

Eastern's troubles grow while strikers gear up

BY JUDY STRANAHAN

As it becomes clearer each day that the difficulties facing Eastern Airlines are mounting — demoralizing scabs and sectors of management — the Machinists on strike against the carrier have renewed confidence

See editorial on page 14.

that they can win and are gearing up their activities throughout the country.

Strike activities are getting progressively

larger and more frequent as shown by actions in the past two weeks.

In Florida on June 30 more than 600 Machinists and their supporters marched around the Miami International Airport to demand a "contract now," calling on Martin Shugrue — the court-appointed trustee for Eastern — to settle with the union. "We're not going to go away," said Charles Bryan, president of International Association of Machinists (IAM) District 100.

In Pittsburgh, 200 Machinists, coal miners, steelworkers, bus drivers, and workers from a dozen other unions turned out on July

1 for a rally and walk-through at the Greater Pittsburgh International Airport to support the Eastern strike.

Vowing to "keep the pressure on," Eastern and Greyhound strikers in Philadelphia joined forces on July 7 for an expanded picket line and rally of 75 in front of Greyhound's downtown bus terminal.

Representing the AFL-CIO, Philadelphia Labor Council President Edward Toohey explained, "I come here today to reaffirm the determination and solid support of the trade union movement for the workers at Greyhound and Eastern."

Sixty unionists turned out in San Francisco at the airport on July 6, and in Los Angeles on July 7, 75 people picketed the Eastern terminal.

On June 30 in Detroit, 75 unionists held up a banner and passed out fliers at the Eastern counter and on the same day in Boston, 40 people held a three-and-one-half-hour airport walk-through and picket.

Striking Machinists and their supporters also launched a campaign in Atlanta on June 20 to talk to travel agents, explaining the strike and urging them not to book their customers on Eastern.

Moreover, Eastern scab-hiring sessions are getting smaller and prospective scabs are expressing greater concern that jobs with Eastern aren't real or won't last long.

More and more strikers are drawing the conclusion that the possibility of victory is closer than at any time since the strike began 16 months ago.

Recent reports indicate that the owners of Northwest Airlines are interested in purchasing Eastern. And most recently, it was reported that Northwest and the IAM would conduct talks.

Northwest, based in Minneapolis, was

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Trial held in lawsuit to harass Mark Curtis

BY SHELLIA KENNEDY

DES MOINES, Iowa — "We were faced with a 'no win' situation in the courtroom today and yet we all feel like we won," John Studer, coordinator of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, told a packed meeting of supporters July 9.

"Today Mark Curtis and Kate Kaku, his wife and defense committee spokesperson, faced a stacked trial," Studer explained. "Because of the way Iowa law is written there was no question Mark would lose."

The trial stemmed from a civil lawsuit for financial damages brought against Curtis by Keith and Denise Morris, the parents of the woman he allegedly assaulted more than two years ago.

In 1988 Curtis was framed up by Des Moines police on rape and burglary charges. He was convicted after an unfair trial and is currently serving a 25-year sentence in an Iowa state prison in Fort Madison.

Last month District Court Judge Arthur Gamble found that Curtis' criminal conviction established his guilt as fact and ruled that he was financially liable in the lawsuit. The only issue for the trial to resolve, therefore, was the amount of the financial judgment against Curtis.

"For this reason Mark directed his attorneys to attempt to reach a financial settlement before the trial, but the plaintiffs refused," Studer said. "This meant Mark and Kate faced a trial where the only room to fight was to try to minimize the damages. And we did very well in this regard."

Kaku led a delegation of 15 defense committee supporters to attend the trial. The delegation included trade union and political activists from Des Moines, Detroit, Atlanta, New York, and Toronto.

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Militant/Susan Zárate

Machinists on strike against Eastern are more confident than ever that victory is within reach. Above, some of the more than 600 who marched at Miami International Airport June 30.

British miners' conference rebuffs media attack on top union leaders

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

DURHAM, England — Delegates at the annual conference of the National Union of Mineworkers here rose in standing ovation to Arthur Scargill at the end of his presidential address. Scargill had given a stinging rebuff to attacks on him and the union's general secretary, Peter Heathfield, by the media. Scargill, in his July 9 speech, described the attacks as "character assassination" after an unprecedented trial by the media.

The attacks on the NUM leaders have continued despite the publication of a union-commissioned report, released at the beginning of this month, that exonerated both national officials of the charge of misappropriating union funds.

Initiated by the *Daily Mirror*, the chorus of newspaper and television "news" reports charged that Scargill and Heathfield had used money from Libya and the Soviet Union for their own personal ends. The union-commissioned report written by attorney Gavin Lightman found nothing to substantiate the

media allegations.

"Now they've moved the goal posts," Scargill said in his conference speech, referring to the new angle of attack. This attack focuses on the charge that the two NUM officials had diverted for hardship money for striking miners and their families into political channels, particularly to fund the International Miners' Organisation, of which Scargill is also president.

The IMO was established in September 1985, six months after the end of the national miners' strike in March of that year. Today the IMO has the affiliation of 43 miners' unions from 39 different countries. It has organized broad conferences and promoted international solidarity among miners, especially toward the National Union of Mineworkers of South Africa.

During the 1984-85 British coal strike, huge fines were imposed on the NUM. The courts ordered the union's assets to be seized and appointed a receiver to administer the

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Socialist Workers announce slate for New York elections

BY RONI McCANN

NEW YORK — The Socialist Workers Party statewide campaign was launched at a news conference here July 12. Craig Gannon announced his candidacy for governor on the SWP ticket that includes Susan Anmuth for lieutenant governor; Derek Bracey for attorney general; Aaron Ruby for comptroller; Cathy Sedwick for U.S. Congress, 11th district; and Selva Nebbia for U.S. Congress, 15th district.

Gannon said a massive effort to collect 30,000 signatures and place the socialist candidates' names on the ballot will be kicked off on Saturday, July 14. "We want to get thousands of signatures the first day and get off to a great start," he said. Supporters from the New York-New Jersey area and the surrounding region will be coming into the city or other parts of the state to help with the ballot effort.

Gannon was introduced to reporters at his Manhattan campaign headquarters by New York campaign co-chairperson Don Rojas, former press secretary to slain Grenada prime minister Maurice Bishop. The other co-chairperson of the SWP state campaign, Ernie Mailhot, was also present. Mailhot is strike staff coordinator for Machinists Local 1018 on strike against Eastern Airlines at La Guardia airport.

The state campaign director is Vivian Sahnner, a garment worker in New York and a member of International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union Local 2325.

Also accompanying Gannon at the news

conference were candidates Nebbia, Bracey, Anmuth, and Young Socialist Alliance National Secretary Heather Randle.

Among the most energetic backers of the SWP election campaign are members of the YSA who are running leaders of their organization on the SWP ticket in New York and other states and who will be taking the socialist campaigns to young workers and students.

The SWP has run in municipal and statewide elections in New York since 1938 when it ran write-in candidates for governor and U.S. Senate. The first time the party's candidates won a spot on the ballot was in 1941 when SWP National Secretary James P. Cannon ran for mayor of New York.

Campaign of explanation

"Some of the biggest political changes in the world in the last 45 years have taken place over the last year," said Gannon. "Workers and farmers are thinking about the momentous events that have occurred — from Eastern Europe to South Africa — and have questions about who won the Cold War; what are the prospects for socialism; and does capitalism face a bright future."

"Every party, every candidate, and every current of thought are presenting their answers to questions and their explanations of the events," said the socialist gubernatorial candidate. "What will distinguish the Socialist Workers Party is that we offer answers and explanations from the standpoint that is

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Renewal drive in Canada to build on last success

BY PAULA FRAMPTON
AND BARBARA GRAHAM

TORONTO — Beginning July 14 supporters of the *Militant* will be phoning and visiting subscribers as part of a campaign to win long-term readers to our press.

Here in Toronto *Militant* supporters are building on the successes of the last renewal campaign, which ran from January 27 to February 24.

be reached by car and visited in a period of a few hours.

Before each outing we met to discuss the campaign and to organize into teams of two or three.

Each team went to a supporter's house, armed with a list of subscribers in a particular area and "renewal kits" of socialist books and literature that readers might be interested in. We would then start calling readers

away. If this wasn't convenient, we would make an appointment for another day. Often a team would head out by car to visit subscribers and then call in to see if any new appointments had been arranged.

When we met with readers we invited them to the Pathfinder Bookstore and told them about the weekly political meetings held there sponsored by the *Militant*. Several subscribers attended forums over the subsequent weeks.

We also introduced them to *New International*, a magazine featuring political analysis of some of the big questions facing working people today.

Militant supporters who are active in their unions spent a lot of time talking to subscribers on the job, at picket lines, or union events, urging them to renew.

Previous experience in Toronto has shown that first-time subscribers who have not yet decided if they

want to renew can be convinced if phoned directly. When they are reminded of how the *Militant* or its sister publications have been bringing them important news and analysis they can't get anywhere else, a substantial number resubscribe.

In all, 177 subscribers were contacted during the last campaign here by volunteers working two or three times a week. Through this effort, 57 long-term readers to the socialist press were won.



GETTING THE MILITANT AROUND

During the one-month effort, supporters of the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and *Lutte ouvrière* won 57 long-term readers to these socialist publications. Of those who resubscribed, 15 were unionists. Most of these subscribers had just bought an introductory subscription for the first time during the September-November circulation drive.

Key to our success was the way the campaign was organized.

At the beginning of the renewal drive, the challenge was to contact 283 subscribers, who were spread over a large area in and around the city. To do this we separated the list of subscribers' names on a geographical basis. This helped determine which subscribers could easily

of the papers whose subscriptions had expired or were about to expire.

Militant supporters asked subscribers what they thought about the publications, which articles interested them, and whether they would like to renew their subscriptions.

Reactions varied from "I already renewed last week" to "I don't have time to read it" or "Yes, I want to renew my subscription — I couldn't do without the *Militant*." Many readers stressed how useful they found the paper's extensive international coverage. Others emphasized the labor coverage, particularly of the Eastern Airlines and Pittston coal strikes.

If the reader wanted to get a renewal, we offered to pick it up right



Militant/Margrethe Siem
Militant supporters in New York during June tour of Nelson Mandela. On July 14 supporters internationally will launch campaign to urge readers to renew their subscriptions. Toronto supporters, who won 57 long-term readers during the last renewal effort, are gearing up for the three-week drive.

Militant's news gets picked up around the world

BY RONI McCANN

Malcolm X, a revolutionary and an uncompromising fighter for Black rights who was assassinated in 1965, once said, "The *Militant* newspaper is one of the best in New York City."

"In fact, it is one of the best anywhere you go today because everywhere I go I see it," he continued. "I don't know how it gets there. But if you put the right things in it, what you put in it will see that it gets around."

Over the past couple of months articles in the *Militant* have been getting around, reprinted in newspapers in the Caribbean, Europe, and the United States.

Some of the periodicals feature *Militant* photographs — which in some cases, like photographs from a recent reporting trip to South Africa, are better than 1,000 words. Other papers make use of the *Militant's* news on labor and other struggles to write their

own stories. And some reprint entire articles for their readers.

Almost every week, the *Michigan Citizen*, with which the *Militant* exchanges subscriptions, reprints an article from the paper. The *Michigan Citizen* is published in Detroit and has a circulation of 42,000 statewide.

During Nelson Mandela's tour of the United States, the *Michigan* paper reprinted from the *Militant*, his speech to South African businessmen in its June 24-31 issue.

In May the weekly credited *Militant* photographer Janice Prescott for a photograph of the march by tens of thousands of Haitians across the Brooklyn Bridge in New York on April 20. They were protesting the U.S. government's policy restricting Haitian blood donations.

A front-page box headlined "Grenada in economic trouble" in the paper's June 3-9 issue pointed readers to an interview

with Grenadian revolutionary Terry Marryshow reprinted from the *Militant*. And an April issue of the *Michigan Citizen* featured an article by Luis Madrid on the aftermath of the U.S. government invasion of Panama.

Under a "special feature" heading, the May issue of *Combat* ran an article by *Militant* staff writer Selva Nebbia on her trip to Panama several months after Washington's invasion. *Combat* is the official organ of the National Workers Union of St. Lucia, an island in the Caribbean northeast of Venezuela.

In the same issue, as part of a May Day supplement, the paper featured an article by Susan LaMont on the strike by Amalgamated Transit Union members against Greyhound Bus Lines accompanied by a photo by Michael Carper.

Militant articles reporting on the 16-month strike by Machinists against Eastern Airlines

are popular reprint items given the worldwide interest by workers on the developments in the battle. The June 1 issue of the *Workers Voice*, publication of the Bermuda Industrial Union, featured news on the Eastern strikers' recent protest at Columbia University taken from the *Militant*.

The monthly *Socialistisk Information* from Denmark featured a lead article on the Eastern strike in the June 1990 issue. The two-page spread included two photographs from the *Militant* of striking Eastern workers and Pittston coal miners.

Työkansan Sanomat, monthly newspaper of the Communist Workers Party in Finland, ran an article in the October 1989 issue summarizing several articles in the *Militant*. Readers in Finland got news on the Eastern strike, coal miners struggles, and the fight for justice for framed union meat-packer and political activist Mark Curtis.

'When I was in prison the *Militant* helped me break the jail's bars and understand what was happening in the world.'



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Nicaragua gov't aims to break resistance of striking workers

BY SETH GALINSKY

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — The government of President Violeta Chamorro is trying to break a strike by workers here. In a July 9 radio broadcast Chamorro threatened to use

As we go to press: On the morning of July 12 the Nicaraguan government and the National Federation of Workers announced that a settlement has been reached. The FNT began urging workers to go back to work.

the army and the police to evict strikers from buildings they occupy.

The walkout began June 27. Over a two-week period workers in Managua and other parts of the country gradually shut down dozens of factories, including textile, metal, beverage, and construction companies, along with most government ministries, including the state-owned telephone exchange, and the

banks. Many factories and businesses remained open.

The National Federation of Workers (FNT), a coalition of pro-Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) unions, called the strike to demand higher wages, government financing of state-owned industries, an end to layoffs, and an end to government attempts to return state-owned farms to private hands.

A demonstration of 2,000 in Managua on July 5 backed the FNT demands and protested recent government belt-tightening measures.

At many factories and government ministries, while most workers are not going to work, they are not actively involved in strike activities. At some workplaces a minority of workers actively oppose the walkout.

Emboldened by the government's attempts to break the strike, small groups of armed vigilantes encouraged by pro-government unions have attacked strikers at several locations.

At the Texnicsa textile plant, Andrés Her-



Militant/Seth Galinsky

Scene from strike of Nicaraguan public employees last May. Sign reads, "The unity of the workers is the guarantee of victory. Our fight is to the end."

nández, a striking janitor, was killed during a July 9 clash. About 200 strikers, out of a work force of 1,200, have been occupying the plant. A smaller group of workers who oppose the strike were joined by right-wingers who attempted to force the strikers out, without success.

Another striker and a strike supporter were also killed in separate incidents.

Shortly after Hernández' death, this reporter saw the attackers — many armed with rocks and iron bars — continue to taunt strikers and shout slogans in favor of the government.

On July 6 the government broke off negotiations with the FNT. On July 8 and 9 FSLN and FNT supporters began constructing barricades on the main thoroughfares in Managua and in many working-class neighborhoods, severely hampering vehicle traffic.

At a three-foot-high barricade of pavement stones on the main road leading to the international airport, José García said, "We're not trying to take power. We just want the government to negotiate with the FNT." About 40 people, including workers from nearby factories and neighborhood residents, were helping to maintain the barricade.

On July 9 FSLN leader Daniel Ortega read a statement issued by the Sandinista Front's National Directorate.

The FSLN "calls on all political and social forces in the nation to reestablish calm, reject provocation, and avoid the use of physical violence." In addition, "we call on the people to not carry out actions that prevent the unrestricted transit of citizens and the carrying out of their peaceful activities."

"The strike has been provoked by the economic measures of the government," the FSLN communiqué said. "The government must immediately seek a negotiated way out of the crisis."

On July 10 bulldozers driven by army soldiers and police removed barricades at key locations around the city.

East German unions launch warning strikes demanding higher wages and job protection

BY LÜKO WILLMS

FRANKFURT am MAIN, West Germany — East German citizens poured into West Berlin and West German shops to buy basic necessities on July 7, the first shopping Saturday since the July 1 currency union.

They found that West German goods like vegetable oil, butter, and a few other food items are now cheaper than before. But many other staples jumped in price. The cost of bread tripled. The price of potatoes increased five-fold.

In East Germany goods now brought in from West Germany are even more expensive than they are in the West. A can of Coca-Cola costs almost twice as much.

In a bid for West German goods, most state-owned East German retail organizations struck agreements with the handful of trusts that dominate the retail trade in the West.

Shopkeepers have complained about the lower quality and lack of reliability of the consumer goods industry in the East and count on shoppers being attracted to imported western products. This has reduced the demand for East German commodities to a quarter of what they were before currency union.

In the weeks leading up to July 1, East German shops were virtually emptied to make room for supplies from the West. One bookshop in Halle dumped more than \$146,000 worth of books in the trash.

Rents and energy prices in the East remain at their low pre-currency union levels. Postage rates went up, but are still below those in West Germany.

"The prices are higher than in the West, but we still have our low wages," say many East German workers. The average East German wage is about 1,100 marks (US\$670) a month, about one-third the average in West Germany.

Workers are also anxious about rising unemployment. The jobless level has soared 50 percent over the past month to 142,000. Some capitalist economists predict that 2.5 million of East Germany's 9 million workers will be thrown out of work as plants are shut down or layoffs trim work forces.

This has given rise to a number of job actions and warning strikes across East Germany, where unions are making demands on state-owned industry associations. Both sides in the disputes are being advised by counterparts in West Germany. The West German government centered in Bonn is applying much of the pressure on industry managers in the East to not give in to the unions.

Some 3,000 East Berlin sanitation workers struck on June 26 when they learned that a contract they had negotiated had been voided by the government. The contract provided for wage hikes of 400 to 600 marks on June

30. They demanded wages be raised to 89 percent of what their West Berlin counterparts earn.

The strike ended after talks with city government officials. Workers will now get incentive pay for overtime, an amount equivalent to the previously promised raise. Negotiations for a new contract are planned for July. East Berlin sanitation workers earn 1,500 marks (US\$915), half the wage of their counterparts in West Berlin.

Several thousand East German radio and television workers backed by news agency and film workers held a rally June 29 to protest a projected layoff of 1,400 of the 4,600 radio and TV workers. On July 6 management announced that layoffs of the radio orchestra and choir were called off.

