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INSIDE

Worldwide crisis
facing farmers

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Open U.S. borders to Haitian refugees

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Washington continues to forcibly repatriate thousands of Haitians despite new revelations of the persecution these refugees face upon their return.

On February 11, the U.S. Supreme Court once again refused to block the forced return of the refugees. The high court January 31 lifted a lower court injunction that barred their repatriation after the Bush administration filed an emergency appeal claiming that an additional 20,000 Haitians were about to flee by boat for the United States. This assertion was contradicted by social service groups, diplomats, and even the top U.S. Coast Guard official in Haiti.

In the first half of February, Washington returned 3,403 Haitians. Since the end of October, Coast Guard cutters have intercepted in international waters more than



See editorial on page 14

15,000 Haitians fleeing political repression in their homeland and seeking asylum in the United States.

In its argument before the Supreme Court, the Bush administration claimed that legal challenges to the forced return of Haitians amounts to an "unprecedented assault" on the prerogatives of the executive branch of government to conduct foreign policy.

Acknowledging that conditions in Haiti are "deplorable," State Department spokesperson Richard Boucher reiterated the administration's position that no cases have been documented that prove that any individual sent back to Haiti has suffered persecution.

This stance is in total contradiction to the experiences of refugees known as "double-backers" who were forcibly returned to Haiti only to flee the island a second time. The story of these "double-backers," who are among the thousands of refugees currently being held at the U.S. Naval base at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, is turning out to be a

political embarrassment for the White House.

A top U.S. government official acknowledged February 7 that some of these refugees whose claims for political asylum had been previously rejected will now be permitted to enter the United States.

Reign of terror

Statements collected by United Nations officials from more than 40 "double-backers," detail how these refugees were beaten, jailed, or otherwise intimidated upon their return to Haiti. They spoke of a "reign of terror" against supporters of Haiti's deposed president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who was overthrown September 30 in a military coup.

One 21-year-old refugee, Similus Thomas, told the *New York Times* how his father — a supporter of Aristide — and his cousin were shot dead by the military. After fleeing the island and then being forcibly repatriated to Haiti, Thomas was jailed, beaten daily, and told by a guard that several returnees had been killed for leaving Haiti.

"We have no evidence that there is that

kind of brutality," said White House spokesperson Marlin Fitzwater, who claims that the State Department has been unable to substantiate any of these stories.

A spokesperson for the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), Duke Austin, has raised questions about the reliability of most of the refugees' stories. "If you took everything in their interviews that was said as a fact, then every Haitian would be waved in," he stated.

Haitian-born photojournalist Ludger Balan, who spent eight weeks in Haiti at the end of 1991, vividly documented both the desperation and determination of Haitian refugees forced to flee their country.

"If I leave," said a young woman, "I have two chances: one is to die as a free person on the high seas, the other is to get to Miami. . . . Here I have no chances. Life here is impossible. Living here in fear and hunger is worse than taking a chance at freedom and starting a new life. . . . Let them kill me rather than send me back."

Another refugee who was arrested and badly beaten by the military told Balan, "Here in Haiti they offer us two things: beatings with a macoute stick or kerosene gas to burn our homes. Aristide was our last hope. There is no more hope in Haiti."

According to *Haiti Insight*, a publication of the National Coalition for Haitian Refugees, INS sources said in early January that 70 percent of new arrivals at Guantánamo had good claims for asylum. However, there is pressure from Washington to keep the numbers down.

Three-month parole status

Some 3,400 Haitians, out of the more than 15,000 intercepted, have been allowed to enter the United States to pursue their claims for asylum. As of early February, 1,402 of these Haitians had arrived in the United States after being granted three-month parole status. During this time they will be subjected to additional questioning, interviews, and paperwork out of which they hope to win the right to political asylum.

From exile in Venezuela, deposed Haitian president Jean-Bertrand Aristide blasted Washington's decision to forcibly repatriate the refugees and ease the economic embargo. On February 4, the Bush administration announced plans to lift the embargo on U.S.-owned assembly plants in Haiti.

Aristide said that weakening economic sanctions would increase repression on the

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Hundreds oppose cop brutality in Iowa

BY JOHN STUDER

DES MOINES, Iowa — A thousand people attended a series of hearings on police brutality organized by the Des Moines City Council February 11-14.

The hearings were scheduled under the pressure of hundreds of protesters who have crammed city council meetings since the brutal police beating of Larry Milton, a 35-year-old Black worker, on December 28.

Some 350 people crowded into the auditorium at Moulton School, located in the city's Black community. Hundreds had come to speak out against police brutality and to testify about their own treatment at the hands of the police.

Dozens of cops, their relatives, and supporters also attended to try to oppose any condemnation of the cops who beat Milton and to denounce calls for public review of police actions.

The Council had announced that no personal testimony against individual police would be allowed. City manager Cy Camey and Mayor John Dorian had claimed that city attorneys advised them to bar such speakers or the city would face legal problems. When questioned by the press, the city attorneys said they had never actually given such advice.

During the three-hour meeting a number of activists led by Dudley Allison, chair of the Direct Action Committee of the Community Support Force, walked back and forth around the auditorium carrying signs protesting police brutality.

The council members felt enough pressure from the crowd that Mayor Dorian announced that people would be allowed to give personal testimony.

While the majority of people were at the hearing to protest police misconduct, the cops and their supporters had managed to get their names onto the speakers' list first.

The first speaker was a nurse who testified that she was the sister of a cop and had another sister who was a police cadet. She was proud of them, she said and — comparing them with nurses — argued that they should be left alone to provide "emergency service."

David Murillo, chief steward of the cop
Continued on Page 5

Auto workers expand strike as Caterpillar ends lockout

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

As Caterpillar ended its lockout of 5,650 workers in two plants in Aurora and East Peoria, Illinois, February 16, signs on the picket lines changed from "Locked Out" to "On Strike."

"The strike was long overdue," said Richard Lingenfelter, a United Auto Worker (UAW) member at Caterpillar in East Peoria. "We can't go back to work with the contract they offered." Expressing the sentiments of many on the picket line, he added, "Personally, I think it should have been an all-out strike all along."

Caterpillar locked out workers in the two plants November 7 in retaliation for a selective strike by 2,400 UAW members that began November 4. Half the work force of 16,000 at the agricultural implements giant is now on strike.

Caterpillar announced its decision to end the lockout at the beginning of February, fearing it would lose business as inventories began to shrink. Company spokespeople said they were "extremely disappointed" in the

UAW's decision to strike.

Contract talks are scheduled to resume February 19. The UAW has called a national solidarity rally in support of the Caterpillar workers March 22 in Peoria, Illinois.

Meanwhile, a one-week strike by 3,000 Caterpillar workers in Gosselies, Belgium, ended February 17 in a victory for the workers. The company had demanded concessions and threatened long-term layoffs.

After sustained rallies by the striking members of the metalworkers union, and a threatened solidarity strike by metalworkers at Cockerill Sambre — the biggest steel manufacturer in Belgium — Caterpillar backed down. The agreement, to be ratified this week, includes cutting the workweek to four days with partial compensation for the fifth.

Workers on the picket lines in Gosselies said the strike in the United States was a big factor in their victory.

Steve Craine, a member of the UAW from Detroit; and Ludo De Witte, a member of the metalworkers union from Brussels, Belgium, contributed to this article.

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(See page 12 for details)

Ravenswood Steelworkers locked in bitter fight — page 13

'Build April 5 March for Women's Lives'

The following statement in support of the April 5 March for Women's Lives in Washington, D.C., was issued by the Young Socialist Alliance. The march has been called by the National Organization for Women.

Nineteen years ago, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in the *Roe v. Wade* decision that women have the constitutional right to abortion. This was a historic advance for all women, because forcing women to bear children against their will or face a back-alley abortion is a brutal denial of women's humanity and dignity.

Bearing a child affects all the other aspects and decisions of a woman's life: her ability to get an education, get a better job, or any job. Of course legalized abortion cannot solve all the problems facing women, but the right to choose is the most fundamental step toward women being able to achieve full equality.

Since the 1973 decision, this right has been

under continued attack. The Hyde Amendment passed by Congress in 1976 was the most serious blow — cutting off Medicaid funding for abortions except in cases of rape, incest, or when a woman's life is in danger. By May of 1981, Congress cut off funds even in case of rape or incest. State after state has restricted access to abortion, primarily for young women. Just recently, Nebraska joined the growing number of states with parental consent laws. This past year, we witnessed the enforcement of the "gag" law, which denies federal funding to clinics that provide information on abortion.

The government's offensive has led to increasing attacks on abortion clinics by emboldening right-wing forces. Last summer Operation Rescue mobilized thousands to shut down clinics in Wichita, Kansas.

The lack of an organized counter-mobilization there resulted in a seven-week siege of the city. Operation Rescue has stepped up its activities across the country since Wichita

but has lost some of the wind from its sails because of organized mobilizations of thousands in Cincinnati, Boston, and Washington that thwarted its efforts to close down abortion clinics.

On January 21 the U.S. Supreme Court announced that it would rule on a Pennsylvania law that severely restricts abortion rights. The decision to review the Pennsylvania law highlights the need for a national mobilization to defend abortion rights. The case poses the possibility of gutting or overturning *Roe v. Wade*, which would open a new stage in the struggle to defend a woman's right to choose abortion. But whatever the decision, it will not automatically force us back to conditions we faced before 1973.

The majority of people in this country — women and men — support a woman's right to choose abortion, which shows the potential to build a broad-based movement of women, youth, unionists, and others to counter attacks from the government and right-wing forces. The January 22 protest of 1,500 abortion rights supporters that turned out in Washington, D.C., to demonstrate against the annual anti-choice "March for Life" is an example of this potential.

The Young Socialist Alliance urges every young person, worker and fighter for abortion rights to build the April 5 March for Women's Lives in Washington, D.C., to help turn out hundreds of thousands; to declare, "We Won't Go Back!"

Rally backs abortion rights

BY MARLA PUZISS

ATLANTA — A pro-choice march and rally here January 25 capped a week of activities marking the 19th anniversary of the Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision legalizing the right to abortion.

Three days earlier, 200 people attended a candlelight vigil for abortion rights. Speakers recounted the experiences of women forced to obtain back-alley abortions in the days before *Roe v. Wade* and urged participants to attend the rally.

Five hundred people, mainly young women, turned out for the rally at the state capitol. The crowd included women from across the state.

Sarah Brooks came with six other students from the University of Georgia in Athens. She explained that, because no abortions are performed in Athens, women must travel 75 miles to Atlanta or go to North or South Carolina to obtain an abortion. Women in Athens held their own pro-choice march of 300 people January 22. They plan to charter a bus to the April 5 national abortion rights demonstration in Washington, D.C.

Jerry Teeter, a construction worker, attended the rally after marchers passed by his work site. He explained that he is pro-choice because "we need to preserve a right that the system is trying to take away."

Speakers at the rally included congressman John Lewis and other elected officials. Lewis compared the struggle for

abortion rights to the civil rights struggle. "No government has the right to tell a woman what she can or cannot do with her body," he said.

Two high school students spoke out against Georgia's parental notification law, which deprives teenagers of their right to a safe, legal abortion by requiring them to obtain their parents' permission.

Jonathan Gordon, another high school student, said, "A lot of my friends can't even tell their parents where they're going at night. If they had to tell them they were pregnant, they wouldn't."



Militant/Robert Kopec

Young Socialist Alliance has called for big turnout for April 5 pro-choice rally

Mural bookstore appeal gets good response

BY MERYL LYNN FARBER

NEW YORK — Steady progress is being made in the effort to raise the thousands of dollars needed to open a new bookstore at the Pathfinder Mural here.

In response to a fund appeal sent out by the Friends of the Pathfinder Mural in New York at the end of November, the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid offered a grant of \$2,000 toward the opening of the bookstore and mural visitors' center. The center is dedicated to South African artist and anti-apartheid activist Dumile Feni, who died October 16.

Contributions are also coming in from

individuals in the New York area and around the country in response to the November appeal and another appeal sent out in January.

Mural supporters in Seattle and Los Angeles held fund-raising events for the drive. Some \$3,500 has arrived in New York in response to the appeal. Five people have sent \$100 contributions, taking advantage of a special offer. Those pledging \$100 or more receive the new 21-by-30 inch color poster of the entire Pathfinder Mural.

The attractive poster is proving to be a prime fund-raising tool for the bookstore project. The Friends of the Pathfinder Mural office has already received orders for 200 posters. The poster sells for \$20 with bulk prices of \$15 each for 10 or more and \$12 each for 30 or more. About \$3,000 has been raised so far from orders. One of the mural artists, Ann Erpino-Blakeney, sent in for three copies of the poster and wrote back to say she liked it so much she wanted to order two more.

Supporters of the mural in New York have organized in teams to call all 800 people who received the latest fund appeal packet. The response to the ambitious plan to open a professional bookstore, stocked with Pathfinder titles featuring the writings and speeches of many of those portrayed in the mural and filled with mural displays and promotional material, has been enthusiastic.

Among those called up was a high school teacher from upstate New York who invited mural supporters to give a presentation to 75 students in a special program at her school. Another supporter said he wanted to arrange a program on the mural and the projected grand opening of the bookstore for a meeting of the Westchester Peace Action Coalition.

The Friends of the Pathfinder Mural in New York is also making available for the first time a 30-minute video produced by Eric Heinbold, a film student studying in Los Angeles. The title of the video is "For a World without Borders." It features interviews with several Pathfinder Mural artists including Eva Cockcroft, Armand Vaillancourt, and Dumile Feni. There is live footage of the mural as it was being created along with the ceremony unveiling the mural in November 1989.

The Friends of the Pathfinder Mural recommends that this video be used by fund-raising speakers and be shown in conjunction with "The Pathfinder Mural Project," a video produced in November 1989.

There are a limited number of the new videos on sale for \$25. Prepaid orders will be filled on a first-come, first-serve basis. Contact the Friends of the Pathfinder Mural at 191 Seventh Avenue, 2nd floor, New York, NY 10011; tel: (212) 727-8421.

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Editor: GREG McCARTAN

Managing Editor: GEORGE BUCHANAN

Business Manager: Brian Williams

Editorial Staff: Derek Bracey, Estelle DeBates, Seth Galinsky, Martin Koppel, Argiris Malapanis, Brian Williams.

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Newark fighters against cop brutality speak out at Militant Labor Forum

BY DAVE HURST

NEWARK — Victims of police brutality, their families, and other political activists and youth gathered here February 1 for a speakout against cop violence sponsored by the Militant Labor Forum. The meeting of 75 people opened with the announcement that jailed trade unionist Mark Curtis — who was assaulted by Des Moines, Iowa, cops and framed on rape and burglary charges — had just won a lawsuit against the police responsible for beating him following his 1988 arrest.

The Curtis victory was hailed by the panel of speakers, most of them leaders of the fight against police brutality in New Jersey, including: Venus Hannah, whose son Santana was found hanged in a jail cell while in police custody in Plainfield April 10, 1990; Sharon Mayse, whose daughter Tasha was slain June 9, 1991 in the "Hillside Massacre," when Newark and Hillside cops pumped dozens of bullets into a van full of youth; and Jacqueline Potts, whose son Shaun was chased down and shot to death June 30, 1991, by officer Zane Grey in New Brunswick.

They were joined on the platform by Priscilla Schenk, a leader of the Socialist Workers Party in Des Moines who is active in the defense efforts for Mark Curtis and Larry Milton, another police brutality victim in that city.

Schenk told the audience, "Mark Curtis's victory will encourage others to fight back. Only through being part of the fight to mobilize working people against cop brutality can we gain justice."

Mayse and Hannah both spoke about the trial of Teaneck, New Jersey, cop Gary Spath, indicted on reckless manslaughter charges in the shooting death of Phillip Pannell April



Militant photos by Eric Simpson

From left: Venus Hannah, Sharon Mayse, and Jaqueline Potts speaking at Militant Labor Forum.

10, 1990. Mayse called on everyone in the audience to attend the trial and show support for the Pannell family. "They pack the courtroom with cops in support of Spath every day," she said, "but if we get up there and continue to struggle, we will see the results of justice over time." [An article on Spath's acquittal appears on page 10.]

Mayse also announced that two of the cops who participated in the "Hillside Massacre" have recently been removed from active duty, pending further investigations. Hannah

pointed to the recent removal of the police chief's son from the force in Plainfield. He was responsible for acts of brutality against individuals in custody.

Hannah declared, "My struggle is to make people aware that the justice system is rotten to the core." No cop has ever been indicted in her son's death.

Potts, a member of the Bakery, Confectionery and Tobacco Workers' Union, pointed to the creation of a police unit in New Brunswick nicknamed the "Mad As Hell

Squad." The squad's purpose, she said, is to "clean up the town, target the 'riffraff,' and make local residents feel unwelcome so corporations like Johnson & Johnson will like better how the town looks. It's no accident that the welfare and unemployment offices were moved out to the edge of town last year."

An attendee in the audience from Namibia asked how it is possible for police brutality to take place in a country which has laws on the books guaranteeing civil and human rights. Mayse replied, "We're supposed to have rights, but the police make their own laws in these cases."

"Rights are only good if we use them," Schenk added. "We have to fight to maintain and defend these rights. Police brutality is a part of capitalism in crisis, driving back the rights and expectations of working people for justice and a decent standard of living."

Following the discussion, the Newark chapter of the Young Socialist Alliance held a party that raised \$175 to send one of its members to Des Moines for a Mark Curtis victory rally and to participate in ongoing protests there demanding justice for Larry Milton.

Miami cops choke man unconscious

BY ROSA GARMENDIA
AND MAGGIE McCRAW

MIAMI — "The officer had a choke hold on him... he put his knee in the back and wrestled him to the ground face first. They then tied his feet in the air. The officer never relinquished his choke hold for about 10 minutes."

This is how one eyewitness described the January 3 beating of Antonio Edwards, a 23-year-old Black construction worker.

An attempted cover-up began to unravel when the facts in this case became public nearly four weeks after Edwards was hospitalized in a deep coma.

The cops claim Edwards struggled and reached for a gun as they arrested him for illegal parking. No gun was produced and state prosecutors now say they will drop charges of carrying a concealed weapon and resisting arrest.

When Edwards was taken to the hospital doctors were told he had overdosed on cocaine. But no drugs were found in his system and doctors later concluded he was the victim of brain damage due to the sudden lack of oxygen caused by a choke hold. Official police arrest reports made no mention of Edwards' injuries.

On January 28 Assistant State Attorney Sally Weintraub, whose office is investigating the incident, told the press she was not convinced Edwards was injured by the cops. "At this time we have a medical mystery," she said.

Of the seven cops who were at the scene January 3, four have been identified and remain on active duty.

Carl Seals, who choked Edwards, has over 20 complaints in his personnel file. These include hitting a robbery suspect in the head with a police radio and ignoring incoming 911 calls.

Seals has been commended by the police department for his role in crushing the 1989 rebellion in Miami's Black communities of Liberty City and Overtown. Residents in these neighborhoods have a long history of protesting against police brutality and cop murders of Black youth.

A 16-year-old Black youth, one of 40 witnesses of Edward's beating, said in an interview that one of the cops involved has returned, photographed witnesses, and told

them not to talk about the incident. He added that the same cops continue to patrol the neighborhood and have told him not to be on the streets after 10:00 p.m.

Donnie Lee, a homeless man sitting on a bus bench that night, screamed at the cops to stop their attack and was arrested on disorderly conduct charges.

As the facts in the Edwards case were coming to light, 16-year-old André Morello was shot and killed by off-duty police officers

February 1. The cops allege Morello and three others were breaking into a car in northeast Miami.

Fifty of Morello's friends and relatives held a candlelight vigil at the site of the shooting two days later.

