

# THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Workers rally to back  
Caterpillar strike

PAGE 10

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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## Struggle against cop brutality advances in Des Moines, Iowa

### Rally calls for prosecution of police who struck Milton

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS  
AND JOHN STUDER

DES MOINES, Iowa — Some 75 people turned out for a march and rally here February 1 to demand an end to police brutality and the prosecution of the cops who beat Larry Milton.

The protesters began with a spirited picket line in front of the State Capitol building, followed by a march to Nollen Plaza in downtown Des Moines.

Demonstrators chanted: "No Excuse! Jail the guilty cops," "Stop police brutality," and "Beating is a crime. Make them do their time!"

Speakers at the rally included Sonja Palmer, president of Mothers and Wives against Police Brutality, the group that sponsored the protest. She told the crowd that there was, "no excuse for police brutality and we're going to keep marching until it ends."

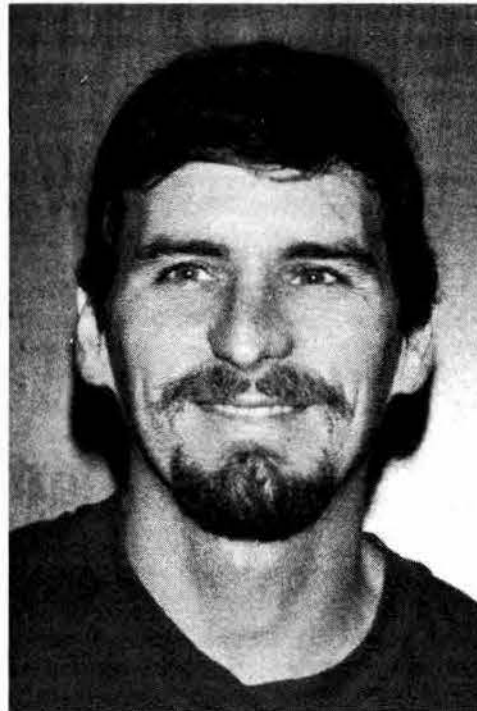
Dolores Huerta, vice-president of the



Militant/Shirley Peña

February 1 protest against December cop beating of Larry Milton. Mark Curtis (right) was beaten by Des Moines cops March 4, 1988.

United Farm Workers union, also spoke at the rally. Huerta was in town attending a rural women's conference but explained that she wanted to come and extend her solidarity in the fight against police brutality. She told of her own experience of being nearly beaten



Militant/Brian Williams

to death by the San Francisco cops in 1988 while participating in a demonstration. The cops broke seven of her ribs and ruptured her spleen. She almost bled to death. Huerta urged the demonstrators to "keep on doing

Continued on Page 5

### Judge finds officers guilty of beating Mark Curtis

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

A significant victory in the fight against police brutality was scored January 31 when U.S. District Court judge Charles Wolle ruled in favor of imprisoned union and political activist Mark Curtis in his lawsuit against the cops in Des Moines, Iowa. Curtis was awarded \$11,000 in damages to be paid by Charles Wolf and Daniel Dusenbery — the two police officers who brutally beat Curtis on the night of March 4, 1988.

"The court concludes that plaintiff [Curtis] proved by a preponderance of the evidence that he is entitled to damages... against the

**Text of ruling — pages 8-9**  
**Editorial — page 14**

individual defendant officers," writes Judge Wolle.

The ruling goes on to state, "Plaintiff sustained immediate severe pain and suffering from the blows to his face and groin, and when he regained consciousness he sustained further pain and emotional distress from the bleeding wounds on his face, vividly pictured in photographs."

"This is a big victory, not just for me, but for all victims of police brutality," stated Mark Curtis in a phone interview from the state prison in Fort Madison, Iowa.

Curtis, a former meat-packer at the Swift processing plant, was framed up by the Des Moines police on false charges of rape and burglary. Just prior to his March 1988 arrest

Continued on Page 9

## U.S. Supreme Court approves denial of power to elected Black officials

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

The Supreme Court voted January 27 to limit the scope of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. The ruling gives officials in states and counties where legal racial segregation existed in the past more latitude to juggle power between government agencies and officeholders without having to seek federal approval of the changes.

The Voting Rights Act was a central conquest of the civil rights movement, which overthrew the system of legal segregation in the South known as Jim Crow. The passage of the act enabled the federal government to intervene to prevent gerrymandering and other practices that made it difficult or impossible for Blacks to vote, get on the ballot, or win election to public office.

The 6-3 decision came in a case based on lawsuits filed by Black elected officials in two Alabama counties. The commissioners had won election to previously all-white county boards only to find that budgetary authority over road and other repairs exercised by their predecessors had been eliminated.

The shifting of authority, which effectively diminished the power of the newly elected officials, was engineered and backed by the white incumbents.

Ed Mack and Nathaniel Gosha were the first Blacks elected to the County Board of Commissioners in Russell County, Alabama, in 1986. Of the five commissioners who are white, four had been on the board for 16 years. Blacks account for 38 percent of Russell County's population of 47,000. The commission's principal function is to super-

vised and control county road maintenance, repair, and construction. In the past, each commissioner had full authority to determine how to spend funds allocated to his or her own road district.

Mack and Gosha found out the commission had abolished individual road districts and transferred responsibility for allocation of the funds to a county engineer, a commission appointee. A similar pattern developed in Etowah county.

"You have influence, but power? None,"

said Gosha. "You are voted down on almost everything you try to do if it concerns Black representation."

The Voting Rights Act prohibits most southern states and some parts of northern states from adopting any new "practice or procedure with respect to voting" without first getting approval from the Attorney General or a federal judge.

The U.S. Justice Department argued along with the Black elected officials that the

Continued on Page 10

### 'Every one should attend' April 5 abortion rights march

BY ESTELLE DeBATES

The National Organization for Women (NOW) hopes to make the April 5 national March for Women's Lives in Washington, D.C., the "largest march in the history of the feminist movement." The organization says it wants "women and men from all walks of life and every part of the country to be there."

The march is demanding protection of the right to safe, legal, and accessible birth control and abortion, and full reproductive freedom for all women.

On April 9, 1989, 600,000 people demonstrated when NOW sponsored a similar march.

NOW recently sent a letter seeking co-sponsorship to hundreds of other national organizations, asking them to organize as

large a delegation as possible for the march and rally.

"Poor women and young women have suffered the greatest attack" in the offensive against abortion rights says the letter. "Consequently, this march and mass rally will focus not only on maintaining the rights we've already won, but will demand that the rights of all women be protected and in many cases restored."

Phyllis Dermo is working on signing up cosponsors out of the NOW national office in Washington, D.C. Dermo reports that the initial list of organizations endorsing the April 5 action includes: the American Association of University Women; American Civil Liberties Union; Congress of National

Continued on Page 12

### Rally to celebrate victory by Mark Curtis in civil suit against Des Moines police

Sat., Feb. 8

6:30 p.m. reception

7:30 p.m. rally

Willkie House, 900 17th St.

Des Moines, Iowa

Sponsor: Mark Curtis Defense

Committee. Tel: (515) 246-1695.

Translation to Spanish.

### Stockholm, Sweden The deepening world economic crisis, political polarization, and class tensions in North America

Jack Barnes, National Secretary,

U.S. Socialist Workers Party

Friday, February 14, 6:30 p.m.

Pathfinder Bookstore: Vikingagatan 10.

For more information call: (08) 31 69 33

Washington starts forced return of Haitian refugees — page 5



# Plan for bookstore at mural gains support

BY MERYL LYNN FARBER

NEW YORK — Plans to open a Pathfinder Mural Bookstore located adjacent to the Pathfinder mural represent a major step forward in the work of promoting the mural. The project has attracted worldwide interest and support.

The new bookstore will provide visitors

from around the world the opportunity to purchase the full range of Pathfinder titles featuring the writings and speeches of a number of the revolutionary leaders depicted on the mural. They will also be able to get copies of *The Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and *L'Internationaliste* — periodicals in English, Spanish, and French which contain working-

class news and analysis; flyers advertising the Militant Labor Forum series; and information on other important political events in the New York/New Jersey area.

The bookstore will feature attractive displays highlighting the three-year effort to create the mural, and original artwork of Pathfinder Mural artists.

The bookstore will be dedicated to Dumile Feni, the internationally renowned South African artist and anti-apartheid fighter who died in New York on Oct. 16, 1991. Feni painted the Pathfinder Mural portrait of Nelson Mandela and a scene portraying the Soweto uprising of 1976.

A fund appeal letter signed by prominent artists and political activists will be in the mail in the next few days. Signers include Pathfinder Mural artists Carole Byard and Chris Spotted Eagle; Hollywood film director Nick Castle; constitutional attorney William Kunstler; mural historian and documentor James Prigoff; singer/composer Pete Seeger; South African artist Sholto Ainslie; and Fieke Ainslie of the Johannesburg, South Africa, Art Foundation.

## Fundraising booksale

More than \$800 was raised in New York for the bookstore fund at a sale of a portion of the library of George Novack and Evelyn Reed.

Reed, who died in 1979, was a leader of the Socialist Workers Party and a leading Marxist anthropologist. Pathfinder publishes a number of Reed's books including *Women's Evolution and Cosmetics*, *Fashions*, and *The Exploitation of Women*. A portrait of Evelyn Reed appears in the Pathfinder Mural.

George Novack, a longtime leading member of the Socialist Workers Party whose many works on Marxism, philosophy, and history are published by Pathfinder, requested that the proceeds from the sale go to the Pathfinder Mural Bookstore fund.

To date, several thousand dollars have been raised toward the effort to build the bookstore. Tens of thousands of dollars more are needed. Supporters of the mural around the world are stepping up efforts now to raise the needed funds by early April.

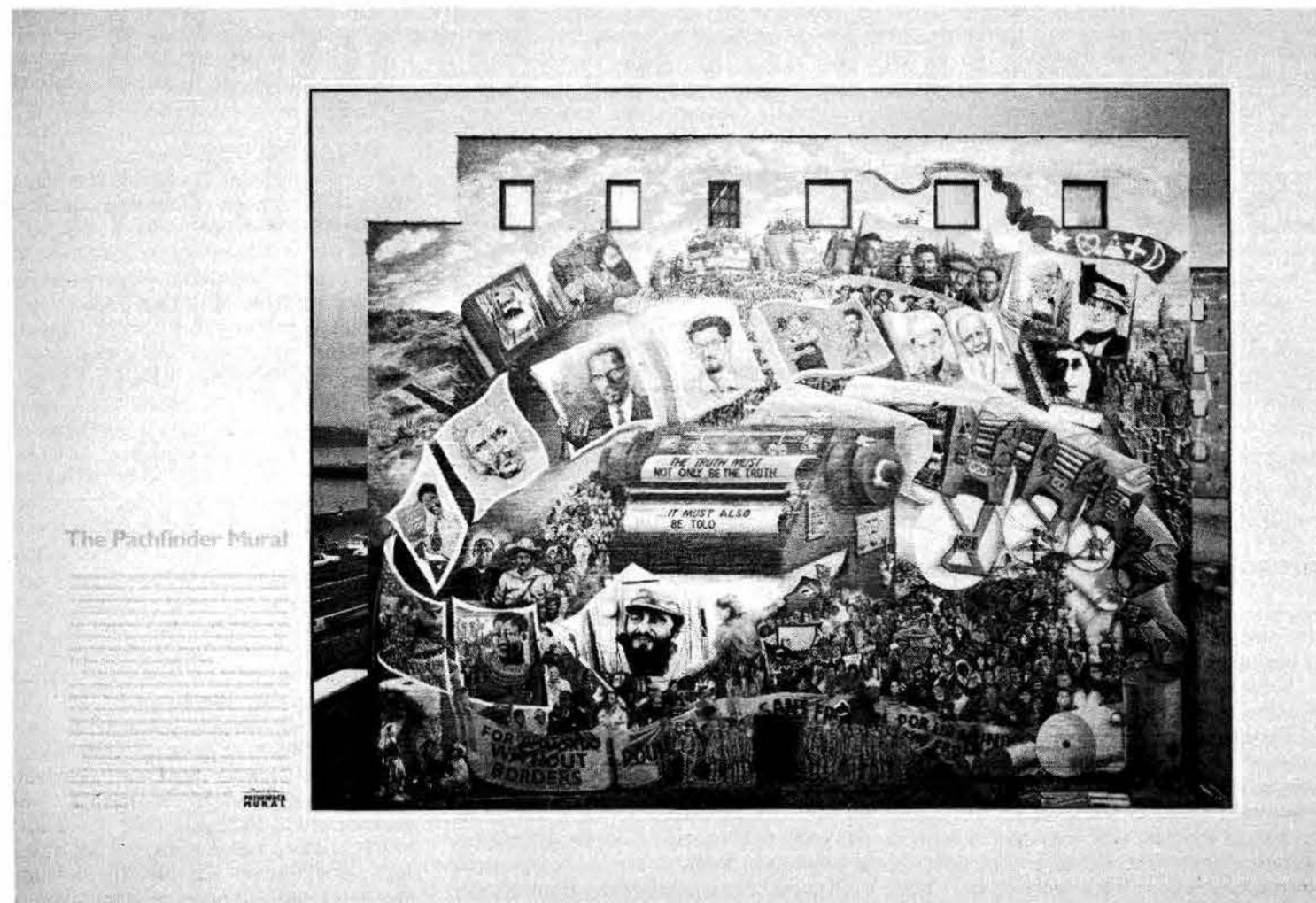
Volunteers in New York spearheading the fund drive explained that progress on the fund-raising drive will determine when the grand opening for the Pathfinder Mural Bookstore can be set.

Friends of the Pathfinder Mural has produced a 20-by-30-inch color poster featuring the full Pathfinder Mural. Proceeds from the sales of this high quality color reproduction will go to the international fund for the Pathfinder Mural Bookstore. Individual contributors to the fund who donate \$100 or more will receive a complimentary poster. This is the first full color poster reproduction of the entire Pathfinder Mural to have been produced since the completion of the six-story landmark work on Nov. 19, 1989.

The new mural poster will be a fund-raising tool and will also provide interested people with an outstanding reproduction of the mural. The photo for the poster was taken by architectural photographer Andrea Brizzi and the poster design is by Toni Gorton.

Individual posters sell for \$20 each. Supporters and bookstores can also place bulk orders. Ten or more posters are \$15 each and 30 or more are \$12 each. Shipping and handling is \$5 for bulk orders and each international order, and single poster shipping and handling in the U.S. is \$2.50.

Pre-paid orders should be mailed to Friends of the Pathfinder Mural at 191 Seventh Avenue, New York, NY 10011. Or call (212) 727-8421. Checks should be made out to Friends of the Pathfinder Mural.



New color poster, pictured above, is among the fundraising projects for Pathfinder Mural Bookstore and maintenance of mural.

## Newark forum discusses situation in Haiti

BY DUANE STILWELL

NEWARK, New Jersey — "The army in Haiti is an army of oppression. We don't need it."

This is how Erna Letemps, a member of the Haitian Students Association of Montclair State College, described the situation in Haiti today. She was addressing the Militant Labor Forum in Newark, New Jersey, January 4. The title of the forum was "Asylum for Haitian refugees, open the borders!"

Haitians stay in the United States, said

Letemps, because they know that many depend on the money they can save and send back home. But since Aristide was overthrown, many workers have risked their jobs to make their voices heard. "Some workers were faced with firings when they took a day off of work to go to Washington to demonstrate," she noted.

She was referring to the Dec. 13, 1991, march on Washington where 5,000 demanded the reinstatement of Aristide. Panelist Martha Pettit, a garment worker and member of the

Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, also attended the demonstration.

Pettit highlighted the hypocrisy and injustice of the U.S. government, pointing to a story in the papers that day about a Cuban helicopter pilot and 33 of his family members who stole a Cuban helicopter and flew to Miami. They were received as heroes, granted political asylum, and released to their relatives.

Dr. Bernier Lauredan represented the Caribbean African Alliance-Irvington at the forum. His father was killed by the Tonton Macoutes under the Duvalier dictatorship. Lauredan explained that Aristide was seen by the people of Haiti as one of their own. He was born a poor peasant and grew up with no shoes to wear. Aristide, he said, "had good ideas but no means to implement them. In the first four months of his presidency he only had \$14 million to operate."

"The bourgeoisie controls the army and they use it when they need to," Lauredan explained.

Garry Jeanty, president of the United Haitian Association, also addressed the gathering. He described Aristide as "the first freely elected president in the history of our country."

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# Palestinian leader speaks to U.S. women

## 'National struggle is intimately connected with fight for women's rights'

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

"Politics has long been the domain of men. As we say in Palestine it's the last bastion of male supremacy and domination. And we have stormed it and we are going to continue storming it until we get our equal rights," said Hanan Ashrawi in her opening remarks to the convention of the National Organization for Women (NOW).

Ashrawi was in Washington, D.C., as the spokesperson of a delegation of Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza. They took part, along with delegations from other Arab countries, in peace negotiations with representatives of the Israeli government.

Ashrawi addressed 1,000 participants at the NOW convention January 10. The meeting celebrating the 25th anniversary of NOW coincided with 25 years of Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza.

Thanking NOW for the invitation, Ashrawi noted, "Palestinian history has been full of sad memories. We do not have joyful occasions to celebrate. Very few. We have the 15th of November, which is the commemoration of the declaration of [Palestinian] independence. . . . Every 15th of November, the Israelis impose curfews on us. We are not even allowed to go out on our balconies," she said. "We are not allowed to dance, to wear the colors of the flag, or to express any kind of joy."

The Palestinian leader referred to the often-commemorated massacres of Palestinians that occurred in the 1948 war when the state of Israel was established, the 1967 occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, and the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon. "I feel the time has come for Palestinians to celebrate, enjoy, and not to commemorate sadness and pain," she said.

Referring to the recent negotiations with Israel, Ashrawi said, "The quest for peace is one of the most arduous tasks that the Palestinians have ever embarked on, because it is a battle that we have to wage daily."

"Now, unfortunately we, as a captive Palestinian population under occupation, are being made deliberately to pay the price for a peace process. Israel is exploiting its role as occupier with absolute power over Palestinian human lives, rights, and lands in order to deliberately and willfully victimize this captive population and in order to manipulate



Hanan Ashrawi, spokesperson of Palestinian delegation to Mideast peace talks.

for its own ends politically the Palestinian public opinion at home," she said.

Some women in the audience, part of the Jewish feminist caucus of NOW, raised objections to Ashrawi's condemnation of Israeli occupation. "Talk about women" some shouted, while many others applauded the Palestinian leader's remarks.

"I know the truth may be painful to some of you," Ashrawi responded, but "you have the responsibility to listen to the truth."

Under the insistence of members of the Jewish feminist caucus, the NOW leadership invited Alice Shalvi, head of the Israeli Women's Network, to give a different point of view from the Palestinian leader at a later point in the conference.

### Families under curfew

Ashrawi said that she returned to the West Bank for Christmas in between negotiations to find her hometown, Ramallah, under curfew. "My family was under curfew for two weeks, not able to set foot outside the house,"

she said. "The army went from house to house arresting people, . . . searching, violating the very integrity, the very privacy of your own house. This violation is tantamount to collective rape."

At the start of the new year, 12 Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza were ordered deported by the Israeli authorities without any criminal charges, trial, or even evidence presented against them.

"Deportation is a very cruel form of collective punishment because you are separating families," said Ashrawi. "You are uprooting individuals and families and communities from their own ancestral homeland, and you are throwing them out and telling them that you cannot go back, you cannot set foot on your own soil."

Women are particularly affected by deportations. "Regardless of the fact that they may have been born in occupied Palestine, [and] may have lived there all their lives . . . women are not allowed to stay in the occupied territories if they happen not to have been there

in 1967, even if they were married to Palestinians with ID cards," she continued.

