

Bitter strike battle mounts in Appalachia

Miners struggle for 'union and their lives'

BY STEVE MARSHALL

CASTLEWOOD, Va. — A bitter strike battle is escalating rapidly here in the green hills of southwest Virginia.

On one side are the Pittston Coal Group, its brass-knuckled gun thugs, and the Virginia state police. On the other side are tens of thousands of working people across Appalachia, led by 1,700 striking coal miners in District 28 of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA).

Ten thousand people jammed the Wise County fairgrounds on April 30 and thundered their approval as UMWA President Richard Trumka and Rainbow Coalition President Jesse Jackson donned military camouflage fatigues before speaking.

Camouflage, which makes "identification" for police frame-ups more difficult, has become the solidarity uniform of the strikers and their supporters.

For three hours, and through a soaking rainstorm, the crowd clapped, sang, and roared their determination to defend Appalachia — "our kids, our lives, our union" — from the coal bosses.

Trumka recalled the years "of muscles strained, of blood shed by thousands of our ancestors." Today miners stand at a crossroads, he said, because Pittston "wants to take us back to a time when coal miners' families had less value than a mule."

To a prolonged ovation, Trumka vowed, "We will not go back!" The UMWA president also urged the miners to protest nonviolently.

The loudest welcome of the day was



Ten thousand people jammed Wise County fairground on April 30. Rally was swelled by outrage at cop violence against Pittston miners.

given to Jesse Jackson. "This is not just your strike," he said in his greeting to the miners. "It's the people's strike."

Jackson stressed the common interests of working people, and the need to unite across lines of race and sex.

Most people at the rally were from

southwest Virginia. Hundreds came from the coal regions of West Virginia and Kentucky, and a contingent of Alabama miners made the trip. Members of several other unions, including garment workers from Abingdon, Virginia, were also present.

The rally was swelled by outrage at police violence against peaceful pickets earlier that week. On April 24, 472 miners and supporters were jailed after state troopers dragged them from the entrance to Pittston's Moss No. 3 coal-preparation plant.

Troopers forced miners to kneel, faces in the dirt, and held guns to their heads. An elderly woman was bloodied.

Seven-hour trip

More pickets were arrested April 25, this time from the Lambert Forks mine. When the arrested pickets arrived in nearby Clintwood for booking, townspeople saw them step off police buses, bruised and bleeding. Immediately the town closed down and joined the struggle; more violent arrests were made. The 70-mile trip to jail was dragged out by the cops for seven hours.

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Grenada unionist protests book ban

BY MICHAEL BAUMANN

Anselm De Bourg, president of Grenada's Trade Union Council, has joined those protesting the recent escalation of book banning in the eastern Caribbean island.

The union leader was speaking at a May 1 labor rally of more than 5,000 in the capital city St. George's that demanded wage increases and jobs.

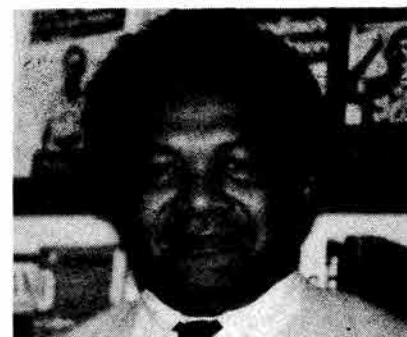
De Bourg denounced the U.S.-imposed government of Prime Minister Herbert Blaize as antiunion and blasted it for attempting to "deny the people of Grenada the right to read what they choose."

The Blaize government began banning books in October 1988, when customs officials seized shipments from Pathfinder publishers of New York.

A decree issued April 11 formalized the seizures by declaring 86 titles—all published or distributed by Pathfinder—officially banned. The list includes titles by Fidel Castro, Che Guevara, Malcolm X,

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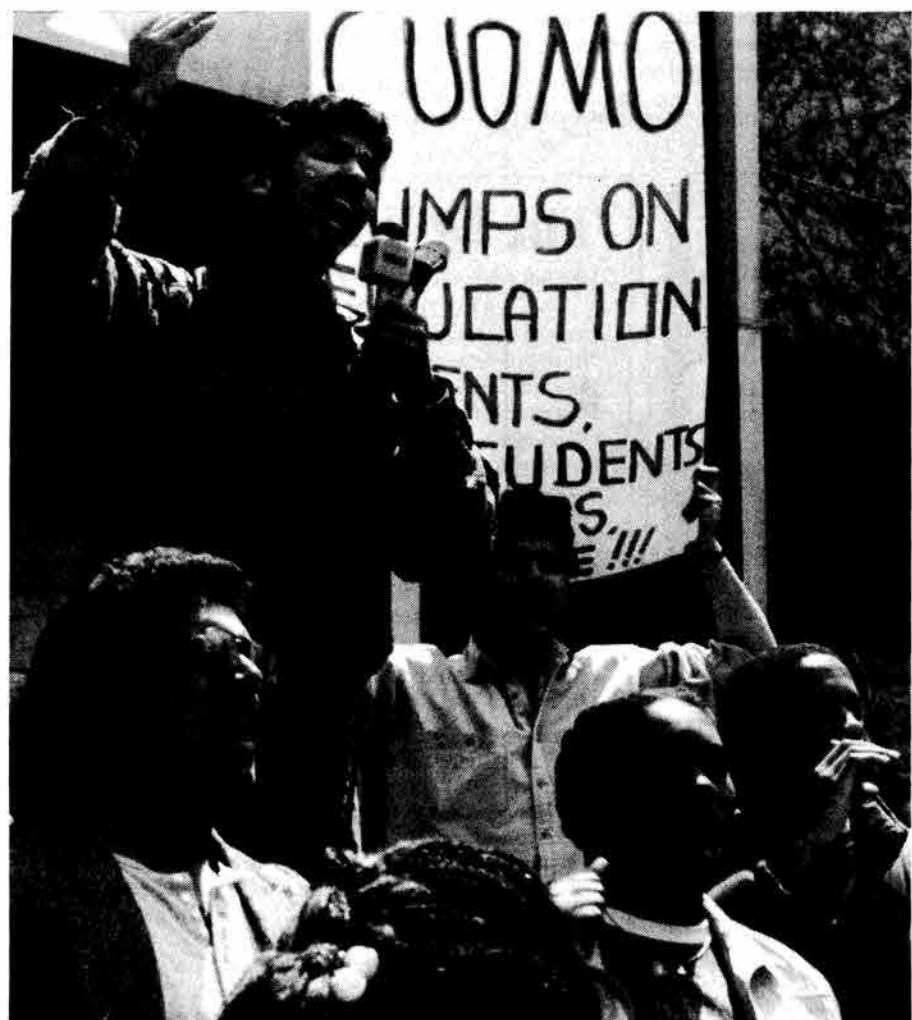
Tjibaou assassinated



As we go to press, an Associated Press dispatch reported the May 4 assassination in New Caledonia of Jean-Marie Tjibaou, president of the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front. The FLNKS has led the fight to win independence for the Pacific Island nation, which is ruled by France.

French officials in New Caledonia said that Tjibaou and Yeiwene Yeiwene, another FLNKS leader, were shot and killed by Djubelly Wea, who they described as a member of the United Front for Kanak Liberation. The officials said Wea was then killed by Tjibaou's bodyguards.

New York students win victory



Students rally at City College of New York to protest tuition hike. See page 2 for coverage of how they turned back this threat to their education.

British communist runs for European Parliament

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

LONDON—The Communist League announced April 29 that it will be standing rail worker Doreen Wepler as a candidate in the June 15 elections to the European Parliament. The European Parliament is one of the structural organs of the European Economic Community.

"As the 1990s approach, working people around the world face growing problems," Wepler said. "Margaret Thatcher and other capitalist politicians claim that our future as working people lies in their system. Nothing could be further from the truth. They have no solutions to the problems we face."

She said that capitalism "puts profits first, not people's needs. As a result, 120,000 children under five years old in the Third World die every three days from hunger and disease — equivalent to the number killed in the horrific atom bombing of Hiroshima at the end of World War II."

The communist candidate explained, "Working people are fighting back against this misery, from Nicaragua to Palestine to southern Africa. But the rulers turn on every struggle for dignity and basic human rights."

Wepler pointed out that the British rulers are particularly aggressive in attempting

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Student protests beat back tuition hike

Thousands demonstrate at city universities throughout New York

BY SELVA NEBBIA

NEW YORK—"Education is our right. Fight! Fight! Fight!" chanted students as they marched down the streets of Manhattan on May 2.

The march brought together thousands of students, faculty, and supporters to protest a tuition raise and budget cuts for the City University of New York (CUNY) system.

The march culminated a week of demonstrations. The student action began on April 24 at City College of New York in upper Manhattan where students took over the administration building. The protest soon spread to other campuses. By May 1, student actions had taken place at 15 of the 20 campuses in the city university system. Some 180,000 students are enrolled in

CUNY schools.

At the May 2 action students from many of the city campuses carried signs in English, Spanish, and Creole. Most participants were Black and Hispanic, many foreign-born.

The demonstrators marched from the World Trade Center downtown, where New York Gov. Mario Cuomo has offices, to the Sheridan Center in midtown Manhattan where Cuomo was scheduled to receive an award.

Governor vetoes tuition hike

That evening Cuomo vetoed the \$200-a-year increase in tuition for CUNY students that had sparked the student protest. The veto also applied to a tuition increase for students in New York's state university system.

Tuition at senior colleges in the city is now \$1,250 a year. Before 1976, tuition for fully matriculated students in New York City was free.

Throughout the week Cuomo refused to discuss the tuition hike and the budget cuts with students.

Cuomo's veto comes as a victory for the student struggle. Many students said, however, that the tuition hike was but one of many demands they were raising. They pledged to continue the protest until the city administration negotiates the rest of their proposals.

Protests will continue

"Our eyes are not focused on Albany only," explained Manuel, one of the students' leaders at Eugenio Maria De Hostos Community College in the Bronx. "We are willing to negotiate, but we will be protesting till our demands are met."

During the week leading up to the city-wide rally, students held protest actions at Fiorello H. LaGuardia Community College in Queens; Brooklyn College and Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn; John Jay College of Criminal Justice in Manhattan; Herbert H. Lehman college in the Bronx; and other campuses across the city. There were protest actions at several campuses in other parts of New York, as well.

Actions also took place at the state university in Albany protesting the tuition hike. On May 1, 50 students from Purchase took over an administration building at the state university there to protest the budget cuts. State university students also participated in the May 2 rally in Manhattan.

1969 student protests

During the protests classes were suspended at many of the city colleges. The last time this happened was in 1969 when students fought to increase the number of Black and Puerto Rican students admitted to the city colleges.

In 1974 and 1975 the city campuses were

By May 1, student actions had taken place at 15 campuses.

also the center of student protests against budget cuts in the city college system.

Among the other demands being raised now are: no budget cuts; rescind tuition increase for students from other countries and no increase for resident students; no layoffs of faculty and other staff; expansion of services such as counseling, tutoring, childcare, and healthcare; student participation in all decisions that affect them; senior college status for Medgar Evers College; a return to free tuition; and amnesty for all students, faculty, and staff involved in the protests.

Medgar Evers College

During New York City's big budget cuts in the mid 1970s, Medgar Evers — then a four-year college — was reclassified as a two-year or junior college. Although Medgar Evers continues to give four-year degrees in many subjects, under the two-year classification the college is funded on a smaller percentage basis than other four-year colleges in the city.

Rescinding tuition increases for international students is also especially important at Medgar Evers. More than half of the 2,500 students there are from other countries, mostly from the English-speaking Caribbean, explained Tony Knwesi Lynch. Lynch is the president of the Medgar Evers student government.

No cuts in bilingual education

Students also raised demands specific to each campus.

At Hostos Community College, for example, students demanded that the administration restore and augment bilingual and English classes and hire more Black and Latino faculty.

"Hostos is a bilingual college," explained Manuel. "About 80 percent of us are from all over Latin America. Students come here and can take courses in their career in Spanish, while at the same time they learn English," he said.

The students at City College include among their demands: a full PhD program in Latin American, Caribbean, African and Asian Studies; and child-care services to accommodate all students.

Many students underlined the need for more and better child-care facilities pointing out that a very high percentage of CUNY students are single mothers.

Most of the women students at Borough

of Manhattan Community College have children, explained Nancy, who studies there. "If tuition is raised they will be left with no other choice but to leave school."

"I go to school because I want a better future for me and for my two kids," explained Eva, 29, a student at Hostos. "The child-care facilities at Hostos are already too limited. They should be expanded, not cut back."

At Hostos Community College, 75 percent of the student body of 4,000 are women. Many are single heads of households, yet the school has child-care facilities for less than 25 children.

Faculty and staff members from the city campuses joined many of the protest actions and participated in the May 2 march. "The budget cuts, along with the proposed increase in tuition, demonstrate a total disregard for the role of public education as a vehicle for the empowerment of the poor, the working class, and people of color," read a statement signed by CCNY faculty and staff members.

Solidarity messages were sent from California State University at Los Angeles, University of California at Berkeley, and University of Hartford, Connecticut. Students from Columbia University donated supplies to the CCNY student activists.

Support also came from striking Machinists at Eastern Airlines, United Auto Workers Local 65, National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees Local 1199, Transit Workers Union, and American Association of University Professors.

Dave Cahalane, communist fighter

BOSTON — Dave Cahalane, a communist activist, died here May 3. He had returned home where he was recovering from hospitalization for AIDS-related complications. Cahalane was a hemophiliac. A member of the Boston branch of the Socialist Workers Party, Cahalane was 33 years old.

As a high school student Cahalane was active in the anti-Vietnam War movement. He joined the SWP in 1973 soon after graduating from high school. As an activist in the National Student Coalition Against Racism, Cahalane also participated in the struggle to desegregate Boston schools in the mid-70s.

Over the 15 years since he joined the socialist movement, Cahalane helped to build several SWP branches in the Midwest and the West coast. He returned to Boston in July 1987. The Boston SWP is planning a meeting to celebrate Cahalane's life. An article on his contributions to building the socialist movement will appear in a coming issue of the *Militant*.

Socialist candidates support students

NEW YORK — "We give our wholehearted support to student demands to restore the cuts in funding for education, rescind the recent tuition hike for international students, fund daycare centers fully throughout the City University of New York system, as well as the other demands raised by the protesters," read the statement by Socialist Workers Party candidates in the city elections.

The statement was issued by James Harris, Socialist Workers candidate for mayor, and Greg McCartan, candidate for Manhattan District Attorney. McCartan is also national chairperson of the Young Socialist Alliance.

Both candidates participated in the May 2 student protest against the tuition hikes in New York City. The socialist candidates and supporters also joined other campus protest actions during the week prior to the march.

"The battle being waged by CUNY students is an inspiration to all working people who are facing attacks on our rights and standard of living. The students speak for all those who want to fight back," said the socialist candidates.

"The Eastern strikers and CUNY students have much in common," the candidates stated. "They have both refused to back down in the face of attacks. Like the hundreds of thousands of women and men who protested on April 9 in Washington, D.C., in defense of a woman's right to abortion, the students and the strikers have decided to act." — S.N.

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Eastern uses bankruptcy court to press antiunion drive

BY SUSAN LaMONT

When Texas Air Corp. chairman Frank Lorenzo took Eastern Airlines into Chapter 11 bankruptcy March 9—five days after the Machinists' strike had shut the airline down—few strikers were surprised. "He did it before, now he's trying it again. He's been planning this all along," was a comment heard frequently on the picket lines.

Workers were recalling September 1983, when Lorenzo put Continental Airlines—also owned by Texas Air—into bankruptcy in order to rip up union contracts and fire 12,000 Machinists, pilots, and flight attendants. A few days later, the company announced one-third of the workers would be called back at half their former pay.

Although pilots and flight attendants soon joined Machinists—who had struck that August—on the picket line, it was too late. The unions at Continental were effectively wiped out, and Lorenzo took a big step toward transforming the airline into a major low-fare, non-union carrier.

A few months later, in February 1984, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the legality of companies doing just what Lorenzo had done.

He wasn't alone. In May 1982, Braniff Airlines had filed under Chapter 11, and the courts ruled that the company could abrogate contracts with its unions. A few months later, Manville Corp. filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy to avoid paying damages in 16,000 lawsuits for injuries or deaths caused by the asbestos it manufactured. Dalkon Shield-maker A.H. Robins Co. did the same thing in 1985. In April 1983, Wilson Foods filed for bankruptcy to get away from labor contracts it termed "onerous."

Lorenzo's current bankruptcy maneuver is unfolding under much different circumstances. The strike by 8,500 Machinists, backed by pilots and flight attendants, has kept Eastern shut tight since March 4, at the same time it has won widespread solidarity from other working people.

The role of the bankruptcy courts has not changed, however, despite modifications in the bankruptcy law enacted in July 1984.

Currently, a bankrupt employer is supposed to negotiate wage and benefit reductions with its unions instead of just ripping up contracts. But if no agreement is reached, the company can go to a bankruptcy judge for permission to void its labor contracts, if it shows that this is necessary for a successful reorganization.

Protection for capitalists

The normal meaning of bankruptcy is the inability to pay one's debts. When that happens to an individual or company, a court is supposed to determine which creditor gets paid how much, and, if necessary, what assets must be sold to raise funds.

If a worker or farmer goes bankrupt, they can lose their car, furniture, home, farm, or other possessions; have their wages garnished or bank account attached, or be victimized by other measures aimed at squeezing out whatever can be gotten for the creditors.

For corporations, however, it doesn't work quite the same way.

Creditors can force a company into involuntary bankruptcy in order to try to collect what they're owed.

There is also voluntary bankruptcy under Chapter 11 of the federal Bankruptcy Code. Chapter 11 allows a company to be legally protected from paying creditors while it reorganizes.

When Lorenzo took Eastern into bankruptcy, it "immediately halted the hemorrhaging at Eastern, giving the company breathing room from liabilities at a time when it has virtually no revenue coming in," the *Wall Street Journal* said at the time. The filing "froze all of the company's liabilities, from the \$95.2 million owed to Airbus Industrie de France, a major supplier of Eastern's planes, to the \$1 million owed to Marriott Corp., a big food supplier. Some \$200 million worth of airplane tickets outstanding suddenly became worthless, at least temporarily."

In addition, the company has the exclusive right for 120 days from March 9 to

propose its own reorganization plan for Eastern.

Under bankruptcy law, the people a company owes money to — its creditors — are divided into two groups. Secured creditors, mainly banks and bondholders, are those who will get hard assets if a company folds. In the case of Eastern, hard assets would mean airplanes, spare parts, terminals, and so on.

Unsecured creditors, such as suppliers and ticket holders, are those who would be paid out of cash on hand. They're owed for fuel, parts, and—in the case of the unions at Eastern—millions in back wages and benefits. The Machinists' and pilots' unions hold two seats on the 15-seat creditors' committee that has been formed in the Eastern case. The rest are held by bondholders and manufacturers of airplanes, engines, and other equipment.

Judge denies union back pay, benefits

As far as the unions' part in the bankruptcy proceedings goes, Judge Burton Lifland's principal move has been to deny the unions millions in back pay and benefits

that members were owed when the strike started. He has also denied the unions' request for a trustee to be appointed to run Eastern instead of Lorenzo. Such an appointment is rarely made in bankrupt proceedings.

On April 24, Eastern submitted a reorganization plan to the creditors' committee which proposes reducing the airline's size by one-third by selling \$1.8 billion in assets. In addition, Lorenzo is planning on going through with the sale of the New York-Boston-Washington, D.C., shuttle to Donald Trump for \$365 million, and the sale of its Philadelphia operations to USAir for \$85 million. The airline as a whole, he says, is no longer for sale.

On April 27, Eastern announced plans to lease 14 Boeing 727-200 planes to Pan American World Airways for \$96.6 million over five years.

While approval of the bankruptcy court is needed to complete these deals, there is no reason to think that Lifland will not start okaying some or all of these sales at any point. That's his job.

Are strikers in an 'Eastern family'?

NEW YORK — After nine weeks on the picket line, Eastern strikers around the country are discussing how to move forward in the days and weeks ahead. One question is what may happen as a result of Eastern's recent announcement that the airline is no longer for sale, and that it is going to restart operations as a trimmed-down, nonunion carrier.

"It's very clear that management is moving ahead to try to break the unions — that's what they've been after from the very beginning. The way they want to do that at this point is by selling off parts of the airline, and starting up as a smaller outfit. The management personnel and scabs they have in there now — they hope — will be the core of their 'new' non-union Eastern," said Ernest Mailhot in a May 2 interview. Mailhot, Socialist Workers Party candidate for New Jersey State Assembly, is also a member of International Association of Machinists Local 1018 at New York's LaGuardia Airport, where he's on the strike and communications committees.

"We have to stop that from happening. Our view needs to be that this airline is not going to fly, no matter what form it's in, unless the union is maintained under conditions that are acceptable to the strikers, and until we get a union contract — a decent contract — for all the workers. It also means not only defending the workers at what's left of Eastern — if Lorenzo gets the go-ahead from the court to sell off parts of the airline — but also the workers at whatever gets sold.

"Take the Washington-New York-Boston shuttle, for instance. It may very well end up being separated off," Mailhot continued. "But we still have to fight to keep the union there. Our approach needs to be that the planes stay on the ground until

there's an agreement that protects all the strikers.

"This has to be what we're fighting for — not to keep the company as it now exists intact. That may or may not happen. Even without Lorenzo, a corporation as heavily in debt as Eastern would likely end up having to sell off parts of its operations. Our concern has to be protecting the workers and the union, not the company. You can keep Eastern together, but if you don't have a union, then where are you?"

The 'Eastern family'

One idea that is sometimes raised among strikers is that the strike's aim is to "save Eastern" and that Lorenzo's crime is breaking up the "Eastern family."

"A lot of times when workers say 'We're Eastern,' they're talking about the fact that management — and not just Lorenzo — was never interested in the welfare of the majority of people who work at Eastern. We are the ones who fly the planes, repair them, take care of passengers, handle freight — our labor is what makes the company run. In that sense, the idea that 'We're Eastern' is real," Mailhot said.

"But many other working people are also part of Eastern, from the workers who made the aluminum and aerospace workers who built the planes to the garment workers who sew our uniforms and farmers who grow the food the passengers eat," he continued.

"If we don't keep this in mind, we can get off base. Our fight is about workers against management, and not just the management at Eastern, Texas Air, and Continental. It's about the fight that workers throughout the country are involved in, like the coal miners on strike in Virginia, West Virginia, and Kentucky against Pittston Coal who are also fighting attempts to break their union.

"We have to have this view, because the only way our strike will be successful is if other working people support us. We have had workers from every airline and many other unions walk the picket lines with us and support our strike. These people are not 'Eastern,' they are workers who are part of the broader fight we're all part of.

"Some people say that when the strike is over, Eastern will be a great airline again, and be able to compete with TWA and United and other airlines. This is the framework of the bosses, which they try to get us to accept," Mailhot stressed. "Our framework is that the workers at TWA and United are our allies, that they are our family, not 'our' company versus 'their' company."

Solidarity

The strikers at LaGuardia have been busy in the past week, speaking at political



Militant/Ernest Mailhot
Farm worker union leader Cesar Chavez joined Eastern picket line at New York's LaGuardia Airport on April 30.

events in the city and winning new support for their fight, Mailhot explained.

On April 26 Yvonne Perez-Grajales from IAM Local 1018 and Yvonne Norman from the Transport Workers Union Local 553 spoke to 1,000 abortion rights supporters at a prochoice demonstration in lower Manhattan. The TWU organizes the flight attendants at Eastern.

The next day, two Local 1018 members got a warm reception at a rally at City College organized by students on strike against tuition hikes.

On April 28 several strikers joined the AFL-CIO-organized commemoration of Workers Memorial Day, held in lower Manhattan, which drew 1,500 unionists. IAM District 100 President Charlie Bryan and TWU leader Carmen Gonzalez spoke at the rally, along with United Farm Workers Union President Cesar Chavez, and others.

On April 30 some 300 strikers and supporters organized a rally at LaGuardia Airport. Chavez and Bryan attended, along with TWU Local 553 President Mary Jane Barry and actor Ed Asner. The following day IAM District 100 General Chairman Leroy Washington spoke at a May Day rally in Manhattan.

"The solidarity we are getting is great," said Mailhot. "Our job now is to reach even more working people, and other fighters like the striking students here in New York and the Pittston miners. They are all part of our struggle."

— S.L.

NEW YORK

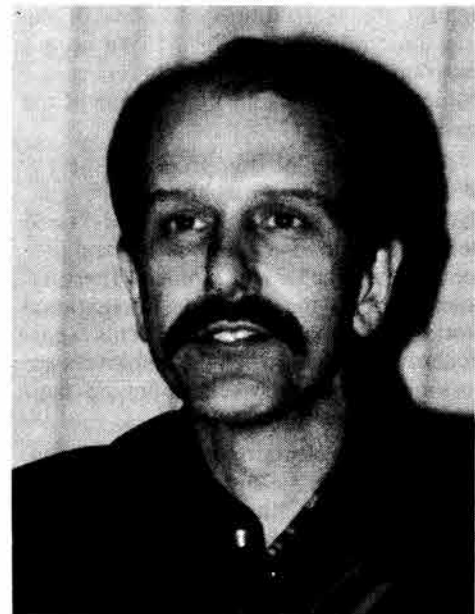
Airline Workers Speak Out on the Eastern Strike

Participants: **Yvonne Perez-Grajales**, Machinists' Local 1018, LaGuardia Airport; flight attendant **Lezlie Brooks**, Transport Workers Union Local 553; **Ernest Mailhot**, Machinists' Local 1018 and Socialist Workers Party candidate for New Jersey Assembly; Continental Airlines flight attendant **Beryl Thurman**, Union of Flight Attendants.

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Militant/Sam Manuel
Ernest Mailhot

British communist enters election for European Parliament

Continued from front page

to put down struggles or supporting others who do so. She cited Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's backing of the South African government's recent massacre of members and supporters of the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) of Namibia. "Thatcher was in the area and would have been fully in touch with Pretoria about their plans," she said. "After the massacre, Thatcher was the chief public spokesperson defending the actions of the apartheid regime."

Weppler said that she is campaigning to help build international solidarity for Namibian independence with a SWAPO government.

Solidarity with Irish struggle

"We are also campaigning to help promote international solidarity for the struggle against the British occupation of Ireland in this 20th anniversary year of the presence of British troops in the northern Six Counties," Weppler said.

The British government's domination of Ireland typifies its worldwide stance, she noted, recalling that in 1982 Thatcher had gone to war against Argentina over the Malvinas Islands. In 1987 London gave full support to Washington's bombing of Libya. "In fact the F-111 bombers took off from Britain on their mission to assassinate Libyan leader Col. Muammar el-Qaddafi," Weppler said.

The Communist League candidate denounced the British government's promotion of massive stockpiling of nuclear weapons. Military expenditures stand at 4 percent of gross domestic product, substantially higher than other imperialist countries in Europe.

Weppler emphasized that the British government is also stepping up attacks on working people at home as it seeks to shore up profit rates. "They want to clear the way so the harsh laws of the market will transfer even more wealth from the working poor to the ruling rich."

She spelled out some of the conditions working people face in Britain. "Despite government fiddling of the figures, there is no getting away from the fact that there is mass unemployment in Britain today," she said. According to the official figures, of the nearly 2 million unemployed 41 percent had been without work for over a year.