A projected June 30 strike by workers at the East German airline Interflug was canceled after an agreement on protection against layoffs was reached.

The first week of July was marked by a series of several-hour warning strikes called by IG Metall, the metal workers union that

recently organized 1.6 million workers in East Germany. Union officials are now negotiating a new contract. Demands are for a \$240-a-month raise per worker, a 40-hour week, and protection against layoffs.

The warning strikes involved shipyard workers in Rostock, locomotive workers in Henningsdorf, office machine workers in Erfurt, and workers in Leipzig-Plagwitz, Thüringen, Sachsen, Chemnitz, Potsdam, Ludwigsfelde, Cottbus, Frankfurt an der Oder, and other cities.

On July 6 more than 120,000 metal workers in the Berlin-Brandenburg area were called out to support the union's bargaining position. Workers carried signs saying "Employers beware! Low wages are disgusting!"

A number of other unions — including banking and insurance workers, the paper and printing trades, and journalists — are currently in negotiations.

Construction workers signed a contract July 7. Provisions shorten the workweek from 43½ hours to 42 and give workers a more than 30 percent wage increase.

Jury finds Greyhound striker not guilty

BY KIM KLEINMAN AND ELLEN HAYWOOD

EAST ST. LOUIS, Illinois — In a victory for Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) members on strike against Greyhound, a jury here unanimously found striker Harry Lewis not guilty July 9 of shooting at a Greyhound bus last March.

The U.S. government's case rested mainly on the testimony of another Greyhound striker, Roy Simes. Simes and Lewis were arrested on April 10 and charged in connection with two bus shootings, one in Missouri and one in Illinois. On that day Simes made a videotaped "confession" implicating Lewis.

In his testimony at the trial last week, however, Simes revealed that the interrogating officers told him he was charged with a minor disturbance of the peace and would be out on bail that afternoon if he cooperated with them. Only after taping the confession did Simes find out that he was being charged with six felony charges.

Both Simes and Lewis pleaded not guilty to those charges. The strikers were denied bail and held in separate jails.

It was disclosed at the trial that during his three-month incarceration, Simes was "interviewed" numerous times by federal agents. One day before the trial opened Simes agreed to plead guilty and testify against Lewis in exchange for a reduced sentence.

The prosecution put numerous witnesses on the stand to try to back up their charges

against both Simes and Lewis. These included an informer and an array of federal agents and police. The informer had frequently visited the picket line posing as a strike supporter and encouraged provocative activity. He claimed to have seen Lewis and Simes leave and return to the picket line on March 22, and overhear them talk about a

"window popping."

The main problem the prosecution had was that Lewis and Simes were on the picket line in downtown St. Louis during the night of the bus shootings. Lewis, in fact, was arrested by police over a dispute with a scab on the picket line at almost the same time he

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NEW YORK & UTAH

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St. Louis activists and strikers defend unionist

Mark Curtis is a unionist and political activist from Des Moines, Iowa, who is serving a 25-year sentence in the John Bennett state prison in Fort Madison, Iowa, 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. For more information

Dan Carroll, one of the local Greyhound strike coordinators, told the group, "What's going on in the world today is the rich and powerful want to dominate — people like Fred Currey and Frank Lorenzo." Currey is the chairman of Greyhound bus company, and Lorenzo was the head of Eastern Airlines until his removal by a bankruptcy court in April. "Mark Curtis is one

question of oppressor and oppressed," he said.

"All us oppressed must fight together. It's going to be a tough fight. The judicial system is stacked against you, but together we can get justice," he added. Hoover, his wife, and children are fighting to reverse convictions against them for assaulting police officers in Jackson, Mississippi. It was actually the cops who attacked and brutalized the family.

"Mark saw the need for workers in the packinghouse to fight their conditions," Harold Ranken, a well-known Illinois farm activist, told the meeting. "The greedy meat-packing bosses wanted to single him out because he was fighting back with his coworkers."

Alfredo Alvarez from Des Moines represented the Mark Curtis Defense Committee and challenged the audience to get involved in this fight.

"We have to pledge that we won't let this or any other social injustice go without speaking against it," he said. "Mark's case is an injustice. I'm a conservative person and I don't take a position unless I'm sure. If you're an endorser, talk about the case to your friends and organizations you belong to. If you're not an endorser, ask us your tough questions. We have the answers. The facts will convince you. But don't sit silently by."

Alvarez, who visited the Greyhound and Eastern Airlines strikers' picket lines while in St. Louis, urged people to also support these struggles. "They are fighting for us too," he said. "These people are the real heroes."

Messages of support to the rally came from Dave Dowling, president of United Steelworkers of America Local 67; Mary Ross, St. Louis' Fifth Ward Alderman; Jerry Tucker, the director of the United Auto Workers union New Directions caucus; Jack McReynolds, a former

president of the United Mine Workers of America Local 2420; and Larry Mass of the local National Lawyers Guild chapter.

More than \$1,000 was contributed or pledged to the Curtis defense effort. The program ended with two freedom songs. One written by Schroeder and his wife Linda called "Till All Are Free" and the other by local unionist and political activist Fred Stanton about Curtis' story.

Jim Rogers from St. Louis contributed to this week's column.

DEFEND MARK CURTIS!

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

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

Some 40 people, many of them learning about Curtis' fight for the first time, attended a June 24 St. Louis rally to defend the Des Moines unionist. The event was held at the Immanuel Lutheran Church.

Ted Schroeder, pastor of the church and a local prisoners' rights activist, opened the meeting saying that fighters for justice like Curtis can count on harassment from the authorities. But "we must continue to raise our voices against any injustice," he said.

of the people that people like Currey don't like. He helped his coworkers learn their rights and organize to fight back," the striker added.

Carroll pointed out that if Curtis were rich or powerful he wouldn't be in jail. He explained that two Greyhound strikers are currently in jail for allegedly shooting at a bus. They have been in jail for several months without bail, while a prominent ex-police chief was charged with murder and bail was set immediately. "They are being held hostage because we're on strike. They want to send us a message," he said.

Benjamin Hoover, Sr., the chairman of the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression's St. Louis branch, pledged continuing support until Curtis is free. "In this society it's not just a question of Black and white. It's a



Benjamin Hoover, Sr. (left) and Alfredo Alvarez

Militant/Jim Rogers

Des Moines rally caps defense committee efforts

BY JON BIXBY

DES MOINES, Iowa — More than 65 supporters of Mark Curtis pledged at a July 7 rally here to step up the fight to win justice for the jailed packinghouse worker and political activist.

The rally capped two weeks of activities in Des Moines and across Iowa to win new support for Curtis. It also came just two days prior to the start of legal proceedings in a civil suit against Curtis for damages claimed by the parents of the young Black woman Curtis was accused of assaulting in 1988. Curtis is currently serving a 25-year sentence on a frame-up rape and burglary conviction.

"This new attack is nothing new," Kate Kaku, a leader of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee and Curtis' wife, said. "It was written into the original conviction from the beginning."

"This happens all the time to fighting workers and farmers," she added. "You get arrested. You get beaten. You get framed. You get convicted. It doesn't stop there."

"While in prison, you get denied parole, harassed, and victimized because you refuse to fall on your knees; and then you get hit with a damage suit," she said.

Kaku described the support Curtis received during her recent seven-country tour of Europe and Canada. She said the defense committee would step up efforts to bring his case before the United Nations Human Rights Commission. And she urged everyone to redouble their efforts on Curtis' behalf.

The court of public opinion

"Our aim is to overturn the frame-up by the cops and win Mark's vindication and freedom," she said. "And that will be done not in the courts, but only by winning in the court of public opinion."

Kaku said supporters around the world have pushed back a countercampaign led by an antilabor outfit called the Workers League. It has aggressively peddled the cop frame-up of Curtis and charges that the defense committee has conducted a smear campaign

against the family of the woman allegedly assaulted by Curtis.

"Our campaign is directed against the cops that framed him, not the family," Kaku said. "It was the cops that beat him, called him a 'Mexican-lover, just like you love those coloreds.' It was the cops that lied in court."

"Even behind bars, just like Nelson Mandela, he continues to fight back," Kgati Sathekge, a representative of the Youth Section of the African National Congress of South Africa who lives in Lansing, Michigan, told the rally. "And his people outside jail have not forgotten him."

"We are committed to the fight against injustice," she said, "and in that context we want to support the fight of Mark Curtis."

"We can't afford to sit back and be quiet and think that some kind of justice has been done," Edna Griffin, a veteran civil rights activist from Des Moines, said. She called Curtis' frame-up a "very ugly and dangerous situation" that is particularly important for Blacks to understand.

Jonathan Narcisse, a Black newspaper publisher in Des Moines, pledged his continued support for Curtis, noting that more people need to decide "they're not going to put up with what's going on."

'When money talks, justice walks'

Carmen Mullins, president of the Student Auxiliary of the United Mine Workers of America in Dickenson County, Virginia, said miners and their families also confronted the cops and the courts during their hard-fought strike against the Pittston Coal company, learning that "when money talks, justice walks."

Even though the strike was won, Mullins said, "We have not forgotten that the war is still going on. This war will never end until Mark Curtis and others like him are free."

Curtis' trial "mocked justice," Larry Ginter, an Iowa farm activist and long-time Curtis supporter, said. "Make no mistake, Mark is a political prisoner, and the verdict was a subtle warning for all those who dare to fight against injustice and oppression."

In a recorded message from prison, Curtis thanked those who attended the event and promised to continue the fight from behind bars.

"We are winning because we are fighting," he said. "I'm in prison hundreds of miles away, a nonperson as far as the courts go. I

was beaten up, framed up, locked up, and now they're trying to shut me up. But like everything else, it's going to fail to keep me from fighting and being the person that I am."

Over the last two weeks Mark Curtis Defense Committee activists and supporters from out of town have fanned out in Des Moines and across Iowa with word of Curtis' fight for justice.

They participated in door-to-door canvassing in the Des Moines neighborhood where Curtis lived, literature distribution at plant gates, dropping off materials at community centers, meeting people at area supermarkets, setting up defense committee literature tables on several campuses, visiting strikers' picket lines, and organizing phone calls to hundreds of supporters.

Many people remembered Curtis' case, but few knew about the progress of his defense campaign, said Linda Marcus, a supporter from Des Moines. She reported that most people wanted to know more and some were glad to hear about his continued fight.

Bronx jury clears Puerto Rican artist of charges of attempted murder

BY MAREA HIMELGRIN

NEW YORK — After three days of deliberations a Bronx jury on July 7 cleared Puerto Rican muralist Rafael Rivera García of charges of attempted murder.

In interviews with the press, jurors explained they believed Rivera when he said he shot his neighbor, Nick DeMatteis, in self-defense.

Most of the members of the jury of eight Blacks, two whites, and two Latinos smiled at Rivera or patted him on the shoulder as they left the courtroom. They had been convinced by the testimony of the soft-spoken, 61-year-old art professor that he was attacked by DeMatteis and had been forced to fire his gun to save his own life.

Some members of the jury also said they had been persuaded by Rivera that DeMatteis was driven by racism. DeMatteis had organized a campaign to force the muralist and his family out of the predominantly white neighborhood of Throgs Neck, which it had moved into a year ago.

Juror Gilbert Fuentes told the *New York Times* that he believed Rivera's assertion that the series of incidents attributed to DeMatteis

One woman who had worked with Kaku in a local packinghouse told supporters that her son had recently been beaten by police. Young people outside a supermarket said the cop who arrested and framed Curtis was known for being "a liar" and "a dirty cop."

In door-to-door canvassing in Curtis' neighborhood, which is in the Black community, many residents, especially young people, reported incidents of police brutality and beatings, Marcus said.

An auto mechanic told supporters he was glad someone was fighting a frame-up and police brutality, because of the system's corruption in Des Moines.

An attorney spent almost a half-hour discussing Curtis' frame-up with a supporter on a street corner and became convinced to investigate the case further.

Marcus said hundreds of "Who is Mark Curtis?" fliers put out by the defense committee were distributed during the week.

More than \$1,500 in contributions and pledges was raised at the rally.

— ranging from the playing of loud music to vandalism, physical threats, and shutting off the Riveras' electricity — had begun after Rivera told his neighbor that he was Puerto Rican.

Rivera had gone to numerous police and city officials seeking defense from DeMatteis and had obtained three temporary orders of protection that required DeMatteis to stay away from his family. None of the officials he contacted, however, seriously attempted to protect the Puerto Rican family.

The jury did convict Rivera on a single felony charge of third-degree gun possession. The prosecutor, Angelo MacDonald, plans to seek the maximum penalty of two and one-half to seven years imprisonment.

Justice Richard Lee Price of the New York State Supreme Court has set a sentencing hearing for September 14. The judge could free Rivera on probation if he finds that "extenuating circumstances" were involved.

The verdict has been hailed as a victory by Rivera and the wide range of Puerto Rican activists and others who have supported him.

How to write Mark Curtis

✉ Address letters to Mark Curtis #805338, Box 316 JBC Dorn, Fort Madison, Iowa 52627. Sender's full name and address must be in upper left of envelope. Sign name in full at end of letter. Greeting cards and photos less than 8½ x 11 inches are permitted.

Public funding for the arts, freedom of expression under attack

BY MERYL LYNN FARBER

On June 29 the National Endowment for the Arts rejected four of 18 grants recommended by the agency's theater peer panel. The approval of a peer panel is part of the regular NEA grant-making process. It is unusual for peer panel recommendations to be vetoed by the NEA.

All four artists denied grants are performance artists whose acts include sexual content. Each had received NEA grants in the past.

This latest decision takes place in the context of a concerted attack on freedom of artistic expression and public funding of the arts by right-wing proponents of censorship. One prime target has been the NEA and its disbursement of \$75 million in government funds each year to artists throughout the United States.

Government representatives and opponents of democratic rights such as Sen. Jesse Helms from North Carolina, California Congressman Dana Rohrabacher, and Rep. Philip Crane from Illinois have led a fight in the U.S. Congress to abolish the arts agency.

Self-proclaimed "evangelical groups," like Donald Wildmon's American Family Association, Pat Robertson's 700 Club, and Rev. Louis Sheldon's Coalition for Traditional Values, have also jumped into the fray. They accuse the Endowment of supporting work that is blasphemous and obscene. They have mounted an aggressive media and direct-mail campaign aimed at denying public funding to artists whose work they disapprove of.

Pressure on NEA

In October 1989 legislation was adopted by Congress limiting NEA grants. The law

stipulates that federal money cannot be used for works that include "depictions of sadomasochism, homoeroticism, the sexual exploitation of children, or individuals engaged in sex acts, and which, when taken as a whole, do not have serious literary artistic, political, or scientific merit."

Since passage of the legislation, all NEA grant recipients have been required to sign a clause stating their agreement to abide by this "antiobscenity" regulation.

In response to right-wing pressure on the NEA, the agency in one week alone rejected four of 18 grant recommendations while in the previous seven years it reversed only 35 of nearly 34,000 recommendations.

This month the House of Representatives will debate whether or not to reauthorize the NEA. If passed unamended, the bill under discussion will extend the life of the NEA for five years. Congress must also appropriate money for the NEA for the fiscal year that begins in October.

Despite formal support for NEA reauthorization, the Bush administration has said and done next to nothing to counter the drive by procensorship forces in Congress.

Mapplethorpe, Serrano

The flood gates opened in the fight more than a year ago when the NEA provided grants for two photographers — Robert Mapplethorpe, who died of AIDS in March 1989, and Andres Serrano.

The Endowment partly financed a retrospective of Mapplethorpe photos. In addition to photos of calla lilies, the artist's themes include sexually explicit photographs, many dealing with homosexuality. Serrano's controversial photo depicted a crucifix submerged in urine.

Last July the Corcoran Gallery in Washington, D.C., canceled the Mapplethorpe show due to pressure from forces on Capitol Hill. A storm of protest against this buckling to censorship was unleashed.

Late in the year Artists Space gallery in New York City fell victim to the procensorship campaign when NEA chairman John Frohnmayer decided to rescind a \$10,000 grant to the gallery for an art show about AIDS.

The show included a printed catalog containing essays by some of the artists whose work was on display. Frohnmayer said he based his withdrawal of funding not on the works of art, but on the catalog, which contained criticisms of John O'Connor, the Roman Catholic archbishop of New York, and Helms, among others.

Susan Wyatt, executive director of the gallery, protested the NEA's move and launched a campaign to call attention to this attack on freedom of artistic expression and to win back funding for the show. The public outcry against Frohnmayer's decision was so swift and intense — with hundreds of viewers cramming into the gallery on opening night — that the NEA backed off and granted the money with the proviso that none of the \$10,000 be spent on the catalog. The costs of the catalog were underwritten in part by a \$5,000 grant from the Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation.

Public funding

Political forces who are out to get rid of the NEA neglect to explain just what the agency is and what it has provided to artists and to the public during its 25-year tenure.

Approximately 85,000 grants have been distributed by the NEA since 1965 to a wide variety of cultural projects, many of them small. Artists receiving these grants are frequently just starting out. Ninety percent of the grants are for less than \$50,000.

Opponents of public funding argue that there are plenty of private sources to support the arts. Without government funds, however, many artists will be unable to attract other backing and thus will be blocked from pursuing their work. An NEA grant to unes-



Cammuso

established artists is a stamp of approval that attracts other support. Generally corporations and other wealthy private donors prefer to underwrite what they consider "safe" and "institutional" works.

Many artists and schools depend on an annual NEA grant. For example, the Harlem School for the Arts, which provides art education primarily to Black, Latino, and Asian students, holds a \$50,000 NEA grant. "Community institutions like ours depend on the NEA," Joyce Perry, development director for the school, told *Time* magazine. "We're established now and can get other funds, but there are other grassroots organizations just starting out."

'Must I play the censor, too?'

More recently Joseph Papp, producer of the New York Shakespeare Festival, refused a \$50,000 grant from the NEA for his annual Festival Latino to protest the obscenity clause. In a letter published in the April 24 *New York Times*, Papp communicated his views to NEA chair Frohnmayer.

"Even if I did submit to the signing of what amounts to a loyalty oath," Papp said, "how am I to decide what others consider obscene? My personal views of what constitutes art and morality may, and probably do, widely differ from those of the legislators who conceived the obscenity measure."

"And must I play censor too," Papp said, "subject all plays and films from Latin America to microscopic scrutiny for some clue to sexual 'aberration'?"

