

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Rightist Buchanan makes gains in New Hampshire

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Support Caterpillar strikers

Union to host March 22 rally in Illinois

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The United Auto Workers union (UAW) is organizing a solidarity rally March 22 in Peoria, Illinois, in support of Caterpillar workers whose four-month-long strike has entered a new stage.

Some 2,750 UAW members joined the strike February 21 when they walked out of Caterpillar's Mossville engine plant, just north of Peoria. "We should have gone out at the start of this. We hope we get their attention now," said Mossville striker Terry Lochbaum.

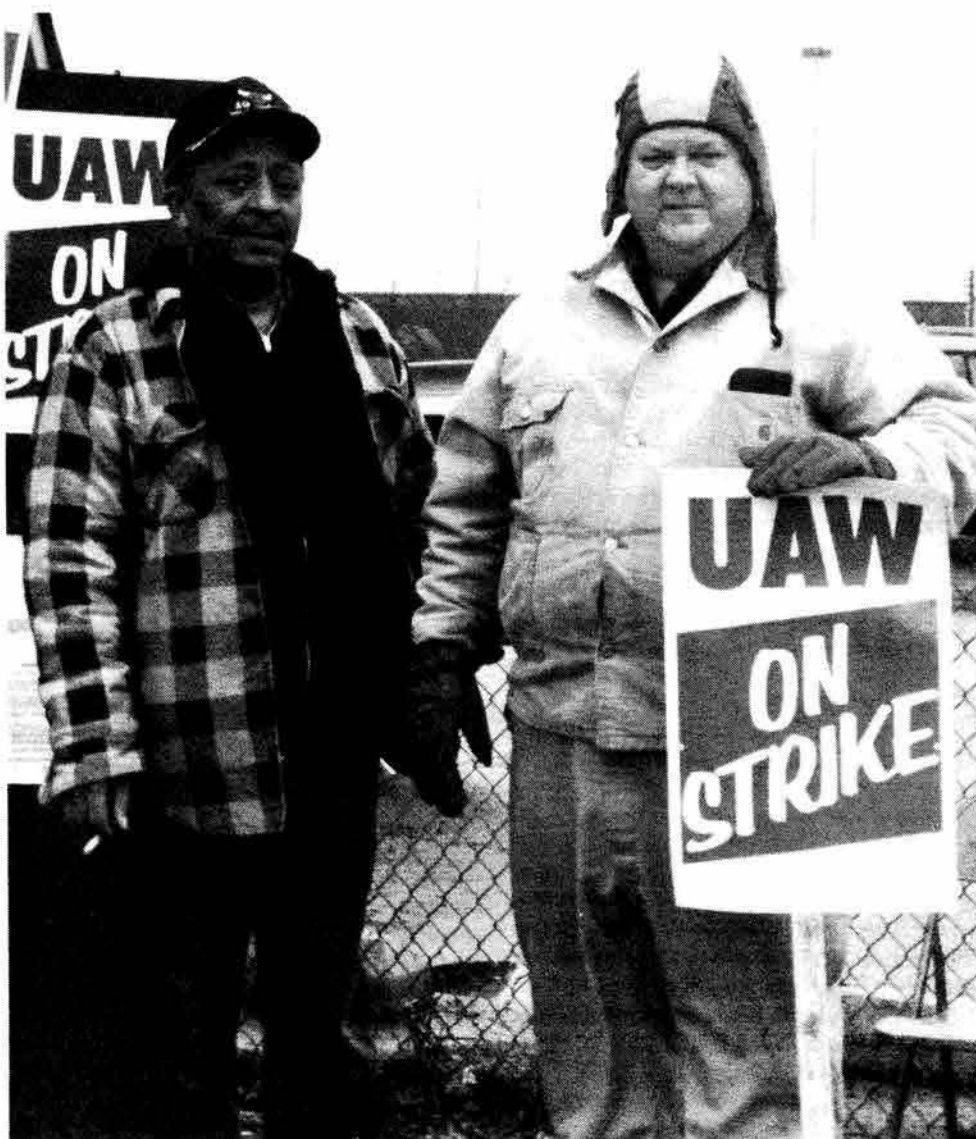
"We've finally joined our brothers and sisters who have already been out 15 weeks or so," stated striker Morey Denny. "We are united, we are ready to stand behind [the union] for however long it takes."

Another striker told the *Militant* that Caterpillar had misread the determination of many of the plant's older workers to fight and defend their union.

The Mossville walkout came two days after the union rejected what Caterpillar termed its final contract offer. UAW secretary-treasurer Bill Casstevens termed the company's proposal "far short of providing a basis for meeting the needs of Caterpillar workers." The February 19 bargaining session was the first since October 31.

Caterpillar, the world's largest maker of earth-moving and construction equipment, employs 16,000 UAW members — the majority in Illinois. The Mossville walkout

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Militant/Steve Craine
Striking United Auto Workers members picketing a Caterpillar plant in East Peoria, Illinois. Company misread workers' determination to defend their union.

Solidarity needed by auto workers

Nearly 11,000 members of the United Auto Workers union are out on strike against Caterpillar, Inc. This labor battle is one of the most significant strikes in recent years. Rather than allow the company to weaken their strike with the call back of 5,650 previously locked out workers the union has decided to expand the strike to include all

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members who have been locked out or on strike up to now.

The decision to join the strike by 2,750 UAW members who had been working at Caterpillar's Mossville engine plant north of Peoria, Illinois, will be a big boost to the UAW strikers who have been on the picket lines for nearly four months.

These moves to strengthen the strike are exactly what many UAW members have been looking for to turn up the heat on Caterpillar.

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Hundreds attend Des Moines City Council hearings on cop brutality

BY PRISCILLA SCHENK

DES MOINES, Iowa — Hundreds of working people from the Black community, from area factories, and Black youth from Roosevelt High School turned out for the final days of four hearings before the city council here to testify on incidents of police brutality. The hearings, which began February 11, were set up after hundreds of people appeared before the city council demanding action after the December 28 beating of Larry Milton, a 35-year-old Black man, by police.

At the last three hearings, the speakers list was prepared ahead of time to allow supporters of the cops to speak first. Those protesting police brutality signed up and waited for hours to be able to testify.

At the February 13 hearing several opponents of police brutality carrying signs were told they would have to sit down. Others in the audience protested this action by the city council. The pickets then went to the stage and sat with their signs at the table with the city council members. Supporters in the audience applauded their action and the pickets were permitted to stay on the stage.

Several speakers then took the floor from Broadlawn Medical Center. They had been asked by the cops to come and describe how drug users can be violent and need to be restrained. This argument has been used by the police to try to justify why they routinely beat people they arrest. For example police used the excuse that Larry Milton possessed "superhuman" strength resulting from drug use, requiring them to beat him savagely.

A Black woman from an area church took issue with this argument. "Let a police officer bust your baby's head open and you'll be here on our side," she said. "I think we need to start by getting the thugs out of the police

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Curtis parole fund gets good response

BY GREG McCARTAN

NEW YORK — The Mark Curtis Parole Now! Fund is underway, with \$16,000 pledged to date. While here on a several-day fund-raising stop, Curtis's wife Kate Kaku said supporters she has talked to "are enthused about the federal court ruling in favor of Mark in his suit against the cops who beat him."

"They all want to know, 'What do we do next,'" Kaku said. "Mark's supporters are going to speed the day when Mark can walk out of prison and are glad to contribute more than usual to help out." She outlined the



Mark Curtis (front right) with supporters during recent visit at prison.

challenges and opportunities in raising the funds needed for the defense effort, explaining that this is the central task before all supporters around the world.

The Mark Curtis Defense Committee based in Des Moines, Iowa, is seeking to raise tens of thousands of dollars over the coming weeks in order to build on Curtis's court victory. Kaku said the committee is asking supporters to join in the effort in the areas where they live.

Launched at a rally in Des Moines February 8, the fund will go toward paying legal fees incurred in Curtis's civil rights lawsuit against the city of Des Moines and the two police officers who repeatedly kned Curtis in the face and groin while in police custody in the city jail March 4, 1988.

In addition, his attorney will now pursue a federal appeal of Curtis's frame-up conviction on rape and burglary charges, for which he is now serving a 25-year sentence. Legal help is needed to step up efforts to win the jailed unionist and political activist's freedom on parole. The legal fees come to \$45,000.

New literature that updates the fight also needs to be rapidly completed and ongoing expenses of the committee must be met. This together with some back debts the committee has incurred adds up to another \$30,000.

Rally follows court victory

The February 8 rally of supporters of the defense effort came just a week after federal judge Charles Wolle ruled that two of the police officers interrogating Curtis knowingly violated his constitutional rights when they used "excessive force" against him in

the Des Moines city jail four years ago.

The ruling comes in the context of ongoing protests against police brutality in the city, focused on the recent cop beating of Larry Milton, a 35-year-old Black worker. [See articles on page 1 and 5 of this issue.]

In Curtis's case the cops at first charged him with assaulting a police officer and repeatedly said the beating was needed to subdue him. Judge Wolle found the cops' story "not credible" and awarded Curtis \$11,000 in damages plus attorneys' fees. Wolle found that Curtis endured prolonged pain and suffering due to "a blow-out type fracture of the orbital floor of the left eye" and other wounds and bruises.

Prior to his arrest Curtis had been active in various political developments in Des Moines and the surrounding area. He had gone to strikes of packinghouse workers fighting against company concession demands, marched in protests demanding an end to police racism in the Des Moines suburb of Clive, and was a member of the United Food and Commercial Workers union working at the Swift meat-packing plant.

Curtis defended immigrant workers

In the days leading up to being grabbed by the cops, Curtis joined in protests against the Immigration and Naturalization Service arrest of 17 immigrant coworkers during a raid at Swift. As they beat him the cops yelled that Curtis was "a Mexican lover, just like you love those Coloreds."

Kaku explained that the response from coworkers at a steel factory in Chicago, from

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Puerto Rico groups back women's right to choose abortion

BY SUSAN APSTEIN

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — A coalition of 10 women's rights groups and family planning clinics defended a woman's right to choose abortion and announced the findings of a study on abortion at a press conference here February 12. A big discussion on abortion rights is taking place in the wake of the government's announcement two weeks ago of plans to amend the penal code.

Coalition spokesperson Yamila Azize, a professor at the University of Puerto Rico, said, "We refuse to go back to the days of illegal abortion when thousands of women died." The Puerto Rican constitution, she noted, guarantees a woman's right to choose and her right to privacy.

Cardinal Luis Aponte Martínez also issued a statement the same day on the Catholic Church's opposition to all abortion, including "so-called therapeutic abortion," when a woman's health or life is in danger.

The cardinal said the life of the fetus should come before the life of the woman.

"When the mother's life is in danger, the life of the child takes precedence," he said, "for the simple reason that the mother's death would be what we call natural, unprovoked, while the death of the child would be murder."

Results of the 1991 study on abortion announced at the conference showed 75 percent of women who sought abortions were Catholics.

The investigation, which centered on 350 women in 13 clinics throughout Puerto Rico, also revealed that 93 percent of women seeking abortion used contraceptives. "This exposes the myth that abortions are caused by women's irresponsibility," said Luis Aviles, who headed the study sponsored by the women's studies program at the University of Puerto Rico.

Coalition spokesperson Azize pointed to the lack of adequate family planning facilities and the high cost of contraceptives. Intrauterine devices cost \$500, and a month's supply of birth control pills, \$35.

Family planning clinics here have been

targeted by the antiabortion organization Pro-Vida [right to life], which has organized picket lines in front of clinics and in one case blocked a clinic entrance. Mary Rivera from the Surgical and Family Planning Clinic in San Juan said, "We get calls constantly — threatening to blow up the clinic or burn it down."

The coalition is gathering names of organizations for a petition to be published in the daily newspapers. It states, "In the past in Puerto Rico, women's right to choose has been violated by mass sterilization campaigns and experimentation with birth control pills. Now we face a new threat to women's reproductive rights: limiting the right to choose abortion... We believe in prevention of unwanted pregnancies... but women must also have the right to choose abortion."

Catholics for a Free Choice in Washington, D.C., released a statement at the press conference joining "our Puerto Rican sisters and brothers who have clearly stated their opposition to laws that would limit the full exercise of women's reproductive choice."

March for Women's Lives

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

Sunday, April 5

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



Rallies protest Ireland abortion ruling

BY ANNE HOWIE

LONDON — Angry demonstrations outside the Irish Parliament met a Dublin High Court ruling February 17 that granted an injunction preventing a young rape victim from seeking an abortion in Britain.

Demonstrations in her support also took place in London and New York.

According to the *Independent*, "the judge Mr. Justice Declan Costello, ruled that the risk that the 14-year-old girl would kill herself was much less than the certainty that the unborn child's life would be terminated if the order was not made."

The permanent injunction was sought by Irish attorney general Harry Whelehan after the woman had been taken to Britain for an abortion. Her parents contacted Irish police to ask if they should have the fetal tissue tested for DNA and other evidence for use in future court proceedings. Police passed the information on to the attorney general.

Abortion has been illegal in Ireland since

1861. In 1983 a national referendum resulted in a constitutional amendment guaranteeing the "right to life" of the fetus. Since then it has become much harder to obtain information about abortion.

Some officers of a students' union were prosecuted and fined for publishing in a student handbook the telephone numbers of clinics in Britain. Clinics offering pregnancy counseling, including the option of having an abortion arranged at a reputable clinic in Britain have been closed. Women's maga-

zines published in Britain, such as *Cosmopolitan*, have been threatened with banning and now publish Irish editions excluding abortion information.

Four thousand Irish women had abortions in Britain in 1990. This does not count those who through fear of refusal or prosecution travel from Ireland but give addresses in Britain. The European Court ruled last year that Irish women have an explicit right to travel abroad to seek an abortion.

U.S. gov't deports Joe Doherty

BY MARC LICHTMAN

NEW YORK — At 4:30 a.m. on February 19, without his attorneys being notified, Joe Doherty was taken from his cell in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, and deported to Belfast in British-occupied Northern Ireland. Five weeks earlier, the U.S. Supreme Court had ruled that the attorney general had the right to deny Doherty a hearing on his application for political asylum.

Doherty faces a life sentence for participation as a volunteer of the Irish Republican Army in an armed encounter in which a British military officer was killed. He may also be charged with escaping from prison, which could add another 10 years to his sentence. British authorities refuse to say whether the nearly 9 years Doherty spent in U.S. prisons will be deducted from his sentence.

During these years Doherty won the support of more than 130 members of Congress, the AFL-CIO, and many international human

rights organizations for his right to apply for political asylum. During the weeks following the Court decision, that support built further, with several of the candidates seeking the Democratic Party presidential nomination adding their names. But the Bush administration ignored the popular sentiment that stood behind the positions taken by some capitalist politicians.

In an interview given to the *Irish Voice* less than two weeks before he was deported, Doherty said, "To have been able to mobilize so many politicians in this country is a source of satisfaction. Of the most importance was to be able to explain to people what the situation in the north of Ireland is really all about."

Doherty's attorney, Mary Pike, told the press that "deporting an individual without a hearing to a country where he's likely to be persecuted is repugnant conduct in a civilized society."

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California socialists announce candidates

BY NELSON BLACKSTOCK

LOS ANGELES — The Socialist Workers Party announced candidates for two U.S. Senate seats at a news conference here February 16. Joel Britton is running for the position now held by Alan Cranston, who is retiring this year. Margaret Jayko will run against John Seymour, who was appointed to fill out the term of Peter Wilson when he was elected governor of California last year.

Britton, an oil refinery worker and member of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union, lives in Los Angeles. Previously he ran for governor of California and mayor of this city. Jayko, of San Francisco, is an auto worker and member of the United Auto Workers union. Announcement of their candidacies came at the conclusion of a state nominating convention made up of delegates from the two California party branches, located here and in San Francisco.

Britton told the convention that the United States is now in the midst of a depression, a fact that is apparent to most workers. While the term "depression" is avoided by ruling-class commentators and politicians, he said, many admit this is the longest, most stubborn recession since World War II.

"We are now witnessing a new world social crisis of capitalism unlike any since the late 1930s," Britton stated. "Like the depression of that decade, this one will be marked by ups and downs."

While no mass working-class response has yet emerged, Britton said that "fight-minded workers" have appeared on the scene. The socialist election campaign aims to reach out to such workers, for example, those who have been struggling against police brutality in Los Angeles for many months.

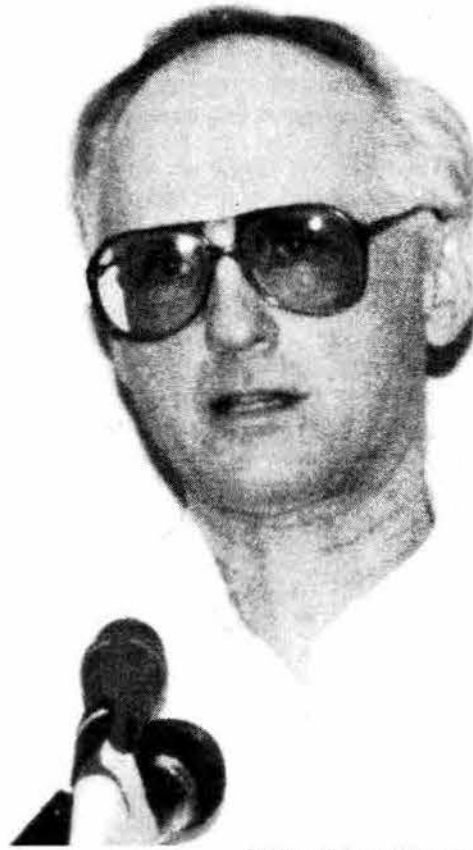
Petitioning effort

The convention capped off a Socialist Educational and Campaign Weekend that began the previous morning with petitioning to gain a ballot spot for Eli Green, SWP candidate for Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. Almost 80 campaign supporters turned out for the weekend's activities despite torrential rainstorms and flooding in many areas of the state. Twenty-three traveled from San Francisco.

The rain subsided Saturday morning as



Militant/Holbrook Mahn



Militant/Samad Yerevani



Militant/Arthur Hughes

Eli Green (left), Socialist Workers Party candidate for Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, District 2; Joel Britton (center) and Margaret Jayko, SWP candidates for U.S. Senate in California.

petitioning teams fanned out around the South-Central Los Angeles district where Green is running. In all, 1,100 signed petitions.

Petitioners often found a receptive ear to the issues raised by the campaign and the Militant.