"Inflation is officially 8 percent and rising, eating into living standards," the rail worker explained. "In the last decade the living standards for the lowest 25 percent of the employed population has declined. By 1986, some 16 million people, or about 28 percent of the population, were living below or on the margins of the official poverty level."

Tens of thousands are homeless

Weppler pointed out that official homelessness stands at 112,000 families, but in fact it's a good deal higher. It is estimated that 150,000 young people, not included in government figures, are homeless, she said.

This situation has been created by the government through a huge cut in council (public) house building and through

changes in the terms of rented accommodation, Weppler contended. "For those who 'own' their 'own' homes, high interest rates have exposed that it's the building societies who are the real 'owners.' In the last 10 years, 100,000 families have lost their homes as the annual rate of repossessions through foreclosed mortgages has increased eightfold.

"Hospital waiting lists are higher than they've ever been," Weppler stated, "growing by 50,000 last year alone. Hundreds of people have died in major accidents in recent months—on the railway, in air and sea transport, on the oil rigs and at football matches—as employers and government officials skimp on safety provisions."

Weppler said that these bare statistics, which actually hide the full misery involved, are set against the background of the government's claimed economic miracle over the last 10 years. "It's true that the bosses have made substantial gains in that time," the candidate said. "But conditions for many workers, especially immigrant workers, have gotten worse. This is the situation we face as we get closer to entering the next recession.

"Given the international situation capitalism faces, a 1930s-type depression is on the agenda," Weppler said.

Growing attack on democratic rights

Weppler said that as the rulers prepare for the big labor struggles that will emerge out of the devastating conditions of the coming economic and social crisis, they are attempting to undermine democratic rights and freedoms established through decades of working-class struggle.

At the center of this effort have been legal attacks on the unions. "It's now almost impossible to have an effective strike within the framework of the law," she explained. "Solidarity action has been outlawed. Postal ballots have been imposed for union elections and strike votes. The closed shop has been eliminated.

"These antidemocratic moves against the unions go wider than legal attacks," Weppler explained. "There has been a major increase in the use of blacklisting and subversive agencies like the Economic League to vet and screen current and prospective employees."

The assault on democratic rights has been very broad, Weppler said. "Last year the International Press Institute put Britain alongside South Africa as countries where press freedom was most under threat. Miners found themselves imprisoned in their thousands during their historic strike in 1984-85 and Blacks and immigrant workers fighting against racism are subject to daily attacks on their democratic rights."

Weppler noted that three Blacks from the Broadwater Farm housing project were jailed solely on the evidence of their own confessions beaten out of them in police custody.

"At the heart of the attack on democratic rights have been measures aimed at the Irish people's struggle to determine their own future," the candidate continued.

"The government has imposed a broadcasting ban on Sinn Féin. It sanctioned the murder by the British army of three repub-



Militant

Doreen Weppler, British Communist League candidate for the European Parliament.

licans in Gibraltar. It ordered a shoot-to-kill policy in the north of Ireland, and has deprived prisoners of the right to silence. Hundreds of innocent people are arrested and detained every year under the Prevention of Terrorism Act and many innocent people are jailed by non-jury courts. Despite overwhelming evidence of injustice, the Birmingham Six and Guildford Four have spent 14 years in prison."

Weppler said, "In fact the government uses anti-Irish prejudice and whips up hysteria against 'terrorism' to win acceptance of its assault on everyone's democratic rights, arguing that 'British freedom' can only be defended by restricting other freedoms. "It is this which has made the attacks on Salman Rushdie and the banning of his novel *The Satanic Verses* so dangerous," she explained. "Freedom is indivisible. No freedoms can be defended by restricting others. The British government has seized on this anti-Rushdie campaign to justify and further deepen its repressive policies."

A number of workers are today involved in industrial disputes. London subway workers who are due to go out on strike on May 8 have already been threatened by legal action by their employers. Weppler said that her supporters are backing struggles like this and are defending democratic rights.

Program to unify working people

The candidate and her backers are circulating a pamphlet that includes the Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis. This program was issued as a response to the October 1987 stock market crash and was discussed and adopted at an international conference of workers held in the United States.

Weppler said this program is needed for "working people to protect ourselves against the worsening conditions of the economic crisis as it deepens. We need a program capable of uniting workers across borders in action against the effects of the crisis," she said.

At the center of this program, she explained, is the fight for a shorter workweek, the campaign to cancel the Third World debt, and positive action in hiring and promotions of Blacks and women. These issues point to the need for international working-class action, she said. "This is particularly important when the employers are seeking to line up workers behind their schemes for trade blocs."

"During the election for European parliament much is being made of 1992," Weppler noted, "the year when the 12 member states of the European Economic Community will take further steps toward strengthening big business in Europe at the expense of their competitors in Japan and North America.

"They are heading in the direction of

what they call a single market by removing certain non-tariff barriers. They aim at freer movement of capital. Firms will be able to compete for government business across borders. There will be a higher degree of standardization for various technical norms.

"In the name of free trade, the employers are attempting to enlist the support of workers here against all 'foreign competition,'" Weppler said.

"What's important for workers in this country," she explained, "is not that we're 'British' or 'European' but that we're workers. When we say it's a case of 'them and us,' the 'them' we are referring to is the ruling rich, not the 'foreigners.' Only if workers know who 'them and us' are will we be able to effectively resist the policies of the government and the employers."

Weppler said that knowing "who our enemies are and who our potential allies are also applies to agriculture. The Common Agricultural Policy — which supports the prices European farmers get for their produce — has been used against farmers in the Third World to benefit big capitalist farmers in Europe. Goods have been dumped on the world market at cheap prices, and protectionist measures have been imposed to discriminate against Third World imports.

"As a result, the capitalist farmers have reaped massive profits. This has led many workers in Britain to mistakenly believe that all or most farmers are capitalists living off the gravy train of the Common Agricultural Policy and that consequently workers have no interest in defending the interests of any farmers."

More than half of Britain's 250,000 farms are small, worked by exploited family farmers. In the last five years, thousands of working farmers have been driven off the land. Thousands more have been forced to supplement their farm income with other jobs.

"For the majority of working farmers the situation is getting worse every year with rising interest rates and income for small and medium-sized farms declining by nearly 28 percent," Weppler said.

She noted that the British government has a saying, "There is no alternative." Thatcher even refers to this as "TINA."

"This claim is a fake and fraud," Weppler argued. "Revolutionary Cuba, where workers and farmers are in power, shows that socialist policies present a real and practical alternative. Thirty years ago the Cuban people overthrew a hated dictator and took power into their own hands. Today, while other Third World countries are facing devastation, Cuba has wiped out mass unemployment, illiteracy, drugs, prostitution, and repression.

"That's what's possible when workers and farmers take power into their own hands and form a government that defends their interests."

Weppler: rail worker and activist

Born in Canada in 1949, Doreen Weppler got involved in politics in the late 1960s. She participated in protests against the Vietnam war and struggles for women's rights at a time when young people were radicalizing around such issues worldwide.

For the last eight years, Weppler has been working in London as a guard (brakeman) on the railway. An active member of the National Union of Railwaymen, she has been involved in fighting back against British Rail's attacks on jobs, working conditions, and

union organization, and against low pay and the company's appalling safety record.

Weppler is an active member of the union-backed organization Rail Against Apartheid. She brought the solidarity of her union to striking rail workers in South Africa and participated in the 1987 conference sponsored by the African National Congress in Arusha, Tanzania.

This year, Weppler participated in an international conference on the Caribbean island of Grenada, hosted by the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement.

Curtis defense wins support in Dominican Republic

Mark Curtis is a unionist and political activist from Des Moines, Iowa, who is serving a 25-year jail term on frame-up charges of rape and burglary. The Mark Curtis Defense Committee is leading an international political campaign to fight for justice for Curtis. To contact the committee, write Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311. Telephone (515) 246-1695.

Leaders of political, trade union, and peasant organizations in the

Dominican Republic have recently become sponsors of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee.

Among the most prominent endorsers are Rafael "Fafa" Taveras and Rafael Báez Pérez, general secretary and secretary of international affairs respectively of the Socialist Bloc. Taveras also served from 1984 to 1988 as president of the Anti-Imperialist Organizations of the Caribbean and Central America.

DEFEND MARK CURTIS!

Taveras and Báez are well-known in the Dominican Republic as leading figures in the 1965 rev-

olution there, which was crushed by the intervention of thousands of U.S. troops. Taveras has written several books, including one about the five years he spent in prison for his participation in that struggle.

Victor Rufino Álvarez, general secretary of the Federation of Sugar Workers, decided to become a sponsor after learning the facts of the case. He pointed out that many Dominican unionists have themselves suffered frame-up and imprisonment, and can therefore identify readily with the struggle of

victimized union activists such as Curtis. José Branch, the union's secretary for propaganda, also signed up as a sponsor.

Another new sponsor is Rafael Santos, general secretary of the Association of Teachers. The association recently conducted a successful national strike, which had a big impact in the Dominican Republic as well as receiving international news coverage.

Other important leaders from the Dominican Republic who have added their names to the list of sponsors are Altagracia Paulino,

general secretary of the Association of Dominican Women; Martín Nivar Piña, secretary of education for the Independent Peasant Movement; Agustín Vargas, claims secretary for the Union of Workers of the Dominican Electricity Corp.; and Juan B. Mejía Gómez, general secretary of the Revolutionary Organization of the People.

Kate Kaku, leader of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee and wife of Mark Curtis, received a friendly response from more than 200 workers at a meeting of United Auto Workers Local 1700 in Detroit.

Kaku used to be a member of the local, which represents workers at Chrysler's Sterling Heights Assembly Plant. Kaku was given time on the regular order of union business at the April 16 meeting to address the membership.

The meeting with auto workers was the highlight of a four-day tour by Kaku of the Detroit area.

The defense committee leader was able to meet with a number of prominent Detroiters including UAW International Representative James Coakley; Tony Rothschild and David Moore, from the staff of

Rep. George Crockett (D.-Mich.); Ernie Goodman, well-known civil liberties lawyer; and representatives of the International Association of Machinists.

Kaku spoke to 25 people at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Frank O'Donnell and Helen Weber from the Ferndale Area Peace Group in Ferndale, Michigan, hosted a fund-raiser for the committee.

On April 15, some 75 people attended a Detroit rally to defend Curtis. Speaking at the rally along with Kaku were Sally Bier, president of UAW Local 2500, Barbara Putnam from Socialist Action, and Susan Farquhar, a defendant in a local abortion rights case and the victim of a police frame-up.

Twenty-five new endorsers signed up during the course of Kaku's tour and more than \$400 was collected for the defense effort.

Among the almost 3,000 endorsers internationally of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee are Arthur Kinoy, a professor at the Rutgers University Law School. Kinoy is a civil liberties and criminal attorney who has fought the federal government's warrantless elec-

tronic surveillance of him and his clients.

In February the Supreme Court rejected Kinoy's appeal for monetary damages against the FBI for violations of his constitutional rights. The FBI eavesdropped on at least 23 of his telephone conversations with clients from 1949 to 1970.

Kinoy had previously won a court order barring the government from any future surveillance that would violate his privacy rights. The wiretaps of conversations with clients involved unionists during the McCarthyite witch-hunt, and civil rights workers and antiwar protesters during the 1960s.

The bugging began when Kinoy was assistant general counsel to the United Electrical Workers Union. Kinoy has also defended Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, who were executed in 1953 on trumped-up charges of giving the "secret" of the atom bomb to Moscow; and members of the Chicago Seven, who were accused of conspiring to incite a riot at the Democratic National Convention in 1968.

Jeff Powers of Detroit and Mike Taber of New York contributed to this column.

S. Pacific artists to paint on Pathfinder mural



Militant/George Fyson
Fatu Feu'u, Samoan artist from New Zealand.

BY GEORGE FYSON

AUCKLAND, New Zealand—A fund-raising effort has been launched with the goal of sending a team of artists from the South Pacific to New York in June. They will paint the portraits of several heroes of the labor movement and national liberation struggles in this region onto the Pathfinder Mural in lower Manhattan.

John Walsh, a young Maori portrait painter from Tolaga Bay, will paint Jock Barnes. Barnes was the central leader of a six-month struggle by longshoremen against a lockout by New Zealand's port owners in 1951.

Fatu Feu'u, a Samoan artist from Auckland, plans to paint Tamasese, the leader of a mass rebellion on the Pacific island of Samoa in the 1920s against New Zealand colonial rule. Tamasese was murdered in 1927 by the New Zealand armed forces.

Sally Griffin, a socialist, muralist, and portrait painter from Auckland, will paint Harry Holland, founder of the New Zealand Labour Party. A militant socialist and union organizer, Holland died in 1933.

Para Matchitt, a prominent Maori painter and sculptor, plans to paint the pennant of Te Kooti, a fighter against British colonialism in the 1860s and 1870s.

In addition it is hoped that funds can be raised for an artist from the independence

movement in Kanaky (New Caledonia), and also artists from Australia and the Philippines, to accompany the team.

Malcolm McAllister, who worked on the mural in 1988, is organizing fund-raising efforts for the artists. McAllister will also return to New York to direct the final painting and work at the mural site.

Painting on the mural stopped last November due to the onset of winter in New York. The project will be officially restarted at an open house on May 27 at the mural site on Charles and West streets.

Some NZ\$20,000 (\$US12,330) will be needed, mainly for air fares to send the artists to New York. McAllister is currently touring New Zealand, visiting art galleries and schools in more than 10 towns and cities with a slide show to explain the project.

Fund raising was launched in Auckland at a function on April 17. It was attended by

some 70 people and raised \$1,200. Supporters of the project donated works of art which will be part of a major exhibition and art auction in Auckland on May 13. Jock Barnes was the guest of honor at the event.

"NZ Stirrers to Grace Mural," read a front-page feature on the project in Auckland's morning paper, *The New Zealand Herald*. "Jock Barnes and Harry Holland will rub shoulders with Che Guevara, Karl Marx, Fidel Castro and Nelson Mandela in the mural honouring fighters of oppression from around the world," wrote journalist Geoff Cumming.

Barnes, 81, told Cumming that he saw his portrayal on the mural as "a tribute to the thousands of New Zealanders who fought against fascism in 1951 [a reference to the 1951 lock-out battle]. . . It is an undreamed of honour to be associated with freedom fighters and fighters for peace and the underprivileged."

Civil liberties fighter held in contempt for revealing FBI tricks

BY GEOFF MIRELOWITZ

LOS ANGELES — Civil liberties fighter Frank Wilkinson and two American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) attorneys representing him were held in civil contempt of court here April 3 for making public a secret FBI document.

Wilkinson is a longtime leader of the National Committee Against Repressive Legislation. In 1959 he was convicted of contempt of Congress for refusing to testify before the House Committee on Un-American Activities and served nine months in prison.

The April ruling by federal Judge A. Wallace Tashima holding Wilkinson, ACLU legal director Paul Hoffman, and attorney Douglas Mirell in civil contempt is the result of a lawsuit brought by Wilkinson to overturn his 1959 conviction.

Wilkinson's suit is based on FBI documents that show the government suppressed evidence that the only witness against him in the 1959 case was unreliable. An internal FBI memo states that the spy agency and the Justice Department knew at the time Wilkinson was called before HUAC that FBI informer Anita Bell Schneider had "exhibited emotional instability" and was not a credible witness. It was solely on the basis of Schneider's testimony that Wilkinson was called before the witch-hunting committee and subsequently

went to jail for refusing to testify.

Wilkinson and his attorneys find themselves in contempt of court today, however, for revealing the truth about this miscarriage of justice.

A previous lawsuit by Wilkinson against the FBI resulted in 132,000 pages of government documents from Wilkinson's file being turned over to him. The memo concerning Schneider was among them. Judge Tashima ruled that a 1984 court order forbidding any public release of these documents without agreement of all parties has been violated by Wilkinson and his attorneys.

Tashima ordered Wilkinson and his legal counsel to pay attorney's fees to the government for bringing the contempt action. Moreover, Tashima ruled they must indemnify the government should the informer sue for invasion of privacy.

At the hearing before Tashima, Hoffman argued that Schneider, who had testified before HUAC and named Wilkinson as a member of the Communist Party, "was clearly a public figure. There was only one witness and her name was as public as J. Edgar Hoover."

Following Tashima's ruling Hoffman told reporters that it is likely the ACLU will go back before Tashima and ask that more government documents about the Wilkinson case be made public.

American-Arab meeting in D.C. focuses on Palestine uprising

BY IKE NAHEM

WASHINGTON, D.C.—"Voices of the Intifada," a panel of eyewitnesses and participants in the uprising on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, was a highlight of the sixth national convention of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC).

The gathering, attended by more than 1,000 Arab-Americans, was held April 13-16 at a hotel just outside this city.

Prof. Jamal Nassar, who taught for two months at Bir Zeit University in the West Bank, explained, "In early December 1987, Israel learned that it is not beyond the reach of history. The Palestinians rebelled. Their rebellion has sent Israel a clear and strong message: the colonial era has ended." This session was broadcast on the C-SPAN cable television network.

The speakers at the panel on the uprising included Mubarak Awad, a Palestinian and U.S. citizen who was expelled from his country by the Israeli government last year for organizing demonstrations, civil disobedience, and economic boycotts.

The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee is the largest membership organization of Arab-Americans. Since it was founded in 1980, the committee has defended the legal and political rights of Arabs in the United States and exposed anti-Arab prejudice.

The ADC supports the demand for a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The convention was addressed by Nabeel Shaath, chairman of the Political Committee of the Palestine National Council, which proclaimed an independent State of Palestine last November.

The convention also featured a discussion among a panel of Israeli and U.S. Jews, and a report by members of an ADC delegation to the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Other sessions took up the image of Arabs in U.S. popular culture, Arab-American contributions to society in the United States, the situation in Lebanon, and other subjects.

Momentum is key in subscription drive

BY FRED FELDMAN

"Picking up momentum as we head into the final two weeks and three weekends of the drive is crucial," said *Militant* circulation director Norton Sandler on May 2. "Right now we have remained on schedule, although we lost a couple of percentage points last week."

Sandler said that May 13-20 will be a target week — a week of stepped-up effort by distributors of the socialist publications — in the current circulation campaign.

The goal of the eight-week drive, which

ends May 20, is to sell a total of 8,000 introductory subscriptions to the *Militant*, Spanish-language *Perspectiva Mundial*, and French language *Lutte ouvrière*, and single copies of the Marxist journals *New International* and French-language *Nouvelle Internationale*.

Sandler said that distributors of the socialist publications in Britain have now pulled ahead of schedule for the first time. They accomplished this through participation in a wide range of political activities.

A three-person team from Britain went

to Belgium to join a demonstration and festival to celebrate May Day, the international workers' holiday. They sold 8 subscriptions to the *Militant*, 6 to *Perspectiva Mundial*, 5 to *Lutte ouvrière*, and 10 copies of *New International*.

British distributors also participated in a May Day event in London, a festival held by the Southeast region of the Trades Union Congress, a concert staged by the Mineworkers for Justice campaign, and a celebration of 30 years of the Cuban revolution.

At the Trades Union Congress festival, Pathfinder Bookshop had a literature stall. Eight subscriptions to the *Militant* were sold and 2 to *Perspectiva Mundial*; 2 copies of *New International*; and 58 copies of the *Militant*.

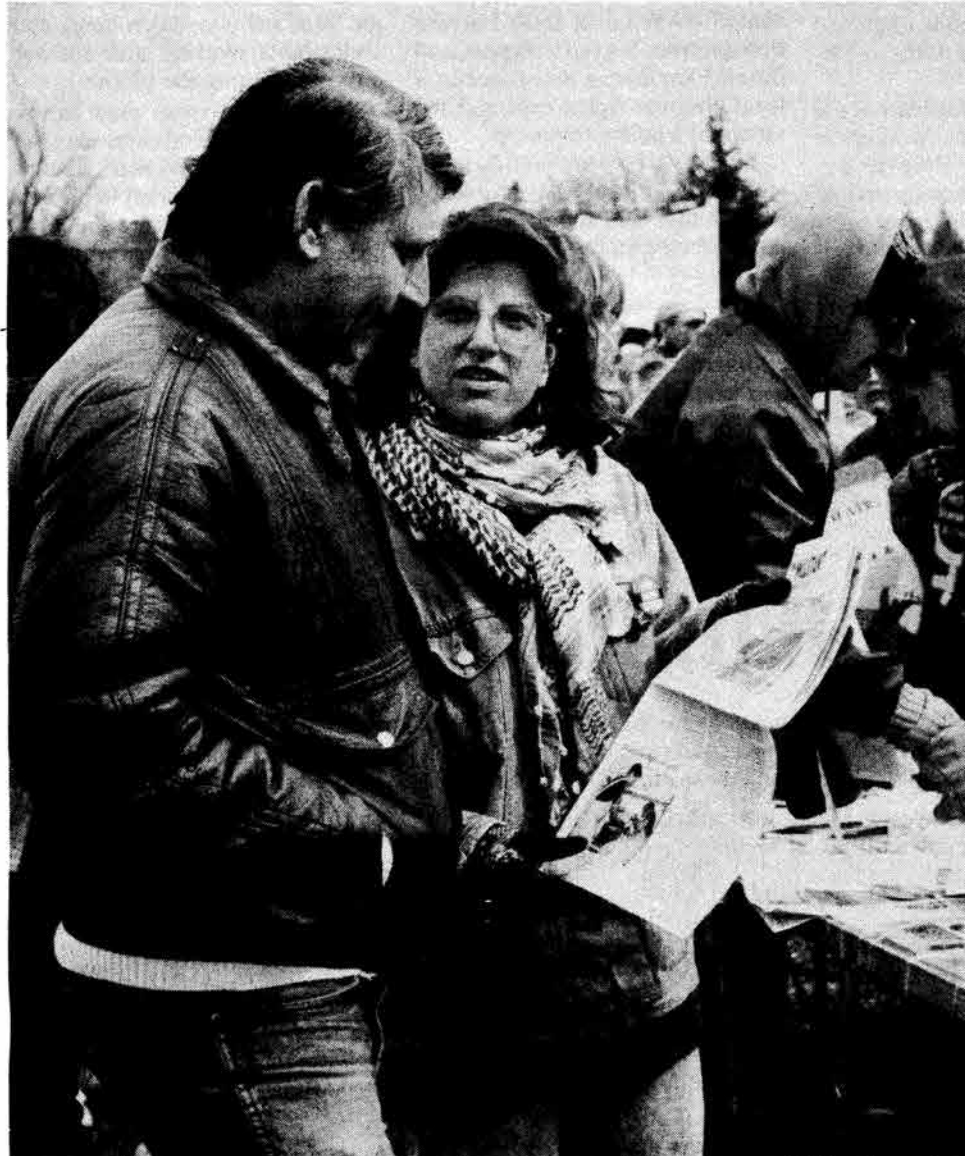
Another 36 subscriptions and 61 single issues of the *Militant*, along with 2 copies of *New International*, were sold at the African-American '89 Summit Conference held in New Orleans, Louisiana. More than 1,000 people attended the conference. They

also purchased more than \$450 in Pathfinder literature.

"Getting out the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and *Lutte ouvrière* to workers at plant gates and other places is a valuable way to contribute to winning nationwide solidarity with the strike at Eastern Airlines," Sandler said.

"Workers want to read these publications because of their coverage of the strike, and of other labor battles like the coal miners' strike at the Pittston mine in West Virginia. The articles about the fight for women's right to decide whether or not to have abortions and other important issues will also be of interest."

While the sales of *Militant* subscriptions are ahead of schedule, Sandler reported, *Perspectiva Mundial* sales have fallen slightly behind. The gap is much bigger in sales of *New International*, *Nouvelle Internationale*, and *Lutte ouvrière*. "The task now," Sandler explained, "is to maintain the momentum we have achieved in *Militant* circulation, while boosting the other aspects of the combined circulation drive."



Thirty people subscribed to *Militant* at April 22 antiracist rally in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. *Militant*/Janet Post

U.S. distributor of posters sues for right to visit Cuba

BY SELVA NEBBIA

Daniel Walsh is fighting the U.S. Treasury Department.

"I'm seeking to have the Treasury Department off my back and allow me to do what Congress has theoretically said I could do: which is go to Cuba," explained Walsh during a telephone interview April 28.

Three days earlier the American Civil Liberties Union filed suit in U.S. District Court in Alexandria, Virginia, seeking to force the Treasury Department to change its policy and let Walsh travel to Cuba.

Walsh is the owner of Liberation Graphics in Alexandria, a business specializing in selling posters. He is trying to travel to Cuba to be able to acquire posters produced there to sell in the United States.

"I think Cuban posters are the best in the hemisphere, they are an important contribution to the poster movement here," he said. "Without them Americans aren't able to see some of the best posters that are being produced in their own hemisphere."

In August 1988, a 1962 prohibition on importing Cuban posters, literature, and films, was lifted. Before the ban it was virtually impossible for Walsh to get posters from Cuba. Yet, since the restriction was dropped his efforts to import them are still being thwarted by the Treasury Department.

When Walsh applied for permission to travel to Cuba to arrange importation of the posters to the United States, his travel permit was denied.

While the new trade bill lifts the em-

bargo on importing informational material from Cuba, there is still an active ban against business travel to Cuba. Expenditures for travel, hotel bills, food, and business entertainment in Cuba are barred.

Because the Treasury Department allows some travel to Cuba for news-gathering and other reasons, the decision denying Walsh a travel permit is discriminatory, argues the ACLU suit.

"The ban against literature has been lifted only in theory," explained Walsh. "You can pay for them, you can receive them, but you can't go there. But who in their right mind will do this business over the telephone or having had only a postal exchange," he said. "That is not how things are done."

Walsh explained that he needs to meet the artists, visit the printing presses, and "do all the things that people need to do before they feel comfortable making business decisions. That is why we have the Frankfurt Bookfair, the Cannes Film Festival, music festivals where people involved in those industries can get together," he added.

Walsh pointed out that he has a special interest in importing Cuban posters from the Organization in Solidarity with the Peoples of Africa, Asia, and Latin America (OSPAAAL). "In the first place, because I feel the OSPAAAL stuff is really great. The second thing is that they are encyclopedic. You find OSPAAAL posters on apartheid, solidarity with Zimbabwe, on the foreign debt, solidarity with Grenada, on human rights here," he said.

