

Hundreds of thousands on strike in Britain

BY BRIAN GROGAN

LONDON — Some 600,000 workers in Britain were out on strike during the week that began July 10. This included most dockworkers, who started an indefinite strike on July 10; 75,000 rail workers and 20,000 London Underground subway workers, who together held their fourth in a series of weekly 24-hour actions; and a half million local government employees who struck for two days as part of a three-week series of escalating actions. It was the first national strike in the history of the government workers' union, the National Association of Local Government Officers.

Also on strike are 1,200 steel erectors in London. And construction workers on 30 oil platforms in the North Sea fields have engaged in sit-ins and sporadic strikes over the last six weeks.

Unions representing employees at the British Broadcasting Corporation have been con-

ducting a series of 24-hour actions for several weeks.

Government response

The government has set up a special committee chaired by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to counter the spreading strikes. This body has especially targeted the rail unions and has threatened new legal curbs on strikes by public-sector workers. Government representatives denounce the "monopoly" position of public workers whose strikes, they say, are against the "public interest."

Employment Secretary Norman Fowler told BBC radio that the right to strike could not be regarded as "unqualified." He described the rail strike as "anarchy," while Transport Secretary Paul Channon called the rail strikers "cowards." Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson threatened to reduce the level of investment in the rail industry if the industrial actions did not end.

With government backing, the British Rail Board stood firm for three weeks in their objective of eliminating national negotiating machinery and forcing through a below-inflation wage deal. They even went so far as to impose a 7 percent raise without agreement (inflation is running at 8.5 percent) and to propose a no-strike condition in new bargaining procedures.

Isolation attempts fail

The attempt by the employers and the government to isolate the rail workers from the rest of the population backfired. Philip Stephens writing in the July 12 *Financial Times* explained that threats to investment "could hardly have brought comfort to commuters who have suffered from years of low investment in the railways."

Rather than being isolated, however, a sense of common interest with the rail work-

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Eastern strikers take steps to counter new flights

BY SUSAN LaMONT

"A lot of the people who came to La Guardia July 2, ready to get on one of the flights Eastern was starting up, simply did not realize we were still on strike. They told us that when they got there. They had seen the ads for the 'new' Eastern, with the super-cheap fares, or heard that the Trump Shuttle was flying, and thought the strike had been settled."

Striking International Association of Machinists Local 1018 member Ernest Mailhot was describing the experiences strikers at New York's La Guardia Airport have had on the picket line since July 2, the day Eastern started up 146 new flights. Mailhot is a member of Local 1018's strike committee.

"There are different responses from the people going in," Mailhot explained. "Very few are hostile. Overall, the people going in for these flights are not very happy about crossing the picket line. Many are quite embarrassed about it and tell us they didn't know we were still out on strike."

"We have convinced some people not to take the flight they've already booked," Mailhot said. "One passenger the other day went inside and demanded his money back. He came out and told pickets Eastern wouldn't give it to him. They encouraged him to go back in, so he went back and raised a ruckus. He told them they hadn't let him know there was a picket line. Finally, they gave him his money back."

"It's hard to convince people not to take the flight once they're there at the airport with their ticket," the strike activist said. "However, I'm convinced a big majority of these people will not fly Eastern again. They will make sure to check if the strike is still on before they buy a ticket. And they're going to complain to their travel agents or whoever booked their flights. Most of the passengers are not antiunion at all — they're very supportive of the strike, but don't realize the

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Actions protest antiabortion ruling



Militant/Janet Post

Rally in Portland, Oregon, on July 4 defended women's right to abortion. Protests across country show potential for Washington, D.C., march in October.

BY RONI McCANN

"A flood of phone calls from people wanting to demonstrate prompted the call for a national mobilization in support of abortion rights," Meredith Larson, spokesperson for the National Organization for Women, said in a telephone interview. The action slated for Washington, D.C., in October was announced July 5, two days after the Supreme Court's decision limiting abortion rights.

Angry people "who want a chance to demonstrate their vigilance on the abortion issue" is how NOW President Molly Yard described the calls.

NOW, which initiated the march of half a million people in Washington on April 9, believes the October action can be even bigger.

The demonstration and other activities around abortion rights will be discussed at the national NOW convention in Cincinnati July 21-23 according to Larson, who works in NOW's national office in Washington, D.C.

Slated workshops and seminars will take up topics such as standing up to Operation Rescue and the Supreme Court's ruling on abortion rights.

Protests continue

Local actions by prochoice activists in the first week after the Supreme Court ruling show the potential for building the October demonstration.

Gloria Allred was the attorney for Norma McCorvey or "Jane Roe" in the 1973 *Roe vs. Wade* Supreme Court ruling that legalized abortion. She spoke at a rally in Tustin, California, July 8 held after an hours-long mobilization by some 500 prochoice activists to

defend a local clinic. Allred and others pointed to the need to build the October action.

On the same day in Brookline, Massachusetts, what was to have been an event protesting abortion rights was swamped by a pro-choice rally. Supporters of abortion rights numbering 300 gathered as a dozen opponents of the right to choose handed out leaflets.

Attempts around the country by "Operation Rescue" to shut down clinics that perform abortions continue to take place.

In Milwaukee one of the biggest clinic defense efforts yet turned out more than 100 prochoice activists. Police arrested 60 protesters opposed to abortion as they tried to block a second clinic. The first clinic targeted remained open, and all patients were seen.

In Honolulu more than 100 people marched on July 4 protesting the ruling as residents and tourists clapped, waved, and honked their horns in support.

Prochoice activists in Annapolis, Maryland, were briefly disrupted by foes of abortion rights on July 4 at their rally of 150.

In North Carolina 1,000 people demonstrated in Raleigh and another 300 in Winston-Salem on July 5 protesting the court ruling.

In Canada 500 prochoice activists got together in Vancouver on two days' notice on July 5. Speakers mentioned possible cross-Canada actions in the fall in support of a woman's right to abortion.

Prochoice supporters in Philadelphia numbering 400 turned out in the rain on July 6 to rally at city hall against the high court ruling.

In Miami prochoice forces protested the

arrival of Florida Gov. Robert Martinez in the city on July 11. Martinez announced on July 6 plans to call a special session of the state legislature to enact new, restrictive abortion

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Drive opens to get socialists on New York mayoral ballot

BY RONI McCANN

NEW YORK — Campaign activists here are gathering forces as they prepare to launch a two-week, citywide petitioning drive on July 15.

On that date, supporters of the Socialist Workers Party election campaign will kick off an effort to get 15,000 signatures to place three SWP candidates on the ballot for the November 7 election.

The legal requirement for ballot status is 7,500 signatures, but to assure success, campaign supporters are shooting for double that amount.

In addition to James Harris, SWP candidate for mayor of New York, supporters will be collecting signatures for Jerry Freiworth, candidate for city council president, and Vivian Sahner for city comptroller.

To gear up for the July 15 mobilization, supporters began their efforts four days earlier, as soon as city petitioning opened.

"A central part of our campaign," said Mike Shur, chairperson of the citywide campaign committee, "will be talking to working

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Militant/Margrethe Siem

James Harris, socialist candidate for mayor, at July 5 abortion rights rally.

Candidates condemn Supreme Court abortion ruling

Greg Rosenberg, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Houston, joined 200 other pro-choice demonstrators in downtown Houston on July 3 to protest the Supreme Court ruling upholding limits on a woman's right to have an

abortion. Rosenberg is a member of the International Association of Machinists. "Today's ruling by the Supreme Court," said Rosenberg in a statement distributed at the action, "is an assault on the democratic rights of all working people."

CAMPAIGNING FOR SOCIALISM

"The denial of women's right to control their own bodies," he explained, "is at the center of discrimination against women in all aspects of life."

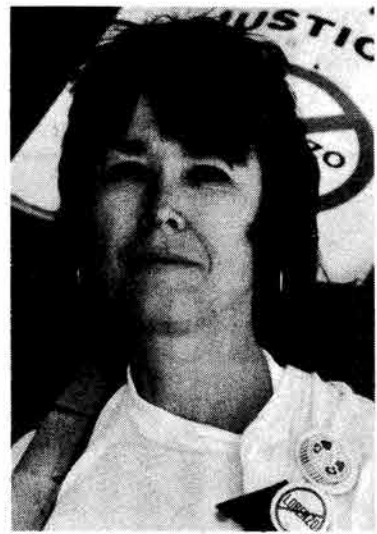
"Without the right to control their own bodies, women cannot participate as equals in the work force, in politics, or any other area of life," said the socialist candidate.

"The decade-long offensive on the living conditions and rights of working people by the U.S. rulers," he added, "has heightened the stakes

for all working people in defending the right to choose. Restricting this right is part of the employers' efforts to increase the burdens on working women, keep their wages low, and undermine their self-confidence. "I am joining with others in organizing and participating in activities in defense of a woman's right to choose," the socialist candidate said. "This cannot be left up to the Democratic and Republican parties either in the White House or Congress. Only a public, visible movement of working people can defend this right."

"The Supreme Court decision today cuts deeply into the right of women to control their reproductive lives," said Wendy Lyons, in a news release from the Minnesota Socialist Workers Campaign Committee.

Lyons, a meat-packer and member of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union, is the Socialist Workers Party candidate



Militant/Mark Friedman Detroit candidate Kathie Fitzgerald at Eastern picket line.

for mayor of St. Paul.

The news release also quoted Denise McNemey, SWP candidate for mayor of Minneapolis.

"The April 9 march of half a million people for abortion rights, the strike against Eastern Airlines, and of the miners in several states shows that people will not stand idly by and let this offensive continue without resistance," Lyons said.

"Young people who have grown up since *Roe v. Wade* will not take this attack on our rights without a fight," added McNemey. "As a garment worker and unionist, I've seen the impact on the lives of people the government forces into unwanted pregnancies."

Lyons predicted a major upsurge in abortion rights activities because of the July 3 Supreme Court ruling.

"While supposedly defending the so-called right to life, the Supreme Court ruled in that same session that states can execute the mentally retarded and underage youth," Lyons noted.

The court has issued rulings seriously eroding affirmative action, explained the statement. The court upheld the Hyde Amendment that stopped federal funding of 250,000 to 300,000 abortions each year for poor and younger women.

"Even before this latest decision," McNemey noted, "with the Hyde Amendment and the lack of medical insurance for poorer women, the basic right to choose has in fact been taken away from millions of women."

At a news conference July 12, the

Socialist Workers campaign in Detroit announced that it filed petitions to place its candidates on the ballot.

John Powers, an auto worker and member of United Auto Workers Local 174, is running for mayor and Kathie Fitzgerald for city council. Fitzgerald works at Northwest Airlines and is a member of Machinists Local 141, which includes workers on strike at Eastern Airlines.

"The strikers' achievement in bringing Eastern's operations to a halt has inspired working people from Kansas City to Montréal with confidence that resistance to the employers is possible," a statement by the socialist candidates said.

Powers and Fitzgerald called on unionists and other activists who support the strike to step up efforts to deepen solidarity with their fight. "This is what will give the strikers the firmest ground to stand on as they work through the challenges still ahead," they explained.

Powers said that more than twice the number of signatures required by Michigan law had been gathered on petitions to place the party's candidates on the ballot — 1,260 for Fitzgerald and 1,380 for Powers.

Nicaraguan band to play at U.S. socialist conference

BY JIM WHITE

The Nicaraguan band Soul Vibrations will be the featured group in a concert celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Nicaraguan revolution on Monday, August 7, at the International Active Workers and Socialist Educational Conference.

The conference, hosted by the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance, will be held on the campus of Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio.

The concert will kick off the U.S. leg of Soul Vibrations' international tour, sponsored by the Bluefields Project. The band has toured in Europe this summer, performing in the Netherlands, Britain, Ireland, Norway, Sweden, and Denmark. It is currently in Canada, and will cap off the tour in the United States with dates throughout the East Coast and Midwest in August and September.

The Bluefields Project promotes the participation of North Americans in actively supporting the cultural development of Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast. In addition to projects like this tour, it produces educational materials on the Atlantic Coast region, which explain its unique character and the historic importance of the Autonomy Law.

This law, voted into effect in 1987, culminated a process of dialogue between the

Sandinista government and the peoples of the Atlantic Coast. The law guarantees language and land rights to the people of the coast, and equal representation and active participation in all decisions affecting the region's communities. It is one of the most important achievements of the Nicaraguan revolution.

The members of Soul Vibrations come from several different communities of the Atlantic Coast where they were influenced by the traditional music of the region, as well as the music of other parts of the Caribbean, especially reggae from Jamaica.

The group has performed at many festivals inside Nicaragua and internationally, for frontline Sandinista soldiers during the U.S. government-sponsored contra war, and for coffee harvest brigades. Their first full-length cassette *One Destiny* was recorded in Managua in 1988.

For more information on the Soul Vibrations tour, contact the Bluefields Project, 175 Fifth Ave., Suite 2175, New York, N.Y. 10010. Their phone number is (718) 797-0146.

For more information on the socialist conference, write or call the distributor of the *Militant* nearest you (see listing on page 12), or write to SWP, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014.



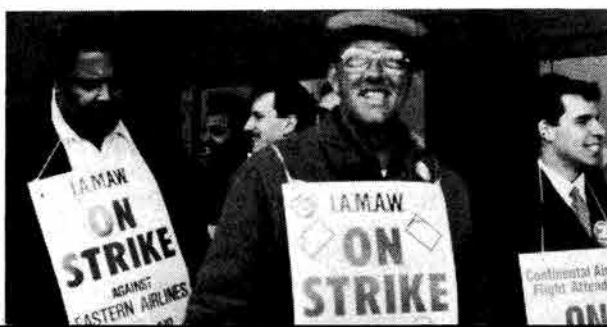
Soul Vibrations, from Atlantic Coast region, will be featured in concert celebrating 10th anniversary of Nicaraguan revolution.

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Coeditors: MARGARET JAYKO and DOUG JENNESS

Circulation Director: NORTON SANDLER

Nicaragua Bureau Director: LARRY SEIGLE

Business Manager: JIM WHITE

Editorial Staff: Susan Apstein, Fred Feldman, Seth Galinsky (Nicaragua), Arthur Hughes, Cindy Jaquith, Susan LaMont, Sam Manuel, Roni McCann, Selva Nebbia, Harry Ring, Peter Thierjung, Judy White (Nicaragua).

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Gen. Arnaldo Ochoa

Cuban officers tried on drug charges sentenced to death

BY SUSAN APSTEIN

On July 9 the Cuban Council of State unanimously upheld death sentences against Gen. Arnaldo Ochoa Sánchez, Col. Antonio La Guardia, and two other high-ranking Cuban military officers found guilty of drug smuggling.

Ochoa received the medal Hero of the

As we go to press, the Cuban government has reported that the four Cuban officers sentenced to death were executed on July 13.

Republic in 1984, commanded troops in Angola and Ethiopia, and headed the Cuban advisory group in Nicaragua. He was arrested on charges of corruption June 12 along with six officers of the army and the Ministry of

the Interior.

A subsequent investigation revealed that both Ochoa and a separate group of officers of the Ministry of the Interior headed by La Guardia had worked with Colombian drug traders.

La Guardia was in charge of a special department authorized to make contacts in the United States and other countries to circumvent the U.S. trade embargo against Cuba, obtaining medical and other equipment by these means. He used the authority he held in the Interior Ministry as a result of this assignment to disguise drug-smuggling operations.

The 31-member Council of State, headed by Cuban President Fidel Castro, sustained the sentences that had been pronounced by a military court-martial on July 7. The Council of State is elected by and acts on behalf of Cuba's highest governmental representative

body, the National Assembly of People's Power.

Fidel Castro's speech

In a four-hour speech during the Council of State session July 9, televised in Cuba two days later, Fidel Castro said that in the case of the four sentenced to death "the revolution cannot be generous without at the same time doing damage to itself."

"These are matters that are so serious," Castro stated, "matters that because they are so serious can threaten the future of the revolution. There is consequently no alternative but exemplary punishment."

"La Guardia," Castro said, "created a repugnant gang inside the Ministry of the Interior. This is something absolutely incredible, inconceivable; it is even difficult to explain how it occurred. . . . They knew that what

they were doing was very serious, but the way they did it was also very perfidious."

Made up of three generals, the military court found Ochoa and La Guardia guilty of high treason, together with Capt. Jorge Martínez Valdés and Maj. Amado Padrón Trujillo. They were also convicted of drug trafficking, hostile acts against a foreign country, and abuse of authority.

Martínez was Ochoa's aide and set up many of the drug operations attempted by the army general, meeting in May 1988 in Colombia with the head of the Medellín cartel. Padrón worked closely with La Guardia in setting up the system for shipping cocaine through Cuba.

Ten other army officers and officials of the Interior Ministry were sentenced to prison for their roles in the drug shipments — one for 10 years, three for 25 years, and six for 30 years.

Ochoa was also found guilty of corruption during his military mission in Angola, including smuggling diamonds, ivory, and valuable hardwoods.

The court-martial heard testimony from the defendants and witnesses, as well as the arguments of the prosecution and nine defense lawyers over the period of a week. Parts of the sessions were televised.

A separate military tribunal had been convened June 25-26. Made up of 47 generals and admirals, it recommended that Ochoa be stripped of his military rank, dishonorably discharged from the armed forces, and court-martialed.

Although not implicated in the smuggling operations, Gen. José Abrantes Fernández, head of the Interior Ministry, was replaced June 29 by Gen. Abelardo Colomé. An official account said he had been removed because of the deficiency in leading the Interior Ministry "in relation to the conduct of a group of officials who carried out drug-trafficking operations with impunity for two and a half years."

On July 5 the heads of the Civil Aeronautics Institute as well as officials at the Transportation Ministry were also replaced.

Pope John Paul II petitioned the Cuban government to grant clemency for those sentenced to death. United Nations Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar also appealed to Fidel Castro to commute the sentences.

'Militant' welcomed in mining areas

BY RONI McCANN

Spurred on by the recent miners' strikes and solidarity rallies sweeping the Appalachian coalfields, supporters of the *Militant* are making special efforts to boost the sales of the newspaper throughout coal-mining regions.

Distributors make daytime trips, evening sales in communities near where they live, or go several days out in the coal hollows. Whatever the scale of their effort, the results are the same — there are miners, strike supporters, and other workers who are attracted to the *Militant* and want to read the paper every week.

Seven days were spent visiting picket shacks and mining communities in Virginia and eastern Kentucky by a recent reporting and sales team.

"I really enjoy the stories," one subscriber said. "I bring my issue down to the union hall for others to read."

At McAndrews union hall

Terry Varney is the strike captain and public relations director for United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) Local 5737 in McAndrews, Kentucky. His local is on strike against Pittston Coal Group.

Varney bought a subscription to the paper at the June 11 rally in Charleston, West Virginia, in solidarity with striking Eastern workers and Pittston and New Beckley miners.

Team members stopped by Varney's union hall to talk to striking miners. They were invited to stay until the union meeting was over to sell subscriptions to other miners.

As the team traveled through the hollows of the coalfield region, they found solid support for the UMWA from the townspeople they met. Nearly everyone had personal contact with the mine union, if not directly, then through family members.

Frank Sullivan, a worker at an Island Creek mine in Virginia, signed up for a *Militant* subscription and told team members, "This newspaper will be very valuable around here."

A woman in a Norton, Virginia, trailer camp rushed out of her home when she saw *Militant* supporters talking to her daughter in the yard. She had seen a copy of the paper in West Virginia last summer and, unfortunately, lost the subscription information. She had been hoping for the chance to get another copy and signed up.

An entire day was spent in Dante, Virginia.

Several residents of this small town were already familiar with the *Militant* because another subscription team had been through a couple of months before. A woman who had a few weeks to go on her first subscription decided to renew.

"How much for those *Militants*?", one driver stopped to ask a salesperson displaying the newspapers along the road. He bought a subscription right away.

In one week 66 subscriptions and 110 single copies were sold. Four of those were to out-of-state steelworkers at the June 28 rally supporting the Pittston miners in St. Paul, Virginia.

Northern West Virginia

Militant supporters in northern West Virginia also report a good response in that area.

