP's mill in Jay, Maine, have also been filed. A vote there has been delayed, however, pending the outcome of several unfair labor practice complaints brought against the


company by the UPIU and Brotherhood of Firemen and Oilers. These two unions represent the 1,200 strikers in Jay.

In addition to the four IP mills where workers are on strike or locked out, unionists at 14 other IP mills are currently working without contracts. Contracts at six more mills expire during September.

In French

"The Second Assassination of Maurice Bishop"

by Steve Clark



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Frame-up victim Curtis in Iowa jail

Continued from front page

prison officials moved him that same day to the Marion County Jail. After he is sentenced, he will be sent to a state penitentiary to serve his sentence.

No fair trial

His cell mates knew who Curtis was when he arrived. That night they watched Channel 13 news on the black and white television in their cell. It had footage from the rally earlier that evening protesting the guilty verdict. It showed SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes explaining that Curtis didn't receive a fair trial. And it showed participants donating money for the next stage of the defense effort.

The first time Curtis could receive visitors was Friday evening, September 16. Visiting hours are on Wednesdays and Fridays, and each prisoner is allowed to see four people a week, a maximum of two at a time, 20 minutes each visit.

The Mark Curtis Defense Committee, which is leading the international campaign against this frame-up, is working with Curtis to organize the visits.

Stu Singer, defense committee coordinator; Kate Kaku, treasurer of the defense committee and Curtis' wife; John Gaige, who has played a central role in the defense effort since Curtis was arrested; Craig Gannon, the organization secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, the party which Curtis is a member of; and this reporter piled into two cars and headed for Knoxville on Friday evening.

Knoxville is about an hour's ride south-east of Des Moines. The highway goes through drought-stricken cornfields and small, rural Iowa towns.

When we arrived at the jail an older man and woman were also waiting to visit someone, and three teenage women were there to visit the husband of one of them.

We had to wait awhile because the sheriff's deputies were busy. Two prisoners were being transferred to other jails and they had to be accompanied by police officers. A Black man dressed in a gray sweat suit, with his head shaved and a big scar down the side, was led out with chains around his waist and hands. The other prisoner who was taken out was an older man, tall, white, with a 10-gallon hat and cowboy boots.

Protest beating of Huerta

Singer and Kaku went in first. Singer had drafted a message to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors on behalf of Curtis protesting the recent cop beating of United Farm Workers Vice-president Dolores Huerta. Curtis read the letter through the glass partition. It charged that "the San Francisco police have cruelly served the interests of the growers through this assault." Curtis was eager to have it sent.

Singer only stayed for 10 minutes, so that Kaku and Curtis would have some time alone together. When she came out, Gaige and I went in.

We stepped into a small, rectangular room with a see-through partition. On each side there was a counter, three stools, and three phones for prisoners and guests to talk to each other. Since Curtis was speaking with both of us at once, he had to hold two phones simultaneously.

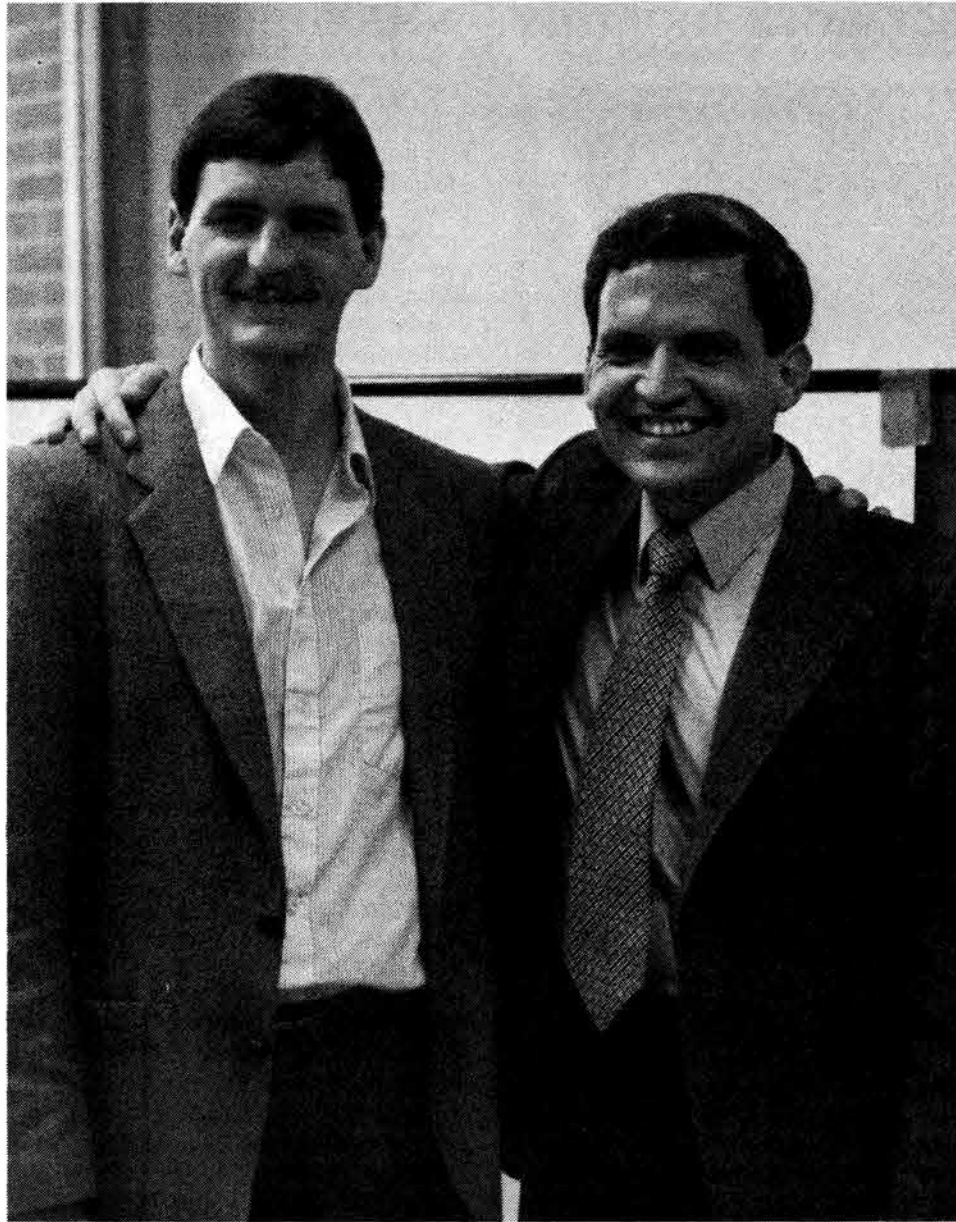
Curtis was clad in prison garb — a bright orange jumpsuit and white spongy sandals. He said he was being treated well by the guards. He looked alert and relaxed.

The cells held a maximum of six people,

Correction

There was an error in last week's article, "What Mark Curtis did on March 4." The section "8:40-8:45 p.m." should read:

Curtis calls friend Ellen Whitt and leaves message on her answering machine that he's going out for a few minutes and could she please let two friends of his who are coming over to visit him into her house if they show up before he gets back. He tells her he is going to store to buy food to cook dinner for people attending Militant Labor Forum the next night. Since Whitt isn't home, he calls neighbor Jackie Floyd and tells her same thing.



Mark Curtis (left) with Héctor Marroquín, Mexican-born leader of Socialist Workers Party who has just won his fight for permanent residence in United States. Marroquín is a leading activist in fight to defend Curtis.

he told us; five guys were in his. Most of them are getting out soon. He figured they were all somewhere around his age. Curtis is 29. All of his cell mates are white. Most prisoners in this jail are from Knoxville or transferred here from Polk County.

Curtis said his cell mates treat each other with respect. That's especially important given the cramped and monotonous living conditions. The hardest thing about being

in jail is the boredom, said Curtis.

The prisoners are awakened each day at 7 a.m. by a shout of "Chow time." Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are all brought to them in their cell, where there's a table to eat on. The food's not too bad, said Curtis. It seems to be purchased from a local take-out place. Lunch is at noon and dinner is at 5 p.m. "Meals are really the high point of the day," he said.

Curtis, cell mates toast Marroquín victory

As soon as he got his Mexican passport stamped with a U.S. permanent residence visa at the Newark International Airport, Héctor Marroquín sent a telegram to Mark Curtis at the Marion County Jail in Knoxville, Iowa. This victory, it read, "is at your service. We will win."

Curtis has been an active participant, along with thousands of other working people, in the fight for Marroquín's right to obtain a "green card," or U.S. permanent residence visa. And ever since Curtis was arrested on frame-up charges of rape and burglary last March, Marroquín has been an active defender of Curtis.

The arrival of the telegram on September 20 was big news at the Marion County Jail,

Curtis told Stu Singer, coordinator of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee. Singer went to visit Curtis on September 21, along with Curtis' neighbor and supporter, Julia Terrell. In a telephone interview after he returned to the defense committee office in Des Moines, Iowa, Singer related Curtis' description of the response.

Curtis explained to the other men in his cell what Marroquín's fight was all about. Then they drank an iced-tea toast to Marroquín and hoped that he would have a drink on them.

Curtis told Singer that he had just sent a letter off to Marroquín. In the letter, he noted that some of his coworkers at the Swift packinghouse had also ended up at

There's a shower and a toilet in the room. Curtis estimated the cell to be 20 feet by 20 feet. There's one cement wall and the other three are heavy chain link. There's no windows. "The television lets us know what time it is," Curtis said.

There's an "exercise room," he said, that prisoners are able to use once or twice a week. It has a stationary walker, an exercise bike, and some weights.

Other than going to the exercise room, making phone calls on the one day they can call out, or receiving visitors, prisoners are confined to their cells all day, every day, said Curtis. The television is on until 11 p.m. — "lights out."

They also play cards or read. It's such a sedentary life that Curtis is worried about gaining weight.

Wants people to write to him

Curtis stressed that he's eager to get books, magazines, and newspapers, as well as letters from supporters. He doesn't really need anything else, he said.

He was pleased when Gaige held up last week's *Militant* against the window so he could see the box on the front page urging people to write to him in prison. Gaige also read him the statement Curtis' attorney, Mark Pennington, sent to the rally protesting the verdict.

All mail, the authorities told him, would be opened and read except for letters from his attorney, which are opened but not supposed to be read.

Kaku brought Curtis some clothes, the game Risk, and three books. They were *Malcolm X Speaks*, *Thomas Sankara Speaks*, and *Down These Mean Streets*, by Puerto Rican writer Piri Thomas. Thomas, who served seven years in a New York jail, was one of the speakers at the international rally held in Des Moines September 4 in defense of Curtis.

Gaige told Curtis about the people in Des Moines and others from around the country who are volunteering to work in the defense committee office.

Right before we left, I asked Curtis if he had anything else he wanted to tell *Militant* readers. He mainly wanted to thank everyone for their support. He emphasized how good it made him feel to see the protest rally following the verdict on television and to see all those people who really do understand that the injury that's been done to Mark Curtis is an injury to all working people, and needs to be combated.

How you can help

- Mark Curtis faces a second trial on October 10 on charges of assaulting cops who brutally beat him. Send messages to Polk County Attorney James Smith demanding that those charges be dropped and the cops who beat Curtis be prosecuted. Address messages to Polk County Attorney James Smith, Room 408 Courthouse, 500 Mulberry St., Des Moines, Iowa 50309.

- The Mark Curtis Defense Committee needs to raise another \$7,500 in funds by September 30 for the immediate expenses involved in preparing new defense committee literature and the next round of legal moves. Just the transcripts of Curtis' trial, which are needed to prepare for his appeal, will

cost somewhere in the neighborhood of \$1,000. Contributions should be sent to the Des Moines defense committee. Checks for tax-deductible contributions may be made out to the Political Rights Defense Fund, Inc.