That afternoon Margaret Jayko presented a class on the origins of women's oppression and the fight for equality today. After tracing the roots of female oppression to the rise of class society and the role of the family, as explained in the writings of Frederick Engels, Jayko discussed the "big ideological offensive aimed at undermining the confidence and combativity of women workers."

In the evening the Militant Labor Forum heard Mary Zins, a laid-off coal miner who recently returned from a visit to South Africa.

Zins described the current stage of the fight to abolish apartheid.

"It's hard to believe that only two years ago, Nelson Mandela was still in prison and it was illegal to be a member of the African National Congress," Zins said. "Now, Mandela and the ANC have forced the government to engage in negotiations for an interim government that can draw up a new constitution."

Kahn-Tineta Horn and Dale Dione, two women who are leaders of the struggle of the Mohawk Nation in Quebec, also addressed the forum. They came to appeal for help in efforts to defend themselves against Canadian government prosecution on charges resulting from efforts to defend their land. The land struggle drew worldwide attention.

The South African Government had stud-

ied Indian reservations in Canada when establishing apartheid, noted Horn. In past years Indians had to obtain passes in order to leave the reservation.

Dione reported that ANC leader Walter Sisulu recently visited the Mohawk Nation in Canada to learn about their struggle.

Longshore workers' fight

A member of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU) invited those at the forum to come to a February 17 rally. The union had called a West-Coast-wide walkout at ports to back a fight against Southern Pacific railroad. The rail bosses have moved to get rid of the ILWU, which organizes cargo containers arriving by ship at Los Angeles on to trains.

Los Angeles Young Socialist Alliance chairperson Kim Allen asked forum participants to join defense of abortion clinics that had been targeted by right wingers for attempted closure the following week.

The state convention opened February 16 with a slide show documenting the reconstruction of the Pathfinder Building in New York. Sherrie Love described plans for the next stage of the project, which includes costly construction of new facilities for the Pathfinder print shop. [See article on page 10.]

The convention elected a five-member state campaign committee and authorized the committee "to direct the U.S. Senate campaigns, including the adoption of positions on political issues, production of materials, and fundraising."

Another resolution mandated SWP branches in San Francisco and Los Angeles "to nominate as soon as possible full slates of candidates for Congress, for the state legislature and for county and municipal posts."

Lawsuit challenges L.A. police 'death squad'

BY HARRY RING

LOS ANGELES — "Assassins with badges . . . A death squad."

That's how attorney Stephen Yagman describes the Special Investigations Section (SIS) of the Los Angeles Police Department.

In a civil rights damage suit against SIS squad members and city officials, Yagman is representing a young Latino who was wounded by the SIS, and the families of three other Latino youth who were killed in the same incident.

The asserted function of the SIS is to deal with "career criminals." The squad puts selected suspects under surveillance, sometimes for months. Then, if they commit a robbery or other similar offense, SIS members stand by until it's over and then move in, often firing their guns.

"What they do is attempt to terminate the existence of the people they are following," Yagman explained in court.

The facts that have already emerged in this trial confirm Yagman's contention. The four youth were set up for execution.

Nine SIS squad members followed the four to a McDonald's restaurant the night of Feb. 12, 1990. The detectives watched as the four cased the closed restaurant.

The night manager saw the youth outside and phoned the police, but the SIS squad on the scene cancelled the response. They then stood by as the manager was bound, gagged, and blindfolded.

The four youth left the restaurant with money from the safe.

When they were back in their car, the SIS squad descended on them with a powerful blaze of gunfire. The cops claimed they fired in self-defense.

Alfredo Olivas, the lone survivor, now serving a 17-year robbery term, testified to the contrary.

The youth were carrying nonlethal pellet guns. When they came out of the restaurant, Olivas said, they placed the guns in the trunk

before entering the car. They were starting to drive away when the cops opened fire.

Yagman told the court that the victims were shot in the back.

Subpoenaed by the plaintiffs, Mayor Thomas Bradley and Police Chief Daryl Gates have testified in the trial.

Gates stoutly defended the SIS and reiterated his claim that neither violence nor racism are a problem in the LAPD.

Bradley took a somewhat different tack. On the witness stand, he conceded there was a problem of racism and brutality. But despite this, he insisted, the LAPD "is the finest large-city department in the nation."

The mayor also asserted that the SIS operation has been "for the protection of the public."

The 14-member SIS has functioned for more than 25 years. During that time it has killed 28 people and wounded 27.

Bradley, who was a Los Angeles cop for 22 years, testified that until four years ago, he didn't know that the SIS existed.

He learned about it in 1988 he said, when the *Los Angeles Times* ran several investigative reports about the squad.

In those articles the *Times* revealed how the SIS shadowed suspects, watched them commit burglaries and other similar acts, and then moved in.

The paper reported that its investigation "documented numerous instances in which well-armed teams of SIS detectives stood by watching as innocent victims were traumatized emotionally and, in some instances, physically harmed . . ."

In these 1988 articles, the paper checked out the standard SIS claim that they fired only after they were threatened with guns.

The *Times* found that of the 24 people killed up to that time by SIS cops, 18 were shot once or more from behind.

The trial of the current suit against the Investigations Section was temporarily recessed. This was the result of FBI efforts to

withhold evidence that could confirm the claim that the four youth were gunned down after they placed their pellet guns in the car trunk.

An FBI agent who has been probing the case for a year was subpoenaed by the plaintiffs, but refused to testify on instructions from the Justice Department. The department claims that since the agent has presented his evidence to a federal grand jury it must remain secret.

The presiding judge saw this as a dodge to withhold the evidence, and found the FBI agent guilty of contempt of court on January 23.

In a February 18 ruling, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals reversed the contempt-of-court ruling against the FBI agent. The trial is again underway.

SWP candidate calls for abolishing police hit squad in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES — Eli Green, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, District 2, addressed an open letter to area labor and civil rights organizations, calling on them to consider demanding the abolition of the Special Investigations Section (SIS) of the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD).

Describing the illegal activity of this police hit squad, Green's letter declared in part:

"Along with the lives it has snuffed out, SIS has snuffed out legal rights that are supposed to be guaranteed to *everyone* — without exception.

"Permitted to continue, this can spread like a scourge. Today, SIS focuses its sinister activity on so-called career criminals. But what about tomorrow?"

"This country is now in a deep recession, a recession that is, in reality, part of the first

stage of a worldwide depression.

"As is inevitable in such social crises, ultraright, profascist forces are already coming out of the woodwork.

"Increasingly, we will see guns and clubs aimed at striking unionists, at protesting jobless workers, at the homeless, at fighters against racism.

"SIS-type police hit squads will prove ready instruments for that kind of repression.

"Working people cannot afford to sit by and wait for this to happen. We must find the means to respond in a united way to the attacks on our rights that are coming down now, and will surely increase in the days ahead.

"I believe that a step in that direction would be to press for the abolition of the LAPD's SIS squad."

Atlanta school bans Malcolm X symbols

BY MIGUEL ZÁRATE
AND GARY HAWKINS

ATLANTA — While a recent front-page headline from the Atlanta University Center *Digest* announces, "Books By Malcolm X Now On Sale In South Africa," another from the Atlanta *Journal-Constitution* reports, "Old South, Malcolm X banned from Jr. High School."

As working people in South Africa fight to rid the earth of apartheid and advance toward a new South Africa, the writings of Malcolm X are becoming available there for the first time. But at Peachtree Junior High School here, Principal Lawrence Williams has decided to ban T-shirts, caps, or any other paraphernalia with symbols of Malcolm X.

Williams argues that an atmosphere of racial tensions forced him to make this move. Apparently some Black students, offended by students who wore T-shirts and belt buckles sporting Confederate flags, responded by wearing Malcolm X T-shirts and caps with an "X".

Williams decided to ban emblems of both the Confederate flag and Malcolm X, while claiming to allow shirts bearing the likeness of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King on the grounds that King was not for "the lifting of one group over another."

"Some students get caught up in wearing things because it's a fashion," Williams stated. "We have to help students understand the meaning — not just the fashion but the meaning."

The Atlanta Young Socialist Alliance responded to this attack on democratic rights by issuing a statement and handing it out to students at the school.

The statement read in part: "The recent banning of T-shirts and caps bearing the name or emblem of one of this century's greatest revolutionaries, Malcolm X, is an outrage. Justifying this recent ban on Malcolm X based on complaints around a Confederate belt buckle worn by a student is an even

greater outrage. The Confederate flag is a symbol of slavery and the oppression of Blacks and poor whites.

"Many students at Peachtree Junior High and all over see Malcolm X as a leader, as their hero — and rightly so — for his uncompromising struggle against racism and oppression; his opposition to U.S. imperialism's crimes against humanity. Malcolm X pointed to the racist capitalist system as the source of the problems we face today, a system based on greed and profits before human needs.

"Principal Williams slanders Malcolm X by claiming he stood for the lifting of one group over another; that Malcolm X had no concern for the interest of 'all people' as opposed to the views of Dr. Martin Luther

King. Malcolm X did believe in oppressed peoples throughout the world coming together as equals to fight against our common oppressor. This is a far cry from... 'lifting one group over another.'

"This attack on freedom of speech needs to be answered; otherwise it will lead to further restrictions on students' right to discuss war, police brutality, abortion rights, and other burning issues facing young people today. Mr. Williams says we have to help students understand the meaning — not just the fashion. We agree. He could start with classes on Malcolm X; not banning Malcolm X."

The principal ordered the YSA members handing out the statements to leave and told students to give him their copies. Some did. A few did not. One student took the statement

home and showed it to his mother. She called the YSA to thank the youth group and reported that although the principal had approved Martin Luther King T-shirts, when her son wore one the next day, he was told to turn his T-shirt inside out while at school and not to wear the T-shirt again.

The YSA statement has found its way onto a number of other campuses in the city and into some of the factories here.

The statement concluded by urging young people to visit the Atlanta Pathfinder bookstore, buy copies of Malcolm X's speeches and writings, and attend a video showing on his life.

Miguel Zárate and Gary Hawkins are members of United Auto Workers Local 882 in Atlanta.

Gay rights protests in Alabama and Georgia

BY DENISE CONNOLLY

AUBURN, Alabama — Chanting "Hey hey! Ho ho! Homophobia has got to go!" supporters of gay rights rallied on the Auburn University campus February 8. The rally, organized by the Atlanta-based OutSouth Foundation, was called to respond to recent attacks on the Auburn Gay and Lesbian Association (AGLA). It attracted 400 people, including students from a dozen college campuses and representatives of gay and lesbian rights groups from around the southeast.

The AGLA is a student organization on the Auburn University campus. In November 1991 the Student Government Association (SGA) voted to deny the group a permanent charter. This decision was subsequently overturned by the university administration and a charter was granted. A group called Students for a Healthy Auburn has appealed to the university board of trustees to revoke the charter and has waged a public campaign

on this. They organized a petition signed by 4,000 Auburn students and 8,000 people from around the state.

Rally speakers declared their support for the AGLA. Many called on the university to take a firmer stand in defense of the rights of gay and lesbian students. Referring to those opposed to the AGLA, Jessica from Students for Progress told the crowd, "There can be no peace without justice and tolerance. This is a campaign of hatred and bigotry. It must stop and we must stop it!"

Several speakers denounced a recent incident in which an Auburn student shot a pellet gun at members of the AGLA who were hanging up fliers outside a dormitory.

James Sears, author of *Growing Up Gay in the South*, urged the crowd to press the university trustees to add sexual orientation to the school's nondiscrimination policy and to fight to have Alabama's sodomy laws repealed.

A group of 30 counterprotesters gathered behind police barricades and across the street from the rally site. They held signs such as "Auburn Gays Love AIDS" and "No Support of Clubs Based on Sex." Their signs were confiscated by university police. While some rally participants were provoked into a shouting match with the counterprotesters, most ignored them.

A representative of the University of Alabama's gay and lesbian group told the rally about a recent move by their student government. The student senate passed a resolution authorizing it to ask the state attorney general if it is legal for the SGA to fund the gay and lesbian group on the grounds it allegedly advocates sodomy, which is against the law in Alabama.

Many rally participants saw this fight as connected to other struggles for democratic rights. Nicole, a student at the University of Alabama, said, "I'm here today because this affects everybody. We all know the sodomy laws apply to everyone. Trying to use them against these groups is just an excuse for discrimination. I also think homophobia and sexism are closely linked."

AGLA publicity chairperson Jim Sinclair said, "We're very pleased with the event. The turnout is indicative of the support we have all across the southeast."

Steve, AGLA copresident, told the crowd, "We are moved and proud to have you on our campus. We will remain a permanent and official institution at Auburn University."

Demonstrators responded enthusiastically to the *Militant* newspaper, purchasing 14 copies.

BY HELEN LOWENTHAL
AND MIESA PATTERSON

ATLANTA — In spite of heavy snowfall the night before, 400 people turned out for a rally to protest the antihomosexual hiring practices of the Cracker Barrel restaurant chain. The January 19 demonstration was held at a Cracker Barrel restaurant in Lithonia, Georgia.

Cheryl Summerville, who was fired by Cracker Barrel last year for being gay, addressed the rally. Barney Frank, a congressman from Massachusetts who is openly gay, and several Georgia state representatives also spoke. Ginnie Montez, a national leader of the National Organization for Women, expressed support for workers' right to live their private lives as they wish.

The crowd chanted, "They poison their food with hate!" and "Shame, shame, shame," as they pointed their fingers at the



Militant/Denise Connolly
Auburn, Alabama, gay rights rally.

restaurant. Cars driving by honked their horns and waved in support of the action.

The Cracker Barrel policy against homosexuals has received national news media attention. Dozens of trade union leaders have endorsed the campaign against this policy.

Supporters of the *Militant* sold eight copies of the newspaper to people who expressed special interest in the case of Larry Milton, a Black worker who was brutalized by cops in Des Moines, Iowa.

Iowa socialist candidate exempted from campaign disclosure

BY CHRIS REMPLE

DES MOINES, Iowa — At its January 22 meeting, the Iowa Campaign Finance Disclosure Commission voted to exempt Sara Lobman, Socialist Workers candidate for mayor in 1991, from disclosing names of the campaign's financial supporters.

The Des Moines mayoral election is officially regarded as nonpartisan. Last year, the Disclosure Commission challenged a previous Socialist Workers candidate, Nan Bailey, ruling that exemptions granted to political parties whose supporters suffer harassment and victimization did not apply to their candidates in nonpartisan elections.

In September, Bailey waged a successful fight against the Commission's ruling. A number of area political activists, along with the Iowa Civil Liberties Union, backed Bailey's fight. Ed Copeland, the SWP General Counsel, represented Bailey at the September hearing.

At its January meeting, the Disclosure Commission noted that Lobman campaigned as a Socialist Workers candidate and granted an exemption unanimously. This consolidated the victory won last fall.

Commission members and the lawyer for the SWP are working on a legal stipulation codifying the rulings.

Racist White Student Union seeks recognition at Minnesota University

BY TONI JACKSON

MINNEAPOLIS — The White Student Union at the University of Minnesota is seeking to become a recognized student group. Its leader, Tom David, turned in an application for student status January 30.

The White Student Union's stated goals are to "protest affirmative action and quotas, and to promote white culture." It says it "welcomes people who are pro-white" as members. David has been aggressively promoting the group on campus for several months.

The university administration says that as long as it meets all the requirements the White Student Union can gain student status.

At the same time the status of the Africana Student Cultural Center (ASCC) on the same campus is being challenged by university officials. These officials point to a provision in the ASCC's constitution that restricts general membership to students of African descent.

In a statement the ASCC identifies the White Student Union as "reactionary and regressive.... A White Student Cultural Center would be a place to promote and instill racist, violent and exclusionary ideas that invade every fabric of American life."

Citing the White Student Union's history of violence on the campus, the ASCC stated, "We cannot allow the University to shield and ignore this racist and reactionary group. It must be held up high, exposed and dismantled."

The statement also condemned the university's attack on the ASCC: "The Africana Student Cultural Center is an organization with a membership that has been and continues to be exploited under the ruling political system — white supremacy and Capitalism."

"The self-organization of African students represents a social and political corrective to the racist and exploitative system operating in America today.... We oppose the Administration's perversion of the heroic and just struggle of the peoples of African descent, and other oppressed nationalities, in this country."

Students have called for a protest on March 4 against the administration's action.

The Young Socialist Alliance has actively opposed the granting of student status to the White Student Union. In a statement on this fight the YSA explained, "Under capitalism people of color face discrimination. Forming organizations to fight against this and to codify the rights of oppressed nationalities has been an essential element of the class struggle and an advance for all working people."

"But an organization that is exclusively white, like those that are exclusively male, are thoroughly reactionary.... The YSA is opposed to the White Student Union — or other groups like it around the country — being recognized as a student organization on campus."

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Hearings on cops held in Des Moines

Continued from front page

department. The police who beat Larry Milton have to go to jail. They're going to have to be held accountable."

Youth harassed

Cory Williams, a Black high school student, said he is afraid when he sees the police in his neighborhood. Williams was one of a half dozen Black teenagers who testified about being harassed, beaten, and intimidated by police in their neighborhood.

"If someone beats someone of my race like Larry Milton, they beat me," Williams said. "There's no excuse for that. I'm willing to do almost anything to change this, to stop brutality in my neighborhood."

Mike Galati, a member of United Food and Commercial Workers at Monfort meatpacking in Marshalltown, spoke about an immigration cop raid at the plant where he works. "The cops came in and arrested several of our coworkers who are Mexican. They claimed they didn't have the right legal documents. They threw them in jail for drawing a few hundred dollars in unemployment benefits, although the boss urged them to file for these benefits when they laid us off."

"This is how the cops are used to intimidate and brutalize working people," Galati said, "and they try to destroy our ability to fight back together for what is rightfully ours. It's the same thing they did to Larry Milton and to political activist Mark Curtis, who just won a lawsuit against the cops for the beating he received from them."

Constance Hellums, a mother whose three sons have all been beaten up by the cops,

also testified. She described how the cops broke her son's foot and then pulled it up behind his back in total disregard for the pain he was suffering. She demanded action be taken to prosecute the cops responsible.

The hearings were clearly a victory for working people in the city who had been mobilizing to protest the beating of Larry Milton.

The right to have the hearings had been won, over the bitter opposition of police, due to mobilizations of the Black community and other opponents of police brutality at two city council meetings. The council vote on the hearings was divided. One member of the council refused to attend the hearings.

Public debate

Since the hearings, council members have engaged in a public debate over them. Some argue that the hearings just fanned the flames of public anger. Others say they were necessary to let people speak.