"They had no weapons," the boy's father said. "They don't drink and they don't smoke. Even if they were stealing, that's not justification for a homicide."

Decent housing out of reach for millions

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Decent housing, like affordable health care, is beyond the reach of millions of U.S. working people.

According to a recent report by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and the Low Income Housing Information Service, the number of low-rent housing units has fallen to its lowest level in 20 years, while the demand for such housing has skyrocketed. From 1970 to 1989 the number of low-income apartments declined by 1.3 million to a total of 5.5 million units nationwide, while the number of poor families requiring them increased by 3.2 million to a total of 9.6 million households. Low-rent units are defined as costing less than \$250 a month in 1989 dollars.

Those most urgently needing these apartments include the 33.6 million people now living below the federally designated poverty level of \$9,885 annual income for a family of three.

More than 1 million households were on waiting lists for public housing at the end of 1988, and another 800,000 on lists for privately owned subsidized housing. In New York City, families can wait more than 20 years before being able to obtain a low-cost apartment.

More than half of the nation's poor households, which includes many workers with full-time low-wage jobs, spend at least 50 percent of their income on rent, while those households making \$60,000 to \$100,000 a year spend only 12 percent.

Such high housing costs mean that millions of working people are just a paycheck away

from being cast into the growing ranks of the homeless. Estimates of the number of homeless people in the United States vary widely, from 250,000 to as many as 3 million nationwide. Between 1988 and 1989 the homeless population increased 18 percent — before the current economic depression began.

Despite a growing need for housing assistance, federal low-income housing programs were cut sharply in the 1980s. Appropriations by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for subsidized housing

were slashed from \$32.2 billion in 1978 to \$11.7 billion in 1991. While funds for low-income housing programs have been cut, there has been a sharp increase in tax breaks made available to middle- and upper-income homeowners.

Available public housing is badly in need of maintenance and major repairs. More than \$20 billion is needed to bring public housing units up to HUD's mandatory standards. In 1992, Congress appropriated just \$2.8 billion to pay for such repairs.

U.S. prison population: world's highest

BY DEREK BRACEY

The United States' position as the country with the highest proportion of its population in prison is being reinforced. A report from the Sentencing Project, a private research and advocacy group, shows that over the past year the United States expanded its lead over second place South Africa.

U.S. prisons held 1.1 million inmates in 1990, an increase of 6.8 percent from 1989. This equals 455 prisoners for every 100,000 people. South Africa has 311 per 100,000, a decline of 6.6 percent for the same period.

The U.S. rate is 10 times that of Japan, Sweden, Ireland, and the Netherlands. Marc Mauer, author of the report, estimates that the U.S. prison population will increase 30 percent by 1995.

The U.S. incarceration rate for Black males is no less than five times that of South Africa, which has a racist justice system. In

the United States, the rate is 3,370 Black males per 100,000; for South Africa it is 681 per 100,000.

A report released last year by the Sentencing Project found that for Black men in the United States between the ages of 20 and 29, close to one out of every four is in prison, on parole, or on probation on any given day.

Mark Moore, a professor of criminal justice at Harvard University, said that the data in the report should make people realize that "something is wrong here."

"You can't help but notice that many of these people in prison are poor and Black," he continued. "You have to feel a large waste of lives and talent, and a failure of society."

The report notes that the United States spends \$20.3 billion a year on keeping 1.1 million people behind bars; \$8.9 billion is spent each year just to imprison Black males.

Rally in Des Moines hails Curtis's victory against cops who beat him

BY CHRIS REMPLE

DES MOINES, Iowa — "We are celebrating a tremendous victory, that of Mark Curtis over the Des Moines police. Federal judge Charles Wolle ruled that the Des Moines police consciously violated Mark's constitutional rights and consciously and brutally beat him in the city jail the night of March 4, 1988. He was awarded \$11,000 and attorney's fees. This ruling is a blow to police brutality in Des Moines, a blow to police brutality around the world, and it is a blow against the police frame-up of Mark Curtis. It is a giant aid in the struggle to win Mark's freedom on parole."

With these words, John Studer opened the February 8 rally celebrating the triumph in federal court against police brutality. Studer is the coordinator of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee in Des Moines.

Curtis is a former packinghouse worker in Des Moines. He was framed-up on rape and burglary charges after attempting to unify his coworkers and his union in defense of 17 immigrant coworkers who were victimized by the Immigration and Naturalization Service. He is currently in prison in Ft. Madison, Iowa, serving a 26-year sentence.

The speakers at the rally, both in who they are and what they said, reflected the fight in Des Moines against police violence directed at working people. The Curtis lawsuit victory was widely seen as a victory in the fight for justice for Larry Milton, who was savagely beaten by three Des Moines cops Dec. 18, 1991.

Here in Des Moines there is a powerful explosion of social protest demanding justice for Larry Milton. Thousands have come out to demonstrate and attend city council meetings. They have coined a very powerful slogan: No Excuse! for police brutality.

'Justice for all'

Sonja Palmer was one of the first speakers. She is part of a rank-and-file leadership developing in the fight against cop terror. Palmer formed an organization called Mothers and Wives Against Police Brutality.

She explained in her remarks, "What I hope to accomplish out of Mother and Wives Against Police Brutality is justice, justice for all, to stop racism in our community. I have a dream that one of these days everyone will be treated equally, that there will be no racism. I hope to accomplish this with marches, with protests, and everything I can do in my power."

Radio station KUCB, an all-volunteer station oriented to the Black community, has been central to the struggle for justice for



Dudley Allison speaking at Curtis rally. At left is Kate Kaku.

Larry Milton. His fight for justice has sparked the social explosion in this city. KUCB opened its airwaves to several days of call-ins by working people outraged at the beating of Milton. One of the central Black community leaders on the board of directors of KUCB, Imam Ako Abdul Samad, addressed the rally.

Earlier on the day of the rally, the Mark Curtis Defense Committee had been attacked over the air during a talk show on KUCB to which Eddie Carthan had been invited. Carthan was framed-up by racists after his election as the first Black mayor of Tchula, Mississippi. He served several years in prison before being exonerated and freed. He is a strong defender of Mark Curtis.

Dr. Mayank Kothari, the host of the radio show, arranged for Keith Morris, the father of the young woman Curtis was falsely accused of attacking, to be present along with Morris's lawyer. They used the occasion to attack the Mark Curtis Defense Committee and limit discussion on the fight against police brutality. Carthan was attacked as an "outsider" with no right to speak about the fight for justice for Curtis.

'We must continue to fight'

Given this, Samad's remarks were significant. He told the audience, "I wanted to attend because I have been very quiet during this ordeal. I have one thing to add to the slogan 'No Excuse!' and that is 'No Sellouts!' I think that if Mark Curtis ever sat down and decided to conform to the system, then that would be a sellout. He must continue to struggle. I think that if we ever stop fighting for Mark Curtis and the Larry Miltons, then we sell them out, and we must not do that."

He described the frame-up campaign, saying, "One woman stood up at a city council meeting and said she couldn't support Mark Curtis because he was involved with a Black woman. I say that because it is very sensitive. It is something I have wrestled with."

"One of the things we have to understand is that they also said Larry Milton was drunk, that he was intoxicated, that he had these superhuman powers," Samad noted. "They have a system that they pay people in eight-hour-shifts to divide us, to conquer us, to keep us ignorant as the masses of people."

Samad pointed to the cop's frame-up tactics. "They may try to damage your character. Character assassination is a ploy that is always used," He said. "So if we get divided like that, one of their shifts wins. But if we focus in on the principles of the matter, then we begin to fight those entities that want to keep us fighting one another and we begin to organize for the working people of the world."

Two speakers, in particular, addressed the

necessity of waging a fight in Des Moines against police brutality and how to wage that fight. Dudley Allison is the chair of the Direct Action Committee of the Community Support Force. He has organized informational picket lines outside the city council meeting in which public hearings were approved and at the hearings themselves.

Allison stated, "I am ecstatically happy for the victory for Mark Curtis. What this does, in my opinion, is open the door for the prosecution of the officers that commit these types of crimes. It has been noted that excessive force was used against Mark Curtis and that was condemned. But there still hasn't been anything else done about it. There are still three officers involved in the Larry Milton case that no one is trying to get to the prosecution table."

"One of the ways that we hope to change that is the mass mobilization of people in the streets to speak out against it. This effort has already begun, and it will not stop. There is no turning back."

Cleve Andrew Pulley addressed the same issues. He is a member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1149 and the Socialist Workers Party. Pulley has spoken against cop brutality at the city council meetings and mass meetings and rallies.

Both Pulley and Allison urged maximum attendance at city council-sponsored public hearings February 11-14. "We must never let the cops and their friends outmobilize us," Pulley said. "By keeping the pressure on through mass mobilizations and meetings, we can fight for jailing the cops who carry out these acts against working people."

Several speakers linked the fight against police brutality, Mark Curtis's victory, and the deepening economic crisis.

Harold Ruggless is the vice-president of United Auto Workers Local 270. He just returned from Black Lake, Michigan, site of the UAW leadership training center. He told of how he explained the frame-up of Mark Curtis.

To the question of why the packinghouse bosses would be part of a frame-up, he replied, "Wages in the packinghouses are about one half of what they used to be and the conditions are three times as bad. Tens of millions of dollars are involved in keeping a cheap and docile labor force from being inspired to rise up and defend themselves — that's your motivation."

Ruggless continued, "Some people don't want to believe that the cops are being used as tools of the employers. This victory has meant that people in my shop are starting to think about the case of Mark Curtis and are comparing it to Larry Milton. Victory! Pour it on now!"

In his remarks to the rally, Carroll Nearmyer, vice-president of the American Agriculture Movement of Iowa, began, "I want to congratulate, from the American Agriculture Movement, the Mark Curtis Defense Committee and Mark on their victory." He explained the impossible situation of family farmers who are forced to sell their products below the cost of producing them. He compared the attacks on farmers to those against other working people. "Like Mark Curtis, farmers have been beat up on, if not physically, then financially. We're losing our farms, just like you are losing your jobs."

Speaking for Curtis's party, the Socialist Workers Party, was Greg McCartan, a member of its national Committee. McCartan examined the judge's ruling and place it in the current political context in Des Moines.

"The ruling grants what Mark was fighting to get: that they beat him, they violated his rights and they should pay damages," McCartan stated. "Mark asserted from the beginning that the cops beat him and then lied about it. The judge ruled in Mark's favor on those essential points."

McCartan assessed the impact of the civil suit victory on the frame-up of Curtis. "This ruling by a federal judge goes right to the heart of Mark's frame-up trial: that Mark's defense could not present the fact that the central witness against him, officer Joseph Gonzalez, had been suspended from the force for a year because he had framed-up and brutalized another person," he explained. "Nor could Mark present the fact that he was beaten in jail. The question now raised more sharply is that if a federal judge rules that the cops lied about beating Mark, then the cop who testified against him could have been lying as well."

Protests were decisive

McCartan explained two factors that led to the victory coming at this time. "The protests and demonstrations against police brutality arising out of the beating of Larry Milton were a decisive element in the victory Mark scored against the cops. This kind of struggle has been, and will continue to be, decisive in winning the victories needed to get Mark out of jail," he said. "This victory was also made possible because Mark refused to back down and give up the fight. The work of all his supporters around the world has brought pressure to bear and been a big aid to Mark continuing to be a political person, a fighter, and someone who remains part of the struggles around the world."

"The stakes in Mark's fight are very high. Developments like the Caterpillar strike and the attacks on immigrant workers show why the city government, the cops, some in the trade union officialdom, and others are determined to try to make the frame-up stick, keep Curtis in jail, and erode the support he receives in this struggle," McCartan continued.

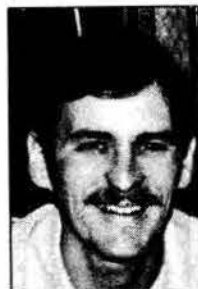
The next steps needed in the aftermath of this important victory were addressed by Kate Kaku. Kaku is married to Curtis and is a leader in his fight for justice. She used her remarks to pay tribute to the tense of thousands who have been part of the campaign for nearly four years. She stated, "This is a victory for everyone who has joined in the defense effort by making financial contributions, distributing information on the case, and talking to friends and coworkers about the stakes in the fight."

Kaku pointed out that there has never been a better time to raise the funds necessary to continue the battle. She announced the launching of the Mark Curtis Parole Now! Fund which aims to raise tens of thousands of dollars to pay legal bills, issue literature on the new stage in the fight for Curtis's freedom, and prepare for the next parole hearing.

Kaku noted that it is especially important to push the fight for Curtis's freedom now while the victory is fresh. "We must reach out to win new and broader support for Mark's campaign for freedom by parole," she said. "The federal judge's ruling means many more people will be willing to join the call for his immediate release. We think the day of Mark's release has been brought closer and it will be helped by what we do now with this latest victory."

from *PATHFINDER* The Frame-up of Mark Curtis A Packinghouse Worker's Fight for Justice 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



Available at Pathfinder bookstores on page 12 or by mail from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. (Include \$3 for first copy for postage and handling and \$.50 for each additional copy.)

Hundreds condemn cop brutality in Iowa

Continued from front page

association, attacked Black community radio station KUCB, which has opened its airwaves to hours of discussion on the issue of police brutality.

More and more of those present began to grumble and protest that the hearing was being transformed from an inquiry on police misconduct into a rally for the cops.

The next speaker was Sara Lobman, past mayoral candidate of the Socialist Workers Party, chairperson of the local Young Socialist Alliance, and a member of the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 431. Lobman explained that the hearings were being held because hundreds of people, especially Blacks, had been demanding some way to speak out against police brutality, particularly the beating of Larry Milton.

"The purpose of these hearings is not to relieve tension," Lobman said, "but to demand action."

Lobman pointed to the recent victory of Mark Curtis, a former member of her union. Curtis was forced to pursue a lawsuit for three-and-a-half years against the Des Moines cops from prison to get some justice against police brutality. Yet the cops routinely press criminal charges against those they beat.

She urged the immediate suspension and prosecution of the cops who beat Larry Milton.

"We need some kind of civilian review," Lobman said, "to get this issue out of the police department and into the open. This would provide another arena for us to fight for justice."

Lobman was followed by a senior fire medic, who claimed that 90 percent of those he and the cops are called to deal with are either verbally or physically abusive.

The next speaker argued that professional organizations like doctors govern themselves and the cops should be able to do the same.

A young Chicana took the microphone to

say that even though her sister had been beaten by the police, she respected the cops and Police Chief William Moulder.

Moulder was sitting in the back of the audience with a list of the speakers, making notes about what each one said.

The next speaker was Neva Jorgensen, a leader of the River Bend Neighborhood Association, a mainly white group that has backed the police and that is based in the area where Milton was brutalized.

As she began to speak the anger in the audience boiled over. People started yelling, "Sit down. Shut up. This isn't the hearing we fought for."

The chant "No Excuse" broke out, led by Kalonji Saadiq, general manager of KUCB. This slogan has become widespread since the beating of Milton. It expresses the sentiment that there is no justification for cop brutality.

The meeting almost broke up.

Under the pressure of the audience, the council decided to alter the meeting's format and allow those who had come to oppose police brutality to speak first. To applause, Mayor Dorrman approached the rest of the speakers' list by reading off a name and asking if the speaker was there to speak against the police. If so, they were allowed to speak.

Andrew Pulley, a leader of the Socialist Workers Party who is also a packinghouse worker, explained that the hearings were a victory won by those fighting police brutality. He urged fighters to take full advantage of the meetings to denounce police violence and mobilize for all four hearings.

"The officers who beat Larry Milton are not suspended," Pulley said. "They continue to function, and this is a slap in the face for the Black community and all working people."

"We must continue to reach out and mobilize in a giant fist if we are going to prevail," Pulley said.

The next speaker was Keith Morris, a



Militant/Chris Remple

Hearing on cop brutality organized by Des Moines City Council

businessman and father of the young woman Mark Curtis was falsely accused of attacking. Morris has attended a number of the meetings since the beating of Milton, presenting himself as a fighter against police brutality.

Saying he would die to defend the officers who framed Curtis, he argued that Des Moines had to watch out or it would get a reputation as the Mississippi of the North, famous for police racism.

Sixty speakers took the microphone to condemn police brutality.

Gerald Barnes told an emotional story of police indifference when the cops refused to issue a bulletin for his missing daughter. She was found dead the next morning.

Other pointed to scars on their bodies, told of being arrested for speaking against brutality while witnessing an arrest, and demanded that the cops who beat Milton be jailed.

Milton attended the meeting but did not take the floor.

Emanuel Campbell, a Black city cop, started his remarks by saying he might be committing the equivalent of "political suicide" but wanted to state that there were problems of racism and insensitivity on the police force. He explained that a superior officer had organized to have his house shot up one evening because of personal differences. He was applauded.

Two days later Campbell told the press that he is a staunch supporter of the cops who beat Milton and opposes any civilian review board.

Ministers, high school students, workers, and others took the floor one after another to demand action.

Kalonji Saadiq read off a list of those who had been killed or brutalized by the Des Moines cops, including John Monroe Branch, Porky Wheeler, Mark Curtis, and Larry Milton.

"I'm here to speak up for all the 'niggers,' 'injuns,' 'spics,' and 'poor white trash' that the police beat up on," he said.

Saadiq raised the specter of a social explosion if city officials don't take action to curb police violence. Declaring that the Black community was becoming fed up with stalling and inaction, Saadiq said, "Which group made 200 cities go 'poof' overnight? Don't play with us."

Assistant police chief William McCarthy tried to make use of this statement, as well as the fact that members of the Socialist Workers Party are active in this struggle, to attack opponents of police brutality.

"There is concern, misunderstanding, and confusion, but there also is an organized side to this caused by socialists, radicals, and extremists who use and manufacture issues hoping for class warfare, and each one is trying to outdo the other," McCarthy told the *Register*.

The next night, at a high school in the far northeast part of the city, the City Council announced that in the interest of "fairness" the hearing would be turned over to those who back the police. The audience was overwhelmingly white.

Dozens took the floor to tell tales of the dangers of being a cop, to oppose oversight of their actions, and to denounce KUCB and those protesting police brutality.

One speaker drew heavy applause for saying, "If some agitators at some lunatic fringe radio station bring up some more charges,

are we going to have to go through another series of these dog and pony shows?"

Another blasted the idea of a civilian review board, saying it would be "the loudest, most obnoxious bunch of cop-haters that could be assembled. If we need evidence of that, we got a bellyful last night."

Many in the audience sat silent during the speeches and did not participate in the applause for cop speakers. They did not get a chance to speak.

Hundreds more showed up February 13 in a crowd almost evenly divided between cops and their supporters and opponents of police brutality. The mayor and a number of city council members did not appear.

The meeting was conducted by calling on speakers in the order they had signed up in advance. This meant the cops dominated the meeting, since they had again packed the speakers' list.

This drew protest from the audience, and councilman George Flagg, who assumed the chair, threatened to cancel the hearing.

The wide publicity around the hearings has heightened interest in further actions protesting the beating of Larry Milton.

— CALENDAR —

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.

BRITAIN

London

March to Remember Rolan Adams. Called by Rolan Adams Family Campaign on 1st anniversary of his racist murder. Sat., Feb. 22, 12 noon. Assemble: St. Nicholas Church, Plumstead High Street.

CANADA

Montreal

A Victory Against Police Brutality. Speakers: Roger Annis, friends of Mark Curtis Defense Committee; Serge Bouchereau, Solidarity Committee in Canada with the Haitian People; Christiane Malet, Teaching Assistants' Union at UQAM (FNEEQ-CSN); Georgina Michell, one of the accused in Mohawk struggle at Oka; Yves Richard, general secretary, Federation of Labor of Haiti (CGT-Haiti); Stephen Watson, Ottawa and District Labour Council. Fri., Feb. 21, 7:30 p.m. Centre Saint-Pierre, 1212 Panet St., Room 203. Donation \$5. Organized by the Mark Curtis Defense Campaign in Montreal.