- To get defense committee materials, including fact sheets, petitions, and buttons, contact the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, P.O. Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311. Telephone (515) 246-1695.

- Write to Mark Curtis. His address is Mark Curtis, Marion County Jail, Knoxville, Iowa 50138. Copies of the letters, as well as protest messages to Smith, should be sent to the Des Moines defense committee.

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Steelworkers local president urges money for defense

This week, the *Militant* is beginning a new column, "Defend Mark Curtis!" Curtis is a unionist and political activist in Des Moines, Iowa, who is in jail on frame-up charges of rape and

of Curtis' conviction on September 14. "As of today, we will set up a support committee for Mark Curtis, and plan a plant-gate collection soon, as Mark will need

and shouts of "No!" were the responses of a crowd of 450 striking paperworkers and their supporters here as they learned of the conviction hours earlier of political activist Mark Curtis.

Mark Emanatian, a Curtis supporter from Boston, reported the news to the regular Wednesday meeting sponsored by United Paperworkers International Union Local 14.

At a similar meeting in June, Emanatian, a member of Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 1, had reported on the frame-up of Curtis.

Local 14 President Bill Meserve has urged support for the Des Moines meat-packer. The strikers and their family members have contributed money to the defense effort and hundreds have signed petitions demanding the charges against Curtis be dropped and the cops who beat him be prosecuted.

Felix Jacques, Local 14 executive vice-president, sent greetings to a Curtis defense rally in July, and Cindy Bennett, a prominent strike activist, spoke in Des Moines at the September 4 inter-

national Curtis defense rally.

"Mark was in the middle of a big fight on the job" when he was arrested, Emanatian told the crowd. "He was going up against

The solidarity Curtis has gotten from the paperworkers and thousands of other working people around the world, he said, "has helped give Mark the strength to keep going and keep fighting."

But the battle has just begun, stressed Emanatian. "The more we defend this brother, the harder and more costly it will be for the bosses, cops, and courts to pick off any of us."

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. — Thirty-five participants in a September 5 meeting here of the American Indian Movement signed petitions for Mark Curtis. AIM leaders Vernon Bellecourt and Leonard Peltier are supporters of justice for Curtis.

Several participants linked the frame-up of Curtis with the history of FBI and police attacks on Native Americans who fight for their rights.

Jon Hillson and Mark Friedman contributed to this column.

DEFEND MARK CURTIS!

burglary. He is also facing an October 10 trial on charges of assaulting the cops who beat him after he was arrested on March 4, 1988.

This column will contain reports on the international campaign to defend Curtis. *Militant* readers are encouraged to contribute brief stories and anecdotes about the defense effort.

To contact the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, write P.O. Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311; telephone (515) 246-1695.

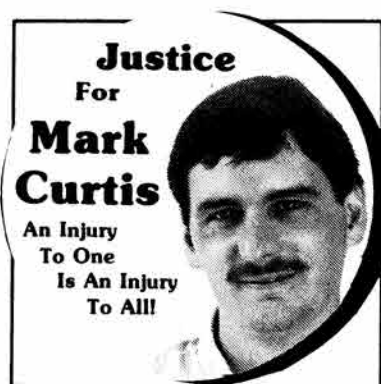
"Our local will help his continuing fight any way we can," read a message from Larry Regan, president of the 4,000-member United Steelworkers of America Local 1014 in Gary, Indiana, on learning

money now more than ever.

"I encourage other unions to do the same, and endorse any effort to collect money for Mark's defense."

Rosa Parks, who helped spark the 1955 Montgomery, Alabama, bus boycott by refusing to give up her seat to a white male passenger, sent a message to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee protesting Curtis' conviction and jailing: "I join with many leaders and human rights activists who want justice for Mark Curtis and for those responsible for abusing his civil rights and physically attacking him."

JAY, Maine — Shock, gasps,



The Mark Curtis Defense Committee has produced this attractive, 2-inch button. They can be ordered from the committee for \$2 each, or \$1 each on orders of 50 or more.

the company on the side of undocumented workers in a union battle." It could have been "anybody in this room," said the garment worker.

Fired London auto worker urges support for Curtis

BY BRIAN GROGAN

LONDON — The committee defending Paul Davidson, an autoworker at the Dagenham Ford plant in East London fired for his political and trade union activity, has decided to end the campaign for his reinstatement. In a letter sent to endorsers of his defense, Davidson recommended they support the Mark Curtis defense effort "as the best way of continuing the fight around the issues in my case." Curtis is a political activist and union militant being framed up on rape and burglary charges in Des Moines, Iowa.

Davidson was fired earlier this year after only three days on the job because of "unsatisfactory checks on his previous work record," according to Ford. Management subsequently confirmed that these black marks referred to Davidson's victimization by Austin Rover in 1983 when he, and 16 other socialists, were fired in similar circumstances to his firing by Ford.

The basis of Davidson's campaign was to defend his and other workers' right to be politically active on the job. Such a campaign is rarely organized in the British labor movement. Generally, protest action is taken only in cases where false information as to such political activity has been used by the bosses.

A major achievement of the campaign was to force Ford to officially state that Davidson was not "sacked for his political views or union membership," clearly implying that this is no basis for dismissing its employees. This was expressed in a letter by Ford of Britain's chairman and chief executive, Derek Barron, replying to a protest letter from Member of Parliament David Steel. This statement strengthened Davidson's campaign and can be a useful weapon in future cases of political victimization by Ford or any other employer.

The only way Ford could have acquired information on Davidson's past was through a covert operations branch of the state, such as the Special Branch or M15, or through an extra-legal agency such as the Economic League — which specializes in spying on workers and providing any information gleaned on political and union activity to the employers.

Recent revelations about the Economic League have revealed that an important source for this outfit's lists is the membership files of the Anti-Apartheid Movement.

Davidson's campaign won the support of leading figures in the labor movement, civil libertarians, trade union branches, and activists around the country. One example was the response of the Liverpool branch of one of the printing unions, the National Graphical Association, which charged Ford with operating in an "undem-

ocratic manner." The branch explained "it may not mean much to you, but this branch, in considering replacement cars for our branch officers, and receiving almost identical quotations on both Fords and Vauxhalls (GM), decided not to purchase from Ford as we have done in the past, but instead we have ordered our new cars from Vauxhall's."

Davidson's case also won international backing. Workers from the United States and Sweden sent protests to the company and financial backing to his campaign.

However, in a July 21 letter from officials of his union, the Amalgamated En-

gineering Union, Davidson was informed that in their opinion, his demand for a hearing before an industrial tribunal "would be most unlikely to be successful." Therefore, they said, the case would not be further pursued by the union.

In a letter to defense supporters Davidson explained, "I continue to maintain my demand for reinstatement but in these circumstances consider it would be more fruitful to dedicate my energies to other priorities."

"The fact of the matter is that we are in the beginning of a period when methods of political victimization, witch-hunts, and

frame-ups by the bosses and their agencies will intensify," he wrote. "The impending economic and social catastrophe heralded by last year's stock market crash will prompt a major fightback from the labor movement. This will encourage the bosses, their government, and courts to get much rougher with us."

"The plight of Mark Curtis . . . is typical of things to come. He has been framed for his political and trades union activity, beaten up by the police, and arrested on trumped-up charges. I intend to dedicate much of my time in the immediate future to the fight to defend Mark."

Marroquín wins permanent residence

Continued from front page

alike — to use the expanded space protected by the Bill of Rights to engage in political activity. It has reinforced confidence that you can be political and hold the deepest convictions against the government — hold those views and act on them."

Barnes said Marroquín's victory was not won by the SWP alone, "but by the support he received from tens of thousands of people here and abroad who learned about his fight over the last decade." Key was the backing won in the organized labor movement, which took on particular force in the final stages of Marroquín's fight.

On August 31 the U.S. consulate in Toronto granted Marroquín an immigrant visa, signifying State Department approval of his green-card application.

Crossing the border back to the United States that evening, however, U.S. immigration officials refused to process Marroquín and stamp his passport, as is routinely done with successful green-card applicants. Instead, they interrogated him about his political affiliations and told him he would have to meet with the INS in Newark September 20.

This outright political harassment aroused the anger of many of Marroquín's backers.

INS Commissioner Alan Nelson's office was flooded with telegrams and phone calls demanding an end to the delay on Marroquín's green card.

Labor officials calling on Nelson to speedily grant residence to the socialist included William Winpisinger, president of the International Association of Machinists; John Sheehan, legislative director of the United Steelworkers; and Mary Hatwood Futrell, president of the National Education Association.

"The National Education Association, representing 1.9 million educational personnel across America and on Department of Defense bases around the world has re-

peatedly urged the INS to exercise justice and reason in the case of Héctor Marroquín," Futrell's letter reminded Nelson.

"I assure you that the members of this association will be watching the final proceedings in this matter and I intend to personally monitor it so that I can inform the entire membership of the INS decisions."

Five members of the U.S. Congress — representatives Mickey Leland (D.-Texas); Ronald Dellums (D.-Calif.); Major Owens (D.-N.Y.); Esteban Torres (D.-Calif.); and Mervyn Dymally (D.-Calif.) — all sent protest messages.

When Marroquín entered the INS office here September 20 — accompanied by his wife Priscilla Schenk-Marroquín, his attorney Claudia Slovinsky, and John Studer, director of the Héctor Marroquín Defense Committee — INS officials quickly processed his papers. Marroquín was not interviewed. He was simply fingerprinted for his green card — standard procedure — and shortly afterward given his passport with the standard permanent residence stamp inside.

The stamp says: "Processed for I-551 [INS code for green card]. Temporary evidence of lawful admission for permanent residence. Valid until (Mar) 20, 1989. Employment authorized."

INS officials informed Marroquín that his actual green card should arrive in the mail within six weeks.

Among those who came to the airport to support Marroquín were Zoilo Torres, president of the National Congress for Puerto Rican Rights and director of Hispanic Affairs for District 65 of the United Auto Workers; John Haines, New York Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador; Connie Gilbert-Neiss, Essex County National Organization for Women; David Ortiz, Dominican Socialist Bloc; and Freddy Mata, Dominican Workers Party.

Marroquín's victory received prominent coverage the next day in New York News-

day, the Newark *Star Ledger*, New Jersey *Record*, and *El Diario-La Prensa*, one of the most widely circulated Spanish dailies in the United States.

"This is the first of many victories the SWP's 15-year lawsuit and campaign against the FBI will win," Marroquín concluded. "I intend to do everything in my power to hasten the day we win the vindication of Mark Curtis — who was framed up partly because of his uncompromising solidarity with fellow workers who are so-called illegal aliens — and we achieve the jailing of the cops who beat him up."

CANADA

Justice for Mark Curtis An Injury to One Is an Injury to All!

Across Canada and around the world, support grows for Mark Curtis, union and antiwar activist framed up by the Des Moines, Iowa, police.

Speaker:

Steve Penner, executive secretary of the Revolutionary Workers League, attended Curtis trial.

Montreal:

Fri. Sept. 30, 7:30 p.m. 4274 Papineau, Suite 302. For more information call (514) 524-7992. Sponsor: Forum Lutte Ouvrière.

Toronto:

Sat. Oct. 1, 7:30 p.m. 410 Adelaide St. W., Suite 400. For more information call (416) 861-1399. Sponsor: Socialist Voice Forum.

Beef and coffee exports favored in Nicaragua gov't policy shifts

BY JUDY WHITE

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — The Nicaraguan government has instituted measures aimed at "rehabilitating" beef and coffee production. The new policy will provide easy credit to the producers of these two exports, which accounted for 44 percent of Nicaraguan foreign exchange earnings last year.

The move, announced by President Daniel Ortega September 3, is the latest in a series of changes in economic policy. Early this year the government tightened farm credit substantially. Instead of the previous policy of providing bank loans covering 100 percent of estimated costs, the government announced it would finance only 70 percent for stock raising and 80 percent for crop production.

