

New Namibia pact seeks to salvage UN plan

BY SAM MANUEL

The governments of Angola, Cuba, and South Africa reached an agreement April 9 aimed at salvaging a United Nations plan for the independence of Namibia. The southwest African country has been militarily occupied by South Africa since 1916.

The three countries are part of a commission set up as a result of a tripartite peace accord signed last December. That agreement called for an end to the U.S.- and South African-backed war against Angola and set April 1 as the date to begin Namibia's transition to independence. Observers from the United States and the Soviet Union attended the April meeting held at the Mount Etjo game reserve just outside Windhoek, Namibia's capital.

Mount Etjo declaration

The Mount Etjo Declaration establishes procedures for the safe passage of troops of the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) operating inside Namibia to make their way to designated assembly points. From there they would be transported north of the 16th parallel, some 90 miles inside neighboring Angola. The Namibian independence group took up arms against South African occupation in 1966.

The 18 assembly points will be supervised by UN peacekeeping forces. Angola and South Africa will have military observers present.

At eight assembly points near the Angolan border, SWAPO fighters would be allowed to keep their weapons before being transported to Angola. Joint border control posts staffed by Angolan and South African forces will also be established. At 10

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Huge march defends right to abortion



Militant/Sam Manuel

BY FRED FELDMAN

WASHINGTON, D.C. — "We will not go back!" That slogan, carried on dozens of printed and hand-painted placards and banners, voiced the determination of the April 9 March for Women's Equality/Women's Lives.

A human sea flowed along the slightly more than one-mile-long march route for more than four hours, flooding the rally site near the steps of the U.S. Capitol. It was so immense that accurately gauging the size was very difficult, but it was clearly in the half million range.

Organizers estimated the size at 600,000. The government's National Park Service said there were 300,000 people.

The action was the biggest political protest in the capital in 18 years.

This was the first demonstration many had participated in. For all but a few long-time activists, it was far and away the biggest.

The march was initiated by the National Organization for Women, and sponsored by more than 478 organizations, including nine international unions.

Call for the march

The call for the march stemmed from the Supreme Court's decision to hear *Webster v. Reproductive Health Services Inc.*, a case involving a Missouri law aimed at restricting access to abortions.

The Justice Department has called on the Supreme Court to uphold the antiabortion statute and overturn the court's *Roe v. Wade* ruling. The 1973 decision held that laws abridging women's right to abortion in the first six months of pregnancy violate the constitutional right to privacy.

Support for the march gained impetus as defenders of abortion rights responded to mounting attacks on medical clinics where abortions are performed.

At a news conference April 7, NOW President Molly Yard cited the organization's three goals in organizing the march. "The April 9 march will mobilize thousands to 'stand up to Operation Rescue' in communities all across the country, protecting clinics from antiabortion extremists who have escalated their assaults. ['Operation Rescue' is the name the antichoice forces have given the campaign to shut down clinics where abortions are performed.]

"Abortion rights supporters will be organized to pressure pharmaceutical companies, including selected boycotts if necessary," Yard continued, "to bring the abortifacient drug RU-486, to America and to increase the level of research and development in birth control technology.

"We will organize a political army," she said. "We will say to members of Congress and state legislatures who constantly try to chip away at access to legal abortion... 'If you still don't get the message, we'll work to replace you.'"

Youth help set tone

People from every age group participated in the April 9 march. Hundreds of

thousands of high school and college students, including contingents from some 500 college campuses, helped set an enthusiastic and confident tone.

The hand-painted sign of one high-school student captured the militant mood of many young people. In a reference to the 1973 Supreme Court decision, her placard stated:

"I was born in 1972. I have known only one way, and that is the way it is going to stay!"

The message on the T-shirts worn by a Brandeis University contingent read, "Keep abortion safe, legal, and funded."

One contingent came from Gallaudet University for the deaf, where the student body waged a successful struggle last year for the appointment of a deaf president. Gallaudet students on the stage provided the translation into sign language of the rally speeches.

A majority of the protesters were women. As many as 40 percent were male, including many of the participants in the union, campus, and other contingents.

The most widespread symbol of the fight for women's right to decide whether or not to have abortions was the coat hanger. Drawings of coat hangers appeared on thousands of buttons and picket signs, and actual coat hangers — many with strips of

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Spill devastates Alaska wildlife



Militant/Janet Post

Sea otter, dying from effects of oil contamination, lies on table at Alaska animal rescue center. See coverage of oil spill on pages 2 and 3.

Angela Davis backs Curtis defense

Angela Davis, victim of a government frame-up in the early 1970s and a founding member of the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, has added her name to the more than 2,500 people around the world who have endorsed the Mark Curtis Defense Committee. Davis was the Communist Party's candidate for vice-president of the United States in the 1980 and 1984 elections.

Also endorsing is Edith Tiger, director of the National Emergency Civil Liberties Union; and Joan Drake, founding member of the National Rainbow Coalition and a national board member of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

Further coverage of new support for the framed-up unionist and political activist appears on page 7.

Sankara book hailed at Canada meetings

African leader 'had confidence in capacities of working people'

BY MAGGIE TROWE

TORONTO — Meetings here and in Montréal on April 1 and 2 celebrated the publication of *Thomas Sankara Speaks*. Published and promoted by Pathfinder, a New York-based publisher, this book is a collection of speeches by the central leader of the 1983 revolution in Burkina Faso. Sankara was murdered during a counter-revolutionary coup in 1987. Burkina, located in West Africa, was formerly known as Upper Volta.

The meetings also raised nearly \$500 for a French-language edition of the book.

The featured speaker at both meetings was Nestor Bidanure, member of the editorial board of *Coubite*, an African magazine published in Paris and circulated in Africa.

Bidanure explained the importance of the 1983 Burkina Faso revolution as a challenge to French imperialist domination in West Africa.

Burkina Faso is one of the poorest countries in the world, Bidanure said, "but it was precisely in that poorest country that there rose a giant like Thomas Sankara." He cited the impressive achievements of the revolution — a literacy program, mass vaccination of children, irrigation and conservation projects, improvements of agriculture, and rehabilitation of a number of factories.

Bidanure described how Sankara was looked to as a hero in other African countries as well because he was fighting "against the misery in Africa, misery caused by the international order, the unfair international order that means 25 percent of the children who are born in Africa die before the age of five."

Internationalism

Bidanure praised Sankara's internationalism, a theme several speakers returned to. Sankara organized the 1987 Bombata conference against apartheid held in Ouagadougou, the capital of Burkina

Faso. It was attended by activists from throughout Africa and from other continents as well.

Representatives of the African National Congress of South Africa spoke in both Toronto and Montréal. Esme Gandoo, speaking for the ANC in Toronto, praised Sankara's emphasis on the involvement of women in the revolution.

Sam Manuel, representative of Pathfinder New York, spoke at both meetings. "What the experiences of the Burkinabè workers and peasants represents and what Thomas Sankara tried to do through his leadership is relevant to working people no matter where they live, no matter what their living conditions are," Manuel said.

Women as fighters

"What Sankara was getting at in his speech on women's emancipation is not only the oppressive conditions that women face, which I believe are universal for women living under capitalism. The strength of his speech was to reach out to women and to begin to draw them into politics as self-liberators, as self-actors and to see themselves as strong, independent fighters for their own liberation."

Manuel said that Sankara appealed "for the workers and peasants — be they women, be they men, be they farmers on

the land — to rise above the conditions that are imposed on them by imperialism and to see themselves as part of the fight to change those conditions."

The most important lesson to learn from reading the book, Manuel said, is that Sankara had "confidence in the capacities of working people. This is a confidence that all Marxists and revolutionaries must have."

Also speaking in Toronto were Norman Otis Richmond, a well-known radio broadcaster who reviewed *Thomas Sankara Speaks* for the daily *Globe and Mail*; Dudley Laws of the Black Action Defence Committee, which has led protests against police killings and brutality; David Bruer, an environmental activist; and three representatives of Unity Force, an organization of Black youth. The Montréal meeting was addressed by Guy Roumer, representative of *Haiti Progrès*; and Robert Douglas, an antiracist activist.

Messages were received from Abdullah Abdullah, Palestine Liberation Organization representative to Canada; Don Rojas, founding member of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement in Grenada and a leading participant in the Anti-imperialist Organizations of the Caribbean and Central America; and Sergio Lacayo, Nicaraguan ambassador to Canada.



Militant/Monica Jones
ANC spokesperson Esme Gandoo

How 'Militant' fact-finding team got to Valdez

BY ROBBIE SCHERR

VALDEZ, Alaska — When I called Janet Post and Fred Nelson to join me on a *Militant* fact-finding and reporting team to Valdez, Alaska, they didn't hesitate to say yes. Three days later, we arrived here after a four-hour plane trip to Anchorage and a six-hour drive through jagged, snow-covered mountains and glaciers.

Nelson has been a woodworker and member of the International Woodworkers of America (Canada) for eight years. He lives in Vancouver, British Columbia, and is a supporter of the Revolutionary Workers League in Canada and a distributor of the *Militant*.

Post, like myself, works on the Burlington Northern Railroad and is a member of the United Transportation Union. She is also a member of the Socialist Workers Party in Portland, Oregon.

Putting a trip like this together in just two days was no small accomplishment for supporters of the *Militant* in the Pacific Northwest. But after proposing the trip to the *Militant* editors and getting their enthusiastic agreement, *Militant* readers from Vancouver down to Portland started hustling.

Nelson spent two days convincing his boss to give him the time off work. Finally, only a few hours before he had to leave to

catch the plane in Seattle, he got the okay. *Militant* supporters in Vancouver were standing by to drive him to Seattle and relay word that the leave of absence had been granted so that I could buy his ticket.

Supporters in Seattle and Portland began a big fund-raising effort to raise the money needed to send out this kind of special team. A broad appeal was made to *Militant* readers who within days contributed more than \$700.

In addition, two people donated free airline tickets that they had earned from frequent-flyer clubs. This made a big dent in the travel costs, tantamount to a \$1,600 savings. Nelson also donated \$400 toward the trip.

Dozens of others made contributions, ranging from \$2 from a distributor of the *Alliance*, an alternative newspaper in Portland, to \$200 from a steelworker in Seattle. Teachers, machinists, paperworkers, laborers, painters, and women's rights activists chipped in.

Our goal now is to raise the rest of the money we need from working people who are outraged at the callous disregard for life and nature Exxon and the U.S. government have shown in this disaster. We think that the anger this crisis has provoked can be turned to constructive purposes by helping to finance the team without having to dip

into the *Militant's* regular operating budget.

Indications are that there is tremendous interest in the *Militant's* perspective. When I went into work the day before we left, to pick up a few things (I'm currently on a medical leave recovering from an industrial accident), I got a chance to talk with two of my coworkers. They wished me luck on the Alaska trip and suggested that I ask for donations on our next pay day. One said that he wished he lived in Seattle so he could vote for me for mayor. On Nelson's last day at work, after winning the leave of absence, a fellow worker asked, "Going up there to protest, eh?"

Post was able to visit three union halls and a radio station which asked for reports back.

This lively response to our fact-finding trip suggests there will be ample opportunity to share the information we gather with working people who are concerned with the destruction of our environment.

If you would like to make a donation to this special initiative, send your checks to the *Militant* at 5517 Rainier Ave. S., Seattle, Wash. 98118, earmarked Alaska Fact-Finding Trip.

Scherr is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Seattle.

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Nicaragua Bureau Director: LARRY SEIGLE

Business Manager: JIM WHITE

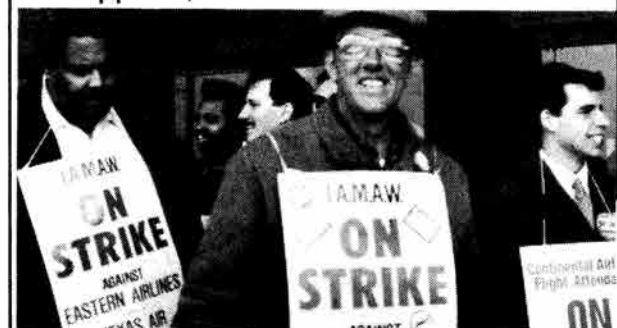
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Alaskans voice anger at Exxon's minimal cleanup efforts

BY ROBBIE SCHERR

VALDEZ, Alaska — In Alaska, "all roads lead to Exxon," explained a fisherman from Homer whose boat is now contracted to Exxon as part of the effort to clean up the 10-million-gallon crude oil spill that took place here on March 24. Everyone here is in some way connected to the giant oil corporation and the Alyeska consortium of seven oil companies including Exxon. Valdez is the terminus of the Alaskan pipeline.

Since the disastrous spill Exxon has used its economic and political leverage to take even more control over every aspect of life in what has become a company town.

"Spill highlights Exxon's deceptions," you got that right," William Dixon, a Black construction worker from Fairbanks commented after looking at the front page of the April 14 issue of the *Militant*.

Every day scores of fishermen, construction workers, and other Alaskans mingle on the docks, sharing their frustration and anger over Exxon's pitifully inadequate cleanup efforts. Hundreds of people from around the country, mostly from Alaska, have come to Valdez in the last two weeks. At night they pack the restaurants and bars. They're waiting to be part of the cleanup effort.

Some want jobs. Some came to volunteer. Others have had their fishing or tourist business ruined by the accident and are trying to find a way to get compensated. All are frustrated with the government and Exxon's refusal to mobilize the state, whose population would be ready to respond in large numbers to clean the beaches and save the endangered wildlife of Prince William Sound.

Less than 250 on cleanup

Less than 250 people have been put to work cleaning up the spill. Exxon says it hopes to have 500 within a couple of weeks.

The local tourist center, a charter boat company on the pier, has been taken over by Exxon and turned into a contracting center. An armed guard greets those who enter at the door and interrogates everyone before they can even get to the desk to attempt to sign up a boat. Almost everyone is turned away.

Every day a handwritten sign is posted on the window of the Tastee-Freeze announcing the topic of the daily press conference. But only credentialed press is allowed in, a recent decision that further fuels frustration.

Keith Doughman, a local hatchery worker, explained that "the first three days after the spill the weather was calm, and they should've taken advantage of that for their cleanup. But they did nothing." Keith's brother died building the Alaskan pipeline.

He's lost at least six weeks of work because the hatcheries will have to wait

longer to release their fish; 1989 was expected to be the largest herring season ever. Both canneries in town and five in Cordova, a fishing center on the sound, are shut down because the herring season was canceled.

Mike Case runs a local charter boat business now close to ruin. The first week of the spill, "Exxon was bragging that it hired 60 people to clean up. Where were the 6,000 they should've hired?" he asked. "We in Valdez are outraged that Exxon and Alyeska don't have enough cleanup equipment here."

'Pretty skinny'

Brian Lee, a fisherman from Cordova and a member of Cordova Fishermen United, has been here for two weeks trying to get contracted by Exxon. "Pretty skinny," is how he described the cleanup efforts. "Nothing was in place like what was promised to us when the pipeline went in," he added.

At the Alaska State job service, Larry
Continued on Page 13



Militant/Janet Post
Fred Nelson (right) and Robbie Scherr of Militant reporting team examine oil-soaked beaches of Naked Island, near Valdez.

One day at the animal rescue centers

BY JANET POST

VALDEZ, Alaska — Robbie Scherr, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Seattle, spent Sunday, April 9, volunteering at the otter rescue center here. *Militant* reporter Fred Nelson of Vancouver, British Columbia, helped out at the bird rescue center. This reporter was able to work at both facilities.

The rescue operations are mainly staffed by volunteers. Contrary to news reports, they desperately need help. But government agencies and Exxon are thwarting efforts to attract more volunteers.

Carolyn, a freelance writer from North Carolina who worked in the rescue center with Scherr, said she had to make 30 long-distance phone calls to be able to volunteer. She told the candidate, "I felt like it was just a crime. There are so many things people could be doing and yet the authorities are discouraging them from coming. I wasn't even asking for any money," she said. "All I wanted was to help."

The otter rescue center looks like a hospital intensive care unit. Dozens of oil-contaminated sea otters are whimpering in pain, some too weak to eat or lift their heads. Some are barely breathing.

One hundred and three otters have been brought to the center, only a tiny percentage of those that have been affected by the spill. Fifty percent have died.

There are five rows of 10 wooden cubicles, each housing one or two otters. Members of Local 341 of the construction and laborers' union in Valdez are rapidly laying conduit and building more cubicles.

Hanging by each cubicle is a medical chart where volunteers note the otter's condition. They watch for steam rising from the animals, which is a sign that the otters are not retaining enough body heat. This is due to the removal of natural oils during the cleaning process. The animals are warmed with blow dryers.

Scherr was assigned to take care of an otter whose pup had just died. Otters chew on icebergs, which have minerals. Volunteers give them pieces of glacial ice, rags to chew in place of kelp, and salt to replace their lack of contact with the sea.

Volunteers Kim and Ritchie are travel agents from Anchorage. Kim told Scherr, "If you stay in Alaska very long, you'll realize these animals are like family to the people here. This has been an emotionally devastating experience for all of us." Ritchie added, "These animals are our most prized natural resource. It really makes you angry to see what Exxon is doing to them."

José Salcedo, a Dominican construction worker from Anchorage, was pleased to meet a socialist in Valdez. He and the socialist candidate talked for about a half hour in Spanish. José told about his experiences fighting in the 1965 revolution in the Dominican Republic.

At the bird rescue center, hundreds of oil-soaked, dehydrated, and hypothermic birds are being cared for. When a bird is brought into the center, a tube is inserted to keep its breathing passages open. After resting for 24 hours, the bird is detergent-washed with toothbrushes eight to 12

times.

The next step is a blood test. Fred Nelson, who helped with this process, explained, "I held the bird as still as possible while a lab technician drew a sample from a tiny vein in the bird's leg. This test is for the hemoglobin level. The crude oil fouls the blood, causing the bird to become anemic." The lab tech Fred worked with was a volunteer from Los Angeles. She opposes extending oil exploration to the California coast.

After a blood test, the bird is put into a covered crib with a heater. Before being released it must pass a 24-hour float test in an outdoor pool. If its plumage is not back to normal, the bird will sink, and the entire procedure will have to be repeated.

Nelson, who is a sawmill worker, said, "There's such a crying need for volunteers. I know nothing about birds, and yet I've never felt so needed in my entire life. There's such a friendly and cooperative atmosphere here."

Another volunteer found the town authorities less friendly. Unable to find housing, he was told that floor space might be available in a local church basement, but that applicants have to be screened by the Valdez police.

The fact that the largest women's rights demonstration in U.S. history was taking place that day did not escape notice at the animal rescue centers. Terri, a construction worker from Valdez, and Carla, a housewife from Wasilla, Alaska, expressed support for the demand of the demonstrators to keep abortion safe and legal.

Candidate Robbie Scherr blasted Exxon and the U.S. government for the paltry resources allotted to the rescue effort. She said, "Their miserly attitude stands in stark contrast to the heart-felt generosity of these dedicated workers."