March for Women's Lives

National March on Washington to defend a woman's right to abortion

Sun., April 5

For more information call National Organization for Women: (202) 331-0066

Lawyers of jailed unionist seek attorney fees from city

BY JOHN STUDER

DES MOINES, Iowa — At a February 11 hearing before federal district judge Charles Wolle, the lawyers who represented Mark Curtis in his victorious civil rights lawsuit against the Des Moines police, Bill Kutmus and George Eichhorn, filed a motion asking for \$75,000 in attorney fees.

The hearing was set by Judge Wolle in his January 31 ruling awarding Curtis \$11,000 in damages, interest since he filed the suit in 1989, and "reasonable attorney fees." Wolle ruled that Des Moines cops Daniel Dusenberry and Charles Wolf had severely beaten Curtis in the city jail.

In reporting the application for attorney fees, the *Des Moines Register* noted that city attorneys said the city government would accept responsibility for the \$11,000 judgment and the attorney fees.

"City Solicitor Bruce Bergman said he would review the attorney fee claims," the *Register* reported, before "bringing the claim before the City Council for consideration."

William Kutmus, who has represented Curtis since his arrest on false charges of rape and burglary in 1988, has agreed to serve as Curtis's general counsel. Kutmus will represent him in his fight to win parole and in any future action necessary to protect his rights while in prison.

At the February 11 hearing Curtis dismissed a second part of his original lawsuit, which had charged the city of Des Moines with additional responsibility for the beating.

Judge Wolle had separated the two parts of the suit and tried Curtis's case against the cops first. This was the part Curtis won, leading to the award of damages and attorney fees.

Wolle's January 31 judgment contained a number of findings, which practically excluded Curtis from any chance of winning the second part of his case.

Judge Wolle ruled that the cops' beating of Curtis did not mean the city was liable. "The beating was not necessary to accomplish the purpose of the defendant officers' employment," he wrote.

He also ruled against the officers' defense that their actions were "privileged" or "entitled to qualified immunity" because they are

police officers. They were not acting as "reasonable" officers when they beat Curtis, Wolle ruled.

Because of the power of the ruling Curtis won, his attorney Kutmus told the *Register*, "He's quite satisfied with the results and there's no need to pursue it any further."

Kate Kaku, Curtis's wife and leading spokesperson for the campaign to win his freedom, said, "Mark's attorneys tell us this victory in federal court gives significant momentum to challenge his continuing imprisonment. Bill Kutmus will challenge it in federal court. We've got to strike while the iron is hot and step up the pressure on the Iowa State Board of Parole to let Mark go."

Kutmus will file a new motion in federal court asking that Curtis be released from prison due to violations of his constitutional rights in the trial that led to his conviction.

Curtis was unconstitutionally prevented from cross-examining the cop who was the chief witness against him, Officer Joseph Gonzalez. Curtis was barred from informing the jury that Gonzalez had been suspended for a year from the police force for lying and brutality in a previous case.

In addition, Curtis's right to due process of law was violated when crucial evidence on his behalf was excluded by the judge. The judge also refused to properly instruct the jury that uncontroverted evidence that Curtis was in a restaurant with dozens of coworkers at the time county prosecutors claimed he was committing rape was grounds for acquittal.

Curtis's victory has been the cause of significant celebration, both among his fellow prisoners at the Iowa State Penitentiary and with activists in the fight against police brutality in Des Moines.

In the first of a series of public hearings held by the City Council on police brutality the night of the hearing, many speakers pointed to Curtis's victory as an important gain and inspiration.

The city government has until February 26 to inform the judge if it has reached a settlement with Curtis's lawyers on the attorney fees. If not, further court hearings will be required.



Algeria's military regime imposes state of emergency

The military-backed government that took power in Algeria January 11 declared a year-long state of emergency February 9. Under the emergency decree virtually all constitutional rights are suspended. Protests and anti-government preaching at mosques were banned.

The week prior to the declaration about 35 people were killed and more than 100 wounded in clashes between the army and protesters. Most of the victims were young people demanding that elections canceled by the military rulers be rescheduled and jailed leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front be freed. Protests took place in most of Algeria's 20 largest towns.

South Korean living conditions don't match industrial advances

A South Korean government report showed advances by capitalist industry but poor living conditions for workers.

The country is the world's 12th largest in trade volume, 10th in car assembly, 6th in electronics production, and 2nd in shipbuilding.

At the same time South Korea has the world's highest per capita deaths from tuberculosis. It also has the highest per capita rate of fatal traffic accidents, and its hospitals and schools are among the most crowded in the world.

Israel widens army permission to open fire at Palestinians

The Israeli army announced February 2 that it was relaxing the rules under which soldiers are allowed to shoot in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Military officials said the new regulations would make it easier for soldiers to fire at Palestinians who are armed or simply sought by the occupation forces on suspicion of violent offenses. Existing orders require soldiers to shout warnings, fire in the air and then at the legs, before shooting directly at fleeing victims.

The army said the new regulations were in response to the killings of four settlers and the wounding of several others in the West Bank and Gaza since October. Some 1,474 Palestinians, 526 of whom were 16 years old or younger, have been killed by Israeli forces during the four years of the *intifada*, an average of 31 per month.

U.S. officials attempt to resurrect disputed report of Iraqi atrocities

U.S. ambassador to Kuwait Edward Gnehm, is making desperate attempts to revive State Department stories that occupying Iraqi forces killed babies at Kuwaiti hospitals in 1990. These reports have been dismissed by international human rights organizations.

"We can say almost certainly that there was no mass theft of incubators and no mass killing of infants," said Kenneth Roth, director of Middle East Watch. Amnesty International, after initially accepting the accounts, said last April that upon visiting Kuwait to interview doctors and inspect cemeteries, its investigators "found no reliable evidence" to support the accounts.

Greek government balks at Macedonia's independence bid

The Greek government has protested the bid by the Yugoslav republic of Macedonia, located in the southern part of Yugoslavia bordering Albania, Bulgaria, and Greece, to be recognized as an independent country.

The Greek government insists Macedonia must change its name; otherwise it will veto recognition by the European Community (EC), despite the fact that EC advisors have indicated Macedonia meets the requirements for recognition. So far, only Bulgaria has recognized it.

The northern province of Greece bordering Yugoslavia is also called Macedonia. The Greek regime fears the independence bid might give rise to demands for rights among the ethnic Macedonian minority in Greece. When the republic of Macedonia was proclaimed as part of the Yugoslav federation following the 1945 revolution in Yugoslavia, the Greek government at the time also protested.

Venezuelan gov't defeats coup and restricts democratic rights

BY SELVA NEBBIA

After the defeat by the government of a recent coup attempt, working people in Venezuela continue to face severe economic hardships and increased restrictions on their democratic rights. These events underscore the harsh reality that contrasts with the image Venezuela has had as a model of economic development and democracy in Latin America.

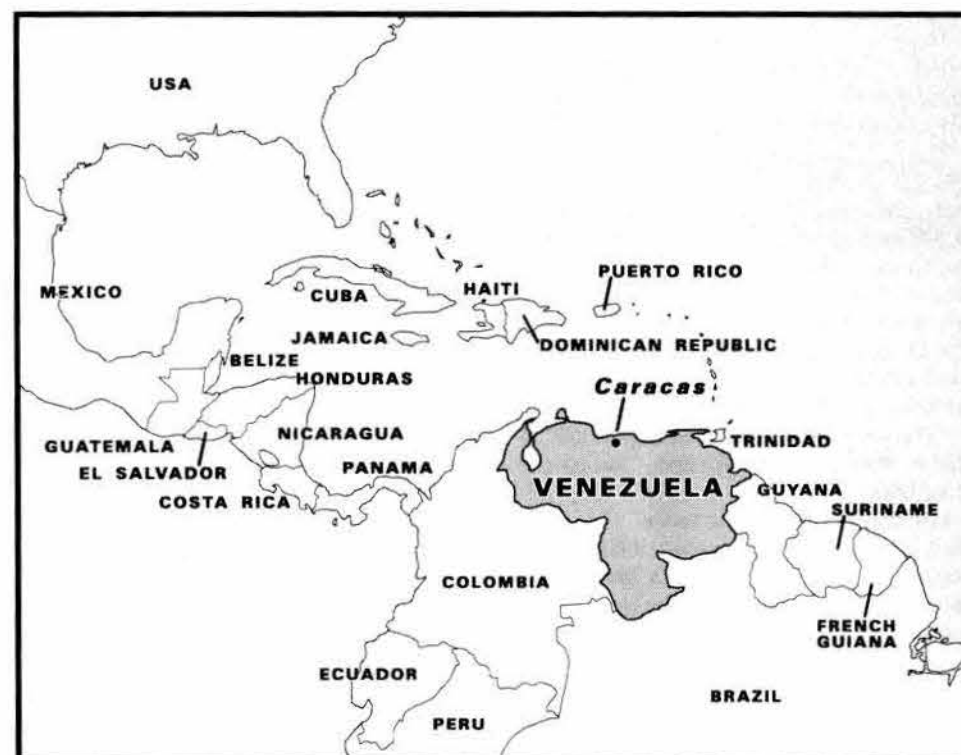
On February 4, a few hours after the attempted coup failed, Venezuelan president Carlos Andrés Pérez signed a decree suspending constitutional guarantees. Under the decree "any person may be arrested, even if his behavior is not considered a crime or in violation of the law." Homes can be raided without a court order, freedom of transit within the country may be restricted, "freedom of expression and thought" is suspended, as well as the right to assembly, the right to hold public demonstrations, and the right to strike.

Government censors and police from the Ministry of the Interior were sent to news media installations to prevent the publication of articles or photos relating to the coup attempt. On February 10 the police raided the Caracas offices of *El Nacional*, one of the country's main dailies, and confiscated the day's edition after censors objected to the publication of various news articles in the issue. The police also physically blocked the paper's reporters from going out to cover the news.

The failed coup got under way at midnight February 3 in Caracas, Venezuela's capital, and in three other cities. It involved five army units, including a parachute battalion. The rebel soldiers used an armored car to ram the front gate of the presidential complex, while



Housing for Venezuela's poor. Only 57 percent of Venezuelans can afford more than one meal a day.



other soldiers launched an attack on La Casona, the president's residence in Caracas. About 1,000 rebel soldiers were arrested including 130 officers. Some 80 people were killed. Caracas morgue officials counted 42 bodies of civilians killed in cross fire.

Despite the increased police presence and the suspension of constitutional rights, on February 10 several walls around Caracas were painted with signs that read "Viva Chávez and the Bolivarianos." The slogan refers to coup leader Lt. Col. Hugo Chávez Frías and his followers, named after Simón Bolívar, the 19th century leader of Latin America's independence struggles.

Rebels gain a hearing

While there was no broad uprising in support of the rebel military, their appeals to "the Venezuelan people, for the people who are tired, for the people who are sick of receiving promises" and of widespread government corruption won sympathy among many who are discontented with the country's deteriorating economic and social conditions.

Recent years have seen repeated protests against the austerity measures imposed by the Pérez regime which follows the dictates of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Venezuela's foreign debt stands at \$30 billion; over the past three years the government received new loans totaling an additional \$6 billion.

In 1989, 300 people were killed when rebellions broke out against government cuts in social spending that increased charges for public services.

Last year, 10 students were killed and more than 100 wounded by gunfire in clashes with the police during protests that started in August after Pérez's social-democratic government began a program of monthly increases in the price of gasoline sold inside the coun-

try, following an agreement between his government and the IMF. The monthly increases will last until December 1992, and have already resulted in increased bus fares. Student protests have continued.

On January 28, 250,000 teachers began a national strike to demand pay increases. On February 3, the Caracas police used tear gas against a demonstration by retired workers demanding a \$3 increase in their pension payments.

Venezuela, one of the countries with the highest per capita income in Latin America, is the region's largest oil exporter. In 1991 Venezuela's economy, fueled by higher oil prices, grew 9.2 percent, the highest rate in the Americas. According to Venezuela's planning minister, the treasury is brimming with foreign reserves, and inflation is at its lowest level in five years.

Deepening poverty

But conditions faced by working people there have only gotten worse.

Real per capita income fell 55 percent between 1988 and 1991, nearly double the fall from 1980 to 1988, reported a Venezuelan presidential commission. According to the February 9 *Los Angeles Times*, "The report said that the number of Venezuelans living in critical poverty, defined as the inability to meet at least half the basic nutritional requirements, nearly tripled to 33% in 1991 from 11% in 1984."

The government admits that only 57 percent of Venezuelans can afford more than one meal a day. On the other hand, according to a 1989 study by Morgan Guaranty Trust, wealthy Venezuelans held \$89 billion — nearly three times the country's national debt — in accounts in the United States and Europe.

International Youth Conference issues appeal for independent and reunified Korea

BY ESTELLE DeBATES

MADRID — "We the participants in the Second International Youth Conference to Support the Independent and Peaceful Reunification of Korea, appeal to all young people and students to take action in support and solidarity with the Korean people in their fight for peace and reunification of their country," stated a declaration adopted here by delegates from 30 countries. The delegates voted on several resolutions including a letter to U.S. president George Bush.

The two-day conference concentrated on the current situation in Korea and the fight to end the nearly 50-year division of the country.

The Korean situation has come to the forefront of world politics, as Washington's threats against the North escalated throughout 1991. The U.S. government raised accusations that North Korea was developing nuclear weapons and demanded that it submit

to inspection of its nuclear facilities, threatening "strong measures" if Pyongyang did not comply.

North Korea stood firm in its demand that there be a simultaneous inspection of nuclear installations in both North and South Korea. Washington has deployed nuclear weapons in the South for decades, along with 40,000 occupation troops.

Conference participants discussed the progress toward reunification made in recent months, despite Washington's international campaign to isolate North Korea.

Last December 13, the governments of North and South Korea signed an agreement on "reconciliation, nonaggression, and cooperation and exchange," laying the basic foundation toward reunifying the country. On December 31 the two governments signed an accord calling for mutual inspection of sites in the North and South "in order to verify the de-nuclearization of the Korean Penin-

sula." This includes opening U.S. bases to North Korean inspection teams.

After the documents were signed, North Korea agreed to permit inspections of its nuclear facilities by the International Atomic Energy Agency, while the South Korean government announced it would cancel its participation in the annual U.S. "Team Spirit" military maneuvers, which take the form of practice invasions of the North.

The conference noted that it is the U.S. government and its policies that remain the principal obstacle to reunifying the Korean people.

The letter to President Bush noted the progress made in the North-South negotiations and demanded the removal of U.S. troops and nuclear weapons from South Korea. It also encouraged Bush to take measures to help obtain the release of numerous South Koreans imprisoned for political activities.

The Attica prison rebellion: 20 years later

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

It is just over 20 years since tear gas and a hail of bullets fired by New York State police and national guardsmen resulted in the worst ever U.S. prison massacre — the massacre at Attica prison.

On February 4, a jury in a civil suit in Buffalo, New York, rendered a verdict on New York State officials' responsibility for the bloodshed that left 39 dead and more than 80 injured when state police stormed the prison Sept. 13, 1971.

Even though the jury did not find guilty all the state officials responsible for the massacre, the verdict represents a victory in the long struggle by former inmates against the government and prison authorities.

The massacre took place after a rebellion by prison inmates that began Sept. 9, 1971. Attica inmates filed a \$2.8 billion liability suit against New York State and prison officials in 1974. It took 17 years to come to trial.

The jury found that the 1,281 inmates who filed the civil-liability suit had suffered "cruel and unusual punishment" and reprisals, and that the state failed to provide adequate medical care following the massacre.

Karl Pfeil, Attica's former deputy warden, was found liable on two claims of having overseen brutal reprisals against prisoners. The jurors rejected inmates' claims that former correction commissioner Russell Oswald specifically failed to provide medical care to prisoners as the bloodshed ended.

The jurors failed to reach verdicts on the responsibility of Vincent Mancusi, Attica's former warden, and John Monahan, the state police commander who led the attack. Oswald and Monahan are now dead. The suit was filed against their estates.

An examination of the events surrounding the Attica rebellion shows that responsibility for the massacre lies with the highest authorities, up to then New York state governor Nelson Rockefeller.

The Attica rebellion

Attica, a maximum security prison in upstate New York, was a ticking time bomb. Built to house 1,600 inmates, it had more than 2,200 men crowded in filthy cells. Fifty-four percent of the prisoners were Black, 37 percent white, and 9 percent Puerto Rican. Most of the guards were white.

The conditions prisoners faced were inhuman. Racist treatment by prison guards was rampant.

During the hot summers, ice was brought into the prison yard. Ice for whites was in a bucket. Ice for Blacks was thrown on the ground.

Windows were often left open at night in cold weather. When prisoners built small fires in tobacco cans to keep warm they were drenched with fire hoses. Black prisoners who did not eat pork for religious reasons often would not eat at all.

Censorship of personal letters and political literature was routine. Medical care was inefficient, there was no access to jailhouse legal aid, and visitation rights were limited.

"That place was a hellhole," Milton Jones, one of the uprising leaders, told the *Los Angeles Times*. "It was so bad I figured I was gonna die there one way or another. So, when the troubles started, I got involved." More than 1,200 of the 2,254 inmates took part in the uprising.

The rebellion began the morning of September 9 when a group of inmates refused to form into ranks to go on a work detail. Guards who started roughing up some prisoners were quickly overpowered. The rebelling inmates took over a large section of the prison. They held 42 guards and civilian workers as hostages.

'We are men, we are not beasts'

At a meeting with officials and newsmen, inmate leaders read a statement that captured the essence of their action. "The entire incident that has erupted here in Attica is a result ... of the unmitigated oppression wrought by the racist administration network of this prison," it said in part. "We are men. ... We are not beasts, and we do not intend to be beaten or driven as such. ... What has happened here is but the sound before the fury of those who are oppressed."

By this time the inmates had also drawn up a set of demands. They included the provision of adequate food, water, and shelter for all inmates; the application of New York State minimum wage law standards; adequate health care including the employment



Attica rebellion, 1971. Inmates' suit against state officials was decided after 17 years.

of a Spanish-speaking doctor or interpreters to accompany Spanish-speaking inmates to medical interviews; and access to legal assistance.

Another demand called for the establishment of an inmate commission, comprised of elected inmates, to speak with the prison administration over grievances.

Inmates also wanted complete amnesty and the removal of Warden Mancusi. At their request, an observer committee, comprised of political activists, lawyers, and politicians they named was formed as a liaison between them and the state. Through this committee the prisoners were able to make their demands known.

Observer committee members noted that inmates were well organized. They treated the hostages better than they treated themselves. Two hostages who had been injured in the initial stages of the rebellion were released. One died of his injuries.

Many observers at the scene commented

on the militant class solidarity of the rebels and the unity among Black, Puerto Rican, and white inmates. *New York Times* columnist Tom Wicker wrote with obvious astonishment, "That prison yard was the first place I have ever seen where there was no racism."

"A 'movement' paralleling those that have arisen in recent years among Blacks, students and women has now begun to emerge in the nation's prisons," wrote Steven Roberts of the *New York Times* following the rebellion. In other prisons inmates "are making speeches, demanding meetings, and occasionally calling strikes."

Books such as the *Autobiography of Malcolm X* or George Jackson's *Soledad Brother* were treasured like gold. "In Auburn prison in New York, such books rent for a pack of cigarettes a night," wrote Roberts.

In the year prior to the rebellion Pathfinder Press had received close to 50 literature orders from Attica. There were six *Militant* subscribers in Attica at the time of the rebellion.