Israel captured the West Bank and Gaza in 1967. Hundreds of women and their children have been deported "because they don't have what Israel calls Israeli ID cards to live in the occupied territories. Their husbands, many of them, cannot leave to see them and visit their children, and these women cannot come back to be in their own homeland," said Ashrawi.

"This is the invisible deportation, and this is what we call the silent transfer," explained Ashrawi. As a result of these policies, enrollment of women students at Bir Zeit University, where Ashrawi works, has dropped from a peak of 45 percent to 25 percent in the last four years. The university has been closed by the Israeli army since the beginning of the Palestinian revolt known as the *intifada* in 1987.

"You cannot separate the practices of Israeli occupation from the direct infringement on women's rights," Ashrawi said. "I know here we talk about women's right to choose, to be able to have abortions when they want. We are calling for women's right to choose to keep their own fetuses in spite of Israeli tear gas." Ashrawi explained that many Palestinian women have suffered induced abortions because of tear gas, beatings, and prolonged curfews. Many have had to give birth while in prison.

The struggle for national self-determination is intimately connected with the fight for women's rights, the Palestinian leader said.

"We had to work hard as Palestinian women because, understandably, we did have for a long time in a male-dominated society, the prevalence of the national issues over gender issues," she said. The fight for women's rights had been considered of secondary importance, something that could be postponed in order to advance the struggle for national rights.

### Women's movement

Palestinian women have worked hard to transform the women's movement, born in Palestine in the 1920s among the urban middle classes, into serious grass roots activity involving working people.

"With the *intifada* it became imperative that the women's movement come into its own," said Ashrawi. As a result of the Palestinian popular uprising against Israeli occupation, women in villages, refugee camps, and remote areas began to be involved in the fight for women's rights and many became more self-confident. The *intifada* has been "a popular collective act of will for the empowerment of the Palestinian people."

"I did not emerge from a vacuum," Ashrawi continued. "I'm part of the Palestinian political scene. I'm part of the peace process not because of an accident of history and not as a result of tokenism or symbolic women's presence, but rather as part of the cumulative achievements of Palestinian women who have struggled for so long to make themselves heard."

Efforts were made to link up with struggles for women's rights internationally. "That is why we reached out to Israeli women in particular. As we said in our speech in Madrid, for too long we have shared mutual pain and rejection, and now we have to share mutual recognition and reciprocity," Ashrawi said. She was referring to the November Mideast peace conference that took place in Madrid, Spain.

Ashrawi said she was gratified on returning from Madrid to meet a number of women from the Israeli Women's Network and other groups. These activists said they considered the Palestinian delegation's work at the conference as a victory for both Israeli and Palestinian women.

In her closing remarks Ashrawi urged convention participants to step up solidarity with the Palestinian struggle. "I would call upon American women to pick up the cry to stop funding the Israeli occupation," she stated.

"Stop manufacturing the tear gas! . . . Stop paying for the deportation of our own people! In many cases these weapons are made in the USA and, in many cases, weapons research in Israel is funded by the USA. Your tax money should go to preserve life, not to destroy life," said Ashrawi to loud applause.

Margrethe Siem in Washington, D.C., contributed to this article.

## New support for framed-up Black Panther

BY ANNE MORROW

OAKLAND, California — Several former leaders of the Black Panther Party held a news conference here January 3 to testify to the innocence of Geronimo Pratt and demand that he receive a new trial.

Pratt was arrested in December, 1970, and charged with the murder of Caroline Olsen in Santa Monica, California. He was convicted in 1972, and sentenced to life imprisonment. Pratt said he was at a Panther meeting in Oakland 400 miles away at the time of the murder.

Present at the news conference were David Hilliard, the party's former chief of staff; Emory Douglas, former minister of culture;

and Kathleen Cleaver, John Seale, and Harvey McClendon — all of whom were members of the Panthers' Central Committee. They told reporters that Pratt was attending Party meetings with them at the time of the 1968 murder of which he was unjustly convicted.

Their affidavits are an important part of Pratt's appeal for a new trial. He has served 21 years of a life sentence, eight years of it in solitary confinement. Parole was denied again December 4th at his tenth parole hearing.

According to information revealed some years after his trial under the Freedom of Information Act, Pratt was one of several Black Panther and other Black rights leaders targeted by the FBI's COINTELPRO (Coun-

ter Intelligence Program), with the aim of "discrediting and neutralizing" them, and of "disrupting" the Panthers. The FBI successfully used fake leaflets and poison pen letters to encourage a violently hostile split in the leadership of the party, in the course of which Pratt was expelled.

Pratt was charged with the murder after his expulsion. The former party leaders explained at the press conference that Huey Newton, a central leader of the Panthers, had ordered that no Panther members could assist Pratt in his trial. Only Cleaver testified at his trial to his presence at their meeting at the time of the murder.

Following Newton's death in 1989 and in light of the revelations about the FBI's role in disrupting the Panthers, these crucial witnesses decided to break their previous silence.

There is other new evidence that confirms Pratt's innocence and supports his request for a new trial. The principal witness against him was Julius Butler, who had himself been expelled from the Panthers by Pratt.

Butler testified that Pratt had once confessed the murder to him. At the trial Butler denied being an FBI informer. But recently revealed government documents show that he had been an informer for at least 22 months before the trial, and that for his cooperation the FBI agreed not to prosecute him for possession of a machine gun.

Pratt was under intense surveillance by the FBI at the time of the murder. But the FBI claimed that their records of this surveillance the week of the murder do not exist.

In addition, it is now known that in the period leading up to his trial, the FBI planted three spies in his defense team who passed strategy information to the prosecution.

## Iowa's juvenile 'justice' system

BY BILL KALMAN

DES MOINES, Iowa — The authorities in this state are on a big campaign against so-called juvenile crime. In his annual condition of the state message, Governor Terry Branstad called for legislation requiring all 17-year-old defendants to be tried automatically as adults. "This is part of the solution to some of our juvenile crime problems," said Richard Vohs, a Branstad aide.

Currently, someone as young as 14 can be charged as an adult if the crime is deemed "serious." This is what happened in the town of Clifton last week as 15-year-old Eric Querrey was sentenced to life in prison without parole for the shooting death of a 16-year-old. The prosecution admitted they could find no motive.

Querrey will spend the next three years in a reform school in Eldora to get his high school diploma, then enter the Iowa state prison system at age 18. Only one life sentence

has been commuted in Iowa in the last decade.

As Judge William Joy sentenced Querrey to life with no hope of parole, he said, "Eric, you have wasted one life here. It's up to you if you have a second one." Asked about Querrey's chances for rehabilitation, an Iowa state corrections spokesman said, "In the last few years we've moved from a rehabilitation model to a punishment and incapacitation model."

Meanwhile, the infirmity of the Polk County Jail in Des Moines, which has never been used for sick prisoners because of "staff shortages," will be converted to house six juvenile cells at a cost of \$61,560, most of which is for electronic monitoring devices.

"Des Moines police say that if they could arrest 90 teenagers that they've already identified and put them behind bars," wrote Des Moines *Register* columnist James Flansburg, "the Des Moines crime rate would be cut in half."



# Canadian rulers slash health funding . . .

BY CLIFF MACK

TORONTO — Canada's public health-care system is coming under increasing attack. Against a backdrop of record business bankruptcies, plant closures, and massive unemployment, the federal Conservative government of Brian Mulroney cut tax fund transfers to Canada's 10 provinces, leaving a shortfall for social insurance, education, and health care.

The economic disaster has hit hard in Ontario, Canada's most industrialized province. One million people, 10 percent of Ontario's population, are collecting welfare checks.

In Toronto there are 160,000 people receiving unemployment benefits; 300,000 people on welfare; 50,000 homeless; and 150,000 relying on food banks.

The December 7 Toronto Star reported that, of the 183,000 manufacturing jobs lost in Canada in the month of November alone, 33,000 were in Ontario.

Canada's unemployment rate remained at 10.3 percent, however, because "people are being so frustrated in looking for jobs that they stopped looking," as Earl Sweet, assistant chief economist at the Royal Bank of Canada, explained.

At the recent convention of the Ontario Federation of Labour (OFL), Ontario New Democratic Party (NDP) premier Robert Rae pleaded with the 1,400 delegates to understand that "we are facing the toughest economic situation since the depression" and that "we have to make sacrifices together."

One of these "sacrifices" is government-funded health care. NDP treasurer Floyd Laughren said that the 1991 reserve shortfall of \$670 million would mean cuts to health care.

Michael Hurley, president of the Ontario Council of Hospital Unions (OCHU) representing 19,000 hospital workers, explained that "in the last two years, 5,000 jobs have been eliminated and 4,000 beds have been closed." Dennis Timbrell, president of the Ontario Hospital Association (OHA), says an additional 3,292 beds will be closed and 4,328 jobs lost by the end of March 1992.

The OHA says it needs an 8.6 percent funding hike and that, for every percentage point it doesn't get, hospitals will lay off 1,700 people and close 500 beds.

The Ontario NDP government partly blames the budget deficit on "unnecessary procedures" and abuse of the health-care system. Many union officials echo this, adding that hospital funds are mismanaged by hospital boards that meet behind closed doors.

Ontario's NDP health minister, Francis Lankin, claims 25-30 percent of procedures done in the health-care system are of "no proven value."

The present cuts in the system, however, are going a lot further than eliminating waste.

## High injury for hospital workers

Hurley said in an interview that "greater workloads for smaller hospital staff have led



Emergency scene. Recent cuts have eliminated thousands of hospital beds in Canada.

to hospital workers having the second highest injury rate among workers in Ontario."

Patients are faced with "lower quality food, longer waits for procedures while in the hospital," and, in general, "less human contact with hospital staff."

Hurley noted that "waits for services like cancer treatment are longer," and that patients over the age of 70 will find it difficult

to receive a coronary bypass operation "based on their life expectancy."

Steve Eadie, vice president of the OCHU, said that proposals for community-based care by health ministry bureaucrats "would be more backwards for health care. . . . For example, ten years ago psychiatric patients were moved out of institutions onto the street. But there were no community-based programs in place to help these people. We are afraid that the 'home care' proposals are going to go the same way."

Eadie's union, the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), is presently campaigning in Ontario to prevent further cuts in health-care services and to win public control over hospitals by calling for the election of all hospital boards.

In November, 200 hospital workers picketed the health ministry headquarters in Toronto chanting, "No more cuts." There have also been smaller actions and informational picketing by health-care workers outside the legislature.

The overall position of the OFL leadership, however, is to collaborate with the NDP government to "manage" the cuts.

The OFL convention called for a Royal Commission to study the health-care system and urged greater government "consultation" with the unions.

## . . . as working people bear the brunt of the growing economic depression

BY BEVERLY BERNARDO

TORONTO — In an unprecedented paid pre-budget television address, Ontario New Democratic Party (NDP) premier Robert Rae announced January 21 that he was limiting spending increases to hospitals, municipalities, schools, universities, and colleges to just 1 percent this year and 2 percent in each of the next two years.

Rae called for a partnership between the business community, the labor movement, and his government to "give the economy a boost." Many trade unions across Canada are affiliated to the NDP which is a social democratic party.

"It's not just a recession. Our economic world has changed, and it's not going to be business as usual ever again," Rae said. He said that the provincial government would be left with an operating deficit that is too high if it did not put controls on spending. Rae hinted at tax increases to bring down the \$14.3 billion deficit projected for 1992-93.

Rae blamed the higher deficit on the recession. Government revenue has fallen with 177,000 jobs lost in Ontario in 1991 and a record number of company bankruptcies, while the demand for spending on social services has increased.

In 1991 pretax profits were 53 percent lower than in 1988. In Ontario welfare spending has gone up by nearly \$3 billion

in the last two years.

Each day brings news of more plant closures and layoffs. The day before Rae's announcement, General Motors announced it was laying off 750 indefinitely in St. Catharines. Metro Toronto's tourist industry has been hit hard; spending has dropped by \$700 million since 1989. Jean-Guy Belanger, president of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees International Union says about 7,000 of the union's 12,000 members have been laid off since November.

Earlier in the month, using the threat of massive layoffs, the NDP government had

succeeded in negotiating a settlement with the leadership of the 68,000-member Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) holding wage increases to 1 percent this year and 2 percent next year.

In addition Metro Toronto Chairman Alan Tonks has been trying to get 15,000 city employees to accept wage cuts despite their collective agreements supposedly guaranteeing a 4.75 percent wage increase this year. So far civic unions have rejected the proposal but have left open the idea of members taking unpaid leaves in order to avoid threatened layoffs.

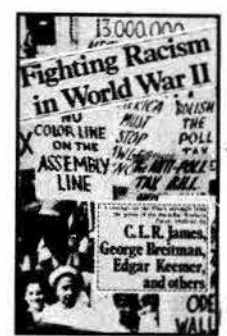
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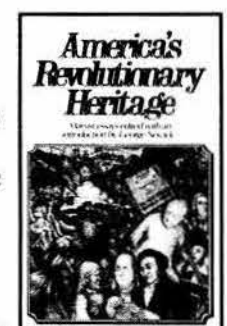


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Ontario New Democratic Party premier Robert Rae calls for partnership between employers and labor movement.

For a full selection of titles on discount during Black History Month or a copy of the Pathfinder catalogue, or to order the above titles, visit any Pathfinder bookstores listed on page 12 or write to Pathfinder, 410 West Street, New York, NY 10014. If ordering by mail, include \$3 for shipping and \$.50 for each additional item.



# Rally demands 'Jail cops who beat Milton'

Continued from front page  
what you're doing today."

Cleve Andrew Pulley, a member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1149, spoke on behalf of the Socialist Workers Party. He noted that "we've scored some important victories during this past week. On Monday, we turned out and we were able to force the city council to vote to hold public hearings on police brutality."

"We also scored a big blow for justice yesterday with the victory of Mark Curtis in his lawsuit against the cops who beat him." He went on to say, "We need to keep our eyes on the prize, which is the prosecution and jailing of the cops who beat Larry Milton."

Keith Ellison from the coalition for Police Accountability in Minneapolis gave greetings to the rally and invited people to attend a conference on police misconduct and brutality being held in Minneapolis on February 28 and 29.

Other speakers included Pam Williams, President of the Community Support Force; Kalonji Saadiq, general manager of radio station KUCB; and Ardy Blandford from the Mark Curtis Defense Committee.

## 'I'm here for justice'

Participants in this demonstration saw it as an important step in building the type of movement capable of winning justice for Larry Milton and other victims of cop beatings. Charles, a young Black dairy worker told the *Militant*, "I'm here for justice. I'm probably like a lot of people, I don't like to rock the boat. But after you see so much injustice, you have to get involved. This is not anything you can just push under the rug anymore."

Myra, a student at the local community college, told why she had decided to attend. "I don't have any children right now. But when I do I want to know that they can go out without being afraid that some cop will beat them."

Michael, another young worker, said, "This is what we need to do. We're not going to back down until we get some justice."

Many demonstrators saw local news coverage of Mark Curtis's victory in his lawsuit against the cops who beat him. Constance, whose two sons have been the victims of police brutality, told the *Militant*, "Mark is just the beginning. There will be more justice for more people because of this victory."

Another demonstrator summed up how many of the people present viewed the federal court decision in favor of Curtis: "Mark Curtis's case has shown that there is a long and documented history of police brutality in this city and we have to stand up and fight it."

Earlier in the week, 250 people squeezed into the Des Moines City Council chambers January 17, about equally divided between opponents of police brutality and cops and their supporters. Dozens of cops attended in uniform. Among those present were Joseph



January 27 picket against cop brutality outside Des Moines City Council meeting

Gonzalez, who testified in the frame-up trial against union activist Mark Curtis, and Daniel Dusenberry, one of the cops who brutally beat Curtis in the city jail.

## Council will hold hearings

The main point on the council agenda was whether the council would set public hearings on police brutality. On January 6, under the pressure of 500 opponents of cop violence, the council voted to hold hearings. Two weeks later, faced with more than 200 cops, their relatives and backers, the council

deadlocked 3-to-3, with one member absent, putting the hearings in doubt.

For the first hour and a half on Jan. 17 speaker after speaker blasted the police beating of Milton.

Ron Carr told the meeting, "We need the police, but we can't have an atmosphere where people and minorities can get beat. Something must be done before something else happens."

Carr echoed the sentiment of many when he protested Assistant Chief of Police Kayne Robinson's slander of the 500 people who

attended the January 6 council meeting as a "mob."

Pulley, representing the Socialist Workers Party, said, "The cops are guilty of assault and battery, almost beating a man to death, obstructing justice, and violating civil rights. They should be put on the defensive in open hearings. Let the truth come out."

Pulley urged the council to "pass a motion using its moral authority to recommend that the cops who beat Milton be prosecuted, hold open hearings, and support a civilian review board."

"I don't think the cops protect us, they terrorize us. But we can differ on this while we unite in action to demand justice."

To applause from half the audience, Pulley concluded, "We need to march, to demonstrate, until we get justice."

Sonja Palmer told the crowd, "There is no excuse! No excuse for what they did to Larry Milton. They should be prosecuted."

Sara Lobman, another packinghouse unionist and chair of the Des Moines Young Socialist Alliance, echoed the demand for prosecution of the cops who beat Milton. She also urged the council to vote to convene public hearings. "This is about justice. That is why we are demanding the hearings — to get out the truth," she said.

A pre-law student spoke, saying, "I was brought up to believe in the police, but I must come out and speak when I see this. You can't hide behind a badge."

Others who spoke in favor of public hearings on police brutality included Rev. Leon Herndon, head of the Black Ministerial Alliance, and Kalonji Saadiq. Saadiq also told the council that he planned to continue the fight for a citizens committee to review police action. "I'm here to serve notice that it doesn't end here tonight. Whether you like it or not, Des Moines will have a citizen review board."

A picket line of up to 20 people demanding justice for Larry Milton and an end to police brutality was maintained in front of City Hall throughout the council meeting.

Maurice Williams is a member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local #50N.

# U.S. begins forced repatriation of Haitians

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The U.S. government has begun to forcibly repatriate thousands of Haitian refugees being held at the U.S. Naval base at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba. This move comes after the U.S. Supreme Court in a 6-to-3 vote January 31 lifted a federal court injunction barring the forced return of Haitians.

"They [Haitian soldiers] killed my wife, my mother, and one sister," shouted 20-year-old George Lucier to reporters passing by the barbed-wire encampment at Guantánamo Bay.

"If I go back to Haiti they [will] kill me. I was a student; they were killing the students. Kill me now," he screamed.

"Americans know they are killing people in Haiti, but still you send us back," shouted another refugee on the base.

Since October 29, U.S. Coast Guard cutters have intercepted in international waters more than 15,000 Haitians fleeing political repression in their homeland and seeking asylum in the United States.

During the past several weeks the number of Haitians taking to the seas has escalated. In January alone 6,653 Haitians were interdicted by Coast Guard ships. Prior to the start of the forced repatriations, more than 10,000 Haitians were being held in prison-like conditions at the U.S. Guantánamo base.

The mass exodus is in response to the political repression and reign of terror imposed on the Haitian people since a September 30 military coup overthrew President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Amnesty International in a January report states that Haitians are living in "a climate of fear and repression."

"Hundreds of people have been extrajudicially executed or detained without warrant and tortured," said the report. "Many others have been brutally beaten in the streets."

## People are suffering

In Port-au-Prince, the response to the forced repatriations was bitter. "I never thought the United States would do that. It is not fair," stated Abel Pierre, an unemployed father of three. "People here already are suffering. There aren't any jobs. People are getting arrested."