In an interview with the *Register* February 16, Police Chief William Moulder complained that the past year has been a bad one for the police department. The *Register* called the 1,000-strong meeting to protest police brutality January 2 "a fittingly depressing climax to a terrible year."

"It's not that the event with Larry Milton was more traumatic than the other things," Moulder said. "It was just more of an accumulation. I'm beginning to wonder when all this is going to end."

A chart run in the paper with the Moulder interview listed a series of incidents that have uncovered for people in



Militant/Shirley Peña

Demonstration in Des Moines, Iowa, February 1, called by Mothers and Wives Against Police Brutality to protest cop beating of Larry Milton.

this city the workings of the police. In the past year a police officer pleaded guilty to a felony; \$4,000 disappeared from a safe in the police narcotics unit; three officers beat a Black man nearly to death in front of eyewitnesses; two Black employees sued for discrimination; and Mark Curtis, a packinghouse worker and socialist activist framed up on rape and burglary, won his lawsuit against the cops who beat him in 1988.

In an editorial February 18, the *Des*

Moines Register warned Mayor John Dorrian and the city council that although they "heard much praise of city police last week . . . they also heard many speakers who are convinced that police look differently upon them solely because of their race. That's hardly conducive to an environment of mutual trust."

Within days of the hearings activists in the fight against police brutality met to plan other activities to keep up the pressure on the city council and the mayor. They plan to continue to press for prosecuting the cops who beat Larry Milton and for a civilian review of police conduct.

Curtis Parole Fund raises \$16,000

Continued from front page

Mark's fellow inmates, and from other supporters of the fight indicates the steps forward that are now possible in the defense effort.

"The fact that a federal judge ruled that the cops who beat Mark lied reinforces our contention that the cops who testified against Mark at his trial also lied in order to get a conviction. The judge's decision means that supporters can reach out in a new way to explain the fight, the frame-up trial, and win new support," she said.

"Organizing to raise the funds is the central task before supporters in the next month and a half," Kaku said. She suggested they reproduce and circulate a fund appeal letter from Curtis and herself that has been sent out to support groups around the world.

"Giving this letter and other materials not only to those who currently back the struggle but to coworkers, political activists, students, prominent individuals, and others who have not yet heard about the case is the way to raise the funds needed," she said. "In addition, it is the way to begin broadening out the numbers of those who want to join the fight for Mark's parole in the coming months."

Events planned

Several fund-raising events are planned already. One is a \$100-a-plate dinner hosted by Hollywood director Nick Castle and Charlene Castle. A concert is being planned in Iceland featuring several popular music groups in that country. Supporters in various cities are also beginning to hold public forums to discuss the victory in the cop brutality suit and the next steps in the fight.

Kaku encouraged supporters in each area to take on a goal for the fund drive. This can

be based on contributions from current supporters and coworkers, funds raised at political events, donations from those who are able to give larger sums, and money raised at public support meetings. Contributions so far range from donations of \$5 to several thousand dollars.

"From Ireland and England, to Newark and Los Angeles in the United States, police brutality and frame-ups are a worldwide issue," Kaku said.

"Mark's fight can be seen by wider numbers of people as an important part of the struggle against cop violence and the frame-ups of working people and political activists. Raising these funds will put the Mark Curtis Defense Committee and all supporters around the world in a posi-

tion to broaden the fight and score another victory."

Mark Curtis Parole Now! Fund Appeal

Enclosed is my contribution of \$_____

Name_____Address_____

City_____State_____Zip_____

Country_____Phone_____

Make checks payable to Mark Curtis Defense Committee, or, if you would like your contribution to be tax deductible, make your check payable to the Political Rights Defense Fund, Inc. Mail to MCDC, Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311.

March 15 protest against cop violence

A march and rally against police brutality has been called in Des Moines for March 15. The march, sponsored by Mothers and Wives Against Police Brutality, will begin at 2 p.m. at 13th and Forest Ave., in the middle of the Black community.

This is the second protest that Mothers and Wives Against Police Brutality has called. The first, on February 1, drew 75 people around the demands: "No excuse for Police Brutality! Jail the Guilty Cops!"

Bullet shot at Des Moines Pathfinder Bookstore

BY JOHN STUDER

DES MOINES, Iowa — A bullet was fired through the large plexiglass storefront windows of the Pathfinder Bookstore here the evening of February 20. The bookstore also houses the offices of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance. Last week the Mark Curtis Defense Committee moved its materials and equipment in.

The bookstore has served as an organizing center in the fight against police brutality here the past month and a half in the wake of last December's brutal cop beating of Larry Milton, a 35-year-old Black worker.

Activists in the fight against the cops' brutality have used the bookstore as a place to meet and plan actions, and to discuss the role of the cops under capitalism.

Bookstore manager Shirley Peña explained that volunteers returned to the store after a meeting to find the front window with a bullet hole in it. There was glass blown out on the floor over 40 feet away.

The police were called to the scene and dismissed the attack as "mischief." The bookstore has been physically attacked twice before in the past few years, and the police have consistently refused to take any action.

Cleve Andrew Pulley, a leader of the SWP, and Sara Lobman, chair of the YSA, wrote to Des Moines mayor John Dorrian to urge he use his office to press for the apprehension and prosecution of the thugs who shot the bookstore.

"As you know from our participation at city council meetings and public hearings called by the city council over the last two months, we are well-known participants in the effort to protest the police beating of Larry Milton," they wrote.



Militant

Pathfinder bookstore in Des Moines had window pierced by bullet February 20

"Unionist and political activist Mark Curtis, whose defense committee rents space in our office, recently won an \$11,000 judgement against the Des Moines police for brutalizing him in the city jail."

"Pictures of Larry Milton and Mark Curtis as they looked after being brutalized are hung in the windows of the office — the windows the thugs' bullets shot through," they added.

Two television stations responded to a press release on the incident by coming to film the gunshot hole in the window. The *Des Moines Register* reported on the

shooting.

Internal Affairs Sergeant Jim O'Donnell informed Lobman that the case had been suspended. "It is closed unless you can give us the name of a suspect for us to investigate," he said. After Lobman told him that this was the third attack in recent years, he agreed to resubmit it to the detective bureau to see if they want to reopen the file.

"We will press for action," bookstore manager Peña said. "And we will appeal to supporters of Pathfinder and democratic rights to protest this attack and to contribute to help repair the bookstore windows."

— CALENDAR —

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Conference Celebrating International Working Women's Day. Dedicated to Puerto Rican women political prisoners. Sun., March 8, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Barnard Hall in Barnard College, Columbia University, 116th St. and Broadway. Sponsored by: Comité de Affirmación Puertorriqueña, Acción Boricua of Columbia University, Latinas Promoviendo Comunidad/Lamda Phi Chi Sorority of Barnard College. For more information: (212) 927-9065 or (212) 923-2037. **National Conference in Support of the African National Congress and a Democratic South Africa.** March 20-22. For more information: (212) 673-5120.



Apartheid foes in South Africa denounce whites-only referendum

The African National Congress (ANC), the leading organization in the fight to overthrow apartheid in South Africa, issued a statement February 20 rejecting President F.W. de Klerk's proposal to hold a whites-only referendum in March.

De Klerk announced the referendum the day after his National Party suffered a humiliating defeat to the Conservative Party in a local election in Potchefstroom, western Transvaal, for a seat to the white-dominated Parliament. The referendum will ask whites whether they support the government's participation in negotiations to end apartheid. The Conservative Party is opposed to the negotiations.

ANC spokesman Saki Macozoma announced a new campaign of strikes to be held in March before the referendum. ANC supporters in Johannesburg demonstrated against de Klerk's announcement as an attempt to save white-minority rule.

Soldiers open fire in Zaire killing 13 protesters

Zairian troops opened fire February 16 on antigovernment protesters, killing 13. The shootings occurred when thousands of opponents of President Mobutu Sese Seko gathered for a demonstration after church services in the country's capital Kinshasa. Mobutu's government had banned the march.

Protesters were calling on the president to allow the resumption of a national democracy conference that his officials suspended last month. Opposition delegates had reportedly gained a majority at the conference.

Mobutu's dictatorial regime was shaken last September by a revolt of 3,000 soldiers who mutinied after not being paid for several months. Despite the rebellion he managed to stay in power after intervention by French and Belgian troops.

Pakistani police fire on Kashmiris marching toward Indian border

Pakistani police violently halted a February 12 march by Kashmiris demanding independence as they tried to enter the portion of Kashmir occupied by India. The attack left 16 protesters dead and hundreds wounded.

The march was organized by the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, a guerrilla group that organizes resistance against Indian troops in Kashmir, to highlight its demand for independence of the predominantly Muslim territory.

India occupies two-thirds of Kashmir with the rest controlled by Pakistan and China. The Indian government had said it would fire on anybody trying to cross into its territory without permission.

"We've had three wars with India," said Pakistani prime minister Nawaz Sharif in justification of the government's actions. "We don't want to have a fourth war."

United Nations votes to send thousands of troops to Yugoslavia

The United Nations Security Council voted unanimously February 21 for a resolution authorizing the dispatch of 14,000 troops to Yugoslavia.

Under the UN plan the force is to control areas in the republic of Croatia where Serbs are in a majority after the Yugoslav army, dominated by Serbia, withdraws. The UN troops are to stay there until a political settlement is reached between the different republics on the future of Yugoslavia. This would be the biggest force sent under UN flag since 20,000 UN troops took part in overthrowing the government of Patrice Lumumba in the Congo in 1960.

Communist Party of Greece wants Lenin mausoleum

According to a recent report in the Greek weekly *To Vima*, the Communist Party of Greece (KKE) has offered to take over custody from Moscow of V.I. Lenin's mummified corpse. It would be placed on display at party headquarters for a pay-per-view veneration. The KKE leadership reckons there are still millions of people around the globe who would be prepared to pay to visit the new shrine.

Buchanan's rightist campaign makes gains in New Hampshire

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

Patrick Buchanan's rightist challenge for the Republican presidential nomination picked up steam through the New Hampshire primary February 18. His demagogic attacks against immigrants and those on welfare are getting a hearing as the economy slides further into a depression.

Buchanan won 37 percent of the vote to 53 percent for President George Bush. "My friends, did I not tell you we would make history?" Buchanan told a crowd of ecstatic supporters after the vote.

Buchanan took advantage of the deteriorating economic conditions in New Hampshire to gain a broader hearing for his views.

While 7.1 percent of the state's population of 1.1 million is officially unemployed, 10 percent of workers are listed as "underemployed." Jobs at places like McDonald's that were paying \$7 an hour in 1988 are now below \$5 an hour. Bankruptcy filings have increased 94 percent since 1989 and the number of families on welfare has jumped by 160 percent.

New Hampshire's depression-like conditions are not qualitatively different from the rest of the United States, which is why the Buchanan vote was seen by most capitalist politicians as a serious threat to Bush. Headlines such as "Buchanan's strength... is blow to president," and "Bush jarred in first primary," filled daily newspapers.

Polls taken at voting places showed Buchanan won a majority of those voting Republican who said their family situation was worse off than 10 years ago.

Appeal to fears, insecurities

The rightist candidate made promises to middle-class layers and sections of the working class based on their fears, insecurities, and backward sentiments. He spoke directly about the depth of the economic crisis.

Speaking in Concord, New Hampshire, Buchanan asserted the United States won the cold war "but the victory has left ashes in our mouths. There is a social and economic crisis in America today." Referring to opinion polls indicating that three-quarters of people in the United States are worried about the future, he said, "There is a storm coming."

Pushing his campaign theme — "America first" — Buchanan called for economic sanctions against Airbus Industrie, a European-based airplane manufacturer. He accused Japan and Western European countries of spending billions in subsidies in an effort to destroy U.S. high-tech industries, especially the aerospace industry.

As president he would tell the British, French, German, and Spanish governments who back Airbus that "we are going to protect Boeing because they built the planes that kept you free [during the cold war]." He called for an end to all U.S. foreign aid.

Touring a gun factory in Claremont, New Hampshire, Buchanan told Jim Lavigne, an inspector at the plant, "You vote for me, my friend, and there won't be all those foreign trips. Japan, China, Korea, and Germany — we've been supporting them for so long and they're putting nothing back." Lavigne said he did not intend to give Bush "the time of day" in the upcoming primary.

Buchanan took Japan-bashing to new heights. He skewered Charles Black, a Bush campaign strategist who has been lobbying Congress on behalf of a Japanese consortium seeking U.S. business, as "a geisha girl of the new world order."

Against 'big government'

Buchanan railed against Bush for raising taxes. "There is a one-party government. The big-government Republicans and the big-spending Democrats have gotten together to raise taxes the country didn't want, to vote quotas the country didn't want, to vote Congress a 40 to 50 percent pay raise that everybody in America said they didn't want," he stated.

He calls for phasing out U.S. troops in Europe. "It is time to tell the big boys in Europe who steal our markets around the world that they should look after themselves," he said. Buchanan would deploy some of the troops as "border guards in the Southwest" along what has been dubbed a "Buchanan fence" on the U.S.-Mexico border.



Buchanan won 37 percent of vote in first Republican primary

Discussing the sort of immigration he would prefer, he says, "If we had to take a million immigrants in, say, Zulus, next year or Englishmen, and put them in Virginia, what group would be easier to assimilate and would cause less problems for the people of Virginia? ... We are a European country."

Buchanan proposes that homeless people who beg should be arrested for vagrancy and locked up. He is a strong opponent of abortion, including in cases of rape and incest.

Asked by a Dartmouth student if he still believed that AIDS was "God's retribution" against gays, Buchanan won over the college crowd by asserting he never wrote that in a column. "I don't believe any individual knows the mind of God, my friend," he said.

He dodged mentioning that he had written a column calling AIDS "nature's retribution" against homosexuals. He conceded to the *New York Times* later that he had written and believes this.

Buchanan is taken seriously and promoted in the news media as simply another conservative contender because of his well-established base in the traditional Republican right. A well-known newspaper columnist, he was a speech writer for President Richard Nixon and a White House assistant to Gerald Ford and Ronald Reagan.

Radical politics

But a major part of his appeal lies in his radical, ultrarightist politics. He admiringly explains why his father and others in that generation supported Gen. Francisco Franco of Spain, the fascist dictator who overthrew the republican government there in the 1930s. Buchanan also has great regard for the witch-hunting Sen. Joseph McCarthy and Gen. Douglas MacArthur who wanted to carry the Korean war into China. He decorates his home with portraits of confederate generals and speaks with pride of his great-grandfather, a slave-owner, who fought for the confederacy.

Buchanan's platform, though, differs little from that of George Bush. After Bush's state-of-the-union speech Buchanan accused the president of stealing his ideas. "There is no

question that we not only have been driving the debate, we have been winning the debate," he said. "The proof of that is that George Bush has moved crabwise in a conservative direction ever since we announced."

Buchanan plans a serious campaign in the upcoming primaries. He already spent \$1.5 million on television alone and got the endorsement of two major New England dailies, the *Manchester Union Leader* and the *Boston Herald*.

With his success in New Hampshire he is likely to get more support and funding from capitalists who are nervous about Bush's ability to ride out the recession and keen to begin developing a more forceful rightist option in U.S. politics.

None of the contenders of the Democratic presidential nomination offer any solutions to the burning questions confronting working people.

Paul Tsongas, the Democratic front-runner, was described by the *Wall Street Journal* as "a liberal Democrat with a pro-business agenda." In his victory speech in New Hampshire Tsongas emphasized, "You can't have employment and despise employers." Tsongas has pushed for antilabor measures. As far back as 1979 he demanded a three-year wage freeze for Chrysler workers.

Like Bush, Tsongas is offering tax cuts for big corporations and is also a supporter of nuclear power and the death penalty. "In some ways the candidate's economic proposals do mirror those of president Bush," commented the *Wall Street Journal*.

Bill Clinton, the second runner-up, was obliged to focus much of his campaign on answering accusations of marital infidelity and explaining the efforts he made to avoid the draft during the Vietnam War.

Such is the Democrats' disarray that the AFL-CIO leadership, staunch supporters of the Democratic Party, could not pick a candidate to endorse. While most union officials seem to favor Clinton or Sen. Thomas Harkin, the AFL-CIO has left the decision on who to back up to individual unions.

PERSPECTIVA MUNDIAL

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- Coverage of the recent victory won by Mark Curtis in his suit against the Des Moines police for brutally beating him four years ago;
- The preface to the new Pathfinder pamphlet *Farmers Face the Crisis of the 1990s*;
- Patrick Buchanan's presidential campaign;
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Concession contract divides union at Amtrak

BY NELS J'ANTHONY

A contract offer covering members of the United Transportation Union (UTU) who work for the National Railroad Passenger Corp. (Amtrak) was narrowly passed February 12 by a vote of 548-535. The offer was made after four-and-a-half years of stalled negotiations, during which time there

UNION TALK

were no wage increases, working conditions worsened, and workers' rights came under attack. The UTU represents all conductors and assistant conductors at Amtrak.

The proposal includes a 10 percent wage increase over the life of the contract, which ends on the last day of 1994. Taking into account the years since the expiration of the last contract, the wage increase averages less than 2 percent per year. Also, the increases proposed will be less for those with under five years employment. These workers will receive a proportion of the raise along the lines of the wage progression established in the previous contract. This provision reinforces the wage tier now in force that has weakened and divided the union.

Small lump sum payments added to this wage proposal are also less for new hires. The last lump sum could be used to pay for health benefits. Clearly the wage increases offered don't even begin to make up for the rise in the cost of living.

The main argument advanced by UTU officials to win support for the contract was that the issue of reduction in crew size is not included. The union agreed, however, that the issue can be addressed after June 30, 1993. Officials point to the enormous cuts in crew size that have been forced on freight workers. In many cases freight crews have been reduced to just a conductor and an engineer. Officials also note that Amtrak plans to start using other rail workers to do some of the tasks now performed by conductors. Amtrak has also circulated a list of 304 positions it wants to cut.

The strategy to protect jobs offered by UTU officials is to rely on the legal red tape of the negotiating process prescribed by the Railway Labor Act. They promise that delays allowed by this process will enable the union to stall for several years. The officials argue that the only

way to get a favorable settlement is to wait for the election of a Democratic "friend of labor" president so that arbitrators will be appointed to rule in favor of unions.

Relying on the legal system that has been used to orchestrate setback after setback for workers offers no guarantee for job security. The presidential commission that forced big concessions on freight workers was overwhelmingly supported by both Republican and Democratic politicians. Amtrak has been cutting crew sizes already, in violation of the current contract. The decision made on the UTU contract will have a substantial impact on negotiations between Amtrak and other rail unions that have yet to settle: the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees, and others.