What oil spill has done to Naked Island

BY FRED NELSON

VALDEZ, Alaska — Even though the small boat harbor here is filled with vessels, it quickly became clear that a ride to the drifting oil spill was going to be hard to find. Almost every boat in this town of 3,000 residents is chartered by Exxon, which requires boat owners to sign contracts specifying that no media or passengers will be taken on board.

Although his six-passenger charter boat is small, Mike Case agreed to try a run to Naked Island, 60 miles south of Valdez and one of the first land areas to be heavily hit by the oil. He had never made it that far before.

As we left the port, Case pointed out the huge Alyeska oil terminal with its tank farm and loading facilities. A giant oil tanker was tied up at the terminal taking on oil.

Traveling down Prince William Sound, the boat passed a buoy marking Bligh reef

where the *Exxon Valdez* ran aground. High overhead bald eagles soared, occasionally diving at the still waters of the sound to grab an unsuspecting fish. In the course of the trip 20 eagles were counted.

A pod of sea lions basked in the warm sun and playfully dived off a large buoy stained with oil.

Closer to Naked Island, passage was impeded by thousands of icebergs that had crashed off the 4.5 mile face of Columbia Glacier. The icebergs pose a navigational hazard to the oil supertankers that make their way to and from Port Valdez.

Approaching Naked Island the first sign of oil on the water was a thin, shimmering film stretched toward the shore. A thick oily smell hung in the air.

The crippled *Exxon Valdez* sits on the western side of the island in Outside Bay undergoing repairs. Every few minutes a helicopter would alight and quickly depart.

The Coast Guard, which seems to have been turned into a private defense service for Exxon, would not allow Case's boat to come closer than 1,000 feet of the *Valdez*. Oil-containment booms encircled the ship at a distance of about 500 feet.

Where the water is clean, it is silver with the darting bodies of hundreds of herring. At the surface the water churns with them. Eagles and hundreds of cormorants and seals hungrily feed on the fish. There are also numerous pods of sea lions and an occasional otter.

But near shore, 1,500 feet from the *Exxon Valdez*, an oily, scummy film is on the water, and on the beach, thick sticky oil coats the gravel. Even in places that appeared clean, digging into the gravel revealed thick goop.

During the nine-hour trip not a single person was seen working to clean the mess on the beaches.

In our next issue The ideas of Che Guevara

The April 28 issue of the *Militant* will carry the publisher's preface by David Deutschmann to the English-language edition of *Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism*, by Carlos Tablada. The book will soon be published by Pathfinder/Pacific and Asia. We will also carry a new preface by *Militant* editor Doug Jenness to the reissuing of the Pathfinder pamphlet *Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis*.

Nicaragua leader on elections, pardons

Tomás Borge: Discontent isn't eroding revolution's support

BY LARRY SEIGLE

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Economic deprivation and other material difficulties facing Nicaraguans are creating "discontent," but not a loss of support for the revolution, Tomás Borge told reporters here.

"The difficulties are causing dissatisfaction," the Sandinista leader added. "However, it is dissatisfaction not with the revolution, but with some specific aspects, such as bureaucracy and shortages."

Borge is a member of the nine-man Na-

While the FSLN has not yet formally chosen its presidential candidate for the elections, it is no secret that Ortega will be named. Placards reading "Daniel for president" have appeared at some recent Sandinista Front rallies.

Meanwhile, various opposition groups are submitting proposed changes in the election law, which will be taken up by the National Assembly. And in Washington, the administration of President George Bush is stepping up its pressure on contra

war. "This new stage is characterized by institutional reaffirmation, by the legalization, so to speak, before the eyes of the entire world of the revolutionary process and of its government."

"Peace," he added, "has been achieved in practice, virtually de facto. There may be obstacles and difficulties. There may be skirmishes and provocations. But peace appears to be a fact."

"This will permit us to allocate human and economic resources and energy to national reconstruction," he continued.

Ex-Guardsmen pardoned

The veteran FSLN leader held his news conference shortly after the government announced plans to pardon nearly 2,000 ex-members of the National Guard. The decision was part of the agreement reached among the governments of the Central American countries at a February summit meeting in El Salvador.

Following the summit, President Ortega submitted to the National Assembly a list of 1,932 former guardsmen to be pardoned. After reviewing the cases, the assembly voted to approve pardons for all but 39 of them. The remainder were released in March.

The pardons aroused expressions of deeply held feelings of hatred for the National Guard among many Nicaraguan working people. From 1927, when it was formed, until the overthrow of the Somoza dictatorship in July 1979, the guard was used to terrorize peasants, break strikes, and assassinate opponents of the dictatorship. Tens of thousands were tortured, raped, or murdered in cold blood.

Despite prominent coverage in the pro-government press of such sentiments, however, the decision to pardon the guardsmen aroused little opposition.

At the news conference, one correspondent asked Borge whether the decision to pardon the former guardsmen was "the most difficult decision" the government has made.

"I believe that it is at least one of the most difficult decisions," Borge replied. He then went on to stress that there is no disagreement within the National Directorate over the El Salvador agreement or other major policies the government is implementing.

'No individual decisions'

"It is important to be aware that in this country there are no individual decisions," he said. He criticized "some newspapers" for suggesting that President Daniel Ortega is solely responsible for major policies.

"Daniel is the spokesman for policy decisions of the revolutionary leadership and the government," Borge stated. "The decisions that have been made have been discussed down to the last detail."

He added, "There is not — and it is good that this should be known — the least internal difference within the Sandinista Front" on the release of the prisoners. "There is more complete unanimity of views on this problem than ever."

"We have had some tactical differences throughout the years. But, fortunately — imagine nine people thinking on the same wavelength — we have never had differences of a strategic character, neither political nor ideological."

The tactical differences that do occur, he stated, "are decided democratically, by majority. But on the fundamental questions we have always made decisions with unanimity."

There are some people, Borge continued, "who convince themselves that we are going to divide." But, he said, that will not happen "because we are mature."

"We are not going to divide, because we are sensible. We are not going to divide, because we are not idiots."

Lesson of revolution

This "lesson" of the Nicaraguan revolution, is so important "I cannot understand why it has not been fully assimilated," Borge said. "How can there be divisions over secondary questions, when the essential thing is the interests of the people?"

"Among us this kind of problem doesn't exist — luckily for Nicaragua, for the Nicaraguans, for the revolution. If that kind of problem did exist, we wouldn't be here, we wouldn't be in power."

Borge was also asked his views on whether the Scandinavian countries can serve as a model for Nicaragua. The issue was raised by a correspondent for EFE, the Spanish news service, who said that in a recent interview Daniel Ortega had told him that Nicaragua shouldn't try to be "like either Cuba or Costa Rica, but that its model should be the Scandinavian countries."

"What model do you think Nicaragua should follow?" he asked.

Borge began his reply by saying that there is much that is "attractive" in the Scandinavian countries. "They have been able to combine a certain economic development with political liberties."

'Our own model'

Nonetheless, he added, Nicaragua has to "construct our own model, taking into account the experiences of other countries." The Nicaraguan revolution "should learn from all other countries, including from Cuba, from Costa Rica, from Scandinavia, and from the Soviet Union."

"It is necessary to take all experiences into account, so as not to repeat errors and in order to pick up positive aspects that can be adapted to the specific conditions of Nicaragua."

"What Daniel says is true. The Scandinavian model remains attractive." However, he said, "it is dangerous to imitate" other countries.

"I am sure that Daniel was not saying that we are going to be like the Swedes. What he meant was that this model has certain positive sides, but as a point of reference."

Asked "what kind of socialism" he favors for Nicaragua, Borge replied: "Nicaraguan socialism."

Reception held for Nicaragua's new UN representative

BY MARGARET JAYKO

NEW YORK — Some 100 people attended a March 31 reception in Manhattan for Daisy Moncada, Nicaragua's new deputy permanent representative to the United Nations.

Lucius Walker, leader of the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization, introduced Moncada. The gathering was sponsored by the New York solidarity group, Casa Nicaragua.

Participants included leaders and activists from a variety of groups devoted to organizing political and material support for Nicaragua, the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, members of left-wing political groups, African National Congress of South Africa, and the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front of El Salvador.

In her brief remarks, Moncada called the U.S.-run contras a "dead body" that Washington is supporting in order to put political pressure on Managua.

She stressed that her government is committed to "holding free, democratic elections in 1990" and that the ruling Sandinista National Liberation Front will win those elections despite the poverty and inflation hitting the people of Nicaragua.

Washington's goal in urging contra leaders to return to Nicaragua, she said, is to carry out internal destabilization. "Much of our effort," she said, is directed to convincing world public opinion that the elections are fair and the U.S. government should respect them.

Prior to the 1979 revolution, Moncada worked with the Committee in Solidarity with the People of Nicaragua in New York. In 1979 she became consultant to the Ministry of Planning in Nicaragua and then director of International Organizations for the Reconstruction of the Country. She was part of the staff at Nicaragua's UN mission for several years. She replaces Julio Icaza.



Militant/Larry Seigle

Tomás Borge at rally in Puerto Cabezas last September celebrating Autonomy Law

tional Directorate of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), as well as Nicaragua's minister of the interior. He discussed these and other topics with journalists at a recent breakfast news conference.

"When the moment comes to make a political choice, the immense majority of Nicaraguans choose their historic project," Borge said.

Asked whether Nicaraguan voters might be expected to "vote with their stomachs" for opposition parties in the elections scheduled for February 1990, Borge responded, "Here, the people vote with their consciousness, not with their stomachs. That is the great miracle of a genuine revolution."

Election plans

Next year's elections, under current plans, will include balloting for president, parliament, and municipal offices. Elections for the regional governments on the Atlantic Coast, provided for in the Autonomy Law, may also be held at the same time.

The last elections took place in 1984. The FSLN, with Daniel Ortega as its presidential candidate, carried the country with 67 percent of the vote.

officials to return to Nicaragua and try to link up with other opposition forces in the period leading up to the elections.

It is not yet clear which of the opposition groups will participate in the elections and which will stage a boycott in an attempt to discredit them. However, Borge said, there is no doubt that at least some of the opposition forces will enter the elections.

There won't be "any pretext" for a boycott, the FSLN leader said. "There is going to be electoral supervision from trustworthy international bodies. We even think that this supervision should begin now, if possible."

"This will confirm the legitimacy of all the decisions that are taken, and the free and honest character of the election campaign."

"Any party that does not participate in the elections," he stated, "will place itself outside national life in historical and juridical terms."

Borge added that he has no doubt that the FSLN will emerge victorious in the election contest. The Nicaraguan people have "historic confidence in what they are doing," he said.

The elections, he said, are part of the "new stage" the revolution has entered into with the end of the U.S.-backed contra

The 'three Rs' in West Virginia

BY ANDREW PULLEY

CHARLESTON, West Va. — Reading, writing, and racism are the three Rs at West Virginia's two largest universities.

Last January 100 Black students demonstrated at West Virginia University in Morgantown protesting a racist cartoon published in the campus newspaper. Black students were rebuffed by the administration committee that oversees the paper, which rejected their demand that the editor be fired.

At Marshall University in Huntington, campaign posters of Krista Duncan, candidate for student body president, and Thomas Simmons, candidate for vice-president, were defaced, with the word "Nigger" sprayed on them. Duncan is white, and Simmons is Black.

A debate erupted on campus and in the student newspaper, as well as other media in Huntington. It was fueled by other racist attacks on and off campus.

Marshall University President Dale Nitzschke denounced racism, stating it will not be tolerated on campus.

At a news conference, Phil Carter, president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and a professor at Marshall, said, "Rather than pointing the finger at a few demented bigots, Marshall needs to deal with institutional racism." Carter and others are suing Marshall for civil rights violations.

Opponents of racism at both Marshall and WVU point to the small numbers of Black students and faculty on campus and the lack of a serious affirmative action plan as something that must be changed. At WVU, there are 538 Black students in a student body of 18,746. At Marshall, of 12,350 students, 382 are Black.

The student government election took place March 8. The turnout was near record-setting. The interracial slate of Duncan-Simmons was defeated by five votes.



Militant/Harvey McArthur

Leaders of JS-19, Sandinista youth group, at 1986 rally honoring victims of contras.

Nicaragua seminar discusses problems facing young people

BY THERESA DELGADILLO

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Issues ranging from beauty contests to veterans' rights were discussed and sometimes hotly debated in the course of a seminar held here in March on problems facing Nicaraguan young people. Most participants were staff people from around the country of the JS-19, the youth group of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN).

The discussion occurred against the backdrop of a worsening economic situation for workers and farmers in Nicaragua. In response to these conditions, the government is increasingly turning toward what several speakers referred to as the "dynamic of profitability" and is seeking to establish a social pact between working people and the capitalists.

This means that "the state must withdraw from the economy and the party must withdraw from the class struggle," according to Orlando Núñez, director of the Center for Research and Study of the Agrarian Reform. Núñez was one of several prominent officials to address the seminar.

He said the concern that "there isn't a revolution here anymore" is emerging "not only in the left, but also in the ranks of the FSLN." It is important to answer this, he said, by pointing to the "radical changes in government, property forms, and in Nicaragua's relations with the world market."

'Law of value must reign'

Nonetheless, Núñez stressed, "there is no option other than the liberal capitalist reforms in fashion" for rebuilding the economy. "The fact that the law of value must reign is agreed upon by everybody — Gorbachev, the FSLN, and Fidel," he asserted.

Núñez added that Nicaragua is attempting to develop "a more community-based socialism founded on relations of cooperation and solidarity" rather than the "state socialism" that has existed elsewhere.

In the discussion period that followed, a few participants expressed some hesitations about Núñez' perspective.

"This philosophy stuff is all good and fine," one said, "but what are young people supposed to do?" Many in the audience expressed their disagreement with this questioner by interrupting him with clapping, a signal for him to sit down.

Another participant pointed out that many producers of staple foods — most of

whom are small, working farmers — are going bankrupt. "The problem isn't just land ownership," he said. "It's the ability to produce." He warned that the difficulties for farmers could lead to a loss of their support for the revolution.

Núñez responded by predicting that "people are going to lose a lot more. They are going to lose their jobs, their land, and face inflation and poverty. But they can withstand it if we succeed in inculcating socialism as a value, like the belief in God."

Beauty contest controversy

As in the discussion of the economic crisis, the question of the role of those who consider themselves revolutionaries emerged in the debate around women's rights.

Ivonne Siú of the Nicaraguan Women's Movement and Sofía Montenegro, head of the editorial page of the FSLN newspaper *Barricada*, made presentations on the problems women face today. In her remarks, Montenegro criticized a beauty contest sponsored here last November by the JS-19.

Several participants sharply disagreed with Montenegro's presentation and defended beauty contests. "When you get down to it," asked one young woman, "what woman doesn't like to dress pretty and be admired?" Her comment was greeted by cheers and approving whistles.

Ajax Delgado, who was recently appointed head of the JS-19, said, "You cannot decree a change in consciousness." Organizing activities like beauty contests, he said, "is where we have to be if we want to reach young people."

Seeking to rebut comments like those of JS-19 head Delgado, Montenegro asked, "If the level of our membership means being at the level of the most backward, then what is the role of the vanguard?"

She added that, in her view, there is not enough discussion and study about the "real gaps" in the revolution 10 years after its triumph. Some of the gaps she pointed to were the lack of sex education, the fact that abortion is a leading cause of death among women, and discriminatory layoffs of women in the current round of budget and personnel cuts.

Montenegro called on the youth present to debate these issues seriously. She argued that the lack of money and materials and the U.S. aggression are often used as excuses for not making changes that require little money.

"It is possible to transform consciousness ahead of material conditions," asserted Montenegro. "Or has the dynamic of profitability," she asked, "robbed us of that approach?"

In closing the discussion, Ivonne Siú added, "We need to revolutionize consciousness, and we are not going to do that by using the weapons of a capitalist system that thrives on those ideas." She proposed that the JS-19 organize a roundtable discussion along with the Nicaraguan Women's Movement on the problems facing young women today in Nicaragua.

Veterans' benefits

An issue of concern to many young people is the value of the identification card for those who have completed military service. The card is supposed to allow veter-

ans to ride the bus for free, get into movies and other recreational events for free or half price, and receive other such benefits. However, the card's value has been steadily eroding as more and more businesses — both state and private — refuse to honor it, arguing that it is not profitable to do so.

This dispute was taken up under a presentation by Col. Hugo Torres of the Sandinista People's Army. Torres said that this situation is being "evaluated" and in the future the cards may be issued only to those who perform well in the army. In the meantime, he added, veterans shouldn't expect to be able to use the card.

A presentation on "juvenile crime" also provoked debate.

Much press attention has been devoted recently to "youth gangs." But Doris Tijerino, head of the Sandinista Police, insisted that most of these groups are not involved in criminal acts. However, she added, it is a fact that "juvenile crime" is on the rise, as is the number of youth gangs who turn to violence and crime.

Tijerino attributed this increase to the economic crisis, the contra war, and the influence of imperialism and U.S. and European "consumer cultures."

In the discussion, one young woman asked why there was not "more effort by the police to work with youth and families to prevent crime." Another young man said, "It's true that there is a problem of social values. The question is how to introduce new values." He suggested more television ads and programs aimed at youth.

Another participant asked what is being done about prostitution.

In answering, Tijerino said that the factors she cited as the causes of crime will continue. She said that although the police would like to implement programs for young criminals and prostitutes patterned after successful projects in Cuba, there are not sufficient resources to do so. In addition, she said, the police would like to do more programs and announcements on television but the cost is prohibitive.

Tijerino concluded by calling on the youth at the seminar to help "instill new morals" among their peers.

In closing the seminar, Ajax Delgado outlined two tasks for the JS-19 in the coming year. In August, he said, a year-long effort to reduce illiteracy will get under way. The drive will mark the 10th anniversary of the National Literacy Crusade of 1980, a mass mobilization of youth and other volunteers that sharply reduced illiteracy. Since then, however, illiteracy has been on the rise.

The second major undertaking, Delgado reported, will be an effort to organize participation by youth in the nomination and election of young candidates for municipal office. Municipal elections are currently scheduled for February 1990, along with voting for president and the National Assembly.

Delgado said that "youth taking power" by participating in the elections is a way to insure attention to the problems discussed throughout the seminar.

Rightists protest Cuban band's invitation to Chicago festival

BY JOHN VOTAVA

CHICAGO — Anti-Cuba forces here are putting pressure on the city government to rescind an invitation to the Orquesta Aragon, a 14-piece band from Cuba that is celebrating its 50th anniversary.

The Mayor's Office of Special Events asked Orquesta Aragon to participate in the June 3-4 Viva Chicago festival, and the band agreed. The weekend event will feature a variety of Latin American and Caribbean music, ranging from singer Ruben Blades to percussionist Pete Escobedo.

Victor Parra, host of WBEZ's "Mambo Express" show, backed the invitation as providing "an act where all this music came from, the real McCoy."