Then, in June, the state-owned bank began "indexing" loan repayments so that monthly payments would rise to keep pace with inflation, now running at more than 1,000 percent a year. The previous fixed interest rates had amounted to an indirect subsidy to all borrowers, who repaid bank loans with sharply devalued currency.

The June measures also eliminated or reduced indirect subsidies on imported agricultural supplies, increasing many costs overnight by more than 500 percent.

These steps sparked protests from many farmers. Especially vociferous were large and medium-sized cattle ranchers. Among other forms of protest, they threatened to boycott a national cattle fair being organized by the government to promote modernization of ranching here. They claimed the new credit policy was unworkable.

The government backed down. On July 2 an agreement was reached to eliminate the indexing of payments on loans incurred for cattle breeding or to rebuild herds depleted as a result of the contra war.

Nonetheless, a fund established by the National Development Bank to finance purchases at the cattle fair went largely unused, as many ranchers still held back from taking loans.

The "rehabilitation" policy was announced at a national assembly of hundreds of farmers and ranchers organized by the National Union of Farmers and Ranchers (UNAG) in Managua September 2-3. There, big cattle ranchers pushed for a further concession. They asked for an end to the government monopoly of beef ex-

ports. Claiming that they cannot afford to feed their animals during the dry season, and that government restrictions on slaughtering are too onerous, the ranchers demanded the right to make their own arrangements to sell beef on the hoof to buyers in other countries, particularly Honduras and Costa Rica.

This proposal was turned down by President Ortega, who defended the government export monopoly as a vital source of foreign exchange to fund social programs. The ranchers' demand "would not resolve the problem," he said. "It could resolve the problem for a few producers and make them rich, but at a cost of wiping out a good number of others."

"If everyone were to grab the foreign exchange they produce and use it all in their sector of production," he continued, "then here we'd be without schools or hospitals. All the hospitals and schools of the country would disappear, as would the army, the Ministry of the Interior, and even services like electric power and transportation would be seriously affected."

The "rehabilitation" plan of providing easy credit will also benefit coffee farmers. About 35 percent of Nicaragua's coffee is produced on large capitalist farms. Another 45 percent is produced by small or medium farmers, and the remaining 20 percent is grown on state farms. The stated goal of the policy is to modernize coffee production.

Problems of small peasants

No equivalent concessions are being offered those involved in the production of the main food crops, however, who are by and large small peasants.

To the contrary. Jaime Wheelock, minister of agricultural development and agrarian reform, told the UNAG assembly there is no alternative to going back to traditional methods of farming for production of "basic grains," that is, rice, beans, and corn. "We just don't have enough foreign exchange," Wheelock said. "Behind every request for herbicides is the spray gun to apply them with. And behind that are the hundreds of parts that make up the spray gun."

Wheelock made no reply to a farmer who reported that his collective farm had been turned down for a bank loan to buy a team of oxen. The collective has tractors that are not in working order because of a

lack of imported spare parts. As an alternative, for the recent crop, they were going to plow with oxen. "But the bank said they don't have a loan fund for buying oxen," the peasant said.

Some UNAG activists have proposed, in response to the June economic measures, that preferential interest rates be granted to small farmers. This proposal, however, was not aired at the UNAG assembly.

One step the government has taken to benefit many small peasants is to increase government purchases of corn and beans in order to keep prices from falling too far. Because of the current bumper crop, prices were expected to drop significantly, making it hard for peasants to repay loans and still meet living expenses.

In an August 31 announcement, Luis Carrión, minister of the economy, industry, and commerce, said that the government purchasers would try to "collect the percentage necessary to affect the price" of beans and corn. However, many small peasants and peasant cooperatives have been complaining that the government is not purchasing enough of the crop to keep prices up. Compared to the price of other commodities, the prices of beans and corn have fallen.

Growing land hunger

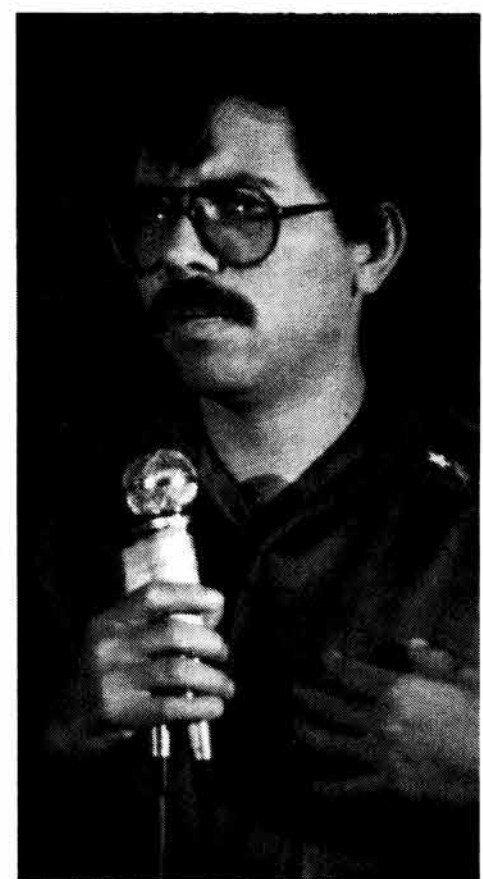
Meanwhile, class conflicts in the countryside continue on other levels.

The economic crisis here has led to a growing demand for land. According to Francisco Gómez, president of UNAG in the region around Managua, more city workers who have been laid off or who are earning very low wages are asking for land because putting in a crop is "at least a way to assure being able to eat corn and beans."

At regional meetings leading up to the national UNAG assembly, the demand for land was also raised.

There has long been resistance to this demand from capitalists and from many middle-sized farmers. Their hostility to further land distribution flows not only from the fear of losing their own land. They also worry that the land reform's extension will further reduce the supply of farm labor in the countryside, forcing them to pay higher wages and provide better working and living conditions for farm workers.

Enrique Saravia, a capitalist cotton grower who played a prominent role at the UNAG assembly, insisted that credit concessions to cotton growers are needed to pay the wages being demanded by the farm



President Daniel Ortega

workers' union. He claimed cotton growers are totally out of funds.

Saravia also referred to the problem of "takeovers of farms, perhaps by the trade unions," referring to a tactic the Association of Rural Workers (ATC) has used in an attempt to force the growers to pay a living wage.

In his speech to the UNAG assembly, Ortega spoke about the "conflict of interests" between medium and large landowners and farm workers.

"This is where some problems appear, like the ones that have developed recently where it was even said that the ATC was promoting the takeover of farms because the producers were not abiding by the contracts they had signed with the workers," he said.

This is connected, Ortega said, to the question of land reform. "The agricultural worker who works for you would like to have a piece of land and has the right to have a piece of land," he said.

"But at this time it is not possible to give all those peasants their piece of land. We are not in a position to do it. We would have to have a country at peace, a country with a high level of technological development, where there would not be much need for labor power. Look how much labor power we need now. We even have to use volunteer labor to be able to harvest the coffee."

Subscribe to 'Perspectiva Mundial' Castro's July 26 speech

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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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Washington farm workers protest cuts in wages, harsh conditions

BY MATT HERRESHOFF

MATTAWA, Wash. — "Ever since the cherry harvest they've been pushing down our wages," a young woman told a meeting of 50 farm workers here.

"They won't even give us water to drink," said another woman. In the fields here, the temperature can rise above 100 degrees. "They won't give us protection against the pesticides," she added.

Workers reported that in the golden delicious apple harvest, which just began, the growers are paying some of the lowest wages ever. "I'm only making \$7.50 a bin," said one worker. Others reported making \$8 to \$9 for a 1,200-pound bin. Workers said they could pick about three bins a day.

Last year the growers used the massive unemployment among farm workers to force wages down from \$11 or \$12 a bin to as low as \$9 a bin. "This year," said one worker, "almost every company is paying at least \$1 less."

The September 4 meeting was the first the United Farm Workers of Washington State (UFWWS) has organized here. Mattawa, on the banks of the Columbia River, is 60 miles from the Yakima Valley, where the union is based.

"I think we need a strike," said one of the workers. "A general strike in the apples," added another.

"First we should talk to more workers," UFWWS President Tomás Villanueva told

the meeting. "If we convince someone, that person will respect our picket lines. It would be better," he advised, "to work a bit longer under these hard conditions so we can convince more people."

The meeting voted unanimously to organize a march.

Defying threats and harassment by wealthy growers, 150 farm workers participated in the action September 11.

As the five-mile-long march wound its way past the huge orchards that line the banks of the Columbia River, two groups of workers left the fields to join in. Others joined in as the protest passed through the farm worker camps in Mattawa.

The growers did everything they could to stop the action.

They scheduled work for the day of the march, a Sunday, and told workers that if they didn't show up, they'd be fired. Union members were singled out for punitive action by growers during the week leading up to the protest.

The march ended at the Catholic church in Mattawa, where the priest had invited the farm workers to hold a rally. But when the marchers arrived, the parish council turned on the sprinklers and locked the bathrooms in an attempt to disrupt the rally. The president of the parish council, Jerry Fox, is himself a rich grower and labor-camp operator. A sign was posted that read, "The parish council does not support union activities."

'Our unity is the unity of workers and farmers'

Over the next few columns, I will be offering readers, in installments, the text of a keynote speech I had the pleasure of delivering to a public forum on Caribbean and Central American unity. The event, held at Hunter College of the City University of New York on September 9, was sponsored by the Coalition for Caribbean Unity of New York City.

* * *

As I stand before you this evening I relish the honor and privilege of witnessing in this hall a beautiful Caribbean rainbow. I witness as well a fraternal coming together on common ground of peoples from Central America and the Caribbean resident in New York. To this marvelous family I wish to convey in the name of our party, the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement, and in



CARIB NOTES

Don Rojas

the name of the Anti-Imperialist Organizations of the Caribbean and Central America, our warmest revolutionary greetings and embraces.

Tonight, we are reminded that five years ago from this very site at Hunter College, the late revolutionary leader of Grenada, Maurice Bishop, eloquently proclaimed that we are *one people from one Caribbean, in one struggle, with one destiny*.

We gather once again to celebrate and reaffirm that oneness, and to discuss and debate the vital question of Caribbean and Central American unity, which is the most central issue on the political agenda of our time.

Today in our region there are basically two ideas of unity, two sharply differing perspectives, two projects that are mutually contradictory, and our task this evening is to make clear this differentiation.

We cannot and must not speak of unity in the abstract or in the absolute. For like everything else unity is a relative concept. It demands qualification. Unity of whom and for whom, of what and for what is the real question we should be debating. So it boils down to a discussion of

our unity against *their* unity.

By our unity we mean the unity of workers and farmers and fishermen and youth and students and women, the unity of patriots, of sufferers, of toilers, of strugglers, of scrunters, the unity of all the oppressed, exploited, dispossessed, of the denied and the abused, the unity of the poor and the powerless, and of all those who stand by their side and struggle with and for them.

By *their* unity on the other hand we mean the unity of those who possess power and privilege, wealth and capital, those who have their nests well feathered and their bellies well fed. And all the talk of unity we are hearing today or reading about in the papers of the Caribbean, no matter how cleverly concealed or camouflaged, is fundamentally talk about the unity of the ruling neocolonial political and economic elites and the small army of technocrats and intellectual mercenaries who serve the interests of the local elites and of their imperialist masters in Washington.

Theirs is a unity project crafted by the rightist Caribbean Democratic Union and their godfathers in the Heritage Foundation and the National Endowment for Democracy in the United States. Their unity has absolutely nothing to do with consolidating the rights of the Caribbean masses or with advancing legitimate socioeconomic interests. Yet they are calling on the people of the region to endorse their project, to sanction their continued survival, and to further entrench their power and privilege.