From Morgantown, an evening team went to Waynesburg, Pennsylvania, shopping plaza. Ten *Militants* were sold to shoppers in an hour. Recently, a rally was held in that town of 4,000 in support of striking coal miners.

On July 1 two community sales teams sold 47 single copies of the paper and one subscription.

A former miner who lost his job after an unsuccessful union-organizing drive bought

a copy and expressed his support for the coalfield strikes. He is making half of what he made in the mines, working as a driver.

In Bobtown, Pennsylvania, salespersons sold 10 single copies of the *Militant* and two subscriptions.

A woman told them about a protest of miners' wives and daughters she had taken part in the day before at the headquarters of the struck Shannopin Coal Co. on the outskirts of town.

The company refused to give paychecks to the women, trying to force miners to cross the picket lines to receive their pay.

As the women persisted in their demands the bosses called in the state troopers and the mine superintendent. At that point the local news media showed up.

When the superintendent tried to leave, the women blocked his car as he attempted to drive away. "He pushed right up against our legs", she said. "We stopped him. It was great — we all just stuck together."

The company was forced to hand out the checks.

Meg Hall, participant in the recent Militant sales team to Virginia and Kentucky; and John Rutherford from Morgantown, West Virginia, contributed to this article.

Abortion rights fight escalates in Canada

BY NANCY WALKER

TORONTO — Within a day of the U.S. Supreme Court ruling limiting a woman's right to abortion, the struggle over abortion rights sharply escalated in Canada.

Abortion has been legal in Canada since a January 1988 Supreme Court decision.

Opponents of abortion and women's rights immediately countered the 1988 victory with clinic blockades, cutbacks in hospital abortion services, and a nationwide effort to introduce a new federal antiabortion law.

Emboldened by the Washington court decision, Judge John O'Driscoll of the Ontario Supreme Court granted an injunction on July 4 preventing a woman from getting an abortion she was seeking.

Barbara Dodd was prohibited from having an abortion anywhere in the province of Ontario. The judge declared the fetus, which he called the "infant," to be under court protection.

Application for the injunction was made by Gregory Murphy, Dodd's former boyfriend, who claims to be the father.

Dodd, who is hearing-impaired, wasn't given access to any interpreters to explain the implications of the proposed injunction. Nor was she given access to a lawyer. The lawyer representing the former boyfriend also represented Operation Rescue in Toronto.

At a rally on July 7 in Toronto, 500 angry demonstrators assembled at the Ontario Supreme Court and then marched to the U.S. consulate. The protest was an emergency action in response to the U.S. ruling.

A speaker from the Deaf Women's Support Group denounced the action taken against Dodd, calling it a "travesty of women's choice and right to decide."

Cherie MacDonald of the Ontario Coalition for Abortion Clinics asserted, "American women have put on their marching shoes again, and they're not going to put up with any attacks on their rights."

On July 11 Justice Gibson Gray of the Ontario Supreme Court overturned the injunction barring Dodd from having an abortion. He ruled that she did not have sufficient notice of the original court hearing to defend her interests.

Meanwhile, in Winnipeg a judge refused to grant an injunction banning an abortion, stating, "We do not, in Canada, have a law that says it is a criminal act to have an abortion."

Charges were stayed against 43 opponents of abortion rights in Winnipeg who tried to shut down an abortion clinic there.

Prochoice activists in Québec, members of the Québec Coalition for Free and Accessible Abortion, issued a statement denouncing the U.S. ruling and exposing the cutbacks in abortion services taking place in that province. The Québec Superior Court granted a temporary injunction forbidding a 21-year-old woman from having an abortion. A hearing is set for July 17.

Across Canada abortion rights supporters are moving with renewed determination to build an October action called by the Canadian Abortion Rights Action League, National Action Committee on the Status of Women, and a host of other local groups.

The National Day of Action to defend a woman's right to choose is slated for October 14.

Fund effort crucial to meet big challenges ahead

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.

this fight is a gain for the rights of all prisoners. It is also another demonstration of the fact that putting political activist Mark Curtis behind bars has failed to stop his po-

DEFEND MARK CURTIS!

The Mark Curtis Defense Committee is leading an international fight for justice for Curtis. To contact the committee, write Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311. Telephone (515) 246-1695.

The Mark Curtis Defense Committee has raised \$15,882 so far in its effort to collect \$100,000 by September 14. This drive is key to meeting the coming challenges for the defense case.

The fund will cover legal expenses that have quadrupled with the filing of a civil rights lawsuit by Curtis against the Des Moines police and with Curtis' appeal to the Iowa Supreme Court.

Reproduction of a video about the Curtis case by director Nick Castle, Jr., will be covered by the fund. Hazel Zimmerman, a leader of the defense committee, will be on a speaking tour through Iowa, southern Minnesota, and Omaha, Nebraska. And the fund will also help publicize the Curtis case at the convention of the National Organization for Women at the end of July.

A 5,000-piece mailing with an update on the Curtis case and a fund appeal will go out this week. The cost of the mailing alone is \$3,000.

"We should intensify our campaign for Mark's right to read, write, and communicate in the language of his choice. Each victory in

political activity," Hazel Zimmerman wrote in a June 27 letter from the Mark Curtis Defense Committee.

She refers to the international campaign launched by the defense committee to protest the ban against non-English language publications and correspondence at the Iowa State Men's Reformatory at Anamosa, where Curtis is incarcerated.

Supporters of Curtis and prisoners' rights are responding to Zimmerman's call. Below are excerpts from a few protest messages.

"I never thought I would have the occasion to equate your prison regime's policies with that of the racist government in South Africa. This is a typical example. First there is the wide catch-as-catch-can language 'encoded materials.' Then there is the assumption that if the prison officials cannot read it, it must be encoded. Your comments strike me as shallow to the point of being vacuous," wrote Moyisi Majeke, a black South African.

From Minnesota, James Thomas, assistant to the bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, wrote, "I am both amazed and distressed that in present day America such blatant acts of mind and thought control are being exercised on the prison population in Anamosa."

A Minneapolis meat-packer from United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 653 wrote



Militant Veteran New Zealand labor leader Jock Barnes spoke at Curtis defense meeting held in Auckland in May.

prison authorities, "I protest the undemocratic ban imposed on prisoners at Anamosa regarding receiving non-English language literature of their choice. I especially protest the restrictions placed on Mark Curtis receiving Spanish and other non-English literature. . . . I am committed to publicizing these unjust policies until they are reversed."

Nineteen workers at the Toyota factory in Christchurch, New Zealand, signed a protest message, as did 31 members of UFCW Local 442 in Atlanta.

Protests should be addressed to: John A. Thalacker, Warden, Iowa

State Men's Reformatory, Box 'B', Anamosa, Iowa 52205.

Copies should be sent to: Attorney General Thomas J. Miller, Hoover State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319; Paul Grossheim, Director, Department of Corrections, Capitol Annex, 523 E. 12 St., Des Moines, Iowa 50309; and the Mark Curtis Defense Committee.

Kate Kaku, a leader of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee and Curtis' wife, toured New Zealand at the end of May. Supporters of the

defense effort sponsored meetings in three cities — Auckland, Wellington, and Christchurch.

Many political activists and unionists sent messages or joined Kaku on the platform at these meetings. They included fighters for immigrant rights, civil libertarians, public officials, officials in the New Zealand Meat Workers Union, and Philippines, Pacific Island, and Latin American solidarity activists.

Jock Barnes, a veteran trade union leader, participated in the Auckland rally and summed up the spirit of the tour. Barnes condemned the frame-up of Curtis. He told a story about Clarence Darrow, the lawyer who defended Eugene Debs after he was arrested during the Pullman strike in 1894 and other frame-up victims.

After winning an acquittal for one frame-up victim, Darrow turned to the judge and asked, "Now, who is going to prosecute the prosecution?"

"We are doing that at this meeting tonight," Barnes declared. "We are prosecuting the prosecution."

Two new sponsors of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee signed up recently in New York City. They are Neftalí García and Carlos Gallisá, of Puerto Rico. García is a member of the Editorial Committee of the proindependence and socialist magazine in Puerto Rico, *Pensamiento Crítico*. Gallisá is the general secretary of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party.

James Pearson from Auckland, New Zealand, and Mary Nell Bockman from Des Moines contributed to this column.

Move to disband Des Moines rights dep't denounced

BY PRISCILLA SCHENK

DES MOINES, Iowa — An outpouring of 150 people at a city council meeting here June 26 denounced a proposed move by the council to abolish the city's Human Rights Department. This would dissolve the body responsible for the resolution of cases of racist and other discrimination in employment and housing in the city.

The city council move came on the heels of a U.S. Justice Department report, "The Potentiality for Racial Conflict in the Des Moines Police Department." The report concluded that the police department had widespread incidents of racist and sexist behavior as well as discriminatory hiring and promotion policies.

Deborah Lynch, a former police officer,

won \$10,000 in a sexual harassment lawsuit against the city this year. In June 1988 police cadet Charlie Smith filed a complaint when a lieutenant referred to a Black man as a "coon." Smith was fired for "filing a false report." She was later reinstated by the city's Civil Service Commission, which issued a report documenting antiwoman and anti-Black attitudes and language among police officers.

The city then called on the Justice Department to investigate the charges of widespread racism and sexism.

Police chief: 'We're not racists'

Black and Latino community leaders have demanded that discriminatory practices in the police department and in the city as a whole be addressed. At a meeting

at the Mexican American Community Center on June 22, just after the Justice Department report was released, Police Chief William Moulder said, "We are guilty of crude taste, but we are not racists and bigots."

The Justice Department report found in interviews with police officers that 73 percent had heard or used racially or sexually derogatory language, although most said it was used in a "friendly or joking" manner.

Rudy Simms, from the National Conference of Christians and Jews, said that racist and sexist jokes are "some pretty serious symptoms" of racism and sexism. "That's the kind of stuff that perpetuates stereotypes and racist attitudes," he said.

The protesters who crowded into the city council chambers expressed their outrage at the legacy of racist discrimination and sexual harassment by the police and attempts by the local government and the Supreme Court to reverse gains that have been made.

Bernard Mercer, for example, told the council that abolishing the Human Rights Department "sends a bad message as far as what this city feels about discrimination. Recent Supreme Court rulings against affirmative action appear that we are going backwards. I have a problem — who will solve discrimination problems in the city of Des Moines?"

Larry Carter, president of the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, warned the council that "you are planting the seeds of sedition. . . . If you do this [abolish the Human Rights Department] you will polarize this community."

'Targeted for what they've done'

Kate Kaku, a leader of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, said that it was no accident that the council was attacking the Human Rights Commission "just a week after the Justice Department released its report on rampant racism and sexism in the police department."

Kaku said that the commission was being targeted "not for what they haven't done, but for what they have done. Like helping organize a march against racism in

Clive, Iowa, and mobilizing hundreds when the Swift meat-packing plant was raided by immigration cops who arrested 17 of our sisters and brothers from other countries."

Kaku's husband, Mark Curtis, has filed a lawsuit against the police for beating him on March 4, 1988, calling him a "Mexican-lover, just like you love those coloreds," and arresting him on false charges of rape and burglary.

Rev. Willie Clemons, a chaplain for one of Iowa's prisons, spoke of the many forms of racist discrimination he has witnessed since moving to Des Moines in 1984. "I find many young men who come from Des Moines who have been railroaded into the prison system." He said he often wanted to leave Des Moines because of the discrimination.

Alvarez condemns move

Alfredo Alvarez, chair of the Human Rights Commission, which hires and supervises the staff for the Human Rights Department, called the city council's move "politically motivated."

"Certain members of the city council have long attempted to shackle the commission's work and have attempted to censor the commission from either making public statements or taking actions they perceive as too controversial and negative to the city," Alvarez said.

The commission came under attack by city officials recently when Alvarez criticized the police department for trying to obscure the charges of racism by claiming a white officer faced "reverse discrimination" when a Black officer called him a "turkey." Alvarez was also admonished last year by city officials for stating that beatings are carried out by the police.

The city council plans to make a decision on the Human Rights Department in October. Meanwhile, 80 Black activists and supporters met at a local church June 27. They made plans to get more of a hearing on the issue of racist discrimination in the city by challenging the city council to debate community leaders. An ad-hoc committee was formed to work on this and other activities.

Wave of hunger strikes by Iowa prisoners protests racist abuse

BY PETER THIERJUNG

A wave of hunger strikes have hit the Iowa State Penitentiary in Fort Madison this year. Prisoners have been protesting abusive and racist treatment by prison authorities.

Through letters and telephone reports to the *Des Moines Register*, prisoners are getting out word of their conditions.

Hunger striker Duke Cranford reported that prison guards routinely slam prisoners' heads into bars, walls, and floors. He also said that guards make prisoners stick their arms out of door slots and pull on them to the point of breaking.

"There are some extremely racist officers employed by the prison who are fearlessly turning a Black prisoner's life behind these walls into a matter of survival," wrote Cranford.

"Taxpayers' money is being spent on worthless security and punishment," wrote Glenn McGhee, another hunger striker. "Prisoners do from one year to as many as six years

in lockup for reports, and then are placed in close management for another year or more," he said.

More than 20 prisoners participated in the protest fast, which started on May 21. They cited sham disciplinary hearings, violations of religious rights, poor medical treatment, and insufficient educational opportunities as additional grounds for their actions.

"They're warehousing people. They don't have enough room for the inmates in the yard. That's why they're locking them up," said Jefferson Calhoun, who ended his hunger strike on June 9. "I just wish there would be somehow for the public to know how this place really runs. It isn't like Warden [Crispus] Nix would have you believe," he added.

Michael Bartnick fasted for nearly three months earlier this year and lost 41 pounds in an action to protest his mistreatment by guards at the penitentiary. He has since been transferred to the Iowa State Men's Reformatory at Anamosa.

South Pacific artists in New York to paint on Pathfinder mural

BY SUSAN LaMONT

NEW YORK — Four portraits of heroes of the labor movement and of the anticolonial and national liberation struggles in the South Pacific have just been painted on the Pathfinder mural in lower Manhattan.

The paintings were done by three artists from New Zealand — Fatu Feu'u, Sally Griffin, and John Walsh. Their participation in the international project was made possible by extensive fund-raising efforts organized by mural supporters in New Zealand earlier this year.

The six-story mural on the south side of the Pathfinder Building features portraits of outstanding revolutionary and working-class leaders whose works have been published by Pathfinder, including Fidel Castro, Ernesto Che Guevara, Malcolm X, Nelson Mandela, and V.I. Lenin and other prominent leaders of the Communist International.

Griffin is a painter who moved to New Zealand from Australia in 1973. At home in Auckland, she works mainly on murals and on paintings for galleries.

The portrait she just completed is of New Zealand Labour Party founder Harry Holland, who has been a theme of her work for the past several years. Holland died in 1933, two years before the first Labour Party government was elected at the height of the Great Depression.

Holland was the "first Marxist leader of the Labour Party," Griffin explained. "He represented a whole era of real battles within that country and had such integrity and a comprehensive vision for the country."

Artist from Samoa

Feu'u came to New Zealand from the Pacific island of Samoa in 1966. He works in Auckland as a painter, sculptor, and print-

maker. His work is mainly semi-abstract, based on Samoan themes and motifs, Feu'u explained. "After this trip, I'll be a good political artist too!" he added.

Feu'u painted the figure of Tamasese on the mural. Tamasese was the central leader of the Mau, a movement in the 1920s that fought against New Zealand colonial rule of Samoa. He was assassinated in 1927 by New Zealand armed forces.

When mural contributor and activist Malcolm McAllister, also from New Zealand, approached him earlier this year about painting Tamasese on the mural, Feu'u explained, he "thought it was a very good idea. I had already," he said, "researched the Mau and Tamasese as a leader of that movement, on a trip to Samoa in October 1988. When Malcolm asked me to come I jumped at the opportunity," he continued. "I thought it was great to start off the first painting of Tamasese here in New York. And of course, the Pathfinder mural must be the biggest mural around here. It's quite an opportunity to work on that and also to work alongside people like John and Sally."

The Tamasese family helped pay for Feu'u's trip to New York.

New Zealand, Feu'u explained, is the center of the Pacific in terms of the visual arts because of the number of Pacific peoples who travel or emigrate there. "It's like a mixing bowl for the peoples of the Pacific and their different cultures," he said.

Artist of Maori descent

Walsh is a painter and muralist who lives on the east coast of New Zealand's North Island. Most of the people there are Maori, the indigenous people of the country. His work is based on the "past, present, and future



Militant/Selva Nebbia

Muralist Sally Griffin completes portrait of New Zealand Labour Party founder Harry Holland.

of the Maori people," explained Walsh, who is of Maori descent.

Walsh painted the figure of Jock Barnes on the mural. Barnes, who is now 81, was the central leader of the 151-day struggle by New Zealand longshoremen against a lock-out by port owners in 1951. He is an enthusiastic partisan of the mural.

The other portrait painted by Walsh is of Jean-Marie Tjibaou, who was president of the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front

(FLNKS) of New Caledonia until his death May 5. He and another central FLNKS leader, Yeiwene Yeiwene, were assassinated by a former leader of one of the component groups of the front.

The FLNKS is the organization leading the independence movement in New Caledonia, a Pacific island ruled as a colony by France. The Kanaks are the indigenous people of the island.

On July 7, the three South Pacific artists spoke at a meeting in Brooklyn sponsored by the Pathfinder Mural Project, Militant Labor Forum, and Ventana, a Nicaragua solidarity organization for artists. Nearly 50 people heard Griffin, Feu'u, and Walsh discuss the situation in New Zealand and their contributions to the mural. There were also slide presentations of their work. Malcolm McAllister, who is in New York helping to direct the final painting and work at the mural site, also spoke.

The three artists arrived in New York on June 22. Feu'u and Griffin headed back to the Pacific on July 10. Walsh will be staying in New York for two more months to continue working on the mural.

Victory won against nuclear pollution

BY HARRY RING

The fight against nuclear pollution scored an important victory recently when the government decided to settle for damages stemming from the operation of its Ohio uranium plant.

Located 18 miles from Cincinnati, the Fernald uranium processing plant was described by one attorney as "a radioactive junkyard." For 35 years, it has polluted the surrounding soil, water, and air with uranium dust and other poisonous waste.

In a June 30 out-of-court settlement, the Department of Energy, which operates the plant, agreed to pay at least \$73 million in damages to avoid going to trial. A class action suit was brought by 14,000 people who live or work within a five-mile radius of the plant. Filed in 1985, the case was scheduled to go to trial in August.

In a pretrial procedure last month, a jury found against the government. Its nonbinding verdict recommended steep penalties. Two weeks later the government signed the settlement.

It agreed to compensate claimants for emotional distress and depreciation of property values, but not for the illnesses and deaths caused by the pollution.

However, the settlement specifically provides that damage suits can still be filed by those who have suffered from cancer and other sicknesses.

Money to go toward studies

Stanley Chesley, chief attorney for the plaintiffs, said they had not sought damages for such illnesses because they lacked the documented health studies to prove that these were caused by the plant. He said a large part of the settlement money will be used to finance such studies.

Chesley said earlier that the Fernald victory could trigger a similar suit at eight or nine of the government's 17 nuclear weapons plants. Investigations confirm that dangerous conditions prevail at all of them.

The Fernald plant — with the benign name Feed Materials Production Center — began

operating in 1953 and, according to its own documents, began releasing radioactive pollution into the environment almost immediately after.

In 1985 area residents filed the class action suit in the wake of revelations by workers at the plant about the radioactive danger. Defying a government "national security" gag rule, the workers spotlighted the escape of uranium dust from the plant.

The unions at Fernald charge that at least 35 workers have been contaminated by radioactive materials.

In April of this year a federal judge ordered the release of medical records of Fernald workers. So far, the Energy Department has stonewalled on complying.

One of the government's documents obtained in the class-action pretrial proceedings disclosed that Fernald is a national depository for thorium, a highly radioactive by-product of uranium. For a decade, 5 million pounds of thorium sludge has been sitting at Fernald in corroding steel drums.

Radium and other radioactive waste was stored in a tank with cracks in its concrete, which could not be repaired.

The government solution? It let the tank leak until the waste level was below the cracks.