After several days Oswald claimed he was willing to agree to most of the prisoners demands. But Rockefeller and Oswald both said they had no constitutional power to grant amnesty nor would they remove Warden Mancusi. As inmates asked for more time to consider Oswald's offer, plans had already been drawn up for the attack.

On September 12, Oswald and Rockefeller ordered the assault to begin the following morning.

The massacre

As two helicopters dropped canisters of tear gas on the rebels, a 1,000-member assault force entered the prison firing indiscriminately on inmates and hostages. Thirty-two inmates and 11 guards and civilian workers were killed in the course of the rebellion, most of them during the assault.

Prison officials initially said the dead hostages had been killed by the prisoners. They began circulating rumors that some guards had been raped and castrated. But after the report from the medical examiner's autopsy revealed that all the hostages killed during the assault died from gunshot wounds fired by police and national guardsmen, embarrassed state officials had to withdraw their claims.

"A guy I saw around the yard, he's walking toward the wall. There's a trooper on the wall. The guy's got his hands up like the helicopter said, and he's walking at the trooper. He's surrendering. The trooper shoots him in the chest with a shotgun," an inmate told a state senator.

Another inmate described indiscriminate police beatings with rifle butts. In the immediate aftermath of the revolt, inmates were stripped naked and forced to run a gauntlet of state troopers and guards swinging nightsticks. During the recent trial several former inmates testified that police urinated on them and threatened them with death.

"That day tore from those guards the shreds of their humanity," said John Cudmore, a surgeon who was a major in the National Guard, in testimony to a nine-member commission set up by Rockefeller to investigate charges of brutality. In several

Continued on Page 12

'Militant' receives good response in Iowa

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

"We received a great response among meat-packers in Des Moines, Iowa, at three area packinghouses where the *Militant* is regularly distributed," writes Mitchel Rosenberg, a member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1149 at IBP. During the past week, supporters sold 24 *Militants*, 1 *Perspectiva Mundial*, and a *Militant* subscription renewal at these plants.

With the banner headline, "Struggle against cop brutality advances in Des Moines, Iowa," the February 14 *Militant* was well received by working people anxious to get the full story about the victory won by union and political activist Mark Curtis in his lawsuit against the police officers who beat him.

More than 200 *Militants* were sold throughout Iowa by a team of *Militant* supporters that included participants from other U.S. cities as well as from Canada, Britain, and Sweden. Highlights of these sales included: 9 papers sold to members of the United Auto Workers at the John Deere plant in Ankeny; 15 outside the local unemployment office; and 90 in working-class communities on Saturday.

From Pittsburgh, Kate Daher, a member of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union, writes, "After receiving a copy of the *Militant*, one coworker decided to subscribe. He said, 'I now see what I think written in black and white.'"

In New York City, *Militant* supporters received an excellent response from Haitians and others participating in several events held February 7-9 to protest the military coup in Haiti and demand asylum for Haitian refugees. Distributors sold a total of 72 *Militants*, 14 copies of the French-language magazine *L'internationaliste*, and 5 *How Far We Slaves Have Come!* books. At the February 7 march and rally, which drew 4,000 protesters, salesperson Ernie Mailhot reports selling several papers by showing activists the centerspread article that reprinted the judge's ruling in favor of Mark

Curtis in his suit against the Des Moines cops.

Scoreboard reporting changes

Starting this week the weekly figures listed on the "Sales to industrial unionists" scoreboard will include all papers sold to members of these unions each week.

In addition to sales inside the plants, reports sent to the *Militant* Business Office should include papers sold to members of the union listed by teams outside the plant gates and at strike rallies and other union-organized events.

The figures on this week's scoreboard are based upon reports received from 16

cities in the United States.

In addition to single issue sales of the *Militant*, supporters in Canada are conducting a campaign to sell several books including, *How Far We Slaves Have Come!*, and *Oser Inventer L'avenir* [speeches by Thomas Sankara in French], along with *New International* no. 5 and *Nouvelle Internationale* no. 2, which feature in English and French, "The Coming Revolution in South Africa." Canadian supporters in the five industrial unions listed below have adopted a total book goal of 27. They sold 4 during the past week.

Mary Nell Bockman from New York contributed to this article.

Sales to industrial unionists, Jan. 18-March 15

Union	Weekly sales goal	No. sold #6*	Percentage sold of weekly goal	Subscription renewal goal	No. of renewals sold	'How Far We Slaves Have Come!' book goal	No. of books sold
U.S.							
ACTWU	20	18	90	12	5	25	8
IAM	60	18	30	30	7	55	15
ILGWU	14	0	0	3	4	15	2
OCAW	40	17	43	19	11	50	17
UAW	40	24	60	20	5	40	32
UFCW	50	33	66	20	5	25	7
UMWA	8	1	13	7	2	17	12
USWA	45	8	18	30	4	30	11
UTU	45	2	4	35	8	30	5
U.S. Totals	322	121	38	176	51	287	109
Canada							
ACTWU	3	0	0				
CAW	4	1	25				
IAM	5	2	40				
ILGWU	5	0	0				
USWA	4	2	50				
Canada Totals	21	5	24				

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

Farmers in every country face common problems as capitalist economies decline

The following article is taken from the preface to the new Pathfinder pamphlet, *Farmers Face the Crisis of the 1990s*. (See the advertisement below for order information.) It is copyright © 1992 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BY DOUG JENNESS

When human society first emerged over a million years ago, hunting and gathering was the principal way people fed themselves. Then some ten thousand years ago, one of history's most momentous revolutions occurred when our ancestors began to cultivate edible grasses, roots, and trees and succeeded in taming and breeding certain species of animals.

Over the centuries the production of food through cultivation and stock breeding has been spread by farmers to virtually every nook and cranny of the world, replacing hunting and gathering. Agriculture today is the principal means by which food is produced for nearly all of the five billion human inhabitants on earth.

Application of new scientific discoveries and technology have led to impressive gains in labor productivity on the land. A seemingly infinite variety of food products pour out of factories, freezing plants, and canneries to be sold in supermarkets; yet the grain, meat, fruit, vegetables, and milk they are made from is still produced on the land. No way has been found to synthetically manufacture food (as has been the case with fibers used in cloth). Agriculture remains essential for feeding the world's population.

Hundreds of millions of people throughout the world toil on the land to produce food for all of us. Many are wageworkers employed by capitalist growers. Even more are independent producers who, with the labor of their families, produce commodities for sale on the market. They are exploited because what they receive in return for their products is only a small portion of the value they have created. Parasitic bankers and loan sharks and monopoly-dominated food producers and traders appropriate the biggest share for themselves.

Farmers worldwide face common plight

Despite differences in language, customs, and economic well-being, working farmers and peasants throughout the world face a common plight. They are in continual danger of losing use of the land they need to produce food. Most who own their own land have mortgaged it to get loans and will lose it if they cannot pay the interest. Others, who rent land or are tied to sharecropping arrangements with landowners, have an even more precarious claim to use of the land.

The high cost of machinery, seed, fertilizers, and other inputs needed for production, combined with the comparatively low return working farmers get for their products, saps their ability to make the payments dictated by the capitalist rents and mortgages system. Millions of these farmers — in reality debt slaves — are being ruined and forced off their land each year. Those who continue to farm are reduced to mounting poverty and misery.



Planting in Maryland. The high cost of machinery and inputs needed to farm, along with the low return for their products, saps farmers ability to pay debts.

Large traders and processors have internationalized agriculture. Blueberries and kiwi fruit grown by farmers in New Zealand are bought by merchants and sold in U.S. supermarkets in winter. Increasingly, the strawberries and tomatoes found in U.S. markets in these months are from Mexico. Corn and soybeans grown in the United States are sold in Asia. Grapefruits grown in Brazil are processed and their juice sold in Europe and North America. Beef produced in the United States is sold in Japanese markets. Countless additional examples can be given.

In addition to trade in farm products, a massive system of international trade in farm machinery, fertilizers, pesticides, and seeds is dominated by a relatively small number of profit-hungry Goliaths.

As Karl Marx and Frederick Engels pointed out more than 140 years ago in the *Communist Manifesto*, "The need of a constantly expanding market for its products chases the bourgeoisie over the whole surface of the globe. It must nestle everywhere, settle everywhere, establish connections everywhere."

"The bourgeoisie," they wrote, "has, through its exploitation of the world market, given a cosmopolitan character to production and consumption in every country."

As dog-eat-dog competition between capitalist processors and merchants gets more heated, they attempt to squeeze more out of farmers and farm workers, out of wageworkers who process and transport agricultural products, and out of working people in grocery stockrooms, meat departments, and check-out counters.

This pamphlet describes the aggressive way capitalists use both protectionist and free

trade policies to battle each other for markets and profits.

As 1992 began, an eleven-day visit to Asia and the Pacific by U.S. president George Bush once again underlined the intensifying character of these trade conflicts.

A brawl over markets

The summit meeting with Japanese government and business chieftains quickly degenerated into a brawl over markets for products ranging from cars to rice. At the same time as Washington fought to blast open Japanese markets for U.S. agricultural products, it urged Tokyo to create a protected sector for U.S. automobile producers within the Japanese market — raising yelps from European governments and auto bosses. And while Bush pressed to eliminate measures protecting marketers of rice produced in Japan and South Korea, in Australia he faced sharp criticism that Australian farm exports were being undermined by Washington's subsidies to U.S. food merchants.

Such trade conflicts have been endemic to the world capitalist system of production since its inception. And as history has repeatedly shown, trade wars increase neither jobs nor farm prosperity. Instead, they tend to grow over into shooting wars — armed conflicts over raw materials, markets, and profitable outlets for investment.

Capitalist governments have always tried to convince workers and farmers — who pay the costs of trade wars, and who fight and die in shooting wars — that their policies are in our interests. Union bureaucrats and other misleaders of the labor movement, as well as farm organizations led by or subordinate to capitalist farmers, have historically fallen in

step behind the tycoons of big business and their chauvinist campaigns. And when workers and farmers are enlisted in either protectionist or free trade efforts, they end up acting against their own class interests, as working people in each country are pitted against each other, instead of being united in a common fight against the employers and bankers.

Democratic and Republican contenders for public office repeat these arguments of rival groups of capitalists, as well as claim that their version of farm legislation is in the interests of working farmers. This pamphlet refutes the notion that free trade and protectionism or the bipartisan farm bills adopted by Congress aid working farmers or other working people, in countryside or city. It outlines an action program aimed at uniting exploited farmers and wageworkers in a struggle to defend their common interests against the effects of trade wars and other manifestations of the crisis-ridden world capitalist system.

Capitalists offer no remedy

The bankers and industrialists offer no remedy for the worsening conditions. They are headed on a course that has already put us in the early stages of a depression. Any new partial economic shock — a wave of bankruptcies, a series of major crop failures, an explosion of inflation, stock-market crashes, or banking and debt disasters — can precipitate a devastating and long-lasting worldwide depression.

The road forward for working farmers who are being swept into this maelstrom is to unite with the working class — with their brothers and sisters who are wage slaves exploited by the capitalist masters of industry. By joining together in action to defend ourselves from the consequences of this growing crisis, working people will begin to recognize that a social revolution is necessary to overturn the political rule of the capitalists and establish a government of workers and farmers.

The ruling families who exploit the vast majority of humanity believe that those who toil for a living are not full human beings. In their eyes we are not worthy of the protection and rights we need and have amply earned.

But in the course of fighting for our rights and decent living conditions, each and every one of us — from the United States to France, from New Zealand to Mexico, from Russia to Korea — has the potential to recognize not only our strength as part of a united movement of working people, but also our individual worth as human beings with the capacity to think and to act.

Farmers and workers of all countries will discover that we are not only the ones who suffer under the wages, rents, and mortgages system; we are at the same time the ones capable of initiating a united and victorious fight to bring into being a more just and humane world, a socialist world.

Dairy farmers demand state of emergency

BY RUSSELL DAVIS

BOSTON — Thirty dairy farmers from eastern Massachusetts attended a hearing on dairy farming in this state January 14. The hearing was called in response to a petition signed by 10,000 people asking the commissioner of agriculture to declare a state of emergency in Massachusetts dairy farming. The petition was circulated by the state Farm Bureau, the Massachusetts Association of Dairy Farmers, and others.

Another hearing took place the next day in the western part of the state and attracted more than 100 people, about half of them farmers.

Dairy farmers here, and across New England, are facing serious difficulties due to the drop in the price of milk. A minimum price is set based on federal guidelines and price supports. The price they receive has fallen below the costs of production, farmers say.

In 1981 there were almost 800 family dairy farms in operation in the state; today that figure is 395 and falling. These farms produce \$300 million a year worth of milk, most of it sold as fresh milk to drink. It currently costs about \$1.25 per gallon to produce milk,

but farmers receive only \$1 a gallon.

Milk processing has been concentrated in the hands of a few large dairies, which supply the large supermarket chains. These companies charge more than \$2 a gallon for most of the milk they sell to consumers. Farmers are asking the state to impose a "vendors fee" — a tax on the processors when milk drops below the costs of production. This fee would be distributed back to the farmers.

The farmers' efforts are being fought by the processors and the supermarkets, which claim to be looking out for "consumers' interests." In fact, when milk prices drop retail prices drop minimally but when prices go up they are reflected in stores the next day.

Farmers say the tax need not raise the costs to consumers but could come out of the huge profits of the dairies.

At the hearings one farmer after another got up and told of how they have been pushed to the wall and risk losing farms their families have owned for generations. Several agricultural machinery and grain dealers also spoke about their failing businesses as a result of the farmers' plight.

Many farmers spoke about cutting back

on essential expenses, going without health insurance, and being forced to use worn out, and often dangerous, equipment. Because many have had to lay off the small number of farm workers they employed, farm families have to milk cows seven-days-a-week, 365-days-a-year.

Sam Shields, a farmer from Middleborough, spoke of making only \$23,000 in the past year, a sum with which he feeds four adults and three children.

Many of the farms in trouble today have won awards for efficiency and produced record yields of milk in the past. Farmers have been forced to use up their savings to stay afloat. For example, many older farmers have been unable to retire because their retirement money is gone. Ironically many dairy farmers now qualify for food stamps.

In an interview Sandra Facey, treasurer of the Massachusetts Association of Dairy Farmers, said that if the state does not intervene soon many farmers will not make it through the spring.

"What the processors and supermarkets really fear is farmers coming together," she said. "They're not interested in farmers or consumers, they only care about their profits."

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Australian farmers protest Bush visit

BY BOB AIKEN
AND PAUL ROBERTS

CANBERRA, Australia — More than a thousand farmers rallied here in early January during a visit by United States president George Bush as he met with representatives of government, farmers, and business organizations.

The demonstration drew family farmers from all parts of Australia and reflected the deepening crisis of depression proportions in the countryside.

According to the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics the net value of farm production plummeted from \$3.2 billion in the period 1988–89 to only \$160 million in 1990–91. A random survey by a leading farm consultant company in mid-1991 revealed that a third of wheat and sheep farmers in New South Wales were at risk of losing their farms.

Writing in the farm magazine *The Land*, sheep farmer R.J. Ballard comments, "I am seeing almost negligible prices for stock. . . Yet in a butchers' shop in town or city one can see lamb loin chops selling for around 75 cents each. To my mind this is a mysterious situation that a single chop should cost more than a complete sheep."

The Canberra rally was called by the leadership of the National Farmers' Federation (NFF), which is dominated by capitalist farmers, to back their call for free trade in agricultural export commodities. Bush met with new Labor prime minister Paul Keating and other government ministers, who voiced the same position on behalf of Australia's capitalist rulers.

Bush's visit through Australia, Singapore, South Korea, and Japan was dominated by deepening tensions among the capitalist powers over world trade. The Australian capitalist rulers heavily reliant on the export of farm products, have been squeezed in the subsidized price war between the European Community and the United States.

Australia's government ministers, representing both capitalist agro-exporters and big-business farmers, have been in the forefront of the Cairns Group of countries in calling for "free trade" at international trade talks. The ruling classes of many of the smaller but more efficient farming nations would stand to gain if the subsidized price war of the wealthier capitalist powers was replaced by freer, less protected, or less subsidized trade.

Trade war sharpens

For instance, the NFF claims that the trade war between the giant U.S. and European grain traders have slashed \$750 million off the value of Australia's wheat exports.

This trade war sharpened in the aftermath of the war against Iraq. Canberra, having aggressively participated in the U.S.-led coalition, now feels deprived of the spoils of war. Last year wheat sold under the U.S. government's Export Enhancement Program, as well as European Community subsidized wheat, won out in a price war with the Australian Wheat Board in Yemen and

China, two of Australian capitalism's traditional markets.

This also caused a loss in payments from Egypt. Iraq itself was a major market for Australian wheat before the blockade, which the Australian navy continues to help impose.

In response to the U.S. trade practices, Australian foreign minister Gareth Evans declared last August, "This is the act not of an ally or even of a friend. It's the act of, in fact, a hostile country."

The NFF has been campaigning against wheat export subsidies for U.S. and European wheat traders and for greater access to the U.S. market for Australian beef and sugar traders, in the context of a sharp drop in prices for most farm commodities over the past couple of years. As a result of the price drop, combined with a deep and prolonged drought affecting farms in much of eastern Australia, production has fallen dramatically.

About 90 percent of wheat production in Australia, and more than 95 percent of wool production, is exported. Working farmers are being made to bear the chief brunt of the downturn and heightened competition on the world market.

Wheat production declines

The Labor government in Australia has refused to offer wheat farmers a guaranteed minimum price despite the record low prices that farmers have been receiving, in many instances below the cost of production. On top of this the drought in Wales and Queensland has in large part caused wheat production in those states to decline by 40 percent and 75 percent respectively.

The value of wool exports from Australia crashed from \$4.5 billion in 1988–89 to \$1.9 billion in 1990–91. In response to this crisis the labor government, the NFF, and the Australian Wool Corporation implemented a slaughter scheme to drastically cut production and then scrapped the minimum guaranteed price scheme that had existed for wool.

Prices at wool auctions through Australia in 1991 dropped to the lowest levels since the worst years of the 1930s depression. In late 1991, in response to the lower level of production and also the high proportion of poor-quality drought-affected wool, the prices increased somewhat, but not to the levels of the old guaranteed minimum price.

Due to the combination of slashed production and slashed prices, only 19 percent of sheep farmers were expected to show a surplus over the last financial year, the remaining 81 percent forced to go deeper into debt, walk off the land, or face foreclosure in the coming year.

This sharp recession in the Australian countryside comes on top of a long-term cost-price squeeze that profits agribusiness at the expense of working farmers. For example, a Queensland soya bean farmer explained in an interview that he receives the same dollar price this season as in 1971, but his costs for fertilizer have increased tenfold and the cost of a new harvester has leapt from



Militant Australian rally was called by National Farmers' Federation, which is dominated by capitalist farmers, to demand free trade in agricultural export commodities.

\$11,000 to \$300,000.

Spiraling interest rates that swell the coffers of big banks have created growing indebtedness among working farmers.

One farmer who has been forced to walk off the land is Robert Cock, a grain and cotton farmer from Gunnedah in New South Wales. Cock took out a bank loan of \$90,000 in 1980 when interest rates were 12 percent, borrowed further in the mid-1980s to cover bad years, and defaulted on interest payments that were then added to his total debt. He ended up with an interest bill of \$75,000 on a debt of \$375,000, after interest rates peaked at 22.5 percent.

It is the cost-price squeeze and the rents and mortgages system that is the fundamental problem facing working farmers. But this is not addressed by the National Farmers' Federation, which serves the interests of the big capitalist farmers and the agribusiness exporters.

