

After Lorenzo, what's next in Eastern strike?

In the Eastern strike, the labor movement has let the corporations know that they can't bring back slavery. The workers have come together in this struggle.

We feel good about Lorenzo being gone. With Shugrue, we have to see, does he have the same thing in mind? In the meantime, we will be out here.

Ray McCord, aircraft cleaner, Machinists Local 1018 member, on strike against Eastern Airlines at New York's La Guardia Airport.

BY SUSAN LaMONT

The 8,200 Machinists on strike at Eastern Airlines, and the thousands of unionists worldwide who support them, won a major victory April 18 when Texas Air Corp. chairman Frank Lorenzo was removed from the management of Eastern. Texas Air is Eastern's parent company.

The federal bankruptcy court appointment

of Martin Shugrue as trustee to run the airline registered Lorenzo's utter failure — after nearly 14 months of trying — to break the Machinists strike. The man whose name has become synonymous internationally with "union-buster" ran up against the determination of Eastern's ramp workers, aircraft cleaners, mechanics, stock clerks, and facil-

NEWS ANALYSIS

ity cleaners to prevent him from smashing their union and creating another nonunion, low-wage, less-than-safe airline. As their slogan says, the strikers have indeed lasted "one day longer" than Lorenzo.

This victory puts the Machinists in a stronger position going into the next stage of their strike. With Lorenzo displaced, the strikers' focus now shifts to the fight to win a decent contract and return to work — goals

which long seemed precluded. With their confidence boosted from the win over Lorenzo, strikers are on firmer ground to meet the challenge of the proposals that will begin to be made by the trustee, court, and creditors, including calls for further 'sacrifices.' Meanwhile, strikers are keeping up their picket lines, and in a number of cities, building toward a new round of solidarity actions.

The Machinists' commitment to fight, and their success in moving the strike forward despite difficulties and blows, has inspired working people in this country and, increasingly, internationally. For the thousands of unionists who have extended solidarity to the strikers, walked their picket lines, attended their rallies, collected food and money for them, and invited them to their meetings, the victory in forcing Lorenzo out is felt as theirs as well. It strengthens the entire labor movement, including union coal miners, who are

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Curtis' appeal for new trial denied by Iowa court

BY PETER THIERJUNG

Mark Curtis' appeal of his 1988 frame-up rape and burglary conviction was denied by the Iowa Court of Appeals April 24. Chief Appellate Judge Leo Oxberger and judges Dick Schlegel and Rosemary Sackett rendered the ruling that upholds the police and prosecution's frame-up of the Des Moines unionist and political activist. Curtis is currently incarcerated at the Iowa State Men's Reformatory in Anamosa serving a 25-year jail term.

"Upholding the unfair conviction of Mark Curtis is a blow to the political rights of everyone in this country," John Studer, coordinator of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, told a news conference outside the court clerk's office at the state capitol in Des Moines.

The decision "undermines basic rights guaranteed by both the U.S. Constitution and Iowa State law to a fair trial and for a defendant to confront his accusers," Studer said. "It is a blow to Mark Curtis, who will continue to serve time in the state prison in Anamosa for crimes he did not commit."

Studer was accompanied at the press conference by defense committee treasurer Julia Terrell; Iowa political activists Robert and Nellie Berry; and Héctor Marroquín, a unionist and fighter for immigrant rights. Des Moines Channel 13, WHO radio, Iowa Network News Service, and the *Des Moines Register* covered the conference.

Curtis' frame-up

Curtis' frame-up stems from his participation in defense efforts on behalf of 17 Mexican and Salvadoran coworkers who were arrested during a March 1, 1988, raid by Immigration and Naturalization Service agents at the Swift meat-packing company in Des Moines.

Arrested by Des Moines police in the evening of March 4, 1988, Curtis had joined a meeting a few hours earlier to organize protests against the government's victimization of the immigrant workers. Following his arrest, Curtis was severely beaten at the police station by officers who called him a "Mexican-lover, just like you love those coloreds." He suffered a shattered cheekbone and required 15 stitches.

Curtis was convicted on rape and burglary charges at a September 1988 trial. The conviction hinged on the testimony of Des

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50,000 blast anti-Haitian AIDS policy



Thousands of Haitian workers took the day off work to join April 20 protest of U.S. government policy banning blood donations from Haitians. "I'm proud of my Haitian blood," read T-shirts. Protesters marched across Brooklyn Bridge to Manhattan.

BY MERYL LYNN FARBER

NEW YORK — A massive outpouring here April 20 protested a federal AIDS policy banning blood donations from Haitians. Tens of thousands of Haitians began assembling in Brooklyn at 9:00 a.m. From there they marched across the Brooklyn Bridge to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) offices at Federal Plaza and at the nearby city Health and Hospitals Corporation headquarters.

Traffic ground to a standstill as more than 50,000 protesters surged across the bridge for three hours.

Participants came from New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Boston, and Miami to demand that the FDA rescind its discriminatory ban.

The chants rang out, some in Creole, but mainly in English: "The FDA is racist"; "No blood, no sweat"; "AIDS is not a Haitian disease... Haitian disease is liberation... Haitian disease is freedom!" In a sea of blue-and-red Haitian flags, hundreds carried signs that read, "FDA equals 'Federal Discrimination Agency,'" and "We need a cure, not a stigma." Many wore T-shirts that read, "I'm proud of my Haitian blood."

The FDA, which oversees the nation's blood supply, banned blood donations in

1984 from Haitians who entered the United States after 1977. In February this year it extended the ban to all Haitians entering the United States before 1977 as well, and to all people from sub-Saharan Africa.

Earlier actions took place in Miami and Boston to protest the February decision.

The April 20 mass protest coincided with a hearing on blood and blood products in Washington, D.C., sponsored by the FDA's Blood Products Advisory Committee.

The demonstrators, who were overwhelmingly Haitians, came from factories, campuses, high schools, and churches. The rear of the march was flanked by 100 horn-honking Haitian cab drivers. A contingent of striking International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union members marched together, proudly wearing their union hats. The largely Haitian work force at Domsey Trading Co. has been on strike for ILGWU union recognition for many months.

This reporter first found out about the demonstration from Haitian coworkers, the vast majority of whom took the day off work to participate in the action. A number of them didn't want to "call in sick" because they wanted everyone to know, including the com-

pany, where they were going to be on Friday and why.

This development was duplicated through-

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Sales campaign gets a boost, a sustained effort is needed

BY RONI McCANN

The international circulation drive to win 7,500 new readers to the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, *Lutte ouvrière*, *New International*, and *Nouvelle Internationale* by May 19 took a needed leap forward coming out of the eight-day target week.

With supporters starting to place the drive at the center of political work for the final weeks in order to make the sales campaign goals, the challenge remains to sustain the momentum generated by the target effort until the end of the drive.

The success of the international circulation drive depends on every goal being made to each of the publications in every city.

Supporters in cities around the world are

mapping out plans to maximize every opportunity and utilize every single day for the next 24 to win new readers in their community and region, on the job, and at picket lines and political events. Supporters in the United States have to sell 2,500 more *Militant* subscriptions, along with pressing to make the goals for the other publications.

Many supporters report they got a start in this battle by mobilizing to take advantage of the international target week April 14-21.

The drive got a big boost April 20 when more than 50,000 Haitians took the streets in New York protesting a federal AIDS policy banning blood donations from Haitians. Eight supporters of the socialist press who

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How three cities have led the subscription drive

Supporters in several cities have been leading the current subscription drive from the beginning. The following accounts describe how they have been able to do this in Des

Cab drivers at the airport, many of whom are Haitian, have been very receptive to the French-language *Lutte ouvrière* — 11 subscribed the first day supporters visited their



GETTING THE MILITANT AROUND

Moines, Iowa; Austin, Minnesota; and Miami.

In Miami supporters who are members of the Machinists and steelworkers unions have led the way in winning new readers. They set goals early in the campaign and approached as many coworkers as possible. So far 29 unionists have subscribed to the socialist press or gotten a copy of *New Internationalist*.

Teams also go to the strike picket lines at Greyhound and Eastern Airlines. Along with several Greyhound strikers who have subscribed, some Pan Am workers and other unionists who support the strikes have signed up. The next big challenge is to go over the goal set to win workers on strike at Eastern to reading the *Militant* — the initial goal of 10 was doubled last week.

waiting area.

Key to the success in Miami has been a diversified approach to sales — from going door-to-door in working-class neighborhoods to setting up tables on campuses; from factory gate teams to attending the twice-weekly meetings of the Haitian group Veye-Yo.

During the drive volunteers who staff the Pathfinder bookstore call readers whose subscriptions have expired or will soon, urging them to renew. Twelve have resubscribed so far and eight bought copies of the *New Internationalist*.

When Miami supporters introduce the publications to working people they meet on sales, some want to sign up but are short of money. Supporters ask them to fill out subscription blanks and set up a time when they can return with the paper.

The subscription drive in Austin, Minnesota, was from the beginning tied to the closing of the Farmstead meat-packing plant in nearby Albert Lea, where two supporters worked. Others have sold the *Militant* at the plant gate for nearly three years with good results. Supporters spent two Saturdays during the drive in Albert Lea visiting Farmstead workers and others and introducing them to the paper — five have signed up to date.

Packinghouse workers in the region were jolted by the Farmstead closing along with other developments in the industry, so supporters used the sales drive to get to these workers. They have gone to Iowa, visiting a poultry plant in Willmar and the Armour plant in Mason City, and to the Swift-Monfort and Swift-Eckert plants in Worthington and Wells, Minnesota. These trips netted four *Militant* subscriptions and five to *Perspectiva Mundial*.

During the week supporters in Austin systematically map out a section of the town and go door-to-door with the papers. In this drive they targeted the southeastern part of town and have won three new readers so far.

Two Saturdays were spent traveling to college campuses in the region and 20 students signed up. Two special Saturday teams were organized to sell subscriptions to *Perspectiva Mundial* by going to Hollandale and

St. James, Minnesota, where migrant farm workers have settled. In St. James there are big farms and two packinghouses. A *mexicana* worker invited supporters into the cafeteria of one plant and helped sell subscriptions. Thirteen new readers were won in these towns.

In order to contribute to the international circulation drive supporters in Des Moines, Iowa, decided to raise their goals. They aim to win 30 readers over and above the goal taken at the start of the campaign.

Before launching the drive, Des Moines supporters discussed the importance of the *Militant* and the other socialist publications today. Results from the first week were low and they concluded that more experience selling the press was needed. They asked those who were most successful in winning new readers to demonstrate their approach.

In Des Moines a collective effort is the goal with supporters all going out at the same time on Saturdays and during the week — on day and evening teams. Most new readers in working-class communities are won by going door-to-door. If interested individuals don't have the money, they are asked to fill out a subscription blank and supporters return later. More than 10 percent of the subscriptions to the *Militant* have been sold this way.

Supporters in Des Moines have visited five campuses in the state. On one trip to Iowa State University in Ames, supporters visited students who live off campus, winning six new readers.

Many migrant workers from Mexico pass through the southeastern corner of Iowa, often staying to work at the big IBP and Louis Rich meat-packing plants there. Two teams have gone to this area, selling a good number of subscriptions to *Perspectiva Mundial*.

Another place supporters have won new readers to the Spanish-language monthly is at the Swift-Monfort plants in Des Moines and Marshalltown. Eight workers have subscribed so far.

Regional work during the drive has included other packinghouse centers like Sioux City, Iowa, and Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and industrial cities like Cedar Rapids and Waterloo, Iowa.

During the recent target week supporters who are members of the Machinists, auto workers, and food and commercial workers unions set goals to win new readers on the job. Results were modest — three new readers — but this was a big jump over the four subscriptions sold on the job in the previous four weeks.

Susan Zarate from Miami; Gale Shangold from Austin, Minnesota; and Linda Marcus from Des Moines, Iowa, contributed to this column.

Mural supporters condemn censorship of Ohio art show

BY RONI McCANN

The New York-based Friends of the Pathfinder Mural sent a message of support April 22 to Contemporary Arts Center Director Dennis Barrie in Cincinnati. The Pathfinder Mural is a six-story work of art painted by dozens of artists on the side of Pathfinder publisher's building in Lower Manhattan. Barrie and the Contemporary Arts Center, where 175 photographs by Robert Mapplethorpe are on exhibit, were indicted April 7 on obscenity charges.

"We have followed the events surrounding the opening" of the exhibit "and want to express support for your stand against censorship of the arts and in defense of freedom of expression," opens the statement written by Meryl Lynn Farber, executive director of Friends of the Pathfinder Mural.

On the opening day of the exhibit, Barrie and the center were charged by a grand jury with "pandering obscenity" and showing a child "in the state of nudity." Hundreds of

visitors were at the center when Cincinnati police moved in, ordered everyone to leave, and handed Barrie the charges after videotaping the showing.

Hundreds of protesters outside voiced their outrage with the censorship attack spearheaded by Hamilton County Sheriff Simon Leis. Earlier targets of Leis' "anti-pornography" censorship drive have included the musical *Hair* and the play *Equus*.

In her statement on behalf of Friends of the Pathfinder Mural, Farber described the attacks that the mural has come under since it was started in the fall of 1987. Then-mayor Edward Koch attempted to fine the mural thousands of dollars for posting leaflets publicizing an artists' open house and threatened to cite the project for alleged scaffolding violations.

When it was completed in November 1989, wrote Farber, it again came under attack as two New York dailies ran editorials containing thinly veiled calls for vig-

ilante violence and condemned the small public funding the mural received. The mural was vandalized at the end of December when vigilantes hurled bottles of paint at the mural.

Public defense campaign

"In response to a public defense campaign waged by the Friends of the Pathfinder Mural," the statement continued, "hundreds of people around the country and the world signed petitions, sent letters and telegrams" to the dailies and the city administration "defending the right of the mural to exist, free from censorship, threats, and vandalism."

"We are encouraged," wrote Farber, "to see how many people, not only in Cincinnati but far and wide, have spoken out in opposition to the indictments against you and the Contemporary Arts Center and have come in the thousands to view the exhibit."

"The stakes in this fight in southern Ohio

for freedom and artistic expression are very high," continued the message to Barrie. "We applaud your courage and firm stand in the face of forces that hope to set back social progress and democratic rights that have been fought for, won, and secured over many years."

On April 23 the board of trustees of the national Association of Art Museum Directors issued a resolution backing Barrie and establishing a fund to pay any fines that may be imposed if Barrie is convicted of obscenity for exhibiting the Mapplethorpe photographs.

To convict the art director, lawyers for the procensorship prosecution must prove that "the work, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value." The indictment against Barrie designates seven of the 175 photographs as obscene.

If convicted, Barrie faces a \$2,000 fine and up to a year in jail. The Contemporary Arts Center could be fined as much as \$10,000.

The Militant

Closing news date: April 25, 1990

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Published weekly except the last two weeks of December by the Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Telephone: Editorial Office, (212) 243-6392; Fax 727-0150; Telex, 497-4278; Business Office, (212) 929-3486. Nicaragua Bureau, Apartado 2222, Managua. Telephone 24845.

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to The Militant Business Office, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

Second-class postage paid at New York, N.Y., and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Subscriptions: U.S., Latin America: for one-year subscription send \$37, drawn on a U.S. bank, to above address. By first-class (airmail), send \$70. Canada: send Canadian \$50 for one-year subscription to Société d'Éditions AGPP, C.P. 340, succ. R, Montréal, Québec H2S 3M2. Britain, Ireland, Africa: £28 for one year by check or international money order made out to Militant Distribution, 47 The Cut, London, SE1 8LL, England. Continental Europe: £35 for one year by check or international money order made out to Militant Distribution at above address. Australia, Asia, Pacific: send Australian \$60 to Pathfinder Press, P.O. Box 259, Glebe, Sydney, NSW 2037, Australia.

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Students, unionists, public officials greet Cuban economist

BY ARNOLD WEISSBERG

SAN FRANCISCO — "The central point I want to make is how different Cuba is from Eastern Europe," Cuban economist and author Carlos Tablada said at the beginning of his tour stop here. "We want our enemies to know this so they don't miscalculate and invade us. And we want our friends to know so they can understand and explain it."

Tablada is the author of *Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism* published last year in English by Pathfinder. Guevara, a leader of the Cuban revolution, was murdered in Bolivia in 1967.

Tablada spoke to 500 people over three days in Northern California — the fourth stop on a 12-city, six-week tour of the United States organized by Pathfinder. He was invited to the country by a wide range of universities.

In Watsonville to the south, a center of the agricultural industry and scene of a hard-fought and successful 1985-87 cannery strike, he spoke with cannery workers, field workers, health workers, disabled workers, laid-off workers, and others. Tablada was welcomed to the city by Mayor Todd McFarren at a reception with the president of Teamsters Local 912, which organized the cannery walk-out.

Tablada also met members of Adelante, a group of workers, most of whom are disabled. They questioned Tablada on Cuba's approach to aiding workers injured on the job. One asked whether social differentiation exists in Cuba.

Yes, replied Tablada, but the differences are based on income, not ownership of factories, mines, ranches, and large tracts of land. Cuba has taken important steps in the last few years to narrow the gap between the lowest- and highest-paid workers. One recent step was raising the wages of the 700,000 most poorly paid workers. Another was increasing pensions for more than 700,000 retirees.

At the University of California at Santa Cruz, 125 students attended a meeting sponsored by the Socialist Alliance, a student group, and three academic departments.

Goals of rectification process

"What are the goals of rectification and have they been achieved?" asked one student referring to the process launched in Cuba in 1986.

"The first goal was to put the people at the center — that the economy serves the people, not the other way around," said Tablada, "and this we're achieving."

"The second goal was to take power away from the bureaucrats and technocrats and



Carlos Tablada, left, speaks with members of Adelante, a disabled workers' organization, in Watsonville, California, on April 19.

give it back to the people, and this we're achieving.

"A third goal was to raise the living standard, and this is also being achieved."

At a Bay Area-wide meeting of 135 people, Tablada was greeted by Brian McWilliams, secretary-treasurer of International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union Local 34, on behalf of ILWU International Secretary-Treasurer Curtis McClain. San Francisco Supervisor Terence Hallinan and Venceremos Brigade member Imani Harrington also welcomed the Cuban economist. Congressman Ronald Dellums sent a copy

of a letter to Secretary of State James Baker calling for an end to the blockade of Cuba and normalization of relations between the two countries.

Tablada spoke at Stanford University before a broadly sponsored meeting of 125 people, and later at the University of California at Berkeley. He reached thousands more with a live broadcast on radio station KPFA.

During the three-day tour, 36 copies of *Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism* in English and eight in Spanish were purchased by participants in the events.

Hundreds more signed an appeal circulated by Pathfinder calling on the U.S. government to allow free travel and free exchange of ideas between Cuba and the United States, and for an end to the U.S. blockade of Cuba.