3 million pounds uranium dust

Pollution of the surrounding area has been vast. Smokestacks went unmonitored for months at a time. Routinely, this was covered up by falsified reports that the government, equally routinely, accepted.

An independent study commissioned by the plaintiffs in the suit found that over the years more than 3 million pounds of uranium dust may have been released into the air.

It was disclosed that three wells in the area were contaminated by uranium and that neighboring farmlands had been heavily polluted by leaks from a storm sewer.

As much as 2 million gallons of hazardous waste water a year was dumped into a neighboring creek and 152,000 pounds of uranium waste into the Great Miami River.

Until 1985 the plant was operated for the government by National Lead of Ohio, which was the named defendant in the suit.

Operation of the plant was then taken over by Westinghouse. In February of this year, the Environmental Protection Agency fined Westinghouse \$196,500 for mishandling hazardous waste.

The Department of Energy has leaked a report that it intends to shut Fernald down by 1994. It estimates that it will take at least 22 years and \$5 billion to clean it up.

Young worker fights firing, hearing set for August 2

BY PETER THIERJUNG

A hearing has been set for August 2 in the case of a young unionist and political activist who was fired from his job at Norden Systems in Norwalk, Connecticut, last November.

Peter Krala, a member of International Union of Electrical Workers (IUE) Local 244, was fired for "improper use of time and for interfering with coworkers."

Krala was known as a union activist and socialist on the shop floor at Norden, a military contractor. "I have always encouraged my coworkers to fight back when unfairly put upon," he said in a telephone interview. "Our discussion of conditions at Norden Systems — which is in some difficulty — of necessity takes a political turn. The company appears to take a dim view of this," he added.

When Krala first joined Local 244 in October 1987, no one on the second shift in his department belonged to the union. Norden has an open shop. He recruited 20 of his coworkers to the local, making the shift 100 percent union within six months.

Norden is for sale and is claiming big financial losses. In this context, workers are expecting layoffs.

Last October Krala filed a grievance challenging the company's creation of a new labor grade in his department. Under the new

grade workers would earn almost a dollar less for the same work as under the old grade. Soon after Krala was fired.

"Send unity message to the boss: Discharge of one is injury to all," read the headline of an article in the April 1989 issue of the national *IUE News*. The article explained that Krala is an activist in his local and a member of the Young Socialist Alliance. "That may well have something to do with his discharge last November 7," it said.

The article described Krala's union-building activities as "an important contribution, making Krala a target and his case a cause." It quoted Local 244 President Jim Southworth saying, "Reinstating Pete would send a strong message to the workers that the company can't do everything it wants."

The August 2 hearing was set after the local took Krala's case to arbitration. The union is asking that letters protesting the firing and demanding Krala's reinstatement be sent to the company. "We can win this, and we can make the bosses pay the maximum political price," Krala said.

Letters should be sent to: Edwin Decker, President, Norden Systems, Norden Place, Norwalk, Conn. 06856, with copies to: IUE Local 244, 370 Huntington Rd., Bridgeport, Conn. 06608.

Women miners' meeting welcomes Eastern strikers

The International Association of Machinists struck Eastern Airlines March 4 in an effort to block the company's drive to break the unions and impose massive concessions on workers.

Backed by the 5,700 flight attendants and 3,200 pilots at Eastern, the strike by 8,300 Machinists has crippled the airline's operations since then. It has also won broad support from working peo-

SUPPORT EASTERN STRIKERS!

ple in the United States and Canada. Readers — especially Eastern strikers — are encouraged to send news of strike solidarity activities to this column.

Participants in the 11th National Conference of Women Miners, held June 23-25 in Springfield, Illinois, gave a warm welcome to two Eastern strikers who attended the gathering. Sponsored by the Coal Employment Project and Coal Mining Women's Support Team, the meeting drew about 130 people.

The two strikers and another Machinists' union member staffed a table with information on the Eastern strike and distributed AFL-CIO pledge sheets for people to sign. The pledges are a commitment not to fly Eastern or Continental Airlines until an acceptable settlement has been won.

About 60 miners signed the pledge sheet, including all the Pittston strikers and members of their family auxiliary, "Daughters of Mother Jones." Many of the miners also took pledge petitions to circulate among coworkers.

Most conference participants were already very familiar with the Eastern workers' fight. Many wore

"Stop Lorenzo" buttons and had attended the June 11 Charleston, West Virginia, rally in support of the Pittston, New Beckley, and Eastern strikes.

The gathering passed a resolution supporting the Eastern walkout and pledging participation of women miners in strike support activities.

The CEP helps women get and keep jobs in coal mining, works to combat discrimination and improve health and safety on the job, and provides a support organization for women miners.

Eight or so members of the Antonio Maceo Brigade in New York came out to the picket line at La Guardia Airport June 22 to show support for and learn more about the strike at Eastern.

The brigade is an organization that carries out activities in solidarity with the Cuban revolution. It is made up of people from Cuba or who are of Cuban descent.

Brigade members walked the picket line for two hours. Afterward, they went to the union's offices and talked with strikers — about the struggle at Eastern, what's happening in Cuba, and more. The strikers appreciated their visit.

Striking flight attendants and Machinists greeted members of Miami's Postal Workers Credit Union with "Stop Lorenzo" stickers, pins, balloons, and T-shirts on Friday, June 23 — payday. A collection for the Eastern strikers took place, organized by American Postal Workers Union members.

More than \$1,400 was donated by the postal workers to the flight attendants' emergency strike fund and the Eastern workers' food bank. The food bank is used by both strikers and noncontract workers laid off during the strike.

"Your strike is for all of us," said one older postal worker who donated \$60.

On the third day of the recent United Auto Workers national convention, held in Anaheim, California, two Eastern strikers from Machinists Local 1932 in Los Angeles set up an information table in front of the convention center. In less than an hour, convention participants bought more than \$400 worth of "Stop Lorenzo" buttons.

Many UAW members stopped by the table to express solidarity with the strikers during the three days the table was up. More than \$1,000 was

also donated to the strike.

Some 2,000 UAW members participated in the June 18-23 convention. A message of solidarity was sent to the Eastern and Pittston strikers on the last day of the gathering.

In Houston on June 23 Eastern set up an interview session to try to recruit scab flight attendants — the third such effort in that city since the strike began. As in the earlier sessions, applicants were met by a group of strikers and supporters.

It was hard to mistake the eight strikers dressed in their uniforms. The flight attendants and pilots, standing inside the doors of the Holiday Inn, talked to virtually every potential applicant. They also gave each one a handout explaining the conditions they would face as new hires in a strike situation.

One pilot rented a room in the hotel, which became the strike coordinating center for the day. Strikers invited would-be job seekers up to the room to talk and to give them applications and information about jobs at other airlines. About 40 of the 150 applicants came to the center, and more were talked to in the hallways.

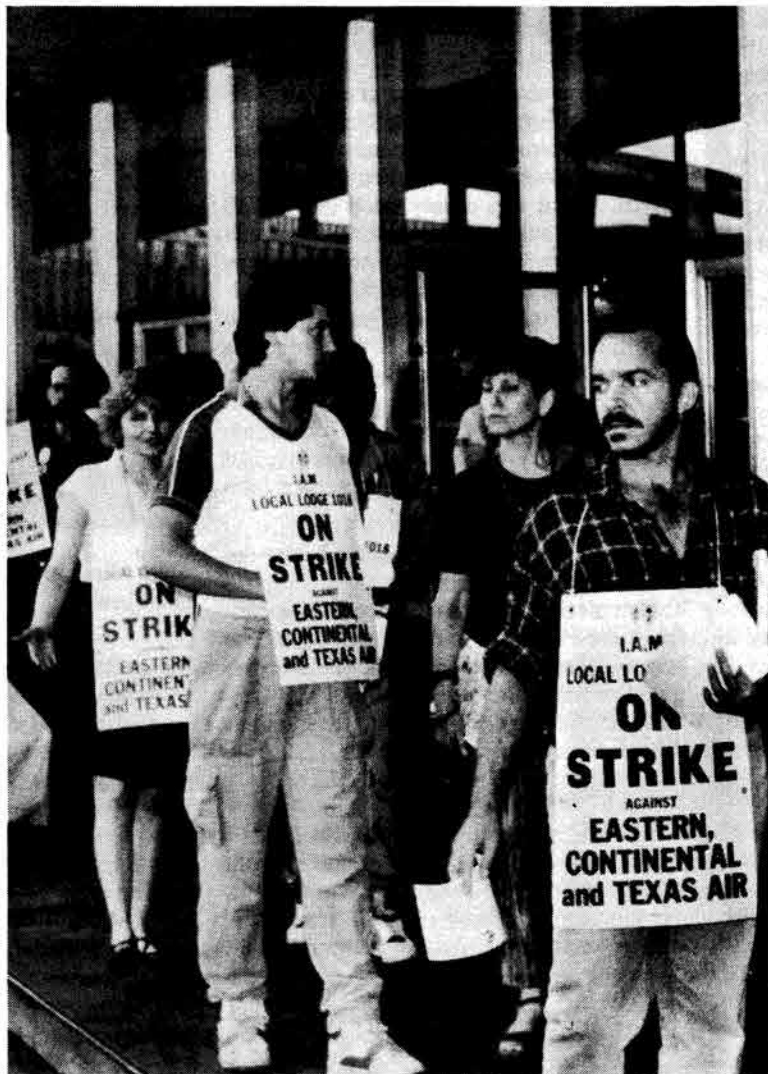
On June 30 the Industrial Union Council (IUC) of New Jersey unanimously passed a resolution. It urged the AFL-CIO leadership in Washington, D.C., to endorse a one-day nationwide work stoppage by union members if the Eastern and Pittston strikes are not rapidly resolved in a way favorable to the workers.

United Auto Workers District 9 Director Thomas Fricano said the one-day protest strike was needed to make clear that unions would no longer accept corporate union-busting, "while the government and the courts stand by, insensitive to it," the Newark Star-Ledger reported.

"I move that New Jersey and the IUC take the lead in calling for the AFL-CIO to consider such a walk-out," Fricano said. "If we don't get some equity and the return of jobs at Eastern and Pittston, I favor a call for a one-day shutdown."

The IUC is the main umbrella labor organization representing unions in New Jersey.

Striking IAM Local 702 member Rick Walker from Miami, Ollie Bivins from Los Angeles, Mary Selvas from Houston, and Jim Rogers from St. Louis contributed to this column.



Cuba solidarity activists from Antonio Maceo Brigade visited picket line at New York's La Guardia Airport June 22.

Australia air traffic controllers fight for safety

BY KATE BLAKENEY

SYDNEY, Australia — Government officials here are using new powers to lay off air traffic controllers who call in sick. Such action by the federal government and the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) is forcing a confrontation with controllers that may bring about a shutdown of Sydney airport.

During the last four months, air traffic controllers have refused overtime to cover shifts for coworkers who have called in sick. The airport has been forced to close 12 times as a result.

The controllers are demanding more staff, a reduction in forced overtime, and the updating of radar equipment, which they explain is obsolete and dangerous. Their recent actions have been part of a long-running battle with the CAA and the government over staffing levels and equipment standards.

On June 28 Justice Monroe, the deputy president of the Industrial Relations Commission, reversed an earlier decision establishing seven hours over two weeks as a "reasonable" amount of overtime. Under the new ruling, management can now insist on more hours. He also said that controllers can be laid off for reasons other than job actions and has allowed the CAA to give verbal notice of layoff.

The minister for transport and communications has warned of new laws against controllers if they take further action.

Two months ago the CAA conceded to the union that staff levels were too low and promised new recruitment programs and financial incentives to lure controllers from other areas.

It also acknowledged that the outmoded equipment placed greater strain on already overworked controllers and promised a complete upgrading of the system.

The CAA argues that its move to lay off controllers is justified because the number of sick days taken by controllers has doubled in the last year.

Union delegate Pat Prendergast countered the CAA, explaining the increase in sick days was a direct result of the increased pressure on the controllers. "They are rostered [scheduled] two days off," he explained, "and then they get phone calls offering them five different shifts during that period. Most people end up working 11 days in a row," he said.

Prendergast said one controller worked 53 of the last 56 days. "With all this work and stress of the job," he underscored, "these are the people whose mistakes can result in a jumbo jet with 350 passengers on board ending up in Botany Bay."

Pilots and aircraft mechanics are also locked in a dispute with the CAA. They are demanding wage increases and increased staff levels. Pilots are threatening strike action this month.

"It's like a pressure cooker at the moment," said Brian McCarthy, the president of the Federation of Air Pilots. "Airlines are undergoing a period of great expansion, but they suffer from a lack of planning and a shortage of skilled labor," he explained.

Airlines cut back their training programs during the early 1980s recession. Now the demand for skilled and licensed workers has increased and the programs have not been able to meet the airlines' needs.

It takes four years of training for a mechanic to be licensed and 10 years for a mechanic to be recognized as familiar with a range of aircraft and problems most likely to occur.

"The reality is that the industry is very unsettled because of the shortages," said

Bruce Deahm, a union spokesperson for the mechanics. Qantas Airlines, currently short 500 journeymen and more than 100 licensed mechanics, "is not running the aircraft on time. There are constant delays and it is when that sort of pressure is on that mistakes can be

made and air safety jeopardized," he added.

In two further disputes, unlicensed mechanics are pursuing major wage increases and flight service officers have instructed their union leadership to organize job actions to solve the staffing crisis and wage demands.

Aeroméxico strikers resist union-busting bankruptcy

BY BARRY FATLAND

LOS ANGELES — Eastern Airlines workers aren't the only unionists organizing to win public support in Southern California. Striking Aeroméxico workers are maintaining picket lines twice daily in front of the international terminal at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX).

Aeroméxico, formerly owned by the Mexican government, declared bankruptcy on April 15, 1988, putting thousands of workers out of work worldwide. Workers had gone on strike a few days earlier, after the airline announced the sale of 13 of its 43 planes.

Management of the reorganized carrier renewed flights in September 1988 with only one-third of its former work force. People were called back without regard to seniority, and their wages were slashed. At LAX, many jobs were contracted out to other companies.

The Aeroméxico strikers at LAX are members of an International Association of Machinists local that represents 500 workers from international carriers.

For the past six months, the strikers have been without offices, due to court action

against local officials.

Despite the hardships, strikers report their numbers are increasing. One striker said they began last September with 22 participating in the picket lines. Now, there are at least 40 who picket once a week or more. Most of the strikers have managed to get other jobs in the Los Angeles area, although with few benefits and lower wages.

Aeroméxico picketers report a positive response from many passengers who stop and talk. Many have said they will fly other airlines in the future, and some have even changed their flight plans on the spot.

The governments of France and Spain refused to allow Aeroméxico to renew flights to those countries without first rehiring the fired workers with full back pay to the date of declaration of bankruptcy.

The U.S. government granted Aeroméxico's request to renew flights in the United States, thus backing the company's strikebreaking efforts.

Last October the Mexican government agreed to sell the airline to a group of businessmen for \$350 million. The sale was one of a series of privatizations being carried out by the government.

Strikers counter new Eastern flights

Continued from front page situation.

"We need more, and bigger, actions like those held around July 2 — that's essential," Mailhot stressed. "The strike is at a critical stage, and the backing of the whole labor movement is key now — more rallies and other public activities, and significantly larger picket lines are what it will take to answer Lorenzo's plan."

Mailhot was referring to the rallies, beefed-up picket lines, and airport "drive-throughs" that took place in many cities around the country, and in Toronto, Canada, over the July 2 weekend. The strike support actions were called in response to Eastern's start-up of flights, bringing the total daily projected flights to 226.

Eastern is planning to increase the number of daily flights to 390 on August 1. The renewed flights, along with sales of \$1.8 billion of the airline's assets, are at the center of the carrier's plan to break the strike by resuming operations as a somewhat smaller, nonunion carrier.

Eastern, which is already losing \$1.7 million a day, is attracting passengers onto the new flights with low fares and a media campaign promoting the "new" Eastern.

The company had been getting only a tiny fraction of its former 1,040 daily flights into the air since the strike by Machinists union members, flight attendants, and pilots began March 4.

Strikers stress that they need to empty these new flights. The Air Line Pilots Association reports that passenger load on current flights is averaging 60 percent.

A July 11 ALPA announcement also said that four to six flights a day are being canceled, some of them for pilot shortage and mechanical problems.

The U.S. Department of Transportation announced July 10 that Eastern had the highest rate of customer complaints of any airline for June.

Many of Eastern's flights are to cities in

Pathfinder publishes 'Socialism and Man in Cuba' in Farsi edition

NEW YORK — A Farsi-language edition of *Socialism and Man in Cuba* will soon be available, Pathfinder announced here. Pathfinder is a New York-based publisher of the works of revolutionary leaders from around the world.

The 80-page book includes "Socialism and Man in Cuba," the 1965 Marxist classic by Ernesto Che Guevara. Guevara, a central leader of the Cuban revolution, was murdered at the hands of the U.S.-backed Bolivian dictatorship in 1967.

Also included is a speech by Cuban President Fidel Castro marking the 20th anniversary of Guevara's death. The Oct. 8, 1987, speech focuses on the importance of Guevara's political ideas for Cuba and the world today.

The Farsi-language edition will increase to five the number of languages in which Pathfinder has published this material. English-, Spanish-, Icelandic-, and Swedish-language editions have been published since 1988. Farsi is the official language of Iran.

A French edition will be published later this year.

Earlier this year Pathfinder added another book to its arsenal of non-English-language titles: the Icelandic-language *Byltingin í Nicaragua* (Revolution in Nicaragua). It makes available articles and speeches by Carlos Fonseca, Tomás Borge, Daniel Ortega, Augusto César Sandino, and Sergio Ramírez. Produced in Iceland and edited by Sigurlaug Gunnlaugsdóttir, the 130-page Pathfinder book includes 10 illustrations and a glossary.

Included are "Nicaragua: Zero Hour," by Fonseca; "The FSLN and the Nicaraguan Revolution," by Borge; a July 1986 speech on autonomy on Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast by Borge; a speech by Daniel Ortega on the struggle for peace; and more.

Both the Farsi-language *Socialism and Man in Cuba* and *Byltingin í Nicaragua* can be ordered from Pathfinder, 410 West St., N.Y., N.Y. 10014, or from Pathfinder bookstores listed on page 12.

Latin America and the Caribbean. "Flights go from New York to Miami, and then on to Guatemala City or Lima, Peru," Mailhot explained.

"There has been very little about our strike in the Spanish-language press, so many of the people coming for these flights also aren't aware of it. But these passengers are overwhelmingly workers, often very low-paid workers. Once we can talk to them, we get the same positive response we get from other passengers," Mailhot said.

"Several of our members speak Spanish, so that helps reach some of the passengers on international flights. We also have a leaflet in Spanish that explains the issues in the strike, and picket signs in Spanish. We're considering putting an ad in one of the major Spanish-language papers in New York to try to inform more people about our fight," he said.

This approach is important, Mailhot explained, because it can be frustrating for strikers to see people getting on any of Eastern's flights, and occasionally hostile, or even prejudiced remarks against people from other countries will be made. "By treating would-be passengers as fellow workers, we make it possible to win many of them over, or at least convince them not to fly Eastern again," he said.

Mailhot also noted that Local 1018 members got a good response when they picketed a scab hiring session for flight attendants held at the airport July 10. "We convinced some people not to go in," he said. "And even those who did go in listened carefully to what we had to say and took literature."

Strikers had a similar experience July 6, when they picketed a hiring session held by Hudson General, a company that has contracted with Eastern to do ramp work, fueling, cleaning, and other jobs.

"Many of those who came to apply were Latinos," Mailhot said, "so we had several of our Spanish-speaking strikers there to talk to people. Some decided not to go in. One man told us that he was coming to pick up his last paycheck. He had quit when the company told him they were working for Eastern."

Local 1018 has called for a rally July 14 at 4:30 p.m. "Unionists from throughout the city are going to participate," Mailhot said. "This is the way for us to show the strength of the strike, the support we have, and to win new backing at this stage of our fight."

New Jersey workers: 'No hike, we strike'

BY GEORGES MEHRABIAN

TRENTON, N.J. — Thousands of state workers rallied at the capitol here June 30 protesting the government's call that they take an 18-month freeze in their wages to balance the state budget.