Another grant recipient, the New School for Social Research in New York, which received \$45,000 to redesign its main courtyard, has also turned the money down. The school's administrators filed a lawsuit in Federal District Court in Manhattan on May 23 challenging the constitutionality of the restriction on grants.

Others fall victim, too

Other victims have been swept up in the campaign against freedom of expression, as well.

- Cincinnati Contemporary Arts Center and its director Dennis Barrie were indicted by the Hamilton County, Ohio, grand jury on charges of "pandering obscenity" and "illegal use of a child in nudity-related material" for hosting the Mapplethorpe photo exhibition. If convicted, the art center faces up to \$10,000 in fines and Barrie could be fined \$2,000 and jailed for one year. A trial date has been set for September 24.

- The Pathfinder Mural, a six-story work of art painted on the Pathfinder Building in Manhattan's Greenwich Village, was no sooner completed and unveiled last fall when the editors of two New York dailies called for its removal.

The *New York Post* and the *Daily News* condemned the two year project for featuring portraits of communist leaders such as Fidel Castro and Che Guevara, Karl Marx, Frederick Engels, V.I. Lenin, and other revolutionary and working-class figures. Pathfinder publishes the writings and speeches of many of the men and women depicted in the mural.

Attack on Pathfinder Mural

On Dec. 20, 1989, the mural was attacked by vandals who hurled bottles of white paint, damaging a large section of the portraits. The bottles were marked with swastikas and "SS" insignia. Hundreds of people wrote protest letters to the editors of the *Post* and *Daily*

News, and hundreds more signed petitions condemning the attack. Thousands of dollars have been contributed towards the cleaning of the mural and its ongoing defense.

The mural received a small amount of public funding through the New York State Council on the Arts. As a result, the Council and its chairperson Kitty Carlisle Hart have also been targeted for attack by procensorship forces such as syndicated columnist Patrick Buchanan.

This was reflected in a *New York City Tribune* interview with Hart. The Council has been "embroiled in a quite a bit of controversy, in particular the Pathfinder Mural," the interview noted.

- In June a federal judge in Florida ruled that the rap group 2 Live Crew's lyrics are obscene. On the basis of that ruling, a record store owner, who refuse to remove the group's best-selling album from his shelves, and two members of the band were arrested after a live performance. Bruce Rogow, the leading defense attorney for 2 Live Crew, said he would appeal the case to the Supreme Court if necessary.

- In San Francisco photographer Jock Sturges, whose work hangs in New York's Museum of Modern Art and Metropolitan Museum of Art among other locations, was picked up by a joint FBI-police department strike force after some of his film was turned into a color lab for processing.

The shots that he took on a "clothing optional" beach in France are the target of Assistant U.S. Attorney Rodolfo Orjales, the prosecutor in the case and the coordinator of a Bay Area child pornography task force. Sturges will go to jail if convicted.

Protests mount

These attacks and others have not gone unanswered. There has been a groundswell reaction as numerous art organizations, associations of museum directors, art dealers, gallery owners, performing and recording artists' unions, and tens of thousands of supporters of democratic rights from all walks of life have stepped forward to protest these attacks on First Amendment rights and freedom of artistic expression.

A number of the artists who were denied theater grants have spoken out against the denials. Philip Arnoult, director of the Theater Project in Baltimore and chairman of the peer panel that recommended the grants, strongly disagreed with Frohnmayer's decision. Another panelist, Wickham Boyle, said that her company will present all four artists who were turned down in a show called "Dangerous Ideas" on October 11-14.

Full-page ads have appeared in newspapers demanding that the Endowment be reauthorized for a full five years with no restrictions. At performances of the New York City Ballet, playbills have been stuffed with protest letters, and during intermissions the audience is urged to sign. Huge banners opposing attacks on the NEA drape the Joyce Dance Theater in New York City. Panels and speak-outs have been organized.

The association that hands out the Grammy awards to recording artists has called for a concert and rally in Washington this summer to respond to the attacks on 2 Live Crew.

Meryl Lynn Farber is the executive director of Friends of the Pathfinder Mural.



Mandela posters & postcards

Order your own copy of this portrait of Nelson Mandela.

Painting is by South African artist Dumile Feni and appears on the Pathfinder Mural in New York City. The six-story artwork celebrates the lives and writings of working-class and revolutionary leaders whose works are published by Pathfinder Press.

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Bulk order prices are:

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Order from Friends of the Pathfinder Mural, 191 7th Ave. New York, N.Y. 10011. Tel: (212) 727-8421.

Striking Machinists step up activities at airports

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.

Many of the Eastern passengers



SUPPORT EASTERN STRIKERS!

As of the *Militant's* closing news date, Wednesday, July 11, the strike was in its 495th day.

The Eastern workers' fight has won broad support from working 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.

After an hour of greeting departing passengers at the San Francisco International Airport July 6, Eastern strikers at the front of the picket line signaled to their supporters, "We're going through now. Let them hear it."

"No contract! No peace!" reverberated through the crowds of vaca-

tioning travelers as the line of more than 60 unionists walked confidently through the terminal to meet an arriving Eastern flight.

— part of a discount "youth charter" special — were surprised to learn that the strike was still on and took leaflets to find out more about it.

After passing through the airport, participants stationed themselves outside the terminal with chants of "What do we want? A contract! When do we want it? Now!" and "No concessions, say it loud. We are union and we are proud!"

Two Pan Am workers stopped and joined the line before going to work. Other airline workers from TWA and United walked the line along with other members of the International Association of Machinists.

Participants from a number of unions and the San Mateo County Central Labor Council turned out.

Many wore T-shirts, buttons, or hats with Nelson Mandela's name on them. Eastern strikers had passed out 5,000 special fliers announcing

the July 6 picket and greeting Mandela during his visit to Oakland June 30.

"We understand why Mandela puts such importance on unity and solidarity," the flier read. "Lorenzo tried to take advantage of the divisions among different groups of Eastern workers. But he treated us all so badly that he forced us to unite to wage an effective struggle and defend our union."

One young woman who came to the picket in response to this invitation brought a sign expressing her feelings about Eastern's "corporate greed." She appealed to all passersby, "Nelson Mandela supports the Eastern strikers, so should you!"

Picketing at the Eastern terminal in Los Angeles swelled to 75 people on July 7. Addressing both pickets and passengers, Machinist strike coordinator Joe Mos called attention to a newspaper report that cited Eastern as the number one airline in customer complaints.

Participants also marched to the nearby Continental Airlines terminal and appealed to passengers not to fly Continental and to urge Continental workers to support the Eastern strike.

At the close of picketing, Jim Cushing-Murray, president of striking Greyhound Local 1222 of the Amalgamated Transit Union, also spoke to the gathering. Several Grey-

hound strikers were on the picket line. Cushing-Murray detailed a recent government attack that limits Greyhound strikers to two pickets at each entrance to the bus terminal.

Mos promised the crowd that the Machinists would continue efforts to help win solidarity for the Greyhound strike.

Another expanded picket is set for July 21 from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at the Eastern terminal in the Los Angeles International Airport.

Detroit strikers and supporters from a dozen unions held a spirited picket of 75 at the Metro airport June 30.

Members from the auto workers, steelworkers, teamsters, and municipal employees unions, and Machinists on strike against Eastern, held a huge banner over the Eastern counter and passed out fliers that warned passengers about Eastern's poor airplane maintenance work done by scab mechanics.

One rally speaker was Ken Rider, a member of the Air Line Pilots Association who refused to cross the picket line even though ALPA ended its sympathy strike last November.

Greetings were also given by Ed Scribner, president of the Detroit Metro AFL-CIO, which had cosponsored the rally. Clark Marshall, striking Greyhound bus driver and a member of the Amalgamated Transit

Union spoke, as did Mark Gaffney from the Teamsters.

A "pig roast" in late July is planned to help raise funds for the Eastern strikers.

An expanded picket line of 40 people took place at the Eastern and Continental Airlines terminal at Boston's Logan Airport on June 30.

Wearing T-shirts that read, "Machinists on strike: please don't fly Eastern/Continental," Eastern strikers and supporters stood in groups and walked around inside the terminal.

Continental Airlines management told the demonstrators they would have to leave, telling them they "had no business with the airline" and because passengers would find the T-shirts "offensive."

Strikers called on Massport, the state agency that owns the terminal, to enforce their constitutional right to be inside the terminal wearing the T-shirts. Massport complied, and the strikers remained in the terminal for three and a half hours.

Plans are being made for another event for late July or early August.

Jacquie Henderson and Matilde Zimmermann from San Francisco; Geoff Mirelowitz from Los Angeles; Mark Friedman from Detroit; and Maggie Pucci, an Eastern striker from Boston, contributed to this column.

Eastern's troubles grow and Machinists gear up

Continued from front page

bought last year for \$3.65 billion by an investor group led by Alfred Checchi. Checchi has requested to see Eastern's financial reports.

In a June 20 memorandum to employees, Eastern said, "It is no secret that some airlines, including Northwest and Pan Am, have approached us, on a preliminary basis, concerning the possibility of future business relationships."

James Conley, a spokesman for the IAM explained, "There are exploratory talks going on with Checchi and other individuals." The July 3 *Washington Post* reported that Checchi and IAM Vice-president John Peterpaul would be meeting. The IAM represents 20,000 workers at Northwest and 8,500 at Eastern.

Northwest is attracted to Eastern's hub in Atlanta, which has 47 gates. A purchase of Eastern would increase Northwest's route system and give the airline a stronger presence in the Southeast where it is the weakest. Northwest is the nation's fourth-largest airline, and Eastern is ranked ninth.

According to airline industry analysts the sale of Eastern to a company like Northwest appears more possible as Eastern's difficulties grow.

- The airline's cash reserves continue to be drained. Every day the airline loses at least \$1 million.

- In late June Shugrue asked Eastern's unsecured creditors and the court to approve a \$50 million withdrawal from escrow in order to make payments that are due in July for the lease of many of the carrier's planes. This move was necessary to prevent the possibility that the leaseholders might seize possession of aircraft.

- A \$95 million payment to the company's pension fund is due September 15, in order to prevent the termination of the fund.

- Since the strike started, two of Eastern's most lucrative routes have been sold off — the Northeast corridor to Trump Shuttle and its Latin American routes to American Airlines.

- The passenger load remains way below what Eastern needs in order to break even — 54 percent in May and a 61 percent average for June. Yet summer is the busiest season for the airline industry.

Eastern also has other problems that contribute to its worsening situation.

Safety mishaps at the airline continue to mount. On July 5 the nose of an Eastern DC-9

came off in mid-air on its way from Newark, New Jersey, to Atlanta, Georgia, and the aircraft was forced to make an emergency landing in Philadelphia. This incident follows on the heels of two other accidents in June.

Shugrue has refused to carry out serious negotiations with the Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA), which ended its sympathy strike last November.

Only 89 of the pilots who were on strike have been called back. ALPA officials estimate that an additional 1,403 are waiting to return. Eastern's last proposal, which the

pilots rejected, was to take back only 650 ALPA pilots and restore their seniority over the next three years.

Federal mediators overseeing the negotiations declared the talks at an impasse and called a cooling-off period, which began July 10. It has been reported that if no agreement is reached at the end of the 30 days, ALPA can join the Machinists in a legally sanctioned strike with the right to picket any of Eastern's facilities.

Strikers in a number of cities report that ALPA pilots at Eastern have been joining the

airport picket lines. Fifteen ALPA pilots dressed in uniform walked the picket line on July 2 at Washington National Airport. They distributed a four-page brochure to passengers flying on Eastern calling on Shugrue to settle with the Machinists and put ALPA pilots back to work.

Given what is happening now, Eastern strikers plan to continue their activities to keep their strike visible and strong. More strike activities are planned for the end of July in a number of cities, including Boston, Detroit, and New York.

Eastern's hiring pitch worries would-be scabs

BY JUDY STRANAHAN

QUEENS, New York — "Don't go to work for Eastern, we're still on strike," said a striker from La Guardia Airport. "I'm just going to check it out," replied one potential scab. "Yeah, but if you go to work for them now, then when we settle, you'll be out on the street looking for another job," the striker responded.

This was just one of many exchanges that took place on July 10 outside the Days Hotel near La Guardia where a scab hiring session was taking place.

Eastern placed ads in New York-area newspapers for "temporary full-time Ramp Agents." The ad explained, "Imagine taking off for a weekend in the tropics... just because you feel like it. It could be next weekend if you have what it takes to be a Ramp Agent. You'll enjoy unlimited travel privileges from the day you start working. Full-time Ramp Agents also enjoy a starting salary of \$6.75/hour."

Eastern strikers also saw the ads and organized to leaflet outside the interviewing sessions, which were scheduled for two days in a row.

Almost everyone going in took the flier strikers handed out, which explained the strike. As management opened the meeting by welcoming the audience to "the Eastern family" many participants were visibly reading the leaflet over.

Management explained they would be hiring in eight to 10 days. "You'll be trained for one week. But keep in mind, if you decide not to take the job, or if we decide you are not right for the job, you won't get paid. This is heavy work. You'll be out in the elements. If this is not for

you, then you should leave now."

The applicants had lots of questions about benefits and company policies. Some questioned if they would be paid more than \$6.75 if they had a college education. The answer was no. Several were unhappy that they would be hired to load bags instead of working ticket counters.

Up until the end of the program, Eastern spokespeople had managed to avoid acknowledging the strike.

Finally one person asked, "Do I have the choice to go to work for Eastern at either La Guardia or Kennedy?"

At this point Eastern's people became visibly embarrassed. "We don't have a facility at Kennedy anymore." They didn't bother to explain that the reason Eastern was shut

down at Kennedy airport was because the union blew the whistle on management for safety violations and now Eastern is under government investigation.

Several participants began to show their concern. Throughout the strike, Eastern made promises to the scabs that their jobs were permanent.

Unable to put everyone's minds at ease, management finally admitted, "Look, let's be frank, you saw those people outside. That's the union. What we're hiring here is for temporary positions. There's talks going on and if there's a settlement, then the union will go back, and some of you will be out of jobs."

At that point, one prospective scab said out loud, "This thing sucks big time."

Greyhound striker found not guilty

Continued from Page 3

was supposed to be shooting the bus in Illinois. Attempts by the government to place Lewis in Illinois and returning to the picket line in time to be arrested by the St. Louis police failed to convince the jury.

"We maintain both Harry Lewis and Roy Simes' innocence," said K.C. Kotyk, St. Louis representative for ATU Local 1313. "We have been victims of government harassment. It is obvious Simes' confession was coerced by federal agents. Greyhound has accused us of violence since the beginning of the strike and they needed someone to blame it on."

Greyhound strikers, including three St. Louis union representatives, and their sup-

porters filled the courtroom each day of the trial. A defense committee set up after the strikers' arrest held a successful fund-raising barbecue in May.

As Lewis emerged from the courthouse, supporters cheered and shouted "Amanda!" and "Ngawethu!" (South African freedom slogans meaning "power" and "It is ours"). He thanked the Greyhound strikers and others who had supported him. "All I've been through is just making me stronger as a union person. Now I can do what Mandela did," he said and vowed to stand with the rest of the Greyhound strikers in continuing the fight for a decent contract.

Pat Barker contributed to this article.



Militant/Seth Galinsky

Armed workers at the Alsacia ranch, part of a state cotton farm, await rumored visit by previous owner. He is trying to regain the land under a government program to privatize state farms.

Nicaraguan farm workers fight return of state land to capitalists

BY SETH GALINSKY

LEÓN, Nicaragua — The Association of Rural Workers warned Yáder Avilés not to try to enter El Progreso, part of the Carlos Agüero state farm. "We told him we couldn't be responsible for what happened," farm workers' union leader Carlos Vega said.

Avilés didn't listen. Armed with government papers returning El Progreso to him, and accompanied by the vice-minister of the Ministry of Agriculture and some supporters, he headed for the property, which was confiscated in 1982.

Dozens of farm workers and some peasants from nearby collective farms were waiting for him on May 28 — with machetes and slingshots. Avilés never got a chance to leave his car. The workers started rocking the vehicle, almost turning it over. Avilés and his entourage gave up and headed back to town.

"He'll be sorry if he tries to return," one worker from Carlos Agüero said. "We don't want any capitalists here."

The incident at El Progreso was the first of a series of attempts by the government of Violeta Chamorro to return some state-owned land to former capitalist owners whose property was confiscated following the 1979 revolution that overthrew the capitalist government headed by Anastasio Somoza.

In early May Chamorro issued two decrees aimed at reversing land reform policies carried out in the early years of the government of the Sandinista National Liberation Front. One of the decrees authorizes the immediate leasing of state farmland to former owners as a step toward eventual return of the properties to capitalist hands.

Gov't leases 53 state farms

Since the end of May the government has granted leases to former owners of 53 properties from the state sector. This includes state-owned coffee-, cattle-, sugar-, and cotton-producing land.

The government efforts to return the land have met resistance by farm workers in most cases. However, according to ATC leader Santos Méndez, on a handful of farms, a majority of workers are for the return of the former owner.

In the León region, Nicaragua's cotton-growing area, the government ordered the return of 24 properties through the leasing program. This represents 55 percent of the cotton land held by state farms in the region. The conflict is taking place during the crucial weeks when cotton must be planted in order for there to be a successful harvest.

Some 17 percent of cotton-producing land in the area is owned by the state, with 70 percent of the land in the hands of private owners, mostly capitalist growers. The Association of Rural Workers (ATC) is strong on the state farms.

The government, in addition to its efforts to return parts of the state farms to private hands, has taken measures to ensure its control over the management of the enterprises. New boards of directors were named for state farm corporations, which are each made up of complexes of several farms.

Workers won gains on state farms

Many farm workers view the state-owned enterprises as an important gain. They believe they are in a better position to defend

their rights than on privately owned farms.

At several state enterprises, workers said that if the government does not want to continue running the farms, the properties should be turned directly over to the workers to run as cooperatives or collective farms.

"The old owners have no business here," Rufino Jarquín, a worker at the Santa Carlota state farm, said. "They're not the owners anymore. This land belongs to the workers."

Taking a break during a rainstorm, workers at the Carlos Agüero complex voiced their views on what is at stake.

"When we were working for the capitalists we didn't even have electricity for our homes here on the farm," Feliciano Juárez, 45, said. "We didn't have a child-care center or a school. Now we have all those things."

Some of the workers wore torn clothing and shoes with gaping holes. Wages on the state farm are not good, Juárez said, but they are still better than on private farms.

Another woman worker joined in. "The rich people are exploiters. All they want is to take from the workers."