"I thought people would be excited to see Orquesta Aragon," said Juan Montenegro, the only Cuban on the selection committee. He is general sales manager of the Spanish-language radio station WIND.

"We are opposed to any band from Communist Cuba and taxpayers having to foot the bill," said Dr. Frank Yañez, Jr., a spokesman for the Chicago chapter of the Cuban American National Foundation. The foundation is one of the rightist groups that claims to speak for Chicago's Cuban community, estimated at 17,000 people.

Jose Lamas, general manager of Spanish-language television station WSNS-TV, refused to sponsor Viva Chicago because of the invitation.

"We are going to take all the measures necessary" to make sure Aragon doesn't

perform in Chicago, warned Orlando Miranda, a host on WEDC radio. "We'll picket and do what we have to do. I'm not a participant of violence. But what happens when an individual who has lost his brother or father, and remembers that that government killed his family? It's a great provocation for the Cuban community."

Miranda had been invited to participate in the Viva Chicago selection committee, but declined to do so. According to committee director Michael Scott, Miranda said "the committee was too far to the left." Scott added that the event is purely cultural and has no political aspects.

Scott said that calls and letters on the invitation have been about evenly divided.

None of the sponsors of Viva Chicago have withdrawn their support thus far in the face of the right-wing pressure. Salima Rivera, coordinator of the event, strongly supported maintaining the invitation on First Amendment grounds.

Rivera has received a call from a man who threatened that "people trained in guerrilla warfare and trained by the CIA" might set off bombs at the homes of members of the selection committee.

"To me the real issue is my right as a citizen to hear different bands from different places, regardless of where they live," said Maria Torres, former executive director of the Chicago Commission on Latino Affairs.

City officials are meeting with groups opposed to the invitation in what they describe as an effort to head off incidents.

Book-banning trial in Grenada postponed

BY STEVE CLARK

The Supreme Court of the Caribbean nation of Grenada agreed April 7 to a motion by the government to postpone for two weeks the book-banning trial scheduled to open that day. Over the objections of attorney Kendrick Radix, the judge rescheduled the hearing of arguments for April 21.

The plaintiff in the case is Terry Marryshow, leader of Grenada's Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement. The lawsuit calls on the government of Grenada to turn over to Marryshow four boxes of books he had ordered from the New York-based Pathfinder publishers. In early March the Grenadian government impounded the books, arguing that it has a "duty" to protect the people of Grenada "from negative ideas."

Circulation drive gets big boost at April 9 protest

BY LUIS MADRID

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Over the course of the day, thousands of those demonstrating at the April 9 abortion rights march and rally here stopped by a Pathfinder table to look over the socialist literature.

By day's end, 500 protesters bought subscriptions to the *Militant*, scores of books and pamphlets, and dozens of T-shirts and buttons put out by the Young Socialist Alliance. They also purchased some 3,000 individual copies of the *Militant*.

A big display of Pathfinder literature went up early in the morning on the lawn of the Ellipse near the Washington Monument where demonstrators began assembling. Smaller tables staffed by supporters from numerous cities also were put up at several intersections near the Ellipse.

Another big table was staffed later at the rally site near the Capitol. More than \$900 in Pathfinder literature was purchased from the two main tables.

While marching from the Ellipse to the Capitol, many demonstrators also passed one of the many mobile Pathfinder tables.

"The T-shirts, the buttons, they helped attract people to our table," said Al Duncan, who joined three others behind a small literature display. "Then you took the time to explain what the *Militant* is," he added. Duncan is a unionist who works at a Pittsburgh mine equipment factory.

Duncan's team sold 25 subscriptions and 40 Young Socialist Alliance T-shirts. Demonstrators could choose between a T-shirt reading, "Abortion: a woman's right to choose," "Free Nelson Mandela, stop the executions," "Malcolm X, by any means necessary," or "Che Guevara, hasta la victoria siempre," ("onward until victory").

Supporters from New York, Toronto, and Cincinnati sold 19 subscriptions from a mobile table. Team member Dick Geyer said a highlight for them was a discussion with two South African students who purchased \$40 worth of literature, a subscription, and a copy of the Marxist magazine *New International*.

"People who bought subscriptions were

interested in the totality of the *Militant's* coverage," Helen Meyers commented, "from the oil spill in Alaska to what's happening in Namibia."

Meyers spent the day at one of the main tables. She emphasized that young people were particularly interested in women's liberation literature and books and pamphlets about Che Guevara, Fidel Castro, the Cuban revolution, and the freedom struggle in southern Africa.

Carol Blank, an electronics worker from Manchester, England, traveled to Washington for the demonstration. She teamed up with a supporter from New Jersey in selling 18 subscriptions. "I'd start by explaining that this is an international paper relevant to working people the world over," Blank said. "The fact that I am from Britain helped me get the idea across."

Many supporters sold subscriptions on the buses to and from the demonstration. Ernie Mailhot, a striking Machinist at Eastern Airlines and the Socialist Workers Party candidate for New Jersey State Assembly, sold eight subscriptions to Eastern strikers riding down to Washington.

Participants from Morgantown, West Virginia, and Pittsburgh set up a table at 4:30 a.m. at a busy turnpike truck stop in Breezewood, Pennsylvania. Greg Relaford, a Morgantown garment worker, reports that they sold 11 subscriptions.

When supporters from Detroit stopped in Breezewood, they also put their literature on display while waiting for the trip to resume.

The subscription sales at the demonstration gave a big boost to the April 8-15 international circulation drive target week. Distributors around the world are taking special steps during the week to get on schedule in the drive to win 8,000 new readers to the *Militant*, the Spanish-language *Perspectiva Mundial*, the French language *Lutte ouvrière*, and the Marxist magazines *New International* and *Nouvelle Internationale*.

Next week we will carry an evaluation of the target week, as well as further reports from our reporting and sales team in Alaska.

Pathfinder protests bombing of Collets bookstore in London

Two bookshops in London were fire-bombed April 10. Both bookshops carried the novel *The Satanic Verses*, by Indian-born author Salman Rushdie. A representative of Collets Penguin bookshop—which has no connection with Viking-Penguin, publishers of the novel—said that a few weeks before the bombing the store had received a letter warning it to stop selling the book.

The damage to Collets Penguin was extensive, but no one was injured. Representatives of the store said it would take two months to get it back into operation. In addition to selling novels and nonfiction, the three-store chain is the largest seller in London of books on labor and left-wing politics. The store that was bombed sold mainly novels.

Another firebomb slightly damaged Dilons bookshop. Rushdie, who grew up in Britain, has written several other novels, including *Midnight's Children*, dealing with India; *Shame*, set in Pakistan; and *The Jaguar's Smile*, a favorable portrait of the Nicaraguan revolution.

Pathfinder London bookshop director Peter Clifford condemned the bombing, explaining, "Such attempts to intimidate those who would distribute or read *The Satanic Verses* can only strengthen the drive of Britain's rulers to extend 'official' censorship." The Pathfinder representative noted the British government's imposition of a broadcasting gag on Sinn Féin, a political organization in Ireland; customs' seizures of books imported by the Gay is the Word bookshop, on the grounds of obscen-

ity; and his own arrest last year in Northern Ireland while on a sales trip for Pathfinder.

"Furthermore," said Clifford, "such bombings serve to lay the basis for stepping up attacks on Arab and Muslim workers by the British government."

The Satanic Verses is available in the Pathfinder Bookshop in London.



Peter Clifford

Militant/Janet Post



Militant/Arthur Hughes

Discussions were lively at Pathfinder literature tables at April 9 march and rally

Subscription drive scoreboard

Area	Drive Goals			Militant		New Intl*		PM		LO	
	Goal	Sold	%	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	(Perspectiva Mundial)		(Lutte ouvrière)	
			Sold					Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold
UNITED STATES											
Portland, Ore.	145	60	41	110	43	20	14	10	2	5	1
Cleveland	100	40	40	70	33	18	1	10	5	2	1
Pittsburgh	165	66	40	120	60	30	3	10	3	5	0
Des Moines, Iowa	200	77	39	140	63	35	4	20	9	5	1
Houston	180	69	38	100	48	30	8	45	13	5	0
Brooklyn	345	129	37	190	91	60	14	65	21	30	3
New York	635	235	37	300	175	150	10	150	47	35	3
Kansas City	105	38	36	65	34	20	1	15	3	5	0
Greensboro, NC	100	35	35	75	29	15	0	8	6	2	0
Detroit	175	58	33	125	53	30	0	15	2	5	3
Baltimore	155	50	32	115	43	25	0	10	7	5	0
Philadelphia	190	58	31	125	53	25	0	30	5	10	0
Charleston, WV	92	26	28	70	24	15	1	5	1	2	0
Omaha, Neb.	120	33	28	80	31	20	0	15	2	5	0
St. Louis	175	47	27	130	42	30	3	10	2	5	0
Newark, NJ	500	127	25	250	107	100	0	100	13	50	7
Morgantown, WV	130	33	25	90	31	25	2	10	0	5	0
Seattle	180	45	25	120	34	25	3	30	4	5	4
Los Angeles	470	117	25	240	53	90	8	130	56	10	0
Boston	265	60	23	160	47	40	0	45	6	20	7
Milwaukee	130	29	22	80	26	20	0	27	2	3	1
Oakland, Calif.	175	38	22	100	29	30	4	40	5	5	0
Atlanta	205	43	21	150	35	30	4	20	4	5	0
Price, Utah	62	11	18	40	9	10	1	10	1	2	0
Twin Cities, Minn.	275	48	17	200	33	35	7	30	8	10	0
Chicago	320	55	17	200	41	50	2	60	12	10	0
Phoenix	132	22	17	70	19	20	0	40	3	2	0
Miami	250	39	16	145	18	35	4	45	7	25	10
Salt Lake City	120	18	15	80	8	20	4	15	5	5	1
San Francisco	215	30	14	135	23	35	0	35	7	10	0
Washington, DC	170	18	11	100	14	25	0	35	4	10	0
Austin, Minn.	87	7	8	60	7	15	0	10	0	2	0
Birmingham, Ala.	170	7	4	130	7	25	0	10	0	5	0
Other U.S.	-	15	-	-	15	-	0	-	0	-	0
U.S. TOTAL	6,738	1,783	26	4,165	1,378	1,153	98	1,110	265	310	42
AUSTRALIA											
	30	16	53	17	6	4	7	8	3	1	0
BRITAIN											
London	150	54	36	95	42	30	2	20	10	5	0
Manchester	61	19	31	40	19	15	0	5	0	1	0
South Yorks	60	18	30	30	16	20	0	10	2	-	0
South Wales	59	10	17	40	9	10	0	7	1	2	0
Other Britain	70	5	-	25	5	25	0	8	0	12	0
BRITAIN TOTAL	400	106	27	230	91	100	2	50	13	20	0
CANADA											
Toronto	280	88	31	150	52	50	16	50	15	30	5
Vancouver	30	9	30	20	9	2	0	6	0	2	0
Montréal	250	65	26	80	13	40	20	30	14	100	18
Other Canada	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
CANADA TOTAL	560	163	29	250	75	92	36	86	29	132	23
ICELAND											
	15	0	0	15	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
NEW ZEALAND											
Christchurch	75	50	67	60	47	10	1	3	2	2	0
Auckland	100	42	42	75	39	15	0	6	3	4	0
Wellington	70	16	23	45	13	20	0	3	3	2	0
Other New Zealand	-	4	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
NEW ZEALAND TOTAL	245	112	46	180	103	45	1	12	8	8	0
SWEDEN											
	56	15	27	30	8	5	1	20	6	1	0
PUERTO RICO											
	25	10	40	3	3	3	0	19	7	-	-
Other International	5	1	20	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	8,074	2,206	28%	4,895	1,665	1,402	145	1,305	331	472	65
Drive Goals	8,000			4,900		1,350		1,300		450	
Should be		2,000	25%		1,225		338		325		113

*Single copies. Includes *Nouvelle Internationale*.

Curtis defense gets boost on D.C. march

BY MARGARET JAYKO

WASHINGTON, D.C. — "Admirable." "I give you a lot of credit for being here." As participants in the April 9 abortion rights march streamed over to the assembly point, hundreds stopped to look at a display assembled by supporters of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee. Each one received an open letter addressed to women's rights advocates signed by 17 leaders of that fight in the United States and Canada.

Mark Curtis is a packinghouse worker, unionist, and political activist in Des Moines, Iowa. He was arrested last March,

To contact the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, call or write: Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311; (515) 246-1695.

beaten by the cops, and framed up on false rape charges. He was convicted in what his defense committee brands an unjust trial and is now serving a 25-year sentence.

A team of unionists and other Curtis supporters from the United States and Canada talked to hundreds of other march participants throughout the day. For most people, this was the first time they had heard about the case.

Dozens of young women signed up on mailing lists so they could be contacted about becoming endorsers after they got home and had a chance to read the literature. Others, after discussing the case for a few minutes with supporters, decided to endorse the committee right on the spot.

Kate Kaku, a leader of the defense committee and Curtis' wife, participated in the march and helped staff the table. She talked to leaders of the Democratic Socialists of America at a reception that afternoon, and she addressed an open house sponsored by the Young Socialist Alliance and Socialist Workers Party.

A high school student from Virginia said she had seen a video on the case, and an auto worker from Boston said there was pro-Curtis literature on the bulletin board at her job.

Two Pakistanis who live in Sweden came by to talk to Kaku. They had seen an interview with her on television when she had been in Sweden recently on a tour for the defense committee.

Two women and a man from Des Moines dropped by the table and said they thought Curtis was guilty. Supporters talked to them and gave them literature so they could read the facts of the case.

A team of Curtis supporters made the rounds of whatever contingents of unionists could be found in the sea of people. They reported that many told them stories of victimizations of themselves or others they know because of their union or political activities.

A group of Black women from the women's committee of the United Auto Workers local at the Ford truck plant in Norfolk, Virginia, were among the most responsive.

A team was also dispatched to talk to the dozens of film and television stars who participated in the demonstration.

Four reasons to support defense

The signers of the Curtis support letter outlined four reasons why those who fight for women's equality should support the Curtis defense effort:

"(1) This case is yet another example of the police using rape charges to try to achieve their own political agenda against a political activist. For example, in the South, rape charges have traditionally been used to terrorize the Black community into submission. It is particularly reprehensible given the fact that *legitimate rape charges* are so often treated with disdain and disbelief by the police. . . .

"(2) Mark Curtis has been a supporter of women's rights and is someone who counts himself among those who oppose violence against women. . . .

"(3) The young woman in this case, who may be a victim of sexual assault by someone, is being used as a pawn in this politi-

cal game by the police. She is also a victim of this police frame-up. . . .

"(4) This injustice will certainly be used to try to divide the activist community. Don't let it! Women labor union activists as well as women Central America solidarity activists have supported the Mark Curtis Defense Committee. . . ."

Signers include: Pam Leary Valadez, Greensboro, North Carolina, National Organization for Women president; Sammie Roberts, Alabama State NOW president; Linda Smith, Greater Birmingham NOW president; and Mary Brown, president of International Union of Electronic Workers Local 829 in Des Moines. Also signing were, Edna Griffin, longtime civil rights activist from Des Moines; Barbara A. Ferraro and Patricia A. Hussey, former nuns and abortion rights supporters from Charleston, West Virginia; Teresa Sierra, Chicano and women's rights activist, Iowa City; Fernande Clement, Status of Women Committee, Confederation of National Trade Unions, Montréal; and Susan Mnumzana, African National Congress of South Africa, Women's Section.



Pat Grogan (left) talks to abortion rights marchers about frame-up of Mark Curtis.

Endorser drive takes off in Canada

BY MARGARET JAYKO

The international political campaign to win thousands of endorsers for the Mark Curtis Defense Committee has made some important headway in Canada.

A series of telephone interviews with several Curtis endorsers and activists in Montréal, Toronto, and Vancouver, revealed how widely the fight against the frame-up of Curtis is beginning to become known and supported by rights fighters in Canada.

In Québec — where the majority of residents are the nationally oppressed, French-speaking Québécois — some 70 people and organizations have endorsed the defense committee to date.

The leadership of the Confederation of National Trade Unions (CSN) is one of them. The CSN is the second largest of Québec's four union federations. Michel Gauthier, CSN secretary general, wrote a letter to the defense committee stating, "We are convinced that justice has not been done to Mark Curtis. On the contrary, we are of the opinion that his conviction has more to do with his trade union and political activities than with any crime he may have committed."

Injury to one is injury to all

Pierre Paquette, president of the Montréal Central Council of the CSN, has also endorsed. The January-February issue of the council's eight-page magazine, *Unité*, ran its centrespread on Curtis with the headline: "An injury to one is an injury to all." The article gave a detailed account of the frame-up and its political context.

"Thousands of unionists, farmers, students, and militants have condemned the frame-up of Mark Curtis," the magazine said. The National Committee of the CSN Youth also voted to support the efforts of the defense committee.

Paul Drouin is president of the Movement for a Secular Québec, which is an organization of 1,000 members that is fighting for separation of church and state, especially in the school system. Some locals of the teachers union are affiliated to the movement.

Drouin explained that he's backing the Curtis fight in line with the group's charter, which says it should support people whose rights are endangered. Drouin had also supported Mexican-born socialist Héctor Marroquín, who waged a successful 11-year-long fight to win his right to permanent residence in the United States.

Stuart Russell is a 34-year-old lawyer in Montréal and a member of the Association of Québec Jurists. As a lawyer, he said, "I've had a lot of experience with the criminal justice system and it seemed pretty clear to me that it was a case of political frame-up that I wanted to speak out against."

Russell had defended Mac Warren, a leader of the Socialist Workers Party in the United States and a long-time Black rights activist, when Canadian and U.S. customs

conspired in 1987 to detain him at the border, where he was strip-searched and prevented from entering Canada.

Russell mentioned the efforts of police agencies "in framing up political activists here in Canada as well," referring particularly to the Canadian Security Intelligence Service. These spy agencies, he said, "are mobilized by private industry and the public sector to discredit and diminish the effectiveness of political activists."

How campaign is organized

Bernadette Julian organizes Curtis support work in Montréal. "We made a list of prominent people that we want to be endorsers," she explained. "Then we organized Curtis activists in teams of two, giving each team the names of three or four people to contact. We prepared 200 kits of Curtis material, some in French and some in English."

"In Montréal, of course, it's important to have materials in French," she pointed out, "so we ended up doing a lot of translating and printing, including using favorable articles that have appeared in French-language publications around the world."

First, she said, team members would call up potential endorsers, and arrange to drop off materials for them to look at. After they had a chance to read the literature, supporters called them back to set up a meeting to discuss the case.

An effective educational tool, said Julian, is a video of portions of Curtis' trial, with a French-language soundtrack, using three different voices to make it more realistic. "A lot of people who know about the case get convinced to support the defense effort after seeing the video," Julian observed.

Objections to endorsing the committee are often of two types, she said. "Either people say, 'But he's from the states. This kind of thing doesn't happen here, so why should I endorse?' or 'We have problems here in Canada too. Why should I worry about him.'"