NFF president Graham Blight attempted to blur over the fact that the interests of the exploited family farmers are opposed to those of all big-business exploiters, urging them to

come behind the campaign of the wealthy farmers in petitioning Bush for an end to the U.S. farm subsidies. However, as he later pointed out to the press, "U.S. exporters, not farmers, get the subsidies under the Export Enhancement Program."

Blight appealed to the close imperialist alliance between the U.S. and Australian rulers, complaining that "we're the only country to have fought and died alongside the U.S. in every war this century — but the U.S. must get us off their hit list."

Supporters of U.S. rightist Lyndon LaRouche were able to take advantage of the deepening crisis on the land to circulate their demagogic appeals to farmers at the Canberra rally. Their newspaper, *New Citizen*, attacked the NFF and its evil "cult" of free trade, arguing a protectionist line. Yet like the NFF, the LaRouchites aim to draw working farmers behind a program to make capitalism in "Sovereign Australia" work more effectively.

In the march on Parliament House, the LaRouchites placed themselves at the head of the farmers with a banner that read, "LaRouche for President, Bush for jail."

American Agriculture Movement holds 13th national convention

BY DAN FURMAN

MONROE, Louisiana — Three hundred farmers gathered here for the 13th national convention of the American Agriculture Movement (AAM).

The AAM was formed in 1977 to respond to the sharpening problems faced by working farmers. The AAM initiated a wave of protests, "tractorcades," and rallies at state capitols and grain elevators that culminated in a nationwide tractorcade to Washington, D.C., in 1979.

Much of the discussion of this convention, held January 10–12, centered on legal and legislative initiatives undertaken by the AAM in recent years.

Several sessions took up farmers' concerns that government enforcement of a section of the Clean Water Act dealing with the preservation of wetlands was being used arbitrarily against farmers. Some farmers are facing large fines or even imprisonment following the designation of land they were working as wetlands. The AAM supports the preservation of wetlands but argues for a clearer definition of the term and government compensation for farmers whose land is in protected areas.

Another bill promoted by the AAM, the Crop Sharing Hunger Relief Act, would give tax deductions for individuals who purchase surplus agricultural commodities and donate them to hunger relief organizations.

At the center of much discussion was farmers' frustration with corporate manipulation of the market for farm produce. The AAM filed a lawsuit in 1989 charging the Chicago Board of Trade with illegally fixing soybean prices. Futures in soybeans, wheat, beef and other farm products are bought and sold on the Chicago Board of Trade (CBT) by big investors, much in the same way as

speculators trade stock on the New York Stock Exchange.

The AAM officially opposes "free trade" and Washington's proposals moving in this direction put forward in the recent GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) talks.

Family farmers today face a double squeeze between rising costs for farm machinery, and prices for farm products that are driven down for the benefit of speculators and giant corporations. In workshops and informal discussion at the convention, farmers further explained these problems. "Farmers don't benefit from price increases in food," pointed out Cecil George, a founding member of the AAM from Colorado. "There is only 5 cents of wheat in a loaf of bread. But when the price of a bushel of wheat goes up a dollar, they raise the price of a loaf of bread 10-15 cents. And most farmers have already sold their wheat by the time the price goes up."

William Virchor from South Dakota estimated that 9 out of 10 farmers in his area are in trouble. "It cost me \$600 to replace the muffler on my tractor," he said. "That's the price of a whole truckload of oats. It just doesn't make it."

Buddy Vance, who raises cattle and sorghum in Amarillo, Texas, pointed out that the money made in the futures market never gets back to farmers. Instead, it goes to corporations like Continental and Cargill that dominate the trade in what farmers produce. "We're like slaves to Cargill," he added. "They pay us just enough to keep producing."

Dan Furman is a member of United Steelworkers of America Local 8318 in Birmingham, Alabama.



Militant About 90 percent of Australian wheat is exported. Working farmers bear the brunt of the economic downturn and heightened competition on the world market.

Issues raised by Tyson rape trial spark debate

BY DEREK BRACEY

The verdict on boxing star Mike Tyson, who was found guilty of rape February 10, has sparked much discussion, both in the press and beyond. Many compare it to earlier highly publicized trials and hearings that involved allegations of sexual mistreatment.

Some supporters of a guilty verdict have agreed with the view expressed in *New York Newsday* by Robin Einbinder,

AS I SEE IT

assistant director of Mount Sinai Medical Center's Rape Crisis Intervention Program.

"I do see this as a victory for rape victims," said Einbinder. "Every major trial in the past year or two left the rape victim with the sense that it is not worth it [to bring charges] and no one will believe them."

"If [Tyson] had not been found guilty, it would reinforce once again the belief that if you come forward, he still will go free."

Claire Kaplan, sexual assault education coordinator at the University of Virginia, raised a similar view. "It was groundbreaking in many ways in that what she said was taken seriously," Kaplan stated.

All women who charge that they have been raped should be taken seriously. Their charges should be heard and action should be taken based on the facts available. But to go further than this and call for more rape convictions regardless of such evidence will not bring justice. The case of Mark Curtis, framed up and jailed on false charges of rape, is one example of the need for those considering verdicts to have full access to the relevant and available evidence. Curtis was convicted on the word of a cop who had a proven record of falsifying evidence, but he was not allowed to present this crucial fact before the jury.

Tyson's trial has naturally been compared to that of William Kennedy Smith. But such a comparison cannot be

the basis of determining guilt. The verdict in Smith's trial doesn't mean Tyson should have been found innocent; nor does the result of Tyson's trial mean Smith should have been found guilty.

There are others who charge that Tyson was convicted wrongly, and that the charges were unfounded. Those arguing this focus on the accuser's actions. They point to her acknowledgement that she went to Tyson's hotel room, emphasizing that it was after 2 a.m.

"Any woman who goes with a man to a hotel room knows exactly what she's doing," was the response of Kimy Brewer, a nurse's assistant in Washington, D.C.

This was the basis of Tyson's defense. His lawyers advanced this argument by using what some are calling "the creep defense," arguing that Tyson was so vulgar, up-front, and point-blank in his sexual requests that no reasonable woman could expect anything but sex when she visited him and therefore what happened to her could not possibly have been rape.

This defense was rejected, as it should be. There is nowhere a woman goes and there is no time of day or night when women lose their right to decide if they want to have sex or not.

Some commentators advanced the idea that Tyson was framed up because he was a "successful young Black man."

"He's a great guy who got a bum deal. Everything, his whole career is gone," Jesse Gibson, from the neighborhood in Brownsville, Texas, where Tyson grew up, told *Newsday*. "Anytime somebody looks up to somebody, they want to break him down." Lyman May, also from the neighborhood, blamed a societal conspiracy against successful Black men for the verdict. "He was made an example of," said May. "Now they can show you another Black man who has failed."

Such arguments suggest that because Tyson was a well-known boxer this should outweigh the actual evidence of the case.

Anti-Black racism is deep-seated and reproduced daily in the capitalist society we live in. Working-class Blacks

are framed up frequently. Cases such as those of Eddie Carthan and Johnny Imani Harris are clear examples of this.

But there is no general conspiracy against Blacks who are "successful."

As a result of the victories of the civil rights movement in the 1950s and 1960s, a layer of the Black nationality became middle class. In income, social milieu, and political outlook this layer is far removed from the big majority of Blacks, who remain working class.

The vast majority of Blacks face sharply worsening social and economic conditions, and suffer the brunt of the ruling-class offensive against the living standards and working conditions of all working people. This is not because of a conspiracy, but as a result of the normal workings of the capitalist system.

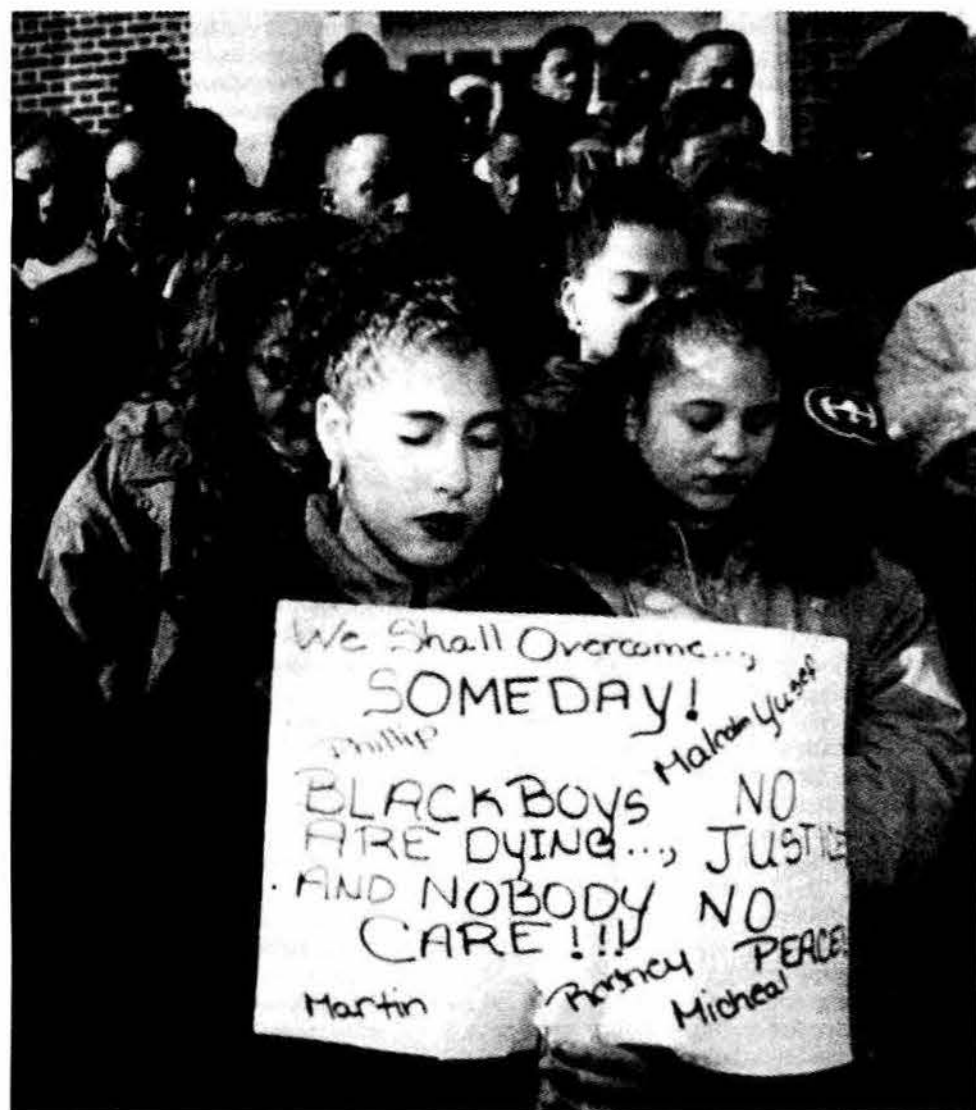
In the justice system under capitalism court decisions are too often determined more by who are the accusers and defendants, and the nature of the alleged crime than on the facts. It is common for the facts to become distorted or treated as a secondary question.

Justice is not normally offered to working people in this society. Workers are more likely to be considered guilty when accused, and ignored when seeking justice. This is especially true for Blacks, Latinos, and other oppressed nationalities. The court system is hostile to those who are poor, while it puts the word of cops and businessmen on a pedestal.

The purpose of the police and justice system under capitalism is to protect property rights and to terrorize and harass workers. In recent years, under pressure from demands from women, the courts have been forced to deal more seriously with cases of attacks on women.

The concept of innocence until proven guilty and the need for judging each case on its own merits and on the facts presented have long been fought for by working people. The quest for justice cannot succeed without them.

New Jersey youths protest acquittal of killer cop



Students observe moment of silence for Phillip Pannell, killed by local police.

BY DAVE HURST

HACKENSACK, New Jersey — Two hundred young people walked out of classes at Hackensack High School February 12 and marched to the Bergen County Courthouse here to protest the acquittal of Teaneck police officer Gary Spath the night before. Spath, who is white, had been on trial for reckless manslaughter in the April 1990 shooting death of a 16-year-old Black youth, Phillip Pannell.

Citing numerous instances of police harassment, demonstrators described the acquittal of Spath as proof that "Blacks can't expect justice from the system." The youth vowed to step up the fight against police brutality by participating in more marches and rallies to press for prosecuting police

responsible for beatings or killings.

The crowd, mostly Black but with participation from white and Hispanic students, interrupted a press conference of Bergen County Black organizations. They sang "We Shall Overcome," chanted "No justice, no peace!" and then moved on to another rally at Teaneck High School and Municipal Complex five miles away. Press conference speakers — Herbert Daughtry, a well-known Black minister; Franklin Wilkes of the NAACP; and others — joined the protest march on the way to Teaneck. A rally has been called in Teaneck February 15 to protest Spath's acquittal.

The Spath trial garnered daily media attention and provoked much discussion in the north New Jersey area. The prosecution's

case against Spath focused on the recklessness of Spath and his partner in their conduct responding to a call about a youth with a weapon. Prosecution evidence included eyewitness accounts that Pannell had his hands in the air and was turning around, attempting to surrender, when Spath shot him in the back. A forensic pathologist presented detailed evidence that Pannell's hands could only have been in the air in order for the bullet hole in his jacket to line up with the wounds in his body.

Spath's defense rested on the claim of self-defense against Pannell. According to Spath, the youth was reaching for a gun in his pocket while running from the cops, who had already fired one warning shot in violation of the police department's own rules. At one point in his testimony, Spath claimed that answering a call about someone brandishing a gun "is like entering a different world."

"If that was the case," said special deputy attorney general Glenn Goldberg in summing up his case to the jury, "Spath didn't belong on a school playground" with a loaded pistol that became "an inanimate object controlling his hand. Imagine what it had to have been like for those 13-year-old children to be looking down the barrels of two .357 Magnums pointed at them" by Spath and his partner.

In rebutting the police claim that Pannell had a loaded handgun in his pocket at the time, Goldberg said that Pannell had the right to be arrested and have his case presented to a jury. "But he was denied those rights by a reckless course of conduct" on the part of the cops.

While activists against police brutality marched and rallied in the streets a number of times during the trial, cops and their supporters from Teaneck and surrounding communities used the trial itself as a mobilization point. In addition to packing the courtroom with cops, a number of irregularities were committed by the Bergen County Sheriff's Department. In one case, a prosecution eyewitness to the crime, Melvin DeBerry, was arrested minutes after leaving the witness stand. They held him on a two-year-old probation violation.

A few days later, sheriff's deputies disrupted court proceedings by wheeling a disabled New York cop into the courtroom during testimony. After lambasting the sheriff's department for threatening the integrity of the trial, Superior Court Judge Charles DiGisi removed authority for courtroom security from the Bergen County Sheriff and assigned it to the New

Jersey State Police. Sheriff's deputies were also caught posing as reporters for the "Daily Planet," a non-existent newspaper, in order to film participants in protests against police brutality.

Black community representatives are now meeting with the U.S. Attorney's office. Representatives of that office have said they will look into the case to determine if there are grounds to put Spath on trial for violating Pannell's civil rights.

Canadian farmers plan mass protest

BY COLIN MCKAY

TORONTO — Farmers from across Quebec and Ontario are expected to take part in a massive demonstration in Ottawa February 21. The demonstration is being organized by the Union des Producteurs Agricoles (UPA — Union of Agricultural Producers), the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA), and various marketing boards which sell farmers' products.

The demonstration is being called to protest the Canadian government's proposal to lift agricultural subsidies, as part of its bargaining position in talks being held in Geneva on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). GATT is the framework governing trade between most countries in the world.

"They are selling us out by dealing away agricultural subsidies in this country and causing the certain ruin of thousands of farm businesses," said Jacques Proulx, president of the UPA, in a *Toronto Globe and Mail* article February 7.

"This is a desperate move. We want a commitment from Ottawa to not give up the quota system for dairy, chicken, and turkey farmers. We fear a flood of products from the United States will put many farmers out of business here," said Mary Klunder, who runs a hog farm with her husband in the Brant County region in southern Ontario.

"Farmers have not come out of the recession of the 1980s, let alone this one," said Herman Kruis, provincial director for the Brant County OFA. Kruis reported that a 1991 federal government document on the mounting debt of farmers indicates, for example, that up to 40 percent of pork producers are facing bankruptcy in Canada.

For further information on the demonstration contact the UPA, in Quebec at (514) 679-0530; in Ontario at (416) 485-3333.

Peace for Cuba rally held in San Francisco

BY JIM ALTENBERG
AND OSBORNE HART

SAN FRANCISCO — Some 1,200 people filled Mission High School auditorium here to attend a "Peace for Cuba" rally February 1.

This was the second of two such rallies held to support an "International Peace for Cuba Appeal," which called for an end to Washington's blockade of Cuba, closure of the U.S. military base at Guantánamo, lifting the U.S. ban on travel to the island, and normalization of relations between the two countries. The appeal was sponsored by former U.S. attorney general Ramsey Clark and a number of well-known authors and religious and political figures. The first rally was held in New York January 25.

Gloria LaRiva, West Coast coordinator for the appeal campaign, opened the rally. "We know what Cuba has done for us. It is time for us to do something to thank Cuba," she said.

"Unfortunately," she went on, the prominent Cubans advertised on rally literature were not able to get visas from Washington. But "this meeting is being sent to Cuban television so we will be together with them in spirit today." Leaflets for the rally had announced a program featuring well-known Cubans, including boxing champion Teófilo Stevenson, noted ballerina Alicia Alonso, and singer Sara González. The same people had been advertised to appear at the New York rally but were not at either event.

Speakers pointed to the strength of the Cuban revolution and its record of international solidarity. "Palestinians have taken

Cuba as a model of a state that stands for social justice and peace," said Palestinian activist Eyad Kashawi. "Despite U.S. efforts to crush and provoke the Cuban people, Cuba has stood by the Palestinian people."

"For over 33 years Cuba has taught humankind an epoch-changing lesson that people can maintain freedom, dignity, and social justice. The enemies of freedom, who deny it to the majority of humanity, have condemned Cuba for its irrevocable decision to be free," said Andrés Gómez. Gómez is na-

tional coordinator of the Antonio Maceo Brigade, an organization of Cuban-Americans who support the social gains in Cuba.

Other speakers included authors Alice Walker, Piri Thomas, and Margaret Randall; Mosala Mosegomi of the South African International Student Congress; Bobby Castillo of the International Indian Treaty Council; and Holly Fincke of the Venceremos Brigade.

They reviewed the gains won by the Cuban people through the revolution, such as free education and medical care. They called

upon the U.S. government to leave Cuba alone, and, as Randall said, "pay attention to problems at home."

Just as at the New York event the big majority of those attending the San Francisco rally were supporters of left-wing political groups and longtime Cuba solidarity activists. This was reflected in the chants of "Viva Cuba! Viva Fidel!" that were led from the stage throughout the afternoon instead of the slogans around which the rally was officially called.