Subscription drive scoreboard

Area	Drive Goals			Militant		New Intl*		PM (Perspectiva Mundial)		LO (Lutte ouvrière)	
	Goal	Sold	%	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold
UNITED STATES											
Price, Utah*	80	70	88	50	46	15	13	13	11	2	0
Portland, Ore.*	195	167	86	160	139	20	17	10	7	5	4
Seattle*	230	179	78	170	156	25	7	30	11	5	5
Brooklyn	345	253	73	190	143	60	66	65	35	30	9
Phoenix	132	94	71	70	60	20	8	40	26	2	0
Cleveland	100	71	71	70	53	18	11	10	6	2	1
New York	635	434	68	300	260	150	81	150	87	35	6
Austin, Minn.	87	58	67	60	51	15	2	10	4	2	1
Des Moines, Iowa	200	133	67	140	115	35	5	20	12	5	1
Los Angeles	470	308	66	240	157	90	16	130	135	10	0
Greensboro, NC*	120	78	65	90	66	15	2	13	9	2	1
Houston	180	115	64	100	86	30	11	45	18	5	0
Omaha, Neb.*	130	82	63	80	55	30	18	15	9	5	0
Salt Lake City	120	75	63	80	47	20	17	15	9	5	2
Philadelphia	190	118	62	125	96	25	2	30	18	10	2
Milwaukee	130	79	61	80	60	20	9	27	9	3	1
Newark, NJ	500	295	59	250	186	100	50	100	45	50	14
Birmingham, Ala.	170	100	59	130	78	25	18	10	1	5	3
Miami	250	147	59	145	88	35	9	45	22	25	28
Charleston, WV	92	54	59	70	52	15	1	5	1	2	0
Kansas City*	115	67	58	75	49	20	14	15	4	5	0
Detroit	175	99	57	125	90	30	2	15	4	5	3
Baltimore	155	87	56	115	73	25	5	10	9	5	0
Pittsburgh	165	91	55	120	79	30	4	10	8	5	0
Oakland, Calif.	175	95	54	100	76	30	10	40	7	5	2
Twin Cities, Minn.	275	140	51	200	103	35	25	30	12	10	0
San Francisco	215	106	49	135	75	35	8	35	22	10	1
St. Louis	175	86	49	130	74	30	9	10	3	5	0
Chicago	320	152	47	200	94	50	24	60	34	10	0
Atlanta	205	97	47	150	74	30	8	20	15	5	0
Washington, DC	170	76	45	100	59	25	0	35	17	10	0
Boston	265	105	40	160	77	40	8	45	13	20	7
Morgantown, WV	115	41	36	75	39	25	2	10	0	5	0
National Teams	-	34	-	-	34	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other U.S.	-	58	-	-	53	-	2	-	3	-	-
U.S. TOTAL	6,881	4,233	62	4,285	3,043	1,168	484	1,118	626	310	91
AUSTRALIA											
London	150	123	82	95	89	30	15	20	19	5	0
Manchester	61	38	62	40	26	15	10	5	2	1	0
South Yorks	60	33	55	30	24	20	3	10	6	-	0
South Wales	59	25	42	40	20	10	3	7	1	2	1
Other Britain	70	41	59	25	16	25	13	8	7	12	5
BRITAIN TOTAL	400	260	65	230	175	100	44	50	35	20	6
CANADA											
Vancouver*	75	73	97	65	58	2	6	6	7	2	2
Toronto	270	145	54	150	83	50	21	50	30	20	11
Montréal	250	133	53	80	25	40	30	30	26	100	52
Other Canada	-	4	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
CANADA TOTAL	595	355	60	295	170	92	57	86	63	122	65
ICELAND											
Wellington*	115	96	83	90	82	20	9	3	5	2	0
Christchurch*	95	73	77	80	67	10	4	3	2	2	0
Auckland*	125	87	70	100	81	15	1	6	5	4	0
Other New Zealand	-	4	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
NEW ZEALAND TOTAL	335	260	78	270	234	45	14	12	12	8	0
SWEDEN											
Wellington*	56	45	80	30	27	5	1	20	16	1	1
PUERTO RICO											
International Team	50	60	120	30	37	7	14	5	3	8	6
Other International	5	3	60	5	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	8,392	5,267	66%	5,180	3,707	1,424	621	1,318	770	470	169
Drive Goals	8,000	5,000	63%	4,900	1,350	1,300	844	813	450	281	
Should be											

*Single copies. Includes *Nouvelle Internationale*.

*Raised goal during drive.

Palestinians reject Israeli regime's proposed elections

BY HARRY RING

In defiance of Israeli repression, more than 80 Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza signed a declaration rejecting Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's proposition for an election in the two areas.

It was the first time since the beginning of the uprising in the West Bank and Gaza nearly a year and a half ago that Palestinians living under Israeli military occupation publicly signed a political declaration.

The signers reportedly include academic figures, journalists, business people, professionals, and others. They declined to answer reporters' questions about who drafted and circulated the document.

Gabi Baramki, acting president of Bir Zeit University, observed, "This is the way it's usually done in places where people don't have freedom of speech or circulation, or freedom of meeting."

Along with other Palestinian universities, Bir Zeit, in the West Bank, has been shut by the Israeli army for almost the entire period of the uprising.

The voting plan was spotlighted by Shamir when he journeyed to Washington last month. It was intended to suggest a new "flexibility" on the part of the Israeli prime minister. Washington offered a guarded endorsement of the proposition.

Under the plan, Palestinian voters would choose representatives who would negotiate the future of Gaza and the West Bank. Both areas have been under military rule since Israel took them over in 1967.

Elections only if uprising ends

The elections Shamir calls for are to be held only if the uprising ended first, and negotiations would be strictly limited to designing some form of "autonomy" for the two areas. This appears to mean Palestinian administration of municipal affairs — regulating traffic, organizing sanitation work, issuing licenses, and similar activities.

Such self-administration would be in the framework of continuing Israel military rule.

Testifying before the Israeli parliament soon after his return from Washington, Shamir staked out the limits of his proposition for "democratic" elections.

"If the elected [Palestinian] representatives," he said, "try to stray from the course which will be allowed for them, and will try to deal with other subjects, like trying to establish a Palestinian state, Israel will prevent them even though they have been elected."

Shamir's chief of staff, Yossi Ben-Aharon, told reporters that election campaign-

ing would be conducted under the continuing presence of Israeli occupation troops. Asked if the troop presence might not inhibit campaigning, Ben-Aharon responded, "They won't need much campaigning. The people are so well known."

He warned that such things as displaying Palestinian flags or making speeches "will soon deteriorate into violent demonstrations."

The Palestinian declaration branded the Shamir proposition "nothing more than a maneuver for the media, to save Israel from its international isolation." The document declares the goal of the uprising is to "establish an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital, under the leadership of the PLO [Palestine Liberation Organization]."

It added, "The price of declaring this choice of the PLO as our sole legitimate representative is shown in the daily count of martyrs in the course of the uprising."

The day the document was released, Israel troops killed three Palestinians, including an eight-year-old child. The Palestinian death toll is now more than 500.

Since the occupation, the Israelis have permitted two elections of mayors and municipal council members in the West Bank



Palestinians in Israel's Ansar 3 prison camp

— one in 1972, another in 1976.

In the 1972 contest the PLO called for a boycott of the polls. Candidates of varying political views were elected. Those included conservative politicians who had been part of the machine of Jordan's King Hussein during the pre-1967 period when Jordan occupied the West Bank. Others opposed renewed ties with Jordan and favored an independent Palestinian state.

The 1976 elections proved politically explosive. Shortly before the election date, there were massive demonstrations and clashes with Israeli troops.

A bloc of pro-PLO candidates entered the elections. As the campaign was about to open, two leading candidates were expelled from the country. Despite the intimidation, the pro-PLO nominees swept the elections.

The Israeli government, abetted by right-wing settler terrorists, set out to undo this. Economic pressure, including blocking funds for essential services, was used to try to whip the new administrations into line.

In 1979 Bassam al-Shaka, mayor of Nablus, was jailed and ordered deported on

the trumped-up charge of favoring terrorism.

Strikes and demonstrations gripped the West Bank. Twenty-nine mayors resigned and declared they would join the imprisoned Shaka in a hunger strike.

Shaka was released, resumed office, and the mayors withdrew their resignations.

In May 1980 there were harsh new attacks. The mayors of Hebron and Halhul, and the chief religious judge of Hebron, were seized at night by Israeli soldiers and dumped across the border into Lebanon.

A month later, terrorists struck. In Nablus, Mayor Shak lost both legs when a bomb exploded in his car. In Ramallah, a car bomb ripped off the foot of Mayor Kalim Khalaf.

In Hebron, seven Palestinians were injured when a grenade was hurled into a crowded market.

In 1982, over a few months, a half dozen mayors of major West Bank towns were summarily ordered from office. The "autonomy" period was over.

Socialists blast Canada gov't cutback plans

BY JOHN STEELE

MONTREAL — Thirty people turned out to a meeting to launch the Québec election campaign of the Revolutionary Workers League here April 22. The RWL is running Michel Prairie in the Montréal constituency of Bourget and Michel Dugré in the constituency of Laurier. Dugré is a garment shop presser and member of Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union. Prairie is the editor of the monthly magazine *Lutte ouvrière*.

Québec Premier Robert Bourassa has stated he will make a decision on whether or not there is to be a June election after the release of the federal government's new budget on April 27. Bourassa has hinted he will call the election for the Québec National Assembly if the federal government cuts payments to the provinces for use in health, education, and other social services.

"Two weeks ago in Toronto, federal Finance Minister Michael Wilson 'declared war' on the federal government deficit. He warned us he intends to cut social services and raise taxes in his upcoming budget," Prairie told the campaign meeting.

Prairie predicted that the federal budget would mark a significant step up in the attacks against working people that have been waged by the employers since the 1974-75 international recession.

He described how the employers, with the aid of government, had shifted more and more of the wealth created by workers and farmers into their own pockets.

"It's not surprising that in Montréal the rich live 10 years longer than the poor," he said. "This is capitalism — Made-in-Canada capitalism. Free trade with the United States is not the problem for working people. Nor is the federal government deficit. Our problem is capitalism and its crises."

"The so-called struggle against the \$30 billion federal government deficit is a fraud," Prairie explained. "When the bosses and government say cut the deficit they really mean cut social services and funnel more of the wealth working people create to the rich families who own the banks and corporations."

Prairie pointed to the April 11 announcement by Barbara McDougall, the federal minister of employment and immigration, of the government's intention to chop \$1.3 billion from the unemployment insurance system.

Undercutting unemployment benefits

Under the proposed unemployment insurance "reform," minimum qualifications for compensation will be increased, maximum number of weeks of benefits reduced, and severe penalties handed out to workers forced out of work, who quit, or are fired.

Currently, 800,000 people in Canada receive unemployment insurance. The proposed changes will cut 100,000 from the rolls. Another 100,000 will have either their weekly payments or the length of time they receive payments reduced. In 1988, 1.3 million people worked less than three months, out of a work force of 10 million.

The Conservative federal government argues that the major cause of unemployment is lack of adequate job retraining rather than a lack of jobs. It has allocated \$230 million of the funds cut from the insurance plan as subsidies to companies for retraining programs.

The 2.3-million-member Canadian Labour Congress condemned the proposal as a "punitive and cynical manipulation of the work force that asks the unemployed to pay for retraining." The CLC said that the unemployment insurance cuts would have the biggest impact on women, the young, im-

migrants, and older workers.

At an April 25 press conference in Montréal, the Coalition of Québec Unemployed (RCCQ) called for broad mobilizations throughout Québec and across the country to block implementation of the unemployment insurance changes. The press conference was supported by 20 community and labor organizations, including Québec's three main union federations.

Alain Cochaix, spokesperson for the RCCQ, called on those fighting the cuts to unite with those fighting against the Québec government's efforts to gut the welfare system, the hundreds of thousands of public-sector workers currently in negotiations with the Québec government, and those fighting for public housing.

Céline Lamontagne of the Confederation of National Trade Unions (CSN) accused the Conservative government of "betraying" its election campaign promises to not cut social services and protect workers against the effects of free trade with the United States.

André Paradis, president of the Civil Liberties Union in Québec, pointed to the drop in family income since the election of the Conservative government in 1984.

Not a problem of training

The national vice-president of the Union of Canada Manpower Employees, Marc Bellemare, condemned the government's claim that unemployment is caused by inadequate retraining. "The problem of unemployment is not a problem of education," he said, "but a lack of jobs available."

Jocelyne Martineau, a representative of the Pointe St-Charles community clinic, pointed out that at St-Hyacinthe, "9,000 people are on unemployment insurance, but when you go into the employment center there are only 50 jobs posted."

RWL candidates Prairie and Dugré expressed their solidarity with the initiative taken by the RCCQ and the call for action to block the government's plans.

During the question period of the April 25 press conference, Dugré explained that the federal government's budget was coming down on the eve of a recession that will be "more devastating" for workers and farmers than the one in 1981-82. "The cutbacks in unemployment insurance are part of the preparations of the employers and the government for this recession," he said.

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Conference discusses U.S.-Cuba relations

BY MICHAEL BAUMANN

WASHINGTON, D.C.—More than 150 scholars, journalists, students, government officials, and activists in the U.S. Cuban community gathered here April 18–19 for a two-day conference on "The Cuban Reality After 30 Years."

Present for the first time at a gathering of this kind were a number of guests from Cuba. In the past, requests for such visas have been routinely denied by the State Department. This time, while several of those invited were denied entry — including Ricardo Alarcón, Cuban vice-minister of foreign affairs — others were given visas.

Normalization of diplomatic relations between Havana and Washington was the central topic of discussion. The overwhelming majority of participants urged a relaxation in Washington's hostility to the revolutionary government.

Wayne Smith, former head of the U.S. Interests Section in Havana, organized and chaired the conference, which was held at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies.

Smith, who in the past helped draft U.S. policy toward Cuba, said it was time to acknowledge that U.S. efforts to ostracize Havana had failed.

'No longer isolated'

"Cuba is no longer isolated," Smith said. "Our policy today isolates us more than it does Cuba." No further proof is needed, he said, than the fact that "Cuba today has diplomatic relations with 118 countries, including all our NATO allies."

Cuba is no "outcast" in Latin America, William LeoGrande, a professor at American University, agreed. "It is expanding its influence while at the same time not giving up its commitment to aid revolutions."

The reality is that U.S.-Cuban relations "have already changed," Jorge Domínguez, a professor at Harvard University, pointed out. Washington was forced to negotiate with Havana in southern Africa and "a major agreement was reached."

"The U.S. portrayed the Cuban withdrawal as a victory," Domínguez continued. "But as I see it above all it was a defeat for South Africa."

"Castro is more familiar with the complexities of external debt question than any other world leader," pointed out Max Azicri of Edinboro University in Pennsylvania, turning to another question where Cuba has won worldwide influence.

Changes in attitude

A panel discussion titled "The Cuban-American Community" drew attention to sweeping changes in attitude that have be-

come apparent in the last few years.

Carmen Díaz, a founder of Miami's Cuban-American Committee for Family Rights, told how a crowd of 2,000 jammed a breakfast meeting organized by the committee last October to demand normalization of relations with Cuba. Some recent polls show that 50 percent or more of U.S. Cubans favor normalization, she said.

Maria Torres, a professor at DePaul University in Chicago, explained that tens of thousands of U.S. Cubans would benefit from normalization.

This includes, she said, those with relatives in Cuba they would like to visit; older Cubans who want to go back to the island to retire; younger Cubans curious about their homeland; and artists and academics who want to take part in cultural exchanges.

Maria Cristina Herrera, a professor at Miami-Dade Community College who made clear in her remarks she was no friend of the Cuban revolution, explained why many of her generation favored normalization.

"I came to the United States in September 1961," she said, "in the second wave of immigration. I was committed to the overthrow of Castro. I changed my views in 1963. I concluded that path was going nowhere. I quit the underground."

Gorbachev gains at Soviet party meet

BY FRED FELDMAN

The resignation of 74 full members of the Central Committee of the ruling Communist Party of the Soviet Union on April 25 marked a big step in the expansion of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's power over the party and state apparatus. Twenty-four alternate members, including prominent allies of Gorbachev, were promoted to full status at the one-day meeting.

Twelve members of the Central Auditing Commission, which oversees party finances, also resigned.

One-quarter of membership

The 74 — one-quarter of the total full membership of 301 — consisted largely of committee members who had been on the body before Gorbachev became party head in 1985. Many were regarded as potential or actual foes of Gorbachev's policy of *perestroika*, or restructuring.

They included former prime minister Nikolai Tikhonov, former president Andrei Gromyko, and several former top military commanders.

"The truth is," Herrera said, "the Cuban community has always been diverse, never monolithic. There has been a painful, difficult process of realizing the Cuban revolution won't be overthrown." The process has been slow, she said, but in their totality "the changes have been almost unthinkable."

The conference included a luncheon honoring Ramón Sánchez-Parodi, chief of the Cuban Interests Section in Washington, who is returning to Havana to assume the post of vice-minister of foreign affairs.

Panel discussions

Topics discussed by panels of specialists during the course of the conference included relations between the church and state in Cuba, the Cuban economy today, and the current state of Cuban-Soviet relations. Guests from Cuba's Center for the Study of the Americas and the Cuban Baptist church took part in the discussions.

Other participants included Tad Szulc, author of a recent biography of Fidel Castro; Sergó Mikoyan, editor of the Soviet journal *Latinskaya Amerika*; and representatives of the U.S. State Department, House Foreign Relations Committee, Library of Congress, World Bank, Ford Foundation, Heritage Foundation, and Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.



Militant/Lou Howort
New York protest against U.S. blockade of Cuba

without them our common cause is suffering, they must be carried out without the slightest hesitation."

The legislative elections held March 26 further consolidated Gorbachev's grip. The election campaign channeled popular discontent with growing social and economic problems into votes against party figures regarded as obstructing the changes Gorbachev has advocated.

New presidency

The 2,250 member Congress of People's Deputies that was elected is expected to select Gorbachev to fill the new post of president, with more wide-ranging authority in foreign and domestic policy than the current presidency, which Gorbachev holds. As head of party and state, Gorbachev will hold enormous formal powers.

The Gorbachev government has also reaffirmed legal restrictions on expression of dissenting views. An April 8 decree replaced longstanding laws restricting the expression of opinions with two new statutes. The legislation provides for up to three years in prison for the crime of "insulting or defaming state bodies and public organizations."

Gorbachev described the decree as "a defense of democracy."

Western coal miners fight layoffs

BY BILL ARTH

TRINIDAD, Colo. — Union coal miners here and in nearby Raton, New Mexico, are looking to a June 11 commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Ludlow, Colorado, massacre to rally support for their union locals.

United Mine Workers Local 9856 here won a bitter 18-month strike against Wyoming Fuel in October 1987 and is now covered by a "me too" agreement that follows the national contract between the Bituminous Coal Operators Association and the UMWA.

However, the company has responded to the union's strike victory with layoffs and forced overtime for the miners who are still working.

The New Elk mine, one of Wyoming Fuel's two mines in the area, has not resumed production since the strike. The company's Golden Eagle mine has laid off 34 miners since February. It has forced the remaining miners to work nine-hour days since then. Grievances filed by the union on the forced overtime have been rejected by an arbitrator, and in spite of a recent job action by the miners, the overtime continues.

Miners in Raton have been working under the terms of their 1984 contract since Kaiser Corp., the former owner of two area mines, filed for bankruptcy. The mines have since been run by a series of operators and were recently bought by P&M, a subsidiary of Chevron. The extension of the 1984 contract is due to expire May 31. Negotiations on a new contract have now begun.

The Raton miners enter the negotiations facing severe layoffs and company attacks on work rules and working conditions. P&M's underground mine is currently not in production, while its strip mine has been operating with a reduced work force. P&M recently recalled a number of workers to the strip mine and coal-preparation plant.

In order to strengthen the union for the contract battle, UMWA Local 7949 in Raton launched a newsletter last year and set up a Women's Auxiliary four months ago with the help of the Local 9856 Auxiliary. The auxiliary sponsored an April 16 showing of the film *Harlan County* to educate the public and raise funds.

The heritage of the UMWA in this area includes the labor battles of 1913 and 1914. The response of the coal operators to the organizing effort was the massacre of 11 children, 2 women, and 5 strikers at a tent city set up by the strikers near Ludlow. The machine-gunning was carried out by troops of the state militia on April 20, 1914.

The UMWA has erected a granite statue dedicated to the victims at the site of the massacre. The monument is begrudgingly noted by the state of Colorado with a sign on Interstate 25 nondescriptly noting a "point of historic interest." The UMWA sponsors an annual event in June at the monument.

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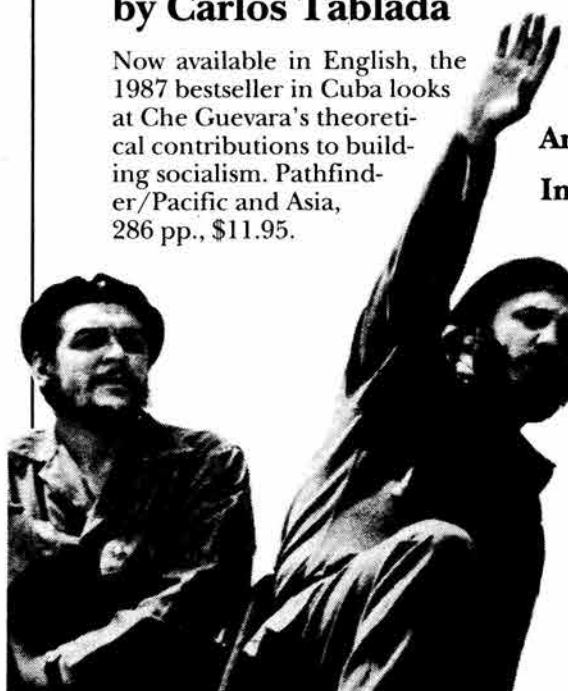
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The stakes in the worldwide political campaign to defend Mark Curtis

The following is an edited version of a talk given by John Gaige, speaking for the Socialist Workers Party, to a public support meeting for Mark Curtis, held in New York City February 4.

Curtis is a 30-year old packinghouse worker and political activist from Des Moines, Iowa, who was framed up on rape and burglary charges, and is now serving a 25-year jail sentence in the Iowa Men's Reformatory in Anamosa.

Gaige is the national farm work director of the Socialist Workers Party, the party Curtis is a member of, and the chairperson of the SWP in Iowa. Gaige is also a leader and founding member of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, a nonpartisan, broad-based committee that is leading an international campaign to fight for justice for Curtis.

BY JOHN GAIGE

Three hundred and forty-one days ago Mark Curtis was working at the Swift meat-packing plant in Des Moines, Iowa, where the workers process and slaughter beef. He worked on the kill-floor, pulling cattle paunches, which is heavy, hard, dangerous, and dirty work. They process more than 2,000 cattle a day.

On that day - March 1, 1988 - Immigration and Naturalization Service cops, federal marshals, and a Swift boss, came down the line. They walked up to several workers, grabbed them, handcuffed them, dragged them off the line, and put them in jail, charging them with felonies. Some workers who witnessed this said the cops seemed to have a list of who they were looking for.

Seventeen Latino workers were arrested, 16 Mexicans and one Salvadoran. Almost half were from the kill-floor where Mark worked.

The felony charges included the false use of Social Security numbers, possession of counterfeit alien registration cards, and false statements on employment records. They were thrown in jail for the "crime" of trying to work in the United States, and not having the proper papers to do so.

This happened right when the Immigration and Naturalization Service, under the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, was in the midst of an amnesty program. The INS was supposedly putting aside all concerns about

different forms of false documentation, and encouraging what they call "illegal aliens" to apply for amnesty so they could live and work in the United States legally.

The raid spurred angry protests by supporters and family members of the Swift 17, as they came to be called.

Deeply involved

Mark Curtis was deeply involved in the activities to defend the Swift 17. Three days after the raid, on Friday,

March 4, Mark attended a protest meeting for the 17 workers. After the meeting, later that night, he was beaten by cops at the Des Moines police station. They hit him with a nightstick, shattered his cheek bone, and put a gash in his face that required 15 stitches. As they jumped him, they yelled, "You're a Mexican-lover, just like you love those coloreds." And they said he had AIDS.

After a trip to the hospital, Curtis was thrown naked into a bare cold cell: no bed, no blanket, no toilet facilities, no water. He was forced to spend the night there.

Curtis was originally charged with second-degree sexual abuse and assaulting the cops who beat him. He's now serving 25 years in the Anamosa state prison, following his conviction last September on charges of third-degree sexual abuse and burglary.

The immigration raid at Swift, the defense of the Swift 17, and the broad political questions posed by these events

Curtis' arrest, beating by cops occurred right in middle of protests against immigration raid at his workplace.

form the political terrain of the frame-up and victimization of Mark Curtis.

National probe

The raid, it was later learned, was being prepared in December 1987 by INS officials. They worked with Swift management, combed through the personnel records, and decided who they were going to target at the Swift plant. They prepared the indictments, which were sealed in February, and raided the plant March 1.

This raid was a national challenge to the very foundation of the amnesty program. Seven of the workers that were arrested had applied for amnesty prior to the raid.

The national importance of this operation was registered by an article in the *Wall Street Journal* March 18, 1988. It explained that the amnesty program was in trouble, so the government was on an advertising campaign, encouraging

Continued on next page



Mark Curtis talks to media at March 12, 1988, demonstration against immigration raid at Swift meat-packing plant in Des Moines, Iowa.

Militant/Stu Singer

Continued from previous page

undocumented workers to come in and apply. Radio broadcasts in English and Spanish urged people to put aside their fears and apply for legal status.

In an attempt to overcome their image as hated enforcers of the border, and appear instead like a social service agency, immigration agents did things like ride in the Chinese New Year parade in San Francisco and put amnesty fact sheets in tortilla packages in Texas.

While the INS was image-making, the *Journal* reported that a young worker in Madera, California, "died from a skull fracture and brain hemorrhage sustained during a Border Patrol arrest."

The *Journal* also reported the raid at Swift. It quoted one of the workers that was arrested, Martin Castillo, who was from Chihuahua, Mexico. He said, "I'm confused about everything because they say we falsified our Social Security cards. I don't deny that, but why did they encourage us to apply (for amnesty) and say they wouldn't prosecute us for what we did in our past?"

The report also quoted an INS deputy district director, Michael Went: "Just because you are an applicant or have been given amnesty, it doesn't mean we are going to forgive your past sins."

Not all workers at Swift were sympathetic to the Swift 17. A few, in fact, cheered when they were arrested, reflecting the divisions among workers at Swift, and throughout the United States.

Arrival of foreign-born workers

In a speech Mark gave in April 1988, he explained, "The people who work at Swift come from many different countries: the United States, Mexico, Laos, El Salvador, and Thailand. Des Moines is like the rest of the country that is experiencing a changing composition of the working class. There are more and more immigrants, exercising their right to travel, work here, and live here. And they are more confidently demanding equal treatment with their fellow workers born in this country." He added, "Defending their rights is an important part of defending the rights of all workers in this country—born here or not."

The political frame-up of Mark Curtis is rooted not in something exceptional about Swift, Des Moines, or Iowa, but in the crisis of capitalism, which is bringing large numbers of foreign-born workers to the United States from the Caribbean, Latin America, and Asia.

What compels them to immigrate to the United States? Millions of workers, who used to be peasants, were driven off the land as more and more of the countryside became dominated by the capitalist market. They weren't able to compete with capitalist farmers, became head over heels in debt to bankers, and were forced off their land. These toilers are driven into the cities, into the working class, into the factories to try to survive. Many can't find jobs, however, so they head for the cities of the industrially developed countries, like the United States, to find work.

It is the system of imperialist domination that wreaks havoc upon workers and farmers, their lives, their fortunes, and their futures, thereby causing this massive migration across continents. The billionaire families who rule the United States, Japan, France, Britain, and the other rich countries dominate, exploit, and superexploit working people all around the globe, keeping the semicolonial countries underdeveloped.

Key to this exploitation is the massive and growing Third World debt. Since 1982 this debt has doubled, to \$1.32 trillion. It crushes the workers and farmers of the semicolonial countries as the capitalist governments there try to meet the interest payments on their foreign loans, using brutal austerity measures to wring more wealth out

Injuries have become the norm in the packing industry. Intolerable conditions have led workers to fight back.

of the workers and farmers.

But these loans can never be paid off. It's impossible. The function of the debt, in fact, is to transfer as much wealth as possible from the workers and farmers of Latin America, Asia, and Africa, through this giant banking swindle, to the imperialist centers. Last year that equalled \$43 billion.

