

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Opponents of Mark Curtis
step up campaign in Des Moines

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End U.S. war threats! says socialist candidate

BY GREG McCARTAN

NEW YORK — Socialist Workers Party candidate Ed Warren got off to a quick start here this week in his campaign for U.S. Senate.

Following a March 16 press conference announcing his electoral bid, Warren was interviewed on three of the city's major radio stations, WBAI, WLIB, and WKRS. He attended the trial of five cops charged with the murder of a Puerto Rican youth, then boarded a train for Peoria, Illinois, where he took part in the March 22 rally to support the United Auto Workers' strike against Caterpillar.

"I call on Washington to end its rapid moves toward war against the people of Iraq, Libya, and Korea," he said in response to a question on radio station WLIB about his campaign platform. "None of my opponents nor any of the members of the Democratic and Republican parties have said one word against these new plans for imperialist aggression abroad."

"In addition to their agreement on domestic policy," he told the talk show host, "this fact shows that working people and youth need a socialist alternative to the twin parties
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Washington is threatening to launch military actions against Iraq, Korea, and Libya. None of the Democrats and Republicans have opposed these new plans for aggression.

S. Africa vote victory for anti- apartheid struggle

BY DEREK BRACEY
AND GREG McCARTAN

In a victory for the struggle to bring an end to white minority rule in South Africa, white South Africans voted by a more than 2-1 ratio in favor of moving ahead to scrap apartheid and institute a government based on one person, one vote.

"Today is a great day for my country, especially for the young people," Anna Breytenbach, a 23-year-old white South African, told the press. "Our generation believes that apartheid was immoral. The older generation merely believed it was unworkable. That is a big difference, and that is why I think the young of South Africa will lead the country to true racial reconciliation."

Approximately 2.8 million votes were cast in the March 17 referendum, one of the largest turnouts in the country's history. The question on the ballot was: "Do you support the reform process begun by the State President on February 2, 1990, and which is aimed at reaching a new constitution through negotiation?" About 1.9 million, or 69 percent, voted "yes."

Feb. 2, 1990, is the date when the African National Congress and other organizations fighting apartheid were unbanned. ANC president Nelson Mandela was released from nearly 30 years of imprisonment one week later. The regime later lifted a series of laws used to suppress the struggle against apartheid.

South African president F.W. de Klerk had introduced the referendum and campaigned for a "yes" vote. He heartily welcomed the endorsement of his government's decision to open negotiations with all political parties, a process begun in December under the name Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA).

"Today," he said at a rally of supporters outside the parliament in Cape Town, "we have closed the books on apartheid."

Hailed by democratic movement

The overwhelming approval was hailed by the revolutionary democratic movement in South Africa and its supporters around the world as well.

In an ABC News "Nightline" interview, Ted Koppel asked Mandela if he "ever dreamed it possible some 20-odd years ago, when you were a political prisoner on Robben Island," that white South Africans

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Mass rally backs Caterpillar strike

BY PRISCILLA SCHENK

PEORIA, Illinois — Thousands of unionists gathered here March 22 in a resounding show of solidarity for the United Auto Workers union on strike against the giant Caterpillar company. Estimates on the rally size ranged from 15,000 to 20,000. Participants

came in buses organized by their unions and in car caravans from all over the Midwest, filling the Peoria Civic Center. Many had to watch the rally by closed-circuit television in the exhibit hall.

About 10,800 out of 16,000 UAW members at Caterpillar are on strike at the

company's plants in central Illinois. Caterpillar is the world's largest manufacturer of earth-moving equipment.

On a bus from Des Moines to the Peoria rally, UAW president John Sheldah, from Local 450 at John Deere Co., explained that this strike "really has a bearing on us. They're trying to pit one plant against the other. Whoever will take the most concessions, they'll try it on the next one. What's number one for us is solidarity. Hopefully today's rally will show the kind of support this strike has."

The rally began with announcements from hundreds of union locals contributing food and money to the strikers. Among the largest delegations were UAW members from John Deere. They announced they had collected \$47,000 at plant gates for the UAW's Adopt-A-Striker Fund. Unionists from Minnesota to Florida and from Iowa to Pennsylvania took the microphone to announce contributions to support the strike. Delegations included veterans of strike battles. Members of the United Mine Workers of America from Illinois, Indiana, and West Virginia were there. "They tried this union busting at Pittston Coal," a coal miner said, "but we stopped them there and we'll stop them here."

At the front of the civic center a banner
Continued on Page 6

Rally to launch Socialist Workers 1992 Presidential Campaign

Hear:

James Warren, candidate for U.S. President
Estelle DeBates, candidate for Vice-President

Sunday, March 29, 1:30 p.m.
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Jack Barnes, national secretary
Socialist Workers Party

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Admission: \$5. Unemployed and students \$2.50
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'Militant' supporters to launch 9-week international subscription drive April 4

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Supporters of the Militant are launching a nine-week international subscription drive beginning April 4 to win 3,600 new readers. We appeal to all our readers to join in this effort.

The drive, which will run through June 5, also includes selling 750 subscriptions to the Spanish-language monthly *Perspectiva Mundial*; 200 to the French quarterly *L'internationaliste*; and 1,450 copies of the Marxist theoretical magazines *New International*, *Nueva Internacional*, and *Nouvelle Internationale*. All totalled, supporters aim to win 6,000 new readers for these publications.

Militant supporters will use the effort to

provide a working-class answer to the drive on the part of the ruling rich toward new wars, worldwide depression, and increased attacks on the rights and living standards of working people.

At the center of the drive will be spreading the word of the Socialist Workers Party election campaign of James Warren for President and Estelle DeBates for Vice-President of the United States, as well as the dozens of local SWP election campaigns being run throughout the country.

These candidates are the socialist alternative to the dead-end anti-working-class solutions put forward by capitalist politicians today. Working people and youth will be

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Socialist Workers candidate calls for halt to U.S. threats against Iraq, Korea, Libya

Continued from front page

of war, racism, and economic depression. We urge young people, unionists, working farmers, students, and others to join with the socialist candidates in this fight."

Warren, a packinghouse worker and member of the United Food and Commercial Workers union said the war moves include the following:

- Along with the government of France, Washington urged all U.S. citizens to leave Libya immediately. London, Paris, and Washington are tightening an embargo of the country by seeking United Nations Security Council approval for suspension of air travel, a ban on arms sales, and other steps.

"These moves are done under guise of Libya's refusal to turn over to the U.S. 'justice' system two citizens of Libya Washington accuses of bombing a jetliner in 1988," Warren said. "As in the case of Iraq, U.S. imperialism wants to establish a government that will more readily do its bidding. U.S. corporations want to do to the people of Libya what they do to working people at home — deepen their exploitation and oppression in order to bolster company profits."

- Claiming the right to bomb North Korea because it is supposedly building a nuclear weapon, Washington is preparing the political ground for an attack on that country. Citing unnamed high-level sources, a *New York Times* article says that while a "full scale crisis is [not] imminent," the situation "could change quickly... if any evidence emerges that North Korea has begun to produce weapons-grade plutonium." Agreement by the North Korean government late last week to allow inspection of its nuclear facilities by June undercut this campaign somewhat, Warren noted, but the threats remain.

- U.S. Air Force B-52 bombers were stationed in Britain in early March. Meanwhile, the Pentagon has also delivered a detailed plan to President George Bush for bombing Iraq. More warships and aircraft carriers have been moved to the Mideast as well. The Pentagon openly states an initial military strike will include the use of cruise missiles launched from submarines, F-117 Stealth bombers and other warplanes, and the B-52s.

"As with Korea, Washington justifies bringing more massive destruction, death, and hardship on the Iraqi people because Baghdad is building a nuclear bomb," the socialist candidate said. "The U.S. government is the only government in the world to have used these weapons against humanity. It currently has them stationed around the world for use in threatening peoples who rise up and say 'enough' to the economic and social catastrophe capitalism has brought upon us."

"We call on Washington to get out of the

world — bring your troops, warships, nuclear weapons, bombers, and hit squads home now," he said during the hour-long talk show on WLIB.

"At the center of the drive to war is the sharpening world economic crisis. U.S. imperialism is facing stiff economic competition from its Japanese and German rivals," he said. "It hopes to use its military might to its own advantage, to compensate for its declining power."

Attends trial of cops

Warren also attended the trial of five New York City cops charged with the murder of Federico Pereira, a 21-year-old Puerto Rican. In February 1991 Pereira was sleeping in a car with the light on inside. Five cops grabbed the youth, threw him to the ground, handcuffed and beat him, hog-tied him, then choked him in a "camel-clutch" choke hold. Pereira was dead within minutes.

While cops and their supporters packed the courtroom, Warren extended his solidarity to the mother of the victim and her family.

"Our campaign calls for the prosecution and jailing of the cops who murdered Federico," he said following the hearing. "The brutality they mete out to working people — especially Blacks, Latinos, and other members of oppressed nationalities — is the flip side of the organized violence of the ruling rich against peoples around the world."

Noting the large and well-organized turnout by supporters of the five officers, the socialist candidate said "such mobilizations are one face of incipient fascism. Along with Republican presidential candidate Patrick Buchanan, street mobilizations to shut down abortion clinics, and organizations like the White Student Union in Minnesota, the actions by the cops are a product of the rightward direction of the Democratic and Republican parties."

"The cops no longer just beat you, they get political when you protest their brutality. They justify their actions, stating the cops are needed to protect the population against 'criminal elements' — usually meaning youth, Blacks, and working people," Warren said. "They turn the victims of capitalism into the criminals."

But as the Pereira case illustrates, police do not "serve and protect" but organize daily violence in order to intimidate and send a warning to working people. They are a breeding ground for fascist elements, he said.

"Patrick Buchanan's demagoguery and his attempt to make scapegoats of immigrant workers, Jews, and others gives the cops and their likes political cover for their action," Warren said outside the courtroom. "They hope to define who is 'American' and who is not. They seek to divide and weaken the ability of working people to organize a fight by creating whole pariah sections of the



New York Socialist Workers candidate Ed Warren explained, "The brutality they mete out to working people is the flip side of the organized violence of the ruling rich against peoples around the world."

working class who are subject to the worst pay and jobs and who are put outside protection of the Bill of Rights."

This drive also aims at clouding over the fact that it is the economic and social system of capitalism that is the root cause of the crises working people face today, the senatorial candidate said. "As in earlier times of great crises of capitalism, the only solution the wealthy rulers have is world war, brutalization of workers at home, and curtailment of hard-won rights."

No support to Democrats, Republicans

On the WLIB call-in talk show Warren was criticized by several people for running against Al Sharpton. A high-profile preacher who is Black, Sharpton is running in the Democratic primaries.

"I stand on what Malcolm X taught us: that neither the Democratic nor Republican parties represent our interests and that both have sold us out," Warren said. "Malcolm called the Republicans the wolves and the Democrats the foxes. By that he meant that while one tries to curry favor with working people and the other is more openly probusiness, both represent interests opposite from ours."

The Black population is class-divided, the candidate said, with a wealthy layer that is removed from the working class. "Governor

Wilder in Virginia, Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, New York Mayor David Dinkins, and others don't represent us — they attack us, sometimes with more vengeance than those politicians who are white. These politicians and judges try to advance the interests of the wealthy class they are either a part of or hope to serve. They want to get away from the vast majority of the Black population, who are workers."

"Sharpton's participation in some small protest activities doesn't make him fundamentally any different from other Democratic Party politicians. He seeks to do the same thing they all do — to get us to rely on him to solve the problems capitalism has visited upon us. We can't rely on anyone but ourselves, our capacity to be political people who are part of the world, and our ability to wage tremendous struggles that can change the world."

Before leaving for Peoria, Warren explained he would be attending an abortion rights rally in Buffalo, New York, April 11. The action is planned to build support for protests against Operation Rescue mobilizations at clinics in the city April 20. On March 31 he will be going with campaign supporters to a protest against tuition hikes planned at City University of New York campuses. He encouraged everyone, especially young people, to join him in the actions.

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Cuba 1992: Meeting the Challenges Confronting the Revolution

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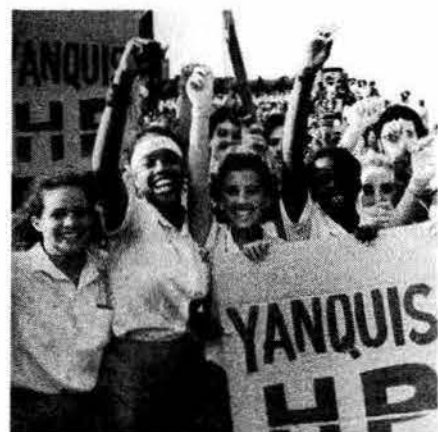
Mary-Alice Waters

National Committee member of Socialist Workers Party, editor of 'New International.' Just returned from 10-day reporting trip to Cuba for the 'Militant.'

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The Militant

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Pro-choice group denied campus recognition

BY ESTELLE DeBATES

On February 19, the administration of Boston College denied recognition to Voice for Choice, a 50-member student group that defends a woman's right to choose abortion.

The Jesuit-run university issued a statement saying it denied recognition because to recognize a group whose "fundamental premise is to be supportive of the moral acceptability of abortion is not compatible with the reverence for life that this University espouses."

The Pro-Life Coalition, an antiabortion group on campus, has received official recognition and funds from the college. The group agreed with the administration's decision to deny recognition for Voice for Choice, stating that the question was not one of "just another view being represented on campus" but of an illegitimate view that supports "the destruction of human life."

The decision puts Boston College in line with other Jesuit universities including Fordham, Georgetown, and San Francisco, where pro-choice student organizations have been denied recognition, but have received limited rights, including the use of campus facilities for meetings.

Last spring, when Boston College facilities were used to sponsor a meeting for Faye Wattleton from Planned Parenthood, the campus came into conflict with the church

hierarchy. Cardinal Law strongly objected to the meeting, saying that providing a forum for someone who supported women's access to abortion was inappropriate for a Catholic university.

Frances Kissling, president of Catholics for a Free Choice, said that since 1989 abortion-rights groups have increased their organizing at Catholic universities. Attempts to deny these groups a place on campus "only strengthen the resolve of students to stay involved," says Kissling. "It becomes then not just an issue of abortion; it becomes a larger issue of students engaging in political activity and free inquiry."

Voices for Choice activists have been circulating a petition in support of their recognition among faculty and students, and organizing a protest letter campaign addressing the rights of students to engage in political activity and free inquiry. They are also organizing buses to the April 5 march on Washington, D.C., to defend abortion rights.

Julie Canty and Lisa Boehmer from the Boston Young Socialist Alliance contributed to this article.



Militant/Dennis Chambers

Students from Loyola, a Catholic school, on November 1991 Chicago march.

King not called as witness in cop trial

BY HARRY RING

LOS ANGELES — The prosecution decision not to call Rodney King as a witness against the four cops who beat him evoked an initial response of surprise and dismay.

King's lawyer, Steven Lerman tried to put the best face on the prosecution decision. On TV, he said King was prepared to take the witness stand but his testimony was not key to the trial.

He also speculated that King might be called by the prosecution as a rebuttal witness, or perhaps by the defense as a hostile defense witness.

Asked how King felt about not being asked to testify, he responded that King, understandably, had not looked forward to taking the stand but was ready to do so. Pressed further, Lerman added, "He was a little let down."

King's aunt, Angela King, who has been attending the trial regularly, indicated dismay in a few brief remarks to a TV interviewer. Asked why her nephew had not been called, she replied, "I have no idea. I was surprised myself."

José de Sosa, head of the NAACP in neighboring Ventura County where the trial is being held, said he wondered if the prosecution "is doing enough" to present its case effectively.

A legal commentator for one TV station spoke of the "bare bones" character of the prosecution case.

This consisted mainly of the widely viewed video of the beating of King, and testimony from various expert witnesses, cops, and several nurses and doctors who had treated King afterward.

Not one of the bystanders who witnessed the beating was called to testify.

Attorney Lerman said he had offered the prosecution as many as 50 names of eyewitnesses who could have taken the stand.

When the prosecution completed its case, defense lawyers made motions to throw the case out for lack of evidence.

Presiding judge Stanley Weisberg rejected these motions, indicating that the videotape alone was sufficient evidence to proceed with the case.

Even the "bare bones" prosecution presentation had been damning for the cops. All four are charged with felony assault. Two face additional charges of filing false reports.

Antonio Mancía, the doctor who treated King at the emergency room described the lacerations on King's face and scalp. These required some 20 stitches, including several to close up a wound inside his mouth.

He added that King suffered bruises over his entire body. Later X-rays show that his ankle had been fractured.

Contrary to the initial cop story that King had been "out of control" under the influence of PCP and alcohol, Mancía, an emergency room specialist, testified that King was not under the influence of PCP. A later urinalysis confirmed this.

Mancía added that he also did not think King was drunk. When a defense lawyer argued that a blood test showed that he was, the doctor shrugged and responded, "That's a legal definition."

Lawrence Davis, head nurse at the emergency room, testified that when King was trundled in on a gurney, he was resisting the handcuffs and restraints that shackled him. But he was lucid and cooperative.

When the defense argued that King may have suffered his lacerations by scraping his face on the ground, nurse Davis responded there was no evidence of dirt or gravel in the wounds.

Davis described how the two defendants who accompanied King to the hospital had mocked and taunted him as he lay strapped on the gurney.

Learning that King worked at Dodger Stadium, Laurence Powell said, "Did you see the game we played tonight. . . . We played hard ball. . . . We hit quite a few home runs."

The nurse said King responded, "You guys did have a pretty good game tonight."

Stacey Koon, the sergeant who had taken charge of the beating of King, experienced a legal blow when his commanding officer testified that Koon had initially reported to him that King had suffered "minor injuries . . . a split lip when he hit the pavement."

And Powell was set back when the judge refused to bar from evidence the notorious computer message he had sent from his patrol car soon after the victimization of King. That message declared:

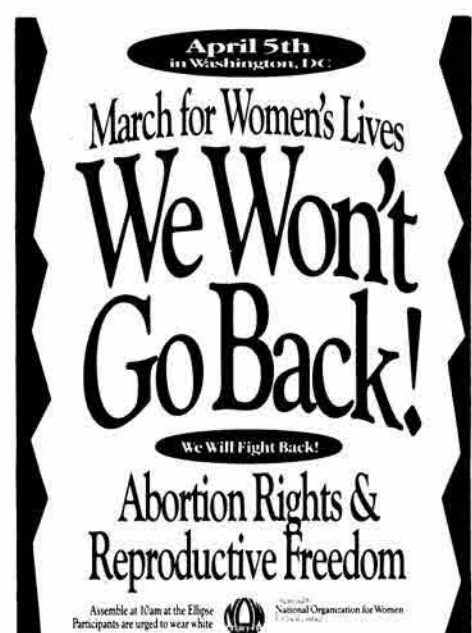
"I haven't beaten anyone this bad in a long time."