Among the organizations appealing directly to President Bush and the U.S. Congress to immediately halt the repatriations are the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the United States Catholic Conference, and the American Jewish Committee.

Former presidential candidate Jesse Jackson termed the U.S. action "an immoral act of genocide," and urged churches to ring their

bells in protest.

U.S. defense secretary Richard Cheney insisted on a Cable News Network program that "there's no evidence" Haitians will be killed when they are returned. Cheney also suggested that the refugees could flee across Haiti's border to the Dominican Republic instead of coming to the United States.

On January 25, Haitian police dressed in civilian clothes attacked a political meeting organized by René Théodore who, two weeks earlier, had been chosen as a compromise candidate for prime minister by Aristide and members of the Haitian legislature. The Haitian cops burst into this meeting and began beating Théodore and other political leaders who were present. They shot and killed Théodore's bodyguard, Yves Jean-Pierre.

Claiming the need to rediscuss its policy toward Haiti, Washington recalled its ambassador Alvin Adams.

On January 30, the U.S. government announced what was described as a shift in policy toward Haitian exiles. Under this new plan, Haitians for the first time would be able to apply for refugee status at the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince. Qualified applicants would be permitted to resettle in the United States. Only 300 Haitians, at most, will be initially accepted under this program.

The true intent of the administration's policy toward Haitian refugees was made crystal clear only two days later when the Supreme Court cleared the way for Washington to begin

## Pathfinder celebrates Black History Month

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Pathfinder and its bookstores throughout the world are celebrating Black History Month in February. The publisher's 35 bookstore outlets from the United States to New Zealand and Sweden are setting up Black History Month displays, expanding store hours, and organizing to take Pathfinder books out to important Black history events happening in their area.

An attractive 19-by-26 inch color poster advertising the many books that Pathfinder has available on the fight for Black rights in the United States and on Africa has been mailed out to more than 3,000 bookstores around the world. The National Association of College Stores has also enclosed the poster in a mailing to 1,500 of its retail outlets.

"Pathfinder books such as *Malcolm X on Afro-American History*, *The Struggle is My Life* by Nelson Mandela, and *How Far We Slaves Have Come!* by Nelson Mandela and Fidel Castro, are an irreplaceable contribution to these Black History Month events," commented Rich Stuart, of the Pathfinder business and promotions office in New York City.

Pathfinder is the foremost publisher of writings and speeches of outstanding revolutionary leaders such as Malcolm X, Nelson Mandela, Maurice Bishop, Thomas Sankara, and Fidel Castro.

As an important contribution to Black History Month, more than 20 Pathfinder titles relating to this topic are available at a 25 percent discount throughout the month of February to all members of the Pathfinder Readers Club. (See ad on page 4 for a partial listing.)

One of Pathfinder's best-selling titles is *Malcolm X Talks to Young People*, which contains speeches given to university and high school students in the United States, Britain, and Africa. More than 20,000 copies have been sold so far and a second printing of 15,000 has just come off the press.

In response to its recent mailing, Pathfinder's Black History Month posters are being prominently displayed in hundreds of bookstores throughout the country, including Waldenbooks, B. Dalton, and campus bookshops, as well as in high school and public libraries.

Anyone wanting to join the Pathfinder Readers Club or renew their membership can do so for just \$10 for one year at any Pathfinder Bookstore listed on page 12, or by writing directly to Pathfinder Press at 410 West St., New York, N.Y. A newly updated 1992 Pathfinder catalogue, providing a complete listing of all books available from Pathfinder, can also be purchased for an additional 25 cents.

## 'Militant' Prisoner Subscription Fund

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, NY 10014.





### U.S. Coast Guard arrests Haitians fleeing military rule

After a lull of several weeks thousands of Haitians have begun fleeing again as political and economic conditions deteriorate in Haiti. The U.S. Coast Guard picked up more than 3,500 Haitians on the high seas from January 20 to 27.

The U.S. government, refusing to give asylum to the Haitians, has detained at least 12,600 since the military coup on September 30 that overthrew the government of Jean-Bertrand Aristide. The Coast Guard now claims space is running out at the U.S. military base in Guantánamo, Cuba, where most Haitian refugees are being kept in concentration camp-like conditions.

### Mounting protests against price rises in Russia, Uzbekistan

Demonstrators angered by the soaring prices of food, clothing, and other basic items held protest rallies in Russia and Uzbekistan January 19. About 3,000 university students marched in Tashkent, capital of Uzbekistan, protesting the shootings of students during January 17 demonstrations against the price increases. A similar-sized march took place in St. Petersburg.

Coal miners in Siberia have threatened to strike if working conditions do not improve. Ruslan Khasbulatov, the speaker of the Russian parliament, called Boris Yeltsin's economic measures anarchic and demanded Yeltsin's resignation.

### Hyundai workers end occupation of auto plant in South Korea

Some 3,000 to 4,000 workers at Hyundai ended a week-long occupation of South Korea's largest auto plant in the southeastern city of Ulsan January 21.

The workers took over the plant after the company closed it following a union strike vote. They demanded better working conditions, reinstatement of workers fired for union activity, and the dropping of legal charges against union leaders.

Some 12,000 riot police surrounded the factory compound and threatened to storm it with helicopters and armored vehicles. Prior to ending the occupation, workers reinforced barricades and pounded the ground with steel pipes, keeping time with prolabar songs blasting out across the compound.

### U.S., Russia block Palestinians from Moscow Mideast talks

U.S. and Russian cosponsors of Mideast peace talks in Moscow blocked the Palestinian delegation from taking part in the negotiations January 27. They said the delegation included Palestinians who were unacceptable to the Israeli government because it included Palestinians from East Jerusalem and in exile. In previous rounds of talks Palestinian negotiators came from the West Bank and Gaza. The Palestinians point out that, especially since the Moscow conference is discussing regional matters, they should not be represented only by Palestinians approved by Israel from the occupied territories.

In Israel an army panel canceled an order to expel a Palestinian January 23, revoking one of the 12 expulsions ordered by the government this month. It was the first cancellation order by the military since 1979.

### Rightists gain in French elections as Socialist Party loses ground

The rightist National Front increased its support in six parliamentary and municipal by-elections in France January 26. The governing Socialist Party came in third behind the Union of French Democracy — the other major capitalist party — and the National Front in two of the by-elections. It also lost two other municipal seats to conservative parties.

The rightists campaigned on a platform calling for the deportation of unemployed immigrant workers and for giving job priority to French citizens. The anti-immigrant calls have gained a hearing amid a stagnant economy with unemployment rising above 9 percent.

# Books on Iran-contra affair show crisis of U.S. imperialism

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

*Under Fire: An American Story* by Oliver North with William Novak. HarperCollins, 1991, 446 pages.

*Commandos: The CIA and Nicaragua's Contra Rebels* by Sam Dillon. Henry Holt and Company, 1991, 393 pages.

Oliver North's book *Under Fire—An American Story*, which has been near the top of the best-sellers chart for the past two months, offers a rightist view of U.S. foreign policy and in its own way exposes the deep crisis facing U.S. imperialism today.

Published shortly after North's dismissal on a legal technicality of all criminal charges against him for his role in the Iran-contra affair, *Under Fire* attempts to justify and defend the increased concentration of political power in the executive branch at the expense of Congress.

North was convicted in May 1989 on three

## IN REVIEW

felony charges of destroying secret government documents, obstructing Congress, and accepting gifts. This stemmed from his role in the mid-1980s in organizing through the National Security Council to secretly sell arms to Iran, in order to fund and arm the mercenary contra army attempting to overthrow the Nicaraguan revolution.

North asserts that he committed no crimes because "Congress has no right to limit the President's authority to carry out foreign policy." According to North, the 1984 Boland amendment in which U.S. government funding of the contras was cut off by Congress did not apply "to the President, or to his staff at the National Security Council."

While defending the power of the executive branch of government, North rails against what he terms "an imperial Congress." He goes on to criticize Ronald Reagan for not being "forceful enough when it came to fighting for the constitutional prerogatives of the Executive Branch. He could have opposed the appointment of a special prosecutor, and he could have challenged the War Powers Resolution," states North.

In December 1986, Lawrence Walsh was selected by a panel of three federal judges as a special prosecutor with wide powers to investigate support given to the Nicaraguan contras by anyone in or out of government since 1984. The War Powers resolution passed by Congress became law Nov. 7, 1973. It required the president to report to Congress within 48 hours after committing forces to a military conflict abroad. It limited the president's use of troops to 60 days unless Congress authorized its continuation.

### 'That cannot be publicly disclosed'

The Iran-contra revelations in which North was the central figure is simply one of the most well-known examples of how Washington feels compelled today to carry out more and more of its real foreign policy through covert acts. "Secrecy is essential in foreign policy," states North in his book. "The problem isn't secrecy; it's how to protect actions that cannot be publicly disclosed."

The U.S. spy establishment, which includes the CIA and various other government agencies, swallows a gigantic budget — in the range of \$30 billion a year. Its role is to carry out policies that cannot be openly proclaimed in the halls of Congress nor defended in front of U.S. working people.

North's book attempts to project in the best light Washington's bipartisan policy of attempting to crush the gains made by workers and peasants through the Nicaraguan revolution. To do this, North must cover up the truth about the real record of the Nicaraguan contras. "I rarely met a contra I didn't like," states North, echoing Reagan's description of the contras as freedom fighters in the finest American tradition.

"I visited the camps on several occasions to learn for myself what was going on there," says North. "You couldn't help but be moved by the plight of these people, who had left their homes, their modest farms, and the land they were born on to make the long trek north to Honduras."

A more accurate picture of the mercenary

character of the contras is presented in another recently published book, entitled *Commandos: The CIA and Nicaragua's Contra Rebels*. The author, Sam Dillon, covered Nicaragua for the *Miami Herald* and was certainly no friend of the Sandinistas. Dillon deals with the same topic as North but has gotten much less publicity for his book. Dillon writes extensively about the atrocities committed by the contras and the everyday brutality and repression that existed in these contra camps.

Dillon details how from its very beginning, the contras were a creation of the CIA, totally dependent upon Washington for funds and arms.

Life inside these camps and within the contra army was a far cry from North's description of it. Dillon describes what was happening in the contra camps as "a largely silent, secret campaign of torture and murder. Hundreds died in and around the rebels' border camps, along Honduran roadsides, and in the back streets of Tegucigalpa. It was a dirty war waged largely by the ex-National Guardsmen commanding the contra army."

Some of these guardsmen commanded death squads directed not only against Sandinista leaders but at many innocent peasants forced into these camps. Torture, sexual abuse, and executions were all too frequent occurrences. A witchhunt atmosphere existed where anyone charged with being a Sandinista infiltrator was likely to be imprisoned, tortured and in many cases murdered.

Despite backing and funding by Washington, the contras failed to achieve significant

ular war moves abroad. What has been termed the Vietnam syndrome was a big factor preventing Washington from unleashing its massive military firepower against the workers and peasants in Nicaragua. Gates had to admit as much later in his memorandum when he bluntly describes his proposals as "politically out of the question."

One of the big problems with the contras, according to North, was that there was no reputable contra leader able to take charge and win popular support. North states, "The public relations effort on behalf of the resistance could have been far more successful if the contras had produced a charismatic leader who could have effectively symbolized the struggle as an anti-Communist Ho Chi Minh, or Fidel, or Che." North points to a contra commando named Mike Lima as someone he had hoped could play this role.

If ex-National Guardsman Mike Lima typifies the best the contras had to offer, then you can understand why this entire operation was doomed to failure. In his book, Dillon describes Lima's career as a contra in some detail. Lima was one of the most brutal contra commanders. "He's a man with compulsion to kill and to rape," stated one officer who worked closely with Lima.

To North keeping the contras alive meant upgrading the public relations campaign on their behalf. But this was not always so easy. In late 1984, Frank Wohl, a right-wing psychology student from Northwestern University in Illinois, decided to spend several months living with the contras as a gesture of support. While there Wohl happened to



Militant/Michael Baumann

North's book tries to cover over deep-going character of Nicaraguan revolution and fact that contras never won a political base inside the country. Above, an armed rally of 150,000 supporters of revolution in 1983, held in capital city of Managua.

military victories. Lacking popular support among the workers and peasants inside Nicaragua, the contras were unable to seize and hold Nicaraguan territory for any period of time, nor set up a government in exile.

This situation led the U.S. rulers to seriously consider plans aimed at increasing U.S. military intervention against Nicaragua. North describes one such plan he was pushing that would have created a direct U.S. military confrontation with Nicaragua. His proposal, which was not adopted, involved intercepting the Nicaraguan ship *Monimbo* in international waters and confiscating its cargo. North even raised the idea of giving arms seized from the ship to the contras.

The recently confirmed CIA director Robert Gates proposed even more drastic steps. In a December 1984 memorandum, Gates calls for the U.S. government to "take all necessary measures" to openly bring down the Sandinista regime. This included U.S. bombing raids, stiff economic sanctions, and recognizing a Nicaraguan government in exile.

Plans such as these were not implemented because of the U.S. rulers' inability to convince working people to support such unpop-

ular war moves abroad. What has been termed the Vietnam syndrome was a big factor preventing Washington from unleashing its massive military firepower against the workers and peasants in Nicaragua. Gates had to admit as much later in his memorandum when he bluntly describes his proposals as "politically out of the question."

North helped lead the charge against Wohl. Speaking at a conservative fundraising event, he claimed Wohl had faked the picture in order to drum up sympathy for the Sandinistas.

North's contra supply operation was certainly well-hidden from the U.S. public, but growing number of those in Congress knew about it. In fact this was one of North's main complaints — too many people knew about his covert activities.

North mentions briefings he provided to dozens of members of Congress. Many of them had visited the contra camps and the Ilopango Air Force base in El Salvador from where contra supply planes operated.

Both the Democrats and Republicans in Congress were for crushing the Nicaraguan revolution. They simply differed about what

Continued on Page 13



# ANC Youth League congress discusses antiapartheid plans

BY DEREK BRACEY

KWAMHLANGA, South Africa — Nearly 1,300 delegates attended the 17th Congress of the African National Congress Youth League, Dec. 9-12, 1991. They discussed the current situation in South Africa and set plans to draw greater numbers of youth into the antiapartheid struggle.

The congress occurred less than two weeks before the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (Codesa), where 19 political parties including the ANC and representatives of the South African government met to discuss dismantling the apartheid regime and moving toward a society based on equal rights for all citizens.

"We have accomplished a lot," said Febe Potgieter in an interview just as the congress ended. "Our structures are now in place. We have more than 500,000 members in 512 branches. There was a good basis to organize the Youth League's work."

Potgieter was elected to the National Executive Committee at the congress, which was the final step in the relaunching of the Youth League. The Youth League, along with many other antiapartheid organizations, was banned for 30 years — from 1960 until February 1990.

"The congress was important politically, occurring just before Codesa," she continued. "The Youth League is one of the major structures responsible for mobilizing people to ensure Codesa's success."

The congress opened with addresses from ANC chairman Oliver Tambo and ANC deputy president Walter Sisulu. Tambo is the honorary lifetime president of the Youth League. Their arrival on the stage was met with thunderous applause and cheering that lasted more than 20 minutes.

Peter Mokaba, who was elected president at the congress, gave a report as the president of the Provisional National Youth Committee. This leadership body was created at the beginning of the process to relaunch the Youth League in October 1990. Mokaba explained the developments that led to the congress.

## From within and outside South Africa

At the unbanning of antiapartheid organizations in February 1990, there were two youth groups leading the fight for a democratic South Africa. One was the ANC Youth Section, made up of young ANC members in exile. These youth played a major role in organizing international solidarity with the antiapartheid struggle. Central to the work of this campaign was the mobilization of millions of youth and others to pressure governments around the world to sever or restrict ties with South Africa.

The second organization, the South African Youth Congress (SAYCO), came from the massive upheaval that has racked South Africa since 1984. Responding to then ANC president Tambo's call to make South Africa ungovernable in 1985, young people led in stepping up activities to disrupt apartheid's control over the townships and Bantustans,

while organizing consistent mass actions throughout the country.

As these sustained mobilizations began to cripple the racist regime's ability to maintain stability and order, a leadership began to step forward to coordinate the struggle on a wider and wider scale. It was among this layer of youth that the decision was made to launch SAYCO, which was founded in 1987.

In his report to the Youth League congress, Mokaba explained that for several months after their legalization the organizations remained separate though they began coordinating their activities. More Youth Section members began working out of the SAYCO national office. It wasn't until later in the year that the decision was made to begin the process of relaunching the Youth League.

Delegates at the congress passed resolutions on several campaigns for the league.

One campaign is around the Codesa meeting and the fight to lead toward a constituent assembly. "We don't have a history of participating in democratic elections. We need to organize to explain to people the process, as well as the positions of the ANC," said Potgieter.

## Support for National Peace Accord

"Another resolution was on the question of violence," she continued. "The Youth League has been on the receiving end of violence in the past few months. Congress adopted a resolution supporting the National Peace Accord. The Youth League will play an active role in ending the violence."

"We also passed resolutions on the social issues facing young people like education and unemployment. We came up with a program of action aimed at mobilizing youth around these issues."

There was a discussion at the congress on the formation of a Youth Front of many organizations. The purpose is to mobilize broader sections of youth in the struggle to dismantle apartheid and to break down the social barriers between South African youth, a legacy of life under apartheid. The Youth League began discussions with other groups about this last April.

"There is almost no contact between black and white youth in this country," Potgieter explained. "One of our programs in the past year has been to organize joint ventures between our branches and youth from white



Militant/Derek Bracey

Nearly 1,300 delegates attended relaunching of ANC Youth League

areas. We plan to step up this activity in the next year.

"We also are acting to establish links with white youth organizations," she said, "in particular Afrikaner youth cultural organizations. This is taking the form of discussion and debates on the new constitution, symbols, and flag of South Africa, as well as social and cultural interaction and other forums where black and white youth can meet."

"A national youth summit will occur in April 1992 where we plan to launch the Youth Front. There have been discussions with most major youth organizations. There is generally agreement about such a summit."

## Relationship to ANC

A major discussion at the congress was on the character of the Youth League and its relationship with the ANC. It was decided that the Youth League was organizationally separate from the ANC, with its own campaigns and activities. The congress decided the Youth League relied entirely on the ANC for leadership and perspective. Its political program was exactly that of the ANC. This decision was met with sustained applause.

The congress also discussed financial perspectives. Now 99 percent of the Youth League's activities are financed by the ANC. The delegates decided to organize to take on more of the expenses through the Youth League, with the goal of self-sufficiency in the future.

A major discussion at the congress took place on the role of women in the organization and in society. "Just before congress, workshops discussed the questions facing young women," said Potgieter. "One problem of young women is the conservatism of their parents. They will let boys go to meet-

ings in the evenings, but will prevent girls from going. In some rural areas there is strong conservatism. Women are not allowed to speak in meetings."

"It was suggested that this should be addressed through an affirmative action program. The exact mechanism still needs to be worked out, for special training, etc."

"The congress adopted a resolution to have gender forums on a regular basis at local, regional, and national levels," Potgieter continued. "The purpose of the forums would be to sensitize Youth League members on the problems of women and educate on the principles of nonsexism."

"The Youth League also discussed the need to take up the problems facing young women, teenage pregnancies, rape, and other issues affecting them."

"The program hasn't been implemented yet and this is reflected in the number of women representatives at the congress, the ratio of the delegates. It is also seen in the composition of the NEC as well [one woman elected out of 15 slots]. The next two years will be an indication of whether we've been succeeding."

International guests attended the congress from Angola, Cuba, Nicaragua, Mozambique, Sweden, France, Zambia, Zaire, Italy, Denmark, Sudan, and the United States.