She described how supporters answer these objections.

"For one thing, you can give a lot of examples of frame-ups in Canada. We show them the sponsor list, which has names from all over the world. And we explain politically why a victory in this fight would be a blow to similar victimizations in Canada."

The General Association of Students at the University of Québec in Montréal donated \$100 to the Curtis defense committee. The Curtis frame-up is important because "it is something happening every day to many people. We have also been the victim of all kinds of repression from the police, the justice system, or the administration," said Jeff Begley, head of external relations for the association.

Other endorsers in Québec include: John Yves Rondeau, president for political education of the Montréal local of the rail workers union; Rosemarie Whalley from Voice of Women, a women's disarmament

group; Serge Bouchereau, spokesperson, Canadian Coordinating Committee in Solidarity with the People of Haiti; and prominent sculptor Armand Vaillancourt.

Wayne Easter is a 39-year-old dairy farmer from the province of Prince Edward Island on Canada's east coast. He's starting his seventh term as president of the National Farmers Union of Canada.

Easter first heard about the Curtis case at a meeting in the United States. It sounded like a frame-up so he looked into it further. He decided that what was done to Curtis was unjust. The NFU, he said, supports the Curtis defense initiative for several reasons:

"For one, we think a violation of his rights has occurred. Two, if you allow a situation like this to go untested then that's opening up the door to further abuses of basic individual rights in the law." And third, he said, to indicate that the NFU "is not going to stand idly by and see an individual not given fairness under the law."

The November 1988 issue of *Union Farmer*, the NFU's monthly newspaper, reprinted a Curtis support statement signed by nine farm activists in the United States and Canada. At the NFU convention in Saskatchewan earlier this year, 65 people attended a discussion with Curtis supporters, and 27 people signed up as endorsers, including NFU Youth President Corky Ollikka.

'A horrible story'

Our Times, which describes itself as an "independent Canadian labour magazine," ran a story by Rhonda Sussman of Ontario in its January 1989 issue titled, "U.S. Union Activist Framed."

"A horrible story of racism, police brutality, anticommunism, and imperfect justice has filtered up from the labour movement in the United States," she wrote.

The editor of *Our Times*, Stuart Crombie, is an endorser of the committee.

At the January meeting of United Steelworkers of America Local 1005, in Hamilton, Ontario — the largest basic steel local in Canada — 80 people saw the video of excerpts of Curtis' trial.

Fifteen members endorsed the committee including the local's president, John Martin, and Recording Secretary Ed Sutherland. "I find it deplorable that a miscarriage of justice of this magnitude can take place in the United States, the 'bastion of democracy and liberty' in 1988," commented Sutherland.

"Mark Curtis should be supported because of the infringement on his democratic rights and on his trade union rights," said Jim Biro, organizer of the Kamloops Club of the Communist Party of Canada. Kamloops is a town in the west-coast province of British Columbia. "It is quite obvious from the evidence the club has seen he was discriminated against because of his political beliefs and his actions," he added.

The January-February 1989 issue of the socialist magazine *Canadian Dimension*

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Huge march for abortion rights

Continued from front page
paper attached carrying slogans — were carried by many marchers.

When abortion was outlawed, many desperate women actually used coat hangers to self-induce abortions when they were unable to find someone to perform the operation. The coat hanger came to symbolize the unsafe conditions in which abortions were performed on women when the operation was outlawed, resulting in the deaths and maiming of thousands of women.

Popular demonstration

People came from all 50 states, as well as Washington, D.C. In addition to the contingent from Alaska that joined the march, 1,000 people rallied for abortion rights that day in Anchorage. While busloads came from the Kansas City area to the march, 350 supporters of abortion rights rallied there April 9.

The previous weekend, the largest demonstration for women's rights ever to take place in San Francisco drew 20,000 people.

There were demonstrations in solidarity with the march on Washington in other cities as well.

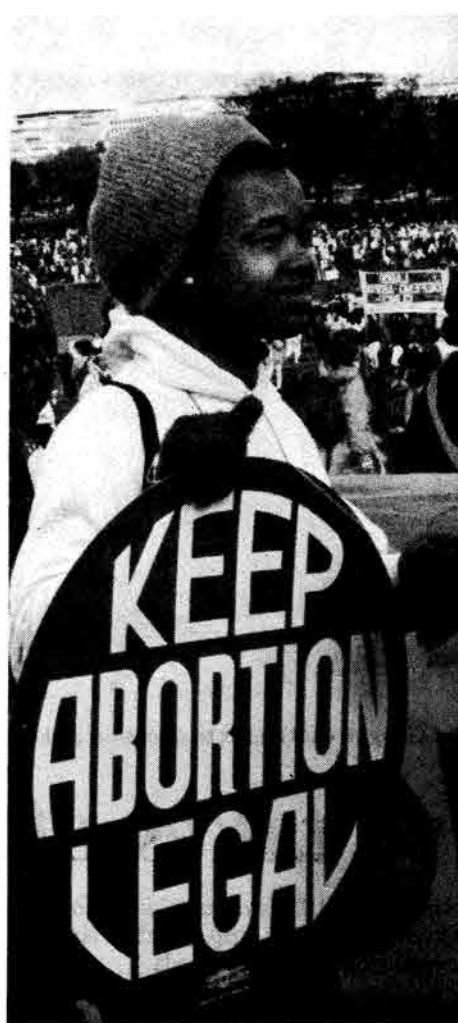
The Washington, D.C., marchers came from almost every walk of life and part of society, from politicians and movie stars to professionals to thousands of union members.

The size of the demonstration was indicated by the traffic jams coming into Washington, and by the even bigger jams as bus and carloads of protesters headed back.

On the way in, demonstrators usually got a very positive response to the demonstration from gas station and restaurant workers. Cab drivers, hotel workers, and others in the city were almost uniformly friendly and supportive.

The demonstration was a popular one, speaking for millions of other people who wanted a clear message — "Hands off abortion rights!" — delivered to the U.S. government.

Thousands of activists, distinguished by armbands reading "facilitators," helped keep the march running smoothly.



Militant/Selva Nebbia

There was a big cheer from other participants as two dozen Eastern Airlines workers from New York's La Guardia Airport and members of their families marched behind a banner proclaiming "Solidarity Forever!"

The group, mostly members of the International Association of Machinists and flight attendants belonging to the Transport Workers Union, carried picket signs backing the IAM strike against Eastern Airlines. Many added written messages, including "Choice is the American way" and "Kids of La Guardia Eastern workers — prostrike, proabortion."

Rodney Jenkins, a presser for 18 years at

a Philadelphia clothing firm, said he was part of a contingent of 38 members of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union from that city. "This is a good cause," he said. "I'm married, and I think that for my wife, I want her to have the right to choose. It should be the woman's choice, not the government's."

Jenkins, who is Black, said that there hadn't been much discussion where he worked about abortion so far, but he planned to talk to other workers when he got back. "This is something they should know about," he said.

'Prounion, prochoice'

Members of the Communication Workers of America were scattered throughout the crowd, wearing buttons declaring them "prounion, prochoice."

A group of coal miners carried a banner reading, "United Mine Workers of America supports women's rights."

The unionists who attended included several busloads from the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union in New York, and groups from the International Union of Electronic Workers, United Electrical Workers, Independent Federation of Flight Attendants, United Steelworkers of America, National Education Association, Social Service Employees Union, United Auto Workers, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, United Paperworkers International Union, and others.

The hundreds-strong "Women of Color Contingent" drew cheers as they marched from the Washington Monument toward the Capitol.

"It's imperative to protect the rights of women of color, and to protect reproductive freedom," said Sharon Parker, director of the National Institute for Women of Color, which helped organize the contingent. "Because many women of color are in lower economic groups, this issue is very important to them."

Thousands of Blacks had come as individuals or with other contingents, as did thousands of people of Asian origin.

A group marched behind the banner, "American Indians support choice — Stop

forced sterilization." Another group of protesters held a banner proclaiming "Asian Pacific-Americans for choice."

In addition to the United States, participants came from Canada, Mexico, Italy, West Germany, France, Netherlands, Norway, Japan, Great Britain, and other countries.

Blanca Nelly, a 21-year-old schoolteacher from Mexico City, who is studying English in Florida, wore a T-shirt proclaiming, "La decision es mia" (The decision is mine) printed on the back.

Abortion is illegal in Mexico, Nelly explained, adding, "I'm very convinced women need the right to determine their future."

Loud cheers from the marchers greeted individuals holding up signs reading, "Utahns for choice" and "Mormons for choice." Thousands of participants had been organized by religious groups backing the right to choose.

Many of these were organized by the Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights. Sharon Jones of Virginia RCAR explained that 15 to 16 Jewish and Protestant churches there were "banding together to defend women's rights."

Many carried signs reading "Catholics for a Free Choice." This is the name of an organization that has submitted a brief on the current case to the U.S. Supreme Court. The brief declares, "We strongly believe that a woman's decision about childbearing must be free of government burden, interference, or coercion."

There were delegations from the Steven Wise Free Synagogue in New York, and from synagogues in other areas. Marchers carried banners proclaiming the prochoice stand of the American Jewish Committee.

Many protesters carried signs distributed by NOW and the National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL), also a central organizer of the protest.

Another sizable contingent was that of ACT-UP, the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power.

Many smaller groups and individual demonstrators throughout the march carried signs or wore buttons linking the right to choose abortion with opposition to laws that target homosexuals.

Many families, often including babies and small children, attended the rally. One participant's placard read, "I'm pregnant by choice."

Several hundred advocates of outlawing abortion counterpicketed along the first long block of the march, separated from the procession by a large phalanx of police, on horses and foot. The antichoice forces included a group of 30 teenagers who remained kneeling as though in prayer as the march rolled past.

"We are here to pray and to ask God to visit His will on all these people who think they are for abortions," said Judie Brown, president of the American Life League, Inc.

Some of the counterpicketers' placards carried grisly portrayals of allegedly aborted fetuses. Others bore slogans including, "Equal rights for unborn women," "Prolife feminism is true feminism," "Abortions make Hitler look good," "Operation Rescue will prevail," and "Prochoice — whose choice?"

Volunteer marshals for the march, seeking to head off any trouble, urged the prochoice demonstrators to ignore the counterpicketers, and many did so. Quite a few, however, felt impelled to voice their opinion of the antichoice forces and their arguments.

"Prolife, that's a lie," chanted one group of abortion rights supporters as they passed, "you don't care if women die."

Others turned toward the counterpicketers with placards reading "My choice, not yours," and "Operation Rescue is a lie." There were no clashes, other than verbal ones.

At the rally site, where another and smaller group of antichoice counterdemonstrators had gathered, a man in a wheelchair bore a placard that read, "Stop exploitation of disabled people by antichoice groups."

Other prochoice demonstrators chanted slogans or carried placards supporting the struggle to keep the clinics open and protect those who use or work at them. The fighting spirit of many had been heightened

Young socialists' open house draws hundreds

BY SUSAN APSTEIN

WASHINGTON, D.C. — "Just the enthusiasm! All of the people, the sheer numbers! That's what impressed me about the march."

Marianne from the University of Massachusetts was part of a gathering of 400 who packed a reception room at a hotel near the Capitol for an open house hosted by the Young Socialist Alliance and Socialist Workers Party. They were exhilarated by the day's action.

She, Dana, and two other students were among 500 who came to the demonstration from their school.

The antichoice movement has been fighting to restrict abortion rights. "But now we're fighting," said Dana. There's a lot at stake, she added, and described how young women in Massachusetts are forced to go out of state to get an abortion because it's illegal without parental consent if you're under 18.

Lee, a nurse from Atlanta, said she spent most of the march in the midst of students, listening to what they had to say. "And they were very vocal and intent on telling the groups of counterdemonstrators along the route what their position is, why they're prochoice."

Lee told about being part of the fight to defend two of the clinics in Atlanta targeted most often by Operation Rescue vigilantes.

"We walk women through a gauntlet of people yelling and screaming and calling them names. In the last couple weeks it's gotten violent," she said. "A man was arrested two Saturdays ago because he pushed an escort."

'A real popular cause'

She thought that because of the April 9 march more people would come to the

clinics to show support. "The strength that comes from seeing that this is a real popular cause will get a lot of people moving."

John, a Black man from Washington, D.C., was excited about how many people marched. "What brought me out was the importance of the day," he said. "Any right we lose, everybody loses."

Among the guests were two leaders of the student movement in South Africa who had come to the march anxious to meet student activists from the United States. Two women from the National Latina Health Organization in Oakland, California, were also there. They had come to Washington the day before to participate in a conference of women of color that drew about 125 people.

The gathering included a number of new members and new friends of the Young Socialist Alliance. Evan from Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota, said 250 people — more than 10 percent of the students from his school — rode the bus 24 hours to be part of this protest. "On the way here we talked about everything," he said, "women's liberation and socialism, women and the labor movement, the family, and why sexism is profitable."

Estelle DeBates, national secretary of the YSA, introduced Wendy Lyons, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of St. Paul. Lyons is a member of the United Food and Commercial Workers union.

'We took that right'

"When ordinary people who have been oppressed win a victory like the right to abortion," Lyons said, "all kinds of myths arise to try to explain it. Like, that kind, gentle men in robes on the Supreme Court gave us abortion. No — we took that right, we wrested it from the Supreme Court. And we have to defend it with our strength."



Photos by Tony Savino and Nancy Brown
Many thousands of students helped set enthusiastic and determined tone of march. Participants cheered Eastern strikers.

by the battles to defend abortion clinics that are now being fought in many cities.

Participating as an officially "honored guest" in the March for Women's Equality/Women's Lives was Norma McCorvey. Under the court pseudonym of Jane Roe, she brought the suit against Texas authorities that led to the *Roe v. Wade* decision.

Shotgun blasts were fired at her house in Texas April 5, but she was undeterred from coming to the rally. "If they were to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, it would be a step backward for mankind," she recently told the New York weekly *Village Voice*.

"This is our future that's being discussed," said Cathi Buckman, an 18-year-old student. She was one of 20 Newcomb-Tulane University students who had taken the 19-hour bus ride from New Orleans, organized by the newly formed Women's Alliance. "This demonstration is amazing," Buckman said. "Everyone getting together and fighting for our rights."

As those who had come from out of town headed toward the hundreds of buses (135 had come from New York City's Union Square area alone) that were to take them home, many participants were still bursting with the enthusiasm generated by the massive turnout. Groups chanted prochoice slogans, or cheered and shouted, "600,000! 600,000!"

Susan Apstein, Arthur Hughes, Susan LaMont, Margaret Jayko, Luis Madrid, Sam Manuel, and Selva Nebbia all contributed to this article.

Eastern strikers thrilled by march

BY FRED FELDMAN

NEW YORK — In the early morning hours April 9, about 20 Eastern Airlines workers, together with members of their families and a few other supporters, boarded a bus at union headquarters near LaGuardia Airport.

They were looking forward to participating in the abortion rights march in Washington, D.C., and curious about the level of support that they would find for the Machinists' strike against the airline. Eastern flight attendants and pilots are honoring Machinists' picket lines.

On the way down, there was a lot of discussion about what the buyout of Eastern Airlines would mean for the strike battle. And many were eager to voice their opinions about abortion as well.

"I don't think we want to go back to the old days of coat hangers and dirty base-ments," said Jim Dunn, a shop steward with close to 10 years at Eastern.

Yvonne Pérez-Grajales, a member of the strike and outreach committees of International Association of Machinists Local 1018, had arranged to get the bus and publicized the march among union members.

"Personally, I don't care for abortion," she said, "but women should have the right to decide for themselves to be for or against it. They're trying to take that away."

Confident mood reflected in rally

BY SUSAN LAMONT

WASHINGTON, D.C. — With hundreds of thousands of abortion rights supporters still pouring down Constitution Avenue from the Washington Monument, the lawn in front of the west side of the Capitol building was filling up as NOW President Molly Yard opened the main rally at the April 9 March for Women's Equality/Women's Lives shortly before 2:00 p.m.

The marchers pressed up against the Capitol steps to hear the speakers. Holding signs and banners, many listened carefully to the three-hour program. The militant and confident mood of the march dominated the rally as well, which was chaired by Yard and NOW Secretary Kim Gandy.

The April 9 march shows that women in the United States "will safeguard their constitutional right to safe birth control and abortion," said Yard, welcoming the vast crowd. "This demonstration is the first step in an outpouring of rage at President Bush. How dare he work to overturn our rights?"

"We are going to reshape the argument in this country," Yard continued. "Every time Operation Rescue rises up, we will be there in greater numbers."

Rights threatened

"I am here to tell the Supreme Court that *Roe v. Wade* was not a bolt from the blue," Republican Congressman William Green from New York told the demonstrators. He

was one of more than a dozen members of Congress, including Rep. Patricia Schroeder of Colorado and Rep. Don Edwards of California, who attended the march and spoke at the rally in support of the 1973 Supreme Court decision. Several other elected officials and political figures, including Rainbow Coalition President Jesse Jackson, were also part of the program.

"I am here to ask the justices of the Supreme Court," Green continued, "do you want to go back to the days when illegal abortions were the largest single cause of death during pregnancy? Do you want to go back to the days when a single New York City hospital, Harlem Hospital, admitted 1,800 women a year — five every day — with botched abortions? Do you want to turn 1 million women a year into criminals?"

"We must hold onto that fundamental personal decision whether, and when, to have a child. That's what it's all about. It is a *personal* decision," said Gov. Madeline Kunin of Vermont.

Eastern striker

Deen Leonard, a flight attendant from Eastern Airlines in Boston and member of the Transport Workers Union, also spoke. TWU members are honoring the strike by Machinists at Eastern that began March 4. In introducing Leonard, Yard noted that flight attendants from several other airlines and unions also participated in the march, as did pilots and Machinists.

"Five weeks ago, the workers at Eastern lifted up our voices together in total solidarity and said, 'We won't take it anymore.' The overwhelming response of the American people has been, 'Good for you. Hang in there.' We appreciate it," Leonard said.

"The struggle at Eastern Airlines is part of a much larger attack on workers' rights, women's rights, and civil rights," she continued. "We will not be pushed back. We have reached the wall. There are only two choices when you reach the wall. You either stay pinned up against it or — shoulder to shoulder — you knock it down."

Coalition of Labor Union Women Vice-president Anna Padia, who is director of human rights for the Newspaper Guild, explained that CLUW had been asked by NOW to help win support for abortion rights in the labor movement. "That is exactly what we are doing," she said, listing the many unions that were participating in the march.

In an interview after she spoke, Padia added, "We must answer those in the labor movement who say that abortion rights is 'too divisive — like gun control.' The prochoice stand must be a labor movement principle."

Actress Whoopi Goldberg was one of a number of Hollywood performers who were introduced at the rally, several of whom spoke briefly. Singers Judy Collins, Melissa Manchester, and Holly Near also performed.