This was the first time that UTU members had the right to vote on their contract. However, the choices on the ballot themselves posed a threat. In addition to voting yes or no on the contract, UTU members were asked to choose between two courses of action union negotiators would take if the contract was voted down. Neither choice included mobilizing the union membership to fight back. One instructed the union to trade away jobs for better pay. The other told the union to negotiate further "with the understanding the matter will most likely be settled by third party arbitration and that a forced settlement would probably include a reduction in crew size."

These proposals did nothing but weaken the union in its battle with Amtrak. The threat was made that if the contract was voted down, the loss of hundreds, perhaps thousands, of jobs is certain. Many new hires, afraid to lose their jobs, were feeling the pressure to vote for these concessions. And telling union members that the only way to get a better wage package is to trade away jobs sets up deeper divisions in the union along seniority lines.

One UTU local in Boston took exception to the way officials crafted the vote. A petition was issued demanding that the union leadership negotiate a better wage package, consider crew size non-negotiable, and not take the contract through third party arbitration. Some members included a protest on their ballot, writing in "strike" as a third alternative. This is one indication of the frustration felt by the membership around the contract. But it falls short of the mobilization of the ranks and active solidarity that is needed.

Rail workers, on both freight and passenger carriers, have shown their willingness to wage a fight against concessions. During the years of negotiations, Amtrak workers have participated in several rallies and informational picket lines and reached out to other workers for support. The one-day national railroad strike last April 17 revealed the potential power and solidarity that rail workers can muster.

During the strike, however, rail union officials decided that no commuter service would be affected by the job action in order not to alarm the U.S. Congress. Many Amtrak workers wanted to join the strike in solidarity and felt uncomfortable working that day. Many recognized that the decision to keep passenger service going divided workers and weakened the unions.

The strike was ended after Congress declared the walkout illegal. Union officials then stopped the walkout. Amtrak workers are now paying the price for the treachery of union officials in their role in scuttling that fight.

The anger and frustration among Amtrak workers continued after the vote count was announced. Some questioned the outcome, pointing to the narrow margin involved in the proposal's ratification, and wanted the results overturned. Of those in the east coast corridor who wanted to see more of an effort from the union to win a better contract, some want to break away from the national agreement, blaming workers who work outside the corridor for ratifying a concession contract. Others voted against the contract because they see crew size reduction as inevitable given what has happened to freight crews.

By not rallying the ranks for a fight against concessions, UTU officials have weakened the union and deepened divisions in the membership. Many in the ranks feel that the union leadership cut off any real chance to fight against this contract proposal, but are not sure what to do next.

Nels J'Anthony is a member of UTU Local 1416 in Salt Lake City. Mark Zola and Jolee Zola, members of UTU Local 898 in Boston; Cheri Tremble, a member of UTU Local 1370 in New York City; Charles Ostrofsky and Margrethe Siem, members of UTU Local 1470 in Washington, D.C.; and Jeff Hamill, a member of UTU Local 86 in San Francisco, contributed to this article.

Airline, auto, and oil workers buy the 'Militant'

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

This week marks the halfway point in the nine-week campaign to increase weekly sales of the *Militant* and other socialist publications to industrial unionists. With 21 U.S. cities reporting, total sales results for the February 21 *Militant*, issue no. 7, reached 49 percent of the goals adopted by socialists in the nine industrial unions listed below.

While this is an increase of 38 papers over the past week, the totals reported are still substantially behind the overall goals adopted by the socialist trade unionists. For the final month of the drive all those participating need to redouble their efforts.

This week *Militant* distributors in the United Auto Workers union report the best results. They reached 95 percent of their weekly sales goal of 40, half of their overall subscription renewal goal, and 90 percent of their goal to sell the book *How Far We Slaves Have Come!*

In New York City, 12 *Militants* were sold to members of the International Association of Machinists (IAM) attending meetings to discuss a proposed contract at TWA, which recently filed for bankruptcy. Salesperson

Cheri Tremble, a member of United Transportation Union (UTU) Local 1370, reports that a number of these airline workers were interested in the *Militant's* front-page headline on the case of jailed unionist Mark Curtis and the back-page article on the Caterpillar strike.

From our fax: Willie Mae Reid, a member of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union in Houston, writes, "The combination of work around the Curtis lawsuit victory and Pathfinder's support for Black History Month has broadened the discussions and sales to coworkers this week. In addition, annual bonuses have been an encouragement for supporters to 'strike while the iron is hot' with workers ready to expand their political libraries along with their thinking."

"Patsy, a *Militant* supporter, sold 15 copies of *How Far We Slaves Have Come!* and 5 Malcolm X books this week," writes Reid. "She has enthusiastically brought the Curtis victory to work zones all over the plant."

International Socialist Review

The February 1992 *International Socialist Review*, which features "Origins of the myth

of race," a talk by SWP leader Doug Jenness, has been reprinted as a separate item. This attractive supplement helps counter the rightist perspective put forward in capitalist politics today by figures like David Duke and Patrick Buchanan. It sells for 50 cents each. Bundles of five or more can be ordered from the *Militant* business office for 35 cents each.

In Wellington, New Zealand, supporters of the *Militant* have been phoning and visiting readers encouraging them to renew their subscriptions. "So far, 10 people have renewed," reports Felicity Coggan. "Several of the subscribers contacted mentioned that they enjoyed the *Militant's* coverage of the abortion rights issue."

"One high school student commented that the *Militant* gave a 'different angle on the abortion debate from other media sources . . . it's very interesting and very pertinent. I've been subscribing for over a year now and it's been great,' she said."

Finally, remember that to be counted on the scoreboard, sales results must be in the *Militant* business office by Friday, 9:00 a.m. EST.



Militant/K.C. Ellis
Caterpillar workers in York, Pennsylvania, buying the 'Militant.' Campaign to increase sales of socialist press to industrial workers is at halfway point.

United Auto Workers expands strike against Caterpillar in Illinois

Continued from front page

brings the number of Caterpillar workers on strike to 10,800, all located in the areas of Peoria, Aurora, and Decatur. The strike at these plants is having a big impact on tens of thousands of workers and farmers throughout Illinois. More than 1,600 Caterpillar workers also remain on layoff.

The UAW contract with Caterpillar expired September 30. The union granted an extension, but talks collapsed October 31 when the company refused to provide an agreement patterned after the union pact signed with Deere and Co.

A selective strike by 2,400 UAW workers in East Peoria and Decatur began November 4. The company retaliated November 7 by locking out 5,650 union workers at the East Peoria and Aurora plants.

Feeling increased pressure from loss of production and declining inventories, Caterpillar announced the end of the lock out February 7 and ordered the unionists to report back to work February 17. The UAW re-

sponded that they were not returning without a contract and that the previously locked-out workers were now on strike.

The company's ploy to get UAW members back to work backfired. Out of the 5,650 locked-out workers only one tried to return. When picketers stopped his car at the gate he also decided to rejoin the picket line.

UAW Local 757 president Larry Solomon in Decatur also welcomed the expansion of the strike. "Expanding it even further would be in our best interests," he commented. "It could possibly be the crossroads or the turning point for bargaining in America because if the company wins they'll try to do this even more at other companies. It's very important to let Caterpillar see that many unions are supporting us."

The March 22 rally in Peoria, Illinois will begin at 2:00 p.m. at the Peoria Civic Center located downtown at 201 S.W. Jefferson St. [A further report on the Caterpillar strike appears on page 12.]

Sales to industrial unionists, Jan. 18-March 19

Union	Weekly sales goal	No. sold Militant #7*	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	10	50	12	6	25	8
IAM	60	36	60	30	11	55	17
ILGWU	14	3	21	3	4	15	2
OCAW	40	11	28	19	12	50	33
UAW	40	38	95	20	10	40	36
UFCW	50	21	42	20	5	25	8
UMWA	8	4	50	7	3	17	14
USWA	45	21	47	30	5	30	11
UTU	45	15	33	35	8	30	6
U.S. Totals	322	159	49	176	64	287	135
Canada							
ACTWU	3	2	66				
CAW	4	1	25				
IAM	5	2	40				
ILGWU	5	1	20				
USWA	4	3	75				
Canada Totals	21	9	43				

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

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

Millions go without medical-care coverage

Bush and other capitalist party candidates offer no solutions to health crisis

BY PAUL MAILHOT

Trying to generate some interest in his election campaign, President George Bush announced February 6 his proposals to improve the nation's health-care system.

"Our reform program will cut costs, insure choice, and give everyone — rich or poor, sick or healthy — access to health care," he declared at the San Diego Rotary Club the following day.

Going into the February 18 New Hampshire primary elections, the crisis of the health-care system and how to solve it became one of the major issues of the presidential race. The solutions being advanced by Bush and the major Democratic Party contenders fall far short of what is needed.

Bush campaigned around his health plan at a clinic that serves mainly Mexican-Americans in San Diego. After the president chatted with Marcia Simmons, the mother of a 5-month-old girl, reporters asked her what she thought of the president's proposals. "I'm for socialized medicine," Simmons said, after explaining that she had been late in receiving prenatal checkups because she could not afford California health insurance payments that totaled \$1,200 a year.

Nearly 37 million people in the United States, including 12 million children, have no medical insurance. While hospitals are not supposed to refuse care to those in need, not having insurance to pay the bill can often mean being shuffled from hospital to hospital, long waiting periods, and inferior care.

Uninsured more likely to die

The *Journal of the American Medical Association's* Jan. 16, 1991, issue published a study of 592,598 patients hospitalized in 1987. The report found the uninsured tended to enter the hospital sicker, and once there, they were up to 3.2 times more likely to die than were insured patients of the same race, sex, and age. Another study in the *Journal's* Dec. 18, 1991, issue explained that the care given to sick newborns varies with their insurance status. Babies with private insurance were hospitalized for an average of 15.7 days, uninsured babies were hospitalized 13.2 days.

Bush's plan calls for giving up to \$3,750 in vouchers and tax credits per family to buy medical insurance. Asked for details on how he aimed to fund his plan, estimated at some \$100 billion over five years, Bush replied, "We'll figure that out."

Seeking to tap into the enormous public dissatisfaction with the current medical-care system and become the health-care candidate, Democratic presidential contender Senator Robert Kerrey of Nebraska favors a system similar to Canada's, with coverage for all citizens at government expense. Another, Paul Tsongas, wants doctors, insurance

companies, and hospitals to compete for contracts from groups of businesses or unions.

Arkansas governor William Clinton would have employers either buy insurance for their employees or be taxed. The revenue from taxes would go into a public fund to cover the uninsured.

Although the schemes offered by Democratic candidates like Clinton, Kerrey, and Tsongas differ from Bush's proposal, they all boil down to the same thing — everyone in the United States supposedly ends up with medical insurance.

While many workers and unemployed would welcome some form of health insurance over none at all, this does not come near to solving the problem. It is estimated that 177 million people presently have private health insurance, many of whom are also on Medicare. But having some form of insurance does not guarantee good medical care.

Doctors don't take Medicaid

Many doctors refuse to take Medicaid patients because they are paid less than for patients who have Medicare or private insurance. Medicaid is a plan for medical costs of those living on welfare, while Medicare covers people 65 and over. According to the federal Physician Payment Review Commission, 44 states were found to have problems in getting doctors to participate in the Medicaid health program for the poor.

Even with insurance coverage workers are often forced to pay thousands of dollars in deductibles and copayments a year. The average family spent \$4,296, 11.7 percent of their annual income, on health care in 1991.

Growing unemployment, homeless-

ness, and massive cuts in medical programs for the poor has meant a serious rise in curable diseases that had been nearly wiped out in the past few decades. In 1990 the incidence of tuberculosis rose 9.4 percent, with 25,701 new cases. More than 27,600 cases of measles, with 89 deaths, were also reported.

In spite of election year promises, the capitalist economic crisis gripping the country has meant the government and private employers have looked for every avenue to cut health-care benefits and programs like Medicare and Medicaid, by lowering fees payable to doctors and medical institutions and raising the costs that individuals must pay.

Capitalist governments in Canada, New Zealand, and elsewhere have begun to cut deeply into their national health-care programs to offset the affects of the economic crisis.

The crisis of the medical system comes from the fact that as the economic squeeze tightens, allocating resources to pay for adequate care for working people is less and less of a priority for the capitalist rulers. Every dollar the corporations save on providing health care is a dollar they can use elsewhere. Furthermore, in the United States providing health care is big business. Total spending on health care reached \$738 billion in 1991. Huge profits are made from people's sickness and misery.

Drug companies alone made an average profit on sales of 15.5 percent in 1990 at the same time that the average "Fortune 500" company made profits of 4.6 percent.

The Democratic and Republican party pol-



Rising health-care costs mean reduced standard of living for working people.

iticians are quick to make promises that would seem to ease the health-care burden of working people to get themselves elected. But none of their proposals challenge the health-for-profit business that is the root of the current health-care crisis.

Health cuts protested in New Zealand

BY PATRICK BROWN

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — Chanting "health cuts don't heal," 400 people rallied outside Wellington hospital February 1. They were protesting new charges for hospital care and other so-called "user-pays" measures, which were begun the same day by the National Party government.

On January 31 and February 1 there were marches and demonstrations outside public hospitals from Whangarei in the north to Timaru in the south.

Auckland protesters held vigils outside several major hospitals. In January 150 people attended a public meeting called by the Combined Health Employees Committee.

In Christchurch, 70 people gathered outside Christchurch Hospital in a protest organized by the Canterbury Health Coalition.

By far the largest demonstration during the week, however, occurred in the small South Island town of Oamaru. More than

13,000 marched there to oppose plans to close the local hospital's surgical services. The protest was led by the town mayor.

The event was typical of several that have occurred to resist the closure or partial closure of local hospitals and "centralization" of health services in larger cities.

New charges

The protests helped to publicize the new health charges, which significantly extend the government offensive against social services. For the first time in 50 years, New Zealand public hospitals will charge patients for visits. The measures divide the population into three income groups.

One consists of those on unemployment and other social welfare benefits or earning especially low wages. Members of this group will have to present a special card to qualify for free hospital care and reduced charges for family doctor consultations and medicine.

The second group qualifies for a partial subsidy. The third group is classified as "high income" and pays the full rates. This latter group encompasses nearly half the population, including many wage earners.

"New Zealanders will face higher medical bills than in any other developed country except the United States under the new 'user-pays' regime," wrote columnist Joanna Wane in the January 26 *Sunday Star*. "In New Zealand... a day in the hospital will cost up to \$50... patients can expect to pay up to \$31 each time they see a GP [family doctor], and prescription fees will rise to a maximum of \$20 an item." The New Zealand dollar is worth about 60 U.S. cents.

These developments are predicted to have serious consequences for the health of working people, already hard-pressed by massive job losses and declining living standards. Doctors' visits are reported to have fallen nationally by an estimated 15 percent in recent times.

Climbing rates of hepatitis B, a debilitating liver infection, and measles have been reported.

Typically, these diseases are more prevalent among most oppressed and poverty-stricken layers. A newspaper report in September 1991 on a measles epidemic reported that the total number of reported cases in one 13-week period was 1,191. Pacific Island children accounted for 16.4 percent of the total reported cases and Maori children 15.7 percent.

Faced with deteriorating health services, well over one-third of New Zealanders have turned to medical insurance schemes.

However, the Wellington *Evening Post* reports that, "most health insurance companies have increased fees 50 to 200 percent in the last two months, blaming the government's new user charges for health care."

In a just-published public opinion poll, the government's approval rating has sunk to an all-time low of 11 percent.

The Communist League candidates in two Auckland by-elections, James Robb and Ruth Gray, have used their campaigns to speak out against the attacks on health care. "We need to oppose so-called 'user-pays' charges in health, education, housing, and other areas and demand these as a social right available to all working people," said their campaign statement.

Patrick Brown is a member of the New Zealand United Food and Chemical Workers Union.

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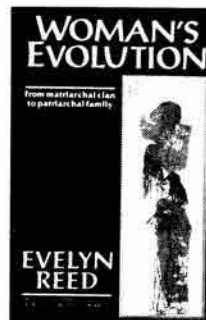
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FBI role in Puerto Rico murders exposed

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL
AND SUSAN APSTEIN

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — What role did U.S. and Puerto Rican government officials play in planning, executing, and covering up the 1978 police murder of two young pro-independence activists? Senate hearings here are filling in more pieces in this picture.

Evidence introduced at the hearings also provides a glimpse of how the political police has systematically carried out spying, disruption, and frame-ups against unions and the independence movement in this U.S. colony.

On July 25, 1978, Carlos Soto Arriví and Arnaldo Darío Rosado were ambushed and killed by a group of Intelligence Division police at Cerro Maravilla, a mountaintop in a remote part of the island. The cops claimed they fired in self-defense when the two allegedly tried to attack some communications towers. Then governor Carlos Romero Barceló immediately hailed the police as heroes fighting terrorism.

Under public pressure the Puerto Rican Senate held hearings in 1983 that began to shatter the police cover-up. Witnesses proved the youths had been entrapped by a police

pro-independence activists.

"The aim," said Senate Judiciary Committee president Marco Rigau in an interview, "was to create a wave of artificial terrorism. If terrorism doesn't exist, it can't be combated. So it had to be created."

During the 1978 electrical strike, for example, police agent González Malavé conducted acts of sabotage against the company that were used to launch a violence-baiting campaign against the electrical workers union.

Unions targeted

Several government documents just released show that in addition to pro-independence and socialist groups, labor unions were also targeted as subversive. A February 1977 police intelligence report to Governor Romero lists several labor unions, including the telephone workers and electrical workers, as subversive groups. The list also includes the Puerto Rican Women's Federation, the Pro-Independence University Student Federation, the Puerto Rican Socialist Party, and a Masonic lodge, among others. The report called for action against "strikes and other subversive activities."

A government counterinsurgency manual called the Internal Defense Plan was drafted in May 1978. It targeted as subversive such legal activities as strikes, protests against police brutality, and actions supporting immigrant rights. The plan also called for "the elimination or neutralization of insurgent leadership and infrastructure."

A top Puerto Rican National Guard official testified February 11 that in 1975 police officers took part in counterinsurgency exercises with the National Guard and U.S. Army Special Forces. The objective of "Operation Blackjack" was to defend the Cerro Maravilla communications towers against a simulated terrorist attack, in a scenario resembling the 1978 police entrapment and ambush that led to the death of the two young activists.

The role of the federal government in the Cerro Maravilla case continues to come to light.