The serious socioeconomic crisis gripping the Caribbean today is threatening the very survival of these elites that misrule the region. They realize they must institute and harmonize their interests in order to preserve the status quo. They are championing unity because it has suddenly become convenient and necessary to do so in the midst of crisis.

We on the other hand are convinced that the exploited peoples of the region *must* unite not merely to survive, because we have withstood and endured centuries of hardship and suffering and we will continue to endure and continue to struggle. The people must unite primarily because it is the *only* route to genuine social progress and economic development for the Caribbean masses. We must unite to consolidate our strength and our force to combat this crisis that is eating away at the very fabric of our societies like a malignant cancer.

And this crisis is not of our own making. Let us be clear about that. It has been imposed on us by colonialism

and imperialism, and by the various models of dependent capitalist development. It traces its historical roots to the brutalities of the slave trade, to the inhumanity of plantation slavery, to the subjugation of colonialism, and to the papered-over injustices and indignities of today's neocolonialism.

Imperialism has no interest in uniting the peoples of the Caribbean and Central America, but they do have an interest in uniting their client states into an anticommunist bloc to shore up Washington's weakening hegemony, to secure their economic and strategic interests in their so-called backyard, to maintain the political and economic domination of the transnational corporations, to isolate the left, to weaken and divide the progressive labor movement, and ultimately to prevent the emergence of working people's governments like those that came to power in 1959 under Fidel Castro's leadership in Cuba, and in 1979 under Bishop's leadership in Grenada and the Sandinistas' in Nicaragua.

Both they and we have a stake in unity, and that convergence, unfortunately, is the source of much confusion in the current discussions and debates. Therefore, we are compelled to clarify that our class interests and theirs are fundamentally at odds with each other. And those contradictory class interests will struggle against each other now and in the years to come. That is historically inevitable and unavoidable. The struggle for people's unity in the Caribbean, moreover, is and will be an integral part of the global class struggle. It is and will be, also, a vital component in the search for a global unity of working people, irrespective of race, color, or creed, a unity built on a common international struggle against a common imperialist enemy.

Our commitment to, and support for, Caribbean unity has been inspired and stimulated by progressive regionalists, Caribbean nationalists, and anti-imperialists such as Theophilus Marryshow, Marcus Garvey, Uriah "Buzz" Butler, José Martí, Walter Rodney, Cheddi Jagan, and Bishop.

Like these genuine representatives of the Caribbean masses, we recognize that the real impulse for unity has always come from the ordinary Caribbean peoples, from workers and farmers and progressive intellectuals who for generations possessed an emotional commitment to, and struggled for, a form of Caribbean unification that transcends all barriers imposed by colonialism. This has been an age-old dream, a long-held yet all-too-elusive ideal.

Nicaragua drops bid to host 1989 Nonaligned meet

BY LARRY SEIGLE

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — The Nicaraguan government has withdrawn its bid to host the 1989 summit meeting of the Movement of Nonaligned Countries. Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto announced the decision September 9 at the meeting of foreign ministers of the Nonaligned countries held in Nicosia, Cyprus.

The Sandinista government took the step, D'Escoto said, because "Nicaragua is

in favor of the unity of this organization of 101 states." Some member states, bowing to pressure from Washington and other imperialist powers, had been pushing Indonesia as an alternate location for the next summit.

"A general consensus has not been reached on the site for the 1989 summit," said D'Escoto, "as a result of the fact that there is another candidacy." This, he said, "at least for the moment, blocks consensus around Nicaragua." D'Escoto said that in light of the disagreement, "and for the good of the movement," his government had decided to offer instead to host the following summit to be held in 1992.

Following Nicaragua's decision, the foreign ministers agreed to hold the 1989 meeting in Belgrade, Yugoslavia.

The country that hosts the summit assumes the presidency of the Movement of

Nonaligned Countries for the next three years. The nomination of Nicaragua as the host country was first put forward at the 1986 summit held in Harare, Zimbabwe.

The proposal was raised as an act of opposition to the U.S. policy of aggression against Nicaragua. It was promoted by several governments and by groups fighting for national liberation. Among these were Angola, Mozambique, Burkina Faso, the African National Congress of South Africa, the South West Africa People's Organisation of Namibia, and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The proposal immediately became a target of pressure from Washington, which threatened economic reprisals against countries that voted to hold the summit in Managua. A decision was postponed until this month's foreign ministers' meeting.

In announcing the withdrawal of Nicara-

gua's candidacy, D'Escoto called attention to the broad support that Nicaragua had won for its bid. The governments of Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Guyana, Panama, Peru, and Suriname in Latin America and the Caribbean had backed the proposal.

Even the delegate of the Jamaican government, according to press reports here, said he would go along with the consensus in favor of Nicaragua's candidacy among the countries of the Caribbean and Latin America.

This broad support, D'Escoto said, "represents a recognition of the struggle that Nicaragua has been waging in defense of the principles of nonalignment, and especially in defense of the rule of law in international relations and absolute respect for the right of self-determination and independence for all countries, whatever their size or their military or economic power might be."

Delegation of youth from Nicaragua will speak in U.S. cities

BY SHELLIA KENNEDY

SAN FRANCISCO — A delegation of four Nicaraguan students will be touring the United States from October 1-25.

They will speak on the current situation in Nicaragua, the need for international solidarity, and conditions facing young Nicaraguans.

The tour will begin in San Francisco. From there the youth will speak at meetings in Los Angeles, Boston, New York, and Washington, D.C. The tour is sponsored by Maestros por la Paz in cooperation with Science for the People, based in Boston.

The proposal for the tour originated in 1986 with the first Maestros Teacher's Brigade and Vamos, a youth tourism and exchange service based in Nicaragua. Terry Kay, an organizer of the tour and a member of Maestros por la Paz, said, "Because of the economic and cultural blockade, we need to build ties with the Nicaraguans and mutual trust and friendship. This tour will give youth in this country a chance to meet face to face with Nicaraguans and exchange experiences."

For more information about the Nicaraguan Youth Tour contact: Terry Kay in San Francisco at (415) 863-3778; Science for the People in Boston at (617) 547-0370; or write Maestros por la Paz, 2440 16th St. No. 230, San Francisco, Calif. 94103.



Militant/Roberto Kopec



Africa Report

Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto (left) represented Nicaragua at Nonaligned foreign ministers' meeting. Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe, current chairman of Nonaligned Movement.

Emergency food relief not adequate to combat hunger in U.S.

Emergency food programs are inadequate in combating hunger in the United States, the National Student Campaign Against Hunger reported September 4.

A November 1987 survey of more than 2,000 emergency food recipients in 11 states and Washington, D.C., found:

- Children were forced to skip meals in 34 percent of the households surveyed where children were present;
- Forty-five percent of the pregnant women reported that they were forced to skip meals;
- Eighty-eight percent of those on food stamps reported that their allotments were inadequate;
- Only 46 percent were receiving food stamps, although 92 percent had incomes low enough to qualify;
- One-third were homeless people;
- Forty-eight percent of those surveyed were white, 30 percent were Black, and 22 percent were Latino or other minorities.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Freedom for Mandela: A Crisis for Apartheid. Speaker: Rajen Govender, leader of South African student movement. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Sept. 24, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

The Struggle in El Salvador Today. A panel discussion including representatives from the El Salvador Solidarity Information Office, UNTS Support Committee, and Union of Salvadoran Women. Fri., Sept. 30, 7 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

San Francisco

Victory in Angola. Speakers: Walter Turner, African Resource Center; Shellia Kennedy, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress, 7th C.D. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Sept. 24, 7:30 p.m. 3284 23rd St. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (415) 282-6255.

Bay Area Socialist Conference. Class 1: "1919-38: Lessons From the Founding of the Communist International and the Socialist Workers Party." Speaker: Peter Thierjung, SWP candidate for Congress from the East Bay, 9th C.D. Sat., Oct. 1, 1:30 p.m. Class 2: "Perestroika vs. a Revolutionary Program for the Soviet Union." Speaker: Marcus Mullen, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Oct. 1, 4 p.m. Militant Labor Forum: "An Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis." Speaker: Joel Britton, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate, member Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union Local 1-547. Sat., Oct. 1, 7:30 p.m. Class 3: "The Rectification Campaign in Cuba." Speaker: Tina Rosen, chairperson of Oakland Young Socialist Alliance. Sun., Oct. 2, 11 a.m. Class 4: "Building a Revolutionary Workers Party Today." Speaker to be announced. Sun., Oct. 2, 2 p.m. All events held at ILWU Local 6 Hall, 255 9th St., (between Howard and Folsom). Donation: each class \$2, forum \$3, or \$10 for weekend. Sponsor: Socialist Workers Party. For more information call (415) 420-1165 or 282-6255.

CONNECTICUT

Hartford

From Lanes to Hartford, the Struggle Continues: Free the Hartford 15! March and rally Sat., Sept. 24. Gather at Bushnell Park 10 a.m.; march to South Green for 2 p.m. rally. Speakers: Rev. Eunice Santana, Puerto Rican National Ecumenical Movement; others. Sponsor: Connecticut Committee Against Repression. For more information call (203) 233-7996.

FLORIDA

Miami

Matewan. A video film about coalfields strike of 1920. Sat., Sept. 24, 7 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (305) 756-1020.

Free Mark Curtis! Speaker: Thabo Ntweng, member National Committee Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 1, 7:30 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Mark Curtis Defense Committee. For more information call (305) 756-1020.

IOWA

Des Moines

Korea: The Struggle for Democratic Rights. Speaker: representative of Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Sept. 24, 7:30 p.m. 2105 Forest Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor

Forum. For more information call (515) 246-1695.

MARYLAND

Baltimore

Matewan. A video film about coalfields strike of 1920. Sat., Sept. 24. Dinner, 6 p.m.; video, 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

The Drug Trade: A Highly Profitable Capitalist Business. Speaker: Rashaad Ali, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate. Sat., Oct. 1. Dinner, 6 p.m.; forum, 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

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. Sun., Oct. 9, 5 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Sponsor: Socialist Workers Campaign '88. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

Defend Women's Right to Abortion. Panel discussion of threat to overturn *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decision. Sat., Oct. 15. Dinner, 6 p.m.; panel, 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

The Drug Crisis in the U.S.: Who Are the Real Criminals? Speaker: Elizabeth Soares, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress, 7th C.D. Sun., Sept. 25, 7 p.m. 605 Massachusetts Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (617) 247-6772.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

St. Paul Fire Fighters and Affirmative Action. Speakers: Natasha Terlexis, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress, member International Association of Machinists; others. Sat., Sept. 24, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

South Korean Struggle for Democracy and Reunification. Sat., Oct. 1, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI

St. Louis

Korea: The Truth Behind the Olympics Hype. Speakers: Joe Allor, Socialist Workers Party, member United Auto Workers Local 110. Sat., Sept. 24, 7 p.m. 4907 Martin Luther King Dr. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (314) 361-0250.

Revolutionary Cuba Today. Speaker: Omari Musa, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Chicago, recently visited Cuba. Sat., Oct. 1, 7 p.m. 4907 Martin Luther King Dr. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (314) 361-0250.

South Africa's Defeat in Angola. A class by Omari Musa. Sun., Oct. 2, 11 a.m. 4907 Martin Luther King Dr. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (314) 361-0250.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

Victory Party for Héctor Marroquín. Sat., Sept. 24, 8 p.m. 141 Halsey St., 2nd floor. Do-

nation: \$1. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Benefit Dance for New York-Nicaragua Construction Brigade. With DJ Will K. Wilkins. Sat., Sept. 24, 9 p.m. Taller Latinoamericano, 63 E 2nd St. Donation: \$7. For more information call (212) 475-7159.

Walkathon for Medical Aid to Central America. Sat., Oct. 15. Gather 11 a.m. at Columbia University, 116th St. and Broadway. For more information call (212) 979-8805.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

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.