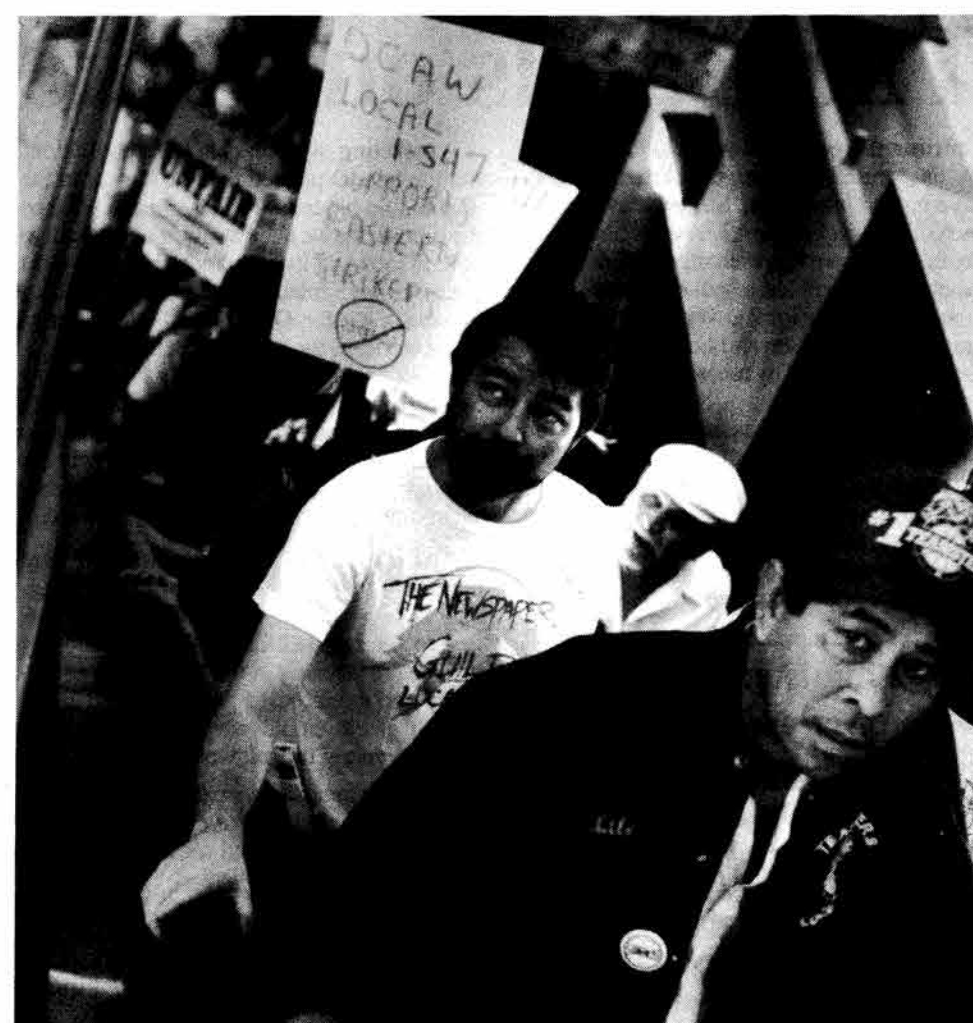
After the rally they marched through the streets to other state offices. As they passed the Health Department, several hundred workers streamed out of the building to join them in protesting the government's proposed three-year pact.

Public employees' unions representing 70,000 workers participated in the "Day of Outrage," which included pickets at state institutions and a "sick-out" joined by thousands. This shut down or nearly closed several state offices despite a court injunction issued the previous day and threats of disciplinary action.

"No hike, we strike," chanted the protesters — the majority of them women. Their signs declared, "Don't balance the budget on our backs" and "We're taking a stand — no wage freeze!"

"Do you get an 18-month freeze on your rent? Do you get an 18-month freeze on the price of gasoline?" Brooks Sunkett, Communications Workers of America vice-president for public workers, asked the crowd. "Well we are not cut-rate discount workers, and we will not accept a wage freeze."

CWA President Morton Bahr told the rally that unity of the labor unions is key. "As long as we stand together, we cannot lose," he said. "The Machinists, pilots, and flight attendants showed that to Lorenzo," the head of Eastern



Militant/Bob Custer

Some 500 Eastern strikers and supporters marched through Terminal 6 at Los Angeles International Airport June 17 (above). July 2 flights there were met by picket line and rally of 300. Large actions like these can help meet challenge of Eastern's start-up of 146 flights. Response of passengers to July 2 actions shows many can be convinced not to fly Eastern.

"We're appealing to passengers to support our struggle on the basis of solidarity. This is a fight to defend our unions, our wages and working conditions, our dignity, and many of them — especially those who are working people themselves — can identify with that, and understand what a step forward it will be for all of us if we win this strike," Mailhot stressed.

Pointing out the growing safety problems posed by what Eastern is doing "is another effective way to convince people not to fly," he added. A recent *Wall Street Journal* article even said that Eastern has the oldest planes and newest pilots in the industry.

Recently, some pilots have quit Eastern's pilot training program because they believe marginally qualified applicants are being accepted, shortcuts are being taken in training, and new pilots are being pushed into key flying slots prematurely. In addition, the failure rate in the training program is much higher than the industry average.

The Federal Aviation Administration has announced it is monitoring Eastern because of questions raised about its pilot training program.

"Inexperienced pilots aren't the only danger," Mailhot noted. "Lack of trained mechanics and other experienced personnel is also a problem, both for passengers and for people who are working at Eastern. So is speedup and forced overtime, which affects how well repairs and maintenance are done. The workers who are in there have no union to help defend them against these kinds of practices."

"In Atlanta July 8 a scab worker was killed," Mailhot added. "She was riding on a tug that was pulling baggage in a tunnel under the airport terminal. The tug flipped over, and she was crushed. The driver was also severely injured. This shows clearly that the safety question is a real one on all levels — from pilots to ramp workers," Mailhot emphasized.

Airlines.

The Communications Workers and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, which organize the majority of state workers, called the protest.

When Eastern Airlines striker Ed Murphy stepped up to the podium he was greeted by

loud chants of "Shut down the state!" A delegation from the rally took Murphy up on his invitation to come to a solidarity rally later that day at Newark Airport.

Dozens of CWA members from New Jersey Bell and AT&T joined the protest in solidarity with their fellow unionists.

July 2 Eastern strike picket draws 300 in Los Angeles

BY JANICE SAMS

LOS ANGELES — A spirited demonstration and picket line of some 300 strikers and supporters protested Eastern Airlines' start-up of flights from Los Angeles International Airport on July 2.

The day did not go well for Eastern's management. The engine on one plane began to smoke, and fire engines had to be called in. Another plane was six hours late in arriving.

After talking with pickets, a good number of passengers who had bought the very cheap tickets offered by Eastern said they would not fly on the airline again. Many passengers put on "Stop Lorenzo" stickers.

Some were persuaded to take other airlines. After seeing the picket line, one woman ran into the terminal in a demonstrative way, gathered up her family, and took them over to a different airline.

The start-up of flights here in Los Angeles has galvanized Eastern strikers to strengthen

the daily airport picket lines. For several days now, passengers on the planes leaving or arriving three times a day have been met by half a dozen to a dozen pickets. They explain the issues in the strike to the passengers and urge them not to fly Eastern. More strikers are also coming to the union hall to help out.

Members of other unions are also pitching in more on the picket line to help the 50 or so Eastern Machinists' union members, many of whom now have other jobs. Members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union held a "garment workers' Saturday" on the picket line July 8. Pilots and flight attendants from Eastern and other airlines are also getting more involved.

The July 2 demonstration was the second major support action for the Eastern strike held by unionists from throughout the city in the past month. Identification with the Eastern workers' fight is growing among members and officials of all the unions that have participated.

Thousands on strike in Britain

Continued from front page

ers has started to emerge as other workers have moved into action. Strikers have joined each others' picket lines. Meetings have been organized where representatives of different groups of strikers have spoken. Mass rallies of members of the local government workers' union in Birmingham and London, for example, were addressed by rail workers and dockers.

Many of the disputes are focused around similar issues: demands for more pay in the face of rising inflation, employer proposals to weaken unions through changed negotiating machinery, and the elimination of hard-won gains. Safety, which has deteriorated with terrible rail and subway accidents in the last

Gov't ministers denounced rail strike as "anarchy," strikers as "cowards."

couple of years, is also a key issue for oil-platform strikers. They were joined in a strike by 30,000 other workers on the first anniversary of the Piper Alpha oil rig disaster that killed 167 workers.

The rail workers' solidarity has remained firm. On each day of action, the train and underground system has completely stopped. The main rail union, the National Union of Railwaymen, has threatened to escalate its action from one to two days per week. And the train drivers' union, the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, imposed a ban on rest-day and overtime work, resulting in the cancellation of one-third of the time-tabled commuter trains in the southern part of the country.

A picketing rail worker at Liverpool Street Station here explained that the "threat to the negotiating procedure is designed to weaken the union. But we need a strong union both to defend jobs and living standards and to fight for more investment, to improve the system and make it safer. Our fight is in the interests of all workers, the traveling public."

Railworkers' union General Secretary Jimmy Knapp condemned the government's no-strike demand. "If we move into the area of banning strikes," he said, "we will be bringing in values that only exist at the moment in unsavory dictatorships."

The employers changed tack, offering talks. But these broke down when an allegedly improved wage offer of 8.8 percent was tied to the removal of increases previously paid to rail workers in the South-East of England and to increased productivity. The intention of the employers was to encourage division among the rail workers.

The government's hope that it could put the rail strikes behind it to give a clear run at the dockers has been dashed for the time being. The government deliberately targeted the dockers and provoked the strike by unilaterally repealing the National Dock Labour Scheme, which was introduced as law in 1947 after a century of struggle by dockers. It outlawed casual labor on the docks and purported to guarantee jobs for longshoremen.

The dockers have had to negotiate numerous hurdles to win official strike action, including taking two national votes. In both votes, majorities of 3 to 1 favored all-out action in support of replacing the current national negotiating machinery. Those voting were the 9,400 dockers in 60 ports previously covered by the Dock Labour Scheme. The work in these ports accounts for 70 percent by volume of nonoil trade. Another 4,000

dockers who have never been covered by the scheme are not included in the Transport and General Workers Union (T&GWU) strike.

The strikers face real difficulties in organizing effective action. The last few months have taken a real toll on the confidence and determination of the dockers. Unofficial action called in the face of a court injunction against the first ballot collapsed after a week. The government has offered payoffs of up to £35,000 (US\$56,000), the equivalent of about three years' pay, as a bribe to dockers wishing to leave the industry. In the weeks leading up to the strike, some 1,200 dockers took these payments.

The bosses are also seeking to break the solidarity of the strikers by offering local agreements and threatening instead to transfer business to nonstriking ports.

Nonetheless, 96 percent of the dockers previously registered under the Dock Labour Scheme are out, according to a T&GWU official. The experience of the last three months has shown them what it will mean to defend their union and mobilize its power. Flying pickets have been sent out in an effort to win solidarity at nonstriking ports. Under the law, such action would be deemed a "secondary" one. The general secretary of the union, Ron Todd, who visited pickets at Tilbury east of London on July 11 told them, "As long as registered dock workers are prepared to stand and fight, they are getting our total backing." But he has also stated that the union would not sanction "secondary" action by other dockers that would threaten its immunity from legal action.

National dock shop stewards committee leader Jimmy Nolan has called for support to the expanded actions, however. "They could be saying they support us based on the case for civil liberties, morality, and the justice of the case." He also called for international solidarity. A six-member shop stewards dele-



Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is chairing a special committee to counter the escalating strikes.

gation went to European ports July 12 in an attempt to win support. Dutch dockers have already declared cargo diverted from struck British ports "contaminated."

At the biennial delegate conference of the T&GWU, which took place two weeks before the strike started in early June, Jimmy Nolan and other rank-and-file docker leaders insisted that their dispute was a fight for the whole union, which organizes 1.3 million workers, including the bulk of the other dockers and truck drivers whose actions will be key to attempts to meet the maneuvers of the port bosses.

The government needs an exemplary victory to undercut the current wave of industrial disputes, which threaten a significant shift in favor of workers in the class struggle in Britain. Since the defeat of the coal miners in 1985 the government has made inroads against the rights and living standards of working people. Prime Minister Thatcher celebrated her 10th year in office in May by claiming that her government had tamed the unions.

The fact that the miners fought so determinedly limited what the government was able to achieve in the 1980s.

Rail workers and dockers, who are putting up the most serious challenge today, gave the most support to the miners during their strike. Activists in the rail industry who came to the fore in fighting for solidarity with the miners are today beginning to offer leadership to rail workers in forging unity.

Other groups of workers now stand to be brought in. Unions representing 1 million engineering (machinist and assembly) workers have decided to ballot for selective strikes at 12 of the major engineering companies in Britain in pursuit of a 35-hour working week.

Another sign of the changing mood was a 30,000-strong demonstration in the industrial city of Manchester protesting a new per capita (poll) tax, which will drastically increase the financial burden on working people and open them up to infringements on their democratic rights.

The government intends to continue its drive to impose such measures. The outcome of the current wave of struggles will be important to such intentions. Workers are gaining an experience that they have not had for five years. In the current disputes, important lessons for the future battles will be learned about what sort of action is effective and how to forge the greatest possible unity against the divisive schemes of the employers and their government.

Rojas winds up nat'l tour in Chicago



Militant/Holbrook Mahn Caribbean political activist and journalist Don Rojas.

BY JIM KENDRICK

CHICAGO — Caribbean activist Don Rojas spoke to more than 200 people and reached an audience of thousands through radio broadcasts during a tour here June 24-30. He addressed and met with representatives of a broad spectrum of political orga-

nizations. This was the last leg of a 13-city national speaking tour.

Rojas is secretary for propaganda and information of the Anti-Imperialist Organizations of the Caribbean and Central America. He was press secretary to Maurice Bishop, slain leader of the Grenada revolution.

Altogether Rojas spoke to six meetings in Chicago and was taped or interviewed for seven radio stations. He was interviewed by *All Chicago City News* and also appeared for 20 minutes on WGCI, the Chicago radio station with the largest audience in the Black community.

A highpoint of the tour was a political discussion, which lasted for five hours, with a group of leaders, activists, and supporters of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party. Inspired by the discussions, PSP activists decided to help distribute the book *One People, One Destiny: The Caribbean and Central America Today*, edited by Rojas.

A citywide political meeting attended by more than 100 people was held at the Center for Inner City Studies, a branch of Northeastern University on Chicago's Black South Side. The meeting was sponsored by the National Black United Front and cosponsored by a wide range of groups and individuals. Conrad Worrill, national chairperson of NBUF, introduced Rojas and chaired the meeting.

Focusing on the debt in Central America and the Caribbean, Rojas also spoke to a

group of workers who have recently emigrated from Mexico and Central America. The meeting was sponsored by Casa Aztlán, an immigrant rights and learning center in the Mexican-American Pilsen neighborhood.

Caribbean activists from Haiti, Dominica, and Trinidad joined students, Hyde Park political activists, members of the Black community, and others at a University of Chicago meeting to discuss the current situation in the Caribbean. The meeting was chaired by Haitian professor William Balan-Gaubert of the University of Chicago and co-chaired by Reginald Taylor-Ochoa of Trinidad. Introductory remarks by Professor Balan-Gaubert in Creole and the entire talk by Rojas were taped for rebroadcast on a Haitian radio program over WZRD radio.

Over \$1,000 was raised to finance the tour through collections at meetings and a donation by NBUF. Support for the tour by Worrill of NBUF was instrumental in helping to pull together the broadly backed Don Rojas Tour Committee, which was responsible for organizing many aspects of the tour.

Some \$300 in Pathfinder literature was sold throughout the tour, including 18 copies of *One People, One Destiny*.

Latino prisoners challenge ban

Georgia's new state policy of banning non-English language publications for prisoners is meeting resistance.

Latino prisoners have charged discrimination, and prisoners' rights groups are considering legal challenges.

The policy adopted in April is described as a "security measure." It governs publications written in "code or foreign language." Under the policy, prison authorities can prevent prisoners from receiving Spanish-language publications simply because the prison does not have translators to screen them.

The *Atlanta Constitution* reported that a similar policy was successfully challenged by

Latino prisoners in Colorado in the late 1970s.

John Morris, an attorney for the Southern Prisoners' Defense Committee, said a Supreme Court decision in May giving prison officials broad discretion to restrict prisoners' mail for security reasons makes it more difficult to challenge the ban. He called the restriction "a tremendous discrimination."

Ed Koren of the National Prison Project, a group funded by the American Civil Liberties Union, said the Georgia policy raises constitutional questions as to whether prisoners whose first language is not English receive the same rights as other prisoners.

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Land of 3 coffee growers seized in Nicaragua

Three are leaders of anti-Sandinista capitalist farmers' organization.

BY SETH GALINSKY
AND JUDY WHITE

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Minister of Agrarian Development and Reform Jaime Wheelock announced here on June 21 the expropriation of the farms of three capitalist coffee growers.

Wheelock, who is also a member of the nine-person National Directorate of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), said the confiscations were carried out because the three — leaders of the National Union of Nicaraguan Coffee Growers (UNCAFENIC) — had tried to manipulate discord over government credit policies and delayed payments promised to the growers. UNCAFENIC is an affiliate of the anti-government businessmen's association COSEP (Higher Council of Private Enterprise).

The three landowners had "tried to play politics with the crop that is most important for the economy of the country," an editorial in the Sandinista daily *Barricada* stated. "The expropriations only affect them, no one else."

"We are going to continue carrying out the accord with patriotic producers," Wheelock told a meeting of peasants a few days later, referring to government attempts to reach an agreement with capitalist farmers to increase production.

President Daniel Ortega said the expropriations were carried out against capitalist farmers who represent the interests of "the Yankees." The social pact has been functioning with most farmers and ranchers, he said, "but there is no accord with the Yankees, because they do not want an agreement."

The conflict between the government and the owners of large coffee farms came to a head at a June 18 meeting in Matagalpa, the heart of the country's rich coffee lands.

The raucous meeting, called by UNCAFENIC, was attended by 300 people, mainly owners of large coffee farms. A handful of members of the pro-Sandinista National Union of Farmers and Ranchers and the Rural Workers Association also attended.

New credit policies

In a statement read to the Matagalpa meeting by UNCAFENIC President Arnoldo Alemán Lacayo, the landowners complained that their businesses were unprofitable because of government policies. The growers cited new credit and loan money disbursement measures.

The new policies decrease the amount of bank financing available to growers and link credit to investment in production and employees' living conditions.

At the same time, the coffee growers, like other capitalist farmers, have been unable to cash checks or receive loan money during the last two weeks due to what the government says is a temporary shortage of paper money.