The Youth League is discussing its work with international youth groups. Potgieter pointed to some of the projects on which the Youth League is seeking international collaboration. "The question of libraries, especially in rural areas, is on the agenda. International groups can definitely play a role in helping us supply books for them. We plan to set up an international department to do this in a more structured way."

# 30,000 antiracist protesters demand: 'Dissolve South African Parliament'

BY SETH GALINSKY

Thirty thousand demonstrators marched to the South African Parliament in Cape Town January 24 to demand its dissolution. "The Parliament is undemocratic," was prominent among the protest signs.

"We demand an interim government of national unity now!" and "Away with paternalism, forward to people's power," said other placards.

While the protesters surged through downtown Cape Town, South African president F.W. de Klerk was addressing the Parliament, which excludes Blacks.

The demonstration was called by the African National Congress (ANC) as part of a "People's Parliament." The ANC distributed 500,000 leaflets in English, Afrikaans, and Xhosa to publicize the event. Wider promotion was blocked by the South African Broadcasting Corporation's refusal to carry ANC advertisements for the action.

"The existing Parliament is nondemocratic because it was not elected by the vast majority," said Yusuf Saloojee, ANC administrative secretary for international affairs, in a phone interview. "It has no legitimacy. As far as we are concerned it is breathing its last breath."

The People's Parliament was a "big success," he added. "It shows the people's thirst for democracy."

The ANC is demanding that the present apartheid regime be replaced by an interim

government within six months and that a constituent assembly be elected before the end of the year to draw up a new constitution.

The Convention for a Democratic South Africa (Codesa) held December 20-21 initiated full-scale negotiations on a transition to ending apartheid and instituting a new constitution. It was attended by 17 political organizations, including the ANC, and the South African government.

## De Klerk opposes setting timetable

But de Klerk in his speech to Parliament called for giving the country's white minority veto power over any constitutional changes.

The South African president objected to ANC demands for moving rapidly to dismantle the apartheid government. He told the Parliament he is opposed to a "so-called interim government" and that it is "unwise" to adopt a timetable for change. As window-dressing for his plan, de Klerk said the Black population should have "the opportunity of expressing itself" in a referendum on a new constitution.

"Whatever form the racist Parliament has taken, the central aim has been to keep power in minority hands," Walter Sisulu, ANC deputy president, told the crowd in Cape Town.

"They know that if there were to be free and fair elections, then the ANC would win by an overwhelming majority," he said. "That is why they want to change the rules of the

game in order to prevent an ANC government coming to power."

ANC demands have been strengthened by the latest revelations of government complicity in violent attacks against ANC supporters and other Blacks and antiapartheid activists.

For some time the ANC has charged that the apartheid security apparatus was the "third force" behind political violence in Black townships. More and more information is coming out underscoring the truth of these allegations.

Several Blacks who worked with the Inkatha movement have come forward to testify how they were trained by the South African Defense Force (SADF).

Sipho Madlala told an inquest he was with an SADF hit squad that killed Mhlabuzima Maphumulo, a traditional chief who had been denounced by Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi as pro-ANC. The British *Guardian* reports that Ama-Afrika, a group that violently attacked antiapartheid groups in the late 1980s, was funded by the South African military.

While funding these bloody actions, the Pretoria regime was cynically claiming that "Black-on-Black" violence showed that the majority of South Africa was not ready for democracy.

The latest testimony shows these government-sponsored assaults continue.



Militant/Derek Bracey

Febe Potgieter, ANC Youth League National Executive Committee member.



# Court ruling in favor of Mark Curtis

## Cops 'knew they were using excessive force when they beat' jailed unionist

The following is the text of the January 31 ruling by federal judge Charles Wolle in favor of Mark Curtis's lawsuit against the police in Des Moines, Iowa.

United States District Court  
Southern District of Iowa  
Central Division

MARK STANTON CURTIS, Plaintiff  
vs.  
CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA;  
DANIEL DUSENBERRY; CHARLES  
R. WOLF, Defendant.

**Jury Verdict.** This action came before the Court for a trial by jury. The issues have been tried and the jury has rendered its verdict.

**Decision by the Court.** This action came to consideration before the Court. The issues have been considered and a decision has been rendered.

IT IS ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that judgment is entered in favor of the plaintiff Mark S. Curtis in the sum of \$11,000.00, plus legal interest from May 11, 1989, and for reasonable attorney fees and expenses, and against the defendants Daniel Dusenberry and Charles Wolf.

January 31, 1992

### FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND JUDGMENT FOR PLAINTIFF

Plaintiff, an inmate at the Iowa State Penitentiary in Fort Madison, Iowa, brought this action for damages against the City of Des Moines, Iowa (City), and against two Des Moines police department officers who had him in their custody following an arrest made by other officers on March 4, 1988. Plaintiff contends that the defendant officers inflicted personal injury on him in the ASAP room adjacent to the booking desk at the City of Des Moines police station and jail. Plaintiff bases his federal claims on 42 United States Code section 1983, alleging violation of his rights under the First, Fourth, Eighth, and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution. Plaintiff also asserts pendent State claims against all the defendants, alleging the defendant officers were negligent and committed assault and battery against him on March 4, 1988, and the City is liable as their employer. The defendants in their answers denied all of the claims asserted by the plaintiff.

The court held a hearing on November 5, 1991, and on November 6 entered an order separating the case into two parts, deciding that discovery disputes could be resolved most efficiently by trying first all claims other than the plaintiff's section 1983 claim against the City. In accordance with that bifurcation order, the court held a bench trial on November 25 and 26, 1991, on the plaintiff's claims against the individual defendants under State and federal law and pendent State law claims against the City. Bifurcation of the case enabled the court to postpone ruling on the City's resisted motion for partial summary judgment on the section 1983 claim and postponed the need for the City to provide substantial information that it contended was confidential, privileged, and unnecessary for resolution of other issues in the case.

From the evidence presented during the trial, the briefs on the law, and the summations of counsel, the court concludes that plaintiff proved by a preponderance of the evidence that he is entitled to damages on his federal section 1983 claim and State battery claim against the individual defendant officers. The plaintiff has not proved his State law claims against the defendant city. Consequently, the clerk of court shall enter judgment against the defendants Daniel Dusenberry and Charles R. Wolf, jointly and severally, in the sum of \$11,000.00, together with the costs of the action. The clerk of court will enter judgment against the plaintiff and in favor of the City of Des Moines on the State law claims. The court schedules a further hearing on the plaintiff's claim for an award of attorney fees and on remaining discovery issues commencing at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 11, 1992, at the United



Militant/Stu Singer

Mark Curtis at home, after being beaten by Des Moines police on March 4, 1988.

States Courthouse in Des Moines, Iowa. Thereafter the court will enter an order concerning plaintiff's claim for attorney fees, resolving any remaining discovery disputes, ruling on the City's motion for summary judgment on the federal section 1983 claim, and scheduling trial on the plaintiff's section 1983 claim against the City if summary judgment is denied.

### FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On the evening of March 4, 1988, Des Moines police officers Gonzalez and Glade arrested plaintiff at the home of a fifteen-year-old victim of a sexual assault.

2. Officers Wolf and Dusenberry took plaintiff by police wagon from the arrest scene to the Des Moines police station.

3. Plaintiff was booked at the station. He phoned Jackie Floyd, one of his neighbors. He was calm and cooperative.

4. Wolf and Dusenberry escorted plaintiff to the ASAP room at the station; there they instructed him to remove his clothes and put on clothes provided by the jail. The officers needed to collect and preserve evidence relating to the sexual assault that resulted in plaintiff's arrest.

5. Plaintiff willingly removed all but his pants and underpants. He then lunged toward Dusenberry and pushed him into the door frame.

6. Officer Wolf seized plaintiff and forced him to his knees, using a choke hold. Two other officers heard the commotion and entered the room. One of the officers handcuffed plaintiff, with his hands behind his back. The officers rolled plaintiff onto his back. At that point, the plaintiff was handcuffed securely, and the officers had plaintiff entirely under their control.

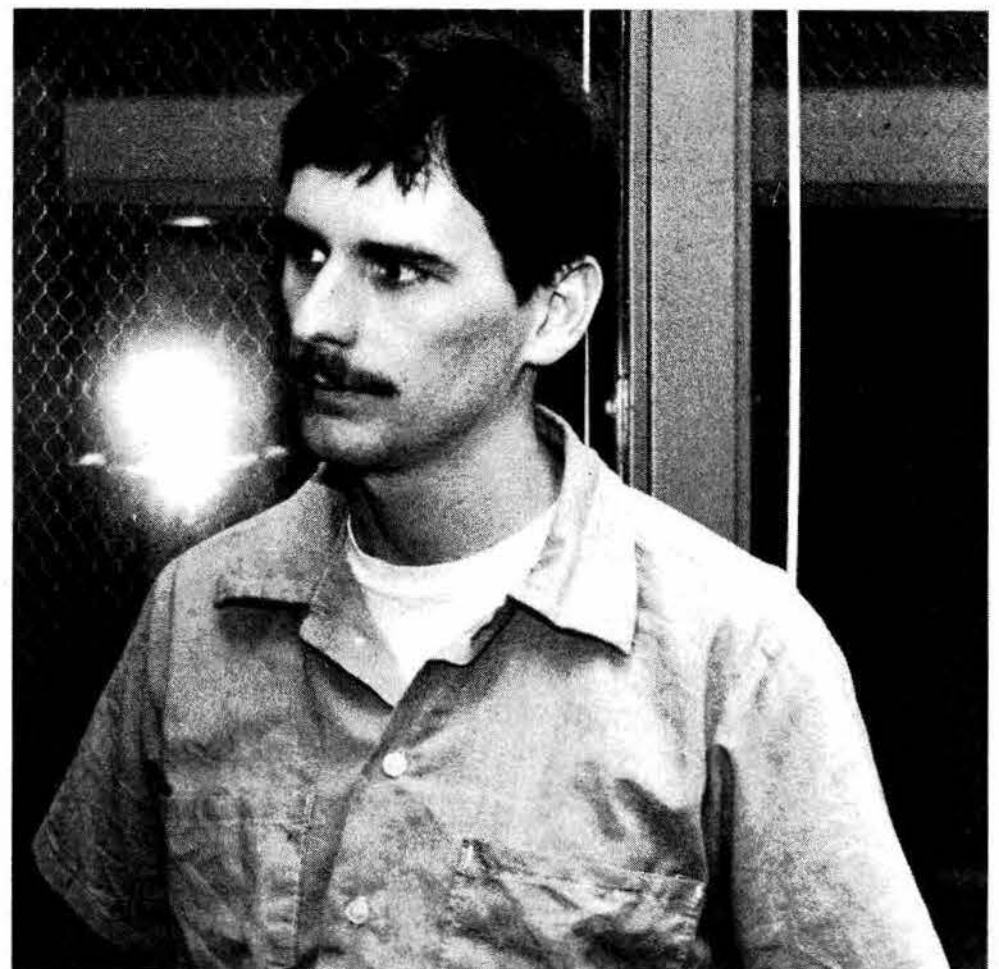
7. Four police officers remained in the room, hovering around plaintiff. Officer Dusenberry immediately lifted plaintiff's legs from the floor to remove plaintiff's pants and underpants. Plaintiff weakly struggled against removal of his pants. Wolf then forcefully brought his knee down on plaintiff's face. With all his weight behind each blow, he kneed plaintiff in the left eye three times in succession. At the same time Dusenberry twice kicked plaintiff in the groin.

8. Plaintiff was rendered semi-conscious. A large wound opened beneath his left eye bled profusely.

9. A paramedic was called; plaintiff was

transported to a hospital, where he received fifteen stitches beneath his left eye. He suffered pain, severe bruising of the abdomen and face, facial lacerations, and a blow-out type fracture of the orbital floor of the left eye.

10. Plaintiff sustained immediate severe pain and suffering from the blows to his face and groin, and when he regained consciousness he sustained further pain and emotional distress from the bleeding wounds on his face, vividly pictured in photographs. He required medical attention and hospital care. He sustained loss of some bodily functions for about three weeks. The pain, emotional distress, and disability caused by his injuries lasted until the wounds finally healed several months after the incident. Plaintiff's injuries did not result in permanent disability, but he



Militant/Stu Singer

Mark Curtis at Anamosa prison in March 1989

did lose income from work during the period between the time he was released on bond and the time he was convicted of the sexual assault charge that has resulted in his present imprisonment.

### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. This court has jurisdiction of the parties and subject matter of this action pursuant to 42 United States Code section 1983.

2. Officers Wolf and Dusenberry did not violate plaintiff's rights under the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States. There is no credible evidence in this record that the officers used physical force on plaintiff because of any expression of his political views or because of the political causes he had supported. They did not on March 4, 1988, know of his past political activities. Plaintiff has not proved that Wolf or Dusenberry spoke any racial epithet or racial remark of any kind. Plaintiff, a political activist, may have thought or imagined that someone made statements like that, but he did not prove any such statements were made on March 4, 1988, by any Des Moines police officers or other City employees.

3. Officers Wolf and Dusenberry did not violate plaintiff's rights under the Eighth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States. Plaintiff was a pretrial detainee, and his right to be free from unreasonable use of force against his person arises from the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments of the Constitution, not the Eighth Amendment prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment. See *Bell v. Wolfish*, 441 U.S. 520, 536 n.16 (1979); *Ingraham v. Wright*, 430 U.S. 651 671-72 n.40 (1977).

4. Officers Wolf and Dusenberry did violate plaintiff's rights under the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments of the Constitution; they did so while acting under color of State law, in that they were holding plaintiff in their custody by reason of their employment as police officers of the defendant city. Those Amendments guarantee citizens the right "to be secure in their persons . . . against unreasonable . . . seizures" of the person. To determine whether the force used is "reasonable," the court must balance the individual's Fourth Amendment interests against the countervailing governmental interests at stake. See *Graham v. Connor*, 490 U.S. 386, 396 (1989). Physical force is reasonable only to the extent necessary to keep the individual's custody secure, to overcome resistance, or to protect the officers or others from the detainee. The court must not engage in hindsight but rather step into the shoes of a reasonable officer. What would two rea-



sonable officers, having the knowledge and in the situation of Dusenberry and Wolf, have thought necessary under the circumstances? See *Foster v. Metropolitan Airports Comm'n.*, 914 F.2d 1076, 1082-83 (8th Cir. 1990).

5. Wolf and Dusenberry used excessive force against the plaintiff after plaintiff had been entirely subdued. Wolf did not act improperly in using a choke hold to force plaintiff to the floor after plaintiff had lunged against Dusenberry. But once plaintiff was on the floor, surrounded by police officers and unable to harm anyone, it was unreasonable for Dusenberry to proceed immediately to attempt forcibly to remove plaintiff's pants. The court finds much of the plaintiff's version of the incident exaggerated. But the court also finds not credible the officers' testimony that plaintiff was trying to bite and kick them and kicked Wolf in the head while barefoot and lying handcuffed on his back. Plaintiff's legs came up toward Wolf because Dusenberry was tugging on his pant legs, not because plaintiff was trying to strike an officer with his legs. Plaintiff did not strike the officers after he was handcuffed. Reasonable officers confronting the situation Wolf and Dusenberry faced would not have believed that it was necessary to strike plaintiff in the face and groin — and pummel him bloody — in order to remove his pants and underpants. Wolf and Dusenberry both knew they were using excessive force when they kned plaintiff in the eye and groin while he was lying on the floor on his back, unable to flee or cause them harm. The beating was the proximate cause of almost all of the pain and injury plaintiff sustained that evening in the ASAP room; the initial force Wolf and Dusenberry lawfully applied to bring plaintiff to his knees, handcuff him, and roll him onto his back did not cause him serious or lasting injury.

6. Officers Wolf and Dusenberry did not assault plaintiff but they did commit the common-law tort of battery. An assault is committed when a person does an act intended to put another in fear of physical pain or injury or physical contact which a reasonable person would deem insulting or offensive and when the victim reasonably believes



Susan Mnumzana (right), of the African National Congress, addressing 1988 Des Moines rally (left) for justice for Mark Curtis.



Militant photos by Eric Simpson

that the act may be carried out immediately. When they struck plaintiff, their conduct constituted a battery, not an assault. *State v. Straub*, 190 Iowa 800, 180 N.W. 869 (1921).

7. Officers Wolf and Dusenberry committed the common-law tort of battery on plaintiff. A battery is committed when a person intentionally does an act resulting in bodily contact causing physical pain or injury, or insulting or offensive bodily contact. *Restatement of Torts (Second)*, sections 13 and 18. Wolf and Dusenberry struck plaintiff with the intent to subdue him but also to cause him physical pain or injury. The beating was the proximate cause of the pain, injury, and damages plaintiff sustained.

8. The defendant City is not liable under a theory of *respondeat superior* for the battery. The beating was not necessary to accomplish the purpose of the defendant officers' employment. See *Sandman v. Hagan*, 261 Iowa 560, 154 N.W. 2d 113, 117-18 (1967).

9. Officers Wolf and Dusenberry contend

but have not proved that the actions they took were privileged, taken in self-defense, or entitled to qualified immunity. They did not act in self-defense after plaintiff had been handcuffed, rolled onto his back, and subdued. "[W]hether an official protected by qualified immunity may be held personally liable for an allegedly unlawful official action generally turns on the 'objective legal reasonableness' of the action, *Harlow v. Fitzgerald*, 457 U.S. 800, 819 (1982), assessed in light of the legal rules that were 'clearly established' at the time it was taken, *id.*, at 818." *Anderson v. Creighton*, 483 U.S. 635, 639 (1987). A reasonable person would have known that the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments to the Constitution prohibit the beating they gave plaintiff.

10. Plaintiff is entitled to damages for redress for the violation of his constitutional rights and for the personal injuries he sustained. The sum of money that fairly and justly compensates plaintiff for his actual damages by reason of the personal injuries

and violation of constitutional rights inflicted upon him is the sum of \$11,000.00.

11. Plaintiff is not entitled to exemplary or punitive damages. He did not prove by a preponderance of clear, convincing, and satisfactory evidence that either defendant Dusenberry or Wolf acted in such a way as to show a willful and wanton disregard for his rights. The officers acted properly in using force to subdue plaintiff after he lunged at Dusenberry. They simply used far more force than was reasonably necessary once plaintiff was completely subdued.

#### JUDGMENT

The clerk of court shall enter judgment for plaintiff and against defendants Daniel Dusenberry and Charles Wolf in the sum of \$11,000.00 plus legal interest from the date the complaint was filed, and for reasonable attorney fees and expenses. The court cannot separate the personal injuries inflicted upon plaintiff by each of the two individual defendants; they acted jointly, inflicted an inseparable personal injury, and therefore are jointly and severally liable for the judgment entered.

At 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 11, 1992, the court will hold a hearing on the claim for attorney fees against defendants Wolf and Dusenberry, and on the discovery disputes concerning the plaintiff's section 1983 claim against the City. Thereafter the court will schedule, as needed, a hearing on the City's motion for summary judgment and trial on claims not resolved by this decision and judgment.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated this 31st day of January, 1992

CHARLES R. WOLLE, JUDGE  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

## Judge finds officers guilty in Curtis beating

Continued from front page

and beating, Curtis had been part of a fight to win union support in defense of 17 immigrant coworkers. The 17 meat-packers had been seized and threatened with deportation by the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

After his arrest, Curtis was taken to the main police station and severely beaten after he refused to confess to a crime he did not commit. The cops shattered Curtis's cheekbone, opening a wound that required 15 stitches to close. He was bruised all over his body. As they beat Curtis, the cops called him a "Mexican lover, just like you love those coloreds."

Curtis's lawsuit against the City of Des Moines and the police officers who beat him was filed in May 1989. The trial against the cops was held November 25 and 26 last year.