OREGON

Portland

Report From Trial of Mark Curtis. Speaker: Brian Williams, member of Mark Curtis Defense Committee. Sat., Sept. 24, 7:30 p.m. 2732 NE Union. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (503) 287-7416.

The Truth Behind the U.S. Government's "War on Drugs." Speaker: Janet Post, Socialist Workers Party, member United Transportation Union Local 1238. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 1, 7:30 p.m. 2732 NE Union. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (503) 287-7416.

TEXAS

Houston

Homelessness and the Housing Crisis. Speakers to be announced. Sat., Sept. 24, 7:30 p.m.

Burma military crackdown protested

Continued from front page

group of 13- and 14-year-old girls demonstrating in a Rangoon suburb were gunned down.

Saw Maung's government also ordered troops to assault "strike centers" in 91 towns and cities. In many areas, these centers had begun carrying out many governmental functions as the authority of the Rangoon regime disintegrated.

There were no reliable estimates of the death toll outside Rangoon.

Two days after the bloodbath began, a September 21 *New York Times* dispatch from Bangkok, Thailand, reported that the military "continued to battle demonstrators for control of the streets in Rangoon. . . .

"Official and unofficial accounts today described angry protesters attacking police stations and seizing guns for pitched battles with the soldiers."

According to a *Washington Post* correspondent in the Burmese capital, "Student protesters still appeared to be controlling some streets and neighborhoods in Rangoon."

The Saw Maung regime is attempting to prevent further divisions in the armed forces. In recent weeks a number of sol-

4806 Alameda. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (713) 522-8054.

UTAH

Salt Lake City

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.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

South Africa Update. Speaker: member of United Democratic Front. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Sept. 24, 7:30 p.m. 5517 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Criminal Justice System and Workers' Rights. Speaker: Susan Zárate, Socialist Workers Party, member United Steelworkers of America Local 14287. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Sept. 24, 7:30 p.m. 3165 Mt. Pleasant NW. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (202) 797-7699.

WISCONSIN

Milwaukee

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.

diers and police have joined protests.

The day before Saw Maung took office, Burmese troops fired on a demonstration at the Ministry of Trade. But the soldiers then surrendered to the outraged crowd that surrounded the ministry. The troops were escorted to safety by Buddhist monks.

Prominent opposition political figures continued efforts to negotiate with the government over the formation of an interim regime.

Tin Oo (who served as Ne Win's defense minister until 1976), Aung Gyi (a prominent figure in the first months of the military regime), and Aung San Suu Kyi (daughter of a leader of Burma's struggle for independence from Britain) asked for a meeting with Saw Maung.

Min Ko Naing, leader of the All-Burma Student Union that has taken a leading role in the antigovernment movement, also responded to the new wave of repression. He announced an "alert for the last-ditch fight throughout the country."

"We have stopped using our mouths to protest and warn the group that calls itself the government to seek their last meal," he stated. "There is no honor greater than the willingness to sacrifice for the freedom of the motherland."

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NEW ZEALAND

Auckland: 157a Symonds St. Postal address: P.O. Box 8730. Tel: (9) 793-075.

Christchurch: 593a Colombo St. (upstairs). Postal address: P.O. Box 22-530. Tel: (3) 656-055.

Wellington: 23 Majoribanks St., Courtenay Pl. Postal address: P.O. Box 9092. (4) Tel: 844-205.

SWEDEN

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

Law'n order — Accompanied by lawyers for the Walt Disney Co., federal marshals busted a street sale in Hammond, Indiana, confiscating some 2,000 T-shirts



Harry Ring

bearing the allegedly counterfeit likenesses of Roger Rabbit, Mickey and Minnie Mouse, Donald Duck, and Goofy.

Can he pronounce it? — After dozing through one of his raps, we were impressed that Senator Quayle earned a quarter of a million in the last six years by speechmaking, mainly to business and banking groups. Plus the \$1,500 he got for writing an article for, dig this, the Institute for Socioeconomic Studies.

Wrong number — Bezek, the Israeli phone company, warned Palestinians in several Gaza Strip areas that if they didn't pay their bills their phones would be shut off. The Israeli military cut the phone lines to those areas months ago.

If the mail gets through — If

you think you can effect social change by letter writing, check out the "Congressional Toolkit," a software program that gives you the data on each officeholder and a program for sending "personalized" form letters to all of them.

We feel cooler already — Sixteen U.S. senators drafted a legislative package to reduce the "greenhouse effect" that may be pushing up the planet's temperatures. The legislative proposals range from promoting "safe" nuclear power to providing birth control information to Third World countries, to slow their use of fossil fuel.

Key question — "If the

'greenhouse effect' pushes temperatures up and rainfall down, which way will energy stocks move?" — Theme of a *New York Times* financial column.

Pure science — The National Science Foundation, a U.S. agency, dumps raw sewage and toxic waste in Antarctic waters, uses open-air burning pits, and operates diesel generators without emission controls. Pollution has become massive, with toxic metals and chemicals turning up in the tissues of seals and penguins.

An everyday person — "I just know they put them in my account, and I spend them like a typical woman." — Tammy Bakker

on the \$825,000 in bonuses she received over a four-year period from the PTL ministry.

Sure — ALBANY (AP) — State Comptroller Edward Regan has never exchanged government favors for campaign contributions, even though he takes money from leading Wall Street firms as a necessary evil of New York politics, a spokesman said.

Of course — TRW, the war weapons folk, paid some \$15 million in fines and refunds for over-billing the Pentagon. A TRW exec said steps were being taken "to try and prevent a recurrence." He said the swindle was the work of low-level managers.

British union congress expels electricians' union

Continued from Page 5

ciplining the EETPU became a substitute for the fight against the bosses. This approach took the bulk of dedicated fighters up a blind alley. The TUC General Council was more than willing to set up an inquiry into the activities of the EETPU that, many months after the defeat of the strike, did result in a censure of the EETPU. But the General Council's own policies were never reviewed.

Most major TUC affiliates have themselves, in fact, pursued single-union, no strike deals. Leaders of the second-largest TUC affiliate, the Amalgamated Engineering Union (AEU) with 815,000 members, were earlier this year seen on television screens across the world running after the Ford Motor Co. directors in an attempt to conclude an agreement for a new site in Scotland.

Indeed, the AEU leadership was a trailblazer in pursuing such a policy. Members of its executive council have spent weeks in Japan offering its "wares" to prospective Japanese investors in Britain. One agreement concluded as a result was at Nissan's Washington plant in England's Northeast. That deal involved the elimination of shop stewards, total flexibility of work rules, massive compulsory overtime, and "pendulum arbitration" whereby a third party would decide either for the company or for the union in any dispute, with the right to strike eliminated.

Although such agreements presently cover only a tiny portion of workers in Britain, barely 20,000, they have come to

occupy the center of discussion in the labor movement as the right-wing labor bureaucrats' answer to the decade of defeats. To be sure, such deals often increase the dues base of the union or unions prepared to sign away the rights of potential recruits. But the result of the AEU-Nissan agreement, where today just 7 percent of the work force is in the union, shows that while an individual union can grow by identifying with management objectives, it does so at the expense of the majority of workers joining any union.

Moreover, the employers are quick to insist that what is good for new "greenfield" sites is also good for "brownfield" sites, that is traditionally organized workplaces. Here too, major concessions have been granted. At Metal Box, a major employer, the company concluded a three-year agreement with five separate unions — including the Transport and General Workers Union as well as the Amalgamated Engineering Union and EETPU — much like the concessionary greenfield site agreements.

EETPU leaders just more brazen

What has distinguished the EETPU leadership has simply been its more brazen submission in the face of Tory government and employer attacks. Over the past few years, leaders of the EETPU have supported a bourgeois party split off from the Labour Party, attacked the National Union of Mineworkers in the middle of the NUM's 1984-85 strike, collaborated with

the scab Union of Democratic Mineworkers split off from the NUM, organized the scabbing at Wapping, and openly supported key aspects of Tory government anti-union legislation. It is this record that has made the EETPU leadership the target of so much rancor among trade unionists and pressured the TUC tops to act.

But the Willis leadership of the General Council has been pulled along in the EETPU's wake. It refused to mobilize against Tory government antiunion legislation; organize solidarity with workers in struggle; or campaign for even the formal policies of the TUC itself, which in the case of the 35-hour workweek and the national minimum wage, would be genuine steps towards forging working-class unity to meet the crisis facing working people.

But just as the General Council failed to chart an alternative class perspective in the heat of important battles, so too its decision to finally act against the EETPU, simply on the basis of membership disputes, has served only to give confidence to the EETPU leaders and to embolden its supporters within the General Council.

Many fighters have applauded the expulsion of the EETPU. Some members of the EETPU itself — led by the Flashlight organization, a left-wing electioneering and pressure group within the union — have announced steps to break away and form an EETPU loyalist substitute affiliated to the TUC, the Electrical and Plumbing Indus-

tries Union (EPIU). This initiative is an attempt to capitalize on the broad sentiment in the trade union movement for unity against the capitalists' offensive.

It is this sentiment that still constitutes an obstacle to other union officialdoms going all the way with the EETPU at this point.

In the EETPU the influence of relatively better-paid, skilled workers is greater than in any other major union. This has meant that opposition to the leadership's course is weaker there than in other unions.

But the more the leaders of other unions retreat, the more the obstacles to joining the EETPU in its course are weakened. For example, the leadership of the Amalgamated Engineering Union has announced that it intends to continue fusion talks with the EETPU, despite its expulsion.

The pressure is mounting on the TUC to more rapidly embrace the cause of "saving" capitalism. Any further success on this front will widen the breach in the trade union movement and further weaken it. No problems have been resolved by the expulsion of the EETPU or by the establishment of a "loyalist" EPIU.

That won't happen until the members themselves come to recognize that they must fight to use their unions as instruments of class struggle. And this will only be done through projecting a social perspective in the actual struggles against the bosses and the government as they unfold.

Union wins representation vote at Oregon meat-packing plant

BY JOHN CHARBONNET

PORTLAND, Ore. — Meat-packers at Armour's processing plant in Portland have decided to once again be represented by the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) union.

In December 1983 ConAgra purchased 13 Armour plants and reopened 12 of them days later with a nonunion work force.

Almost four years later, in September 1987, the former union packinghouse workers won a victory when the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) found ConAgra guilty of discrimination charges and ordered back pay and preferential hiring for the workers. Many of the former union members were rehired early this year.

Donna Cost, a union representative for UFCW Local 555, was the chief steward at the Portland Armour plant in 1983 when she was fired along with other union members. She pointed to several factors behind the recent 59-42 vote in favor of establishing Local 555 at the plant.

A Kampuchean worker, hired in 1984 and originally antiunion in his views, became a key leader of the drive. "A good percentage of the Cambodian workers voted for the union," Cost noted. The previous unjust firings of two Kampuchean workers mobilized union sentiment. The bosses "forgot to treat them as people," she said.

Cost noted that Black workers played a leadership role, and she said that, in general, "The '84 survivors came over, those people who have been through all the changes and promises."

Finally, Cost explained, "Our old people on the 'D' list did a great deal," that is, former union members rehired this year under a NLRB ruling against the company.

Cost noted that a NLRB representation election held in 1984 was lost by the union.

Regarding working conditions, Cost said there are "horrendous problems in there."

Increased chain and belt speeds have caused carpal tunnel syndrome, the repetitive motion injury, among many workers. The plant work force has been substantially reduced since 1983, but plant output is the same. A major complaint of workers is the lack of seniority in determining shift preferences and seasonal layoffs.

Following the 1983 sale to ConAgra, base pay fell from \$10.69 an hour to approximately \$4.50 an hour, along with elimination of health and pension benefits. Base pay for new hires is currently \$5.25 an hour. Maximum pay is approximately \$8.00 an hour now.