A top official of the Puerto Rican Justice Department intelligence agency, José Nolla, testified February 13 that the FBI closely followed the activities of the group that included Soto and Rosado, which was directed by police agent González Malavé. Nolla said he was told by the head of the police Intelligence Division not to investigate the activities of the group because it was "under the control" of the Intelligence Division and the FBI.

Three months before the Cerro Maravilla murders two FBI agents accompanied a police lieutenant and other agents who spied on the apartment building where González Malavé and other members of his group were manufacturing a bomb.

FBI 'knew everything'

Senator Rigau said of the FBI's role, "In fact they knew everything. The FBI had the police department totally infiltrated."

One of the cops at Cerro Maravilla, Luis Reverón, testified in October that the day before the murders, as the cops set up their ambush, he observed two men who appeared to be FBI agents. They were seen talking to Intelligence Division chief Angel Pérez Casillas.

Former deputy police chief Cartagena has testified that he "took it for granted" that FBI agents were at the site of the killing.

The FBI obstructed investigations into the Cerro Maravilla case. The agency initially refused to carry out an investigation. Two federal investigations that were carried out cleared the cops.

Letters from the FBI's San Juan office published in 1983 detail these efforts. One memo from agent John Hinchcliffe states the FBI "interposes a strong objection to interview of público [taxi] driver Ortiz Molina or to solicitation of police investigative report of the incident." Julio Ortiz Molina's eyewitness testimony was key to discrediting the cops' lie that they shot the two youths in self-defense.

The FBI coordinated the federal investigation with police official Pérez Casillas. It was Pérez Casillas who supervised the ambush at Cerro Maravilla. He was given a list by the FBI of which cops would be investigated. He then met with them to get their cover-up story straight before they were questioned by the FBI and subpoenaed by a grand jury.

One of the most important revelations in



Anti-Vietnam war protest in 1970 in Puerto Rico. Cerro Maravilla murders were part of government's repression against independence and other social movements.

the Cerro Maravilla hearings is the fact that several death squads were organized in the police department. One hit squad, called "Friends of Democracy," was headed by José López, chief U.S. marshal on the island for several years. Its members included a Navy lieutenant, the head of the police SWAT team, several other cops, and some right-wing Cuban terrorists.

These groups targeted independence supporters, unionists, and socialists. A number of death squad members were eventually convicted and jailed for various crimes such as large-scale theft and extortion.

The existence of the Friends of Democracy outfit was disclosed by the testimony last fall of Ignacio Rivera, a well-known lawyer and former CIA agent. The gang has been tied to the 1980 bombing of the Puerto Rican Bar Association and other murderous activities.

Death squad activities

The death squad kept files on independence supporters. Among these was Manuel de Jesús Sanjurjo, who was tortured and killed. Another victim, said Rivera in an interview, was Julio Pinto Gandía, a longtime leader of the Nationalist Party who was "dis-

appeared" in 1976.

Rivera said death squad members also planted explosives in the home of independence fighter Erich Rodríguez, who was arrested and framed up in July 1978. Rodríguez was only released from prison a year ago.

The U.S. government was aware of the death squad's activities, Rivera stated. "López and the others couldn't have operated without the tacit approval of the FBI." The federal government has not prosecuted López, who is currently a U.S. marshal in Miami.

The hearings and debate on Cerro Maravilla have had a big impact on politics here. Rafael Anglada López, who has defended victims of FBI frame-ups, noted that "now it's a little harder for the government" to get away with its political harassment.

"People here are more conscious about it," he said. As a result of the exposure of the Cerro Maravilla case and public outrage over government repression, pro-independence activists have won more respect for their ideas. "Independence supporters have a little more legality now," Anglada noted.

Police arrest two in Puerto Rico; try to smear independence movement

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — In an attempt to smear the pro-independence movement here as terrorist, police arrested two alleged members of an underground group and accused them of making bombs.

Working with the FBI, narcotics cops raided the home of José Collazo Ortiz and Migdalia Pérez Rodríguez February 7 in the town of Yauco, on the southern coast of the island. They claimed to have found weapons, explosives, "subversive literature," and an unfinished flag that "was to carry" the emblem of the *Macheteros*, a pro-independence group. Police refused to disclose what the literature was, saying it was "confidential."

The cops alleged they also confiscated maps of electrical installations. The government of Puerto Rico has previously falsely accused the electrical workers union, which is involved in a contract fight with the state-owned electric company, of sabotaging power lines.

Authorities initially said the couple was linked to the *Macheteros*. Later they stated the two belonged to the Revolutionary National Front of Puerto Rico. The cops attributed 16 alleged bombings to the previously unknown group.

Early news reports also claimed that half a pound of morphine was confiscated during the police raid. Subsequent reports dropped mention of this.

Collazo and Pérez were jailed with bail set at \$700,000 each.

The arrests occur in the midst of televised Puerto Rican Senate hearings that are investigating the police murder of two independence supporters in 1978. The Cerro Mara-

villa case, as it is known, has implicated U.S. and Puerto Rican government officials in the planning and cover-up of the killings, which were initially justified by the government in the name of "fighting terrorism." [See accompanying article.]

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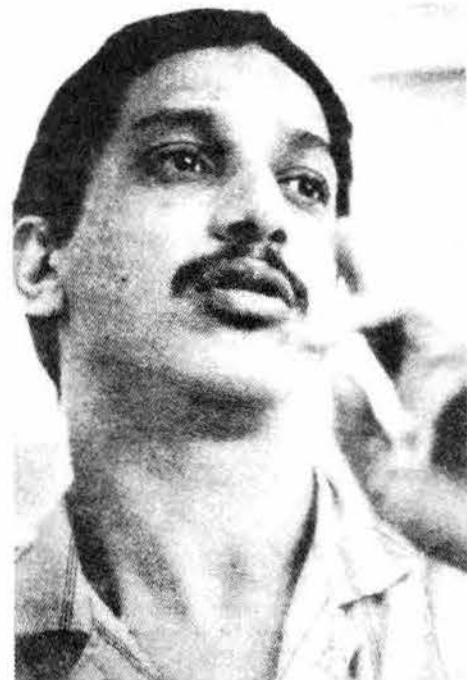


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Claridad / Willín Rodríguez
Erich Rodríguez. Cops linked to death squad planted explosives in his home and framed him in 1978. FBI aided cover-up.

provocateur who posed as a revolutionary. Rosado and Soto had surrendered to the cops, who beat and shot them point-blank as they pleaded for their lives.

Ten cops were eventually jailed for perjury and two for second-degree murder. But the Cerro Maravilla case would not go away. Evidence pointed to government complicity right up to former governor Romero as well as the FBI. This led to the current Senate Judiciary Committee hearings, which began last October.

Murders planned beforehand

For the first time a top government official at the time of the Cerro Maravilla incident acknowledged that the murders and subsequent cover-up could have been planned beforehand. Testifying February 12, former police superintendent Roberto Torres González also said he was not personally involved in any such plans, claiming his second-in-command was responsible for the police operations the day of the shooting. Government documents, however, show Torres and former deputy police chief Desiderio Cartagena both met several times with Governor Romero to discuss the planned ambush.

It has already been established that Alejandro González Malavé, an Intelligence Division undercover agent, recruited Soto, Rosado, and several other youths for two clandestine groups in early 1978. The agent provocateur directed these groups to carry out several armed attacks. He then entrapped them at Cerro Maravilla.

Secret police documents made public the first week in February confirm that the Cerro Maravilla operation was part of a systematic campaign by colonial and U.S. authorities to portray the pro-independence movement as terrorist to justify government harassment and victimization. Police reported dozens of terrorist bombings on the island that never occurred. At the same time, police agents carried out bombings that were blamed on

Volunteer crew will rebuild printshop in Pathfinder Building

More than \$1 million is needed to complete reconstruction project

BY DAVE PRINCE

NEW YORK — In early April the Pathfinder Building reconstruction project will begin the reconstruction and transformation of Pathfinder's printshop. The printshop is housed on the building's first floor here.

An international team of volunteers recently remodeled the fifth and sixth floors of the Pathfinder Building, which houses the offices of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* and the national office of the Socialist Workers Party. The soon-to-be-completed fourth floor will include the offices of the Pathfinder publishing house and a centrally located library for all the editorial staffs. This marks a big step forward in meeting the needs of the communist movement today.

The printshop is being planned to physically match the standards of the upper floors. It will include new presses and other printing equipment required for expanding needs.

The project is financed by the International Expansion Fund launched in August 1990. The fund grew out of increased opportunities for the distribution of Pathfinder books and socialist periodicals. It was launched to make possible major capital expenditures on the reconstruction project, which will have long-term benefits facilitating the production of these publications.

Knowledge of the lessons of past struggles by working people and of current fights is indispensable to participants in the battles taking place today. The books, pamphlets, magazines, and newspapers published at the Pathfinder building are tools to understand politics in the world, effectively oppose capitalism and the wars and depressions it breeds, and fight for a communist future.

Big increase in funds needed

Completing the reconstruction project will require a substantial increase in the current \$1.6 million International Expansion Fund goal.

The project began with a more limited perspective. But as it got underway, in April of last year, the scope of the project grew — both to implement long overdue maintenance of the building, which had no serious work done on its infrastructure since 1970, and to carry out a complete physical transformation of all the offices and the printshop.

The international team of volunteers carrying out the construction gained confidence in their abilities to meet this challenge. And the powerful response to the fund appeal demonstrated the possibilities of raising the necessary funds. To date \$1,554,000 has been pledged by 137 supporters of the project, including one contribution of \$200,000. More than \$1,300,000 has been collected.

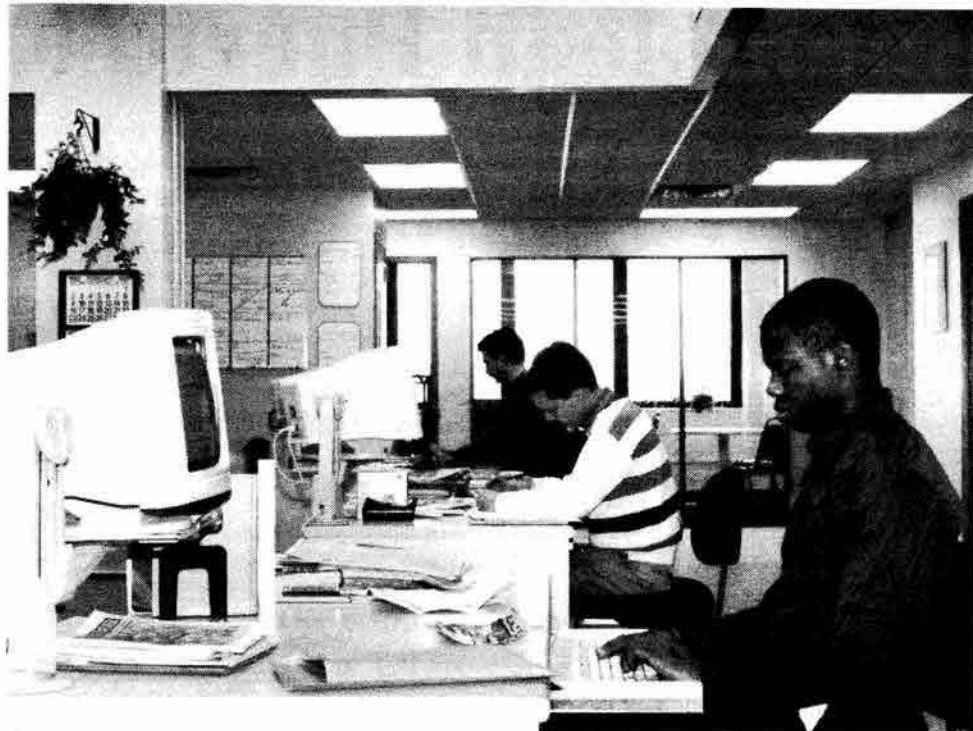
This has made it possible to complete the upper floors and meet some initial expenses



Militant/Selva Nebbia
Breaking through wall to create window on 4th floor

for beginning work on the printshop.

While drawing up plans for reconstructing the print shop it became clear that substantially more space is needed to adequately organize its work. The only way to do this is to add a second story to the current one-story warehouse adjacent to the main building. The expansion is essential both for shop safety



Militant/Selva Nebbia
The print shop is being planned to physically match the standards of the upper floors. Seen here, the 5th floor, where the 'Militant' editorial staff produces the paper.

and to have sufficient space for expanding production.

The printshop needs new lighting, climate control, and ventilation equipment to create the best conditions for quality printing. It also must have equipment for removing large amounts of printing waste.

In addition, the 20-year-old web press that prints the books and periodicals must be rebuilt from top to bottom. The sheetfed presses are constantly being repaired. They need to be replaced with a large sheetfed press and one or two smaller ones to allow for the cost-saving production on small book runs, promotional brochures, and leaflets. Small press runs mean that Pathfinder books can be reprinted more frequently with timely prefaces and introductions, advertisements, covers, and promotional materials.

An additional \$1 million to \$1.5 million is needed to carry out these projections. The exact figures will be worked out as planning for the project continues.

Part of these funds will go toward building and fitting out the Pathfinder Mural Bookstore. This new bookstore will be located in the present warehouse next to the internationally-known six-story mural on the south wall of the building. Visitors to the mural from all over the country and around the world will be able to obtain books of speeches and writings of the revolutionary leaders who appear in the mural and are published by Pathfinder.

To carry out this stage of the project requires having in hand the necessary funds.

How much can be done and when it can be done depends on these contributions.

A slide show presentation has been prepared to show accomplishments so far, ex-



Militant/Argiris Malapanis
After quitting jobs to volunteer on the reconstruction crew, Hector Marroquin and Kari Sachs sign over their railroad buyout checks to the Expansion Fund.

plain the next stage of the project, and launch the new fund effort. The presentation has already been shown at meetings in Britain; Des Moines, Iowa; Los Angeles; Seattle; and Sweden.

Only capital contributions by supporters — and the volunteer labor of the international reconstruction teams — make the reconstruction possible. The fund, which comes from those who can contribute \$1,000 or more, is slated only for capital expenditures and is not used to meet any ongoing operating expenses.

The contributions made by supporters have come from a variety of sources: trust funds; estate and accident settlements; special bonuses that miners, steelworkers, auto and airline workers have received; and savings.

The fund received a tremendous boost in the last two months from rail workers who contributed money they received from buyouts and contract signing bonuses — making the best of bad contracts. Sixteen rail workers who belong to the United Transportation Union have contributed \$210,000 in this way.

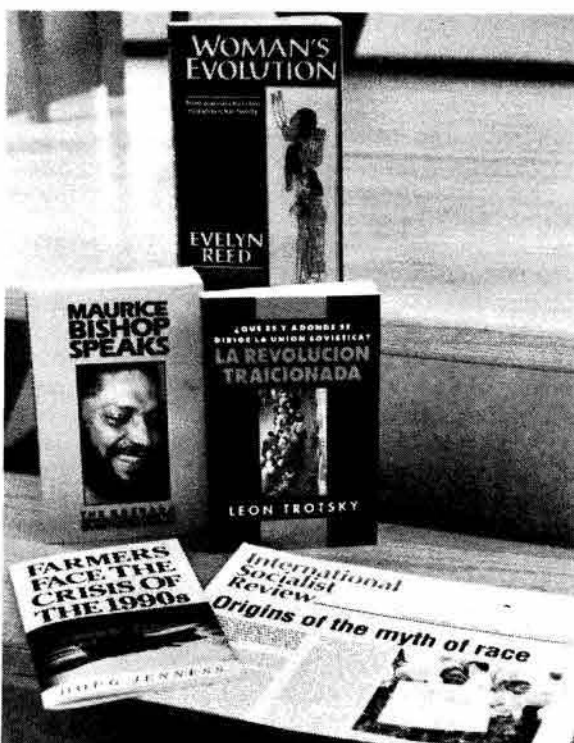
Anyone interested in making a contribution to the fund or seeking more information should send in the coupon below.

Dave Prince is director of the International Expansion Fund.

Enclosed is a donation of \$_____ to the International Expansion Fund.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____
ZIP _____ TEL _____

For more information on how to make a contribution write to International Expansion Fund, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.



Militant/Selva Nebbia
The first-floor printshop (left) needs substantially more space to organize its work. At right, some of the titles recently published or reprinted by Pathfinder.

Harry DeBoer: union fighter and socialist

BY CHARLES SCHEER

MINNEAPOLIS, Minnesota — Harry DeBoer, a longtime union fighter and socialist, died here January 1. He was 86 years old and in recent years had been a victim of Alzheimer's disease.

DeBoer, born in Crookston in northern Minnesota, was the son of immigrants from the Netherlands. He didn't have the opportunity to get a formal education beyond the eighth grade and went to work at an early age.

He was in his late twenties when the drivers in the Minneapolis coal yard he was working in went on strike in February 1934. He participated actively in the strike and became part of its leadership. The strike was followed by two successful general drivers strikes later that year in which he played a leading role.

During the series of stoppages, the strike leadership developed the effective tactic of using mobile picket squads that cruised the city in trucks to keep the scab trucks off the streets. A similar approach was employed a couple of years later by striking auto workers who formed "flying squads" of pickets.

As one of the picket dispatchers and field commanders, DeBoer helped implement this tactic. At one point during the July-August strike, the third and last of the year, a group of cops opened fire on a truck carrying pickets and on other pickets who attempted to help them. Two strikers were killed and 65 others wounded, including DeBoer who got a slug in the leg. He spent weeks in traction.

These hard-fought battles by the workers of General Drivers Local 574 of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters began the process of transforming Minneapolis from a bastion of the open shop and union-busting to a city where union power began to carry weight in the fight against the employers.

The victorious Teamster battles in Minneapolis and the consolidation of the gains of Local 574 (later Local 544) also opened the door to successful organizing drives throughout the Midwest. This included, for the first time, winning an industry-wide contract for 250,000 over-the-road drivers.

The Teamster battles in Minneapolis, along with the Toledo Auto-Lite strike and



Farrell Dobbs (left) and Harry DeBoer, leaders of 1934 Teamsters strikes.

the San Francisco general strike the same year, helped to inspire the industrial workers throughout the country and paved the way to organizing millions of unorganized industrial workers into the Congress of Industrial Organizations.

Teamster struggles

An excellent account of the Teamster strikes and the accomplishments and challenges facing the communist vanguard that led them can be found in the four-volume series by Farrell Dobbs: *Teamster Rebellion*, *Teamster Power*, *Teamster Politics*, and *Teamster Bureaucracy*, published by Pathfinder in the 1970s. Throughout the series, Dobbs describes how Teamsters Local 574 was controlled by the ranks through a structure aimed at mobilizing the membership in effective struggle against the employers.