'Challenges of every socialist revolution'

Following are excerpts from Carlos Tablada's introduction to his book, *Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism*. The English-language edition was published last year by Pathfinder, a New York publisher. The book by the Cuban economist also includes Cuban President Fidel Castro's speech on Oct. 8, 1987, the 20th anniversary of Guevara's assassination in Bolivia. Guevara was one of the central leaders of the Cuban revolution that overturned the tyranny of Fulgencio Batista's regime.

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Every socialist revolution, whether it takes place in a developing country or an industrially developed one, confronts a twofold challenge: to perfect systems of economic management and administration, while at the same time making the communist education of workers an essential element in the advancement of socialist society.

The aim of this book is to put forward in a systematic way the emergence and evolution of the economic thought of Che Guevara. This study shows that Che's thought is part of the most authentic revolutionary tradition of Marxism-Leninism and adheres to its principles. Che was a faithful continuator of Leninist thought.

The timeliness of reviewing Che's economic thought stems from the imperative need to analyze socialist society, perfect it, and eradicate its faults and deficiencies. Our aim is to accelerate the development of socialist society and raise it to the level demanded by its social needs and internationalist responsibilities. In this context, the thought of Ernesto Che Guevara remains valid; it has practical application today and in the future in administering and managing the economies of the socialist countries.

The economic, political, and ideological thought of Che Guevara expresses the results of his investigation, using socialist principles and formulas, into ways of solving concrete problems of establishing a socialist system in Cuba and correcting its faults.

Nearly all socialist countries are reassessing both the systems and methods of managing their economies and the relations that derive from these systems. The socialist system is very young and was built under the encirclement, attack, and centuries-long weight of the world capitalist system. It was made by men who had to climb out of the bourgeois muck, as

Marx put it, and pick up along the way the experience, ideology, and culture necessary to perfect its management.

At the same time, as Fidel Castro has pointed out, through subjective errors in building the new society, men can run into difficulties and begin to reinvent capitalism. The task is to try to rise above idealism, extremism, and dogmatism. The task is to try to comprehend in all its dimensions the dialectical combination of never violating the general laws that govern communist economy and society, while taking full advantage of the experiences of sister socialist countries. To ignore the experience of others is to risk falling into idealism and voluntarism. Failure to pay attention to the concrete characteristics of a nation or region is to risk sinking into dogmatic and antidialectical ignorance.

Che was the driving force in establishing planning, methods of supervision and control, and a system of training personnel for the Cuban economy that is worthy of study. Che contributed to the establishment of a socialist system of production in Cuba and directed Cuban industry in the early years. He put into practice, in a brilliant way, the organization of industry under the principles of socialist management, applying those principles down to the smallest production unit. Che taught workers and administrative personnel the principles of socialist management, putting into practice Fidel's ideas on the subject.

The Yankee imperialists went to indescribable lengths to strip us of our scientific and technical personnel, our industry's executives and administrative workers. Under Che's leadership the workers learned to become familiar with, administer, and manage industry. They learned how to mitigate the effects of the U.S. economic blockade, and prevent it from paralyzing industry. In this period Cuban industrial production experienced sustained growth, laying the groundwork for socialist industrial development.

The absence of other Marxist investigations of this question led to our effort. This lack of literature on the subject made it necessary for us — perhaps with the benefit of avoiding interpretive influences — to base ourselves exclusively on primary sources, which are a resource of priceless value. We consulted the speeches of Fidel and other leaders. We reviewed a broad — in fact nearly complete — selection of works about Che published here and abroad. These works, we repeat, largely give only secondary consideration to Che's economic and social writings on the first phase of the transition to socialism.

A second aim of this work is to examine

the origin and development of the budgetary finance system, which, as we shall see, was the way in which the Cuban economy, and industry in particular, began the process of the socialization of production.

A third aim is to make explicit the oneness of Che and Fidel's thinking, the unity of their principles and objectives.

And a fourth aim is to show how Che's work, in all its dimensions, represents an invaluable contribution to the theoretical and practical development of a communist society and economy.

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Iowa court denies Mark Curtis' appeal

Continued from front page

Moines police officer Joseph Gonzalez, the arresting officer, who testified that he caught Curtis with his pants down at the scene of the alleged rape.

Other than Gonzalez' testimony, the prosecution was unable to present evidence pinning Curtis to the alleged crime. No seminal fluid or pubic hairs belonging to Curtis were found on the woman he was accused of assaulting. The woman testified that her clothes were covered with dog hairs from being forced to the floor of her porch. None were found on Curtis' clothes. Her description of her attacker did not match Curtis' features. At the time she insisted the attack took place, Curtis was in a bar with dozens of coworkers from the Swift packinghouse.

Several issues not addressed

The court "did not directly address several vital issues" in Curtis' appeal, Terrell said in a telephone interview.

A central issue in Curtis' appeal was that he was prevented from informing the jury through cross-examination that Officer Joseph Gonzalez was suspended from the police force for lying and brutality in a previous arrest. Curtis' appeal cited Iowa law, the 6th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, and a 1985 Iowa Court of Appeals opinion written by Judge Rosemary Sackett that protects the right to confront and cross-examine one's accusers.

In their ruling on Curtis' appeal, the court agreed that "the officer was a very material witness in this case," but then upheld the trial judge's ruling to bar the jury from being informed of his record. In making this decision, the appellate judges referred to a federal court rule on the submission of evidence. Appended to that rule, they said, is a note that states that evidence can be excluded if there is a "danger of unfair prejudice, confusion of issues, or misleading the jury."

"This ruling flies in the face of the 6th Amendment, which guarantees the right to confront your accuser, and contradicts Iowa law, as upheld by the Supreme Court," said Studer. "The law holds that evidence concerning a witness' truthfulness or untruthfulness should be admitted."

The ruling also fails to accurately reconstruct the facts based on the trial transcript, Studer pointed out.

"Defendant contends he was thereby deprived of any opportunity to either confirm or combat the State's inferences at trial that the officer's discipline for dishonesty had been a one-time occurrence and therefore not relevant," the judges wrote. "The way this is worded," Studer said, assumes "testimony was allowed in front of the jury concerning Gonzalez' suspension for lying. But no such testimony was allowed." The defense committee coordinator also said other sections of the ruling contained similar errors.

Challenges denied without comment

Several of Curtis' challenges of trial Judge Harry Perkins' rulings were denied without comment on questions of law. Curtis had argued that these issues constituted a basis for a new trial. They included:

- The trial judge's decision to bar evidence of "institutional bias" and a frame-up against Curtis. This included barring infor-



Militant/Linda Joyce

Supporters of Curtis' case got a friendly response from miners and other unionists at April 21-22 activities in Wise, Virginia. Many unionists had heard of the case; 150 signed petitions to prison warden, and \$50 in donations were collected.

mation on Curtis' beating by Des Moines police; excluding evidence of surveillance of Curtis as a leader of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador and of his political party, the Socialist Workers Party; and the failure of the county prosecutors to press criminal charges against Keith Morris, the father of the woman Curtis allegedly assaulted, when, after telling two cops he was going to "kick some ass," he attempted to attack Curtis at the Pathfinder Bookstore and caused some \$2,000 worth of damage.

- The failure of the trial judge to inform the jury that the testimony of Brian Willey, a coworker of Curtis', was grounds for acquittal. Willey gave undisputed testimony that Curtis was with him and others at a local bar when the woman claimed she was attacked by Curtis.

Curtis' appeal that the trial judge ignored a series of irregularities involving the jury was also denied. During the trial a juror was removed prior to deliberations solely because he was familiar with places mentioned during the trial. Another juror testified after the trial that the jury's verdict was not unanimous. A

third juror had been seen with the family of the woman Curtis allegedly assaulted during a break in the trial.

'Most favorable to the state'

Curtis also challenged his conviction on the basis that there was insufficient evidence for a guilty verdict. The appeal court found in favor of the state and said, "We view the evidence in the light most favorable to the State. . . . There is sufficient evidence to convict."

Curtis now has 20 days following this ruling to petition the Iowa Supreme Court to review his appeal. Studer said such a motion to the state supreme court would be filed.

"It's so obvious that Mark is being discriminated against," Terrell said, "things are just so rigged against him. It makes us more aware of the injustice of this system. We will have to redouble our efforts on his behalf and we'll take it to the supreme court."

"We will step up getting out the truth, winning political support, and raising the funds needed to pay for Curtis' legal and public defense," Studer said.

Studer also reported that Curtis' appeal of his frame-up by prison authorities on false

charges of gambling on the Super Bowl football game was denied by the Iowa Department of Corrections. The frame-up came in January just after prisoners had won the right to have several books made available to the general prison population, including titles by Nelson Mandela and Malcolm X. Curtis had participated in the fight for this right as a leader of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Organization, an inmates' group at Anamosa.

A protest campaign launched by the Mark Curtis Defense Committee to reverse the gambling charges and penalties met an international response. Hundreds of messages reached prison authorities. While having failed to get the charges dropped, the campaign was decisive in preventing prison authorities from isolating Curtis, Studer said.

On another legal front, Curtis' attorneys filed a formal motion April 13 to postpone a July 9 trial in a lawsuit brought against Curtis by Keith and Denise Morris on behalf of their daughter. The Morris are claiming punitive damages for the "pain and suffering" Curtis allegedly inflicted on their daughter. The suit also asks the court to assign them "any monies" received by Curtis "as the result of the commercialization of his acts."

Youth in Norway welcome Kaku visit

OSLO, Norway — Kate Kaku, a leader of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, brought Curtis' fight for justice here on April 17. Kaku is the wife of Mark Curtis, the Des Moines, Iowa, unionist and political activist who is serving a 25-year prison sentence on a frame-up rape and burglary conviction.

Kaku was invited to a youth house called Blitz here in Oslo, which is the capital of Norway. The youth house has existed for 10 years, despite constant attacks from authorities, and has its own newspaper, radio station, bookstore, and restaurant. Two thousand youth participate in keeping Blitz going, including providing a 24-hour guard for the house. Anti-imperialist and antiracist activities are organized there, and financial support for the house comes from unions and solidarity organizations.

While Blitz has boycotted the media for many years, organizers opened the house to the press for Kaku. "Radio Rakel" run by women at Blitz interviewed Kaku. The women also plan to run the interview in their paper, which has a circulation of 25,000.

The public meeting at Blitz was attended by 80 young people. After viewing the video *The Frame-Up of Mark Curtis* 10 people endorsed the Mark Curtis Defense Committee. While many of the young people are not working, more than \$100 was contributed to the defense effort and \$25 worth of defense literature was sold.

Kaku met with Paul Chauffey, the youngest member of the Storting, the Norwegian parliament. He is also the chairman of the Socialist Youth, which is affiliated with the

Socialist Venstre party, and is on parliament's 13-member foreign relations committee. Chauffey endorsed the defense effort.

"Radio Nova," a popular radio station run by students, also interviewed Kaku.

Kaku was invited to the Anti-racism Center in Oslo where she addressed the staff, many of whom endorsed the Mark Curtis Defense Committee. The Center's "Radio Immigrant," which broadcasts in 10 languages every night, interviewed Kaku.

Union officials at AS Vinmonopolet met with Kaku. The more than 400 workers there are organized in the food workers' union. Union leaders expressed interest in the case and plan to show the video *The Frame-Up of Mark Curtis*. Their national union paper *Naeringsmiddel Arbeideren* ran a two-page article on Curtis' fight after interviewing Kaku.

Kaku is also touring neighboring Sweden for two weeks.

Funds needed in Curtis defense

Mark Curtis is a unionist and political activist from Des Moines, Iowa, who is serving a 25-year prison term in the state penitentiary at Anamosa on a frame-up conviction of rape and burglary.

The Mark Curtis Defense Committee is leading an international campaign to fight for justice for Curtis. The committee is currently on a drive to raise \$60,000 this spring to meet the rising legal costs of Curtis' defense effort and to publicize his case. More than \$11,400 has been raised so far.

Contributions can be sent to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, P.O. Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311. Tax deductible contributions should be made out to Political Rights Defense Fund, Inc.

London march hits abortion curb

BY MARCELLA FITZGERALD

LONDON — The House of Commons voted April 24 to cut the legal limit on abortions to 24 weeks, at the same time rejecting amendments to the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill that would have prohibited abortions after 18 weeks.

Under the 1967 Abortion Act, pregnancies can be legally terminated up to 28 weeks on specified grounds and with the consent of two doctors. Some 183,000 women had legal abortions last year.

The 24-week limit was backed by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and the British Medical Association on the grounds of viability of the fetus at that stage.

Leading up to the vote, supporters of abortion rights protested this move to chip away at a woman's right to choose abortion.

"Women want equality not state morality" and "Not the church, not the state; women

must decide their fate," were among the chants on a youthful and spirited demonstration of 1,500 people here the day before the vote.

The prochoice march was organized at short notice following the government's announcement of its intent to reduce the time limit. It was sponsored by the Trades Union Congress and an organization called Stop the Amendment Campaign. At its head were Ada Maddox of the TUC, journalist Anna Raeburn, and Alice Mahon, a member of Parliament.

"What they're doing tomorrow night is controlling women," explained Mahon in her speech to the rally.

The shouts of "No surrender" and "The fight goes on" showed the determination of the march participants to build the campaign to defend women's rights. Plans are being laid for a national demonstration.

Pro-U.S. regime takes office in Nicaragua

Faces widespread strikes and demands for action against contras

BY LARRY SEIGLE

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — The pro-U.S. government of Violeta Chamorro took office here April 25, facing strikes by public employees and demands by working people for decisive action against the contras, who have yet to lay down their arms.

As they handed over administration of the capitalist state to the new regime, top leaders of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) stepped up their efforts to maintain political stability. Sandinista Front officials have repeatedly urged an end to the strikes and appealed to working people not to "destabilize" the new government.

"What would we gain with chaos and anarchy in Nicaragua?" Daniel Ortega said in a nationwide address April 19, in which he argued against the work stoppages. Workers must realize that their "problems can't be solved in one day," the outgoing president added.

Contras remain armed

For many residents of rural areas, the threat from the contras feels more immediate than it has for years. In the past month, the bulk of mercenary forces have crossed into Nicaragua from their haven in Honduras. The movement followed the signing of an accord March 23, which set a deadline for the demobilization of contras in Honduras, but not for those on Nicaraguan soil. Only a token number of counterrevolutionaries remained in their camps in Honduras to turn in weapons under the terms of the agreement.

As the inauguration of Chamorro approached, the Nicaraguan army halted virtually all operations. As a result, the contras have had wide latitude to rob and terrorize the population in some parts of the country.

They have engaged in large-scale cattle rustling, a big business in Nicaragua and one in which the contras are trying to carve out a piece of the action. Enjoying unprecedented freedom of movement, the mercenaries have also stopped vehicles on several major roads, including the Pan-American highway near the northern town of Estelí. They have stripped travelers of money, belongings, even their shoes.

"The contras have never been so close to this town," said Denis Zavala, an army officer stationed in Estelí. "People are afraid because the army isn't taking action."

Some peasants and townspeople in northern areas have been demanding weapons for self-defense. "We're worried about our families and people who aren't in a position to defend themselves," said Sonia Uriarte, a hospital worker in Estelí who has been involved in neighborhood organizing to demand action against the contras.

"The people's main concern is to have arms to defend ourselves, because nobody believes the contras are going to come here with greetings of peace," she explained. "We're all pressuring the authorities and demanding that they guarantee our safety and that of our families. We haven't yet succeeded in getting them to give us arms."

Many fear that the contras, in addition to carrying out acts of banditry, will become the nucleus of death squads linked to government forces and ultraright organizations. "These contras are already forming themselves into death squads," said Rafael Lobo, regional

organizational secretary of the Rural Workers Association in Estelí.

On April 19 a second accord was signed in Managua with the contra bosses. This agreement, which contains substantial concessions to the mercenaries, has been met with a good deal of dissatisfaction and skepticism by many people.

In return for the promise of a bilateral cease-fire, the contras are being allowed to move, with their weapons, into seven "security zones." All government armed forces are to be withdrawn from these rural areas. In addition, peasant militias in the zones are supposed to leave or lay down their weapons.

The accord gives the contras until June 10 to disarm. The estimated 10,000 mercenary

soldiers are to be supervised by about 700 troops sent by the United Nations, who are supposed to prevent attacks on peasants.

Prior to the agreement, both the Chamorro forces and the outgoing FSLN government had insisted that the contras be disarmed no later than April 25. However, according to Ortega, UN representatives who supervised the negotiations pressed for extending the deadline into June, citing "technical, practical, and operational difficulties" in meeting an earlier deadline.

Despite the cease-fire, some contra units have continued armed holdups, kidnappings, and terrorist attacks. Some schools in rural areas have been forced to close because of the presence of contras and the lack of secu-

rity. According to news reports, the mercenaries have also been taking weapons away from peasant militias.

People in or near the so-called security zones have been resisting government and army appeals to turn in arms, having little confidence that the UN troops can or will protect them.

Major Daniel Pozo of the Nicaraguan army told the FSLN daily *Barricada* April 20 that some peasants "are resisting compliance" with government efforts to get them to turn in their guns and ammunition. "In previous years the peasants have been hit hard by the contras," Pozo said. "Nonetheless, the military officials believe that once the UN au-

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Militant/Seth Galinsky

Picket line of workers at a cooking oil processing plant who went out as part of a strike wave in the final days of the Sandinista Front government. The sign reads, "They deny our food and wages. They force us to strike."

Telephone, postal workers strike to keep gains, face opposition from Ortega

BY SETH GALINSKY

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — "The most important achievement in this strike was not any particular demand or even the signing of the contract," said Mario Malespín, "but the fight itself." He is president of the national union at Telcor, the government-owned post office and phone company.

"Union strength here had dwindled over the last few years," Malespín stated. "But now we are stronger and ready to defend our rights under the new right-wing government."

After the victory of Violeta Chamorro and the National Opposition Union (UNO) in the February elections, the labor union at Telcor pressed for a contract codifying previously established benefits, along with some improvements.

Leopoldo Rivas, minister of communications under the outgoing Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) government, presented the union with a proposed contract and refused to discuss any changes. He flatly rejected meeting with union representatives.

"This is the first time we tried to negotiate like this," Malespín noted. "Since we've never had this kind of experience, the minister tried to impose his position on us."

Inspired by other walkouts

Inspired by more than a dozen strikes that have taken place here in the last few weeks, workers began urging the union leadership to take decisive action. "Especially after the bus drivers won their demands with a half-day walkout, the rank and file pushed us to follow suit," said Salvadora Sandoval, union president for Managua.

On April 19 nearly 2,000 Telcor workers

in Managua and Granada went on strike. Operator-assisted calls were cut off, along with mail, telegram, and telex service.

Workers saw the stoppage both as a fight for a decent contract and a way to press for the disarming of the contras. "Our first priority is winning a contract," Daisy Zavala said, "but if the contras don't demobilize, what good will it do?"