Dr. Allan Rosenfield, dean of the Columbia University School of Public Health, told the demonstrators that a French pharmaceutical company "has made a stunning medical breakthrough with the discovery of a new drug, RU-486, to terminate an early pregnancy. The company withdrew this drug from the market in France because of threats from the 'Right to Life' movement. The French minister of health ordered the drug back on the market, saying, 'Once developed, and once approved, it is the moral property of women.'"

The French drug company has "announced that it will not bring the drug into the United States because of the threats of boycott and terrorism by antiabortion advocates," Rosenfield continued.

NOW President Yard had announced at an April 7 national news conference that NOW and other abortion rights supporters would demand that the drug be brought to the United States.

'We will not bow'

Planned Parenthood Federation of America President Faye Wattleton decried as a sham Operation Rescue's claim to look to the civil rights movement. It is the supporters of women's right to choose, she said, who have had to face arson and bombings of abortion clinics and other harassment.

"As a woman, I know that the power of government to control women's reproduction is more frightening than any tyranny, more binding than any prison," Wattleton continued. She said that without the right to control their reproductive lives, the right of women to equal job opportunities and equal pay loses its meaning.

Henry Siegmann, executive director of the American Jewish Congress, told the rally that "the Holocaust holds no lesson for us other than the painful truth that when the state invades every area of a person's privacy and assumes control over his or her body, the slide toward complete dehumanization has begun." He condemned comparisons made by antichoice spokespeople between abortion and the Nazi murder of millions of Jews during World War II.

Liz Ling, a student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, spoke to the rally on behalf of the many thousands of college and high school students at the action. "When a small group of us at MIT got together to organize for reproductive rights and to mobilize for April 9," she recalled, "we were afraid it would be like pulling teeth." Instead, she said, they got an "overwhelming response. People are proud to be supporters of women's rights."

Yard invited march participants to stay over until Monday to participate in a day of lobbying Congress. She also urged everyone to return to Washington, D.C., on April 26 for a demonstration at the Supreme Court on the day that arguments begin to be heard in *Webster v. Reproductive Health Services*.

Ueberroth buyout of Eastern collapses; strike remains solid

BY SUSAN LaMONT

Talks aimed at finalizing the sale of strike-bound Eastern Airlines to a group of investors headed by Peter Ueberroth collapsed late Tuesday night, April 11. The negotiations broke up after Texas Air Corp. chairman Frank Lorenzo refused to agree to the appointment of a court-named trustee to run the airline for several months while the sale is completed. Ueberroth had offered Texas Air, Eastern's parent company, \$464 million for the airline.

Efforts to restart the talks Wednesday failed, and Ueberroth announced at a 5:00 p.m. news conference April 12 that the deal was off.

Union officials at Eastern are insisting that a trustee be appointed by the federal bankruptcy court in order to remove Lorenzo from further management of the airline. Eastern filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy March 9 — five days after the strike by 8,500 Machinists began. The company's financial dealings — including any sale of the airline — are now under the supervision of the federal bankruptcy court in New York.

Meanwhile, the strike by International Association of Machinists members, which has the support of Eastern pilots and flight attendants, remains solid. With fewer than

10 percent of its flights getting off the ground, the seventh-largest U.S. airline has been paralyzed since the machinists' walked out March 4.

The strike started after Eastern, during 16 months of government-sponsored talks, refused to back off from its demands for \$150 million in wage and benefit concessions from the machinists.

Eastern workers won an important victory April 11 when a federal judge in Miami ruled that the pilots' refusal to cross the machinists' picket lines was legal. Eastern's owners had sought to force the pilots back to work by charging that they were on an illegal strike.

After the announcement that the Ueberroth deal had fallen through, IAM District 100 President Charles Bryan said that union officials would continue to seek another buyer for the airline. Jack Bavis, head of the pilots' union at Eastern, and Mary Jane Barry, president of the flight attendants' union, also said that their members would not return to work for Lorenzo under any circumstances.

Ueberroth announces pact with unions

Ueberroth's offer to buy Eastern Airlines, he said, hinged on reaching an agreement with the machinists', pilots', and



Militant/Ernest Mailhot
Contingent of striking Eastern workers participated in April 9 abortion rights march in Washington, D.C.

flight attendants' unions.

After four days of round-the-clock negotiations with union officials in Washington, D.C., Ueberroth announced April 10 that leaders of the three unions had agreed to a new, five-year pact. Under the agreement, union members and non-union workers would give up the \$210 million in

wages and benefits each year — more than \$1 billion total — demanded by Ueberroth to make the buyout possible.

The IAM represents mechanics, aircraft cleaners, ramp service workers, stock clerks, and facility cleaners at Eastern. The flight attendants are in the Transport Workers Union, and the pilots are members of the Air Line Pilots Association.

Despite the scope of concessions agreed to by the union officials, Lorenzo — who has spearheaded the antiunion drive at Eastern since Texas Air acquired the airline in 1986 — refused to step aside to make the sale possible.

While details about the concessions to Ueberroth were not made public, it was announced that the unions were to get 30 percent of the Eastern's stock, and the company would be renamed the Eastern Airlines Employees and Service Company. Thirty percent of the stock was to go to Ueberroth and his associates, and the remaining 40 percent sold to investors.

Eastern, which has lost \$1 million a day since the strike started, is still expecting to receive \$365 million from the sale of the airline's New York-Boston-Washington, D.C. shuttle to New York real estate and gambling casino multimillionaire Donald Trump. Eastern has also announced plans to sell its gates and service equipment in Philadelphia to USAir for \$85 million. Eastern owes \$2.5 billion in long-term debt.

Socialist candidate: Eastern strikers are getting 'a tremendous response'

BY SUSAN LaMONT

NEW YORK — "The response to our strike from the public has been tremendous. I think they have been won over to the side of the strikers to a great extent," said Eastern striker Ernest Mailhot in a recent interview.

Mailhot is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for New Jersey State Assembly from the 28th district, which includes Newark. He is also a member of the strike and communications committees of International Association of Machinists Local 1018 at New York's LaGuardia Airport.

Supporters of the SWP ticket in New Jersey have been active in building solidarity with the Eastern strike since it began March 4. They have been out on the picket lines and at strike rallies at the Newark airport. They have also campaigned to involve their unions and coworkers in backing the strike.

"Union members come into the strike headquarters every day with stories that show the support," Mailhot said. "You can tell who a lot of the strikers are by their union jackets, or by the 'Don't fly Eastern/Continental' bumper stickers on their backs. People walk up to them in grocery stores and other places and shake their hands and wish them luck."

"At LaGuardia, we have a communications committee. We've been going out speaking to campuses and classes, unions, and community organizations. In general, everywhere we've gone to speak, there's been a tremendous response."

"People, especially other unionists, have been inspired by the strike at Eastern because we've been able to stop the company from functioning. That's different than what's happened in a lot of strikes in recent years," continued Mailhot. "We've been able to keep it closed, and the few planes that are flying are pretty empty. One shuttle plane that landed in Boston last week had one passenger on it."

"At a lot of places where we speak, people also tell us about the problems they're having with management at their workplace. They say what we've done is an inspiration to them, and the kind of action they need to think about."

Mailhot explained that the strike caught Eastern's owners and the government by surprise. "I think they didn't see what was really going to happen this time. They didn't feel that there would be such unity in

the work force at Eastern, in the first place, especially from the pilots. And they didn't feel that we would be able to win support in the labor movement, and in the broader public. That's why the government decided not to directly intervene to impose a settlement — they thought Lorenzo could beat us on his own." The government and company are intervening through the courts, however, to try to weaken the strike, Mailhot added. "They've been using the bankruptcy court to push for a settlement, demanding that the planes get back into the air. But in the meantime, we're keeping the airline closed."

In recent days, the media has been filled with reports about the possible sale of Eastern to investor Peter Ueberroth. "When this

proposal was announced, there were pictures on TV and in the newspapers of strikers jumping up and down, excited and so on. That was a very honest reaction to getting rid of Frank Lorenzo. Almost all the strikers viewed as a victory — or at least a partial victory — that this management, which had shown itself to be totally against the rights of working people, would be forced out."

"After the initial euphoria, there was a lot more sober view of what is coming our way if this deal or a similar one goes through. It will involve massive cuts in wages and benefits, especially for the machinists. Many of the strikers, especially among the machinists and flight attendants, have a 'wait and see' attitude toward the agreement," Mailhot said.

SWP announces New Jersey ticket

The Socialist Workers Party in New Jersey filed petitions on April 13 to place its candidates on the ballot for the November elections. The SWP is running Cathy Sedwick for governor and Ernest Mailhot for State Assembly in the 28th legislative district.

Sedwick is a unionist and a long-time activist in the movements for the rights of Blacks and women. She is a member of International Union of Electrical Workers Local 401.

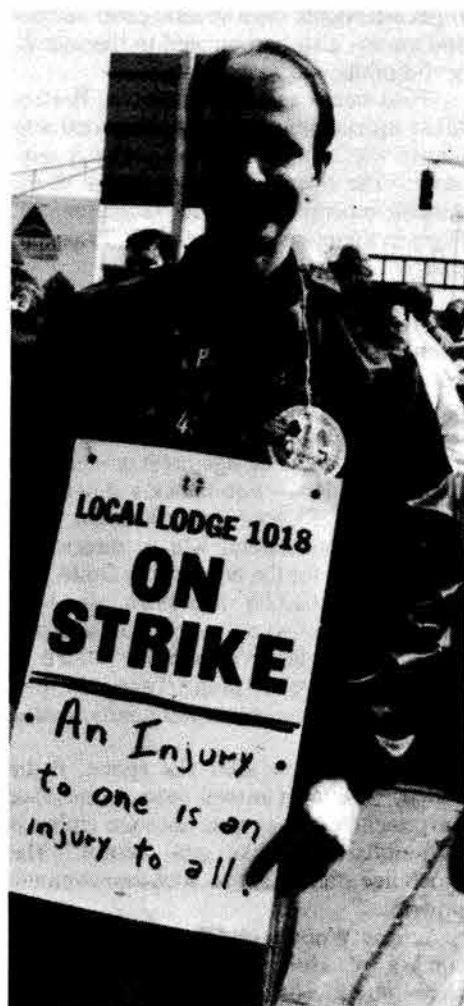
The socialist gubernatorial candidate is also actively involved in efforts to end the U.S. blockade against Cuba and to establish normal relations with that country. She has participated in several solidarity brigades to Cuba.

Mailhot, an aircraft service worker, is a member of International Association of Machinists Local 1018 at New York's LaGuardia Airport and is on strike against Eastern Airlines.

The socialists handed in 2,243 signatures for Sedwick and 232 for Mailhot at the state capitol in Trenton.

"As the number of signatures collected for our candidacies well exceeds the 800 required for the office of governor and the 100 needed for State Assembly, we expect that our certification for ballot status will be forthcoming," Sedwick said in a press statement the same day.

Some 900 people signed petitions on the first day of the effort to place the socialist



Militant/Jon Hillson
Ernest Mailhot on Eastern picket line at LaGuardia Airport in New York

Labor News in the Militant

The Militant stays on top of the most important developments in the labor movement. It has correspondents who work in the mines, mills, and shops where the events are breaking. You won't miss any of it if you subscribe. See the ad on page 2 of this issue for subscription rates.

Canada's growing trade with South Africa

Gov't reneges on 1985 pledge to impose sanctions against apartheid regime

BY BEVERLY BERNARDO

MONTREAL — The Canadian government has come under sharp criticism for its failure to follow through on commitments made three years ago before the United Nations to impose tough, mandatory sanctions against South Africa's apartheid regime.

At the recent conference of Commonwealth ministers held in Harare, Zimbabwe, to discuss action against Pretoria, African leaders from Tanzania, Zimbabwe, and Nigeria clashed with Canadian External Affairs Minister Joe Clark, who presided over the conference.

They condemned rising trade between Canada and South Africa and Ottawa's support for the decision of the UN Security Council, of which Canada is a member, to reduce the projected UN peacekeeping force in Namibia from 7,500 to 4,650.

The proposal to send 7,500 UN peacekeeping troops to Namibia was part of an agreement recently signed by Cuba, Angola, the United States, and South Africa. It provided for the withdrawal of South African and Cuban troops from Angola, and the independence of Namibia, which has been occupied by South Africa since 1915.

Reducing the number of UN troops was motivated as a cost-cutting measure by the five permanent members of the Security Council — the United States, Britain, France, China, and the Soviet Union.

Breaks UN embargo

Canada's representative to the UN also approved another Security Council plan that would permit UN forces in Namibia to purchase some of their arms from South Africa. The proposal, also explained as a cost-cutting measure, breaks the UN's own embargo on trading in arms with the government in Pretoria.

Abdul Minty, head of the Oslo-based World Campaign Against Military and Nuclear Collaboration with South Africa, attacked the decision for jeopardizing "the already shaky prospects in Namibia." Minty also stated that he has information that the South African military is to provide some of its own officers to serve as guides

for UN personnel in Namibia.

In a speech to the UN on Oct. 23, 1985, Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney pledged to sever diplomatic and economic relations with South Africa if apartheid was not dismantled. The announcement was welcomed by anti-apartheid forces around the world, including the African National Congress (ANC), and the United Democratic Front (UDF) in South Africa.

However, in January Statistics Canada issued a report showing big increases in trade with South Africa. In 1988 imports to Canada from South Africa jumped 68 percent, to \$149.9 million, while Canadian exports to South Africa rose by 44 percent, to \$89.4 million.

During a January visit to Canada UDF leaders Murphy Morobe and Mohammed Valli expressed alarm that "Canada has watered down and hacked away" Mulroney's earlier promise to apply total sanctions. When government officials tried to convince them they were wrong, the UDF leaders complained, "That sounds like 1988 and 1987 and the year before that."

Criticizing Canada and other imperialist governments for moving away from sanctions, Valli and Morobe explained to a news conference here that "the Sharpeville Six [anti-apartheid fighters who had faced the death penalty in South Africa] are alive because of the threat of sanctions."

At the Zimbabwe conference ANC General Secretary Alfred Nzo told the Commonwealth ministers that Ottawa's rising trade with Pretoria "renders absurd Canada's claims to oppose apartheid." The ANC leader called on Canada to make its laws with regard to trade with South Africa much more severe.

Selling military equipment

There are also growing indications that Canada's trade with South Africa could involve military equipment. The South African police use a helicopter that contains parts made by a German-owned company with a factory in Fort Erie, Ontario. Two types of light aircraft sold by Israel to South Africa use Pratt & Whitney engines. Pratt & Whitney has a plant in Québec near Montréal.

Proving the origins of such matériel is difficult because regulations of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), to which the Canadian government belongs, permit members to sell military equipment among themselves with no restrictions on subsequent resale. This includes sales to Israel, which is a major arms supplier to South Africa. NATO rules also bar members from making public any information about sales to South Africa of strategically important products.

On the heels of the revelations concerning increased Canadian trade with South Africa, Ottawa announced it would not block the Bank of Nova Scotia from loaning \$600 million to a Luxembourg-based company that is controlled by the South African Anglo Corp. and de Beers Consolidated Mines Ltd. — major powers in the South African economy.

In 1986 all Commonwealth countries except Britain agreed to prohibit new bank loans to South Africa.

In a letter to External Affairs Minister Clark protesting Canada's relations with the South African regime, Canadian auto workers' union President Robert White stated that the revelations about Canada's real role show that voluntary sanctions don't work.

"Your government now has all the evidence it needs to push for mandatory and comprehensive sanctions against South Africa," he said.



Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney.

Swedish police implicated in death of Gambian immigrant

BY MARIA HAMBERG

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — A demonstration protesting the death of Farah Mboge from the African country of Gambia was held here April 1.

Mboge, the father of two children and living in Sweden, was found dead at a garbage dump 4.5 miles outside the Stockholm suburb of Tensta on the morning of October 27.

The death was caused by alcohol poisoning according to the preliminary autopsy. It said Mboge had a blood ethanol concentration of 5.2 parts per thousand.

The night before, he was grabbed by two private guards at the Tensta metro station who handed him over to the police.

One of his friends, Omar Drammeh, the secretary of the Gambian Association in Sweden and now the chairman of Friends of Farah Mboge, witnessed the guard's turning of Mboge over to two policemen. Mboge was drunk but capable of standing on his own feet, Drammeh has stated.

The cops claim Mboge was drunk with approximately 4 parts alcohol per thousand in his blood. They also claim they left him in the center of Tensta.

The Gambian Association, Friends of Farah Mboge, and other antiracist activists in Sweden are asking many questions about the circumstances of Mboge's death.

How is it possible that Mboge was found more than four miles from where the police claim they left him?

How could a person as drunk as he was when he was taken by the police walk 4.5 miles to a garbage dump in cold and rainy weather, on slippery terrain in the darkness?

How is it possible that Mboge could

have 5.2 parts alcohol per thousand in his blood, which is a lethal dose? People usually become unconscious before getting such a high concentration.

Why didn't the cops make a report of their "taking care" of him, which they are legally required to do? Moreover, why didn't the police hand Mboge over to the hospital or hold him overnight, which is the normal procedure when drunks are taken?

Drammeh says he saw strange marks on Mboge's face when he identified him at the mortuary. The body was sent to Gambia where a second autopsy was done and the Gambian physician has reported those marks too.

Five months after Mboge's death the preliminary investigation by the Swedish police is still not completed. This inquiry was not started until the Gambian consul in Stockholm wrote a letter to the Swedish foreign ministry.

So far, the only result of the investigation is that one of the cops who took Mboge has been served for misuse of authority because he did not write a report on the case.

About 60 people, mostly Blacks, joined the April 1 protest march through the city to the police station. The demonstration was headed by African drummers and followed by a symbolic coffin.

At the demonstration, Drammeh and Gibril Jagne, the chairperson of the Gambian Association in Sweden, spoke.

Drammeh accused fascistic elements in the police force for Mboge's death. He said, "The same powers are behind all evil in the world, all evil against the Third World. They are the cause of Mboge's death!"

—WORLD NEWS BRIEFS—

U.S. set to extend Panama sanctions

President George Bush will sign an executive order to extend economic sanctions against Panama, administration officials announced on April 5. Bush might also expand the sanctions if the elections scheduled in Panama for May 7 are considered fraudulent by the White House.

After a meeting in March with Eric Arturo Delvalle, the Panamanian whom Washington recognizes as the legitimate president of Panama, Secretary of State James Baker said, "There cannot be and will not be any movement toward normalization of relations between the United States and Panama as long as Gen. Manuel Noriega retains power."

Washington began its campaign against Panama in 1987 and President Ronald Reagan's administration cut off all economic and military aid in July of that year. In February 1988 Noriega and other Panamanian government officials were indicted in U.S. courts on drug-trafficking charges. The indictments were followed by a package of economic sanctions that included withholding fees the U.S. government owed for use of the Panama Canal.

Panamanian officials have repeatedly explained that they have been targeted because of their refusal to back Washington's efforts to overthrow the Nicaraguan government, and for their insistence that the Panama Canal accords signed with the U.S. government be implemented. The agreement stipulates that the canal be put under Panamanian control at the end of 1999.