The conditions this imposes on working people in the semicolonial countries are not only low wages, unsafe working conditions, and long working hours, but political and social instability, unemployment, sky-rocketing inflation, disease, malnutrition, starvation, and repression.

Cuba's President Fidel Castro said in a recent speech that each day in the Third World 40,000 children die. Every three days, that means, 120,000 children die—equal to the number of people killed by one of the atomic bombs that the U.S. rulers dropped on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Some immigrant workers come to Iowa, and some end up working at Swift, which is notorious for hard and



Militant/Phil Norris
Curtis distributing *Militant* at May 1987 rally in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, in support of packinghouse workers on strike against John Morrell & Co.



Militant/Jeff Powers
Farmers rally in Plattsburg, Missouri, in April 1985. Curtis talked with workers about need for unions to support farmers fighting to hang onto their land.

low-paying jobs. You can start at \$5.60 or \$5.40 an hour. Swift is always hiring because there's so much turnover. People are injured, they're driven out, fired, or they quit because they can't take the pace of work.

In 1987 more than 3,000 workers went through the plant, which only employs 600 people at a time. Mark's department had more than 150 people and he was somewhere around 25th from the top in seniority, even though he had been there only a little more than a year.

Swift is a very unsafe place to work. The union estimated that some 80 percent of the work force had been injured in 1987. The injury rate for Iowa packinghouse workers overall exceeds the national average.

Swift is brutal to its employees. Foremen yell and scream to push, intimidate, and degrade the workers. Management personnel sexually harass women workers, particularly when they're on probation.

The harsh conditions at Swift are similar to those in many packing plants throughout the United States. It's the bosses in the pork- and beef-packing industry that have been the most vicious—and the most successful—in maximizing profits through speed-up and concessions, transforming packing into one of the most dangerous and

difficult jobs in the world. Injuries have become the norm for packinghouse workers, not the exception.

What it's like at IBP

Iowa is a national center of the meat-packing industry. The industry giant, IBP, Inc., has five plants in Iowa, and soon it will have six because it is buying an Oscar Mayer plant in Perry, Iowa. IBP made just under \$70 million in profits 1987.

The Sept. 18, 1988, *Des Moines Register* carried an article calling IBP the "largest and the toughest meat-packer." IBP, according to the *Register*, is, "a patchwork of broken laws and back-breaking work. Of bloody strikes and shady deals. Of hardball tactics and low-ball wages. And, yes, of unrestrained growth and undeniable profits."

In an article two days later, titled, "Pain from repetitive tasks afflicts hundreds at IBP," the story is told of Dale Kline who, "trimmed meat off hog carcasses eight hours a day, six days a week, until he got knots in his wrist and his hands went numb." So the supervisors at the IBP plant told him to "stand up and be a man. . . . Don't you want to work here anymore?"

What was wrong with his hands was a repetitive-motion injury, carpal tunnel syndrome, which is extremely common among packinghouse workers.

In July 1987 the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, OSHA, fined IBP \$2.6 million for underre-

Mark Curtis pressed for unity against bosses' offensive, making him a dangerous man as far as employers were concerned.

porting its injuries. In May 1988 OSHA ordered IBP to pay another \$3.1 million in fines.

If you work in a factory, mill, mine, or garment shop, you probably never see OSHA inspectors. So the fact that this government agency levied \$5.7 million in fines on IBP is an indication of just how bad the company's health and safety record is.

The *Des Moines Register's* editors expect that IBP is going to change its spots. IBP will be a better place to work, they predicted in an editorial last October. IBP is becoming better on "labor relations," "worker safety," and "on overcoming environmental concerns." I wouldn't advise you to bet your paycheck on that.

But it's not just IBP that plays hardball. There's John Morrell, another packing giant. Morrell was hit last fall with the biggest fine in OSHA history, \$4.3 million for what the agency called "willful" health and safety violations at its packinghouse in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

The success of the packing bosses in boosting profits by driving down wages and working conditions is the dream of the bosses in every industry—airlines, steel, auto, textile, rail, and mining.

In the first half of the 1980s, there were only a few cases of workers putting up resistance to this offensive. In most instances workers, pressed on by their union officialdom, gave in to company demands for concessions because they thought it would save jobs. They didn't put up a fight.

Today, however, workers are learning through hard experiences that concessions don't save jobs. Fewer and fewer workers look for the next year to be more prosperous. They expect things to continue to be difficult, increasingly so. Many workers are willing to fight to prevent being pushed back further.

This allows working people in the United States to more easily see ourselves as part of one international class, in different countries, with the same interests, and more and more with a common experience.

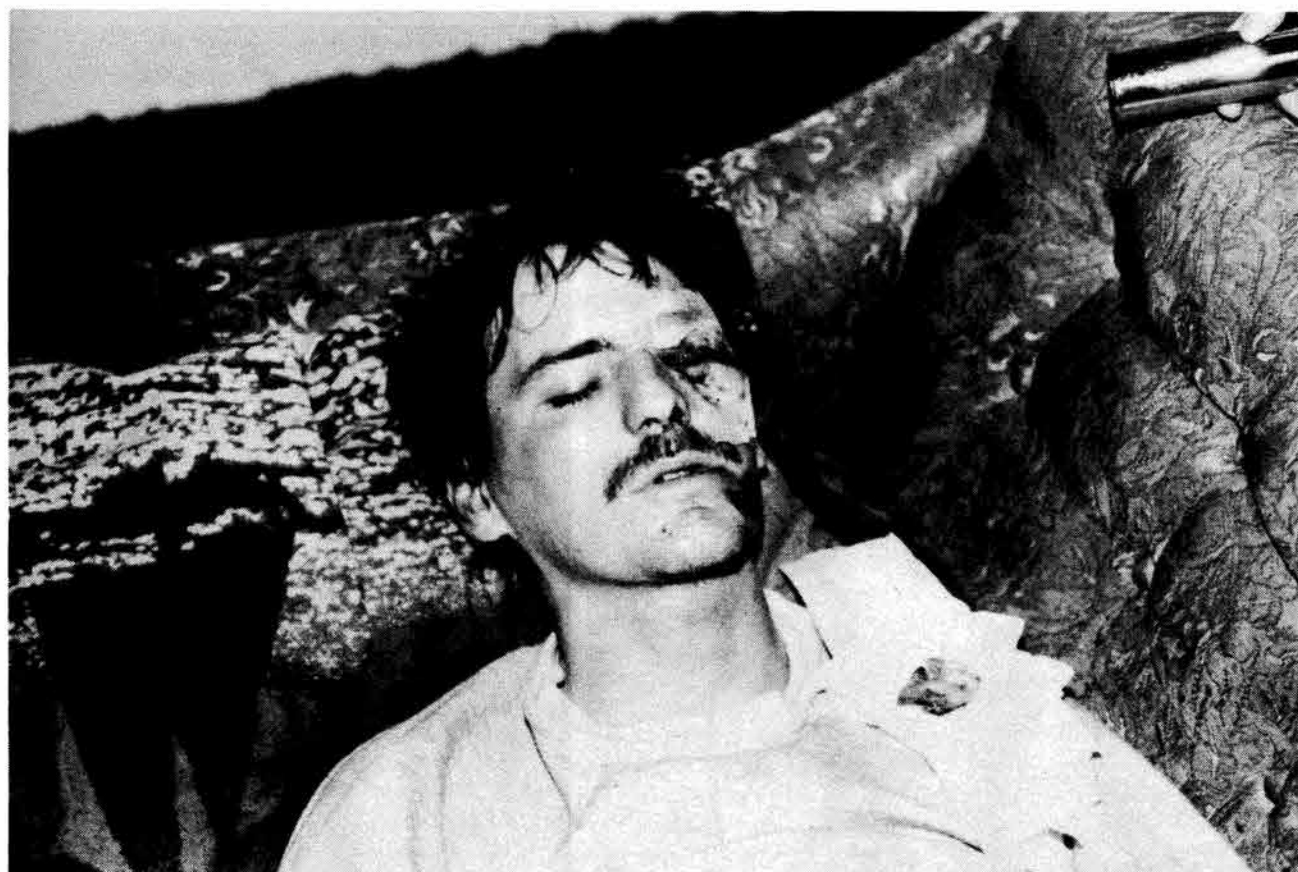
Crisis facing farmers

What's happened to packinghouse workers has been paralleled by worsening conditions for working farmers in the Midwest, who have been confronted with a deepgoing crisis in the countryside.

During the 1981-82 recession, farmers faced a sharp drop in the market price of their land. Before 1981 it was \$2,000 an acre; in the next several years it dropped to under \$1,000 an acre.

Farmers began to lose the equity they had in the land, and the lower price of land dragged down their collateral. The value of their land no longer helped them in the face of high production costs, high interest payments, and low prices for the food and fiber they produce. Family farmers began to be pressed by the banks, both public and private. And foreclosures spread like wildfire.

In the 1980s over one-quarter million of the 2.4 million farmers in the United States were driven off the land. In Iowa now, according to a study released by Prairiefire, a farmers' support group, there are over half a million people in the countryside who are living in poverty. They are part of the one-third of U.S. farm families that had incomes below the poverty level in 1986. And the federal govern-



Curtis at home the day after he was beaten by cops at city jail

Militant/Stu Singer

ment recently has been foreclosing on farmers who hold loans with the Farmers Home Administration.

Working people fight back

While the bosses and the bankers conquered real ground in the 1980s, they did meet with some resistance.

Working farmers tried to prevent these forced foreclosures by organizing marches, rallies, tractorcades, and sit-ins. They reached out for solidarity to unionists and others. They confronted state governments, banks, and the sheriffs that showed up to auction their farms or take away their livestock and machinery.

In 1985-86 there was a militant strike against the Hormel packing company in Austin, Minnesota. This struggle was part of a wave of strikes in the packing industry. Combined with fights by farm workers, cannery workers, and others, there was a break in this entire pattern of the bosses being able to rout unionized industrial workers.

The packing workers in Austin, for example, for many years had relatively high wages, relatively good working conditions, and a relatively high standard of living for working people. These jobs were tough and dangerous, but the workers had won a measure of dignity on the job. They saw, however, what was happening to other workers, and that Hormel was becoming more aggressive, and they knew what they would face if they didn't put up a fight.

So fight they did, and it took the power of the National Guard and the courts to help defeat them. But this was followed by a wave of other struggles in packing in the United States and Canada.

And the crisis of capitalism means that much bigger struggles are on the agenda. The millions of workers from Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia, and Africa who have joined native-born workers to become part of the U.S. working class, will play an indispensable role in these struggles.

These workers strengthen the potential level of political consciousness and combativity of working people, diversify the working class, and enrich our understanding of the world and where we as working people in the United States fit in. These workers bring their experiences and struggles into the factories, picket lines, and working-class neighborhoods of the United States.

And this is not just true in New York City, Miami, Los Angeles, Boston, and Philadelphia. These workers are part of the class struggle in cities like Des Moines and at plants like Swift.

What's happening across the country

Handing out defense literature for the Curtis campaign at the Swift plant gate recently, I was struck by the large number of young workers that are Latino. But I also noted the large number of young women workers who are Asian. This is an example of what's happening around the country, including in the Midwest.

Since the early 1970s, there's been more immigration into the United States than all other countries combined. The U.S. working class will be the youngest in the world. The bosses' goal is to utilize divisions along language, nationality, and race lines to weaken the fighting ability of workers. The bosses work on this overtime and they promote it with enthusiasm.

The Swift bosses take great pleasure in teaching the Asian workers to call the Mexican workers *mojados*, "wet-backs" in Spanish. IBP, in the process of taking over Oscar

Mayer, has been pleased to find out that some Oscar Mayer workers who hate IBP think that the only people that are going to work for IBP are so-called low-class workers, the ones who speak Spanish.

Around the country, where companies have institutionalized part-time or temporary work, some of the full-time workers will sometimes call them names like rent-a-worker, or rent-a-bum.

The workers take on the attitudes of the employers. This false consciousness, this disunity, has to be overcome by workers pulling together to press their demands, be they against the boss, the banker, or the government.

Unity of the working class is a central question of world politics. Unity is an absolute necessity if working people are going to move forward, on anything—jobs, safety, rights, wages, health, housing, education, the environment, or opposing imperialist war.

Curtis and the fight for unity

Advanced, thinking, fighting workers like Mark Curtis can make a difference on this crucial issue of unity. By defending immigrant workers, he began to build upon the

Curtis' crime in the eyes of the cops was that he was a 'Mexican-lover just like you love those coloreds.'

trend toward unity that develops when workers are forced together under the blows of the bosses' offensive. And that made him a threat to the employers.

As a veteran civil rights activist in Des Moines remarked, this case is not about rape, but about the fact that Mark Curtis speaks Spanish, can communicate with immigrant workers, and is therefore a dangerous man as far as the employers are concerned.

In his daily political activity Curtis tried to unite workers—all workers—and he tied his political activity to a perspective that sees unifying the working class as central to our ability to advance. Like other workers who see politics from the point of view of how to make progress in the struggle against exploitation, Curtis didn't only defend immigrant workers. He talked to all the workers.

He talked to the white workers about the Black and Latino workers, and the need to unite with the Asian workers. He talked to the Black workers about the need to unify with white, Latino, and Asian workers. And he talked to the Latino and Asian workers about the need for them to facilitate communication and help overcome prejudices against them in order to forge a common struggle.

Mark Curtis is only one of the dangerous men and women among packinghouse workers in North America who are fighting for safe working conditions, decent wages, and shorter hours. He's one of the dangerous men and women from around the world, wherever working people produce the wealth, be they in the coal mines of Kentucky, Britain, or South Africa; the garment shops here in New York or Bangkok; the packinghouses in Iowa, or as they call them in New Zealand, the freezing works.

Curtis is one of the people who refused to buckle under the pressure that's coming down on workers, which includes the deals that get made between top union officials

and the companies.

When Curtis was injured at Swift—his back was hurt from pulling paunches—he requested medical attention. The company refused to help him so he walked off the line to see the company nurse. He was fired for that. Firings are common at Swift. What was uncommon was that coworkers organized a campaign to help him get his job back—and he did. This was a real victory.

Mark was also active at Swift in organizing solidarity with striking packinghouse workers in the Midwest. He explained to other workers why they should support the struggles of family farmers.

Political activist in Des Moines

Mark was also a political activist in the city. A couple of weeks before he was arrested, he participated in a march against police racism in Clive, a suburb of Des Moines. The police there had circulated a flier saying people should report any Black men they saw because they were potential suspects in a robbery.

Civil rights activists, Clive residents, and others in the Des Moines area protested this. Some 400 people turned out for a February 20 demonstration. The march ended at the police station in Clive. Curtis staffed a socialist literature table on the front lawn of the stationhouse, where the cops couldn't have helped but see him.

It's no accident that Mark was in the center of the political action in Des Moines. He is a member of the Socialist Workers Party, a communist, and that's what SWP members do and where they go.

But as a political activist he was not unique. The things he did are the kinds of activities that thousands of workers in the United States and the rest of the world do, workers who are combative and have a vision of how to change the world.

That's why framing up Mark is valuable to the class enemy. If they are successful, they can use this to punish vanguard workers; and it helps silence and intimidate other fighters and discredit union and political activists.

That's why they're trying so hard to counter our international political campaign in defense of Curtis. The stakes are big and growing for both sides in this fight.

We don't choose our victims. The enemy class chooses them. It didn't have to be Mark Curtis that ended up in jail; it could have been someone else. And no matter who they pick on, our job is to organize the most effective defense campaign possible.

Use of criminal charges

What happened to Mark Curtis is not unique. Cops routinely beat workers, thousands of us, in countries around the world. As in many other cases of political frame-ups, criminal charges are being used to carry out the frame-up. What's unique is our ability to launch an international defense campaign and fight back.

The authorities don't directly challenge Mark's right to hold his views, speak out, assemble, or to utilize any of his other constitutional rights. He's not charged with violating an anticommunist thought-control law, or for dissenting.

Nevertheless, a successful frame-up using criminal charges lessens the political space that working people have to function in, even though their formal rights are not restricted. Historically, for example, civil rights organizations have been charged with stealing their own funds. That's a use of criminal charges against political activists in order to curtail their activities.

There are some Kentucky miners who are in jail today because they helped lead a strike against A.T. Massey Coal Co. in 1984-85. They were framed up using criminal charges—violation of interstate commerce laws. Four of them are serving 35 to 45 year prison terms. One of them was charged with murder. After he was acquitted of the federal charges, they charged him again at the state level. This is part of a long history of using criminal charges to victimize union activists.

In the case of the Swift 17, the government used felony charges to try to further limit the political and human rights of workers who are undocumented, thereby restricting everyone's rights.

The real charges against Mark Curtis are that he's a "Mexican-lover" just like he "loves those coloreds."

When Mark's friends and fellow political activists first learned he had been arrested they were afraid he might be beaten by the cops. So they began to contact prominent people in the Des Moines area, urging them to call the police station, hoping the attention might discourage the cops from beating Curtis.

But most of the people we talked with said: "Don't worry about that, this is Des Moines, Iowa, not Chicago or Detroit or Los Angeles or New York. He'll be all right in jail until Monday if you can't get him out before then." We later found out that while people were busy reassuring us, Curtis had already been taken to the hospital by the cops.

Sixteen hours after he was arrested, activists and friends were able to raise \$30,000 bail to get Mark out of jail. The police were surprised he got out so quickly. And this allowed Stu Singer, who is now the coordinator of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, to take the photograph that shows Mark's face after the cops beat him, a photo

Continued on next page



Stu Singer (with glasses) and Mark Pennington confer during Curtis' trial. Singer is coordinator of Mark Curtis Defense Committee and Pennington is Curtis' lawyer. At right, Curtis and supporters at Sept. 4, 1988, international defense rally. Left to right, Edna Griffin, civil rights activist in Des Moines; Kate Kaku, Curtis' wife; Curtis; and Susan Mnumzana, a leader of African National Congress of South Africa.



Continued from previous page
which has helped convince many people to support the defense effort.

March 4, 1988

Let's review what was happening politically and what Curtis was doing the day he got framed and beaten.

It started with 10 of Mark's coworkers walking off the line at 2:00 p.m. because they wanted to attend the meeting taking place at that time to defend the Swift 17. Some of the workers right near Mark were part of the walk-off.

Mark testified at his trial last September that this "electrified" the plant because it shut down production. Brian Willey, who also worked at Swift at the time, testified on Mark's behalf at the trial. He said, "It was very unusual because when that line stopped they lose like \$10,000 a minute, and it crippled the plant for a while."

Swift management was only able to convince everyone to go back to work by hurriedly getting Hispanic community leaders to agree to schedule another meeting for 5:00 p.m.

The 2:00 p.m. meeting was a heated confrontation between supporters of the Swift 17 and representatives of the INS and Justice Department. People wanted to know why the workers were arrested on felony charges, how this could happen to people who had applied for amnesty, and what was going to happen to the workers that were in jail.

But all they got was bureaucratic double-talk for an answer. James Cole, speaking for the INS office in Omaha, Nebraska, said the 17 were arrested because they used fake documents, not because they were "illegal aliens."

"Amnesty is for illegal aliens," he said, "not protection from prosecution for felony crimes." Cole said that the INS didn't obtain the information to arrest the Swift 17 from the amnesty applications or from Swift management; this was solely an operation of the INS and U.S. Justice Department, he claimed.

U.S. Attorney Christopher Hagen, writing in response to a complaint about the raid from the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, said, "The fact that seven of the 17 individuals arrested at Swift had applied for legalization is coincidental. Indeed, it is my understanding that the Immigration and Naturalization Service agents could not have access to this information. Further, there is absolutely no substance to the argument that Swift contacted the U.S. Attorney's Office or the Immigration and Naturalization Service regarding the status of these seven individuals."

This let Swift off the hook—the company supposedly met all the legal requirements for hiring workers and violated no federal laws. And Swift could claim no knowledge that it had hired anyone that was in the country illegally.

Ellen Whitt, a political activist and friend of Mark's who worked the first shift at Swift, attended the 2:00 p.m. meeting. She spoke about the need for the union to back the Swift 17—the same thing that Mark was to do later at the 5:00 p.m. meeting. As a result of what she said, Channel 13 wanted to interview Whitt. While the reporter was talking to her, the Swift personnel director came over and interrupted. He said: You can't interview her, she's a *Militant* person, not a Swift worker.

That incident showed how edgy Swift management was, how much they were directly involved in what happened at the meeting, and how worried they were about workers' reactions to the raid.

Political literature was circulated at this meeting, including the *Militant*, and there was a discussion among activists there about the need to call a demonstration to defend the Swift 17. "A March for Justice" was planned for the following week. More than 200 turned out for the march, which was supported by many of the same forces that had protested police racism in Clive.

Mark was able to attend the second meeting at 5:00, where he spoke in Spanish about the need for the union to defend the Swift 17. At his trial months later, prosecutor

Catherine Thune made a big point that Mark "wasn't a scheduled speaker." She's not overly familiar with protest meetings.

The Swift 17 defense effort was successful and led to some senators inquiring as to why these arrests had taken place, in light of the immigration reform act. The felony charges were dropped to misdemeanors, and the misdemeanor charges were suspended. There were no attempts to deport any of the 17. The entire escapade backfired on the federal government.

The defense effort for Mark was an added pressure on the authorities and contributed to the victory of the Swift 17.

After the 5:00 protest meeting, Mark went to the Los Compadres bar, near the Swift plant. He had been there many times before. It's a place where workers cash their checks, eat, talk, and have a few beers.

Mark did what he usually does: he discussed politics with other workers. He talked with people who weren't involved in the Swift 17 protest, trying to draw them into political activity. Brian Willey testified at Mark's trial that he wasn't a socialist, wasn't politically active, and didn't like to go to meetings. But he liked Mark and was inter-



Joseph Gonzalez testifies at September 1988 trial. He was the cop who arrested Curtis, pulled down Curtis' pants, claiming that he caught Curtis with his pants down in middle of raping a young woman. Chief witness for the prosecution, Gonzalez had previously been suspended for lying on a police report. Judge prevented jury from hearing about Gonzalez' record.



Militant/Linda Marcus

ested in what he had to say about things. He was one of several people Mark spoke to in Los Compadres that night.

Mark left at about 8:30. He went home to pick up a note and a check from his wife, Kate Kaku. He was expecting two friends from out of town that night, Kevin Magee and Myung Kim. They were going to stop at the Rural Women's Conference taking place in Des Moines that weekend and then go over to Curtis's house. Magee was going to speak about a recent trip to Nicaragua at a Militant Labor Forum the following night, which Curtis was organizing.

But Mark had to run out to buy groceries because he was going to cook a dinner for forum participants. So he called two friends, Ellen Whitt and Jackie Floyd, to let them know he would be out for a little while. Magee and Kim would likely call Whitt or Floyd looking for Mark if they showed up before Mark returned.

The frame-up

What happened to him in the next eight minutes shaped the specific character of this frame-up. Curtis left his house to drive to the Hy-Vee grocery store. On the way there, when he was four blocks from his house at the corner of Clark and Harding, a young Black woman approached his car and pleaded for help. She told him that someone from the TNT bar a block away was after her. She urged Curtis to take her home, and he agreed.

Mark asked her if she wanted him to call the police. She said no, just drive me a few blocks to my house. Mark followed her directions and took her to 17th Street. She had him wait on the front porch while she went inside to make sure that the person who threatened her wasn't waiting for her. Mark never saw her again.

Why did Mark help the woman? Not long before, a woman had been shot at the TNT, so he was concerned about her safety. In addition, a close family member of Mark's had been raped. He felt, therefore, that it was necessary to intervene on behalf of a woman who was in danger of being attacked.

Mark was only on the closed-in porch for a few minutes when a policeman charged in. Officer Joseph Gonzalez grabbed Mark, took him to the back bedroom, handcuffed him, pulled down his pants, and said, "Let's see what we have here." Then he read him his rights.

According to the cops' story, the other arresting officer, Richard Glade, ran around to the back of the house to make sure Curtis couldn't escape. Gonzalez then took Mark out of the house, with his hands cuffed behind his back, holding up his unfastened and unzipped trousers.

When Gonzalez pulled Mark's pants down, the frame-up began. The evidence that it was a *political* frame-up followed.

At the police station, Mark was taken to a room off the booking area. In a so-called interrogation, he was told to strip and put his clothes in a paper bag. Then the police

beat him while they called him a "Mexican-lover just like you love those coloreds." The beating and racist taunts show the political character of the frame-up.

Charles Wolf and Daniel Dusenbery, who beat Curtis, knew who he was—a political activist. This wasn't difficult for the cops to figure out.

Gonzalez took the keys to Mark's car, which was parked right in front of the house. Inside was a leaflet publicizing a meeting to celebrate the victory in the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance lawsuit against decades of FBI spying, harassment, and disruption. The flier also mentioned the Swift 17, cop racism in Clive, anti-CIA protests at the University of Iowa, the fight of people with AIDS, and the framed-up Kentucky miners.

And Mark had a reputation in the city, as I've already described, as a political activist.

In addition, punching his name in the cop computer would turn up the FBI file that was established on Mark for his antiwar activities. He was one of many people targeted for illegal FBI spying in the government's campaign against the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES).

Arresting cop: record of lying

What Gonzalez did that night was nothing new for him. Fabricating evidence, such as pulling down Mark's pants, is standard operating procedure for the cops. But Gonzalez had also been caught previously lying on a police report and brutalizing a suspect. In fact, he had been suspended and put on probation for a year.

Mark's story of what happened that night gives us all the facts that show this is a political frame-up. We don't have the facts to show a complex preplanned conspiracy. And we don't have to.

Mark doesn't have to explain why each person did what they did that night. He doesn't have to prove a connection between the cops, the alleged victim, and the woman he gave a ride to. We don't have to add to Mark's story, or try to "improve" it. His story is *the* story. At the trial, the evidence fit Mark's story, not that of the cops.

We defend Curtis because the facts show that he is not guilty of the charges, not simply because he is a worker, a unionist, a political activist, a radical, a socialist, and a member of the SWP.

We don't ask people to believe us simply on the basis of the state bringing charges against a political activist. Curtis was charged with rape, which we in the SWP, as supporters of women's rights, think is a terrible crime. We are defending Curtis based on the facts, of which Mark's story is part. We point to the facts that show Mark was victimized for his political activities, and why he is not guilty of the charges.

A political frame-up occurs when someone is unjustly charged with a crime because of their political ideas and deeds.

In the case of Mark Curtis, he was framed for political activities. This is proven when the cops call him a "Mexican-lover just like you love those coloreds" as they beat him.

Like everyone else, Mark is supposed to have the right to presumption of innocence, a very important conquest of humanity.

The capitalist "justice" system, however, turns everything on its head. When it's your word against the cops, you're presumed guilty. The system routinely grinds away, backing up the cops.

The day after Mark's arrest, the *Des Moines Register* ran an article based on the police report: an 11-year-old boy had called the police the evening of March 4, who arrived in time to interrupt a rape-in-progress of his sister. At that point the frame-up of Mark Curtis was wrapped the tightest. Only the cops' story was in the public eye.

Ever since then supporters of Mark Curtis have been kicking apart this frame-up and unraveling it. One measure of our success was the weakness of the case the prosecution presented at the trial.

The state of Iowa put a lot of time and resources into carefully sculpting this frame. They changed the original charges from second-degree sexual abuse to third-degree sexual abuse. One reason might be that the alleged victim had claimed her attacker told her he had a knife, but the prosecution never produced any knife to substantiate the allegation.