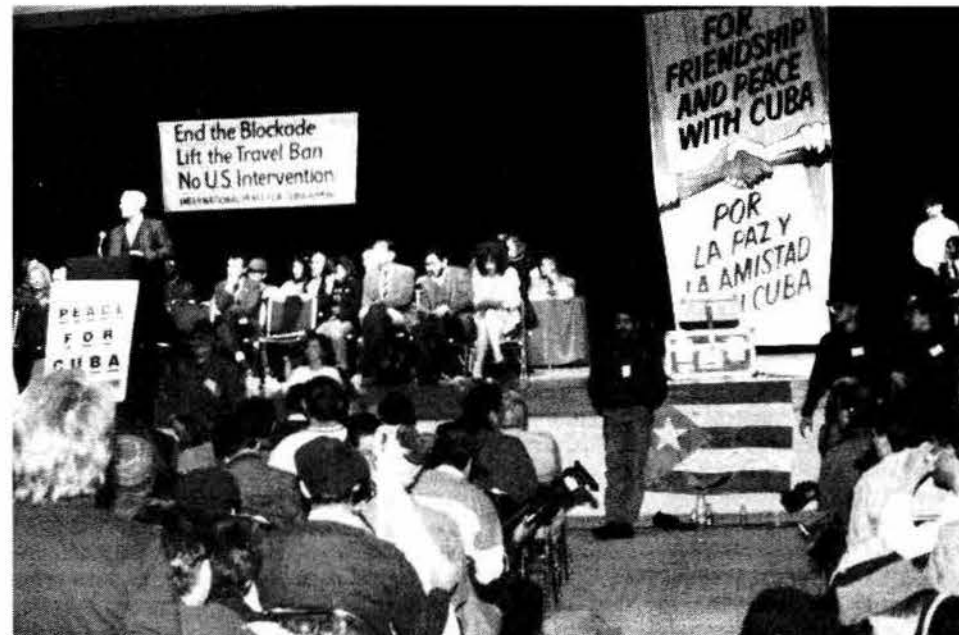
Little of the program addressed the deep-going challenges, increased tensions, and political debates that are features of the Cuban revolution today as a result of the tightening U.S. blockade, the worldwide economic crisis of capitalism, and the impact of the changes in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

Outside Mission High, 250 counterrevolutionary opponents of the Cuban revolution protested the meeting. They held signs stating, "Castro is a Murderer," and identified themselves as veterans of the failed 1961 U.S.-organized Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba. There were also supporters of the right-wing terrorist outfit Alpha 66. Leaflets attacking the Cuban revolution and the rally had been posted throughout the predominantly Latino Mission district of San Francisco in the days before the rally. Most of the counterrevolutionaries had come by bus from Los Angeles.

Rally organizers deployed a large squad of two-way radio equipped marshals, who searched everyone at the door as they entered the building. City cops kept the counterrevolutionaries behind police barricades on the other side of the street.

Socialists at a busy Pathfinder literature table got a good response, particularly from young people who had heard about the rally and came to learn about socialism and the Cuban revolution. The socialists sold 22 single copies and a subscription to the *Militant*, 2 subscriptions to *Perspectiva Mundial*, and dozens of Pathfinder books and pamphlets. Especially popular was *How Far We Slaves Have Come!*, which contains speeches given by Fidel Castro and Nelson Mandela in Cuba last July. Participants also bought 7 copies of the Cuban weekly *Granma*.

Jim Altenberg is a member of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 1-5. Osborne Hart is a member of Teamsters Union Local 78.



Militant/Marc Lichtman

New York Peace for Cuba rally January 25. San Francisco event occurred February 1.

Omaha socialists celebrate 5 years of activity

BY LEE OLESON

OMAHA, Nebraska — The fight against police brutality, the unfolding revolution in South Africa, and the opportunities to build a revolutionary party in the United States and around the world were the themes of a spirited forum held here January 25.

The Militant Labor Forum celebrated the accomplishments of five years of the Socialist Workers Party branch in Omaha, and the decision by members of the branch to leave Omaha to strengthen the socialist movement in Detroit; Baltimore; Seattle; Pittsburgh; Philadelphia; Des Moines, Iowa; Newark, New Jersey; and Greensboro, North Carolina.

"The closing of the Omaha branch of the SWP is necessary in order to strengthen the world communist movement," SWP national leader James Warren told the forum, which was followed by an extended discussion among the 45 people attending.

Other speakers included Sara Lobman, a participant in the fight against police brutality in Des Moines; Mary Zins, recently returned from a *Militant* reporting trip to South Africa; Pat Leamon, a leader of the Omaha SWP; and Jason Coughlin, an airman at Offutt Air Force Base and a member of the Young Socialist Alliance.

Warren explained the goals the party had set in establishing the Omaha branch and noted that they had been accomplished "without question."

The Omaha SWP, along with branches in Des Moines, Iowa, and Austin, Minnesota, were set up in late 1986 during a wave of strikes that swept the meat-packing industry in the Midwest.

"The strikes were a response to brutal assaults against packinghouse workers' wages and working conditions by the bosses and were an effort by the bosses to housebreak the packinghouse unions and to lower the value of the workers' labor power," Warren said.

Within weeks of the party's decision to establish the three branches, nearly 50 party members had moved to the Midwest to join the fight.

"The fact that many Midwest packinghouse workers came from Latin America and Asia was new to us," Warren explained. "This internationalization of the North American working class is not temporary. It's a step forward and it sets up the defeat of the capitalists in the future."

He also noted that the role of immigrant workers is a key part of the case of Mark Curtis, a Des Moines meat-packer framed up on rape charges in 1988.

Curtis was arrested after participating in the defense of 17 Mexican and Salvadorean

coworkers who were victims of an Immigration and Naturalization Service raid.

"When Mark became part of the fight to defend those workers he became a dangerous man," Warren said.

Over the last several weeks, members of the SWP in Omaha threw themselves into the fight against police brutality here as well as in Des Moines. Branch members also traveled to Dubuque, Iowa, to join the fight against racist attacks going on in that city.

Building a chapter of the Young Socialist Alliance has been an important part of the work of the Omaha SWP. Coughlin explained how he had become interested in socialist ideas and joined the movement. He

encouraged other young people in the audience to join the YSA, which continues to have a chapter in Omaha. A high school student asked to join the YSA after the forum.

The fight for free speech for GLs has been a major campaign of the branch in the past six months. The Omaha SWP and YSA, working with other groups and prominent individuals in the area, has been able to push back the military's attempts to harass and intimidate Coughlin and other GLs. A network has been established in Omaha to continue to defend GLs' rights.

Lee Oleson is a member of United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 271.

Black History Month Special Offer

25% discount through end of February to all members of Pathfinder Readers Club

COINTELPRO: The FBI's Secret War on Political Freedom By Nelson Blackstock

In-depth look at the illegal FBI counterintelligence program directed against socialists and Black and antiwar activists. \$14.95 (discount price \$11.20).

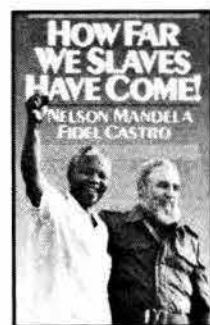
By Any Means Necessary Speeches and interviews spanning Malcolm X's last year. \$13.95 (discount price \$10.95).

Malcolm X Talks to Young People.

In discussions with young people on three continents, Malcolm X describes the challenges they face in the fight for a just world. \$9.95 (discount price \$7.45).



BLACK HISTORY MONTH TITLES IN SPANISH AND FRENCH



How Far We Slaves Have Come! South Africa and Cuba in Today's World. Speaking together

in July 1991, Mandela and Castro discuss the antiapartheid struggle, Cuba's contribution, and the challenges facing the Cuban and South African peoples today. \$7.95 (discount price \$5.95). Also available in Spanish.

Nelson Mandela: Intensifiquemos la lucha [Intensify the struggle] Speeches from 1990 in Africa, Europe, and North America. Spanish. \$12.95 (discount price \$9.70).

Sudáfrica: la revolución en camino. [The Coming Revolution in South Africa] By Jack Barnes. Includes the Freedom Charter. Spanish. \$6 (discount price \$4.50).

La revolución granadina 1979-83 [The Grenada revolution] Speeches by Maurice Bishop, Fidel Castro. Spanish \$6 (discount price \$4.50).



Oser inventer l'avenir [Dare to invent the future] Speeches by Thomas Sankara, the assassinated president of Burkina Faso, tell the story of the revolution in that West African country. French. \$35 (discount price \$26.25).

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

The Militant Labor Forum is a weekly free-speech meeting for workers, farmers, youth, and others. All those seeking to advance the fight against injustice and exploitation should attend and participate in these discussions on issues of importance to working people.

At the Militant Labor Forum you can express your opinion, listen to the views of fellow fighters, and exchange ideas on how to best advance the interests of workers and farmers the world over.

ALABAMA

Birmingham

Malcolm X. His Revolutionary Legacy. Speaker: Pat Hunt, Socialist Workers Party, member United Transportation Union Local 1291. Sun., Feb. 23, 5:30 p.m. 111 21st St. S. Donation: \$3. Tel: (205) 323-3079.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

The Legacy of Malcolm X. Speakers to be announced. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$4. Tel: (213) 380-9460.

FLORIDA

Miami

Video: The Autobiography of Malcolm X. Sat., Feb. 22, 7:30 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (305) 756-1020.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

The Fight Against Police Brutality: Victory for Mark Curtis! Speakers: Broek Carlsten, Amnesty International, North Atlanta High School; Rev. Felix Jean-Guillaume, Haitian Ministry; John Franklin, Grady Hospital chapter chairperson, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 1644; Marla Puziss, supporter, Mark Curtis Defense Committee. Sat., Feb. 22. Reception, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 172 Trinity Ave. SW Donation: \$5. Tel: (404) 577-4065.

Russia and Eastern Europe: Capitalist Market System in Crisis. Speaker: John Hawkins, Socialist Workers Party National Committee,

member United Mine Workers of America. Sat., Feb. 29, 7:30 p.m. 172 Trinity Ave. SW Donation: \$3. Tel: (404) 577-4065.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

Why Labor Should Defend Affirmative Action. Speaker: Valerie Johnson, Socialist Workers Party, member International Union of Electrical Workers. Sat., Feb. 22, 7:30 p.m. 605 Massachusetts Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

NORTHEAST REGIONAL SOCIALIST EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE. Sat., Feb. 29. Registration, 1 p.m.; welcome, 1:30 p.m.

CLASS: The Myth of Race and Origins of Anti-Black Prejudice. 2 p.m.

SLIDESHOW PRESENTATION: Expanding Revolutionary Press. 4:30 p.m.

KEYNOTE: The Opening of the World Depression: Political Polarization and Rising Class Tensions. 8 p.m.

Sun., March 1. **CLASS: Immigrant Workers: For a World without Borders.** 10 a.m.

CLASS: The Origin of Women's Oppression and the Class-Struggle Road to Emancipation. 1 p.m. Best Western Hotel, 342 Longwood Ave. Registration: \$10 for conference or \$3 per session. For more information: (617) 247-6772.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

Special Event to Launch Reconstruction of Pathfinder Bookstore. Sat., Feb. 22, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI

St. Louis

The New World Depression, the Need for International Working-Class Solidarity, and the Fight for Socialism. Speaker: Mary Zins, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Feb. 22, 7:30 p.m. 1622 S Broadway. Donation: \$3. Tel: (314) 421-3808.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

FBI's War Against the People of Puerto Rico. Speaker: Martin Koppel, *Militant* reporter at re-

cent Senate hearings in Puerto Rico. Sat., Feb. 22, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St., 2nd floor. Donation: \$3. Tel: (201) 643-3341.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Malcolm X. His Revolutionary Heritage. Speaker: Ed Warren, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Feb. 22, 7:30 p.m. 191 7th Ave. Donation: \$4. Tel: (212) 675-6740.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

Turning Point in South Africa. An Eyewitness Report. Speaker: Derek Bracey, Young Socialist Alliance, visited South Africa in July and December. Sat., Feb. 29, 7:30 p.m. 2000-C South Elm-Eugene St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

OHIO

Cleveland

REGIONAL SOCIALIST EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE.

Sat., Feb. 29. **CLASS: The Marxist Theory of the State: the Cops, the Courts, and Repression in Capitalist Society.** 3 p.m.

MILITANT LABOR FORUM: The Depression, the Crisis of Capitalism and Prospects for Revolutionary Change. 7:30 p.m.

Speaker: Susan Berman, Central Committee member, Communist League of Canada.

Sun., March 1. **CLASS: The Origin of Women's Oppression and the Fight for Equality Today.** 9 a.m.

SLIDESHOW PRESENTATION: Building the Communist Movement in the 1990s: The International Reconstruction Project at the Pathfinder Building. 12 noon. For location and other information: (216) 861-6150.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

South Africa: New Stage in the Struggle to End Apartheid. An eyewitness report by Derek Bracey, National Organizational Secretary of the Young Socialist Alliance who attended the African National Congress Youth League conference in December. Sat., Feb. 22, 7:30 p.m. 1906 South St. Donation: \$5. Tel: (215) 546-8218.

TEXAS

Houston

Maquiladoras on Strike: Struggle of Industrial Workers on the Mexico—Texas Border. Sat., Feb. 29, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$3. Tel: (713) 522-8054.

UTAH

Salt Lake City

Police Brutality. What We Can Do To Fight Against Cop Violence. Sat., Feb. 22, 7:30 p.m. 147 E 900 S. Donation: \$3. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

Protest Police Attack on Anti-Racist March. Speakers: George Bakan, editor-in-chief *Seattle Gay News*; Harvey McArthur, Socialist Workers Party, member United Transportation Union Local 845. Sat., Feb. 22, 7:30 p.m. 1405 E Madison. Donation: \$3. Tel: (206) 323-1755.

Police Brutality: Why Does It Happen? How Can We Fight It? A panel discussion including Malcolm Jarrett, Socialist Workers Party and recently returned from fight against police brutality in Des Moines, Iowa. Sat., Feb. 29, 7:30 p.m. 523 8th St. SE. Donation: \$3. Tel: (202) 547-7557.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Worldwide Crisis of Capitalism and the Legacy of Malcolm X. Speaker: Sam Manuel, Socialist Workers Party, member United Transportation Union Local 769. Sat., Feb. 22, 7:30 p.m. 523 8th St. SE. Donation: \$3. Tel: (202) 547-7557.

Police Brutality: Why Does It Happen? How Can We Fight It? A panel discussion including Malcolm Jarrett, Socialist Workers Party and recently returned from fight against police brutality in Des Moines, Iowa. Sat., Feb. 29, 7:30 p.m. 523 8th St. SE. Donation: \$3. Tel: (202) 547-7557.

WEST VIRGINIA

Morgantown

How Far We Slaves Have Come! Celebrate the New Pathfinder Book. Speakers: Cosmo Pieterse, poet, professor at Ohio University; Elizabeth Lariscy, Socialist Workers Party, member Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union. Sat., Feb. 22, 7:30 p.m. 242 Walnut St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (304) 296-0055.

ICELAND

Reykjavik

Politics and the Crisis of the Market System. Speakers: Estelle DeBates, Young Socialist Alliance national cochairperson; Sigurlaug Gunnlaugsdottir. Sat., Feb. 22, 1 p.m. Klapparstig 26. 2nd floor. Donation: \$3. Tel: (91) 17513.

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland

Continuing Turmoil in Fiji. Speaker: Richard Naidu, Coalition for Democracy in Fiji. Sat., Feb. 22, 7 p.m. La Gonda Arcade, 203 Karangahape Rd. Donation: \$2. Tel: (9) 793-075.

JFK: Myth and Reality of Kennedy's Presidency. Speakers to be announced. Sat., Feb. 29, 7:30 p.m. La Gonda Arcade, 203 Karangahape Rd. Donation: \$2. Tel: (9) 793-075.

Wellington

Oppose Government Attacks on Health Services. Speaker from Coalition for Public Health. Sat., Feb. 29, 7 p.m. 23 Majoribanks St., Courtenay Pl. Donation: \$2. Tel: (4) 384-4205.

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

Wellington: 23 Majoribanks St., Courtenay Pl. Postal address: P.O. Box 9092. Tel: (4) 384-4205.

SWEDEN

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

Open U.S. borders to Haitian refugees

Continued from front page

island and spur an even greater exodus of Haitians to the United States. He went on to predict that in the next few months the flood of refugees will "be gigantic, much bigger than what we have seen."

This prediction is being borne out as U.S. Coast Guard cutters transporting refugees from the Guantánamo base back to Haiti continue to intercept boatloads of fleeing

Haitians. After forcing all those interdicted to board U.S. ships, the U.S. authorities routinely destroy the refugees' boats. Washington claims this is necessary to prevent hazards to shipping.

The *Times* described the experience of 31 Haitian refugees who had paid \$1,000 for their newly built 25-foot boat, which was intercepted on the high seas. After taking all the refugees into custody, U.S. officials proceeded to flood the boat with fuel and set it afire.

Probing military action

As hopes fade for a compromise solution allowing Aristide to return to Haiti with limited powers, Washington is once again making noises about possibly sending troops to the island. An unnamed U.S. diplomat told the *Times* that contingency plans for military

action in Haiti have been "drawn up and refined." Last fall, Washington dispatched 2,000 additional marines to Guantánamo.

U. S. and Latin American officials are now informally discussing the possibilities of sending troops to Haiti under the command of the Organization of American States. Both Venezuela and Costa Rica have come out strongly in support of such a move.

Washington's talk of military action has the same aims as its economic sanctions; it is designed primarily to force the Haitian military into some sort of compromise.

The United States militarily occupied Haiti from 1915–34. Later Washington collaborated closely for many years with the Duvalier regime, whose methods of rule by terror have been reintroduced by the new military government.

Where to find Pathfinder books and distributors of the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, *New International*, *Nouvelle Internationale*, *Nueva Internacional*, and *L'internationaliste*.

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CONNECTICUT: New Haven: Mailing address: P.O. Box 16751, Baybrook Station, West Haven. Zip: 06516.

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GEORGIA: Atlanta: 172 Trinity Ave. Zip: 30303. Tel: (404) 577-4065.

ILLINOIS: Chicago: 545 W. Roosevelt Rd. Zip: 60607. Tel: (312) 829-6815, 829-7018.

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MASSACHUSETTS: Boston: 605 Massachusetts Ave. Zip: 02118. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

MICHIGAN: Detroit: 5019½ Woodward Ave. Zip: 48202. Tel: (313) 831-1177.

Attica Prison rebellion

Continued from Page 7

instances wounded inmates on stretchers were snatched up by guards and savagely beaten.

Reports emerged later that some of the leaders of the rebellion were shot dead by state troopers and prison guards after the assault was over.

Despite these disclosures, state officials defended the actions of the police and prison guards at the time. Governor Rockefeller told the commission on April 5, 1972, "I am satisfied that these men [police and National Guard], in their best judgment, used what they thought was necessary to minimize lives—to minimize the loss of lives—and to save to the maximum degree possible the security and well-being of the hostages and the prisoners."

New York State began prosecuting scores of Attica inmates after the uprising. A handful were convicted. In 1976 former governor Hugh Carey pardoned all those involved in the revolt, amid findings that prosecutors had ignored evidence of police misconduct.

"The jury primarily did not decide," Elizabeth Fink, one of the inmates' lawyers, told the *New York Times*. "But they did decide that the brothers of Attica were denied adequate medical care and that there were excessive beatings and reprisals."

"We've got a partial victory in that we got Karl Pfeil," said former Attica inmate Akil al-Jundi, in whose name the suit was filed. Another trial will be held to determine the amount of damages Pfeil owes the inmates, which the state is expected to pay.

"Their silence as to Oswald, Mancusi, and Monahan is ludicrous," said Herbert Blyden, a leader of the Attica rebellion and one of the plaintiffs. "We're not elated, but we're vindicated."

A thought — The prez was surprised when he saw his first supermarket scanner entering prices on



Harry Ring

the cash register, but he didn't seem at all surprised by the prices.

McReality — McDonald's Moscow is now two years old and a Big Mac which initially cost 3.75 rubles

is up to 59 rubles. McD officials blame it on inflation. They also deny that they train some workers at their local food processing plant to keep watch on coworkers who might lift food items. The plant has been dubbed "McGulag."

And you think you got troubles — Sotheby's, the big time art peddler, held a rock memorabilia auction at which they offered a cotton jumpsuit worn by Elvis Presley. They hoped it would fetch as much as \$30,000, but took it off the block when the bidding stopped at \$17,000.