New inquiry urged on Gibraltar 3 killing

An April 4 report issued by the National Council for Civil Liberties has criticized the British government's inquest into the killing of three Irish Republican Army members by British troops in Gibraltar in March 1988. The civil liberties group is a British lobbying organization that has long been active on issues concerning the north of Ireland.

The report called on the British Parliament to appoint a judge empowered to conduct a fuller investigation.

At the British inquest, soldiers testified they fired 27 bullets with little warning because they claimed the IRA members were armed and might "set off a car bomb by remote control" at a military ceremony. Shot mainly in the backs and heads, the victims turned out to be unarmed and there was no bomb in the car traced to them.

In another development, a five-year internal investigation into the 1982 shooting deaths by police of six men alleged to be members of the IRA ended with reprimands for 18 low-ranking officers of the Royal Ulster Constabulary. A spokesperson for Sinn Féin, a political party associated with the IRA, called the reprimands a "farce."

John Stalker, a former British police official, was asked in 1984 to investigate the shootings. He was abruptly called off the case in mid-1986 for pursuing it too diligently, he said. In a book about the case, Stalker wrote that substantial evidence could be presented to show that the six were killed "unlawfully."

Basques' truce with Madrid breaks down

The Basque independence group ETA announced the end of a three-month truce with the Spanish government April 4. The group has waged an armed campaign for an independent Basque state for 21 years. Its initials stand for Basque Homeland and Liberty in the Basque language.

The group announced the truce when it began discussions with the government of Spanish Prime Minister Felipe González in January. On March 27 the ETA announced that it would extend the truce for three more months while it continued talks with Spanish officials in Algeria.

While the ETA has sought a comprehensive political agreement from the discussions, the Spanish government has attempted to restrict the talks to the fate of some 450 ETA members in Spanish jails as well as 40 others in France and 50 more who have been deported.

The Basque group attributed the breakdown in the truce to the Spanish government's breach of agreements the two sides had reached in the peace talks, which were held in secret.

CALENDAR

ALABAMA

Birmingham

Nicaragua: After the Contra War, Challenges Facing the Sandinista Revolution. Speaker: Dave Ferguson, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., April 15, 7:30 p.m. 1306 1st Ave. N. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (205) 323-3079.

ARIZONA

Phoenix

The Alaska Oil Spill: An Exxon-Made Disaster. Speaker: Chuck Petrin, United Steelworkers of America Local 3937. Translation to Spanish. Sat., April 15, 7 p.m. 1809 W Indian School Rd. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (602) 279-5850.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

The March for Women's Equality/Women's Lives — A Report Back. Discussion with participants in Washington, D.C., march. Translation to Spanish. Sat., April 15, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

FLORIDA

Miami

Exxon Oil Spill: The Fight to Protect Our Environment. Speakers: Representative Socialist Workers Party; others. Sat., April 22, 7:30 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (305) 756-1020.

MARYLAND

Baltimore

U.S. Politics in the 1990s: What the Chicago Elections Reveal. Speaker: Omari Musa, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Chicago. Sat., April 15, dinner, 6 p.m.; forum, 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: dinner, \$3; program, \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

South Africa and the Crisis in Namibia. Speakers: Nels J'Anthony, Socialist Workers Party; others. Sun., April 23, 7 p.m. 605 Massachusetts Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (617) 247-6772.

MICHIGAN

Dearborn

Democratic Rights Under Attack in Israel. The Case of Michel Warschawski and the Alternative Information Centre. Speaker: Michel Warschawski. Sun., April 23, 6 p.m. Littlefield Blvd. United Presbyterian Church, 7560 Littlefield Blvd., (2 blocks northwest of Warren and Wyoming). Sponsors: American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee; Rev. William Gepford, Littlefield Blvd. United Presbyterian Church; Palestine Aid Society; others. For more information call (313) 841-0160.

Detroit

Rally to Defend Mark Curtis. Speakers: Kate Kaku, leader Mark Curtis Defense Committee and wife of Mark Curtis; Rev. Daniel Aldridge, Jr., minister, Mayflower United Church of Christ; Sally Bier, president United Auto Workers Local 2500; Susan Farquhar, defendant in Detroit abortion rights case; Ken Hall, president Local 42 General Industrial Employees Union;

Dick Soble, National Lawyers Guild. Sat., April 15, 7 p.m. Pullman Hall, Unitarian Church (corner Cass and Forest). Sponsor: Mark Curtis Defense Committee. For more information call (313) 831-1177.

MINNESOTA

Austin

The Battle at Eastern Airlines: Which Way Forward for Workers? Speakers: Natasha Terlexis, worker at Northwest Airlines, member International Association of Machinists Local 1833; Denny Mealy, director Austin Labor Center Mural Project, P-9er; Susan Winsten, striking Eastern Airlines worker, member IAM Local 796. Sun., April 16, 6:30 p.m. 407½ N Main St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (507) 433-3461.

St. Paul

A Report Back on the April 9 March on Washington for Women's Equality/Women's Lives. Panel of speakers from International Association of Machinists, United Auto Workers, and other organizations. Slideshow. Sat., April 22, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

Working People's Stake in the Fight Against Censorship and Thought Control. Panel of speakers. Sat., April 29, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI

St. Louis

10 Years After the Grenada Revolution — The Caribbean and Central America Today. Speaker: Don Rojas, former press secretary to Maurice Bishop during Grenada revolution, leader of the Anti-Imperialist Organizations of the Caribbean and Central America. Fri., April 21, 7:30 p.m. Immanuel Lutheran Center, 3540 Marcus (off Natural Bridge). Donation \$3. Sponsors, Latin America Solidarity Committee; Pathfinder Books; People's Coalition of Missouri; Akbar Muhammed, Nation of Islam; Socialist Workers Party; Young Socialist Alliance.

NEW YORK

Brooklyn

Haiti Progrès is Having a Birthday. Come celebrate its sixth anniversary. Special guest: Jean-Claude Martineau, poet and raconteur. Sat., April 22, 7 p.m. The Haitian Family Center, 1078 Utica Ave. (corner of Beverly Rd.) Donation: \$10. For more information call (718) 434-8100.

Manhattan

The Struggle for Women's Equality. A citywide socialist educational conference. 1. Forum: "The Ongoing Fight for Abortion Rights: The Stakes for Working People." Speaker: Estelle DeBates, Socialist Workers Party, garment worker. Sat., April 15, 7:30 p.m. 2. "The Revolution Cannot Triumph Without the Emancipation of Women." A class based on a selection from *Thomas Sankara Speaks*, presented by Andrea Morell, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., April 16, 10 a.m. 3. "The Capitalist Ideological Offensive Against Women Today." A class based on the introduction to *Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women*, presented by Sam Manuel, Socialist Workers Party. All events held at 191 7th Ave., 2nd floor. Donation: \$5 for forum, \$2.50 for each class. For more information call (212) 675-6740 or (718) 398-6983.

Strategies for Central American and Caribbean Solidarity. Workshops and panels. Sat., April 22, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Hunter College,

West Bldg, 6th fl., E 68th and Lexington Ave. Donation requested. Sponsor: Nicaragua Solidarity Network, Learning Alliance. For more information call (212) 226-7171.

The Fight for Political Rights in Israel. Panel discussion featuring Michel Warschawski, Israeli journalist and political activist on trial for opposing Israeli government's anti-Palestinian policies. Translation to Spanish and French. Sat., April 22, 7:30 p.m. 191 7th Ave., 2nd fl. Donation: \$5. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (212) 675-6740.

Concert-Dance with 'Flor de Caña.' Benefit for Taller Latinoamericano's 10th anniversary. Sat., April 22, 9 p.m. 63 E 2 St. For more information call (212) 777-2250.

Benefit Concert for El Salvador. Music by Cutumay Camones; host Peter Yarrow; with Human Condition. Sun., April 23, 7 p.m. Hunter College Assembly Hall, 69th St. betw. Lexington and Park aves. Donation: \$12 in advance, \$15 at door; students and low income, \$8. Sponsors: El Salvador Media Project, Hunter College Sister University Project, MASPS. For more information call (212) 279-4200 (Ticket Central).

Gran Pachanga Nica! Celebrate 9th anniversary of Casa Nicaragua. Sat., April 29, 8 p.m. 104 W 14 St. Donation: \$5. For more information call (212) 769-4293.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

Grenada: Revolution, Betrayal, and the Way Forward, 1979-89. Sun., April 16, 7 p.m. 2219 E Market. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (919) 272-5996.

The Satanic Verses: Why Working People Need to Fight Censorship. Speakers: Dr. Jeffrey Elliot, interviewer of Fidel Castro. His book, *Nothing Can Stop the Course of History*, has been banned in Grenada; others to be announced. Sun., April 23, 7 p.m. 2219 E Market. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (919) 272-5996.

OHIO

Cleveland

Stop Racist Attacks. Speakers: Martin Reese, president, Organization of Afro-American Unity, Cleveland State University; Barbara Madison, president, Cleveland Heights Concerned Parents and member Civil Rights Committee, Women's Speak Out for Peace and Justice; Mohammed Oliver, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., April 15, 7:30 p.m. 2521 Market Ave. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (216) 861-6150.

TEXAS

Houston

South Africa Threatens Namibia's Freedom Fight. Speakers: Katy Karlin, Socialist Workers Party; others. Sat., April 15, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (713) 522-8054.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Demonstration Against Apartheid. Sat., April 22, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. South African embassy, 3051 Massachusetts Ave. NW. Speaker: D.C. Rep. Walter Fauntroy, founder and co-chair of Free South Africa Movement. Sponsor: National Black Workers Alliance of IBM Employees. For more information call (301) 249-1665 or 320-3329.

WEST VIRGINIA

Morgantown

Capitalism in Crisis: The Battles Ahead for Working People. Speaker: Dick McBride, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Morgantown City Council, 6th Ward. Sat., April 22, reception, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m., party to follow. 221 Pleasant St. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 296-0055.

WISCONSIN

Milwaukee

The Satanic Verses: Censorship and the Struggle Against Imperialism. Speakers: Shikha Jhingan, filmmaker from India; Othman Otta, General Union of Palestinian Students; Sandi Sherman, Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat., April 15, 7:30 p.m. 4707 W Lisbon Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (414) 445-2076.

The Crisis of Homelessness in the U.S. Speakers: Rich Dickerson, Coalition for a Permanent Home for the Homeless; Max Monclair, Young Socialist Alliance; Don Timmerman, Casa Maria. Translation to Spanish. Sat., April 22, 7:30 p.m. 4707 W Lisbon Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (414) 445-2076.

BRITAIN

London

Free and Fair Elections in Namibia: Victory to South West Africa People's Organisation! Rally. Speaker: Sam Nujoma, president of SWAPO. Wed., April 19, 7:30 p.m. Friends Meeting House, Euston Rd., NW1. Sponsor: SWAPO, Namibia Emergency Campaign. For more information call 01-387-7966.

Manchester

The Class Struggle in the U.S. Today: Reports on the April 9 Demonstration for Abortion Rights and on Eastern Airlines Strike. Speaker: Marcella Fitzgerald, member Amalgamated Engineering Union. Wed., April 19, 7:30 p.m. Mechanics Institute, Princess St. Donation: £1. Sponsor: New International Forum. For more information call 061-202-5206.

CANADA

Toronto

Corporate Mergers, Takeovers, Plant Closings: Is "Free Trade" to Blame? Speaker: George Rose, Revolutionary Workers League, member United Steelworkers of America. Sat., April 15, 7:30 p.m. 410 Adelaide St. W, Suite 400. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (416) 861-1399.

The Struggle for Abortion Rights — Eyewitness Report from April 9 March on Washington. Speaker: Lynda Little, Revolutionary Workers League, member United Steelworkers of America and Ontario Coalition for Abortion Clinics. Translation to Spanish. Sat., April 22, 7:30 p.m. 410 Adelaide St. W, Suite 400. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (416) 861-1399.

Montréal

Québécois National and Linguistic Rights — The Stakes for Working People Today. Speaker: Michel Prairie, candidate, Revolutionary Workers League in constituency of Bourget, editor of *Lutte ouvrière*. Sat., April 22, 7:30 p.m. Donation \$3. 4274 Papineau, Suite 302. Sponsor: Revolutionary Workers League. For more information call (514) 524-7992.

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

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PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia: 9 E Cheltenham Ave. Zip: 19144. Tel: (215) 848-5044. **Pittsburgh:** 4905 Penn Ave. Zip: 15224. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

TEXAS: Austin: c/o Mike Rose, 7409 Berkman Dr. Zip: 78752. Tel: (512) 452-3923. **Houston:** 4806 Alameda. Zip: 77004. Tel: (713) 522-8054.

UTAH: Price: 253 E. Main St. Mailing address: P.O. Box 758. Zip: 84501. Tel: (801) 637-6294. **Salt Lake City:** 147 E. 900 South. Zip: 84111. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

WASHINGTON, D.C.: 3165 Mt. Pleasant St. NW. Zip: 20010. Tel: (202) 797-7699, 797-7021.

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

WEST VIRGINIA: Charleston: 116 McFarland St. Zip: 25301. Tel: (304) 345-3040.

Morgantown: 221 Pleasant St. Zip: 26505. Tel: (304) 296-0055.

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

AUSTRALIA

Sydney: 181 Glebe Point Rd., 2nd floor,

"Color-blind" Koch — Probers of Hizzoner's New York patronage machine found that in 1985, 82 percent of those hired for \$21,000-a-year assistant highway



Harry Ring

repair posts were white. Of those hired for \$14,000-a-year debris-remover jobs, 76 percent were Black.

A class team? — Accolades were poured on the Seton Hall Pirates who seemingly came out of nowhere to come within a whisker of winning the national collegiate basketball championship. Perhaps the oddest tribute came from syndicated sports writer Jerry Izenberg: "The truth is they aren't a basketball team at all. What they are is the Socialist Workers Party in short pants ... a commune in sneakers."

Land of the koala — Australians frolicking in the Sydney area surf may encounter bacteria that cause eye inflammation, an outer-ear disease, or gastroenteritis

(diarrhea and vomiting). Also, the salmonella bug and one that causes hepatitis A.

And double your life insurance — For those still swimming in Sydney's waters, officials suggest a few precautions. Most important, avoid swallowing sea water. Wear waterproof ear plugs and, perhaps, goggles. Cover any broken skin or open wounds. Enjoy your dip.

Aren't we pious — An Australian crematorium applied for a license to peddle a few drinks to the bereaved, assuring the beverages will be sold in a proper at-

mosphere. "We aren't looking to provide an area where someone can have an Irish wake and everyone can get intoxicated and have a riotous time," the manager sniffed.

Dr. Reagan? — A Tucson, Arizona, medical center agreed to pay the ex-prez the standard 50 grand for his routine. But they balked when a "significantly higher" fee was demanded. "We just thought enough was enough," an official said.

They recycle jokes? — Among the groups that have coughed up the \$50,000 for a 20-minute rap

and 40 minutes Q&A by Ron is the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries.

Funny, it never struck us that way — "A generation ago, when schoolboys were caned there was little violence in the community." — The Wainate, New Zealand, Advertiser.

How fortunate can you get? — A Hanover Mutual Fire Insurance brochure recalls the neighboring Black homes destroyed by fire in 1985 when the Philadelphia police bombed the MOVE home. It says several of the families whose homes were razed had Hanover Mutual coverage and were promptly reimbursed.

Pact seeks to save Namibia freedom plan

Continued from front page

other sites further south of the Angolan border, SWAPO troops would be required to hand over their weapons to UN peacekeeping forces before going to Angola.

The declaration also called for the temporary reactivation of a joint military monitoring commission, minus the participation of Cuba. The commission was originally established last summer to monitor the withdrawal of South African forces from Angola.

Verification that all SWAPO armed forces have left Namibia will be based on information given by SWAPO, and joint

agreement by the UN Special Representative to Namibia and the South African-appointed administrator-general in Namibia.

The declaration calls on the UN secretary-general to rapidly complete deployment of some 4,650 UN troops to Namibia. Only 900 of those troops had arrived by April 1.

The Namibian independence plan, known as UN Resolution 435/78, was threatened with collapse on the day it began as South African troops and police carried out attacks on SWAPO forces.

With the agreement of UN representatives in Namibia, South African authorities

mobilized six army battalions, four air force fighter jets, and "every available armored vehicle" in support of an untold number of police. UN officials defended their decision to use South African troops on the basis that not enough of the UN peacekeeping forces had arrived in Namibia.

Representatives of the Movement of Nonaligned Countries expressed "outrage" at the decision. And six African countries neighboring South Africa — Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe — offered to send 3,000 troops to Namibia.

South African police reported 263 SWAPO troops were killed. They also said 27 policemen and soldiers of the occupation forces died. SWAPO has said its losses are much lower and that some of those killed were civilians. The South African administrator-general in Namibia declared a "de facto suspension" of the implementation of Resolution 435 on April 7.

The South African government claimed that its forces carried out the attacks in response to an incursion by some 1,900 SWAPO fighters into Namibia from bases in neighboring Angola. South African authorities in Namibia have also issued state-

ments placing the number of SWAPO troops that entered the country as high as 5,000 and as low as 750.

Pretoria charged that the SWAPO troop movement violated a cease-fire agreement that restricts SWAPO troops to bases in Angola. SWAPO leaders said that their troops that allegedly moved into Namibia from Angola on April 1 are part of units operating inside Namibia. They added that Resolution 435 clearly calls for their forces in Namibia to be restricted to bases inside the country during the transition to independence.

Under the same provision, some 50,000 troops of the South African Defence Force would be confined to bases in Namibia. All but 1,500 of them would then be withdrawn from Namibia by July. South Africa's 24,000-member South West Africa Territorial Force and its 1,000-strong counterinsurgency group known as Koevoet would also be dissolved.

On April 9 SWAPO President Sam Nujoma ordered the Namibian fighters to withdraw from Namibia to bases in Angola. "SWAPO and the Namibian people have nothing to gain by further loss of lives and the collapse of the UN independence plan for our country," Nujoma said.

Alaskans voice anger at Exxon

Continued from Page 3

Titus, a laborer from Tumwater, said workers are angry. Many are living in their cars without a penny. The state's Department of Labor posted a notice on April 8 asking workers to "be patient as these companies really are doing their best to clean up the spill." Titus said, "The man came out and told us that we have to have proof that we're Alaskans. There's nothing happening here." Titus is also signed up at the construction and labor union's local hiring hall.

Frank, a boat owner who has been contracted to work, said, "I've been to herring bay on Knight Island many times. The oil is splattered 40 feet high on the cliffs. On the beach the oil is three inches to three feet deep. It looks like a battlefield of dead animals, like the result of a war — dead deer, bear, otters, seals, and birds."

'Just a joke'

Another Exxon-contracted boat owner reported after a day of working on the spill that the entire cleanup team "is just a joke. They give us big hoses and tell us to wash down the rocks. But as soon as the waves

roll in, the oil is back as big as ever. It's just a game to make Exxon look good to the outside world."