In a hopeless effort to undercut the impact of the message, Powell's lawyer argued that "it shouldn't be taken at face value. . . . It's common for officers to engage in banter of this kind. . . ."

Perhaps sensing what a fool he was making of himself, the lawyer dropped the argument in mid-sentence.

In presenting its case, the prosecution scrupulously avoided any hint of the underlying issue — the brutality and racism of the police department.

Reading a transcript of the proceedings, you would never realize that Rodney King is a Black man who was savagely beaten by four white cops.



Pittsburgh police gun down Black youth

BY MATILDE ZIMMERMAN

PITTSBURGH, Pennsylvania — A coroner's inquest into the police shooting of a young Black man in the Pittsburgh suburb of Wilkinsburg has resulted in a hung jury on the question of whether police officer Michael Hopp should face criminal charges.

The Police Chief's first version of the February 21 shooting of Duwayne Dixon, 26, bore no relationship to the facts that came out at a March 9 public inquest. News reports the night of the shooting and next morning said a police officer's life had been saved by his bulletproof vest when a "drug suspect" opened fire on him, and that the drug suspect died in the shootout.

According to the cops' own testimony at the inquest, Dixon and his friend Leroy McClendon were just standing on a street corner at about 8:30 p.m. Friday when three cops in an unmarked car pulled up and asked if they "were holding." When McClendon said "no"

and Dixon started to walk away, the cops jumped out, at least one with his gun pulled, threw McClendon against the car, and stopped Dixon.

Hopp testified that he told Dixon several times to take his hands out of his pockets, and that when Dixon took out his left hand he had a small pistol in it. Hopp said he heard Dixon say the words "it's empty." Hopp's partner Thomas Kocon began hitting Dixon in the head with his pistol, and the two cops wrestled Dixon to the ground. Hopp said he then heard what he thought was a gunshot, and pumped four bullets into Dixon's chest. "We're trained to shoot center man," the cop told the crowded courtroom.

Contrary to initial reports, Kocon was never shot at all and his bulletproof vest was completely undamaged. A loose shirt Kocon was wearing got caught between Hopp's gun and Dixon's body in the scuffle and got several bullet holes in it.

Father victimized for lack of welfare aid for son

BY SETH GALINSKY

While Democratic and Republican Party presidential hopefuls rail about welfare rip-offs and make promises about putting an end to welfare, one recent incident highlights the plight of those forced to try to survive on welfare, and how the victims get blamed for the situation they find themselves in.

An 11-year-old boy's frostbitten feet had to be amputated in early March. He had been living with his father in an abandoned bus in a remote area of West Virginia.

The father, Douglas Roupe, told authorities that the state's Department of Health and Human Resources had refused his requests

for help, except for a small quantity of food stamps.

Instead of offering more aid after the incident came to light, the state charged Roupe with felony child neglect March 6.

According to an article from the *Associated Press*, the Department of Health and Human Resources refused to comment on the case or on reports that Roupe had received only \$60 of food stamps two months ago. Instead, a spokesperson said the department could take custody of the child away from the father.

The Roupe's only groceries when they were found were bottles of ketchup and mustard.

Cuban-American journalist murdered in New York City

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

The Puerto Rican Senate announced it will investigate whether the March 11 murder of a prominent Cuban-American journalist in New York is related to his recent testimony at Senate hearings. The hearings are focusing on the 1978 police assassination of two pro-independence activists in Puerto Rico.

The journalist, Manuel de Dios Unanue, was also planning to publish documents he said tied right-wing Cuban terrorists to death squad activities and police repression against the Puerto Rican independence movement.

De Dios, former editor of New York's main Spanish-language daily, *El Diario/La Prensa*, had testified February 27 at Senate subcommittee hearings on the Cerro Maravilla case. The case is named after a mountain where police ambushed and murdered two youths who authorities claimed were terrorists trying to blow up communications towers. This official version was proven false, sparking an ongoing scandal that has implicated top Puerto Rico and U.S. officials in the planning and subsequent cover-up of the killings.

De Dios testified that former Puerto Rican police chief Desiderio Cartagena had visited New York in 1978 just days before the Cerro Maravilla murders and told him in an interview held at New York police headquarters that a wave of terrorist attacks by pro-independence groups was about to take place on the island. The Senate hearings have shown that in the late 1970s police and the FBI themselves carried out bombings that they attributed to proindependence activists, in a campaign to smear the independence movement as terrorist.

In sworn testimony at the hearings, Cartagena attempted to contradict De Dios and claimed he did not even know the journalist. But photographs showing the police official with De Dios at the time of the 1978 interview were produced at the hearing, making it likely Cartagena — one of the key figures in the planning and cover-up of the Cerro Maravilla events — will be indicted for perjury.

The day after De Dios's murder, in the early morning, Puerto Rican radio station WUNO received an anonymous phone call from a man identifying himself as a Cuban who warned, "What happened to Unanue is going to happen to Marco Rigau and Pérez Viera," referring to the Senate Judiciary Committee chairman and the Senate investigator conducting the hearings. Two more threatening calls were made to the radio station that day and a similar one to Senator Rigau's office.

Days before his death, De Dios had told friends he was preparing a book documenting the Cerro Maravilla case and terrorist activities by right-wing Cuban exiles in Puerto

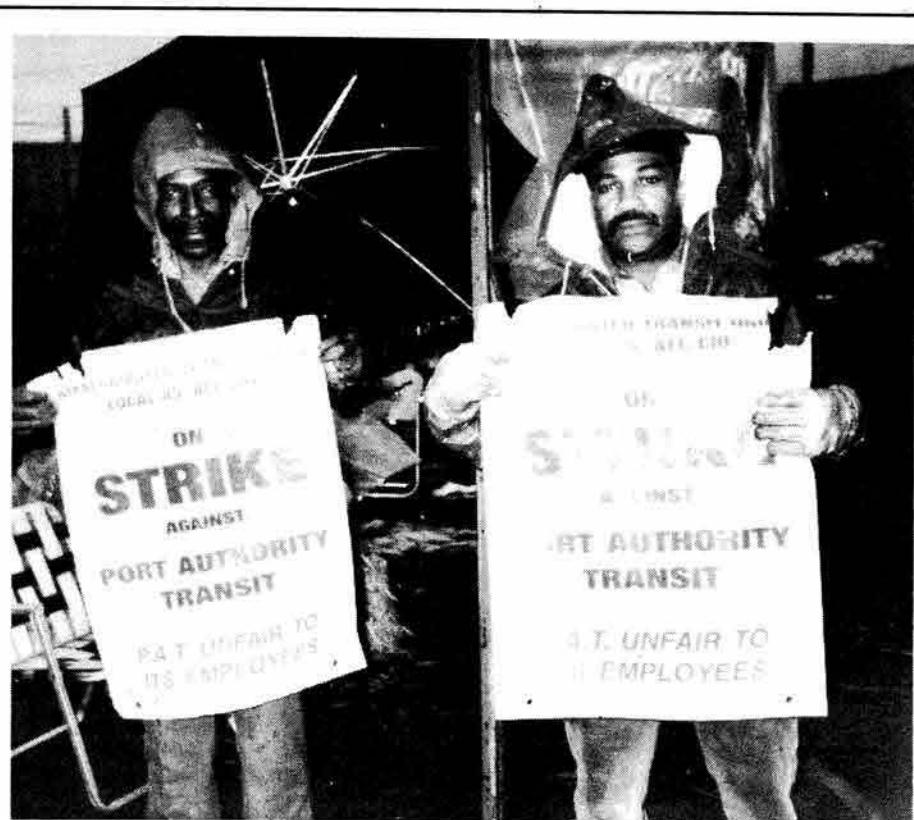
Rico, including previously unpublished information. One chapter was to be devoted to the assassination of Carlos Muñoz Varela, a young Cuban-born activist in Puerto Rico who advocated normalization of U.S.-Cuban relations and who ran a travel agency that organized trips to Cuba. A death squad involving Cuban rightists and Puerto Rican cops has been tied to his 1979 murder. In a phone interview Raúl Alzaga, a colleague of Muñoz and now director of Muñoz's travel agency, said De Dios had recently requested his collaboration in obtaining documents on Muñoz's assassination.

A week before De Dios's murder, the ultrarightist Miami-based magazine *Crónica* published a full-page article denouncing his testimony at the Cerro Maravilla hearings. "It is shameful that a Cuban, a pro-Castroite, has the nerve to sit and testify against dignified figures in Puerto Rican politics who have dedicated their lives to public service."

The magazine remarked ominously that the journalist had visited Cuba and interviewed Cuban officials several years ago, "just as did Carlos Muñoz Varela, who received justice in San Juan, Puerto Rico, on April 28, 1979, for allegedly being an agent of Cuban security."

De Dios was born in Cuba and raised in Puerto Rico. In the late 1970s he was part of the "Committee of 75," a group of prominent Cuban-Americans who favored better U.S.-Cuban relations. According to current *El Diario* editor Fernando Moreno, De Dios wrote several articles for the paper in 1978 on terrorist activities by the right-wing Cuban exile group, Omega 7. He received numerous death threats and *El Diario's* offices were bombed by Omega 7 that year.

The journalist later left *El Diario* to start two other magazines in which he denounced drug traffickers in the New York area. The local media has emphasized reports speculating that De Dios was killed because of his antidrug campaigning.



Militant/Michael Pennock

Striking transit workers on the picket line in Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh transit workers strike

BY MICHAEL PENNOCK

PITTSBURGH — The 2,700 workers who operate and maintain the buses, trolleys, and subways of Port Authority (PAT) here went on strike March 16. The unionists had been working without a contract since Dec. 1, 1991.

The vote to strike came at a spirited meeting of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 85 held the previous day. More than 95 percent voted to approve the strike, their first since 1976.

The union demands center on a wage increase, continued cost-of-living and health-benefits protection, and an increase in pensions. PAT management is seeking concessions. According to workers on the picket line the authority wants to institute a two-tier wage system.

The five major work locations are picketed 24-hours-a-day by up to several dozen workers at each location. The mood is

determined. Most workers do not expect a long strike.

Many workers are upset with what they see as PAT's refusal to bargain seriously. They point out that it was PAT that, in 1986, got rid of the law which mandated binding arbitration. The current law permits strikes. It also prohibits PAT from hiring replacement workers.

The media and government officials are blasting the striking union workers. Democratic P-arty county commissioner Tom Foerster called the strike "the ultimate act of violence on a community." Media coverage is dominated by the strike's effect on business and the 285,000 daily riders. There is almost no coverage of the strikers' views. The union plans to distribute postcards to the public to send to PAT expressing support for the union.

Michael Pennock is a member of United Steelworkers of America Local 1196.

Debate erupts on North Carolina school plan

BY BRUCE KIMBALL

GREENSBORO, North Carolina — A sharp debate broke out here in the election for Guilford County School Board in a discussion on a proposal called Schools of Choice.

Opponents of the Schools of Choice plan, under which financing for each school would be in proportion to the number of students who "chose" to attend it, spoke at a public hearing held by the County Commission. Some commissioners interrupted and attacked opponents of the plan as they were presenting their ideas.

Following this, at a commission meeting on February 27, Commissioner Katie Dorsett accused fellow commissioner Chuck Forrester of bullying speakers who opposed the plan. Forrester replied that he had been intentionally rude to Socialist Workers Party supporters who criticized the plan at the hearing. "As far as I'm concerned these people are scum," he said. "So yeah, I meant to be a little bit confrontational to the socialist pigs, but I'm proud of that."

This comment, which was carried in the *Greensboro News and Record*, has caused a lot of discussion and protest in the community. An editorial in the paper March 4 commented, "... members of the public don't have to pass an ideological litmus test in order to address their concerns to elected representatives. Even County Commissioners are bound by the First Amendment's protection of speech and petition."

A letter printed by Tony Prince, SWP candidate for the school board, the next day added: "It's an attack on the right of small political parties — like the SWP — to function, and an attempt to narrow down who is and who isn't legitimate."

Prince, a textile worker at Fieldcrest Cannon and a member of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU), announced his campaign Febru-

ary 3. The election was held March 10.

At a March 7 campaign program sponsored by the Militant Labor Forum, Prince summarized how many others viewed this attack: "Our supporters took this issue to an NAACP-sponsored vigil in Raleigh against the state's flying of the Confederate Flag, to a hearing on the impact of budget cuts on children, to coworkers, and to the community. Everywhere, people were outraged and saw the danger posed by remarks like this. I also raised this at a program for candidates March 5 that was televised."

Schools of Choice is a nationally discussed idea that was heralded in President George Bush's America 2000 Education System plan, which he introduced about a year ago. The idea has also received strong support among Democrats.

The goal of Schools of Choice is to create a marketplace for education, where schools survive or fail based on their ability to attract students. Plans vary, with some allowing students to choose private and church-run schools. The one proposed for Guilford County is limited to existing public facilities.

While the term implies that opportunities will be expanded and that there will be more freedom in education, it is really designed to undercut efforts to desegregate schools, to weaken teachers' unions, to disguise budget cuts, and to further privatize education.

Supporters of Tony Prince joined others at the County Commission's public hearing in opposing the Schools of Choice plan.

Proposal will lead to resegregation

Rebecca Banks, president of the Greensboro chapter of the North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE), affiliated with the National Education Association, said the proposal will cause "elitism and lead to an unhealthy resegregation of schools." A statement distributed by Tony

Prince's campaign said, "Without a mechanism for promoting and ensuring desegregation, this proposal is little different from the old idea of neighborhood schools. Desegregation will require concrete, positive action to become a reality."

The socialist campaign coincided with budget cuts, lay-offs, homelessness and other setbacks to working people in North Carolina. Around the time Prince announced his campaign, workers at Cone Mills' Granite finishing plant in nearby Haw River were told that nearly 300 of the 400-strong workforce would lose their jobs by the summer.

Prince's campaign issued a statement, pointing out that job losses in this area, like those in the rest of the country, are a result of a deepening economic crisis. Prince put forward a proposal for a shorter workweek with no cut in weekly pay, and for affirmative action for Blacks and women — those hurt the most by this crisis. "It's particularly ironic," Prince commented, "that I'm working seven days a week — 50 to 60 hours — and others are being thrown out of their jobs due to a lack of work. It's one of the best examples of the chaotic, irrational nature of the capitalist system."

This statement was distributed widely in the Greensboro area. It was particularly well-received by workers at the Highland Yarn Mill in High Point, where the company has claimed victory in a union decertification drive. On election day Prince and his supporters campaigned at the plant, distributing dozens of statements and selling three issues of the *Militant*. Several workers wore stickers and buttons for the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, and said they were going to keep fighting for the union.

Bruce Kimball works at Cone Mills and is a member of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union.



El Diario/La Prensa
Manuel de Dios Unanue, former editor of Spanish-language daily 'El Diario.'

Vote a victory for antiapartheid struggle

Continued from front page

would vote in support of such a referendum. Mandela responded that he had "never doubted that such a moment would arrive. Otherwise, we would not have opted for a policy of nonracialism where South Africans stop thinking in terms of the color of a person."

He had earlier told the press in South Africa that rapid steps must be taken to bring an end to the current regime. "Ending apartheid is not just announcing the results of a referendum — it means there should be enough houses, more medical facilities, and better pensions for blacks. Apartheid is far from over. Above all, I still cannot vote in my own country."

Apartheid, meaning "separate" or "apart," is the name given to the social system in South Africa of white minority rule based on complete segregation of the Black population. Africans were driven from the land, denied citizenship rights in the land of their birth, and forced to become a giant reserve of cheap labor in the mines and mills and on the white-owned farms.

Built on the earlier policies of the colonial powers, apartheid was extended and systematized by the National Party government that came to power in 1948, representing the country's capitalist ruling families. Since whites represent only a small minority of the population, massive state-organized violence was carried out on a day-to-day basis to maintain the undemocratic system.

Struggle forces concessions

But due to widespread struggles inside South Africa and setbacks dealt to the regime's expansionist plans in southern Africa in the late 1980s, the regime was forced to begin a process of granting concessions to the revolutionary democratic movement led by the ANC.

In the two years since being unbanned, Mandela and the ANC leadership have used the newly won political space to mobilize the population and explain their political perspectives to the widest numbers possible. They have sought to unite the country's working people and others who have come to oppose apartheid in a struggle for a "non-racial, nonsexist, and democratic South Africa."

De Klerk called the referendum February 20 after his ruling National Party lost a seat to the right-wing Conservative Party in a by-election.

The Conservative Party, along with a collection of ultrarightist and fascist organizations vehemently opposed to the moves away from apartheid already taken by the government, called for a "no" vote on the measure and ended up more politically isolated.

An intense debate over the future of the country took place during the four weeks leading up to the vote. Major businesses spent \$1.2 million to advertise for a "yes" vote.

Those opposing the measure received a boost when former president P. W. Botha urged a "no" vote, saying, "I cannot participate in what I perceive as a direction of suicide for my own people."

Rightists play on fears

The rightist organizations have played on the fears of majority rule and racist hatred of Blacks instilled by the regime for decades. They also play on the growing uncertainties of a layer of white workers, farmers, and middle-class layers as South Africa's capitalist economy is buffeted by the world economic crisis.

One National Party supporter pointed this



Militant/Ruth Haswell
Nelson Mandela, left, with ANC chairperson Oliver Tambo after ANC rally.

out when he told a reporter that the party "has got to take some of the blame, because they had us in the trenches for years with black fear."

"We have no place to go," Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB) member Ertjies Yeates told the *New York Times*. "We believe this land was given by God to us. We believe there must be a plan to bring white people to this tip of Africa." Descendants of the Dutch settlers, many Afrikaners have in the past portrayed their conquest of South Africa as a divine right.

Conservative Party leader Andries Treurnicht is spearheading the attempt to undercut

the growing support for the ANC and its fight for a democratic republic. He casts his reactionary course in the cloak of defending the Afrikaner "nation." A "no" vote in the referendum, he said, was "a vote for the people and for self-determination." He told the South African Press Agency that his party did not advocate a return to apartheid rule, but favored a "commonwealth of independent nations" in the country where whites would "take the necessary measures" to govern themselves.