Strikers were proud of their unity. "Nobody looks to see who is with UNO or who is with the FSLN. What matters is that we are together defending our interests," Carmen Montiel said.

Ortega criticizes strikes

In a nationally broadcast address April 19, outgoing President Daniel Ortega criticized the walkouts. The demands of workers, however justified, have to take second place to maintaining stability in the governmental transition, he said.

"The president has a right to his opinion, and the workers have a right to ours," commented René Bonilla, a member of the National Executive Board of the Sandinista Workers Federation assigned to work with the Telcor strikers. Bonilla said Ortega's speech reflected "too conciliatory" a stance toward the Chamorro government.

On April 20 several hundred Telcor workers attended an assembly to discuss how to win their demands.

"The minister has been pressing us to end the strike," Malespín told the meeting. "Right now the union locals in other regions have signed the minister's proposal. It's up to you. Do we stay out or do we go back to work?"

One young woman shouted, to strong applause, "Stay out until the end!" After a

unanimous vote to continue the strike, Malespín proposed shutting off all phone service for four hours in one neighborhood the following day. If the government remained intransigent, other services would be cut off progressively, including all international communications.

'Let's go step by step'

Several workers demanded halting all phone service immediately. "We must be responsible," Malespín answered. "If we did that there would be no way for people to even call an ambulance. Let's go step by step and not use up all our ammunition in one shot."

Committees to seek support from other unions and gain publicity were organized, along with one in charge of disconnecting automatic phone service.

Workers won coverage on many radio stations. When the government-owned *La Voz de Nicaragua* criticized the job action, its phone service was completely cut.

By the third day of the strike, Ortega's office called the union and requested talks. After eight hours of negotiations with Ortega's representatives, the workers won agreement to include in the contract periodic wage increases that match the rate of inflation, free transportation to and from work, free work uniforms, and union offices with telephone at each center.

"We won because we had the complete support of the workers and our demands were just," Sandoval said. "We have sent a message to the new government. We are willing to work with them to get the economy running. But if they try to touch the conquests of the working class, we will never permit it."

Cuban volunteers leave Bluefields

In the Atlantic Coast town of Bluefields, the contingent of Cuban volunteer construction workers who had been building houses there began returning to Havana in mid-April, much of their work unfinished. The Cubans had been putting up 1,000 homes to replace those destroyed by Hurricane Joan in 1988. All of the costs of the construction had been borne by socialist Cuba.

According to a dispatch from the Cuban National Information Agency, the withdrawal of the contingent was necessary because "at this time there are neither suitable conditions for work nor the necessary security."

D.C. picket line celebrates Lorenzo's departure

Some 8,500 International Association of Machinists members struck Eastern Airlines March 4, 1989, in an effort to block the company's drive to break the union and impose massive concessions on workers.

As of the *Militant's* closing news date, Wednesday, April 25, the strike was in its 418th day.

The Eastern workers' fight has won broad support from working

Eastern. Lorenzo — the chairman of Eastern's parent company, Texas Air Corp. — had spearheaded the drive against the Machinists' union since Texas Air acquired Eastern in 1986.

Most picketers were Machinists from around the country who were in the area to attend the IAM's leadership school in Placid Harbor, Maryland.

Greyhound strikers also turned

federation of Free Trade Unions, meeting in Denmark, had unanimously passed a resolution expressing "full support" for the Machinists' strike at Eastern.

The conference called on "all unions worldwide to step up their support for and publicity about the international boycott against both Eastern and Texas Air's non-union Continental Airlines. . . . These campaigns directed at the general public and among trade union members should, where possible, include industrial action."

Philadelphia strikers held a solidarity picket line April 14 that drew a number of other unionists who are also involved in fights themselves.

More than 40 striking Greyhound workers attended. "We've been inspired by the courage of the Eastern workers, who've been out for over a year," said Ed Vezza, president of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1210. The ATU represents strikers at Greyhound.

Teamsters now in the seventh month of a strike at Silo appliance chain were also on hand. They're fighting the company's union-busting proposal that all warehouse workers be part-time. IAM members from La France-Pac Tek, who recently won a strike, joined the picket line.

Two union members fired from their jobs for doing strike support work spoke at an impromptu rally. John Jerzak, a former Teamster shop steward at USAir, recalled how he was fired early in the Eastern strike for gathering signatures on a petition to back the Eastern Machinists.

Francisco Picado, a member of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, was recently fired from his job for passing out union leaflets building the March 3 strike anniversary action.

The company fabricated the charge that he lacked proper documents, Picado explained. "All my documents are in order. They wanted to intimidate me, other immigrant workers, and others in the plant from participating in union activities and fights. We've been learning a lot from you," he said. His union is fighting the firing, Picado explained.

The Los Angeles strikers' regular biweekly picket line, also held April 14, drew 75 strikers and supporters. Afterward, pickets went to the Greyhound terminal to join the ATU strikers there. Greyhound chairman Fred Currey "is another man who has to be brought down," explained Eastern strike coordinator Joe Mos. "Greyhound and Eastern, it's one fight."

The *Boomer Local News*, published by IAM Local 75 in upstate New York, ran a "Message from the President" of the local, Ron Hayes, in the April issue. In it Hayes salutes the Local 75 members on strike at Eastern.

"Our brothers and sisters at EAL have shown all union members the true meaning of *solidarity*," Hayes wrote. "Our Local Lodge 75 members are still out there six days a week, nine hours a day, proudly manning the line, and fighting the fight for each and every one of us."

"Yes, they have, and they continue to show the true meaning of unionism, and I think I speak for all union members when I say thank you, and pledge our full support, until there is a fair and just settlement of the strike."

Tom Pomeroy, Local 75's Eastern strike coordinator in Buffalo, is also editor of the local's newsletter. There are 17 Eastern strikers in Buffalo. Other Local 75 members work at Northwest and United airlines, and at USAir.

Striking Eastern Machinist Nancy Brown from Alexandria, Virginia, contributed to this column, along with Kathy Mickells from Philadelphia and Geoff Mirelowitz from Los Angeles.



SUPPORT EASTERN STRIKERS!

people in the United States, Puerto Rico and the Caribbean, Canada, Bermuda, Sweden, New Zealand, France, and elsewhere in the world. Readers — especially Eastern strikers — are encouraged to send news of strike solidarity activities to this column.

"One day longer. Who is stronger? IAM, IAM!" and "Hey, hey, ho, ho, Frank Lorenzo, we told you so" were two of the chants that rang out as more than 60 people rallied at the Eastern picket line at Washington, D.C.'s National Airport April 19 to celebrate Lorenzo's departure from

out, along with workers from Ogden Allied Fueling, United Airlines, Trump Shuttle, and Pan Am.

During the day scores of airport workers and passengers stopped at the picket line to congratulate the strikers on Lorenzo's departure and ask what would happen next. "We are still on strike and fighting for a decent contract," one striker explained. Some \$560 worth of strike T-shirts and buttons were sold on the picket line.

The April 20 IAM strike bulletin reported that the International Con-

New Zealand meat workers fight for job-loss pay

BY HELEN MULRENNAN

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand — Four thousand meat workers in the South Island of New Zealand are now entering the fifth week of a strike for a redundancy (severance) agreement. The walkout started at midnight March 19 after a vote by the workers showed that over 85 percent supported strike action.

The strike is taking place at the height of the lamb-killing season. Lamb is a major

export earner for New Zealand business. The walkout has shut 9 of the 10 works owned by the Alliance Freezing Company, one of the two largest meat companies in the country.

Workers in the industry are deeply concerned about the possible closure of meat works and the loss of jobs. Alliance was involved in a restructuring move last November that led to the loss of 3,000 meat jobs in the North Island. Many meat workers con-

sidered the severance payments made at the time to be inadequate and the present strike is to win a better deal.

Meat workers have experienced attacks from the bosses for some time now. Membership in the two unions that cover meat production workers has fallen from 30,000 at the peak of the killing season in 1981 to less than 20,000 today. Over the last several years, wage settlements under their annual contract have been for less than those of other

workers. They are facing speed-ups and a deterioration of work conditions. For example, shift work is being introduced for the first time in some plants.

11,000 jobs lost

And advertisement placed by the New Zealand Meat Workers Union, which covers the workers on strike, in the major newspapers in the South Island explained, "In the past eight years 11,000 meat workers have lost their jobs. We expect several thousand more to be made redundant in the near future. . . . In the past, companies have deliberately chosen the August-October off-season to close works, usually without consultation or warning. Worse, workers were often told they were redundant, not by their employers, but by their radio."

"We are determined this won't happen again," the ad said. "That is what the present dispute with Alliance is all about."

Workers are being kept informed of developments in the strike by weekly meetings. Two actions have been organized by the unions to target the company and explain the workers' case publicly. On March 29, 200 meat workers in Invercargill marched to a meeting of Alliance shareholders where they formed a picket line and gave out an explanation of the union's case to those going into the meeting.

Some 300 workers and their supporters marched on April 6 through Kaiapoi, a town outside Christchurch. Kaiapoi has already felt the effects of a plant closure. Last November Alliance closed a lamb-cutting plant there. The 120 workers were laid off without severance payments.

The striking meat workers are also expressing their support for the Eastern Airlines strikers in the United States and Canada. The NZMWU at its recent national conference sent greetings on the first anniversary of the strike, along with a NZ\$1000 (US\$590) donation. Now the union's leaders — Roger Middlemass, the national president, and Jack Scott, the national secretary — have signed a letter of support that is being distributed among the strikers.

"The determined struggle of the Eastern strikers for more than a year is a source of inspiration for all workers," the letter states. "We send you our warmest feelings of solidarity."

Helen Mulrennan is a worker at Alliance Sockburn, one of the nine plants that is out on strike.

Strike at Greyhound winning new allies

Omaha: 'I was tired of lying to people who would call for information'

BY L. PALTRINERI

OMAHA, Neb. — Mary Packett is like many of the more than 500 workers, mostly women, who work at Greyhound's information center here. It is the largest such center operated by Greyhound. When the strike by 9,000 Greyhound drivers, mechanics, cleaners, and clerks began March 2, only 80 workers at the information center were members of the Amalgamated Transit Union, which represents the strikers.

Now there is a lot of talk on the picket line about the need to pay more attention to or-

ganizing the majority of workers in the information center, once the strike is over.

"I was hesitant to join the strike at first, so I went to work," Packett explained while walking the picket line recently. "I am a single parent so the job is pretty important. But the more I worked after the strike started, the more disgusted I got. A lot of us would look out the windows on our break and see the pickets out there and think, 'We should be out there too.'"

One week after the strike started, Packett, a member of ATU Local 1126, walked out of

work to join the strike. "I was hesitant, but I did it," she said. "I did it because the workers deserve more. And I was tired of lying to the people who would call for information. We were told to give them the adjusted bus schedule, even though many of these buses were not operating. That's pretty raunchy."

"I want a future for my kids," Packett continued. "And I can't see working in there against the strike." While they lavish free coffee, donuts, and pizza on the people who cross the picket line, she added, "they wouldn't give us a wage increase."



Militant/Lee Oleson
Striking member of ATU Local 1126 at Omaha Greyhound information center.

Canada unionists: 'Borders can't stop solidarity'

BY MARGARET MANWARING

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Some 150 people rallied at the Greyhound bus terminal here April 13 in solidarity with the fight by Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) strikers against union-busting. Three times the rally pushed into the street to block scab-driven buses from entering the depot until city police bullied their way into the crowd to clear the way.

A contingent of Eastern Airlines strikers was greeted with cheers when strike coordinator Tom Pomeroy explained their determination to stand firm "one day longer than Lorenzo." Eastern boss Frank Lorenzo was replaced by a court-appointed trustee on April 19.

Veterans of the recent Communications Workers strike against NYNEX participated in the rally, several of whom have still not returned to work — victimized for their role in the walkout. Also present were members of the Auto Workers, Steelworkers, and Clothing and Textile Workers unions.

An especially warm reception was given to speakers from ATU Local 113 in Toronto.

With 10,000 members, it is the largest ATU local in North America. A busload of Local 113 members came to Buffalo for the rally and to present the strikers with a \$3,000 check for their strike fund.

"Borders can't stop solidarity," said Local 113 Vice-president Larry Kinnear. He reminded the crowd that Toronto ATU members joined picket lines in Buffalo during the 1983 Greyhound strike and that Buffalo ATU members traveled to Canada last year, bringing solidarity to the fight by Toronto Transit Commission workers for a new contract.

Representatives of the student council at nearby State University of New York pledged to continue their campaign to win fellow students to a boycott of the bus line.

Greyhound strike coordinator Decatur Crumpley wound up the rally, describing the strength the strikers drew from the show of solidarity with their fight. "And this was on such short notice," he said. "We're going to do this again. You'll be hearing from us in a few weeks' time."



Sales at April 22 New York Earth Day event where 68 participants signed up to get the *Militant*.

Subscription drive gets needed boost

Continued from front page

participated set up literature tables that were surrounded all day by marchers buying up subscriptions to the French-language quarterly *Lutte ouvrière*.

"It was so crowded we simply held copies of the magazine up in the air and shouted 'Fidel Castro! Nelson Mandela!' to attract the attention of protesters," said one supporter. "The table always had three and four people signing subscriptions blanks at one time." Supporters from Brooklyn, New York City, and Newark, New Jersey, won 151 new readers to the *Militant*. Hundreds of dollars worth of Pathfinder Press literature was sold.

The majority of the marchers were workers who emptied out of factories in the area to attend. The following day on the job, one supporter whose coworkers are mostly Haitian and had participated in the action sold two more subscriptions to *Lutte ouvrière*. As

backing the rights of the Chippewa Indians to spearfish off-reservation in Lac du Flambeau, Wisconsin. Six participants subscribed to the *Militant*.

Supporters from Seattle and Vancouver, traveled to Vancouver Island off Canada's western coast for a two-day team, introducing the *Militant* to wood, paper, and lumber workers, as well as students. They won 18 new readers. One paperworker decided to use the *Militant's* coverage on the Eastern strike to help her prepare a report to her next union meeting.

Teams needed to win new readers

The fight mounted during the target week, and the results, shows that where the drive is organized and led it can be successful. The campaign to win new readers to the *Militant*, which is still behind schedule, is the biggest challenge we face in the remaining weeks.

Supporters of the *Militant* in cities where Cuban author Carlos Tablada is visiting should maximize the opportunities that his speaking engagements give to win new readers to the paper. The broad range of questions about socialism that come up at these meetings create the kind of political discussion that makes many participants interested in the *Militant*. Where this has been done in a well-organized way, a good number of workers, youth, and others have signed up to subscribe.

To boost the drive to get subscriptions to the *Militant*, our goal is to have a team on the road in Iowa for the week beginning April 28. Volunteers are needed and every supporter should consider joining up. Such a team is crucial for winning new readers to the *Militant* and is needed to make the international goal. Supporters who can join up should call the *Militant*.

Women inmates in Iowa prison file suit against abuses

A class-action lawsuit against Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad by 14 inmates at the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women has brought to light a series of abuses of prisoners' civil and human rights. The institution is located in Mitchellville and is designed to hold 123 inmates. Currently 168 prisoners are housed there.

Filed in U.S. District Court in Des Moines on April 9, the suit charges that prison authorities imposed a punishment on women inmates called "four pointing." According to the suit the punishment involves tying naked inmates by the hands and legs to a bed in a spread-eagle position where they can be viewed by guards and passersby. "Some women have been held in this position for several hours," the suit says.

Other charges made in the suit include:

- not evacuating prisoners during a fire, causing some prisoners to suffer smoke inhalation;
- subjecting prisoners to isolation, physical abuse, sexual harassment, and exploitation, and a lack of due process in disciplinary matters;
- permitting overcrowding and unsafe and unsanitary conditions; failing to provide medical care;
- censoring mail; limiting access to courts;
- frequently forbidding women in segregation to wear clothing; forcing them to take showers with their hands cuffed and fastened to their waists while being supervised by male guards;
- denying any sanitary protection to menstruating women in segregation and holding women in cells with human feces smeared on walls and with broken glass on the floors;
- serving spoiled food or food contaminated with hair or insects;
- and punishing women who complain or try to defend themselves.

The Mitchellville suit is the fourth filed recently against Iowa prison officials. Prisoners are not seeking damages in the suit. The inmate's goal is to correct the problem, said Jane Harlan, the attorney for the prisoners.

Success depends on every goal being made in every city.

a *Militant* supporter sold a subscription at the picket line of garment workers on strike at Domsey Trading Co. in Brooklyn, a striker who is Haitian made a point to show his receipt for the *Lutte ouvrière* subscription he signed up for at the march.

The action gave supporters a shot in the arm. Saturday sales in the New York-New Jersey area were the best in the drive so far, and successful sales at Earth Day activities on April 22 wrapped up the week.

Earth Day events in cities across the country drew hundreds of thousands, including 125,000 gathered on the Mall in Washington D.C.; 100,000 in Chicago's Lincoln Park; and 750,000 on the Great Lawn in Central Park in New York City.

A banner urging Earth Day participants at the New York event to sign up for the *Militant* was displayed behind a Pathfinder literature table, which stayed busy all day. It netted more than 30 subscriptions to the paper. Those who staffed ten "satellite" tables did a brisk business talking with those arriving early for an evening concert. At the end of the day supporters had won 79 new readers, 68 of whom signed up for the *Militant*.

Eastern Airlines victory

The victory in the Eastern strikers' fight with the removal of owner Frank Lorenzo has given Machinists, as well as other workers in struggle, increased confidence. Discussions are taking place on what's next in the Machinists fight, a process in which the *Militant* plays a crucial role. Getting the paper into the hands of strike activists and other unionists and convincing them to subscribe is a top priority.

Supporters in Brooklyn have won 19 new readers among Machinists so far. Birmingham, Alabama, and Miami supporters have raised their goal to win Eastern strikers to subscribe. Supporters in Vancouver, Canada, won six new readers who are unionists during the week when Eastern striker Bill Washington from Seattle visited.

Target week gets drive going

The target week efforts in several other cities also helped get a real subscription drive going. To make the drive every week must be organized and carried out target-week style.

One thousand miners and other unionists attended the April 21-22 festivities held in Wise, Virginia, hosted by the United Mine Workers of America, many staying at nearby Camp Solidarity. *Militant* supporters reported that many already knew the paper from the time of the Pittston coal strike and 13 more subscribed during the weekend events.

A supporter from St. Louis and another from Chicago traveled to Boonesville, Indiana, during the target week, selling seven *Militant* subscriptions, six to miners at portals.