After 11 days of waiting, Dick Braga, a painter from Anchorage, finally was put to work sweeping the docks for \$75 a day. "The least Exxon could do is put some of our unemployed people to work now that they've wrecked our fishing and polluted our whole sound."

Another young man said he's one of nine from his town who have come to Valdez to help with the cleanup. They've been there 15 days and have only worked two. The state job service leaves a message for him at the barber shop if they can get him a job each day.

A visit to Tatitlek

A visit to the Aleut village of Tatitlek on April 8 revealed the devastating emotional effect the oil spill is having.

Tatitlek has 97 residents and is accessible only by boat. It is the closest community to Bligh Reef, where the spill occurred. There are no stores or commercial establishments, only about 25 small houses, a generator, a school with 18 students, and two churches. Most residents attend a Russian Orthodox Church. Three families belong to the interdenominational protestant church.

Doris Kompkoff, a nurse practitioner in Tatitlek, described her town as a "subsistence village." She explained, "Every season brings us food, and we just survive off the land."

Her nephew Davie expressed concern that the spill will devalue the land that the Aleuts are scheduled to receive from the government in 1991 under a treaty signed with Alaskan natives. But Doris disagreed. "If the land can feed me, that's its value," she explained. "No amount of money can replace our way of living. People who make a living off the sea are like mothers protecting children now."

Ed Gregoriaf, a long-time resident of Tatitlek who single-handedly runs the generating station, joked that "herring is to us what prime rib and steak is to the president of Exxon. Mass starfish are floating up dead on our beach. We can't even hunt deer because they're eating the kelp on the beaches, which is contaminated. Sad is too mild a word for what we feel."

Gregoriaf worked on the Alaskan pipeline. "But I was always against it," he said. "We've always been waiting for an accident to happen, and it finally did."

Curtis support in Canada

Continued from Page 7

ran a substantial article on the case by Steve Penner, executive secretary of the Revolutionary Workers League of Canada. Penner attended Curtis trial.

Other supporters in Toronto include Dan Heap, New Democratic Party member of the Canadian Parliament; Cherie MacDonald, organizer, Ontario Coalition for Abortion Clinics; Judy Rebick, longtime women's rights activist; Dudley Laws, Black Action Defence Committee; Andre Kolompar, president, Canadian Union of Postal Workers, Toronto; and Peter Mahlangu, Canadian representative for the South African Congress of Trade Unions.

Curtis supporter Fred Nelson from Vancouver said that several woodworkers had signed petitions for Curtis. Nelson is a woodworker and a member of the International Woodworkers of America (Canada). Kate Kaku, a leader of the defense committee and Curtis' wife, spoke at a meeting in Vancouver while on a tour of the Northwest. The meeting raised \$250 for the defense effort.

10 AND 25 YEARS AGO

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWS WEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

April 20, 1979

The accident at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, has deeply affected the thinking of American working people. Antinuclear sentiment has soared. According to a *New York Times*/CBS News poll, 41 percent of adult Americans oppose building more nuclear power plants, up from 21 percent less than two years ago. Those favoring more plants have dropped from 69 percent to 46 percent.

"The big challenge before the antinuke movement now is to get out the truth about nuclear power to the American people," said Fred Halstead, a member of the Socialist Workers Party National Committee who recently visited Harrisburg and Middletown, Pennsylvania.

The role of the labor movement will be crucial in the fight against the nuclear danger, he said. "Labor is the only force in society that has both the self-interest and the power to stop them," Halstead explained.

"The unions are the only mass organizations representing the people who are most affected by nuclear power. It's working people who bear the brunt of higher electric costs from nuclear power. And it is overwhelmingly working people who will be the victims in every nuclear accident."

"The fact that nuclear power is a class question hits you very starkly in Middletown," Halstead added. "The bosses, the rich — they can get away from town. They can afford expensive medical tests."

On the other hand, he noted, "the steelworkers, Teamsters, auto workers, and farmers in the area — no matter how frightened or angry they are — were held

there as economic hostages. To leave and protect the safety of their families would mean losing pay, maybe losing jobs, maybe losing their homes."



NEW YORK — An audience of nearly 600 heard Malcolm X speak on "Black Revolution" at an April 8 meeting here under the auspices of the Militant Labor Forum.

He was well received by the Negroes, who comprised about a quarter of the audience, and by most of the whites, as he outlined his views on Black nationalism. Some white liberals, however, were visibly disturbed by his scathing indictment of the role of liberalism in the Negro struggle and his insistence on an all-black leadership for the Negro movement.

A lively point in the discussion period was a heated exchange between Malcolm X and James Wechsler, liberal editorial columnist for the *New York Post*. Wechsler sought to bolster the press propaganda smear that Malcolm X is a "hate-monger."

This charge was not substantiated for those who came to learn what Malcolm X really stands for and who listened to him with an open mind.

Malcolm X welcomed the opportunity to address the meeting and also commended the *Militant*, saying, "I want to thank the Militant Labor Forum for the invitation to speak here this evening. I think as I said earlier, the paper is one of the best I've read. We always encourage those in Harlem to buy it when we see it up there, or wherever else we may see it. It's a very good paper, and I hope they continue to have success — make progress."

What April 9 action showed

It would be hard to overstate the importance of what was accomplished when hundreds of thousands of people marched on Washington April 9 to defend the right of women to decide whether or not to have an abortion.

Particularly significant was the impact of the massive march and rally on the demonstrators themselves. The confidence that came from seeing so many people joining together to demand justice dealt a blow to the passivity that capitalist society instills into oppressed and exploited people — a passivity summed up in old saws such as, "You can't fight city hall."

The demonstration aroused enthusiasm for further actions to defend women's right to abortion. There was wide support for mobilizing to counter the efforts of "Operation Rescue" to forcibly shut medical clinics where abortions are performed. From the speaker's platform, National Organization for Women President Molly Yard called for a demonstration at the Supreme Court April 26, as hearings get under way in the case of *Webster v. Reproductive Health Services*, involving antiabortion laws in Missouri.

The demonstration was a learning experience — above all, for those who participated. Fighters for abortion rights met unionists, students, Blacks, Native Americans, and many others who agree about the importance of defending abortion rights.

They found out more about each other's struggles, such as the strike at Eastern Airlines and many other fights against attacks by the employers and the government on democratic rights and living standards.

The demonstration had an impact on millions of people in schools, communities, and workplaces who didn't attend. Through discussions with those who went, and through media coverage of the event, they are learning something about the power that people can wield when they unite.

The demonstrators took on the administration of President George Bush, which has called on the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* ruling that declared antiabortion laws unconstitutional. They took

on the Supreme Court, which agreed to consider reinstating a Missouri antiabortion law that had been thrown out by lower courts. They confronted Congress, which has attacked the right of abortion by denying Medicaid coverage for abortions to hundreds of thousands of women.

The government's antiabortion moves have put wind in the sails of reactionary forces who oppose women's rights — from the Catholic Church hierarchy to outfits that stage attacks on clinics.

The size and power of the protest deepened the debate within ruling circles over whether further moves to chip away at or reverse *Roe v. Wade* will carry too high a political price.

The White House felt obliged to take note of the march's impact, with media spokesperson Marlin Fitzwater terming the action "very successful." "They presented their views very effectively," he conceded. This contradicted Vice-president Danforth Quayle's attempt to dismiss the protest as "nothing unusual."

An editorial in the *New York Times* on the day of the march called on the Supreme Court to uphold *Roe v. Wade*. The extensive coverage of the demonstration in the major media was another gauge of the pressure that the rulers are experiencing.

The mammoth demonstration was also a measure of the failure of the employing class and its government to roll back the advances in democratic rights that have been won by working people as a result of the victories of the civil rights movement and the struggles for women's rights. Above all, they have failed to destroy the confidence of tens of millions that they are entitled to these rights.

Like the solidarity shown by the strikers at Eastern Airlines, the march registered the increased combativity of working people and their allies in the face of attacks on their basic rights.

More than ever before, the defense of abortion rights is an indispensable part of defending the democratic right of privacy. Moreover, defending the right of women to control their own bodies is essential to women winning equality with men.

Frame-up in Hartford

In a shameful violation of democratic rights and elementary justice, a Hartford jury convicted four Puerto Rican independence fighters on charges related to a 1983 robbery of a Wells Fargo depot in Hartford, Connecticut. This was the latest turn in a six-year frame-up of 15 proindependence activists known as the Hartford 15. Nine other defendants are awaiting trial.

The trial, which lasted more than six months, was preceded by months of pretrial hearings, where the prosecution presented as evidence hundreds of hours of tapes and material taken illegally from the homes of the activists. Their private conversations were secretly taped. Their homes were raided and ransacked.

The defendants were forcibly taken from Puerto Rico to face trial in Hartford. Many of them were denied bail and imprisoned before coming to trial. One of the defendants who is still awaiting trial, Filiberto Ojeda Ríos, has been in jail for most of the time since his arrest in 1985, even though he has not been found guilty of any crime.

They are being victimized by the U.S. government because of their activity in favor of the independence of Puerto Rico, which has been under U.S. colonial domination since 1898.

During the course of the trial the prosecution did not allow the defendants to express their political views in an attempt to turn what was clearly a case of political victimization into a criminal one. The defendants were de-

nied the right to a trial by their peers. No Puerto Ricans were on the jury, and none of the jurors spoke Spanish.

From the beginning of the frame-up, the government attempted to publicly present the defendants as dangerous "terrorists." Those arrested in the massive raid on Aug. 30, 1985, were brought from Puerto Rico in secrecy on a U.S. military plane.

Special metal detectors were set up outside the courtroom and all who entered were carefully searched. Alleging fear of reprisal, the jury was kept anonymous.

This atmosphere made a fair trial impossible. The case was based on the presumption that the Puerto Rican activists were guilty and not on the presumption of their innocence until proven guilty as guaranteed in the Constitution. "It was up to the government to prove our guilt — not up to us to prove our innocence," explained Antonio Camacho Negrón, one of those convicted. "Given the evidence, I don't think the government has been able to prove its case."

Washington's actions against these fighters must be protested. An attack against their democratic rights is an attack against all working people in Puerto Rico as well as in the United States and elsewhere.

This case is not over; the verdicts will be appealed. The nine other Puerto Rican activists who will be facing trial soon need support. All fighters for democratic rights and justice should demand that the verdicts be reversed and that all the charges be dropped.

London bookshop bombing

The fire bombing of two London bookshops that carry Salman Rushdie's novel *The Satanic Verses* are cut from the same cloth as calls for banning the novel and threats on the life of its author, who is still in hiding. They aim to intimidate people from exercising their democratic right to read and write what they choose.

Moreover, attacks of this kind lend legitimacy to the campaign by Britain's rulers and capitalist governments around the world to limit what can be written, who can appear on television, what can be read, and what books can be bought or sold.

It's of a piece with the murder of the leader of a mosque in Brussels in March who had defended Rushdie's right to publish his novel.

Shortly after the campaign against *The Satanic Verses* began, Britain's Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe expressed sympathy for those of the Muslim faith who are offended by the book. Continuing, he explained that he also found the book "offensive about our government and

about our society."

The British government has demonstrated on numerous occasions that it is ready to muzzle ideas and criticisms it deems offensive.

- It has imposed a broadcasting gag rule against officials, members, and supporters of the Irish independence party Sinn Féin.

- It attempted to suppress a TV documentary that portrayed British soldiers gunning down three Irish nationalists in Gibraltar last year.

- A Pathfinder sales representative was arrested, detained, and interrogated for 24 hours last year after visiting an Irish republican prisoner during a sales trip in northern Ireland.

- It fought the publication of the book *Spycatcher*, by former spy Peter Wright.

The April 10 bombings show the need to build the broadest possible defense of freedom of speech and opposition to all forms of censorship.

Who's the enemy in 'war against drugs'?

BY DOUG JENNESS

Trafficking in addictive drugs is spreading like a plague through working-class neighborhoods in every major city across the country. Black and Latino communities are especially victimized. The trade in drugs is accompanied by increased violence and killings as dealers shoot dealers over turf, dealers shoot customers unable to come up with the cash, and dissatisfied customers shoot dealers.

Many not involved in the trade fear they will be caught in the crossfire. But the main victims are the tens of

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

thousands of young drug users whose creative capacities are deadened and self-esteem snuffed out.

It's no secret to anyone that a handful of entrepreneurs are profiting from this misery. Indeed, the production, processing, transportation, and sale of addictive drugs is one of the most lucrative capitalist industries today.

In the communities most victimized, pressure is mounting for something to be done about the problem of drug trafficking. People want action now against this scourge.

Government officials have responded by calling for a "war" against drugs. But in spite of this militant rhetoric, their proposals will not bring relief. To the contrary, additional burdens are being placed on the backs of the victims of the drug trade and the working class as a whole.

Take, for example, the measures national drug policy director William Bennett proposes for Washington, D.C. The country's capital has been in the spotlight lately because of the sharp increase in drug-related killings. This has provoked a debate over how to cope with the problem. Proposals have ranged from mobilizing the National Guard to building mass detention camps. Bennett's response isn't as extreme yet, but it is based on the same premise: more repression is necessary. Drug peddlers and users should be rounded up and kept in jail.

Bennett plans to immediately transfer 250 inmates in the D.C. jail to federal prisons, opening up more space to confine persons arrested on drug-related charges. Government agencies will then organize the construction of a privately funded 500-bed pretrial detention jail in the next year. Within two years, a new 700-bed federal prison is to be built for the D.C.-Baltimore area.

A Metropolitan Area Task Force will be set up, drawing on cops from a broad range of federal and local agencies. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms has reassigned 55 agents to Washington from across the country to conduct a major undercover operation.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development is supposed to get into the act too. They are to adjust current procedures so that drug users can more easily be evicted from federally funded housing projects. At the same time photo identification cards will be issued to residents.

Bennett's measures will not stop drug trafficking. Confiscation of drugs and jailing pushers and users never have. If there is any impact at all, it will be to make drugs harder to get, thus raising their price on the market. In this highly profitable business new dealers will quickly replace those arrested and jailed. And the police themselves are up to their eyeballs in the whole dirty business.

Other than a proposal to provide a skimpy 300 new treatment slots in outpatient clinics — 1,150 fewer places than planned for additional jail capacity and far fewer than the number of addicts who want to get help — Bennett offers nothing to the victims of drug addiction. Except, of course, his proposal to kick them out of public housing.

Helping the victims is not the objective of the "war" against drugs. The antidrug warriors essentially accept the notion that drug addiction is a permanent condition of an entire layer of working people. And when these pariahs get unruly, they have to be brought under control.

The Bennett plan, like other federal and local drug plans, serves to reinforce the police apparatus while trying to win greater acceptance for restricting democratic rights. As working people engage in struggles to defend their rights and living conditions, they will be the victims of this beefed-up repressive force and denial of rights.

The government funds going to build new prisons would be better spent on setting up easily accessible and free rehabilitation clinics that offer treatment on demand. Those who have AIDS should receive free, government-funded medical care. Moreover, possession of drugs and drug paraphernalia should be decriminalized so that the users can come forward for medical help without fear of prosecution.

In the longer run, the degrading effects of addictive drugs on layers of the working class will not be conquered as long as capitalist rule continues to exist.

But the rise of massive mobilizations of the working class will inspire young people on drugs to abandon this addiction in order to devote their full creative powers and clarity of thinking to the struggle for a better world.

Union elections at Geo. A. Hormel plant in Minnesota

BY DEAN PEOPLES
AND GALE SHANGOLD

AUSTIN, Minn. — On April 20 workers at Geo. A. Hormel & Co.'s meat packing plant here will vote in a National Labor Relations Board-organized election to determine which, if any, union will represent them in the future.

Workers will choose whether to continue to be part of the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) union, to affiliate to the North American Meat Packers Union, or not have a union in the plant.

The election is a result of recertification petitions filed in July 1986 during the last stages of a strike against Hormel waged by UFCW Local P-9 members. At the time,

UNION TALK

leaders of the strike hoped to continue the struggle against the company by forming a new union after UFCW International officials intervened to put Local P-9 in receivership and end the strike.

Discussions about which way to vote are now taking place among workers in this area, in and outside the plant. Workers who were on strike, but not recalled to work, will also be voting in the election.

The strike at Hormel was one of the most important labor battles in recent years. It began in August 1985 after members of Local P-9 refused to accept concessions demanded by Hormel.

The P-9ers wanted wages and benefits — drastically cut by the company in 1984 — restored. With an in-plant injury rate nearly six times the industry average, safety was an even more crucial issue. Other concessions had been made, starting in 1978, and 1,500 jobs were eliminated between 1978 and 1983.

P-9's decision to wage a serious fight won support and admiration from working people around the country. The strike became an example of how union power can be used. The local functioned democratically, reached out broadly for support, and involved members and supporters in solidarity actions.

Although official sanction for the strike was given, top UFCW officials publicly attacked it, blocked financial

support, and opposed P-9's roving pickets.

On Jan. 13, 1986, Hormel opened the plant to those who would cross a picket line. Ten days later, the National Guard began escorting scabs into the plant.

In March the UFCW International sent a directive to P-9 to halt all strike activity and to offer to return to work on company terms. Local P-9 members voted to continue the strike. In May the International put P-9 in receivership, suspended its officers, and replaced them with an appointed trustee.

In this situation, hundreds of P-9 members signed petitions to drop affiliation to the UFCW and form a new union — the North American Meat Packers Union. The petitions were filed with the NLRB in July 1986. Many supporters of NAMPU saw in it the potential to link up, through common struggle, with other workers in the Hormel chain, as well as with other packing workers.

Up against a powerful company, the government, courts, National Guard, and the treachery of their own International union officials, the strike by P-9 was defeated.

There are now about 850 workers in the plant. Roughly half are P-9 members who crossed the picket line during the strike. The others were originally hired as scabs. All those working in the plant now are in UFCW Local 9. New officers were elected and the receivership ended. Those who stayed out on strike were put on a recall list, but none have been called back.

Going into the April 20 election, some support still exists for NAMPU because it was formed in the heat of the battle against Hormel. But NAMPU's original supporters now have many different views about whether it remains a viable organization, and about what's needed to move the labor movement forward in the current situation.

A pre-election flier was written by NAMPU chairperson David Twedell and distributed at the plant. "Publicly, I advised the Union that it should go back to work [in 1986], rather than try to block the streets and challenge the legal system of the United States of America," the NAMPU flier says. "Looking back, I think events proved I was right. The city of Austin is still in a shambles because of the UFCW's strike."

"NAMPU guarantees that there will be no strike in Austin after we win the election," it continues. "A strike in

Austin would be utter madness. The only way to guarantee that you will not see anymore picket lines at the gate is to vote out that strike-happy union, the UFCW."

Pete Winkels, business agent for Local P-9 during the strike, says, "The NAMPU leaflet places the blame [for loss of jobs in meat packing] on everyone except where it belongs — on the company."