In the acknowledgements to each volume Dobbs notes that DeBoer read through every chapter and made useful suggestions.

Dobbs, like DeBoer, was a coal yard worker who got involved in the February 1934 Teamsters strike. Dobbs emerged as one of the outstanding leaders of the Teamsters battles and of the union throughout the 1930s, along with Vincent Raymond Dunne and Carl Skoglund. The strikes were led by the Communist League of America, a predecessor of the Socialist Workers Party, which Dobbs joined during the strikes. He later

became the SWP's national secretary.

DeBoer also joined the Communist League during the strikes and was a founding member of the SWP in 1938.

After the July-August 1934 strike was won, DeBoer was elected to the executive board of Teamsters Local 574, while he was still in the hospital recovering from his bullet wound. He also served as an organizer for the Teamsters local from 1934 to 1941. He became president of the bakery drivers local and chairman of the Midwest Bakery Drivers

Council. He was the Minnesota delegate to the 12-state Over-the-Road Drivers Council.

Toward the end of the 1930s the *Northwest Organizer*, paper of the Minneapolis Teamsters, launched a campaign against President Franklin Roosevelt's preparation for waging imperialist war in the Pacific and Europe. In 1941 the Roosevelt administration, with the strong backing of Teamsters president Daniel Tobin, brought charges of sedition against 29 militants, including members of both Local 544 and the Socialist Workers Party, using the notorious Smith Act for the first time. A major defense effort was launched and broad support was won from many unionists and civil liberties supporters for the rights of the victimized union leaders and communists.

On Dec. 1, 1941, after a five-week trial, 18 were found guilty, DeBoer among them. The verdict said they were guilty of conspiring to advocate "overthrowing and destroying the U.S. government by force and violence." The 18 were sentenced to prison terms, and in 1944 DeBoer served nearly 10 months of his one-year sentence at the U.S. penitentiary at Sandstone in northern Minnesota.

On his release DeBoer found it difficult to get a job and wound up in the used truck business. He remained active in union activities and in the SWP for much of that time, until he developed differences with the party's political course and broke from it in 1982.



PATHFINDER AROUND THE WORLD

RICH STUART

Pathfinder, located in New York with distributors in Australia, Britain, and Canada, publishes the works of working-class and communist leaders who have made central contributions to the forward march of humanity against exploitation and oppression. Pathfinder bookstores are listed in the directory on page 12.

For the first time ever, Pathfinder had a booth at the Montreal Book Fair, the largest book fair in Canada and the second-largest in the French-speaking world. The enthusiastic response by youth and working people to Pathfinder books in both French and English at the November event showed "the real potential that exists to expand Pathfinder distribution in Montreal and the rest of Quebec," according to Michel Prairie, the coordinator of Pathfinder's booth. The fair was attended by more than 100,000 people, mostly from Quebec, where 80 percent of the population speaks French.

In Brussels, Belgium, at a special forum organized by Pathfinder supporters, six copies of Pathfinder's new *Oser inventer l'avenir* were sold. The book is a collection in French of speeches by the slain leader of the Burkina Faso revolution, Thomas Sankara. Four people from Burkina Faso attended the forum.

Pathfinder also participated in the recent Havana Book Fair in Cuba. During the fair, the Cuban daily newspaper *Granma* reported that Pathfinder's book *How Far We Slaves Have Come!*, with speeches by Nelson Mandela and Fidel Castro, was reviewed in *The Weekly Mail*, a major South African weekly. *Granma* reported that the *Weekly Mail* described the book as a valuable historic document.

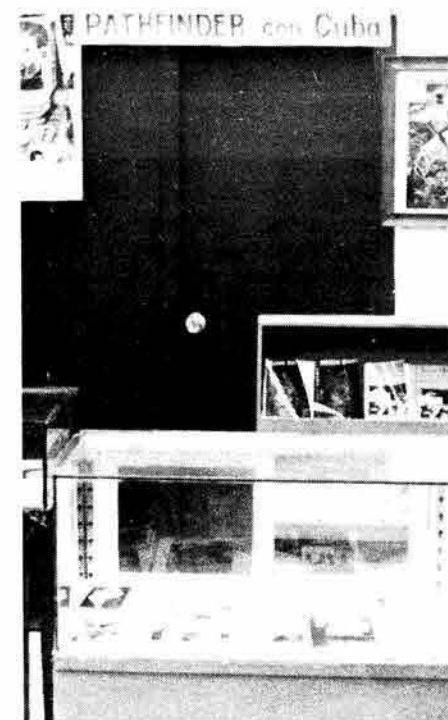
In other news from Cuba, the library of the Benito Juárez García Center of Scientific Technical Information and the Higher Technical Institute of Holguín sponsored a contest called "Pathfinder and 34 Years of the Cuban Revolution." The contest ended with a January 7 awards ceremony. Prizes went to three winners — a student of machine construction, a law student, and a philosophy professor. Among the contest questions they answered were: "What is the most important achievement in the field of education in the history of the Cuban revolution?" On Pathfinder the questions included, "Which of the leaders of the world proletariat does it publish books and posters of?" "What topics do

its publications take up?" and "Where is this publishing house located and what do you know about the mural on a wall of its building?"

In Puerto Rico, the recent debut of Pathfinder's books in stores across South Africa was reported in the February 7-13 issue of *Claridad*, a leading pro-independence newspaper. And in Atlanta, Georgia, the news that Pathfinder books are now widely available in South Africa was front-page news in the *AUC Digest*, the campus paper for the Atlanta University Center, serving several predominantly Black colleges.

The popularity of Pathfinder's books by Malcolm X was part of the feature article in a special Black History Month Sunday magazine in the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, the largest newspaper in Ohio. And the *Charlotte Observer*, a major daily paper in North and South Carolina, pointed to Pathfinder's sales of Malcolm X books as an example of increased interest in the revolutionary leader's ideas.

Pathfinder bookstores around the world plan to take the momentum from increased sales and expanded hours during Black History Month into Women's History Month in March. Pathfinder will have special offers on its women's history titles throughout the month.



Pathfinder display, Holguín library.

20,000 students in Britain protest government cutbacks

BY MARTIN MARRIOTT

LONDON — "They say cut back — we say fight back!" This chant most caught the militant mood of 20,000 students who assembled here from all over Britain to join the February 12 National March against Student Poverty.

The march was organized by the National Union of Students (NUS), and follows a wave of student occupations of colleges at the end of 1991. At that time, dozens of colleges ground to a halt as students protested against worsening conditions. In many cases, the occupations only ended after college authorities took action through the courts, which declared the protests illegal and threatened to seize the funds of student unions.

Many local protests have taken place since then, and the NUS is calling for one-day actions across the country March 10 — labeled Shutdown Day.

Many marchers brought local student union banners and placards. Signs reading "Honk your horn if you support us!" drew a good response from workers passing by in cars and vans. Hundreds more marchers carried NUS placards that demanded the government "Fund the Future — End Our Debt" and "End Student Debt, Bring Back Benefits." The NUS demands restoration of state benefits to students for housing and unemployment, a living grant for all students, and the scrapping of the student loan system which leads to serious indebtedness. High rents and rising unemployment are huge problems for many students.

At the rally, NUS national president Steve Twigg called for the campaign to continue. He called on marchers to "go back to your colleges and prepare for an election," referring to the upcoming general election in Britain. These calls were echoed by other speakers from the Labour Party and the Liberal

Democratic Party and by a speaker for the Anti-Racist Alliance (ARA).

ARA speaker Lee Jasper also called for students to mobilize against racist and police attacks. He urged participation in the February 22 demonstration marking the first anniversary of the racist killing in London of Black youth Rolan Adams and the March 28 protest called by supporters of the Deane family, victims of police brutality. Campaigners for the Deane family reported a good response as they distributed informational leaflets to the marchers.

Ernest Ogunleye, president of Birmingham Polytechnic's Student Union, spoke at the rally. He outlined the need to defend five students in Birmingham who are threatened with expulsion by college authorities for their role in an occupation there last year. A thousand students from the Birmingham area were on the march.

Heading for their buses after the rally, students were determined to press forward their campaign. "The march today was a real success," said Jayne from Newcastle. "We need more national events like this, and more publicity." Chris, from Manchester, said that "we've got to go back now and get more students involved. We'll be planning more local actions."

According to Jeremy Dixon, local NUS officer at Ripon College in Yorkshire, "They blame the recession for our problems, but it's a matter of priorities. The government spends billions of pounds on the military, but I don't see what there is to defend unless we've got decent housing, education, jobs, and social services."

Martin Marriott is a Rail, Maritime and Transport (RMT) union member working at Waterloo Station. He is a member of the Young Socialist group in London.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

JFK. Myth vs. Reality: The Truth About the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Vietnam War, and the Civil Rights Movement. Speaker: Harry Ring, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., March 7, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$4. Tel: (213) 380-9460.

Capitalism in crisis: the Meaning of the Duke and Buchanan Campaigns. Speaker: Eli Green, Socialist Workers Party candidate for L.A. County Supervisor. Sat., March 14, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$4. Tel: (213) 380-9460.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

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

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

How Abortion Rights Were Won — How They Can Be Defended. Sat., March 7, 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. 29, 7:30 p.m. 1622 S Broadway. Donation: \$3. Tel: (314) 421-3808.

Stop the Deportations! Open U.S. Borders to Haitian Refugees. Speaker: Fred Stanton, Socialist Workers Party, member, International Association of Machinists Local 1345. Sat., March 7, 7:30 p.m. 1622 S Broadway. Donation: \$3. Tel: (314) 361-0250

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

Open the U.S. Borders to Haitian Refugees. Speakers: Antoine Eustache, chair Coalition for Haitians Concerned; Jon Teitelbaum, Socialist Workers Party, member International Association of Machinists Local 1776. Sat., March 7, 7:30 p.m. 1906 South St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (215) 546-8218.

TEXAS

Houston

Maquiladoras on Strike: Struggle of Indus-

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

WASHINGTON

Seattle

Protest Israeli Invasion of Lebanon. Speakers: A representative of the Palestinian Solidarity Committee; David Warshawsky, Young Socialist Alliance. Sat., Feb. 29, 7:30 p.m. 1405 E Madison. Donation: \$3. Tel: (206) 323-1755.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Police Brutality: Why Does It Happen? How Can We Fight It? A panel discussion including: Malcolm Jarrett, Socialist Workers Party, 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

Abortion: The Fight to Keep It Safe and Legal. A panel discussion. Sat., March 7, 7:30 p.m. 242 Walnut St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (304) 296-0055.

BRITAIN

London

The Working-Class View of the 1992 Election. Speaker: Brian Grogan, Communist League parliamentary candidate, member Amalgamated Engineering Union. Sat., March 7, 7:30 p.m. 47 The Cut. Donation: £2. Tel: 71-928-7993.

Sheffield

Video: The Autobiography of Malcolm X. Sat., Feb. 29, 6 p.m. 1 Gower St. Donation: £1. Tel: 0742-765070.

CANADA

Vancouver

Malcolm X Speaks — A Video Presentation. Sat., Feb. 29, 7:30 p.m. 1053 Kingsway, Suite 102. Donation: \$4. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland

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.

CUBA IN THE 1990s

Cuban economist Carlos Tablada on video

Excerpts of talks and question and answer interchanges from Tablada's November 1991 tour of the United States. Deals with questions such as how changes in the Soviet Union are affecting Cuba; democracy in Cuba; why Cuba defends socialism.

To order, mail check for \$50 to: Prof. Carlos Ugalde, Latin American Studies Dept., Glendale Community College, 4500 Verdugo Rd., Glendale, California 91208. Make checks out to Faculty Ad Hoc Committee for Tablada tour.



Militant / Nancy Cole

A recent Militant Labor Forum in Miami. At these forums you can gain information, express your opinion, and exchange ideas with other fighters.

St. Paul auto workers visit Caterpillar pickets

BY JOE CALLAHAN

PEORIA, Illinois — Ten members of United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 879 from the Ford Twin Cities assembly plant in St. Paul, Minnesota, made an eight-and-a-half hour trip to Decatur and Peoria, Illinois, February 19-20 to extend solidarity to UAW members on strike against Caterpillar and to learn more about the struggle.

The UAW 879 members presented the strikers with a check for \$1,000 from the local and \$596 from a plant-gate collection. They told the Caterpillar workers, "You're fighting for all of us."

Workers in Decatur reported how for three days in a row, hundreds of strikers massed at the factory gate to prevent construction contractors from entering the plant. This culminated on February 17, when 500 workers faced 60 cops armed with riot gear and tear gas. The police did not attempt to take anyone through the picket line. Later the company obtained a court injunction limiting pickets to five per gate.

Caterpillar has hired "rent-a-thugs" from Vance International, a notorious union-busting outfit that was used against striking Pittston coal miners, in West Virginia, and striking construction workers in International Falls, Minnesota, in the recent past.

Minutes after the Minnesota UAW members arrived at the picket line in Decatur, Vance agents pulled up and began taking photographs of unionists. Several Caterpillar strikers said they were going to start bringing their own cameras to photograph the Vance thugs.

One Caterpillar worker explained that the strike "has really solidified our union." Most of the workers are veterans of a 205-day strike in 1982-83 and were not surprised at the quick breakdown in negotiations on February 19. They expect the strike, which began November 4, to last several more months at least.

A union representative explained that among the takebacks Caterpillar is still de-

manding are separate contracts for each plant, rather than a national contract. This would enable the company to pit plants against each other in their drive for concessions. A Decatur worker said, "I don't care if they close the plant, I don't want any takebacks." Workers pointed to statements by Caterpillar boss Donald Fites, who on the one hand told a U.S. Senate committee that Caterpillar's direct labor costs were just 6.1 percent, and on the other hand gave advice to workers that they should "tread water" until their wages were more competitive with

Mexico.

The Illinois union members were impressed that people had come all the way from Minnesota to show support. Peoria workers are gearing up for a national rally to back the strike called by the UAW for March 22. They are hoping for a turnout of tens of thousands. The Minnesota Ford workers told them, "We'll be back on March 22 with more of us."

Joe Callahan is a member of UAW Local 879 at the Ford Twin Cities assembly plant in St. Paul.

—IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP—

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

UNITED STATES

ALABAMA: Birmingham: 111 21st St. South. Zip: 35233. Tel: (205) 323-3079, 328-3314.

CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles: 2546 W. Pico Blvd. Zip: 90006. Tel: (213) 380-9460. San Francisco: 3284 23rd St. Zip: 94110. Tel: (415) 282-6255.

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

FLORIDA: Miami: 137 NE 54th St. Zip: 33137. Tel: (305) 756-1020.

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.

IOWA: Des Moines: 2105 Forest Ave. Zip: 50311. Tel: (515) 246-8249.

KENTUCKY: Louisville: P.O. Box 4103. Zip: 40204-4103.

MARYLAND: Baltimore: 2905 Greenmount Ave. Zip: 21218. Tel: (301) 235-0013.

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

MICHIGAN: Detroit: 5019 1/2 Woodward Ave. Zip: 48202. Tel: (313) 831-1177.

MINNESOTA: Twin Cities: 508 N. Snelling Ave., St. Paul. Zip: 55104. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI: St. Louis: 1622 S. Broadway. Zip: 63104. Tel: (314) 421-3808.

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

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

NEW YORK: New York: 191 7th Ave. Zip: 10011. Tel: (212) 727-8421.

NORTH CAROLINA: Greensboro: 2000-C S. Elm-Eugene St. Zip 27406. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

OHIO: Cincinnati: P.O.Box 19484. Zip: 45219. Tel: (513) 221-2691. Cleveland: 1863 W. 25th St. Zip: 44113. Tel: (216) 861-6150.

PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia: 1906 South St. Zip: 19146. Tel: (215) 546-8196. Pittsburgh: 4905 Penn Ave. Zip 15224. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

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

UTAH: Salt Lake City: 147 E 900 South. Zip: 84111. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

WASHINGTON, D.C.: 523 8th St. SE. Zip: 20003. Tel: (202) 547-7557.

WASHINGTON: Seattle: 1405 E. Madison. Zip: 98122. Tel: (206) 323-1755.

WEST VIRGINIA: Morgantown: 242 Walnut. Mailing address: P.O. Box 203. Zip: 26507. Tel: (304) 296-0055.

AUSTRALIA

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

BRITAIN

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

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

Sheffield: 1 Gower St., Spital Hill. Postal code: S47HA. Tel: 0742-765070.

CANADA

Montreal: 6566, boul. St-Laurent. Postal code: H2S 3C6. Tel: (514) 273-2503.

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

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

ICELAND

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

MEXICO

Mexico City: Nevin Siders, Apdo. Postal 27-575, Col. Roma Sur. Mexico DF.

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland: La Gonda Arcade, 203 Karangahape Road. Postal Address: P.O. Box 3025. Tel: (9) 793-075.

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

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

SWEDEN

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

Those Yankee traders — "WASHINGTON — The Defense Department's 'Star Wars' defense system office has a detailed plan to obtain Russian missile technology



Harry Ring

and scientists at bargain prices, perhaps as little as \$5,000 a year per person, *Aviation Week* reported." — News Item.

The caring society — A Califor-

nia nurse initiated a "Teddy Bears for Iraq" drive and 2,000 were donated for sick children. (The Iraqi child mortality rate has doubled since the war.) Currently, the teddy bears are impounded as a violation of the U.S. embargo. A Washington official explained that if an exception were made, the next person would want to send nerve gas or nuclear weapons.

Not national security? — "CHARLOTTE — The North Carolina Industrial Commission won't tell the state Labor Department the identities of 637 workers who died on the job from 1987 to 1991 because it's worried about violating privacy laws." — News item.

Law 'n order — In Bristol, Virginia, Sheriff Marshall Honaker blew his brains out when a grand jury began probing the theft of \$377,000 in government funds. The past president of the National Sheriff's Assn., Honaker used the loot to buy several vehicles, certificates of deposit for his children, and a big house on the hill. Probers found \$63,000 stashed in his desk drawer.

Safety program — McDonnell Douglas conducted two evacuation tests on the MD-11 jetliner. Eleven people were injured in the first test and the company proceeded to the second, where 36 more were injured. One was a woman, 60, now paralyzed from a broken spine. She

was one of a group of seniors recruited — at \$49 each — to meet federal test specifications.

Nothing's perfect — A McDonnell Douglas spokesman said those 47 test injuries were "well within FAA and company expectations."