The key thing, however, is that the charge of burglary was added, which carries a mandatory sentence of 25 years. Nobody claims Mark stole anything—the burglary consists of his allegedly being in the house uninvited, and committing a felony on the premises. The addition of this charge showed just how badly the authorities wanted him in jail.

Curtis' trial was a travesty of justice. The key evidence for a political and legal defense was barred from the trial by the judge.

- The jury was not allowed to know about Mark's beating by the cops and the fact that they called him "a Mexican-lover, just like you love those coloreds," which proves they knew who he was.

- Curtis' motivation for helping the woman—the fact that someone in his family was raped—was kept out of the trial.

- The record of lying of the chief prosecution witness, Gonzalez, could not be mentioned.

- The several years of illegal FBI spying on Curtis for its antiwar activity was not allowed to be introduced by the defense.

- Nor was the public campaign by the cops and prosecution to disrupt the defense effort. No mention could be made of the attack by Keith Morris, the father of the alleged victim, on the Mark Curtis Defense Committee.

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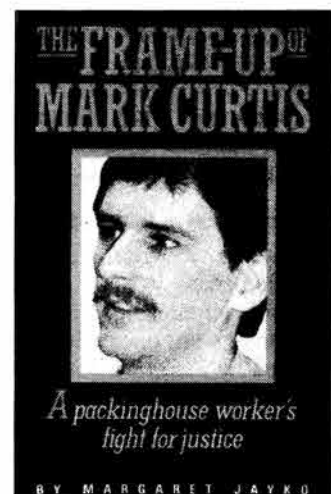
NEW from PATHFINDER

The Frame-up of Mark Curtis A Packinghouse Worker's Fight for Justice by Margaret Jayko

This pamphlet tells the story of Mark Curtis, a unionist and fighter for immigrant rights, who is serving a 25-year sentence in an Iowa prison on trumped-up rape charges.

Framed up and badly beaten in March 1988 by the Des Moines, Iowa, cops, Mark Curtis has already won widespread support in the U.S. and around the world. This pamphlet details the facts of the Mark Curtis story, where it fits into the struggles of working people today, and what you can do to help win this fight for justice. 71 pp., \$2.50

Available at Pathfinder bookstores listed on page 20, or by mail from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. (Please include \$.75 for postage and handling.)



Continued from previous page
offices in the Pathfinder Bookstore, where he smashed the front windows in an attempt to assault Curtis.

Not a jury of his peers

Curtis was denied his right to a jury of his peers. There were no Blacks in the jury pool, no farmers, and only a couple of workers on the jury itself. One juror submitted an affidavit after the trial saying she was convinced Curtis was not guilty. The jury had been deadlocked at one point, she wrote, 8 to 4; but she didn't know at the time that if she stuck to her guns the judge would have been forced to declare a mistrial.

The alleged victim testified she was attacked at 8:00 p.m.—at a time when Curtis was clear across town with dozens of people in the Los Compadres bar.

When she says the rape took place is critical. Mark arrived at his house at 8:30 p.m. that night. He left at 8:45 to go to the store. He stopped, helped a woman, who still remains unidentified, and got to the Morris residence at 8:50. The times in Mark's story, the cops' story, and the alleged victims younger brother converge at that point.

Mark says he was in the house at 8:50 p.m. and stood on the porch for a couple of minutes. The cops say they received a 911 call at 8:51. At 8:52 the police car is dispatched. At 8:53 the cops arrive and arrest Curtis.

The alleged victim insists she was attacked and raped. That may be so. It should be investigated. Any time a woman says she's raped, she should be given professional counseling and the charge should be investigated immediately. If a rape has occurred, the criminal should be apprehended, tried, convicted, and jailed.

But she's wrong about Mark Curtis. Curtis never even saw her that night. In fact, Mark never saw the alleged victim until he met her at a deposition, months after he was arrested.

The prosecution case has a big hole in it. They have no explanation for why Curtis was at the Morris house and why, out of the clear blue sky, supposedly committed such a brutal crime. They have no motive.

To fill this gaping hole, they began to concoct the story at the trial that Curtis mistakenly came to the Morris house in search of drugs. The prosecution offered no evidence of any connection of Curtis to the use or sale of illegal drugs. Prosecuting attorney Thune put a former neighbor of Curtis on the stand in an attempt to imply some vague connection and thereby hint at a motive.

But the prosecution's story is not believable. They imply Curtis went to the wrong house in search of drugs, parked his car right in front for anyone to see, spontaneously raped a young woman that they admit he never met before, and knowingly left her younger brother available to call the cops. And, Curtis did all this without knowing who else might be in the house.

Testimony of prosecution's forensic expert

A prosecution forensic expert, Paul Bush, testified that there was no physical or medical evidence of rape. There was no physical evidence, like pubic hairs, linking Curtis to the alleged victim. In addition, there was no physical evidence on Curtis' clothing that he was on the floor of the porch that night, a porch that was covered with debris, dirt, and dog hairs. The alleged victim had leaves, porch dirt, and dog hairs on her clothes. Curtis didn't.

The fact that there is no medical or physical evidence of rape and that the young woman testified there was no penetration doesn't mean Curtis' political or legal defense is based on the idea that he was only charged with attempted rape.

As defenders of women's rights, we don't judge whether a rape took place by whether there was penetration or not. Rape is a crime of sexual violence against a woman and a brutal rape may occur without penetration. We vigorously oppose all rape, in all forms.

The change in the charges against Curtis from second-degree sexual abuse to third-degree do not reflect the difference between an actual rape and an attempted rape. The Iowa rape laws use different degrees to describe different levels of force, age of the victim, and other circumstances.

The most important thing about the charges being changed was the addition of the burglary charge, which carries a mandatory 25-year jail sentence.

Workers League presses frame-up

Curtis' conviction, far from ending the matter as the authorities had hoped, spurred an expansion of the international political campaign in defense of Curtis. So the pro-frame-up forces went into action.

A letter signed by Keith Morris, father of the alleged victim, was sent to Curtis supporters around the world. It says Curtis is a convicted rapist who attacked his daughter. It states that Curtis was looking for drugs and ended up at the wrong house.

Addressing those Curtis supporters who have enough experience to know that cops rarely defend Black rape victims and often go after militant unionists and political activists, Morris claimed that the cops have improved in the last couple of decades. If they hadn't arrived at the scene, he claimed, his children might have been murdered. And, he charged, the political campaign in defense of

Curtis is actually an attack directed at his Black working-class family.

This letter is heavily promoted by the *Bulletin* newspaper, which is the paper of a provocative sect called the Workers League. The Workers League adds a few charges of its own to the ones in the letter signed by Morris.

It says the defense committee is a front for the SWP, a lie that is easy to disprove. It presses its longstanding slander that the SWP is run by government agents, and therefore we are defending Curtis, who we supposedly know is guilty, as a way to disrupt the labor movement.

The Workers League is ready-made for this operation because it has a proven record of disrupting the labor movement, which more workers are learning about as the Workers League intervenes against strikes and other working-class struggles.

One of its most dangerous antilabor campaigns is its support for a lawsuit filed against the SWP in 1979, charging that because the party is run by FBI agents, the courts should have the right to regulate the internal affairs of the SWP. Instead of throwing this case out of court for the harassment lawsuit that it obviously is, federal Judge Mariana Pfaelzer has let it drag on and on, thus establishing a precedent of government intervention that threatens everyone's right to voluntary association.

The Workers League campaign against Curtis is its latest operation against the labor movement.

Until the letter signed by Keith Morris appeared, the Workers League could only quote the cops or prosecutors in their slander campaign—not a good position for an organization that claims to be socialist.

Now Morris, who has been painted up as a civil rights activist by the Workers League, has become a figure in the pro-prosecution campaign. The prosecutor's office put Morris on the stand at a July 1988 hearing, where he added new lies to the prosecution case. He claimed that after his arrest, Curtis had been on a campaign against Morris' children, swerving his car into Morris' daughter, and going to the schoolyard to harass her younger brother. As I already said, Morris attacked the defense committee office. And, in October 1988, he told the press that the SWP and the defense committee had burned leaves on his lawn in the shape of a cross.

Des Moines cops

Curtis was framed up in the middle of a giant scandal about racism and sexism in the Des Moines Police Department.

Deborah Lynch, a former policewoman, successfully sued the city and the cops, winning \$10,000 for what the judge called the "intensely degrading" sexual harassment directed against her by other cops. During her trial, officers admitted they dressed up in Ku Klux Klan robes to initiate new Black cops to the force. They called it a joke.

The Des Moines cops are like cops all around the country. They're just like the cops who killed two young Black men in Miami a couple of weeks ago, like the ones who rioted in New York's Tompkins Square Park last summer, like the ones in San Francisco who beat up farm workers' leader Dolores Huerta, like cops anywhere around the world that ride roughshod over workers and farmers.

A Des Moines Civil Service Commission report illustrated the widespread racism and sexism in the department. One of the cases cited was that of a police cadet who was fired for charging that cops had used racist terms about Black suspects.

She was reinstated after filing a lawsuit against the department. The commission said the police internal affairs investigator tended to clear the police supervisors from complaints arising within the department. The commission posed the question of what happened to complaints about police misconduct from outside the department.

Des Moines, Iowa

TEACH-IN TO EXPAND THE FIGHT FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

Discuss the federal civil rights lawsuit to be filed by Mark Curtis against the city of Des Moines and the police for their violations of Curtis' constitutional rights. A panel of speakers will take up the fight against the frame-up of Mark Curtis and other present and past battles for civil rights.

Saturday, May 13, 7:00 p.m.
reception at 6:00

Kirkwood Hotel, 4th and Walnut

Sponsored by the Mark Curtis Defense Committee. For more information call (515) 246-1695.

After Curtis filed a complaint about being beaten by the cops, they "investigated" themselves and found themselves innocent on all counts.

In the face of all these charges, Police Chief William Moulder has denied any objectionable conduct in the department whatsoever.

This untenable position, however, has been undermining the cops' credibility, which has caused concern among the city's rulers. One of the editors of the *Des Moines Register*, James Flansburg, wrote an opinion column warning that the only way the cops could regain their credibility is by admitting to at least some of the charges leveled against them and pledging to do better in the future.

Flansburg explained that the supporters of Mark Curtis had generated such an outpouring of international public protest that the cops had simply circled their wagons and denied that they were guilty of any sexist or racist conduct. They pretended "they're perfect, that everything is hunky-dory," he wrote, because they feared that admitting any wrongdoing would help the Curtis campaign.

But, Flansburg stressed, this is no longer possible. Public confidence is dwindling. Even if it's grist for the mill of the Curtis supporters, he argued, the cops have to clean up their image.

Far from backing off, Mark is going to be putting even more pressure on the cops. He is filing a federal civil rights lawsuit, suing the city of Des Moines for the cop beating. This will be a powerful new weapon in our political campaign to win justice for Mark Curtis.

Stakes in Curtis fight

The goal of the prosecution and the cops was to silence political activists, intimidate us, put limits on our ability to carry out politics. On that they have failed.

And they haven't settled the question of Curtis. Not by a long shot. In fact, support for the defense is growing.

In carrying out this frame-up, the ruling class underestimated the ability of workers and farmers, not only in Des Moines, but around the world, to see through this frame-up, to see through the charges, to see it for what it is despite the fact that the alleged victim is a Black woman, the arresting officer is Mexican-American, the prosecuting attorney is a woman, and the charge is rape.

Curtis wasn't someone who was out there, way to the left of what radicalizing working people are thinking and doing; he was *part of the vanguard*, and so a lot of fighters identify with him.

That's why pressing the frame-up is not a mistake for the rulers. They're compelled to draw the line against political activists, because they also know what's coming down the pike, the kind of struggles that the crisis of their system will lead to.

The stakes in this battle are high and growing. We're not backing off and neither are they.

Our goal is to win thousands of progressive-minded individuals from all walks of life, all over the world, to endorse and support the defense committee. We aim to influence public opinion so that it becomes known all over the world that Mark Curtis was arrested, framed up, and beaten for his political activism. We want people everywhere to learn that he had an unfair trial and is serving an unjust sentence.

They haven't been able to break Mark Curtis. He's having political discussions in prison just like he did at Swift and in Des Moines. He carries himself with dignity. And he's effective there.

When he was sentenced, Mark told the court, "Up until now, the goal of a conviction is succeeding, and like many others, I'll do jail time. This will be fought around the world until it's defeated."

"But the goal of demoralizing and discrediting me and my supporters has not and will not succeed. I'm going to keep on being part of the fight for working people. As far as that goes I'll never be separated from people in struggle for their rights. This battle is not over. My case is unusual in only one respect. That is, the number of people involved in fighting this victimization, which is only beginning to grow. I will be freed."

If we carry out this political campaign, Mark Curtis will not spend any of the time in jail in vain. We can't shorten the time that he spends in prison just because we want to, anymore than we could bring about a fair trial. We don't know how much of that sentence he'll have to serve.

But our goal is to make the ruling class pay the highest possible price for having put him behind bars. If we lose this fight, the class enemy will gain real ground against the vanguard and against the working class. We will suffer a blow to the integrity of political activists. It'll be easier for them to slander and degrade and frame us. This is a political struggle over who we are, what we stand for, and what we do.

But we can't lose if we fight, if we don't lose our nerve, if we reach out, if we organize. We can only gain, and Mark will gain in the process. The support we've already won proves we can deepen and broaden support worldwide if we work at it.

By winning this fight, we open up the road for solidarity with other fighters, other victims, for workers and farmers and progressive causes around the world.

Justice for Mark Curtis!

Good crop little help to Nicaragua farmers

Bigger harvests of corn, beans, and rice result in lower prices to producers

BY JUDY WHITE

SABANA GRANDE, Nicaragua — "Last year we planted 300 acres of corn and 20 of rice here," explained Salvador Ocón, pointing toward fields largely overgrown with weeds. "But for the new planting season, for May, we still haven't discovered the formula for how to plant anything."

Ocón is a member of the executive board of the "Juan Ramón Robles" collective farm, which is the main component of a group of collective farms that produce corn, rice, and beans — the country's main food crops — in the Managua area.

Last year saw a big increase in production of these food staples. This was the result of good weather and of the end of the contra war. Corn production was up 59 percent, beans 78 percent, and rice 49 percent.

But the workings of the market translated this expanded production into disaster for many small farmers, who are the main producers of corn and beans, and who also grow a substantial part of Nicaragua's rice. The bigger crop meant these farmers had to sell their product at lower prices.

At the Juan Ramón Robles farm the proceeds from the sale of the crop were so low "we ended up at zero," said Salvador Ocón. The farm, he added, had to sell two tractors and a trailer to pay off the bank loan it had taken out.

Like many farms, Juan Ramón Robles is cutting back production of food staples this season because the partners don't think they can make enough to cover interest on a new bank loan and other production costs.

"It doesn't enter your mind to go to the bank now and ask for a loan," Salvador's brother, Harvey, interjected. "Last month the bank offered us money but we couldn't accept the loan. We wouldn't have been able to pay back the interest, let alone the principal." Harvey Ocón is the farm's bookkeeper.

Meanwhile, according to the Ocón brothers, the collective farm has virtually stopped functioning.

"Of the 20 members we had when we founded the farm two years ago, there are 15 left," Salvador said. "Two quit because they weren't in agreement with the group's proposal on reinvesting our profits to develop the farm. The other three left because they didn't see any prospect of being able



Salvador Ocón (left) and Harvey Ocón belong to the Juan Ramón Robles collective farm in Sabana Grande.

to survive here."

Moreover, he continued, given the uncertainty about the spring planting, "we voted to send those members who have houses in Managua back there temporarily to look for other jobs. The 10 families who have stayed on here are planting vegetables on their own to sell and survive until the collective farm can begin to operate again.

"Maybe we'll plant soybeans, but we can't do that until after the rainy season, until September," Salvador said.

"We've also discussed changing over to half agricultural production and half cattle raising. But to make a change like that,

we'd need some heavy investment," added Harvey.

Small poultry farmers

The situation facing small chicken farmers is even more desperate.

According to the National Union of Farmers and Ranchers (UNAG) between 70 and 80 percent of these farmers have gone under since June 1988, when government financial reforms ended some policies that had indirectly subsidized their costs.

The government has decided that the country cannot afford as many chickens and eggs as it has been producing. Much of what goes into chicken feed is imported,

and feed makes up more than 50 percent of poultry production.

As they have gone broke, some small chicken farmers have given up. Others, however, are still fighting to keep their farms going.

A recent national assembly of UNAG-organized poultry farmers discussed the problems they face. The farmers' central demand was for easier credit from the National Development Bank.

"It's not true, as the bank says, that we are less efficient than the big poultry producers," insisted Noel Pavón, who was elected president of UNAG's newly formed Poultry Commission at the assembly. "Under the same conditions, we can produce chicken and eggs cheaper than they can. But we suffer from a monopoly in the feed industry."

"These companies also monopolize the supplies of raw materials to make feed," explained another farmer. "They force us to buy from them at the price they want to charge."

"Ninety percent of chickens on the market now come from Tip Top," Pavón said. Tip Top is a big, privately owned business.

This crisis affects entire families, pointed out one woman farmer, "since the majority of those who work with us in poultry production are members of our families." For some 75 percent of small chicken and egg producers, their farms are the sole source of family income, according to UNAG figures.

Marcelo Mayorga, executive vice-director of the National Development Bank, speaking to the UNAG assembly, said, "Unfortunately, there's not much to say." After the revolution, there was an expansion of chicken and egg production because "the population demanded the product."

But now, Mayorga continued, people cannot afford to buy chicken and eggs, so "this enormous expansion that took place in poultry production cannot continue."

There will be no preferential government policies for small poultry producers, the bank official stated. "Those who survive," he said, "will be those who have lowest production costs."

Daniel Núñez, president of UNAG, also addressed the poultry farmers at the close of their assembly.

"It concerns me deeply," he said, "that we are reaching a moral crisis with regard to this branch of production. We must be very careful about this. We cannot speak of the death of peasant poultry production because then we are talking about the death of the entire project, of the mixed economy."

Less will be planted

According to Francisco Gómez, a leader of UNAG in the region surrounding Managua, the net result of the crisis facing small farmers is that "probably this year people will plant less than last year. We don't want to suggest this, but this is what we've found out from talking to farmers. They say to us, 'So as not to get in hock to the bank, so as not to buy supplies at super-high prices, we are going to sow less.'"

Another effect of the crisis, Gómez said, is that many collective farms, cooperatives, and individual small producers have been forced to sell farm equipment in order to pay back bank loans.

Many farmers lay the blame for their problems on the interest rates charged by the bank. These rates have been indexed to rise automatically with the overall rate of inflation.

But if the price of a farmer's crop lags behind the overall inflation rate, paying back a loan can be impossible. To counteract this, UNAG has tried to convince the bank to peg interest rates to the price of the commodity produced by the farmer taking out each loan.

UNAG wants the government to purchase enough of the crop to keep the prices up. The farmers' union also wants to "link prices to the costs of production," according to Gustavo Toruño, a national UNAG leader.

Toruño told the daily *Barricada* that guaranteed prices are needed so that the farmer "will be able to visualize the modest margin of earnings he will get" when the harvest comes in.

Atlantic Coast residents discuss how to control food prices

BY MATILDE ZIMMERMANN

PUERTO CABEZAS, Nicaragua — The most frequently heard complaint here in the northern Atlantic Coast region of Nicaragua is that the prices of food and other basic necessities are too high.

A public discussion has broken out about how to control these prices. As this has unfolded many people have referred to the massive donation of food that arrives from Cuba four times a year. The most recent shipment arrived April 7.

Prices all over Nicaragua are high compared to workers' wages, and on the Atlantic Coast the situation is even worse. A beer here costs a day's pay for a truck driver. A pair of child's shoes costs as much as a maid makes in a month. Lunch in a very modest eatery costs more than a teacher makes in a day. Women complain they can never feed their families beef any more, and that now they can rarely even afford to buy turtle meat.

One reason people are angry about these prices is because they know that a significant proportion of the food sold in the region is given to Nicaragua free by Cuba.

The relationship between donations and prices is also a topic of discussion in the rest of Nicaragua. Newspaper articles question the recent dramatic increases in the price of milk, for example, given that much of the milk sold is reconstituted from donated powdered milk.

But the discussion in the North Atlantic

region has a special character because of the size of the Cuban donation. Every three months for several years Cuba has been shipping in enough basic necessities to maintain 50,000 people, one-third of the population of the North Atlantic region. The rations include beans, rice, sugar, flour, cooking oil, milk, canned meat and vegetables, soap, clothes, and shoes.

Given to regional government

This huge donation is given outright to the government of the North Atlantic region, which then sells it to the public to finance government operations and municipal and regional projects. The Cuban goods are sold through ENABAS, a state agency. There are no restrictions on who can buy them or on the amounts that can be purchased.

In late March and early April "face the people" meetings were held in various barrios of Puerto Cabezas.

Some of these dialogues between local government officials and community residents turned into shouting matches when the question of prices came up. Residents of every barrio complained angrily about merchants buying up the donated goods to store for resale later at much higher prices.

The laundry soap that came this past January, for example, was sold by ENABAS for 200 córdobas a bar. Then there was a period when it was hard to find even a single bar for sale. For the last few weeks

the shops and market stalls have had soap again — for 4,000 córdobas a bar.

One of the most desirable items in the donation is canned condensed milk. Residents of the coast developed a taste for it when the U.S. companies used to bring in Carnation. Speakers at the "face the people" meetings charged that the milk had been bought up and trucked out of the Atlantic Coast for sale in the Eastern Market of Managua. Whatever the truth of that allegation, there was no canned milk in the stores here by mid-February this year. Unlike the laundry soap, it never reappeared.

Sugar is now selling for 4,500 córdobas a pound here, three times the price in Managua. In the barrio of El Muelle, a stone's throw from the dock, women complained bitterly about the price of sugar. "Don't tell us it's so high because of the cost of transport," one shouted, "when it is given to us free and unloaded right here."

"If the government can't do anything about these prices," said another woman, "then give the stuff to the Chinese to sell." This proposal was made at virtually all of the barrio meetings. There used to be Chinese merchants in every town on the coast, and there are still a dozen or so shopkeepers of Chinese descent in Puerto Cabezas.

"It is wrong to speculate with the Cuban donation," said National Assembly delegate Dorotea Wilson at a meeting in the

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El Salvador: the struggle for peace

Trade unionists describe conditions after elections

BY SETH GALINSKY
AND CINDY JAQUITH

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador — Nine years after a civil war began here, El Salvador is locked in a deep social, economic, and political crisis.

The military conflict began in 1980, amidst a powerful upsurge of labor, peasant, and student struggles in this country of 5 million.

When the army-dominated regime increasingly responded with naked terror, five guerrilla groups formed the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) and began armed struggle in the countryside. The FMLN calls for a "people's democratic government" and independence from U.S. political domination.

In an effort to wipe out the FMLN-led freedom struggle, the Salvadoran government has slain tens of thousands — peasant and urban youth who joined the guerrillas, trade unionists, farm organizers, student activists, and priests and nuns.

In 1984, José Napoleón Duarte of the Christian Democratic Party was elected president of El Salvador with strong U.S. backing. He won support from many working people and middle-class layers through his promises to achieve peace and eradicate the human rights abuses of the armed forces and government death squads. He also promised economic reforms and prosperity.

Washington hoped Duarte would be able

The FMLN has also stepped up military operations here in the capital over the last year. These are carried out by units known as the "urban commandos." They have taken responsibility for bombings of government buildings and assassinations of some government officials.

In March urban commandos bombed two buildings here they charged were prostitution centers. There was damage but no deaths. A statement by urban commandos quoted in the daily *El Mundo* on March 29 said, "The prostitution centers that function in the metropolitan area have become targets of revolutionary military action, since they are poisonous for Salvadoran society and a focus of moral degradation."

Economic crisis

Agricultural production has sharply declined as the war has continued. The Association of Salvadoran Industrialists estimates that the 1988-89 coffee harvest will be only 50 percent of last year's. Coffee is the principal export crop in the country.

Unemployment runs at more than 30 percent, up from 20 percent at the beginning of the decade. More than 40 percent suffer underemployment. Real wages are half or less than what they were in 1980.

As of 1980, 3 percent of the population owned more than half the cultivatable land. While some large farms were taken over by the government that year and converted into

This worsening social and economic crisis was the context for the March 19 presidential elections. Alfredo Cristiani, candidate of the Nationalist Republican Alliance (Arena), was the victor.

Cristiani's main slogan was, "We need a change." Arena had already won the 1988 legislative elections on this basis, as middle-class voters deserted the Christian Democrats, attracted to Arena's promise to restore social stability.

Cristiani promised to revive the economy and provide more housing, health care, and education. This could be done, he argued,

\$1.2 million a day in U.S. aid goes to Salvadoran government.

by reducing state intervention in the economy, such as the government monopoly on coffee and sugar exports.

Cristiani argued that the land program of the Christian Democrats, especially the collective farms, had helped undermine the economy. He called for giving poor peasants title to their own individual plot of land. While sounding radical on the surface, the result of such a program would be to gradually concentrate more land in the hands of a few families, since small farmers would be unable to meet their debts and would eventually have to sell their land back to capitalist farmers.

Cristiani said he was willing to negotiate with the FMLN to end the war. He also said he favored a strong army, and he criticized the freeing of political prisoners by the Duarte regime.

But he pledged that Arena founder Roberto D'Aubuisson, widely assumed to have directed the death squads of the early 1980s, would not be given a post in his administration.

Christian Democrats' platform

The Christian Democrats ran Fidel Chávez Mena for president. They claimed Arena would bring back the death squads and destroy reforms such as the land program. This would jeopardize the U.S. aid on which the country is entirely dependent, they said.

In a *Newsweek* interview shortly before the election, Duarte held out the specter that an Arena victory could "plunge the country into total war." That would result in "an FMLN that would have growing popularity and renewed legitimacy," he warned. Only by keeping the "political center" — the Christian Democrats — in power could the country be saved from the "extremes," he said.

There were six other candidates in the running. A coalition ticket called the Democratic Convergence ran Guillermo Ungo, president of the Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR). The FDR is a political coalition that has blocked with the FMLN in its struggle for an end to military rule.

Ungo is also vice-president of the Second International, the world social-democratic organization. He campaigned for a negotiated political settlement to the war and a program of social and economic reforms.

FMLN response to elections

On Jan. 1, 1989, the FMLN General Command issued a year-end message over its clandestine station Radio Venceremos. The General Command is made up of the leaders of the five organizations within the FMLN.

The statement said that the "elections have lost all credibility as a mechanism through which a government might be established that can solve the nation's problems." It predicted that "the worsening of the crisis and tension provoked by popular discontent point toward imminent insurrection."

On January 24, the FMLN announced a peace proposal: If the Duarte regime postponed the elections for six months, kept the armed forces and U.S. government from interfering in them, and guaranteed demo-

cratic rights, the FMLN would urge all its supporters to participate in the elections and respect the results. The FMLN said it would advocate a vote for Convergence candidate Ungo.

The Duarte government initially rejected the proposal out of hand, but then responded by offering a six-week postponement of the elections. The guerrillas turned down Duarte's proposal, saying the time period was too short to guarantee democratic elections.

Then the FMLN issued a call for a boycott of the elections. It also called a nationwide transport stoppage. Several trucks and buses not observing the stoppage were destroyed. Guerrilla sabotage of power lines blacked out much of the capital.

On March 19, with virtually no public transportation running in the country, 995,000 of the 1.8 million registered voters went to the polls. More than 2 million Salvadorans are of voting age.