The fundamental question in this union representation election is whether breaking with the UFCW would advance the effort to build a fighting union in meat packing today.

Twedell says, "Since collective bargaining is in a state of free fall under the UFCW, what do you have to lose by going independent? The best long-term hope is to help your own company survive, while starting over from scratch as a union."

The perspective advanced by NAMPU today — "helping your own company survive" — is not fundamentally different from the views of virtually the entire current leadership of the unions, including the UFCW. These are views that many workers — as a result of what they've experienced over the past decade — are beginning to question and, in growing numbers, reject.

As the problems facing working people worsen, the ranks of the labor movement will step forward and fight to take control of the existing unions and transform them into organizations that can defend us against the economic and social devastation capitalism has in store. New unions will also be formed in the course of struggle.

This is not yet the situation that we face, however. Continued affiliation with the UFCW puts workers in the Austin plant in a stronger position to defend themselves today than with no union, or with a small, isolated, independent union.

Thousands of the workers who will transform the unions in the future can be found in the ranks of the UFCW today. This includes some who previously crossed picket lines, but who have since become part of the union's membership. For unionists trying to find a way forward, the challenge is to reclaim the unions, not give them up to the current officialdom by walking away.

Dean Peoples and Gale Shangold are members of UFCW Local P-6 and work at Farmstead Foods in Albert Lea, Minnesota.

LETTERS

Chilean women's group

On a recent visit to Chile I had the opportunity to meet with a group of women from the Santa Olga-Clara Estrella Community Women's Committee, which is in one of the poor areas of Santiago. About half of the women were students or had jobs, ranging from self-employed to one woman who was a bus driver. They ranged in age from young students to women with grown grandchildren. Many have children or grandchildren in jail, disappeared, or in exile.

The group of 19 was originally founded in 1983 around two activities: a sewing workshop and helping the unemployed. However, a year later they suffered a lot of repression. Ten of their members were arrested and tortured, and the group was forced to disband.

But it was impossible to suppress the women, and the current organization was founded in 1985.

Their main concern at the moment is with the health of children in poor areas. To combat poor living conditions and poor nutrition, they run courses on health education and first aid, as well as helping run community kitchens.

The women organized and participated in many demonstrations against the military regime. Many were also members of the organization, Families of the Political Prisoners and Disappeared.

Julie Walkington
West End, Australia

'Kinder, gentler gov't'

I work in a nursing home in Omaha. We have just received a patient who is a Korean War veteran. He is an American Indian who has been homeless for numerous years.

It seems that this man lost his toes on both feet due to frostbite this winter and was just released from the Veterans Administration hospital. Because of the trauma he

refuses to speak to anyone.

I would like to say, however, that President George Bush's kinder, gentler government must now come up with \$2,000 a month to care for him at our home, plus whatever the doctor's fees were at the hospital.

Jerry Briardy
Omaha, Nebraska

Steelworkers

One thousand members of Local 33 of the International Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers struck the Bethlehem Steel Corp.'s Sparrows Point shipyard on March 17.

The workers had not received a pay raise since 1983 and subsequently agreed to concessions in wages and other benefits, as well as a two-tier pay scale. One worker was quoted in the *Baltimore Sun* as saying, "It took me 37 years to make \$10 an hour. I've got 37 years in, and I won't get out with \$55 a month. They call that a pension plan."

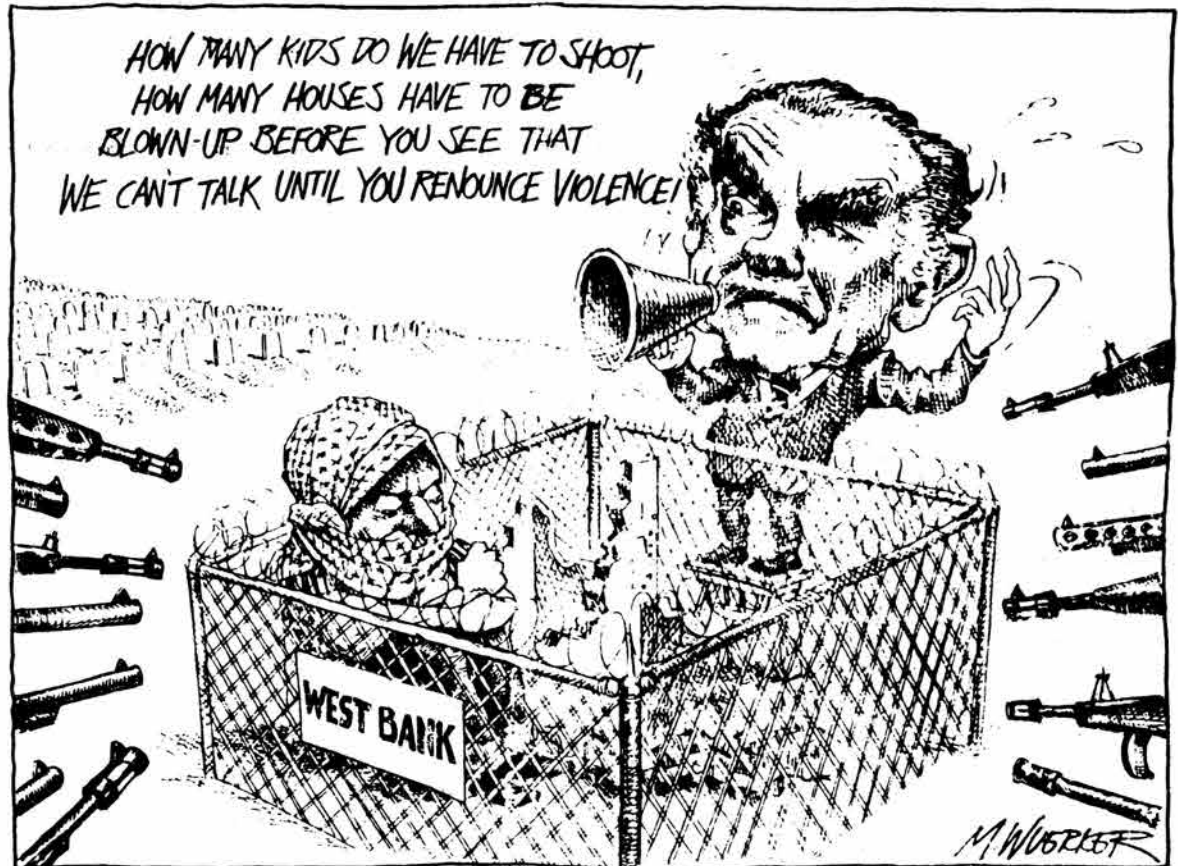
Eighty-six percent of the workers rejected the company's contract offer: \$1.70 over three years to Class A workers and less than a third of that for workers at other pay scales. The unionists were especially offended by the offer of an 18 cents and 14 cents an hour raise per year for the lowest pay scale.

The shipyard's parent company, Bethlehem Steel made \$403 million in profits in 1988. As one worker said, "We went along with the company to save our jobs. But they're making millions of dollars in profits, and the workers don't get anything."

Edwin Fruit
Baltimore, Maryland

Woodworkers

Striking woodworkers from Springfield, Oregon, appealed for support and explained the lessons of their fight at a Militant Labor Forum in Portland March 11.



Some 300 workers at Morgan-Nicolai Door are entering the ninth month of their strike. Matthew Johnson, public relations coordinator for Local 3035 of the Western Council of Industrial Workers — Lumber and Sawmill workers, explained that this strike grew out of workers' opposition to company demands for deep concessions, including wage and pension cuts and the gutting of seniority.

The company has hired 170 replacement workers, but they are having difficulty holding them all there. They haven't succeeded in getting enough workers to run two shifts, explained Johnson. Out of 305 workers, only 21 have crossed the picket lines — less than 7 percent.

Johnson pointed to the changing consciousness of workers going through the experience of this strike. "It's great to see that the

spirit that established unionism in this country is still there," he said. "It was great to see Machinists at Eastern Airlines go out on strike and pilots not cross their picket line."

Brian Williams
Portland, Oregon

Confirmation

I was wondering if my subscription stopped. It really would be a waste of time and energy to read all other papers without being able to have those papers' stories confirmed by the *Militant*.

A prisoner
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Prison control units

I want to thank you for printing an article I submitted for publication about prison control units [*Militant*, Feb. 10, 1989]. I hope it has provoked public curiosity enough that there will be an in-

quiry into the actual purposes of these inhumane concentration camp units.

A prisoner
Pikeville, Tennessee

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

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.

Thugs attack California strikers

Slaughterhouse workers defend picket line at Harris Ranch Beef

BY PETER THIERJUNG

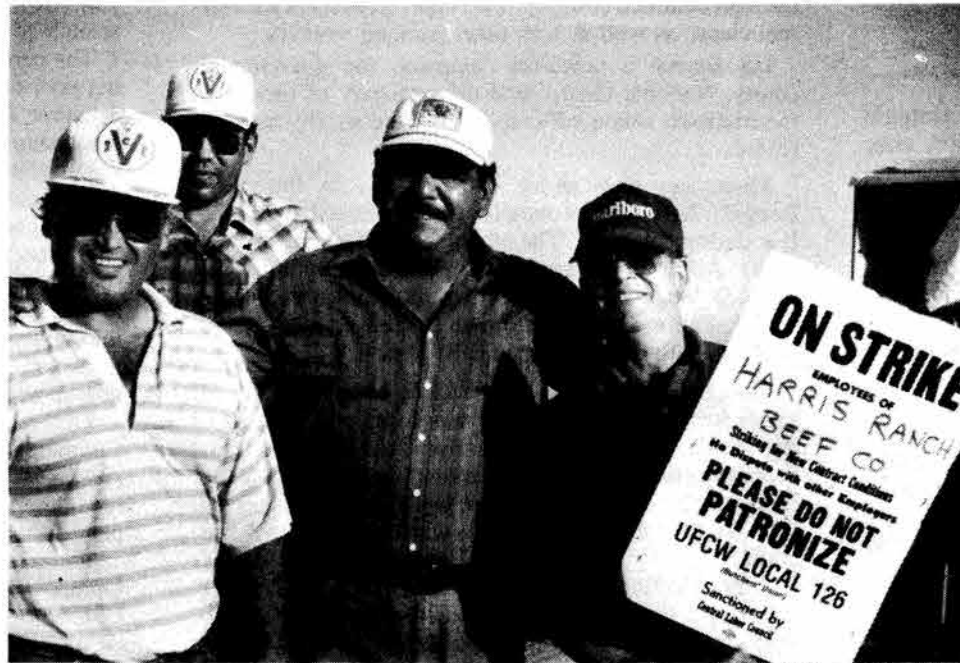
SELMA, Calif. — Seven strikebreakers attacked the United Food and Commercial Workers union picket line here April 7. Wielding tire irons, clubs, and knives, the thugs launched the early evening surprise attack against four UFCW pickets outside the Harris Ranch Beef Co. plant gate.

Picket captain and union negotiating committee member Ken Neves suffered a blow to the head requiring 10 stitches. The other three pickets suffered minor injuries. Despite their greater numbers and weapons, however, the attackers were not able to rout the strikers, who stood their ground.

UFCW Local 126 members are slaughterhouse workers entering the seventh week of their strike against Harris.

"It was a setup," said Apolonio Damian. Damian was one of the four union members on the line at the time of the attack. He explained how a pickup truck with three scabs left the Harris plant and stopped at the picket line at the end of the day shift. The scabs threatened the pickets and drove off. The same pickup and another truck returned 30 minutes later. Additional strikebreakers were hidden in the rear of the trucks and jumped out when the attack began. "It was clear they were looking for a fight," said Damian.

Local 126 President Marc Salcido con-



(From left) Harris Beef strikers Ken Neves, Raul DeLeon, Apolonio Damian, and Charles Huffman.

demned the attack, calling it "unprovoked and premeditated."

Harris company officials have not taken action against the scabs or condemned the attack. Company security guards admitted videotaping the attack, but the company

denies such a record exists.

Harris has instead used the attack to try to broaden a court injunction against the union's picket line. The current injunction does not limit the number of union members allowed on the line. It only restricts

picketing to the side of the street opposite the plant gate. Pickets usually number about a dozen. At shift change the line is sometimes larger. The company would like to limit the number of pickets to three or four for the duration of the strike.

Harris Ranch Beef Co. is the largest and only union-organized slaughterhouse left in central California. Members of the union have repeatedly rejected company proposals that include replacing pension benefits with a profit-sharing plan; making the plant an agent shop, which would make union membership voluntary; and refusal to guarantee strikers their jobs after the strike.

On March 29 Harris announced that nine strikers had been fired for alleged misconduct on and off the picket line. One fired striker was charged with spitting sunflower seeds at a scab's auto. This move, combined with the attack on April 7, confirmed for many strikers that the company is intent on breaking the union.

Forty members of Local 126 launched a California-wide boycott of Harris Beef products April 10 by picketing the Harris Ranch Restaurant located about 40 miles from the slaughterhouse. The restaurant serves choice beef provided by the plant and has its own airport runway so that monied diners can fly in from San Francisco and Los Angeles for exclusive meals.

Union coal miners strike Pittston to win contract

BY JIM ALTENBERG

LEBANON, Va. — After working without a contract for more than 14 months, 1,700 union coal miners walked off the job April 5 at the Pittston Coal Group's Virginia and West Virginia mines. Pittston has announced it will hire scabs to try to run its mines.

Workers on the picket line say they are expecting a long, hard fight.

Unlike most of the major U.S. coal operators, Pittston refused to sign the February 1988 agreement between the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) and the Bituminous Coal Operators Association (BCOA). Miners remained on the job in hopes that a new contract could be reached without a strike.

Pittston's provocations

But Pittston had already begun its drive to push the UMWA out of its mines. Beginning in 1986, the company transferred tens of millions of tons of coal reserves from its unionized mines to nonunion and subcontracted operations. This led to laying off thousands of union miners, in an area where government unemployment figures are often 15 percent or higher. Pittston announced in 1987 that it would not be part of 1988 BCOA negotiations, that it wanted more from the union.

As the contract expiration date neared, Pittston began a series of provocations aimed at forcing the UMWA on strike. The company said that it would run the mines during a strike. It placed ads in local newspapers to recruit scabs, as well as company guards and gun thugs for its "security teams." Cameras and listening equipment were installed at mine portals, and a campaign in the news media to smear the union as "violent" was unleashed.

Health insurance and pensions

When the contract ended, Pittston cut off all health insurance and pensions for retired and disabled miners. With no contract in force, working conditions began to deteriorate rapidly. Grievances piled up with no means of resolving them. Forced overtime and job combinations were instituted.

Miners were laid off without regard to seniority.

Union officials have challenged Pittston's refusal to negotiate in hearings before the National Labor Relations Board. They argue that NLRB decisions declaring the company's actions to be unfair labor practices would, according to federal law, prevent Pittston from permanently replacing unionists in the event of a strike.

In November 1988, such a settlement of the 1984-85 UMWA strike against A.T. Massey Coal in Kentucky and West Virginia was reached. Massey had to pay some \$2.4 million and hire some unionists back. Strikers received only \$10,000 in back pay and a promise of recall, or severance pay of \$40,000. Those workers who were fired by Massey for alleged picket-line misconduct received nothing, but were allowed to continue their cases before the NLRB. The NLRB regions 9 and 11 issued decisions

against Pittston at the end of March, setting the stage for the April 5 walkout.

The union has also begun a campaign to win support in the mining communities, and to pressure Pittston stockholders, creditors, and politicians to force the company to hold serious talks. Committees of retirees, miners, and their spouses have held rallies and picket lines at company headquarters here and in Connecticut, and at the offices of Pittston directors, banks, and elsewhere.

'Best and final offer'

In May and June 1988, workers called memorial holidays and shut down Pittston mines. The company tried to run some mines with its bosses, which resulted in the death of a supervisor in a mine accident. West Virginia retirees picketed and closed Pittston mines in Buffalo Creek for two days in the fall of 1988 to protest Pittston's refusal to negotiate and demand restoration

of benefits.

Pittston announced a "best and final offer" to the union in November 1988. It would eliminate premium pay for Saturday and Sunday work, allowing Pittston to run its mines seven days a week without paying overtime. It also gutted workers' health insurance and protection against subcontracting.

The offer was rejected by the UMWA, which called again for serious talks and proposed an agreement similar to the 1988 BCOA contract signed by other coal employers. After the union set a strike date of Feb. 1, 1989, the governors of Virginia, West Virginia and Kentucky pressed UMWA President Richard Trumka to postpone a strike for another 30 to 60 days in hopes that talks could take place. Trumka agreed, but Pittston held no meaningful bargaining sessions. Instead, the company cut off miners' health insurance at the end of March.

Four activists in Hartford 15 case convicted

BY SELVA NEBBIA

On April 10 four Puerto Rican pro-independence fighters were found guilty of charges stemming from the robbery of \$7 million from a Wells Fargo depot in Hartford, Connecticut, in 1983.

The four are: Juan Segarra Palmer, Norman Ramirez Talavera, Roberto José Maldonado, and Antonio Camacho Negrón. A fifth defendant, Carlos Ayes Suárez, was acquitted of all charges.

The five are among the 15 Puerto Rican independence activists arrested by the FBI in 1985 and 1986. One of the defendants, Luz Berrios Berrios pleaded guilty and is now serving a five-year sentence. The other nine defendants await trial while the government appeals the judge's dismissal of some of the evidence.

The 15 were framed up on charges ranging from conspiracy, to transportation of stolen money, using stolen money to finance a toy giveaway in Hartford and Puerto Rico on Jan. 6, 1985, and posses-

sion of weapons. The prosecution tried to link the defendants to the independence organization Los Macheteros. The government claims the organization is a "terrorist" group.

"During the trial, the government was not able to prove any of the charges," Camacho Negrón explained in an interview in New York before the verdict was announced.

"It was up to the prosecution to prove our guilt, not up to us to prove our innocence. Given the evidence presented, I don't think the government has been able to prove its case," he added.

Camacho Negrón faces up to 15 years in prison. Segarra Palmer was convicted of robbery, conspiracy, and transportation of stolen money and faces up to 100 years in jail. He was found innocent on four weapons charges. Bail was revoked for Camacho Negrón and Segarra Palmer, and both were taken into custody by federal

marshals following the verdict.

"We feel this verdict represents a partial victory for the defense," explained Victoria Barrera, a member of the defense committee for the 15, in a telephone interview from Hartford on April 11. "The fact that a North American jury would dismiss some of the charges and acquit one of the defendants is a victory. The government spent tremendous resources to have them convicted on all counts. The fact that they were not able to get away with that speaks to the weakness of their position."

Barrera explained that the case has also been successful in bringing the issue of Puerto Rico's independence to the fore.

The Connecticut Committee Against Repression will hold a picket Sunday, April 16, at 3:00 p.m., in front of the Federal Detention Center in Hartford where Segarra Palmer and Camacho Negrón are being held. For more information call the committee at (203) 244-3963.