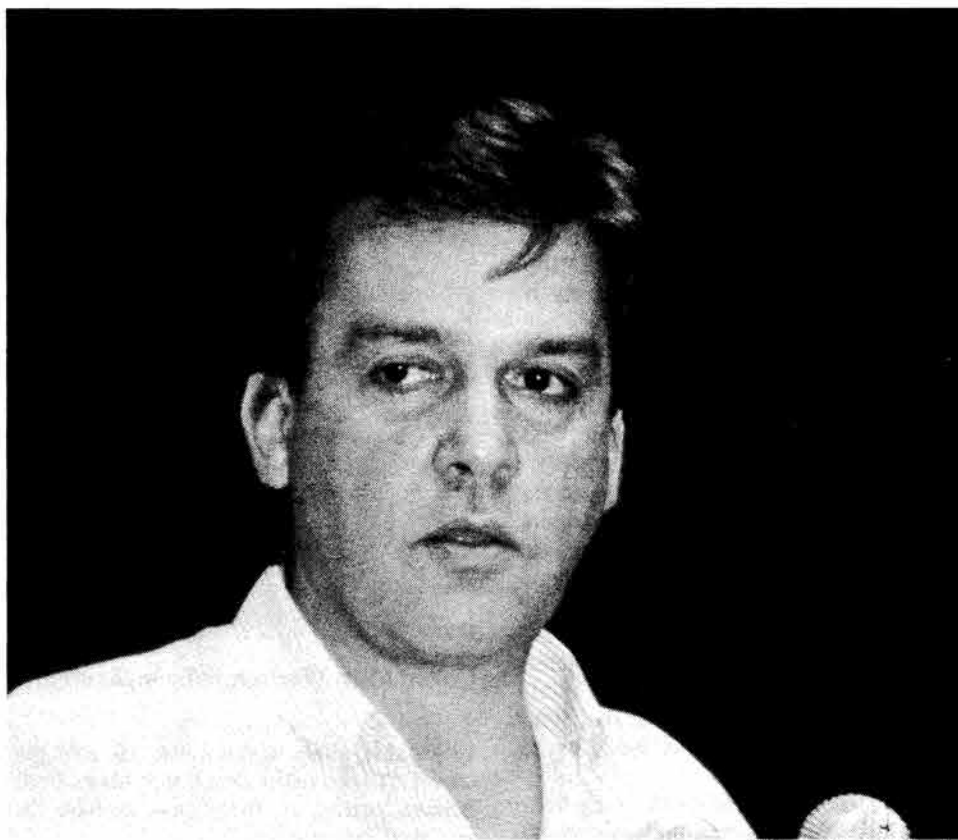
The UNCAFENIC statement called on growers to resign from the national coffee commission, set up a year ago and comprised of government representatives and pro- and antigovernment farmers' organizations. The commissions, which also exist for cattle, cotton, and other sectors of agricultural production, help set government agricultural policy. They are the arena where the Sandinista government has been trying to cement its relations with capitalist farmers and ranchers.

Capitalists threaten boycott

The UNCAFENIC statement concluded with a veiled threat to boycott this year's production of coffee. "We hold the government and the FSLN responsible for the disastrous consequences" of the new economic measures, UNCAFENIC's Alemán said.

Another leader of the coffee growers' association, Nicolás Bolaños, called for a "government of national salvation" to replace the Sandinistas. Landowner Gilberto Cuadra urged unity of the opposition parties and the coffee capitalists to defeat the FSLN in the February 1990 elections.

In a June 20 speech in León, President Ortega answered the capitalists. "Those who resign from the coffee commission will not receive one cent from the bank," he said. "Let



Agrarian Development and Reform Minister Jaime Wheelock said the landowners tried to whip up discord over government credit policies.

them use their own money to work the farms."

Ortega said that a big effort has been made to convince workers to accept unemployment and other sacrifices while at the same time the large landowners have continued to

decapitalize their farms in spite of the concessions they have been given.

"It has also been difficult to speak with peasants who have occupied a farm and tell them, 'Compañeros, you can't do this, you have to leave because we are trying to make

an economic pact,'" Ortega said.

'Most capitalists are cooperative'

The capitalists do not realize they are playing with fire, Ortega said. "If they want class struggle taken to its maximum expression, we can satisfy them."

However, Ortega stated, "The majority of coffee producers, including some with anti-government positions, have taken a positive and constructive attitude. They have nothing to fear."

The Nicaraguan president added, "The government will continue making an effort to save and strengthen the mixed economy and political pluralism."

The next day Wheelock announced the government's decision to expropriate the farms belonging to Bolaños, Alemán, and Jaime Cuadra, Gilberto's brother.

Wheelock said this decision was based on the three capitalists' promotion of "anarchy," their "irresponsibility," and "an attitude of total confrontation that is completely outside the bounds of the social pact."

Concessions are 'necessary'

The social pact the government has been negotiating with the capitalists, Wheelock said, "has benefited the producers unilaterally. We understand that this is necessary."

Nevertheless, he said, the government will not tolerate calls to boycott the coffee commission or calls to reject the accord.

Referring to what he called a "wave of land takeovers" by landless peasants, the minister said that it is the confrontationist stance of the large landowners that has increased this kind

Continued on Page 13

Haitian paper on why you should read Castro's 'In Defense of Socialism'

The following review of *In Defense of Socialism, Four Speeches on the 30th Anniversary of the Cuban Revolution* appeared in the June 28 issue of *Haiti Progrès*, a weekly newspaper published in New York. The book of four speeches by Cuban President Fidel Castro was edited by Mary-Alice Waters and published by Pathfinder in 1989. The translation of the review from French is by the Militant.

Are you concerned over what's happening today in the socialist camp? Are you unsure of the meaning of perestroika in the Soviet Union or the reforms of Deng Xiaoping in China? Then you should obtain as soon as possible a copy of *In Defense of Socialism*, a compilation of four speeches given by Fidel Castro in December 1988 and January 1989, marking the 30th anniversary of the Cuban revolution.

There you will find an eloquent presentation of the struggle between imperialism and the world socialist movement, its history and its present state, with particular emphasis on the nature of this ideological struggle and on the situation in Cuba, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

In his speeches, Castro notes, "There is at present a sort of imperialist euphoria, a capitalist euphoria, in view of the reforms and self-criticism taking place in various socialist countries . . . [a] euphoria that attempts to depict capitalist mechanisms as the only efficient ones for solving problems, for achieving productivity and development."

Fidel refutes this argument by citing the titanic battles carried out by the Cuban revolution and its successes in the fields of education, medicine, agriculture, and industry — successes he attributes to Marxism-Leninism and to having taken the socialist path which, he says, "made possible this miracle of making our people what they are today and representing what we represent."

These victories, he says, show "what man can do; what man can do when there is faith in man, trust in man, when you don't start from the premise that man is like a little animal who only moves when you dangle a carrot in front of him or whip him with a stick."

Castro also stresses that socialism is a dynamic process that continually demands improvements and corrections. But the biggest challenge, he says, is the "battle to improve socialism without resorting to the mecha-

nisms and style of capitalism."

The speeches contained in this book also take up the consequences for the Third World of the process of détente between the Soviet Union and the United States. "The question of humanity's survival is a problem that concerns us all; peace is a problem that concerns us all. But even survival and peace have different meanings for different countries. There are two types of survival and two types of peace: survival for the rich and survival for the poor, peace for the rich and peace for the poor."

The poor are ravaged by infant mortality, illiteracy, malnutrition, and diseases, all of which stem from the imperialist pillage of the Third World.

The consequence, Fidel notes, is that as many human beings die each year in the poor countries as did in the entire course of World War II. "As long as injustice prevails in the world, as long as neocolonial and imperialist oppression exists in the world, as long as plundering exists, there will be two types of survival and two types of peace . . . it's almost certain that the way the empire con-

ceives of peace is peace among the powerful, peace with the Soviet Union, and war with the small socialist, revolutionary, progressive, or simply independent countries of the Third World."

These questions and many others are taken up by Fidel with an inimitable eloquence whose caustic spirit and implacable logic often bring a smile to the reader.

For those who read English, *In Defense of Socialism* is an important book that will effectively vaccinate you against the confusion and doubts that have affected more than one progressive lately. Once you have finished the book, you will be convinced of the truth of these words of Fidel: "Socialism is and will continue to be the hope, the only hope, the only road for the peoples, the oppressed, the exploited, the plundered. . . . And today, when our enemies want to question it, we must defend it more than ever."

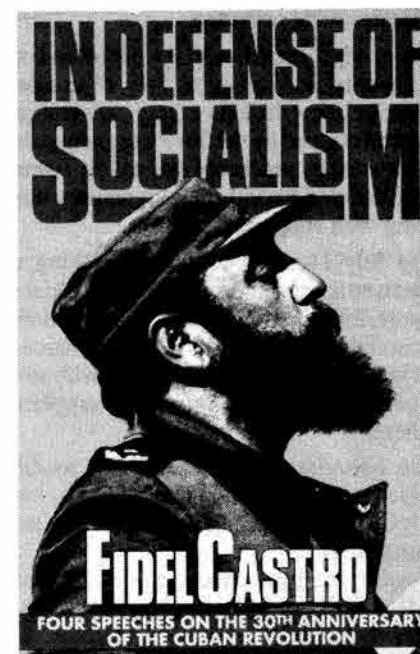
This book is available through Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014, as well as in a number of stores in Canada and the United States. For more information, call (212) 675-6740.

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Miners' union calls holiday to step up Pittston fight

BY RONI McCANN

Union miners throughout the eastern coalfields extended their work stoppage through July 14, continuing their fight against Pittston Coal Group.

On July 7 a three-day holiday was called by Richard Trumka, president of the United Mine Workers of America, to continue the walkout of some 37,000 miners in eight states that began in mid-June. On July 12 Trumka announced that this holiday would be extended another two days.

Many of the coal miners, who walked off the job last month in support of striking miners at Pittston, were scheduled to report to work on July 10 after a two-week annual vacation.

As outlined in its national contract, the UMWA has a right to call 10 memorial days on which miners do not report to work. Trumka called this holiday for all union miners east of the Mississippi River.

The call did not include workers at Westmoreland Coal Co. in Virginia because miners there had already used all their days. However, these miners did not report to work on July 10 either.

On the first day of the memorial period there were reports of violence at three mines. In Virginia a company trailer was damaged when a bomb exploded. In response to

charges that miners were responsible, Trumka stated, "I disavow it," adding, "Too often the miners have been the recipients of violence."

On June 27 a federal judge ordered the miners to end the walkouts, but Howard Green, a UMWA International executive board member based in Charleston, West Virginia, said he saw no movement to go back to work.

On July 8, the day after Trumka issued the call, a rally of 3,000 miners and supporters took place in Logan County, West Virginia. Both Pittston mines there, Buffalo and Elkay, are shut down.

Throughout the evening strikers chanted, "We won't go back!" They responded enthusiastically when strike leader Terry Collins said of the Pittston mines, "We've shut them down in West Virginia. This week we're going to Virginia."

A caravan of 80 cars came to the rally from Whitesville, West Virginia, and another 80 from Stone, Kentucky.

Teachers, communications workers, Machinists, and others filled 15 cars from Charleston, organized by the West Virginia Labor Solidarity Committee. The committee also presented the UMWA women's auxiliary in Logan County with a check for \$550.

Air Line Pilots Association member Jack Geiger, on strike against Eastern, was one of



Militant/Amy Belvin

United Mine Workers rally in Sundial, West Virginia.

17 striking pilots at the event. He told the crowd that the pilots drove nine hours from Atlanta because of "the respect we have for you, and your courage."

"We've learned solidarity in this strike," he continued. "We slept while they fired the air-traffic controllers, but we are very much awake now."

Meanwhile, the coal companies are attempting to assure international buyers of coal produced in West Virginia that they can count on supplies despite the Pittston strike.

On July 10 Sen. John D. Rockefeller IV

(D.-W.Va.) and Gary White, head of the Virginia Coal Operators Association, along with Trumka, met in New York with steel officials from Japan to discuss coal supplies to that country.

Feeling pressure from the strike, coal bosses continue their attempts to get miners back to work.

BethEnergy coal company has cut off miners' health benefits, and at least four more companies are threatening to do the same. Coal industry statements claim that a fund paying for benefits to miners and widows is also in jeopardy if the strikes continue.

U.S. District Judge Dennis Knapp announced on July 12 he was suspending all legal proceedings against the UMWA for at least a week.

Before that fines for various strike activities continue to be levied against the union. A U.S. District judge in Virginia found two UMWA leaders, including Vice-president Cecil Roberts, guilty of violating the judge's court order regarding "rolling roadblocks."

He was referring to slow-moving parades of cars and pick-up trucks used to delay coal shipments, a tactic the court says is organized by the union. Accompanying the ruling were fines of \$270,000.

The union has also been fined \$960,000 for "impeding the flow of traffic" in Virginia. Drivers have been arrested, and some have been jailed. More than 200 traffic tickets have been issued.

UMWA President Trumka, in a July 9 interview to the *Charleston Gazette-Mail*, said the cumulative fines amount to "33 trillion, 554 billion, 431 million, 500 thousand dollars. 'What else can you consider \$16 trillion,' he asked, 'but an economic death warrant?'"

Trumka stated that miners can't help but compare these fines with the ones levied against Pittston after a 1983 explosion that killed seven miners at the McClure mine in Virginia. For that disaster the federal government fined Pittston \$47,800.

"It's win this fight or be stampeded to death in the very near future," Trumka said.

Court ruling spurs abortion rights actions

Continued from front page

laws. "There's a new decision now that opens up greater rights for the unborn," the governor said.

Martinez, who has made opposition to abortion rights a central part of his political career, stated he did not have any proposals yet. Florida State Rep. Tom Banjanin has already submitted a bill proposing the state declare that "life begins at conception."

On July 7 the Louisiana State Senate passed a resolution asking the state's district attorneys to enforce the restrictive abortion laws on the books before the *Roe vs. Wade* ruling.

Louisiana District Attorney Harry Connick filed a motion in a U.S. District court to review a 1976 injunction against enforcement of the state's abortion laws. A hearing was granted for August 9.

The Louisiana law allows abortion only if the woman's life is in danger, with no exception for cases of rape or incest.

Nikki Foucha of New Orleans NOW said that Connick is "taking it upon his own shoulders to challenge *Roe vs. Wade* even beyond the recent Supreme Court ruling."

In New Jersey a *Star-Ledger/Eagle* poll found that 80 percent of adults in the state were strongly opposed to any new legislation restricting a woman's right to an abortion.

Candidates running for office have been pressed by public opinion to make their positions on abortion known.

James Florio, the Democratic candidate for governor, quickly restated his support for abortion rights. Republican candidate James Courter said he supports the July 3 Supreme Court ruling, but will not lobby the state legislature for any changes.

New Jersey NOW President Linda Bowker said she has never seen the level of anger that exists now.

"We got this country out of Vietnam, and we're going to get the government out of our bedrooms," Bowker said.

Women won the right to abortion in New York state in 1970, three years before the *Roe vs. Wade* decision. Prochoice sentiment is strong.

After the ruling upholding restrictions in Missouri, however, some state officials expect that similar proposals will be introduced in New York. Prochoice forces are preparing activities, including rallies at the state capitol in Albany.

New York Gov. Mario Cuomo has said he will reject any attempts to restrict abortion rights.

Judith Widdicombe, founder of the Reproductive Health Services clinic in Missouri, said that prochoice supporters there will be preparing for a war. RHS is the clinic that challenged the Missouri law.

The two public hospitals in the state have already barred doctors from performing abortions. Although most abortions in Missouri are performed in private clinics, the action by the hospitals will make it harder on rural women and women seeking abortions after 12 weeks of pregnancy.

Missouri Gov. John Ashcroft said he would

set up a task force to consider further restrictions on abortions.

Widdicombe said she did not believe the forces opposed to abortion rights would stop at ending abortions altogether. "Next will come birth control," she said.

In the two days after the Supreme Court ruling supporters of abortion rights in Missouri gathered 18,000 signatures on petitions and presented them to legislators on July 6.

"The message is we won't go back," said Mary Bryant, spokeswoman for Planned Parenthood in Missouri.

New York petitioning begins

Continued from front page

people in the garment center, meat-packing district, and at the city's two airports, at which more than 70,000 transport workers are employed."

The candidates and their supporters will go to the plant gates, working-class neighborhoods, and political events.

"My campaign will be placing a high priority on building the national march in Washington, D.C., in October, called by the National Organization for Women to support abortion rights," said Harris.

On the first day of the drive, supporters reported a friendly response. More than 200 signatures were collected.

As nearly 20,000 hospital workers and others marched and rallied on July 11 in a one-day strike for a decent contract, several participants stopped by the SWP campaign table.

Attracted by prochoice slogans on T-shirts, many decided to add their signatures while talking with supporters.

On July 14 a demonstration backing the Eastern strikers will take place at La Guardia Airport, followed by picketing. The action is sponsored by the International Association of Machinists and calls for solidarity with striking coal miners. Campaign supporters plan to be there.

On Saturday morning, July 15, socialist campaigners will be fanning out across New York City's five boroughs in an all-day petitioning effort.

As they head out to working-class communities, petitioners will take plenty of copies of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*, two publications the SWP campaign will be promoting; the *Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis*; and *Pathfinder* books and pamphlets.

Members of the Young Socialist Alliance will be a big part of the petitioning effort and are inviting young people they meet to come to classes.

The YSA chapters in Brooklyn and New York have organized weekly discussions for those interested in finding out more about what the YSA and SWP stand for.

The Cuban revolution, the world capitalist economic crisis, the fight for abortion rights, and the ideas of Malcolm X are among the topics that will be taken up in the first few weeks.

Miners reach out to win new members

BY KIPP DAWSON

ENON, Pa. — Striking coal miners and their supporters converged on a nonunion mine here on July 6 and spoke to the working miners about joining the union.

About 800 miners, members of the United Mine Workers of America, and others came from throughout the region to the Bailey mine. Bailey is owned by the second largest coal operator in the United States, Consolidation Coal (Consol).

UMWA supporters flagged down cars and talked to coal miners about the need to join the mine workers' union. They pointed out that without a strong UMWA in the area any comfortable pay or decent conditions that exist now will quickly disappear.

UMWA members distributed flyers urging miners to "call to arrange a meeting just like the one in 1890," the year the union was founded, "and become part of the new labor movement." The response was good.

In mid-June 6,200 union miners in Pennsylvania walked off the job in support of their

brothers and sisters on strike at Pittston Coal.

During that time Consol has continued production of coal from the Bailey mine.

Consol is owned by E.I. Du Pont de Nemours & Co. and employs about 10,000 coal miners in 10 U.S. states and Canada. Like Pittston, Consol operators have begun to open nonunion mines and pour major resources into them.

Since 1983 the number of union Consol mines in the Region 1 area has declined from 55 to 18.

On July 12 more than 200 roving pickets made a trip to Shendango Steel on Neville Island, outside of Pittsburgh.

Shendango is owned by Aloe Coal. Although Aloe is part of the Bituminous Coal Operators Association, it has refused to sign the 1988 BCOA agreement with the union. Several steelworkers at Shendango agreed to stay off the job in support of the union's fight at Aloe.

Kipp Dawson is a member of UMWA Local 1197.

Mexico's ruling party admits defeat

BY DON ROJAS

The real significance was not in the defeat per se, but rather in the unprecedented, and to many observers, astonishing, admission of defeat.

On July 5, when Mexico's governing Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) conceded it had lost the governor's race in the state of Baja California Norte to the right-wing National Action Party (PAN), it was the first time in its 60-year history of uninterrupted rule that the PRI had both lost and admitted the loss of a state governorship.

For many years, Mexican opposition parties have claimed victories in local and regional elections, which they charge have been invariably fraudulent. In many cases, considerable evidence has been produced authenticating their claims and charges, and, on occasion, opposition forces have had representatives elected to city halls, state legislatures, and the national congress.

But always, until this election, PRI candidates were automatically declared the winners of every presidential and gubernatorial election, regardless of vote totals.

Presidential election

In last year's hard-fought presidential elections, allegations of rigging and ballot tampering were widespread. Both opposition presidential candidates, Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas of the Democratic Revolutionary Party and Manuel Clouthier of PAN, claimed victory over Carlos Salinas de Gortari of the PRI, who was declared the winner after a long and hotly disputed counting process.

Victorious PAN candidate in the Baja bal-

loting, businessman Ernesto Ruffo Appel, described the PRI's concession as "a landmark" that "will help Mexicans to have faith in ourselves, our laws, and our work."

But he said his party would continue to fight for the mayoral seats and for the major-

Main election issue was crisis in Mexico's capitalist economy.

ity in the state's legislature that he claimed the PRI was still illegitimately withholding.

While acknowledging defeat of its gubernatorial candidate, Margarita Ortega Villa, the PRI claimed victory in 12 of 15 legislative seats and in mayoral races in the state's main cities of Tijuana and Mexicali, situated close to the border with the U.S. state of California.

The PRI announced comfortable margins in polls for new state legislatures in Zacatecas and Campeche, as well as in Michoacán, a Cárdenas stronghold.

In the 1988 presidential elections, the left-leaning Cárdenas, a former PRI leader who split in 1987, had scored more votes in Michoacán than President Salinas. Now he asserts that his party won all but three seats there in the local elections, and he accuses the PRI of manipulating the vote "as it has always done in the past when defeat looms."