South Africa's *Transvaler* reported that AWB leader Eugene Terreblanche changed his original stance of calling for a boycott of

Text of Mandela interview on 'Nightline'

The following is the transcript of a televised interview with Nelson Mandela, president of the African National Congress (ANC), on the U.S. news program *Nightline*. The March 18 interview was conducted by Ted Koppel. Mandela spoke from the ANC headquarters in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The interview refers to the March 17 whites-only referendum called by South African president F.W. de Klerk on the regime's course in negotiations with the revolutionary democratic movement in that country. The referendum, which was approved by a 2-1 margin, asked: "Do you support continuation of the reform process, which the State President began on Feb. 2, 1990, and which is aimed at a new Constitution through negotiation?" (see accompanying article)

Question. I wonder, Mr. Mandela if you ever dreamed it possible some 20-odd years ago, when you were a political prisoner on Robben Island, that the day might come when the white population of South Africa would vote in favor of, in effect, dissolving apartheid and moving toward representational government.

Answer. We have never doubted that such a moment would arrive. Otherwise, we would not have opted for a policy of nonracialism where South Africans stop thinking in terms of the color of a person. We have advocated for many decades the policy of looking at problems as South Africans, not as members of ethnic groups.

Q. Are you as optimistic, are you as sanguine about what has happened today as President de Klerk appears to be? I quote him from his news conference in South Africa earlier today, at which he said, "Today we close the book on apartheid."

A. The greatest demand by the overwhelming majority of the people of this country is that of getting political power. We have not reached that position, and we have not yet reached it simply because of the color of our skin. So apartheid still lives in this country.

Q. At your own news conference earlier today, you were still calling on the rest of the world to maintain its sanctions against South Africa. One would expect that President de Klerk and his allies would say, "Come on, now, Mr. Mandela, give us a break. Haven't we shown our good faith and can't we work hand-in-hand and allow these sanctions finally to be dropped?"

A. We say sanctions were introduced in order to induce South Africa to abandon apartheid and, secondly, to give political rights to the majority of South Africans. Neither of those two objectives has been achieved. We are on the way there, but we are not yet there. It would, therefore, be premature for us at this stage to call for the lifting of sanctions.

Q. Do you totally trust President de Klerk now? The two of you, after all, have had a couple of years now to take one another's measure, and you have been able to watch him close up as he moves politically in what would seem to be the direction that you want the country to go.

A. It is not a question whether we trust one another; it is a question of necessity. We are called upon by destiny to work together in order to ensure that the political system of this country is democratized and normalized.

Q. We have not yet commented on the Conservative Party of South Africa which, after all, has suffered a significant defeat today, but as we both know, they're not going to pack up and go away. So what is going to happen now with that 28 percent of the vote that was so bitterly opposed to the referendum?

A. The defeat should convince them that the people of South Africa, including the whites, are no longer prepared to go back to the past, where a minority of less than 15 percent decided the destiny of the overwhelming majority of the population. They must make now an unequivocal commitment to the peace process.

Q. You know that they take the position —

the referendum to that of a "no" vote. The battle in South Africa, the paper reported him as saying, was "between the white Christian on the one side, and the communist Anti-christ African National Congress on the other."

In a statement after the vote the ANC said "the White electorate, in their thousands, cast a vote in support of CODESA and the negotiation process."

'Dangers in racial exercises'

"The right wing extremists do not speak on behalf of the majority of White South Africans. They are, however, a dangerous and desperate minority who stubbornly wish to cling to a discredited past," the statement said. "The appeals to racial chauvinism and the ethnic passions around this referendum campaign illustrate the dangers inherent in racial and ethnic exercises of this nature."

The statement welcomed the vote, which it characterized "not as an endorsement of the National Party and its policies. It was a 'Yes' vote for democracy! This is a position in accord with that of the majority of Black South Africans whose voice could not be heard in yesterday's referendum." The ANC statement encouraged the parties opposed to the referendum to "accept defeat with grace and join CODESA."

Prior to the vote the ANC took a position objecting to "any exercise giving whites a veto power over the future of our country." It called for a "yes" vote and actively campaigned in support of the measure.

After the results were announced, Mandela said all efforts should turn to speeding up the negotiations to rapidly establish an interim government. "The purpose of the interim government will be to supervise the transition from an apartheid to a democratic state," he said at a March 19 press conference. "We are demanding that should be done as soon as possible."

The next round of the Convention for a Democratic South Africa is scheduled for April. The ANC is pushing for an interim government to be chosen at that time.

I mean, obviously, you know it a great deal better than those of us in this country — they take the position that they want their own white homeland.

A. Well, we understand that, but the African National Congress is the last organization to accept the partitioning of South Africa. When the policy of the bantustans was initiated in the early '50s, we rejected that on principle, and we have maintained that attitude. It would be grossly inconsistent on our part now to allow this demand simply because it is made by a tiny minority of whites.

Q. Now that the referendum has been passed, and passed by an overwhelming majority, what are your predictions about the level of violence, which has indeed risen over the past few weeks in South Africa?

A. Well, we cannot prevent the right wing from starting violence. In fact, they are busy with violence now. They have been bombing schools and similar other places. But it is the responsibility of the regime to put an end to that violence.

Q. What kind of time clock do you see now for the evolution of political development in South Africa? Are you still talking about a matter of a decade or so, five years, one year? Do you see it in terms of months? Give me a sense of how you see things developing.

A. Oh, no. It's difficult to specify an exact date for these fundamental changes to be brought about. It is sufficient to say that we have demanded the installation of an interim government this year. We also would like the elections to a constituent assembly to take place within 18 months.

Q. On balance, though, you're pleased by today's developments?

A. I'm very pleased today, because the ANC is one of those organizations in this country and outside South Africa who have called upon voters to return an overwhelming yes, and they have done that, and therefore I am very happy indeed. My colleagues and I are very happy indeed at this result.

From Pathfinder Further reading on South Africa

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Thousands rally for Caterpillar strike



March 14 rally in Dacatur, Illinois to back Caterpillar strike. United Auto Workers union is locked in battle with company over demand for takeback contract.

Continued from front page

declared March 22 "Adopt a Striker Day — All Labor Supports CAT Workers." Signs and banners, balloons, T-shirts, hats, and buttons made a colorful array of slogans of solidarity: "Workers Against Dirty Dealers," "No to Takeaways," "Can't Bulldoze Labor," and "Proud to be Union."

Jerry Brown, president of UAW Local 974, with 6,400 striking members in Peoria, welcomed everyone to the rally. "On behalf of the UAW Cat [Caterpillar] workers, thank you for your overwhelming show of support. This will boost the morale and strengthen the resolve of the UAW. We will not let union busting play in Peoria."

Among those bringing greetings to the rally were Rich Walts, president of the American Federation of Labor in Illinois; George Kourpias, president of the International Association of Machinists; the president of the National Association of Letter Carriers; and the international vice-president of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. Official delegations from the Service Employees'

International Union; International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union; and the American Federation of Teachers addressed the rally.

A representative of the National Union of Metal Workers of South Africa, which organizes Caterpillar workers in that country, brought greetings to the strike. "The question of solidarity has become the most important issue in the struggle in South Africa," he said. "Our successes are not the result of handouts but the result of struggles we are engaged in. We are in solidarity with all of you. Victory is on our side. The unity and determination here are signs that your success is at hand."

A letter from Lane Kirkland, president of the AFL-CIO, said, "You and your families are not alone. Your are asking for nothing more than fair treatment. There is no justification for Caterpillar not meeting your demands."

Owen Bieber, international president of the UAW who chaired the rally, said, "The UAW did not get where we are today by running from a fight that was forced on us. We're not going to run away from the Cat fight, no matter how long it takes."

Bieber announced that "if we can't negotiate this contract in the next weeks, then we will take the Cat story throughout this entire country. We will expand the knowledge and support for this strike."

The rally ended with a march through downtown Peoria to the Caterpillar corporate headquarters.

Priscilla Schenk is a member of United Auto Workers Local 1672 in Des Moines, Iowa.

Explosion kills four at West Virginia mine

BY CLAY DENNISON

BLACKSVILLE, West Virginia — A powerful explosion on March 19 killed four workers and injured three at Consolidation Coal Company's Blacksville No. 1 mine in northern West Virginia. A large accumulation of methane gas was ignited as workers lowered pipe through a concrete seal on a production shaft.

None of the dead or injured were miners. They were surface workers involved in sealing the mine, which was pulled out of coal production by Consol on June 4, 1991. Three of the dead were employees of one of several non-union contractors hired to work on the final shutdown of the mine, and one was a Consol engineer who was killed by the blast as he stepped out of his car. The injured were also working for a contractor.

The blast twisted the steel structure of a seven-story building above the shaft. Bodies were thrown a hundred yards, torn by the explosion. Sheet metal was flung a quarter of a mile and people reported hearing it fifteen miles away. A fire ignited by the blast was put out in two hours.

The exact cause of the methane ignition is under investigation by state and federal authorities, the company, and the miners union.

Two federal mine inspectors and 12 of the 29 Blacksville miners who are not yet laid off were underground at the time of the blast, but

they were not hurt and they made it to the surface safely.

Blacksville No. 1 is in an especially gassy coal seam. The mine releases more than a million cubic feet of methane each day. Mines this gassy are supposed to be inspected by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) more often than other mines.

After production ceased in June there have been checks. MSHA inspectors have written three "significant and substantial" violation citations since October 1, although the nature of these violations has not been made public. Blacksville was one of the mines that the U.S. Department of Labor alleged to be tampering with coal dust sampling devices.

This is not the first disaster at Blacksville. In 1972 nine miners died when a fire was started by a piece of equipment being moved on underground track about a mile from the shaft. Miners caught downwind from the fire died in the smoke. The mine was eventually sealed for more than five months to put out the fire.

One of the questions that will be investigated in this new disaster will be why methane could be allowed to build up in the shaft, even though work was not completed on it. Ventilation fans are still pulling air through other areas of the mine in order to disperse methane there.

The Morgantown, West Virginia, *Dominion-Post* quoted United Mine Workers president Richard Trumka on the explosion at Blacksville. He said the deaths "offer stark witness to the fact that in the mining industry there's no substitute for tough health and safety standards."

"There can only be one of two explanations for why these workers died. Either the employer wasn't complying with the law, or the law itself is simply inadequate when it comes to protecting workers' lives."

Clay Dennison is a laid-off miner and member of UMWA Local 1949.

University students plan contingents for San Francisco pro-choice march

BY CATHLEEN GUTEKANST

SAN FRANCISCO — Activists are organizing here to publicize the San Francisco March for Women's Lives. The March 29 protest, in conjunction with the April 5 march in Washington, D.C., is to defend the right to safe and legal abortions.

The San Francisco Bay Area Pro-Choice Coalition is organizing volunteers for Saturday and Sunday leafletting and posting up in the community, and phone calling in the evenings at the office of the National Organization for Women (NOW).

Several campus chapters of DARE (Defend Abortion Rights Emergency) at San Francisco City College, San Francisco State University, and University of California-Berkeley are organizing contingents from their schools. Students at the University of California-Santa Cruz sponsored a teach-in on reproductive rights in February to build for the March 29 rally.

Some 250 people attended, the majority of whom marched from the campus following the teach-in to picket a phony "Pregnancy Clinic" in downtown Santa Cruz. This clinic promotes adoption referrals and uses scare tactics to try to deter women from seeking abortions.

The March 29 demonstration has been endorsed by NOW, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Coalition of Labor Union Women, and 100 other organizations and individuals, including the California Teacher's Association (State Council), Latinas for Reproductive Choice, San Francisco Mayor Frank Jor-

dan, California Lieutenant Governor Leo McCarthy and Secretary of State March Fong Eu.

The March and Rally will assemble at 11:00 a.m. Sunday, March 29 at Justin Hermann Plaza at the Embarcadero in San Francisco and march to the Civic Center for a rally at 1:00 p.m.

Buses are being organized from Sacramento, San Jose, Santa Cruz, Los Angeles, and other California cities. For more information or to volunteer to help call (415) 255-1989. For information on chartered flights to the Washington, D.C., April 5 March call (415) 861-8936.

— CALENDAR —

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Rally Against Tuition Hikes! Save CUNY (City University of New York). Tuesday, March 31, noon, at Lehman College, the Bronx. Sponsored by CUNY/Community Coalition. For more information: (212) 650-3924.

New York Socialist Workers Campaign Open House. Meet Ed Warren, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate and SWP congressional candidates. Tuesday, March 31, 5-9 p.m. 191 7th Ave. 2nd floor. Donation: \$4. Tel: (212) 675-6740.

TEXAS

Houston

Victory Against Police Brutality. Attend the Mark Curtis Defense Rally. Speakers: Clarence Brandley, frame-up victim who won his release from death row and prison; Kathie Fitzgerald, Socialist Workers Party, and member United Food and Commercial Workers; Tom Kleven, professor, Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law. Sat., March 28. Reception and video, 3 p.m.; program, 4 p.m. Room 264, Law School, Texas Southern University. Sponsor: Houston Mark Curtis Defense Committee. For more information: (713) 522-8054.

ICELAND

Reykjavik

General Meeting of the Iceland-Cuba Friendship Association. Speakers: Johann Bjornsson, recently visited Cuba; Gylfi Pall Hersir, speaking on Cuba and World Politics Today. Sat. March 28, 2 p.m. MIR Hall, Vatnsstigi 10.

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San Francisco

Reception following abortion rights march

The Socialist Workers Party campaign invites you to a reception. Come and meet the Socialist Workers candidates.

Sunday, March 29, 3-6 p.m.

Pastels Cafe, 1400 Market, by Fell St.

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For more information call (415) 282-6255

Armenian, Azerbaijani regimes step up war over disputed area



In the last four years some 2,000 Armenians and Azerbaijanis have died in armed clashes over claims of which republic should rule the Nagorno-Karabakh enclave.

BY MARTIN KOPPEL

Armed clashes between forces supported by the governments of Armenia and Azerbaijan have left scores of people dead and forced tens of thousands to flee Nagorno-Karabakh in recent weeks. Fighting in this predominantly Armenian enclave, located inside Azerbaijan, has intensified since the breakup of the Soviet Union last year.

The regimes in the former Soviet republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan both claim sovereignty over Nagorno-Karabakh, which had a population of 188,000 at the start of the conflict. Some 2,000 Armenians and Azeris, the main nationality in Azerbaijan, have died there in the last four years.

The latest fighting flared up at the end of February when Armenian guerrillas attacked the majority-Azeri village of Khojaly. At least 200 Azeris, mainly farmers, were slaughtered.

The Armenian regime justified the raid saying it was carried out to stop the shelling of the enclave's capital by Azerbaijani forces. In retaliation Azerbaijanis crossed into Nagorno-Karabakh and launched an armored assault on the town of Askeran, firing volleys of rockets. Dozens of people were killed in the street fighting. In addition, two predominantly Armenian villages in Azerbaijan were attacked.

The assault on Khojaly was one of a series of raids in which Armenian and Azeri villages have alternately been blockaded, shelled, and torched by opposing guerrilla forces both in Nagorno-Karabakh and in what had been mixed population areas in both republics.

Until recently Azerbaijan held the upper hand in the province, with Soviet military backing. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, Armenian forces have stepped up their attacks, driving tens of thousands of Azeris into the Azerbaijan republic.

As the conflict escalated the military commissioner of Armenia announced that the republic was forming "self-defense battalions" of reservists, which Russian television reports described as a "prototype of the Armenian army." Azerbaijan has also started to organize its own army. The 5,000 troops of the former Soviet Union have been pulled out of the region.

Reports of the raid on Khojaly sparked mass demonstrations outside the Parliament in Azerbaijan's capital, Baku. Political opponents of Azerbaijani president Ayaz Mutalibov accused him of not protecting Azeri lives in the disputed territory and called for all-out war against Armenia. Mutalibov, who was elected six months ago, resigned under pressure March 6.

"All this fighting is taking place on Azerbaijan territory, our sacred land," declared Seyavush Velimamenov, one of the Baku regime's chief administrators in Nagorno-Karabakh. He said his government would press ahead with the war.

Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh have been blockaded, supplied only by helicopter. Azerbaijan had previously cut off all fuel to Armenia, causing hundreds of enterprises there to shut down.

Turkey, NATO discuss intervention

In Turkey, which borders on Armenia, some in the ruling class have pushed for intervention on the side of Azerbaijan. Turkish capitalists view the former Soviet republics of Central Asia as an important potential market and source of cheap raw materials, and are alarmed at the growing political instability in the region.

A leading opposition figure, Mesut Yilmaz, has publicly called for military intervention. President Turgut Özal proposed that Turkey "scare the Armenians a little bit" by blocking Armenia's only export route to the Black Sea.

Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel advocated a more cautious position saying, "One step too many by Turkey would put the whole world behind Armenia." Turkish foreign minister Hikmet Cetin, who traveled twice to Azerbaijan in early March, urged the U.S. government to play a more active role in the conflict.

Meanwhile, a conference of imperialist

Continued on Page 13

Jobless in Bulgaria scrape together a living

BY JON HILLSON

SOFIA, Bulgaria — "Hey, let's make a deal, let's make a deal," 13-year-old George says, with a grin, in English.

He is the envy of dozens of other vendors, who peddle their wares in icy breezes in a small, unnamed park a few blocks from Bulgaria's parliament.

The string of tables feature family heirlooms, used toys, hand-knit sweaters, shawls, beads, World War II medals, military uniforms, other bric-a-brac and, as collector's items, likenesses of Lenin.

Nikolay is a 33-year-old optical engineer, jobless for six months. "The industry has completely shut down," he says. He spends four to five hours a day in the park, selling hand-painted cups made in Russia and ballpoint pens.

His Russian wife is also without work. "It is very difficult," he explains. "Her mother and father still live in Russia. They have nothing, and we have to help them out." In two hours, he sells one pen, for roughly 40 cents.

A number of people in the bazaar are old. "They are worried," Nikolay says, "because there is talk of cutting their pensions. We have 9 million people in Bulgaria, and more than 2 million are on pensions. So they come here and sell what they can." Unemployment, he says, is "officially, 20 percent. But probably more. I have friends who work but haven't been paid in half a year."

How do they make ends meet? "You do a little of this, that, borrow," he says, shrugging.

Next to him, 21-year-old Emilia, a student at the nearby national university, sells Lenin pins and Russian-made caps. "I don't have a job," she says. "Hardly any students do. I

think it will be terrible here for maybe two more years, then it will get better." No one buys anything from her table.

"It's more difficult in the winter," she says, "when there are fewer tourists."

On the quiet campus, there are no political posters. The literature tables — like bookstores — are dominated by romance and adventure novels, religious books, exposés of the former Stalinist "Communist" regime, and pornography.

Nikolay smiles at Emilia's prediction of the future. "She's an optimist," he says. "I have absolutely no idea what will happen next. I want to get out, now."

A reporter mentions to them that the economic situation in the United States is bad, and getting worse, for working people. They look at him in disbelief.

George, a few tables down, sells Russian camera lenses, binoculars, Soviet army surplus, beluga caviar — all for dollars. "How about infrared laser binoculars," he implores. "I got everything." George, an adjacent vendor says, "is the best of all of us."