In an attempt to stall NLRB certification of the July 14 election results, ConAgra filed charges claiming union coercion of the Kampuchean workers — a charge later dropped — and electioneering during the vote.

—10 AND 25 YEARS AGO—

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE
Sept. 29, 1978

Nineteen pages of newly released FBI documents show that U.S. G-men may have been involved in the 1974 frame-up that forced Héctor Marroquín to flee Mexico.

Marroquín, a member of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance, is now fighting a U.S. government attempt to deport him back to Mexico.

The documents released to Marroquín show that the FBI had a file on him as far back as Nov. 4, 1968. This was one month after a murderous government attack on a peaceful demonstration of thousands in Tlatelolco Plaza in Mexico City. Hundreds of people were killed.

"I was 15 years old then, and in high school," Marroquín explains. "I wasn't very political. But I remember there were a couple of people at my school who wanted to organize a march to protest the massacre in Tlatelolco. I became interested too."

Marroquín's interest was enough to set the FBI on his trail.

Another document is a Jan. 21, 1974, letter about Marroquín written by the FBI chief in Mexico to the FBI chief in Washington, D.C. This is just four days after Marroquín was accused by the Mexican cops of being involved in the murder of a librarian on his campus.

"On the day of this memo," Marroquín says, "I was getting out of Monterrey, where I went to school. The newspapers there were running my picture and the pic-

tures of several other *compañeros*. Big scare headlines accused us of 'terrorism,' 'subversion,' and all kinds of other crimes we didn't commit."

On April 9, 1974, Marroquín fled to the United States. Twelve days before he crossed the border, the FBI issued a memo, "Subject: Hector Andres Marroquin Manriquez, aka El Pecos [Freckles — Marroquín's childhood nickname]." The memo states that copies should be sent to the border FBI offices "in the event information is received the subject would attempt to enter the United States."

THE MILITANT
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NEW YORK — Leading Negro spokesmen delivered scathing indictments of the Kennedy administration and both major parties at meetings held here last weekend in memory of the six Negro children murdered in Birmingham.

Authors James Baldwin, John O. Killens, and Louis Lomax blamed the atmosphere in Alabama that produced the murders squarely on Kennedy's refusal to clamp down on Governor George Wallace.

Baldwin called for a break with the Democratic and Republican parties. Killens and Lomax challenged the policy of nonviolence-under-all-circumstances and flatly supported the right of Negroes to armed self-defense.

Marroquín victory, Curtis fight

The victory of Héctor Marroquín — the Mexican-born communist who won permanent U.S. residence September 20 — underscores the importance of deepening the struggle for political rights, and especially the fight for justice for Mark Curtis.

Curtis was convicted in Des Moines, Iowa, September 14 on trumped-up rape and burglary charges. He was immediately jailed. An October 21 date was set for sentencing. By Iowa law, the sentence will be 25 to 35 years in the state penitentiary.

Curtis is a political activist, a packinghouse worker, and a member of the Socialist Workers Party. When the police arrested him on the phony charges, they beat him, fracturing his cheekbone. Yet it is Curtis, not the cops, who will go on trial October 10, on charges of assaulting the police.

The victory that opened the door to the broad campaign to win Héctor Marroquín permanent residence — the historic 1986 federal court decision against government spying on the SWP — will also be a powerful weapon in overturning the conviction of Mark Curtis and winning his freedom.

The U.S. government had openly fought for more than a decade to deport Marroquín because of his political activities and communist views. He is a National Committee member of the Socialist Workers Party.

In his landmark 1986 decision, Judge Thomas Griesa ruled that FBI use of surveillance, informers, and burglaries against the SWP was a massive violation of the constitutional rights of privacy and freedom of association. He determined that the party's activities were constitutionally protected, and made no distinction between the rights of SWP members who are citizens and those who are not.

The issues in both the SWP lawsuit and the Marroquín green-card fight were the same. They went right to the heart of the ability of workers to politically organize without government interference. Thus, in the closing years of both fights, support from the labor movement became more and more prominent as the employer offensive against workers in this country stepped up its pace.

This growing confidence among workers and farmers to fight to extend their political rights was also reflected in the outcry against government spying on opponents of U.S. intervention in Central America. The cover was blown on an FBI spy program against the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES) just a few years after it got off the ground. And the fallout from the anti-CISPES surveillance is only beginning.

On September 15 FBI Director William Sessions admitted that nine additional organizations and 169 individuals were targets of FBI investigations that were "spin-offs" from surveillance begun in 1981 against CISPES.

It was through files that CISPES pried out of the FBI that Mark Curtis first learned he had been a target of surveillance for his participation in a Birmingham, Alabama, antiwar group. (Marroquín was also a target of the anti-CISPES surveillance.)

Yet Des Moines court rulings prior to his trial prevented Curtis' attorney from being given time to dig up the remainder of the FBI spy files on Curtis — files that pointed Curtis out by name. Curtis was prevented from even mentioning their existence in his defense in the courtroom, or from introducing into evidence the beating he received from the police and their taunts of him as a "Mexican-lover" and someone who loves "coloreds."

These and the many other aspects of the frame-up trial that made a mockery of Curtis' constitutional rights have prompted one of the fastest-growing and broadest defense efforts in recent years. Curtis has not only received strong backing from unionists and farm activists throughout the United States, but from Canada, New Zealand, Britain, Sweden, and other countries.

The Curtis case points both toward what the employers will more and more do to try to silence politically active workers and also to the deepening response the bosses are going to get from the labor movement as they try it.

Winning justice for Curtis — by driving forward on the conquests of the SWP lawsuit against the FBI and its first big fruit in the Marroquín victory — will be another important advance in the struggle for democratic rights.

Back the 43 socialist candidates

Since the Socialist Workers Party announced its presidential ticket last March, the *Militant* has been reporting on the campaign and actively backing it. We urge all our readers to get behind these candidates too.

In addition to James Warren for president and Kathleen Mickells for vice-president, the SWP is fielding 41 candidates for senator, Congress, governor, and other offices in 21 states in the November 8 election.

Warren and Mickells and the other men and women running as SWP candidates are tested defenders of the rights of working people.

The SWP candidates are experienced in the trade unions fighting against employer attacks and promoting solidarity on the job and internationally among working people.

They have been involved in the struggle to counter U.S. military aggression against workers and farmers in other countries, including Washington's contra war against Nicaragua.

SWP candidates are longtime activists in battles to win and defend Black rights. They are outspoken supporters of women's struggle for equality including the right to choose an abortion.

These candidates deserve support in the 1988 elections because they are addressing the main challenges facing working people today and presenting a perspective for how we, as a class, can move forward.

First of all, they are telling the truth about the worsening situation facing the toilers.

Official unemployment in the United States is higher now than it was most years between 1941 and 1975. Millions more are not counted in the official statistics and a growing number are denied full-time jobs. For workers who are Black, official unemployment is nearly double that for those who are white, and 35 percent of young Black workers are jobless.

In semicolonial countries, from Africa, to Asia, to Latin America, unemployment levels are much higher and the ranks of the jobless are continually joined by millions of peasants forced off their land. This is the consequence of the superexploitation and domination of these

countries by a handful of ruling families in the imperialist countries. The millionaire families use the debts semicolonial countries owe to the imperialist bankers as a club to demand wage cuts, speed-up, and other harsh austerity measures designed to squeeze more and more out of working people.

The SWP candidates are also explaining what capitalism has in store for working people. The October 1987 stock market crash heralded the advent of a world depression, which will bring in its wake an economic and social crisis that will engulf tens of millions more around the world.

The SWP standardbearers are presenting proposals on how we can unify and protect ourselves from the ravages of that crisis. This begins with forthrightly stating that history has proven that the exploited and oppressed can only rely on ourselves to resolve these problems.

There is growing interest in this perspective today, but it takes patient explanation to convince others that it is worth fighting for.

The SWP candidates are taking the lead in advancing this process. Every week they, along with their supporters, are speaking to workers, farmers, and young people — at plant gates, on the job, on street corners, in high schools, on college campuses, and in the countryside. Moreover, they are utilizing the special opportunities that exist during an election period to get media coverage and speaking engagements.

They encourage everyone they meet to get a subscription to the *Militant* and the Spanish-language monthly *Perspectiva Mundial* so they can get accurate information on what's happening to working people around the world and follow the proposals the SWP is putting forward.

At the same time candidates and their supporters are in the front ranks of those selling copies of the Socialist Workers Party's Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis.

The socialist campaigners are committed to helping make the goals of getting 10,400 new readers to the socialist publications and selling more than 20,000 Action Programs. We urge you to join them in this effort.

Pamphleteering drive around 'Action Program'

BY DOUG JENNESS

A representative from Pathfinder's promotion department told me that 52,000 copies — 45,000 in English and 7,000 in Spanish — of the pamphlet *Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis* have been printed. And 25,400 have been shipped out with bills of sale since July when the English-language edition first appeared.

The number printed is substantially more than the normal 3,000–5,000 copies for Pathfinder pamphlets. The reason is that the pamphlet, which includes proposals presented by the Socialist Workers Party for workers to

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

unite in struggle against the ravages of the coming economic disaster, is the focus of a major sales effort.

A price of \$1 has been placed on the 40-page pamphlet, a substantial reduction from the regular cost of a Pathfinder pamphlet this size; and *Militant* readers, supporters of the Socialist Workers Party's 1988 election campaign, and others have set a goal of selling more than 20,000 copies by mid-November.

This kind of pamphleteering — which is different than the more routine, although important, placing of pamphlets and books in bookstores and selling them off literature tables — has a long and rich tradition in the revolutionary movement.

During the revolt of the 13 North American colonies against British rule in the 18th century, pamphlets by Thomas Paine and other popular agitators were grabbed up like hotcakes by revolutionary artisans, farmers, and soldiers.

During the fight to abolish slavery in the United States, upsurges of the labor movement, the rise of antiwar struggles, and other key battles, special efforts were organized to win people to proposals for action by disseminating them widely in pamphlets.

Today there are no large-scale rebellions or even protest movements drawing hundreds of thousands or millions into action. But there is growing awareness among many workers, farmers, students, and others since the October 1987 stock market crash that the promises of economic stability have no foundation and that a devastating depression is on its way.

In the preface to the *Action Program* pamphlet, James Warren, SWP candidate for president, noted, "Even people who are not necessarily in agreement with us sense that we are addressing key questions facing working people today. There are tens of thousands of workers who are looking for the perspectives presented in this program."

It is this that creates the basis for doing something more than usual with this pamphlet — to conduct real old-fashioned pamphleteering. This not only means hawking it at plant gates and mine portals and on street corners and shopping centers, but carrying some all the time to sell to coworkers, to fellow students, to other activists at political meetings and actions.

An essential step in fighting for this Action Program today is to involve more and more people in a discussion of it, winning as many of them as possible to support its perspectives.

The key theme of the program is that working people must recognize what capitalism has in store for us and what we must do to defend ourselves against worsening conditions today and the even graver consequences of the social crisis that is coming.

Three central demands are raised that can unite working people internationally to fight for protection. They include: canceling the foreign debt of semicolonial countries; affirmative action for Blacks, Latinos, and other oppressed national minorities and for women; and shortening the workweek to 30 hours with no reduction in pay to help combat unemployment. These proposals are explained in the pamphlet and I urge readers to study them.

One question several people have raised is why doesn't the Action Program have a section on working farmers? Doesn't the SWP consider them as important as workers or as likely to be engulfed by the coming depression?

Far from downgrading the difficulties facing exploited producers on the land, it is precisely recognition of their condition and how it's going to get even worse as a result of a depression that means serious proposals to farmers have to be presented.

The demands in the Action Program are structured around the task of unifying wage workers, who are pitted against each other in many different ways. They are designed to help us see ourselves as a class with common interests and goals.

At the same time wage workers and working farmers have a common exploiter and enemy — the capitalist ruling families. But the form of this exploitation and the nature of the problems they confront are different.

