

## Bush's drug proposal: more cops, prisons

### U.S. troops planned for Latin America

BY DON ROJAS

Wearing a stiff smile that seemed incongruous with the forbidding and, at times, almost apocalyptic tone of his words, President George Bush, in a nationally televised address on September 5, described the drug problem as "the gravest domestic threat facing our nation today."

Drugs are sapping the strength of the United States, he said, and fighting the drug scourge is "the toughest domestic challenge we've faced in decades."

To carry out this fight, Bush proposed a national drug control policy that calls for more cops, more arrests, more prosecutors, and more prisons.

Already, among the big capitalist powers, the United States has the highest percentage per capita of people imprisoned.

Nearly 70 percent of Bush's proposed \$7.9 billion package is directed at beefing up law enforcement, with stiffer penalties for drug users and drug traffickers alike. The other 30 percent will be allocated to military and economic funds for countries in Latin America where cocaine is produced, treatment programs for drug addicts, drug education and prevention programs in schools, and interdiction of drugs shipped into the United States.

Bush emphasizes punishment over prevention or medical treatment for the victims of drug abuse.

He plans to step up the police presence in the streets of poor and working-class neighborhoods, while doing nothing about the miserable social conditions bred by the capitalist system, which are the source of alienation, hopelessness, and despair — the fertile ground for the proliferation of deadly drugs.

African-American and Latino communities, especially, will be the targets of more repression from police agencies as the White House drug plan is implemented.

There is little new or different about Bush's plan. Many previous U.S. administrations have declared "drug wars," using strikingly similar rhetoric and recommending many of the same solutions. And each of these wars had one aim — to capitalize on the genuine concern millions of working people have about the problem of drugs in order to reinforce the government's repressive institutions. They had nothing to do with actually ending drug trafficking, which has intensified over the last decade.

After Bush's speech, several commentators in the big-business media argued that he had undertaken the most visible domestic

initiative of his presidency and that he has placed his own leadership credibility and authority on the line. Most of them are skeptical that his drug initiative will succeed, citing numerous "potential pitfalls."

Criticism has also come from leading

Democrats, who don't think Bush is going far enough in allocating more funds for cops and prisons. Thomas Foley, Speaker of the House of Representatives, said that the drug problem is so great, reaching not only every

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## New York protests hit murder of Black youth



Militant/Robin Mace

Protest in downtown Brooklyn drew 7,000 August 31 condemning racist murder of Yusuf Hawkins.

BY JON HILLSON

NEW YORK—Thousands chanting "Yusuf! Yusuf!" marched through the streets of downtown Brooklyn to protest the killing in Bensonhurst of Yusuf Hawkins, a 16-year-old Black. Their ranks swelled to more than 7,000 as people, including hundreds of Black youth, joined in the August 31 demonstration from shops, restaurants, subways, and surrounding neighborhoods.

"What do we want?" one demonstrator shouted. "Justice!" the surging march answered back. "No justice," one section of the march chanted. "No peace," another replied. The protest was joined by Central America solidarity, abortion rights, anti-nuclear power, Puerto Rican independence, tenants' rights, and gay and lesbian activists.

The "Day of Outrage and Mourning"

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## Eastern strikers face challenges, openings

BY SUSAN LaMONT

Striking Eastern Airlines workers, locked in the most important labor battle in a decade, are heading into their seventh month on strike, many with renewed determination to continue their fight.

Signs of both the strike's power and Eastern's vulnerability have lifted the morale of many strikers in recent weeks and inspired new confidence in their ability to move forward.

On Labor Day Eastern strikers made a show of strength. They — along with striking coal miners, telephone workers, garment workers, and others — fought to put their stamp on the parades, picnics, labor breakfasts, and other events.

In New York, Miami, Philadelphia, Detroit, Los Angeles, and elsewhere, Eastern

Machinists, flight attendants, and pilots got an enthusiastic response from other workers, and solidarity with the Eastern strike became the theme of many union contingents.

Eastern workers appealed to other unionists to join them on the daily picket lines and at coming activities, most importantly those on and around September 7 protesting the start-up of more flights.

Many strikers are optimistic about the fall. Union meetings are starting up again, bringing new opportunities to reach out and mobilize broader forces in the labor movement to join strikers on the picket lines. The start of school also means openings to win support from students. In some cities, strikers are getting speakers' bureaus reactivated and reorganized to meet these opportunities.

In addition, the response to the three strike

caravans traveling up and down the eastern United States since early August has been a shot in the arm for strikers — both for the Machinists, flight attendants, and pilots who participated in them and for other strikers and supporters who joined in activities along the way. The caravans visited dozens of cities, large and small, from Miami to Boston. They held rallies, airport drive-throughs, and pickets, and in many places received significant, and much needed, press coverage.

The possibilities to broaden support for the strike come at a time when many strikers know their fight is facing big challenges.

The most important is how to keep the strike itself moving forward in the face of erosion on several fronts.

In early August more than 200 pilots and

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## Victory in harassment lawsuit is registered

The following statement was issued September 6 by the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party.

An important victory has been registered by defenders of constitutional liberties and supporters of the right of the working-class movement to space for political activity free from arbitrary legal harassment.

On August 15 a federal judge in Los Angeles issued written findings in favor of the Socialist Workers Party, the defendant in a lawsuit begun 10 years ago by Alan Gelfand, a lawyer employed by Los Angeles County. (See complete text, page 5.) The suit has been prepared, organized, and financed by an antilabor group known as the Workers League, with which Gelfand is associated.

This outfit claims to be socialist, just as Lyndon LaRouche's groups did in an earlier stage of their antilabor disruption campaigns. But today the Workers League has become known to increasingly broad sections of the labor movement as a force whose only aim is to disrupt struggles of workers fighting for union rights and justice.

Its major activity today is seeking to smear the international defense effort for Mark Curtis, a unionist framed up on rape and burglary charges, currently serving a 25-year sentence in a state prison in Anamosa, Iowa.

The court ruling in the Gelfand case, issued by U.S. District Court Judge Mariana Pfaelzer, is itself partly the product of the struggle being waged today by defenders of Curtis in the international labor movement who are confronting and isolating the Workers League disruption operation.

Gelfand's suit charges that the Socialist Workers Party is run by FBI agents, and demands that the courts overturn his expulsion from the party and remove the party's elected leadership from office. The suit is based on Gelfand's claim that his constitutional rights were violated because "FBI agents" in the party's leadership engineered his expulsion.

### 'No evidence' to back accusations

Pfaelzer finds categorically that "there is no evidence" to back up any of Gelfand's accusations, and that his motivation in bringing the suit was "to disrupt the SWP."

"Plaintiff's initiation of this litigation was not in good faith," the judge adds. Gelfand did not "have any substantial basis in fact for any of his allegations, nor did he have a good faith belief that the allegations were true."

Moreover, Pfaelzer concludes that the years of "pretrial discovery" — including the taking of hundreds of hours of sworn depositions from SWP members and supporters by lawyers whose large fees were paid by the Workers League — were "abusive, harassing, and in large part directed to matters which could have no probative value in this litigation. The discovery was not conducted for the purpose of discovering evidence in support of plaintiff's claims; one of its main purposes was to generate material for political attacks on the SWP by the Workers League. . . ."

### Court costs, attorneys' fees

The judge concludes her findings by ruling that the SWP is entitled to collect court costs from Gelfand.

The publication of the court's "Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law" follows on the heels of the victory achieved in an out-of-court settlement in which the SWP recovered from Gelfand's lawyers a part of the money the party had to pay in attorneys' fees during the case.

Based on Judge Pfaelzer's oral rulings at

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# U.S. schedules illegal TV broadcasts to Cuba

BY SELVA NEBBIA

In November the U.S. government is scheduled to begin a pilot project of television broadcasts to Cuba through its TV Martí station. Cuban government officials have stated they will use "all means available" to stop the broadcasts.

Like Radio Martí, which began transmitting in 1985, TV Martí is part of the Voice of America, the broadcasting arm of the United States Information Agency. It is also backed by the Cuban-American National Foundation, a lobby of anti-Castro Cuban exiles in the United States.

The Senate on July 21 approved \$29 million for two years for the project.

## Not a new idea

"The idea of television broadcasts from the United States to Cuba is not a new one," explained Julio García Luis, president of the Cuban Union of Journalists and Writers during a press interview in Havana on July 30. "A television project of this type was discussed but not implemented by U.S. government officials back in the early sixties."

Plans for television broadcasts were brought up again in May 1985, when Radio Martí began programming to Cuba. In October 1986, after Congress approved the plan for TV Martí, then president Ronald Reagan signed the bill into law.

"This is a bipartisan project," explained García. "There is no opposition in Congress from either party."

"This move reflects what Fidel explained in his July 26 [1989] speech when he said there seems to be a certain euphoria in the United States that anything is possible, that anything can take place. And for us this, of course, is very dangerous." García was referring to the speech that Cuban President Fidel Castro gave in Camagüey. Castro explained that President George Bush is "starting from the premise that socialism is in decline" and this has increased his "euphoria" and "greatly increases his triumphal attitude," and "imperialist hostility toward Cuba."

## International law

Television broadcasts of this type are prohibited under international law. Cuba and the United States are among 130 countries that signed an International Convention on Telecommunications in 1982 in Nairobi, Kenya.

The agreement recognizes the sovereign right of every country to regulate its own telecommunications. According to Cuban officials the setting up of TV Martí violates the letter and spirit of the international accords.

U.S. television broadcasts to Cuba would also operate on one of the wavelengths destined for domestic use. This would limit Cuba's opportunity to expand its television broadcasting capacity. The Nairobi accords stipulate that standard television and radio transmissions are for domestic use only.

Furthermore, the technical setup being considered for TV Martí includes the use of

a satellite. Television signals would be received via satellite from Washington through an aerostat floating 10,000 feet above the Florida Keys. International legislation also limits the use of satellites for transmission purposes. In 1972 the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) approved a declaration of principles stating that satellite transmission should respect the sovereignty and equality of all states and be based on international cooperation.

"We had hoped that the U.S. government would desist in its attempts to impose TV Martí on us," said García. "But the U.S. policy during the last period has become more hardened against Cuba."

García explained that it is not the programming of TV Martí that is at the heart of the dispute. "It is not the message itself that we are concerned with," he explained. "From a cultural point of view our society is very open. It has always been so and can't be otherwise. Here we get information from many parts of the world. We ourselves distribute cultural products from many coun-

tries, mainly from the United States. We distribute U.S. films. We listen to U.S. music. In other words, most products of U.S. culture are available in Cuba.

"Those in Cuba who want to have an alternative in the media just have to turn the dial on the radio. Therefore, that is not the question at stake," continued García. "It is a matter of sovereignty. We could even reach an agreement for exchanging TV programming, but within our sovereignty."

"What we are talking about here is the imposition against the will of a sovereign state to be able to decide on its TV space," stressed García.

"We cannot resign ourselves and allow this to be imposed against our will. Because a country that submits itself to such humiliation is a weakened country; it is a country that opens itself to attack."

Cuban government official Jorge Gómez told the press July 25 that Cuba has developed new technology for a one-of-a-kind jamming system to block TV Martí. U.S. officials have

said they will take steps to prevent jamming.

## International condemnation

Washington's plans to launch TV Martí have been met with opposition in various international forums. The 10th conference of the Intergovernmental Council of Nonaligned Countries for the Coordination of Information and Communications passed a resolution at its August meeting in Harare, Zimbabwe, demanding that the U.S. anti-Cuban television project be canceled. The resolution called the project an act of aggression and an unacceptable precedent that constitutes intervention in the internal affairs of a state.

The project was also condemned by the Executive Secretariat of the Organization of Solidarity with the Peoples of Asia, Africa, and Latin America, which noted that it was a dangerous precedent for Third World countries.

On July 29 the 19th Nordic Brigade, an organization from Northern Europe in solidarity with Cuba, adopted a resolution demanding that U.S. government plans to broadcast on Cuban TV channels be stopped.

## Cuban Interior Ministry officials sentenced

BY SUSAN APSTEIN

Gen. José Abrantes, former head of the Cuban Ministry of the Interior, was sentenced August 31 to 20 years in prison for abuse of authority and other crimes related to drug-trafficking operations unmasked by the Cuban government in June.

Abrantes had been replaced at the end of June for failing to detect drug trafficking carried out by officials of the Interior Ministry (MININT) over two and a half years.

During the four-day trial, which ended August 27, the former interior minister was accused of knowing in February that MININT officials were involved in the drug smuggling. In April President Fidel Castro had ordered Abrantes to investigate reports that Cuba was a transit point for bringing tons of cocaine into the United States from Colombia.

The September 3 issue of *Granma Weekly Review*, newspaper of the Cuban Communist Party, reported that "the prosecutor stressed it was impossible to find evidence proving a deliberate or conscious attempt to frustrate or conceal the discovery of the drug operations." Nor did the investigations reveal any direct, conscious, or criminal link with the drug trade.

"That is why Abrantes was tried for negligence of duty with serious consequences and not treason," the report noted.

Abrantes, who for several years had been in charge of the personal security of Fidel Castro, was also convicted of improper use of government funds and resources.

The military court that sentenced him also ordered prison terms for six others. Former vice-minister of the interior Pascual Martínez

was sentenced to 12 years for abuse of authority and improper use of government funds and land resources. Gen. Roberto González, former head of immigration, received 10 years for abuse of authority and bribery.

Héctor Carbonell, a civilian who ran a business enterprise closely linked to the MININT, was given an eight-year sentence for abuse of authority, bribery, and illegal possession of firearms.

Lt. Col. Oscar Carreño, former director of

customs; Lt. Col. Rolando Castañeda; and Lt. Col. Manuel Gil were sentenced to seven, six, and five years.

The military tribunal recommended that Abrantes, Martínez, and González be demoted to the rank of private and ordered the demotion to private of the three lieutenant colonels.

The Communist Party Central Committee expelled Abrantes and Martínez from the party.

## Huey Newton, Black Panther Party founder, is honored in Oakland

BY HATTIE McCUTCHEON

OAKLAND, Calif. — Funeral services were held here August 28 for Huey Newton, a founder of the Black Panther Party. Newton was slain August 22. Some city officials, police, and the media attempted to dismiss Newton's killing by labeling him a "criminal, thug, and drug addict."

The spot in West Oakland where Newton was slain became a shrine within hours, and hundreds of mourners lined the street with flowers. Several thousand people passed through the funeral parlor where Newton's body lay in wake.

More than 3,000 people packed Allen Temple Baptist Church, spilling into nearby streets for Newton's funeral.

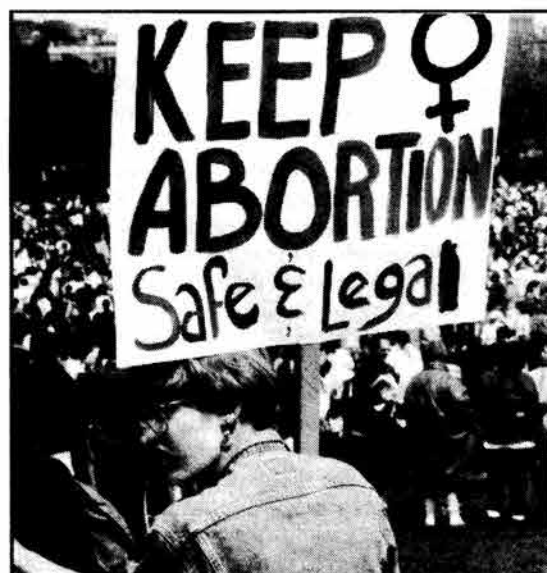
Present and former political activists Bobby Seale, Ericka Huggins, Imam Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin (H. Rap Brown), U.S.

Congressman Ronald Dellums, and community leaders eulogized Newton.

Newton was a cofounder of the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense in 1966. He spent two years in jail for a conviction in the death of a police officer in Oakland in 1967. His conviction was reversed on appeal. Two retrials failed to convict him again. A "Free Huey Newton" campaign launched by supporters publicized his case around the country.

In the mid-1970s Newton fled to Cuba for three years, avoiding further prosecution. He later returned to the United States and again served time in prison.

In 1980 he was awarded a Ph.D. degree in Social Philosophy from the University of California at Santa Cruz. His thesis was titled, "War Against the Panthers: a Study of Repression in America."



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# Stakes in Pittston coal miners' strike

BY RONI McCANN

It's been more than five months since union coal miners working for Pittston Coal Group in Virginia and West Virginia decided to strike on April 5.

Beginning on June 12, some 44,000 members of the United Mine Workers of America throughout the eastern coalfields started walking out of the mines in support of the Pittston strikers.

During the six weeks of sympathy strikes that followed, rallies were held, picket lines expanded, and camps were set up as miners and other unionists traveled to Virginia in solidarity with the strike. Often, Pittston miners have been joined by striking Eastern Machinists, flight attendants, and pilots who are also in a battle for their unions.

The Pittston strike is still on. To appreciate its significance it's useful to look at it in relation to developments in the labor movement as a whole. While the mine union has a tradition of militant struggle and has not been as adversely affected, as most other unions by the employer offensive of the past decade, it hasn't been immune from these effects either. Reviewing some of the key fights by miners in the context of this offensive underlines more clearly the challenges all workers face today, including miners.

John Hawkins is an underground miner at the Jim Walters No. 5 mine in Brookwood, Alabama. He is a member of United Mine Workers of America Local 2368 and is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for Birmingham City Council.

Members of UMWA Local 2368 were out four weeks on a sympathy strike backing the Pittston miners.

## Struggle to retain gains

"The strike against Pittston is a fight to keep some important gains won by miners through struggle," said Hawkins. "Many of the concessions the Pittston bosses are demanding today, are concessions that miners held off with a national strike at the end of the 1970s."

It was during this decade, faced with falling profit rates and increased international competition, that the U.S. ruling families began a systematic drive to squeeze higher profits out of the labor of working people.

After striking some mighty blows against public workers, the rulers set out to tackle the industrial unions.

"In 1977-78 the rulers carried out a probe against the UMWA," said Hawkins. "But that was at a time when rank-and-file miners were feeling pretty confident."

Earlier in the decade union miners ousted the procompany regime of UMWA President Tony Boyle, and a reform leadership was swept into office. With the election of the Miners for Democracy slate in 1972, miners established a series of democratic rights they never had before and through a decade-long fight for control of their union, developed a firm belief in the right to decide for themselves.

Hawkins explained that at the 1976 convention miners were in no mood for "givebacks" — still a new word then to most unionists — and they worked out a detailed series of demands to be handed to the coal bosses.

When the national contract expired in 1977, however, coal operators demanded stiff concessions.

"Some 160,000 UMWA members said no to the coal bosses and walked off the job," said Hawkins, "and during their 110-day strike they twice rejected contract proposals that the union leadership encouraged them to accept."

"Only after the coal operators retreated on their most onerous demands," Hawkins pointed out, "did UMWA members approve a contract and return to the mines."

The miners' example of fighting and holding back the bosses' drive for concessions was not to be the rule in the years to come as the employers went after workers in auto, steel, rail and other industries — demanding and getting givebacks.

Since the beginning of World War II, the trade union officialdom had cooperated with the employers to wrap unions in red tape, increase their dependence on lawyers, and focus more and more on the "contract" instead of how to organize and involve the union membership.

When the attacks came down in the 1980s workers were unprepared to fight and had no collective experience in effective struggle. In the face of this, the union officialdom simply capitulated to the bosses and walked away from the fight. Workers were led to believe that if they went along with the companies' demands, their jobs would be saved and, moreover, the company would repay them when times got better.

This however, as many workers can attest to today, is not what happened.

## Early '80s without miners' concessions

"It was a little different for the miners," said Hawkins. "As a result of the hard-fought victory in 1978, and another 72-day strike in 1981, we went through the early 1980s without making major concessions."

"But that isn't to say that miners weren't at all affected by the setbacks other unions were suffering," Hawkins explained. "It was in this period that the coal employers chipped away at gains like UMWA safety committees in the mines, which were won in battle, and inroads were made, weakening them."

In this period the UMWA didn't fight to organize new pits and nonunion coal mining accelerated in both western and eastern coalfields, he explained. When workers have no union it automatically means cuts in mine safety.

"This is something we're having to deal with now," said Hawkins.

## Selective-strike strategy

"A shift also took place," he explained, "away from the union's long-standing policy of industrywide bargaining — and industrywide strikes when needed — toward a 'selective-strike strategy' targeting particular coal companies while other union miners stay on the job."