The state farms keep more workers employed all year round, added Wilfredo Rojas. "If the old owners come back there will be more unemployment."

The day after Avilés was run off El Progreso, workers gathered at the Alsacia ranch, part of the Ricardo Morales Avilés state farm. They had heard the former owner planned to visit that day. They barricaded the entrance to the farm and waited with their machetes, but he did not show up.

"On payday the owner used to arrive with his guards. He handed out the money with a gun sitting on the table," Agustín Gómez, 60, recalled. "If you don't like it, get the hell out," he would say."

Gómez has been a farm worker most of his life. "I've worked on the state farms and on the private ones," he said. "I know the difference."

But not everyone agrees. Julio César Gon-

zález, who also works at Alsacia, said, "It won't bother me if the old owner comes back. The other guys say the wages are better here. But as far as I'm concerned the benefits are about the same."

Pointing to the rundown house where he lives on the farm, González said, "Besides, what did the state farm ever give me? Not even a lousy board to fix up this place."

In the face of the farm workers' resistance, the government ordered the directors of the state farms to stop planting the land to be leased. But after a week the government backed down and planting took place as scheduled, ATC leaders said.

Gov't sends in police

The government also sent riot police to a dozen farms to try to enforce the leases, after initial attempts by the owners to return were unsuccessful. But when the workers still refused to back down, the cops left.

In one incident, when representatives of the former owner at the state farm La Concha attempted to occupy the land, the workers stood in the way. In the ensuing scuffle the workers cut one of the invaders with a machete. Then the workers took his shoes and made him walk back to the main road. "That way he'll feel the power of the people and learn what it is like to be a farm worker," Félix Adrián Paniles said.

Six of the farm workers were arrested by the police the next day and charged with assault. While most were released a few days later the case is still in court.

Some former owners have taken a different approach to regaining land. At the state farm in Cuatro Palos, Klaus Sengelmann, minister of agriculture during the Somoza dictatorship, hired a plane to drop small gifts for workers on payday, along with a note saying he was looking forward to coming back.

According to ATC representative Vega, the workers took the presents, but have no intention of allowing Sengelmann's return.

The ATC has been trying to get the government to negotiate the future of the state farms with the union.

At a June 23 meeting of leaders of the ATC from the León area, a public statement outlining the organization's views was approved at the initiative of Edgardo García, national ATC president.

The communiqué accused the government of violating an earlier agreement. The return of land to the capitalists was supposed to be taken up in joint commissions of the government and the growers "with union participation," the statement noted. Instead, the government "has undertaken police persecution against the workers and their families."

In response to statements by some government officials that the state farms are "inefficient," the communiqué states, "If the idea is to produce more efficiently, then idle land should be given to landless peasants and the thousands of unemployed who are waiting for it."

If the state farms are returned to capitalist hands, the ATC warned, the workers and peasants can respond by breaking up the private farms and distributing the land to those who need it.

A few days after the ATC communiqué was publicized a new round of negotiations began.

While union representatives met with cotton growers and government officials, 150 farm workers organized by the ATC demonstrated in the city of León. The workers waved machetes in the air and chanted outside the houses of several capitalist cotton growers who live in town.

According to one ATC organizer, who has been present during negotiations, the union offered to agree to the return of some farms in exchange for a promise to "freeze" the application of the decrees for the rest of the state farms. However, he said, this was rejected by the cotton capitalists and the government.

Spain steps up deporting foreign workers

BY MIKE EAUDE

BARCELONA, Spain — Twenty Moroccans were taken in a windowless bus divided into cells on a 20-hour journey from Barcelona to Algeciras for deportation from Spain last month. As the bus parked on the quay in Algeciras, a southern port town, banging on the walls and shouts of "racistas" could be heard from inside.

These workers were among 88 people arrested in police raids in the Vic area of Catalunya during the last week in May, according to the Center for Information on Foreign Workers. The center has charged that the Spanish government is detaining workers who had been attempting to get their papers in order, in compliance with the law, and had made themselves known to the authorities in doing so. More deportations are expected.

One of those expelled was Driss Nablouni, a shop steward for the Workers Commissions union federation, who had lived in Spain for 15 years. The detainees were mostly workers in textile factories, men who had left their families to come to this country through economic necessity. Here they work 10 to 12

hours a day for wages sometimes as low as 25,000 pesetas (US\$250) a month.

The Workers Commissions and the General Union of Workers (UGT) — the other main union federation — along with human rights organizations and political parties, have strongly protested these deportations. A recent rally of 400 in Barcelona was held to protest police harassment of Black workers and the implementation of Spain's immigration law, the Ley de Extranjería (Law on Foreigners). In May civil rights groups organized a march through Madrid to demand a change in the law and an amnesty for those in the country without permission.

The Ley de Extranjería was introduced by the Socialist Party government in 1985 to "regularize" the status of immigrant workers in Spain. Among a population of 40 million, 800,000 are immigrant workers. Some 300,000 of these have no legal status.

With Spain's entry into the European Community in 1986 and a subsequent burst of economic growth, immigration from Third World countries began to rise. In the fields

of Andalusia and Catalunya, in the coal mines of Asturias, and at construction sites in Barcelona and Madrid, immigrant workers are often forced to accept less than the minimum wage.

At the same time, the Spanish government has begun implementing the EC policy of applying more restrictions on immigration from Asia, Africa, and Latin America while opening up its borders with EC countries. Before borders within the 12-member EC are opened up, common immigration rules must be adopted. The French and British governments, for example, apply highly restrictive policies and are pressing Madrid to adopt visa requirements for visitors from North Africa and Latin America.

These discriminatory policies are aimed at deepening divisions among workers. At a May 29 meeting of the EC labor ministers, a resolution adopted against racism and xenophobia excluded "citizens of other countries resident in the EC." In Spain Arabs, Africans, and Latin Americans are being blamed for rising crime. Police harassment of people of color is on the rise.

Mandela's address to U.S. Congress

'Our efforts to abolish the system of white minority domination

The following is the complete text of the address by African National Congress Deputy President Nelson Mandela to a joint session of the U.S. Congress June 26.

The speech is among dozens given by Mandela to unionists, mass rallies, anti-apartheid organizations, business executives, and other events during a two-week, 11-city tour of Canada and the United States.

Mandela, accompanied by his wife Winnie Mandela and a delegation of ANC leaders, reached tens of millions with his message on the continued struggle against the apartheid system through such events and news conferences and interviews.

Members of Congress interrupted Mandela's address 19 times with applause, including three standing ovations.

Subheadings are by the *Militant*.

Mr. Speaker; Mr. President; esteemed members of the United States Congress; your excellencies; ambassadors and members of the diplomatic corps; distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen:

It is a fact of the human condition that each shall — like a meteor, a mere brief passing moment in time and space — flit across the human stage and pass out of existence. Even the golden lads and lasses, as much as the chimney sweepers, come and tomorrow are no more. After them all, they leave the people enduring, multiplying, permanent — except to the extent that the same humanity might abuse its own genius to immolate life itself.

And so we have come to Washington, in the District of Columbia, and into these hallowed chambers of the United States Con-

gress, not as pretenders to greatness, but as a particle of a people whom we know to be noble and heroic, enduring, multiplying, permanent — rejoicing in the expectation and knowledge that their humanity will be reaffirmed and enlarged by open and unfettered communion with the nations of the world.

We have come here to tell you, and through you your own people, who are equally noble and heroic, of the troubles and trials, the fond hopes and aspirations of the people from whom we originate. We believe that we know it as a fact, that your kind and moving invitation to us to speak here derived from your own desire to convey a message to our people, and according to your humane purposes, to give them an opportunity to say what they want of you and what they want to make of their relationship with you.

Our people demand democracy. Our country, which continues to bleed and suffer pain, needs democracy. It cries out for the situation where the law will decree that the freedom to speak of freedom constitutes the very essence of legality and the very thing that makes for the legitimacy of the constitutional order.

It thirsts for the situation where those who are entitled by law to carry arms, as the forces of national security and law and order, will not turn their weapons against the citizens simply because the citizens assert that equality, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are fundamental human rights which are not only inalienable, but must, if necessary, be defended with the weapons of war.

'All shall have the right to vote'

We fight for and visualize a future in which all shall, without regard to race, color, creed,

or sex, have the right to vote and to be voted into all elective organs of state.

We are engaged in struggle to ensure that the rights of every individual are guaranteed and protected through a democratic constitution, the rule of law, an entrenched bill of rights, which should be enforced by an independent judiciary, as well as a multiparty political system.

Mr. Speaker, we are acutely conscious of the fact that we are addressing a historic institution for whose creation and integrity many men and women lost their lives in the War of Independence, the Civil War, and the war against Nazism and fascism. That very history demands that we address you with respect and candor and without any attempt to dissemble.

What we have said concerning the political arrangements we seek for our country is seriously meant. It is an outcome for which many of us went to prison, for which many have died in police cells, on the gallows, in our towns and villages, and in the countries of southern Africa. Indeed, we have even had our political representatives killed in countries as far away from South Africa as France.

Unhappily, our people continue to die to this day, victims of armed agents of the state who are still determined to turn their guns against the very idea of a nonracial democracy. But this is the perspective which we trust Congress will feel happy to support and encourage, using the enormous weight of its prestige and authority as an eminent representative of democratic practice.

To deny any person their human rights is to challenge their very humanity. To impose on them a wretched life of hunger and depri-

vation is to dehumanize them. But such has been the terrible fate of all Black persons in our country under the system of apartheid.

The extent of the deprivation of millions of people has to be seen to be believed. The injury is made more intolerable by the opulence of our white compatriots and the deliberate distortion of the economy to feed that opulence.

The process of the reconstruction of South African society must and will also entail the transformation of its economy. We need a strong and growing economy. We require an economy that is able to address the needs of all the people of our country; that can provide food, houses, education, health services, social security, and everything that makes human life human, that makes life joyful and not a protracted encounter with hopelessness and despair.

We believe that the fact of the apartheid structure of the South African economy and the enormous and pressing needs of the people make it inevitable that the democratic government will intervene in this economy acting through the elected parliament. We have put the matter to the business community of our country that the need for a public sector is one of the elements in a many-sided strategy of economic development and restructuring that has to be considered by us all, including the private sector.

The ANC holds no ideological position which dictate that it must adopt a policy of nationalization. But the ANC also holds the view that there is no self-regulating mechanism within the South African economy which will, on its own, ensure growth with equity.

At the same time, we take it as given that the private sector is an engine of the growth and development which is critical to the success of the mixed economy we hope to see in the future South Africa. We are accordingly committed to the creation of the situation in which business people, both South African and foreign, have confidence in the security of their investments, are assured of a fair rate of return on their capital, and do business in conditions of stability and peace.

We must also make the point, very firmly that the political settlement, and democracy itself, cannot survive unless the material needs of the people, the bread-and-butter issues, are addressed as part of the process of change and as a matter of urgency. It should never be that the anger of the poor should be the finger of accusation pointed at all of us because we failed to respond to the cries of the people for food, for shelter, for the dignity of the individual.

We shall need your support to achieve the

On tour stop in Britain, ANC leader meets with Thatcher, urges sanctions continue

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

LONDON — At a news conference here before departing for Uganda, Nelson Mandela said that his international tour had been a huge success. "Our message for the maintenance of sanctions has succeeded beyond our wildest dreams," said the African National Congress deputy president, "and our appeal for resources has been equally successful."

The ANC leader is completing the final leg of a 13-country tour that included Europe and North America. He has addressed mass rallies, the United Nations, the U.S. Congress, meetings of business executives, union meetings, and other events.

At the conclusion of the July 4 news conference here, Mandela received a standing ovation from half the journalists present. He had just come from a three-hour meeting with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Thatcher has been a prominent opponent of sanctions against the apartheid regime. Called for by trade unions and anti-apartheid organizations in South Africa, sanctions include the suspension of investment, trade, and loans, and the withdrawal of corporations doing business in South Africa.

Until recently the British prime minister publicly described the ANC as a "terrorist organization." And South African President F.W. de Klerk has been invited to Britain on two occasions in the last year.

Although Thatcher made no statement following the meeting with the ANC deputy president, Mandela described the discussion as "productive."

"There were a number of points on which we did not see eye to eye — sanctions, the use of violence as a method of political action," Mandela said. "Our views on economic questions were not altogether identical."

Reporting on meetings between the ANC and the apartheid government, Mandela said that another session of talks is scheduled upon his return to South Africa on July 18. Further

steps toward dismantling apartheid would be taken at the meeting, he said.

One example of why the apartheid system cannot last much longer is the "homelands" policy of the government, which "is in complete crisis," he said. "We have won over five of the six homeland leaders."

The homelands policy is a central pillar of apartheid. Today nearly 55 percent of all

New Zealand groups fight to sever ties with apartheid regime

BY JOAN PHILLIPS

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — "Total sanctions, more than ever" has been adopted as the slogan of New Zealand organizations in solidarity with the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa. Representatives of 12 groups met here July 2 to plan a renewed campaign for the severing of all links — particularly trade links — between this country and the apartheid regime. The meeting also called on the New Zealand government to give material aid to the African National Congress and the democratic movement inside South Africa.

Those attending the meeting set August 12 as the date for the public launching of the sanctions campaign. A news conference will be held on that day. Between now and then, efforts will be made to draw more groups — particularly trade unions — into the campaign.

Fletcher Challenge, New Zealand's largest company, was forced to end its trade with South Africa last year as the result of a sustained campaign by Hart Aotearoa, the most nationally prominent anti-apartheid organization. Earlier this year, the New Zealand Dairy Board also began to quietly wind down its trade links. Sanctions imposed by the New Zealand government affect only 13 percent of goods imported from South Africa.

Africans live in the 10 barren "Bantustans," another term the regime uses for the homelands, which make up only 13.7 percent of South Africa's land area. Four of these Bantustans have been forcibly declared "independent" states by the government.

Such developments suggest changes will come "sooner rather than later," Mandela said. In the meantime, the ANC leader urged that international pressure on Pretoria continue.

In a written message to a meeting of the Anti-Apartheid Movement National Committee, Mandela explained, "Today the march of our people to freedom is irreversible. The majority of South Africans, black and white, recognize that apartheid has no future. On the day of my release I appealed to our people: 'Now is the time to intensify our struggle on all fronts.' But I also warned that 'to relax our efforts now would be a mistake which generations to come will not be able to forgive.'"

"I wish to make the same appeal to the Anti-Apartheid Movement and the people of Britain as a whole. Please intensify your support for the African National Congress and our people's struggle. Do not relax your efforts now."

"Britain has a unique relationship with South Africa which makes your solidarity with our struggle of such special significance," the message said. "Your actions have already contributed to the immense pressure exerted by the international community which resulted in my release. . . ."

"As we are now entering the decisive stage of our freedom struggle we therefore urge the people of Britain to join the ranks of the Anti-Apartheid Movement. Please give all possible support to the Anti-Apartheid Movement and its campaigns in support of the cause of freedom in South Africa."

During his visit to Britain, Mandela also met with 200 representatives of the Black community, members of Parliament, leaders

Continued on Page 13



Ernest Harsch
Mandela at June 21 rally in New York

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ust continue'

post-apartheid economic objectives which are an intrinsic part of the process of the restoration of the human rights of the people of South Africa. We would like to approach the issue of our economic cooperation not as a relationship between donor and recipient, between a dependent and a benefactor.

We would like to believe that there is a way in which we could structure this relationship so that we do indeed benefit from our enormous resources in terms of your capital, technology, all-round expertise, your enterprising spirit, and your markets.

This relationship should, however, be one from which your people also derive benefit, that we who are fighting to liberate the very spirit of an entire people from the bondage of the arrogance of the ideology and practice of white supremacy do not build a relationship of subservient dependency and owing gratitude.

An oasis of good race relations'

One of the benefits that should accrue to both our peoples and to the rest of the world would surely be that this complex South African society, which has known nothing but racism for three centuries, should be transformed into an oasis of good race relations, where the Black shall to the white be sister and brother, a fellow South African, an equal human being — both citizens of the world.

To destroy racism in the world, we together must expunge apartheid racism in South Africa. Justice and liberty must be our goal, prosperity and happiness our weapon.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished guests, representatives of the American people:

You know this more than we do, that peace is its own reward. Our own fate, born by a succession of generations that reach backwards into centuries, has been nothing but tension, conflict, and death. In a sense, we do not know the meaning of peace, except in the imagination. But because we have not known true peace in its real meaning, because for centuries generations have had to bury victims of state violence, we have fought for the right to experience peace.

On the initiative of the ANC the process towards the conclusion of a peaceful settlement has started. According to a logic dictated by our situation, we are engaged in an effort which includes the removal of obstacles to negotiations. This will be followed by a negotiated determination of the mechanism which will draw up the new constitution.

This should lead to the formation of this constitution-making institution and therefore the elaboration and adoption of a democratic constitution. Elections would then be held on the basis of this constitution and, for the first time, South Africa would have a body of lawmakers which would, like yourselves, be mandated by the whole people.

Despite the admitted commitment of [South African] President de Klerk to walk this road with us, and despite our acceptance of his integrity and the honesty of his purposes, we would be fools to believe that the road ahead of us is without major hurdles. So many among our white compatriots are steeped in the ideology of racism to admit easily that change must come.

Tragedy may yet sully the future we pray and work for if these slaves of the past take up arms in a desperate effort to resist the process which must lead to the democratic transformation of our country. For those who are so worried about violence in our country, we do, it is at these forces that they should focus their attention, a process in which we are engaged.

We must contend still with the reality that South Africa is a country in the grip of the apartheid crime against humanity. The consequences of this continue to be felt not only within our borders but throughout southern Africa — which continues to harvest the bitter fruits of conflict and war, especially in Mozambique and Angola. Peace will not come to our country and region until the apartheid system is ended.

Therefore, we say we still have a struggle



Militant/Eric Simpson

Participants in rally for Nelson Mandela at Oakland Coliseum in California June 30

on our hands. Our common and noble efforts to abolish the system of white minority domination must continue.

We are encouraged and strengthened by the fact of the agreement between ourselves, this Congress, as well as President Bush and his administration, that sanctions remain in place. Sanctions should remain in place because the purpose for which they were imposed has not yet been achieved.

We have yet to arrive at the point when we can say that South Africa is set on an irreversible course leading to its transformation into a united, democratic, and nonracial country. We plead that you cede the prerogative to the people of South Africa to determine the moment when it will be said that profound changes have occurred and an irreversible process achieved, enabling you and the rest of the international community to lift sanctions.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the principled struggle you waged which resulted in the adoption of the historic Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act, which made such a decisive contribution to the process of moving our country forward towards negotiations. We request that you go further and assist us with the material resources which will enable us to promote the peace process and meet other needs which arise from the changing situation you have helped bring about.