Alfredo Cristiani received 54 percent of the vote, with the Christian Democrats getting 36 percent. The Democratic Convergence was credited with a little more than 3 percent.

Opinions on candidates, peace

Interviews with working people found divided opinions on the elections, but there was a general consensus that the war should be ended now through negotiations.

In the La Mascota barrio, where families live in tin shacks perched on a ravine, many people said they voted for the Christian Democrats. The barrio has received U.S. funding, through the Christian Democrats, to build badly needed housing. Some fear the funds will be cut off once Arena is in office.

One resident who works as a restaurant cook expressed frustration that a negotiated settlement to the war has not come about yet. "The people are tired. Both sides are playing politics, playing with the people," he said.

In another part of town, Magnolia Morales, a domestic worker, said, "The war continues because the government won't come to an agreement with the armed fronts. The war is the government's fault."

Morales would have voted for the Democratic Convergence but couldn't because there were no buses. She said she disagreed with the FMLN cutting power lines because "it hurts everyone."

A security guard at the Shell plant said he was an Arena supporter. "The armed forces have the ability to defeat the guerrillas, and I don't understand why they just don't do it!" he said angrily.

A taxi driver said he was supporting Arena because of the bad state of the economy, especially high inflation.

An army sergeant at the military outpost in San Ramón, on the outskirts of the city, said the war had started "for social reasons: too much money in the hands of too few families." He didn't know how the fighting would end. "The negotiations just haven't worked," he said.

Two young men living in the 21st of June barrio said few in their community bothered to vote because no political party has ever offered them anything.

The 21st of June barrio is inhabited by peasants who moved to San Salvador from war zones in Chalatenango Province. Once they got to the city, however, they faced continual harassment from the police and authorities and received no government aid to start a new life. Few in the community have steady work, they said.

Army harassment in countryside

Peasants at the farm collective "El Carmen," in the province of La Paz, southeast of San Salvador, said they had voted last year but "it didn't bring us anything." The community did not go to the polls this year.

The peasants had been living in Chalatenango Province when the war started. "The army dropped bombs on us and accused us of being FMLN collaborators, which wasn't true," one woman said.

Finally moving to El Carmen, a farm in the government land program, the peasants still face some army harassment.

In November 1988, troops came to El



Militant/Cindy Jaquith

Passing out leaflets urging democratic rights during demonstration in downtown San Salvador. In recent years, political groups that had ceased all public activity because of army terror in early 1980s have reopened offices and begun holding demonstrations and meetings.

to politically isolate the FMLN sufficiently to defeat it. But despite massive U.S. aid to the Salvadoran regime and an army that has grown from 17,000 to 57,000 over the decade, the social crisis has worsened and the military conflict continues.

Today the war does not take the form of major battles between government and FMLN troops. Earlier army offensives aimed at wiping out the guerrillas and their rural base of support failed.

Nor is the government able to prevent the guerrillas from regularly carrying out ambushes and land-mine attacks, assaults on army garrisons, and sabotage of military and economic targets.

By the armed forces' own admission, the FMLN attacks take place throughout the country. In 1988, the guerrillas killed nine mayors accused of aiding government repression. Roughly half the mayors in the countryside resigned subsequently.

collective farms, wealth in El Salvador remains concentrated in the hands of a few families, particularly coffee growers.

Fifty percent of the rural population has no land, an increase of 10 percent from the 1970s. Tens of thousands of peasants rent land or perform services for a landowner in return for a small plot to till. Illiteracy in the countryside is 60 percent.

A half million war refugees live inside El Salvador and even more have fled to other countries. An estimated 700,000 families lack decent housing.

Health care has also deteriorated. An epidemic of measles claimed the lives of more than 100 people nationally in the last six months, most of them children.

These conditions prevail in a country that receives \$1.2 million a day in U.S. aid. Seventy percent or more of the U.S. aid since 1980 has gone directly or indirectly to the armed forces.



Militant/Seth Galinsky

March 26 demonstration in San Salvador calling for prosecution of Archbishop Oscar Romero's killers. "In the name of God, I beg you, I order you, to stop the repression," Romero told soldiers in weeks before his death. Since 1980 government has killed tens of thousands of peasants and youth, unionists, farm organizers, student activists, and priests and nuns.

Carmen and searched everyone's homes, accusing the residents of aiding the FMLN. Soldiers claimed to have found "FMLN literature" in some of the houses. "But we knew they were lying because we didn't have any literature like that," one woman explained.

She said her husband and a young woman were both arrested and taken away. It took her eight days to get her husband out of jail, where he had been beaten.

Troops returned a month later and picked up a man and his son living in the most isolated hut on the farm. They were taken to the woods, beaten for three hours, and warned not to help the FMLN.

The FMLN has blown up power lines and burned cotton crops belonging to capitalist farmers in the area.

Views in labor movement

In recent years political groups that had ceased all public activity because of army terror in the early 1980s have reopened offices in San Salvador and begun holding demonstrations and public meetings.

One important coalition that was founded in 1986, as openings for political activity in the cities increased, is the National Unity of Salvadoran Workers (UNTS). Its affiliates include several labor federations; peasant organizations; students, workers, and faculty at the National University; and organi-

zations defending unemployed workers and shantytown dwellers.

The UNTS opposes the current regime and calls for a people's democratic government. It urged a boycott of the presidential elections and campaigned in favor of the FMLN peace proposal. It demands an end to U.S. aid to the Salvadoran armed forces.

"The crisis here cannot be resolved as long as there is a war," said Mario Cabrera, a UNTS executive committee member and

A half million refugees live in El Salvador. An estimated 700,000 families lack decent housing.

transport union leader. "The economy needs profound structural changes that cannot come about without peace. Add to this the mental tension that our people are living through, the bombs going off every day. There's a political crisis here that can only be solved through a policy of dialogue and negotiations."

Cabrera said, "The United States wants to maintain its control here. They don't want a change in the economic model."

The economic model he favors, he explained, "is one where if a big farm makes a million dollars' profit, that million is distributed more equitably. Where land is divided more equally and small farmers can get credit. Where capital is reinvested instead of being taken out of the country."

Marco Tulio Lima, president of the Confederation of Cooperative Associations of El Salvador (COACES), which organizes farm, transport, and credit cooperatives, is also on the UNTS executive committee. "Our task now is to fight for our social interests — for land, credit, jobs, health care, education, and human rights," he said.

"We need to fight to reduce the U.S. military aid," he added. "We hope these struggles will create pressure for a negotiated political settlement to the war."

Jorge Morales is general secretary of the teachers union ANDES, which belongs to the UNTS. "Right now the most important thing is to broaden our social base," he said.

Morales noted that "the FMLN has demonstrated its military capacity. Given the crisis in this country some people thought that an insurrection might be possible."

"But it's become clear that the conditions do not exist for the organization of an insurrection now," he continued. "It takes more than weapons. The masses must be mobilized. More sectors of Salvadoran society must be brought together. We need more alliances."

More political space to organize

The UNTS and organizations affiliated with it are able to hold street demonstrations against government policy, public meetings, and news conferences. Both the UNTS and COACES also have radio programs.

"The repression today is more selective than in the early 1980s," said Miguel Angel Rogel, a leader of the non-governmental Commission on Human Rights in El Salvador. In 1980, according to a report by the Christian Legal Aid office, 11,895 civilians were killed by the armed forces, police, or death squads. In 1981, the number rose to 16,276. It declined in subsequent years, to less than 1,000 reported civilian deaths in 1987.

But the Legal Education Office of the Catholic Church is concerned that political killings by uniformed government forces and death squads increased a bit in 1988.

Rogel said his office knew of eight people killed by the authorities in February 1989: two unionists and two student activists in the capital, and members of a peasant family in La Paz province. There were also 11 "disappearances."

Rogel said the number of political prisoners in jail today is about 100. This is down from 1988, when Duarte carried out a general amnesty, freeing some 400 political prisoners.

In March of this year, Juan José Huezco, organization secretary of the National Federation of Salvadoran Workers (FENASTRAS), and Carlos Huezco of the

UNTS publicity committee were arrested. They have still not been released. A number of student, labor, and unemployed organizers were also picked up during the month, held for a few days, and then released.

Challenges before unions

Several leaders of UNTS-affiliated unions said that they have lost members in the most recent period.

Edito Genovese, general secretary of the United Federation of Salvadoran Trade Unions (FUSS), said a FUSS local at the Sarti foundry in the capital went on strike last year for 100 days and was defeated. The owner then closed down and reopened with a new work force and no union.

Roberto Guatemala of the bank workers' union SIGEBAN explained the phenomenon of "parallel unions." When a pro-UNTS union has won support or perhaps a contract at a workplace, another union suddenly appears and says it actually represents the workers. The Ministry of Labor frequently rules in favor of recognizing the "parallel union" over the pro-UNTS organization.

Juan Antonio Moreno, publicity secretary of FENASTRAS, said the FENASTRAS membership is half what it was in 1980. Many of the losses have been in the last two years.

Three textile locals, for example, have been dismantled through maneuvers by the Ministry of Labor to withdraw recognition from FENASTRAS as the bargaining agent. Other locals have been lost through factory closings or defeated strikes.

The government and employers also use political intimidation. "They accuse us of being guerrillas," explained Rodolfo Prieto, general secretary of the water workers' union SETA, which is affiliated to FENASTRAS. SETA officials are currently banned from entering company property during work hours to talk to their membership. The government claims they might provoke strikes or sabotage.

Like the other organizations affiliated with the UNTS, FENASTRAS is routinely labeled an "FMLN front group" by the major media and armed forces.

UNOC

The National Worker-Peasant Union (UNOC) was founded in 1986 after the UNTS was established. It is made up of several union federations and some peasant groups, including the largest construction workers union in the country, the SUTC.

UNOC organizes some "parallel unions" in workplaces where UNTS-affiliated

Killings by death squads increased in 1988.

unions also exist. Some UNOC affiliates work with the American Institute for Free Labor Development, which is linked to the AFL-CIO in the United States.

Amanda Claribel Villatoro, an executive board member, said UNOC "tries not to be part of the polarization in this country between left and right. We are the center, the democratic tendency."

She charged that the armed forces and death squads have victimized UNOC members, but also accused the FMLN of "violence." UNOC endorsed the Christian Democrats in the elections.

Pedro Regalado, UNOC leader and general secretary of the SUTC, said that Duarte had tried to create jobs, "but big capital wouldn't invest. Thank goodness for the friendly governments that sent us aid."

Regalado added: "I'm a social democrat. I'm for socialism in this country, but it has to be with democracy."

Asked whether UNOC favored continued U.S. aid to the new government, Simón Parada, head of an association of collective farms, said, "The aid must be reviewed and tied to more freedom, human rights, and the

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Militant/Seth Galinsky

Peasant's home at El Carmen farm collective in La Paz Province. Social crisis is worsening. Fifty percent of rural population has no land, an increase of 10 percent from 1970s. Illiteracy in countryside is 60 percent.

Pittston's profits leave trail of blood in Appalachia

BY JIM ALTENBERG

WISE, Va. — Residents of coalfield towns in this part of Appalachia, victimized by Pittston Coal company for years, attended the April 30 miners' support rally here en masse. They have donned the strikers' camouflage and joined the struggle under the banner of the United Mine Workers of America.

Some recent history helps to explain why this is happening.

In February 1972 a lethal wall of water poured down Buffalo Creek in West Virginia when a Pittston coal-waste dam broke after heavy rains. Company engineers knew the dam was unsafe, but they said nothing. One hundred twenty-five people died and 4,000 were left homeless. The lives of thousands of coal-town residents along the narrow hollow were ruined.

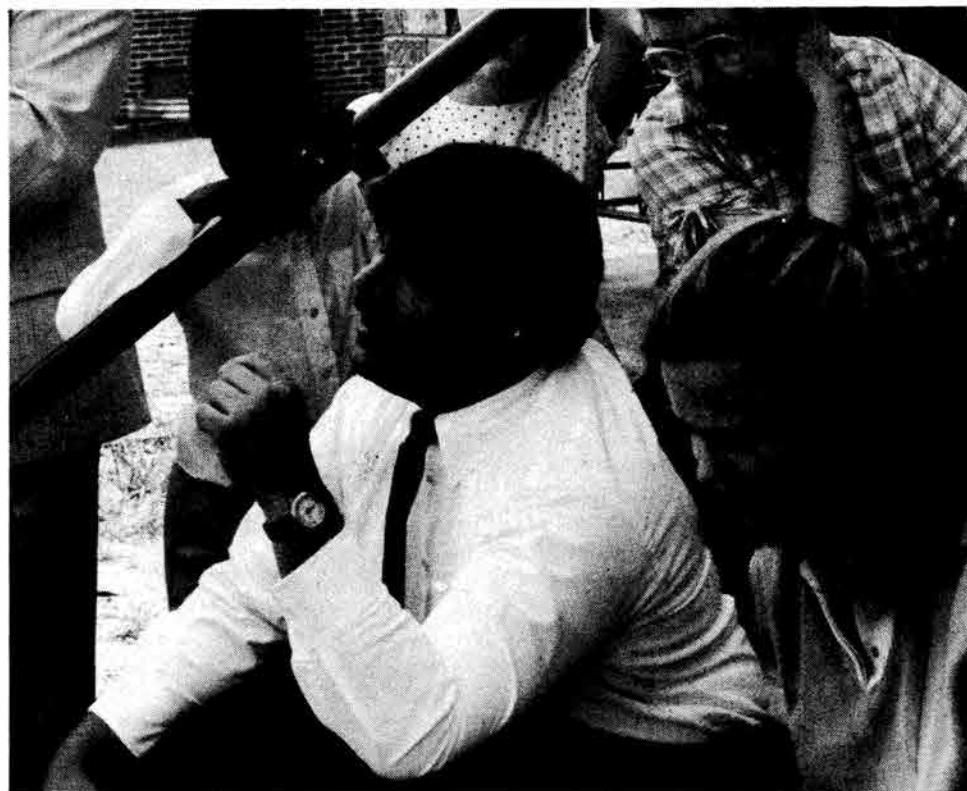
Pittston called the Buffalo Creek flood "an act of God" and paid only a pittance in damages when courts ruled that the com-

pany had been negligent. Pittston was later freed from paying for cleanup costs by then-governor Archibald Moore, who imposed this expense upon the state's taxpayers.

Pittston's McClure No. 1 mine was the scene of Virginia's worst mine disaster in decades on June 21, 1983. A methane gas explosion took the lives of six miners and a foreman, including the first woman miner to lose her life in a Virginia coal mine. Many others were maimed in the blast.

They are now among the 1,500 widows, retirees, and disabled workers whose health insurance was cut off by Pittston in February 1988, when the union's contract with the company expired.

In 1984 two women miners sued Pittston after a "peephole" drilled into the women's bathhouse was discovered at one of the company's mines. One of the women was later seriously injured while shoveling coal



Militant/Steve Marshall
United Mine Workers President Richard Trumka outside Big Stone Gap Baptist Church in Big Stone Gap, Virginia, April 30.

in an isolated area of the mine. The miners lost the suit.

Since 1984, when Pittston reorganized its coal operations under chief executive offi-

cer Paul Douglas, titles to tens of millions of coal reserves have been transferred from the company's unionized mines to a new division of nonunion subsidiaries, a practice known as "double-breasting." Pittston has also increased its purchases of non-union coal from small subcontractors. This has resulted in the layoff of over 4,000 UMW members, and has enabled Pittston to work miners at reduced wages and in more dangerous working conditions.

In recent months, Pittston put large ads in help-wanted columns to recruit strike-breakers. It also announced that it would bring into the coalfields the "asset protection team" of Vance Security.

These heavily armed thugs, now joined by hundreds of Virginia state police, have opened a new stage in Pittston's war against the coalfield communities.

Bitter battle mounts in coal strike

Continued from front page

Along the way, the buses were blocked, disabled, and denied gasoline sales by strike supporters.

Ninety-seven of those arrested that day were women. Miners' wives, daughters, and other women supporters have joined the ladies' auxiliary and renamed it the "Daughters of Mother Jones."

As the arrests reached 1,000 over the next three days, hundreds of students staged protest strikes at nine high schools. On April 28 Castlewood High students blocked access for two hours at a motel where state troopers were quartered.

Fifty miles away that same day, 100 students left Powell Valley High and rallied noisily at the offices of Westmoreland Coal Co.

Since the miners struck on April 5, Pittston's coal mining operations have been reduced to a trickle. The UMW has concentrated its pickets at Pittston's Moss No. 3 coal-preparation plant and McClure mine, where mass sit-ins of up to 500 pickets frequently block incoming coal trucks and disrupt production schedules.

These actions have been the targets of the troopers' attacks.

With Pittston's production crippled, Westmoreland Coal Co. contracted early in the strike to cover Pittston's orders. On April 22, some 700 Westmoreland miners began taking "memorial days." These are

days off, specified in UMW contracts, that the union may take at any time.

The Westmoreland miners joined picket lines at Pittston mines and were arrested along with the strikers. They continued taking memorial days for another week and threatened to strike if Westmoreland persisted in its strike-breaking aid to Pittston.

On May 1, the day after the huge rally, Westmoreland gave in and broke its 300,000-ton contract with Pittston. With this victory, the 700 Westmoreland miners returned to work.

The next day the coal bosses stepped up their violence.

Jesse Meadows, who leases Jamb Coal from Pittston, tried to lead a convoy of three coal trucks to the Moss No. 3 plant. Finding their way blocked by a mudslide, the strike-breakers turned back. Then Meadows veered off the road and slammed his pickup truck into a group of miners.

One of the coal truck drivers resigned on the spot and offered to testify against Meadows. Other witnesses said the coal boss backed up to hit the miners again.

Seven strikers were run down. When state troopers arrived they ignored the wounded miners and rescued the coal boss — aiming shotguns at coal miners.

Norman Combo, a 33-year-old miner at Pittston's Splashtam mine, was in critical condition with internal injuries.

On May 2 the UMW announced its

agreement to negotiate with Pittston under auspices of a federal mediator.

The immediate cause of this strike is Pittston's attempt to impose Sunday work, deep cuts in benefits, and subcontracting of work to nonunion companies.

But one after another, people here say that the outcome of this fight is crucial to the future of the entire region — and to the labor movement and working people everywhere.

Philippines: mass May Day rally protests gov't antilabor moves

BY RUSSELL JOHNSON

MANILA, Philippines — Tens of thousands of trade unionists rallied May 1 at Rizal Park in central Manila to celebrate the international labor day and protest the antilabor policies of Corazon Aquino's government.

The rally was organized by the Labor Advisory and Consultative Council (LACC), a coalition of union federations spearheaded by the May 1 Movement (KMU).

Beginning in early afternoon, contingents of thousands of chanting workers marched into the park from the separate rallying points of the different federations. Prominent were the banners of the Federation of Free Workers, World Federation of Trade Unions — Philippine Affiliates, and Lakas Manggagawa Labor Center, as well as those of smaller independent unions and government employees.

The great bulk of the crowd — some estimates said it was as large as 120,000 — surged enthusiastically into the park under the banner of the KMU and its affiliates.

T-shirt logos identified contingents of unionists from workplaces across the Manila region, including thousands of garment workers, staffs from the nearby tourist hotels, and taxi and other drivers. Students, women's groups and human rights organizations were also represented.

The other major union federation — the pro-government Trade Union Congress of the Philippines — refused to participate in the joint rally preferring to hold its own across town. Featured speakers included Aquino's Secretary of Labor, Franklin Drilon, and Senate President Jovito Salonga.

Demand raising minimum wage

The central theme of the LACC rally was the unions' demand for a 30 pesos, across-the-board increase in workers' daily pay. The current minimum wage for non-agriculture workers is 64 pesos (1 peso=US\$.05). LACC affiliates are calling for a nationwide strike to press their claims.

Earlier that morning Aquino had held a breakfast meeting with officials of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines and LACC at which she rejected the union pay-hike demand. She told the unionists to accept her proposed 15-peso increase in the minimum wage in Manila and substantially less elsewhere and maintain "industrial peace" to "sustain the momentum of economic recovery." KMU leaders boycotted the breakfast.

The KMU links Aquino's intransigence on the minimum wage to the Letter of Intent the government has submitted to the International Monetary Fund in the regime's bid to secure new loans. The letter outlines a series of austerity measures the government intends to carry out including the removal of subsidies on basic foods, such as rice, and the raising of the price of electricity, education, and other services.

Banners also scored the militarization of many parts of the countryside and repression of militant union activity by government forces. Just a few days earlier Manila-based troops had reported killing nine New People's Army guerrillas in a clash at a fish farm in Bulacan, just north of the capital. The "guerrillas" turned out to be fish pond workers.

Protesters teargassed

As the rally closed several thousand participants began marching toward the U.S. embassy, less than a block away. Hundreds of riot police backed by fire trucks blocked their way and a confrontation ensued. Seizing the opportunity, the police began tear-gassing the crowd. The demonstrators fled, leaving banners, shoes, and even a truck behind. Jeep-loads of police then poured into the park firing tear gas at the thousands of workers still there. A number of workers were injured in the ensuing panic and some were arrested.

The Manila rally was the centerpiece of May Day protests throughout the country. Large rallies were also reported in Bacolod City, in the Negros sugar lands, and Davao City in Mindanao.

Alabama socialist: 'Workers have two labor battles to stand up for'



John Hawkins

Militant/Robert Kopeck

"Working people in Alabama and across the country have two important labor battles to stand up for: the strike by Machinists, flight attendants, and pilots at Eastern Airlines and the strike by United Mine Workers members against Pittston Coal," said John Hawkins, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Birmingham, Alabama, City Council, in a May 2 statement. "Both deserve the all-out support of every working person and every fighter for social justice."

Hawkins, a longtime Black rights fighter, works as a coal miner at Jim Walters Resources No. 5 Mine in Brookwood, Alabama. He is a member of the United Mine Workers.

"These two strikes show the potential strength and unity of the labor movement, and have boosted the confidence of working people everywhere, both in and out of unions," Hawkins continued. "They show the capacity of the labor movement, to fight back against the capitalists' anti-union drive."

Irish prison: school for political study

Pathfinder books will enable Long Kesh inmates to broaden their education

BY SAM MANUEL

BELFAST, Ireland—The infamous Long Kesh prison has been turned into a school for political study through the struggles of the Irish republican activists imprisoned there.

Long Kesh lies in an isolated area about half an hour's drive from Belfast. It looks like a huge concentration camp, with only watchtowers visible above the massive concrete walls that surround its eight H-shaped prison blocks.

The prison houses some 400 republicans, most of them in their mid-20s, who are serving "indeterminate" life sentences. Such individuals could spend their entire life in prison. Their release depends on the Life Sentence Review Board. One republican who has served 15 years was recently denied the opportunity to appeal for release for another five years.

Other prisoners are to be released, as their classification states, at the "secretary of state's pleasure." This status is often applied to minors convicted on such charges as possession of deadly weapons or explosives or attempting to kill members of the security forces.

Nearly 300 others at the prison are loyalists (collaborators with Britain's occupation of northern Ireland) and those convicted of nonpolitical offenses.

In 1981 republican leader Bobby Sands and nine others died during a hunger strike against conditions in the prison.

Many rights won

Patrick McKinely, a 24-year-old republican who is serving an indeterminate life sentence, explained that through their struggles the republicans have won many of their demands. These are centered on the general demand of republicans to be treated as political prisoners.

They have won the right to wear civilian clothes instead of the prison uniforms. Republicans do not perform prison work. Authorities have also conceded to setting aside separate prison blocks for republican activists. McKinely explained that sometimes those imprisoned for nonpolitical crimes take an interest in politics. Over time they may become republican supporters. In most

of these cases prison authorities agree to transfer the individual to the republican section of the prison.

Pathfinder delegation

In the discussion with McKinely I was accompanied by Rose Knight, a member of the National Union of Railwaymen in Britain. We were part of a 12-person delegation that had come here to support the right of Pathfinder Press to distribute its publications in the British-occupied north of Ireland, including at Long Kesh. Other members of the delegation met separately in groups of two to three with four other republican prisoners.

The delegation included Pathfinder London representative Peter Clifford, several British trade unionists, a member of the British Parliament, three members of Women Against Pit Closures, and a leader of the Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign in Britain.

Last fall Clifford was arrested and detained by security forces shortly after he left the prison. While on a sales trip Clifford had gone to Long Kesh to visit Brendan Donaghy. Donaghy, accused of membership in the outlawed Irish Republican Army and of killing a police officer, is serving an indeterminate life sentence.

The delegation members delivered two Pathfinder books to each of the five republican activists. They are allowed to receive a maximum of two books a week. Another 300 books were turned over to the Campaign for Lifers, a support group of relatives and friends of republicans serving life sentences. The books will eventually become part of the library set up by the republican prisoners.

School for political study

Space has been allocated for their library, and one of the prisoners is head librarian. The books have been cataloged and a system established for checking out and returning them. They include volumes on the social and natural sciences, mathematics, novels, and others. The prisoners donate books they receive to the library. Activists who are lucky enough to be released leave their books with the library.

The books donated by Pathfinder will enable the prisoners to broaden their study, McKinely explained. He especially looked forward to reading Pathfinder's titles on the Cuban and Nicaraguan revolution.

The day at Long Kesh begins at 8:30 a.m. The inmates are locked in their cells for 90 minutes around lunch time, for one hour around dinner, and from 8:30 p.m. until the following morning. McKinely explained that the republican activists organize their classes around that schedule.

The study groups are organized by wings. There are four wings to each H-shaped cell block.

The bulk of the study is on politics. Readings include the writings of Irish independence leaders such as James Connolly; historical works on the liberation struggles in Africa and Asia, from the Congo to Vietnam; and the works of outstanding communist leaders such as Karl Marx, Frederick Engels, and V.I. Lenin.

The groups usually study one chapter of a book at a time. Each person in the group is responsible for preparing an initial presentation of a chapter, to be followed by general discussion.

Emphasis is also placed on studying the history of the Irish struggle against British domination, and Irish culture. Gaelic, the Irish language, is also taught, although prison officials discourage it. Visits by family members have been terminated on

the spot if they are overheard speaking Gaelic.

Difficult security measures

Unifying their study is difficult, McKinely explained, because the wings are kept separated. In addition, classes are disrupted because inmates are moved to a different wing every two to three months. Leaders are placed in the "red book." They are moved every 10 days or so. Some have been subjected to this for up to six years.

The only time they are together, McKinely said, is for meals and worship. Much can be accomplished during these times, he noted.

Prison authorities claim these measures are necessary to prevent the republicans from planning to escape. On Sept. 25, 1983, some 38 republicans escaped from Long Kesh, the largest jailbreak in the prison's history.

Our visit to Long Kesh went unusually well. The extensive news coverage it received and the wide international protests over the arrest and detention of Clifford seemed to put prison officials on the defensive.

Commenting on the importance of getting Pathfinder books into Long Kesh, a republican who had recently been released said, "The Brits put the walls there, but we don't have to accept them."

— WORLD NEWS BRIEFS —

U.S. intervenes in Panama elections

President George Bush authorized the Central Intelligence Agency to give \$10 million dollars to support efforts to elect Guillermo Endara as president of Panama. Also at stake in the elections taking place May 7 are 2 vice-presidencies, 67 seats in the National Assembly, and 510 local representatives.

The U.S. intervention in the Panamanian elections was revealed by the Panamanian government and has been confirmed by reports in *U.S. News and World Report* and the *New York Times*. It is part of an ongoing campaign by Washington, which began in 1987, to remove the current Panamanian leaders. President Ronald Reagan's administration cut off all economic and military aid to Panama in July of that year.