Evidence accumulated during the course of the pre-trial proceedings documents a consistent pattern of cop brutality within the Des Moines police department during the past decade.

In September 1991 the city of Des Moines requested that it be dismissed as a defendant from Curtis's lawsuit. The judge ruled in early November that this issue would be taken up after a decision had been reached in the suit against the individual cops.

"There was no way the police could deny that he was injured and the only people that could have done it were the police," commented Alfredo Alvarez, former head of the Des Moines Human Rights Commission and a longtime supporter of Curtis's fight for justice. "This decision comes at a very interesting time as far as other charges that have come up against the Des Moines police."

Alvarez was referring to the growing outcry against cop brutality sweeping this city in response to the December 28 cop

beating of Larry Milton.

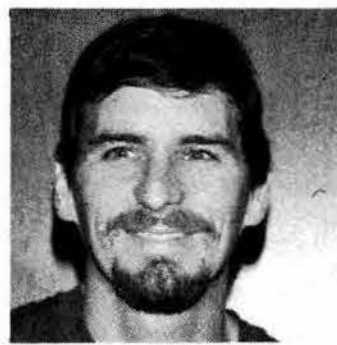
"This decision will help push the cops back and open more space for those fighting police brutality," said John Studer, coordinator of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee.

"It also will be a powerful advance for the defense campaign," continued Studer. "What this proves is that the Des Moines cops lied in order to cover up a brutal beating of Mark Curtis. And it will open a whole new layer of people's eyes to the fact that they also lied

in order to frame Mark Curtis."

"The actions described by the court are not consistent with the historical conduct of the [se] officers," claimed Des Moines police chief William Moulder. He called the timing of the ruling "quite unfortunate."

The judge set a February 11 hearing on Curtis's suit against the City of Des Moines and to assess officers Dusenberry and Wolf for attorney fees and other expenses incurred in the case.



### from *PATHFINDER* The Frame-up of Mark Curtis by Margaret Jayko

This pamphlet tells the story of Mark Curtis, a unionist and fighter for immigrant rights, who is serving a 25-year sentence in an Iowa prison on trumped-up rape charges. 71 pp., \$5.

Order from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. (Please include \$3 for postage and handling.)

### Literature available from the Mark Curtis Defense Committee

**The Stakes in the Worldwide Political Campaign to Defend Mark Curtis** by John Gaige. A pamphlet that explains the political background to Curtis's case, the frame-up, and unfair trial. 25 pp. \$1.

**The Frame-Up of Mark Curtis**, a VHS video produced by Hollywood director Nick Castle. This effective 49-minute documentary has clips from TV news broadcasts on Curtis's fight for justice; scenes from the trial; and interviews with Curtis, his wife Kate Kaku, and others. This video is available for the cost of reproduction and shipping. \$15.

**State of Iowa v. Mark Stanton Curtis**. Transcript of September 1988 jury trial proceedings that found Curtis guilty of rape and burglary. 446 pp. \$30.

**Brief of Mark Curtis vs City of Des Moines**. 20 pp. \$1.

**Mark Stanton Curtis v. City of Des Moines, et al.** Civil lawsuit brief submitted in U.S. District Court by Curtis claiming damages against Des Moines police who beat him after his arrest. 10 pp. \$1.

For these and other materials (including in Spanish) write or call the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, P.O. Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311. Phone (515) 246-1695. Bulk quantities are available. Payments should accompany orders and checks can be made out to Mark Curtis Defense Committee. Please allow 2 weeks for delivery.



# Caterpillar strikers mobilize to resist takeback demands

BY ANDREA GONZÁLEZ

EAST PEORIA, Illinois — "If we cave in to their take away proposals, we'll be talking about a busted union." This is how Andy Anderson assessed the stakes in the fight to win a contract with Caterpillar at a January 26 rally here. Anderson was representing the director of the United Auto Workers (UAW) Agricultural Implements Division.

The rally, which drew 5,000 people, was called by UAW Local 974. The local organizes 8,000 workers at Caterpillar's massive production complex across the Illinois River in East Peoria. It was one of several events organized by Caterpillar locals across the country this week.

Caterpillar, the world's largest producer of earth-moving equipment, is demanding massive concessions, including a steep two-tier wage structure, restrictions on seniority rights, and a monthly fee for medical benefits.

To pressure the company to negotiate, the union called a selective strike of 400 workers in East Peoria and 2,000 in Decatur, Illinois, in early November. Three days later, the company retaliated by locking out 6,000 workers at East Peoria and several hundred at its Aurora, Illinois, plant.

Billed as a rally, the January 26 event took on the tone of a serious meeting. Union members listened with close attention to reports on the stakes in their fight and the stage of the struggle.

One sign of the seriousness of the gathering was the lack of Japan-bashing, which has been a feature of UAW events for more than a decade. The workers gathered here know exactly who the enemy is — Caterpillar. No speaker tried to make anyone else the scapegoat.

A central theme of the talks by the local officials was the daily campaign by the company, supported by the city government and the local big-business press, to drive a wedge between the local and national unions.

The scope of the company's campaign was summarized by Jerry Baker, local bargaining committee chairperson. He reported that "Caterpillar has sent out over a half-million pieces of literature and spent over \$100,000 in ads to turn us against each other."

"If they succeed," he continued, "you will be working under their contract not yours."

When Wayne Schmidt, chairperson of the local's public relations committee, reviewed the concessions Caterpillar is demanding, there were chants of "Shut the whole damn place down" and "Take us out on strike."

The chanting reflected the desire of the more than 1,000 workers still on the job in

East Peoria to actively join the fight. These workers, who were present in large numbers, wore caps full of "adopt-a-striker" buttons, representing each week that they had contributed \$35 to the strike fund. Many of them said they feel like scabs for working during the fight. The selective strike tactic is a big topic of discussion among Caterpillar workers.

Local 974 president Jerry Brown addressed this, saying the selective strike is "the hard way, the tough way, maybe even the wrong way. We are asking you to do the in-plant strategy," he told those still working. "If you are giving \$35 a week, refusing overtime, and producing a perfect product, God bless you."

Anderson called the selective strike a "very difficult strategy." He asked, "Is our strategy working? You tell me." But he had already been answered with chants of "Shut the whole place down!"

Bill Stewart, director of UAW Region 4, where most Caterpillar locals are located, reported on offers of support coming in from union locals throughout the country.

Despite the desire of other UAW members to support the fight, the top union officials have made no attempt to mobilize this support. At this meeting, for example, there were only a few members of the union from Chicago and a small delegation from St. Louis.

Andrea González is a member of UAW Local 325 in St. Louis.

## 1,500 in Decatur rally against Caterpillar

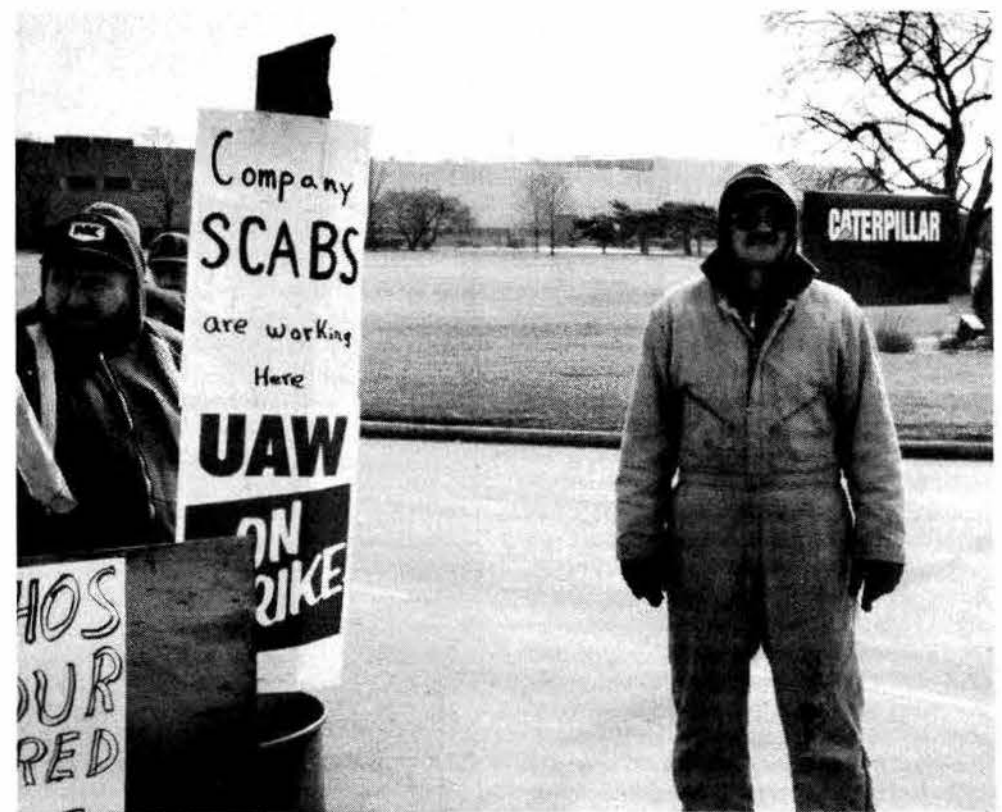
BY JOHN SARGE

DECATUR, Illinois — Some 1,500 striking and retired members of the United Auto Workers rallied here January 28 to discuss their fight against Caterpillar. Meetings like this one have been taking place in all locals in the Caterpillar chain.

All 1,900 members of United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 751 have been on strike here since November 4 when the union launched a selective strike against Caterpillar. After 2,400 workers struck two plants, the company quickly locked out 5,900 more.

The meeting opened with a standing ovation as local president, Larry Solomon, introduced the union's national bargaining committee and representatives from the other six locked-out locals.

In discussing the company and local media campaign against the strike, Solomon pointed out that Caterpillar "would have you believe that this fight is between them and [UAW secretary-treasurer Bill] Casstevens with you workers an absent



Picket line at Caterpillar production complex in East Peoria. After a selective strike of 400 the company locked out 6,000 of the 8,000 workers organized by the UAW there.

party." He stressed that the company has "declared war on us."

Plant bargaining committee chairman Ted Johnson outlined the company's takeback demands. Jay Roberts from the York, Pennsylvania, plant and John Paul from Aurora, Illinois, brought greetings from their locals.

UAW region 4 director Bill Stewart reported on solidarity actions being organized. He said that unions in the nine-state region had already contributed \$80,000. He added that all UAW regions had been asked to launch solidarity activities. Outside the meeting a dozen building trades unionists showed up with signs to show their support for the Caterpillar workers.

During the discussion from the floor many workers expressed a desire to deepen the fight against Caterpillar. Some urged the union officials to keep them better informed and others demanded a strengthening of the picket lines.

Several workers questioned why all the locals in the Caterpillar chain were not called out on strike. Both local officers and Anderson replied that, following this series of meetings, the bargaining council would rediscuss its strategy.

Local 751 members have been looking for ways to strengthen their fight. On January 27 the *Herald and Review*, Decatur's daily newspaper, ran a front-page article headlined, "Dissent Marks UAW Rally." Twelve unionists who had attended the previous day's rally in Peoria decided to picket the paper for its misleading coverage. They forced editor James Santori to talk to them and were filmed by a local television news station.

When asked what had changed since the previous Caterpillar strike in 1982, a picketer at the plant's main gate explained, "It used to be people said, 'You got everything, what more do you want?' But now every-

body knows that companies are trying to make big cuts. If they can get away with that, then what hope is there for any of us?"

John Sarge is a member of UAW Local 900 and works at the Ford Motors plant in Wayne, Michigan.

## 'What we need is more inter-union solidarity'

BY RICH GAETA AND JOHANNA RYAN

EAST PEORIA, Illinois — On the picket line here, Caterpillar strikers expressed different opinions as to whether the strike should be spread to all the company's plants. One worker said, "No, the strike should not be spread because it would mean they would just starve out that many more of us."

The other six picketers nodded when another striker replied, "If you hit your enemy real hard the first time, then he knows you mean business."

Another unionist said, "What we need is more inter-union solidarity, like the days of [former United Auto Workers president] Walter Reuther. They would not sit here like us and watch people go through these gates."

Still another striker added, "The union officials use company arguments to get workers to accept losses. General Motors just laid off 74,000. Those workers don't deserve that. We just build what they tell us to build. If the CEO's can't make a good product, people are not going to buy it here or in Japan."

One worker commented, "It's going to come down to a revolution between the rich and the poor by the turn of the century."

Rich Gaeta and Johanna Ryan are members of the United Steelworkers of America Local 5488 in Chicago.

# Supreme Court denies power to Black officials

Continued from front page

Etowah and Russell county commissions had broken the law by not seeking such prior approval. On at least eight occasions since 1975 the department has refused to approve changes in the authority of elected officials that would have a discriminatory impact on Blacks. In most cases the Justice Department gives its approval for requested changes. Last year the Attorney General cleared 99 percent of 17,000 requests for shifts in elective authority.

Writing for the Court majority, Judge Anthony Kennedy said, "The Voting Rights Act is not an all-purpose antidiscrimination statute." Kennedy argued that the act applies only to voting requirements and not to changes in authority that shift governing powers.

Judge Clarence Thomas, whose recent appointment to the Supreme Court sparked a wide debate because of his overt anti-working-class views, voted with the majority.

The decision marked the first time in more than 20 years that the Court reversed earlier interpretations of the 1965 law. The Court first ruled on the law in 1969 in *Allen v. State Board of Elections*, saying that even actions not prohibited in the Voting Rights Act would be covered by the law, which it said "should

be given the broadest possible scope."

This followed a period where a variety of means had been tried to dodge the effects of the 1965 law. Such practices had included abolishing elective offices altogether where Blacks had a chance of winning, or withholding information necessary for voting or running for office.

Judge Paul Stevens, who wrote the dissenting opinion, said that the reallocation of decision-making authority was clearly discriminatory and an "obvious response" to the election of Black county commissioners for the first time since Reconstruction. That was the period, following the defeat of the slavery in the U.S. Civil War, when Blacks were elected to office in several southern states for the first time.

Lani Guinier, a law professor at the University of Pennsylvania who worked with the plaintiffs on the case told the *New York Times* that the passage of the Voting Rights Act did not imply "simply a symbolic opportunity to cast a ballot. . . . Majority rule was never thought to mean that a governing elite could keep 100 percent of the power for itself."

"This decision clearly narrows the scope of the act," said Ed Copeland, a constitutional rights attorney of the Rabinowitz, Boudin,

Standard, Krinsky & Lieberman law firm in New York. "What they've carried out with this decision is a way of disfranchising large numbers of people using more subtle rather than overtly blatant methods like gerrymandering or changing qualifications for election at the last minute."

In another blow to democratic rights, the Supreme Court ruled the same day against the ability of labor union organizers to go on company property to distribute literature or urge workers to join the union.

In a 6-3 ruling written by Thomas, the Court said that the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) had failed to give adequate protection to employers' property rights when it adopted a rule four years ago that gave union organizers greater access to parking lots of shopping centers and factories.

The case arose from a 1987 organizing drive by the United Food and Commercial Workers union in Newington, Connecticut. Lechmere Shopping Plaza managers there repeatedly evicted union organizers attempting to reach workers in the parking lot.

The union won an unfair labor practice charge filed with the NLRB. Many national business associations backed Lechmere's appeal in friend-of-the-court briefs.

## —CALENDAR—

### OREGON

#### Portland

**Report Back From Cuba.** Speaker: Tomás Villanueva, president United Farmworkers Union of Washington State. Wed., Feb. 12, 7 p.m. Portland State University, Smith Hall, Vanport Room. Sponsor: Tomás Villanueva Tour Committee. For more information: 288-0466.

### NEW YORK

#### Manhattan

**National Conference in Support of the African National Congress and a Democratic South Africa.** March 20-22. For more information: (212) 673-5120.

### WASHINGTON, D.C.

**African National Congress 80th Anniversary Celebration.** Guest speaker from South Africa, cultural presentation, craft vendors. Sat., Feb. 8, 7 p.m. Reception follows. First Congregational Church, 945 "G" St., NW (near Gallery Place Metro). Admission free. Sponsor: African National Congress. For more information: (202) 543-9433.

**We Won't Go Back. . . March for Women's Lives.** National march on Washington, D.C., Sun., April 5. For more information call National Organization for Women: (202) 331-0066.



# 105-day strike ends with contract, layoffs

BY KATHY MICKELLS

COATESVILLE, Pennsylvania — After 105 days on strike, workers at Lukens Steel Co. won a new contract. It was the first strike there in 23 years as well as the second longest in its history.

"Twelve hundred guys stuck together to get this contract," said Mike Brown. "We think we won a victory. The contract has a wage increase, the first one in 10 years, and increased pension benefits."

"We're happy with this contract. It's not everything we wanted, but we can live with it," said Rich McPeak.

Brown and McPeak are members of United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 1165. By a 978-95 vote union members ratified a four-year agreement with Lukens Steel January 13.

The 1,300 members of the local were forced out on strike Oct. 1, 1991. Over the course of their fight, Steelworkers won considerable solidarity from unionists and others in the southeastern Pennsylvania area. Plant gate collections were taken at the Boeing Co. plant in Ridley Park and the Sun Oil refinery in Marcus Hook. United Auto Workers members at the General Motors plant in nearby Wilmington, Delaware, donated 300 Christmas presents. Teamsters brought regular donations of food.

Wives, sisters, and supporters formed Women of Steel to help with the strike, from picketing and food distribution to plant gate collections. Their meetings, held regularly, were attended by 100 supporters.

Lukens Steel spent more than \$6 million in special strike expenses, including an increased security force for the plant and bodyguards for top executives. Four pickets were hit by cars during the strike. Lukens brought in 400 replacement workers and claimed throughout the strike that they were making production goals. But the company just announced that earnings will show a significant loss for the fourth quarter.

The agreement includes a \$2.50-an-hour wage increase with \$1-an-hour in the first year and 50 cents each of the remaining three years. Lukens, a Fortune 500 company and the second largest U.S. producer of plate steel,

enjoyed record earnings the last four years.

The union fought for and won increased pension benefits, which are especially important to Steelworkers. A quarter of the work force has worked at Lukens more than 30 years. The minimum monthly pension payment will increase from \$650 in 1991 to \$1,100 this year and \$1,400 in three years. Benefits for spouses were increased as well.

While the union won some improvements in health benefits, workers will have to pay increased deductibles for their medical coverage.

After Steelworkers won this battle, the

company launched a new attack. The day unionists returned to work, 350 USWA members found pink slips awaiting them. Some had completed more than 25 years of service at the mill.

The layoffs are "a vendetta. We're bitter," McPeak said.

"I gave up my picket sign for an unemployment sign," said Brown, "and I'm going to keep fighting."

Kathy Mickells is a member of Oil, Chemical and Atomic workers Local 8-901 and works at the Sun Oil refinery in Marcus Hook, Pennsylvania.

## Steelworkers ratify concession agreement

BY BUZZ ENCA  
AND JIM GOTESKY

PITTSBURG, California — Members of United Steelworkers of America Locals 1440 and 2573 ratified a concession contract January 13 at USS-POSCO's cold rolling mill here.

USS-POSCO is a joint venture between US Steel, a division of USX Corporation, and Pohang Iron and Steel, a major South Korean steel manufacturer. This plant is one of the most modern cold rolling facilities in the world.

The new agreement contains a "pass through" clause that ties local contract terms to future national contract negotiations between the United Steelworkers (USWA) and

USX. Future improvements in wages or benefits, as well as changes in contract expiration dates, will "pass through" from national contracts with USX to USS-POSCO without Local 1440 membership approval for up to the next two contracts.

Thus the new contract could run from 5 years to 10 years or more without ratification by the local membership. It deals a stiff blow to union membership rights and weakens the local in the face of future attacks by the steel bosses.