Can you believe it? — In California's Orange County, a local narc squad stashed five kilos of cocaine in a secure evidence locker after using it in a sting operation. Preparing for their next sting, they discovered it had been exchanged for worthless powder. That was 16 months ago and they're still searching for a suspect. The chief finds the whole thing "incredible."

Everything but a job — In Richmond, California, a leaflet at the unemployment office inquires: "All tied up in knots? Having problems dealing with the pressures of being unemployed?" If so, you can sign up for their free monthly stress reduction class.

New benefit — At their lunch meetings, members of the Los Angeles County board of supervisors will no longer scarf down catered \$40-a-plate meals. Instead, they'll make do with food from the county cafeteria. One of them said this could prove a plus for county workers because maybe the food will improve if the supervisors have to eat there.

New right-wing party gains ground in Canada

BY ROBERT SIMMS

TORONTO — On January 23, Reform Party leader Preston Manning addressed a crowd of more than 4,000 people who had paid \$5 each to hear him in Pickering, near Toronto.

Touring the province of Ontario in late January, Manning delivered a right-wing message against any special rights for Quebec, and for an end to federal bilingualism policies; deep cuts in social services; an end to affirmative action programs for women, Natives, Blacks, and others; and restrictive immigration policies.

The Reform Party is a new capitalist political party in Canada, founded in the province of Alberta in 1987. During the Ontario tour, Manning claimed the party has recruited 100,000 members and raised \$5.6 million in 1991.

Over the past year, polls have put the Reform Party neck and neck with the Conservative Party, led by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, with about 15 percent support for each. Both parties are behind the Liberals and the New Democratic Party.

The capitalist economic crisis is deepening, marked by depression conditions after almost two years of falling or stagnant economic activity. The combined number of people on unemployment insurance and welfare is at its highest since the 1930s. Last year individual and corporate bankruptcies hit a record-high 75,773 — nearly double the number of the 1981-82 recession.

In such an economic climate, the status quo policies of the traditional capitalist parties are less and less appealing, and parties offering radical approaches gain more of a hearing. Not only the Reform Party but another new party, the Quebecois Bloc, which promotes greater powers for the Quebec government, and the ultrarightist Confederation of Regions party, have both gained significant strength in Canada in the past two years.

Initiative by big-business circles

While claiming to be a populist protest party based on a grassroots movement, from the beginning the Reform Party has been an initiative by big-business circles in western Canada. Key executives from Canadian oil companies such as Canadian Hunter and construction companies like ATCO Industries and the Mannix Group helped write the

program, provided advisers and staff, and are funding the party.

Manning himself is the son of E.C. Manning, Social Credit premier of Alberta from 1943 to 1968.

Social Credit was a right-wing agrarian protest party in western Canada begun in the 1930s and based on farmers and small businessmen desperate at the tide of bankruptcies. Social Credit argued that the depression stemmed from mistaken monetary policies and claimed that cheap credit and cash grants from government to each individual would solve the crisis. By railing against "big bankers and Eastern financiers," it gained a hearing from broad layers of working people, but once voted into office in Alberta in 1935, it quickly became an instrument for big-business rule and a right-wing electoral machine.

By the early 1970s, Social Credit had been marginalized in Alberta and federally. It remained the government in British Columbia until 1991. Manning and his father wrote a book *Political Realignment: A Challenge to Thoughtful Canadians* in 1968, which argued for a new party devoted to defending the interests of capital and opposed to welfare-state policies.

An anti-working-class program

The Reform Party's policies on Quebec's national rights, the economy, and its opposition to affirmative action are thoroughly anti-working-class, designed to step up the offensive against working people which has been carried out by the Tories and Liberals for the past 15 years.

The Reform Party pitches its attacks against "big government," high taxes, and government spending. These are all code words for deep cuts in social service spending. The Reform Party advocates an end to the concept that government-paid medicare and old-age pensions be available to all citizens, known as "universality" in Canada.

The party proposes ending family allowances, child tax credits, and federal housing programs. It opposes minimum wage laws. All its "antispending" policies are designed to take from working people and increase the profits of big business.

The Reform Party explicitly opposes all affirmative action programs for women, Natives, Blacks, and others. "An open, free-market economy... offers the best possible chances for individuals to pursue their goals in life," says Manning.

"Do not ghettoize society by putting people into legal categories of gender, race, ethnicity, language, or other such characteristics," he adds demagogically.

Affirmative action programs have been fought for by working-class organizations because employers habitually discriminate against women, immigrants, Blacks, and oppressed nationalities in order to divide workers and create pools of cheap labor.

Constitutional crisis

Canadian capitalists are currently faced with a "constitutional crisis" in which the Quebecois in their majority are backing demands for substantially more powers for the Quebec provincial government.

The Quebecois, a French-speaking minority comprising about one quarter of the Canadian population, are an oppressed nation faced with language discrimination and inferior living standards.

Manning argues that in any constitutional arrangement, Quebec must not have any special status, or extra powers above any other

province.

Unlike the Liberals and Conservatives, the Reform Party makes no attempt to give the appearance of recognizing some of the national demands of Quebec. "Either you represent the rest of Canada in this or you represent Quebec. But you can't represent both," Manning has stated.

The Reform Party argues strongly for a national referendum involving all Canadian citizens on Quebec's separation, denying Quebec's democratic right to self-determination. The other federalist parties are favorable to this proposal.

The party also calls for the recognition of English as the sole official language outside Quebec and an end to federal bilingualism policies contained in the Official Languages Act. This act, passed in the 1960s, established some minimal French-language services by the federal government across the country for the 1 million francophones outside Quebec.

The Reform Party's anti-Quebec policy and antibilingualism policies are both designed to further deepen national divisions among working people and prevent them from uniting to fight for democratic rights, national equality, and defense of their living and working conditions.

Calls for immigration restrictions

The Reform Party depicts immigration as a source of unemployment. It calls for lower numbers of immigrants and a policy "that has as its focus Canada's economic needs." Many of its statements are disguised calls for

restrictions on immigrants from Third World countries.

Key elements of the Reform Party program reflect the goals of a wing of the capitalist class that wants to step up the attack against working people and the oppressed, despite the political price this might entail and the class conflicts that might be provoked.

Nevertheless, the Reform Party has not so far evolved into an ultrarightist group like the Confederation of Regions (COR) party or the Alliance for the Preservation of English in Canada (APEC), whose strident anti-French chauvinism and scapegoating of Quebec and bilingualism as a key source of economic problems are the defining characteristics of these groups.

Manning recently expelled an Ontario member who publicly trashed the Quebec flag and three years ago refused to allow Doug Collins, an ultrarightist newspaper columnist favoring a "whites-only" immigration policy, to be a Reform Party candidate. However, many COR and APEC members also belong to the Reform Party.

The *Globe and Mail*, Canada's major capitalist daily, has welcomed the Reform Party as a "legitimate voice" in a couple of friendly editorials. The Reform Party reflects the movement of capitalist politics to the right and is helping to push them even further in that direction. For example, all major parties, including the labor-connected New Democratic Party, call for substantial new cuts in government spending.

— 25 AND 50 YEARS AGO —

THE MILITANT

Published in the Interest of the Working People

March 6, 1967

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Last Tuesday marked the second anniversary of the assassination of Malcolm X. During the week memorial meetings were held from one end of the country to the other for the black revolutionary. By all accounts there were more meetings with larger attendance than on the first anniversary of Malcolm's death.

The Militant Labor Forum sponsored a meeting Friday, Feb. 24, where more than 120 people heard Tom Howard of Harlem CORE; John Wilson, SNCC field secretary; and Clifton DeBerry, 1964 presidential candidate of the Socialist Workers Party. DeBerry summed up Malcolm's contribution to today's struggle. "The young black revolutionaries on the scene today are the inheritors of the contribution of Malcolm X: the need for black people to lead black people; the right of black people to defend themselves against racist attack; and the ideas of black power, which were put forward by Malcolm X. Malcolm exposed the ruling Republican and Democratic Parties. He showed that you can't be for capitalism and be for freedom."

DeBerry emphasized that "Black power means independent black political action. Black people have no representation. We must change this, as they are doing in Lowndes County."

In San Francisco, Eldridge Cleaver was the featured speaker at a memorial meeting held by the Militant Labor Forum. He de-

scribed the impact of the ideas of Malcolm X on black militants all over the country: "Now I went on a tour a few weeks ago with Stokely Carmichael. We hit several states. This is happening all over the country. Malcolm X has transformed the psychology of black people... he has shown them that it is better to fight than to be a slave."

THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

NEW YORK, N.Y. FIVE (5) CENTS

March 7, 1942

The Newark Branch of the Civil Rights Defense Committee held a highly successful labor luncheon at the Cadillac Restaurant on Saturday, Feb. 28, in honor of Vincent Dunne, noted teamster leader of the Northwest, convicted with 17 others in the Minneapolis case. Officers of a dozen New Jersey trade unions were among the 55 workers present at the luncheon.

Speaking for the N.J. State Industrial Union Council which has endorsed the case, [state CIO council president Irving] Abramson declared: "Vincent Dunne deserves the support of any man who wants to fight for freedom, civil liberties and just plain decency. It matters not whether I agree or disagree with Brother Dunne's point of view. The right to express his point of view is all-important."

Abramson condemned the efforts of Communist Party sympathizers to obstruct the defense of this case. "Both Vincent Dunne and [CP leader] Earl Browder have been persecuted because of their political opinions. It takes a total lack of integrity to ask for the release of Browder while refusing to defend the people in the Minneapolis case."

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Buchanan gains pose challenge

Patrick Buchanan got a boost in New Hampshire in his rightist bid for the Republican presidential nomination.

But while in the bourgeois press Buchanan is portrayed as an acceptable and respectable conservative figure, his demagoguery, while not yet being tied to an organized rightist movement in the streets, represents a deadly threat for the labor movement if not answered.

Buchanan speaks in a more straightforward way than most other capitalist politicians about the depth of the economic and social crisis. He poses as the champion of the "little man" against corrupt, inefficient, and big government.

His demagogic appeal centers on scapegoating sections of the working class, especially immigrant workers from colonial and semicolonial countries. It is also built on resentment against the rich and against Washington, and on pointing the finger of blame at "alien" forces such as Japan and Germany.

Buchanan tries to respond to the anger and frustration among working people and middle-class layers, and steer it away from any discussion on the root cause of the social ills we face, the capitalist system itself. His scapegoating of immigrants and other workers divides and weakens the working class.

Buchanan's rightist campaign paves the way for street actions against targets such as immigrant workers, union picket lines, and progressive social protests.

Neither the union officialdom nor the Democratic candidates they support offer any answers in the interests of workers and farmers to the economic depression capitalism has produced. This opens the door to demagogues like Buchanan who address real and deep-seated problems. But Buchanan's solutions can only lead to more attacks against the labor movement.

The union bureaucrats' support for protectionism as the answer to growing unemployment in the United States falls right in line with Buchanan's chauvinist "America first" campaign. When workers and farmers are enlisted in support of the bosses' protectionist or free trade efforts, they end up

acting against their own class interests. Working people in each country are thus pitted against each other instead of being united in a common fight against the employers and bankers.

The labor movement should champion the needs of all workers, beginning with the worst-off sections of the working class.

Workers who immigrate from Latin America, Asia, the Pacific, and Africa are forced to find their way to the United States and other imperialist countries because of the devastating economic conditions they face. Rather than seeing them as competitors, labor should welcome them as fellow workers — members of the class which if united and organized can tackle the job of transforming the world into one fit for humans to live in.

Immigrant workers from Third World countries are not the cause of unemployment. The cause is capitalism, with its built-in rhythm of booms and slumps, and its long-term slide into worldwide depression conditions. Only by facing this reality, uniting to resist the capitalist rulers' attacks such as they are waging against unionists at Caterpillar, and ultimately by replacing their rule with a government of workers and farmers, can we put the scourge of unemployment and the other evils bred by capitalism behind us.

Capitalism breeds competition among working people and reinforces inequalities and divisions that weaken the labor movement's ability to fight back. The labor movement must fight for affirmative action measures to defend those hardest hit by the crisis — Blacks, women, and other targets of discrimination.

It is through fights for measures such as these that the working class will forge real unity. By joining together in action to defend ourselves from the consequences of the depression, working people will begin to recognize not only the necessity of overturning the rule of the capitalists, but that only one class in society has the capacity to do so — ourselves.

Israel out of Lebanon!

The Israeli attack on Lebanese villages, the cold-blooded assassination of Sheik Abbas Musawi and his family, and the bombing of Palestinian refugee camps, are acts of state terrorism.

The government in Tel Aviv attempted to justify the killing of Musawi and the bombing of Palestinian children as retaliation for an attack against Israeli troops.

News articles have already revealed that the Israeli government planned Musawi's assassination months beforehand. The execution was simply postponed while United Nations-sponsored negotiations were underway to trade Israeli-held Arab prisoners for information about missing Israeli soldiers. The decision to go ahead with the February 16 helicopter attack had already been approved by the government before three Israeli soldiers were killed.

"He deserved it, at any given moment, for what he has done to both Israel and America," an Israeli official cynically stated, referring to Musawi. "Unfortunately his wife and child were there."

Israeli troops ploughed through United Nations barricades in their advance with tanks toward the villages of Kafra and Yater from the nine-mile-wide area of Lebanon that the Zionist regime has proclaimed its "security zone". Israel has occupied this area since its 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

Working people should demand that Israel withdraw all its forces from Lebanese territory and all other areas it occupies, like the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Israeli attack against Lebanon, coming a year after the U.S.-led assault against the Iraqi people, serves as a reminder that the war left behind more instability in the

Middle East, not less.

These events underline the fact that the Zionist state is a permanent source of violence and aggression against working people in the region.

At the same time Israel's political isolation in the world increases. The UN secretary general quickly called for an Israeli pullout. Headlines such as "Israel goes back to politics of assassination" appeared in many newspapers around the world following Musawi's killing. "In this latest dubious battle, which has sent thousands of villagers fleeing from their homes, Israel has lost more than it can possibly gain," commented the *New York Times*.

Washington avoided any direct condemnation of the Israeli assault. In fact some Bush administration officials could not hide their elation over Musawi's murder, which they considered to be in "American interests." But the U.S. government felt compelled to deplore killings on "all sides."

Washington's and Tel Aviv's foreign policy interests have diverged as the U.S. government attempts to strengthen its alignment with capitalist regimes in Egypt, Syria, and other Arab countries. But funding for the Zionist military arsenal continues to pour in from Washington.

Without this massive U.S. military and economic aid, to the tune of \$3 billion a year, Israel would not be able to continue its aggression against Lebanese and Palestinian working people.

Following these latest Israeli acts of state terrorism working people should demand that all U.S. military aid to Israel be ended.

Support Caterpillar strikers

Continued from front page

"Personally, I think it should have been an all-out strike all along," said Richard Lingenfelter, a striker from Peoria, Illinois. "The strike was long overdue. We can't go back to work with the contract they offered."

The UAW has called for a major rally in Peoria March 22 to support the strike. This demonstration deserves the support of unionists and others throughout the country. Steelworkers, garment workers, coal miners, and other unionists should press to have their unions build the rally and go to Peoria on March 22. Women and students, who have been building the April 5 abortion rights march, and young people who have been fighting police brutality in cities across the country should also see this march as their own.

Caterpillar is the world's largest manufacturer of earth-moving and construction equipment. It is pushing for deep concessions from the union including a two-tier wage system; elimination or reduction of the cost-of-living allowance; and differential wages based on job classification, which would widen the gaps within the work force that exist already. Caterpillar is insisting that its workers pay about 1 percent of their annual salary for health insurance.

The company is also demanding that it have separate

agreements with its eight different plants. UAW Local 974 president Jerry Brown stated that "Caterpillar, if successful with just this one demand for eight separate agreements, will divide and conquer."

As the economic crisis continues to deepen in this country and around the world, employers everywhere are being driven to attempt exactly what Caterpillar is trying to force upon its workers.

Caterpillar workers have been on strike many times in the past decades, including a 205-day strike from 1982 to 1983. They have demonstrated a capacity to fight the company and press their demands. Caterpillar is also showing determination to cut seriously into the rights that workers have won over the past decades.

If Caterpillar is able to decisively beat the union in this fight it is certain to give a boost to employers across the country to drive even deeper into the standard of living of working people.

The labor movement and other fighters for social justice have a chance on March 22 to show Caterpillar and other companies that are looking to follow their lead that they will be met by unity and resistance. That kind of solidarity will be decisive to the outcome of this battle.

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.

* * *

Reader Sami Samaan takes issue in this week's letter section with Palestinian participation in peace negotiations with Israel.

Samaan is referring to the Mideast peace conference that took place in Madrid last November, organized by Washington.

Tel Aviv did not help organize the conference; it was dragged into the peace negotiations against its will.

Palestinian leaders Hanan Ashrawi and Faisal Husseini campaigned for participation at the peace conference, seeking Palestinian participation on the best terms possible while placing demands on Washington and Tel Aviv that helped advance the Palestinian cause.

DISCUSSION WITH OUR READERS

They played a major role in convincing the majority at the Palestine National Council meeting in Algiers to vote for a resolution supporting Palestinian participation in the negotiations.

Refusal to take part in the conference, as the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and Hamas have argued, would further isolate the Palestinians internationally in their struggle for self-determination.

Avoiding this was particularly important because of the blows dealt to the Palestinian cause during the U.S.-led war against Iraq, resulting mainly from the political support Yasir Arafat and other Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) leaders extended to Iraqi president Saddam Hussein.

These PLO leaders damaged the Palestinian struggle by endorsing Hussein's demagogic after-the-fact linkage of his expansionist invasion of Kuwait with the struggle of Palestinian, Arab, Islamic and other peoples in the region oppressed by imperialism.

Pointing to the popular support for Saddam Hussein that did build up among many Palestinians in late 1990 and early 1991 Ashrawi commented in an interview with the *Militant* in May 1991: "In a way, it was a regression to a messianic approach. Instead of placing your faith in the power of your own people and the determination of the popular movement, you started to place your faith in an individual, which is against the *intifada* ethos."

"The *intifada*, the Palestinians and the PLO had succeeded in removing the Palestinian cause from Arab patronage and manipulation, and placed it on its own terms within Palestinian hands and under Palestinian sovereignty. We speak for ourselves."

It was this and other voices of the Palestinian *intifada* at the Madrid conference and subsequent negotiations that gained the Palestinian people a broader hearing in the world for their just demands.

The Mideast conference was the first occasion where the Israeli government agreed to sit down and negotiate with leaders selected by the Palestinian people themselves. Tel Aviv was forced to back down in practice on its demand that no one with overt ties to the PLO be allowed to take part.