Not to hurry — In a desperately poor area of Newark, New Jersey, the city housing authority tore down four beat-up high-rise buildings, with plans to build 100 smaller houses. Construction was to begin in 90 days. That was five years ago. So far one house has been built. Two others, partially finished, blew down in a wind storm.

Practical joke — In Los Angeles, the increasingly popular chain of 99 Cents Only Stores intended it as a spoof when they ran an ad announcing a bridal gift registry service. They got more

than 500 responses.

It ain't easy dealing with crooks — Fines and restitutions totaling \$83.6 million have been imposed on savings and loan swindlers. Of this, the feds have so far collected \$365,000. One penetrating news article said this "raises questions about the government's effectiveness in recouping funds stolen or misappropriated."

Deb-it financing? — In prosperous La Jolla, California, the annual Debutante Ball was scratched when many parents said they couldn't afford it.

'Don't call us . . .' — The White Plains, New York, telephone company hired a layoff pro to help execs cope with the pain of firing people. She told them not to duck their responsibility by saying, "They're making me do it." And don't say something silly, like "I know how you feel." Firmness is best, she said. Tell them they're finished and they better start looking elsewhere.

Here's an idea — A novelty firm is peddling a miniature replica of a shopping cart. How about supermarkets making them available to low-budget shoppers?

Ravenswood Steelworkers locked in bitter fight

BY CHRIS RAYSON
AND JOSEFINA OTERO

RAVENSWOOD, West Virginia — In a move aimed at locked-out aluminum workers in Ravenswood, West Virginia, the U.S. Marshal's office in Charleston announced it was increasing the number of marshals deployed there.

Bill Brookhart, chief marshal for the Southern District of West Virginia, told the *Charleston Gazette* January 23, "We have initiated a joint FBI-Marshall's Service investigation. . . and there will be a considerable increase in the U.S. marshals around Ravenswood from this time on."

"We have had people up there throughout the dispute, but because of last night, there will be a lot more. Even as we speak, there are people on airplanes heading this way from other states. These are specially trained people who deal with rural situations."

Brookhart alleged that a marshal's car was hit by a rock and the windshield shattered while passing the local United Steelworkers of America (USWA) union hall January 22.

Dan Stidham, USWA Local 5668 president, told the *Gazette* that "he doesn't believe a union member threw the rock."

"If someone wanted to make the union look bad, they could have thrown the rock," Stidham said. Every one of our members knew the marshals were in the area, so it would be stupid for one of our members to rock a U.S. marshal's car."

The marshals were cruising near the hall after the union reported an incident the night before. As many as 20 Ravenswood scabs had stopped by a picket shack and threatened locked-out unionists.

Long and bitter struggle

The increase in marshals to police the picket line reflects the rising stakes in this long and bitter labor struggle. Locked out Nov. 1, 1990, by Ravenswood Aluminum Corp. (RAC), 1,700 workers, members of Local 5668, have waged a determined fight to win their jobs back. Less than 20 USWA members have crossed the picket line. Some of them came back out. The unionists have faced court injunctions limiting their right to picket, media coverage slandering them as violent, and physical attacks from RAC guards and some scabs.

One member, Robert Buck, is now in federal prison, sentenced for almost three years on frame-up charges in a pipe bomb incident.

The labor struggle in the midst of a deepening capitalist economic crisis has disrupted production at the aluminum smelting facilities, dubbed "Fort RAC" by the unionists. According to Richard Geseltine, an investigator hired by the USWA, aluminum prices are 50 cents per pound on the world market, the lowest price in six years.

Near the end of 1991, RAC's customer shipments were 50 percent lower than the average for each of the last four years. According to the USWA, two of the biggest RAC customers, Stroh Brewery and American National Can Company, have decided to "phase out their current orders" with RAC.

Safety and working conditions at RAC have been described as a "hellhole" by Local 5668 vice president and safety committee chair Bill Doyle. In the 18 months after RAC bought the plant from Kaiser Aluminum Corp. in 1989, five workers died on the job; since the lockout, at least five more have suffered severe injuries in accidents.

In response to a USWA request, the Oc-



Militant/Linda Joyce
Musical performance at rally welcoming solidarity convoy from Detroit. 'We need other unionists to tell our story,' said union activist Sue Ramsey.

cupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) conducted a full inspection of RAC, starting in June 1991. In December, OSHA cited RAC for 231 safety violation charges and fined the company more than \$600,000. The charges and fines are under appeal.

'One day longer'

Despite the suffering caused by the lockout, thousands of Steelworkers and their families are determined to last "one day longer" than Emmett Boyle, chief executive officer of RAC.

Sue Ramsey, who staffs the Lockout and Defense Assistance Center at a shopping mall in Ravenswood, told the *Militant* that 700 to 750 union members come to the office every week for assistance.

The USWA does not provide strike pay, but helps pay the medical prescriptions and some monthly bills, such as electric, gas, and house payments, for locked-out workers. Every member is entitled to a gift certificate for groceries: \$60 for a family of two and \$10 for each additional family member every two weeks.

Ramsey worked at RAC for 18 years as a millwright. Her husband, who has asbestoses, worked there for 26 years. For them and most union members, unemployment benefits will run out in a few weeks.

Along with many other Steelworkers, Ramsey has been active in building solidarity for the struggle. Sizeable rallies are frequent. Five hundred turned out January 21 for the bimonthly picnic-support meeting. On January 22, 2,600 strikers, their families, and others filled the civic center in Charleston, 650 miles from Ravenswood.

"But we need more solidarity," Ramsey said. "We need other unionists to tell our story, to come down to Ravenswood to visit us, and to help with money if you can."

In a recent example of solidarity sparked by the Ravenswood fight, Local 5668 president Stidham reported that he and other members attended a fund-raising dance in Baltimore recently, organized by USWA District

8. The first of three scheduled dances in the district raised more than \$10,000 for Local 5668's assistance program. District 8 told Stidham of plans to organize a car caravan from New York and Baltimore to Ravenswood to personally deliver more funds. Similar caravans from Michigan, Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, and other states brought hundreds of thousands of dollars to the local over the Christmas holidays.

A "corporate campaign" has been launched by the USWA in an attempt to end the lockout. The campaign targets Marc Rich, an international metals trader and allegedly a key owner of RAC, as the source of the company's union-busting policy.

Rich currently faces a U.S. indictment, charged under the Racketeer Influence and Corrupt Organizations statute with 51 counts of tax fraud, racketeering, conspiracy, and "trading with the enemy." In 1983 Rich fled the country to avoid prosecution. The U.S. government is offering a \$750,000 reward for his arrest.

Lobbying focus

Using appeals to patriotism, the USWA's corporate campaign shifts attention and resources from defending the picket line and stopping production to conducting boycotts and lobbying politicians, Congress, and government agencies to end the lockout.

The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) issued a ruling charging RAC with unfair labor practices, including illegally locking out USWA members. In hearings last year, the NLRB and USWA urged the judge to issue a "10-J injunction" against RAC which would reinstate the original work force with full back pay and benefits. A decision is not expected for months.

The USWA is seeking passage of Senate Bill 55, which would prevent employers from hiring permanent replacement workers. At the January 21 picnic, members of Local 5668's Women's Support Group, fanned out into the crowd to circulate cards to be mailed to Congress in favor of the legislation.

The USWA is also promoting secondary boycotts of companies that use RAC canned stock. Three current targets are Coca-Cola, Miller Brewing, and Faygo, Inc., which makes Shasta Cola.

The USWA billed the January 22 meeting at the Charleston Civic Center as a "Stakeholders' " meeting. During it, copies of "A Stakeholders' Report" were distributed. Modeled on a corporate stockholders' meeting, the rally promoted the idea that locked-out workers have a "direct stake" in the profitability of RAC. The chairman of the meeting, USWA vice president George Becker, stated that the productivity, quality, personnel, and legal problems RAC was experiencing could only be solved with "the highly skilled, experienced" unionists back on the job.

Joe Uehlein, Special Projects director for the Industrial Union department of the AFL-CIO, was introduced as a guiding force behind corporate campaign strategies used by labor during the *Daily News*, Pittston, Eastern Airlines, and Greyhound strikes. He said that the Ravenswood campaign "is designed to reclaim your role as the real Ravenswood Aluminum Corporation — you have more claim to RAC than Marc Rich or Emmett Boyle."

Uehlein and other speakers asserted that the locked-out workers will win the NLRB case against RAC and can buy the plant with the back pay RAC owes them. Marge Flanagan, head of the local's women's support group stated, "I stake my future that Local 5668 will win the battle of Ft. RAC and the next meeting will be a stockholders' meeting."

Wanted posters for Marc Rich were also distributed at the meeting. A 15-foot-tall puppet of Mother Jones, a mine worker organizer in the early years of this century, spoke to the audience, chastising two smaller puppets of Boyle and Rich. "You are a criminal and a traitor," the actor impersonating Mother Jones said, referring to Rich.

Determination to fight

The size of the January 22 meeting reflected the determination of the locked-out unionists to continue to fight. Chants of "One Day Longer," a slogan popularized during the 1989-90 Eastern Airlines strike, got a good response during the meeting.

Tom Nichols, a construction worker, and longtime unionist in West Virginia, and participant in several *Militant* reporting and sales teams to the Ravenswood area, lived in Ravenswood for 10 years. "The majority of the current work force," Nichols said in an interview, "are ex-coal miners. They came from Logan County in West Virginia when the mines closed in the 50s and hired on at the plant when it opened in 1956."

Dewey Taylor, a negotiating committee member, spoke for the locked-out workers at the civic center. "This is no doubt the most trying time in our lives," he said. "Most of us have lived in Ravenswood for more than 30 years. Marc Rich and Emmett Boyle have turned our American dream into a living nightmare."

Contributions to assist the families of locked-out workers can be mailed to Special Member Assistance Fund, USWA Local 5668, P.O. Box 56, Ravenswood, WV, 26164.

Chris Rayson is a member of Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 622 in Waynesburg, Pennsylvania, and Josefina Otero is a member of the USWA in Washington, Pennsylvania.

Open U.S. borders to Haitians

Washington's callous disregard for the lives of thousands of Haitians, whom it is forcibly repatriating into the hands of a bloodstained military regime, calls for a worldwide outcry.

The Bush administration insists that there is no evidence of brutality against any refugees being returned to Haiti. But those who have risked their lives a second time to flee Haiti after being returned talk of being subjected to imprisonment, beatings, and threatened with death for the "crime" of leaving. This exposes Bush's claim as false.

The White House defends its policy of forced returns by dismissing the overwhelming majority of Haitians as merely economic refugees.

Haitians fleeing their country are fellow workers and toilers on the land who confront extreme conditions of poverty as well as a reign of terror at the hands of the ruling military dictatorship there. They are victims of decades of imperialist exploitation and oppression. They should not be required to show documentary proof that their lives are in immediate danger before being allowed to enter the United States.

Working people in the United States and all supporters of social justice have no interest in keeping U.S. borders closed to our Haitian brothers and sisters. We must demand an open door for all the Haitian refugees.

The White House would like to go back to the type of stable, cozy relationship it had with the Duvalier dictatorship that ruled Haiti with Washington's full support for 28 years prior to being overthrown in 1986.

Under a special program entitled "Alien Migrant Interdiction Operation," Haitians fleeing Duvalier's rule were routinely picked up by U.S. ships and automatically returned.

From September 1981 until the inauguration of Aristide in February 1991, more than 23,000 Haitians were interdicted; only 11 of these were allowed to reach the United States to apply for political asylum.

U.S. actions at that time, like the forced repatriations now, amount to piracy on the high seas. In addition to seizing Haitians in international waters, Washington also destroys every one of these individual's boats, which many have used every penny of their resources to obtain.

The White House claims that its forced repatriation policy should be beyond any judicial review, arguing that it is the prerogative of the executive branch to make such decisions. This is the same argument used by Oliver North and the CIA in the mid-1980s when they sought to carry out the unpopular policy of arming and funding the Nicaraguan mercenary contra army against the will of Congress and behind the backs of U.S. working people.

Washington's Haiti policy should be answered by broad-based and massive demonstrations. Public condemnation of these forced repatriations already encompasses a wide range of organizations and individuals — from the AFL-CIO to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) to numerous religious organizations and politicians within the Democratic and Republican parties.

The labor movement needs to take the lead in alliance with various Haitian groups to organize the very wide sentiment against forced repatriations into powerful protest actions that can apply pressure on Washington.

We must demand: Halt the forced repatriations of Haitians Now! Open the U.S. borders to all Haitian refugees! Maintain and strengthen the economic embargo!

This column is devoted to a discussion with our readers — printing remarks, questions, suggestions, and other comments sent to the *Militant*. Where possible we will take up issues raised in notes and letters as a way to help clarify and expand on the coverage in the paper.

In the letters column of this issue Tony Prince raises questions about an editorial in the February 7 issue. In particular he questions whether the real reason the "Democrats and Republicans won't increase government spending is because they are afraid this would lead to inflation and a weaker dollar," as we stated in the editorial.

It is true that it's not solely a concern over inflation and a weak dollar that causes every Democratic and Republican politician to reject increased social spending as a way to deal with the deteriorating conditions of life.

The capitalist politicians who control the government are in a precarious position. The economy is reeling — "in a free fall" as President George Bush put it — and nothing

DISCUSSION WITH OUR READERS

much that they do seems to help.

They are trying to limit social spending and even pinch pennies on maintaining the country's infrastructure so that the dwindling resources of the government can be utilized for their priorities. Today that means a giant military budget and a huge sum of money to the banks and rich individuals who have made loans to the government to fund the deficit.

To spend more on social programs would necessitate raising more taxes from workers or from the capitalists; or else borrowing or printing more money, thereby increasing the rate of inflation. An inflationary spiral added on to the depression conditions that workers are now facing would destabilize the economy even further, something the capitalists are not eager to do.

Prince makes the point, "isn't this recession caused by much deeper factors than a 'strong dollar' or a 'weak dollar.' It is certainly true that the current economic crisis is the result of bigger structural problems of the capitalist system.

The depression conditions being faced by workers today are a result of the normal workings of the capitalist business cycle. When the capitalists have produced too much to sell profitably on the market they start to cut back. This starts a downward trend in the economy. The economic plunge today is combined with the cumulative effects of a long-term decline in profit rates for the capitalist owners of industry.

Prince suggests that a weaker dollar might actually help the U.S. capitalists by making their products more competitive. But a weak dollar is not necessarily going to help the capitalists out of this mess. While the U.S. capitalists' products might be cheaper and more attractive abroad as a result, the imported commodities which are needed in this country to make the economy run will be correspondingly more expensive.

This is the dilemma faced by the capitalist class and the Democrats and Republicans who serve them so faithfully in government. Their only real solution is to keep cutting deeper into the pockets of the working class in order to maintain capitalist profits and try not to go over the line that would cause a social explosion and bring down their system.

* * *

Reader Lüko Willms objects to the use of the term "Jewish State" for Israel. "I would like to second Pete Seidman's letter in *Militant* number 5 dated February 7 rejecting the notion of a 'Jewish State' for Israel," he writes.

Seidman wrote in that letter, "I think it is wrong to refer to Israel as 'the Jewish state.' Actually Israel is a *Zionist* state that — despite the claims of its apologists, beginning with Theodor Herzl, who I believe first used the term 'Jewish state' — acts in reality *against* the interests of the Jewish people."

It is accurate to describe Israel as a *Zionist* state. It does not represent all Jews but those who are part of the *Zionist* project, in particular the Jewish capitalist class of Israel. The stated purpose of *Zionism*, dating back to the World *Zionist* Organization, founded in 1897, was to provide persecuted European Jews with a homeland. But *Zionism* (from *Zion*, a biblical name for Jerusalem) was an integral part of the imperialist drive in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries to penetrate, subjugate, and colonize the Middle East.

Willms correctly points out the hypocrisy of the Israeli rulers who attempt to force Jews leaving the former Soviet Union to emigrate to Israel, whether or not they want to go there. The *Zionists'* purpose is to change the demography of Israel and the occupied territories, in order to displace the Palestinian people from their homeland, and attempt to maintain a state where *only Jews* have full citizenship rights.

For Palestinians the *Zionist* state does appear as a "Jewish state." Jewish people whether from Russia or from any other part of the world have automatic citizenship rights and privileges in Israel. This same state can and does deprive Palestinians who have lived there for generations of their rights.

It is in that sense that there is some truth in the statement that Israel is a Jewish state. This is why the historic demand by Palestinians for a democratic secular Palestine where both Jews and Palestinians can live together has been so correct.

It is not true that the *Zionist* state of Israel acts against the interests of all Jews or is an "anti-Jewish" state. This imperialist state acts in the interests of the capitalist class in Israel and against the interests of Israeli workers and their Palestinian counterparts.

'We are men, we are not beasts'

More than twenty years after the Attica massacre, the words of the rebellious prisoners sound as timely as ever. "We are men . . . we are not beasts, and we do not intend to be beaten or driven as such," the inmates said just before the bloodshed began.

The state responded with utter brutality to the most elementary and just demands of the inmates, which were capturing the imagination of millions of youth and other working people across the country.

In the aftermath of the massacre, as prisoners were forced to run a gauntlet of cops and prison guards swinging nightsticks, some guards ordered inmates to yell, "I love pigs!" Recorded in the pictures depicting the state terror is the racism of the cops. "Retaken on 9-13-71. 32 niggers dead," read graffiti scrawled by the New York State police on one Attica wall.

Despite its suppression, the Attica revolt inspired fights for similar demands in other prisons. Five hundred prisoners rebelled in Dallas, Texas, October 4, 1971. Prisoners in the state prison at Windsor, Vermont, succeeded through a work stoppage in winning commissary privileges and hot water. A struggle was launched by Native Americans in Sisseton, South Dakota, who charged that Indians were put in jail for drunkenness and then used by capitalist farmers in the area as slave laborers.

Thousands protested in cities across the country against the Attica massacre from New York to Chicago, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. A demonstration of 5,000 Black youth in Detroit linked protests against the slaughter in Attica to the murder of Soledad Brother George Jackson and the killing of two young Blacks by a Detroit cop.

These struggles against inhuman treatment, brutality, and racism by the police and state authorities do not belong only to the distant 1970s.

Similar fights are being repeated today, from the demonstrations that took place following the Los Angeles cops' savage beating of Rodney King last summer, to the protests by high school students in Teaneck, New Jersey, against the acquittal of the cop who killed teenager Phillip Pannell.

The slogan "No excuse" for police brutality in the struggle to convict the Des Moines cops who beat Larry Milton echoes the cry of the Attica rebels.

It is in this context of today's fights that the verdict in the civil suit by former Attica inmates came about. While only one of the state officials responsible for the massacre was found liable for damages, the state itself was found guilty of "cruel and unusual" punishment against the Attica inmates. This victory, although partial, reinforces other fights against police brutality and state terror.

Crisis in capitalist agriculture

This issue of the *Militant* carries several articles on the conditions facing working farmers throughout the world and some of the actions many are taking to defend their interests. From Australia to Canada to the United States, millions of working farmers face devastating conditions and are being thrown off their land.

Although working farmers are facing the same basic problems in most countries, many find themselves pitted against fellow farmers elsewhere in the world. Many farm protest actions today call for protectionist measures against farm products from other countries. Some, on the other hand, call for more free trade because they have the edge over farmers in other countries. These calls often echo the interests of the big capitalist farmers and those who control agricultural trade in each country, as well as their attempts to get a greater share of a shrinking world market.

Those who call themselves farmers today actually represent different social classes in the countryside, with vastly different interests.

There are workers on the land who labor for the big agribusiness enterprises. They are under the same pressure as workers in the factories, mines, and mills who face cuts in wages and benefits, as the world capitalist system continues to decline.