Washington's fire has been aimed at Panamanian Gen. Manuel Noriega. He and other Panamanian government officials were indicted in U.S. courts on drug-trafficking charges in February 1988. The indictments were followed by a package of economic sanctions including withholding fees owed by the U.S. government for use of the Panama Canal.

On April 5 Bush said the sanctions against Panama might be expanded if the May 7 elections are judged by Washington to be fraudulent.

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 United States be implemented. The accords would give Panama control of the canal at the end of 1999.

Nuclear arms policy divides NATO group

A proposal by the West German government to initiate talks with the Soviet Union aimed at reducing short-range nuclear weapons has led to sharp exchanges with London and Washington. All three governments are members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. NATO will hold a 40th anniversary summit conference May 30-31 at which it is expected that Bonn will present its proposal.

In opposing negotiations with the Soviet Union on reduction of short-range

nuclear weapons, London and Washington have instead pressed for NATO to upgrade its U.S.-supplied short-range nuclear missile system, most of which is located in West Germany. Statements by West German government leaders have indicated their opposition to placing new nuclear weapons in the country. Short-range missiles are defined as those with a range of less than 300 miles.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has said that to initiate the talks would create public pressure to do away with all nuclear weapons, leaving Europe outmatched by Soviet conventional forces. She has argued that "conventional weapons do not deter war in Europe whereas nuclear weapons have done so for over 40 years." The April 20 London *Guardian* reported that the Pentagon has already proposed to base a new type of long-range nuclear bomber at Upper Heyford airbase in Oxfordshire, England.

In an April 27 speech before the West German parliament Chancellor Helmut Kohl acknowledged that his government's position was prompted by growing support in the country for disarmament, and the weakening of the governing coalition in recent local elections.

Indians in Canada fight NATO flights

The Innu, a Native American group in Labrador, Canada, is seeking a court injunction to halt NATO's low-level air flights over their hunting grounds. The Innu have been fighting the flights since they began in 1980. Last autumn they pitched tents and staged sit-ins on runways after Canadian Forces Base Goose Bay applied to become the site of a new NATO fighter weapons training center.

The center would boost the annual number of low-level flights from 7,000 to 40,000.

Judge James Igloliorte cleared four Innu of mischief charges resulting from the protest on the grounds the Innu acted on the honest belief that the base is on their land. The judge rejected the notion that the Crown could claim the land by its own declaration. No treaty was ever signed by the Innu ceding title to the 100,000 square miles of land where 9,500 Innu now live.

Judge Igloliorte is the first Native American to be named to the Newfoundland Provincial Court.



G. M. Cookson

Frances Donaghy, mother of life prisoner Brendan Donaghy, at March 18, 1989, Pathfinder news conference in Belfast, Northern Ireland. At left, Campaign for Lifers activist.

Khomeini sues 3 in Rushdie affair

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, leader of the Iranian government, has filed suit against three Yugoslavs for their role in publishing a criticism of his proclamation of a death sentence against Salman Rushdie, author of *The Satanic Verses*.

Khomeini filed suit against the editor of the Belgrade daily *Borba*, a reporter, and a writer. *Borba* had published an article by the reporter quoting the writer as labeling the sentence against Rushdie a "frightening threat."

The suit cites a Yugoslav law barring

"public humiliation" of foreign countries or leaders.

Meanwhile, in London, Labour Party Member of Parliament Tony Benn introduced a bill to bar prosecutions for "schism, heresy, blasphemous libel, blasphemy at common law, or atheism."

The British government enacted a blasphemy act in the 17th century. In 1967 Parliament repealed the law, making blasphemy a common law offense. The publication *Gay News* was convicted and fined for this offense in 1977.

ARIZONA

Phoenix

Report from Valdez: The Exxon Oil Spill. Speaker: Robbie Scherr, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Seattle, just returned from fact-finding trip to Alaska. Thurs., May 11. Reception 6 p.m.; program 7 p.m. 1809 W Indian School Rd. Donation: \$4. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (602) 279-5850.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Zaire. Speaker: Camille Bolonga Bamba, Zairian exile forced to flee his country after leading student protests against President Mobutu and South African officials. Translation to Spanish. Sat., May 6, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

Community Update on Latest Stage of the Palestinian Deportation Case. Fri., May 12, 7:30 p.m. Los Angeles Unitarian Church, 2936 W 8th St. Sponsor: Committee for Justice to Stop the McCarran-Walter Act Deportations. For more information call (213) 413-2935.

Oakland

Mark Curtis Defense Committee Benefit. Premiere performance of *Ain't No Use in Goin' Home, Jodie's Got Your Gal and Gone: Sayings from the Life and Writings of Junebug Jabbo Jones, Vol. III*, by John O'Neal, performed by Oakland Ensemble Theatre. Sat., May 6, 8 p.m. Alice Arts Center, 14th and Alice. Donation: \$20. For tickets call (415) 420-1165 or 282-6255.

The Fight for Women's Lives and Equality. Speaker: Carolyn Allen, Socialist Workers Party, member United Steelworkers of America Local 1440. Translation to Spanish. Sat., May 13, 7:30 p.m. 3702 Telegraph Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (415) 420-1165.

Nicaragua, Cuba, and Revolutionary Perspectives Today. A discussion series for workers and activists held every Monday from 6-8 p.m. and Tuesdays 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in May and June. 3702 Telegraph Ave. Sponsor: Pathfinder Bookstore. For more information call (415) 420-1165.

FLORIDA

Miami

"We Are Driven." Video on Japanese auto in-

dustry. Discussion on why "Buy American" is dead end for U.S. workers. Speaker: Brett Merkey, Socialist Workers Party, member Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 694. Sat., May 6, 7:30 p.m. Translation to French and Spanish. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (305) 756-1020.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

The Freedom Struggle in Namibia. Weekend educational series. 1. "Response to the South African Escalation." Video of the Cuban and Angolan defeat of South African troops in Angola. Sat., May 6, 3 p.m. Discussion of video, 7:30 p.m. 2. "Voices in Exile: Namibia's Hidden Tears." Video by Rick Reed, Atlanta chapter co-coordinator of National Alliance of Third World Journalists. Sun., May 7, 3 p.m. 132 Cone St. NW, 2nd floor. Donation: \$2.50 each event, \$5 for weekend. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

Malcolm X: His Ideas and Their Meaning for Today. A class series sponsored by the Young Socialist Alliance and Socialist Workers Party, held Saturday May 13 and 20, 3 p.m. 132 Cone St. NW, 2nd floor. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

IOWA

Des Moines

Big Business and the Environment: Its Role in the Alaska Oil Spill and the Destruction of the World's Forests. Speakers: Tahnee Robertson, Grinnell College student, participated in Costa Rica reforestation project; John Studer, Socialist Workers Party, member United Food and Commercial Workers Local 431. Sat., May 6, 7:30 p.m. 2105 Forest Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (515) 246-1695.

MINNESOTA

Austin

Thirty Years of the Cuban Revolution: How Cuba Continues to Point the Way Forward. Slideshow presentation by Craig Honts, former Socialist Workers Party congressional candidate, traveled throughout Cuba in 1982. Sun., May 7, 6:30 p.m. 407 1/2 N Main St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (507) 433-3461.

the rightists were not well enough organized and armed.

According to Kamm's informants, a top aide to Bhutto argued that the rightists must attack Jalalabad immediately because, as Kamm summarized, "too much time had elapsed since the Soviet withdrawal was completed February 15 without a significant rebel victory. He said such a lag would help memories of the Soviet intervention to fade and would lead to Pakistan's being blamed for continuing a war the Soviets had given up."

On April 23 the Pakistani government denied ordering the attack on Jalalabad. An official in the George Bush administration said he did not know if the Pakistani government had done so. Another official said he did not know if U.S. Ambassador Oakley had attended a meeting where the attack was discussed.

St. Paul

Big Oil and the Environment: from Alaska to Minnesota. Slideshow on oil spill at Valdez. Presented by Michael Maggi, operator at Koch Refinery, member Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., May 6, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI

Kansas City

Freedom Now for Leonard Peltier. Speaker: Jim Robideau, field director, international office of Leonard Peltier Defense Committee. Translation to Spanish. Sat., May 6, 7 p.m. 5534 Troost. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (816) 444-7880.

NEW YORK

Brooklyn

The Drug Trade: A Highly Profitable Capitalist Business. Speaker: Marea Himelgrin, Young Socialist Alliance National Executive Committee, member International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union Local 23-25. Sat., May 6, 7:30 p.m. 464 Bergen. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (718) 398-6983.

Manhattan

South Africa and the Struggle for a Free Namibia. Speaker: Greg McCartan, Young Socialist Alliance national chairperson; representative of South West Africa People's Organisation. Translation to Spanish. Sat., May 6, 7:30 p.m. 191 7th Ave., 2nd floor. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (212) 675-6740.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

Namibia's Fight for Independence. Sun., May 7, 7 p.m. 2219 E Market. Donation \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (919) 272-5996.

OHIO

Cleveland

U.S. Nuclear Plants and Weapons: Threat to Humanity. Speakers: Nina McClellan, Sierra Club; Ned Measel, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., May 13, 7:30 p.m. 2521 Market Ave. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (216) 861-6150.

OREGON

Portland

Solidarity with Eastern Strikers! Speakers: Jack Elliott, flight attendant on strike against Eastern, member Transportation Workers Union Local 553; Deborah Higdon, Socialist Workers Party, member International Association of Machinists Local 63. Sat., May 6, 7:30 p.m. 2730 NE Union. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (503) 287-7416.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

Cuba: Its Place in World Politics. An educational weekend marking the Pathfinder Bookstore grand opening. 1. Forum with James Harris, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of New York City. Sat., May 6. Reception 6 p.m.; talk 7:30 p.m. 2. Two classes and discussion with national leaders of the SWP. "Cuba and the African Revolution," Sun., May 7, 10 a.m. "In Defense of Socialism: The Cuban Road," Sun., May 7, 2 p.m. All events translated to Spanish and held at 9 E Cheltenham Ave., 2nd floor.

LONDON

For Workers' Unity: Euro-Election Launch Meeting

Hear

Doreen Weppeler

Communist League candidate for the European Parliament, member National Union of Railwaymen

Geoff Revel, tube worker and member London District Council
NUR. Martyn Ahmet, member Amalgamated Engineering Union.

Sat., May 20, 7-11 p.m.

Jubilee Pub

York Road, Waterloo, SE 1

Donation: £2. Sponsor: Communist League. For more information call (01) 401-2293.

Donation: \$3 per session, \$6 for weekend. Sponsor: Pathfinder Bookstore. For more information call (215) 848-5044.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Winnsboro

Remember Sam Owens. March for Justice. Sun., May 7, 3 p.m. St. Paul's Baptist Church, Garden St. Sponsor: Winnsboro, Fairfield United Action. For more information call (803) 635-5728 or 254-9398.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

Abortion Rights and the Working Class. Speakers: Cheryl Wheeler, student leader of abortion rights group at the University of Washington; Jill Fein, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., May 6, 7:30 p.m. 5517 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

Fascism: What It Is and How to Fight It. Sat., May 20, 7:30 p.m. 5517 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

AUSTRALIA

Sydney

Behind the Frame-Up of Mark Curtis. Defend victimized U.S. packinghouse worker and speak out in defense of democratic rights. Participants: Kate Kaku, leader of Mark Curtis Defense Committee and wife of Curtis; endorses of the MCDC. Fri., May 12, 7:30 p.m. YMCA, Meeting Room 5, 5 Wentworth Ave. Sponsor: MCDC. For more information call (02) 660-1673.

BRITAIN

London

Hillsborough: Who's to Blame? Speaker: Rob Higley, member National Union of Railwaymen. Fri., May 12, 7:30 p.m. 47 The Cut, SE 1. Donation: £1. Sponsor: New International Forum. For more information call 01-928-7947.

U.S., Pakistan direct Afghan rightists

Continued from back page

reform and other measures that the regime sought to implement. The U.S. government took Hekmatyar "under its umbrella" during this period, according to a Pakistani general who spoke to Kamm.

The operation against the Afghan government took on massive proportions after the intervention of thousands of Soviet troops in December 1979.

The version of the March 5 meeting that was provided to Kamm by unnamed Pakistani participants may have been tailored to direct blame for the setback the rightists have experienced at Jalalabad from the Pakistani military, which directed the operation, to Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

The informants told Kamm that Bhutto ordered the attack over the objections of military figures who allegedly thought that

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

KENTUCKY: Louisville: P.O. Box 4103. Zip: 40204-4103.

LOUISIANA: New Orleans: P.O. Box 53224. Zip: 70153. Tel: (504) 484-6418.

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

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MICHIGAN: Detroit: 5019 1/2 Woodward Ave. Zip: 48202. Tel: (313) 831-1177.

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MISSOURI: Kansas City: 5534 Troost Ave. Zip: 64110. Tel: (816) 444-7880. **St. Louis:** 4907 Martin Luther King Dr. Zip: 63113. Tel: (314) 361-0250.

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

NEW JERSEY: Newark: 141 Halsey. Zip: 07102. Tel: (201) 643-3341. **New Brunswick:** c/o Keith Jordan, 149 Somerset St. Zip: 08903. Tel: (201) 828-1874.

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OHIO: Cleveland: 2521 Market Ave. Zip: 44113. Tel: (216) 861-6150. **Columbus:** P.O. Box 02097. Zip: 43202.

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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.

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AUSTRALIA

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

BRITAIN

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

CANADA

Montréal: 4274 Papineau, Suite 302, H2H 1S9. Tel: (514) 524-7992.

Toronto: 410 Adelaide St. W., Suite 400, M5V 1S8. Tel: (416) 861-1399.

Vancouver: P.O. Box 69742, Station K, V5K 4Y7. Tel: (604) 873-8898.

ICELAND

Reykjavik: Klappargistig 26. Mailing address: P. Box 233, 121 Reykjavik. Tel: (91) 17513.

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland: 157a Symonds St. Postal address: P.O. Box 3025. Tel: (9) 793-075.

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

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

SWEDEN

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

Sure, go for it — Bush said we should give the oil barons more tax credits and other incentives to keep them drilling. The same day an Exxon tanker carrying 22 million



Harry Ring

gallons of Alaskan crude lost power and drifted off the Washington coast for seven hours before being towed in.

Leak in the dark — Canadian

atomic energy officials said a leak of radioactive gas at a lighting plant had posed no hazard for the workers exposed to it. They said urine tests showed only insignificant doses of radiation.

Social planning — A London insurance operator warned that despite recent airline and oil disasters, many companies still lack crisis contingency plans. Like being prepared to cope with disasters? Nope — “a comprehensive contingency, which must include not only media handling but also arrangements for quick business recovery.”

Only passengers are unlucky — After a series of incidents in-

volving United Airlines planes, the Wellington, New Zealand, *Dominion* asked a company official if United might be described as unlucky. No, he replied, “I don’t believe we’re just unlucky, we’ve had an unfortunate run of incidents.”

Sickly types preferred — John Silber, pre-Neanderthal president of Boston University, proposes to raise a bundle for the school by taking out life insurance on consenting students and alumni and then collecting benefits upon their death. Responded one student: “Entirely repulsive and too morbid to be enacted.”

An offer they can’t refuse? —

Silber says students who receive financial aid “owe” it to the school to say yes to the insurance deal. “It’s their turn to make some contribution to an institution which has benefited them,” the kindly prez said.

Bias? What bias? — Attorney Anthony Neal, who is Black, is suing Boston’s New England School of Law. Even though he presented his bar ID, six cops hustled him out of the school library. The librarian says he tried to defuse the situation. He told Neal, “There’s a public library two or three blocks away. They have a decent collection and are under obligation to serve anybody.”

Seeing red — Virginia Bernard, 73, of Phoenix subscribed to *Soviet Life* magazine and, also, wrote to the Soviet embassy after a Soviet icebreaker freed two whales trapped off the Alaska coast. Together, this triggered a visit from an FBI agent assigned to determine if she was a Soviet spy.

He’s next — Prompted by Virginia Bernard’s experience, *Arizona Republic* columnist E.J. Montini called the FBI to inquire how many magazine subscription lists are scrutinized, if letters to all foreign embassies are monitored, and what other “Marxist” activity warrants federal attention. Commented the FBI, “No comment.”

Trade unionists on conditions in El Salvador

Continued from Page 17

continuation of the land and foreign trade reforms.”

On February 11, UNOC held a large march here around the slogans “For peace,” “No to violence,” “For the reforms,” and “For freedom.”

Villatoro said the demonstration aimed to pressure both the government and guerrilla forces to come to the negotiating table. Organizations in the UNTS did not participate in the action because they said the march was in support of the Christian Democratic Party.

UNOC reported the action drew 100,000 people. UNTS supporters estimated the crowd was 30-40,000.

Despite their differences, UNTS and UNOC leaders said they have held recent joint leadership meetings to discuss the possibility of united action in support of a negotiated political solution to the war.

MPTL

Jorge Villegas and Balmore Arévalo, executive committee members of the Movement for Bread, Land, Jobs, and Freedom (MPTL), described that organization’s goals.

Villegas said the MPTL was founded in June 1988 “as a political organization with two clear objectives: contribute to overthrowing the military tyranny, and through

that, establishing a people’s democratic government.”

The MPTL is made up of individuals, Villegas said. Only two groups are members as organizations, the two student groups at the National University.

Villegas said the MPTL is not affiliated to the UNTS although the two groups “have excellent relations.” The MPTL organizes marches and other activities that are on “a higher level” than those of the UNTS, Villegas said. “Our actions are more combative. Everyone comes on them with their iron bar to defend themselves,” he explained.

Another political formation is the Permanent Committee for a National Debate. In September 1988 some 60 trade unions, peasant groups, churches, and university, professional, and small business associa-

tions met to discuss how to end the war. Organizations affiliated to both the UNTS and the UNOC participated. This “National Debate” was organized by the Catholic Church Archdiocese.

Despite sharp differences over the role of the Christian Democrats, FMLN, and U.S. government, the overwhelming majority of delegates agreed on seeking a negotiated political solution to the military conflict.

Since then, the Permanent Committee for a National Debate has sponsored two large demonstrations for peace. One last November was estimated at 100,000. A second action was held March 4 and drew 30-40,000.

Since his election victory, Arena leader Cristiani has called for “national unity” and an end to “class hatred.” He said he was willing to negotiate with the FMLN on its

“return to civilian life.”

Ana Guadalupe Martínez of the FMLN political/diplomatic commission announced March 30 that the guerrillas would intensify their military activity for the next two months so that Arena “would find an ungovernable country when it takes office” and be forced to negotiate. Cristiani becomes president June 1.

On April 7, Cristiani traveled to Washington for a meeting with President George Bush. Bush said little to reporters about the meeting, but indicated he favored maintaining aid to the Salvadoran government.

The FMLN released a new peace proposal April 6. It called on Cristiani to declare his administration a “government in transition” and begin negotiations for a cease-fire and new elections.

North Carolina longshore workers fight bosses’ drive for nonunion docks

BY JOHN COX

WILMINGTON, N.C.—Some 600 members of the International Longshoreman’s Association (ILA) marched here April 14 to protest the use of nonunion labor by the Carolina Atlantic Transportation Service. CATS, a small company that runs a few barges between Puerto Rico and this port town, has been using nonunion workers to unload its barges.

The ILA has asked the North Carolina State Port Authority to not allow the use of nonunion labor at its facilities, and has called a strike against CATS. Negotiations between the company and union broke down in mid-March.

Grenada book ban

Continued from front page
Karl Marx, and V.I. Lenin.

In earlier measures customs officials confiscated copies of *Maurice Bishop Speaks* and *The Struggle Is My Life* by Nelson Mandela. These two titles, however, were not included in the new banning order.

In Grenada, supporters of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM) have been in the forefront of the fight against the book embargo.

A display of *Maurice Bishop Speaks*, other Pathfinder titles, and Maurice Bishop buttons drew large crowds April 30 at the St. Mark’s parish day celebration on the western part of the island. The literature table, staffed by MBPM supporters, resulted in sales of more than \$100.

Interviews with MBPM leader Terry Marryshow protesting the book ban have been widely broadcast in the Caribbean region. Marryshow has filed a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the 1951 British colonial law under which the books were banned.

Other recent protests have been issued by U.S. Rep. Charles Hayes and by Wayne Smith, former head of the U.S. Interests Section in Havana, Cuba.

More protests are needed. They should be sent to Prime Minister Herbert Blaize, Botanical Gardens, St. George’s, Grenada.

Union pickets, set up at the docks where CATS barges load and unload, have been attacked twice by cops since the strike started. Strikers have been beaten, and 29 arrested. Wilmington cops — reinforced by the sheriff’s department, state troopers, and State Bureau of Investigation — have been mobilized on the docks to protect CATS’ operations and its scab work force of 15 to 20 workers.

On April 6, some 300 cops were brought out to protect a CATS unloading, at a time when 28 ILA members were working on the docks. Concerned that the police were preparing a provocation against the union, ILA leaders called workers off the docks that night and part of the next day. The action temporarily tied up shipping operations in the port.

Meanwhile, the North Carolina State Port Authority has obtained an injunction

against the ILA to limit the number of picketers to four per gate.

The marchers, many of whom are Black, came to the April 14 demonstration from Charleston, South Carolina; Savannah, Georgia; Jacksonville, Florida; and other ports on the south Atlantic coast. Wilmington city officials initially denied the union a permit to march. When the ILA threatened to proceed anyway, a permit was issued.

The night before the demonstration, ILA Local 1426 President Willie Sloan spoke to a rally at the longshoremen’s union hall. The conditions faced by the dock workers this past week of police mobilizations, Sloan said, are what the Blacks of South Africa face every day. He pointed to the massive April 9 abortion rights march in Washington, D.C., as an example of what all working people have to do to defend themselves.

Price gouging on donated food in Nicaragua

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barrio of Spanishtown. “It is given by the people and government of Cuba to the people of the North Atlantic Autonomous Region. And if it is being trucked out to make some merchants rich, then the people of the communities have to go out and stop those trucks.”

Measures suggested

At the neighborhood meetings and other discussions, representatives of the regional and municipal governments have suggested various measures to deal with the price gouging and deliberate shortages.

One proposal is not to allow anyone to buy more than his or her family needs for their own use. This would involve keeping a registry of residents and rationing their purchases. Another idea raised by Wilson and others, in line with what barrio residents themselves have proposed, is to have the Chinese merchants sell the goods, but at prices controlled by the government.

Officials such as Puerto Cabezas Mayor Henry Herman explain that, although it is not national policy in Nicaragua now to ration goods or to control prices, the regional and municipal governments would have the authority to take these measures within the framework of autonomy.

At the “face the people” discussions, women from the communities proposed demonstrations at the state-run supermarket and at the marketplace to protest high prices. Government speakers have tended to encourage these calls for demonstrations and have agreed with those who say it is immoral to charge such high prices for donated necessities.

— 10 AND 25 YEARS AGO —

THE MILITANT

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

May 11, 1979

DENVER — In one of the largest demonstrations against nuclear weapons this country has seen, 15,000 people demonstrated April 28 against the Rocky Flats nuclear bomb plant, 16 miles from here.

Pam Solo of the American Friends Service Committee opened the rally with a call for a nonnuclear future.

The Harrisburg nuclear disaster was referred to again and again by speakers. Anti-war activist Daniel Ellsberg called Rocky Flats “a Harrisburg waiting to happen, Denver’s own Three Mile Island.”



BROOKLYN — Five minutes before

the Brooklyn Congress of Racial Equality’s Rent Strike Parade started out from the corner of Lexington and Nostrand avenues on May 2, Police Captain Jenkins of the 79th Precinct walked up to Major Owens, coordinator of the parade, and informed him that its main exhibit, a four-foot cage of live rats caught in Bedford-Stuyvesant tenements, would not be permitted.

Citing an obscure part of New York City’s Health Code prohibiting the display of wild animals except in zoos, circuses, and laboratories, the captain announced that if Brooklyn CORE insisted on the display, he would issue summonses to anyone parading with the rats and arrest those who had kept the animals prior to the parade.

CORE decided to parade the empty rat cage with posters pointing out that in New York City “Rats have police protection.”

The empty cage was followed along its entire route by a station wagon of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals driven by a policeman.

Three hundred tenants turned out and the march proceeded with chants of “Freedom . . . Now!” and signs reading, “No services — No rent!”

U.S. steps up attack on Panama

The decision by President George Bush to send \$10 million to the Democratic Opposition Alliance, a three-party coalition running in Panama's May 7 elections, is a blatant interference in that country's internal affairs. The alliance is running against candidates supported by the Panamanian government.

For two years now the U.S. government has been attempting to overthrow the Panamanian government. Washington's aim is to replace the Panamanian leaders with others more to its liking.

In 1987 the U.S. government cut off all aid to Panama. The following year Panamanian Gen. Manuel Noriega and other government officials were indicted by U.S. courts on charges of drug-trafficking. The indictments were followed by economic sanctions including withholding fees Washington owed for use of the Panama Canal.

The campaign against Panama has nothing to do with fighting drug-trafficking. The U.S.-supported contras in Afghanistan and Nicaragua are among the biggest drug traffickers in the world.

The intervention in Panama's election is an attempt by the White House to invoke Washington's perceived "right" to dictate what kind of governments should exist in Latin and Central America, and the Caribbean. The U.S. government continues to recognize Eric Arturo Delvalle as president of Panama. Delvalle was removed from office by the country's National Assembly after he joined Washington's campaign against the Panamanian regime.

Bush has declared that the sanctions imposed on Panama might be extended if the May 7 elections are considered fraudulent in the judgment of the White House.

Washington is seeking to make Panama an example of what happens to governments that fail to fully back U.S. foreign policy. Panamanian officials have pointed out that the campaign against that country is the result of its refusal to support Washington's efforts to overthrow the government of Nicaragua. Panama has also insisted that treaties signed with the U.S. government that would place the Panama Canal under Panamanian control at the end of 1999 be implemented.

Behind the attacks on Panama stands the threat of U.S. military intervention. Some 10,000 U.S. troops are stationed at bases there. Last year former Assistant Secretary of State for inter-American Affairs Elliot Abrams proposed kidnapping Noriega and using U.S. troops to impose Delvalle as head of the Panamanian government. That plan was rejected by Pentagon officials who cited widespread U.S. protests against Washington's deployment of troops in Honduras in a show of force against Nicaragua in March last year.

A similar plan which called for backing "dissident" military officers in a coup against Noriega was also turned down by the Senate Intelligence Committee.

On May 1 Secretary of State James Baker openly appealed to the Panamanian armed forces to intervene in the elections or "face the consequences." In response to the stepped-up U.S. intervention, the Panamanian government has begun handing out weapons to members of the "dignity battalions," a civilian defense guard formed last year to resist threatened U.S. military invasion.

It will be working people in Panama and the United States who pay the price of any adventure by Washington in Panama or elsewhere. All working people should demand: Hands off Panama!

Defend right to bail

The refusal to grant bail to three of the six youths—all 15 and 16 years old—indicted in the rape and beating of a woman in New York's Central Park last month is another example of government efforts to erode the constitutional right to bail.

Taking advantage of popular revulsion at the heinous crime, New York authorities are pressing to broaden public support to further restrict the rights of defendants.

The Democrats and Republicans in Congress have taken the lead on narrowing the right to bail. In 1984 the Bail Reform Act was passed by a bipartisan vote of Congress, with the support of key Democratic Party leaders such as Sen. Edward Kennedy.