In most shops, fresh meat and produce are scarce. The standard fare is hard sausage, hard cheese, and bread. Many stores have a massive supply of bottled peas.

Homeless people have begun to appear, begging. They are old, infirm, silent, sitting on sidewalks, their backs to buildings, holding out a hand, sometimes exposing an open sore or bruised limb.

Near the edge of downtown, police stand watchfully near an auto-delivery truck, as a burgundy Mercedes sedan is wheeled into the tiny, one-car showroom of the new dealership. Passersby pause and stare.

On the main drag, clusters of people stop at newsstands to buy the national press, some

of which showcase sexually explicit, full-color photos of women and, occasionally, men.

"It is supposed to get better," a hotel worker tells me, "but now the same people who always had everything get rich, and the people with nothing have less. There are no jobs for young people."



Militant/Jon Hillson
Bazaar in Sofia, Bulgaria. Growing unemployment is forcing many to seek ways to make ends meet.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS



U.S. sailors captured on spy ship in 1968 return to North Korea

The North Korean government is preparing to welcome crew members of the former spy ship USS Pueblo on a goodwill visit to the country. North Korean forces captured the U.S. ship in the Sea of Japan, off the North Korean coast, in January 1968 and imprisoned the crew until the following December. The 83 crewmen were released after U.S. president Lyndon Johnson was forced to admit that Washington was spying and to apologize for the incident. Johnson reneged on the apology after the crew's release.

The visit was first proposed by some of the crew members. Eight crew members and their families are planning to go, but none of the ship's officers.

Thousands strike in Greece to protest wage freeze

A wave of strikes engulfed Greece as Parliament voted to freeze government employees' wages. Thousands of workers protesting the wage-freeze bill have shut down mass transit, state-owned banks, public utilities, tax offices, and customs services since March 10. School teachers joined the strike March 12. Greece's economy is in serious trouble with an annual inflation rate of 18 percent, the highest in the European Community.

Unions strike in Lebanon demanding price controls

A strike to protest a burst of inflation paralyzed most businesses and government offices in Lebanon March 6. After a sharp decline in the currency's value, the prices of food and other basic supplies such as gasoline suddenly soared. Lebanon imports about 85 percent of its basic needs.

The one-day walkout was called by the General Federation of Labor Unions, which demanded that the government enforce a price-control system. The cabinet formed a committee to set and monitor prices and ordered police enforcement.

Tensions rise in Zimbabwe over moves to distribute land

Forced by wide dissatisfaction among the country's working people, the government of Zimbabwe has stated it will go ahead with plans to forcibly acquire arable land held by white farmers and distribute it to landless peasants. The ownership of the best land by 4,000 white farmers has been the most contentious political issue since the country won its independence from Britain in 1980.

Meanwhile most of the 10 million people, 99 percent Black, live on small plots of semiarid land with no ownership rights. The move comes during the worst drought this century, which has forced this country, usually self-sufficient in food, to import huge quantities of grain. Capitalist farmers in Zimbabwe, the World Bank, and the governments of Britain and the United States have vigorously protested the move.

Japanese diplomat heads United Nations force in Cambodia

Yasushi Akashi, head of the United Nations force of 22,000 troops being dispatched in Cambodia, arrived in Phnom Penh March 15 to take authority over the country. Akashi, a UN official from Japan, spent the previous five days in his native country pleading with Tokyo to foot one third of the \$2.8 billion bill for the troops.

Twice since the Persian Gulf war, Japan's ruling party has failed to pass a bill authorizing Japanese military deployment abroad under the UN flag.

Albania's economic disintegration devastates health care

A drastic fall in industrial and food production is taking a heavy toll on health-care in Albania. The intensive care ward at the largest children's hospital in the capital, Tirana, has only one respirator, which stops during the frequent electricity failures. Surgical instruments are often sterilized in boiling water. The country's infant mortality is 32 deaths per 1,000 births, the highest in Europe. Government statistics show that between 25 and 30 percent of children are malnourished.

Rightists step up attack on Curtis defense

Offensive follows Curtis's victory in lawsuit against Des Moines cops

BY CHRIS REMPLE

DES MOINES, Iowa — Backers of the police frame-up of Mark Curtis have stepped up their activities here in recent weeks.

Their actions occur in the context of the ongoing fight against police brutality in Des Moines, which has brought to public view the widespread nature of police violence against working people and youth in the city. The new offensive by these rightist forces also comes on the heels of the January 31 victory by Curtis in a federal civil rights lawsuit. The judge in the case ruled that two Des Moines cops violated the political activist's constitutional rights when they viciously beat him after his arrest four years ago.

Mark Curtis is a former packinghouse worker who was framed up on charges of rape and burglary in March 1988. At the time, Curtis was in the middle of an important fight to defend 17 immigrant coworkers at the Swift/Monfort plant who had been arrested and threatened with prosecution and deportation by the Immigration and Naturalization Service police. The INS raid was part of company and government efforts to divide packinghouse workers and attack their wages and working conditions. The raid happened after a wave of bitterly fought strikes by meat-packers throughout the Midwest.

Curtis was beaten by the police at the time of his arrest. One of the cops told him what his real crime was, calling him "a Mexican lover, just like you love those coloreds." Curtis has served three-and-a-half years of a 25-year sentence.

Since his March 4, 1988, arrest Curtis has won backing for the fight to win his freedom. Thousands recognized that the employers and their government use frame-ups and police beatings as part of the offensive against the rights and standard of living of working people.

Many saw joining Curtis's battle as a way to continue the same fight he was involved in prior to his arrest — forging working-class unity.

If the cops and the city had been able to get away with this attack they would have silenced a vanguard worker and sent a clear



Mark Curtis together with ANC leader Susan Mnumzana in September 1988. Frame-up of Curtis depends on maintaining the credibility of cops and the courts.

warning to others, thereby restricting the political space open to working people.

The Mark Curtis Defense Committee, formed by Curtis's coworkers, fellow unionists, and opponents of police brutality and frame-ups has thus attracted support locally and around the world.

Like other workers tangled in the court system Curtis did not receive a fair trial. But the prosecution and forces supporting it failed in their central objective: making the frame-up politically convincing. This has left

widespread doubts about his unjust conviction. Despite the enormous pressure Curtis refused to cry "uncle" or to give up continuing his political work even while incarcerated. The forces behind the frame-up and those seeking to see Curtis's party, the Socialist Workers Party, pushed back in its ability to engage in political activity were compelled to continue their attack. This antilabor and right-wing campaign has found a warm reception among those who look to or collaborate with the government, the cops, and the employers against working people seeking to defend themselves from today's harsh economic and social conditions. It has won a hearing among some who hold posts as labor officials or who claim to speak for women's rights or Black rights.

The frame-up of Curtis and the state's ability to deny him parole rest fundamentally on maintaining the credibility of the police and the courts. These agencies, however, have suffered a string of sharp blows over the past year bolstering Curtis's claim that the cops who testified against him were not telling the truth.

Recent revelations

The police department has been shaken by revelations of the theft of money from the police narcotics unit safe, charges of racism and sexism, a felony conviction of one officer, and the firing of a sergeant for theft. A former police department public relations officer was also convicted for holding a gun to his wife's head and holding off the cops who came to arrest him. The explosion of protest after the brutal beating of Larry Milton, and the victory of Mark Curtis, have further deepened the crisis of police credibility.

New steps are being taken now by supporters of the police to derail the victory won by Curtis, to close down the political space opened by that victory and the ongoing fight against cop violence, and to reinforce the battered image of the cops.

A central role in this campaign is currently being played by Keith Morris and some of his relatives. Morris, a small businessman who is Black, is the father of the young woman who was allegedly assaulted by Curtis.

Morris has intervened a number of times to attack Curtis over the air on radio station KUCB, a Black-oriented station that played an important role in the early stages of the anti-police-brutality fight.

One incident occurred when Eddie Carthan — the first Black mayor of Tchula, Mississippi, a former frame-up victim, and a Curtis supporter — came to Des Moines for a February 8 rally to build on the victory in

Curtis's lawsuit against police brutality. Carthan was invited to an interview on KUCB. After he arrived at the station Morris also showed up and intervened in the program. He threatened Maurice Williams, a Des Moines activist in the defense effort, when Williams later attempted to leave with Carthan, stating, "We can settle this outside." Again he told Williams, "You better watch yourself, young man, and stay away from me."

Red-baiting

Morris was also present when activists were on the air promoting attendance at one of the city council hearings on police brutality. After Dudley Allison, a leader of the anti-cop-violence effort, mentioned that the victory in the Curtis lawsuit was important for the overall fight against police brutality, Morris launched an attack on the Mark Curtis Defense Committee and the Socialist Workers Party. During a break in the show, Morris told two supporters of the defense effort and SWP members that he would "deal with them later," another in a series of violent threats to those who refuse to stop backing the Curtis fight.

Several prominent spokespeople for the station have assisted Morris in his campaign. Sister Mary Hadasha, an announcer at KUCB, organized a two-and-a-half-hour interview and call-in show featuring Keith, his wife Denise, and Demetria Morris. Demetria is the young woman allegedly attacked by Curtis. The radio show marked the first time she has spoken out publicly since Curtis's trial. She said on the radio show that she is now 19 years old and wants to speak out on her own. The defense committee had never named her in any of its literature.

Calls photos 'fake'

Morris made a number of charges and threats during the radio show, including that Curtis's charges against the cops who beat him were fake. He claimed to have four photos of Mark Curtis that showed the bruise on his chin moving to different areas of his face. A caller to the show disputed Morris's assertion, pointing out that the police would certainly have not missed such a major forgery during their trial.

Using other such outright misrepresentations Morris also threatened to file a lawsuit against Nick Castle, producer of the documentary *The Frame-up of Mark Curtis*, claiming his "family was filmed without . . . permission."

Much of what Morris presented on the show came down on the side of the cops and against the protests in the city, adding his voice to those who urge calm and collaboration with the police. He showed he was not above red-baiting the protests in doing so.

Speaking of Curtis's lawsuit against the cops, Morris said he "was at their trial in support of them [the cops] and I'm still in support of them and I will always be in support of [the cops] for the simple reason that the evidence against them was fabricated."

"Yes, he [Curtis] did receive a few bruises at the police department, but he did not receive the extent of injuries that's being displayed in comparison with Larry Milton. Larry Milton's photographs are not faked, they are not handmade. Now Mark Curtis's photographs are faked and . . . there was the use of makeup on this." He added, "my objection to" the Socialist Workers Party is the "attempt to use the Larry Milton case to further their own cause."

Morris's red-baiting focused on the Community Support Force, an organization in the struggle against police brutality in Des Moines. "At all three of [the City Council hearings], we had people walking up and down the aisles with signs, agitating signs. At the Callahan School they got totally out of hand. These people work for the SWP, this is your Socialist Workers Party, trying to agitate a situation on," he said.

Several activists called the station and said the Community Support Force was responsible for the signs and pickets. Morris's statement echoes claims by the cops that the protests were a result of extremist forces and

\$17,730 collected to aid Parole Now! Fund for jailed unionist

BY PAUL MAILHOT

Supporters of framed-up union and political activist Mark Curtis are pushing ahead on efforts to raise tens of thousands of dollars for the Parole Now! Fund.

According to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee based in Des Moines, Iowa, as of March 17, \$17,730 had been collected. The special fund will help meet the significant expenses involved in helping to win justice for Curtis. Legal fees for his parole fight and the federal appeal of his conviction come to \$45,000. New literature, ongoing expenses for the defense committee, and debts the committee has incurred add up to another \$30,000.

The fund was launched after Curtis's recent court victory against two Des Moines cops who beat him when he was arrested March 5, 1988. Supporters are being asked to hold activities and raise money in their areas for the fund.

Supporters of Curtis held a public forum in Atlanta February 22 and raised \$860 for the fund. More than 45 people heard a panel of speakers which included Felix Jean-Guil-laume from the Haitian Ministry, Cleto Montelongo of the American Indian Center, Broek Carlsten from the North Atlanta High School chapter of Amnesty International, and Marla Puziss speaking for the Mark Curtis Defense Committee.

Carlsten presented a \$200 check for the Parole Now! Fund. The donation represented part of the proceeds from a benefit concert students at the high school had organized after hearing a presentation about the case at their school. Ten students also attended the forum.

Mark Curtis supporters in Sweden are also stepping up their activities. They have re-

cently taken a goal of raising \$2,000 for the fund and plan a public meeting soon.

Supporters of the defense campaign showed the video *On Trial* to a gathering of 12 workers from work places in the Stockholm area March 6. This video is based on a television program originally shown in the United States about Mark Curtis's trial. It was shown on Swedish television a few years ago with subtitles. The video showing spurred considerable discussion about the issues raised in his trial and about what forces are behind the campaign to keep Curtis in prison.

Three workers from the ABB Cable plant decided to meet again and see another video about the case, *The Frame-up of Mark Curtis*, by Nick Castle. Two workers from the Scania auto plant south of Stockholm who were unable to make it to the gathering plan to get together in two weeks for another showing of *On Trial*.

Supporters in Sweden have translated several pieces of literature on the case including the Parole Now! Fund appeal. A mailing is being prepared to go out to all supporters of the Curtis fight in Sweden, Norway, and Finland.

Marla Puziss from Atlanta and Birgitta Isacson and Anita Östling from Sweden contributed to this article.

Labor news in the Militant

The *Militant* stays on top of the most important developments in the labor movement. You won't miss them if you subscribe. See the ad on page 6.

agitators, rather than a response to the daily violence of the police.

Continuing his red-baiting, Morris claimed that the Mark Curtis Defense Committee had attempted to "defraud the public out of their money," by turning it into a money-making venture of the SWP. "This is something that is going to be looked into at a later date."

"That's the main reason we're here," he said on the show. "The SWP is seizing upon the Larry Milton incident to try and refurbish or restart their campaign for Mark Curtis, enroll more members, and make more money. It's quite a money-making business that they've had," he said, adding the extraordinary claim that the party had "made in excess of a million-and-a-half dollars, just off this."

Addressing a caller from the Community Support Force, Morris warned them to be on the lookout for members of the SWP. "As you stated, you currently are not aware of members of the SWP being in your group. However, let me forewarn you the SWP has their fingers in a lot of pots. They are a very well-organized group and what they do is place people in different various organizations... this is an assignment." The caller from the Community Support Force explained that the group works with all who want to fight against police brutality.

The attack against Curtis dovetails with Morris's general conduct in the meetings and at actions demanding an end to police brutality. Morris attended and spoke at the first mass meeting at the Union Baptist Church after the beating of Larry Milton, who had worked for Morris's hauling business. Morris subsequently attended and spoke at the first City Council meeting on police conduct, attended by about 500 people nearly all of whom were there to protest Milton's beating. While deploring the beating, Morris has supported and collaborated with the police extensively.

A 'viable solution' with the cops

During the two-and-a-half-hour talk show on KUCB, Morris explained his proposals on the next steps in the fight for justice for Larry Milton.

"I firmly believe that it is time that we now extend our hands across the table in the good meaning of friendship and try and negotiate our way out of this and try and work out a viable solution," he said. "In any negotiation people of both parties must be willing to accept certain things, and they must be willing to give certain things."

Morris's role in furthering the cop frame-up of Curtis is not new. In the period before Curtis's trial, Morris attacked the Pathfinder Bookstore in Des Moines, smashing the front windows and causing \$2,000 in damages. The police refused to arrest or prosecute him for this crime.

Workers League

When Curtis's conviction in 1988 failed



Mark Curtis after March 4, 1988, beating by Des Moines police.

Militant

to either break him or dampen the defense effort, Morris stepped in with an "Open Letter" published by an anti-labor outfit called the Workers League. This central propaganda piece of the procop campaign raised new charges against Curtis as well as his party and a large layer of its leadership.

Morris launched a financial harassment lawsuit against Curtis and Kate Kaku, Curtis's wife and a leader of the international defense fight. The lawsuit sought to break Curtis and burden him for life by imposing a large monetary penalty against him. Morris later at-

tempted to drag the defense committee into the lawsuit as a defendant. This effort to silence the defense fight failed, but an \$80,000 judgement was levied against Curtis.

Morris and his wife have also attended each of three parole hearings for Curtis and presented a long, written statement demanding the Iowa State Board of Parole not release Curtis unless he breaks and admits his "guilt."

Morris and his relatives attended — on behalf of the police — the November 1991 trial of Curtis's police brutality lawsuit. Dur-

ing the recesses in the trial, they socialized with the cops who beat Curtis and the city attorneys defending them.

There is broad outrage here against the police beating of Larry Milton. Many see that Curtis's victory against the Des Moines police dealt a blow to the city and police attempts to keep a lid on the issue.

Curtis supporters explain they have found it easier to explain the role of the cops in the frame-up of Curtis as a result. More working people can see the vicious actions of the police in their daily, working lives and are open to recognizing the stakes posed in defending a vanguard worker such as Curtis.

The rise in activity of the countercampaign against Curtis, with Morris's straightforward anticommunist, and procop statements, is an attempt to close down that space, reinforce the deteriorating image of the police, and turn up the pressure on Curtis and the fight against his frame-up conviction.

Those who back Curtis in Iowa say they are redoubling their efforts and going on the offensive to answer Morris and others who are organizing to close down the new space won with the recent victory and protests. Opponents of the frame-up aim to build on the blow Curtis dealt to the cops in his civil rights suit, by winning others to the fight.

Attempt made to seize Curtis damage award

BY JOHN STUDER

DES MOINES, Iowa — The Des Moines City Council has voted to pay Mark Curtis over \$61,000 in damages, attorney's fees, and costs following his victory in a federal lawsuit holding two city cops liable for violating his civil rights. But a battle is shaping up over whether Curtis is entitled to any of the award.

Curtis charged that the cops violated his civil rights by beating him following his arrest in 1988, and Federal Judge Charles Wolle ruled in Curtis's favor January 31.

The city council voted to accept financial liability for the verdict against the cops and to pay Curtis \$12,236.54 in damages and interest, as well as costs, and \$49,000 in attorney fees.

Curtis agreed to drop a secondary claim against the city in his suit when the city offered to pay the damages and attorney fees. The claim, which had been separated out from the trial of the cops, charged that Des Moines city officials condone regular cop racism and brutality, leading the two cops who beat Curtis to believe they could do so and get away with it.

Judge Wolle's ruling had virtually excluded Curtis from being able to win on this additional claim. The judge held the cops who beat Curtis had consciously violated his rights, but acted outside the scope of their employment as police officers.

To pursue this claim, Curtis would have had to appeal Wolle's ruling against the cops, jeopardizing the entire victory. By accepting financial responsibility for the cops' actions the city implicitly acknowledges its liability in the matter.