The stand you took established the understanding among the millions of our people that here we have friends, here we have fighters against racism who feel hurt because we are hurt, who seek our success because they too seek the victory of democracy over tyranny.

And here I speak not only about you, members of the United States Congress, but also of the millions of people throughout this great land who stood up and engaged the apartheid system in struggle, the masses who have given us such strength and joy by the manner in which they received us since we arrived in this country.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. President, senators and representatives:

We went to jail because it was impossible to sit still while the obscenity of the apartheid system was being imposed on our people. It would have been immoral to keep quiet while a racist tyranny sought to reduce an entire people into a status worse than that of the beasts of the forest. It would have been an act of treason against the people and against our conscience to allow fear and the drive towards self-preservation to dominate our behavior, obliging us to absent ourselves

from the struggle for democracy and human rights, not only in our country but throughout the world.

We could not have made an acquaintance through literature with human giants such as George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and Thomas Jefferson and not been moved to act as they were moved to act.

We could not have heard of and admired John Brown, Sojourner Truth, Frederick Douglass, W.E.B. DuBois, Marcus Garvey, Martin Luther King, Jr., and others, and not be moved to act as they were moved to act.

We could not have known of your Declaration of Independence and not elected to

join in the struggle to guarantee the people life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Fight for democracy and human rights

We are grateful to you all that you persisted in your resolve to have us and other political prisoners released from jail. You have given us the gift and privilege to rejoin our people, yourselves, and the rest of the international community in the common effort to transform South Africa into a united, democratic, and nonracial country. You have given us the power to join hands with all people of conscience to fight for the victory of democracy and human rights throughout the world.

We are glad that you merged with our people to make it possible for us to emerge from the darkness of the prison cell and join the contemporary process of the renewal of the world. We thank you most sincerely for all you have done and count on you to persist in your noble endeavors to free the rest of our political prisoners and to emancipate our people from the larger prison that is apartheid South Africa.

The day may not be far when we will borrow the words of Thomas Jefferson and speak of the will of the South African nation. In the exercise of that will by this united nation of Black and white people, it must surely be that there will be born a country on the southern tip of Africa which you will be proud to call a friend and an ally because of its contribution to the universal striving towards liberty, human rights, prosperity, and peace among the peoples.

Let that day come now. Let us keep our arms locked together so that we form a solid phalanx against racism to ensure that that day comes now. By our common actions let us ensure that justice triumphs without delay. When that has come to pass then shall we all be entitled to acknowledge the salute when others say of us, "Blessed are the peacemakers."

Thank you for your kind invitation to speak here today and thank you for your welcome and the attention you have accorded our simple message. Thank you. [Ovation]

New pamphlet of Mandela's speeches receives wide U.S. press coverage

BY GREG McCARTAN

A collection of Nelson Mandela's speeches published by Pathfinder has received extensive press coverage in newspapers across the United States.

Nelson Mandela Speeches 1990: "Intensify the Struggle to Abolish Apartheid" was released just prior to Mandela's historic two-week tour of Canada and the United States. The 74-page pamphlet features seven of the ANC leader's speeches since his release from prison in February.

Prominent columnist Earl Caldwell wrote a piece in New York's *Daily News*, "Why the ANC turned to violence." Defending the ANC's decision to adopt the armed struggle, Caldwell draws heavily on the new pamphlet.

In the June 29 article Caldwell wrote, "In South Africa, the ANC started in 1912. From its beginning, the organization expressed a commitment to nonviolence. It was a pledge that was to last for 50 years. In July 1989, Mandela drafted a letter to then State President P.W. Botha. The letter, released in January of this year, is among documents contained in a book of speeches delivered by Mandela. The book, *Nelson Mandela Speeches 1990*, was released last week by Pathfinder publisher of New York. Mandela, in the letter to Botha, answers all the questions of exactly what it was that drove the ANC to armed struggle."

After quoting from the letter, Caldwell concludes, "The Pathfinder book comes at the perfect time. It is being asked, Who is Nelson Mandela? The ANC leader gives some good insights with his letter to Botha and through the speeches he's written since his release from prison last February."

New York's *City Sun* also featured the new publication several times during the tour. The paper printed a special pull-out section entitled "Tour of Duty," summarizing the major events of the ANC stalwart's visit. As the first article of the 20-page section the weekly ran the full text of the pamphlet's introduction.

A press release about the pamphlet by Pathfinder was picked up by Associated Press and run in numerous papers across the country.

The pamphlet is "the best way to find out — in Nelson Mandela's own words — how the African National Congress is working to advance the struggle for a democratic, non-racial South Africa," Pathfinder editorial director Steve Clark is quoted in the release.

"Mandela's speeches arrive here first," read a headline June 17 announcing the new pamphlet in the Greenwood, South Carolina, *Index-Journal*. The accompanying article says the collection "is a salute by Pathfinder publishers to Mandela's 'historic tour of North America,' editorial director Steve Clark said Saturday."

Similar articles appeared in papers in cities such as Mobile, Alabama; New Brunswick, New Jersey; Leavenworth, Kansas; Dorchester, Massachusetts; Durham, North Carolina; and Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

The Birmingham, Alabama, *Post-Herald* explained the pamphlet includes "post-prison speeches to mass rallies in South Africa, his speech to 80,000 anti-apartheid activists in London, and his May 23 talk to South African business executives."

"The book also contains the ANC's historic Freedom Charter, photos, maps, and historical information."

Socialist Workers announce slate in New York election campaign



Militant/Arthur Hughes

Lively discussion followed remarks by Craig Gannon, SWP candidate for governor of New York, at July 12 news conference announcing party's slate in state elections.

Continued from front page
in the interests of working people in this country and internationally."

Gannon said, "The SWP believes the massive struggles unfolding in Eastern Europe that have toppled dictatorial regimes are positive and historic developments that should be hailed by workers and their organizations around the globe."

He explained that the workers in these countries were breaking out of the isolation forced upon them and are entering politics. "They face the capitalist rulers of Western Europe and the United States more directly as a result."

Gannon explained that the big losers today are the capitalist ruling families in the United States and their hangers on. "Imperialism's position in relation to workers, farmers, and oppressed nations has gotten weaker since World War II. The fact that the imperialist powers have declared the end to the Cold War and are forced to start getting their troops and nuclear arsenal out of Germany is an important reflection of this long process."

Gannon said that as Washington is forced

to withdraw troops from Germany, the bipartisan policy of the Democrats and Republicans is to conduct a rearguard effort to try to hang onto as much influence in the region as possible.

"These policies are not in the interests of working people," said Gannon. "Working people need our own foreign policy that helps forge solidarity with workers in other countries."

"We call for the complete removal of U.S. troops and nuclear weapons from Europe and military bases around the world including South Korea," the socialist candidate stated. He explained how a foreign policy in the interests of working people would back the freedom struggle in South Africa and maintain economic sanctions against apartheid along with calling for normalization of relations between the United States and Cuba.

Eastern strike

"In the United States there is a new mood among working people shown in the resistance of the Machinists on strike at Eastern." Gannon said the SWP candidates are urging

all-out support for this battle.

"A victory in the Eastern strike will give a big impetus to other workers fighting to defend their unions and prevent their living standards from being pushed down further," the socialist candidate said. He cited the example of the Greyhound bus line workers.

"It would also give a boost to the fight against racist attacks, the struggle for women's right to abortion, the fight for democratic rights and freedom of artistic expression, and the battle to save the environment."

Following Gannon's presentation a lively discussion ensued at the news conference. A reporter from WBAI radio centered his questions on the candidates' support for the Cuban revolution. He asked about the changes taking place there through the rectification process, and whether this is similar to the changes in Eastern Europe.

Nebbia and Mailhot, both of whom have recently traveled to Cuba, discussed the status of women's rights in Cuba, the gains of the revolution, and Cuba's example in the world in the struggle for social change.

Anmuth explained the importance of the

Eastern strike as a beacon for fighting workers. "This strike is winnable and after more than 17 months on the picket line, we're stronger than ever," she said.

Campaign activities

For the next three weeks the SWP candidates and their supporters and friends will be waging a petitioning drive to gather 30,000 signatures of registered voters on nominating petitions for ballot status.

Their goal is to go over the legal requirement of 20,000 names. The election law also requires getting at least 100 signatures of registered voters in half of the state's 34 congressional districts.

To achieve these goals campaign supporters will be petitioning every Wednesday and Saturday beginning July 14. They also plan to have a full-time team of at least 15 volunteers to petition all day every day. The petitioning and the onerous paperwork required by the state is a massive effort, and volunteers are needed to collect names until August 4 and then prepare the petitions for presentation in Albany, the state capital, by the August 21 deadline.

As the socialist candidates fan out twice a week collecting names and discussing the campaign with thousands of working people in New York, they will be selling the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and *Lutte ouvrière*, as well as Pathfinder literature.

Open houses will be held every Saturday at the campaign headquarters located at the Pathfinder bookstores in Brooklyn and New York, where SWP candidates can meet and discuss politics with supporters, friends, and newly interested workers and youth. These will be followed by weekly forums where the ideas of the campaign will be presented and discussions can be held.

The socialist candidates will also be engaging in discussions at other political meetings; with coworkers, unionists, and strikers; and with students and young people. "We want to talk about the deepening crisis of capitalism — something millions of working people feel the brunt of — and the bright prospects for socialism," said the gubernatorial candidate.

The New York election campaign is one of the SWP campaigns that have been announced or will be launched soon in 17 states around the country.

Meet the New York socialist candidates

Craig Gannon for governor

Craig Gannon, 44, is the New York City organizer of the Socialist Workers Party. Gannon joined the party and the youth organization, the Young Socialist Alliance, in 1971 in New York. Gannon was a participant in the movement against the Vietnam War and has been active in the fight for Black rights. He worked as a machinist and was a member of the International Association of Machinists.

A leader of the SWP, Gannon has traveled to Europe, Canada, New Zealand, and Australia, meeting with revolutionary workers in those countries.

Gannon will be running against incumbent Mario Cuomo, Democrat; Pierre Rinfret, Republican; and Herbert London, Conservative.

Susan Anmuth for Lt. governor

Susan Anmuth, 41, is a member of the International Association of Machinists Local 1018 on strike against Eastern Airlines at New York's La Guardia Airport. Anmuth is on the local's outreach committee that helps build solidarity with the strike. Before the strike she was an aircraft cleaner.

Anmuth, joined the Socialist Workers Party in 1977. She has been involved in the fight for women's rights and against apartheid. In 1984 Anmuth volunteered for a month-long cotton-picking brigade in Nicaragua.

Anmuth has also worked as a garment worker and on an auto assembly line.

Derek Bracey for attorney general

Derek Bracey, 23, is a National Executive Committee member of the Young Socialist Alliance and is active in New York in the struggle against apartheid. Bracey joined the YSA in 1979 in New Orleans. There he was involved in the struggle for Black rights and a founder of the New Orleans chapter of the National Black Independent Political Party in 1981.

In 1983 Bracey moved to Los Angeles where he worked as a bedspread quilter in a

factory organized by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU). He joined the Socialist Workers Party that year. A supporter of the Cuban revolution, Bracey traveled to the island in 1981.

Aaron Ruby for comptroller

Aaron Ruby, 29, is the national chairperson of the Young Socialist Alliance. Ruby traveled to Nicaragua after graduating from high school and spent several years there. In Nicaragua he met members of the SWP and YSA on coffee harvest brigades and tours. He returned to the United States and joined the Socialist Workers Party and YSA in 1986.

In 1989 Ruby was elected national chairperson of the YSA. He helped organize a YSA-sponsored tour for South African Youth Congress leader Rapu Molekane, and in 1990 Ruby was national tour director for a Pathfinder Press-sponsored tour of the United States by Cuban economist Carlos Tablada.

Cathy Sedwick, Congress, 11th C.D.

Cathy Sedwick, 36, is a trade union militant and fighter for Black rights. Sedwick joined the Young Socialist Alliance in 1975. In 1977 she was elected national chairperson of the youth organization. Sedwick helped organize the National Black Independent Political Party and is an activist in the struggle against apartheid.

For the last several years Sedwick has focused on getting the truth out about and defending the Cuban revolution. She has traveled to Cuba four times and spoken out for normalization of relations between Washington and Cuba. Sedwick is running for the seat currently held by Democrat Edolphus Towns.

Selva Nebbia, Congress, 15th C.D.

Selva Nebbia, 38, is a staff writer for the *Militant* newspaper. Born in Rosario, Argentina, Nebbia came to the United States in 1970. She joined the Young Socialist Alliance and Socialist Workers Party in 1972. Nebbia has been active in the struggle for women's

rights and in trade unions where she has worked. Before joining the staff of the Spanish-language *Perspectiva Mundial* in 1985, Nebbia was working in the garment industry and was a member of the ILGWU.

In 1989 Nebbia joined the *Militant* staff and has traveled to Panama, Cuba, El Salvador, and Namibia reporting for the paper. Nebbia is running for the seat currently held by Republican William Green.

Socialist Workers Party campaign chairpersons

Don Rojas

Don Rojas, 40, is a political activist and host of *Behind the News*, a weekly radio program in New York on WBAI. Born in the Caribbean, Rojas was the press secretary to the late Prime Minister Maurice Bishop of revolutionary Grenada. After the U.S. invasion of the island in 1983 Rojas lived and worked in Eastern Europe and then Cuba where he was the chief representative of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement. Rojas was a founding leader of the Anti-Imperialist Organizations of the Caribbean and Central America. He has traveled extensively in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

Ernie Mailhot

Ernie Mailhot, 42, is the strike staff coordinator for the International Association of Machinists Local 1018 on strike at New York's La Guardia Airport. Mailhot joined the Socialist Workers Party in 1971 and participated in the anti-Vietnam War movement. Mailhot worked at Eastern Airlines in Miami and then New York from 1984 until the strike. He traveled to El Salvador and Nicaragua on a union-organized fact-finding tour and has also visited Cuba twice, most recently as part of a labor delegation to the May Day activities there at the invitation of Cuba's union federation.

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Excerpts from

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July 26, 1988 speech**

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Challenges facing Cuban workers today

Castro speaks with construction contingent on economic difficulties

BY SELVA NEBBIA

Cuban President Fidel Castro recently discussed some of the challenges facing Cuban working people during a speech to the Blas Roca Construction Contingent.

The contingent is proof, Castro said, "of what consciousness can do, of what socialism can do." The speech was given on June 3 at a ceremony to present the contingent with the National Vanguard flag for its outstanding performance. It was published in the June 17 issue of *Granma Weekly Review*.

The Blas Roca Contingent, created nearly three years ago, is part of the process of using more voluntary labor in Cuba.

Since 1986 two types of voluntary work brigades have been organized, the minibrigades and the contingents. The minibrigades are comprised of workers who volunteer to be temporarily relieved of their normal job responsibilities or who work extra hours in addition to their jobs to build housing, schools, day-care centers, clinics, and other social projects.

The contingents are organized by different branches of government and are comprised of volunteer skilled construction workers who take on major civil engineering projects such as highways and dams.

The Blas Roca Contingent is made up of 28 brigades working in 30-some different fronts, explained Castro. Since its creation in 1987, the contingent has been involved in building highways, railroads, cold storage houses, canals, rural preuniversity schools, and tourist hotels.

"Every day we get news of new difficulties cropping up concerning different supplies and fuel. Fuel is very important, as we all know. And the imperialists' big hope," said the Cuban president, "is that we run out of fuel because of all the known problems, not because anyone wants it but because it can't be helped."

"So then, regardless of the unquestionable goodwill," Castro continued, "there's also the stubborn reality, and we constantly have to be thinking of having less and less fuel."

Over the recent period, Cuba has been receiving less fuel and other much-needed

industrial supplies, such as tires, from other countries than it had planned on, explained Castro. Most of these supplies have come from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

"We have to work in difficult conditions," Castro noted. "What our country is accomplishing at this time in these circumstances is a real feat. Yet we must adapt ourselves to those problems because even bigger ones may arise."

"There were times this year," Castro said, "when the sugar harvest was on the point of coming to a halt, the same goes for the land-clearing brigades and construction sites, for lack of fuel."

At times some of the construction contingents had to stop work because there was no fuel for three or four days, the Cuban president pointed out. In the province of Matanzas the lack of tires for the milk-collecting trucks led to a milk shortage.

"We must be prepared for these difficulties," Castro said, "for other bigger difficulties, and bigger difficulties still, and our feet must be firmly planted on the ground."

"Because if no tires are forthcoming from certain countries where we used to get them every year," Castro said, "then we must go and purchase them wherever we can, using the meager resources we have, which must be apportioned according to our essential needs."

Castro pointed to the "resolute efforts" made by the Cuban people over the past period. In the sugar harvest, for example, which has been lagging behind in some provinces due to heavy rain, "cane cutters continue to cut by hand because it's very difficult to use a machine, what with the humidity and the mud."

While great efforts are being made to solve some of the problems, "we still have a long way to go," said Castro. "Things should be anticipated way ahead to find possible solutions," he added. Delays had occurred in the construction of dams due to lack of tires for trucks and earth-moving vehicles despite a reserve of tires created for priority projects.

The Cuban president criticized the Ministry of Construction and the Institute of Water



Militant/Jon Hillson

Blas Roca Contingent members lead off May 1, 1990, march in Havana.

Resources, "because they did not make it clear in time, at the right moment, at a specific time, that some of the dams, which are critical projects, would have to be shut down because of a lack of tires, when that small reserve I talked about would be enough to keep all the dams from getting delayed."

"Of course I'm not going to discuss here all the obstacles the foreign trade agencies must face," said Castro, "due to the blockade and other difficulties, to import and transport tires in the shortest possible time."

"But even under the current circumstances, concretely, and with the little we had, we could have avoided delays in all of the many dams we are building and finishing," he added.

"In these times, more than ever," Castro said, "we must demand a great deal of everyone."

"There's nothing more difficult in difficult times," Castro said, "or in exceptional times,

than being intelligent and above all, precise and objective."

Today, the Cuban president explained, almost 40,000 workers are organized in contingents, "despite the fact that we have stopped as much as possible the creation of new forces with this style of work because we don't want the idea to be discredited."

"We don't want objective problems to create new vices or recreate old vices, of which there were many and which were really colossal in the construction sector."