For example, the questions of land and prices are posed very differently for farmers and workers. The key task then is to present proposals that can effectively weld an alliance between two exploited classes. That will be the subject of the next couple of columns.

A report from a Philadelphia cotton garment shop

BY MARI HAWKES
AND RICH GAETA

It was at the end of lunch break when we heard over the intercom that a ratification vote would take place after work for a new contract. For some workers at Good Lad, a cotton garment shop in Philadelphia, this was the first time they had heard that our contract had expired. Only two meetings of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU) local here had been held so far all year.

Many workers who are women were unable to go because there was insufficient notice to organize child care.

UNION TALK

But the majority of workers didn't go either. Many said their presence wouldn't make a difference.

Turnout at the September 1 meeting was small. Only about 85 workers attended, a small fraction of ACTWU members from various cotton shops in the city.

ACTWU Vice-president John Fox said that a takeback was necessary for the industry to survive. He argued that this was the best contract we could get because of loss of membership (two years ago it was 32,000; today 11,000), plant shutdowns, and escalation of health-care costs. "If you take too much," he said, "you'll push them out of business or they will leave the country."

After five minutes of discussion, the big majority

voted to ratify. Even this amount of discussion was not meant to happen. Maybe a half dozen people did not vote. Two of us voted no.

A summary of the agreement was available the next day. Many workers did not like the contract. One presser, referring to the 25 cent raise the first year and the 15 cent raise the following six months, said, "What does 25 cents mean to a piece worker? The company cuts prices whenever they want. You never really know what you are making."

A sewer in the pants department pointed out that changing styles of pants and price cutting by the company meant she made about \$1 an hour less than she did two years ago. "But," she added, "it is worse for others. Some come in at minimum wage and are still making that."

Some workers felt that getting a bonus at the end of the year was better. Others were angered with the rapid way the ratification was handled. They felt they should have been allowed to read and discuss the contract days in advance. Many Latinos said the contract should be translated into Spanish. Discussions, however critical of the contract, did not result in any proposals for action.

The union officialdom's view is that as the garment industry declines it must follow that our living standards will also decline.

We think workers should not have to accept lower wages so a handful of rich families, who own the factories, can maintain their lofty lifestyles. More plant

closings and more workers laid off only puts us in a weaker position to defend ourselves. Due to seasonal layoffs in the clothing industry, garment workers know from experience that no job is secure.

We must begin to explain the need for a fight to protect all workers by demanding a shorter workweek — 30 hours work for 40 hours pay. This is the way to spread the available work.

We must strengthen our union now by championing the rights of the newest, lowest-paid workers. The weakest part of the contract is that starting wages are not mentioned. So new hires must negotiate their own wages individually with the boss. Organizing ourselves around the demand to raise the national minimum wage is one way to fight for higher wages for all workers, organized and unorganized.

We must begin raising the idea that health care should be a government-guaranteed right for every man, woman, and child and not just a service for a privileged minority.

By championing the rights of the unemployed, the unorganized, the lower-paid workers, we will come to learn what solidarity means and what it takes to win. A labor movement that fights in the interests of all workers will inspire workers to participate in and see themselves as the union.

Mari Hawkes is a sewing machine operator and Rich Gaeta is a presser at Good Lad Co. and both are members of ACTWU Local 170.

LETTERS

Candidates with integrity

I am writing to extend my compliments for the integrity of the Socialist Workers Party candidates for president and vice-president, James Warren and Kathleen Mickells. I am unable to vocally support their efforts as I am heavily committed presently, as I have been in the past, to the Democratic ticket.

I have been interested in the socialist fight to bring jobs back to America. The socialist position has forced an adjustment in the American political arena. Warning time for plant closings is nothing less than a socialist position adopted by the status quo politicians who've had their backs forced to the wall.

The United States is bound for worsening economic conditions as workers continue to lose out.

We do not need to be protected from foreign competition, we need to be protected from the politicians whose fortunes are married to business and the faceless kings of corporations. We must form a bond with the workers of the world and unite our efforts.

You're doing a great job, and you are making yourselves heard as never before.

John Van Hecke
St. Paul, Minnesota

Different parts of world

I have just recently finished reading the August 1988 issue of the *Militant*.

I wish to continue my study on the struggle in the different parts of the world, however, I am an incarcerated pauper inmate without any funds to purchase any types of revolutionary literature or newspapers.

I hope that you may be able to assist or contribute any type of revolutionary literature or newspapers that can be available to be sent to me.

A prisoner
Angola, Louisiana

Cop riot no surprise

Why was anyone surprised by the Tompkins Square Park incident? Perhaps it was outstanding because of the large number of persons who were victimized, at one time and place, by New York City cops.

Reports of unjustified assaults, shootings, and killings by city cops abound. Every New Yorker can immediately recall more than a couple of these incidents. For every reported incident, there are

many more in which individuals are abused, assaulted, and even murdered.

This writer was brutally and unjustifiably assaulted by New York City cops five years ago in Manhattan. As a result, I was hospitalized, required major surgery, and have not fully recovered from the injuries.

I have made numerous requests to the New York County district attorney's office asking that the incident be investigated and the cops prosecuted. My complaint has not been processed.

The victims of Tompkins Square Park must not let New York forget. Only by holding the New York Police Department accountable for the criminal acts of some of its members this time will changes be created to prevent another Tompkins Square Park.

A prisoner
Napanoch, New York

Burning crosses

Cross burnings, a symbol of the Ku Klux Klan, have been carried out in front of the homes of two Black families in Belleville, Illinois. Belleville, predominantly white, is located next to East St. Louis, which is majority Black and one of the poorest cities in the United States.

On July 3 Willie and Elsie Carter found the charred remains of a cross burned on their front lawn during the night.

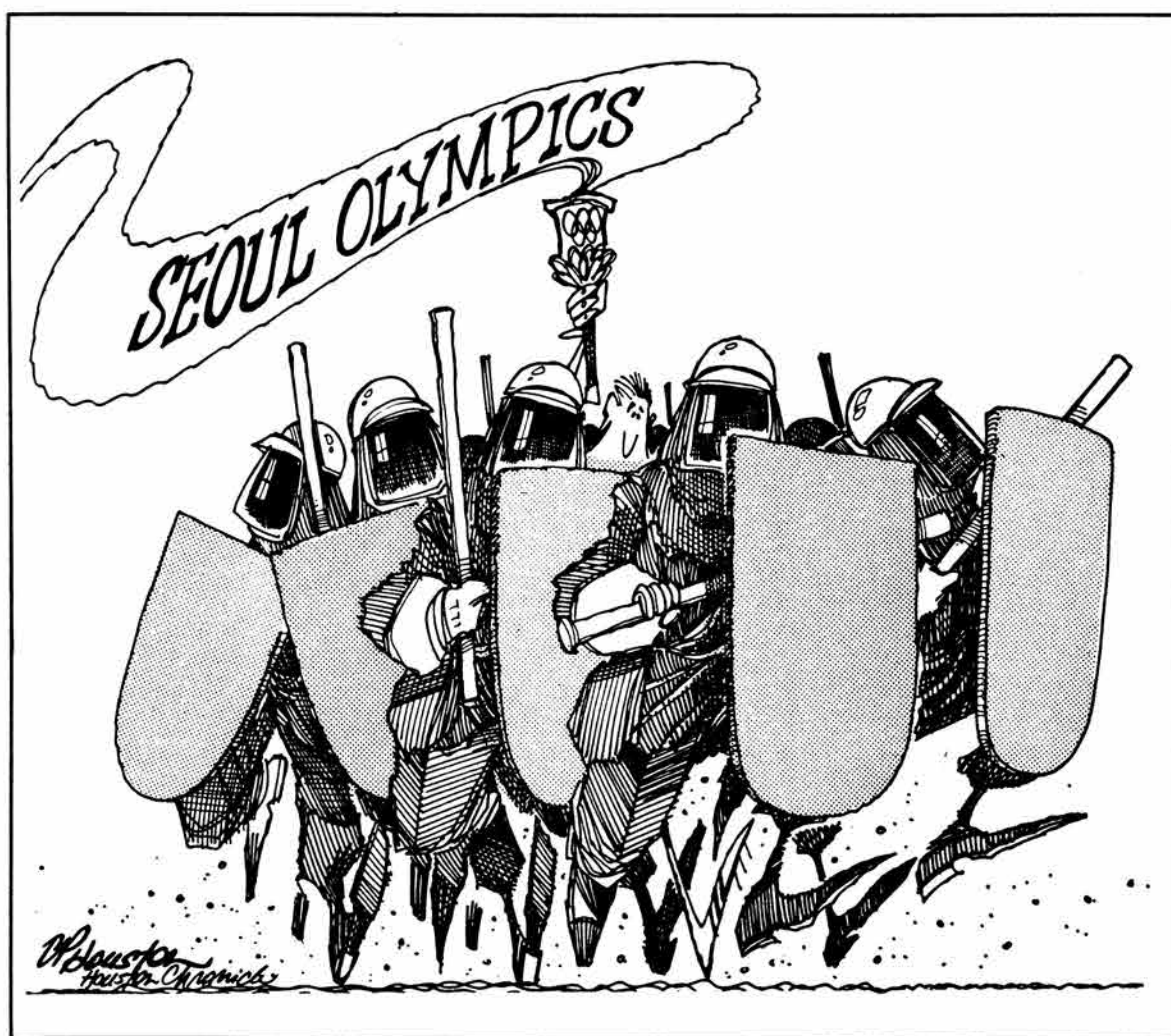
The Carters planned to move, but changed their minds when neighbors, white and Black, organized a "neighborhood watch."

In the early hours of August 11, Pam Livingston, a college student, woke to the sound of tapping outside. A little later, a brick was thrown through her front window, carrying the message, "Die nigger, KKK."

When she ran to look outside, "I saw a cross burning and the grass was on fire. The kids were screaming. We were terrified."

Livingston, who lives with her sister and three children, says they plan to move as soon as possible. They have continued to face harassment from racists who drive by yelling threats in the middle of the night. The police and FBI have not caught the assailants.

Ellen Haywood, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress, and a small delegation of miners, steelworkers, and other workers, including one from the Socialist Action League of New Zealand, visited Pam Livingston and her sister.



Haywood and SWP candidate for U.S. Senate Tom Leonard issued a statement denouncing the attacks and calling on the government to put a stop to them.

Larry Ross
St. Louis, Missouri

Virgin Islands Five

In September 1972 on the Caribbean island of St. Croix, the Rockefeller-owned Fountain Valley golf course was attacked by men in army fatigues bearing automatic weapons, resulting in the deaths of eight American tourists.

The island was immediately placed under siege by more than 300 FBI and US. marshals. Roadblocks were set up, Blacks were dragged from cars and searched, and more than 200 Blacks were apprehended for questioning.

The government saw this as an opportunity to rid the island of some of its dissident opposition. Ismail Ali, Warren Aziz Ballantine, and Raphael Kwesi Joseph — three political activists — became prime "suspects." Beaumont Hanif Gereau and Meral Smith were added to the list.

All five men were eventually arrested. After being tortured — beaten, hanged from trees, and plastic bags placed over their

heads and then water poured in — they signed confessions. Government witnesses included a survivor of the attack who identified one of the brothers, even though reports said all the combatants wore masks.

After a lengthy and unjust trial, in which requests to have the biased judge removed were denied, each was sentenced to eight consecutive life terms.

In the 14 years that they have been incarcerated, U.S. businessmen in the "U.S. Virgin Islands" have claimed that the five's supposed act was the sole factor causing the plunge in the island economy into near collapse in the early 1970s.

Today they are still being used as scapegoats to cover up the ill effects in Virgin Islands society that are really the result of decadent Western influence. Their imprisonment is also used to deter other oppressed people who may eventually sense the need to resist U.S. colonization.