After the federal court ruling, Stuart Pepper and Jeffrey Flagg, attorneys for Keith and Denise Morris, parents of the woman Curtis was falsely accused of attacking, moved to seize both the damage award to Curtis and the fees the city has agreed to pay his attorneys.

Pepper and Flagg represented the Morrisses in a civil suit filed against Curtis more than two years ago. Basing themselves solely on the frame-up conviction won by the cops, the Morrisses demanded money damages from Curtis.

Financial harassment

Curtis, a prisoner, and his wife, Kate Kaku, a steelworker, have no wealth or assets. The real role of the Morrisses' lawsuit was to exert pressure on Curtis and Kaku by threatening life-long financial harassment.

Polk County Judge Arthur Gamble ruled that Curtis's conviction precluded him from challenging the lawsuit and awarded a judgement of \$80,000 against Curtis to the Morrisses.

At a March 17 hearing before Judge Wolle, city attorneys reported on the agreement to

pay Curtis and his attorneys fees. Arguments were also heard on who should be awarded the money.

Flagg represented Keith and Denise Morris, who were present at the hearing. George Eichhorn, representing Curtis, told Judge Wolle that Morris's move to seize the funds should be rejected.

The majority of those funds — the \$49,000 in attorneys fees — are due to Curtis's lawyers, Eichhorn explained. The civil rights law under which Curtis won was written to ensure that attorneys who prosecute such suits against government agencies receive compensation for their efforts. The fees must be paid to the lawyers, he argued, not put up for grabs to be stolen by anyone with claims against the person who filed the suit. This would challenge the fundamental intent of the civil rights statute, Eichhorn explained.

The \$12,000 in damages and interest awarded to Curtis should also not be turned over to the Morrisses, Eichhorn said. Curtis has already stated in written documents that the funds should go to his lawyers for their work in defending him against the Morris harassment lawsuit. He and his supporters have not yet raised all the funds to cover this debt.

Curtis's attorneys have followed all the legally required steps to be awarded the money, Eichhorn reported, and did so before anyone else. Flagg has not. Instead, Flagg's papers were improperly filed, as he mistakenly attempted to garnish the income of the two cops who were found liable for brutalizing Curtis.

Curtis seeks no financial gain

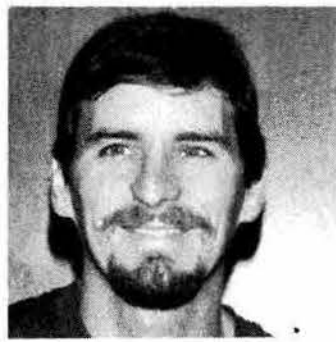
In addition, Eichhorn said, Curtis is not seeking any personal financial gain from his victory.

At issue is a crucial political right. If victims of government frame-ups and cop brutality cannot use the funds they win in such civil rights cases to pay their attorneys, they will not be able to get lawyers to take on their fight for justice.

Flagg told Judge Wolle that the entire award should be handed over to Keith and Denise Morris. Arguing that, since it was Curtis and not his attorneys who formally won the case, the money is his and all of it — both damages and attorney fees — should now be the Morrisses'.

Acknowledging that he may not have followed all the proper legal procedures in filing his papers, Flagg said that he and his clients were still entitled to the money.

Judge Wolle announced he would withhold a ruling until at least March 24, and gave attorneys for all sides four more days to file additional legal arguments.



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

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

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

Literature available from the Mark Curtis Defense Committee

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

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

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

Brief from Mark Curtis's successful lawsuit against Des Moines police. This document details the record of cop brutality in Des Moines over the past decade. 20pp. \$1. The judge's ruling in this suit is also available upon request.

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

Strike wave closes U.S. plants in Mexico

BY JERRY FREIWIRTH

MATAMOROS, Mexico — A wave of strikes in late January and early February hit the *maquiladora* assembly plants that dominate this burgeoning city across the border from Brownsville, Texas.

More than 13,000 workers struck as union contracts covering 50 of the approximately 80 *maquila* plants expired. The majority of those on strike work for General Motors subsidiaries.

"During the four days we were on strike, not one worker went into work," said a union delegate at Gobar Industries, a GM-owned wheel stamping plant. The main issue in the strike, he said, was the demand for a 30 percent wage increase. Inflation in northern Mexico ran almost 20 percent last year.

The average wage at the assembly plants on the Mexico-Texas border is about \$1 an hour. The federal minimum wage — and the starting wage for many *maquiladora* workers — is half that.

The treaty establishing the *maquiladora* plants was signed by the U.S. and Mexican governments in the 1960s. Big tax breaks were offered to companies that would build factories in northern Mexico to assemble components imported from the United States.

These components are then shipped north across the border for final assembly, with no U.S. duty charged except for the added value of the assembly process.

U.S. firms benefit

The U.S. firms further benefit from this arrangement because of the low wage scale in Mexico and because they are virtually exempt from adherence to health and safety regulations.

Some 500,000 workers are now employed in close to 2,000 *maquiladora* plants stretching from Matamoros on the Gulf of Mexico to Tijuana on the Pacific Ocean. Relatively sleepy border towns have been transformed in the process, as workers from other areas of Mexico converge there to seek jobs. This process has accelerated as the Mexican economy deteriorates and unemployment, always high, reaches new levels.

Most *maquiladoras* in Matamoros are located in one of two large industrial parks on the city's outskirts. The FINSA industrial park north of downtown is dominated by auto parts plants, nearly all with direct ties to General Motors. In fact, GM operates 34 *maquila* plants across the northern tier of Mexico, employing more than 40,000 workers. The plants are modern-looking, with neat



Amy Zuckerman/Impact Visuals

A *maquiladora* in Nogales, in northern Mexico. U.S. companies were given big tax breaks to build these factories. Wages are low and there are virtually no health and safety regulations. The average wage at these plants is \$1 an hour.

lawns and landscaping. Surrounding the industrial park, however, are poverty-stricken *colonias* (neighborhoods) where many of the workers live. While conditions in some *colonias* have improved in recent years, most remain vast shantytowns, with no running water, sanitation, or electricity. Homes are constructed of scrap lumber, cardboard, and tin over dirt floors.

Strikes settled quickly

Faced with walkouts in eight major *maquiladora* plants and with the threat of more to come, the Maquiladora Association of Matamoros, the bosses' negotiating body, settled quickly. Most strikes lasted only one to four days, resulting in agreements for an immediate 25 percent wage hike. Maquiladora workers are organized by the Union of Day Laborers and Industrial Workers (SJOI), which represents

some 35,000 workers in Matamoros.

Workers at Deltrónicos, which employs 4,500 workers, mostly women, to assemble 3 million car radios a year, went out on strike in the second wave January 28. They settled the next day. One Deltrónicos worker said, "The union people told us we were on strike and we all walked out. We can't live on what they pay us." No picket lines were set up, she said, but after red-and-black strike flags were hung up, all work stopped.

Maquiladora Association officials said they settled so quickly because the companies they represent are unable to withstand lengthy work stoppages. General Motors now operates on a "just-in-time" system, which means that they keep very low inventories of parts and equipment.

While agreeing to a 25 percent wage increase, the Maquiladora Association won some concessions on work rules. Prior to the strikes the bosses demanded the institution of a 24-hour, 3-shift work schedule and an expansion of the work-week from 40 to 45 hours. No details on these concessions were made public by either employers or union officials, and most workers had heard no details.

Union head arrested

But just three days following the settlements, the Mexican government intervened on the side of the bosses. The longtime head of the SJOI, Agapito González Cavazos, was arrested on his way to a negotiation session at a Matamoros hotel and charged on a long-standing indictment for evading \$54,000 in personal income taxes.

The next Monday, the Maquiladora Association announced it intended to renegotiate already agreed upon contract settlements.

Various company officials told the press in Matamoros and Brownsville that they were unhappy with the association's agree-

ment to raise wages by 25 percent, saying that 10 percent to 15 percent was the level they wanted.

González's arrest was viewed by many as the direct result of pressure by U.S. companies on the Mexican government. "I was in Matamoros on Saturday and there were big smiles on everyone's face," Ricardo Solis, a leading industrialist from nearby Harlingen, Texas, told the *Brownsville Herald*. "The federal government has flexed its muscle and shown that the union has been getting in the way of growth."

There were differing opinions among many workers as to the meaning of González's arrest. "This guy is corrupt, we all know that," said one worker at Gobar. "If he cheated on his taxes, that's wrong and he should pay."

Other workers disagreed, saying the bosses would use the arrest to weaken the union. But nearly everyone agreed with one worker who said, "If the boss thinks he can take away our pay raises, we should go out on strike again."

A protest against González's arrest was issued by Owen Bieber, president of the United Automobile Workers in the United States. The UAW International sent a donation of \$15,000 to aid the SJOI.

Many *maquila* workers expressed anger that the promised wage increase had not yet shown up on their paychecks. "Twenty-five percent may sound like a lot," a day-shift worker at Gobar said in an interview. "But prices are really high here, almost as high as across the border. You can hardly feed a family on what I make a week."

'A virtual cesspool'

The poor living conditions created by the low wage-high price squeeze in Matamoros are made even worse by the dumping of toxic

Continued on Page 12

Pathfinder reprints pamphlet on genocide against Indians

BY MIKE TABER

Last October, as millions watched baseball's World Series on TV, they saw scenes of Native Americans and their supporters protesting the degrading and racist portrayals of Indians by sports teams. This is symbolized by the Atlanta Braves, and its "Tomahawk Chop."

During this year's football Superbowl in Minneapolis won by the Washington Redskins, several thousands again marched outside the stadium to demand an end to the racist depiction of Native Americans.

Actions such as these have drawn renewed

attention to the ongoing fight by Indian peoples throughout the Americas for their rights and dignity.

The commemoration of the 500th anniversary of Columbus's discovery of America also brought considerable media attention to the consequences of that event for the continent's native inhabitants.

As a contribution to this discussion, Pathfinder Press has just reissued *Genocide against the Indians: Its Role in the Rise of U.S. Capitalism* by noted Marxist author George Novack.

Written in 1948, this popular pamphlet examines the nature of Indian societies prior to the settler conquest, and explains why these communal-based societies were incompatible with rising U.S. capitalism. It describes how genocidal means were inevitably utilized to break native resistance and drive the inhabitants off their land. Understanding this history is essential to fighters for social change today, Novack states.

Answering the contemporary defenders of capitalism who minimize both the significance of the contributions of Native Americans and the campaign of extermination used against them, Novack concludes, "It is the capitalist proprietors who are the barbarians in the midst of modern society, resorting in their desperate struggle for survival to the most fiendish weapons and practices. To remove them from the seats of power is the central task of our generation."

Genocide against the Indians sells for \$2 and is available from Pathfinder bookstores listed on page 12, or from Pathfinder, 410 West Street, New York, NY 10014.

Available from Pathfinder



Genocide against the Indians, by George Novack
\$2.00

Available from bookstores listed on page 12 or from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Please add \$3 for postage and handling for first title; \$.50 each additional one.

Paper backs Native American protest

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The *Oregonian* has become the first newspaper in the United States to adopt a policy of not mentioning names of sporting teams that are derogatory to Native Americans.

"I think it's just great," said Yvonne Swan, a spokesperson for the American Indian Movement in San Francisco. "We have very few victories. This is a victory."

The *Sporting News*, a national circulation weekly, is thinking about adopting a similar policy. "I think it's a terrific symbolic gesture," stated *Sporting News* editor John Rawlings of the *Oregonian*'s decision. "I think it's going to give people everywhere something to think about."

Native Americans and their supporters have organized protests at the World Series baseball games against the Atlanta Braves'

"tomahawk chop," and against the Washington Redskins at the Superbowl football contest.

Some subscribers to the *Oregonian*, which is published daily in Portland, Oregon, expressed opposition to the paper's new policy, calling it an overreaction to concerns raised by Native Americans.

"It's creating a lot of awareness and education," stated Clyde Bellecourt, a founder of the American Indian Movement and spokesperson for the National Coalition on Racism in Sports and Media. "It's not a trivial matter. If it's so trivial, why don't they get rid of the names?"

The coalition includes more than 50 organizations including the Urban League, the National Organization for Women, and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

Opening vistas on women's hidden prehistory

Woman's Evolution: From Matriarchal Clan to Patriarchal Family, By Evelyn Reed, 491 pp. New York: Pathfinder, 1975. \$21.95 paper. [See special offer below.]

BY MARGARET JAYKO

"Defense of the family," opposition to abortion rights and affirmative action, and scapegoating unmarried mothers have become the stock-in-trade of a growing number of capitalist politicians. "Family, faith, and country," for example, are the watchwords of ultrarightist Patrick Buchanan's bid for the Republican Party presidential nomination.

Pathfinder's decision to publish an attractive reprint of *Woman's Evolution: From Matriarchal Clan to Patriarchal*

IN REVIEW

Family as part of celebrating March as Women's History Month, therefore, is especially timely.

It is an unparalleled aid to youth and working people who want to know the scientific answer to those who would argue that women have always — and "naturally" — been inferior to men. In uncovering women's leading role in the development of human civilization, Reed also debunks the notion that society has always been divided into exploiting and exploited social classes; and that marriage, religion, private property, and the oppressive state apparatus are eternal.

The new colorful cover, designed by Toni Gorton, features artist Nancy Spero's *Egyptian Mourning Women*.

The matriarchy

The book is divided into three parts: "The Matriarchy," "The Fratriarchy," and "The Patriarchy." In the introduction, Reed explains the book's basic premise.

"The early history of half the human species — womankind — has largely been hidden from view. To bring it to light requires a reinvestigation of anthropology, where the role and accomplishments of women in prehistoric



Evelyn Reed

Militant/Flax Hermes

society are buried. This book is a contribution to unveiling that remarkable record.

"The matriarchy is one of the most hotly contested issues in a hundred-year controversy between contending schools in anthropology. This book affirms that the maternal clan system was the original form of social organization and explains why. It also traces the course of its development and the causes of its downfall."

The product of more than 20 years of research, *Woman's Evolution* has been used as a source by others who have written on these topics since. It has been translated into Farsi (spoken in Iran), French, Spanish, Swedish, and Turkish.

Reed died in 1979. On April 8, 1979, 500 people attended

a meeting in New York City to celebrate her life and work. Speaking on behalf of the leadership of the Socialist Workers Party — the party Reed was a leading member of from 1940 until the day she died — Mary-Alice Waters gave an extensive tribute to Reed.

'A tremendous vista'

"Evelyn Reed was a materialist," began Waters. Waters described her own reaction to reading the manuscript of *Woman's Evolution* prior to its publication. "A tremendous vista had been opened up," recalled Waters. "Evelyn had provided thoughtful and generally convincing answers to some of the most complex and difficult questions about humanity's origins."

Reed, Waters emphasized, was a Marxist, a rebel, and "an anthropologist who applied the scientific method of dialectical materialism. She was an evolutionist. Change is uneven, novel, and contradictory. Combinations occur. Chance and causality intermingle. But change occurs according to understandable laws. Stages of evolution are discernible."

"As Evelyn researched and analyzed her material," continued Waters, "she came to realize the true scope of women's hidden prehistory — the role that those creatures she affectionately dubs the 'feminids' played in humanizing and socializing — in creating us all. She understood what a powerful weapon the truth about our own prehistory could be in women's hands."

Workers and youth who read *Woman's Evolution* today will also find "a tremendous vista" opens up. This becomes especially important now, when reading and discussing as well as protesting and resisting, become so important for workers and youth as part of preparing a vanguard that can act in the face of the wars, deepening class polarizations, and conflicts that capitalism has in store.

This political preparation necessarily includes understanding — and explaining to others — the real roots of women's oppression and the centrality of the fight for women's emancipation to the struggle against capitalism. Reed's book is a unique contribution to that understanding.

U.S. debates Israel policy

Continued from Page 16

Novak column demonstrate a "relentless effort by the anti-Israeli hard corps in American diplomacy and intelligence to destroy what's left of the U.S.-Israel alliance."

"The severity of what is going on now lies in the fact that it is public and harsh," wrote Joel Marcus, a commentator for *Haaretz*. "The campaign of leaks [and] accusations against Israel are additional nails in the coffin of the special U.S.-Israeli relationship."

The simmering dispute, along with the continued existence of the Palestinian uprising known as the *intifada*, has also opened, perhaps for the first time since Israel was founded in 1948, public criticism of the Israeli government by leaders of U.S. Zionist organizations.

Arthur Hertzberg, former president of the American Jewish Congress and cochairperson of the Advisory Council of the World Jewish Congress, explained this process in the March 5 issue of the *New York Review of Books*.

"Now even American Jewish leaders who used to insist that public criticism of Israel was a form of betrayal," he writes, "have begun to admit publicly what they have known privately: that the Israeli government has no intention of serious negotiations with the Palestinians."

"Even Israel's most dogmatic supporters in America can no longer entirely brush aside the troubling thought that the Palestinians have good reason to be angry," Hertzberg admits. "Their human rights are being violated; they are being pushed about and treated inhumanely."

Growing support for Palestinians

Hertzberg, who continues to support Israel and oppose a Palestinian state, argues that "if Bush made loan guarantees depend on whether Shamir stops current construction on the West Bank [as opposed to future construction as is now the Bush administration position] he would have more support both in Israel and in the US than he apparently thinks."

While U.S. foreign policy interests have diverged from Tel Aviv's, Washington remains a mainstay of the Israeli state, supplying \$1.8 billion a year in military aid and \$1.2 billion in economic assistance.

At the latest round of Middle East peace talks in Washington, D.C., U.S. officials chastised the Palestinian delegation for turning their daily briefings into propaganda sessions. What irked the U.S. officials was the Palestinian proposal for a 180-seat elected

parliament that would assume control of the occupied territories.

The intifada and the delegation's participation in the talks have helped to win over many working people in the United States to the side of the Palestinians.

Hertzberg in his article noted the results of a December poll in the United States, which asked, "Who is more responsible for lack of progress toward peace in the Middle East, the Arabs or the Israelis?"

For the first time ever, he noted, a plurality of 41 percent blamed the Israelis, while 27 percent blamed the Arabs.

Drive registers advance in sales to unionists

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

This week marks the conclusion of a nine-week "sales to industrial unionists" campaign for the *Militant* and other socialist publications.

During this effort, 1,176 copies of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* were reported sold in plants and portals throughout the United States.

As the final chart printed below indicates, socialists in the nine listed industrial unions sold 123 *Militant* subscriptions — 70 percent of the goal — and 188 copies of the Pathfinder book *How Far We Slaves Have Come!* — 66 percent of the goal. *Militant* distributors in the United Auto Workers union (UAW) helped lead the way. They surpassed both their subscription and book goals, and exceeded their weekly sales targets during the past two weeks.