The proposals by Palestinian negotiators for a transitional self-government in the West Bank and Gaza stand in contrast to what was agreed to in the Camp David accords. At Camp David, Cairo gave diplomatic recognition to Israel in exchange of a vague promise of a future and limited Palestinian autonomy. The Palestinian plan proposed during the last round of negotiations in Washington calls for halting Israeli settlements, withdrawing the occupying forces, and the election of a Palestinian parliament that would control the land and natural resources in the West Bank and Gaza. While it is true that Israel has not given any major concessions on these points it is under greater pressure to do so.

On January 23 an army panel ordered the cancellation of a government order to deport one of the twelve Palestinians Samaan refers to in his letter. This was the first cancellation of a deportation order by the military since 1979. Washington voted with the rest of the United Nations Security Council to condemn these deportations.

The fact that Israel drew back from its invasion of Lebanon February 20 is another indication of the limits of Tel Aviv's military might and aggression.

The continued popular revolt by the Palestinian people combined with the conduct of leaders such as Ashrawi in the peace negotiations bodes well against the goals of both Washington and Tel Aviv.

* * *

The *Militant* has been receiving a wealth of articles from worker correspondents from across the United States and around the world. In preparing these articles for publication, the staff spends much time checking basic facts, including such details as the spelling of names and places. It would speed up this work a great deal if newspaper clippings covering the events reported were sent in along with the articles, so that the facts can be more easily checked. And keep the articles coming!

* * *

A correction: An article in last week's *Militant*, "Issues raised by Tyson rape trial spark debate," wrongly identified the neighborhood where Mike Tyson grew up. It was in fact Brownsville, Brooklyn, New York.

Flight attendants in Canada fight airline lockout

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

Working people around the world are involved in skirmishes over speedup, forced overtime, layoffs, and attacks on health and safety benefits. Some unionists

The February 2 meetings voted by 78 percent to reject a proposal by union officials to call off a boycott campaign for one week in exchange for a promise by the company to meet with the union and a mediator. The union had launched a widely publicized boycott campaign January 20.

Attendants earn an average of

explained how flight attendants can end up working 20 hours at a stretch on round-trip flights, reducing customer service and safety.

"This is everyone's war," Boulet declared. "If Obadia [Nationair's owner] succeeds, your boss may decide to try it, too."

"We think the boss is collaborating with the government," added Dussault.

For many of these CUPE members, it is the first unionized job they have ever held. "This is my first union conflict," Dussault said.

Describing the five-minute standing ovation their delegation received from 300 union delegates at CUPE's social affairs general council meeting, she explained, "It's hard to say how it makes us feel to be welcomed like that."

The union has spoken to dozens of union locals in the Montreal region to ask for support. At the monthly meeting of Lodge 712 of the International Association of Machinists February 2, for example, attendants spoke and answered questions for an hour. Lodge 712 organizes more than 3,000 workers at Canadair and voted unanimously to support the attendants' fight and donate \$500 to the lockout fund.

The Quebec Federation of Labor and the Ontario Federation of Labour have called on their affiliated unions to support the attendants.

Flight attendants have leafleted and set up information tables in shopping malls, ski resorts, junior colleges, and universities. The union is also campaigning for travel agen-

cies to respect the boycott.

According to Christian Duval, vice-president of CUPE Local 4026 at Nationair in Montreal, the solidarity campaign of the locked-out workers is having a big effect on the company's operations. "Their average seat occupancy has dropped to below 50 percent and sales of their major competitor, Transat, are up 15 percent. We're definitely having an impact."

The 200 mechanics at Nationair, meanwhile, signed their first collective agreement with the company January 7. They are members of the International Association of Machinists.

Filipino sailors strike U.S. ship in Vancouver

When the Liberian-registered "African Fern" docked January 5 in Vancouver harbor to take on a cargo of peas bound for Colombia, 12 of its 16 crew members, who are from the Philippine Islands, successfully closed it down.

The crew had been forced to work 10 months straight, 7-days-a-week, 12-hours-a-day for low wages. The main problems though were the dangerous conditions they worked under. The sailors said in interviews that the ship's officers demanded that they work on deck and climb the rigging in the worst weather.

The Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Transport and General Workers represented the sailors in negotiations with the company. Union spokesperson Gerry Mc-

Cullough said, "It's obvious to me the ship is dangerously understaffed."

Registering a vessel in a "flag of convenience" country often results in "very minimal conditions and wages," he added. "They [the owners] can pretty much do as they want."

Cardboard picket signs in English were tied to the deck and members of the International Longshoremen's Union refused to load the ship. It took five days before the owner, Florida-based Seaboard Ship Management Co., negotiated a settlement.

According to the new settlement the ship will now be subject to scrutiny by the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF). It will be blacklisted by the federation at all ports in the Philippines should it dock there and fail to comply with ITF standards.

In spite of the agreement the crew refused to work for Seaboard any longer and the ITF was flying them back to the Philippines. All the sailors were to receive a good letter of reference from Seaboard.

Said one of the sailors, "We didn't win so much for ourselves, but things will be better for the next crew."

The following people contributed to this week's column: Roger Annis, member of Canadian Auto Workers Local 1900 in Montreal; Katy Le-Rougetel, member of United Steelworkers of America Local 6932 in Montreal; and Tom Leys from Vancouver.

ON THE PICKET LINE

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.

Flight attendants at Nationair, Canada's largest charter airline, voted in Montreal and Toronto February 2 to step up their fight for a new contract. Four hundred and fifty attendants in the two cities, members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), have been locked out by the company since November 19.

\$15,600 per year. They are fighting for a wage increase, minimum daily pay, more rights over scheduling and schedule changes, and other benefits.

Regular information pickets to urge passengers not to fly Nationair are held at Montreal's Mirabel and Dorval airports and Toronto airport's Terminal 1.

Gilles Cassanne has been a flight attendant for two years. "We earn so little," he explained on the picket line at Mirabel International Airport, "that when we get living expenses money in Paris, we pool our cash and get food from the corner grocery store to eat in our hotel room. We need what's left over to pay for rent and our cars, which we must have to get to work at the airport."

Many flight attendants hold down two jobs or live with their parents. A majority are under 30 years old.

Sitting in the section of the flight lounge that the unionists have appropriated, Anne Boulet and Nathalie Dussault, both members of the union's public relations committee,

LETTERS

Mideast peace talks

I have translated several articles for our monthly brochure from the *Militant* on Mark Curtis, unemployment, and the recession in the auto industry.

I want to explain my political analysis of what is called the peace process in the Middle East.

The U.S. and Israel, with the help of Egypt and Saudi Arabia, managed to attract to this peace conference Syria, Jordan and some Palestinians (most of whom don't have a national heritage or have lost it by now).

The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), and Hamas are not supporting the peace process for the following reasons: The negotiations do not go beyond the Camp David Accords; Arafat is defying the Palestine National Council resolution concerning the peace process; Jerusalem is excluded from negotiations; Israel refuses to withdraw from the occupied territories; the Palestinians living abroad are not represented.

The negotiations are based on the Camp David Accords, which has a position on autonomy that we opposed in 1978 because it is in contradiction with our national aspirations. Israel doesn't want peace; they intend to divide Palestinians between pro- and anti-peace forces, hoping to weaken the spirit of the Intifada.

Through the peace talks, Israel hopes to establish full and open diplomatic and economic relations with Syria and Jordan. Israel will thus invade and conquer the Arab markets directly and indirectly through goods manufactured in Nablus, Ramallah, and Hebron by industries owned by Palestinians and Israelis. Israel will thus conquer the Arabs without war. Achieving this goal will enable Israel to reduce its social and economic tension.

Because of our experience with the U.S. and Israel, we predict that the negotiations will continue for several years. We don't have confidence in the U.S. to promote negotiations toward a comprehensive

peace based upon Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

The U.S. did not make any efforts to prevent Israel from deporting 12 Palestinian civilians from their beloved homeland, which violates the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949. Sami Samaan
General Federation of Trade Unions
Ramallah, West Bank

Defends environment

I love the paper. I would like to see a more clearly articulated Marxist perspective on the environment. Corporate Amerika constantly spews forth the notion that accelerating environmental degradation is necessary for jobs. Marxists need to boldly counter this. I like your coverage of Native struggles. I would like to see more such coverage. Your paper is great. Keep up the good work.

G.C.
Moab, Utah

Requests paper

I came across your paper one day and I was very "stimulated" in what I read, especially new and raw information pertaining to this racist, capitalist country that I call the United Snakes of America. So I am asking may I please receive one of your fantastic papers free because I am a prisoner with a lack of funds at this time. I would be very grateful.

A prisoner
Comstock, New York

20th year as subscriber

1992 marks my 20th year as a *Militant* subscriber. Thanks especially for the inspiring coverage of Cuba and South Africa. Great layout and graphics. I am confident receptivity to the *Militant* will grow in direct proportion to the deepening of the world capitalist crisis. Keep up the excellent work. Forward ever!

J.C.
Arlington, Virginia

Incipient fascism

I've seen a few articles on incipient fascism in the United States since last summer, and would like



to express two concerns.

The first is that maybe the articles should be collected and published as a pamphlet, with particular attention toward world distribution. A little re-editing to incorporate issues beyond abortion would help with such a project.

I hope that more of these articles are eventually reprinted in *Perspectiva Mundial* (along with many others on U.S. unemployment, homelessness, etc.), because it is sometimes amazing how Latin Americans still believe that life is easy — and democratic — "up there."

The second concern is the repeated use of the term "American fascism" throughout the articles. There is nothing new about American fascism — just ask Cedras, Pinochet, the Caras Pintadas (Painted Faces), the Duvaliers, Stroessner, etc.

It is clear to someone like myself who has read the pioneering works by Cannon, Dobbs, Trotsky and others from the thirties and forties that

the authors were making reference to the books and magazines left to us by those fighters.

However, no doubt it is perplexing for a new reader of the paper to find this terminology on one page and on another page come across an article saying that our America reaches from the Arctic to Tierra del Fuego.

Nevin Sidors
Mexico City, Mexico

Return to Marx

In my opinion the socialists must return to the teachings of Marx. While extremely good in its coverage of union picket lines, choice demonstrations, peace for Cuba rallies, and police excesses, the *Militant* needs to give the working class a direction.

Revolution will not happen on its own. It will be accomplished with support (or non-interference) of the army; with arms, not without them; with trained forces, not with undisciplined mobs. It will succeed when it has the sympathy of the majority

and if it doesn't have that — it will fail.

If I could I would call upon the socialist leadership to bare their teeth and sacrifice "theory" to action. To give the people the direction they need to accomplish the revolution necessary to free them from economic and spiritual misery.

Gabriel Paolieri
Elk Grove, California

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.

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

Israeli forces invade south Lebanon

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

After a 24-hour ground invasion of Lebanon with tanks and armored personnel carriers February 20, Israeli forces withdrew to the nine-mile zone of southern Lebanon they have occupied since 1982. From there Israeli forces continued heavy shelling of Lebanese villages.

During the invasion Israeli tanks and bulldozers broke through United Nations barricades set up north of the Israeli-occupied zone, wounding eight UN soldiers. Seven Lebanese combatants and two civilians, along with two Israeli soldiers, died in the fighting. Israeli soldiers blew up buildings before withdrawing.

The invasion drew sharp criticism from UN secretary general Boutros Ghali, who demanded an "immediate Israeli pullout."

Following the withdrawal Israeli army commander Brig. Gen. Yitzhak Mordechai said the army would "find the time and the place" to strike back.

The Israeli advance toward the Lebanese villages of Kafra and Yater came after an exchange of fire between the Israeli army and Lebanese guerrilla forces that lasted several days. The fighting erupted after Israeli forces assassinated Sheik Abbas Musawi, the central leader of the Party of God, which has a large following in southern Lebanon.

Washington avoided any condemnation of the Israeli assault and urged "the exercise of maximum restraint." Andrew Rosenthal reported in the *New York Times* that U.S. government officials considered the killing of Musawi to be "in American interests." Rosenthal added, "But the Bush administration does not want to be seen to be condoning assassination and said it deplored all killings on 'all sides.'"

During the invasion Lebanese army units



Lebanese fighters examining destroyed building in town of Kafra after Israeli forces withdrew

surrounded Palestinian districts in Sidon and Tyre to prevent Palestinian fighters from joining the battle against the Israeli forces. Thousands of Lebanese were forced to flee their villages during the Israeli attack.

Tens of thousands of supporters of the Party of God and others had filled the streets of south Beirut February 17 to protest Israeli bombing raids in southern Lebanon.

The demonstrations took place during the funeral of Musawi, who — along with his wife, son, and four bodyguards — was killed February 16 by Israeli helicopter gunships in a strike against a motorcade transporting him from a rally in southern Lebanon.

Earlier that day Israeli air raids on two Palestinian refugee camps in southern Lebanon killed four people, including two chil-

dren, and wounded a dozen others.

The Israeli government claimed the bombings were in response to an attack against an Israeli army camp that left three soldiers dead February 15.

"To use the air force and state policy to kill women and children, that's not terrorism?" asked Hanan Ashrawi, a Palestinian leader from the town of Ramallah on the West Bank.

Racist attacks in Sweden

BY BRIGITTA ISACSSON

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — From January 1989 to December 1991 more than 100 serious attacks against refugees and immigrants have occurred in Sweden. In both the north and south of the country, firebombings, bomb threats, and cross-

burnings have been carried out, mostly against refugee camps.

The police have taken little action, claiming that most cases are "pranks" by youth or the acts of drunks. Only one of every four cases results in conviction, mostly for accusations of property damage, not for attempts on lives.

Since August 3 last year, 12 immigrant men have been shot at. A large demonstration took place in November in Stockholm, in response to the murder of Jimmy Ranjbar, an Iranian student. Ranjbar was the victim of the so-called "laser man," who is known to have shot at four other immigrants in the recent period.

Between January 22 and January 30, six immigrant men were attacked in the Stockholm area, including a Chilean who was shot in the face on his way home, an immigrant from Zimbabwe who was shot several times in the chest, and two men who were shot while sitting in a club for Somalis.

Two immigrant shopkeepers were also victims of racist terror; both were shot in the head. Hassan Zatar, a 20-year resident of Sweden from Palestine, remains hospitalized in an unconscious state. Residents of the neighborhood had seen someone they suspected of being the gunman, and Zatar had requested police protection a few days before he was shot.

The other attack took place in Lerum where a gang of three racists beat a shopkeeper, then handcuffed him in his shop, which was set on fire. A neighbor dragged the man out, saving his life.

The continuing attacks have led to increased protests against racism. On February 1 there were several demonstrations in Stockholm. In Rinkeby, hundreds of angry immigrants came to hear Prime Minister Carl Bildt February 5. Birgit Friggebo, a minister responsible for immigrants and culture, unsuccessfully tried to calm down those in attendance by getting them to sing "We Shall Overcome."

More than 8,000 came out February 8 to hear representatives from all the parties in Parliament. Later the same day, 2,000 gathered in Stockholm to protest racism.

Parliament is now reconsidering a law, voted down in the past, that would forbid racist organizations. The Left Party (formerly the Communist Party) has been putting forward this demand as a way of dealing with the violence.

Swedish youth express interest in Malcolm X

BY ESTELLE DeBATES

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — "Malcolm X!" was a common first response to the Pathfinder book table here at Trensta Gymnasium, a school for students aged 16–18. The school's 1,000 students represent some 40 nationalities, reflecting the changing composition of the Swedish working class over the past de-

cade. The table was visited by students whose parents were from countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and South America, as well as students of Swedish descent.

The book table carried revolutionary literature in Swedish, English, Farsi, French, Spanish, and Turkish — all of which is read by Trensta students. The majority of students

here go to classes in the language of their heritage after the regular school day is over. Recently, the government has suggested eliminating such classes.

Several books, as well as three copies of the *Militant*, were purchased by students, many of whom stopped by the table for discussion. The most popular title was the *Communist Manifesto* by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels. Many students wanted to know about Malcolm X, who they have heard about in rap music. Some had been among 40 students who earlier attended a video showing of *Malcolm X* sponsored by a student group in collaboration with the Pathfinder Bookstore.

The biggest political concern of many students was how to stop racist violence. A series of vicious attacks have been carried out against immigrants in Sweden — including several shootings for which no arrests have been made. Students described the fear that is sweeping their neighborhoods, and the fact that police are doing nothing to arrest those responsible. Several students said that they participated in protest demonstrations on this over the past few months.

The Pathfinder sales team attended a meeting of students held after the school day. The meeting planned a demonstration against racism for February 21 — the day on which immigrant organizations had called for a one-hour work stoppage by immigrant workers.

The students had asked for assurances from the school administration that students participating in the one-hour action would not be reprimanded. A group of teachers later joined the meeting, reporting that the administration had agreed to the students' demands.

The student activists planned on leafleting to build the event as well as making announcements over the school speaker system. They decided to approach local store owners to request donations of materials for the demonstration.

Communist convention discusses demise of Swedish 'welfare state'

BY ESTELLE DeBATES

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Delegates gathered here February 14–16 for the second convention of the Communist League of Sweden. The convention was attended by guests from Belgium, Britain, Iceland, and the United States.

The weekend proceedings began with a Militant Labor forum that featured a talk by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party in the United States. Barnes explained that the so-called crisis of socialism is over, and what we are now witnessing is the development of a universal crisis of the market system — throughout both the capitalist world and the countries of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Speaking of the social, economic, and political crisis in the United States, Barnes stressed the importance of recognizing that the opening of a new world depression is already behind us.

The main report to the convention was given by Carl Isacson, a leader of the Communist League. The report was based on a political resolution which league members had been discussing over the last two months in preparation for the convention. The resolution, adopted unanimously,

addressed the crisis of the world capitalist system and the demise of the "Swedish model" as a successful example of a capitalist welfare state.

Sweden is experiencing increasing unemployment, which has risen dramatically from 1.5 percent to 4 percent over the past few months. Attacks by the government on the social wage of working people are escalating. As in other imperialist countries, the growing crisis is heightening tensions in society. The recent series of violent attacks on immigrant workers has provoked several antiracist mobilizations.

Convention delegates elected a Central Committee following adoption of the political resolution. The committee will be responsible for leading the implementation of the convention decisions.

A slideshow presentation on the international project to reconstruct the Pathfinder Building in New York was part of the convention weekend. This is the building where Pathfinder books, as well as the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and *L'internationaliste* are produced. The presentation was given by Communist League member Anita Erikson, who spent some time in New York carrying out volunteer work on the project.