In an increasingly tense political climate, Cárdenas and his supporters are charging the

PRI with "selective democracy" by conceding defeat to the right in Baja while refusing to accept a loss to the left in Michoacán.

They claim to have documented several cases of stolen ballot boxes as well as repeated voting by PRI supporters.

Ignoring these charges of fraud, the state electoral commission has officially awarded the PRI 11 of 18 state legislature seats, with four to the Cárdenas party and three still undecided.

As in last year's presidential race, the crisis of the country's capitalist economy was the central issue in the recent elections.

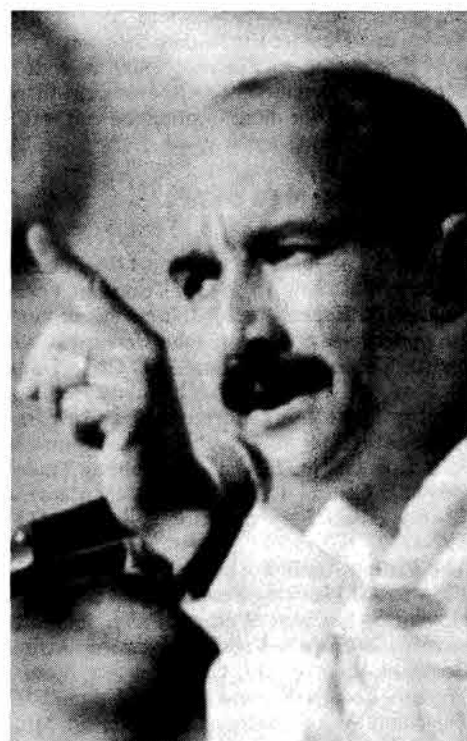
Salinas had promised the voters of Baja California more than \$600 million in development projects. Political pundits now question whether he will honor these lavish campaign promises in the wake of the PRI's defeat.

Attempting to wrest some public relations advantage out of its defeat, a PRI spokesperson said the PAN win was a "positive event for Mexico, and for the PRI it has more positive aspects than negative ones."

He added that the PAN victory highlighted the Salinas administration's commitment to political reform, more democracy, and elimination of corruption in both the public and private sectors.

'Reforms from above'

In an editorial headlined, "Winning by Losing in Mexico," the *New York Times* praised Salinas for his "impressive program of reforms from above by opening the possibility of opposition success from below."



Mexican President Salinas

"His vision and his courage deserve U.S. applause and support," it stated.

Writing in the *Wall Street Journal* of July 7, Sergio Sarmiento describes the PRI as not a party "in the traditional sense of the word."

"It is more an alliance of convenience, brought about to ensure an orderly sharing of power by different groups after the traumatic experience of the Mexican Revolution," he states.

Ever since Salinas announced his economic policy, which has as its centerpiece a new foreign investment law giving more concessions to foreign capital, the big-business media and the financial establishment in the United States have been complementary to his seven-month-old administration.

Salinas is viewed by the capitalist press as a pragmatic, market-oriented politician with a reasonable approach toward negotiating a solution to paying Mexico's \$107 billion foreign debt to creditor banks and governments.

On July 9, one week after the local elections, Mexico and its main creditor banks announced that they are close to "agreement in principle" on a new financing package that should provide Latin America's second largest debtor country with "financial benefits in excess of \$3 billion annually."

New York soup kitchens multiply 20-fold in eight years

NEW YORK — Soup kitchens and food pantries in the city are now serving more than 63,000 meals a day, nearly 60 percent more than two years ago.

Since 1981, the number of soup kitchens and food pantries has multiplied 20 times, from 30 in 1981 to 598 at the start of this year. Emergency food is now served in 58 of the city's 59 planning districts, and more people are seeking food than at any time since the 1930s depression.

Seventy percent of the meals now served are in the form of grocery bags given to poor families. The balance are meals served to the homeless and elderly at soup kitchens.

Statistics on this were compiled by Christina Walker, director of the Food and Hunger Hot Line.

"It's really a scary trend," she said. "People simply don't have the money to buy food."

Contributing factors, she said, are higher rents, cutbacks in real wages for low-income workers, the failure of welfare allotments to keep pace with inflation, and the slashing of food stamp programs by the federal government.

Labor news in the Militant

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

Protectionist log-export ban approved

BY CHESTER NELSON

By a 9-to-1 margin voters in Oregon have approved a ban on sale for export of unprocessed logs from state-owned lands.

The measure, voted in a referendum on June 27, amends the Oregon state constitution to prohibit the State Land Board from selling for export logs from state-owned lands unless those logs are processed in Oregon. It also bans the legislature from granting authority to sell for export raw logs from state lands not under State Land Board jurisdiction. Oregon is the country's number-one timber-producing state.

The ban requires congressional approval before it can go into effect. Legislation introduced by Congressman Peter DeFazio and Sen. Robert Packwood is now pending in Congress.

The Oregon legislature had banned log exports in 1961, but this was overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1984 on the grounds that states cannot regulate international trade.

While the number of logs exported from Oregon's state-owned lands is relatively small compared to exports from private lands, the issue has generated a heated debate. Spur-

logs from the Northwest," he charges, "while mills here at home are scraping for leftovers. We're facing the greatest timber supply crisis in our history while Japanese mills are running around the clock."

"The issue is very simple," the congressman contends. "Will the Pacific Northwest develop into an industrial economy exporting its finished products to Japan and other nations, or will it remain a colony, selling its natural resources and its heritage at bargain-basement prices?"

The editors of the *Statesman Journal*, a daily published in Salem, Oregon, called for a yes vote on the ban, exclaiming that it "is the closest thing to a call for patriotism that Oregon has seen since World War II."

The major buyers for logs from the Northwest are in Japan, Korea, and China. They buy raw logs at a higher price than many U.S. sawmill operators are willing to pay.

Shipping companies and big timber exporters, such as Weyerhaeuser Co., oppose the export ban because it's more profitable to export logs than sell them in Oregon. The International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union also opposes the ban on the grounds that more exports means more jobs for their union members.

Protectionist measure

Socialist Workers 1989 National Campaign Director Doug Jenness stated in an interview in New York. "The log-export ban is a protectionist measure that will do damage to working people, both inside Oregon and outside the state. Like tariffs and quotas on imports and other protectionist policies," he said, "the log-export ban undermines solidarity between working people in the United States, and those in Japan, China, and other countries."

Jenness pointed to the anti-Japanese statements of some of the leading proponents of the export ban as an example of how a campaign like this breeds national chauvinism. "Working people can't think of themselves as 'American', 'Japanese', or 'Canadian'," he said. "The United States like every capitalist country is made up of different social classes with opposing interests. Workers in Oregon have no more in common with the timber bosses and bankers in that state than they do with plywood manufacturers and sawmill owners in Japan."

Workers in the United States don't have any interests separate and apart from their brothers and sisters around the world, Jenness said. "We are part of a single international working class that shares a common exploitation and a common enemy, regardless of

what country we live in."

The socialist campaign director said that if the log-export legislation is adopted by Congress, it will "set a precedent for further such antilabor moves. That's what always happens when measures like this get adopted."

"Moreover," he said, "we should be clear, the log-export ban on federal lands is just as bad as the one on state-owned lands, and for the same reasons."

Jenness noted that in retrospect the SWP National Campaign Committee should have taken a stronger stand on the June 27 referendum. "Rather than calling for an abstention on the vote, we should have urged a no vote. That would have been more consistent with our view that the log-export ban, like all protectionist schemes in imperialist countries, is harmful to workers' interests."

Exemplary internationalist stand

Jenness pointed to the exemplary internationalist stand of socialist workers in Canada on the debate over the free trade accord between the United States and Canada. Revolutionary Workers League candidates in the November 21 parliamentary elections, he said, "spoke out for the interests of workers and farmers against chauvinist demagoguery and protectionist scams."

Jenness referred to a statement by the RWL candidates that explained that urging working people to get behind the "reactionary nationalist campaign in defense of Canada, one of the six or seven wealthiest imperialist powers in the world, is a far bigger threat to our interests than anything in the proposed [free trade] agreement."

Jenness said the SWP is running more than 30 candidates in municipal and state elections in 1989. "As part of this campaign," he explained, "we are promoting an Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis, which presents proposals to unify the working class both in this country and internationally to protect ourselves against the effects of the worsening capitalist crisis."

To fight for jobs as recession and the introduction of new technology leads to layoffs, Jenness continued, "We must launch a worldwide campaign to radically reduce the workweek, with not a penny reduction in pay. If the workweek were shortened to 30 hours with 40 hours' pay, that would immediately open up the possibility of jobs for millions of workers, including woodworkers and longshoremen in Oregon. It would strengthen us in the fight against speedup and safety hazards on the job, for social programs to meet the needs of working people, and to protect the environment."

ring the controversy is the accelerating pace of shutdowns of sawmills and wood-processing plants throughout the Pacific Northwest.

The campaign in support of the ban has been promoted most vigorously by small sawmill and wood products mill owners, most of whom don't own any of their own timberland, bankers and other businessmen who are dependent on Oregon's wood-processing industry, and politicians like DeFazio, Packwood, and Gov. Neil Goldschmidt. Also backing the log-export ban are officials of the two major woodworkers' unions, the International Woodworkers of America and the Western Council of Industrial Workers, who argue that the export ban will help prevent the loss of jobs in Oregon. Leading conservation groups contend the ban will help save the state's declining forests.

DeFazio, a liberal Democrat whose district in Oregon cuts more timber than any other in the country, has set the tone for the keep-the-logs-in-Oregon campaign. "Docks at Japanese mills are piled high as Mount Fuji with

ARIZONA

Phoenix

Supreme Court Deals Blows to Affirmative Action and Democratic Rights. Sat., July 15, 7 p.m. Translation to Spanish. 1809 W Indian School Rd. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (602) 279-5850.

CALIFORNIA

Oakland

Bay Area Labor Rally to Support the Eastern Strikers. Sat., July 15, 7 p.m. Teamsters Local 70 Hall, 70 Hegenberger Rd. (near the airport). Supporters and endorsers: John Henning, California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO; Dave Sickler, AFL-CIO Region VI; Jimmy Herman, International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union; Chuck Mack, Teamsters Joint Council No. 7; Alameda Building Trades Council; Central Labor Council of Alameda County; others. For more information call (415) 632-4242.

The Ruling Against Abortion Rights: A Big Blow to All Working People. Speaker: Louise Goodman, Socialist Workers Party, founding member Women's National Abortion Action Coalition, member Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 1-5. Sun., July 16, 6 p.m. 3702 Telegraph Ave., Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (415) 420-1165.

San Francisco

Celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Nicaraguan Revolution. Live television transmission from Nicaragua of President Daniel Ortega. Dance to salsa sounds and music by The Looters, with special guests Rafael Manríquez, Steven Herrick, Lichi Fuentes, Barbara Dane, Pete Sears, and Mimi Fariña. Sat., July 22, 6 p.m. (doors open at 5:30 p.m.). Longshore Hall, 400 North Point (near Fisherman's Wharf). Donation: \$12, \$5 low income. Proceeds to aid Nicaragua. (Contribute a day's wage to the "Day's Wage for 10 Years of Freedom" campaign and get in free.) Sponsors: Barricada International Support Group; Centro Cultural Nicaragüense; Committee Against U.S. Intervention in Central America, Palo Alto; Committee for Health Rights in Central America; others. For more information call (415) 626-8053 or (408) 288-6678.

FLORIDA

Miami

Defend Abortion: A Woman's Fundamental Right. Panel of activists. Translation to Spanish. Sat., July 15, 7:30 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (305) 756-1020.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

Abortion/Affirmative Action Rulings: Supreme Court Attacks Working People. Speaker: Liz Ziers, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor, member United Transportation Union Local 511; others. Sat., July 15, 7:30 p.m. 132 Cone St. NW, 2nd floor. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

MINNESOTA

Austin

Miners' Strike Battle Mounts in Appalachia. Speaker: Steve Marshall, *Militant* correspondent, member United Transportation Union Local 1435. Translation to Spanish. Sun., July 16, 7 p.m. 407½ N Main St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (507) 433-3461.

ROCHESTER

Defend Mark Curtis. Speakers: Hazel Zimmerman, secretary Mark Curtis Defense Committee; Walt King, member United Auto Workers Local 2125; Naomi Muggli, member Aztec Club of Albert Lea; Dale Chidester, United Food and Commercial Workers Local 9. Translation to Spanish. Sat., July 22, 7 p.m. Walters Library of Assisi Heights Convent, Assisi Heights. Sponsor: Friends of Mark Curtis Defense Committee. For more information call (507) 433-3461.

MISSOURI

Kansas City

Cancel the Third World Debt. Speaker: representative of Socialist Workers Party. Sun., July 16, 7 p.m. 5534 Troost. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (816) 444-7880.

Defend Affirmative Action. A panel discussion. Sun., July 23, 7 p.m. 5534 Troost. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (816) 444-7880.

NEBRASKA

Omaha

Celebrate the Nicaraguan Revolution. Speakers: Margaret Vrana, visited Nicaragua on 1988 Witness for Peace tour; Joe Swanson, Socialist Workers Party, member United Steelworkers of America Local 3166. Sat., July 15, 7:30 p.m. 140 S 40th St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (402) 553-0245.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

Supreme Court Rulings on Abortion and Affirmative Action: A Perspective to Fight Back. Speaker: Cathy Sedwick, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of New Jersey. Sat., July 22, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St., 2nd floor. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: N.J. SWP Campaign. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Socialist Campaign Rally. Speaker: James Harris, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor. Sat., July 15, 7:30 p.m. 191 7th Ave., 2nd floor. For more information call (212) 675-6740 or (718) 398-6983.

Events Celebrating Nicaraguan Revolution's 10th Anniversary. 1. Brooklyn Sister City Project parade. Sat., July 15. Assemble 10 a.m. at Hanson Pl. and Flatbush Ave., Brooklyn. March to Prospect Park. 2. Casa Nicaragua and Nicaragua Network dance. Sat., July 15, 9 p.m. Local 1199, 310 W 43 St., Manhattan. Donation: \$10. For more information call (212) 769-4293. 3. Live satellite transmission of address by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega. Sat., July 22, 9 p.m. to midnight. Hunter College, West Bldg., 4th floor, Lexington Ave. at 68th St. Donation: \$10. For more information call (212) 769-4293 or 674-9499.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

Celebrate and Defend 30 Years of the Cuban Revolution. Sun., July 23, 7 p.m. 2219 E Market. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (919) 272-5996.

OREGON

Portland

After the Supreme Court Decision on Abortion: How to Defend Women's Right to Choose. Speakers: representatives of Portland

Feminist Women's Health Center, National Abortion Rights Action League, and National Organization for Women; Markie Wilson, Socialist Workers Party, activist in abortion rights movement, member Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union. Sat., July 15, 7:30 p.m. 2730 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. (formerly Union). Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (503) 287-7416.

Celebrate 10 Years of Free Nicaragua. Potluck picnic, speakers, music. Sat., July 22, 5-11 p.m. Program at 7 p.m. Speakers: Dr. Xiomara del Palacio Pineda, director of the hospital in Corinto, Nicaragua; Dr. Tim Takaro, public health physician just returned from two years working in war zones of northern Nicaragua. 15115 SE Woodland Way, Milwaukie (Bus: Take No.33 to Oak Grove and McLoughlin.) Sponsors: Portland Central America Solidarity Committee, Portland-Corinto Sister City Association, Council for Human Rights in Latin America, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Socialist Workers Party, others. For rides or more information call (503) 236-7916.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

Speak Out for Abortion Rights. A panel discussion on the recent Supreme Court attacks on the right to abortion. Translation to Spanish. Sun., July 16, 6 p.m. 9 E Cheltenham Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (215) 848-5044.

Celebrate 10 Years of the Nicaraguan Revolution. Speakers: Francisco Picado, National Committee Socialist Workers Party; others. Translation to Spanish. Sat., July 22, 7:30 p.m. 9 E Cheltenham Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (215) 848-5044.

UTAH

Salt Lake City

Speak Out Against Supreme Court Attack on Abortion Rights. Speakers: Susanne Millsaps, executive director Utah Chapter of National Abortion Rights Action League; Shauna Bona, abortion rights activist; Ellie Garcia, Socialist Workers Party; representative of National Organization for Women. Sun., July 16, 3 p.m. 147 E 900 S. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (801) 355-1124.

Celebrate 30 Years of the Cuban Revolution. Award-winning Cuban film *Death of a Bureaucrat*. (In Spanish, with English subtitles.) Introduced by Steve Warshell, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Salt Lake City Council, 1st District. Translation to Spanish. Sat., July 22, 7:30 p.m. 147 E 900 S. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (801) 355-1124.

WEST VIRGINIA

Charleston

The Eastern Workers and Miners on Strike: A Fight for All Working People. Speaker: John Hawkins, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Birmingham, Alabama, member United Mine Workers Local 2368. Sat., July 15, 7 p.m. 116 McFarland St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 345-3040.

WISCONSIN

Milwaukee

Defend Abortion: A Woman's Fundamental Right. Panel of activists. Fri., July 21, 7:30 p.m. 4707 W Lisbon Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (414) 445-2076.

Celebrate 30 Years of the Cuban Revolution

ILLINOIS

Chicago

Celebrate Cuban revolution and 10th anniversary of Nicaraguan revolution. Hear televised address by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega. Dance to music of Rafo and the International Combo. Sat., July 22, 8 p.m. St. Pius Church, 1901 S Ashland. Donation: \$10. Sponsor: July 22nd Coalition. For more information call (312) 728-5561, 276-5626, or 761-0316.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Sat., July 29, 7:30 p.m. Casa de las Américas, 104 W 14 St. Sponsors: Venceremos Brigade, Antonio Maceo Brigade, Casa de las Américas. For more information call (212) 769-4293.

CANADA

Toronto

Celebrate 10th Anniversary of Nicaraguan Revolution and 30 Years of Cuban Revolution. Speakers: Rolando Rivero, Cuban consul general of Cuba speaking on 30th anniversary; Rosemary Rae, participant in Canadian Action for Nicaragua July 19 Construction Brigade. Sat., July 22, 7:30 p.m. 410 Adelaide St. W, Suite 400. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (416) 861-1399.

AUSTRALIA

Sydney

Marxism and Black Nationalism. Why the nationalism of the Black minority in the United States, as with Aboriginal people in Australia, should be supported by all workers. Fri., July 21, 6:30 p.m. 181 Glebe Point Rd., 2nd floor, Glebe. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (02) 692-0319.

In Defense of Socialism. Public meeting to introduce the new Pathfinder book *In Defense of Socialism*. Collection of speeches by Fidel Castro on 30th anniversary of Cuban revolution. Fri., July 28, 6:30 p.m. 181 Glebe Point Rd., 2nd floor, Glebe. Sponsor: Pathfinder Bookroom. For more information call (02) 692-0319.

BRITAIN

Doncaster

Victory to the Railworkers. Speaker from National Union of Railwaymen. Sat., July 22, 3 p.m. Doncaster Women's Centre. Donation: £1. Sponsor: New International Forum. For more information call 0742-583641.

London

Puerto Rico: The Struggle for Independence. Speaker: Daniel Nina, recently returned from Puerto Rico. Fri., July 21, 7:30 p.m. 47 The Cut, SE 1. Donation: £1. Sponsor: New International Forum. For more information call 01-928-7947.

Sheffield

Nicaragua: 10 Years of Workers and Farmers in Power. Speaker: Bridget Elton, spent 10 weeks working in Nicaragua this year. Wed., July 19, 7:30 p.m. Sheffield and District Afro-Caribbean Community Association, 48 The Wicker. Donation: £1. For more information call 0742-583641.

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Toronto: 410 Adelaide St. W., Suite 400, M5V 1S8. Tel: (416) 861-1399.

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NEW ZEALAND

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

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

SWEDEN

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

For the jollies squad — "The display includes instructions, including one describing five types of



Harry Ring

rapists and how to flog them with a flashlight." — Report on Police Security Expo '89.

Better odds? — For every two people in the state of New York who voted, there were three who bought

lottery tickets.