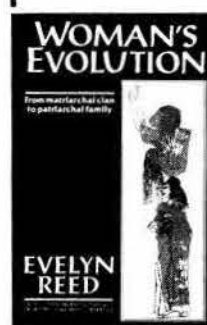
The challenge facing *Militant* distributors within these unions will be to convince as many as possible among the hundreds of workers who bought single copies of the paper during the past couple of months to become regular *Militant* readers by purchasing a subscription to the paper.

Reporting from Detroit, UAW member John Sarge writes, "The *Militant*'s coverage of the United Auto Workers (UAW) strike against Caterpillar Inc., the announced GM plant closings, and the deepening struggle against apartheid in South Africa have helped the paper's supporters step up circulation among fighters in the Detroit area."

"At a gathering of over 1,500 unionists to commemorate the 1932 Detroit Hunger March where five workers were killed by Ford Motor gun thugs and Dearborn cops, 47 *Militants* were sold. Many of these papers

Women's History Month Special

25% discount through April 5 for Pathfinder Readers Club members

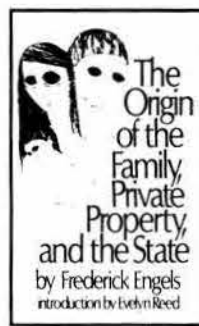


Woman's Evolution: From Matriarchal Clan to Patriarchal Family

By Evelyn Reed.
Assesses women's role in the first stages of human civilization and refutes the myth of women's naturally subordinate position in society. \$21.95 (discount price \$16.95)

The Origin of the Family, Private Property, and the State

By Frederick Engels.
Classic work traces the origin of the oppression of women. \$13.95 (discount price \$10.95)



Available from bookstores listed on page 12, or from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY, 10014. Include \$3 shipping, \$.50 each additional title. For Readers Club card send \$10 to Pathfinder at address above.

were sold to members of UAW Local 1776, which organizes the Willow Run Assembly plant, earmarked for closing by GM."

In addition, supporters in Detroit sold 12 *Militants*, 2 subscriptions and 5 copies of the book *How Far We Slaves Have Come!* at a conference on the struggle against apartheid, which heard speakers from the African National Congress and Congress of South Af-

rican Trade Unions.

Last week United Food and Commercial Workers members bought 15 *Militants* in Osceola, Iowa, at the Jimmy Dean pork sausage plant, which is slated for closing in the fall. Supporters in St. Louis sold 25 *Militants* and 2 subscriptions to United Auto Workers, and 12 papers to members of the United Mine Workers of America.

Sales to industrial unionists, Jan. 18-March 19

Union	Weekly sales goal	No. sold Militant #11*	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	11	55	12	8	25	9
IAM	60	25	42	30	21	55	28
ILGWU	14	0	0	3	4	15	4
OCAW	40	4	10	19	13	50	38
UAW	40	52	130	20	26	40	47
UFCW	40	24	60	20	16	25	16
UMWA	8	13	163	7	6	17	17
USWA	45	30	67	30	18	30	19
UTU	45	12	27	35	11	30	10
U.S. Totals	312	171	55	176	123	287	188
Canada							
ACTWU	3	0	0				
CAW	4	9	220				
IAM	5	3	60				
ILGWU	5	5	100				
USWA	4	0	0				
Canada Totals	21	17	81				

* Includes copies of *Perspectiva Mundial* and *L'Internationale* sold this week.

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

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

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Solidarity with UAW Strike at Caterpillar — Reports from Peoria, Illinois, Solidarity Rally. Sat., March 28, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$4. Tel: (213) 380-9460.

Origins of the Myth of Race. Speaker: Rodney Holt, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., April 4, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$4. Tel: (213) 380-9460.

The Fight for Abortion rights: A Report Back From the April 5 March for Women's Lives. Speaker: Pat Nixon, Socialist Workers Party; others. Sat., April 11, 7:30 p.m.; dinner at 6 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$4. Tel: (213) 380-9460.

CONNECTICUT

New Haven

The Origin of Women's Oppression and the Class-Struggle Road to Emancipation. Speaker: Andrea Morell, Socialist Workers Party. Tues., March 31, 7:30 p.m. Dwight Hall Library, Old Campus, 67 High Street.

FLORIDA

Miami

The Caterpillar Strike: First-hand Report on March 22 Solidarity Rally in Peoria, Illinois. Speaker: Roger Bland, Socialist Workers Party, member IAM. Sat. March 28, 7:30 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (305) 756-1020.

How to Fight Buchananism — The Socialist Answer in 1992. Speaker: Dan Fein, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate. Sat., April 4, 7:30 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (305) 756-1020.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

Support Caterpillar Strikers. Speakers: Miguel Zárate, Socialist Workers Party, member United Auto Workers Local 882; Ed Hill, SWP

candidate for Fulton County Commissioner, member United Food and Commercial Workers Local 442. Sat., March 28, 5 p.m., reception; 7:30 p.m., forum. 172 Trinity Ave. SW. Donation: \$3. Tel: (404) 577-4065.

ILLINOIS

Chicago

Rally to Kick Off Illinois Socialist Workers Campaign. Sat., March 28, 6 p.m. reception; 7 p.m. rally. 545 W Roosevelt Rd. Donation: \$5. Tel: (312) 829-6815 or 829-7018.

IOWA

Des Moines

Protest Cop Killing: Protest Racist Attacks! Sat., March 28, 7:30 p.m. 2105 Forest Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (515) 246-8249.

MARYLAND

Baltimore

The Origins of Women's Oppression. Speaker: Rachele Fruit, Socialist Workers Party, member Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union. March 28, 7:30 p.m. 2905 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (301) 235-0013.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

Anti-Semitism: What It Is, Where It Comes From, and How To Fight It. Speaker: Karen Ray, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., March 28, 7:30 p.m. 605 Massachusetts Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

MISSOURI

St. Louis

U.S. Prepares New Wars: Threats Against North Korea, Iraq, Libya; Japan-Bashing are Prowar Propaganda. Speaker: Jim Garrison, United Auto Workers Local 110. Sat., March 28, 7:30 p.m. 1622 S Broadway. Donation: \$3. Tel: (314) 421-3808.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

Support Caterpillar Strikers: A report back from March 22 solidarity rally in Peoria, Illinois. Sat., April 4, 7:30 p.m. 1906 South St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (215) 546-8218.

UTAH

Salt Lake City

Labor Fights Back: The Caterpillar Strike. Sat., March 28, 7:30 p.m. 147 E 900 S. Donation:

\$3. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

Auto Workers Strike at Caterpillar: The State of U.S. Labor Movement and the Fights Against Employers' Offensive. Speakers: Mark Downs, member International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union; Kevin Hirsh, member International Association of Machinists Local 2202; Mark Severs, member Socialist Workers Party and IAM Local 2202. Sat., March 28, 7:30 p.m. 1405 E Madison. Donation: \$3. Tel: (206) 323-1755.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Defend a Woman's Right to Abortion! Build the April 5 March for Women's Lives. Speakers: Paula McKenzie, president, D.C. NOW; Beth Beck, spokesperson, Outreach Committee of Washington Area Clinic Defense Task Force; Scott Marders, University of Maryland Campus Pro-Choice Advocacy; Nell Wheeler, Young Socialist Alliance. Sat., March 28, 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 28, 7:30 p.m. 242 Walnut St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (304) 296-0055.

BRITAIN

London

Ireland: British Government Should Negotiate Without Conditions. Communist League Election Candidates Call For Troops Out! Speaker: Rich Palser, Communist League election campaign. Sat., March 28, 7:30 p.m. 47 The Cut, SE 1. Donation: £2. Tel: 71-928-7993.

The General Election: Communist League Candidate Explains Challenges Facing Working People. Speaker: Brian Grogan, Communist League Candidate for Southwark and Bermondsey. Sat., April 4, 7:30 p.m. 47 The Cut, SE 1. Donation: £2. Tel: 71-928-7993.

Sheffield

Ireland: British Government Should Negotiate Without Conditions. Communist League Election Candidates Call for Troops Out! Speaker: Jonathan Silberman, cochair Sheffield Communist League election campaign. Sat., March 28, 6 p.m. 1 Gower St., Spital Hill. Donation: £1. Tel: 0742-729469.

CANADA

Montreal

Iraq-Libya-Korea: Say No to New Imperialist War Preparations. Sat., March 28, 7:30 p.m. 6566, boul. Saint-Laurent. Donation: \$4. Tel: (514) 273-2503.

Toronto

Solidarity with Nationair and Caterpillar Workers — The Stakes for All Working People. A panel discussion. Sat., March 28, 7:30 p.m. 827 Bloor St. West. Donation: \$4. Tel: (416) 533-4324.

ICELAND

Reykjavik

General Meeting of the International Forum Association for Old and New Members. Sat., April 4, 1 p.m. Klappastigur 26. 2nd floor. Tel: (91) 17513.

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland

U.S. Threatens War. Speaker: representative of Communist League. Sat., March 28, 7 p.m. La Gonda Arcade, 203 Karangahape Rd. Donation: \$3. Tel: (9) 793-075

Fighting the Employment Contracts Act. Speakers: Ray Bianchi, leader of Amalgamated Workers Union; Tony Gibson, member Engineers Union, and Communist League. Sat., April 4, 7 p.m. La Gonda Arcade, 203 Karangahape Rd., Donation: \$3. Tel: (9) 793-075.

Wellington

U.S. Threats Escalate As Washington Plans War. Sat., March 28, 7 p.m. 23 Majoribanks St., near Courtenay Pl. Donation: \$3. Tel: (4) 384-4205

South Africa: Crisis of the Apartheid Regime. Sat., April 4, 7 p.m. 23 Majoribanks St., near Courtenay Pl. Donation: \$3. Tel: (4) 384-4205.

SWEDEN

Stockholm

What Do Workers and Farmers Have in Common? Speaker: Inge Hinnemo, Communist League, metalworker at Alfa-Laval. Sat., March 28, 3 p.m. Vikingagatan 10 (T-bana St Eriksplan). Tel: (08) 31 69 33.

By Malcolm X

Malcolm X Talks to Young People	\$9.95
By Any Means Necessary	\$13.95
Malcolm X on Afro-American History	\$7.95
Malcolm X Speaks (cloth)	\$16.95
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Strike wave closes U.S. plants in Mexico

Continued from Page 10

chemicals by the maquiladora owners. Under a binational agreement, maquilas are supposed to ship their hazardous wastes back to the United States. But transport and disposal of these materials is very expensive, so most wastes are stockpiled, dumped, or buried in the border region. In 1989, the Environmental Protection Agency reported only 12 notifications of hazardous-waste shipments across the entire California and Arizona border. There were 85 in 1990.

The result of these policies is an ecological disaster. A June 1990 American Medical Association report described the region as "a virtual cesspool and breeding ground for infectious disease." Chemical wastes and raw sewage dumped into rivers and canals have caused widespread abdominal illness, hepatitis, cancer, and birth defects. In one El Paso, Texas, neighborhood, 35 percent of children 8 years old and under are infected with hepatitis A, and 85 percent to 90 percent of adults contract the disease by the age of 35.

The strikes in Matamoros received significant media coverage in Houston and other Texas cities. The potentially explosive power of the maquiladora workers clearly made members of the employing class on both sides of the border very nervous.

This coverage, in turn, sparked discussion among some workers in the refineries and other plants throughout the Houston area. These discussions came in the context of increasing calls for protectionism by top officials of the AFL-CIO. In particular, the proposed U.S.-Mexico "free trade" pact is loudly opposed by the union tops, who say it will mean more U.S. corporations relocating plants south of the border.

Echoing this view, some workers expressed the opinion that maquila workers are taking away "American" jobs. They see Mexican workers as direct competitors. A common view was that U.S. unions, especially the United Automobile Workers, should go down

to Matamoros to support the maquiladora workers. This opinion was held even among many who support the "Buy America" campaign pushed by union officials.

Aiding the maquila workers' fight to gain a living wage, it was argued, would make it more difficult for the bosses to pit U.S. and Mexican workers against each other. A victory by Mexican workers in the border areas would cut across the bosses' ability to threaten to move plants to Mexico when workers in the U.S. demand a better contract

or oppose takebacks, others said.

On February 13, the Maquiladora Association of Matamoros announced that all additional contracts between the owners and the Union of Day Laborers and Industrial Workers were settled. An agreement was reached to increase all wages by 20 percent.

Jerry Freiwirth is an oil refinery worker at Shell Oil in Houston and is a member of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union Local 4-367.

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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.

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

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

SWEDEN

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

Terrorists, right? — In Puerto Rico, the U.S. Justice Department tracked down three noncitizens who assertedly voted in recent elections. Unable to post \$50,000 bail, a woman from Colombia was incar-



Harry Ring

cerated. An Ecuadoran woman who failed to post \$200,000 bail was also put behind bars. Her husband, who also reportedly voted in 1988, fled the island.

Think you're crazy? — In Greenville, South Carolina, a letter from the county social services agency arrived at the home of a man recently deceased: "Your food stamps will be stopped effective March 1992 because we have received notice that you passed away. May God bless you. You may reapply if there is a change in your circumstances."

"Do get back to us" — A Greenville county official explained that the above letter was generated by a computer. A social worker added the "God bless you" to soften the statement. They're now developing a hand-written, more sensitive letter.

Labor in a free market — Last year, U.S. workers put in less hours, but produced more. Explains the chief economist for New York's Chemical Bank: "Layoffs have led the survivors to do a better job."

The money eases the pain — The head of General Dynamics and his top associates divvied up a \$6 million bonus after announcing plans to fire 30,000 workers. Kevin Murphy, a Harvard prof, says this is fully justified. "The hardest decisions a CEO has to make," he observes, "involve shutting plants and laying people off."

Grin and bear it — In New York, Pink Slip Productions is doing nicely with a line of humorous greet-

ing cards for that relative or friend who's been fired.

Someone's cleaning up — The feds have shelled out a quarter of a billion so far in fees to law firms helping to "clean up" the savings and loan debacle. The two senior partners in a bigtime New York firm working on this are receiving per-hour minimums of \$300 each. Their tab is now past the \$12 million mark.

Imperialism — The McShaft system — In Chicago, you have to work 18 minutes to buy a Big Mac and an order of fries. In Mexico City, it's three hours and 55 minutes. For a \$300-an-hour New York lawyer, it's about 24 seconds.

It can and does — "Can the American press stand up to General Electric, Procter & Gamble, R.J. Reynolds the same way it stands up to the government?" — Ronald Collins, author of a study which found that with the slump, advertisers are wielding major influence over the media.

No discrimination — Last week we reported the White House proposal that federal prisoners who have the money, pay the cost of their first year's room and board. We added a poorly written sentence which suggested that those who couldn't afford to pay would be kept out. Unfortunately, that's not so.

Armenia, Azerbaijan escalate territorial dispute

Continued from Page 7

and Eastern European governments in Brussels discussed the possible intervention by NATO "peacekeeping" troops in conflicts in the former Soviet Union. Some government ministers at the gathering said NATO intervention in Nagorno-Karabakh might be considered in the near future. Russian foreign minister Andrei Kosyrev said he welcomed the idea.

Media reports have described the war in Nagorno-Karabakh as simply part of an "age-old dispute between Christian Armenia and Muslim Azerbaijan," as a *New York Times* article put it.

Decades of bureaucratic rule

The real cause of the conflict, however, is not ethnic or religious differences but the decades of bureaucratic misrule and national oppression in the former Soviet Union.

The privileged bureaucrats who rule Russia, Azerbaijan, and Armenia have all put their own social position ahead of the interests of working people. The rulers in Moscow have carried out a policy of Great Russian chauvinism against both Azerbaijan and Armenia. This reactionary course began in the late 1920s when the Stalin-led bureaucracy consolidated its rule. It was a complete reversal of the perspective championed by the Bolshevik Party under Lenin's leadership, based on supporting the right to self-determination and a policy of affirmative action to develop the economies of republics like Armenia and Azerbaijan whose peoples had faced systematic national oppression under the czars.

The current regimes in Azerbaijan and Armenia are fighting to stabilize their rule and grab more resources by posing as cham-

pions of the fight for national liberation in their republics.

Mass protests began in Nagorno-Karabakh and the Armenian republic in 1988. The main demand was for the enclave to be integrated into Armenia. Demonstrators said Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh lacked Armenian-language schools, books, and television and faced other forms of cultural and economic discrimination by Azerbaijani authorities.

The Soviet government responded by putting Nagorno-Karabakh under the direct rule of Moscow. Several months later it turned the area's administration back to Azerbaijan. The Armenian republic then voted to incorporate Nagorno-Karabakh.

In 1990, when a rebellion broke out in Azerbaijan, Moscow — with Washington's blessing — sent in the army to occupy the republic. In response 1 million people dem-

onstrated in Baku to mourn those killed by Soviet troops and to demand an end to the occupation.

All along, the Communist Parties of Azerbaijan and Armenia, and the regimes that replaced them in power, claimed to defend "national" interests. The only action that the former central regime in Moscow took was to use force and intimidation against both nationalities. The people of Nagorno-Karabakh never consented to the arbitrary changes of administration imposed on them.

The disintegration of the Stalinist regime in the Soviet Union and the declaration of independence of its various republics have led to changes in the government structures but the rule of a privileged bureaucracy remains. The governing castes in Armenia and Azerbaijan have taken advantage of the weakened central apparatus in Moscow to seek greater power and wealth for themselves, while trying to keep a lid on working people's ability to freely discuss and carry out political activity.

Former Azerbaijani prime minister Muta-libov is a good example of this. When the August 1991 coup took place in Moscow his regime indicated support for it but made a quick about-face when the coup failed.

In September Muta-libov was elected unopposed as president of Azerbaijan. Rival sections of the bureaucratic caste boycotted the election, claiming it had been rigged. These forces are now using the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh as their main issue in an effort to gain power.

Laura Gray cartoons in New York library

BY ETHEL LOBMAN

NEW YORK — Some 500 political cartoons by Laura Gray are now kept in the Tamiment Labor Library here, and are available for public viewing.

Paging through the nine loose-leaf volumes that hold copies of the cartoons, which Laura Gray created for the *Militant* from 1944 until 1957, a short time before her death, one is struck by how vividly they highlight the events of those years.

Practically every cartoon has its relevance today. For example, in the August 18, 1945, *Militant* with its bold headline, "THERE IS NO PEACE!" referring to the end of World War II, Gray depicted a swollen tuxedo-clad capitalist, with the dollar sign emblazoned on his shirt, standing atop the earth holding a bulging bag marked WAR PROFITS and

contemptuously dropping ashes from his cigar on slaughtered bodies and soldiers' graves.