By giving judges the power to lock up and deny bail to anyone they label "extremely dangerous to the community" or who they say poses "a substantial risk of flight," the law marked a sharp blow to the democratic guarantee that one is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

In 1987 the Supreme Court majority, in a 6-to-3 vote, upheld the legislation as constitutional. Chief Justice William Rehnquist wrote that the law doesn't violate the Eighth Amendment's bar against excessive bail because—the act provides for no bail at all! The act also violates the Constitution's Fifth Amendment guarantee against punishment without due process.

The Supreme Court ruling codified a practice that was already being implemented, and which in turn has been bolstered by the court ruling.

Class, race, and political bias have marked the courts' exercising greater leeway to deny bail.

• The first use of the Bail Reform Act was against nine Black and Puerto Rican activists who were seized in New

York City in October 1984.

• Two of 15 Puerto Rican independence activists who were arrested in August 1985 on trumped-up charges of armed robbery were kept in jail for more than two years while awaiting trial in Hartford, Connecticut. Seven others were held for more than a year before winning bail. One of the defendants, Filiberto Ojeda Ríos, remains in jail till this day, awaiting trial.

• Five of six Kentucky miners who were arrested on charges related to a strike that began in 1984 against A.T. Massey Coal Co. were incarcerated for several months prior to their trial.

• After the rebellions against racist killings by a cop in Miami earlier this year, hundreds of Black youths were indiscriminately rounded up in a police dragnet. For many, the bail of \$250 was excessive, forcing them to remain in jail for several days.

Defense lawyers for the Black youths arrested in New York in connection with the attack in Central Park argued that it was discriminatory to deny their bail requests when bail had been granted to Robert Chambers, a white man who was convicted in the 1986 strangulation death of Jennifer Levin in Central Park; and the white youths who chased a Black man to his death that same year in the Howard Beach section of Queens.

In addition, the juvenile defendants will be tried as adults, another violation of their rights.

Supporters of democratic rights and civil liberties must not let disgust at the crime the youths are accused of committing prevent firm opposition to curtailment of their rights. Every time the rulers get away with violating anyone's civil liberties, it is an injury to us all.

The "Militant's" new look

Regular readers of the *Militant* will have noticed a change in the typography of the headlines, copy, and ads in our last few issues. This is a result of the installation of a new, state-of-the-art laser typesetting system.

Our new equipment produces typeset material several times faster than our previous system, with a better quality and more choices of type styles. It is highly versatile as well as labor saving.

As we get further along in the transition from the old to the new equipment, we will be making other innovations as well in the appearance of the *Militant*.

We've also been able to enhance the quality of the photographs in the paper since the beginning of the year. This was the fruit of a new vertical camera, which improves the quality of the prints, cuts the time it takes to produce them, and enables us to vary the types of graphics used in the paper.

These purchases were made with the goal of making the *Militant*—as well as *Perspectiva Mundial* and Pathfinder books and pamphlets—more attractive and readable.

This kind of equipment upgrading, however, costs lots

of money—well over \$70,000 for the typesetting system and camera. At the same time, inflation has meant that our regular operating expenses have been sharply increasing—from the price we pay for newsprint to the costs of mailing the paper to subscribers and distributors.

The *Militant* has only one source of funds—you, our readers, distributors, and supporters.

It was through the efforts of *Militant* readers in the Pacific Northwest that the money was raised to send a reporting and sales team to Alaska to cover the fallout from the oil spill disaster. It is through the contributions of *Militant* supporters that we were able to send two correspondents to El Salvador to cover the elections and class struggle there. And only the generosity of *Militant* readers has allowed us to maintain a bureau in Managua, Nicaragua, since the 1979 revolution there.

So we hope that the changes for the better in the *Militant's* looks will inspire you to make yet another contribution. Send your donations to the *Militant*, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

Engels and Castro on population control

BY DOUG JENNESS

Last week I explained that women can only be truly free to choose whether or not to have children if they have ready and safe access to the means of preventing pregnancy on one hand, and the opportunity on the other to bear and rear children safely without being forced to abandon participation in the productive work force.

In no country has this been achieved, but Cuba stands out for the strides it has made and the progressive direction it's going in this area. Sex education begins there with the

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

third grade and is government financed. Contraceptives are made available free or at minimal cost to all women regardless of age or marital status. Abortions are also available free on demand.

Since all medical care is free, women bearing children benefit from free prenatal care. Every pregnant woman regardless of type of work has the right to an 18-week paid leave of absence. Babies are accepted in daycare from 45 days old.

Women, however, continue to confront several obstacles. One is that the Cuban revolution started on a foundation of considerable economic backwardness resulting from colonial and imperialist oppression. There is still today insufficient resources to provide free public laundries, communal dining halls, and other services that could help lessen the load of working women with children.

Moreover, there are still some social pressures against birth control and abortion. This especially affects teenage women, who have a relatively high pregnancy rate.

To counter this the National Group for Sex Education and the Federation of Cuban Women are conducting a campaign to help distribute literature and organize neighborhood sex education classes. This campaign has begun to lower the pregnancy rate among teenage women.

Unlike family planning programs in many countries, including countries where capitalism has been overturned, sex education and family planning programs in Cuba do not have the goal of either raising or lowering the population rate.

If Cuba were to link birth control, abortion, and maternity care to a population policy, this would undermine the right of women to freely choose whether to bear children, a right which is being advanced by the social measures the revolutionary government is instituting.

This point was missed in a prominently placed letter published in the April 20 *New York Times*. J. Mayone Stycos, director of the population and development program at Cornell University, wrote, "Soon after the Cuban revolution, Fidel Castro was asked about the need for population control. 'I am a socialist,' he responded, 'but really that is something you cannot plan.'"

Stycos' letter urged the Cuban leader to take a look at China's family-planning program, which he considers to be a model. Some time ago, the Chinese government adopted measures to limit each family to one child.

Stycos chides those who accuse the Chinese policy of coercive measures. But then admits, "The uses of group and individual rewards and punishments, the close monitoring of goal setting and goal achievement, and the use of group persuasion" are used to try to enforce the policy.

"Although traditional Marxists have been in the forefront of opposition to Malthusian policies," Stycos wrote, "[Frederick] Engels predicted that should a Communist state ever have a population problem, it would 'control the production of people just as it will control production of things.'" China proves that "Engels was right. Castro was wrong," Stycos asserts.

The problem with this is that it assumes that China has already established communism—that is, a society where people produce according to their abilities and receive according to their needs. But this is far from being the case in China or even the direction Chinese society is currently headed under the domination of a bureaucratic caste. There remain big inequalities, which are widening under the impact of the use of capitalist market methods.

What Engels actually said, in an 1881 letter, was, "There is, of course, the abstract possibility that the number of people will become so great that limits will have to be set to their increase. But if at some stage communist society finds itself obliged to regulate the production of human beings, just as it has already come to regulate the production of things, it will be precisely this society, and this society alone, which can carry this out without difficulty."

The "abstract possibility" of too many people has not become a reality today, nor has a communist society been established anywhere. Cuba's program for eliminating the oppression of women, without resorting to a population policy, in fact, is part of making the transition to communism.

Under these circumstances, it is Engels and Castro who are right, and Stycos who is wrong.

Boeing workers discuss response to company attacks

BY STEVE BEREN
AND JOHN CHARBONNET

As members of the International Association of Machinists prepare for the October 4 expiration date of our contract with Boeing, the company is mounting a serious

UNION TALK

new attack on our union.

Boeing is the giant of the aerospace industry, and the union contract there tends to set the pattern for the rest of the industry — in recent years, a pattern of concessions.

The IAM represents more than 40,000 Boeing workers in the Seattle, Washington, area; more than 8,000 in Wichita, Kansas; and some 1,600 in Portland, Oregon.

Recently Boeing announced plans to introduce a "team concept" program throughout the company, modeled after those in the auto industry.

Boeing plans to showcase the program at a new Sheet Metal Center under construction in Auburn, Washington, near Seattle. The company has heralded the new plant as "the wave of the future."

The "team concept" weakens unions by pitting workers against each other to speed up the work process and by eliminating jobs through job combinations, while promoting the idea that workers and the company have common interests.

In addition, product quality — which in the aerospace industry directly affects the safety of the flying public — is jeopardized by the company's speed-up demands.

For the past decade, Boeing has carried out a drive to boost profits by squeezing concessions from the workers and weakening our union.

Tiered wage scale

In 1983, Boeing introduced a complicated tiered wage scale; other aerospace companies then followed suit. New workers start at \$3 an hour less than full rate, and take five

years to reach the top of their pay scale.

By paying workers doing the same job many different rates, the company tries to divide us and undermine solidarity.

Another costly concession was the replacement of general wage increases with lump-sum bonuses, starting in 1983. Such bonuses don't increase base pay, and don't multiply in value over the life of the contract. Benefits tied to the base rate are therefore also worth less than if pegged to wage increases.

The tiered wage scale and lump-sum bonuses have helped swell Boeing's profits to record levels, while union members have steadily lost ground.

In our last contract in 1986, the company won the right to force us to work overtime for four weeks in a row, seven days a week, without a day off.

The threat to Boeing workers' health posed by the use of dangerous and untested chemicals has also intensified in recent years.

In December 1988 — pressured by a public outcry — Boeing ended the use of phenolic resins in the production of the Stealth bomber. These substances caused workers to experience health problems ranging from nosebleeds and skin rashes to migraine headaches and memory loss.

The question of health and safety at Boeing is also being highlighted by the case of Bob Strom, an electronics technician who has worked at Boeing for 27 years. Now dying of leukemia, Strom has filed a suit against Boeing charging that he was intentionally exposed to radiation along with hundreds of other unsuspecting workers.

Meanwhile, the aerospace industry is booming. Backlogged orders for aircraft, engines, spacecraft, and missiles stand at record levels.

Strong position

IAM members are in a strong position to fight for improvements in our contract this time around, and to regain some of the ground we've lost in past years.

Currently, contract survey forms are being distributed to union members, and there is increasing discussion of what issues we should raise.

Among the most important is the fight to unify our union by getting rid of the tiered wage set-up. We also need to press for general wage increases instead of lump-sum bonuses to help keep up with rising inflation. We can demand that all overtime be made voluntary, and join with other unions to fight for a shorter workweek with no cut in pay to create jobs — "shorten the hours of labor to 30 per week," as the IAM constitution calls for.

We also need to fight for an end to the use of all dangerous chemicals on the job, and a safety committee with enforcement power to shut down unsafe operations.

Boeing is now blaming workers for quality problems. In mid-April the company announced it is considering beginning drug testing of workers to calm public concerns over quality. Such testing violates our democratic rights and should be opposed. We can champion the public's interest by clearly pointing to the real threat to the safety of aircraft: the company's speed-up drive.

Affirmative action

Women, Black, Asian, and Latino workers are concentrated in the lower-paying labor grades at Boeing. All of us have an interest in fighting for an affirmative action plan, backed up by quotas, which could help overcome divisions among us, and remedy past discrimination.

It is also important to oppose the introduction of the "team concept." The approach of cooperating with the company to promote this policy and everything that goes with it weakens our union's ability to fight around all other questions as well.

Aerospace workers should look to the example set by the workers at Eastern Airlines, who are standing up and fighting back against company attacks. The solidarity and unity they have displayed provides an important lesson for us.

Steve Beren is a member of IAM Local 751-A and works at the Boeing Power Pack and Strut Facility in Kent, Washington. John Charbonnet is a member of IAM Local 63 at the Boeing plant in Portland, Oregon.

LETTERS

Miami detention center

Five hundred people rallied April 16 outside the high steel fences surrounding the Krome Avenue Detention Center in Miami.

Led by Veye-Yo, the largest Haitian community organization here, the protesters included representatives from the Unrepresented Peoples Positive Action Council (UP-PAC), an organization for Black rights; Antonio Maceo Brigade; striking International Association of Machinists Local 702; Interfaith Coalition for Immigrants; Socialist Workers Party; and others.

The demonstration demanded parole and work permits for all Haitian detainees. As of April 11 there were 748 detainees, the majority of whom are Haitian. Living conditions are deteriorating at Krome, which is overcrowded.

The protest also demanded an end to the interdiction at sea of hundreds of Haitians fleeing hunger, misery, and repression in their homeland.

Many of the participants had relatives locked up in Krome. An army of riot cops, Immigration and Naturalization Service guards, Metro Dade police, paddy wagons, and cop cars stood between us and the prison.

Betty Ferguson of UP-PAC spoke at the rally. "I guess the INS motto is 'If they're Black send them back!'" she said. Ferguson pointed toward the prison-like structure: "Open the gates! Let them go! Freedom now for all our brothers and sisters!"

Eighteen-year-old Karen Andre, a leader of the Black student union at Florida International University, called on young people to be in the forefront of demanding justice for Haitians.

The protesters vowed to return. Veye-Yo also organizes weekly picket lines in front of the INS office at Northeast 79th Street and Biscayne Boulevard, Thursdays from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Linda Joyce
Miami, Florida

Plant explosion

I work in the warehouse at the Atlantic Steel plant in Atlanta. On April 21 a little past 7:00 a.m. three explosions, which could be felt over a one-mile radius, occurred in the No. 2 furnace at the plant, injuring eight workers, one seriously. The accident is currently being probed by the federal government and company investigators.

Roger "Butch" Tatum, Jr., was seriously injured after pushing another worker out of harm's way while standing about eight feet from a furnace that heats scrap iron and other metals at 2,900 degrees. Tatum's father died as a result of injuries sustained due to a similar explosion at the same furnace plant three years ago.

Built circa 1950, the furnace's regular plant maintenance shut-down has been inconsistent. At times it has been ignored, at other times rushed. Workers' helpers who maintain the furnace work exhausting hours on forced overtime.

The Atlanta Journal Constitution reported that company spokesperson Ronald Dervalier said that the accident "may have been caused when water from a cooking panel leaked into the molten steel inside the furnace." He then contin-



ued, "We don't have a definite answer. We don't know how the water leaked."

Workers at Atlantic Steel, on the other hand, say that there was a crack in the panel of the furnace and that the accident was a result of profit-motivated speedup.

In August 1988 a worker at a 13 inch mill died as a result of injuries sustained when a molten bar of steel wrapped around his entire body. His family received \$16,000 from the company. Coworkers contributed \$2,200.

On Jan. 6, 1989, an explosion in the same type of furnace claimed the life of one worker and injured two others at the Cartersville Atlantic Steel plant. The federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) last month fined Atlantic \$1,450 for safety violations, including for using dolomite to patch the bottom of the Cartersville furnace. An OSHA report said the mineral was not suitable for such use.

Derrick Adams
Atlanta, Georgia

Prison bill

By now it has become more than obvious to taxpayers that their tax dollars meant for urban development in the state of New York are being misused for the sole purpose of building prisons. Meanwhile, many spend their nights in city subways and shelters for the homeless.

Many prisoners are receiving excessive prison sentences for petty crimes. The prison system is overcrowded. The few prisoners that are released leave with \$40 in their pockets, an out-dated polyester suit, little or no academic or vocational training, and a very regressive attitude.

New York Assemblyman Arthur Eve is sponsoring a bill that would give all parties involved relief — the taxpayers, the homeless, and the prisoners. It is the "Earned Incentive Allowance" bill — No. 3206A.

This bill forces a prisoner to participate in academic, vocational, industrial, and therapeutic programs in exchange for "good time" off the prisoner's expiration date. This is an approach toward true re-

habilitation.

This bill would give the community back a progressive person and give tax dollars back to urban development. It would help many homeless citizens who have been left without homes because of the prison expansion program.

A prisoner
Fallsburg, New York

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.

Correction

In the article "Palestinian uprising in West Bank, Gaza opens way to new PLO diplomatic initiative," in the May 5 *Militant*, the date of the Israeli regime's arrest of activist Michel Warschawski was incorrectly given as February 1988. He was arrested in February 1987.

The shutting down of the newspaper *Derech Hanitzotz* was described as taking place the "same month" as Warschawski's arrest. The action against the publication took place in February 1988.

1,000 in Idaho march against racism

BY ANGEL LARISCY

COEUR d'ALENE, Idaho — In an impressive show of antiracist sentiment, more than 1,000 people participated in the Walk for Racial Equality here on April 22.

The action was called in response to a skinhead conference and parade planned by Richard Butler, pastor of the Aryan Nations Church of Jesus Christ Christian. The conference and parade were to celebrate the 100th birthday of German Nazi leader Adolf Hitler.

After learning of plans for the antiracist march, Butler called off the parade, claiming protesters from Seattle and San Francisco who were AIDS-infected might come into contact with skinhead youth. Butler continued with plans for the conference however. His 20-acre compound is in Hayden Lake, seven miles north of Coeur d'Alene.

Buses of protesters arrived here from Seattle; Portland, Oregon; and Boise, Idaho. Participants also came by car and van from many other places in the Pacific Northwest, including from Canada. Some came from California and Utah.

Students

Many of the participants were students. Those from Boise State University, for example, had formed the BSU Equality Organization to build for the march. Shortly before they left for Coeur d'Alene, the students held a campus rally of 300 addressed by the university's president.

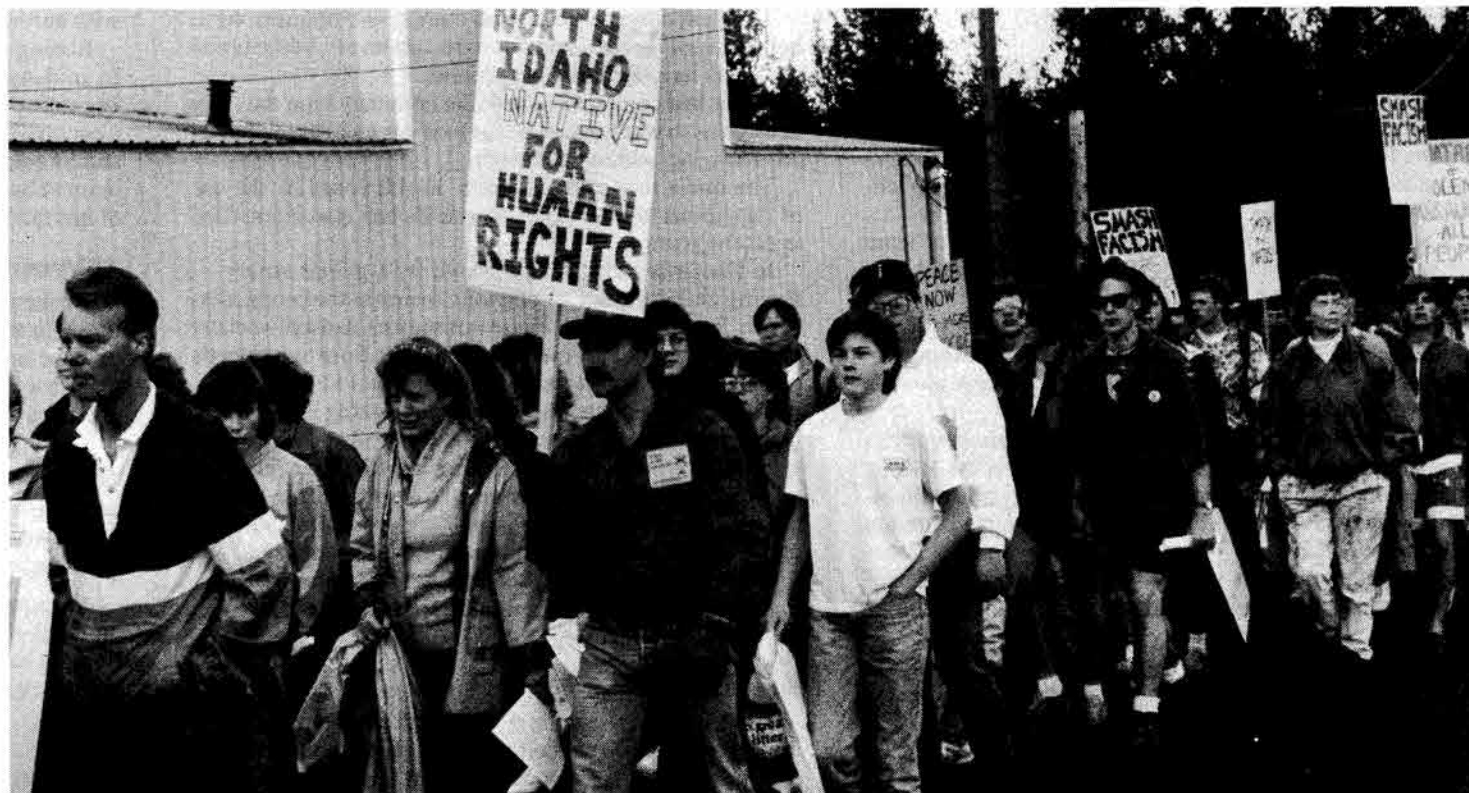
Among the prominent endorsements for the Walk for Racial Equality were from Rainbow Coalition leader Jesse Jackson, Jennifer Davis of the American Committee on Africa, Merle Hansen of the North American Farm Alliance, and Prexy Nesbitt of the Mozambique Support Network.

A short rally kicked off a seven-mile march, which concluded with another rally in a farmer's field two miles from Butler's compound.

One of the marchers, Milton Hanchen, explained that Coeur d'Alene isn't a community of skinheads and that "all the people I know around here are against Nazis." Milton's daughter Lavina, a junior high school student, came because she thought the march was "very important for youth." One couple from here explained how they debated whether or not to participate and finally came to the conclusion that "you have to take a stand."

The walk was led by wheelchair-bound Spencer Hamm, a Black man from nearby Spokane, Washington, who had an eight-foot cross burned on his lawn last August.

Motorists slowed to watch the marchers



Militant/Janet Post

March in Coeur d'Alene protested racist Aryan Nations

and many honked their horns and flashed the thumbs-up and peace signs.

Heated debate in press

The widespread local support for the march was especially significant because the call for the march had been hotly debated in the pages of the Coeur d'Alene and Spokane press after business leaders and elected officials encouraged citizens to boycott the march.

They claimed the Walk for Racial Equality would only draw more attention to the skinheads and instead encouraged citizens

to wear and display orange ribbons. Their response was to declare April 21-23 Friendship Weekend.

Lisa Anderson, a leader of Citizens for Nonviolent Action Against Racism, which organized the demonstration, said "Don't tell us we can't make an impression. Richard Butler is behind those walls because of us." Anderson was referring to the fact that the racists were cloistered in their Hayden Lake compound the entire weekend.

As the marchers filed into the field at the end of the march, they were joined by dozens of local residents, many of them farm-

ers. For most it was the first time they had ever been to a demonstration and they wanted to come to show their support and find out what the demonstration was like.

At the wrap-up rally, Anderson declared, "You must never turn your backs on these people. We will not give our towns and the Northwest to them," she said.

Spencer Hamm encouraged the participants to stay involved in the fight to end racism. "We'll stop walking today," he said, "but tomorrow and the next day and the next we'll keep on walking for racial equality."

Afghan rightists run by U.S., Pakistan

BY FRED FELDMAN

After an eight-week siege of Jalalabad, one of Afghanistan's largest cities, rightist forces have been unable to capture the city. This is spurring recriminations among the organizers of the attack. One indication was an article in the April 23 *New York Times* conceding that the current drive to topple the Afghan government is being run by Pakistani and U.S. officials.

From Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan, correspondent Henry Kamm reported that the decision to have the rightist groups attack Jalalabad, the principal Afghan city

located near the border with Pakistan, was made March 5 "at a meeting of the top civilian and military leadership of Pakistan, in the presence of the American ambassador [Robert Oakley]. . . . No Afghan was present at the meeting." The large-scale assault on Jalalabad got under way two days later.

"The Jalalabad decision," Kamm continued, "illustrates how the war of the mujahedeen, or Islamic Holy Warriors, as the guerrillas call themselves, is managed. Major decisions are made by Pakistan, in the absence of the Afghans but with an

American presence."

No Afghan presence was necessary, a high Pakistani official explained, because the Pakistani government's Directorate General for Inter Services Intelligence (ISI), a branch of the military, "is responsible for them."

Since 1979, according to Kamm, "the ISI has shaped the Afghan rebel leadership, formed the seven-party guerrilla alliance based in the Pakistani city of Peshawar that nominally conducts the struggle and in effect commanded and coordinated its military and political actions. . . .

"Political officials in the moderate Afghan groups said that . . . the directorate's officers in fact directed all alliance meetings," Kamm said. The Pakistani military has ceased directing all alliance meetings, they told Kamm, since the selection in February of a provisional government in exile. The government in exile was selected at a meeting sponsored by the Pakistani government.

The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency "has been the Pakistani directorate's partner," Kamm added. "It channels American-provided arms, equipment, and money through the directorate to the rebels."

The U.S. and Pakistani governments, Kamm said, have been financing Afghan rightist leaders since 1973, when a coup ousted King Zahir Shah. Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and Burhanuddin Rabbani, leaders of rightist Afghan groups, went into exile in Pakistan in 1974.

After the April 1978 uprising that brought the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan to power, the Pakistani government began supplying the rightists with bases as they led resistance to the agrarian

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Prochoice forces counter 'Operation Rescue'

BY FRED FELDMAN

"It's a total victory for us," declared Kathy Spillar of Feminist Majority. Speaking as an organizer of the April 29 defense of Family Planning Associates in Englewood, California, near Los Angeles, she added, "We completely overwhelmed them."

More than 1,000 people blocked an effort by the antichoice Operation Rescue to shut down the medical facility, which provides services including abortions. The Operation Rescue forces, numbering about 1,000, had chosen the Englewood center as part of a nationwide effort to shut down targeted clinics on that day.

Well before the clinic doors opened, supporters of the right to choose abortion were out in force, protecting all the entrances. By linking arms, they made it impossible for Operation Rescue to block the doors.

Every clinic appointment was kept. Prochoice people were organized to escort patients through the crowd and into the clinic.

This confrontation was one of many across the country as abortion rights activists countered actions by Operation Rescue.

In New York City, about 200 prochoice activists gathered on April 29 outside the hotel where Operation Rescue was based. The antichoice group had announced plans to shut clinics in the New York area, but canceled them. Instead, spokesperson Randall Terry held a news conference at the Hilton Hotel, as hundreds of supporters of abortion rights picketed outside in a pouring rain.

About 3,000 people rallied at Government Center in downtown Boston April 26 — the day the Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the case of *Webster v. Reproductive Health Services Inc.*, dealing with a Missouri antiabortion law. Missouri officials and the U.S. Justice Department are urging the court to issue a ruling upholding the statute and reversing the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* ruling, which held that state antiabortion laws violated the constitutional right to privacy.

On April 29, Operation Rescue marched from a church at 5:00 a.m. to the Pre-term Clinic in Brookline, Massachusetts. Supporters of the National Organization for Women, Planned Parenthood, and Mass Choice had called some 3,000 people by 8:00 a.m. By the time the clinic was opened, more than 1,000 people had turned out to keep the clinic operating.

Every woman who had an appointment at the clinic that day was escorted inside, although some had to step over Operation Rescue disrupters to get in.

Antichoice forces also sought to shut down Metropolitan Woman's Clinic in Greenbelt, Maryland, near Washington, D.C.

By 6:30 a.m., Operation Rescue had blocked the doors of the clinic in Greenbelt. About 300 prochoice protesters gathered to demand that it be kept open. Appointments had to be rescheduled as police took hours to arrest dozens of opponents of legal abortion and clear them from the doors.