Over the years, problems had developed in the Cuban economy as a result of bureaucratic mismanagement. Four years ago the "rectification process" was launched, seeking to overcome these problems through political mobilization of the Cuban people and the deepening of revolutionary consciousness.

Through the work of the contingents, construction projects that in the past would "drag out 20 or 30 years," Castro noted, today are not allowed to get two months behind. But some projects of the Ministry of Construction are still being built with "the old vices and the old habits," he added.

'Contingent never lets us down'

"We've discovered more than one delayed project and more than one project bogged down in laziness and idleness," Castro pointed out. "So much so that we have been forced to apply moral punishment and set an example by giving a project over to the Blas Roca Contingent, because the contingent never lets us down."

The contingents, for example, played a decisive role in coping with lumber shortages through the lumber preservation program.

The Cuban working people are carrying out efforts to improve and schedule projects "with greater precision," Castro said, "so that we can receive in the minimum amount of time the fruits of the enormous effort we are making with a minimum of resources."

The example of the contingents "has spread throughout the country, and we must watch that effort closely, because if all of a sudden a contingent — and the contingents generally work on priority projects — has no tires, if those building hotels to bring in foreign exchange, or those working on water projects to increase food production, or those working on important plans are stopped, the contingent spirit is lost."

"That's why we're careful in the creation of new contingents," Castro concluded. "We're careful in prioritizing the things that are done, because there are things that are done in normal times, like those we are doing, and there are things that would be done in exceptional times, when the criteria of priorities must be rigorous and absolute."

The contingents have been an example, said Castro, "proof of what socialism can do, because we would dare challenge any capitalist enterprise to do, with the same equipment and the same resources, what is done by the Blas Roca Contingent and other contingents throughout the length and breadth of the country."

Miners' conference defends union leaders

Continued from front page

the union's financial affairs. It was to avoid the effects of sequestration and receivership that Scargill and Heathfield took emergency measures, including the establishment of secret bank accounts scattered around different countries.

"I believe we were right to do so," Scargill told conference delegates. "The inquiry makes clear," the NUM president went on,



Militant/Jonathan Silberman
NUM President Arthur Scargill

"that as a matter of law," the monies should "have been handed over to the receiver and sequestrators." Had this been done, Scargill said, then monies loaned by other unions in the course of the strike would never have reached their intended destination. "Is there one delegate," the union president asked, "who would disagree with me that these loans given to sustain our organization should not have been handed over to the receiver?"

Scargill reported that the measures had

been so successful that not only had all the loans been repaid, but that an additional £135,000 (\$240,000) had been made available for the solidarity fund to aid miners still suffering hardship following the strike.

It was the NUM's course during the strike and the continued stance of the union leaders in defense of miners' that has made the two union officials the target of the media witch-hunt. Recent press editorials underline this.

"Unfit to lead the NUM," wrote the *Independent* on July 5. A July 6 editorial in the *Financial Times* entitled, "Union leaders out of control," considered that "Mr. Scargill's conduct is not entirely surprising. He has shown no sign since the strike of having given up hope that the NUM members will revolt against pit closures."

The editorial poses "two questions about the governance of the NUM and other unions," which it claims the action of the NUM leaders raise. "The first is whether the financial controls on unions set out in the 1974 Trade Union and Labour Relations Act are sufficiently strict." The second is that Scargill must be "placed more firmly under the executive's control."

Some echo media

Some Labour Party members of Parliament (MPs) and NUM leaders critical of the union's course echoed similar sentiments. Kim Howells, Labour MP for Pontypridd, described Scargill's conference speech as a "typical rhetorician's job."

Howells has for years been a staunch opponent of the NUM leaders. In early 1985 he spearheaded, against the policy of Scargill and Heathfield, media calls for a return to work by striking miners. At the time Howells was a research officer for the NUM's South Wales Area.

Another Labour MP to join the media campaign was Kevin Baron, a former member of the NUM National Executive. Baron said he considered Scargill's interpretation

of the Lightman inquiry "half-cocked."

NUM South Wales Area President Des Dufield described Scargill's speech as "very misleading" and considered the union president's behavior "autocratic." Other union figures to go public in their criticisms were Ken Hollingsworth of COSA (Colliery Officials and Staff Association), the white collar section of the NUM, and Jim Dowling, leader of the union's Power Group.

The bulk of the delegates, however, rallied to the defense of Scargill. Yorkshire miners' leader Ken Capstick said the speech was "excellent." The campaign of the media was "scurrilous," he said. It was "designed to discredit not only Scargill and Heathfield but the whole National Union of Mineworkers." He predicted that rank-and-file miners in Yorkshire would rapidly come to the same conclusion.

General secretary of the NUM's North-East Area, Davey Hopper, said "overwhelming support" existed in the union for what Scargill had done and for his explanation.

Scargill had placed his defense of the leaders of the NUM and IMO against the media witch-hunt in the context of the need to protect miners and their union in the face of renewed attacks by British Coal and the government. He characterized the past period of government attacks as "tantamount to a state of war against everything that this union stands for."

Scargill cataloged the job cuts imposed from 1982, when there were 192,000 miners, to the latest announcement by British Coal Chairman Robert Haslam that a further 7,500 jobs are to be axed. He said the employers were aiming for a coal industry of 50 pits employing 50,000 miners. This was what the strike had been about, he said.

Two other areas were highlighted by the presidential address, defense of the environment — in particular opposition to nuclear power — the defense of miners' living standards. Scargill called for a basic minimum wage for miners of £15,000 (\$27,000) a year.

Celebrate Nelson Mandela's U.S. visit

Chapters of the Young Socialist Alliance are sponsoring the following presentations:

Class 1: **What Is Apartheid?** Class 2: **"With Cuba We Have a Dependable Friend"—Nelson Mandela.** Class 3: **Young People Fight Against Apartheid.** Class 4: **The Fight Against Apartheid and Racism in the United States.** They will be held at the Pathfinder bookstores in these cities.

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Class 2. Sat., July 21, 5 p.m.
Class 4. Sat., July 28, 5 p.m.

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545 W. Roosevelt Rd.
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Class 4. Sat., July 28, 4 p.m.

DETROIT

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Class 3. Sat., July 14, 2 p.m.
Class 2. Sat., July 21, 2 p.m.
Class 4. Sat., July 28, 2 p.m.

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Class 4. Sat., July 21, 3 p.m.

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Class 4. Mon., July 16, 7 p.m.

Newark

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Tel: (201) 643-3341.
Class 4. Mon., July 16, 7 p.m.

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Class 1. Sat., July 21, 1 p.m.
Class 2. Sat., July 28, 1 p.m.
Class 4. Sat., Aug. 4, 1 p.m.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

3165 Mt. Pleasant St., NW.
Tel: (202) 797-7699.
Class 4. Fri., July 20, 7 p.m.

ARIZONA

Phoenix

The Reunification of Germany. Speaker: Arnold Weissberg, Socialist Workers Party, member Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union. Sat., July 28, 7 p.m. Translation to Spanish. 1809 W Indian School Rd. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (602) 279-5850.

FLORIDA

Miami

Stop Racist Attacks! A united response is needed to the July 5 police riot. Speakers: Dan Fein, Socialist Workers Party, member United Steelworkers of America Local 6694; Many Hidalgo, Cuban-American student activist; representative People United for Justice. Translation to Spanish. Sat., July 14, 7:30 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (305) 756-1020.

Reunification of Germany. Speaker: Peter Seidman, Socialist Workers Party, member International Association of Machinists Local Lodge 1126. Translation to Spanish. Sat., July 21, 7:30 p.m. 2137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (305) 756-1020.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

Housing Is a Right. Speakers: Anthony Knighton, homeless activist; Daryl Drobnic, Socialist Workers Party, member United Food and Commercial Workers Local 442. Sat., July 21, 7:30 p.m. 132 Cone St. NW, 2nd floor. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (404) 577-4065.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

German Reunification and the Democratic Upsurge in Eastern Europe: What They Mean for Working People. Speaker: Lea Sherman, Socialist Workers Party, member United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 26. Sat., July 21, 7:30 p.m. 5019 1/2 Woodward Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (313) 831-1177.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

The Challenges Facing Working People Today and the Road Forward. Speaker: Wendy Lyons, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Minnesota governor. Sat., July 21, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

Cuba Today. Slideshow and eyewitness accounts. Celebrate July 26. Speaker: August Nimtz, professor of political science at University of Minnesota. Fri., July 27, 7 p.m. Cowles Auditorium, Hubert Humphrey Institute, University of Minnesota West Bank. Sponsors: U.S.-Cuba Friendship Committee, Africana Student Cultural Center, La Raza. Tel: (612) 625-0045.

Austin

The Crisis Facing Working Farmers. Speakers: Kathie Fitzgerald, activist in labor and farm struggles, member International Association of Machinists Local 141; Craig Honts, Socialist Workers Party candidate for lieutenant governor of Minnesota. Sat., July 21, 7:30 p.m. 407 1/2 N Main St. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (507) 433-3461.

MISSOURI

Kansas City

Defend Mark Curtis. Speakers: Bill Claus, host of KKFT's "Hartland Labor Forum"; Robin

Cole, Women's Auxiliary, Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1313 on strike against Greyhound; Linda Azure, Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, sister of Leonard Peltier; Maurice Copeland, social activist and poet. Sun., July 22, 7 p.m. SEIU Union Hall, 4526 Paseo. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Kansas City Supporters of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee. Tel: (816) 444-7880.

NEBRASKA

Omaha

Socialist Campaign Rally. Speakers: Lee Oleson, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Nebraska governor; Erich Christiansen, Youth for Peace; representative African Students Association, University of Nebraska, Lincoln. Sat., July 21. Reception, 6 p.m.; program, 7 p.m. 140 S 40th St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Socialist Workers 1990 Campaign Committee. Tel: (402) 553-0245.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

Stop Government Censorship of the Arts. Speakers: Eloise Linger, Friends of the Pathfinder Mural; Georges Mehrabian, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress, 10th C.D., member Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 8-575; Stephen Sennott, executive director City Without Walls. Translation to Spanish and French. Sat., July 14, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St., 2nd floor. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. Tel: (201) 643-3341.

NEW YORK

Brooklyn

The Fight for Human Rights in the 1990s. Speaker: Anna Schell, Socialist Workers Party, member International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union and Eastern strike support activist. Translation to Spanish and French. Sat., July 14, 7 p.m. 464 Bergen. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (718) 398-6983.

Will East Germany Go Capitalist? Fri., July 20, 7:30 p.m. 464 Bergen. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (718) 398-6983.

Manhattan

The Fight for Human Rights in the 1990s. Speaker: Selva Nebbia, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress, 15th C.D. Translation

to Spanish and French. Sat., July 14, 7 p.m. 191 7th Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (212) 675-6740.

Will East Germany Go Capitalist? Fri., July 20, 7:30 p.m. Translation to Spanish and French. 191 7th Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (212) 675-6740.

OHIO

Cleveland

Quebec's Fight for National Rights. Speaker: representative of the Communist League of Canada. Sat., July 14, 7:30 p.m. 2521 Market Ave. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (216) 861-6150.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

The Government vs. the Arts. Panel discussion. Sat., July 21, 7:30 p.m. 9 E Chelton Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (215) 848-5044.

Pittsburgh

The Frame-Up of Mark Curtis. A packing-house worker's fight for justice. Speaker: Kate Daher, supporter of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee. Tues., July 17, 7:30 p.m. 4905 Penn Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

TEXAS

Houston

Censorship and the Fight for Freedom of Expression. Translation to Spanish. Sat., July 21, 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

Big Mountain: The Struggle Continues. Speakers: Mike Galati, Socialist Workers Party, member United Transportation Union Local 1366; representative Big Mountain Support Group. Sat., July 14, 7:30 p.m. 147 E 900 S. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

WEST VIRGINIA

Morgantown

Working People's Stake in Defending the Environment. A panel discussion with Rich

Petrus, Citizens for a Clean Environment; John DiBiase, president Greene CAPS and United Mine Workers of America Local 6310; representative of MOVE; Joe Kleidon, Socialist Workers Party, former worker at MAP. Sat., July 21, 7:30 p.m. 221 Pleasant St. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (304) 296-0055.

BRITAIN

Cardiff

After the Battle. Video of Cuban and South African veterans talking about the battle of Cuito Cuanavale, Angola. Sat., July 21, 7 p.m. 9 Moira Terrace, Adamsdown. Donation: £1. Sponsor: Militant Forum. Tel: 0222-484677.

Manchester

German Reunification and What It Means for Working People. Speaker: Andy Buchanan, Communist League. Wed., July 18, 7:30 p.m. Unit 4, 60 Shudehill. Donation: £1. Sponsor: Militant Forum. Tel: 061-839 1766.

ICELAND

Reykjavik

Keep Pressure on South Africa. Speakers: Sunna Snædal, chairperson Group Against South African Apartheid; Judith Hall, steering committee member Group Against South African Apartheid. Thurs., July 19, 8 p.m.. INSI union hall, Skólavörðustíg 19.

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland

Rally to Demand Justice for Mark Curtis. Speakers: Paul Chalmers, education officer for Hotel Workers Union; Syd Jackson, Maori rights activist; Mike Sweeney, organizer Engineers Union; Maire Leadbeater, peace activist; John Minto, international secretary HART Aotearoa. Chairperson: Jock Barnes, veteran trade union leader and co-treasurer Mark Curtis Defence Fund. Fri., July 20, 7 p.m. Hotel Workers Union Hall, corner George St. and New North Rd. For more information call (9) 793-075 or 276-3975.

Christchurch

Shattered Dreams. Video on 1951 waterfront lockout. Sat., July 21, 7 p.m. 593a Colombo St. (upstairs). Sponsor: Socialist Forum. Tel: (3) 656-055.

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NEBRASKA: Omaha: 140 S. 40th St. Zip: 68131. Tel: (402) 553-0245.

NEW JERSEY: Newark: 141 Halsey. Zip: 07102. Tel: (201) 643-3341.

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PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia: 9 E. Chelton Ave. Zip: 19144. Tel: (215) 848-5044.

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(412) 362-6767.

TEXAS: Houston: 4806 Alameda. Zip: 77004. Tel: (713) 522-8054.

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

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Sydney: 19 Terry St., Surry Hills, Sydney NSW 2010. Tel: 02-281-3297.

BRITAIN

Cardiff: 9 Moira Terrace, Adamsdown. Postal code: CF2 1EJ. Tel: 0222-484677.

London: 47 The Cut. Postal code: SE1 8LL. Tel: 71-401 2293.

Manchester: Unit 4, 60 Shudehill. Postal code: M4 4AA. Tel: 061-839 1766.

Sheffield: 2A Waverley House, 10 Joiner St.,

Sheffield S3 8GW. Tel: 0742-729469.

CANADA

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

Vancouver: 1053 Kingsway, Suite 102. Postal code: V5V 3C7. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

ICELAND

Reykjavik: Klappartíg 26. Mailing address: P. Box 233, 121 Reykjavik. Tel: (91) 17513.

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland: 157a Symonds St. Postal Address: P.O. Box 3025. Tel: (9) 793-075.

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

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

SWEDEN

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

How severe can you get? — In a letter to incoming female midshipmen (?), the head of the U.S. Naval



Harry Ring

Academy assured that the midshipmen who had chained a female student to a urinal had been "severely punished." Two of them got loss of leave and demerits, and six were given reprimands.

Saintly rapist — Last October,

Peter Anderson, a British cop, was sentenced to seven years for raping a woman in the back of a police car. Now, an appeals court has ordered him free. The court said that in his summing up, the trial judge had not told the jury about the cop's previous good character.

Soon as they buy new ledger paper — Pointing to \$999 pliers and \$117 soap dish covers, two senators told the Pentagon that the overpricing problem seemed to be continuing. They were assured that the brass hats are concerned and plan to do an audit.

Hey, let's try it — A lengthy *Washington Post* article reports that psychologists are doing "sophisti-

cated field studies and laboratory experiments" to find out why crimes of violence seem to increase in hot weather. Ponders the *Post*: "Would air conditioning every building in every hotbed of violent attacks bring down the crime rate?"

Talk about cold-blooded — After putting Donald Trump on a \$450,000-a-month spending leash, the banks have taken aim at his brother Robert. A vice prez of the Trump Organization, bro Bob's wages will be slashed from \$1 million a year to \$300,000.

With justice for all — Of the 32 million people in this country who are classified as poor, over 75 percent are women and children.

They're also the fastest growing segment of the homeless. Meanwhile, reports the Dallas Women's Federation, a fast 3.4 percent of philanthropic dollars go to women and girls.

Kissing cousins — Twenty major banks own stock in Kohlberg, Kravis, the big-time leveraged-buyout artists. As stockholders, these banks get first whack at making loans for new ventures. In a decade, they have pocketed \$350 million in loan fees from the company. A banker explained, "It's relationship-building."

Sportsmanship, USA — The Professional Golfers' Association plans to hold the 1990 PGA Cham-

pionship at the Shoal Creek country club in Birmingham, Alabama. The club bars Blacks. "We pick and choose who we want," a spokesperson declared. The PGA assures it doesn't "condone discrimination," but this won't affect its choice of Shoal Creek.

It takes a free market — Fido has insomnia? Try the Pet Bed: "The ultimate in comfort and a good night's sleep... medical grade polyfoam... supersoft lambswool cover." King size, \$49.95.

Thought for the week — We were thinking what a famous victory it is that the Democrats forced Bush to bite his lip and agree to impose new taxes on working people.

Trial held in harassment lawsuit against Curtis

Continued from front page

Curtis was represented by William Kutmus, a leading criminal attorney in Iowa, and George Eichhorn, the attorney who initiated a civil rights lawsuit against Des Moines police for beating Curtis after his arrest in 1988.

Curtis barred from trial

Kutmus opened the trial by asking the judge to reverse his July 5 decision to bar Curtis from attending the legal proceedings against him.

Judge Gamble had previously ruled that Curtis could be present for the trial and ordered the Iowa Department of Corrections to allow him to come to Des Moines. Defense attorneys had prepared to present him as the only defense witness to rebut any false testimony and to describe his financial situation.

Five days before the trial the Iowa state attorney general's office intervened in the case and convened a telephone hearing with Judge Gamble and Eichhorn. An assistant attorney general urged the judge to reverse his earlier decision. Under Iowa law imprisoned defendants in a civil suit can be prevented from directly confronting their accusers. Though it is common practice in Iowa to transport prisoners to appear in court, Gamble ruled in favor of the attorney general.

Judge Gamble denied Kutmus' motion. He also appointed Eichhorn to be Curtis' guardian at the trial as a formality. Guardians are appointed by courts to protect a defendant's "best interests" in legal proceedings. Usually such a ruling involves children and incompetent adults.