Some 250 people attended an April 14 rally

Subscription Drive SCOREBOARD

DRIVE GOALS		Total		Militant		New Int'l		Perspectiva Mundial		Lutte ouvrière	
Areas	Goal	Total Sold	% Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold
UNITED STATES											
Miami	200	182	91%	110	80	40	41	30	15	20	46
New York	500	391	78%	280	139	95	93	110	60	15	99
Austin, Minn.	75	55	73%	53	42	10	5	10	8	2	0
Boston	190	129	68%	125	78	25	8	30	31	10	12
Phoenix	85	56	66%	53	33	10	4	20	19	2	0
Brooklyn*	400	262	66%	200	121	60	50	60	27	80	64
Kansas City	105	68	65%	78	37	15	25	10	5	2	1
Portland, Ore.	100	60	60%	75	41	13	11	10	8	2	0
Des Moines, Iowa*	190	109	57%	145	80	20	14	23	15	2	0
Omaha, Neb.	110	60	55%	80	45	15	4	13	11	2	0
Birmingham, Ala.*	172	91	53%	145	75	20	14	5	2	2	0
Seattle*	200	100	50%	115	50	30	11	52	37	3	2
Philadelphia	160	79	49%	108	44	25	25	25	9	2	1
Los Angeles	400	197	49%	210	86	75	44	110	67	5	0
Newark, NJ	385	188	49%	210	67	95	63	65	37	15	21
Washington, DC	145	69	48%	100	39	20	12	20	17	5	1
Twin Cities, Minn.	210	98	47%	162	75	30	14	15	8	3	1
Price, Utah	75	32	43%	53	23	10	5	10	3	2	1
Atlanta	165	68	41%	117	45	30	16	15	6	3	1
Morgantown, WV	150	61	41%	113	45	30	16	5	0	2	0
Greensboro, NC	115	46	40%	90	41	15	1	8	4	2	0
Salt Lake City	190	73	38%	138	49	30	15	20	8	2	1
Cleveland	110	41	37%	78	26	20	13	10	2	2	0
Charleston, WV	115	42	37%	88	40	20	2	5	0	2	0
Chicago	280	101	36%	185	59	45	29	45	11	5	2
St. Louis	200	72	36%	162	54	25	13	10	5	3	0
Pittsburgh	140	48	34%	113	34	20	8	5	4	2	2
Houston	145	49	34%	98	27	20	16	25	6	2	0
Baltimore	150	49	33%	112	26	25	13	10	10	3	0
Oakland, Calif.	185	59	32%	120	35	25	17	35	6	5	1
San Francisco	220	67	30%	150	40	30	15	35	11	5	1
Detroit	250	63	25%	200	46	30	13	15	4	5	0
Anamosa, Iowa	15	4	27%	13	4	2	0	-	-	-	-
Cincinnati	7	0	0%	7	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Las Vegas, Nev.*	12	1	8%	12	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Louisville	10	2	20%	10	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other U.S.	-	29	-	-	26	-	2	-	1	-	-
U.S. TOTAL	6,161	3,101	50%	4,108	1,755	975	632	861	457	217	257
AUSTRALIA											
BRITAIN	50	24	48%	25	18	8	2	15	4	2	0
Manchester	74	38	51%	50	24	20	13	3	1	1	0
Cardiff	59	28	47%	40	22	10	5	7	1	2	0
London	162	58	36%	105	42	30	15	25	1	2	0
Sheffield	107	32	30%	65	25	30	3	10	4	2	0
Other Britain	-	49	-	-	8	-	41	-	-	-	-
BRITAIN TOTAL	402	205	51%	260	121	90	77	45	7	7	0
CANADA											
Montréal	170	106	62%	65	31	20	13	45	16	40	46
Toronto	190	104	55%	120	54	30	16	30	31	10	3
Vancouver	115	58	50%	75	35	20	6	15	14	5	3
CANADA TOTAL	475	268	56%	260	120	70	35	90	61	55	52
FRANCE	40	40	100%	10	6	5	11	5	7	20	16
ICELAND	41	26	63%	35	15	3	9	2	2	1	0
NEW ZEALAND											
Auckland	100	77	77%	80	70	15	4	4	3	1	0
Wellington	70	50	71%	54	42	11	7	4	1	1	0
Christchurch	55	31	56%	45	28	6	2	3	1	1	0
Other N. Z.	14	4	29%	10	4	4	0	-	-	-	-
N. Z. TOTAL	239	162	68%	189	144	36	13	11	5	3	0
SWEDEN	76	37	49%	45	22	5	1	25	14	1	0
PUERTO RICO	20	10	50%	2	3	1	0	16	7	1	0
Int'l teams	155	36	23%	75	15	25	20	50	0	5	1
Other Int'l	-	7	-	-	2	-	-	-	5	-	-
TOTAL	7,659	3,916	52%	5,009	2,221	1,218	800	1,120	569	312	326
DRIVE GOALS	7,500			4,950		1,200		1,100		250	
TO BE ON SCHEDULE		4,167	56%		2,750		667		611		139

*Raised goal during drive

Beginnings of colonialism, religious strife

BY GEORGES MEHRABIAN
AND HARRY RING

(First of four parts)

Despite intermittent truces, rival Christian forces have waged a bloody, ruinous struggle for months in the eastern sector of Beirut, Lebanon's capital city. Pitted against each other are the Christian forces of the Lebanese army, headed by Gen. Michel Aoun, and a rival Christian militia led by Samir Geagea.

Before becoming embroiled with Geagea, Aoun's forces were firing shells across Beirut's "green line" into the predominantly Muslim sector of the city.

CONFLICT IN LEBANON: The historical background

Aoun's declared aim is to break and supplant the recently established government of President Elias Hrawi. Geagea has declared his support for Hrawi.

Like Aoun, Hrawi is a Maronite Catholic. But he is trying to implement an agreement under which Lebanon's Muslims and Druze would get relatively more political representation than they have now.

The largest religious grouping in Lebanon, the Muslims are currently the most underrepresented in government. Maronites have been dominant for many years in the government even though they are a minority of the population.

President Hrawi also favors cooperation with neighboring Syria, which has 40,000 occupation troops in Lebanon. The Syrian government has said that when the plan for redistribution of government representation is implemented, it will negotiate withdrawal of its troops.

No concessions

General Aoun, a hard-bitten right-winger, is opposed to concessions to the underrepresented communities, and he demands the immediate withdrawal of Syrian troops.

The government restructuring plan was agreed on last October by members of the Lebanese parliament who want to end the strife that has gripped the country since the early 1970s.

The 62 members of parliament, half of them Christian and half of them Muslim, who agreed to the plan were elected in 1974 — the last time elections were held. Among the Christians are Maronite Catholics who favor an accommodation between the contending communities in order to achieve social and economic stability.

The pact agreed on would reduce the power of the presidency, traditionally a Maronite post. The size of parliament would be increased, new posts created, and old ones redefined. This would increase the role of several religious communities, mainly the Shiite Muslims and the Druze.

A cabinet was agreed upon and a president named, who was soon assassinated. Hrawi was selected in his place. The new regime

has been recognized by the governments of the United States, Soviet Union, France, and Britain, among others.

Little progress

So far, implementation of the plan has been minimal because of Aoun's war against it. He is bunkered in East Beirut, and the new government has not been able to dislodge him militarily or persuade him to yield.

Lebanon's years of conflict have taken a heavy toll in human life and have reduced the economy to near shambles. Purchasing power, particularly for working people, has sharply deteriorated. Lebanon's current minimum wage is 75 percent less than it was 15 years ago. Last year, the estimated unemployment rate was 35 percent.

The class character of Lebanese politics is hard to follow, because basic social and economic issues are distorted and clouded over by costly religious strife. Currently, there are 17 officially recognized religious sects, each with a claim to a share in government. In addition, religious institutions play an important role in civil life, directly regulating social and economic relations.

To understand what is happening in Lebanon, even in the most general way, requires some knowledge of the country's historical development. This four-part series is intended to offer a minimal sketch of that history. The factual material is largely taken from the book *The Struggle Over Lebanon* by Tabitha Petran (New York: Monthly Review Press, 1987).

* * *

For four centuries, beginning in 1516, the area that is now Lebanon was part of the Ottoman Empire, which then ruled much of the Middle East and was led by the Ottoman Turks. Lebanon, Palestine, and what is now Jordan were part of Syria, which was an Ottoman province.

Coping with a far-flung empire, the Ottomans left day-to-day administration to local lords, who had their own armed forces. Under the feudal system that prevailed, harshly exploited peasants worked the land and were compelled to relinquish a portion of their crops and their labor to the landlords.

The areas were largely organized along religious communal lines. The religious groupings included Muslims, Druze, Maronite Catholics, Greek Orthodox Christians, and Greek Catholics.

Today, the Druze live mainly in Lebanon, Syria, and Israel. They originated in an 11th century split from the Muslims. The Maronites, now centered mainly in Lebanon, were an early Christian sect, which, in the 18th century, established ties with the Vatican. However, they have maintained a certain degree of autonomy from Rome.

Muslims pushed out

Under the Ottomans, the various religious communities were clustered mainly around Mount Lebanon in the north. The Shiite Muslims were driven from the mountain area to peripheral regions by contending Druze and Maronite forces.

In the 1600s the Druze succeeded in establishing their hegemony in the area. But in the centuries that followed, they were supplanted by the Maronites.

Despite the religious divisions, the peasants coexisted peacefully with one another, all of them suffering a common feudal exploitation. In 1820 Christian and Druze peasants rose up in a common rebellion, the Commons' Revolt, against onerous taxes imposed by Lebanese landlords. In 1840 they again rebelled, this time against the taxes extracted by the Ottoman rulers and against the corvée, which were the days of unpaid labor in road building and other similar projects imposed on peasants.

Maronite and Druze landlords joined together in crushing these revolts.

But with the penetration of the area by French colonialism, sectarian religious conflicts were promoted among the people of Mount Lebanon.

It was a period when the grip of the Ottomans was loosening. The rising capitalist classes in France, Britain, Russia, and Austria began competing for areas of domination in

tem. A northern government was created, which was dominated by Maronites. In a southern government, Druze landlords presided over a predominantly Maronite peasantry.

Silk production

Meanwhile, French capitalists developed their trade with commercial interests in Lebanon. The resources of Mount Lebanon included mulberry trees, which nourish silkworms. Silk thread production supplied the French textile industry. By the 1900s, 40 percent of Mount Lebanon's cultivated areas were devoted to mulberry trees.

It was in this period that the Maronites began to establish a dominant position throughout the area. They had a base in the commercial sector, which was engaged in the profitable silk trade with France. Also, the Maronite church itself acquired big landholdings as well as profitable production units run by Maronite monasteries.

A Maronite merchant class began to emerge. Seeking to shed feudal restrictions, they made common cause with the French capitalists.

The Druze government in the south became a target of Maronite agitation. This was led by the clergy and backed by the French government.

The Druze rulers responded in kind, inciting anti-Christian sentiment among the Druze peasants.

Religious warfare

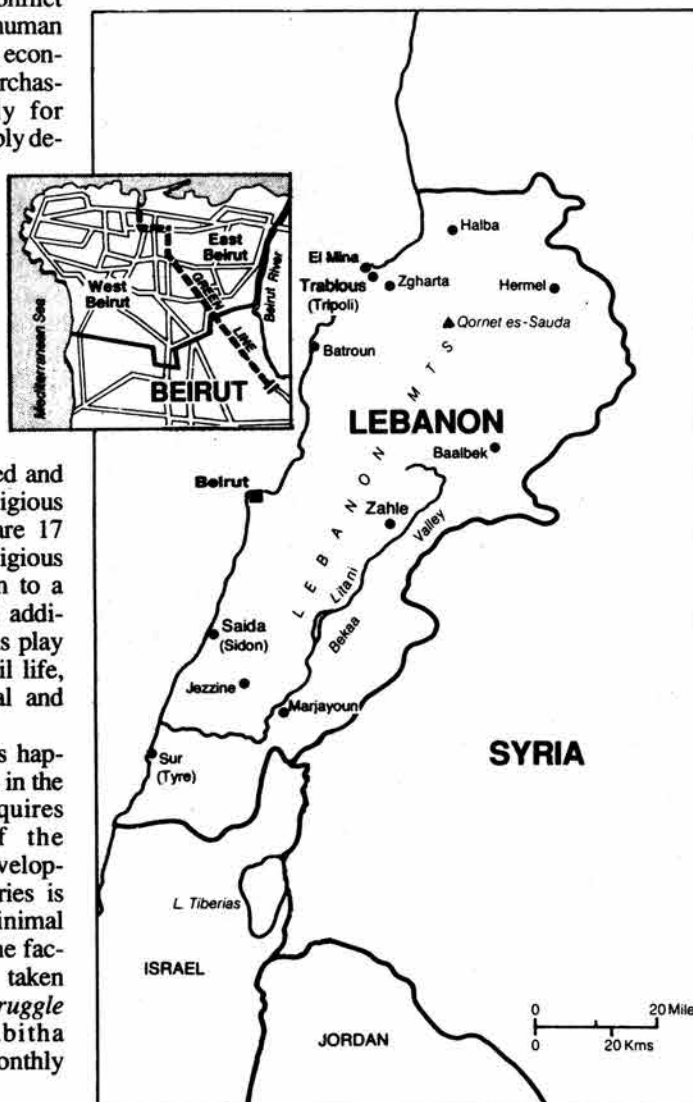
In 1860 open warfare erupted. Druze landlords launched a pogrom against the Christian peasants in their area.

After French troops were sent in, a commission was convened including representatives of France, Britain, Russia, Austria, and Prussia. Under the guise of protecting the Maronites from the Druze, it was decided to establish a new governing body for Mount Lebanon. The Europeans denied the Ottoman troops access to the area, and the Maronites were permitted to establish a special police militia under their own command.

The governing body was presided over by a non-Lebanese Christian appointed by the Ottoman sultan, aided by a council representing the area's religious groupings. This included four Maronites, three Druze, two Greek Orthodox, one Shiite and one Sunni Muslim, and a Greek Catholic. With that, the Druze landlords, and the Ottomans, had been defeated.

Creation of this structure legitimized European domination and the concept of religious sectarian representation. It further undermined the solidarity among the toilers of different religious beliefs.

(Next: How French colonialism divided and ruled Lebanon)



the Middle East. In Mount Lebanon, the French rulers developed ties with the Maronites, the British with the Druze, and the Russians with the Greek Orthodox Christians.

France the winner

The French capitalists were much stronger than their Russian and Austrian rivals, and the British rulers' main interest was in Palestine. So the French became the decisive colonial force in the area that was to become Lebanon.

The four European powers, however, generally maintained a united front against the Ottomans. In 1843 they forced the establishment of a two-government sys-

Help sell Mandela's autobiography

On March 30 the South African government's censorship board lifted its ban on *The Struggle Is My Life*, widening the opportunity for fighters in that country to read the book that documents the struggle against apartheid. "My beliefs have been explained," wrote African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela in a letter last July, "in my autobiography *The Struggle Is My Life*." Some 7,000 copies of the book have been sold since Mandela's release when the *Militant* and Pathfinder Press launched a campaign to distribute the book along with the magazine *New Internationalist* No. 5, which includes "The Coming Revolution in South Africa" by Jack Barnes.



Order your bundle today . . .

Send me ☐ 5 ☐ 10 ☐ 15 ☐ 20 (other) copies of:

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☐ *Habla Nelson Mandela* (\$6.95 each; \$4.65 each for 10 or more).

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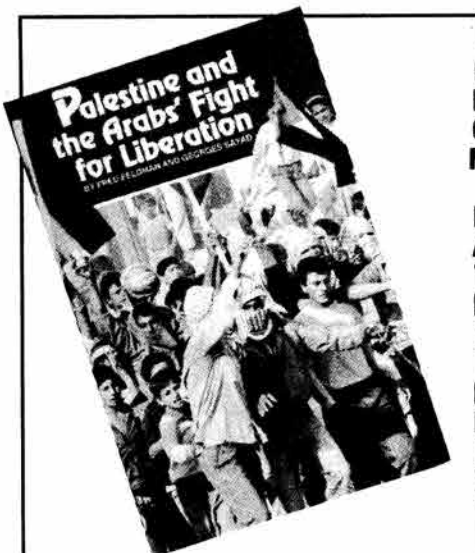
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a pamphlet by Fred Feldman and Georges Sayad. 62 pp., \$2.50

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FROM
PATHFINDER



Militant/Margrethe Siem

Temporary shacks of the Black residents of Mogopa, South Africa, who came back to the site of their community after five years of forced exile.

Farmers uprooted by apartheid return 'illegally' to their land

BY RICH PALSER

MOGOPA, South Africa — Some 250 villagers have returned here in defiance of the apartheid government. They are determined to resettle and farm the land that is rightly theirs. In 1984 armed police with dogs forcibly removed all 350 African families from the village, which lies in the fertile corn-growing belt of the western Transvaal.

The Bakwena ba Mogopa tribe originally settled here over 70 years ago. The self-sufficient community grew corn, sunflowers, and other crops and raised cattle and goats. They organized the building of their own schools and churches and dug wells for water.

Today, the foundations are all that remain of the brick and stone buildings bulldozed flat by the regime. The farmland lies fallow, used for grazing pasture by neighboring

In 1984 the racist regime bulldozed their houses; today they challenge the government by returning.

white farmers. Only the graveyard remains intact. The returning families have built makeshift tin shacks on the ruins of their former houses and share with the cattle the only well not filled with rubble.

"When we grew up here our fathers were farmers," said Jacob Poole. "They grew crops and raised livestock. Today we have been dispossessed. We were forced to leave our ancestral land and go to land we did not want. Our main wish is to be given our land back and live as we did before."

The villagers arrived too late to plant crops last year, but they intend to plow and plant in October. "Our main problem is that our children have no school," Poole said. "All the facilities we had built were torn down. We have no houses, and with winter coming it is so cold in these shacks." They plan to build a corrugated iron school and start making their own bricks to build houses.

Last year the farmers won permission for 80 villagers to erect shacks in order to tend their family graves. Before long 250 had returned. When they realized the villagers were preparing to resettle, the authorities brought an eviction order and police blockaded the gates to prevent more from returning. With legal representation organized by the Transvaal Rural Action Committee, the villagers are appealing the eviction order on the grounds that their forced removal in 1984 was illegal.

'Law of dispossession'

The Bakwena people bought the farm in 1912, one year before the newly independent and unified South African government passed the Natives' Land Act. Known as the "law of dispossession," this codified the expropriation by whites of the vast bulk of African land. This had begun with the arrival of European settlers. The vast majority of the country is reserved for white ownership and control by the land act, including the richest farming and grazing lands, the forests, and all areas with known or potential mineral deposits.

No African is allowed to own or farm the

land in "white" areas — save for a few places where they had already gained legal title to the land. Mogopa was one of these "Black spots," as they became known.

In 1948, when the National Party government came to power committed to entrenching the apartheid system, the "Black spots" became a target for forced removal. African farmers' lands were expropriated and whole villages were forcibly resettled in the so-called bantustans — the "homelands" or reserves where more than half the African population is now forced to live on the least fertile 13 percent of the land in South Africa.