Hawkins said that this "new" strategy of the UMWA isn't so new.

"It's simply a rehashing of the United Auto Workers one-at-a-time strike policy first initiated in the 1946 General Motors strike," he said.

"This strategy worked for awhile under significantly different economic conditions when there was much less pressure on the unions for concessions," Hawkins added, "but even then it tended to divide one section of the union against the other — the employed against those out on strike — and the agreements, which usually came after a prolonged strike, did not coincide with the strength of the union."

"The UMWA officials' justification for the selective-strike strategy," Hawkins stated, "is the decreasing percentage of coal production organized by the mine union."

While the number of working miners has fallen by nearly one-half from 160,000 to roughly 80,000 — with UMWA miners producing the same annual tonnage as a decade ago — total coal production in the United States has expanded by about 30 percent with a substantial increase at nonunion mines.

"This general drift in production away from union mines," said Hawkins, "is often cited by top officials as the reason why the UMWA must move cautiously and avoid the



Militant/Steve Marshall

Pittston strikers and supporters in Pittsburgh. One of many solidarity rallies held during five-month-old fight.

type of battles that the union was forced to fight in 1977-78 and again in 1981, since a nationwide strike today would not automatically shut down the majority of the nation's coal production.

"But it was precisely those strikes that mobilized broad support from working people and won contracts without concessions. They can also inspire and point the way forward for nonunion miners as well," he stated.

## Defeat of Massey strike

"The 1984-85 strike against A.T. Massey, in southern West Virginia and eastern Kentucky, where the selective strike was first tested, had the opposite effect and ended in a bitter defeat for the union," Hawkins noted.

"Widespread solidarity that existed among miners for the strike was never effectively mobilized. The small number of union members who got their jobs back after the strike were forced to work alongside nonunion miners hired as scabs," he recalled.

The final blow, after the strike had been lost, was the frame-up of four Kentucky strike activists in the shooting death of scab coal hauler Hayes West. These unionists are still in jail today serving long sentences.

"The terms of the substandard Massey contracts are well known throughout the coalfields, and the defeat had a demoralizing effect on the entire union," Hawkins stated. "In fact, it is a Massey-type contract that Pittston is going after today and visions of another Massey defeat impels today's solidarity with Pittston."

## New mood

"But something else has to be added as well," he said, "there's a new mood among workers to fight attacks on their unions."

Beginning in 1985, workers began to put up some fights against the bosses' demands in meat-packing, the paper mills, and other industries. Although these fights didn't reverse the employer offensive, they gave confidence to workers.

The employers ran up against a problem they hadn't faced in awhile — resistance, especially among younger workers.

"The coal bosses found a little of this in 1987 when they went after miners in the western coalfields for concessions," said Hawkins.

"They probed for some weak spots in the union — or so they thought — like the Navajo Nation," he said. "But miners waged successful struggles against the coal operators' demands."

The 1989 strike by the workers at Eastern Airlines is the most important nationwide example to date of the resistance to the takeback and union-busting drive of the employers.

"Miners can see they are not alone and that other workers are taking up the fight too," said Hawkins.

When the Pittston miners went out in April of 1989, UMWA members were ready to act. "This was shown by the thousands who traveled to Virginia intending to shut down production at Pittston," said Hawkins. He explained that expanding the strike to the coalfields out west and to Canada was a big discussion on the picket lines and elsewhere.

"Some pointed out that an effective mobi-

lization of UMWA members and other workers could be mounted to go to Virginia and shut Pittston down tight until a contract could be won."

## Ending of sympathy strikes

The decision to end the sympathy strikes has generated a lot of discussion among coal miners.

"When we went back to work, we knew the fight wasn't over. UMWA members at Pittston were still without a contract and all the union had received was a promise to negotiate," said Hawkins.

"Many miners say we would be in a better position to force some action out of Pittston if we were still out on strike," said Hawkins.

"On the other hand the majority of UMWA members have adopted a wait-and-see attitude. During the first weeks after we returned to work, rumors abounded that a nationwide strike would be called, but as time went on without any action, sentiment for such action was dampened," he stated.

Hawkins said that the alternative the union officialdom is offering is a combination of "civil disobedience" and a "corporate campaign" — that is, having strikers and backers target the offices, banks, and other institutions that have ties with the Pittston corporation, to try to effect change.

"Union members are being told that this is the way the Pittston fight will be won," he continued. "That certainly wasn't the case with the 1984-85 Massey strike where civil disobedience and a corporate campaign that focused on a boycott of Shell Oil was first tried."

He explained that most miners doubt that civil disobedience will work because their experience has shown that the only way to prevail against the coal bosses is by shutting down production and using union power on as massive a scale as possible.

"But they are willing to give the officialdom a chance," Hawkins said, "to put its selective-strike strategy and civil disobedience to work."

"So we ended the Pittston sympathy strikes. This was significant because it was the first time since the 1960s miners had gone back to work without a contract for all union members, when ordered to do so by the union leadership."

"This reflects that some of the independence of the UMWA rank and file has been given over to the officialdom in the recent period," stated Hawkins.

"This does not mean that the union is weak," he said. "A lot depends on how the rank and file view themselves and their willingness to fight."

"Conditions for a struggle against the bosses are better today as other unions fight back too," he continued. "In fact, through the sympathy strikes some miners realized that acting in mutual solidarity, as mutual combatants in what is really a single fight with many fronts is the only way forward."

"It's along this road, organizing new mines into the union and the use of collective action as we did in the late 1970s and early 1980s that the UMWA can beat back the coal operators' concession demands and take its place in the growing wave of resistance to the employers' offensive overall," Hawkins concluded.

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# Many learn of Mark Curtis defense at D.C. march

Mark Curtis is a unionist and political activist from Des Moines, Iowa, who is serving a 25-year jail term on frame-up charges of rape and burglary.

The Mark Curtis Defense Committee is leading an international

up and his fight for freedom. One couple from Meridian, Mississippi, compared Curtis' case to the frame-up of Black activist Eddie Carthan several years ago.

Striking Pittston Coal miners from Virginia marched as a contin-

"I feel very close to your case because I find it has a certain parallel with mine.

"The same as you, I have seen my power as a worker utilized to enrich the multinational company Swift. I worked for this company in 1954-55 in Argentina. There we saw how the company scandalously disregarded labor laws. The law stated that after 90 days of employment a worker was entitled to become a permanent employee, and that from then on he could not be fired without compensation.

"Swift would usually fire workers before the 90 days were up and then rehire us again. In this manner a good number of us, who were in fact permanent, were classified as 'temporary' workers. Not only did we not have the right to receive severance pay, but we were also denied a lot of other social benefits that permanent employees had.

"Another thing we have in common is that I was also recently physically abused and imprisoned under false charges. I was accused of being a 'terrorist'.

"I am hopeful that your case and mine will also share another thing in common.

"I was set free thanks to the national and international solidarity that was organized to demand my freedom. I hope that the same happens in your case.

"In the meantime, I send you a strong embrace of solidarity — from one who spent almost eight years in prison."

Blanco was arrested and imprisoned in 1963 because of his work in organizing Peruvian peasants. He was threatened twice with execu-

tion. At that time an international campaign was able to prevent his execution and won his release after almost eight years.

Last January, Blanco was arrested while participating in a peasants' strike in central Peru and was accused of being a terrorist. A strike of 40,000 Peruvian peasants and an international protest campaign won his release.

Participants in a five-week Nordic Brigade to Cuba learned about Mark Curtis from Swedish supporters of the Curtis defense committee. Upon hearing the facts of the case, 58 signed petitions protesting the non-English ban and the prohibition against prisoners sharing literature at Curtis' prison. Brigade members went to Cuba from Sweden, Norway, Finland, and Denmark.

Curtis supporters say Cubans were also very much interested in the Curtis case. A Cuban law professor, who is also a member of the Cuban delegation to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, asked for literature on the case saying it would be useful in his work.

Six workers from the Monfort meat-packing plant in Des Moines signed a petition to prison authorities demanding:

- Reverse the ban on Spanish and other non-English language literature sent to Mark Curtis.
- Extend to all prisoners the right to receive non-English language materials of their choice.
- End restrictions of prisoners'

rights to share literature with each other.

The Monfort plant used to be called Swift Independent Packing. Curtis worked there prior to his arrest and frame-up. The Monfort workers' petition is an example of the kind of protests the Curtis defense committee is urging be sent to prison authorities. These protests are part of an international campaign being conducted by the defense committee to win the right to read and share literature in the language of their choice. Prison officials have denied Curtis and other prisoners non-English materials and correspondence claiming they are a "security" problem.

You can help in this fight by sending a protest message of your own or from your organization to: John A. Thalacker, Warden, Iowa State Men's Reformatory, 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. 12th St., Des Moines, Iowa 50309; and the Mark Curtis Defense Committee.

Sandra Nelson of the Des Moines Mark Curtis Defense Committee reports that \$30,731.98 has been raised toward a fund goal of \$100,000. Contributions, small and large, are urgently needed to reach this goal by November 1.

Scott Breen of Newark and Dag Tirsén of Stockholm, Sweden, contributed to this week's column.

## DEFEND MARK CURTIS!

campaign to fight for justice for Curtis. For more information about the case or how you can help, write to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa, 50311; telephone (515) 246-1695.

If you have news or reports on activities in support of Mark Curtis from your city or country, please send them to the *Militant*.

Hundreds of marchers stopped by an information table set up by supporters of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee at the August 26 march and rally in Washington, D.C. The action was called by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to protest the recent Supreme Court attacks on affirmative action.

Marchers who stopped by the table took literature, and many talked with Curtis supporters. A letter protesting the ban against Curtis and other prisoners receiving materials in languages other than English was signed by 112 people.

The signers came from a number of states, including Delaware, New York, Tennessee, Ohio, Georgia, Illinois, and Massachusetts. Some had already heard about Curtis' frame-

gent and came to the table at the end of the rally. Several signed the protest letter. Striker Joel Phillips, a member of the United Mine Workers, explained that his local had already contributed \$300 to the Curtis defense campaign.

Tourists from other countries attracted to the march also stopped by the table. Couples from Brazil and Spain, and two teachers from the Cayman Islands in the Caribbean signed the protest letter.

Hugo Blanco, the well-known Peruvian socialist and peasant leader, sent the following letter to Curtis. It has been translated from Spanish.

"It caused me great pain to find out about the tricks used by the bosses to put you in prison. I have followed your ordeal since it started.

"On the one hand, one can see the system's shamelessness in the attempts to impose its class interests through its legal instruments. Yet on the other hand, you fortunately see that many voices have spoken up in the United States and in the rest of the world in defense of justice, in your defense.

## Important victory scored in harassment lawsuit

Continued from front page

the conclusion of the trial in March 1983, the SWP filed a motion asking her to hold Gelfand's lawyers personally responsible for the attorneys' fees the SWP incurred during the case. Lawyers can be held liable for such fees if they knowingly use the courts for harassment purposes.

The terms of the settlement preclude the disclosure of the sum the lawyers have paid to the SWP, but it can be reported that the SWP withdrew its motion for the fees when the settlement was reached.

This brings to an end an entire stage of the Gelfand disruption case. The next stage, which will involve the battle against Gelfand's anticipated appeal of Pfaelzer's ruling, will be fought on terrain that offers the Workers League less opportunity to use the courts for harassment.

### Credit for victory

Credit for this victory belongs, in part, to the growing numbers of people who have come to see, over time, the pernicious nature of the Gelfand suit and who, rejecting the temptation to believe that this kind of outrage will just go away if it is ignored, have decided to take it head on.

Credit also belongs to those in the labor movement and Black organizations who have fought to isolate and quarantine the Workers League disrupters.

And, in a very immediate sense, credit also belongs to the defenders of Mark Curtis, who have exposed and pushed back the Workers League's campaign on behalf of the Des Moines, Iowa, cops and prosecutors who framed up Curtis. At the same time, these victories in the Gelfand case put new weapons in the hands of those who are defending Curtis.

The federal court's "Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law" is an indictment of the

Workers League. It helps expose the true character and methods of its campaigns of disruption, whose targets are not only Mark Curtis and the SWP, but anyone else in the labor movement who is fighting against the bosses' offensive.

Curtis, a packinghouse worker and political activist, was framed up on charges of rape in Des Moines in March 1988. This victimization followed his participation in public protest activities by the Black community in the Des Moines area against police harassment and his defending coworkers, immigrants from Latin America, who were rounded up in a raid by the Immigration and Naturalization Service at the Swift/Monfort packing plant. After his arrest, the cops brutally beat Curtis, shouting the real charges: "You're a Mexican-lover, just like you love those coloreds." Curtis' cheekbone was shattered in the beating.

The Mark Curtis Defense Committee was formed to launch a worldwide campaign of protest. Unionists, farm leaders, civil rights fighters, public officials, and women's rights activists have responded by demanding justice for Curtis. Following Curtis' trial and conviction on the frame-up charges, the defense campaign has accelerated.

### Workers League peddles cops' case

The Workers League has carried out a systematic countercampaign, aimed particularly at those in the labor movement who have publicly opposed the frame-up of Curtis. Because they claim to be socialist, this outfit has gotten an initial hearing from some working people who would not otherwise lend credence to the prosecutors' frame-up case against a union militant.

In letters, phone calls, and visits to defenders of Curtis, and in its paper, the *Bulletin*, the Workers League peddles the cops' case, charging that Curtis is "clearly guilty of the vicious rape" he is accused of. Moreover, they claim, the campaign in defense of Curtis is nothing but "a political provocation by the Socialist Workers Party, a government-controlled organization, with the aim of discrediting socialism and the workers' movement."

Fortunately, the methods and aims of this group have become more widely known in the union movement, and its work on behalf of the cops, prosecutors, and jailers of Mark Curtis is being exposed. As a result, the

Workers League is more discredited among union activists than it ever has been. Growing sections of the labor movement worldwide, from the coalfields of West Virginia to the freezing works of New Zealand, are emphatically telling the Workers League disrupters that they are not welcome.

Consider these examples:

• Larry Regan, president of United Steelworkers Local 1014 in Gary, Indiana, denounced the Workers League for falsely reporting in, the *Bulletin* newspaper that he had rescinded his support for Curtis. "Local 1014 voted unanimously to support Mark at our August [1988] meeting and there has been no change or motion to the contrary since," Regan told the Curtis defense committee.

"As far as I am concerned, the *Bulletin* newspaper has no credibility whatsoever."

• Ed Long — a leader of United Paperworkers International Union 1787, in Lock Haven, Pennsylvania — spoke in defense of Curtis at an international rally in Des Moines on the eve of the trial. He tore up a copy of the *Bulletin* before 400 participants to demonstrate his outrage at the attempts by the Workers League to sow dissension in his local during the Paperworkers' strike last year.

"We resent how the Workers League misrepresented themselves and how they conducted themselves," Long wrote later. "How they tried to infiltrate our ranks. It was disruptive at best. . . . What they did during the strike was to badmouth the union. They tried to create an undercurrent and a depressed mood."

• Frank Barnard, district president of the Auckland & Tamoana Freezing Works Union in New Zealand, rallied to Curtis' defense. He then withdrew his support on the basis of reading a letter circulated by the Workers League, written by the father of the young woman Curtis was accused of raping.

However, after watching the "On Trial" video of the Curtis trial, and learning more both about the frame-up and what led to it, Barnard decided to reaffirm his support for the defense, because, he explained, "I am personally not convinced totally true justice has prevailed." He will continue to support the defense, Barnard vowed, "until somebody, anybody can convince me that Mr. Curtis has had a fair shake."

• Nita Brueggeman, manager of the Pacific Northwest Joint Board of the Amalga-

mated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, responded to the Workers League-circulated letter by stating, "The real disgrace would be in turning our backs on injustice and persecution because a person is an advocate of working people. . . . [A]fter reviewing your letter and a variety of information, it appears to me that a frame-up has occurred. Mark Curtis should not be in prison for a crime he did not commit."

Similar conclusions are being drawn by coal miners, striking airlines workers, packinghouse workers, and others wherever the Curtis case is becoming known.

### Publicizing decision

The fight for justice for Mark Curtis will be greatly strengthened by publicizing the court decision in the Gelfand case. At the same time, the Curtis defense campaign will help further expose the nature of the Workers League disruption tactics, making it possible to win still broader support in the next stage of the campaign to defeat the Gelfand lawsuit.

Gelfand and the Workers League can be expected to appeal Judge Pfaelzer's final judgment to the federal court of appeals in San Francisco. They will have 30 days from her entry of the final order to begin their appeal. In doing so, their main goal will be to continue their harassment effort, and continue to force the SWP and its supporters in this fight to devote considerable time and financial resources to pay for lawyers and the costs of defending themselves.

All defenders of democratic rights, all opponents of the use of the courts by unscrupulous lawyers to bleed and divert the resources of working-class organizations, and all who have come to recognize the importance of pushing back the disruption operations of the Workers League, have a stake in speaking out against this ongoing violation of democratic rights.

We appeal to everyone who supports this fight to help also by sending a substantial financial contribution to help cover the costs that will mount quickly in fighting the Workers League appeal.

Please do so, today.

Tax-deductible contributions to this effort can be sent to the Political Rights Defense Fund, Inc., a nonprofit foundation, at P.O. Box 761, Church St. Station, New York, N.Y. 10007.

### Labor news in the Militant

The Militant stays on top of the most important developments in the labor movement. You won't miss them if you subscribe. See the ad on page 2 for subscription rates.



# Text of judge's findings in disruption suit against Socialist Workers Party

Holds Gelfand suit's purpose was to generate material for Workers League attack

Following are the "Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law" issued by federal Judge Mariana Pfaelzer on August 15 in Los Angeles in the 10-year-long lawsuit brought by Alan Gelfand against the Socialist Workers Party (See article in Sept. 1, 1989, *Militant*). Copies can be obtained for \$5 by writing to Political Rights Defense Fund, Inc., P.O. Box 761, Church St. Station, New York, N.Y. 10007.

## I. Background

This case was tried to the Court commencing March 2, 1983, and concluding March 9, 1983. It proceeded to trial on two claims presented by plaintiff Alan Gelfand ("Gelfand"). In the first claim, plaintiff alleged that each of the individually named defendants were agents of the United States government and that they worked as agents inside the Socialist Workers Party in order to effect the expulsion of plaintiff from the party.

Plaintiff claimed that the individually named defendants expelled him from the party in order to silence his attempts to expose them and others whom he claimed were government agents.

This first claim is referred to as the Constitutional claim. In the second claim, plaintiff alleged that his expulsion was carried out in breach of the SWP's Constitution, Organizational Principles, and traditions. This second claim for breach of contract is referred to as the pendent claim.

At the conclusion of plaintiff's case, the defendants moved for dismissal. The Court announced that it was reserving ruling on this motion until the conclusion of all of the evidence. Defendants then rested.\*

On March 21, 1983, the Court stated its findings in favor of defendants in open court and announced its intention to award attorneys' fees to the SWP defendants. Pursuant to defendants' statement that they intended to move, and the inherent power of the Court for an award of attorneys' fees and costs, the Court and the parties then agreed upon a briefing and hearing schedule for defendants' motions for attorneys' fees. The motions for attorneys' fees were briefed, argued, and subsequently taken under submission. The motion made by the individually named defendants and the party was withdrawn on May 16, 1989, pursuant to stipulation of the parties.

## II. Findings of fact

### 1. Definitions

a. "SWP" refers to defendant Socialist Workers Party.

b. "SWP defendants" refers to the individually named defendants, Jack Barnes, Larry Seigle, Douglas Jenness, Peter Camejo, Bruce Marcus, and Pearl Chertov.

c. "Workers League" refers to the Workers League political organization.

d. "Workers Revolutionary Party" refers to the Workers Revolutionary Party political organization.

e. "Amicus Brief" refers to the Application of Alan Gelfand for Leave to File Brief as Amicus Curiae in Support of Appellee and Brief of Alan Gelfand In Support of Appellee, which was filed by plaintiff with the Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in December 1978.

f. "Government defendants" refers to William French Smith, then Attorney General of the United States, William Webster, then Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and William Casey, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. These individuals were sued in their representative capacity.

g. "FBI" refers to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

h. "CIA" refers to the Central Intelligence

\*The Court permitted defendant SWP to present evidence on the Constitution, Organizational Principles, and traditions of the SWP by way of direct examination of defendant Larry Seigle during the time Mr. Seigle was on the witness stand as an adverse witness called by plaintiff.