Des Moines attorney Stuart Pepper represented the Morris. Declining to make an opening statement, he called the first witness, the woman Curtis allegedly assaulted. Under his prodding, she described being sexually attacked in detail.

At his criminal trial in 1988, Curtis explained, "I heard her like you did, like we all did. I believe something may have happened

to her. Maybe what she said. But I was not that person. She was wrong about that."

Curtis or his attorneys were prevented by the judge's pretrial ruling from presenting any defense against the charge that he was guilty.

New charges leveled at Curtis

A series of charges by the woman never made against Curtis in the trial were then prompted by Pepper's line of questioning. These included claiming that Curtis threatened, "If you don't cooperate, I'll kill your brother," and charging that he attempted to strangle her to death, and was prevented from doing so only when she scratched him hard enough to make him pull his arms back.

The latter charge has never been made before and no physical evidence has ever been presented to tie Curtis to the assault. There were no scratches on his arms when he was arrested.

Pepper also attempted to introduce charges that Curtis had harassed the woman after his arrest. Kutmus objected, holding up the transcript from a July 12, 1988, court hearing where similar charges had been raised in an effort to have Curtis' bail revoked and move up his trial. "After reviewing the evidence, the judge [in Curtis' 1988 criminal case] ruled against these motions," Kutmus explained to the court.

Pepper withdrew the question. Kutmus then requested it be stricken from the record, and Judge Gamble agreed.

The plaintiff's attorney questioned the woman about her recent schooling and activities. She testified she graduated from high school at the beginning of the year and planned to attend nursing school. She decided against seeking psychological counseling, she said, because she didn't want it on her "record."

Denise Morris, one of the plaintiffs and the woman's mother, was then called to the stand. She said that she was in a bar with her husband when the attack allegedly occurred

and couldn't testify about it. But she said she could describe the effect she thought it had on her daughter.

In response to Pepper's questions, Morris explained that while her daughter had recovered from any physical effects within a couple of days, she had suffered nightmares and fears ever since. The lawyer again attempted to raise charges of harassment by Curtis asking her if the daughter ever mentioned any.

Kutmus objected and the judge closed this line of questioning off.

No counseling or medical expenses

Under cross-examination by Kutmus, Morris admitted that the family had never paid any medical expenses for injuries allegedly inflicted by Curtis. She also verified that her daughter had never sought psychological counseling, and explained that she and her husband had joined fully in making this decision.

After the judge had sustained objections concerning alleged harassment by Curtis, Pepper ended the presentation of the plaintiffs' case by deciding not to call his last two witnesses, Keith Morris and one of the Morris sons.

Since Curtis had been prevented from appearing and testifying at his own trial, Kutmus moved that the defense be allowed to videotape testimony from him in prison. The judge agreed and set a July 27 deadline.

Pepper attempted to deliver a summary for the plaintiff's case against Curtis, but was interrupted by Kutmus.

"Since all the testimony has not yet been presented," Kutmus explained, "summaries

are premature." Judge Gamble ruled that summary arguments would be presented to the court in writing on August 10. Curtis' attorneys can address the new charges against their client in that summary.

The trial, which had lasted a little over an hour, was then adjourned. At a pretrial hearing a week earlier, the plaintiffs declined to have a jury trial in the suit. Judge Gamble will issue the final ruling and financial award.

"Even though we did as well as we could, given the circumstances," Kutmus told supporters gathered outside the courtroom, "we have to remember that they will get damages against Mark. Our job today was to try to minimize those damages."

As Curtis' supporters listened to the attorney's remarks, photographers from the *Bulletin* newspaper circled the group taking pictures in an attempt to intimidate them. The *Bulletin* is published by an antilabor outfit called the Workers League that has peddled the cop frame-up of Curtis internationally. They have published and distributed literature that fingers his supporters to their employers.

"This trial was a continuation of the cop frame-up against Mark," Studer told the Mark Curtis Defense Committee meeting that night. "Its goal is to undermine the successes of the international defense campaign. Mark, who remains a political activist in prison, and Kate are winning respect and support all over the world."

"Mark will not be stopped. Kate will not be stopped. And we pledge to step up our efforts."

— 10 AND 25 YEARS AGO —

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

July 18, 1980

South Africa has launched a major invasion of Angola. Devastating attacks are being carried out against Angolan villages. Hundreds of Angolans, as well as Namibian refugees and freedom fighters, have been massacred.

The Angolan ambassador to the United Nations charged at a special session of the UN Security Council, "These are not merely war preparations, this is war."

Washington is backing the secret war against Angola. The U.S. delegate abstained on a June 27 Security Council motion condemning South Africa. And the U.S. Senate showed where it stood June 17 — 10 days after the invasion began. It voted for a measure that would allow the U.S. government to resume covert activities in Angola.

THE MILITANT

Published in the interests of the Working People

July 26, 1965

The following is an excerpt of a speech given by Fidel Castro a week after the June 19 coup in Algeria, which overthrew the workers' and farmers' government established after independence in 1962.

Mandela meets with Thatcher

Continued from Page 8

of the Labour Party, and with the Confederation of British Industry (CBI).

In his meeting with the CBI, Mandela reiterated his call for sanctions and explained the overall framework of the economic policy of the ANC. "The existing position is that the entire resources of the country are owned by a white minority of the country," Mandela said. "We have no intention of allowing that situation to continue. Because the political and economic have-nots are Black, the very stability of the political settlement depends on rapid and visible progress being made to improve the quality of life of all the people."

Executives of large corporations in Britain have fully backed the government's anti-sanctions stance and have expressed deep concern over what will happen in a post-apartheid South Africa.

More than half of all foreign investment in South Africa is British, totaling some £10 billion (\$17 billion). More than 200 British companies operate in the country and annual trade between Britain and South Africa amounts to nearly £2 billion.

A series of hostile newspaper articles chal-

lenged the call Mandela made in Ireland, just prior to coming to Britain, that the British government talk with the Irish Republican Army. The IRA opposes British occupation of the north of Ireland. During Mandela's visit to Ireland massive public support for the ANC leader was demonstrated on the streets of Dublin.

At a press interview, Mandela, asked to comment on the IRA, said, "I am not expressing any opinion as to the methods of political action which must be adopted by any particular group in any particular country. What I am concentrating on is that peaceful methods are the best way to resolve problems."

He said that the British government had overseen talks on Rhodesia during the war that led to independence "without insisting that any side should lay down arms." He said, "It is a principal that should be applied all over, in all situations of a similar nature."

Gerry Adams, leader of the Irish political party Sinn Féin, welcomed Mandela's remarks. Tony Benn, a Labour Party leader and member of Parliament, thanked Mandela for what he said on Ireland when the ANC leader addressed members of Parliament at Westminster.

We are not going to speak in diplomatic language, we are going to speak in revolutionary language.

In the first place, the military revolt that overthrew the revolutionary government of Ben Bella is not and cannot be described by anyone as a revolutionary uprising.

In view of the events, [are] we now going to ignore all the ties that bound us to the Algerian revolution and its most legitimate representatives, to abuse the fallen hero because he no longer governs in Algeria? No, because we would be engaging in the most repugnant political opportunism.

Could we express our support for the military seizure of power? No, because in the conditions of Algeria, in the middle of the revolutionary process, we find no possible justification for the way in which they acted.

If it were true that the promoters of the coup represented the will of the people and if it were true that they were right, why did they resort to a military seizure of power? Why did they not raise the problem before the masses, before the people? Why did they not take up the problem within the party, within the ranks of the revolutionaries?

How could we, Marxist-Leninists, accept, in the specific conditions of Algeria, a military seizure of power carried out treacherously at night, which reminds us so much of March 10 [1952, the coup by Cuban dictator Batista], both by the hour and the way in which it took place and by the forms of repression already being used against the people — soldiers, fire trucks, shooting, beating, and police cars with howling sirens.

Eastern's '100 days' are over

For the past several weeks Martin Shugrue, the court-appointed trustee of Eastern, has promised in TV and newspaper ads that "for the next 100 days Eastern is going to get a little better every day." But in just 25 days it's clear that Eastern's "100 days" are already over.

A victory in the 16-month strike by the baggage handlers, ramp workers, cleaners, and mechanics of the International Association of Machinists (IAM) is within reach. The Machinists are closer today than at any time since setting up their picket lines on March 4, 1989, to winning union jobs and a contract. Such an outcome would deal a gigantic blow to the employers' ability to force unionists out on strike and replace them with scabs in a non-union workplace.

Recognizing that Eastern is hanging by a thread, and that the strike is an important element behind the growing crisis at Eastern, the carrier's creditors are looking to sell the whole airline as quickly as possible — before all that is left to recoup of their \$1 billion investment is what they can get out of the deteriorating planes.

Moreover, as the crisis deepens the central pillar of former Eastern top Frank Lorenzo's goal of a union-free, worldwide airline is crumbling.

Lorenzo attempted to bust the union and run a scab outfit, thereby adding Eastern to his nonunion Continental Airlines. In order to recruit, train, and maintain the "replacement workers," however, he had to promise long-term employment to those willing to cross the picket line.

Today, the morale of Eastern's scabs is waning dramatically. The continued strike and the moves by the creditors to try to sell the carrier to IAM-organized Northwest Airlines has shattered the illusion of scabs and prospective scabs that Eastern is a stable airline that can be depended on for a job.

Seeing the handwriting on the wall, some among management are also resigning. Scab hiring sessions are drawing smaller audiences, and promises of a secure future with a "new" Eastern ring hollow to those who do show up.

Shugrue hoped to ignore the strike when he took over from Lorenzo in April. As a government appointee, his job is to get a better deal for the airline's creditors than the 10 cents on the dollar Lorenzo offered them. But the strikers continued to press their fight.

Having forced Lorenzo out of Eastern management, the strikers' slogan became "No contract! No peace!" When Shugrue attempted a publicity campaign among travel agents in Atlanta, strikers countered by visiting the agents themselves.

Eastern's efforts to substantially raise passenger loads by

offering rock-bottom fares was effectively met by the strikers who maintained picket lines, airport walk-throughs, rallies and other activities — letting the public know the strike is still on.

The strikers continue to point out the growing safety hazards of the hobbled airline, reach out for solidarity from unions around the world, and raise funds to help keep the strike effective.

As more and more strikers smell the possibility of a victory they are redoubling their efforts. From Miami to San Francisco to Philadelphia, strikers' picket lines are growing in size and frequency. Continued support is coming in from city, state, regional, and national labor bodies. Other airline workers, in particular, are following and discussing the latest developments closely. Public opinion continues to shift in favor of the strikers.

The refusal of Eastern to seriously negotiate with the Air Line Pilots Association, which suspended its sympathy strike at the airline last November, has brought some pilots back to the picket lines. The possibility of the pilots' association returning to active support for the strike is also giving an added boost to the fight.

All this will be on the creditors' minds when their committee meets July 13 with Shugrue. This meeting, postponed from June, was originally set up to hear new reorganization plans for the airline.

Northwest has taken an active interest in buying Eastern, and talks are set between Northwest head Alfred Checchi and IAM Vice-president John Peterpaul. If a deal with Northwest goes through, it opens the way for Eastern workers to go back with a union contract.

At this stage of the battle to win a contract and jobs, not a beat can be missed. Time is running out for Eastern, which makes the situation more favorable to the strikers.

Winning the strike would be a real blow to the course of the employers' decade-long antilabor offensive. It would be a victory for all working people, and would especially give an impetus to unionists fighting employers' attacks.

Strike supporters need to do all they can to pitch in and exercise the maximum union power possible. Weighing in now, through active support, is decisive in pressing forward to victory. Getting out to airports to bolster the picket lines; inviting Eastern strikers to locals to speak; and taking up the AFL-CIO endorsed "adopt a lodge" program through labor bodies are all ways to help guarantee there will be no labor peace until a contract is won in the Eastern strike.

Iowa's top cop ups the ante

On July 5, just four days before a trial in a harassment lawsuit against Mark Curtis, Iowa Assistant Attorney General Layne Landebak got Judge Arthur Gamble on the phone. He urged the judge to reverse his previous decision to allow the unionist and political activist, incarcerated in a Fort Madison state prison, to attend the trial in Des Moines. He cited state laws and claimed the judge had no authority to allow Curtis to come to Des Moines. Judge Gamble readily obliged Landebak and barred Curtis from the trial.

Refusing to allow Curtis to attend the trial of the civil damage lawsuit is part of a broader drive to gut the Sixth Amendment, a part of the U.S. Bill of Rights. A June 27 Supreme Court ruling declared that the right to confront one's accuser is not an "indispensable element" of the amendment. This decision gave a green light to prosecutors and attorney generals across the country to continue to chip away at this right, as happened to Curtis.

The trial, though, was stacked against Curtis from the start. Based on a frame-up and 1988 conviction on rape and burglary charges, the civil suit seeks life-long punitive financial damages from the working-class fighter. Backing this frame-up and the continued harassment of Curtis, Judge Gamble refused to allow Curtis' lawyers to introduce arguments from his continued appeal of the unfair criminal trial. Once this decision was made, the only matter left was for the court to decide how large a financial judgment it would impose on Curtis.

Curtis' police frame-up, the beating he received from the cops after his arrest, his unfair trial, the authorities' harassment of him in prison, and the stacked damage lawsuit are not unusual experiences for many workers, farmers, and youth in this country who get jammed up by the so-called justice system.

The June 29 denial by the Iowa State Supreme Court of Curtis' appeal to overturn his conviction and grant a new trial, despite the flagrant constitutional rights violations at

the 1988 criminal trial, also shows the "justice" workers get and can expect.

Curtis and his fight for justice are, however, unusual in one respect. Tens of thousands around the world have heard of his case, signed petitions in his defense, contributed financially to his defense campaign, sent protests to Iowa authorities, or have had their organizations pass resolutions calling for his freedom.

More than 8,000 trade unionists, political activists, defenders of civil liberties, prominent officials, and others from around the world have become endorsers of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee. His fight for justice has been raised before several international forums and his supporters are campaigning to get the United Nations to take up his case.

This international defense campaign has begun to shine a spotlight on the injustices, unfair trials, and frame-ups meted out to working people in the United States. It is also beginning to expose and fight against the assault by the U.S. government on the Bill of Rights.

Curtis and his defense campaign are increasingly seen as a central part of the fight to defend these rights, therefore raising the stakes in the fight for his freedom. The attorney general's intervention in the lawsuit and his central role in fighting Curtis' appeals at every level of the Iowa judicial system — and his future role in opposing appeals to federal courts — makes crystal clear the importance that Iowa's ruling circles place on continuing the frame-up against Curtis, keeping him in jail, and seeking to isolate him from world politics and break him as a political activist.

They are also trying to demoralize his most outspoken defenders, especially his wife Kate Kaku, and supporters of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee.

Justice for Curtis will be won in the international court of public opinion. The jury in this court has already begun to render its verdict — a resounding "Not guilty!"

Soviet occupation of Hungary: Who should pay?

BY DOUG JENNESS

The Soviet government has recently withdrawn 15,000 troops from Hungary. According to a schedule agreed to in March the remaining troops are to be pulled out by the middle of next year.

The Soviet occupation forces are not only leaving behind 45 years of pent-up anger among most of Hungary's 10.6 million people, but a grubby mess too. On 60 army bases and six air bases, nearly 6,000 buildings, including rundown barracks and shoddy apartment houses, are being left behind. Many of them were built in violation of Hungary's construction codes. Roofs leak, plumbing and electricity are faulty, and toilet facilities in some amount to a hole in the

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

floor. Hungarian officials say that not much can be done to make them habitable and they will probably have to be bulldozed.

In addition to this garbage heap of structures, the Soviet military has bequeathed fields of unexploded artillery shells and oil and other wastes dumped on the ground.

But this isn't the half of it. Moscow has the cheek to present the Hungarian government with a bill for this "Soviet investment," as it calls it. The total cost is the equivalent of \$800 million.

This behavior isn't new for the Soviet bureaucracy. It is consistent with the pattern of bleeding Hungary and other Eastern European countries following World War II.

Hungarian officials haven't accepted Moscow's accounting and announced that they are prepared to present their own bill for the human and economic costs of living under the Soviet boot.

When Soviet troops entered Hungary in 1944, drove out German troops, and overturned the pro-Nazi regime, Moscow demanded and received what were called "reparations." Of \$300 million in payments in commodities over six years, \$200 million was paid to the Soviet bureaucracy and \$100 million to Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia. This represented a considerable part of Hungary's gross national product for those years.

But this was only part of the plunder taken by the Soviet Union's privileged caste. Some 75 percent of Hungary's industrial output was requisitioned by the Soviet occupation forces and later loaned back at high interest rates.

Moreover, the Hungarian people bore the cost of maintaining the Soviet military forces in transit and occupation. This included not only the normal requirements of troops, but large quantities of food, civilian clothing, and various luxuries. This doesn't count what Soviet soldiers simply looted from the towns and countryside.

The abuses against Hungarians weren't only economic. In early 1945 some 600,000 Hungarian citizens were forcibly deported to the Soviet Union to work in construction projects, at least a third of whom never returned.

All of these privations came on top of the devastation resulting from World War II, during which some 40 percent of Hungary's national wealth was destroyed and 600,000 people killed. And the burden for Moscow's pillage fell most heavily on the producers in the factories, mines, and on the land.

Picking Hungary clean was justified by the Kremlin on the grounds that its government had supported the German Nazi regime in the second world imperialist slaughter. The same pretext was given to their plunder throughout Eastern Europe. But, in fact, this policy was carried out against "enemy" and "ally" alike.

Finland and Romania, in addition to Hungary, were obligated to pay huge reparations to Moscow. And plants and industrial equipment were dismantled and shipped to the USSR.

The notion that this was necessary or permissible in order to exact repayment for the horrible destruction brought against the Soviet Union by German fascism is reactionary. It's the policy of a nationalist-minded, self-seeking, bureaucratic, privileged caste, not the stand of working people attempting to forge closer ties with workers and farmers in other countries.

The working people of Hungary and the other Eastern European countries were not to blame for the imposition of fascism or the atrocities committed against the Soviet people. In fact, fascism only won governmental power by crushing working people and their organizations. Workers were victims of fascist rule and military occupation, not its executioners.

The antifascist argumentation, however, was in large measure a demagogic ruse by the Kremlin for repressing the working class in the Eastern European countries and preventing them from challenging bureaucratic rule in their own countries and ultimately in the Soviet Union itself.