In the March 26, 1956, *Militant* that covered the Montgomery bus boycott, Gray shows a large figure of a young Black man lying on the ground and beginning to break the ropes that are binding him, while tiny Ku Klux Klan figures try to retie them.

Laura Gray was already a recognized artist when she began drawing cartoons for the *Militant* during World War II. Her paintings and sculpture had been exhibited in the Chicago Art Institute, in private galleries and Works Progress Administration exhibits.

The Tamiment Labor Library is part of New York University's Bobst Library on Washington Square South in New York City. Tamiment has made high-quality photocop-

ies of all the cartoons so, that the originals — which are drawn in charcoal, chalk, and ink and can therefore easily be damaged — are better protected.

Laura Gray left a legacy of political cartoons that can be studied and used by working people and fighters for a better world.

Those wanting more information or who wish to see the Laura Gray collection should phone the Tamiment Library at: (212) 998-2635.

— 25 AND 50 YEARS AGO —

THE MILITANT

Published in the Interest of the Working People
April 3, 1967 Price 10c

Supporters of Paul Montauk, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Mayor of Oakland, chalked up a victory over attempts by the city attorney to suppress Montauk's anti-war platform.

City Attorney Edward Goggin had refused to include Montauk's campaign statement in the brochure distributed by the city which is supposed to contain brief statements from all candidates.

Goggin had told Montauk over the telephone that the Vietnam war was not a local issue, and that Montauk's statement was "not in compliance with the city charter." Consequently, he said, he would suppress the statement. Goggin refused to detail his objections to Montauk's campaign statement in writing.

When Montauk went before the city council to protest, he was denied the floor and threatened with eviction if he attempted to speak.

Supporters of the socialist candidate held a picket line at City Hall to protest this undemocratic procedure. The American Civil Liberties Union intervened on behalf of Montauk. Then the city attorney informed the ACLU that with a few "minor changes," Montauk's statement would "comply" with the city charter. Actually, the city charter does not give the city attorney the right to censor the views of candidates printed in the brochure.

A new statement was drafted, essentially identical with the first, and it was approved.

THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE
NEW YORK, N.Y. FIVE (5) CENTS

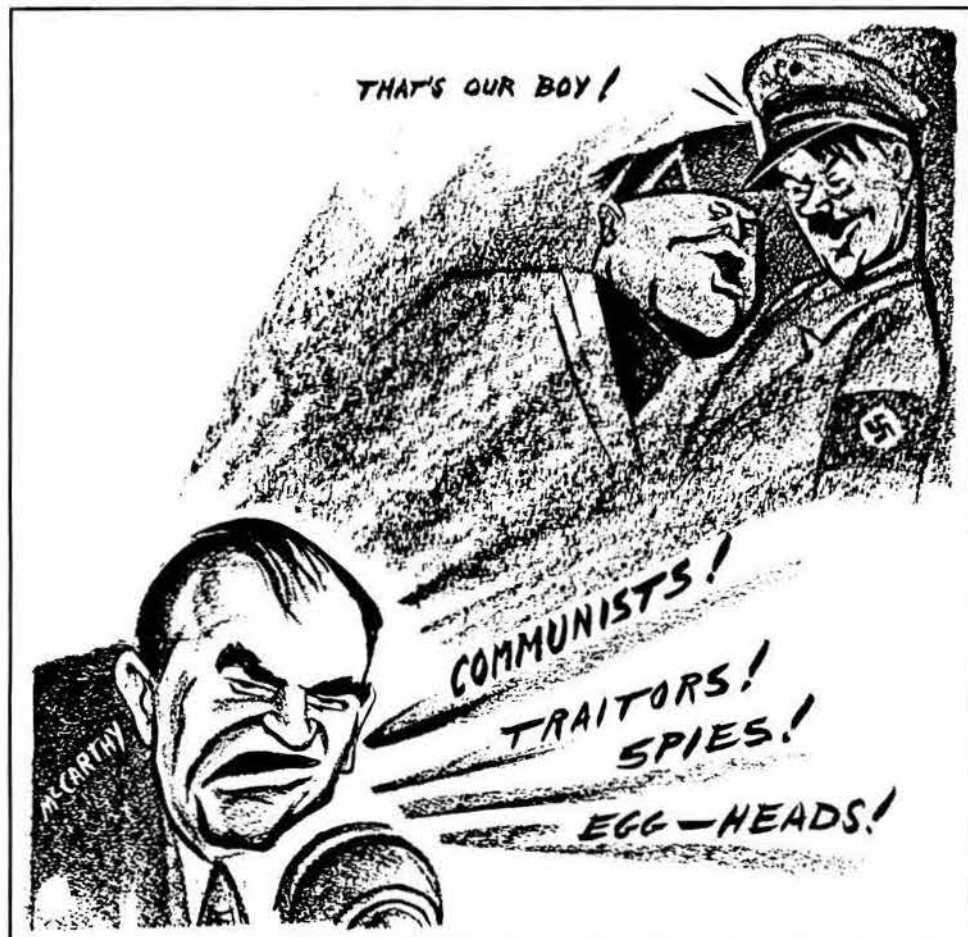
April 4, 1942

CLEVELAND — Acting in line with Harry Bridges' recent call for union leaders to "finger" union militants for the bosses, Stalinist officials of the CIO Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers on March 26 publicly endorsed a War Labor Board decision upholding the firing of four union shop stewards for allegedly "instigating a slowdown" in the Aluminum Corporation of America's plant here.

The fired union militants, by the admission of the union officials themselves, had resisted company attempts to institute a vicious speedup and pay-cutting system in their division. All four of the fired shop stewards were Negroes.

The most damning part of the Stalinist leaders' actions in this case is their own admission, put out in a statement in the name of the local union, that reprisal against the four militant job stewards "is the result of an investigation which was originally requested by the union" — that is, the Stalinist officials.

As a further move to intimidate the workers, and enforce the company's speed-up and pay-slashing drive, the Stalinist leaders have called a union meeting where they intend to engineer the expulsion of the fired shop stewards from the union.



Laura Gray cartoon in Dec. 7, 1953, issue of the 'Militant' depicts witch-hunting efforts of Sen. Joseph McCarthy.

Major advance in South Africa

The outcome of the referendum in South Africa, with more than two-thirds of the whites voting for the negotiations to end minority rule, was an affirmation of the course the African National Congress (ANC) has led in the fight to dismantle apartheid.

When asked if 20 years earlier he would have thought the day would come when whites in South Africa would vote overwhelmingly to dismantle apartheid, ANC president Nelson Mandela replied: "We have never doubted that such a moment would arrive. Otherwise, we would not have opted for a policy of nonracialism where South Africans stop thinking in terms of the color of a person."

A rapid move toward a new government is now on the agenda. The ANC is pressing for an interim government to replace the current regime as a result of the next round of negotiations in April. This would set the stage for elections to a constituent assembly, in the first elections involving all South Africans.

The ANC has, for decades, been leading a struggle to break the oppressive grip of apartheid and the devastation it has meant to millions of working people in the country. It has sought to unite all those who reject the premise of apartheid and draw them into the fight for a democratic South Africa.

It has rejected the attempt of the capitalist rulers to divide and isolate working people on the basis of race, which was

the foundation of apartheid rule. The ANC has reached out to all interested in fighting for justice in South Africa with the perspective of a nonracial, nonsexist society.

Since it was unbanned in 1990, the ANC has addressed itself to the widest possible number of people to win them to its perspective. It has mobilized the population to fight against apartheid and to pressure the government, which defends that system.

The negotiations between the government, the ANC, and other political parties on the creation of a new constitution are a result of this fight. The vehicle for these discussions, the Convention for a Democratic South Africa, is the key stepping stone in the fight to break racial oppression in South Africa.

South African president F.W. de Klerk called for the referendum in response to pressure by right-wing whites seeking to defend the system of racial privileges. But the result of the vote was an overwhelming rejection of their backward, reactionary views.

The ANC, while stating that no vote could unravel the fight to change the social order, campaigned for a "yes" vote among whites. They hailed the outcome of the vote as an expression by many whites in favor of the principle of one person, one vote. The fight to destroy apartheid and the victory this will represent for workers around the world has taken a major step forward.

Israel, Jew-hate, and U.S. policy

In a news analysis of the deteriorating relations between Washington and Tel Aviv, the *New York Times* notes that neither President George Bush nor Secretary of State James Baker "came into office with a deep emotional commitment to the relationship with Israel."

But this alone does not explain the rift that has opened up in ruling circles over Washington's policy toward Israel.

Why does Baker make disparaging remarks about Jews now? And what has led to a situation where right-wing commentator William Safire feels the need to publicly criticize White House policy on the Mideast for being "pro-Arab?" and confirms that Baker indeed said, "F... the Jews, they didn't vote for us?"

Far from being a matter of emotions, the bitter split among the ruling class's right wing is based on cold-blooded, calculated but diverging assessments of how best to defend their interests.

White House policy reflects the changes that have occurred in the Middle East over the last 25 years. In the past, the bourgeois regimes in countries like Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia were too unstable and unreliable from the standpoint of imperialism.

But, with the consolidation of the capitalist class in those countries, the situation began to change. The process was helped along by Israel's success in inflicting military defeats on Arab regimes in wars in 1967 and 1973. The Saudi, Egyptian, and Syrian rulers sought to cut a deal with imperialism. The fortress state of Israel became less and less vital for the defense of Washington's interests.

This divergence between the United States and Israel accelerated with the war against Iraq. Washington succeeded in putting together an anti-Iraq coalition with the Arab regimes and shunting Israel to the side.

Bush and Baker also seek to gain stability for U.S. interests in the region by attempting to find some way to end the Palestinian rebellion known as the *intifada*. They hope that by forcing Tel Aviv to grant concessions, they can derail the Palestinian struggle.

But this is too much for Safire and others in Washington who take Israel's side. They worry that if the United States continues to move away from its "special" relationship with Israel, this will encourage Palestinians to press for further demands, rather than bringing stability.

Bush and Baker are not about to pull the rug out from under Israel by cutting off all military and economic aid, anti-Semitic comments aside. Far from it. But they want a chastened Israel — one that will do what Washington demands.

Workers who support the Palestinian struggle for justice should be dead opposed to the anti-Semitic remarks of Baker.

Palestinian fighters also have nothing to gain from Baker's remarks. Instead they will find important allies among Israel's workers and farmers of Jewish origin, who more and more find themselves forced to struggle as the Zionist regime tries to push down their standard of living and drags them into further wars against the Palestinian and Arab peoples.

For a world without borders

As economic conditions continue to deteriorate in the United States and the major industrialized countries of Europe and the Pacific, rightist forces have targeted immigrant workers as the source of the problem. Their racist and, at times, violent campaign against immigrants has gained momentum.

According to conservative columnist Samuel Francis, "The main motivation of Third World immigrants is to gain access to the material miracles of capitalism." In reality, the "miracles of capitalism" have produced the poverty and wars that fuel immigration. In many Third World countries a large percentage of workers subsist only on a few hundred dollars a year. Workers in Latin America, Africa, and Asia also face governments that carry out repression so as to keep their countries safe for capitalist investment.

U.S. immigration officials admit that the 1.13 million undocumented workers they arrested last year represent only a portion of the immigrants who make it into the United States.

Patrick Buchanan's campaign for president of the United States is the most prominent of the various rightist moves being made today, with its chauvinist appeal for "America first." But Buchanan's anti-immigrant demagoguery is merely an extension of the present and longstanding hostile policies of the government toward immigrant workers. Earlier this year the Bush administration put Buchanan's immigration views into practice when it ordered the detention of fleeing Haitians on the open sea and then sent them back to their repressive and poverty-stricken country.

What immigrant workers face in the United States and other imperialist countries is not high-paying jobs and unlimited welfare benefits as many capitalist politicians would have us believe. Immigrants end up in the worst jobs, with the worst pay, and the worst safety conditions. For example, a recently published study of on-the-job injuries in 1985-86

by the New Jersey Department of Health found that Hispanic workers, many of whom were immigrants, suffered finger amputations at a rate almost six times higher than white workers. The fatality rate for Hispanic construction workers was three times as much as for white workers.

Employers use the illegal status of many immigrants to keep them in permanent fear of being turned into the government and deported. This threat makes it possible for the bosses to impose the superexploitative conditions through which they profit so handsomely. These conditions in turn drive down the wages and working conditions of all workers.

The depression that has begun in the United States is a product of the long-term economic trends in the capitalist system. In spite of a possible upturn in the business cycle, conditions will continue to get rougher for working people. The big capitalist corporations will continue to go after our living standard to try to turn around their falling profit rates.

The scapegoating of immigrant workers shines the spotlight away from the profit system and the economic crisis for which this system is responsible. It divides workers against each other and weakens our ability to fight back. The only way we can put up serious resistance to the bosses' attempts to make us pay for their crisis is to unite, not only in this country but across borders.

Workers, in truth, have no country. Increasingly working people are being forced to sell their labor power in countries far from where they were born. Capitalism has driven the working class to migrate by the millions — more than at any time in history.

Working people have a stake in promoting a world without borders so that immigrant workers are not turned into greater victims and scapegoats of the capitalist system, and so that working people the world over can unite to change this system once and for all.

'Militant' launches subscription campaign

Continued from front page

particularly interested about the fighting perspectives this campaign provides today. At protest actions against cop violence and in defense of women's rights, among striking workers, at plant gates, on college campuses, and at mines and mills, those looking to discuss and act in politics will want to get 12 weeks of the *Militant*.

The candidates provide answers to the ultrarightist, incipient fascist solutions being put forward in capitalist politics today by Patrick Buchanan, David Duke, the anti-abortion outfit Operation Rescue, and the White Student Union at the University of Minnesota, as well as the right-wing campaign against imprisoned unionist and political activist Mark Curtis.

April 5 demonstration

The circulation drive will be launched in the United States in a big way in Washington, D.C., April 5 at the national demonstration to defend a woman's right to choose abortion.

Many of the tens of thousands of young fighters who will be attending this action will be interested in reading the *Militant's* perspective on how to defend abortion rights and the broader working class fight against capitalist exploitation and oppression. Well-organized subscription tables at this event and sales on the buses going to and from the action can help win many new subscribers.

The *Militant* will continue to carry articles by worker correspondents on developments in the labor movement such as the important strike by United Auto Workers members against Caterpillar. Covering the fight against cop brutality from Los Angeles to Newark will remain an important feature of the paper.

Supporters in nine other countries are also gearing up for the drive. These include: Australia, Belgium, Britain, Canada, France, Iceland, New Zealand, Mexico, and Sweden. A scoreboard listing the goals adopted by *Militant* supporters in cities throughout the United States and internationally will appear in next week's issue.

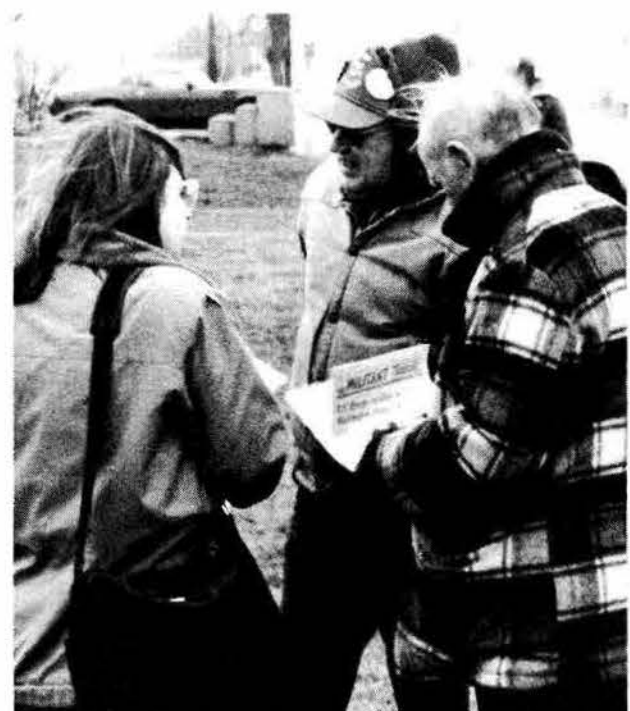
Communist workers in industrial unions in the United States and other countries are adopting goals for distribution of the socialist press to coworkers.

A big part of the drive will be well-organized sales and campaign activities on Saturdays, when *Militant* supporters can spend four to five hours at literature tables set up on busy street corners, and going door-to-door in working class neighborhoods.

Special regional trips to cities and rural areas where the *Militant* is not regularly sold can help introduce the newspaper to workers, farmers, and students in many new places. Maintaining a regular presence on college campuses and reaching out to high school students will be another important aspect of this drive.

Supporters can build on their experiences over the past several months — from selling to members of the United Auto Workers union on strike against Caterpillar, to on-the-job sales to unionists. In New York and elsewhere salespeople report an upturn in interest in the *Militant* as well as in books and pamphlets published by Pathfinder. Consistent attention in that city has meant weekly sales of 150 papers. A similar effort in Atlanta has resulted in at least 50 people purchasing the *Militant* each week.

We urge all our readers to participate in this circulation campaign. Also, if you haven't done so already, you can sign up for the *Militant's* special introductory subscription offer of 12 weeks for \$10. (See coupon on page 5). You can also order bundles of the paper for \$1.05 a copy, and take a subscription goal for the drive. To order papers write to the *Militant* at 410 West Street, New York, NY 10014.



Militant/Paul Mailhot

Spring sales campaign will build on success of selling 'Militant' to Caterpillar strikers and other unionists.

Jury acquits activists in toxic waste protest

BY JOANNE KUNIAWSKY
AND KATE DAHER

EAST LIVERPOOL, Ohio — Twenty-nine protesters were acquitted of criminal trespass charges here February 14, after a four-day trial. They were charged last October for climbing over the fence of a toxic waste incinerator under construction by Waste Technologies Industries (WTI).

The arrest took place as close to one thousand marched to the incinerator site, which has been the target of many protests during the decade-long fight to stop WTI.

The incinerator, scheduled to begin operations this spring, will handle about 60,000 tons of toxic waste a year. The site is 1,100 feet from an elementary school in a poor, residential neighborhood of East Liverpool.

The Environmental Protection Agency issued permits for the plant in 1984. Since then, building so close to a school has been outlawed.

Defense witness Dr. Herbert Needleman, a psychiatry and pediatrics professor at the University of Pittsburgh, said that lead levels in the air believed to be safe in 1984 have since been determined unsafe. Toxic waste incineration does not destroy heavy metals like lead and arsenic, which are released into the air and in the ash. Another concern of opponents is the creation of new toxins when waste is mixed together and burned at high temperatures.

Each day of the trial the observation room was filled with opponents of WTI wearing buttons and T-shirts.