Militant/Arthur Hughes

Delegates at 1988 national convention of SWP. Federal judge found that party adhered to its constitution, organizational principles, and democratic traditions in expelling Alan Gelfand in 1979. His lawsuit claimed party leaders were government agents.

gence Agency.

2. The SWP is a political organization. As a condition of membership, members expressly agree to abide by the SWP Constitution and its Organizational Principles.

3. Plaintiff Alan Gelfand joined the SWP during the first quarter of 1976.

4. In August 1977 plaintiff began to present questions to SWP members derived from allegations appearing in publications of the Workers League and the Workers Revolutionary Party that past and present party members and leaders were government agents. Plaintiff was advised by the SWP leadership that the allegations had been resolved within the SWP, that the allegations were false, and that the charges were answered in the document "Healy's Big Lie."

Thereafter, at the Los Angeles local membership meeting of September 12, 1977, plaintiff delivered a speech concerning those charges. On January 23, 1978, he attempted to deliver another speech on the subject, but was ruled out of order, which ruling was sustained by a vote of the membership present.

5. Thereafter, plaintiff was warned in two separate conferences that his attempts to repeat the allegations contained in his September 12, 1977, speech at successive meetings were disruptive to the organizational functioning of the SWP. This warning was later repeated in a letter of April 7, 1978, to him from the Political Committee of the party.

6. Plaintiff did not heed the warnings. He repeated the allegations and, in addition, accused the elected leadership of the SWP of "covering up" with respect to those allegations. A series of letters were written by plaintiff under the guise of his right to raise questions. Each of these letters contains essentially a repetition of the same charges that plaintiff had derived from the Workers League and Workers Revolution Party publications. (Letters of January 25, 1978, January 29, 1978, February 16, 1978, March 26, 1978, leaflet of March 27, 1978, letter of April 10, 1978, May 6, 1978, May 8, 1978, and May 31, 1978). Plaintiff's letters were not good faith inquiries.

7. Following the warning to plaintiff in the Political Committee letter of April 7, 1978, plaintiff traveled to England where he met with Alex Mitchell, an important leader in the Workers Revolutionary Party, which is associated with the Workers League. Mitchell put plaintiff in touch with David North, National Secretary of the Workers League organization in the United States.

Following his return from England, plaintiff then prepared and filed in December 1978 the Amicus Brief in which he placed before the Second Circuit Court of Appeals many of the same allegations, and others, which he had made within the organization of the SWP. The allegations were essentially the same as those found in the publications of the Workers

League and Workers Revolutionary Party.

8. The Amicus Brief was filed in the case of *Socialist Workers Party, et al. v. Attorney General of the United States, et al., inter alia*, in which the SWP sought an injunction against the use by the FBI and CIA of informers against the SWP. In pretrial discovery, the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York had ordered certain files with respect to FBI informers produced and had held the Attorney General in contempt for failure to comply. The Attorney General sought review of that contempt by writ in the Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit asserting, inter alia [among other things], that disclosure would jeopardize the physical safety of informers.

In this setting, plaintiff filed his Amicus Brief repeating many of the same allegations he had made within the SWP and also appending a 1940 letter from J. Edgar Hoover containing a report that SWP leader Joseph Hansen had killed a man named George Mink by tying him up and throwing him into a crater. The SWP did not consent to the filing of the Amicus Brief, nor would it have consented to its filing if its consent had been sought.

Plaintiff's testimony that he believed the act of filing his Amicus Brief was in the best interests of the SWP is not credible. When the SWP leadership discovered that plaintiff had filed this damaging Amicus Brief, Jack Barnes, the National Secretary, formally charged plaintiff with disloyalty to the SWP.

9. By letter of January 5, 1979, plaintiff was advised of the charges against him and that the charges would be considered and acted on by the Political Committee on January 11, 1979.

10. On January 8, 1979, plaintiff telephoned the National Office of the SWP in New York City and was advised by Mary Roche that if he came to the National Office at the time of the scheduled meeting, the Political Committee would consider a request by him to appear and be heard.

Ms. Roche also advised plaintiff that he could submit any written statement to the Political Committee and that any such statement would be considered. Plaintiff did not appear at the National Office at the time of the meeting and did not submit any statement or other written material.

11. On January 11, 1979, plaintiff was expelled from the SWP by a unanimous vote of the Political Committee acting as the duly elected body of the SWP responsible for this function. In acting to expel plaintiff, neither the Political Committee nor any of its members were acting under the control or influence or any agency or agent of the United States government.

12. On January 29, 1979, plaintiff wrote a letter to the Political Committee concerning his expulsion. This letter was treated by the SWP as an appeal by plaintiff of his expulsion. Plaintiff's expulsion was thereafter confirmed and his appeal denied by the National Committee and by the National Convention of the SWP. Plaintiff was not denied any right he had as a member of the SWP to appeal his expulsion from the party.

13. The Constitution, Organizational Principles, and traditions of the SWP do not provide for any hearing or other procedural right beyond those that were in fact provided to plaintiff.

14. As to any action taken with respect to

Continued on Page 12

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# Airline, coal strikers mark Labor Day

BY PETER THIERJUNG

More than 1,500 Eastern Airlines strikers formed a contingent that almost doubled the size of the Broward County, Florida, Labor Day march. Strikers chanted, "Union yes, Lorenzo no!" and were greeted with thumbs-up signs and applause from bystanders.

Machinists Local 702 members made up the largest part of the contingent — noticeable because of their red union shirts. "We made the march," many of them said. Local 702's march on Miami International Airport on September 10 was announced at the event. Other union contingents included the Communications Workers, the construction trades, teachers, and Teamsters.

About 1,000 striking Eastern Machinists, pilots, and flight attendants were among the lead contingents at the New York Labor Day parade. Cheers greeted the strikers as they marched up Fifth Avenue chanting, "What's

disgusting? Union-busting!" Machinists and flight attendants used megaphones to appeal to bystanders not to fly Eastern.

Strikers from Miami and Atlanta who participated in the East Coast "Journey for Justice" car caravan were part of the contingent. Three buses of strikers from Newark, New Jersey, joined the contingent. Machinists union strikers from New York's La Guardia airport distributed 10,000 fliers for an airport rally on September 7. Many took fliers and said they would be there. Several different union contingents carried signs or banners in solidarity with the Eastern strike.

Miners on strike against Pittston Coal and striking Communications Workers were warmly received by parade participants and bystanders. Some contingents carried signs reading "Reconciliation, not racism," and slogans against bigotry reflecting the anger over the racist killing of a Black youth in the

New York neighborhood of Bensonhurst.

"Labor Day Sunday" festivities drew 10,000 coal miners and their supporters to St. Paul, Virginia. The celebration marked five months of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) strike against the Pittston Coal company. Some 400 steelworkers drove in from seven states for the event, including 200 members of United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 14581 in Kentucky.

Members of a dozen other unions were on hand, along with some student activists from New York and Washington, D.C. Miners from Ohio, Kentucky, and West Virginia also made the trip. Some miners wore "Journey for Justice" T-shirts they bought when the East Coast caravan of Eastern strikers visited "Camp Solidarity" recently. The camp is the strike center for the Pittston miners. Mine union President Richard Trumka, Steelworkers Vice-president George Becker, and striking Eastern pilot Joe Buonadonna were among the event's speakers.

"From Pittston to Eastern, we're going to draw the line; we're going to stick together on the picket line," chanted 200 Eastern strikers and supporters at a Labor Day picket line at San Francisco International Airport. Two

picket lines greeted passengers on Eastern's twice-daily departure to Atlanta. Following the action a couple of Pittston strikers who joined the picket showed a video at Machinists Local 1781's union hall.

In Detroit more than 20 Eastern strikers led the tens of thousands who participated in the Labor Day march. A huge caricature of Texas Air Corp. Chairman Frank Lorenzo moved through the parade. The strike against Eastern Airlines was a feature of the AFL-CIO parade float.

Los Angeles striking Eastern Machinists attended a Labor Day breakfast of 800 union officials and members. William Robertson, president of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, announced the strikers' call for an expanded picket line at Los Angeles International Airport on September 9. Later at a Labor Day picnic, the Eastern strikers shared a booth with the Pittston support group.

Zena McFadden from Miami; Theresa Delgadillo from New York; Steve Marshall from Pittsburgh; Maggie McCraw from Charleston, West Virginia; Kathleen Denny from Oakland, California; Kathleen Fitzgerald from Detroit; and Joel Britton from Los Angeles contributed to this article.

## Sales drive set to begin

BY PETER THIERJUNG

At Labor Day festivities in St. Paul, Virginia, that attracted more than 10,000 coal miners and other unionists, a team of *Militant* supporters sold more than 250 copies of the socialist newspaper and 20 subscriptions. In New York supporters sold 35 copies, four

subscriptions, and \$525 worth of Pathfinder literature at Brooklyn's annual Caribbean Day festival. The response to socialist literature at these events indicates the opportunities for increasing the circulation of the socialist press over the next couple of months.

This week supporters of the *Militant* begin a nine-week international circulation drive with the goal of winning 9,000 new readers by November 12. This breaks down to 5,800 introductory or renewal subscriptions to the *Militant*, 1,400 subscriptions to the Spanish-language monthly *Perspectiva Mundial*, 400 subscriptions to the French-language quarterly *Lutte ouvrière*, and 1,400 copies of the Marxist magazines *New Internationalist* and *Nouvelle Internationale*.

Supporters of these publications from Canada, Iceland, New Zealand, Australia, Britain, France, Puerto Rico, Sweden, and the United States will be participating in the drive to achieve these goals.

*Militant* supporters will be making a special effort to get this issue on the Eastern Airlines strike into the hands of strike supporters and convince them to subscribe so that they can follow the paper's coverage of this and other labor battles every week. Particular emphasis will be placed on selling subscriptions at plant gates.

The September 40-page issue of *Perspectiva Mundial* features articles on recent events in Cuba and the text of Cuban President Fidel Castro's Council of State speech explaining the stakes in the trial of Gen. Arnaldo Ochoa. Efforts to promote this special issue to win new subscribers will help boost circulation efforts in the first leg of the drive.

The scoreboard on this page indicates goals for cities, towns, and/or country. Each week it will record the progress of the circulation drive.

*Militant* readers everywhere are urged to join in and take part in making this drive a success. If you would like to order copies of the publications to sell, and/or take on a goal, write to the *Militant* at the address listed in the business information box on page 2.



Militant/Selva Nebbia

The *Militant's* coverage of the Eastern and Pittston strikes was appreciated by workers at Labor Day events across the United States. In Philadelphia 27 copies and five subscriptions to the paper were sold.

## British bosses impose Theft Act

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

LONDON — Workers in Britain face the possibility of up to five years in jail if they lie on their job application forms. This has been brought to light by the trial on August 15 of taxi driver Terence Goodhall, at Exeter Crown Court in Devon in the southwest of England.

The trial is one of a "growing number of cases being brought by employers against employees," according to an article by Angella Johnson in the August 16 *Guardian*.

Goodhall was convicted under the 1968 Theft Act for having gained "pecuniary advantage by deception" when he acquired a taxi driver's license without admitting a previous criminal conviction. Goodhall had signed a declaration on his job application form that he had never been convicted of a criminal offense when, in fact, he had been jailed for three years in 1985. He was conditionally discharged and ordered to pay £200 in costs.

The trial had nothing to do with the content

of his previous conviction or the nature of his "deception." According to Section 16(2)(c) of the Theft Act, deception is criminal "where it gives the opportunity to earn remuneration or greater remuneration."

A spokesperson of the Crown Prosecution Service, the government organization that brings prosecutions, said this means that job applicants who lie about any aspect of their past, not just convictions, may be charged under the same law. He said he thought that the number of prosecutions since 1968 had been limited because employers didn't know of the existence of the relevant clause. A prosecution could only take place if an employer referred a case to the police.

A National Council for Civil Liberties representative, Paul Hutt, described as "extremely heavy-handed not only dismissing a man but prosecuting him for failure to disclose matters that may or may not have been relevant to his work." The Theft Act was enacted by the Labour government of Harold Wilson.

### Sales drive goals

Areas	DRIVE GOALS	Militant subscriptions	New Int'l single copies	Perspectiva Mundial subscriptions	Lutte ouvrière subscriptions
<b>UNITED STATES</b>					
Atlanta	210	155	30	20	5
Austin, Minn.	87	65	10	10	2
Baltimore	175	135	25	10	5
Birmingham, Ala.	177	140	25	10	2
Boston	250	160	35	40	15
Brooklyn	410	260	60	65	25
Charleston, WV	112	90	15	5	2
Chicago	340	225	50	60	5
Cleveland	105	75	18	10	2
Des Moines, Iowa	225	170	25	25	5
Detroit	200	150	30	15	5
Greensboro, NC	110	85	15	8	2
Houston	227	150	30	45	2
Kansas City	117	80	20	15	2
Los Angeles	510	285	90	130	5
Miami	300	180	40	50	30
Milwaukee	123	85	15	20	3
Morgantown, WV	137	100	25	10	2
New York	665	330	150	150	35
Newark, NJ	490	250	95	95	50
Oakland, Calif.	200	125	30	40	5
Omaha, Neb.	122	85	20	15	2
Philadelphia	225	155	30	35	5
Phoenix	77	45	15	15	2
Pittsburgh	165	120	30	10	5
Portland, Ore.	195	150	20	20	5
Price, Utah	52	35	8	8	1
Salt Lake City	137	100	20	15	2
San Francisco	240	165	35	35	5
Seattle	138	95	20	20	3
St. Louis	185	150	25	7	3
Twin Cities, Minn.	320	250	35	30	5
Washington, DC	165	100	25	35	5
National teams					
Binghamton, NY	25	18	3	3	1
Denver	20	10		10	
Louisville, Ky.	8	8			
Other U.S.	50	40	5	5	
<b>U.S. TOTAL</b>	<b>7,294</b>	<b>4,821</b>	<b>1,124</b>	<b>1,096</b>	<b>253</b>
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>					
	<b>60</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>BRITAIN</b>					
London	165	105	30	25	5
Manchester	74	50	18	5	1
South Wales	82	50	20	10	2
South Yorks	77	40	25	10	2
<b>BRITAIN TOTAL</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>CANADA</b>					
Montréal	230	90	40	40	60
Toronto	215	120	40	40	15
Other Canada	80	50	15	10	5
<b>CANADA TOTAL</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>FRANCE</b>					
	<b>40</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>ICELAND</b>					
	<b>20</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>NEW ZEALAND</b>					
Auckland	162	120	30	10	2
Christchurch	77	60	10	5	2
Wellington	86	70	12	3	1
<b>NEW ZEALAND TOTAL</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>SWEDEN</b>					
	<b>66</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>PUERTO RICO</b>					
	<b>35</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>International teams</b>					
	<b>205</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>8,968</b>	<b>5,773</b>	<b>1,410</b>	<b>1,407</b>	<b>378</b>
<b>DRIVE GOALS</b>	<b>9,000</b>	<b>5,800</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>400</b>



# Rail workers seeking unity look to Eastern strike

Some 8,500 International Association of Machinists members struck Eastern Airlines March 4 in an effort to block the company's drive to break the union and impose massive concessions on workers.

Backed by flight attendants and pilots, the walkout crippled

## SUPPORT EASTERN STRIKERS!

Eastern, grounding a big majority of its 1,040 prestrike daily flights.

Since July Eastern has been trying to restart operations. By August 15 it was scheduling 390 daily flights.

The Eastern workers' fight has won broad support from working people in the United States and Canada. Readers — especially Eastern strikers — are encouraged to send news of strike solidarity activities to this column.

Among workers at Burlington Northern Railroad Seattle terminal, the Machinists' strike against Eastern has won a lot of support. Many workers wear the "Stop Lorenzo"

buttons and stickers alongside their railroad union solidarity buttons.

These buttons, which say "Railroad unions stick together," are being distributed to promote unity among the 14 craft unions on the railroad where workers have been without a contract since June 1988.

Another item in this campaign is a brochure about the importance of "unity, cooperation, the sharing of information, and mutual assistance" among the rail unions, put out by the General Chairmen's Association.

"The Eastern Airlines strike has demonstrated to us the kind of power workers have when they stick together. The Machinists, pilots, flight attendants, and baggage handlers have put on an impressive display of unity," the brochure says.

At a joint get-together prior to their respective local meetings August 14, United Transportation Union (UTU) locals 1024 and 845 heard a striking Eastern Machinist and pilot report on the current stage of the strike. A lively 45-minute discussion followed.

At the July union meetings, the locals, along with UTU Local 324, voted to set up a special fund to support the Eastern strike. Some \$300 was donated by the August union meetings.

Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers Division 518 also made a

donation to the Eastern flight attendants.

The flight attendants' caravan, which has been traveling up the East Coast during August gaining publicity and support for the strike, arrived in Newark, New Jersey, August 31 with a splash.

Together with unionists on strike against New Jersey Bell telephone company, the flight attendants rallied and marched up and down Broad Street, Newark's main thoroughfare. Some 200 people participated in the action, including postal workers, garment workers, and other unionists.

The protesters marched around the Prudential life insurance building, targeting Prudential as one of Texas Air's financial backers, and around the New Jersey Bell building. Passing cars honked in support of the strikers.

The next day, 60 flight attendants from the caravan and from Newark demonstrated at Newark International Airport.

"This effort is to show that the strike isn't over despite what Eastern's been telling the public," senior flight attendant Fred Moyers told the *Newark Star-Ledger*. "We're in it to stay, and we're going to win it."

Eastern's flight attendants are

members of Transport Workers Union Local 553.

For the third time in six weeks, more than 200 strikers and supporters converged on the Eastern/Continental terminal at Los Angeles International Airport for an expanded solidarity picket line.

Many unions participated in the August 26 action, including a delegation of more than 30 from the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, on strike for union recognition at the La Mode factory. They had also joined in the earlier pickets.

International Association of Machinists members from many locals were also there, led by Bill Weigand, assistant to IAM International Vice-president Justin Ostrow. At a retirement dinner in Los Angeles the previous week, outgoing IAM President William Winpisinger urged support for the picket line.

The first Eastern flight of the day now leaves Los Angeles at 9:20 a.m., so pickets made a special effort to arrive early to talk to passengers. Several passengers agreed not to fly Eastern again and to tell the airline why. A special leaflet explaining the issues in the strike and the safety concerns raised about the "new" scab Eastern was distributed.

The next expanded picket line is

set for September 9 at 8:30 a.m. A flyer put out by the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor and striking Machinists urges other unionists to "walk and talk" with strikers from Eastern, La Mode, and Pittston that day.

More than 50 Eastern strikers and supporters gathered at the picket line at Washington, D.C.'s National Airport August 17 to thank the Seafarers International Union (SIU) for their strike support activity.

Since the day the strike started, the Seafarers have come to the picket line almost every day with sandwiches, fruit, fresh pastries, and sodas for strikers. The SIU brings a busload of students from the Seafarers Academy in Piney Point, Maryland, which is more than two and a half hours from the airport.

Machinists Local 796 President Lee Russell presented SIU International President Mike Socco with a plaque thanking the union for the work it has done to support the strike.

"We will be here with you every day, no matter how long it takes to win this strike," Socco pledged.

*Striking Machinists Local 796 member Nancy Brown from Washington, D.C., Robbie Scherr from Seattle, and Geoff Mirelowitz from Los Angeles contributed to this column.*

# Airline safety takes back seat to profits drive

BY HARRY RING

Worldwide, more than 1,500 people died in airline crashes last year.

In the United States, during the past decade, there was an average of four airline accidents a year. In the first seven months of this year, there were nine.

In these, 127 people were killed. They were victims of an industry that puts profits before safety. That includes the companies that make the planes and those that operate them.

They get away with corner-cutting on safety because of the complicity of the Federal Aviation Administration, which is supposed to supervise the airline industry.

Airline travel is a giant business. In the United States, an average of 18,000 commercial flights are made every day, carrying more than a million passengers.

The steadily expanding air traffic is handled by an infrastructure that is obsolete.

In the past decade alone, air traffic has increased by 65 percent, but the number of major airports has remained the same. The last "new" one — Dallas-Fort Worth — opened 15 years ago.

## 'Air traffic system meltdown'

In Europe the International Air Transport Association warned that air traffic there is nearly out of control.

"This summer," an official warned, "we are walking a knife edge between muddling through and a meltdown of the air traffic system in Western Europe."