USS-POSCO agreed to pay a signing bonus of \$750, a \$1.57-per-hour wage increase for the first year, and 50 cents per hour for the next four years for the average non-incentive job pay classification. Cash bo-

nuses totaling \$3,000 will be paid over the first three years instead of cost-of-living (COLA) increases. In the fourth and fifth year of the contract COLA will be capped at 50 cents an hour.

The new contract comes after 10 years of concessions that cut workers' real buying power by more than 25 percent, eliminated 500 jobs through automation and job combinations, and reduced holiday and vacation time.

### Far short of restoring losses

Despite the fact that the pact includes welcome improvements, they are far short of restoring the losses suffered by Steelworkers and their families over the last decade.

At informational meetings held just three days before the ratification vote, USWA international representative Tom Dimaggio enthusiastically presented the agreement as unanimously recommended by the national union officials and the local union bargaining committee. Dimaggio described the contract as "the best agreement in steel."

USS-POSCO wages will rise to match USX wages in the first three years of the new agreement but will remain substantially behind Bethlehem Steel wages. The USS-POSCO contract will not expire at the same time as the next USX contract expiration in 1994, but in 1996 or later, due to the "pass through" clause.

Regaining a national steel contract would give a powerful weapon to Steelworkers. But such a contract will only be won through a fight against further wage concessions, for short-term contracts, and the elimination of no-strike clauses. This requires linking Steelworkers with other working people, both unionized and unorganized, as well as Blacks and women, whose rights are under attack.

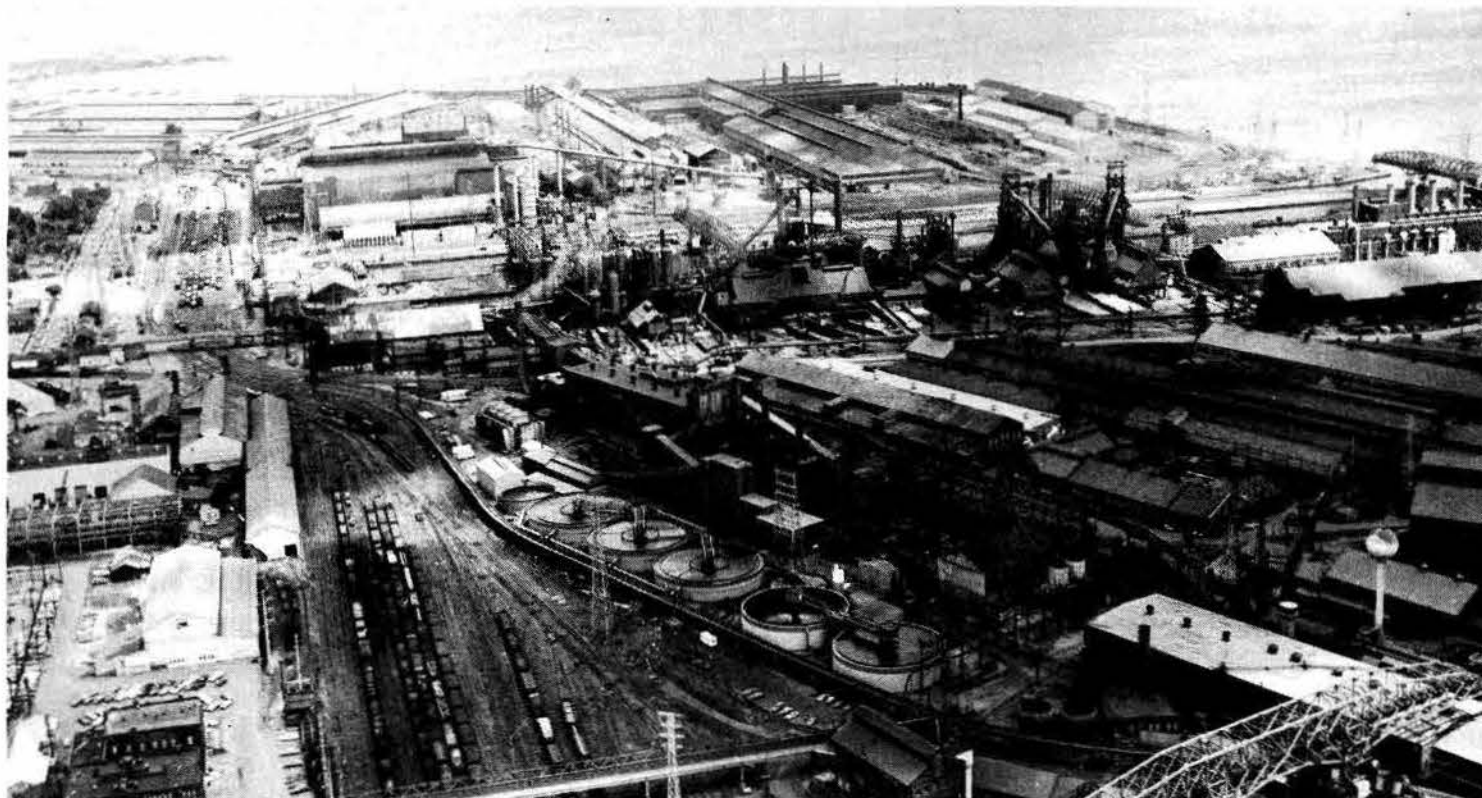
The long USS-POSCO contract, which substitutes years of time-consuming and fruitless grievance and arbitration procedures for the membership's right to vote on contracts and strike, is a retreat from organizing such a fight.

In spite of worries about the deepening recession, 25 percent of the union membership voted against the contract, indicating that many members felt that better contract terms were not only justified, but possible.

USS-POSCO increased its 1991 production by 12 percent despite recent declines in steel prices and the recession.

Buzz Enca and Jim Gotesky are members of USWA Local 1440.

## USX shuts down Chicago steel plant



USX's South Works in Chicago. In the 1940s, plant employed 20,000. In recent years USX squeezed workforce to below 1,000.

BY ERIC FLINT

CHICAGO — USX Corporation has announced it will shut down its Chicago South Works plant April 10. Big layoffs at the end of 1991 had already cut the work force from 700 to 350 at the time of the announcement.

The first steel-making facility was built at the South works site in 1857. At the height of its production in the 1940s, the plant employed 20,000 workers and was the largest employer in Chicago. By 1979 the work force was down to 10,000.

Throughout the 1980s the company steadily eliminated sections of the plant. In recent years USX squeezed the work force down to below 1,000, before finally announcing its intention to close the plant permanently.

USX claims its decision to shut down South Works, which is organized by the United Steelworkers of America (USWA), is due to the inability of the union shop to compete with newer nonunion mills. This claim is a rehash of USX's constant complaint that its problems with the South Works plant are caused by high wages and union work rules.

USX's whining does not meet with much sympathy from Steelworkers and many other working people in Chicago. During the 1980s the Steelworkers union accepted many concessions demanded by USX. In 1983 the

company demanded a tax break, environmental concessions, a \$30 million aid package from the city, as well as pay cuts, shorter vacations, and other givebacks from the union. After getting all the concessions it asked for, USX demanded still more, including the right to open nearly half the jobs at South Works to nonunion labor. When the USWA refused to accept the new concession demands, USX canceled the creation of a new 1,000-employee rail mill which had supposedly been the motivation behind the original package of concessions.

In the early 1980s, USX, then U.S. Steel, led the other big steel companies in demanding that the government restrict imports. U.S. Steel cried that it needed "relief" from foreign steel in order to invest in modernizing its plants. No sooner did the company get the "relief" it asked for, however, than it spent \$6 billion to acquire the Marathon Oil Company.

When asked their opinion of the South Works closing, some workers blamed imported steel. Others pointed the finger straight at USX. Almost all the workers interviewed agreed that giving concessions to try to save jobs was a mistake. Mike, a crane operator with 17 years seniority, spoke for many when he said, "Concessions don't work. They just took the money and bought an oil company."

When asked if he had any advice for other unionists, one worker stated, "Other unions need to be more defiant than we were, or they'll keep running over you."

Eric Flint is a member of USWA Local 15271 in Chicago.

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## CALIFORNIA

### Los Angeles

**SOCIALIST EDUCATIONAL AND CAMPAIGN WEEKEND.** Sat., Feb. 15. Report at 10 a.m. by Eli Green on petitioning to win ballot status for Board of Supervisors race in Los Angeles, followed by petitioning. Class, 4 p.m.: **The Origins of Women's Oppression and the Fight for Equality Today.** Speaker: Margaret Jayko, Socialist Workers Party. Donation: \$2. Forum, 7:30 p.m.: **Eyewitness Report From South Africa — New Stage in the Struggle Against Apartheid.** Speaker: Mary Zins, Socialist Workers Party. Donation: \$4. Sun., Feb. 16, 9 a.m. State Convention of California Socialist Workers Party. Report on: **The Opening of the Depression is Behind Us, the "Crisis of Socialism" is Over, the Crisis of the Market System has Become Universal.** Speaker: Joel Britton, Socialist Workers Party. Registration: \$4. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Tel: (213) 380-9460.

## FLORIDA

### Miami

**From Recession to Depression. Is Japan To Blame? How the Unions Can Win Jobs For All.** Speaker: Laura Garza, Socialist Workers Party National Committee. Sat., Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (305) 756-1020.

## MARYLAND

### Baltimore

**What the Civil Rights Movement Accomplished. What It Means for the Struggle Against Racism Today.** Speaker: Michele Smith, Socialist Workers Party, member UFCW Local 27. Sat., Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m. 2905 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (301) 235-0013.

**How Far We Slaves Have Come. South Africa and Cuba in Today's World.** Speakers: African National Congress representative; Glova Scott, Socialist Workers Party, member UTU Local 454. Sat., Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m. 2905 Greenmount

Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (301) 235-0013.

## MINNESOTA

### St. Paul

**JFK: Myth Vs. Reality. The Truth About the Cuban Missile Crisis and the Vietnam War.** Speaker: Joey Rothenberg, Socialist Workers Party, member UTU Local 1000. Sat., Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

**Civil War Ends in El Salvador.** Sat., Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

## NEW YORK

### Manhattan

**Protest Police Brutality and Racist Attacks!** Speakers: Derek Bracey, National Organizational Secretary, Young Socialist Alliance; Sharon Mayse, mother of Tasha Mayse, slain by cops in Hillside, N.J.; Venus Hannah, mother of Santana Hannah, killed while in police custody in Plainfield, N.J. Sat., Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m. 191 7th Ave. Donation: \$4. Tel: (212) 727-8421.

## NORTH CAROLINA

### Greensboro

**The Civil Rights Movement. Its Accomplishments and Lessons for Working People.** Sat., Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m. 2000-C South Elm-Eugene St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

**Attacks on Affirmative Action. David Duke, Patrick Buchanan, and Political Polarization Today.** Sat., Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m. 2000-C South Elm-Eugene St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

## OHIO

### Cleveland

**Regional Socialist Educational Conference.** Feb. 29-March 1. 1863 W 25th St. For more information: (216) 861-6150.

## PENNSYLVANIA

### Philadelphia

**Video: The Autobiography of Malcolm X.** Sat., Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m. 1906 South St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (215) 546-8218.

### Pittsburgh

**No Support to Japan Bashing! U.S. Recession: Made in Japan?** Speaker: Joanne Kuniansky, Socialist Workers Party, member Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 8-74. Sat., Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m. 4905 Penn Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

**Malcolm X: His Revolutionary Legacy.** Speaker: John Hawkins, Socialist Workers Party National Committee, member United Mine Workers of America. Fri., Feb. 14, 7:30 p.m. 4905 Penn Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

## UTAH

### Salt Lake City

**New Stage in the Struggle Against Apartheid.** Speaker: Dave Salner, Socialist Workers Party, member United Steelworkers of America. Sat., Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m. 147 E 900 S. Donation: \$3. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

**The Coming World Depression.** Speaker: Nels J'Anthony, Socialist Workers Party, member United Transportation Union. Sat., Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m. 147 E 900 S. Donation: \$3. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

## WASHINGTON

### Seattle

**Africa Called, Cuba Answered. Cuba and Angola: Response to the South African Escalation.** Video showing. Sat., Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m. 1405 E Madison. Donation: \$3. Tel: (206) 323-1755.

**NORTHWEST SOCIALIST EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE. The Depression, Crisis of Capitalism, and Prospects for Revolutionary Change.** Sat., Feb. 15. Class 3:30 p.m. **The Origins of Women's Oppression.** Speaker: Margaret Manwaring, Central Committee mem-

ber of Communist League in Canada, member International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. Donation: \$2.50. Forum, 7:30 p.m.: **The World Depression Has Opened. The "Crisis of Socialism" Is Over. The Crisis of the Market System is Worldwide.** Speaker: Greg McCartan, editor of the *Militant*, Socialist Workers Party National Committee. Donation: \$4. Sun., Feb. 16. Class, 1 p.m.: **The Origins of Anti-Black Prejudice and the Myth of Race.** Speaker: Mark Severs, Socialist Workers Party, member International Association of Machinists Local Lodge 2202. Donation: \$2.50. Presentation, 4 p.m.: **Turning Point in South Africa — An Eyewitness Report From the Convention for a Democratic South Africa.** Speaker: Greg McCartan, Socialist Workers Party National Committee. Donation: \$4. 1405 E Madison. Tel: (206) 323-1755.

## WEST VIRGINIA

### Morgantown

**Beauty Standards and Women's Oppression.** Speakers: Dale Birkle, professor of pharmacology at West Virginia University; Linda Joyce, Socialist Workers Party. Sat. Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m. 242 Walnut St., Donation: \$3. Tel: (304) 296-0055.

## BRITAIN

### Sheffield

**Women's Liberation and the African Freedom Struggle.** Speaker: Jo O'Brien, Communist League. Sat., Feb. 8, 6 p.m. 1 Gower St., Spital Hill. Donation: £1. Tel: 0742-765070.

**The Growing Social and Economic Crisis: Why Only Working People Can Resolve It.** Speaker: member of Communist League Election Campaign. Sat., Feb. 15, 6 p.m. 1 Gower St., Spital Hill. Donation: £1. Tel: 0742-729469.

## CANADA

### Vancouver

**The Fight to Defend Jobs For All — A Canadian or International Solution?** Panel discussion with unionists from the U.S. and Canada. Sun., Feb. 9, 2 p.m. 1053 Kingsway, Suite 102. Donation: \$4. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

## NEW ZEALAND

### Auckland

**The Government's New "Anti-Crime" Measures — Their Meaning For Working People.** A panel discussion. Sat., Feb. 8, 7 p.m. La Gonda Arcade, 203 Karangahape Rd. Tel: (9) 793-075.

### Christchurch

**What Causes Crime?** Speaker: Eugen Lepou, Communist League. Sat., Feb. 8, 7 p.m. 593a Colombo St. Donation: \$2. Tel: (3) 656-055.

**Decline of U.S. Power: One Year After Iraq War.** Speaker: Carmen Bain, Young Socialists. Sat., Feb. 15, 7 p.m. 593a Colombo St. Donation: \$2. Tel: (3) 656-055.

### Wellington

**So-called "Crime Wave" — Death Penalty, Censorship Are Not the Answers.** Sat., Feb. 8, 7 p.m. 23 Majoribanks St., Courtenay Pl. Donation: \$2. Tel: 384-4205.

**Autobiography of Malcolm X. Video showing.** Sat., Feb. 15, 7 p.m. 23 Majoribanks St., Courtenay Pl. Donation: \$2. Tel: (4) 384-4205.

# 3,000 protest Utah antiabortion law

BY ELLIE GARCÍA  
AND BARBARA GREENWAY

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah — Three thousand pro-choice demonstrators rallied in the state Capitol rotunda here January 25 to mark the first anniversary of the signing of one of the most restrictive antiabortion laws in the country.

The Utah law is not in effect due to a lawsuit filed on behalf of "Jane Liberty" last April 4 by the American Civil Liberties Union. A trial is set before the district court in April of this year, after which the court will decide whether the law will go into effect.

The law eliminates a woman's right to abortion except in cases of rape or incest, where pregnancy threatens "grave damage to the pregnant woman's medical health," or to prevent the birth of a child with "grave defects." Doctors who perform illegal abortions could face fines of up to \$5,000 and a five-year jail term.

Rally speakers included professors, representatives from feminist and pro-choice organizations, and state legislators, most of

whom urged the crowd to vote for pro-choice candidates.

Connie Nielson, vice-president of the state AFL-CIO, said, "This is about abortion rights and responsibility and who makes the decision. This is my body, it belongs to me, and I'll make my own choices."

Nielson was also representing the Coalition of Labor Union Women, which holds a pro-choice position. One of the largest rounds of applause was given to a group of young women from Brigham Young University who arrived late and carried "BYU Women for Choice" placards to the front of the rally.

Cecilia Konchar Farr, a Brigham Young English professor, said, "I will say it loud and clearly to legislators and leaders. Listen to me: I am Mormon and I am pro-choice. There are many of us, though most are silent because we are afraid."

Among the protesters were students from several college campuses.

Union members had also taken rally leaflets on the job to build the action. A result of this was a group of Steelworkers from three different plants who demonstrated together and draped a "Steelworkers for Choice" banner across the balcony.

One Steelworker attending her first rally stated that she was not for abortion "but I am pro-choice. That's what I've been telling people at work."

The demonstration was sponsored by the Utah Pro-Choice Coalition. The coalition has placed full-page ads in the daily newspapers asking women and doctors who would be affected by this law to give testimony at the April trial.

*Ellie García is a member of the United Steelworkers of America and a copper worker at Kennecott Smelter. Barbara Greenway is a member of the International Association of Machinists.*

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## SWEDEN

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



**Equal justice** — In High Point, North Carolina, Thaddus Little, a jobless worker who is Black, spent 11 days in jail for failing to pay \$569.91 owed for his mother's funeral. Meanwhile, a Florida broker



Harry Ring

who swindled \$6 million was given a one-year sentence. And it seems likely he'll do his time under house arrest in his Palm Beach oceanfront condo.

**Everybody loves a cop** — "I knew we had an image problem, but how many people would take time out of their busy lives to write you a letter saying you're full of crap?" — Utah highway patrolman John Jones. He says he sent out 265,000 letters hustling donations for the patrol's charity fund. There were 1,500 responses. Of these, he said, two-thirds were "hate" mail.

**Coronary on rye** — Saluting perestroika, New York's Second Avenue Deli now has a wooden likeness of Gorbys out front. The restaurant hopes to open a branch in Moscow and is negotiating with a medical academy that has a suitable space. It occurred to us, maybe with the menu focus on corned beef and

pastrami, it's a tie-in deal with the cardiology department.

**The bright side** — In 1988 you had to wait, on average, 18 months to join a country club. Now it's down to 14 months.

**They can lay off a cleaner** — At a cost of \$18,000, the carpeting in the three House of Representatives "members only" elevators has been replaced by marble flooring. An aide to House Speaker Thomas Foley (D-Wash.) says, "This is the people's Capitol, in which they should take a certain amount of pride." Also, he shrewdly notes, marble floors are "easier to maintain."

**Gee thanks, Pepsi** — In a nar-

rowing market, Pepsi is casting a wider advertising net. The "Pepsi generation" is no longer just young people, but people "who think young." In one commercial spot, a young fellow declares, "At first I was upset that all these old folks started drinking it. But then I said, 'Hey, they're people, too.'"

**Conservation** — A Utah company is reviving mummification, which went out 15 centuries ago. They'll soak your remains in wines, herbs, and preservatives, then bind them in a cocoon including linen, fiberglass, and cement. We don't have the rates on this but an accompanying airtight, bacteria-free casket is available in Canada for \$30,000.