Between 1948 and 1979 more than 400,000 people were forcibly moved. In 1985 the Surplus People Project — which campaigns against forced resettlement — estimated that a further 1.3 million residents of "Black spots" faced the threat of forced removal.

"When we were moved our crops were still in the field," recalls Ephraim Poole, one of the oldest of the villagers who have returned to Mogopa. "The white farmers just used it for grazing — we lost everything." Cattle were sold off at one-tenth of their value and no compensation was paid for the land.

'We have nothing left'

"This removal has resulted in us being reduced to people who have no means of making a living," said Matthes Kgatitoe. "We have nothing left with which to start farming again." Most of the families sought shelter on the lands of their paramount chief in Bethanie, but their land tenure was insecure and the water, schools, and housing inadequate. They became reliant on the younger men who were able to earn wages as migrant workers.

Forcing more Africans onto the labor market was the aim of the 1913 land act. The president of the Chamber of Mines, the mining company association, commented the year before the act was adopted, "What is wanted is surely a policy that will establish once and for all that, outside of special reserves, the ownership of land must be in the hands of the white race and that the surplus of young [African] men, instead of squatting on the land in idleness and spreading over unlimited areas, must earn their living by working for a wage."

Like millions of others who have been driven off the land, Mogopa villagers moved to the townships around Johannesburg to find work. There they continued to meet monthly to assist the community in its fight for land. This committee was chaired by Kgatitoe until he retired, at which point he joined the move to resettle their village. "A lot of people are waiting to see if we are allowed to stay," he said. "If we are allowed to stay nearly all will come back."

The youth of Mogopa are also committed to resettling the farm. "Our future is to continue where our parents left off," said Molete Dikobe, a member of the Mogopa Youth Congress, set up to "assist our parents in the fight for land."

Forced into bantustans

As a consequence of the stiff resistance to forced removal from their land by communities such as the Bakwena ba Mogopa, the apartheid government has sought to achieve

its aim of forcing Africans into the bantustans by simply redrawing boundaries.

Lydia Kompe of the Transvaal Rural Action Committee explained, "Instead of forced removals they use the pen to make you part of Bophuthatswana so that you forfeit the right of being South African. Under the Aliens Act you are classed as a Bophuthatswana citizen, which makes it more difficult for you to go to school in South Africa, look for work in South Africa, or any other right you need in South Africa."

The villagers of Braklaagte and Leeuwfontein are fighting the incorporation of their land into Bophuthatswana. Their refusal to accept citizenship in the bantustan and their legal actions against incorporation have brought the full wrath of the bantustan government down on them.

Chief Pusey Sebogodi of Braklaagte and tribal counselor Dadelile Majafa of Leeuwfontein described how the police set up roadblocks around the villages, stopped school buses, and demanded to know the children's citizenship. If the children said they were South African, they were beaten. During Easter 1989, 80 people were seriously injured by troops at Braklaagte, and, in July, 11 people died — nine of them policemen — after a peaceful meeting was attacked in Leeuwfontein.

Sebogodi said it was not only their villages that oppose the bantustan regime of President Lucas Mangope. "Many people in Bophuthatswana want to be reincorporated into South Africa."

The Mangope regime came near to falling recently as massive protests erupted in Bophuthatswana. "A democratic, nonracial South Africa is not so far away," Sebogodi concluded.

Residents of "Black spot" farms have not been the only victims of forced removals. Although it is illegal, many Africans were able to continue farming the land as tenants of white farmers, paying rent either in the form of a share of their produce or by working directly for the white farmers. Between 1960 and 1974, 1.5 million Africans were removed to the bantustans from such tenant farms. Despite these forced removals large numbers of Africans — estimated in 1981 at 2 million — still occupy land that has been deserted by white farmers.

Nearly 1.5 million Africans work on the white-owned farms as agricultural workers. Not covered by the labor relation laws, these workers have their pay and hours determined by the white farmers, often living in shacks or mud huts on the farms and subject to eviction to the bantustans at any time.

Freedom Charter

The Freedom Charter — the program adopted in 1955 for a nonracial, democratic South Africa and advanced by the African National Congress (ANC) — has a section entitled, "The land shall be shared among those who work it." It states in part, "Restrictions of land ownership on a racial basis shall be ended, and all the land redivided amongst those who work it, to banish famine and land hunger. The state shall help the peasants with implements, seed, tractors, and dams to save the soil and assist the tillers."

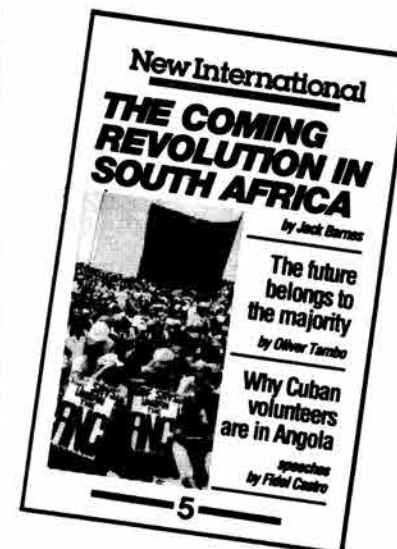
For the farmers fighting for their land in Mogopa, the recent unbanning of the ANC

and release of its leaders brings hope for the future. "We have full confidence in the changes that will happen because of what is taking place in South Africa," Jacob Poole said. "We have a plea — we ask for moral support to put pressure on the government to let us stay on our land. Then we need assistance in developing ourselves again." He said that in order to achieve their goals, a "democratic and nonracial" government is needed where "the oppressed Africans will have a voice in decision making."

Andrew, one of the younger farmers resettling Mogopa, explained how he saw their needs. "Provided the government of the day gives us the opportunity to get land, people around the country will return to the farm," he said.

"If we consider how poor Blacks are, it is clear that we won't be able to afford seed, implements, and other things we need to farm. The government will need to provide these things. Today, the government provides subsidies to white farmers, so why can't Black farmers get something too?"

"If we manage to retain our land it will be a victory to all the threatened communities that are being forced into the bantustans."



This issue of *New International* focuses on the revolutionary struggle in South Africa, its impact throughout southern Africa and worldwide, and the tasks of opponents of apartheid in the labor movement internationally.

The feature article, *The Coming Revolution in South Africa* by Jack Barnes, discusses the national, democratic revolution to overthrow the South African apartheid regime and establish a nonracial democratic republic.

Also included:

- **The Freedom Charter**
- **The Future Belongs to the Majority**, a message by African National Congress President Oliver Tambo
- **Why Cuban Volunteers Are in Angola**, three speeches by Cuban President Fidel Castro

Send \$5 to New International, 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014

Candidates hit cop killings of Blacks in 2 states

The killing of Sidney Bowen in Bolton, North Carolina, by a white state trooper has sparked protests in the southeastern part of the state.

Bowen, a former mayor of the town, was the first Black ever

owners and the banks.

The day after the meeting, Stuart and a team of campaigners went door-to-door in Bolton, distributing the *Militant*. Six people bought subscriptions to the socialist news-

CAMPAIGNING FOR SOCIALISM



elected to that post. On February 27 he was shot five times by Officer A.E. Morris. The grand jury refused to indict Morris, claiming he was being beaten by Bowen with a flashlight. In response, the people of the town organized the Bolton Movement to Fight for Justice.

At a March 5 meeting of 100 participants in the Bolton movement, Socialist Workers Party candidate Rich Stuart, who is running for U.S. Senate, pledged his support to their struggle. Linking the fight in Bolton to the battle against racism around the world, he said, "The ordinary people of South Africa, who won the release of Nelson Mandela, are an inspiring example to everyone in the world fighting for justice."

Many of the men in the area work in the Federal paper mill, at a DuPont chemical plant, or on the docks in nearby Wilmington. The women are employed in the textile and apparel industries. Some people have a few acres of land to grow food or tobacco, but much of their land has been taken away by the big land-

paper, including members of the paperworkers' and longshoremen's unions.

"This is great," one new reader said. "We get to read about the people in South Africa at the same time they are reading about us."

"You can't get the newspaper to print the truth," said another about the big-business press. "Makes you wonder what else is going on in the world."

On March 7 campaigners participated in a march in Elizabethtown organized by the Bolton Movement. They went to the town of Olivia a week later for another protest march. Nine more new readers signed up for the paper.

In New Jersey the SWP candidate for U.S. Senate, Don Mackle, has joined residents of Teaneck and others in demanding prosecution of the cop who shot Phillip Pannell, a 16-year-old Black youth, on April 10. Pannell's death sparked angry protests by young people in the community who were in turn attacked by riot



Militant/David Warshawsky
Socialist Rich Stuart took senate campaign to the southeastern North Carolina town of Bolton where fight against police killing is building.

police the night after the killing.

"It is an outrage that the cops and the media have tried to portray Phillip and other Black youth as the criminals in this case. They are not criminals, but the victims of a racist society," Mackle said in a statement issued by his campaign committee. "The murder of Phillip Pannell is an attack on all working people. It reveals the low regard the cops, the courts, and the entire capitalist system have for working-class youth, especially Black and Latino youth."

The 1990 socialist campaign is getting rolling in Georgia with the announcement by Maceo Dixon and Elizabeth Ziers of their campaign for governor and lieutenant governor.

"The ravages of an unfolding world economic crisis are felt by more workers every day," explained Dixon at an April 9 news conference. The *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* reported that the socialists are running "on a platform to shorten the workweek, increase affirmative action programs, and cancel the debts of Third World nations."

Hailing the April 7 "U.S. Hands Off Cuba" actions, Ziers said, "The Cuban revolution — in which workers and farmers overthrew capitalism to get rid of homelessness, unemployment, racism, sexism, drug addiction, and prostitution — is one which U.S. corporations and their Bush government fear. And it is a road forward for U.S. workers and farmers."

In New Jersey and Utah, socialists have just filed petitions to place candidates on the ballot.

More than 2,500 people signed up to insure the SWP ticket a spot on the November ballot in New Jersey. In addition to Mackle, the party is running Georges Mehrabian and Jane Harris for Congress in the 10th and 14th districts.

Utah campaigners successfully collected some 600 signatures to place Ellie Garcia, running in the 2nd Congressional District, and Tony Dutrow, running in the 3rd Congressional District, on the ballot.

In West Virginia 5,000 signatures have been collected toward the requirement of 6,400 to place the socialist slate of Dick McBride for U.S. Senate, Maggie McCraw for state treasurer, and Clay Dennison for state attorney general on the ballot. The deadline is May 7 and the socialist campaign is mapping out plans to exceed the signature requirement over the next two weeks, at the same time winning new readers of the socialist press.

The Socialist Workers Party campaigns are promoting *An Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis*, a pamphlet that is available for \$1 (English or Spanish) or \$2 (French) from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

David Warshawsky from Greensboro, North Carolina, contributed to this column.

Nicaragua: pro-U.S. regime faces strikes, protests

Continued from Page 5

thorities are present, they will understand the measure."

Demands for disarming the mercenaries were combined with petitions for improved wages and benefits in a wave of strikes during the FSLN government's final days. Postal and telephone workers staged a militant walkout, winning many of their demands. Fifteen hundred public transport workers in Managua secured a wage increase after a half-day stoppage. Employees of the waterworks, power company, banks, and even the Ministry of Labor itself staged walkouts.

In addition, the union representing miners and other workers at the state mining company struck April 18, demanding the signing of a union contract with improved wages and benefits.

For many unions, the strikes were their first since the triumph of the FSLN-led revolution in 1979, and for some their first ever. Workers saw the period before Chamorro was to take office as a good time to press for long-postponed economic demands, as well as an important chance to get their organizations in shape for future battles.

Among other obstacles, the unionists faced opposition from the central leadership of the Sandinista Front. However, appeals from FSLN officials to subordinate union demands to maintaining "national unity" appeared to have less impact than in the past, including among workers who are partisans of the Sandinista Front.

In his April 19 address, Ortega appealed for support to the agreement with the contras as well as an end to the strikes. "We are all obligated to act with maturity, calm, and responsibility," he said.

However justified the demands of the strikers for decent wages and disarming the contras may be, Ortega argued, "these problems can't be solved in one day. Nor can they be resolved by promoting a huge number of strikes and stoppages."

Accusing water workers of threatening to cut off Managua's water supply, he said such an action would "be repudiated by all the citizens" of the city and could only be the proposal of a "provocateur."

Many unionists, including leaders of the Sandinista Workers Federation (CST), have been discussing the possibility of a general

strike to demand immediate disarming of the mercenary troops.

Addressing a union meeting April 21, FSLN official Luis Carrión said the slogan of a general strike "is not correct." The unions should support "national unity" and not take steps that would "destabilize" the new government.

The Chamorro regime, Carrión said, "up to the moment has not departed from the road of peace, with which we are in agreement."

Healthy intentions

Another FSLN top leader, Tomás Borge, also publicly urged workers to end their strikes and instead to recognize the "new reality." In a farewell address to members of the Ministry of the Interior, which he headed for a decade, Borge told members of the police, state security, and other units of the interior ministry not to engage in acts of "disobedience, insubordination, and disrespect" toward the new authorities.

The FSLN official added, "I think that some of the principal leaders of a sector of the new government have ethical and healthy intentions. They have demonstrated their in-

dependence of mind, as was shown by the positions taken by the transition team in relation to the disarming of the counterrevolutionaries.

"It is necessary to take this factor into account, defend it, and encourage it," he said.

Sandinista Front officials have repeatedly said they plan to form a "constructive opposition." They have been notably conciliatory in their stance toward Chamorro and her closest advisers, while focusing their criticism on a grouping headed by Vice-president Virgilio Godoy.

The FSLN caucus in the new National Assembly signaled its willingness to collaborate with the Chamorro regime April 24, when it agreed to a joint slate for some of the presiding officials of the body. Sandinista Front deputies voted with Chamorro supporters to defeat candidates backed by the Godoy forces.

As part of the brokered deal, the FSLN deputies also voted for Miriam Argüello, a Godoy ally, as president of the Assembly. Argüello, who had been nominated earlier by a caucus of all representatives elected on the National Opposition Union slate, was thus elected by unanimous vote in the assembly.

Humberto Ortega, who held the post of defense minister in the FSLN government, has been placed as chief of the army by Chamorro.

Union actions continue

While the parliamentary maneuvering was going on, leaders of the CST were meeting to chart their course. The unionists decided to stage coordinated work stoppages for one hour each week, and to hold meetings in every workplace each Monday morning to discuss what is happening with the disarming of the contras.

"Day by day we're going to keep pressing for the demobilization" of the mercenaries, said Ronaldo Membreño, who spoke on behalf of the national executive board of the CST. "We have no confidence that the contras are going to demobilize, so we must keep up the pressure," Membreño said.

The CST leader also said the unions should take concrete steps to prepare for further strike action around economic demands and the contra issue, expressing disagreement with the FSLN officials who have urged an end to the strikes.

Students, unionists greet Cuban economist

Continued from Page 3

Recording Secretary John Langford were among those welcoming the Cuban author to the city.

Langford explained, "It is often forgotten that the labor movement has its very roots in socialism and that labor unions came into existence as a response to capitalist exploitation. In a real sense this tour represents a victory for everyone in the labor movement as the free exchange of ideas becomes a reality."

Letters welcoming Tablada to Utah were received from Congressman Wayne Owens; Salt Lake City Mayor Palmer DePaulis; Dee Rowland for the Catholic Diocese Peace and Justice Commission; Ed Mayne, President of the Utah State AFL-CIO; and Wayne Holland, United Steelworkers District 5 sub-director.

The ideas of Guevara are being discussed,

studied, and applied in Cuba today, Tablada noted in his presentation at the University of Utah. "Che rejected the market methods of the USSR. Production shouldn't be based on just making more and more material goods by offering some incentives," he said, "but rather on the development of society as a whole. In Cuba many important social projects, such as child-care centers, hospitals, housing, and schools are being completed by voluntary labor," he added.

One student asked if the Cubans jammed the signal sent out by TV Martí because they had something to fear from the broadcasts. TV Martí is an anti-Cuba station set up by the U.S. government, which has been attempting to broadcast to Cuba since March 27.

Tablada explained, "Seventy percent of our programming comes from abroad. Last year we showed 288 U.S. films on Cuban television." While not being "afraid of news

the United States," TV Martí "violates every law of international communications and tries to replace a Cuban television station with a station of a foreign power," he said.

Salt Lake City's two major daily newspapers, the *Deseret News* and the *Salt Lake Tribune*, both interviewed Tablada. The Cuban economist also was welcomed at a reception in Price, Utah, at the Pathfinder bookstore.

Tablada will speak at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, and the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill April 24. He will then travel to Chicago April 26 for engagements at the University of Chicago and the University of Illinois. In Boston Tablada is scheduled to address events at Harvard and Tufts universities and Massachusetts Institute of Technology April 27-May 1. Other stops include western Massachusetts (May 2) and New York (May 6-13).

The challenges faced by the communist leadership of the Russian revolution

BY PETER THIERJUNG
(Third in a series)

In 1917 the workers and peasants of Russia overturned centuries of tsarist tyranny, threw off the yoke of capitalist rule and landlordism, and established their own government. They were led by the Bolshevik Party, renamed Communist Party in 1918, headed by V.I. Lenin.

Last week we reviewed some of the revolution's accomplishments and explained why it became a beacon that inspired and attracted working people and national liberation fighters the world over.

Its example helped spur revolutionary uprisings in Hungary in 1919, in Germany in 1918-19 and 1923, and elsewhere. "The whole of Europe is filled with the spirit of revolution," British Prime Minister Lloyd George wrote with some concern in 1919.

The new Soviet government encouraged and was a firm ally of growing nationalist and democratic uprisings among the peoples and tribes from the Middle East and Central Asia to Mongolia, where workers and peasants established their own government in 1921. It inspired and provided material aid to a brewing nationalist revolt in China.

Under these promising circumstances, in 1919 the Russian Communist Party founded the Communist International, an organization of revolutionary workers' parties. Collaboration with other revolutionary fighters around the world was a necessity, the Bolsheviks affirmed, because the Russian revolution was only the opening battle in a struggle to liberate humanity of capitalism.

The Congress of the Peoples of the East, held under the auspices of the Communist International in 1920 in Baku, Azerbaijan, attracted nearly 1,900 national liberation fighters and communists from 25 colonial countries and regions. It registered the advances opened by the October 1917 Russian revolution in building a genuinely world communist movement embracing the most oppressed peoples and nations.

Challenges to the revolution

The revolutionary road chosen by the workers and peasants of Russia did not, however, go unchallenged. Armies mobilized by capitalist and former tsarist forces ravaged the country for nearly three years in an attempt to overthrow the new Soviet government. Capitalist governments, fielding military forces from the United States, Britain, France, Japan, Greece, Italy, Czechoslovakia, Serbia, Poland, and Romania, invaded Soviet territory.