Teams of air traffic controllers try to cope with this. Overworked and underpaid, they face the daily, murderous tension of trying to safely guide swarms of high-speed jets in and out of clogged airports literally minutes apart.

Currently, there are 16,000 U.S. controllers. But only 9,000 are fully experienced, less than when Reagan broke the controllers' strike eight years ago.

Plus, the air traffic computer system is obsolete, unable to handle the sharp jump in traffic.

## Blank screens

In the past 18 months, overloaded computer screens have gone blank at 27 major airports, some for as long as 20 minutes.

Over the past three years, there were 1,158 near-misses in midair. Of these, 70 percent were tabbed as "serious" — where the planes came within 500 feet of each other.

Some 2,200 passenger jets are overage and unsafe.

In April 1988 Aloha Airlines dispatched a Boeing 737 on a Hawaiian island-hopping flight. In midair, part of the plane's roof peeled away. A flight attendant was swept to her death.

The jet was 19 years old and had made 89,000 flights.

The plane's outer structure was corroded, a common problem in older planes. Partly, this is due to the chemical deterioration of aluminum caused by air pollution.

Ten months later, in February 1989, a United Airlines Boeing 747 took off from Hawaii. In the air, a cargo door ripped off, tearing off a section of the plane's skin. Nine passengers were swept to their death.

The plane was 19 years old.

In the wake of that disaster, the FAA ordered that planes undergo an overhaul when they are 20 years old or have flown a stipulated number of flights (75,000 for a 737.)

The industry was given four years to accomplish this.

The FAA repair plan was virtually identical to a proposal drafted by the industry.

The May 19 *New York Times* reported that the plan "represents a victory for the airline industry."

It was never established why the cargo door blew off that United jet. But there have been a series of incidents when planes crashed, or managed to turn back, with open cargo doors.

In 1972 the cargo door of an American Airlines DC-10 popped open. Fortunately, the plane managed to land safely.

At that time, the FAA declared that improvements were needed in the locking devices. (Apparently what's required is steel reinforcement of the lock.)



Militant/Jon Hillson

Eastern's maintenance and safety procedures — already poor before strike began — have worsened, strikers warn. Above, picket line at New York's La Guardia Airport.

But the FAA didn't order such a change. Instead, it made a "gentlemen's agreement" with McDonnell Douglas, maker of the DC-10, to do so.

Two years later, a Turkish Airlines DC-10 crashed near Paris. All 346 people aboard perished. The cargo door, with the oldstyle lock, had blown open.

Then, in 1987, a door opened on a Pan Am flight from London. The plane managed to get to the airport.

This brought "action" by the FAA. Sixteen months later, it issued an order to improve and strengthen the locks. The repair is said to be relatively simple. But the FAA gave the industry two years to do it. The United Airlines cargo door disaster that took nine lives occurred 16 months before the deadline.

Last January a British Midlands Airways jet crashed about 100 miles from London, killing 44 people.

There had been a fire in the left engine of the Boeing 737. But, inexplicably, the pilot had shut off the right engine.

Probers speculated that the wires had been mistakenly crossed to the engines' fire extinguishers. Later the British government said this was not so.

But since then, 94 cases have come to light of Boeing planes with crossed wires or other fire control defects.

## Iowa disaster

In July there was the disaster in which more than 100 people died when a United Airlines jet crashed in an Iowa cornfield.

An engine had exploded, and the flying debris had slashed the hydraulic lines, which control the rudder, wing flaps, and other steering devices.

After the accident, the experts recalled two major disasters in the 1970s involving DC-10s. In both cases the hydraulic system had been severed.

In their drive for profits, the plane makers have taken more orders than they can deliver. Boeing is behind schedule on its new model of the 747. As a result, Japan Air Lines and Singapore Airlines are demanding compensation for lost revenue.

American Airlines complains that McDonnell Douglas is five months late on delivering its new MD-80s.

Building safe airplanes requires time and painstaking care. But for companies like Boeing and McDonnell Douglas, production schedules — and the dollars they represent — are more important.

## Eastern 'close to the bone' on safety

According to the Federal Aviation Administration, scab-operated Eastern Airlines has a safety record comparable to other major airlines.

The unions involved in the Eastern strike had demanded an investigation because the airline is using unqualified pilots and mechanics and putting them to work without proper training.

In a letter to the FAA, John Peterpaul, vice-president of the International Association of Machinists, noted that Eastern averages a little more than one mechanic per flight and no airline "operates that close to the bone."

Prior to the FAA finding, the July 3 issue of *Aviation Week & Space Technology* had demanded a full probe of the union charges, saying that Eastern workers "have compiled evidence of continued safety violations."

The trade magazine recalled that since Frank Lorenzo bought Eastern in 1986, the FAA has had to conduct at least eight investigations, "uncovering serious deficiencies in the carrier's compliance with fundamental safety regulations." And that was before the strike.



# Eastern strikers face challenges, open

As walkout enters 7th month, Machinists discuss how to widen support, deepen

**Continued from front page**  
many hundreds of flight attendants crossed picket lines to return to work or put their names on hiring lists for Eastern if jobs open up.

This hemorrhaging was a blow to the morale and effectiveness of the strike. In addition to aiding Eastern's strikebreaking reorganization efforts, the defections weakened the

unity of the strike, which from the beginning has been its greatest strength.

The pilots' crossings were one reflection of the growing debate among Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA) members over whether to continue backing the Machinists' strike.

In Atlanta, James Holder, the local head of the Eastern pilots, recently resigned because he thinks the pilots should return to work, fearing that if the strike goes on long enough, they will simply be replaced.

A majority of the 1,100 Eastern ALPA members in Atlanta disagree, however, and want to remain out. "If we take the picket line down, we have taken away the platform from which to do battle," pilot Jack Gray told the *Atlanta Journal and Constitution*. Other pilots have been pressuring ALPA officials to take more action to back the walkout. ALPA President Henry Duffy, for his part, urged the Eastern strikers to find a way to return to work.

Of the 3,400 pilots who walked out around the country March 4, some 2,800 remain on strike. The percentage of flight attendants crossing has been greater, although no figures are available from their union, Transport Workers Union Local 553.

At the same time that these crossings have hurt the strike, they have brought into sharp relief the centrality of the International Association of Machinists union in the fight.

It was the Machinists' decision to stand up and say "enough" to Eastern's union-busting drive that made the strike possible. The decision by pilots and flight attendants to be part of a common battle was rooted in the Machinists' determination to resist, as well as their own longstanding grievances with the company.

The Machinists' determination remains largely unshaken. Of the 8,500 IAM members who went on strike in March, only a few hundred have returned to work. The idea voiced by some earlier on that the fight at Eastern was a "pilots' strike" is being laid to rest.

It is the striking mechanics, ramp workers, cleaners, and other IAM members who are the backbone of the picket lines. They are at the center of discussions about how to move

the strike forward and organizing strike activities on a day-to-day basis. At the same time, IAM members continue to involve as many flight attendants and pilots as possible in every aspect of the fight.

## More flights

By September 7 Eastern is set to have 600 daily flights. The number of flights has been rising in stages since July, when the number jumped from 80 a day to 226. Eastern's goal, under its strikebreaking "reorganization" plan, is 800 daily flights by the end of the year. There were 1,040 before the strike started.

In July and August the start-up of more flights was met in many cities by strikers' protests and increased efforts to reach passengers and convince them not to fly Eastern. Other unions joined these actions. Protests are set for September 7 in New York, Washington, D.C., and several other cities.

The approach taken in many places by strikers on Labor Day — to mobilize their own forces and to appeal to the rest of the labor movement to get behind their fight — continues to be what is needed now. Large daily picket lines, especially at flight times, can win over passengers, demoralize scabs, and empty the new flights.

Appealing to other airline and airport unionists, especially those in the IAM, to close ranks with the strikers and mount efforts to quarantine Eastern's scab flights is more necessary now than ever.

## Subcontractors

The added flights have also confronted strikers with another challenge: how to mount a campaign to stop IAM-organized subcontracting companies from being used to do work for Eastern.

Marriott is providing meals, and Hudson General, Ogden Allied, Aircraft Services, and other companies are doing fueling, ramp work, and cleaning for Eastern. Often the workers at these companies — many of whom are Blacks, Latinos, women, and immigrants — are in the Machinists' union, although they make little more than minimum wage and have little in the way of benefits.

This situation did not just arise — it has been built up over years. Now, in any major airport, much of the work — from fueling planes to busing passengers between terminals — is handled by subcontracting companies. Instead of waging a fight for these workers to have the same wages and benefits as other airline workers, IAM officials have gone along with the creation of what amounts to a vast "two-tier" setup. The workers do the same jobs as workers at Eastern, Northwest, or other major airlines, but for a fraction of the pay with only nominal union protection.

Now these workers are being used to scab on the Eastern strike — in most cases against their wishes.

Strike activists in New York, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Miami, and other cities are pressing union officials to call a halt to this corrosion of the strike from within the IAM itself.

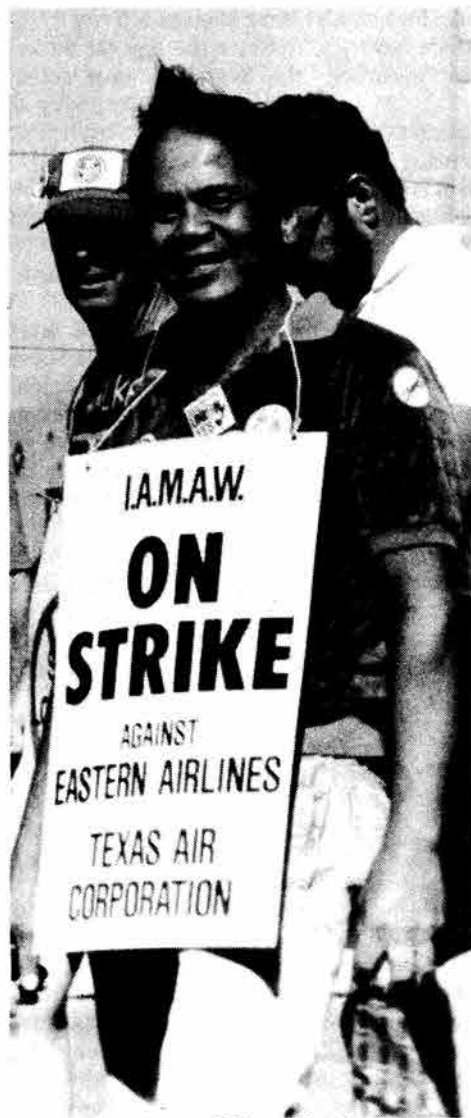
In some cases, union officials have responded that only probationary workers not yet in the union are doing the struck work. Others say they'd like to do something, but their hands are tied. At Marriott caterers in Pittsburgh, union officials have agreed to the hiring of a layer of nonunion production workers to do Eastern's work.

Machinists Local 1018 at New York's La Guardia Airport has begun trying to reach Hudson General workers directly, as well as through the union, by circulating a petition and leaflet appealing for Hudson workers to support the Eastern strike.

Strikers have found many Hudson workers who want to support the fight at Eastern, if they get backing from the union. In at least one case, a worker even quit rather than do work for Eastern.

Strikers in other areas are discussing similar appeals. This approach is needed to defend the strike and defeat Eastern's reorganization plan. It is also needed to overcome longstanding divisions in the IAM and lay the basis for a fight to strengthen the union at Hudson and other subcontracting companies.

Strikers have been heartened recently by growing signs that Eastern's parent company,



Militant/Kathleen Mickells  
Philadelphia Labor Day march

## The union's battle at Eastern: a chronology

**1976.** After claiming it was bankrupt in 1975, Eastern Airlines wins seven years of concessions from Machinists, flight attendants, and pilots. Frank Borman is president of Eastern.

**End of 1983.** Eastern unions agree to pay cuts for following year; Machinists and flight attendants take 18 percent cut, pilots 22 percent. Pay cut of 18 percent forced on noncontract workers. Together, unions and noncontract workers give up \$360 million.

**1986.** Borman demands and gets another 20 percent pay cut from pilots and flight attendants. International Association of Machinists (IAM) refuses cuts, despite Borman's threat to sell airline. Eastern is sold to Texas Air Corp., headed by Frank Lorenzo. In 1983 Lorenzo spearheaded union-busting drive at Continental Airlines, also owned by Texas Air.

Stepped-up harassment and victimization of workers, firings, forced overtime, speed-up, draconian attendance policy begin.

**Oct. 19, 1987.** Contract talks start between Eastern and IAM, covered by Railway Labor Act. Company demands \$150 million in concessions from union. Some 7,000 union and non-union workers laid off over next 16 months.

**December 1987.** IAM's contract expires.

**Jan. 26, 1988.** National Mediation Board steps in at request of both parties.

**October 1988.** Donald Trump agrees to buy Eastern's New York-Boston-Washington, D.C., shuttle for \$365 million.

**Feb. 2, 1989.** National Mediation Board announces talks are at an impasse; 30-day "cooling-off" period begins.

**February 7.** Some 1,700 IAM members at Eastern's Miami maintenance base walk

off the job to protest company's disciplining of three workers. Hundreds are given 10-day suspension notices.

**February 15.** IAM members at Eastern Airlines have voted by 97 percent to strike when cooling-off period ends at midnight March 3, the union announces. Some 77 percent of 8,500 eligible members vote.

**February 21.** AFL-CIO urges President George Bush to appoint an emergency board to head off strike for at least 60 days.

**February 24.** National Mediation Board also recommends Bush appoint emergency board. Transport Workers Union (TWU) announces flight attendants' executive board has voted unanimously to back strike by Machinists.

**March 1.** Lorenzo offers pilots a five-year contract, seeking \$64 million in wage and benefit concessions.

**March 3.** Air Line Pilots Association votes to back Machinists' strike. Workers in Miami, Atlanta, and other sites are locked out by Lorenzo. Thousands of workers gather at union halls for rallies, counting down to midnight.

**12:01 a.m. March 4.** IAM members — ramp service workers, mechanics, aircraft cleaners, stock clerks, and facility cleaners — strike Eastern. Some 5,900 flight attendants in TWU Local 553 and 3,400 pilots honor picket line. Eastern's operations come to a virtual standstill.

**March 5.** Injunctions issued to prevent Machinists from setting up secondary picket lines at commuter railroads in New York, northern New Jersey, Philadelphia, and elsewhere, set to go up March 6. Union announces it will abide by injunctions.

**March 6-7.** Eastern lays off 9,500 reservation clerks, ticket agents, office workers, and other noncontract employees.

**March 9.** Eastern files for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in federal bankruptcy court in New York. Proceedings are overseen by Judge Burton Lifland.

**March 10.** Court grants Eastern permission to pay management and scabs. Eastern begins offering \$12 fares on Northeast shuttle to drum up business.

**March 10-14.** Unionists mobilize at airports to back strikers: 2,000 in Chicago; 4,000 in Atlanta; 2,000 in Cleveland; 500 in Newark; hundreds in New York, Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., and elsewhere. Some 3,000 attend strike support rally in Boston. Passenger load on shuttle begins to drop after several days.

**March 18-19.** Mass rallies and picket lines again back strike, including 1,500 in Detroit, 800 in San Francisco, 500 in Denver, 800 in New York, 1,500 in Kansas City, Missouri. Eastern starts hiring scab pilots.

**March 20.** Members of Union of Flight Attendants at Continental Airlines begin four-day walkout to draw attention to harsh working conditions.

**March 22, 23, 24.** Lifland orders strike pickets not to "harass" passengers at New York's La Guardia Airport and Boston's Logan Airport, denies unions' request to pay strikers wages owed them for last week of work.

**April.** Around country, strikers begin picketing Eastern's scab hiring sessions for flight attendants, mechanics.

**April 6.** Group of investors headed by Peter Ueberroth agrees to buy Eastern for

\$464 million. Union officials agree to five-year contracts and \$210 million in concessions to make sale possible. San Juan, Puerto Rico, rally for strikers draws 300.

**April 9.** Contingents of Eastern strikers from Miami, New York, and other cities march in massive abortion rights demonstration in Washington, D.C.

**April 11.** Sale to Ueberroth collapses after Lorenzo refuses to agree to appointment of court-named trustee to run airline until sale is finalized.

**April 17.** Texas Air announces Eastern is no longer for sale.

**April 24.** Eastern President Phillip Bakes announces plan to break strike by "reorganizing" airline as a smaller, nonunion carrier, selling off \$1.8 billion in assets.

**May 13.** Chicago commodities speculator Joseph Ritchie submits bid to buy Eastern.

**May 25.** Bankruptcy court approves sale of shuttle to Trump after bid by America West Airlines for shuttle is withdrawn.

**June 2.** Union officials announce willingness to give up to \$400 million in one year in concessions to make Ritchie buyout possible. AFL-CIO offers \$50 million.

**June 5.** Bankruptcy court concludes Ritchie bid is not viable.

**June 7.** Trump takes over shuttle. Union officials agree to return to work at shuttle, and picket lines come down. Flight attendants and pilots to work under extension of old Eastern contract; Machinists report for work without contract.

**June 11.** Hundreds of Eastern strikers attend Charleston, West Virginia, rally to back striking Pittston coal miners. Machinists, miners step up joint activities.



# enings

## impact of strike

Texas Air Corp., is not doing well. The third largest airline corporation in the world is being battered by both the hammer blows of the strike and the feverish competition gripping the airline industry.

In late August, Texas Air announced it was considering selling all or part of heavily indebted Continental Airlines, its other carrier. Continental's traffic has been hurt by the strike at Eastern, Texas Air Chairman Frank Lorenzo explains.

Eastern itself — already headed toward bankruptcy court before the strike even started — has lost tens of millions since then. Also heavily indebted for years, the airline has been forced to sell off prized assets, such as the New York-Boston-Washington, D.C., shuttle. Now, it is having difficulty making the financial projections laid out in its bankruptcy reorganization plan, and may have to turn to Texas Air for help. One reason is its inability to find buyers for all the assets it projected unloading to raise cash.

Eastern faces other problems as well. During the first four months of the strike when Eastern's operations were virtually grounded, other airlines began to move in to take over its markets. American has already built up its share of the Miami market to 12 percent, for example. Pan American World Airways has announced plans to also increase service there.

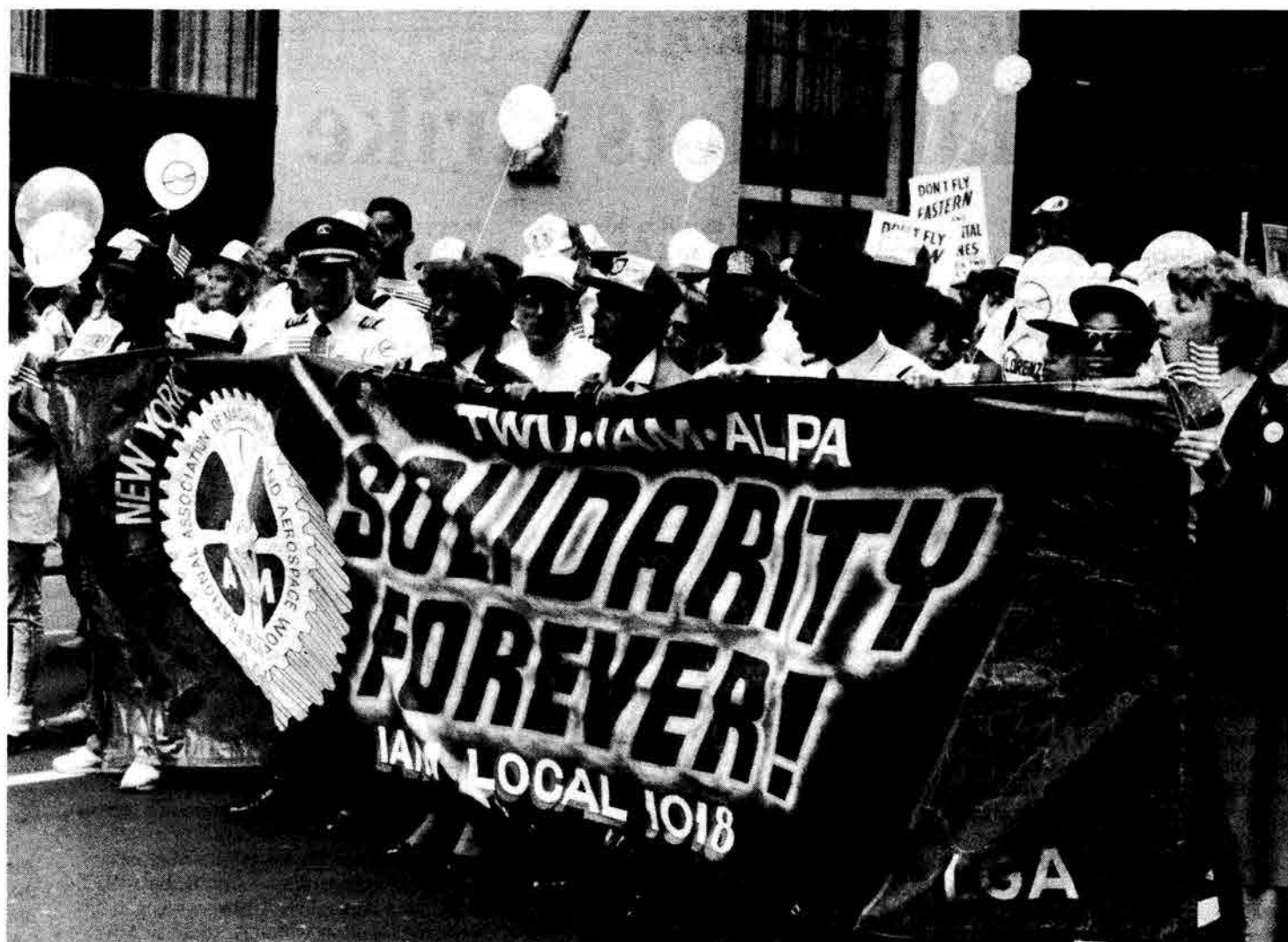
Last year, Eastern handled 35 percent of passenger traffic to Miami. The "new" Eastern now handles only 11 percent and will have difficulty regaining its former position.