**Wedding of science and spirituality** — Dial 1-900-740-POPE for a taped message from John Paul II. At \$1.95 a minute the messages will run around \$4 and, hopefully, net the Vatican \$1.4 million a week. The organizer of the theological endeavor happily dubs it the world's first "electronic collection plate."

**Something like the government** — With growing awareness of the extent of water pollution, U.S. consumers last year spent \$1.8 billion on filtering devices. A Congressional study found there are no effective regulations governing these and many of the devices are "ineffective or inappropriate."

## Workers like 'Militant' coverage of South Africa

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

*Militant* distributors throughout the world report that the paper's extensive coverage on the new stage in the fight against apartheid is receiving an excellent response.

Supporters in **Stockholm, Sweden**, sold 12 *Militants* at a January 11 meeting celebrating the 80th anniversary of the African National Congress. An additional 11 papers were sold that day at several other sales spots in the Stockholm area.

"I want factual information on what's happening in South Africa so I need to get the *Militant*," stated one of the paper's newest subscribers in **London** who signed up at the Bloody Sunday commemoration march held to protest the British presence in Northern Ireland. Ten single issues of the paper were also sold to the 1,300 peo-

ple participating in the action.

In **Atlanta**, 36 papers were sold at the January 18-20 events organized to celebrate the birthday of Martin Luther King. These included a parade and a speech by Winnie Mandela at Atlanta University. Of particular interest to many of the workers and young people attending these activities has been the *Militant's* coverage of the fight against police brutality.

Outside the General Motors plant in **Doraville, Georgia**, which GM is threatening to close as part of its recently announced layoffs, 7 *Militants* were sold in as many minutes before plant security interrupted the sale. Many of the workers were particularly interested in the article headlined, "We're in early stages of world depression."

In **Chicago**, at the Argo Starch Corn

Refinery organized by the **Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers** union, Sara reports the following response to the *Militant*, from a 20-year veteran at the plant: "Anything that shows us something different from what we've been through — I want to read it!"

As single issue sales increase in the plants and at important political events around town, we're also seeing a rise in the number of new subscribers that can be won to the paper. Last week, for example, the business office received from **Des Moines, Iowa**, 11 new *Militant* subscriptions and 1 to *Perspectiva Mundial*. This was in addition to selling 123 single copies of the previous *Militant* issue. The *Militant's* continued coverage of the ongoing protests against cop brutality in Des Moines has made the paper particularly attractive to working people there.

### New scoreboard deadline

Starting this week, the "Sales to industrial unionists" scoreboard has been expanded to include goals taken by *Militant* distributors in Canada.

The deadline for reporting weekly sales results for the scoreboard has been changed

to Friday, 9:00 a.m. EST. This should help the business office receive the most accurate figures for papers sold during the previous week.

This week's scoreboard includes reports received from 18 cities in the United States. Unlike the single issue sales figures, which are based on a different *Militant* issue each week, the results listed for subscription renewals and the *How Far We Slaves Have Come!* books will show the cumulative number of renewals and books sold since the start of this campaign.

Susan Anmuth, a member of United Auto Workers Local 980 at the Ford plant in **Metuchen, New Jersey**, has sold 17 *How Far We Slaves Have Come!* books — 14 in the past two weeks. "These workers are attracted to the ideas of Castro and Mandela," said Anmuth. Sales of the book can help interest workers in purchasing a subscription to the *Militant*, which is the best place to read in-depth news and political analysis of major new developments as they occur in South Africa and Cuba.

Deborah Hien in Stockholm, Susan Lamont in Atlanta, and Pamela Holmes in London contributed to this article.

Sales to industrial unionists							
Union	Weekly sales goal	No. sold <i>Militant</i> #4*	Percentage sold of weekly goal	Subscription renewal goal	No. of renewals sold	'How Far We Slaves Have Come!' book goal	No. of books sold
<b>U.S.</b>							
ACTWU	20	9	45	12	2	25	1
IAM	60	22	37	30	2	55	5
ILGWU	14	1	7	3	—	15	1
OCAW	40	6	15	19	1	50	12
UAW	40	9	23	20	1	40	24
UFCW	50	10	20	20	4	25	3
UMWA	8	2	25	7	1	17	12
USWA	45	9	20	30	2	30	9
UTU	45	5	11	35	3	30	5
<b>U.S. Totals</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>Canada</b>							
ACTWU	3						
CAW	4						
IAM	5						
ILGWU	5						
USWA	4						
<b>Canada Totals</b>	<b>21</b>						

\* Includes copies of *Perspectiva Mundial* sold this week.

ACTWU — Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union; CAW — Canadian Autoworkers Union; IAM — International Association of Machinists; ILGWU — International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union; OCAW — Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; UAW — United Auto Workers; UFCW — United Food and Commercial Workers; UMWA — United Mine Workers of America; USWA — United Steelworkers of America; UTU — United Transportation Union.

## Iran-contra books show U.S. crisis

Continued from Page 6

methods to use in accomplishing this goal. When North's contra operation was publicly exposed in November 1986, many of these government officials developed what North termed "collective amnesia."

Despite these disagreements and bouts of forgetfulness, Congress in the fall of 1986 restored CIA funding to the contras with a generous \$100 million package. The timing of this couldn't have been better, as far as North was concerned, since his Iran-contra operation was about to unravel. Just one week later, the Sandinistas had shot down a contra supply plane and captured the sole survivor, Eugene Hasenfus, who began to speak out about his activities.

The wide attention given to North and his book is a reflection of the polarization in U.S. politics today. North's *Under Fire* aims its fire at the "imperial Congress" and the "vigilante" special prosecutor Lawrence Walsh, who has been investigating and indicting government officials for their role in Iran-

contra for the past five years.

One of the major themes North pushes for all its worth is that he was simply a faithful hard-working government servant who came into conflict with the corrupt out-of-touch politicians in Congress. "House members and senators have become more beholden to their party's leadership than to the voters they ostensibly represent," states North.

As the capitalist economic crisis advances, conservative figures like North and Republican presidential candidate Patrick Buchanan are gaining a wider hearing for their rightist political views. Both North and Buchanan held powerful positions in the Reagan administration. Buchanan served as the White House Director of Communication at the same time that North was running the Iran-contra operation out of the National Security Council's White House office.

North's widely read book is part and parcel of the ultraright political pole that has gained greater weight in U.S. politics.

## — 25 AND 50 YEARS AGO —



The Student Mobilization Committee issued a sharp rejoinder to Rep. Edwin Willis (D-La.), chairman of HUAC [House Un-American Activities Committee], who had made a red-baiting attack on the group. Willis had branded as "Communist" the April 8-15 week of protest against the Vietnam war being organized by the student group.

In reply, the Student Mobilization Committee declared: "Alarmed by the growing sentiment against the war in Vietnam, Rep. Willis used the same tactics of smear, distortion and red-baiting which have habitually been the method of his committee." The statement added: "The Student Mobilization Committee holds to the principle of non-exclusion both in its internal working and its dealings with the American public. We welcome among our ranks anyone who is opposed to the war in Vietnam and wishes to see it end."

The committee said there will be three themes of the Vietnam week: 1) Bring the GIs home now; 2) Opposing the draft and supporting the right of individuals to refuse to cooperate with the military system; 3) Ending campus complicity with the war effort.



February 14, 1942

Publicity has convinced the average American that in Hawaii the native males devote their lives to riding the waves on surfboards, while the native females dance on the sun-drenched shores.

It comes as a shock to learn that in Hawaii the native Hawaiians have become a negligible factor, possibly 20,000 of them having survived brutal conquest of the Islands by big business. Steadfastly resisting enslavement in the fields, they have been pushed to the very edge of their once happy country. Desperately poor, they drag out a hand-to-mouth existence fishing and raising a few vegetables. These are the blessings which American capitalists have bestowed upon them.

Nor have the Islands proved a paradise to the hundreds of thousands of Chinese, Japanese, Portuguese, Spanish, Puerto Ricans, Koreans and Filipinos lured from their distant homes by the promise of an American standard of living.

An NLRB representative in 1937 found some workers putting in as many as 90 hours per week, with wages as low as nine cents an hour. The average wage was somewhat better, but the base pay for plantation workers was still \$1 per day.

Can the worker in Hawaii subsist on such an income? *Fortune* magazine finds "food costs in Honolulu 25 per cent above the mainland, electricity nearly 10 per cent, and gas 15 per cent." There are scandalously high rates of deficiency diseases among the island residents.

In the city of Honolulu, the workers live in appalling slums, which bring outrageously high rents and are little more than overcrowded firetraps. The Housing Authority administrator called Honolulu's tenement areas "the worst in America."

On the plantations, the "paternalistic" owners provide shacks for the workers to live in. Most of the workers cannot afford beds, and sleep on the floors.

Why don't the workers organize to do away with such intolerable exploitation? Desperate attempts have been made to do just that. To counter-act these attempts, and terrorize labor into abandoning its efforts at organization a Gestapo-like industrial espionage system has been established by the Big Five [agribusiness giants].



## A victory against cop brutality

The victory won by Mark Curtis in his lawsuit against the Des Moines police department provides a new weapon for stepping up the fight against cop brutality in Des Moines and throughout the country.

It is no accident that this favorable ruling comes in the context of deep outrage and ongoing protests against the beating of Larry Milton by the Des Moines cops last December 28. The explosion of anger generated by Milton's beating placed great pressure on the judge to rule in favor of Curtis.

Des Moines police chief William Moulder complained that, given the scandal of Larry Milton's bashing, the timing of the judge's ruling on Curtis was "quite unfortunate." But an event like the murderous cop attack on Milton was not accidental. Cops accustomed to the daily brutalization of working people don't even know when they've gone "too far" in what they do. Sooner or later it was inevitable the Des Moines cops would go over the edge, as they have done more than once in the past.

Moulder noted that the case of Curtis and Milton were similar, in that both suffered head injuries at the cops' hands. The *Des Moines Register* reported Moulder's view that head injuries are "distasteful," and because of this, "police need to find alternatives." He wants to carry on the same policies of violence and terror against working people, without it showing up in the newspapers and on TV.

The beatings of both Larry Milton and Mark Curtis reflected the racism of the cops. "You're a Mexican-lover, just like you love those coloreds," is what the cops told Curtis as they beat him. "Shut up nigger," they yelled at Milton as they proceeded to split his head open.

The campaigns for justice for Curtis and Milton are providing an inspiring example that it is possible to stand

up to cop brutality, fight back, and win victories.

The continuing protests by working people in Des Moines have had a powerful impact. They have raised the demand for an independent investigation of the cops, forcing the Des Moines City Council to begrudgingly decide to hold public hearings on police brutality.

The interconnection between Milton and Curtis's fights for justice was best captured in a solidarity message sent by Mark Curtis and 24 other inmates at the state prison at Ft. Madison, Iowa, to Larry Milton. They wrote: "Because of all the past times when officers have beat, shot, killed, and harassed people, when you stand up and tell the truth and fight, you're fighting for all those who never got any justice. You're fighting for all of us."

This court victory won by Mark Curtis over the cops will greatly strengthen his fight for justice. He was convicted on the testimony of cops from the same police department that brutalized Larry Milton and has now been shown in court to have been guilty of a bloody assault on another defenseless and handcuffed victim. More people will be ready to examine more closely the frame-up of Mark Curtis.

Now is the time for all supporters of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee to redouble their efforts to win new support for the case. This should include signing up new endorsers, distributing defense committee literature, setting up speaking engagements for defense committee representatives, and organizing showings of the videos *On Trial* and *The Frame-up of Mark Curtis*.

Attend the February 8 Curtis victory rally in Des Moines. Keep the pressure on through continuing to organize more rallies and protest meetings to demand: Justice for Larry Milton! Arrest and prosecute the cops who beat him! Justice for Mark Curtis!

## No repatriation of Haitians!

The forced repatriation by Washington of thousands of Haitian refugees is an outrageous act that must be condemned by all supporters of democratic rights worldwide.

Since the military rulers seized power in a September 30 coup that toppled the elected government of Jean-Bertrand Aristide, a reign of terror has been instituted against the toiling masses of Haiti. Thousands have risked their lives in overcrowded boats to flee political persecution and repression in their country.

"They're killing people in Haiti, but still you send us back," exclaimed one of the Haitian refugees held at the U.S. naval base at Guantánamo Bay. His view expresses the sentiment of thousands of Haitian refugees, many of whom have been held for weeks against their will on this U.S. base.

The thousands of Haitians who left the shores of their homeland are seeking the right to enter the United States. Their demand for asylum should be supported by all those who stand for justice and human rights.

Washington has gone to great lengths to keep Haitian refugees out of the United States. They've interdicted thousands of fleeing Haitians, taking them into custody against their will from boats located in international waters.

The Bush administration has argued that the vast majority of Haitians should be denied the right to asylum, claiming they're simply economic refugees fleeing poverty rather

than genuine victims of political persecution. This argument is false to the core. The Haitian toilers are fleeing both the political repression of military rule and the horrendous living conditions that are the result of decades of imperialist exploitation and oppression.

When the Haitian military attacks a public political meeting hosted by René Théodore, Washington complains about political violence gripping that country. Yet within the same week the White House is organizing the forced return of thousands of Haitian refugees to these very same military rulers who forced them to flee in the first place.

The labor movement and all fighters for social justice should respond to Washington's forced repatriations with rallies and protests.

On February 7, the one-year anniversary of the inauguration of Jean-Bertrand Aristide as president of Haiti, important protest actions will be occurring in New York City and Miami.

The New York marchers raise four important demands: the unconditional return of President Aristide; reinforce the embargo; political asylum for all Haitian refugees; and no military intervention in Haiti.

The *Militant* urges its readers to join these actions and others that will be occurring in cities throughout the world.

**Halt the forced repatriations!**  
**Open U.S. borders to the Haitian refugees!**

## Court flouts democratic rights

The recent Supreme Court decision that limits the scope of the Voting Rights Act is a serious encroachment on democratic rights. The Court essentially ruled that while it is still illegal to deny a person the right to vote on grounds of race, it is legitimate to nullify the results of such a vote by stripping authority from an elected office when Blacks happen to be voted in to it.

A second ruling, authored by Clarence Thomas, which limits access of union organizers to workers on company property, is another blow to democratic rights. It was adopted the same day as the decision on voting rights.

The 1965 Voting Rights Act was a central conquest of the momentous civil rights movement, that overturned the Jim Crow system of legal segregation in the South.

Under the momentum coming from the victory of the civil rights movement the Justice Department adopted regulations in 1970 implementing the provisions of the 1965 law that required federal approval prior to any changes in the power of elective offices. The Supreme Court ruled that this requirement does not apply in the case of two newly-elected Black county commissioners who found the budgetary authority historically associated with these offices removed when they won the elections.

While the Court ruling leaves intact the formal provisions of the Voting Rights Act it signifies a chipping away of the basic democratic right to vote. Its anti-working-class char-

acter is underlined by the divisions within the ruling class on how far to go with this attack. The Justice Department sided with the plaintiffs against the reactionary Kennedy-Thomas majority on the Court.

The ruling comes in the absence of any fight to defend other rights won through the civil rights movement, such as affirmative action, which is under serious attack by the government and the employers.

Racist discrimination is institutionalized in capitalist society. Affirmative action measures are essential to combat inequalities. Left to their own devices, the capitalists will never enforce measures to ensure equality on the job market and in the workplace.

In the same way, legal measures have been necessary to root out the system of legal segregation that denied Blacks the right to vote.

Faced with increased government-employer attacks, the labor movement must defend rights that affect the most oppressed sections of the working class. By championing such measures the labor movement would increase the unity and political strength of working people.

Labor has a big stake in taking a clear stance and organizing a fight in opposition to the ruling that limits voting rights, just as it has a stake in opposing the latest Supreme Court restrictions on union organizers.

## The Jim Crow system of segregation

An article on page one and an editorial on this page describe a Supreme Court ruling that has narrowed the scope of the Voting Rights Act. The Court decision validates the action of county governments in Alabama denying powers to two newly elected Black officials, by the simple means of shifting to other individuals the powers of the offices to which they were elected.

The excerpt below explains the centrality of the Voting Rights Act to the fight against Jim Crow segregation. It is taken from "The Coming Revolution in South Africa," by Jack Barnes. The article appears in the Marxist magazine *New Internationalist* No. 5.

The excerpt focuses on the parallel between the Jim Crow system of legal segregation that existed in the south of the United States until the 1960s and apartheid in South Africa.

It is reprinted by permission of *New Internationalist*.

\* \* \*

### Parallels to Jim Crow system

The Jim Crow system in the U.S. South offers a useful analogy to apartheid. The Jim Crow parallel is particularly useful for us in the United States, since it relates the struggle in South Africa to the historic battle that working people here lived through, fought, and won.

The Jim Crow system at its fullest development was the attempt in the states of the old Confederacy to institutionalize, codify in law, and make permanent the expropriation and oppression of Black people — the freed slaves and their descendants — by separating them from all economic, social, and political activity engaged in by white people. It was, by its very nature, intended to be all-encompassing. Its purpose was to make it as difficult as possible for Blacks to become free farmers, and to make it impossible for them ever to compete on an equal basis with white workers in selling their labor power to the capitalists.

Jim Crow segregation was imposed and perpetuated through force and violence organized both by the state and by extralegal means, such as the Ku Klux Klan terror units. From the smashing of Radical Reconstruction in the late 1870s to the victory of the civil rights movement almost a century afterwards, it was hard to find a sheriff in the U.S. South who was not also an organizer of the local Klan. The state-authorized force and violence and the extralegal force and violence went hand-in-hand.

Denial of citizenship rights — centered around denial of the right to vote — was essential to the maintenance of this legally sanctioned tyranny over Black workers and farmers. This, too, was enforced by a combination of legal institutions (such as poll taxes, literacy tests, and segregated jury lists) and night-riding terror against those who tried to break through these barriers. That is why the battlecry of "One man, one vote!" became so central to the civil rights struggle — a slogan that is echoing back today from the cities, townships, and countryside of South Africa.

The civil rights movement used to stress the parallels between Jim Crow and apartheid, between Selma, Alabama, and Johannesburg, South Africa. This reflected a reality. South Africa was not really so far away.

The logic of the Jim Crow system was not to return to chattel slave labor. No, the logic of Jim Crow, fully developed, was apartheid: the subjugation of Blacks as an estate, with no right to own land, and no right to compete on an equal basis with white workers in the sale of their labor power. (Lenin stressed the "startling similarity" between the conditions of Blacks in the South at the beginning of this century and those of the peasant estate in tsarist Russia. Black sharecroppers, he noted, were "exploited by former slave-owners in feudal or semi-feudal fashion.")

The parallels between the South African struggle and what workers and farmers in this country fought for, conquered, and today jealously guard help to explain the depth of the identification of many U.S. working people with the current battles in South Africa.

Nonetheless, the apartheid system goes beyond what the architects of Jim Crow in the South were able to implement. Unlike apartheid, Jim Crow segregation did not become completely intertwined with the entire state structure in the United States. It was the product of the bloody defeat of Radical Reconstruction in the states of the old slavocracy. As a result, the Jim Crow system could be smashed by mighty civil rights battles in the 1950s and 1960s without challenging the state structure of U.S. imperialism itself. This is where the analogy between apartheid and Jim Crow reaches its limit.



# Union solidarity aids Ohio OCAW strikers

This column is devoted to reporting the resistance by working people to the employers' assault on their living standards, working conditions, and unions.

Working people around the world are involved in skirmishes over speedup, forced overtime, layoffs, and attacks on health and

pany threats to bring in scabs. Ads for replacement workers appeared in the papers and strikers received letters from the company demanding they return to work or lose their jobs.