Workers and peasants, who rallied to the defense of the revolution, repelled these assaults. The civil war, imperialist invasions, and economic blockades — on top of the devastation inflicted during World War I — left the Soviet republic near economic collapse, however.

By the end of 1920 Russia's national income dropped to one-third of its prewar levels. Industry turned out a fifth of the goods produced prior to the war. Coal mines produced one-tenth and iron foundries only one-

fortieth of their normal output. Railways were seriously disrupted.

Many workers deserted idle factories in industrial centers and returned to the countryside to live off the land and avoid starvation. In 1921 Moscow and Petrograd, two urban centers of the Soviet republic, had only one-half and one-third of their former inhabitants. The soviets — the committees of workers that had become the foundation of the revolutionary government — in these cities and elsewhere were nearly shells of what they had been earlier in the revolution. Exhaustion and political apathy began to spread.

The exchange of goods between town and countryside came to a standstill, straining the workers and peasant alliance that had been forged in the revolution. Unable to buy manufactured goods, peasants withheld their surpluses, hoarding them for better times. At the same time a 1921 famine affected 36 million people.

Isolation and the NEP

A revolutionary victory in a developed capitalist country in Europe would have opened the door to extending sorely needed trade and aid to the young Soviet republic, including food, machinery, economic credits, and technical aid. But the failure of revolutionary parties to lead workers and peasants there to power left Soviet Russia isolated. Despair and demoralization began to take hold among some layers of the working class, including in the Communist Party.

This international shift led Lenin to call for a tactical retreat from the communists' long-term perspective of transforming the whole state system along socialist lines. In an attempt to breathe life into Russia's ruined economy and preserve the alliance between workers and peasants in a period of forced isolation, Lenin proposed the New Economic Policy in March 1921.

The NEP involved a series of domestic measures to allow peasants to market their grain at unregulated prices and to restore private trade between city and countryside. Profits were to be taxed and would provide the state with capital to revive industry. The policy also called for cutting government subsidies to industries, which had been nationalized during the civil war, and using profit mechanisms to stimulate production.

The NEP had an immediate positive effect on agriculture, improving the conditions of the peasantry. It also helped increase industrial production. Unemployment, however, was a problem, and a layer of petty capitalists began to develop.

Problems of administration

In the period after 1917 there was a severe shortage of communist-minded workers and peasants competent to administer the new state. Illiteracy in Russia ran as high as 70 percent. Few workers or peasants possessed administrative skills to replace the old tsarist officials in various branches of the government and the economy.

Under these conditions the Bolsheviks were forced to employ many of the officials and technicians of the old tsarist administration. For these bureaucrats the use of their positions for personal gain was a way of life inherited over many years. This layer was the main source of red tape, hierarchy, high-handedness, routinism, careerism, chauvinism, and corruption in the Soviet state.

Under the NEP, these elements grew more confident and less restrained by popular pressure. The laws of the capitalist market gave managers and administrators who made decisions on the basis of profits a stronger hand and further pushed workers to the sidelines.

This "caused an extraordinary flush of hope and confidence in the petty-bourgeois strata of town and country, aroused as they were to new life by the NEP, and growing bolder and bolder," Leon Trotsky, a central



Within two years of its founding in 1919, the Communist International won the adherence of organizations on six continents and attracted hundreds of thousands of workers to its banner. Above, Lenin (at rostrum) addressed delegates to the second congress of the International in 1920.

leader of the revolution wrote in 1937 in his book *The Revolution Betrayed*. "The young bureaucracy, which had risen at first as an agent of the proletariat, began now to feel itself a court of arbitration between the classes. Its independence increased from month to month."

Lenin, who was very concerned about this development, pointed out at a 1922 Communist Party congress, "If we take Moscow with its 4,700 Communists in responsible positions, and if we take that huge bureaucratic machine, that gigantic heap, we must ask: Who is directing whom?"

"I doubt very much," he said, "whether it can be truthfully said the Communists are directing that heap. To tell the truth, they are not directing, they are being directed."

Retreat from communist perspective

It was within the framework of the overall difficulties and challenges confronted by the Russian communists that a layer in the CP, including in the leadership, began to retreat from a communist perspective and abandon an internationalist outlook.

Those who did so increasingly gave expression to the narrow interests, prejudices, and fears of the growing privileged bureaucratic strata. For an increasing number the CP was becoming a job trust for careerists, not a voluntary organization of workers and peasants to advance the revolution. They resisted and increasingly challenged communist policies.

Others began to look for alternative solutions to the problems Russia faced, including greater reliance on capitalist mechanisms to bolster the economy. At one point, in 1922, a majority of the CP's Central Committee decided to dismantle the state monopoly of foreign trade adopted during the civil war, a measure that would have strengthened the developing layer of petty capitalists. It would have made it more attractive for these petty capitalists to sell grain desperately needed in

the cities to capitalists abroad who could offer better prices. Lenin, who had not been at the meeting where this was decided, opposed it, calling it a threat to the workers' and peasants' alliance. He succeeded in getting it reversed.

Great Russian chauvinism against oppressed nationalities — fiercely combatted by Lenin — began to be reintroduced. In 1918 a voluntary Soviet federation had been established among some of the nations formerly part of the tsarist empire. A proposal made in 1922 by Joseph Stalin, a central leader of the CP, to restructure the federation and impose a "union" with a central administration met stiff resistance, especially from representatives of the Georgian Soviet republic.

The conflict brought some leaders of the Russian Communist Party to physical blows with the Georgian communists, causing Lenin to respond with alarm. He called the affair "the irruption of that truly Russian man, the Great Russian chauvinist, who is essentially a scoundrel and an oppressor as is the typical Russian bureaucrat." With the Soviet federation comprised of many formerly subjugated peoples of largely peasant composition, such a turn threatened the survival of the revolution.

Under the most difficult conditions and seriously ill, Lenin prepared to wage an all-out fight to reorient the Communist Party and its leadership. He sought to stem the retreat from a communist perspective and aimed to strengthen the CP as an instrument of the workers and peasants. By early 1923 he broke with and challenged Stalin, who had begun to emerge as the foremost spokesman and arbiter of the privileged bureaucratic caste that was beginning to take shape.

In the next article in this series we'll look at the fight Lenin prepared before illness removed him from political activity in March 1923 and examine the subsequent resistance that emerged to the consolidation of the bureaucratic caste's power in the Soviet Union.

(To be continued next week.)

50,000 in New York march hit anti-Haitian AIDS policy

Continued from front page

out the New York-New Jersey area, from garment shops to manufacturing plants and other places of work. Thousands of Haitian workers took the day off to be at what they considered to be an action of utmost importance.

Jose Rodriguez, vice-president of Local 174 of the United Food and Commercial Workers, carried a union banner with other members of the local. "We all live and die together," he said. "This is not a matter of race, it's a matter of what's right and wrong," he added to explain why he was at the march.

Late in the afternoon Mayor David Dinkins responded to insistent calls that he address the rally. He repeated an earlier statement that he had released supporting the demands of the demonstrators. The FDA ruling, he said, reinforced inaccurate and unfair stereotyping.

Numerous health officials report there is

no scientific data to back up the FDA's decision, including Dr. Warren Johnson, Jr., chief of international medicine at New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center. In a letter in the April 21 *New York Times* Johnson wrote, "Ethnicity is irrelevant to acquisition and transmission of HIV infection. The F.D.A. should rescind all restrictions that refer to race or region and focus on the recognized high-risk activities."

At the end of the day on April 20 it was reported that the FDA advisory group at its Washington meeting had voted to urge the agency to abandon the policy, according to Bradford Stone, an FDA spokesman.

The organizers of the mass mobilization, built primarily through word of mouth, Haitian radio stations, and Haitian newspapers, included the Haitian Coalition on AIDS; Haitian Enforcement Against Racism; Haitian-Americans for Economic, Racial, and Social Justice; and others.

—from Pathfinder—

The Revolution Betrayed

By Leon Trotsky

How a parasitic caste arose in the Soviet Union in 1920s and '30s • How communist leadership was overturned • The bureaucracy's reactionary domestic and foreign policies

\$11.95. Available from Pathfinder bookstores listed on page 12, or from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Please include \$1 postage and handling.

FLORIDA

Miami

The Destruction of the Everglades. Panel discussion. Sat., May 12, 7:30 p.m. Translation to Spanish. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (305) 756-1020.

IOWA

Marshalltown

Stand Up for Working People! Rally to Support Eastern Airlines Strikers. Speakers: Nick Angelos, member International Association of Machinists Local 561 on strike at Eastern, Kansas City; Annetta Fox, president Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1471, Greyhound, Des Moines; Mike Gardner, president United Food and Commercial Workers Local P-3, Farmstead, Cedar Rapids; Chuck Gifford, president Iowa State CAP Council, United Auto Workers; Larry Ginter, secretary Iowa American Agriculture Movement; Jon Laughlin, president Central Iowa Labor Alliance; Don McKee, International vice-president, AFSCME; Jim Olesen, president UFCW Local 1149, IBP, Perry; Don Winter, acting vice-president Iowa Federation of Labor. Sat., May 12, 1 p.m. UAW Union Hall, Highway 30. Sponsor: Central Iowa Labor Alliance. For more information call (515) 752-9766.

MARYLAND

Baltimore

From the Workplace to the Rain Forests! Who Is Responsible for the Destruction of the Environment? Speakers: Pat Birnie, co-director Maryland Safe Energy Coalition and chairperson GE Stockholders Alliance Against Nuclear Energy and Nuclear Weapons; Lisa Nowakowski, Maryland spokesperson, Rainforest Action Network; Bob Quigley, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., April 28. 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.

MINNESOTA

Austin

Support Indian Treaty Rights. Speaker: Sylvia Giesbrecht, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., April 29, 7 p.m. 407 1/2 N Main St. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (507) 433-3461.

St. Paul

The Struggle for Independence in the Soviet Republics. Sat., April 28, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI

St. Louis

Against the Death Penalty. Speakers: Margaret Phillips, organizer Eastern Missouri Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty; Ted Schroeder, pastor Immanuel Lutheran Church; Ntiesi Shisheba, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., April 28, 7:30 p.m. 4907 Martin Luther King Dr. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (314) 361-0250.

NEBRASKA

Omaha

Students Fighting Racism. Speakers: Heather Williams, Burke High School student; Corey Nevels, University of Nebraska, Lincoln; Sara Lobman, chairperson Des Moines Young Socialist Alliance. Sat., April 28, 7 p.m. 140 S 40th St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (402) 553-0245.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Stop Union-Busting! Solidarity March and Rally. Thurs., May 3. Rally 4:30 p.m., Port Authority bus terminal, 41st St. and 8th Ave.; march, 5:30 p.m. to Rockefeller Center, Eastern Airlines ticket office, 49th St. and 6th Ave. Sponsors: Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1202, International Association of Machinists, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union Local 99.

OREGON

Portland

Defending the Environment: Why Protecting Old-Growth Timber Is in the Interest of Working People. Speakers: Robbie Scheer, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress in Washington State, member United Transportation Union; Gene Lawhorn, member Lumber and Sawmill Workers Local 2949. Sat., May 5, 7:30 p.m. 2730 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (503) 287-7416.

PENNSYLVANIA

Pittsburgh

Pennsylvania AFL-CIO Solidarity Rally. Support the strikers against Eastern Airlines, Greyhound, Aloe, Valley Coal, Budget Gourmet, Duer Spring, and Bruce Plastics. Thurs., May 3, noon-1:30 p.m. Market Square, Downtown. For more information call IAM Local 1044, Pittsburgh International Airport, (412) 262-3211.

TEXAS

Houston

Destruction of the Environment: What Should Working People Do? Sat., April 28, 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

Report Back from United Mine Workers Camp Solidarity. Speaker: Bill Arth, Socialist Workers Party, member Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 2-591. Sat., April 28, 7:30 p.m. 147 E 900 S. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (801) 355-1124.

WEST VIRGINIA

Charleston

Solidarity with the Eastern Airlines Strike. Video showing of *The Eastern Story*. Speaker: Frank Planinac, president International Association of Machinists Local 1044, Pittsburgh International Airport. Sat., April 28, 7 p.m. 116 McFarland St. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 345-3040.

Nelson Mandela: Free At Last! Video showing. Sat., May 5, 7 p.m. 116 McFarland St. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 345-3040.

Morgantown

The Fight Against Union-Busting. Panel discussion with Frank Planinac, president International Association of Machinists Local 1044, Pittsburgh International Airport, on strike against Eastern Airlines; Ed O'Neil, president Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1043 on strike against Greyhound; John DiBiase, president United Mine Workers of America Local 6310, locked out at Duquesne Light; representative International Union of Electronic Workers Local 756 on strike at Asplundh Tree Expert Co.; representative Socialist Workers Party. Sat., May 5, 7:30 p.m. 221 Pleasant St. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 296-0055.

BRITAIN

Cardiff

Africa Called and Cuba Answered. Video showing of *Response to the South African Escalation*. Sat., April 28, 7:30 p.m. 9 Moira Terrace, Adamsdown. Donation: £1. Sponsor: New International Forums. For more information call 0222-484677.

CANADA

Montréal

Big Cuban Celebration. Dancing, food, refreshments, prizes. Sat., April 28, 7:30 p.m. 670 De Courcelle à l'angle St-Jacques (Metro: Place St-Henri). Donation: \$10. Sponsor: Carrefour Culturel de l'Amitié Québec-Cuba. For more information call (514) 443-6859.

The Fight Against Antilabor Disruption. The Case of the Workers League. Speaker: Michel Prairie, editor *Lutte ouvrière*, member of delegation to United Nations Human Rights Committee on behalf of Mark Curtis. Sat., May 5, 7:30 p.m. 6566, boul. Saint-Laurent. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Forum Lutte Ouvrière. For more information call (514) 273-2503.

Defend Mark Curtis! Framed-Up Unionist from Des Moines, Iowa. Speakers: Kate Kaku, leader of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee and Curtis' wife; Jean-Claude Bernheim,

NEW YORK CITY

Report from South Africa

Speakers:

Greg McCartan & Margrethe Slem Militant correspondent and photographer recently returned from reporting on the upheaval in South Africa. **Exhibit and auction of Slem's photos.**

Sat., April 28, 7:30 p.m.

191 Seventh Ave.

(at West 21st St.)

Manhattan

Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (212) 675-6740.

Prisoners' Rights Bureau; Serge Bouchereau, Committee in Solidarity with the Haitian People; Michel Prairie, editor *Lutte ouvrière*, member of delegation to UN Human Rights Commission on Curtis' behalf; Pierre-Paul Saint-Onge, Students Association at Québec University, Montréal; Fred Sweet, Montréal Central Council (CSN). Translation to English, French, and Spanish. Thurs., May 17, 7:30 p.m. 1205, rue de la Visitation (Metro: Beaudry). Donation: \$5. Sponsor: Friends of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee.

Toronto

Eastern Airlines, Pittston, Greyhound: Labor Fights Back Against Union-Busting. Speaker: Joe Young, Central Committee of the Communist League. Sat., April 28, 7:30 p.m. 410 Adelaide St. W, Suite 400. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (416) 861-1399.

Vancouver

The Struggle for Democratic Rights in Eastern Europe and the USSR. Speaker: Nancy Walker, member Central Committee of the Communist League. Sat., April 28, 7:30 p.m. 1053 Kingsway, Suite 102. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (604) 872-8343.

The Fight Against Antilabor Disruption: The Case of the Workers League. Speaker: Ned Dmytryshyn, Communist League. Sat., May 5, 7:30 p.m. 1053 Kingsway, Suite 102. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (604) 872-8343.

NEW ZEALAND

Wellington

Slideshow on Cuba. Presentation by member of 1990 Australia-New Zealand work brigade to Cuba. Sat., May 5, 6 p.m. Turnbull House, Lower Bowen St. (near Parliament). Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Wellington Cuba Friendship Society. For more information call (4) 829-732.

Communist League Election Launching. Speaker: Janet Roth, candidate for Parliament. Sat., May 12, 7 p.m. 23 Majoribanks St., Courtenay Pl. For more information call (4) 844-205.

SWEDEN

Stockholm

May Day Meeting: Shorten the Workweek, Cancel Third World Debt, For Affirmative Action! Carl-Eric Isaksson, Communist League, member Metal Workers Union at Saab-Scania in Södertälje, speaks on *An Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis*. Tue., May 1, 3 p.m. Vikingagatan 10 (T-bana St Eriksplan). Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (08) 31 69 33.

Che Guevara and the Fight for Socialism in Cuba

Hear:

Carlos Tablada

Cuban economist and author of *Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism*, currently on a U.S. speaking tour.

MASSACHUSETTS

Cambridge

Sat., April 28, 7:30 p.m. Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Bldg. 9-150, 105 Mass. Ave. Donation: \$3.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Fri., May 11, 7 p.m. Local 1199, 310 W 43rd St. Donation: \$5. For more information call (212) 675-6740, (718) 398-6983, (201) 643-3341.

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SWEDEN

Stockholm: Vikingagatan 10. Postal code: S-113 42. Tel: (08) 31 69 33.

Good odds — The feds dispatched a team to the Hanford, Washington, nuke facility to check out a tank that could explode. It's loaded with up to a million gallons



Harry Ring

of high-level radioactive waste in which there's been a buildup of hydrogen gas and other gases. The experts concluded "there is a poten-

tial the trapped gases may be combustible, but the probability is low."

Give your eyes and brains a rest — Striking in its realism, an illustrated ad in *House Beautiful* offers a wallpaper design of well-stocked bookshelves. From Brunswick & Fils, available through architects and interior designers.

Miracle of the marketplace — Britain's Institute of Economic Affairs advised the Anglican church that it could cope with a shrinking membership by paying its clergy on "a performance-related basis." It also recalled that when the Woolworth chain was taken over, "many

of its shops were offloaded as surplus to requirements."

Law 'n order, Israeli style — Assertedly suspected of violence, Umair Abu Aiseh, 19, has been imprisoned without trial for four years. An Israeli military court has considered his case at least six times but issued no charges against him because, they say, his file is lost. Meanwhile, his father, who is blind, is selling papers to support his 11-member family.

Wearing of the green — Reversing a long-held position, the National Association of Manufacturers declared that environmental im-

provement and economic growth are not incompatible.

"You've come a long way, baby" — "To many top executive women, a regular salon stop is as much a part of the early morning routine as that first cup of coffee. These are executives who understand that a professional, well-groomed appearance is part of the formula for success. . . . a professional fact of life." — *New York Times*.

True obscenity — Coming soon, the Jesse Helms Citizenship Center, a museum named after the hardcore right-wing senator from North Carolina who kicked off the

attack on the Mapplethorpe exhibit. Philip Morris has coughed up \$200,000 toward the museum. Helms champions the coffin-nail industry with the same vigor that he opposes the First Amendment.