One way to measure the strength of the strike at Eastern is to compare it to what happened at Continental in 1983. Then Lorenzo was able to take the airline into bankruptcy proceedings, rip up union contracts, quickly break the workers' strikes, and move ahead with transforming Continental into a major nonunion carrier. The fight at Eastern has turned out very differently.

### Upturn in class struggle

The Eastern strike is now the longest national strike since World War II.

One reason the Eastern workers' fight has so much staying power is the solidarity it has



On Labor Day strikers pointed way forward by mobilizing their forces and appealing to labor movement for support. Above, New York march. Militant/Ernie Mailhot

won from other working people and the upturn in class-struggle activity that is taking place more broadly. The Eastern workers are not fighting an isolated battle.

Strikes by coal miners and other workers, large demonstrations in the streets defending abortion rights and affirmative action, and protests against discrimination, racist mur-

ders, and cop brutalizations reinforce, strengthen, and inspire each other, and help overcome the divisions fostered by capitalism.

Another reason for the Eastern strike's strength is the development of layers of strike activists and leaders who have come forward to take responsibility in the day-to-day fight.

These leaders look to the mobilization of the unions' members as the only way to overcome the obstacles facing the strike. And they reach for every opportunity possible to bring the power of the labor movement into this battle, to transform solidarity from a stance of support into active participation in the combat.

## In Miami, striking Machinists set on keeping planes grounded

BY PETER THIERJUNG

MIAMI — "We're down here in the foxholes doing our part," one striker said. He reflected the determination of the more than 3,000 Machinists on strike against Eastern Airlines here.

International Association of Machinists Local 702 is an important center for the national strike against Eastern, which has a large base at Miami International Airport.

Talking with strikers at the local's headquarters on Labor Day weekend was particularly interesting for gauging the strike's status here since a visit in early June.

The local's headquarters remains an important center of activity. It is located on 36th Street in Miami Springs directly across from Eastern's maintenance base. The building has a large hall where the kitchen is located. At 9:00 a.m. on Saturday breakfast sausages and steaming scrambled eggs were being served up. The kitchen is open 24 hours a day.

At the front of the hall captains organize the four-and-a-half-hour shifts that maintain round-the-clock picket lines at the maintenance base and airport terminal. Off to the left is the bulletin board where strikers gather throughout the day to catch up on the latest news. Among the items posted is a leaflet promoting participation by the Machinists in a Labor Day march. There is news from a caravan of strikers traveling up the East Coast to win support for the strike. And clippings are posted about the Australian pilots' strike, Eastern's reorganization problems, and the shortage of mechanics plaguing the airline.

### Food bank feeds 1,200 families

A food bank provides strikers and their families with groceries. In early June food bank volunteers managed to feed about 400 families. Sue, a leading activist here, explained that 1,200 Machinist and flight attendant families now depend on the more than 2,400 bags of groceries provided each week. Summing up the feelings of many strikers, Sylvia, a striker's wife, said, "We could never have made it this far without it."

It has not been easy keeping it going, but the food bank activists have become profes-

sionals. The operation is better organized; new people have pitched in to fill the void when some activists left earlier this summer to join the car caravan.

A group of strikers having coffee were discussing the strike and politics. A draft of a leaflet for a September 10 march on the airport was being circulated around the table. It was carefully read; a couple of workers marked it with suggestions for editorial changes.

The leaflet noted Texas Air Corp. Chairman Frank Lorenzo's remark earlier in the

week that the "noise" in Miami was responsible for some of his difficulties in reorganizing Eastern and for the drop in the number of Continental passengers. Texas Air owns both airlines. The group appreciated the leaflet's call to other unionists to "turn up the volume" by coming out for the march.

### 'We are the key now'

"We are the key now," one in the group said of the Machinist strikers. "Lorenzo needs us to get and keep those planes in the air."

Continued on next page

## Philadelphia strikers discuss current stage of their fight

BY SELVA NEBBIA

PHILADELPHIA — Many of the 1,500 participants in the September 4 Labor Day March here wore "Stop Lorenzo" buttons in support of the Machinists, flight attendants, and pilots on strike against Eastern Airlines.

About 75 Eastern strikers and their supporters marched in the International Association of Machinists contingent. Following the march and rally many from this contingent gathered at IAM Local 1776's union hall for an open house. Ramp workers, cleaners, flight attendants, and pilots discussed where things are at after six months on strike.

"The strike is at a crucial point right now," explained Nancy Tauss, vice-president of Transportation Workers Union Local 553. She has been a flight attendant at Eastern for 11 years.

"We know that walking the picket line alone can't win us the strike," Tauss continued. "We need our families, our friends, working people in general to fight with us, and not cross our picket lines. You see, not many unions can win without broad support, the same is true at Eastern."

She explained that in spite of the motorcades, rallies, and all the efforts that the strikers have made to publicize their fight

against Eastern, many people think that the strike is over. "It's very important that people understand that we are still on strike, and that no matter how low the fares might be, they should not fly Eastern or Continental."

"If the government allows Lorenzo to get away with what he is doing," said Catherine Brady, "it's going to be a new industry where people can't make a living wage." Brady has been at Eastern for the past 13 years and is a member of the IAM. "In another year or two," she explained, "30,000 people will be fighting someone else over the same issues." She was referring to the 30,000 workers who were working at Eastern at the time the strike began.

Susan McBride agreed. "The judges and the government are giving Lorenzo everything he wants," she said. McBride has been a member of the IAM for four years.

### 'Things look dark'

To Miranda Davis, "things look dark" right now. She has been working on the Eastern ramp for 12 years and is a member of the Machinists union. "I'm just now looking for a job," she said, "the jobs pay about half of what I was making at Eastern." Davis was

Continued on next page

## gy

June 29. Machinists at Trump vote by substantial margin to accept six-month union-weakening contract.

July 2. Rallies and expanded picket lines in many cities protest Eastern's increase of daily flights to 226, up from 80. Eastern slashes fares to lure passengers.

July 8. Scab worker killed at Atlanta airport while riding a tug pulling baggage.

July 14. Eastern announces losses of \$81.6 million in April, \$82.4 million in May, and \$61.8 million in June. Hundreds of strikers, supporters march to New York's La Guardia Airport.

July 28-August 4. Rallies and marches again held to protest increase of flights to 350 a day.

Early August. ALPA President Henry Duffy urges Eastern pilots to try to resolve strike. More than 200 pilots cross picket line, along with hundreds of flight attendants. Eastern pilots vote to continue backing strike.

August 15. Flights increase to 390 a day. Eastern says July flights were 75 percent full.

August 21. Machinists at New York's La Guardia Airport begin picketing Hudson General, one of several IAM-organized subcontracting companies hired to do ramp and other work for Eastern.

August 24. Texas Air announces it may sell some or all of Continental. A few days later, Eastern announces \$400 million shortfall in reorganization plan.

September 4. Eastern strikers lead Labor Day demonstrations in New York and other cities.

September 7. Daily flights to increase to 600. Strikers set protests for several cities.



# Australian pilots strike for better pay

BY KATE BLAKENEY

SYDNEY, Australia — All domestic Australian airlines have been grounded since August 23 when more than 1,600 pilots went on strike. The pilots are fighting to win a 30 percent pay increase, which, they argue, will bring them into line with salaries paid to pilots in other countries.

The pilots began their campaign with a week of "working to rule," performing no extra duties or overtime. After that failed to

get any response from the airline bosses, they struck. Two days later, all 1,645 pilots resigned in face of the airlines' move to fire them and sue them for millions of dollars in damages caused by their action.

Attempts by the airlines and federal government to cobble together skeleton air services using 13 international carriers and the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) have not succeeded too well. These efforts have managed to carry only 2,600 passengers each day,

as opposed to the usual 36,000.

They have succeeded, however, in arousing the anger of unionists opposed to government-organized scabbing and the use of the military in a strike. Earlier in the year, RAAF radar equipment was also used during the air traffic controllers' dispute.

The Australian Federation of Air Pilots (AFAP) has been on a campaign footing since February, when pilots first presented their wage demands. In monthly newsletters, AFAP has argued for salary parity with other professions, judges, executives, and pilots overseas. The association has provided a steady stream of financial advice and information to pilots to help them prepare for a drawn-out battle.

The airlines responded by saying that they will only negotiate with the pilots under the national wage guidelines set in the agreement between the unions, bosses, and government, which allows pay hikes up to only 6 percent. The airlines say they can only offer more if the Industrial Relations Commission agrees that pilots are a "special case."

Within hours of the pilots' resignations, the airline companies — Ansett, East-West, IPEC, and Australian Airlines — began advertising for pilots within Australia and overseas. In response, the International Federation of Air Pilots (IFAP) declared in London the same day that it would place a ban on recruitment of foreign pilots by domestic Australian airlines.

Even if the airlines got enough applications, it could be weeks — if not months — before operations could approach pre-strike levels. Most applicants would be unsuitable, said one Civil Aviation Authority spokesperson. Many would need conversion training to the type of aircraft flown. Others would need to be trained to operate under Australian flying conditions and into Australian airports. For new recruits, it takes 16 months of intensive study just to reach second officer status. In addition, there is a worldwide shortage of pilots.

Ansett's ability to train replacement pilots

took a nosedive when all 20 of its trainers — senior pilots who normally align themselves with management — resigned in support of the pilots.

In response to the airlines' efforts to persuade international airlines to fly domestic routes within Australia, the IFAP has cautioned all members about strikebreaking. In Australia, the Transport Workers Union has said its members will refuse to refuel any overseas charter jets brought in, complete with crews, to carry domestic passengers.

To date only Arrow Air, a U.S. charter company with an appalling safety record, has flown into Australia to transport freight. Under pressure from unions and consumer groups, the Civil Aviation Authority is now investigating Arrow's aircraft to ensure that it conforms to safety standards.

The U.S. Air Line Pilots Association, however, reports that at least eight international carriers — including Continental Airlines, owned by Texas Air Corp. — have agreed to provide seats for domestic passengers on the Australian segment of international flights.

The central issue for the Labor Party government, the bosses, and union officials in the pilots' strike is protection of the agreement on wages and conditions, known as the "Accord." The agreement, first introduced in 1983 when the Labor Party came into office, has been instrumental in holding back struggles for higher wages. The result has been a six-year decline in wages.

Arguing against any concessions to the pilots, Prime Minister Bob Hawke declared they were no more than "glorified bus drivers."

The Australian Confederation of Trade Unions' leadership at first fell in behind the prime minister, calling the pilots greedy.

However, moves to temporarily lay off 21,000 other airport workers idled by the dispute have now forced ACTU officials into opposition. Should such layoffs occur, they say, the unions would have little reason to work within the 6 percent guidelines and would seek the same 30 percent wage hike the pilots are fighting for.

## Philadelphia strikers

Continued from previous page

with Alva Donnelly, who is in her mid-50s and has been at Eastern for 13 years.

Donnelly is also looking for a job. "There are no jobs for us," she explained, "In my case I think it's age discrimination that has something to do with the fact that nobody is willing to hire me."

"What jobs are out there pay about \$4.50 an hour and don't provide any benefits," Donnelly added. Before the strike, Donnelly and Davis made \$13.57 an hour.

Optimistic about strike

Cynthia Wright, a flight attendant at Eastern for three years expressed optimism that "eventually we'll come out OK. I'm working as a receptionist right now," she explained, "but I am still out on strike."

Marching with his family, Bill Long, a shop steward and strike organizer, also described his outlook as hopeful. "It's been a long six months," he said. "Maybe soon the people in Washington will open up their eyes about Lorenzo. They will realize how bad he is. Imagine, he even sent pilots to break a strike in Australia."

Long has been working on the Eastern ramp for 21 years. "After six months on the

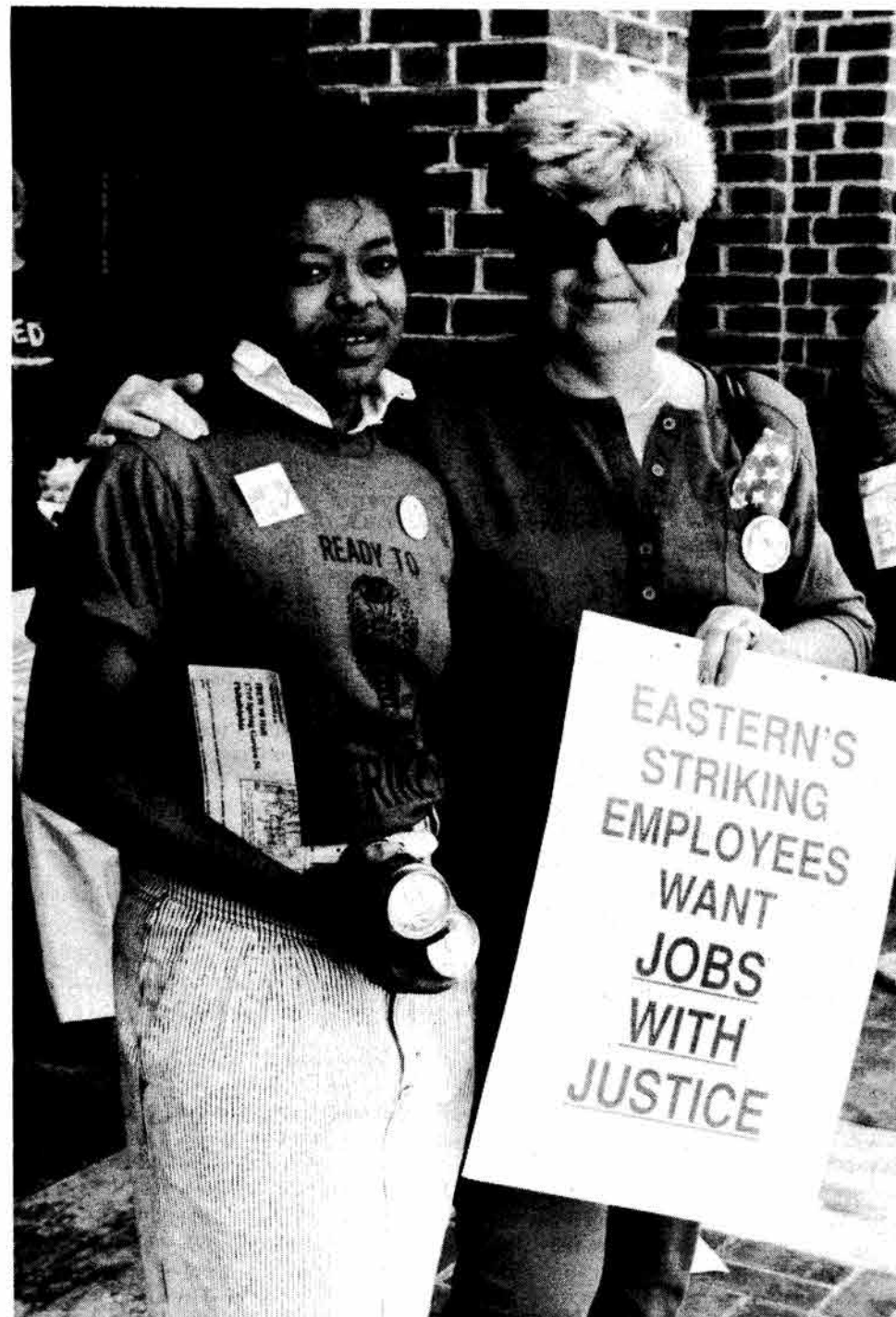
line, people are beginning to get hungry. Yet none of the IAM members in Philadelphia have crossed the picket line," he explained.

"I think right now it's critical to maintain the unity of the three unions involved in the strike," explained Josephina Otero. Otero has worked for two years in air craft services. "While the union has been dealt some blows," she said, "the union has also been able to deal real blows to the company."

"This strike is costing the company millions of dollars," Otero continued. "The bosses did not count on the strike lasting this long."

All the speakers at the Labor Day rally here took up the need to support the Eastern strikers as well as the coal miners on strike against Pittston in Appalachia.

The Philadelphia Eastern strikers were making plans to join the Labor Day march in Washington, D.C., on September 6. Following that activity many of them planned to make their way to New York City for a rally at La Guardia Airport on September 7 to protest the start-up of more Eastern flights. IAM Local 1776 also sent out letters to the five Central Labor Councils in the Philadelphia area urging them to organize strike support activities in the coming period. The local is reinitiating its speakers bureau as well.



Eastern strikers Miranda Davis, at left, and Alva Donnelly at Labor Day march in Philadelphia.

## Miami Machinists determined

Continued from previous page

Eastern plans to increase daily flights from 390 to 600 on September 7. Strikers felt the recent reports of Eastern's troubles were significant.

In a car to the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees' (AFSCME) picnic, Eduardo, a Colombian-born striker, explained, "Lorenzo and the Federal Aviation Administration are playing with fire." The safety of Eastern's planes becomes more questionable each day the strike continues and each time Lorenzo tries to increase the flights, he explained.

Strike activists leafleted the AFSCME picnic for the Labor Day march in nearby Broward County and sold "Stop Lorenzo" buttons and T-shirts to raise needed strike funds. A few days before strikers leafleted nearly 25,000 teachers attending a meeting for the opening of the school year. And flyers were distributed at an AFL-CIO picnic in Dade County the next day.

This kind of activity has been a focus of a group of Machinists who usually meet every week at the union hall to discuss what needs to be done to keep the strike strong. The local's call for a march on the airport September 10 to respond to Eastern's increase in flights was an idea the group came up with.

Leafleting workers at companies contracted by Eastern is also being organized. Aircraft Services, Inc., is a Machinists-organized company that provides services for Eastern. Local 702 members want to convince the workers there to respect their strike and not perform the work for Eastern.

Another target for strikers is a string of nonunion contract shops in the "Pea Patch," an area near the airport. Mechanics from these shops have been hired by Eastern. Strikers want to convince these workers not to cross the picket line.

Unlike last June, pilots and flight attendants no longer staff tables at the Machinists hall. Flight attendants were especially active then. They have taken some big blows over the last few months. One Transport Workers

Union official reported that 1,200 of the 1,600 flight attendants organized by the TWU in Miami have signed to return to work at Eastern. Only a portion are actually working, because the company does not need that many flight attendants at this time.

Machinists explained that some TWU officials announced to a rebellious membership a few months ago that the strike was a lost cause. When a layer of pilots crossed the picket lines in August, it had a negative impact on the attendants. Many looked to the pilots for leadership. The TWU's lack of a strike fund also wore on the attendants.

Pressures bearing down

After six months on strike, pressures are also bearing down on Machinists union members. Only a small layer have crossed the picket lines. One, Rudy, considered crossing. "I felt like I couldn't think straight anymore," he said. "The bills keep coming in; the family puts pressure on you." He said he felt like he had a gun put to his head.