These brothers need legal assistance and any form of support.

Brother Al Saladin
Blisschords Communications
Network
P.O. Box 53435
Chicago, Ill. 60653

Walk forward

Could you please keep me on your current mailing list? I would greatly appreciate it and I look forward to receiving any literature you can send concerning the people's movement.

Thank you and continue to walk forward in the class struggles of this capitalistic world.

A prisoner
Huntsville, Texas

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*, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014.

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

Cops beat farm worker leader Huerta

Hospitalized as result of attack on anti-Bush protest in San Francisco

BY DIANA CANTÚ, TINA ROSEN AND JOHN WOLFE

SAN FRANCISCO — A "Town Hall" meeting here September 19 protested the cop beating of United Farm Workers (UFW) First Vice-president Dolores Huerta.

The gathering of 70 people capped off a day of protests that began with a demonstration at City Hall and included a religious service outside San Francisco General Hospital where Huerta is being treated. The protesters then marched to a nearby Mission District Safeway supermarket targeted by the UFW's grape boycott.

The Town Hall meeting, held at the Mission Community Center, was chaired by San Francisco Board of Supervisors member Jim González. Some 30 or so organizations, mostly from the Latino community, were represented.

Five days earlier, Huerta was severely beaten outside the St. Francis Hotel where Vice-President George Bush was making a campaign appearance.

Huerta was rushed to the hospital and operated on that same evening to stop internal bleeding. Her spleen was removed and she suffered several broken ribs. A founder of the UFW, Huerta is 58 years old.

Huerta was one of several hundred protesters who denounced government policies, including Bush's open attack on the UFW and the grape boycott it is sponsoring.

In his speech to a \$1,000-a-plate dinner, Bush reaffirmed that he "would never support the boycott of California grapes."

Huerta was outside the hotel attempting to hand out flyers and talk to the press. A

cop herded her into an area where police were beating other anti-Bush protesters.

The following morning, a UFW press conference was called outside of the hospital. One hundred members and supporters of the UFW attended.

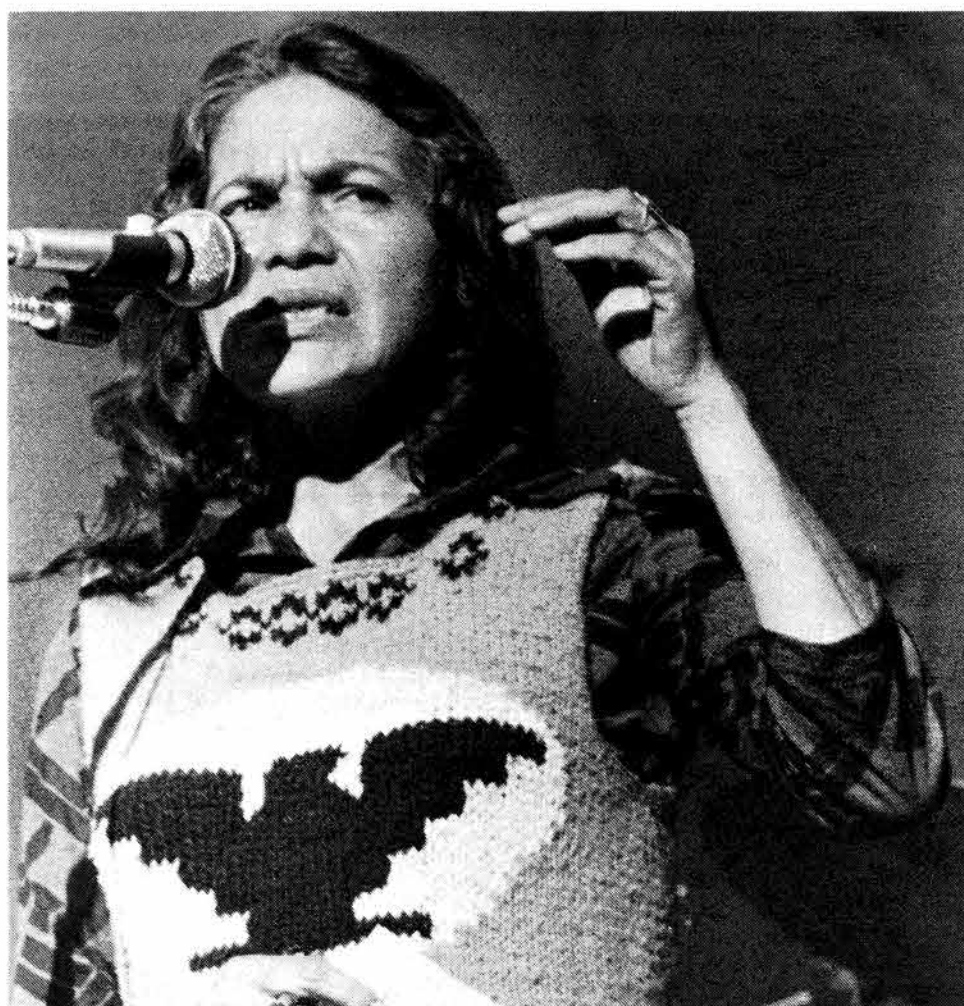
Emilio Huerta, the victim's son, demanded "a full investigation by the city. We expect the officer who committed this unsolicited attack to be disciplined and dealt with appropriately. We expect the mayor to insure this won't be repeated."

Jack Henning, executive secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, called on the federal Department of Justice to investigate. "This is a classic denial of civil rights," he said.

Owen Merrin of the Alameda Central Labor Council called for the mayor "to call for the resignation of the police chief immediately."

Walter Johnson, secretary-treasurer of the San Francisco Labor Council, was present to support Huerta and deplore the cop attack, as well as representatives from Service Employees International Union Locals 250 and 790, Coalition of Labor Union Women, Building Construction Trades Council, Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union Local 2, MEChA (Chicano student association), and the Organization of Lesbian and Gay Rights.

Steven Fuchs, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress in the 5th CD in San Francisco, expressed solidarity with Huerta and other victimized protesters, demanding "the police and their superiors responsible for the beating of Dolores Huerta be tried and prosecuted."



Dolores Huerta in 1975. A founder of the United Farm Workers and currently its vice-president, she has played leading role in drives to organize agricultural labor.

Hartford 15 face anonymous jury in frame-up trial

BY TIM CRAINE

HARTFORD, Conn. — Attorneys for five Puerto Rico independence activists on trial here have charged that the process of selecting the jury has violated democratic rights of the defendants and that the jury pool is racially biased. They have asked for a change of venue for the trial.

The five defendants are among 15 independence activists charged with conspiracy in connection with the 1983 robbery at the Wells Fargo depot in West Hartford, Connecticut. These five were among 13 activists arrested in an FBI dragnet operation on Aug. 30, 1985.

At the time of their arrests, the defendants argued that they should be tried in Puerto Rico by a jury of their peers. Most of the evidence the prosecution intends to use in the case are tape recordings made by the FBI in Puerto Rico of conversations conducted in Spanish. In spite of this, at the urging of the prosecution, the defendants were ordered to stand trial in Connecticut, where the proceedings are conducted in English.

After three years of pretrial hearings, jury selection in the case of five defendants began on September 6. (The case of nine other defendants has been placed on hold while the government appeals a ruling prohibiting the use of 50 tapes that FBI agents failed to seal in a timely manner in accordance with the law).

In a highly unusual procedure, Judge Emmet Clarie ruled that the jury be selected anonymously, without attorneys, defendants, or the public knowing the names, addresses, or occupations of potential jurors. This move in and of itself prejudiced potential jurors against the defendants.

An editorial in Hartford's only daily, the *Courant*, pointed out: "The extraordinary secrecy suggests that defendants are likely to seek revenge if they are convicted, thus making it easy for jurors to imagine the de-

fendants as capable of committing the crimes with which they are charged. The secrecy also deprives the public of important information about the trial, thus hampering scrutiny. For both reasons, the judge's decisions may hurt rather than improve the chances for a fair trial."

The jury selection process began as 165 potential jurors were called to court to fill out a 25-page questionnaire. By the end of the first week the majority had been excused because of the hardship sitting for a long trial would entail. Those excused included the only Puerto Rican in the original panel and two of the four Blacks.

Of the remaining 72, 28 (or nearly 40 percent) admitted bias in their responses to the questionnaire. An additional five admitted they had "problems" with Puerto Ricans.

Judge Clarie rejected a defense motion for individual *voir dire* in which the potential jurors could be questioned one by one to determine whether prior knowledge of the case would prejudice their judgment.

On September 15 the judge read the indictments to the potential jurors, including one that charges the defendants with belonging to the *Macheteros*, which it characterizes as an "illegal organization."

At that point, one potential juror asked to be excused on the grounds that it reminded him of the FALN, a Puerto Rican independence organization that the U.S. government has branded as "terrorist."

Then another prospective juror, who was very upset, approached the judge claiming that two "Puerto Rican-looking men" sitting in the audience were "staring" at her.

"Why do you let them in the courtroom unsupervised?" she demanded to know. It turned out that the men who aroused her suspicions were prominent figures in the Puerto Rican community in Bridgeport, Connecticut: Willie Matos, president of the

Puerto Rican Democratic Club, and José Rivera, a worker at Sikorsky Aircraft who is active in church affairs and Little League baseball.

In response to these incidents, the defense has asked once more for a change of venue and an end to the system of anonymous jurors. By the end of the day on Sep-

tember 15, the potential jury pool had shrunk to 35.

Proceedings are held at the Federal Courthouse, 450 Main St., in Hartford, usually from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Tuesdays through Fridays. For more information call (203) 233-7996.

Trial set for N. Carolina Indians

BY SHERRIE LOVE

GREENSBORO, N.C. — Two Native Americans face trial September 26 on federal "hostage taking" charges. They are being prosecuted under "antiterrorist" measures in the Crime Control Act passed by Congress in 1984. If convicted at the trial, to be held in the state capital of Raleigh, they could face life imprisonment.

Last February Eddie Hatcher and Timothy Jacobs, who are Tuscarora Indians, took over a Robeson County, North Carolina, newspaper office to protest the racism and corruption of the sheriff's department and district attorney's office. After forcing negotiations with representatives of the governor, promises were made to investigate the charges, including those regarding the unsolved murders of Native Americans and Blacks, and allegations that the county government is linked to drug trafficking.

The county is the second-most impoverished in the state and has about an equal number of Lumbee Indians, Blacks, and whites.

Hatcher and Jacobs were held in "preventive" detention from February to July under the federal Bail Reform Act. The Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals after granting bond July 5 revoked it August 31 when government prosecutors demanded a review.

But Hatcher did not turn himself in until September 19 when he was arrested at the Raleigh-Durham airport on his way to his

arraignment on the hostage-taking charges. Federal marshals in seizing him prevented his appearance at the arraignment. The judge, aware of Hatcher's airport arrest, refused to order the marshals to bring him to the court. Hatcher's lawyer had to enter the not guilty plea for him.

At the arraignment the judge ordered the trial to proceed September 26, denying Hatcher the right to be represented by William Kunstler, his lead attorney. Kunstler will not be available because he must complete the defense at the Larry Davis trial in New York first.

During the 19 days Hatcher, 30, refused to return to jail he was the subject of a manhunt by the U.S. Marshal Service. For 10 days there was no word from him, and family and friends expressed concern for his safety.

On September 9 Hatcher telephoned a Raleigh radio station to explain his actions. "I had met all the conditions of my release," Hatcher said. "I had abided by the orders of the judge, which I felt I shouldn't have to do to start with, but I abided by them. And they had no right to put me in jail. I'm not convicted." Hatcher said if he's going to be tried, it should be "by a jury of at least 50 percent sovereign Native Americans."

Jacobs, 20, turned himself in to the U.S. marshals at the time of the bond revocation and is confined to the Buncombe County jail.