Thought for the week — "Lorenzo says he can't understand why so many of his workers despise him with such intensity. Well, someone must explain to him that Eastern's unionized workers are ordinary Americans. They're really not such a bad lot and they tend to know a skunk when they see one." — *New York Newsday* columnist Robert Reno.

A visit to a farming cooperative outside Havana

BY RUSSELL JOHNSON

BATABANO, Cuba—The Manuel Cooperative located here, 50 kilometers from Havana, is named after a local martyr who fell in the revolutionary war that triumphed in 1959. It was founded in 1983 by 36 independent farmers growing rice and vegetables to supply the tourist hotels and communities of the capital. Recently I visited this farm as a guest of the National Association of Small Farmers (ANAP).

This visit gave a glimpse of how independent farmers, by joining together through the cooperative movement, are transforming their lives and participating in the growing mobilization of Cuba's workers and farmers to build up Cuba's economy without resort to capitalist methods.

The agrarian reform policies that have been implemented during Cuba's 31-year revolution turned many large farm holdings into state-owned enterprises in the same manner as the major industrial enterprises.

At the same time, many tenant farmers, squatters, and other small farmers were given free title to the land they worked, and additional land if they didn't have enough. The government has not forcibly collectivized them but encouraged them to take advantage of the economic and social benefits of uniting their land with their neighbors in cooperatively owned farms.

Since the mid-1980s, the cooperative farm movement has received renewed impetus across Cuba, both as an anticipation and an integral part of what is called the rectification campaign. Through rectification a widening layer of politicized workers and farmers are being led by the Cuban Communist Party to increase productivity and solve pressing social problems through their own conscious efforts, relying less and less on bureaucratic mechanisms and personnel.

According to Lazaro Pérez from ANAP, who accompanied me on my visit, there are now 1,398 cooperative farms with 70,000 members across Cuba. They play a decisive role in the growing of basic food crops, coffee, and tobacco, as well as producing some 20 percent of the sugar harvest.

I received a warm welcome at the Manuel Cooperative. I was, they said, their first overseas visitor. Since 1983 the cooperative has expanded to 85 members, 30 joining in the

past year, cooperative secretary Francisco Díaz explained. More and more local farmers saw the benefits of joining up. As individual farmers they only had access to hand tools and animals to plough their land and cultivate crops. Through the cooperative, they have nine tractors and technical assistance from ANAP to help them.

The entire produce of the cooperative is sold to the state at fixed prices, while fertilizers and other inputs are bought in the same manner. The surplus after costs is then split with 50 percent going as wages for the cooperative members on the basis of hours worked, and the other half being allotted as investment funds for new projects and other activities. Taxes are based on total production, not "profits."

Members of the cooperative work nine hours a day, six days a week, with a two-week annual vacation. Last year they earned about 10 pesos per day, or about 50 percent more than the basic wage of unskilled workers. On more established cooperatives members might earn 25 pesos a day and receive four weeks vacation—the standard for Cuban workers.

Voluntary labor

Scattered across the 620 acres of the cooperative are to be found the thatched huts, or bohios, on what were the individual plots of the farmers. Now the cooperative members have banded together with neighboring cooperative members and other workers to form a voluntary labor construction brigade to build new housing and other needed social facilities in Batabano. After work, and on scheduled days off, the brigade members are building modern cement block housing and other needed social facilities, using materials supplied by the government. Monthly rent for these houses was set at two days' pay for 20 years, after which they belong to the family.

There were no substantial garden plots around the newly built homes. The cooperative members obtained their food from the supermarket, it was explained, just like urban workers. They are entirely drawn into the national economy.

Cuba's Prime Minister Fidel Castro, in discussing the accumulating problems of bureaucratic mismanagement and low labor

productivity that led to the rectification campaign, explained that in some of the nation's industries there were more people in administration than workers in production. The *cooperativistas* were proud of the fact that of their 85 members, only six, including two workers who maintain the tractors and other machinery, are not directly employed in the field.

The entire organization of the cooperative reminded me very much of the construction minibrigades in central Havana. The cooperative was organized through assemblies of all members. These assemblies decided production goals, elected administrators, and admitted new members.

The managers of the cooperative, elected from among the farmers by a general assembly, were also the political leaders. Díaz, for example, was one of 10 cooperative members who belonged to the Communist Party. He

was one of five who had served in voluntary military missions to Angola since 1975, helping push invading South African troops out of that country.

The tasks of the cooperative were organized by brigades and led by example. Díaz led the watercress-cutting brigade. They started work at 5:00 every morning in order to get the cress to Havana fresh and in time for the tourists' lunch table.

In the Manuel Cooperative there were only four women members, all working in administration. The men I spoke to considered the working conditions in the flooded fields to be too rugged for their wives and daughters. Instead, they worked in other jobs in Batabano. Nationally, I was told, some 30 percent of cooperative members are women.

Children were not working on the farm either. Like all Cuban children they go to school, which is free through university.

700 at Philadelphia prochoice rally

BY STEPHEN FRUM

PHILADELPHIA — More than 700 defenders of abortion rights rallied here April 13 to defend a women's health clinic. In a demonstration called by the Southeastern Pennsylvania Abortion Rights Coalition, students and community groups were able to keep the clinic open and operating. Right-wing church groups had said that they would try to shut down the Elizabeth Blackwell Medical Center as they have done in the past. About 350 opponents of abortion rights held a silent vigil in the street but were unable to stop women seeking health care from getting to their appointments.

Several speakers at the rally contrasted the action to one last year when the clinic was shut down for several hours because abortion opponents blocked the doors. This year police were forced to have nine large buses waiting to haul away the anti-abortion rights demonstrators. Three hundred sixty-one were arrested.

Organizers of the abortion rights rally described it as an "enormous victory." Reflecting a general commitment to abortion rights, one Temple University student carried a sign that read, "I could have gone to class today, but I chose Elizabeth Blackwell Medical Center."

—10 AND 25 YEARS AGO—

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

May 2, 1980

More than a million Cubans marched through Havana in support of their revolution and their government April 20. For 13 hours they marched down Fifth Avenue in the Mirimar district, the once-swank area where the Peruvian embassy is located.

People chanted slogans, sang songs, and danced down the avenue. The chants reached a peak as they passed the Peruvian embassy, where some of those who want to leave Cuba remain.

Many of the banners and placards carried by the immense throng made clear what they thought of those who want to leave. "We are not a rich country, but we are a country with dignity." "Cuba is for the workers. Cuba is for those who produce." "Let those who want to go leave!"

The march climaxed a week of actions by huge numbers of Cubans. Students and workers demonstrated their agreement with Fidel Castro that the building of socialism is a voluntary endeavor, and those who don't want to participate are welcome to get out.

THE MILITANT

Published in the Interests of the Working People

May 3, 1965

Price 10c

Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos, symbol of

Puerto Rico's struggle for independence, died April 21 at the age of 73.

Already an ardent supporter of independence while a student at Harvard University, he turned down numerous offers to work for perpetrators of the colonial status quo. He joined the Nationalist Party in 1924 and became its leader in 1930.

As part of U.S. imperialism's brutal repression of the nationalist movement, he was sentenced to jail in 1936 and served 11 years in a federal penitentiary.

In 1950 there was an armed revolt in Puerto Rico and, at about the same time, two members of his party tried to assassinate President Truman. Accused and convicted of planning the revolt, he was sentenced to another prison term. In 1953 Puerto Rico's governor, Muñoz Marín, granted him a conditional pardon.

In 1954 Puerto Rican nationalists fired shots in the U.S. House of Representatives and wounded some congressmen. Though Albizu Campos was not implicated in the affair, his pardon was revoked when he publicly called it an "act of heroism."

Again in prison, he suffered a cerebral hemorrhage. Repeated requests by his wife, Laura de Albizu Campos, to visit him in the hospital in Puerto Rico were denied by the U.S. government, which had revoked her American citizenship in 1948.

Laura de Albizu Campos is presently a representative of the Cuban government to the United Nations.

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What's ahead in Eastern strike?

Continued from front page

fighting on several fronts, and the Greyhound strikers, who are on the picket lines themselves.

The decision by bankruptcy court Judge Burton Lifland to appoint Shugrue, who used to work at Continental Airlines, as trustee of Eastern came on the 411th day of the walkout.

The long-term impact of the strike played a major role in forcing this decision. Month after month, strikers maintained the picket lines — sometimes bigger, sometimes smaller — at airports around the country and in Canada and Puerto Rico. They have continued to fight for, and win, support.

Although Lorenzo has succeeded in getting Eastern's daily schedule up to some 800 flights a day, a stench continues to surround the "new" Eastern. Recently, it was announced that Eastern's losses since the strike started on March 4, 1989, have reached a staggering \$1.2 billion.

Although bargain-basement fares are attracting passengers, the business travelers needed to generate income are steering clear of Eastern in large numbers. So are many others, starting with members of other unions.

Reports of government probes into the airline's safety practices and news of accidents and near-accidents — including one recent Eastern flight that took off from Washington, D.C.'s National Airport with a rear staircase hanging down — have revealed that the "new" Eastern is cutting corners on safety.

The high turnover among those hired to replace the strikers has also helped destabilize the airline. The peeling paint and crumbling insignia on much of Eastern's equipment, the cannibalized planes lying at maintenance hangars in Atlanta, Miami, and elsewhere, and the fact that the air carrier remained mired in bankruptcy proceedings also undermined Lorenzo's efforts to create the image of a "comeback" airline at Eastern.

By the time Lorenzo presented the fifth "reorganization" plan for the company in March, Eastern's unsecured creditors — owed nearly \$1 billion — finally became convinced that their chances of being repaid were slipping away under Lorenzo's direction.

It is possible that a move by Lorenzo to put up even more of Texas Air's assets to back Eastern could have convinced the creditors to back off from the demand that he be removed.

But Lorenzo has already been forced to put up close to \$190 million in Texas Air assets to back Eastern's "reorganization" plans. And Texas Air is also going to have to pay Eastern \$280 million for assets stripped from the airline after Lorenzo bought it in 1986 — a result of the court-appointed examiner's report released in early March. In addition, Texas Air has had to assume liability for Eastern's pension plan, which, according to the federal Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp., is underfunded to the tune of nearly \$1 billion.

But Lorenzo was unwilling to see Texas Air and its Continental Airlines subsidiary become even more directly dragged into the fight at Eastern. Not only would that threaten the further loss of Texas Air assets, but it would also open up new possibilities for the workers at Continental being drawn back toward the unions and the fight against Lorenzo.

Since Lorenzo crushed the unions at Continental in 1983, that airline has become a symbol of not only what Lorenzo was driving toward at Eastern, but the aims of the owners of other airlines and industries as well.

Real estate and gambling speculator Donald Trump — a Lorenzo buddy who bought Eastern's Northeast corridor shuttle last year — explained several months ago that Lorenzo had "made it a lot easier in the airline industry by taking the unions on. . . . He was willing to take the heat for the rest of the industry."

For both working people and the owners of industry, the battle at Eastern has been a watershed — not just a fight against Lorenzo, but against *Lorenzoism*. Would the Texas Air boss succeed in making Eastern another Continental, thereby opening the door to deeper and wider moves against the labor movement? Or would the unions, however battered and weakened by the capitalists' decade-long offensive, be able to draw the line?

For more than a year, the Machinists at Eastern have proved that resistance is possible. Their fight, the solidarity it has inspired, and the victory in ousting Lorenzo are advances for the entire labor movement.

In particular, this success at Eastern can put the Machinists in a stronger position in relation to other union-busting and union-weakening efforts in the airline industry.

It will be easier to convince mechanics and cleaners at Northwest Airlines, where the Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association (AMFA) is carrying out a raiding operation against the International Association of Machinists (IAM), why airline workers — whether they work on the ramp, are aircraft mechanics, or clean planes — are in a stronger position vis-à-vis the employer if they are united into one union.

AMFA, a pro-company outfit that poses as a "craft union," recently won a union representation election among

mechanics at the Trump Shuttle. AMFA has stepped up its raid at Northwest, in part by pointing to the "failure" of the Eastern strike. AMFA supporters have also raised their heads among IAM members at Trans World Airlines and American Airlines, where mechanics and other ground workers are in the Transit Workers Union. They have also begun an aggressive campaign among Machinists at United Airlines. This is a threat that the IAM and other unions in the airline industry need to take seriously.

The success at Eastern will also be an aid to workers seeking to rebuild the union at USAir, where the Teamsters recently lost a major union representation election involving 8,000 ramp workers and mechanics.

What have been the key elements in the Machinists strike at Eastern that led to the victory of forcing Lorenzo out?

- When they walked out 14 months ago, the strikers had been pushed to the point of desperation. They were determined that the only course — for themselves, their children, and others in the labor movement — lay in defeating Lorenzo.

- The Machinists have remained solid. Out of 8,500 IAM members who walked out, only a few hundred have crossed the line to return to work. Even when the pilots' and flight attendants' leaderships abandoned the fight last November and pulled down their picket lines, the Machinists dug in their heels and kept fighting.

- The strikers have learned to rely on themselves — and the support of other workers — to keep the struggle moving forward. It did not take too long for most strikers to learn that no aid could be expected from the government or courts.

- During the course of the long walkout the strikers have been able to forge solid links with fighters in other labor battles that have developed, most importantly the fight by the United Mine Workers of America against Pittston Coal Group.

Since the Pittston strike was settled in February, the Eastern strikers have continued to reach out to other fighters, like those at Greyhound.

- The length of the walkout has also made it possible for the strikers to develop a new layer of leaders, tested in the fight against Lorenzo. In city after city, strikers have stepped forward to organize the day-to-day operations of the strike and lead in reaching out for labor solidarity. The longer the strike has gone on, the more experienced and confident this new layer of leaders has become.

- The support won throughout the labor movement, including internationally, has been central in sustaining the strike.

Throughout the strike, the Machinists have concentrated on maintaining their picket lines and reaching out for solidarity. With these methods, the strikers have now won a victory for the entire labor movement.

After he bought the airline in 1986 and launched the "reign of terror" against the workers at Eastern, Lorenzo refused to hold meaningful discussions with the IAM. Certainly none have occurred during the strike.

A few days after Shugrue was appointed trustee, however, he flew to Miami to meet with Charles Bryan, president of IAM District 100, which represents all the strikers at Eastern. While strikers know that the outcome of these talks is far from certain, the fact that Eastern management has been forced to talk to the union is further proof of what the strikers have won.

"We don't really know if Shugrue will negotiate in good faith," said Lawrence Roundtree, a striking mechanic at Atlanta's Hartsfield International Airport. "We've not settled our grievances with this company. We're still out."

"The feeling on the picket line is much more positive, and this is a victory. But now more than ever our picket lines must be stronger and we must continue to ask for support from the traveling public."

This view was expressed by strikers in many places. "We've learned in this strike to be patient," explained La Guardia striker Mark McCormick.

Will the airline be sold, or merged with another airline? Can an agreement be reached that would result in strikers returning to work at Eastern? Can the scabs be displaced? Will the strikers be pressed to take the kind of concessions envisaged by IAM President Bryan when he said — shortly after Lorenzo's removal — that Machinists might have to make "tremendous sacrifices over the next year to bring this back to normalcy"?

While strikers are discussing these and other questions, they are continuing to maintain their picket lines and reach out for support. In many cities, plans are moving ahead for solidarity activities. Rallies and expanded picket lines are planned for late April and early May in New York, Pittsburgh, Miami, and Washington, D.C., and are under discussion in several other cities as well. Support to the Eastern strike will also be part of a labor solidarity rally in Marshalltown, Iowa, May 12.

"Lorenzo is gone, but we're still not back on the property yet," said Pittsburgh strike coordinator Frank Planinac. "If the 'new' Eastern doesn't want to settle with us, this strike won't end. The strike is what brought us this far."

Nuking right on through Earth Day

BY DOUG JENNESS

It seemed like everybody wanted to get on the bandwagon for Earth Day this year. Hundreds of thousands of people turned out for a wide range of activities around a multitude of demands urging that something be done about the worsening condition of our environment.

But there were also a lot of capitalist politicians and big-business organizations that aggressively advertised their support for the day. In a sense this reflects the depth of popular concern that is mounting around this issue.

Putting on green masks, however, doesn't hide the fact that this was all a scam. In fact, it seemed that the greater a company's guilt for despoiling our soil, water, and air, the more vigorously it promoted its Madison Avenue campaign.

Among the more outstanding examples were the American Forest Council, which includes the principal logging and paper companies in the country; the National

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

Cattlemen's Association, dominated by capitalist ranchers; and the American Mining Congress, a major organization of mine operators. These groups all issued prominent ads or statements for the occasion insisting that for them "Every day is Earth Day."

The timber and paper giants announced that they plant trees every day and "are committed to renewing America's forests." But it's precisely these profiteers who are driving to clear-cut tens of thousands of acres of virgin forests on national and state lands in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska.

The cattlemen's ad asserted, "In the process of raising cattle, we also help Mother Nature. Cattle grazing helps strengthen and replenish vegetation — it's a lot like mowing your lawn." But when these ranchers put too many cattle on public lands, which they can do for a pittance, it's more like playing the Super Bowl on your lawn. And these big-business ranchers have a long history of overgrazing, which has led to severe soil and water erosion.

The mining industry's ad, broadcast as a 30-second radio spot, begins "April 22 is Earth Day," as songbirds chirp in the background. "A day to celebrate what we can do, together, for a clean and safe environment — today for ourselves, and tomorrow for our children."

But when it comes to fighting restrictions on strip mining, which has devastated many hillsides and contaminated countless streams in Appalachia, these moguls drop the syrupy talk and put on their hob-nailed boots. And there are no songbirds warbling when they drive to squeeze more profits out of miners, an effort that inevitably leads to more hazardous conditions and accidents in the mines.

One of the most shameful masquerades is the current crusade to present nuclear power as an environmentally safe alternative to coal- and oil-generated electrical plants. Harold Finger, president of the U.S. Council for Energy Awareness, a nuclear industry organization, celebrating the start-up of the Seabrook, New Hampshire, nuclear power plant last month, said, "Seabrook can be viewed as an environmental powerhouse. It will light the homes and run the factories of New England while emitting no greenhouse gases. . . . As our demand for electricity keeps growing, we fully expect that we'll get back to building more nuclear energy plants."

But it's not only the nuclear power industry that's peddling this line. Many big-business politicians and newspaper publishers are joining in. "Environmentalists are inconsistent when they press for action to avert greenhouse warming while remaining adamantly opposed to nuclear power," the *New York Times* editors argued last month.

Shouldn't the disasters at Chernobyl and Three Mile Island be evidence enough that nuclear power is a deadly danger?

On the day after Earth Day the Soviet paper *Pravda* announced that 14,000 more people will be evacuated from the area around the Chernobyl plant. Since the explosion there four years ago that sent clouds of radioactive gases into the atmosphere, 190,000 people have been moved from the area. Radioactivity in some places as far as 37 miles from the plant is nine times higher than acceptable limits.