Rudy even had an interview and physical at Eastern, but then decided to stop by the union hall to discuss the situation. Several members sat down with him. Through reasoning and persuasion, Rudy said, he was convinced not to cross the line.

Rudy's decision angered Eastern supervisors. "They had hoped to get me to cross and then for me to start working on my friends to cross," Rudy said. "People who cross the line feel alone," he explained, and the company takes advantage of this by getting scabs "to work on their friends to cross the line."

Rudy said he felt the union needed to develop an approach to help people stay strong and to appeal to others who have crossed to come back. "We should have an amnesty like the pilots had. I'm sure we would get some people back," he said.

One striker summed up his view of the strike's status and said, "This strike reminds me of the movie *Rocky*. We're beating each other up pretty bad, but we can outlast Lorenzo."





Demonstration in Panama in 1959. Students and workers mounted many anti-imperialist actions in 1950s.

# Canal Zone: target of struggles in Panama

Working people resist colonial enclave

BY DON ROJAS

(Second of a series)

The central feature of Panama's history from 1903, the time it won what some commentators in the region have described as "the most dependent independence" in the history of Latin America, is the quest of the popular masses for sovereignty over the Panama Canal and the Canal Zone.

In struggling to rid themselves of imperialist domination, the Panamanian working people have had to confront direct U.S. military intervention and occupation, a succession of neocolonial oligarchies, extreme economic dependency, severe social inequalities, and pervasive racism.

The U.S. colonial enclave set up as the Canal Zone controlled both the political and economic life of Panama. This domination was so extreme that in 1908, 1912, and 1918

## PANAMA'S FIGHT FOR SOVEREIGNTY

local elections in Panama were directly supervised by the U.S. Army.

After World War I, the Panamanian economy slumped, and so did public expectations of the economic benefits of the canal.

At the same time, mass resentment began to build up against the excessive rights and privileges enjoyed by the U.S. government in the Canal Zone as guaranteed by the Hay-Bunau-Varilla Treaty of 1903.

In 1926 Panama's National Assembly, under pressure from the population, rejected an initiative by Washington called the Kellogg-Alfaro Treaty that was designed to temper some excesses while reserving Washington's rights under the 1903 treaty.

In 1934 President Franklin Roosevelt, seeking to pacify the growing nationalist movement, visited Panama and called for a new treaty that would "eliminate as far as was possible all causes of friction and all reasons for legitimate complaint on the part of Panama without sacrificing those rights considered essential for [the U.S.] government."

### Indignation of working people

One of the main causes of friction, which was not acted upon by Roosevelt, was the Canal Zone's role as a U.S. colonial enclave inside Panama.

Whenever a Panamanian travels across the country he or she must invariably cross the U.S.-controlled Canal Zone, which covers a total of 553 square miles of land. The zone not only cuts through the middle of the Republic of Panama but the capital city abuts on the zone and the city of Colón is surrounded by it. In both cities, the principal commercial wharves are located within the zone. The U.S. government uses only 3 percent of the land in the zone for the canal; 68 percent is taken up by military bases and reservations.

Roosevelt's proposed treaty was approved by Panama's National Assembly in December 1936. However, it was not ratified by the U.S. Senate until 1939. Among Washington's concessions was a renunciation of its right of "eminent domain" in the cities of Panama and Colón and an increase in the annuity paid to the Panamanian government from \$250,000 to \$430,000.

In addition, the treaty gave to the Panamanian oligarchy "full opportunity" for local merchants to make sales to vessels arriving

at terminal ports of the canal, or transiting the canal as well as the right to collect tolls from merchant ships in the port cities of Colón and Panama.

### Impact of 1930s depression

In return for these minor concessions, the United States government received the right of unimpeded transit across and along the Colón corridor, as well as the right to set up roads and so on within it.

The economic depression that hit the capitalist economy worldwide in the 1930s left Panama even more dependent upon U.S. capitalism. Reduced investments by U.S. businessmen and bankers in the Canal Zone led to increased unemployment among Panamanian workers, lowering their purchasing power and spreading poverty. This, in turn, produced working-class upheavals that helped lead to the election of a populist capitalist politician, Arnulfo Arias, to the presidency in 1940.

Arias drew up a nationalist constitution reflecting the sentiments of the Panamanian masses for sovereignty over the Canal Zone. But he was soon overthrown by the dominant forces among the local capitalists in collusion with Washington and the Panamanian National Police.

A serious social revolt was averted after Arias' overthrow, partly because Panama's capitalist economy was in an upswing from the increased use of the canal by the U.S. military during World War II and from the construction boom related to the new U.S. military bases.

Due to the 1936 renegotiation of the Canal Treaty, the zone market was open to Panamanian capitalists during the war. The increase in traffic of U.S. warships through the canal strengthened the demand for locally provided goods and services, which gave an impetus to domestic agricultural and industrial production. Energy consumption rose by 62 percent in Panama City and 73 percent in Colón. Employment in the zone increased from 14,800 in 1939 to 40,000 in 1942. By 1945 participation of the Canal Zone in Panama's gross domestic product reached 21 percent.

### Big savings for U.S. business

From its control of the canal during the war years U.S. big business also accrued significant benefits.

According to information presented to the U.S. Congress by the Canal Zone governor in 1947, "monetary saving to the United States arising from the use of the canal [during the war years] is estimated as \$1,500 million in maritime costs alone without considering the lives and materials that were saved."

In the immediate postwar period a recession hit Panama as the Canal Zone demand for goods declined by 20 percent and that for services by 50 percent. Unemployment reached 11.4 percent of the total labor force and 22.3 percent of nonagricultural labor.

Income received from raw material exports lagged behind payment for manufactured imports.

As the recession deepened, vast slums spread around Colón and Panama City.

Soon after the war ended in 1945, the Panamanian National Assembly ordered the minister of foreign affairs to inform Washington that the U.S. military bases built during the war should be removed from Pana-

manian territory "no later than one year after the end of hostilities." Panamanian public opinion firmly supported this mandate, but the U.S. government refused to accept it.

Mobilizations of workers, farmers, students, and women exploded in the streets of Panama City and Colón, forcing Washington to back down and order the immediate withdrawal of 2,000 troops and military equipment in 1947. The U.S. military retained the wartime Río Hato air base.

Working-class protests against imperialist domination picked up momentum. Banana workers challenged the privileges and rights of the U.S.-based multinational corporation United Fruit, which operated as a huge foreign fiefdom in Panama with its own security forces.

Throughout the 1950s and '60s agricultural workers struck repeatedly for higher wages and for better working and living conditions, and students agitated for Panamanian control over the Canal Zone.

### Growing internal contradictions

This growing anti-imperialist mass movement, coupled with the postwar economic recession and the resulting decline in living standards, spurred internal conflicts within the local ruling class. In the three years from 1949 to 1953 the country had four presidents.

The power of the traditional political and economic oligarchy waned as the National Guard emerged as a political force in its own right. Racial and class tensions among Panamanians increased. Discriminatory practices against Panamanians in both jobs and wages within the Canal Zone continued.

A quasi-nationalist regime led by José Antonio Remón, former commander of the National Guard, took control in 1953 under the popular slogan, "Neither millions nor hand-outs [from the United States]—we want justice."

Remón invited U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower to visit Panama, which he did in 1955 leading to the Remón-Eisenhower revision of the canal treaty. The U.S. government conceded to increase its annual payment for use of the canal and to grant the local ruling class the right to tax Panamanians who worked in the Canal Zone. But its pro-sovereignty rhetoric notwithstanding, the Remón government did not demand or win any gains under the new treaty in the direction of Panamanian control over the canal and the Canal Zone.

### Only Panama's capitalists benefited

Panamanian capitalists were the only local beneficiaries from the 1955 treaty. Local manufactured goods were exempted from application of the Buy-American Act in the Canal Zone and U.S. business agreed to stop manufacturing inside the zone, as soon as it could be shown that similar goods could be produced in Panama. Panama became marginally stronger in relation to the U.S. colonial enclave through the acquisition of these new resources. The economic weight of the Panamanian capitalists increased.

Local food production expanded while the importation of food, which in 1951 had been 20 percent of total imports, fell to 15 percent in 1955 and to 12 percent in 1960. The penetration of capitalist relations into agricultural production intensified and wage workers grew from 4.5 percent of agricultural labor in 1950 to 22.8 percent in 1961. Thousands of small farmers displaced from the land moved to the cities where they faced

large-scale unemployment, wretched housing, and inadequate public services.

In 1958 a movement to highlight the oppression of colonialism and neocolonialism was organized primarily by high school and university students with support from women's groups and some labor unions. The movement demanded a revision of all existing treaties between Panama and the United States.

In response, President Eisenhower agreed to allow the Panamanian flag to be flown alongside the U.S. flag in the Canal Zone's Shaler Triangle as a symbol of Panamanian sovereignty, and in 1962 President John Kennedy joined with President Roberto Chiari of Panama to designate public buildings that would fly either both flags or none.

### Inspired by the Cuban revolution

The triumph of the Cuban revolution in 1959 under the leadership of Fidel Castro and the July 26 Movement inspired the nationalist and anti-imperialist forces throughout the Americas, including Panama's.

Emboldened by this historic victory, patriotic Panamanian students and working people stepped up their prosovereignty mobilizations and actions.

In January 1964 an incident took place in the Canal Zone that was to become a watershed in the Panamanian peoples' anti-imperialist struggles.

On January 9 U.S. students and their parents living in the zone hoisted the U.S. flag at Balboa High School, disobeying the orders of the zone governor, and refused to allow the Panamanian flag to be flown alongside it. When Panamanian students entered the zone and secured permission to raise their flag, they were stopped by the U.S. students, and the Panamanian flag was desecrated.

This triggered a revolt that lasted for two days and nights. Panamanian protesters were fired upon by zone police and later by U.S. soldiers, resulting in 21 Panamanian deaths and 400 wounded, many of them critically.

News of the rebellion sent shock waves throughout the Americas. Panama broke off diplomatic relations with the United States and appealed to the Organization of American States, which set up a commission of inquiry that later recommended the two countries draw up a new treaty.

### Washington's 'security considerations'

The U.S. rulers in Washington had earlier targeted Panama for special attention under President John Kennedy's Alliance for Progress — the \$20 billion package of economic "assistance" for all of Latin America.

But Washington also had "security considerations" on its mind in the wake of the revolutionary victory in Cuba. Kennedy ordered the establishment of the School of the Americas, a counterinsurgency warfare training center in the Canal Zone, which still continues to train officers of various Latin American armies.

Among the better-known graduates of the school are the former Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza and the Panamanian leader Gen. Omar Torrijos, who on Oct. 11, 1968, led a military coup that overthrew the corrupt government of President Arias.

The next article in this series will examine the years of Torrijos' rule and the social movement that came to be known as "Torrijismo."

(To be continued)



## ALABAMA

### Birmingham

**The Ochoa Affair: Cuba Confronts Corruption and Bureaucracy.** Speaker: John Hawkins, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Birmingham City Council; member United Mine Workers of America Local 2368. Sat., Sept. 9, 7:30 p.m. 1306 1st Ave. N. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (205) 323-3079.

**Living Without Housing: The "New" Homeless in America.** Speakers: representative of Birmingham Housing Now! Coalition; Elizabeth Kealy, Young Socialist Alliance; others. Sat., Sept. 16, 7:30 p.m. 1306 1st Ave. N. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (205) 323-3079.

## CALIFORNIA

### Los Angeles

**Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast: The Struggle for Peace and Autonomy.** Speaker: Matilde Zimmermann, member International Association of Machinists, correspondent for *Militant*. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Sept. 16, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

### Oakland

**They Say Give Back! We Say Fight Back!** Participate in a discussion of three important strikes: the Eastern, miners' and nurses' strikes. Speakers: Jeff Bettencourt, member International Association of Machinists Local 1781 on strike against Eastern Airlines and Texas Air; Kathleen Denny, Socialist Workers Party, member IAM Local 1781; Audrey Swann, member California Nurses Association on strike against Oakland Children's Hospital. Video on the Pittston miners' strike. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Sept. 9, 7:30 p.m. 3702 Telegraph Ave., Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (415) 420-1165.

**The Struggle in Southern Africa: Angola, Namibia, South Africa.** Speaker: Malik Miah, National Committee, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Sept. 16, 7:30 p.m. 3702 Telegraph Ave., Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (415) 420-1165.

## FLORIDA

### Miami

**Pittston Miners' Fight Continues.** Eyewitness report and slideshow of events in coalfields by a member of *Militant* reporting team. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Sept. 16, 7:30 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (305) 756-1020.

## GEORGIA

### Atlanta

**Defend Abortion Rights!** Speakers: Marilee Taylor, Socialist Workers Party, rail worker and member of United Transportation Union Local 1295; representative of Coalition Opposing Operation Rescue; others. Sat., Sept. 9, Dinner 6:00 p.m.; program 7:30 p.m. 132 Cone St. NW, 2nd floor. Donation: dinner \$3, forum \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

## IOWA

### Des Moines

**The Eastern Strike: One-Half Year on the Picket Line for All Working People.** Speakers: Ernie Mailhot, strike committee International Association of Machinists Local 1018; others. Sat., Sept. 9, 7:30 p.m. 2105 Forest Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (515) 246-1695.

**Defend Affirmative Action.** Speakers to be announced. Sat., Sept. 16, 7:30 p.m. 2105 Forest

Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (515) 246-1695.

## MARYLAND

### Baltimore

**Northern Ireland: 20 Years of Occupation by British Troops.** A slideshow and talk on the current situation. Speaker: Bob Quigley, Socialist Workers Party, just returned from two-week tour sponsored by the *Irish People*. Sat., Sept. 9, Dinner 6 p.m.; program 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: dinner \$3; program \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

## MASSACHUSETTS

### Boston

**Boston School Crisis: Defend Desegregation.** Speakers: Nels J'Anthony, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Boston City Council, 6th District, member United Transportation Workers Union; Betsy Soares, SWP candidate for Boston School Committee. Translation to Spanish. Fri., Sept. 15, 7:30 p.m. 605 Massachusetts Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (617) 247-6772.

## NEW YORK

### Brooklyn

**Community Speak-Out and Protest of the Murder of Yusuf Hawkins.** Participants: Rod Thurton, coordinator, Coalition for Caribbean and Central American Unity (New York); José Berrios, Local 1199 Hospital and Health Care Employees; Jerry Freiwirth, Socialist Workers Party candidate for New York City Council president. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Sept. 9, 7:30 p.m. 464 Bergen. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (718) 398-6983.

## NORTH CAROLINA

### Greensboro

**Protest Racist Attacks: Virginia Beach and**

**Brooklyn.** Panel and discussion. Sun., Sept. 10, 7 p.m. 2219 E Market. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (919) 272-5996.

## PENNSYLVANIA

### Pittsburgh

**Striking Workers Speak Out!** A panel with Bob Toth, member, International Association of Machinists Local 1044, on strike against Eastern Airlines; Sandra Pate, member Transport Workers Union Local 553, on strike against Eastern; Dick Glass, president United Mine Workers of America Local 2350, on strike against Dowty Corp. Sat., Sept. 16, 7:30 p.m. 4905 Penn Ave., Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

## TEXAS

### Houston

**Cuba: New Stage in the Fight for Socialism.** Speaker: Greg Rosenberg, Socialist Workers Party, member International Association of Machinists. Sat., Sept. 16, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (713) 522-8054.

## UTAH

### Salt Lake City

**How to Defend Abortion Rights.** Speaker: Pat Fernández, Socialist Workers Party, member Utah Pro-Choice Coalition. Film *Abortion for Survival*. Sat., Sept. 16, 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

**Working People Need to Fight for Affirmative Action.** Speaker: Greg Nelson, Socialist Workers Party, former member United Steelworkers of America. Sat., Sept. 9, 7 p.m. 116

## NEW YORK CITY

### The Struggle in Southern Africa and Cuba's Internationalist Role Report-back from Zimbabwe bookfair

#### Speakers:

**James Harris**, Pathfinder representative at Harare book launching of *In Defense of Socialism*, by Fidel Castro.

**Greg McCartan**, *Militant* correspondent

**Sat., Sept. 23. 7:30 p.m.**

Donation: \$3

**Militant Labor Forum**  
191 Seventh Ave., 2nd Floor, Manhattan  
(at 21st Street)

For more information call (212) 675-6740, or (718) 398-6983.

McFarland St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 345-3040.

## CANADA

### Toronto

**Which Way Forward: Capitalism or Socialism?** Speaker: Michel Dugré, Revolutionary Workers League candidate in Québec provincial elections. Sat., Sept. 16, 7:30 p.m. 410 Adelaide St. W., Suite 400. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (416) 861-1399.

# Text of judge's findings in Gelfand suit

#### Continued from Page 5

plaintiff or conduct toward him, there is no evidence that any SWP defendant ever acted as an agent of the United States government or any of its agencies.

15. There is no credible evidence that any individual SWP defendant was or had been an agent of the FBI, the CIA, or any other agency of the United States government.

16. At all times relevant hereto, the SWP was a bona fide political party and was not controlled by the FBI, CIA or any other agency of the United States government.

17. In July 1979 plaintiff filed this lawsuit ostensibly seeking reinstatement with the SWP based on his allegations that the elected SWP leadership contained government agents who had expelled him to silence him. He also claimed that he had been expelled in violation of the party's procedures.

Plaintiff did not then have any substantial basis in fact for any of his allegations, nor did he have a good faith belief that the allegations were true. Plaintiff had been a practicing attorney for several years and appreciated the nature and meaning of a legal proceeding brought in good faith. Plaintiff's initiation of this litigation was not in good faith. His motivation was to disrupt the SWP.

18. A large part of the discovery in this case was not conducted in good faith. The pretrial discovery conducted by plaintiff was abusive, harassing, and in large part directed to matters which could have no probative value in this litigation. The discovery was not conducted for the purpose of discovering evidence in support of plaintiff's claims; one of its main purposes was to generate material for political attacks on the SWP by the Workers League and the Workers Revolutionary Party.

19. Throughout the litigation, it appears that a substantial portion of the fees of plaintiff's counsel were paid by funds raised by the Workers League. The Workers League also assisted plaintiff in other ways. Plaintiff provided the discovery in this case to persons who channelled the information obtained to the Workers League and Workers Revolutionary Party for publication in their newspapers.

### III. Conclusions of law

1. This is an action for declaratory and injunctive relief based on the First and Fifth amendments to the Constitution. The Court has jurisdiction under the Constitution and

laws of the United States. The Court has pendent jurisdiction over the breach of contract claim.

2. As a bona fide political party, the SWP is entitled to the full protection of the First Amendment. Any attempt by any government agency to manipulate, control, or secretly influence the private or public activities or decisions of the SWP would be unlawful. However, there is no evidence in this case, credible or otherwise, that any such manipulation, control, or secret influence occurred.

3. The expulsion of plaintiff from the SWP did not violate any right or protection to which he is entitled under the Constitution or laws of the United States.

4. Plaintiff's expulsion from the SWP did not violate the party's Constitution, Organizational Principles, or traditions. Plaintiff therefore is not entitled to relief with respect to his pendent claim.

5. The SWP and the individual SWP defendants are entitled to judgement against plaintiff.

6. The government defendants are entitled to judgment against plaintiff.

7. The Court makes no award of attorneys' fees to any defendant.

8. The defendants are entitled to recover their costs of suit against plaintiff.

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**Moving his loot around?** — Eastern Airlines may be bankrupt and Continental on shaky legs, but, for 1988, union-busting Frank Lorenzo pocketed \$1.25 million



Harry Ring

from Texas Air. That does include "relocation" expenses. In 1987 he collected \$21,236 moving money. Last year he must have moved the

family. His relocation tab was \$275,000.

**You can count on Eastern** — A scab pilot landed an Eastern plane in Gainesville, Florida, got lost, and taxied to the wrong end of the airport. Trying to turn around near buildings and parked planes, he knocked down a fence and damaged a hangar. Finally, a Gainesville police car, emergency lights flashing, led the plane to the terminal.

**He could have taken a broom** — The White House scratched plans for the prez to go to Alaska to look at the Valdez oil spill. Advisers calculated the trip would be a political "downer." He would have ar-

rived the day after Exxon is slated to shut down its far from finished cleanup.

**Sounds reasonable** — "Americans worked more last month, and they spent the extra income." — News item.

**Don't like the fast track?** — British Rail is checking a report that an express to Manchester was speeding during dinner. Passengers heard the steward broadcast over the public address: "Would the guard please tell the driver to slow down? All the first-class passengers are complaining."