Check out the SWP ticket — "People are really disgusted. They don't see much choice. The Republicans are the frying pan, and the Democrats are the skillet." — Comment on New York mayoralty campaign by a resident of an area of the Bronx where 46.3 percent of the people are living below the official poverty line.

Even his best friends say so — "In all fairness, there were others who didn't get along with him. He's a very difficult man to work for." — An FBI agent on the case of a Brooklyn boss who had cyanide dropped in his water cooler, allegedly by an employee.

Slavery abolished? — In small shops in Bangkok, Thailand, children are sold for as little as \$100 — receipts on request — and put to work in backstreet sweatshops.

You've come a long way, buster — Several companies are using male celebrities to sell perfume to women. Ballet dancer Mikhail Baryshnikov is peddling a fragrance, "Misha," nicknamed after him (\$185 per ounce), and singer Julio Iglesias is touting "Only," (\$100 per 1/2 ounce).

Nothing's perfect — When Nancy Reagan blew that \$209,508 on a set of dishes, we assumed that folks who came by the White House for dinner would have something

decent to eat off of. Now the pastry chef complains the serving plates aren't big enough for desserts.

You can bank on it — Now you don't have to worry about losing your money in a savings and loan company. Many of them are changing their names to drop the word "loan" and include "bank." It doesn't make them any more solvent, just more appealing, image-wise.

Keep it dignified — A professor says a study confirms that execs who brownnose the boss tend to move up the corporate ladder more easily. He advises that flattery is more effective if you really mean it but, adds, "sincere or not, it should be

done in moderation."

Be sure to sip that decaf — The Food and Drug Administration is considering a ban on methylene chloride in hair sprays and other aerosol cosmetics. The cancer-causing chemical is also used to leach caffeine from coffee but, the FDA assures, this is no problem since the risk comes from inhaling the stuff, not drinking it.

Still touchy — "I'd like to see people, instead of spending so much time on the ethical problem, get after the problems that really affect the people of this country." — Richard "I'm no crook" Nixon.

Journalist I.F. Stone: defender of democratic rights

BY HARRY RING

The capitalist media has heaped lavish praise on I.F. Stone, the noted journalist who died June 18 at 81.

There were editorials as well as obituaries. Many journalists wrote tributes to him. Some of these reflected a genuine appreciation for Stone's reportorial skill and his integrity. However, in the editorials, and some of the obituaries, there was a good dose of hypocrisy.

A *New York Times* editorial piously noted that "mainstream newspapers found too little room for his contrary opinions."

Apart from a few "op ed" pieces, the *Times* surely was among those that had "too little room" for Stone's opinions.

Stone was a liberal with a particularly deep concern for fair play and democratic rights. He opposed U.S. intervention in Korea and Vietnam, and was an ardent foe of racism.

Stone published his first paper, the *Progress*, at 14. In the late 1930s, he was a columnist for the *New York Post*, then a liberal Democratic paper. During World War II, he was Washington correspondent for the *Nation* magazine.

In the late 1940s and early '50s, Stone was a columnist for three successive left liberal New York dailies that opposed the Cold War

and witch-hunt. These were *PM*, the *New York Star*, and the *Daily Compass*. None had the financial resources to survive.

In 1953, after the *Star* folded, he launched *I.F. Stone's Weekly*, a newsletter from Washington, D.C. Packed with useful information, including many exclusives, it began with 5,000 subscribers and its circulation steadily expanded. When the last issue was put to bed in 1971, it had a circulation of 70,000.

On "retirement," Stone contributed to the *New York Review of Books*, and the *Nation*. He then wrote a critically acclaimed book on early Greek democracy, *The Trial of Socrates*.

Some of Stone's earlier books were not so well received by reviewers in the capitalist press.

One of them, *The Hidden History of the Korean War*, was the target of vilifying attack. While the Korean War (1950-53) was not popular among working people, there were no significant protests in this country and few liberals spoke out against that act of U.S. imperialist aggression.

Supporters of the Korean invasion, particularly liberal supporters, denounced the book.

The *New York Post*, for example, featured a review by Richard Rovere, tagging Stone's book as "heavily documented rubbish" by "a

man who thinks up good arguments for poor Communist positions."

In the *Militant*, staff writer Art Preis defended Stone's book.

He wrote that "I.F. Stone's rigorously factual and powerful book helps lift the cobweb curtain from some of the darkest and foulest corners of the U.S. imperialist intervention in Korea." Preis then rebutted Rovere's review.

Stone appreciated that lone voice in his defense. Preis' review was reprinted in its entirety in the *Daily Compass*.

It was during the witch-hunt of the 1940s and '50s that Stone particularly demonstrated his commitment of the Bill of Rights.

In 1941, on the eve of U.S. entry into World War II, 18 leaders of the Socialist Workers Party and the Teamsters union in Minneapolis were convicted under the Smith Act, a thought-control law adopted during President Franklin Roosevelt's administration. They were railroaded to prison for their activities in the labor movement and their refusal to subordinate the interests of working people to the U.S. imperialist war effort.

I.F. Stone was the first Washington correspondent to write in defense of the 18. George Novack, then secretary of the Civil Rights Defense Committee, which organized the defense of the 18, recalls that reprints of Stone's *Nation* article on the case were invaluable in enlisting supporters for the defense.

As the anticommunist witch-hunt got under way with President Harry Truman's "loyalty" purge of government workers, James Kutcher, who lost both legs in World War II, was fired in 1948 from his clerk's job with the Veteran's Administration because of his membership in the SWP.

Throughout the eight-year battle that fi-

nally won Kutcher his job back, Stone regularly wrote columns spotlighting new developments in the case.

'Case of the Legless Veteran'

In his first column on Kutcher's victimization, Stone dubbed it "The Case of the Legless Veteran."

The phrase stuck. Kutcher used it as the title for his book, as did Howard Petrick for a documentary film on the case more than 20 years later.

In 1973 the SWP and Young Socialist Alliance sued the FBI and other government agencies for trampling on their rights. Stone endorsed the Political Rights Defense Fund, which raised funds and organized support for the suit. The SWP and YSA won a favorable court ruling on the case in 1986.

The *Militant* also got an important direct assist from Stone. In 1975 when it set up a Washington bureau headed by Cindy Jaquith, she was denied a congressional press pass for five months.

The issue was finally resolved at a meeting of the executive committee of the body that issued the passes. Stone came to speak on behalf of the *Militant*.

Responding to one of the committee's arguments, he asked, "Why all these questions about whether the *Militant* is 'controlled' by the Socialist Workers Party? What about the vast majority of newspapers in this country, which are controlled by the Republican and Democratic parties?"

The *Militant* was issued a pass.

Stone had a simple, straightforward position on civil liberties: You can't effectively defend democratic rights if you make exceptions. Everyone's rights must be defended, regardless of how much you may disagree with their ideas.

Nicaragua coffee growers expropriated

Continued from Page 9
of activity.

"In the framework of reaching an accord, the government has noted that this is not the time for carrying out expropriations," Wheelock stated. "We believe that is true."

The great majority of capitalist farmers "have a critical but patriotic attitude," he said. "We are willing to go with them all the way."

The day after the confiscations were announced, other COSEP-affiliated associations, including those of the cattle ranchers and cotton growers, announced their intention to resign from the national commissions in their sector of production in protest of the expropriations and to win their own demands for credit and rapid disbursement of money they say the government owes them.

Divisions among capitalists

Reactions by capitalist coffee farmers to the confrontational approach promoted by Alemán, Cuadra, and Bolaños were mixed. Jorge Armando Chávez, representing UNCAFENIC members from Jinotega, abstained when a vote was called on the Matagalpa statement.

Chávez and another UNCAFENIC member, Julio Vigil, attended a June 26 meeting of the national coffee commission. Government officials at that meeting promised to immediately consider proposals Chávez raised to meet some of the growers' demands.

National Union of Farmers and Ranchers (UNAG) member and coffee grower José Alejandro Olivas said, "I've never worried. The government supports anyone who wants to work."

In an interview with *Barricada*, Daniel Núñez, national president of UNAG, stated that the unity of coffee growers is important. Several times in the past, he said, UNAG has defended the growers whose lands were threatened with confiscation. But this time, in

his opinion, the government had no alternative.

'Should have done it before'

"The workers view the expropriation as a triumph," Alfonso Espinoza, a leader of the Rural Workers Association (ATC) in coffee, explained.

The 120 workers at the Cuadra farm were overjoyed when they were informed of the action, Espinoza said. "They said this should have been done a long time ago."

Cuadra paid wages far below the minimum recommended by the ATC and negotiated with other owners, Espinoza explained. Cuadra was not investing in the farm, and coffee yields fell by more than 50 percent in the last five years, according to the ATC leader.

The government has still not decided whether Cuadra's expropriated properties will be added to a land bank for landless peasants or whether they will be turned into state farms, Espinoza noted, "but the workers are for them becoming state farms."

ATC leader Domingo Gómez said, "The majority of the large landowners are not working the land the way they should. There is a lot of land that is being allowed to deteriorate. However, it is not idle land that is being taken, but the land of provocateurs."

"These properties are being expropriated," he continued, not "because they belong to members of COSEP but because they belong to counterrevolutionaries, paid agents of the CIA and the U.S. embassy."

Gómez stated, "We can coexist with the farmers who invest and create adequate working conditions."

Although only the land of three growers has been expropriated, said José Adán Rivera, ATC president in the Matagalpa region, "These actions have raised the expectations of workers on other farms."

— 10 AND 25 YEARS AGO —

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEETLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

July 20, 1979

On July 9 Sandinista field commanders unanimously rejected U.S. demands to include more conservative figures in the Nicaraguan provisional junta (which already has several representatives of capitalist parties). The commanders called instead for "redoubling our military offensive against the Somoza dictatorship."

By July 11 the rebel offensive appeared to be gaining fresh momentum throughout Nicaragua, with a new assault on Managua and Somoza's bunker in preparation. "The Somoza dictatorship is being defeated," a Sandinista broadcast declared. "We call on all the peoples of the world to be ready to defend our struggle and our victory."

The Cuban government declared in an international appeal June 19:

"We must put behind us forever the time when the United States was the lord and master of our countries and the Yankee marines decided what government our peoples would have. . . .

"We must mobilize on an emergency basis to prevent a new and criminal imperialist armed intervention in Nicaragua, and to develop the broadest and firmest solidarity with the Nicaraguan fighters."

THE MILITANT

Published in the interests of the Working People

July 13, 1964

James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner, the three young civil rights workers missing in Mississippi, must now be presumed dead—lynched by police and white supremacists. While the search for their bodies continues, the racist reign of terror in that state mounts.

The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, spearhead of the fight for justice there, charges that "Mississippi law-enforcement officials and private citizens are engaged in a conspiracy to harass and intimidate local Negroes and civil rights workers through cross-burnings, beatings, shootings, and illegal arrests."

Despite these well-known facts, President Johnson stubbornly refuses to intervene to protect the lives of Negroes and civil rights workers in Mississippi.

Johnson's gimmick was to send spymaster Allen Dulles, former CIA head, to Mississippi. It turned out that Dulles' mission was only a fact-finding junket consisting mainly of having a conversation with the governor.

New challenge to Eastern strike

Now is the time for the labor movement to organize an expanded and ongoing mobilization on behalf of the 17,000 workers on strike against Eastern Airlines. Such a mobilization is needed to respond to the new stage the 19-week-old strike has reached.

The July 2 start-up by Eastern of 146 more flights represents the biggest challenge the strike has faced since Lorenzo's attempt to restart the Northeast shuttle the weekend after the walkout began.

When that happened, strikers — backed by other unionists and supporters — swelled airport picket lines and organized mass rallies and demonstrations. After a few days, the planes emptied.

Following those actions, Eastern's operations were basically grounded, with only 100 or fewer of the pre-strike 1,040 daily flights getting off the ground — often with few passengers. As a result, the airline has lost tens of millions of dollars in revenues.

The power and unity of the strike, backed by widespread support from working people, kept the operations of one of the largest U.S. airlines paralyzed.

After sale of the shuttle to Trump in early June, the number of flights stood at about 80. With flights opening up July 2 to Chicago, Boston, Los Angeles, Milwaukee, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Portland, St. Louis, San Francisco, Seattle, Montréal, Toronto, and other cities, the total projected daily flights now is 226.

These are cities where the gates had been dark since March 4. Flights are now coming and going every day. Some of the planes that have sat idle on runways in Miami and Atlanta for months are again carrying passengers.

At this point, Lorenzo is planning to restart 164 more flights August 1. Baltimore, Birmingham, Cleveland, Detroit, and some 17 other cities will see Eastern flights for the first time since March if the plan moves ahead.

Low fares and publicity about the "new" Eastern have drawn passengers to these flights, which are being filled to about 60 percent of capacity.

If allowed to go forward, these moves will be a serious step toward weakening the strike and restarting the airline as the scab outfit Eastern's owners are aiming at.

The challenge facing the strikers and their supporters, especially other union members, is how to empty these flights.

Actions like those that took place on a large scale during

the first weeks of the strike are needed once again — and in more cities. Then, thousands of strike supporters rallied and jammed picket lines at airports around the country.

The round of strike support actions that took place over the July 2 weekend — in some cases, the largest support actions in many weeks — were effective in gaining new attention for the strike, including in some cities where Eastern has just started up again.

The actions showed the strike's continuing strength and the determination by Machinists union members, flight attendants, and pilots to find a way to respond to Lorenzo's threat.

The positive response by many Eastern passengers to the July 2 weekend picket lines and other activities shows how effective a big, visible picket line can be. Many people had arrived at the airport unaware the strike was still going on.

When strikers have picketed Eastern's scab hiring sessions, they have gotten a similar response — many would-be job seekers turn away once the issues in the strike are explained to them.

A new round of strike support rallies and demonstrations is needed now to bring the weight of the labor movement in behind the strikers, to involve the many thousands of working people who want to find a way to aid the strike, and to bring the Eastern workers' fight even more sharply into the public eye.

Every action the strikers have organized indicates that such efforts can bring impressive results.

When the Eastern workers walked out in March, there weren't many other labor battles going on. Since then, thousands of coal miners have gone on strike, fighting the same kind of union-busting the Eastern workers are up against. The miners and Eastern workers have been actively backing each other.

Eastern strikers have also extended support to Los Angeles teachers, New York restaurant workers, New Jersey state employees, and many other workers who have become part of the upturn in the class struggle now taking place.

A stepped-up campaign by the labor movement — especially by the International Association of Machinists — to mobilize for the Eastern strike will tap a vast reservoir of support among working people, who see the Eastern strikers' fight to defend their unions and to win decent wages and working conditions as their struggle too.

'One of cleanest political processes in history'

BY DOUG JENNESS

In the 1950s Cuba ran a national lottery in which a number was drawn each week and publicly announced on the radio. It was the most lucrative and corrupt form of gambling under Fulgencio Batista's dictatorship.

Blocks of tickets were sold at \$15 each, with Batista's henchmen receiving a \$3 commission on each block. Between 1952 and 1958, working people in Cuba were fleeced of \$214.8 million, most of which disappeared into New York and Swiss banks.

But this wasn't all. Each week's number was also used by the illegal numbers rackets in New York, Miami, and other

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

cities. Batista stuffed even more money into his pockets by secretly giving the number ahead of time to racketeers in the United States for a handsome sum.

Then on New Year's Day 1959, this all came to an end as Batista's tyranny was overturned by a popular revolution that brought in a new breed of leaders. On Jan. 20, 1959, a law was adopted that abolished the lottery as it had existed and replaced it with a new setup.

Because Cuban working people were used to the lottery as a possible way to strike it rich, the revolutionary leadership judged that it would not be wise to abolish it outright.

As a transitional measure, it set up the National Institute of Savings and Housing, which had weekly drawings like the old lottery. But tickets were sold as bonds, redeemable by the buyers after five years at 110 percent of cost. The proceeds from these bonds went to finance housing construction. In one year 10,000 new homes were built under this program, 2,000 more than had been built in any year by the private sector under Batista.

Many years later, in a 1985 interview with Jeffrey M. Elliot and Mervyn M. Dymally (See *Fidel Castro: Nothing Can Stop the Course of History*, Pathfinder, New York, 1986), Castro recalled that in that period Cuba's revolutionary government was offered millions of dollars by numbers racketeers in the United States for the number to be drawn each week in the lottery.

"Some people even said, 'We're not asking that you give us a specific number. All we ask is that you draw it a week earlier and send it to us' . . . Not only did we categorically turn down such offers," Castro said, "but, in time, in line with our revolutionary program, we even did away with the lottery."

U.S. gangsters had been welcome in Cuba for so long that they couldn't conceive that the new regime wouldn't be on the take too.

During the Batista years, Havana was one of imperialism's principal brothels and gambling centers, much as Manila and Bangkok are today. Prostitution was widespread, and in addition to the lottery, gambling rooms were set up all over the city. Havana was also one of the region's principal centers for smuggling, selling, and consumption of drugs.

Batista's police — butchers hated for their tortures and murders — were deeply involved in this exploitation, profiting from it and protecting the pimps, casino owners, and drug-traffickers. Moreover, the Batista regime had the full backing of Washington.

At the same time, the rebel military forces of the July 26 Movement were expanding their support among the peasants in the Sierra Maestra and working people throughout the island. As more territory came under rebel control, a wide variety of policy directives were made.

For example, on Oct. 7, 1958, Castro issued Provision No. 6 for the Civil Administration of the Free Territory in the Sierra Maestra. It stated, "It is the responsibility and aim of the Revolutionary Movement and this Administration to completely eliminate hard drugs and illicit gambling, which at present make the real physical, mental, and economic development of the Cuban people impossible."

When the revolutionary forces took political power, the basis was laid for eliminating private profiteering in women's bodies, drugs, and gambling. Moreover, the revolution undermined these evils by offering the great majority of people jobs, education, and most important of all, self-esteem and confidence that they could remake society and determine their future.

The Cuban people and their government have prided themselves on eradicating the evils of the Batista years and domination by U.S. big business. They have devoted considerable efforts to stopping the activities of drug smugglers who violate Cuban airspace and territorial waters.

Cuba's fight against drug trafficking has shone like a beacon. That's why the involvement of Gen. Arnaldo Ochoa Sánchez and other military officers in the drug trade was such a betrayal of the moral integrity of the Cuban revolution.

An editorial in the Cuban Communist Party paper *Granma*, however, noted, "If many people are shocked by events like this, it is because we are, no doubt, an inseparable part of one of the cleanest political processes in history, and it will continue to be clean because we will take exemplary measures to eradicate outrages such as this."

Gain for domestic partner rights

Are two unmarried people who live together in a relationship entitled to the legal rights and economic benefits provided married couples?

In an important victory for democratic rights the New York Court of Appeals ruled on July 6 that they are, at least as concerns rent-control regulations.

The court decision concluded that a man in a homosexual relationship with the tenant of a rent-controlled apartment qualified to take over the lease after his companion had died of AIDS.

Under New York's rent-control ordinances only family members as defined by a legal marriage qualified for such protection against eviction. The court's decision extends this protection to all partners regardless of their legal marital status.

This ruling is an important gain for working people who by choice or necessity live in relationships without legal sanctions. The most impoverished layers of working people — who are among the main victims of evictions resulting from a lack of legally recognized relationships — will especially benefit from this decision.

The census bureau lists 2.6 million such unmarried-cou-

ple households in the United States in 1988 — 1 million more than in 1980.

A few days after the court decision New York's Mayor Edward Koch issued an executive order that will give unmarried city employees the same right as married employees to paid leave after the death of a partner — another step in the right direction.

Extending health insurance, life insurance, and other benefits can be decided through collective bargaining, Koch added, but such an expansion of benefits would mean cuts elsewhere. Working people should reject this divisive formula, however, and instead fight to extend existing benefits to all working people, married or not.

These domestic partner issues are also being raised in California, Wisconsin, and elsewhere.

As a matter of democratic rights — of choice and privacy — individuals should have the right to choose their personal relationships without facing legal or economic discrimination, or social prejudice. Steps forward along these lines strengthen working people's fight against bigotry and for a better life.