Over 300 braved bitterly cold weather to rally in downtown East Liverpool on the opening day of the trial. Jim Kester, a member of United Auto Workers Local 1714, introduced union local president David Kimmel, who told the crowd "You're going to win this fight." Other speakers included three of the defendants: Dr. Paul Connett, a chemist from upstate New York; actor Martin Sheen; and Terri Swearingen, a longtime community leader of the fight against WTI.

According to the East Liverpool *Evening Review*, WTI plant manager Samuel Kasley said the rally was "not significant to us." He said, "It's just actors and rabble rousers from out of town that have stirred things up."

In fact, opposition to WTI is strongly based

in East Liverpool and surrounding communities in Ohio, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania. Many families attended the rally. There were steelworkers from Weirton, West Virginia, autoworkers from Lordstown, Ohio, and chemical plant workers from Monaca, Pennsylvania. Students from Pittsburgh and a carload from Bloomington, Indiana, were there.

Judge Melissa Byers-Emmerling's decision to allow a necessity plea by the defense was an important victory. This meant the

defendants could argue that their actions were necessary to stop WTI. Beth Newman representing Greenpeace's Midwest Toxic Campaigns explained that this put "WTI on trial as much as the defendants who were standing up for their beliefs."

Defense lawyers argued that the "hazardous, dangerous, illegal, and even life threatening activity to which the company plans to engage, necessitated the actions of the defendants to go on the property and stop the construction."

Dr. Paul Connett said that their protest action was not reckless but carefully premeditated. He said that "the government has been reckless — reckless as far as the human beings who live in this community."

The jury returned with the not-guilty verdict after one hour and fifty minutes of deliberation.

Joanne Kuniansky and Kate Daher are members of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 8-74 in Pittsburgh.

Anti-Duke pickets discuss politics with workers attending rightist rally

BY BILL LAMBERT
AND RANDY WARREN

LEAGUE CITY, Texas — Young Socialist Alliance members and other *Militant* supporters joined in a picket line outside a rally for ultrarightist presidential candidate David Duke here February 27. They also joined in discussions with the mainly young working-class crowd attracted to the rally. Twenty people bought copies of the *Militant*, most of them people waiting to get into the rally or leaving it.

Some 700 people filled the Civic Center auditorium in this town near Houston to hear Duke.

Several working people came to join the picket line because they saw on TV that Duke would be speaking. "I'm against David Duke and everything he stands for," said one such woman, an oil company employee. Her husband, a refinery worker and member of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union, explained he was equally opposed to Duke, but didn't feel comfortable joining the protest. The woman bought a copy of the *Militant* and a pamphlet on the Mark Curtis case.

Many of the 30 who picketed were members of the gay rights group Queer Nation. Some pickets shouted slogans like "poor white trash, poor Nazi trash," at rally-goers. Others took a different approach, chanting "we need solutions, not scapegoats."

YSA members joined in the picket with their own signs, with slogans like: "Defend

Reproductive Freedom," and "Defend Immigrant Rights." Inside the rally, Duke hit on "illegal" immigration. "If not stopped, Mexico will reclaim Texas, costing jobs, causing crime, and more welfare," he said. "It's about time we fight to preserve the integrity of the Texas-Mexico border."

Militant supporters sought to engage rally-goers in discussion.

"I'm not against anybody's race, but I want to go to college and I don't have any money," said a high school student who went to the rally. "They have these funds for Blacks but not for me. That's not fair."

In the rally, Duke attacked affirmative action programs, saying: "If it was wrong to discriminate against Blacks, it's wrong to discriminate against whites."

The *Militant* salesperson pointed out that the government is cutting access to education for all working people, and that Duke is seeking to pit victims of these cuts against each other. The student and a friend pooled their funds to buy a *Militant*, which explained that fighting to defend affirmative action can help unify the working class to meet these attacks.

Another group of four young men dressed like "skinheads" faced jeers of "Nazi" from some pickets as they walked toward the rally. While waiting in line to get in, one of them approached a *Militant* salesperson. When told it was "a working-class, socialist newspaper," the four of them put together their money to buy a copy.

A woman, seeing the YSA's sign "No to Dukeism, Defend Affirmative Action," said, "I really agree with you. My husband is making me come to this, but I'm going to express my opinion." She was carrying a hand-lettered sign that said "Hatred never benefited any human being." Her husband explained, "I just want to hear his stump speech. I went to hear Jesse Jackson."

Some of those who attended Duke's rally were members of right-wing groups. But the big majority of people who *Militant* supporters spoke with attended the rally to see what Duke had to say. Many agreed with at least part of what they heard, but were open to discussion. "I agree with Duke on welfare," said one, "but I'd like to read your newspaper, too."

In the rally, Duke's call for drug testing for welfare recipients was met by prolonged applause. "We have not encouraged welfare recipients to produce anything except for children," he said.

"I can't stand it," said another woman leaving the rally. "I came because I don't trust what the media says" about Duke, she explained. "But I can't take any more of this. Do you have any anti-Duke literature?" she asked the salesperson, who sold her a copy of the *Militant*.

Randy Warren is a member of International Association of Machinists Local 517 in Sugarland, Texas.

LETTERS

Prison conditions

I haven't received any of your papers in a couple of years now, and I would like to. I have been transferred to a maximum security prison.

This prison is a new prison, and the guards are not used to dark skinned people, so when it first opened, they beat all people of color viciously. The beatings have slowed down now, because of hundreds of lawsuits being filed, but the guards still look at people of color as if they came from another planet.

The other day they had a shake-down and took all of the shampoo from us. They claim a prisoner threw some shampoo in a guard's face, so because of that no one can have shampoo.

So now we are not allowed skin lotion, shampoo or hair grease. We are not allowed the items we need in order to take care of our personal hygiene.

There's no TV or radio either. In this prison for any small argument or disturbance they will send in a squad of goons called the moving team, all dressed in black, with shields, helmets, and clubs and mace. Their job is to beat you senseless. They use this moving team a lot.

A prisoner
Min-eral Point, Missouri

A beautiful gesture

I wish to express my sincere appreciation for the *Militant*, and my prisoner subscription... it is a beautiful gesture.

Reading has always been my salvation, my medium in this one-sided scheme of things.

Well, I won't hold you longer. In closing I would like to quote our suppressed comrade, George L. Jackson:

"There will be a special page in the Book of Life for the men who have crawled back from the grave. This page will tell of utter defeat, ruin, passivity, and subjection in one breath, and in the next, overwhelming victory and fulfillment. So, take care of yourself, and hold on."

A prisoner
Burkeville, Virginia

Enjoys 'Militant'

I enjoy reading my subscription to the *Militant* with its coverage of around the world news. I hope that you will continue to focus on current events in Cuba and South Africa today. Those two countries are going through some difficult times, due to outside factors, but the path of these struggles will offer examples for socialism the world over to follow. Keep up the pressure on oppression.

A prisoner
Woodbourn, New York

Algeria crackdown

I've been following the government crackdown in Algeria — in the papers — there have been a few items in the *Militant's* world affairs column. How about a more substantial piece?

The conflict puts a lot of secular Algerians in a difficult spot — between opposition to the govern-

ment's ban on elections — and the very real prospect of an Islamic fundamentalist Party winning if elections were held. The latest news is that the government has instituted a ban on the Islamic Front and has begun attacking the mosques.

C. M.
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Klan protest

I would like to comment on the Martin Luther King rally in Denver and on other local Klan activities.

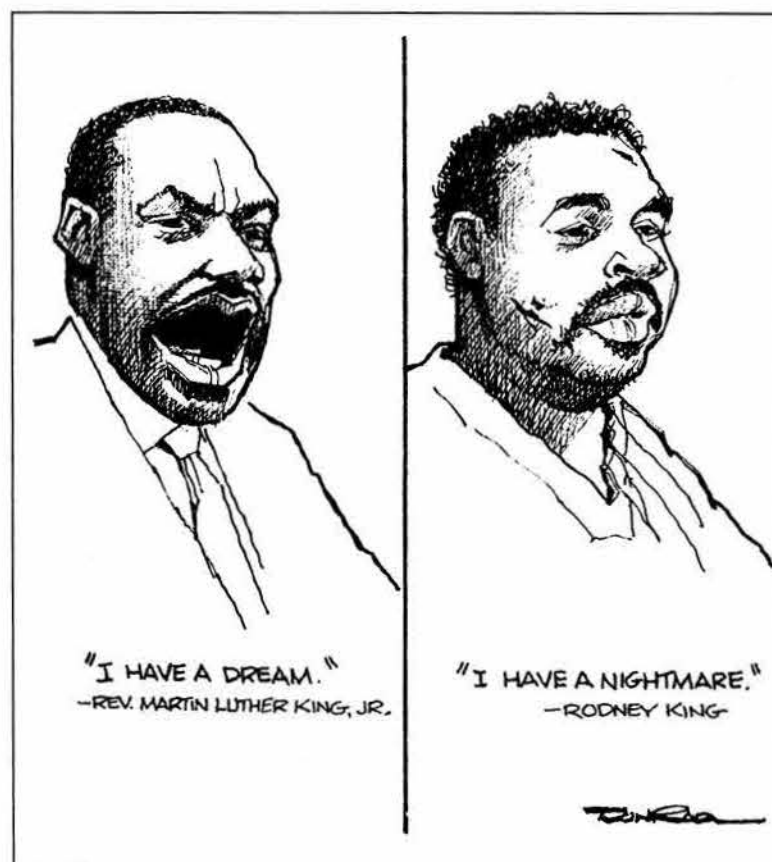
While 20,000 to 27,000 people rallied to celebrate Dr. King in January, KKK and other far-right group members held their own public meeting two blocks away across a park.

Governor Romer had attempted to block the KKK meeting for that particular time and place, but was overruled by a federal judge with the local Klan leader, Shawn Slater, represented by the ACLU.

There was massive publicity over these legalities. Fighting broke out as cops tried to get Klan members away via sheriff's buses. Cops went from mace to tear gas and clubs to dispersing people back upon the crowd. Some in the crowd attacked police cars, and started fighting among themselves.

Two Fort Lewis College groups, the Black Student Organization and the United Coalition Against Prejudice, plan to boycott classes and sponsor a "unity fest" respectively when Slater is at the college.

The political science club had asked Slater to speak at a racial



awareness forum. The college president ruled against Slater's appearance on grounds that security would be too costly. The ACLU and the club filed a civil rights complaint saying the college denied club members their constitutional free speech rights. An agreement was reached with the club paying security.

Ft. Lewis College has a high percentage of Native American and Chicano students.

The local Klan is trying a new twist — acting and speaking re-

spectably. Slater often manages to come across as the nice guy next door with a reasonable message.

Mary Walter
Denver, Colorado

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.

White House blocks loan guarantees as U.S. rulers debate policy on Israel

BY SETH GALINSKY

A bitter debate has broken out in ruling class circles over White House policy toward Israel. The immediate cause of the dispute, which has been raging in the pages of the *New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal* and in Washington corridors is the refusal of the Bush administration to grant \$10 billion of loan guarantees to the Israeli government without conditions.

Unwilling to agree to restrictions on its settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, Israel has for all practical purposes dropped its request for the U.S. loan guarantees.

An attempt by members of Congress to reach a compromise between the White House and Tel Aviv broke down March 16 when the Bush administration rejected the proposal because it released some of the funding guarantees without a freeze on settlements. Israeli defense minister Moshe Arens said his government would rather abandon the loan guarantees than "renounce the right of Jews to live in Judea and Samaria," referring to the occupied territories.

The Israeli government's intransigence on the settlements has also provoked a rift among leaders of Pro-Israel groups in the United States, many of whom have openly criticized the government of premier Yitzhak Shamir.

Tel Aviv has been trying for a year to obtain the loan guarantees, which it claims are necessary to house thousands of Russian Jewish immigrants.

The *Wall Street Journal* in a March 6 editorial said: "The substance of U.S. policy is astonishing. The Bush administration is trying to topple the only democratic government in the Mideast."

"If Israel were to halt settlements, it would be conceding the principle that Jews have no right to live in, say, Hebron, the town where Judaism was born," the *Journal* continued.

"The White House seems to be veering to the view that in the post-Cold War world Israel has diminished strategic importance, and the Arab regimes have increased importance."

In a move to further pressure Israel, sources within the Bush administration leaked reports to both the *Washington Times* and the *Wall Street Journal* about the illegal Israeli export of U.S. weapons to China and South Africa.

According to the *New York Times*, the disclosures are related to "a private guerrilla war that is under way in the Administration between pro-Israel and anti-Israel bureaucrats."

Although Israel's role in arming the apartheid regime in South Africa, among others, has been public knowledge for years, Washington had previously turned a blind eye to the violations. This time there are plans to release a report by the U.S. State Department's Inspector General's office, proving the accusations.

The leaks themselves have provoked some heated exchanges showing that the roots of the debate go much deeper, to Israel's declining deteriorating relationship with Washington — which accelerated with the U.S.-led war against Iraq — while U.S. imperialism strengthens its alignment with the Egyptian, Saudi, and Syrian regimes.

The debate also shows the depth of the divisions among right-wing supporters of the Bush administration.

Right-wing columnists Rowland Evans and Robert Novak released a column March 16 charging that Israel had sold to China missiles incorporating U.S. technology. The two used the article and the reported sales to take a swipe at Tel Aviv for its role in "trying to push the United States into sending arms to Iran early in the Reagan administration. That caper brought on the Iran-Contra scandal."

According to Evans and Novak, Israel is working with China in a search for new allies out of fear that "any early return to the old intimacy" with Washington is out.

Israel supporters clearly upset

Clearly upset at the turn of events, supporters of the Israeli regime have launched charges of anti-Semitism against the Bush administration. On March 6, former New York mayor Edward Koch claimed that Secretary of State James Baker had used obscenities when talking about the loan guarantees. Baker's alleged statement, "F... the Jews. They didn't vote for us," was printed in full in English in banner headlines in *Haaretz*, a leading Israeli daily.

Well-known right-wing columnist William Safire attacked the White House, and confirmed the charges of anti-Semitism.

"Though constrained by the rules of deep background, I can confirm that Mr. Baker did say that, with the same vulgarities that made it so memorable to two high officials on two different occasions. President Bush and his top staff know he did," wrote Safire.

According to Safire, the leaks are the work of the "pro-Arab" officials who "embarrassed at having supported Iraq before Kuwait, and irritated at criticism of the intelligence blunder that ended the war prematurely, [are] out to seize control of mid-level policy planning." He charged that Bush has "a lifelong pro-Arab tilt."

A few days later in a column in the *Times*, liberal columnist A.M. Rosenthal added his view that the leaks along with the Evans-

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Palestinians in occupied Gaza Strip resist house-to-house search by Israeli troops. Continuing intifada has helped prompt debate in U.S. ruling class and rifts among U.S. Zionist organizations on stance toward Israel.

Buchanan's chauvinist views on immigrants find echo among other capitalist politicians

BY PAUL MAILHOT

Republican presidential candidate Patrick Buchanan's campaign has set the tone for openly racist public attacks on immigration by conservative forces in the past few months.

Buchanan's views have shifted the discussion on immigration far to the right, in a close parallel with the campaigns of fascist-type politicians in France and elsewhere in Europe who campaign on anti-immigrant resentment. Immigrant workers are being made a convenient scapegoat for the increasingly difficult conditions the economic crisis is imposing on working people.

Buchanan charges that immigration is changing fundamentally what kind of country the United States is. "Since 1965, a flood tide of immigration has rolled in from the Third World, legal and illegal. . . . If present trends hold," he warns, "white Americans will be a minority by 2050."

"People have a right to decide on immigration, when and where folks come from," he added, explaining that it would be preferable to assimilate a million Englishman than a million Zulus.

Buchanan's views defended

These views have received support from other conservative figures. In February William F. Buckley, a well-known conservative columnist, headlined an article "Buchanan's point was a reasonable one." In it he takes issue with the "bum rap Buchanan is taking on the matter of the Zulus and the Brits."

"The British speak English, they come from a country that is governed by the mother of parliaments, they are by and large Christians, or at least exposed to Christian culture, and they are white-skinned," Buckley asserts, adding, "The Zulus speak no English, know nothing of democracy, and are black-skinned."

He concludes his article by joking, if the Zulus "heard a speech by Tom Harkin, they might decide to eat him."

Leaving aside the fact that Zulus are not cannibals and many do speak English, the message of such racist articles is that "real Americans" are white and English speaking. This is who the ultraright defines as "the people" — those whom the government should serve first and foremost.

Just as with Buchanan's racist appeals, Buckley's outrageous defense of Buchanan received no round of denunciation from the other major party contenders.

Others who echo Buchanan's demagoguery also discuss immigrants in less than human terms. Syndicated columnist Samuel Francis, writing earlier this year, provides a good example of this. "Illegal immigrants from Third World cultures are moving across the U.S. border in human herds that defy enumeration," he writes. "Not since Genghis Khan rode out of the Asian steppes has the West — Europe as well as the United States — encountered such an alien invasion."

Francis decries the "high birthrate that immigrants from underdeveloped countries bring with them," and is pushing for laws that would deny automatic U.S. citizenship to the children of legal resident mothers. He claims that the United States is in danger of being "overwhelmed and destroyed by the flood" because "the government — at state, local, and federal levels — isn't working to keep illegal immigrants out."

While the major candidates for the Democratic and Republican nominations don't go to the extremes of Buchanan and other figures who echo his scapegoating, immigrant workers won't be greeted with a welcome mat from either Bush, Clinton, or Brown.

The major industrialized countries are all experiencing massive immigration. Legal im-

migration to the United States is expected to be nearly 1 million people this year. The government makes huge efforts to keep out immigrants from the Third World. For example, border guards apprehended 1.13 million people trying to get in the country last year.

Swedish workers protest government layoffs and cutbacks

BY BIRGITTA ISACSSON

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Four thousand people demonstrated in Uppsala, just north of here, to protest the city council's austerity plans.

The Uppsala city council plans to fire 1,500 public employees, mainly teachers, day-care workers, and those caring for elderly people. About 15,000 people hold such jobs in Uppsala, a city of 150,000.

"For teachers this means that if you have worked less than 15 years you can be fired," said a teacher at Ferlinschool, one of the schools to be closed.

The demonstration was called by the municipal workers' unions and a new organization called The Future of Uppsala, consisting mostly of parents of schoolchildren.

After the demonstration 150 people crowded the regular session of the city council to make their voices heard.

City governments throughout Sweden have proposed austerity measures, which threaten to eliminate the jobs of 40,000 public employees within three years. Libraries, schools, and public swimming pools will be closed down in 1993. That year, city governments will get 7 billion kronors less from the state budget (6 kronors = one U.S. dollar).