**Space cadet** — We didn't realize

it, but we should have. Vice-prez Danforth Quayle is chairman of the National Space Council.

**Talk about cheap** — In Toronto you can rent a Ferrari for \$400 a day or \$1,000 for a weekend — plus 70 cents a kilometer after the first 100.

**Send it COD** — Massachusetts officials are stumped on disposing of the poisonous industrial sludge being dredged from Boston Harbor. It's "too filthy" to meet state standards for fertilizer, so they were considering selling it in Texas, which has more reasonable regulations. But shipping costs are too high.

**Housing crisis** — Dumped as

British foreign secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe lost his taxpayer-provided London residence and 115-room weekend retreat. He solved part of the problem with a fast deal that bumped the treasury chief from his \$6.5 million government summer home. The treasury chap retains his Downing Street pad but is still scratching for a holiday spot.

**Always flattering him** — G. Gordon Liddy, Nixon's legman in the Watergate capers, says that in a coming film he'll play an ex-cop who's "a corrupt megalomaniac" and "sexual pervert." Liddy confides his wife told him, "You don't have to act. You just go up there and be yourself."

## Bush's antidrug proposal: more cops, prisons

Continued from front page

city in the country but into rural areas as well, that "it's going to be a many-year effort and it's going to require much more money and effort." Bush's program, he said, would increase pressure for an eventual tax increase even though Bush and his fellow Republicans have pledged not to raise taxes.

New York's Democratic governor, Mario Cuomo, said that with "thousands of our children already lost and millions more at risk" the president proposes federal resources to fight drugs only slightly greater than those authorized by Congress last year. "He contrasted the \$7.9 billion package to the \$166 billion measure Bush recently pushed through Congress to rescue the savings and loan banks.

Sen. Joseph Biden, Jr., chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said, "In a nutshell, the president's plan does not include enough police officers to catch the violent thugs, enough prosecutors to convict them, enough judges to sentence them, or enough prison cells to put them away for a long time."

Biden called for an international strike force to arrest foreign drug dealers. "Let's go after the drug lords where they live," he declared. "There must be no safe haven for these narco-terrorists, and they must know it." In recent weeks, U.S. politicians have used the term "narco-trash" to describe President Fidel Castro of Cuba and Panamanian armed forces chief Gen. Manuel Noriega.

William von Raab, former commissioner of customs, echoed these sentiments on ABC-

TV's "Nightline" program a couple of hours after Bush's speech. He supported the idea of an international strike force and stated that sovereign governments in Latin America "should be pressured" into inviting Washington to send troops to their countries "to fight drugs at their source."

William Bennett, the federal drug policy director and chief architect of Bush's strategy, defended it, saying that for the first time the White House has set as a key goal the reduction of drug use in the United States and that unlike previous "drug wars" this one will be implemented by several federal agencies operating in "a coordinated way."

While most criticism from Democratic politicians centered on the inadequacy of the money in the plan vis-à-vis the enormity of

the undertaking, a few, such as Rep. Charles Rangel, whose district covers the Harlem community of New York, said that much of the money for the drug battle would be siphoned off from already under-funded domestic social programs.

Bush's plan gives very little attention to the need for easily accessible treatment on demand for any addict who seeks it. In his plan the user victims are seen as the central culprits.

### Putting U.S. troops in Latin America

Lauding "our brave friends" in Colombia and their "courageous president," Bush announced that aid to Colombia, Bolivia, and Peru will be immediately tripled to \$261 million. Furthermore, he proposed a \$2 billion five-year program for these three Andean countries, which are the primary sources of cocaine smuggled into the United States. He called for a summit meeting between himself and the heads of state of the three countries.

In an ominous hint that U.S. rulers are prepared to use military force in Latin America under the cover of fighting drugs, Bush said, "We will for the first time make available the appropriate resources of America's armed forces." A few days prior to his speech Bush approved \$65 million in "emergency" military aid to Colombia, which includes helicopters, armored cars, bulletproof vests, and up to 100 military personnel to train Colombian antidrug forces. It is not clear whether U.S. forces would be used in combat situations.

Classified versions of the Bush plan dealing with specific details about deploying the military in fighting drugs abroad were not announced by the president and were not included in the version of his speech made available to the public.

According to the *New York Times*, the unclassified version of the plan does say, however, that improved intelligence gathering is essential to stemming the flow of drugs, and it urges law enforcement officials to work more closely with intelligence officials at the Pentagon, State Department, and CIA.

## Protests hit murder of Black youth

Continued from front page

march was led by Black community activists who aimed to reach New York City Hall after crossing the Brooklyn Bridge. At the bridge 50 police in a line three deep blocked the marchers' passage. A tense standoff was broken when cops attacked the front line of protesters with truncheons.

A thousand marchers poured from the demonstration's rear onto the bridge, blocking traffic. Scores of youth rushed to defend marchers being beaten by the cops. Twenty-three police and an undetermined number of demonstrators were injured in the melee.

After march organizers negotiated the release of a handful of protesters who had been arrested, the march resumed, back toward Brooklyn, past firemen poised to open up on demonstrators with water hoses.

Earlier in the day, Joseph Fama of Bensonhurst turned himself in to police in upstate New York. Police say he may have

been the one who pulled the trigger in the Hawkins killing. Fama was indicted on 17 counts, including murder, on September 6.

Six others have been arrested and released on bail. Two of them, Keith Mondello and Pasquale Raucci, have been charged and indicted for murder. Police are reportedly still looking for others in the gang of up to 30 thugs who participated in the August 23 lynch mob attack on Hawkins and his three companions.

More than 1,000 people, including religious and community leaders and public officials, attended the Hawkins funeral on August 30 at the Glover Memorial Baptist Church in the heart of Brooklyn's Black community. Unable to fit into the jammed church, hundreds listened outside to a live broadcast of the service by radio station WLJB amplified by megaphones.

In the crowd were Hawkins' high school friends, victims of previous racist attacks, hospital workers from Local 1199 Hospital and Health Care Employees, and members and representatives of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, Venceremos Brigade, Communist Party, and Socialist Workers Party.

The principal eulogies were delivered, at the Hawkins family's request, by Al Sharpton, Nation of Islam minister Louis Farrakhan, and Brooklyn minister Herbert Daughtry.

As the ceremony ended, hundreds marched behind the hearse bearing Hawkins' coffin. He was buried near the grave of Michael Griffith, a 23-year-old Black who was struck and killed by a car in 1986 while being chased by a group of bat-wielding thugs in the Howard Beach section of New York.

On September 2 about 250 demonstrators marched in Bensonhurst. They were surrounded by up to 500 police who walled them off from hundreds of racists. To the marchers' chants of "Yusuf! Yusuf!", the racists answered "Fama! Fama!"

The next day 200 Bensonhurst residents marched without incident to lay a wreath near the spot where Hawkins was gunned down. Some Bensonhurst churches organized services for Hawkins that morning.

A September 1 editorial in *El Diario*, a major Spanish-language daily in New York, said, "Latinos have to be aware of the fact that racial violence in New York is directed as much against us as it is against African-Americans." The editorial condemned the

killing of Hawkins, saying it could have been a Latino youth.

A full-page advertisement in the September 3 *New York Times* expressed "outrage at the tragic death of 16-year-old Yusuf Hawkins" and said, "Justice must be swift." It was signed by 70 labor officials and financial figures. Among the union signers were representatives of the United Food and Commercial Workers, International Ladies' Garment Workers, Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers, Teamsters, Transit Workers, Postal Workers, Hospital, and Communication Workers unions, along with officers of the New York City Central Labor Council.

New York Socialist Workers Party candidate for City Council president Jerry Freiwirth condemned the police attack on the August 31 protest. He called for protests "to put the heat on City Hall and Mayor Edward Koch to apprehend and prosecute to the fullest extent of the law every thug involved in the killing of Yusuf Hawkins. There are enough facts and witnesses to do so," he said.

## —10 AND 25 YEARS AGO—

**THE MILITANT**  
A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE  
Sept. 14, 1979

The Carter administration and the U.S. Senate are churning out new threats against the Cuban revolution. The latest pretext is the claim by the State Department that 2,000 to 3,000 Soviet combat troops are now stationed in Cuba.

In an August 30 speech in Boise, Idaho, Sen. Frank Church, the liberal Democrat who heads the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, declared that "Russian combat units do not belong in Cuba." He called on Carter to force the immediate withdrawal of the alleged troops, saying, "The president must make it clear, we draw the line on Russian penetration of this hemisphere."

**THE MILITANT**  
Published in the Interests of the Working People  
Sept. 14, 1964

Malcolm X, the militant black nationalist

leader, has publicly declared that he will not vote for either Goldwater or Johnson in the coming presidential election.

"Johnson and Goldwater," Malcolm X writes, "I feel that as far as the American black man is concerned, are both just about the same. It's just a question of Johnson, the fox, or Goldwater, the wolf. 'Conservatism' is only meaning 'Let's keep the niggers in their place,' and 'Liberalism' is meaning 'Let's keep the kneegrows in their place, but tell them we'll treat them a little better. Let's fool them more, with more promises.' Since these are the choices, the black man in America, I think, only needs to pick which one he chooses to be eaten by, because they both will eat him."

Goldwater, Malcolm writes, "isn't another liberal just trying to please both racists and integrationists, smiling at one, and whispering to the other. Goldwater flatly tells the black man he's not for the black man." After comparing the Republican and Democratic presidential candidates, Malcolm concludes: "I wouldn't put myself in the position of voting for either one, or of recommending to any black man to do so."



Militant/Robin Mace



## Colombia's intra-capitalist war

Cocaine is one of the most profitable commodities traded on the world capitalist market today, and cocaine traders are among the world's richest businessmen.

The Colombian drug cartels based in the cities of Medellín and Cali supply up to 80 percent of the cocaine sold on the U.S. and European markets.

It costs about \$200 to produce one kilogram of cocaine in Colombia, but the same kilogram sells for \$12,000 in New York and can fetch up to \$40,000 on the streets. It is estimated that in 1988, total U.S. cocaine sales brought dealers tax-free profits of more than \$95 billion, \$10 billion of which found its way back to the Colombian cartels. The vast bulk of the rest of these super-profits ended up in the bank accounts of U.S. capitalists — both of the "illegal" mafia type and of the more "reputable" type.

These cartels are associations of capitalist drug producers who band together to monopolize the production and supply of drugs to the lucrative North American, European, and Japanese markets.

The cartels own land, real estate, factories, and a host of different businesses. In Colombia alone, they employ some 500,000 wage laborers to produce, process, package, protect, transport, and market cocaine, marijuana, and heroin.

Dominated by a handful of billionaires and about 1,000 millionaires, the cartels wield enormous economic power in Colombia. This "narco-bourgeoisie" is currently locked in a fierce battle for political power and social acceptance with the entrenched capitalist oligarchy.

These "nouveau riche" have been spurned by the traditional elite of Colombia, who have refused them entry into local ruling-class circles, their fabulous wealth notwithstanding.

In this mounting conflict within Colombia's capitalist class, the cartels have, since 1981, murdered 70 judges, 150 other judicial employees, 30 journalists, hundreds of policemen, an attorney general, and a number of prominent politicians who have in one way or other opposed their growing power.

Following the recent assassination of Luis Carlos Galán, the liberal front-runner in the 1990 presidential election, the oligarchy decided to respond to the drug cartels' escalating violence with curfews in the cities of Medellín and Cali, mobilization of the army to confiscate property, and arrests of some 11,000 persons suspected of having connections with the cartels. Many Colombian workers, farmers, students, and labor union activists have been swept up in this dragnet.

Washington has voiced strong support for the crackdown, has allocated \$65 million in "emergency" military aid to the government of President Virgilio Barco, and has encouraged the Colombian oligarchy to capture several leaders of the cartels and extradite them to the United States to stand trial on drug trafficking charges.

Colombia's capitalist class has a long history of violent internal conflicts, in which working people have always been the chief victims.

Since 1981 both the government and the cartels have waged a violent campaign against organizations and leaders of the workers' movement in Colombia. Scores of progressive labor union leaders as well as leaders of youth, women's, and peasants' organizations have been murdered by death squads under the control of the cartels and their rightist allies within the Colombian military.

Washington's great attention to the current developments in Colombia stems from its uneasiness about the growing instability in that country, which has an active anti-imperialist guerrilla movement located in an already volatile region. In recent months massive rebellions fueled by the deep economic crisis have occurred in Venezuela and growing anti-imperialist defiance in Panama.

Under the cover of fighting drugs, the U.S. capitalist rulers are also seeking to establish a new and updated pretext for employing U.S. military forces in Latin America that could be used as a precedent for intervention in Panama or elsewhere in the region.

Moreover, Washington is intervening in Colombia as part of its pretense to be doing something substantial about drug trafficking.

Workers and farmers in the United States and around the world have a big stake in the elimination of the drug epidemic since they are the ones who suffer the most from it. But they must not be hoodwinked into supporting imperialism's manipulation of widespread antidrug sentiment for its own political and economic purposes.

Working people in Colombia and the United States can learn much from the way in which the revolutionary government and people of Cuba have dealt with the problem of drugs. Prior to the 1959 revolution, Cuba was dominated by capitalist drug lords and a string of local dictatorships in cahoots with them. But today, because the country's workers and farmers overthrew capitalist rule and established their own political and economic power and are embarking on a course of building socialism, there is no widespread problem of drug production or consumption among the Cuban people.

Recently, when a gang of corrupt and cynical military officials led by Gen. Arnaldo Ochoa were caught collaborating with the Medellín cartel in using Cuba as a transshipment point for cocaine bound for the U.S. market, they were tried and sentenced to the maximum penalties under Cuban law.

They were rightly condemned by the Cuban working people for not only betraying and disgracing the revolution but also for endangering the lives of working people in the United States whose hopes, aspirations, and very futures are being destroyed each day by the scourge of drugs.

## Fall actions for abortion rights

The July Supreme Court ruling undermining abortion rights provoked a sweep of protests and anger across the country. Thousands have marched to defend a woman's right to abortion, showing that this right cannot be taken away altogether without a fight.

The protests have not died down. They continue, and new forces are being drawn into the fight. Local actions are being organized in many cities by chapters of the National Organization for Women (NOW) and coalitions of proabortion groups.

These include a September 17 statewide "Rally for Choice" in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida; an October 15 prochoice march and rally in San Francisco; and an October 29 "March for Choice" in Columbus, Ohio. Local actions also include mobilizations to prevent rightwing outfits like Operation Rescue from shutting down abortion clinics.

Building these protests is the best way to begin organizing

for the November 12 national march in Washington, D.C., called by NOW to defend abortion rights. The potential exists to mobilize hundreds of thousands to turn out in the streets of Washington, D.C., as 500,000 did for the abortion rights march last April 9.

Contingents and groups from at least 15 international unions, including Eastern Airlines strikers, participated in the April march. This showed the possibilities for bringing organized labor into the fight for abortion rights.

Involving the unions in this fall's activities and working to build union participation in the November 12 march should be a high priority for every unionist and fighter for women's rights.

The fight for abortion rights is integral to the battle for women's equality. Any advances on this front can only strengthen the unity and fighting capacity of working people and their organizations.

## Keep U.S. door open to Soviet Jews

After years of attacking the Soviet Union for restricting emigration of Soviet Jews to the United States, Israel, and other countries, the George Bush administration has drafted a plan aimed at sharply curtailing admission of Soviet Jews to the United States.

Soviet emigration restrictions have been eased in recent years, and more Jews are leaving the Soviet Union. Most want to come to the United States. Now Washington wants to slam the door in many of their faces. Under the proposed plan, those with no relatives or other ties in the United States would be ineligible to enter, for example.

Since September 1988, the U.S. government has denied refugee status to 5,430 Soviet Jews who applied to come to the United States. A total of 18,965 were allowed in, however, and government officials say this year could bring 48,000 more.

Administration officials say granting refugee status to virtually any Soviet Jew who applies has become too expensive. Travel, medical, and resettlement costs for refugees are

simply too high, they contend. Others argue that discrimination against Jews in the Soviet Union has eased under Gorbachev and that many of those now applying to leave are not really persecuted.

All of the reasons given for why admission of Jews should be restricted cover up a policy that is inherently anti-Semitic. It fuels discrimination against Jews who live in the United States, just as restrictions on Latin American, Asian, and other immigrants are used to discriminate against immigrant workers living here.

Bush's move to keep out "too many" Jews is reminiscent of the Franklin Roosevelt administration's refusal during the 1930s to allow Jews fleeing persecution from fascist regimes to come to this country.

Working people and all supporters of democratic rights should protest this anti-Semitic move by the Bush administration. The door should be completely open to Soviet Jews — and all others who wish to come here to live.

## What was the Black Panther Party?

BY DOUG JENNESS

The death of Huey Newton on an Oakland, California, street on August 22 has brought forth a wide range of commentaries on the Black Panther Party.

An article in the *New York Newsday* by Marilyn Milloy contended, "For much of the country . . . the Panthers — and Newton — were known as menacing, violent men, who put 'pig' in the national lexicon, unapologetically creating a climate of racial tension. . . ."

Biko Lumumba of the Uhuru House, headquarters of an Oakland Black nationalist group, said many people admire

## LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

the Panthers as a symbol of resistance and for their "programs — the free busing program, the free clothing bank, the breakfast for children program."

Who were the Black Panthers — gangsters or social workers? What conditions led to their ascendancy? Why did they decline? And what can be learned from this experience for advancing the struggle of working people — both Black and white — today?

The Black Panther Party for Self-Defense emerged immediately after the civil rights movement overthrew the Jim Crow system of legal segregation. This historic victory led to increased self-confidence, self-esteem, and political consciousness among Blacks throughout the country.

There was greater unwillingness to accept police brutalization and the depression-like economic and social conditions in the Black community. And Blacks sought to assert greater political weight to beat back and overcome discrimination. The mood in the Black communities was like a tinderbox that exploded in city after city when sparked by police attacks or other racist assaults.

The concept of "Black Power" began to be raised. And in 1965–66 the Lowndes County Freedom Organization in Alabama started organizing Blacks independent of the local Democrats and Republicans. Their ballot symbol was the Black Panther, the name Huey Newton and Bobby Seale gave to their party a few months later.

The leaders of the Black Panthers were inspired by Malcolm X, the outstanding revolutionary leader who was assassinated in 1965. They set out in their own way to try to continue his legacy. The Panthers were also greatly influenced by the colonial revolution and the gains of the Cuban and Chinese revolutions.

Their goal was to build a revolutionary organization of Blacks that would fight for Black control of the Black community and organize defense against cop brutality. They considered themselves revolutionary nationalists, and many identified with socialism.

Blacks, mostly youth, formed Black Panther Party chapters across the country, demonstrating the broad appeal for such a formation.

As with all attempts to organize militant political leadership among Blacks and in the labor movement, the capitalist rulers immediately moved to repress it. Police agents and provocateurs were planted in the organization to disrupt it, including by pitting members against each other. Cops raided Panther headquarters and homes of leaders. Many members were gunned down. Scores were arrested and jailed, some are still serving time on frame-up charges.

Repression against the Panthers, as with other ultraleft groups at the time, was made easier by their adventurist errors and superrevolutionary rhetoric. This facilitated the treacherous activities of provocateurs and increased the difficulties of organizing an adequate defense campaign despite massive sympathy for the victims of government persecution.

This repression, however, wasn't the only reason the Panthers declined and disappeared. Perhaps more significant was the inability of these revolutionary-minded militants to develop an effective program to continue the mass struggles that led to the civil rights victories and the gains won in their immediate aftermath. The Panthers' ultraleft notions were based on a misconception that the revolutionary movements, particularly guerrilla struggles, of Cuba, China, and other Third World countries could serve as models for the struggle in the United States.

This was part of their broader failure to fully grasp the relationship between racism and U.S. capitalism and the necessity to mobilize the working class as a class to lead in the overturn of capitalist political rule and in establishing their own government. Although many Panthers supported alliances with white radicals, to fight for "people's power," this was not a step toward a working-class orientation, toward seeing the struggles of workers who are Black as in the forefront of the struggle of the working class as a whole. Over time this led many Panthers toward disillusionment or operating in the framework of capitalist politics.

One conclusion that can be drawn is the one Cuban President Fidel Castro has drawn for the world. Today and tomorrow, he points out, "being revolutionary means and will increasingly mean, to be a communist." That means defending and advancing the interests of the working class as a whole — both nationally and internationally.