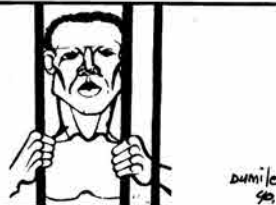
The attempt today by President Mikhail Gorbachev's government to squeeze even more tribute out of the Hungarian people is a crude and cruel move. But unlike in earlier years, when any steps toward resistance would meet with a sharp crackdown by Soviet troops, a new relationship of political forces has emerged whereby Hungarians are able to say, "No. We won't pay any more."

Native American makes appeal for fellow inmate

Eddie Hatcher, a Native American activist, was arrested in February 1988 following the takeover of a local newspaper office in rural, southeastern North Carolina. The action he took along with Timothy Jacobs, also Native American, was aimed at drawing attention to the racism and corruption — including drug trafficking — in the Robeson County sheriff's department and the district attorney's office.

Robeson County is one of the poorest in the state, with

BEHIND PRISON WALLS



a population evenly divided between Blacks, Native Americans, and whites. "The educational system is divided to segregate the races and the money. Wages are low. Drugs are rampant. A white minority controls the county with intimidation, threats of legal action, or physical harm," said Hatcher in an interview at North Carolina's Central Prison earlier this year.

The following are excerpts of two letters from Hatcher, mailed to supporters of the Robeson Defense Committee. For more information, contact the committee at P.O. Box 1389, Pembroke, N.C. 28372.

On Feb. 14, 1990, I entered a plea of guilty to 14 counts of kidnapping stemming from the takeover of the *Robesonian* newspaper in Lumberton, North Carolina.

Throughout the past two years, many people around the country have supported me and my family in many ways. So many times we could not have continued the struggle had it not been for you.

The original charges — federal hostage-taking, weapons, and conspiracy — were brought before a federal jury and, after a three-week trial, I was found not guilty on all counts. It was after that historic verdict that the State of North Carolina reindicted me on kidnapping charges. I fought two

extradition orders after fleeing the state, only to be returned to the Robeson County jail.

After two years, the constant struggle against the government had taken a toll on me, but more so on my mother who fought much harder than I.

I was sentenced to 18 years in prison. I realize some may see this as a defeat. However, I felt it was time to direct my goals in a different way and relieve some of the burden on my family and myself.

* * *

Even though I am incarcerated, I feel completely satisfied that this was a victory. Especially satisfying was the complete acquittal by the jury in federal court. That victory can definitely not be taken away. Without your help, none of this could have been possible.

While little can be done for me at this point, I come to you asking your help on behalf of a young African-American now incarcerated in Central Prison.

* * *

James Hall, Jr., 26 years old, is serving two natural life sentences on charges that should never have been brought against him. He has spent the last eight years in prison.

When James was six months old, his father killed his mother. Until he was age six, he was partially raised by an uncle who was an alcoholic and abused James, physically and mentally. Between the ages of six and 14, James was constantly moved from foster home to foster home.

When he was 14, James was placed in a reform school where he stayed until he was 17. After leaving reform school, James came to North Carolina and got a job in a migrant labor camp, working in the fields of rural Johnston County. It was there that James was charged and imprisoned.

The incident that resulted in James' imprisonment involved two men — both over 40 — who refused to return money owed James. In a heated argument, a fight began. A kerosene lamp burst, causing the dilapidated house they were in to catch fire. James escaped and ran for help, only to return and be taken into custody, charged with two counts of first-degree murder.

After hours of intense questioning and threats by county law enforcement, James — frightened and alone — agreed to a statement proposed by the officers. After five weeks in jail, a court-appointed attorney visited James and advised him to plead guilty to second-degree murder to avoid getting the death penalty.

Only two months after the incident, he received two natural life sentences, back to back. Since then, the autopsy results of the two men have been revealed, showing that both died of smoke inhalation and were not injured in the fight to the point of being unable to escape the fire. One had an extremely high blood alcohol level.

In court it was asserted that James was 21 years old instead of 18. Because of this, he was immediately placed in North Carolina Central Prison, which is the most confined, dangerous, maximum security prison in the state. Shortly after being placed here, James was severely beaten and raped. This was the beginning of the mental and physical abuse he has suffered for the last eight years.

In 1986 James was diagnosed with AIDS and his condition is gradually worsening. After enduring the agony of the last eight years, he now faces the possibility of never seeing beyond the walls of Central Prison.

* * *

Every day is valuable. While the State of North Carolina is not known for being fair, much less concerned, with African-Americans in or out of prison, your call — if made loudly — for the case of James Hall to be reopened and that he be given proper medical attention may be heeded.

Messages of protest can be sent to Gov. James Martin, 116 W. Jones St., Raleigh, N.C. 27611; Aaron Johnson, Secretary, Department of Correction, 214 W. Jones St., Raleigh, N.C. 27603; and Warden Gary Dixon, 1300 Western Blvd., Raleigh, N.C. 27606.

Money for printing, telephone, and legal costs can be sent to the Robeson Defense Committee.

If you would, remind them I am in your thoughts and my concern for and assistance to fellow inmates should not result in harassment or unfair treatment.

I shall always be thankful for all that you have done. The struggle continues.

—LETTERS—

Rail shutdown

A brief strike June 26 by members of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees from Helena, Montana, to Chicago drew attention to contracting out violations by the Burlington Northern railroad. The railroad is employing nonunion workers to install concrete ties on its track.

There was "more unity and solidarity than in my 18 years as a rail worker and union representative," said Paul Swanson, general chairman of the Burlington Northern BMWU. Picket lines were honored and joined by members of the United Transportation Union, Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, Transportation Communication Union, and other rail unions.

In La Crosse, Wisconsin, the picket line swelled to 60-70 workers in less than an hour. Swanson said miners' union members in Sheridan, Wyoming, were "disappointed that they didn't get to picket with us." In Kansas City, Greyhound strikers are swapping "Currey no" stickers for BMWU "Strike a deal or deal a strike" stickers.

The strikers were forced back to work by a court injunction.

Arlene Rubinstein
Kansas City, Missouri

'Assassins'

Please allow me to comment on the June 29 article by James Harris — "Puerto Rican 'assassins,' or freedom fighters?"

The label "assassins" placed on the Puerto Rican nationalists by New York City Mayor David Dinkins was an attack on the Puerto Rican community.

Even Puerto Ricans — and Latinos in general — who are not in full support of Puerto Rican independence, admire Lolita Lebrón and her comrades for their courageous stand against Yankee imperialism in the 1950s. The attack on Blair House was — and still is — recognized by many as a proper and courageous response to the U.S. attack in 1950 on the Nationalist Party and the

Puerto Rican people.

All the freedom fighters did was what any loyal soldier is supposed to do in time of war — attack the enemy. At least they didn't drop bombs on a whole community as it slept — like the U.S. government did in Panama, killing many innocent people.

The guard killed at Blair House was armed and represented the rulers of the country. The same goes for the legislators that Lolita Lebrón and her comrades fired on.

Only yesterday Mayor Dinkins was depending on Black and Latino support for his election. It is time for people to realize that although we change the color of the skin on the powers that be, unless we begin to change the system, we will remain an oppressed majority under the masticating jaws of greedy aristocrats and their armed protectors.

Dinkins has expressed his position. In the next election he will feel our position about our Puerto Rican warriors.

A prisoner
Attica, New York

Iran quake I

What is the purpose in the United States sending earthquake assistance to Iran? To ease Uncle Sam's conscience on how the CIA overthrew the government of Iran in 1953 to install its murderous puppet, the shah?

A reader
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Iran quake II

I think it is important for the *Militant* to report on the U.S. response to the Iranian earthquake.

The quake claimed an estimated 40,000 lives, injuring 100,000 and leaving 105,000 families homeless. This is the worst natural disaster in Iran in this century. It hit hardest in rural areas. In the towns and cities workers have been the principal victims.

The disaster comes on the heels of an eight-year war with Iraq that claimed over 100,000 lives by official accounts.



Facing a crisis of this dimension, the Iranian government has called for international aid from all countries except Israel and South Africa. The response from the U.S. imperialist rulers has been callous, cynical, and demagogic.

So far only \$295,000 in aid, draped in huge American flags, has been sent. Pharmaceutical companies and airlines refused to donate to U.S. charity organizations to help Iran. The big-business media has either said the Iranians are "doing just fine" on their own or has played up the potential of "bringing Iran back into the community of nations" or helping "moderates" among the ruling circles.

The U.S. government and its allies played a central role in bringing war and misery to the Iranian people, who dared to overthrow the shah. Workers and farmers in the United States have every interest in solidarizing with victims of the earthquake.

Mehdi Assar
New York, New York

Bigotry at border

On June 19 I participated with more than 400 others in a spirited picket line at Federal Plaza in Manhattan. We were there to protest the racist and repressive policy of the Immigration and Naturalization

Service that excludes people with AIDS or the HIV virus from the United States.

Protesters chanted, "INS is out of order; open up the U.S. border" and "Tear down the AIDS wall!" Organized by ACT-UP and other AIDS organizations, the picket was part of a number of protests around the world — from Sydney, Australia, to Oklahoma City to Montréal to Berlin — called as the international conference on AIDS opened in San Francisco.

Entry to or residency in the United States should not be denied to anyone on the grounds of HIV infection or AIDS. The INS and U.S. government should eliminate all discriminatory policies based on sexual orientation, race, national origin, previous chemical addiction, or political affiliation.

People all over the world are tearing down the walls of hatred, fear, and bigotry. In 1990 let us add to that list the walls the INS has built to restrict the flow of people and ideas that the U.S. rulers hate.

Act up! Fight back! Fight AIDS!
George Kontanis
New York, New York

Labor in Cuba

I feel there could be a misunderstanding by readers of the article

"Cuba: A New Way of Organizing Labor" in the June 8 *Militant*. Many may be unfamiliar with the legacy of poverty that imperialism left Cuban working people. The necessity of Cubans volunteering for such an extreme schedule as 14-hour days, six days a week might not be apparent.

Many workers might have the reaction, "If this is what socialism is all about, then capitalism will do just fine, thank you."

For readers who are now beginning to be part of the fightback against corporate greed that includes speed-up and 60-hour weeks, it would be worthwhile to review why it is necessary for Cuban working people to make such sacrifices. Otherwise it may look as though this necessary evil is the goal and destiny of socialism, when in fact the goal of socialism is to shorten the working day to allow the individual to develop his or her potential in other ways as well as through their work.

Only by seeing the real goals of socialism and the advance it will be for working people is it possible to understand the great heroism of workers who have volunteered to work these schedules. Their sacrifice will make available building materials for the working people of Cuba to build their own society. And by advancing toward the goal of socialism, they are helping workers in the United States and worldwide.

Bronson Rozier
Louisville, Kentucky

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

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

Arizona copper workers' strike hits Asarco giveback demands

BY MIKE ELLIS

HAYDEN, Arizona — Protected from the 100 degree heat by a homemade canopy, 20 pickets spent July 4 outside the Asarco copper ore concentrator singing folk songs and talking about the conditions that led to their walkout three days before. The songs, sung in Spanish, were about life in the copper towns and work at the concentrator and at Asarco's Ray unit, a mine 12 miles north in Kearny.

Over 700 workers from the mine and concentrator are on strike. The strike is the first walkout in Arizona's copper mines since 1983 when Phelps Dodge, with the aid of Arizona National Guard troops, defeated the unions in a violent two-year battle. After a 98 percent vote in favor of striking, the ranks are solid in support of the strike walkout. Only six workers, all on probation, have crossed the picket line.

Rick, a mill operator and member of United Steelworkers (USWA) Local 8073, explained, "We gave up a lot in 1982, and in the 1986 contract we gave up \$4.50 an hour because the company said it was losing money. Now that Asarco is making millions we want to return to the old wage rate." Asarco, the third-largest copper company in the world, made record profits last year.

Asarco, in its last contract proposal before the strike began, offered \$1.65 an hour over the three years of the contract. Robert Guardiana, USWA District 39 director, explained that in the company proposal "the majority of the wage increase would go to the higher-paid workers."

Asarco is asking for more givebacks in medical coverage and pensions and is demanding drastic work rule changes. These include 12-hour shifts, an increase in probation from three months to six months, dropping callback rights from four years to two years, grievances to be filed by individual workers not by union representatives, and cross-training. This last demand is so the company can use any worker for any job even if it isn't their job classification. One dollar per hour of the original wage giveback has been regained by the workers. The union is demanding that the remaining \$3.50 an hour be reinstated over the next three years.

Spokespeople for Asarco claim the struck mine is still producing at 60 percent capacity. The company has brought in salaried personnel from other mines as far away as El Paso, Texas, to operate the mine. Workers on the picket line responded to this claim by pointing to the mine pit and asking, "can you see any machinery running?" The company has also brought in 30 Pinkerton guards to the Ray mine.

On July 2 a fire broke out on the Copper Basin line going into the mine. Railroad officials claimed that between \$1 million and \$2 million worth of damage was done. Asarco has attempted to frame strikers for setting the fire. The FBI has come to Kearny and is "investigating" it.

The Ray unit, originally a Kennicott copper mine, was sold to Asarco after the last concession contract was signed in 1986. It is the Asarco unit where the union contract has expired. Unions at other Asarco mines and smelters signed contracts a year ago.

Low wages, forced overtime

Strikers pointed out that they had lower wages and benefits than other union copper miners in Arizona. Starting pay for laborers at other mines is \$11.50 per hour; at the Ray unit it is \$8.50 per hour.

Workers also want comparable medical coverage and pensions and an end to forced overtime.

Many of the pickets at both the mine and concentrator facility said working conditions inside had become intolerable because of previous takebacks, particularly forced over-

time. The recently expired contract allowed Asarco to make workers put in three 12-hour shifts, and two 16-hour shifts per week. The company also forced overtime beyond the contract provisions. Omar, a maintenance mechanic and member of the International Association of Machinists, explained, "I was suspended twice for refusing overtime during a week when I worked a 24-hour shift."

Increasing speedup and forced overtime have led to more safety problems at the mine. Despite this there is little or no emergency medical care available to the miners on night shifts. Bob, an electrician at the mine pointed out, "When the white hats (management) go home at 5 p.m. the medical personnel also leave. If we have an accident that requires more than basic first aid, we have to try to get a helicopter to fly in from Phoenix, 90 miles away, and fly back there for the nearest hospital."

The majority of the workers on strike are organized by USWA locals 8073, 5252, and 915.

Rallies and solidarity

Two rallies organized by the strikers were held in Kearny and Hayden to explain Asar-



Strikers at Asarco copper concentrator in Hayden, Arizona. More than 700 joined walkout here and at nearby mine. Militant/Mike Ellis

co's demands to the families of the strikers and to others in the community.

Merchants from the towns donate food and refreshments for the strikers.

Workers from other Asarco facilities have also been showing their solidarity with strikers. Several copper miners from Asarco's Mission mine came by the picket line to show their support and report that two miners died

at Mission at the end of June when a tow cable snapped and a truck crushed them to death.

Unionists from the Asarco's smelter in Hayden have also stopped by the picket line.

Cecil, a sampler at the smelter and a member of the USWA, explained, "If Asarco gets away with this down here it will set the pattern for all of us. We have to stick together in this fight."

Police attack on Caribbean festival condemned by Montréal communist

The following statement was released July 10 by Michel Dugré, the Communist League candidate for mayor of Montréal in the November election.

I strongly condemn the racist attack by Montréal police, breaking up the annual Carifête celebrations at Park Lafontaine June 30. The raid by scores of armed cops in full riot gear on a peaceful crowd of 35,000 people — in their large majority Black — was an outrageous racist provocation. Its aim was to intimidate Blacks and all working people and to divide us on the basis of skin color.

Mayor Jean Doré is politically responsible for the police and bears full responsibility for this attack. His refusal to condemn and take action against this police riot can only encourage more racist attacks.

The police claimed they were responding to what sounded like gunshots fired in the crowd. But in fact, the cops were massed at the park in military formation ready to attack the celebration even before the Carifête parade arrived. They arrested five people, four of whom they claim were carrying weapons. But the police themselves admit there is no proof that those arrested fired the alleged shots.

This is part of an ongoing campaign to frame up Blacks as violence-prone in order to justify the cops' racist attacks against them and transform the victim into the criminal. But the record shows it is the police who are

guilty of criminal violence.

In the last two and a half years, two young Black men — Anthony Griffin and Presley Leslie — were gunned down by Montréal cops.

In November 1987 Griffin was shot in the forehead with his arms raised above his head after responding to police officer Allan Gossett's call to surrender. Leslie was killed this past April, after cops stormed the Thunderdome, a downtown dance bar. The cops who shot Leslie claimed self-defense. But the youth was shot five times by three different cops including in the back of the neck from a distance of less than 15 centimeters.

Both racist cop killings were met with public protests. After many mobilizations, Gossett — Griffin's killer — was fired from the police force and tried for manslaughter. However, Gossett was later acquitted and reinstated into the police force.

Public pressure forced an inquiry into the facts around Leslie's death, but to date no charges have been laid against the cops who killed him.

Not only have these killers not spent one hour behind bars, but one of the cops who admits shooting Leslie was promoted a few days later. In one of the most blatant acts of hypocrisy imaginable, the Montréal cops instead jailed Mercier Rémy on charges of "uttering a death threat." Rémy, who was quoted as saying that the next cop who kills a Black person would himself be killed, has

been rotting in jail for the past two and a half months. Rémy, who hasn't been convicted of any crime, has been denied bail.

Rémy's jailing, simply for expressing outrage at racist cop killings, is a flagrant violation of democratic rights that endangers the rights of all. I call on Mayor Doré to immediately order Rémy's release and ensure that the cops who killed Leslie are prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

Police attacks against Blacks and Natives are on the rise across Canada. This is part of a general rise of police repression against all those fighting against injustice. Faced with a growing economic and social crisis, the bosses and their government seek to divide and intimidate working people to keep us from fighting to defend ourselves. Police have attacked union picket lines at Hydro Québec, clubbed and arrested students fighting against tuition hikes, and carried out armed invasions of Native reserves.

Several Blacks have also been killed or seriously wounded in Toronto and, in Winnipeg, Native leader J.J. Harper was shot dead, all as a result of racist cop shootings. Yet not one cop has been convicted or jailed for any of these attacks.

The unions, Black rights organizations, those defending the rights of the Québécois, and all supporters of democratic rights should demand an independent public inquiry into the racist cop riot at Carifête; the trial, conviction, and jailing of every racist cop killer, and the immediate freeing of Mercier Rémy.