Thirty-one people died during or shortly after the accident. In the last 18 months thyroid disease, anemia, and cancer have dramatically increased. Significant numbers of farm animals are being born deformed — 197 freak calves at one collective farm and 200 piglets at another.

Earlier this month officials at the Three Mile Island plant announced that the "cleanup" from the partial meltdown 11 years ago was finally completed with the transfer of 150 tons of radioactive wreckage to Idaho. But 2.3 million gallons of radioactive water remains in the plant, and the plant itself will stay in "monitored storage" for decades.

The stubborn truth is that nuclear reactors are exceedingly dangerous, and science and technology have not found any way to make nuclear energy safe. The only course that can stop nuclear disasters is to shut down all the nuclear plants.

Utah steelworkers' confidence shown by 'no' vote

BY DAVID SALNER

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah — With a year to go in our contract, Magnesium Corporation of America proposed in March that United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 8319 members accept a five-year extension. As an incentive, the company offered an immediate 3 percent pay raise, followed by 4 percent annual increases for the duration of the pact.

Local members turned down the offer decisively, even though it would have meant our first pay raise in many years. Why? The reason is simple. After years of concessions

UNION TALK

and working under terrible conditions, local members have learned that we are worth more than 3 or 4 percent.

At Magnesium Corp.'s plant, which is located 50 miles west of Salt Lake City on the shores of the Great Salt Lake, magnesium is extracted from the lake's brine and cast into ingots in the plant foundry. The metal is used in the aerospace industry and elsewhere. Last year the plant produced 36,000 tons of magnesium.

Work at Magnesium Corp. means heavy labor in extreme heat. In the summer workers sometimes lose more than 10 pounds from dehydration in a 12-hour shift. Year after year the plant has been rated the number one source of toxic air pollution of all U.S. factories. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency figures, cited recently in the *Salt Lake Tribune*, showed 51,000 tons of chlorine gas released in 1988 — a 50 percent increase over the previous year.

The company spokesman quoted in the article claimed the toxic emissions posed no risk to human life because of the plant's remote location. He didn't mention the risk to

the human beings who work at the plant — the members of our union.

Since a brief strike in 1988, the company has increasingly violated the contract. Especially serious have been violations involving the use and abuse of temporary workers, contracting out of work, and the use of salaried personnel to do bargaining unit work.

In recent months union meetings have gotten larger, reflecting the anger and frustration workers are feeling. These meetings began to be forums for discussion of workers' rights and solidarity. The local protested Pittston's union-busting drive against the United Mine Workers of America with a petition signed by a majority of our 370 members. We also made a donation to the UMWA.

"Stop Lorenzo" stickers are widespread in every department: on hard hats, lunch boxes, and in other places. For many local members, these stickers are a badge of solidarity to show that we are getting ready for a tough fight ourselves.

USWA Local 8319 was instrumental in bringing Eddie Croft, a leader of the Eastern strike in Los Angeles, to the Salt Lake area for a tour earlier this year. When Croft told our February union meeting how we all had to stand together to prevent the superrich from robbing us of our futures, the response was a thunderous, "Right on!"

That is the background to the company's recent proposal to reopen the contract, with its no-strike, no-lockout clause still in effect. They proposed wage and benefit improvements in exchange for five years of "stability," which was needed, they said, to enhance the company's ability to borrow money.

At the crowded special union meeting to consider the company's proposal, criticism and anger were widespread. One worker made an invitation to various company people to work side by side with us during the heat of summer, "to see what these negotiations are all about."

When the company proposal to increase vacations to four

weeks after 20 years of service was read off, one worker shouted, "None of us will live that long!" Other workers criticized the provision that took away a week of vacation from new hires.

No one liked the contract proposal but some wondered if the local was strong enough or united enough to reject it and fight for something better. This question was answered by a union member who said — to resounding applause — that if we want the union to fight for us, it will, "because we are the union!"

The secret ballot on the contract was scheduled for the following week, giving plenty of time for discussion, which took place in lunch areas and break rooms throughout the plant. When several foremen tried to find out how union members planned to vote, they were told in no uncertain terms, "We're going to vote no."

Workers discussed how five years was too long to be locked into this contract without being able to defend ourselves. Many felt we needed more money now — way more than 3 percent — while we're healthy enough to enjoy it.

Shortly after the vote on March 19, the official count was announced. A big turnout had resulted in an overwhelming defeat for the company's proposal, which was rejected by well over 80 percent. Many local members see that this "no" vote can help us overcome divisions the company has tried to foster. It shows the type of unity we can build between maintenance and production workers, new hires and senior employees, and within the local as a whole.

More united ourselves, we are also encouraged by the solidarity won by the Pittston miners while they were on strike, and by the Eastern and Greyhound strikers who are on the picket line now.

David Salner, a member of USWA Local 8319, works at Magnesium Corp. of America in Rowley, Utah.

LETTERS

Lessons of Nicaragua

I disagree strongly with Kevin Porch, who argues in his letter in the April 6 *Militant* that if the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) had led the workers and farmers of Nicaragua in a struggle to overturn capitalism — abandoning its strategy of a mixed economy, pluralism, and national reconciliation — they would have been isolated.

Through the writings of Marx, Engels, Lenin, and Trotsky there is a theme: Those who refuse to learn from history are doomed to repeat it. In the years since the 1917 Bolshevik victory, the "unique" FSLN strategy has been tried many times. Whether it was called popular front, left bloc, bloc of four classes, or national dialogue and reconciliation, it led to defeat.

Since the Russian revolution, the Bolshevik strategy has been tried once — in Cuba, where the workers and farmers took and still hold power.

It is the FSLN policy of the last few years that isolated the Nicaraguan workers and farmers from their real allies — signing the Central American "peace accord," denouncing the Cuban revolution, ending the land reform, discouraging strikes, and denying women the right to abortion.

The main lesson was summed up by Doug Jenness in the April 6 "Learning About Socialism" column. He quotes Lenin: "There can be no alternative but the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie or the dictatorship of the proletariat. Dreams of some third way are reactionary, petty-bourgeois lamentations."

Harsh words, but right on the money.

Roy Inglee
Wilmington, Delaware

Harry Bridges

One of our greatest labor leaders died March 31. Harry Bridges was president of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union for more years than I can recall.

I believe that union was patterning the fundamental principles of scientific socialism for and by the working people. In order to interest workers in socialism, it is necessary to let them know if and how it will work.

I cannot say if Harry Bridges belonged to any party, but I know he was once asked what organizations he belonged to. He said the ILWU and the Catholic church.

I knew what he believed in by his works. He was always for the workers. Therefore, he was for peace and justice for the world.

Grady Vandiver
Rialto, California

Too much on strikes

The *Militant* is the only weapon working people have. Readers are given on-the-spot reports from South Africa, Nicaragua, Cuba, Namibia, and Panama.

But the *Militant* spends far too much of its resources on U.S. strikes. The union movement is an essential key to overthrowing the boss class. But with the fight for democratic rights in South Africa, Nicaragua, Panama, Eastern Europe, and Northern Ireland, it is hard to get excited about a simple strike by a handful of workers against one company.

Focus on demolishing apartheid. Have an article about Cuito Cuanavale, Angola. Report on Cuba more.

Small strikes should not be front-page news week after week. Far more important battles are being waged on U.S. campuses against racism, cop brutality, and the phony drug war.

David Johnson
Chicago, Illinois

Budget cuts

Walking in lower Manhattan in late March, I bumped into a group of workers holding a picket line on what is usually a pretty quiet side street. They explained that they work in the building we were in front of — the Manhattan Developmental Center where some 125 young people with severe mental and/or physical handicaps live year-round.

The workers who care for them were protesting that the facility is being closed, a victim of budget cuts by New York State. "This is the only place like this in Manhattan," explained Arturo Andino, a senior recreation therapist at MDC.

The workers are members of the New York State Public Employees Federation. The picket line at MDC was one of a series of protests the PEF is organizing to protest budget cuts that will result in firing several



hundred workers in New York's mental health system and eliminating 1,300 more jobs through attrition. These cuts, the pickets explained, will affect the ability of mentally ill people and people with mental or physical handicaps to get the counseling, education, therapy, and treatment they need.

Meanwhile, explains a PEF leaflet, the state government is proposing a \$2 billion cut in state taxes over the next two years — the main beneficiaries of which will be the wealthy.

The federation is a union representing 59,000 state workers, including teachers, nurses, therapists, scientists, counselors, and social workers "who care for New York State's neediest citizens," the PEF leaflet says.

S. L.
Newark, New Jersey

Pathfinder Mural

A rally was held March 25 at the New Visions Art Gallery in Atlanta to protest the attacks on the Pathfinder Mural in New York. Mural supporter Salm Kolis explained how paint had been splattered on the portraits of revolutionary leaders the day after the U.S. invasion of Panama. She pointed to the provocative editorial in the *New York Post* that was published prior to the attack.

Alice Lovelace, executive director of the Arts Exchange, detailed efforts to censor arts through restrictions on funding by the National Endowment for the Arts.

Thomas Bowen of KMT Fraternity, Inc., said his organization was endorsing the Pathfinder Mural because "we see the need to join arms to fight the common enemy."

Tom Cullen, director of the Fulton County Arts Council; Lynn Lofton, New Visions Art Gallery director; Jonathan Gaines, a leader of the fight for a Black studies program at Georgia State University; and Chris Walker, a photographer and art critic for the *Atlanta Journal and Constitution* were among the participants in the program.

Chris Remple
Atlanta, Georgia

Taxation in Canada

In reference to Robert Simms' column on taxation in the April 13 issue, I thought readers might be interested in the following.

The proportion of Canadian federal government tax revenue coming from corporations has dropped from 26 percent in 1975 to less than 15 percent today. In the same period, personal income taxes went from 58 percent to over 65 percent of tax revenue. There has also been a rise in the rate and number of indirect personal taxes, such as sales taxes.

The pool of deferred (unpaid) taxes owed by corporations now stands at over \$40 billion. This amounts to a massive pool of interest-free loans.

Canadian newspapers have recently reported thousands of wealthy individuals and corporations pay no tax at all by virtue of laws written to meet their interests. In 1986, for example, Alcan Aluminum Ltd. paid no taxes on its income of \$306 million, nor did Brascan Ltd. on its 1988 income of \$263 million.

Simms wrote the truth when he said, "In the imperialist countries, so-called tax reforms have raised the tax burden on working people and lowered it for the wealthy."

Roger Annis
Montréal, Canada

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 indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

Unionists gather in Virginia

Pittston miners, supporters discuss gains made, challenges ahead

BY MAGGIE McCRAW

WISE, Va. — More than 1,000 miners and their supporters from around the country who filled the Wise County Fairgrounds on the April 21 weekend discussed the accomplishments of the miners' strike against the Pittston Coal Group. They looked to the challenges they still face.

"Let's not forget the other labor unions that helped us. Let's not forget those who are not back to work. The battle is not over," said Carmen Mullins, a leader of the student auxiliary formed during the 11-month Pittston strike, which ended in February.

Josefina Otero, an Eastern Airlines striker from Philadelphia, received an enthusiastic response from the Saturday rally when she told the miners, "Because of our common struggle with you, our strike became solid, and we remain solid. We showed we're stronger than Eastern boss Frank Lorenzo. We'll show we're stronger than Texas Air. We want the whole cake. We'll stay out one day longer for John McCoy, one day longer for Bob Waterhouse, and one day longer for you." (McCoy was a West Virginia mine union activist killed in January and Waterhouse a Greyhound striker killed by a scab-driven bus.)

The crowd cheered when Jesse Jackson reported that when he recently visited South African leader Nelson Mandela, "Mandela expressed his knowledge that no union has given more to end slave labor in South Africa than the UMWA."

United Mine Workers of America President Richard Trumka said that solidarity was key to the strike. "Pittston thought they had us beat," he said, "but we sounded a call that workers all across America were waiting to hear."

He went on to list a number of ongoing strikes and struggles of miners. "We won't stop fighting until every one is back to work with a contract," Trumka said.

Lease miners still out

Some 300 "lease miners" are still on strike. These miners work at a number of small mines that have contracts to sell coal to Pittston. They struck soon after the Pittston miners went out in April 1989 but were not covered by the Pittston contract. The UMWA is negotiating separate contracts at these mines.

Many miners were concerned that they didn't know at the time of the contract vote in February that the lease miners would still be out after the contract was ratified.

Two of the 13 Pittston miners suspended or fired for strike activity remain suspended.

Earlier in the day Trumka had introduced William Usery, the government-appointed "supermediator" in contract talks between the union and the company. Usery said he hoped the federal commission on health-care benefits that he chairs will avert more strikes. "We must do things differently in the future," Usery said. "I hope and pray that we will not have to have such a fight again."

But union activists who held informal gatherings during the weekend of activities wanted to discuss the fight against Pittston — what had been learned, what was won, and the challenges that remain.

Twenty Machinists union members on strike at Eastern from five cities, including Los Angeles and New York, talked about the new stage in their strike.

Striking Greyhound bus drivers from California and Virginia explained the impact the Eastern and Pittston strikes had on them.

Auto workers from Mississippi, Virginia rail workers, New York telephone workers who had been on strike against NYNEX, electricians from Indiana, steelworkers from North Carolina, and members of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers from four states attended.

Miners from six states, including some of



April 21-22 gathering at county fairgrounds in Wise, Virginia, drew miners, Eastern and Greyhound strikers, and other unionists.

Militant/Linda Joyce

the 1,800 UMWA members currently on strike around the country, came to the event.

Miners say they are proud of the unity they maintained and the ties they forged with other unionists. They pointed to how they learned that the courts and cops side with the employers.

Daughters of Mother Jones carries on

The women who formed the support group called the Daughters of Mother Jones said their lives have been changed through their

active involvement in the strike. They are holding together their group and since the end of the strike have traveled to cities to support the Eastern and Greyhound strikers. They are collecting money at the mines for the family of John McCoy.

James Gibbs, a strike activist, explained, "The strike made us more human. We were selfish before. We were working every day and didn't care about those who weren't. Now we do."

These gains are especially important in the

light of challenges still facing miners.

'Flexible scheduling' provisions

A miner who works at Pittston's Moss No. 3 coal preparation plant near here explained that many miners are trying to come to grips with how to remain active while working under the "flexible scheduling" provisions of the new contract. At some work sites miners work all three schedules — 10-hour shifts four days a week, eight-hour rotating shifts, and eight-hour straight shifts. "This breaks up our unity. Out of 120 of my coworkers I only see and talk with 20 now. It's harder to attend union meetings," he explained.

Miners who arrived at nearby Camp Solidarity Saturday night after work expressed concern about the impact on safety. "At first I didn't think much about it, but you're really tired those last two hours," one miner said about the new 10-hour shifts.

Currently there are 250 Pittston miners laid off, far fewer than before the strike. The McClure No. 2 mine, which was shut down in 1983, has reopened. Miners who have been laid off for up to 11 years have been recalled to work.

Freddie Wallace expressed the view of many miners when he said, "I don't like the flexible schedules, but it's put more men back to work."

Union members are performing 10,000 hours of community service in an agreement that will reduce federal fines imposed during the strike. However, Russell County Judge Donald McGlothlin, Jr., has not yet made a decision on reducing the \$64 million in fines he levied against the union.

Some charges filed against individual union members during the strike are still pending. A number of miners reported that federal agents stationed in the area are conducting investigations, questioning miners at their homes and visiting Pittston bosses, "snooping around the Moss 3 occupation and other incidents" during the strike, one miner said.

Kentucky miners get jobs back slowly

BY JULIETTE MONTAUK AND GREG RELAFORD

STONE, Ky. — The three mines in this area that make up Eastern Coal Co., owned by Pittston Coal Group, are scheduled to be back up to full production by summer. Of the 200 union miners that work at Eastern's PC-2, B-2, and Shop Hollow mines, 100 have been called back to work so far.

These miners, members of the United Mine Workers of America Local 5737, along with Pittston miners in Virginia and West Virginia, are returning to work after signing a contract in February and battling Pittston for almost 11 months to defend their union.

The slow transition back to work has hurt some miners worse than others. For example, a number of miners the company has called in for work are not actually put back on the job right away. Since signing up for work terminates eligibility for strike benefits, some miners are left without income for several weeks. Others are working short weeks of two or three days.

Although there were varying opinions on the content of the contract signed with Pittston, most miners felt that coming out of the strike the union remained intact and was stronger. As one miner put it, "This time we showed them what we can do. Next time we might get better results."

Terry Varney, UMWA Local 5737 vice-president, explained, "If Pittston would have won and busted the union, we would see dozens of coal companies trying to do the same."

Many miners in the area have taken a wait-and-see attitude on the next stage of the struggle against the coal bosses. At the Shop Hollow mine, where miners are working the new 28-day, rotating schedule, one miner at the portal said the company was treating the miners real nice. "So nice that it makes me suspicious," he said. Miners felt that working longer weeks and rotating shifts would make already dangerous conditions in the mines even worse.

Miners also scorned the \$64 million in fines levied against the mine union during the fight with Pittston. The Virginia judge handling the fines has yet to rule whether or not the union must pay.

The common opinion among miners was that not only were the fines unpayable but the union should not have to pay.

Surrounded by nonunion mines

In eastern Kentucky, especially south of the Pittston operation, hundreds of signs along the road indicate coal-mining sites. Most of these operations are nonunion. Around Jenkins, which is located more than an hour from UMWA Local 5737, union and nonunion miners explained how the region used to be union. Over the past 20 years, the mine union has been driven out due to union-busting drives and reorganization of the industry.

Many nonunion mines now have small work crews; operate short term, running from six months to three years; and have young work forces made up of miners who have no experience with unions. Some miners believe

these factors have hampered attempts by the UMWA to organize them.

In the nonunion coal operations wages and benefits are set on a person-to-person basis by the company. One underground miner may make \$5 an hour with no health benefits and work next to another making \$10 with benefits. None of the nonunion miners receive pensions. Miners in nonunion mines also face more hazardous conditions. Kentucky had a 100 percent increase in mine fatalities in 1989 — 30 miners lost their lives on the job. Ten of those were killed when the nonunion Pyro mine in Wheatcroft exploded.

"In some ways when union miners are fighting the coal bosses, us nonunion miners tend to watch the closest," said a miner in Jenkins. Conditions in the nonunion mines like his are worsening he said.

Not all are scabs

Pittston miner Varney explained that one can't assume these miners are all antiunion. "There are nonunion workers and then there are scabs." Many nonunion miners in the Jenkins area supported the Pittston strike and the current struggle at Mine 29, where 50 UMWA Local 1812 miners continue to fight to win their jobs and union back.

Most miners in the area declared that the fight against the coal employers isn't over. Varney explained that once his local here in Stone is back to work, they look forward to continuing to extend solidarity with other fighters like they received during the Pittston strike.