# Marriott workers: Can meals for Eastern be stopped?

BY LEE TERKEL  
AND SARA BUTTON

PITTSBURGH — When the "new" Eastern Airlines resumed services here in early July, the airline catering service we work for — Marriott In-Flite Kitchen — pledged to handle the airline's food needs, as it had before the strike at Eastern began March 4.

Like most airlines, Eastern doesn't have its own kitchen to prepare meals for flights and uses a catering service instead. The 300 workers at Marriott, 60 percent of whom are women, also prepare meals for USAir, Trans World, Northwest, and other airlines and charters.

Marriott management ran into a problem, however. The In-Flite Kitchen here is one of the few Marriott branches that is unionized. Workers are members of International

union officials found this acceptable.

Once, when a probationary worker complained to a boss about having to do scab work, he was told to do it or face firing. Most workers are aware that the shop committee would not fight such a firing at this point.

Many union members at Marriott are opposed to the scab work being done at all, by anyone. They understand it weakens the Eastern workers' fight. At the same time, they feel it was a small victory not to have union members preparing the meals.

While Marriott workers generally feel sympathy toward the Eastern strikers, some are apathetic toward the fight. They view the Eastern walkout as the strikers' problem, not a challenge for all IAM members.

This attitude developed over two decades of unsuccessful union battles at our workplace, including two strikes and a lockout. During these fights, Marriott workers were not on the receiving end of much solidarity from other airline unions. Until the Eastern strike, it was common for airline unions to cross each others' picket lines during a strike. Some workers, especially those who have been at Marriott a long time, have concluded that it doesn't pay to fight.

Union members at Marriott who want to deepen support for the fight at Eastern need to continue educating ourselves and other coworkers about the stakes in this strike and how the weaknesses of our union and mistakes of the past can be overcome.

We must also try to convince as many workers as possible that a necessary part of solidarity with the strike means fighting to stop catering Eastern — a company that's waging a strikebreaking campaign against our own union.

In early September, one-quarter of the workforce at Marriott will become union members, which will mean they won't be forced to do work for Eastern. At the same time, Eastern is projecting expanding the number of flights in and out of Pittsburgh.

Union members at Marriott, along with Eastern strikers, were angered when they were told of a recent agreement made between international IAM officials and Marriott that will allow the company to continue providing meals for Eastern and Continental.

Workers will be hired and classified as "management" — though they will be doing production work normally done by union members. In this way, Marriott can provide the scab meals for Eastern, and IAM officials can say that no union members are doing work for the struck airline. This is the opposite of real solidarity.

Some of the elements necessary for a campaign to fight against this situation are already in place. Some local Eastern strikers have let our union officials know they are opposed to this arrangement. So are many workers at Marriott, who see the creation of a nonunion layer of production workers as a threat not only to the Eastern strike, but to the union at Marriott directly.

The news has caused an uproar, and workers at Marriott are discussing what we can do. Some of us have been reading and talking about an open letter circulated by IAM Local 1018 at La Guardia Airport in New York to Hudson General workers, appealing for their support in the strike. The situation is similar to that at Marriott — Hudson is a subcontracting company doing fueling, ramp, and cleaning work for Eastern, and workers there are also in the IAM. There, too, union officials say only probationaries are doing the work at Eastern.

Everything points to the need to involve Marriott workers in a campaign to make the company pay the highest price possible for scab catering.

If a fight against this can be mounted, it will encourage other airport unionists in similar situations to close ranks with the Eastern strikers.

Lee Terkel and Sara Button work at Marriott In-Flite Kitchen and are members of IAM Local 1044 in Pittsburgh.

## UNION TALK

Association of Machinists (IAM) Local 1044 — the same local as 40 striking Eastern ramp workers, cleaners, and mechanics at Greater Pittsburgh International Airport.

Our contract says we have the right to refuse work for struck airlines.

After it was announced that Marriott would again be providing meals for Eastern, our shop committee posted a notice instructing Local 1044 members not to perform any work for the airline. Management was infuriated. They twisted arms, but the shop committee stuck to its guns. It was convinced that its stand that no union member will do scab work had contract protection.

When it became clear that the union would not back down, management decided to try to find a way around the situation. This it was able to do with little trouble. Preparing meals for Eastern flights is done instead by supervisors and probationary workers not yet in the union. Unfortunately,

## LETTERS

### Tahir Akham

I marched alongside 500 others in Oldham September 2 to protest the killing of an Asian boy, Tahir Akram, on July 26. Tahir bled to death in the street after being shot with an air rifle from a car driving through the mainly Asian area of Glodwick in this Lancashire cotton town.

Vincent Charles Grady, an African, was shot and wounded, and Abdul Gafur Rajpoot, an Asian, escaped injury in similar attacks the same day.

The killing was one of a rash of attacks against Black people in Britain in recent months. Police, who have arrested three white youths in connection with the murder, deny any racial motive.

Addressing us in the local schoolyard, Tahir's grandfather, who had been walking with him to post a letter when the attack took place, described how he turned to see the boy clutching his face as the assailants' car sped away. When he took his hands away, blood gushed from his face and mouth like a fountain.

The local beat policeman ordered the street washed down, destroying important forensic evidence.

Oldham's main local newspaper had attacked the protest action as provocative.

As we wound our way through the town's main shopping center and drew abreast of the local newspaper's offices, we halted. With a sea of accusing fingers and clenched fists stabbing the air, the crowd chanted: "Tell the truth, tell the truth!"

As the march left the town center to return to the Glodwick area, police attempted to intervene against a steward leading a chant in Punjabi: "Don't trust the police — rely on yourselves!" But they were forced to back off as the marchers rallied to his defense, preventing an arrest.

The action was organized and led by the Tahir Akram Memorial Committee, a group set up in the community with the involvement of Tahir's family and friends. The local United Youth Association carried a banner and led a contingent with children aged seven and eight and older.

Swelling the march were contingents that traveled from London, Birmingham, and Dewsbury. Some

carried banners from the Pakistani Workers Association and Birmingham Labour Party Black Section. Representatives were present from the Black Workers Group of the town hall workers' union NALGO, the Confederation of Health Service Employees, and the Oldham Campaign Against Racism and Fascism. Marcella Fitzgerald Manchester, England

### Anthony Griffin

A candlelight vigil here at the Notre-Dame-de-Grâce (NDG) police station August 30 protested the proposed reinstatement of Allan Gosset.

On Nov. 11, 1987, Gosset shot Anthony Griffin, a 19-year-old Black youth, in the head. The killing was done in the parking lot of the NDG cop shop.

Even though the courts acquitted Gosset of the involuntary manslaughter charges, several demonstrations of hundreds forced the police department to discharge him. On August 24 a Québec Labor Department arbitrator ruled that Gosset should be reinstated.

The August 30 demonstration was addressed in both French and English by Gloria Augustus, Anthony Griffin's mother, and other Black and NDG community leaders. Sharon Blackwood Montréal, Canada

### Death penalty

My biggest objection to the death penalty in the United States is its racist and economically biased application.

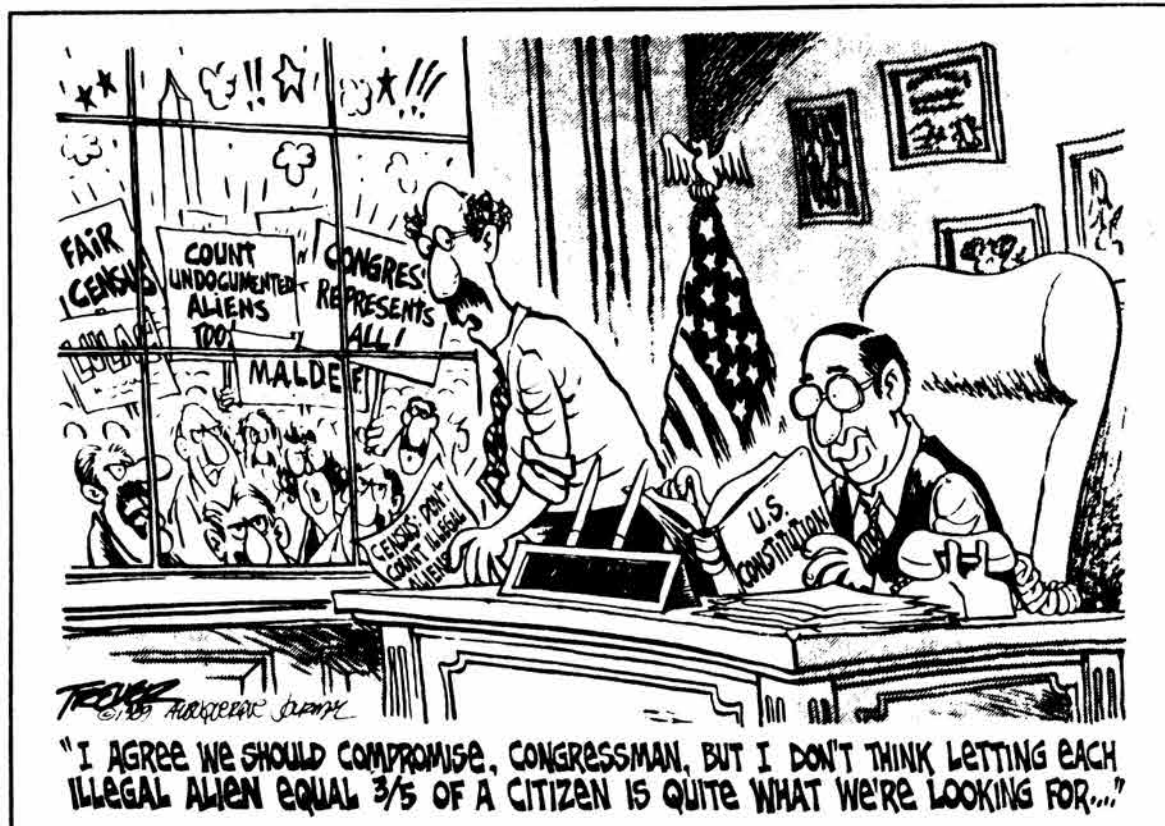
Right now in Utah a Black man has just had his execution stayed for six months. His crime was that he drove the getaway car for a robbery where, unknown to him, his partner tortured and murdered three of the witnesses.

Frank Pavelko Salt Lake City, Utah

### Get's around

The third week of August I was on a British Air flight from London, having just concluded a fact-finding tour of the northern six counties of Ireland. I had settled in my seat wearing a "No Lorenzo" button and was reading the latest copy of the *Militant*.

A flight attendant stopped to ask



which paper I was reading, and when I showed him, he exclaimed, "Isn't that the paper with all the articles on Cuba? I bought that at their bookshop in Auckland on my last flight to New Zealand."

He went on to say that he was impressed that Pathfinder published Malcolm X, Fidel Castro, and Che Guevara. I urged him to visit other Pathfinder bookstores on his other flights.

He then said, "As soon as I saw your button, I knew I had a mate on this flight. I go over to picket with the Eastern strikers when we fly to New York."

Just another story to show that the *Militant* and Pathfinder get around, like airline workers.

Kathleen Denny Oakland, California

### Unionists in Philippines

In May I spent three weeks in the Philippines to build support for the Mark Curtis Defense Committee. Among the many people talked to was the president of the union that organizes packinghouse workers at the Swift plant in Laguna—Benigno Enriquez.

He told me that the company has been on a campaign to destroy the union. They've hired goon squads

to physically assault union officials, and union militants are under constant surveillance. Trade unionists have been accused of being members of the Communist Party, which is illegal, and framed up on extortion charges.

Three union presidents have been forced to resign as a result of this harassment.

Conditions in the plant are horrendous. Enriquez told me that workers are treated like slaves and animals. Management does not provide safety equipment, and accidents are common. The company has no transportation service to take injured workers to the hospital.

The government has set a daily standard for an average family to live on of 187 pesos (US\$9.25). Workers at Swift make 92 pesos a day. Overtime is mandatory, and the company has forced workers to work 24-hour shifts nonstop. If you are caught sleeping on the job, you face a 45-day suspension without pay.

Trade unionists in the Philippines are on a campaign to raise wages of all workers by 36 pesos. There have been many demonstrations in favor of this demand and against the "Letter of Intent" signed by President Corazon Aquino to repay debt to the

World Bank. Workers believe this will lead to austerity measures and make life harder for them.

Kate Kaku Des Moines, Iowa

### Third World

Your paper captured my attention. I was particularly moved by articles on the Third World. I would like to receive the *Militant*, along with the book *Nelson Mandela: The Struggle is My Life*.

A prisoner Lawrenceville, Virginia

The *Militant* special prisoner fund makes it possible to send reduced-rate subscriptions to prisoners who can't pay for them. 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.



## South Africa: nationwide strike adds weight to defiance campaign

BY RONI McCANN

Hundreds of demonstrators stood firm as they were drenched with purple dye sprayed at them by South African police from a high-powered water cannon. Suddenly two youths jumped in front of the police vehicle bringing it to a halt while a third climbed up and wrestled with the cannon. As stunned police looked on and demonstrators cheered, the cannon was turned on surrounding office buildings, spewing the dye. An office of the governing National Party is now half purple, one onlooker reported.

This was in Cape Town, September 2, in the fourth week of the anti-apartheid defiance campaign. The ever-growing protests are aimed at South Africa's restrictive state of emergency and segregationist laws.

### National strike begins

On September 5 a two-day general strike was launched by the million-member Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) that led up to the parliamentary elections September 6, from which Blacks were excluded.

"The significant thing is that more people have taken action in opposition to apartheid than have voted in the apartheid elections," said COSATU General Secretary Jay Naidoo. The second largest union federation, the National Council of Trade Unions, also threw its weight behind the work stoppage. COSATU reports 3 million workers stayed home on September 6.

On the first day of the strike in Cape Province, police lashed out using whips and dogs as more than 500 white students and Black workers marched through the town of Stellenbosch. Their banner read, "Forward with the workers struggle."

Nonwhite students across the country boycotted classes. The University of Cape Town and the University of the Western Cape closed in support of the strike. Anti-apartheid leaders urged workers and students to stay home on election day.

The trade union federations have called a one-month boycott of white-owned businesses following the strike. The state of emergency prohibits any boycotts. A conference in which a broad range of anti-apartheid



Protests in South Africa. "Today's racist elections were marked by the biggest-ever mass action in the history of South Africa," said statement issued on September 6 by Mass Democratic Movement. One leader said there was no question of the campaign stopping.

### 3 million workers stayed home on election day.

groups will participate is also planned for October 7.

### Desegregation protests continue

On September 3 some 10,000 protesters wearing yellow sun visors with the slogan "Free our beaches" stretched for a mile along the shore of a whites-only beach in Durban. At one point police arrested 10 Black youths after they unfurled a flag of the African National Congress. Fifty-eight arrests were made in all. Organizers declared the protest a victory over segregation.

Elsewhere, Blacks have boarded whites-only buses, picnicked in whites-only parks, and sang outlawed liberation songs on segregated trains.

Black parents have announced they will go to whites-only schools and enroll their children. A campaign called "All Schools for All People" was launched at a public meeting in Johannesburg. The effort will build support for desegregating schools. The drive will focus on state whites-only schools that the government wants to close instead of opening the doors to all students. Schools Blacks are allowed to attend are severely overcrowded. In Soweto 3,000 students were turned away for lack of space last year.

One 15-year-old at the whites-only Johannesburg High School for Girls said she would feel "quite privileged" to attend the first integrated public school in South Africa. A

Soweto father walked to the girls' school himself to talk to students there. "They said it openly. They were prepared to go to school with my children," he said upon returning.

### Government continues violence

The South African government continues to try to snuff out the widening campaign. Recently some 200 women marching to Parliament to protest political detentions were arrested when they refused to end their protest, including Leah Tutu, wife of Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Tutu himself was arrested September 4, along with other churchmen, when police surrounded a cathedral to stop an anti-apartheid rally.

In Durban the same day, police threw tear gas into a crowd of more than 1,000 students at a university protest and opened fire with shotguns. At the University of Natal 400 mostly white students and faculty were arrested as they protested police violence.

### Threats against reporters

The Law and Order Ministry stepped up its threats against reporters and photographers, sending them notices warning them to comply with press restrictions issued in the 1986 state of emergency. Written by a South African police brigadier, the notice states they are "deeply concerned about the screening abroad of film material featuring scenes of unrest in South Africa."

Fourteen Cape Town journalists were detained September 5 while demonstrating against the curbs on freedom of the press.

### N.Y. elections board rejects challenge to SWP petitions

NEW YORK — The New York City Board of Elections has ruled that a challenge to the nominating petitions of the Socialist Workers Party is invalid because it was filed too late.

"Your petitions are good," Daniel DeFrancesco, Board of Elections executive director, told SWP representatives and their attorney, Steve Somerstein, at a September 5 hearing.

The socialists, who are running James Harris for mayor, had filed 11,400 signatures for ballot status. The requirement is 7,500 signatures. Ezra Friedlander, a registered Democrat, submitted a challenge to the petitions after the deadline had passed.

### Supporters sign statement

Figures from the labor movement, Black rights struggle, and Caribbean organizations signed a statement to the board asking that "the democratic rights of the Socialist Workers Party and those 11,400 people who signed their petitions be respected."

Signers included Karen Lantz, vice-president, Independent Federation of Flight Attendants (IFFA); Susan Lantz, co-chair of Region 1, IFFA; John DiPaola, president of International Association of Machinists (IAM) Local 1018; Yvonne Pérez, IAM Local 1018; Ray Rogers, Corporate Campaign, Inc.; Ernesto Joffe, Hispanic Labor Council; and Susan Baum, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union organizer.

Also signing were Olga Sanabria, Puerto Rican Socialist Party; Esmeralda Brown and Waldaba Stewart, leading activists in solidarity with Panama; Ben Dupuy, editor of *Haiti Progrès*; Elombe Brath, Patrice Lumumba Coalition; Rosemary Mealy, WBAI Radio; Safiya Bandle, Black rights activist; and George Harrison, Irish rights fighter.

## Strikers demand pay raise in Zimbabwe

### Government presses workers to tighten belts in order to pay foreign debt.

BY GREG McCARTAN

HARARE, Zimbabwe — Government telecommunications workers went on strike here the first week of September in response to promised pay raises that failed to show up in their paychecks.

The government declared the strike illegal and demanded the workers return to their jobs. They resisted for several days but returned to work following the arrest of 116 strikers charged with "taking part in an illegal strike that threatened the operation of the country's telecommunications."

The strike is an example of the rising pressures on this southern African country. International capitalist bankers are demanding that Zimbabwe cut imports further, scale down a vastly expanded education and health-care system, and implement belt-tightening measures against working people in

order to keep up payments on the country's \$2.5 billion debt.

### Debt drains resources

Service on the foreign debt accounts for one-quarter of all export earnings. From 1987 to '88 there was a net capital outflow of \$100 million.

In an attempt to attract foreign capital, the government announced a new investment code last May. The code relaxes wage and price controls, provides guarantees against nationalizations, and promises further trade liberalizations.

Business leaders here, while praising the code, say it still does not do enough to recognize that the first and overriding consideration of the potential investor is the profit motive.

Big-business economist Eric Bloch told a recent symposium on the code that investors need to know that their investments would not be "adversely affected by price, rent, and labor controls."

### Unions oppose plan

The Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU), the country's union federation, opposes the investment plan. The federation released a document explaining, "Zimbabwe is facing an economic and social crisis of enormous proportions." It points to the slow

economic growth, inflation rates of 15 percent, 1 million unemployed out of a population of 8.6 million, and "unacceptable levels of landlessness and general mass disenchantment."

The document calls for an end to "foreign control of our land and its resources on behalf of all Zimbabweans."

"The ZCTU firmly believes that no Zimbabwean should ever feel ashamed to seize the resources that belonged to our forefathers — the land, minerals, forests, rivers, and the industry of the people," it states.

### Dependence on South Africa

Another drain on the country is its historical dependence on South Africa. In an attempt to reduce trade with the apartheid regime, the government stationed 12,000 troops in neighboring Mozambique to protect the "Beira Corridor." The corridor consists of a road, an accompanying railway, and an underground pipeline and is Zimbabwe's shortest route to the sea for transport of imports and exports.

The route, vital to Mozambique's economy, is a prime target of attacks by the South African-backed terrorist organization Renamo. Since the troops were deployed, Zimbabwean exports taken through South Africa have fallen from 90 to 70 percent.