Exxon Valdez spills again

It looks as though the *Exxon Valdez*, the tanker that caused untold environmental damage when it ran aground March 24 and poured 11 million gallons of oil into the waters off Alaska's coast, has kept on leaking. Now it is the waters off California's coastline that are getting a dose — even if a milder one — of Exxon poisoning.

Inspectors found July 10 that five steel plates had come loose from the ship's flat bottom. They barred its entry into San Diego harbor, where the ship was headed for repairs. Moreover, "the ship appears to have leaked the residue of her crude oil cargo, causing a light 18-mile slick that was floating northerly away from California's southern coast," reported the July 12 *New York Times*.

Capt. Edward Silva, San Diego's chief port pilot, who has often piloted the *Valdez*, expressed concern that the ship might break up in the event of bad weather. Yet Exxon management sent this floating sieve on a 2,500-mile ocean voyage from Alaska to San Diego.

The corporation's record of contempt for the protection of the environment, safety of seamen, and any other consideration besides profit remains unblemished.

From the standpoint of the billionaire owners of this and

other big companies, safety and the environment are primarily public relations problems. Phony promises have been among their main safety devices.

When Alaska residents originally pointed to the dangers of the pipeline and shipping operations, the oil giants responded with an 1,800-page report that "proved" they could handle any eventuality. When the safety of the ships was questioned, they promised to install double bottoms and other devices, but dropped the idea once the pipeline opened in 1977.

At every point, they have operated with the backing and protection of the White House, government agencies, and Congress, which are also helping big oil ride out the current exposures.

Exxon and the other operators of the pipeline don't deserve a shred of confidence. The *Valdez* port and shipping operation should be shut down now. Plans to pump oil on the Arctic National Wildlife Reserve and to extend offshore drilling must be rejected. And the proviso in the 1973 Alaska pipeline law that limited the companies' liability for spills to \$100 million should be lifted.

Native American prisoners wage fight for rights

BY MARK CURTIS
AND JOHN FLOWERS

ANAMOSA, Iowa — Native American prisoners in the Iowa State Men's Reformatory here are fighting for their cultural and religious rights. So far they have won an important victory: the construction of a sweat lodge in which

BEHIND PRISON WALLS

to practice their religion. But they still are denied the right to use certain religious articles, or to form their own organization.

This struggle has been going on for several years. There are less than a dozen Native Americans incarcerated in this prison, a medium-security institution that houses more than 1,000 men. They come from several different tribes in Iowa and South Dakota, including Santee Sioux, Winnabago, and Sac and Fox.

After months of discussions with prison administration staff that led nowhere, 12 inmates filed a suit in the U.S. District Court for Southern Iowa against Paul Grossheim, director of the Iowa Department of Corrections. The complaint asked that a sweat lodge be built where the Native Americans could practice religious rites, and that inmates be allowed to obtain certain religious articles.

Although there has been no decision on the legal complaint, in May the prison administration gave in and allowed the sweat lodge to be built.

Still, the officials have not allowed Native Americans to have the other materials they requested to have in their possession. In a May 15 proposal to the authorities, the inmates requested certain artifacts needed for rituals, including sage, sweet grass, a pipe and pipe bag, eagle feathers, cedar, tobacco ties, a medicine bag and wheel, beads and needles for beadwork, and cotton cloth in various colors.

The Native Americans have explained they want respect for their right to practice their religion — a right guaranteed in the First Amendment to the Constitution. In their suit

they pointed out, "These rights to Freedom of Religion do apply to individuals, as we have 'individual daily prayers'... That denial of this and these rights can result in the fundamental unfairness and questionable constitutional validity of imposing other peoples' personal feeling toward Native Americans. The Native American Religion is the first religion in the United States, yet it is the most neglected, due to unfamiliarized understanding of this way of life."

The IMR administration's answer to these requests has been to claim that they represent a "threat to the security of the institution." On the proposal for Native Americans to do beadwork in their cells, for example, Native American Matt Hallum spoke with Jerry Matternach, who is the treatment director of this institution.

Matternach objected that the needles could be used for tattooing purposes, even though many leather workers here have needles already. He also said that beadwork could not be done in the cells because drugs or other contraband could be hidden in the tiny beads, and that guards couldn't shake down each individual bead.

Even though the director of the prison hobby shop stated that he would have no problem with beadwork being done in an individual's cell, Matternach suggested that beadwork be done in the hobby shop, as a hobby. "But this is no hobby," explains one of the Indians, "it's our culture."

The sweat lodge has been used for more than a month now, with no security problems. It stands in one corner of the yard, near the wall and directly under a guard tower. It is round, eight feet in diameter, built of willow poles, and covered with a canvas tarp. A fire of split wood is built outside the lodge to heat rocks. When the rocks are hot they are brought inside the lodge and placed in a pit where water poured over them creates the steam needed to sweat.

Sage and sweet grass are burned during the sweat, and those participating sing and pray. The men are allowed to use the lodge once a week for one and a half hours, and a guard and the prison's Catholic priest stand nearby throughout the ritual.

The administration controls who can participate, and has prevented some Indians from going to the "sweat" because

they have no federal enrollment number.

Since the lodge was built, several non-Indians have come forward with sincere questions about what they call "the tent." It is explained to them that the sweating is needed to purify oneself before prayer, and that it serves a different purpose than a sauna.

One day, however, the foreman of a nearby shop cracked racist "jokes" about the men going on a "war party" after their sweat, trying to get some of the inmates to join in with the harassment. But most responses have been positive.

Getting the lodge has encouraged the Indians in their attempts to establish a cultural organization inside the prison. Several inmate organizations already exist: the Martin Luther King, Jr. Organization, Jaycees, Resident Council, and Alcoholics Anonymous.

Matternach claimed that the Native Americans don't need an organization because the prison's chapel could take care of all their religious needs. "It's not just religious," one of the Indians explains, "we have cultural needs." They want to be able to invite outside speakers, raise funds, and hold educational events like any other group.

More than anything, the Native American prisoners want to educate the prison population about their culture, especially other Native Americans. Some are raised out of touch with their culture, especially those who have grown up in the city.

Although getting the sweat lodge was a difficult battle, the Native Americans at the Iowa State Men's Reformatory are determined to win all their rights. They want those on the outside to know about their struggle and to support them. A key role in winning the sweat lodge was played by Ken Bordeaux, a traditional Teton Lakota Sioux. Bordeaux, a Native American consultant in Lincoln, Nebraska, came in and built the sweat lodge in May.

Mark Curtis and John Flowers are inmates at the Iowa State Men's Reformatory in Anamosa, Iowa. Flowers is a Santee Sioux from Sioux City, Iowa.

LETTERS

Germ-warfare lab

The local paper recently ran an item about three Eastman Kodak engineers who refused duty at an army germ-warfare laboratory near Baltimore. They filed charges with the National Labor Relations Board after they were disciplined by the company.

"The more we learned, the more we were convinced they could not guarantee our safety," Jim Secoges told the *Baltimore Sun*.

The laboratory at Fort Detrick conducts research on some of the most virulent organisms known. The facility has been the subject of Senate subcommittee hearings because of its poor safety record.

As part of its contractual obligations, Kodak requires civilians to work in special spaceman-type suits with oxygen hoses.

When Tom Stimson first saw the lab, he recalled, he "knew it meant certain death if something went wrong." Stimson and a third engineer refused to do the work.

Kodak responded by threatening them with termination.

In charges filed with the NLRB, the men accused Kodak of unfairly disciplining them for refusing hazardous duty, in violation of federal labor law.

The NLRB is conducting an investigation.
Baxter Smith
Baltimore, Maryland

AIDS coverage

I have been a reader and supporter of the *Militant* for more than 10 years. The paper has consistently improved and is now the most professional and attractive

weekly in the U.S. workers' movement.

At the same time I remain disappointed by your sparse attention and coverage around AIDS and the changing character of the gay movement in this country.

Your editorial in the July 7 issue, "Significance of the gay rights fight," struck me as the expected obligatory piece to coincide with the annual gay pride marches. The editorial made all the correct political points, but it had a yellowish, dated tinge. Except for the passing mention of AIDS, the article failed to address any new territory about what is happening today around the fight against AIDS and for gay rights. When is the *Militant* going to discuss Cuba's controversial AIDS policies?

Because of AIDS, thousands of young gays are being galvanized into political action. Also of interest to the *Militant* and its readers should be the interrelated issues of health care under capitalism, AIDS, racism, and what direction and which class these new gay fighters should be looking to.

I'm concerned that you're missing the beat on this story.

Craig McKissic
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Miners

We've been having quite a bit of success selling the *Militant* in the coalfields of western Pennsylvania in the past few days. From June 22 to June 25 we sold 51 copies and four subscriptions.

The miners are especially open to receiving the *Militant*, but they aren't the only ones. Steelworkers, members of the Machinists union, retirees, and miners' family members are buying the *Militant*.

Support for the miners' walkout is strong in the region. One laid-off furniture worker — a former Teamster — said he was glad to see the miners are united.

I don't want to give the impression that the miners are only interested in their own strike. All eyes are on Eastern, and our coverage is unsurpassed. We also sell on other

headlines — China, Cuba, and South Africa.

Kate Daher
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Eastern strike

Eastern Airlines strikers and their supporters picketed two days of job interviewing by the company at the Eastern Reservation Center, at Boston's Logan Airport. The carrier had advertised in local newspapers.

Leaflets explaining the strikers' case and asking for support were handed out. They also contained information on current hiring at other airlines and where to apply.

Nearly two dozen flight attendants, pilots, and striking Machinists staffed the line. In addition, three United Transportation Union members from Amtrak, other airport Machinists, and five members of International Union of Electrical Workers Local 201, which organizes workers at the General Electric plant in nearby Lynn, helped with the picketing.

Several times pickets drove potential job applicants to the local Ramada Inn where United Airlines was conducting interviews. Close to 50 percent of the applicants chose not to cross the picket line.

Pickets tried to talk with each person coming to the Reservation Center. They would tell their own horror stories of working at Eastern. Pointing out concretely what the company had in store for new hires and what benefits all working people stood to gain with a victory in the strike worked well in accomplishing the strikers' goal.

One young man who came for an interview explained that he was from Morocco. He had come to the United States to escape persecution for helping to organize workers there. He said he hadn't worked in three months and really needed a job. He decided not to cross the picket line.

Warren Simons
Boston, Massachusetts

Eastern picket

Baseball player Bobby Bonds came to the San Francisco Interna-



Duffy

tional Airport recently to catch a flight. He saw our picket line at Eastern and went in to demand a refund.

The ticket agent told him getting a refund was next to impossible, but that they would extend his ticket for one year.

"I got it extended for one year," he came out and told us. "If you haven't gotten a contract by then, I'll come back and have it extended another year!"

Amy Belvin
San Francisco, California

Prisoners' subscriptions

I'd like to address a short note to your readers concerning the Militant Prisoner Subscription Fund.

I'm a 46-year-old federal prisoner in Leavenworth penitentiary. My M.R. (mandatory release) date is in the year 2007, when I'll be 64 years old — if I don't lose any "good time."

But my major problem, and that of many state and federal prisoners, is that I have no source of income except my 11-cents-an-hour, \$16-a-month "job" in this institution.

We need your financial assistance to be able to subscribe to independent newspapers such as the *Militant*. Most of us don't agree with our present government's domination of its citizenry.

A prisoner
Leavenworth, Kansas

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

The article "Miners' solidarity walkouts stay firm" in the July 14 issue incorrectly states that the town of St. Paul is in West Virginia. St. Paul, where two miners' solidarity rallies were held, is in Virginia.

Youth message closes int'l festival

Protests to demand Korea unity, U.S. troops out

BY MARGARET JAYKO

PYONGYANG, Democratic People's Republic of Korea — The closing of the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students was marked here by the reading of a "Message to the Youth and Students of the World" and the launching of an international campaign to support the fight for a unified Korea, free of U.S. troops and nuclear weapons.

The closing ceremony of the week-long festival was held July 8 at the newly built May Day Stadium in the capital city of the northern half of this divided peninsula.

Addressing the crowd were Choe Ryong Hae, chair of the Korean Preparatory Committee for the festival; and the Nicaraguan and Namibian representatives to the Permanent Commission of the festival's International Preparatory Committee.

The festival attracted more than 15,000 participants, including delegations from 180 countries, more than 64 regional and international organizations, guests of honor from more than 90 countries, and thousands of Korean nationals from Japan, the United States, the Soviet Union, and elsewhere.

'Peace, justice, freedom'

"Beyond our political, ideological, philosophical, and religious differences," read the closing statement, "we share the view that it is possible and necessary to work together for our common aspirations. Our task and our responsibility to mankind is to make our planet a world of peace, development, justice, freedom, democracy, of human and peoples' rights, solidarity and friendship and where peoples enjoy their inalienable right to independence and sovereignty."

"We are facing many challenges: the arms race and the continuing threat it poses to the survival of mankind as a whole; the maintenance of underdevelopment and the unbearable burden of the foreign debt; the aggressions against and the violations of human rights and rights of peoples; the ecological threat; hunger, malnutrition and diseases; illiteracy; discrimination against women. . . .

"Since the 12th WFYS, the world has vibrated to the tune of our aspirations. The Nicaraguan youth celebrate the 10th anniversary of their revolution; the Palestinians with their heroic uprising have created their own State; Namibians have advanced toward their independence; the world echoes the anti-apartheid struggles in solidarity with the ANC and the liberation of Nelson Mandela."

The statement pointed out that this festival was the first to be held in Asia, "a continent where millions of people, youth and students are the victims of exploitation, occupation and strong repression policies that restrain the exercise of their basic rights: the right to life, the freedom of expression, the right to be active protagonists of the building of a new society. Nevertheless, they continue their struggle against foreign occupation and for self-determination, for democracy, justice, human rights, for peace and security in the region, with the sympathy and solidarity of millions of people all over the world."

Some 70,000 Korean performers participated in the dancing, singing, and acrobatics of the opening and closing ceremonies.

At a wrap-up news conference on July 9, Thierry Angles, delegate from France and convener of the Permanent Commission, announced that Algeria was the only country to date that had put in a bid to host the 14th world festival four years from now. The International Preparatory Committee, he said, will decide the location in the next several months.

The previous 12 festivals were held in Czechoslovakia, Hungary, East Germany, Rumania, Poland, the Soviet Union, Austria, Finland, Bulgaria, and Cuba.

March for Korean reunification

The day after the festival ended, the International Preparatory Committee for Peace

and Reunification Study Tour of Korea discussed the expanding international support for the July 20-27 march across the Korean peninsula.

In the North, the march will begin at Mt. Paekdu, and in the South at Mt. Halla. They will converge at Panmunjom, the border area on the Military Demarcation Line that divides the Korean peninsula in two. An international peace rally will be held at Panmunjom on July 27, the 36th anniversary of the Military Armistice Agreement between the governments of North Korea and the United States.

The North Korean government has requested a meeting of the Military Armistice

Commission to ask that the marchers be allowed to cross the dividing line between North and South. If the U.S. military authorities at Panmunjom permit them to cross the border, the group from the North will head southward, and the one from the South northward. No civilians have been allowed to cross the demarcation line since the Korean War.

More than 300 festival participants have asked to participate in the march, along with Koreans living inside and outside Korea.

Jackie Selebi, head of the South African delegation to the festival and a member of the African National Congress, announced that an ANC contingent will participate in the

march. He also introduced eight South African youth who, he said, will return to South Africa to organize a solidarity march there. The action will also demand a free South Africa.

Festival participants from the United States will also march.

The action will demand:

- Signing of a peace treaty to replace the current armistice agreement.
- Signing of a nonaggression declaration by North and South Korea.
- Reduction of military forces on both sides.
- Withdrawal of the more than 40,000 U.S. troops and 1,000 U.S. nuclear weapons from the south.
- An end to the massive joint U.S.-South Korean military exercises called "Team Spirit."

Day of solidarity with Korean people

July 27 will also be celebrated worldwide as an International Day of Solidarity with the Korean People. Young Koreans United is planning a march in the United States from Philadelphia to Washington, D.C. The Korea Support Network will hold an "End the Korean War" rally in Washington, D.C., when 100,000 petitions calling for removal of U.S. nuclear weapons from Korea will be presented to the Congress.

Rim Su Gyong, a student activist from South Korea who defied the threats of the Seoul regime and participated in the festival, will be on the march.

Charged with violating the national security law for coming to Pyongyang, the South Korean authorities have announced their intention to arrest her when she returns home. She has appealed for the broadest possible participation in this march and solidarity activities as the best way to defend her against reprisal.



South Africa solidarity rally at youth festival in Pyongyang, North Korea.

Latin America gov'ts face dilemma on Panama

BY DON ROJAS

Having failed to impose an external solution onto Panama's internal political crisis, in June the Organization of American States gave its team of "mediators" until July 19 to work out a transfer of government power in Panama.

OAS foreign ministers met in Washington on June 6 to review the work of their recently returned team comprised of envoys from Ecuador, Guatemala, and Trinidad and Tobago. It became clear that the group's diplomatic mission to Panama was unable to arrive at a conciliation formula for the opposing political forces in that country.

The foreign ministers then mandated a return visit of the envoys to continue their efforts in seeking a "national accord."

The diplomats from the three countries had met with all the political elements in Panama, including armed forces commander Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega, and concluded "that there exists possibilities for understanding" among the various parties.

However, Panama's Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter said after the June 6 meeting that no meaningful solution could be found as long as the U.S. government maintained economic sanctions and threatened Panama with military force.

At this meeting, Nicaragua was the only member state opposed to sending the OAS mission back to Panama.

May OAS meeting

This was the second OAS "consultative" meeting on Panama. The first was convened on May 17 under intense pressure from the George Bush administration, which sought a continental consensus to condemn and isolate

the Panamanian government following the decision by its authorities to declare the controversial May 7 elections null and void.

At the May 17 meeting, convened on special request of the Venezuelan government, 20 member states condemned Noriega's "abuses" and rejected a Nicaraguan resolution deploring U.S. aggression against Panama. Nicaragua and Panama opposed the anti-Panama resolution with seven countries abstaining.

Washington failed to secure a consensus for its use of force against Panama even though its threats of intervention were not condemned outright. Moreover, the meeting expressed support for the 1977 Panama-U.S. treaty on the Panama Canal. It calls for full Panamanian sovereignty over the waterway and the dismantling of all U.S. military bases on Panamanian territory by the year 2000.

Washington also failed to browbeat OAS members to expel Panama from the organization, break diplomatic relations, or to recall their ambassadors.

Significant sectors of Latin American public opinion were outraged at the May OAS action condemning Noriega's "abuses," which was widely interpreted as a blatant interference in Panama's internal affairs.

Political opposition parties and prominent writers and academic figures in Mexico attacked the government of President Carlos Salinas for its support to the OAS resolution, characterizing it as a betrayal of Mexico's principles, especially the principle of nonintervention.

Venezuela's Social Democratic President Carlos Andrés Pérez, who had said the OAS move marked "the inauguration of new relations between the United States and the rest

of the continent," was sharply attacked by opposition forces in his country.

The Brazilian, Argentinian, and Peruvian governments were also blasted by opposition political parties, trade unions, and some elements of the local press for supporting the OAS resolution.

Placed on the defensive by this outcry throughout the continent, several governments that supported the Panama resolution have stated an unwillingness to do the same should there be a similar U.S.-orchestrated move to condemn Nicaragua, which has planned a national election for February 1990.

Internal affair

Writing in *Granma*, the official organ of the Communist Party of Cuba, Raúl Riesgo said the most serious thing about the OAS action was not the resolution, but the very fact that a meeting was held to consider what was clearly an internal affair of a member state.

"Thus the OAS, in some measure, resurrected its shameful role as an accomplice to intervention," he added. "Its sinister record included the ominous meetings of 1962 and 1965 which justified aggression against Cuba and the contemptible military intervention against the Dominican Republic."

As before, the OAS now finds itself on the horns of a dilemma. If it fails to take further action against Panama by July 19, it faces the prospect of being "starved to death" by possible U.S. cutbacks in contributions to its budget.

If, on the other hand, it decides on more punitive measures against Panama it runs the risk of further undermining its credibility in Latin America and the Caribbean.