Strikers were aided by the solidarity of rank-and-file unionists in the area. Cook pointed out that

from the Philippines and two-thirds are women from Third World countries. They have to live in their employer's home and are subjected to long hours of work without overtime pay.

"It's difficult to avoid long working hours if you don't go to work but you wake up to it," said Lorina Serafico, a 28-year-old domestic worker from the Philippines who has lived in Canada two years.

Many of these workers come to Canada hoping they will eventually get their landed immigration status. Changes in the law mean that domestic workers will now be brought here as temporary workers rather than potential immigrants.

Jan O'Brien from the British Columbia Federation of Labor called the new policy "racist and hypocritical." She said the labor movement would fight it.

## Workers at Yale demand decent contract

Two thousand members of Locals 34 and 35 of the Federation of University Employees (FEU) at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, staged a three-hour walkout January 20, demanding that the university agree to a fair contract. The workers held a noon rally and a roving picket line that ended with a brief service in remembrance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. They were joined by hundreds of Yale graduate students belonging to the Graduate Employees and Students Organization (GESO), which is fighting for its first contract with the university.

The current FEU contract expired January 18. During two months of negotiations, the university has demanded major concessions in health-care costs, job security, and subcontracting. So far Yale has refused to negotiate seriously on these issues and has not offered any proposal on wages.

David Clemons, a Yale physical plant worker for 23 years, explained that Yale is using the weak U.S. economy as a "smokescreen" to "pull back everything we

fought to get."

Yale's demands for union takebacks come at a time when the administration, citing economic tough times, has announced major across-the-board cuts in faculty staff.

The January 20 walkout is the latest in a series of job actions held since the autumn. More than 2,000 members and supporters of Locals 34 and 35 and GESO took part in a one-day work stoppage December 4. Prior to this event Yale had threatened many workers with two-day suspensions if they joined the action. They also indicated that 85 workers would be fired if they took part. In the wake of the successful walkout Yale officials backed off on their threat to fire workers and have yet to institute the second day of suspensions against all workers involved.

On January 23, in the face of continuing administration refusal to bargain seriously, members of Local 34 voted 995-233 and Local 35 voted 592-63 to authorize a strike after February 12.

## Nurses' strike solid in Geneva, Ohio

The 36 registered nurses at Memorial Hospital of Geneva, Ohio, have been on the picketline since December 18.

The nurses, members of the Geneva Nurses Association, voted twice unanimously to reject a management proposal for no wage increase. On December 9, the nurses began the last year of a three-year contract that included raises for the first two years. The agreement allowed salaries to be negotiated for the third year.

"We are on the line and we're staying here until the hospital bargains in good faith and comes up with an offer the membership can accept," said union president Shelley Meade.

"Our current wage rates are 8 to 10 percent behind Ashtabula Hospital nurses and 10 to 12 percent behind what they make in Lake County," said Meade. Ashtabula and

Lake are neighboring communities. Geneva is about 40 miles from Cleveland.

Meade said the hospital claims there is no money for raises, yet funds are available for construction of a new cafeteria and new parking garage for the ambulance service.

Strikers on the picket line report residents of the city of 7,000 have been very supportive of the strikers. Geriatric patients stop by regularly with coffee and donuts, and a member of the Steelworkers' union makes regular donations of wood to fuel the fires they need to stay warm.

Strikers say they block trucks entering the hospital. "We ask them if they are union and if they are we tell them we'd appreciate them not crossing our line," explained one striker.

The hospital is currently operating only 15 to 20 of the 46 beds in the facility and has to shut down its intensive care unit.

"The '80s were the years for the corporations taking back. The unions are going to come back in the '90s. I believe we are going to see a resurgence in unionism," said Meade.

For more information on how to support the strike, contact Shelley Meade, 219 Parkway, Madison, OH 44057.

The following people contributed to this week's column: Michael Italie, member of United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 14919, and Dan Dukes in Cleveland; Marie-Claire David, member of the Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 2950, and Lynda Little, member of International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union Local 287 in Vancouver, British Columbia; Helen Keegan, member of Local 34 of the Federation of University Employees, and Carl Weinberg, member of the Graduate Employees and Students Organization at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut; and Don Mackle, member of USWA Local 1170 in Cleveland.

## ON THE PICKET LINE

safety benefits. Some unionists faced with sharp takeback demands, lockouts, and union-busting moves by the employers have gone on strike to force the bosses to back down.

We invite you to contribute short items to this column as a way for other fighting workers around the world to read about and learn from these important struggles. Jot down a few lines to let other *Militant* readers know what is happening at your workplace or in your union. If there is an interesting political discussion going on at work, we would like to hear about that too.

"We were a little bit stronger than even I thought. There was too much unity for the company to disrupt the union." That's how local president Terry Cook summed up a two-week strike by the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW).

OCAW members struck against Lakewood Manufacturing near Cleveland from January 1-15. The 74 members of Local 7-816 rejected company demands that union members sharply increase their monthly health insurance payments to as much as \$90 while receiving a miserly wage increase of 10 cents per hour.

The company is pleading poverty as a result of the recession and a drop in military orders. Lakewood Manufacturing produces military equipment such as tank parts for General Dynamics and other industry giants.

Only one union member crossed the picket line in the face of com-

Teamsters and even some nonunion truckers refused to drive their rigs past the picket lines.

Thousands of auto and steel union members in northeastern Ohio are unemployed. But when some came to the plant to put in an application they saw there was a picket line and refused to cross it, telling the strikers that they were union too.

After two weeks, the local voted 47-12 to accept a three-year contract that put a cap on monthly insurance payments of \$30 in the first year, \$60 in the second, and \$90 in the third. The agreement also raised annual wage increases to 20 cents and increased the company share of drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs from 50 to 80 percent.

## Immigrant workers protest in Canada

More than 150 domestic workers and supporters participated in a rally in Vancouver January 12 to protest changes in the Canadian government's treatment of immigrant domestic workers. This was the second protest organized by the West Coast Domestic Workers Association since a change to the Foreign Domestic Workers Program was announced December 21. This new policy takes away the right of domestic workers to apply for landed-immigrant status after two years in Canada, a right they had won in 1981.

There are approximately 5,000 foreign domestic workers on immigration work permits in British Columbia today. More than half are

## LETTERS

### Northern Ireland

An item in World News Briefs in the January 31 issue referred to the second largest city in British-occupied Northern Ireland as "Londonderry."

While the British government and their loyalist supporters use that name, the city council of this majority Irish nationalist city voted several years ago to change the name to Derry.

Even before the official change, the *Militant* had always referred to the city as Derry, because it is the name generally in use among the Irish people, a majority of whom oppose British rule and support the reunification of their country.

Marc Lichtman  
New York, New York

### Mural artist dies

*Militant* readers and friends of the Pathfinder mural will want to know that Eva Hamlin Miller died on December 26. In the fall of 1989 Miller traveled from Greensboro, North Carolina, to New York City to paint the portrait of John Brown on the Pathfinder mural.

Miller learned about Pathfinder when South African artist Dumile Feni toured this area to publicize and raise funds for the mural. Inspired by slides showing the mural in progress and by Dumile's description of the project, she volunteered her skills. She chose Brown as a historic figure she'd always admired.

Excited by her experiences working on the mural, when Miller re-

turned to Greensboro, she spoke at a fund-raising event for it. She'd been inspired in particular by the camaraderie of the artists and other volunteers from all around the world. Although heights in general made her nervous, she'd explained at the meeting, Miller, in her 70s, climbed the scaffolding to work on the portrait. Well known in the Black community here, Miller was interviewed on her return by the local Black newspaper the *Carolina Peacemaker*, which did a feature article describing her work on the mural.

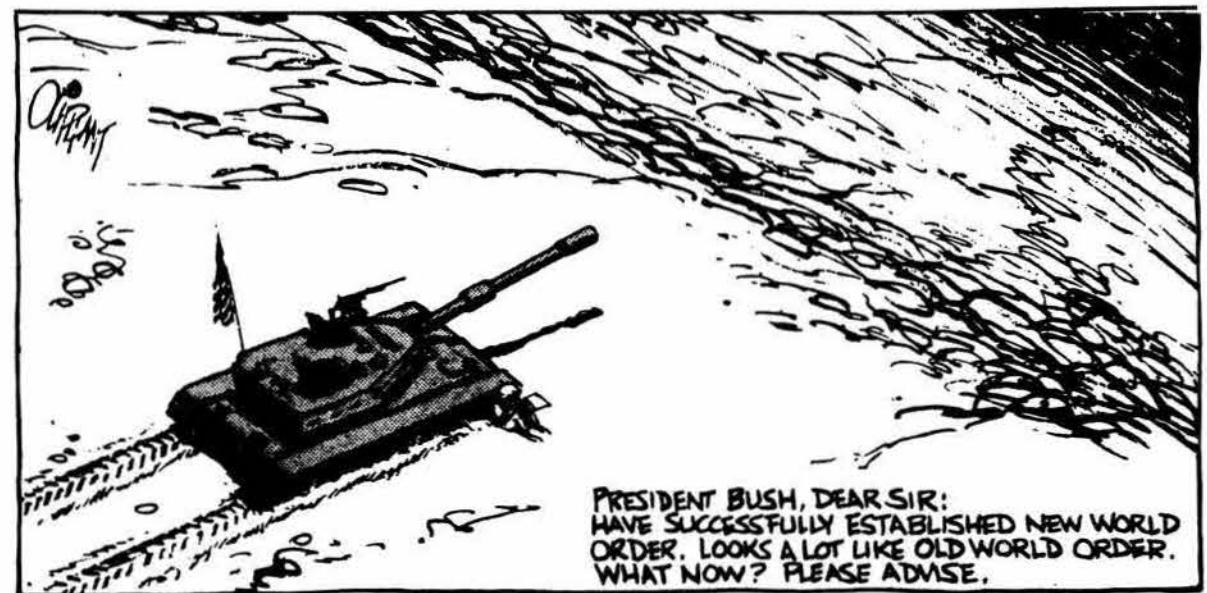
Miller's artistic career had spanned over 65 years. She had chaired the art department at Tuskegee University before moving to North Carolina, where she chaired the art departments at Winston-Salem State and Bennett College, a Black women's school. She was the first Black art supervisor for the Greensboro public school system and had been art curator at A & T, where she was instrumental in exhibiting the works of Black artists from across the country.

Jane Roland  
Greensboro, North Carolina

### Yugoslav strife

You are very right when you said in an editorial recently published in the *Militant* that sanctions on Yugoslavia are not in the workers' interests and that the U.S. government and European Community should remove economic sanctions.

I am asking you to continue to write on the civil war in Yugoslavia and continue to criticize the leaders



of Croatia-Slovenia and Serbia and Yugoslavia who are responsible for letting civil strife and killing between Serb-Croatians and Slovenians, which is very wrong.

I urge Serbs and Croats and all other nationalities in Yugoslavia to lay down your weapons. Stop fighting, shake hands, and forgive each others' past sins. And I'm urging them to live in peace and brotherhood and stay united in one country called Yugoslavia.

Louie Vukman  
San Gabriel, California

### 'Old thinking'

As workers in South Africa and elsewhere are thirsting for revolutionary ideas, so are we in the Philippines. Writers in *Conjuncture*, which professes a "popular democratic" line, are quick to criticize old

thinking. But I think that it is the lack of old thinking i.e. an understanding of the works of Marx, Engels, Lenin, Trotsky, Luxemburg, and Liebknecht, the application of the lessons of Red October, the experience of the Bolsheviks, the decisions of the first four Comintern Congresses and the Fourth International, that has dragged the struggle worldwide to the precipice.

Now is the best moment for revolutionary communists to reclaim the Bolshevik legacy, forge an international proletarian organization, and prepare for the road ahead. Yes... victory is possible, if we dare.

Dennis Liuaug  
The Philippines

### Some suggestions

Keep up the good and necessary

work! Suggestion: more news on the "Soviet Union" and eastern Europe, especially struggles by workers and oppressed nationalities. Also, debates regarding the viability of socialism among revolutionary organizations around the world, e.g. Central America, PLO, South Africa, etc. Finally, more detailed analysis on issues like housing, health care, education.

A.K.  
Holyoke, Massachusetts

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.



## New Zealand communists announce candidates for upcoming elections

BY MONICA EVANS

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — The Communist League has announced it will field candidates in two elections soon to be held here.

Ruth Gray, a member of the Engineers Union and the national secretary of the Young Socialists, will contest a vacancy for the Auckland Regional Council. Textile worker James Robb is standing for the parliamentary seat of Tamaki.

This election resulted when Robert Muldoon, a member of parliament and former National Party prime minister, resigned his seat in protest at the National government's economic policies.

At a recent Militant Labour Forum here both candidates spoke on the program the Communist League is advancing.

Robb said that the roots of the crisis in the New Zealand capitalist economy "lie in the declining rate of profit in the world capitalist

system, which has greatly sharpened competition between the ruling capitalist families, their corporations, and the governments that serve them. The aim of New Zealand's capitalist rulers," he said, "is to improve the competitiveness of New Zealand capitalism against its rivals in Australia, the United States, and Japan."

"They only have one way of doing this," said Robb. "And that is by transferring more of the wealth of society — the wealth produced by working people in the factories and on the land — from our pockets into theirs."

"Unemployment in New Zealand now stands at more than 14 percent," Gray explained. "But that figure does not reflect the unequal impact of the recession on the working class. Maori unemployment has reached 35 percent and that of Pacific Island immigrants is nearly 40 percent. The majority of young people of these nationalities are without jobs.

"Working farmers are also being hit. Over half of all sheep and beef farmers now pay more than a third of their gross incomes in interest payments to the banks," she said.

Over the last few years there have been big cuts in the social wage. In February the government is introducing substantial fees for hospital care, a service that for many decades has been free of charge. Cuts to the health services are a major issue in the Tamaki election.

"These hospital fees show the utter callousness with which the ruling class approaches its task," Robb said. "Thousands of people will die or suffer unnecessarily because they cannot afford the medical treatment they need. These attacks on the social wage strike most viciously at the poorest layers of working people."

A campaign leaflet demands a fully state funded and free health and education system and for all social welfare benefits to be raised.

It calls on labor unions to fight to raise the minimum wage and for "full and equal civil, legal, and political rights for immigrant workers regardless of their legal status." It also calls for a moratorium on foreclosures of indebted farmers.

During the campaign, supporters will take the opportunity to explain the importance of the revolutionary struggle against apartheid. "The fighting people of South Africa," Gray told the forum, "show that working people don't have to be passive victims of capitalism and its evils, but can rise up against their exploitation and oppression, and change the course of history."

Earlier in the day a team of campaign supporters canvassed in a working class shopping center in Tamaki. Many of those approached took the leaflet and stopped to talk. Seven of those bought copies of the *Militant* and one decided to get an introductory subscription.

## British police in full riot gear attack mourners

BY ANN FIANDER

MANCHESTER, England — Police in full riot gear attacked 80 mourners at a wake January 16 in Salford precinct. The wake was for Ian Spiers, 21, who killed himself after shooting his girlfriend.

The police riot started when Bernard Carmichael, an officer on the greater Manchester police force, quizzed two mourners outside the Brass Tally Pub where the wake was taking place. He then called his headquarters for help to clear the mourners out of the public house. Then according to the *Sun* newspaper, "More than 100 police in black body armour with full-length shields arrived

on the scene with 15 armoured vans, along with six teams of dog handlers." A mourner was dragged along the ground, tearing the buttons off his shirt; another was pulled out of his car.

One eyewitness explained, "We heard the police arriving and went to see what was going on. When we turned the corner we were shocked. I've never seen so many police in my life. My little boy was scared. He kept saying, 'monsters, monsters,' when he saw them in all their gear. There was no need for it. They said there were firearms in the pub but they didn't find anything."

The police that attacked the residents of

Broadwater Farm in Tottenham, London, wore a prototype of the monster-like riot gear in 1983. It was altered for an attack on workers at the Orgreave power station in 1985 during the miners strike. At the Salford precinct a further updated version was seen.

Spiers mother, Mary, blasted the police riot. "The whole family is furious and were completely stunned at the way the police behaved," she said. "I could understand their actions if there was any trouble but throughout everyone acted peacefully and showed respect. But the police seemed intent on causing trouble and that's exactly what they did. I just didn't understand why they were in riot gear."

Andrew Buchanan, Communist League candidate for Manchester Central, and a team of *Militant* sales people visited the Salford shopping precinct and knocked on doors in the area to discuss the police riot with local

people. They also set up a book stall. Some people supported the police action while others were hotly opposed.

"I know all about police riots. I come from Belfast," said one resident. "The police know who the drug dealers and criminals are. That's not the people they attack. They go for you if you're Irish; they go for you if you're Black."

One young woman approached the book-stall saying she had thought about becoming a policewoman herself but then decided the cops did not help workers. Buchanan showed her the *Militant*. "This paper fights against police brutality and gives workers like us across the world a platform to explain how we are organizing against it," he explained. "I must have that paper," she said.

Ann Fiander is a member of the Amalgamated Engineering Union.

## Los Angeles deputies fired for killing unarmed man

BY HARRY RING

LOS ANGELES — Two Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies have been fired for killing a mentally disturbed man. They had pumped eight bullets into his back, including several as he lay face down on the ground.

Earlier, a grand jury refused to indict the two deputies and the deputies involved in three other killings. The four victims — two Blacks and two Latinos — were all killed during one month last summer.

The killers of Keith Hamilton had responded to a call from his mother for assistance in calming him down after he failed to take necessary medication.

Hamilton was felled by a stun gun and then executed. Neighbors who witnessed the killing flatly contradicted the cops' claim that Hamilton had threatened them with a knife.

The first of the four killings occurred August 3, 1991, when deputies began beating a youth at a lawn birthday party in the Ramona Gardens housing project. When Arturo Jiménez interceded he was gunned down.

David Angel Ortiz, 15, was fatally shot in the back when he attempted to flee deputies who rammed a car he was in.

And Steven Clemons was shot at a Labor Day park picnic. With numerous witnesses contradicting them deputies claimed Clemons had brandished a gun.

Except for the firing of the deputies who killed Hamilton, no penalties have been imposed in these cases. The two cops are appealing their dismissal notices.

Meanwhile, the trial of four Los Angeles city cops who were filmed beating Rodney King is getting under way. The trial is being held in Ventura County, just north of Los

Angeles. Defense attorneys had been granted a motion to move the trial out of Los Angeles. It was argued that wide publicity about the beating precluded a fair trial in the city.

Screening of prospective jurors was slated to begin February 5, with the opening of the trial itself scheduled for March 4.

A graphic, previously unreported account by King on his nightmarish experience, which he provided investigators last July, was reported in the January 16 *Los Angeles Times*.

King said one of the cops who beat him most savagely had "death in his eyes."

When he was ordered to the ground, King said, "They walked over to me and I felt a blow to my head. He walked over to me and, boom, he kicked me in the head. . . . And then I heard, 'We're going to kill you, nigger!'"

A new, more detailed account of the results of the beating has been provided by King's lawyer. King suffered nearly a dozen bone fractures in his head and around his eyes. Teeth were knocked out and his leg broken. He required a series of operations, including surgery to remove gravel imbedded in his face when the cops dragged him along the ground to a squad car.

In the wake of the King beating, Police Chief Daryl Gates had responded to widespread community demands for his resignation by declaring he would retire in April. On January 21, a member of the Los Angeles Police Commission said the chief now plans to postpone his retirement to June. Meanwhile the city is reviewing applications that have been made for his job.

In a recent TV appearance, Gates indicated he might consider running for mayor.



Police outside pub where wake for Ian Spiers was taking place

### Regional Socialist Educational Conferences The Opening Stage of World Depression

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(See page 12 for details)