There are working farmers, who together with their families, try to make a decent living off the land. Rising costs of production and declining prices for what they produce has made it impossible for millions of farm families to pay

off the debts they owe the banks.

There are also the big capitalist landowners and agricultural corporations whose interests are tied to the banks.

The interests of working farmers lie with the working class and the struggle to defend ourselves from the ravages of the capitalist system and its economic collapse.

This is an international struggle. Despite the differences of working farmers from country to country, no solution is possible as long as we are pitted against one another.

The protectionist and free trade campaigns that are taking hold in particular countries represent what the various ruling capitalist groups think they need against their economic rivals. The trade wars that are in the winds today will end up in shooting wars.

The common struggle of workers and farmers can put to rest the absurdity of a world where large amounts of food are dumped or production curtailed because it can't be sold at the right price, while elsewhere millions of people go hungry. An article on Venezuela in this issue points out how, in one of the most prosperous countries of Latin America, only 57 percent of its population gets more than one meal a day.

The struggle of working farmers is important for the future of humanity. Unity between working farmers in different countries and between workers in town and country is indispensable to the struggle for a socialist future and a better world.

Charges dropped against striking Colorado miner

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,

Pavlisick charged Archuleta, a UMW member, with yelling obscenities and swinging a picket sign as the foreman was leaving the Empire Mine. The Moffat County Sheriffs Department acted on Pavlisick's complaint, filing criminal mischief charges against Archuleta.

on the issues of their strike to labor gatherings in Salt Lake City and throughout Colorado.

For more information on this strike or to make a financial contribution, contact the UMW 1799 Strike Office, 30 West Victory Way, Craig, Colorado, 81625. Telephone: (303) 842-4366.

New Zealand meat-packers called back with wage cut

Work began February 5 at the Makarewa meat-packing plant in Southland, New Zealand — three months after the normal start of the 1991-92 season — after workers there accepted a 12½ percent wage cut. Makarewa workers had been laid off since last May.

Makarewa is one of eight plants owned by New Zealand's largest meat-packing company, Alliance Group Ltd. Last July Alliance closed two of its South Island plants, with a loss of more than 1,400 jobs. At the same time, the company announced that "profit-improvement plans" would be implemented at the plants remaining open.

In November, Alliance announced a \$N.Z. 152.7 million [\$U.S. 82.5 million] loss for the year ending Sept. 30, 1991. At its annual meeting December 16, however, Alliance chairman John Falconer confidently stated that the company would make a profit in 1992. "We aim to be the lowest cost operator," he declared, making it clear that meat-packing workers would pay for any turnaround in the company's fortunes.

A new company agreement between Alliance and the New Zealand

Meat Workers Union was signed in December. This included no wage increase.

Alliance then moved to implement cuts at individual plants by canceling existing contracts.

The first new contract negotiated was at Lorneville, another of Alliance's Southland plants. As well as a wage cut, workers there were forced to agree to an increase in the amount of stock that would be killed each day and the loss of five to six butchers' jobs on each of the plant's six killing chains.

At Alliance's Sockburn plant in Christchurch, lamb butchers accepted a \$N.Z. 10-a-day wage cut. Lamb-cutting workers lost shift and travel allowances and took a cut in the payment for the end-of-shift washdown.

St. Louis auto workers discuss Japan-bashing

The discussion among auto workers in St. Louis about trade, protectionism, and Japan took a new turn in the aftermath of the January 20 comments by Japanese House Speaker Yoshio Sakurachi who said, "American workers don't work hard enough. They don't work but demand high pay."

United Auto Workers president Owen Bieber justified the union's protectionist stance saying, "I hope those who complain so loudly about so-called Japan-bashers will be vigorous in denouncing these bigoted remarks for the U.S.-bashing that they represent."

"Where did he [Sakurachi] get these ideas about us?" asked an as-

sembler at the General Motors Wentzville facility. Answering his own question, he replied, "He talks to U.S. politicians and employers."

Several workers, particularly those who are Black, were taken aback at the speed at which some in the union raised the cry of racism in response to Sakurachi's remarks. "Where was it [this response] a few years ago when the Japanese prime minister said the problem with U.S. industry is that there are too many Black workers?" pointed out a GM body shop worker.

Communist workers in the auto plants here met and compared notes on these discussions. We concluded it was important to see Sakurachi's contempt for workers in the United States as being aimed at all workers, and to point to activities of Japanese workers against grinding working conditions that make them in the bosses' eyes equally "lazy and greedy."

Finally, we recognized this discussion should be placed in the context of the increasing competition between the imperialist rivals based in Washington and Tokyo and the relative decline of the U.S. capitalist economy.

The following people contributed to this week's column: David Salner, member of United Steelworkers of America Local 8319; Joan Shields, member of the New Zealand Meat Workers Union at Alliance's Sockburn plant in Christchurch; Kim Kleinman, member of United Auto Workers Local 2250 in St. Louis; and Andrea González, member of UAW Local 325 in St. Louis.

ON THE PICKET LINE

layoffs, and attacks on health and 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 about 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.

Members of United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) Local 1799 in Craig, Colorado, are protesting courtroom injustice as they conclude the ninth month of their strike against Cyprus Minerals Co.

"The score is now UMWA 3 and Cyprus 0," said Delbert Archuleta when the Moffat County District Attorney's office announced it had dropped charges against him.

On July 16 Cyprus foreman Andy

In an interview with the *Northwest Colorado Daily Press* Local 1799 president Floyd Gutierrez stated, "What amazes me was that the sheriffs department would even issue a charge, since Archuleta was nowhere near the picket line when the alleged incident occurred." Gutierrez explained that the charges were trumped up by Cyprus "to damage the reputation of the union, which has conducted itself honorably and legally throughout the bitter dispute."

When UMWA Local 1799 pointed out to the district attorney that Pavlisick should be prosecuted for making false statements to the police, this was refused.

Archuleta, who is chairman of the union's mobilization committee, said in a telephone interview, "Every time the company has made a statement against the union, even without evidence, they have had no trouble bringing charges. When somebody without money tries to raise charges with evidence, they learn there is no justice. We've been discriminated against by the courts throughout our strike."

Local 1799 continues to speak out

LETTERS

Dollar tinkering

An editorial in the February 7 *Militant* says that the Democrats and Republicans won't increase government spending because they are afraid this would lead to inflation and a weaker dollar. I question whether this is the real reason they don't call for government spending on social services. If taxes were increased the same amount as spending was, then there shouldn't be more inflation as a result. But these capitalist politicians are not going to increase taxes on the capitalists, whose interests they serve, and they are reluctant to keep jacking up workers' taxes because they are afraid at some point this will provoke a reaction. And since when have these politicians ever increased spending on social needs of working people except when big struggles have forced them to?

Even if the dollar were weakened, wouldn't this make U.S. exports cheaper, and therefore more competitive, in foreign markets? And doesn't a strong dollar imply high interest rates, and aren't high interest rates bad for economic growth in a capitalist economy? And anyway, isn't this recession caused by much deeper factors than a "strong dollar" or a "weak dollar," and if so, what good will tinkering with the dollar do, even from the capitalists' point of view?

Tony Prince

Greensboro, North Carolina

Wants info on Japan

I am writing to urge the *Militant* to send a reporting team to Japan. As the economic crisis in the U.S. grinds down harder and harder on workers, the capitalist-controlled media and politicians increasingly point to "the Japanese" as the cause of the problems workers face.

At the same time, illusions still exist about working conditions and supposed "lifetime job security" for many Japanese workers.

Discussions among my co-workers return again and again to questions about which most of us actually know very little.

What are the facts about the living and working conditions of our brothers and sisters — organized and unorganized — in Japan? What is the history of the labor movement? The role of women workers? Immigrant labor? The situation of farmers?

To break through the barrage of anti-Japanese propaganda and misinformation we need a series of articles and interviews that tell the truth.

I'm sure other readers of the *Militant* would join me in contributing to a fund set up to finance sending a reporting team to Japan.

Floyd Fowler

Portland, Oregon.

American workers

The capitalists and their news media really put in overtime bringing us Japanese politician Sakurachi's remarks about "lazy and illiterate" American workers. And they also kindly kept us informed about Michio Watanabe, foreign minister and Liberal Democratic Party leader, viewing American Blacks as indifferent to being broke and bankrupt.

Now where did Watanabe get that weird idea in his head? Certainly not from Japanese Noh and Kabuki tradition. And not from Kurosawa movies. But images of Blacks strumming banjos and tap-dancing and happy as hogs in their muck wallow while Black children go without clothes, food, schooling, and medical care are generously provided in *Gone With the Wind*, *Song of the South*, and *Porgy and Bess* ("I got plenty of nothing, nothing's plenty for me").

Earl Butz, in Gerald Ford's cabinet (1976), let loose these winged words: "All colored care about is tight shoes, good pussy, and a warm place to shit." If that's the way American capitalists and capitalist politicians talk about Black workers



— and women workers — you can bet your last paycheck (or unemployment compensation) they think and talk that way, and worse, about ALL American workers.

And then you'll know where Watanabe and Sakurachi picked up their quaint notions about you and me.

Robert Des Verney

Oakland, California

Who's the middle class?

Recently there's been a lot of discussion in the capitalist press in this country over how the "middle class" is faring in the economic crisis. The term "middle class" is always used in such a way as to include most working people. Musings about how "middle class" should be defined never consider any criteria except income levels — "middle class" is taken to mean middle-income.

The *Militant* uses "middle class" in a much different sense — it defines class membership in terms of people's relationship to production — but I doubt if practically anybody in the U.S. understands this. Perhaps

an article on this sometime would be educational.

Tom Campion

Hammond, Indiana

Israeli policy

I would like to second Pete Seidman's letter in *Militant* number 5 dated February 7 rejecting the notion of a "Jewish State" for Israel. Consider that while the Israeli government wants as many Jews as possible to leave the (former) USSR for Israel, it does not tolerate their migration to other parts of the world.

A year ago, during the Gulf war, there was a case involving Soviet Jews in Berlin, Germany. About 150 former Soviet Jews — who had been in Israel first, getting Israeli passports — came to Berlin on a tourist visa and decided to stay there. They obviously preferred to rebuild the Jewish community in Berlin over staking their lives fighting Arabs in Palestine. When their visas expired, they stayed, were threatened with deportation, received solidarity from anti-racist and civil rights activists, even from the official Jewish community,

etc. Being Jews made the case much more touchy for the German authorities than if they were, say, Arabs, Tamils or Kurds.

According to reports in the German press, the Israeli government addressed official letters to the Bonn government, putting pressure on them not to let these Jews stay in Germany. When Heinz Galinsky, the chairperson of the Central Jewish Council in Germany, visited Israel during the Gulf war, he was sharply criticized by the Israeli government for his defense of the Jews' right to stay in Berlin, according to press reports.

Is that a Jewish or anti-Jewish state?

Lüko Willms

Frankfurt, Germany

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.

March against racism in Britain

BY PETE CLIFFORD

LONDON — Thousands are mobilizing for the February 22 antiracist march to the headquarters of the British National Party (BNP), a fascist group, in Welling, South London. The march was called by the Rolan Adams Family Campaign.

On Feb. 21, 1991, 15-year-old Rolan Adams was on his way home with his 14-year-old brother from the Hawksmoor youth center in Thamesmead, South London, when they were brutally set upon by a gang of white youths and men. Rolan was fatally stabbed.

The BNP, which has its headquarters nearby and is active on the Thamesmead housing estate, congratulated the perpetrators of this vicious murder for "defending their estate." The February 22 march is supported by the newly formed Anti-Racist Alliance, which has the endorsement of most major Black organizations, three national trade unions, and 41 Members of Parliament.

Racist attacks in Britain have risen markedly over the past few years. The London *Guardian* reported that the most recent official figures show racially motivated incidents up from 4,383 in 1988 to 6,359 in 1990. Evidence from local monitoring groups shows that the number of assaults took a further leap in 1991, as the economic and social crisis deepened. The greater prominence of the BNP, which has announced a goal of standing more than 50 candidates in the upcoming election — thus qualifying for a mandatory quota of broadcasting time, including on all TV channels — coincides with the political polarization and ongoing shift to the right in capitalist politics.

The Conservative government has been at the head of the racist drive, which in the recent period has focused on the Asylum Bill. This bill would dramatically restrict the rights of entry to Britain of those fleeing persecution abroad. The government charge was that asylum-seeking was being used to get around Britain's formally strict immigration laws. Foreign-born workers, at just over 1 million in number, constitute a mere 1.8 percent of the population. The suggestion is that foreign-born workers are to blame for the recent sharp rise in unemployment, the housing crisis and homelessness, and the waiting lists and breakdowns in the National Health Service.

Scapegoating

Other rightist politicians take this even further. Norman Tebbit, an ex-government minister and leading supporter of former

prime minister Margaret Thatcher, has been waging a campaign targeting asylum seekers and other immigrants. In a column in *News of the World*, he appealed to "ordinary people" to back a "Citizens Charter" to take on what he termed "illegal immigrant racketeers" who, he alleged, cheat the social security system.

Tebbit aims to use this scapegoating to appeal to the middle class and to higher paid workers who backed the Conservatives at the last election but who are now turning away from them as they suffer from the effects of the depression. Under cover of the hysteria whipped up by the government, the media, and rightist figures such as Tebbit, the police have stepped up raids on factories, rounding up workers and arresting and deporting many of those found without papers.

This racist campaign has not gone unanswered. On January 24, 5,000 marched through London against the Asylum Bill. The pressure has been such that a joint appeal by the heads of the Church of England and the Catholic Church called for the bill's defeat. In the face of this broad opposition, the government has decided not to extend further parliamentary time to the bill, signalling its demise.

The BNP echoes the government offensive. But what marks this organization is its open attempt to mobilize forces on the streets in violent assaults on the Black community.

"It is for this reason," commented Brian Grogan, Communist League parliamentary candidate for the Southwark and Bermondsey constituency in South London, "that we congratulate the Rolan Adams Family Campaign for making this call." Grogan is an engineering worker and member of the Amalgamated Engineering Union.

"We think the best way of pushing back the fascists is to mobilize the broadest forces against them and close up their political space," Grogan said. "We join with you in the call for the prosecution of all racist assailants. Whilst the murderer of Rolan Adams did get life imprisonment, the rest of the gang got off lightly and is now free to continue roaming around Thamesmead."

Crisis of Capitalism

"The claim of the BNP that immigrant workers are responsible for the economic and social crisis in Britain is ridiculous," Grogan said. "The crisis is a crisis of capitalism. It is their crisis of profitability and their attempts to solve this problem at our expense which lie at the root of the deepening crisis. The problem is the handful of billionaire families in Britain, not the worst off sections of the working class."

"The BNP campaigns on the slogan 'Rights for Whites.' But this is ludicrous. Scientifically, there is no such thing as a 'white race' or 'white culture' that marks off white people," explained Grogan. "The mythical notion of a Black race that was inferior was invented originally to justify slavery. Racism made its appearance with the birth of capitalism. It was further extended with the advent of imperialism. The fight for Black rights, that is for positive action in the face of discrimination, is the only basis on which a fighting unity of the working class can be forged."

"The target of such a demand is the capitalist system of exploitation that profits from racism. It is therefore progressive and must be supported. A campaign for 'White Rights' on the other hand targets Black people and divides the working class."

"Answering the demagoguery of such outfits as the BNP goes hand-in-hand with mobilizing against them," continued the communist candidate. "It is not enough to simply expose them as fascist, nor is the issue one of engaging the fascists in discussion, but of helping clarify the issues for working people who are confused by such propaganda."

"The Communist League does not support the call by other organizations for the local council to close down the BNP headquarters," Grogan said. "Such an approach does not

narrow the space of the fascists, but restricts democratic rights for us all — whilst allowing the fascists to appeal to the deep-seated support for democratic rights amongst working people and turn this against the labor movement."

The shift to the right in capitalist politics has been accompanied by an escalation of police harassment of Blacks. According to figures supplied by the Newham Monitoring Project, a Black rights organization in East London, Blacks constitute just 4.4 percent of the population, yet one third of all those that appear before magistrates courts are Black.

In 1989, a fifth of all Black youth were stopped by the police. They are twice as likely to receive custodial sentences than their white counterparts and by the age of 21, 1 in 10 have been to prison. Since 1980, 61 Blacks have died in custody or due to police actions. No one has ever been charged for these killings.

Defense campaigns

In response to this situation, a growing number of defense campaigns have been launched. In one area of East London, the Hackney Community Defense Association has named 30 police officers which it alleges have been involved in malpractice.

The Hackney Association is also campaigning for the release of Martin

Calvert, who was jailed for two years after defending himself against two racist assailants.

An important demonstration has been called for March 28 by the Deane Family Defense Campaign. This is a campaign to demand the dropping of police assault charges against two East London shopkeepers, who were charged after being brutally beaten by police. They are demanding the dismissal and prosecution of the officers involved and are organizing a "March for Justice and to Fight Police Brutality."

Grogan commented that "mobilizations like that called for February 22 not only narrow the ultra-rightists' space, but also offer an opportunity to present a working-class alternative to those suffering from the economic and social crisis."

"The labor movement has every interest in supporting defense of their communities by Black people," he said.

The Deane family March for Justice demonstration assembles 12:30p.m., March 28 at Plashet Park, Plashet Grove, East London (nearest tube East Ham).

Pete Clifford is a factory worker and a member of the Transport and General Workers Union.



National Front, one of several fascist groups in Britain. Racist attacks have risen as political polarization deepens and capitalist politics shifts to the right.

Pacific edition of 'Militant' adds color and raises prices

BY BRENDAN GLEESON

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — *Militant* readers in Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, and Pacific Island countries will note the addition of color printing with this issue of the paper. This step brings the Pacific edition of the *Militant* in line with the rest of the world.

The *Militant* Pacific edition is printed in New Zealand for distribution in the Pacific region. Films of the page layouts are airfreighted to the printer from New York, where the paper is produced. Printing a separate edition in this way saves thousands of dollars in airfreight costs.

Subscriptions are mailed to readers in the region each week by *Militant* supporters in Auckland. In Australia subscriptions are mailed from Sydney.

The *Militant* adopted the use of color on its front, back, and center pages last year. Until now the Pacific edition had continued to be printed without the extra color.

Readers in New Zealand will also note new prices for the *Militant*. The cover price has

been raised to New Zealand \$2.50 (equivalent to U.S. \$1.35) and subscription prices have also been increased. Previously the price of the *Militant* in New Zealand was lower than elsewhere in the world because of the declining value of the New Zealand dollar.

The new prices offer larger discounts than before to readers who purchase longer-term subscriptions.

This price increase is necessary to help meet the cost of printing the *Militant*, including the addition of color. Income from sales of single copies and subscriptions, however, will still fall short of the full expense. This deficit is met by donations from supporters.

At present *Militant* supporters in New Zealand are seeking to raise \$5,000 through an appeal for contributions. Readers wishing to donate to this appeal should post their contribution to Militant Distribution, P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand. Readers in Australia can post donations to P.O. Box 79, Railway Square Post Office, NSW 2000, Australia.

Militant Labor Forums

Hear

Jack Barnes, National Secretary, Socialist Workers Party in the U.S.

on

• The Crisis of the Market System Has Become Worldwide

• The "Crisis of Socialism" Is Over

• The Opening of the New World Depression Is Behind Us

London, Britain

Friday, Feb. 21, 7:30 p.m.

Manchester, Britain

Tuesday, Feb. 25, 7:00 p.m.

Chicago

Friday, Feb. 28, 7:00 p.m.

Minneapolis/St. Paul

Saturday, Feb. 29, 7:30 p.m.

All forums will be held at the local Pathfinder bookstores. See page 12.