

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Capitalists face
new world disorder

— PAGE 14

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Indict the guilty cops now!

Widespread anger at Los Angeles verdict

"I think it was an outrage. What the cops are doing is inciting a riot. In your wildest dreams, you never would have thought they would come back with this verdict." — Irene Shandell, government worker from Compton, California

"It is obvious these policemen brutally beat this man and there is no reason to brutally beat a citizen anywhere. That jury was plain racist." — Connie DeLeon, hairdresser from central Los Angeles

"We have to respond, show them our anger. Something must happen. We can't let them treat us like this, like trash. The Rodney King verdict shows the decline of their system." — Héctor Paz, warehouse worker at Ralphs Grocery Co. in Los Angeles, member of Teamsters Local 630

"The police have been the long arm of the wealthy. But I was still shocked at the verdict even though I saw how they prepared for it." — Thurman Tillman, aerospace worker at McDonnell-Douglas in Long Beach, California, member of United Auto Workers Local 148

"Rodney King's beating just happened to be caught on videotape. The cops do this all the time. I'm really angry at the National Guard and the police. It's bullshit



Some 4,500 army troops and 8,000 National Guardsmen were sent to Los Angeles

that their job is 'to protect and serve' us. The government has to bring charges against these four cops." — Ann-Marie Chang, student at Fairfax High School in Los Angeles

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

LOS ANGELES — An explosion of anger by working people ripped through this city and across the country in the aftermath of the acquittal of the four cops who beat Rodney King, a construction worker who is Black.

Spontaneous protests broke out in South Central Los Angeles immediately after the

verdict was announced April 29. Working people and youth poured into the streets, holding impromptu rallies and marches condemning the verdict.

As word of the verdict spread around the country demonstrations took place in Atlanta, San Francisco, Las Vegas, New York, and a dozen other cities. Students at North Carolina Central University marched in Durham to protest the trial outcome. Hundreds of high school students walked out of their classes in Brooklyn, New York, April 30. At a May Day march of 10,000 in Berlin, Germany, youth iden-

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Socialists demand that U.S. charge cops who beat King

BY GREG McCARTAN

LOS ANGELES — "We call on President George Bush and the Democratic-controlled Congress to immediately take the necessary action to indict the cops who beat Rodney King on federal civil rights charges," Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. president James Warren said at a press conference here April 30.

Warren was beginning a campaign tour stop here when the "not guilty" verdict was announced April 29 by the jury in the case of the four officers who beat King. Socialist vice-presidential candidate Estelle DeBates was campaigning in San Francisco at the time.

EDITORIAL:
Free 10,000 jailed in California!
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The candidates and their supporters attended meetings, joined in protests, and spoke to students on college campuses and workers at plant gates over the following days, raising the demand for federal indictments and answering the reactionary proposals put forward by their opponents in the Democratic and Republican parties.

On May 3, 120 people gathered for a
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Plan to rebuild Pathfinder Bookstore wins backing of workers and youth

BY CRAIG HONTIS

LOS ANGELES — The Pathfinder Bookstore Rebuilding Fund received a big boost at a rally here May 3, when working people in the neighborhood, bookstore sup-

porters, and frequenters of the Militant Labor Forum contributed more than \$5,000 toward the tens of thousands of dollars needed to reestablish the store.

The rally was part of a rapid effort by

volunteers to not miss a beat in making Pathfinder books containing the speeches and writings of revolutionary and communist leaders of the working class available to young people and workers. The event demonstrated how many in the city appreciate the political role of the bookstore, which also featured a wide selection of political books in Spanish.

The bookstore was burned to the ground April 30 during the antipolice riot following the verdict in the trial of the cops who beat Rodney King.

Witnesses at the scene said the fire started at a looted shoe store next door to the Pathfinder Bookstore, then spread to surrounding shops. A firewall prevented the entire row of stores from being burned down. Three doors down, a storefront located at 2552-B W. Pico Blvd, vacated by former tenants earlier in the week, escaped the fire. Supporters of Pathfinder quickly set up shop in the premises and hope to make it the bookstore's new home.

Virtually nothing remains of the old bookstore. An estimated \$18,000 worth of books went up in flames, as well as office equipment, mailing lists, and displays.

The Pathfinder Bookstore is also the home of the Militant Labor Forum, a free-speech forum where working people gather on Saturday evenings to discuss the big

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New site of Los Angeles Pathfinder Bookstore. Store at previous location burned to the ground during antipolice riot following acquittal of cops who beat Rodney King.

Antiabortion groups suffer defeat in Buffalo

BY JOE YOUNG

BUFFALO, New York — Abortion clinic defenders here in Buffalo have dealt a resounding defeat to Operation Rescue's "Spring of Life" national campaign to close the city's four abortion clinics. During 15 days pro-choice activists from many cities in the United States and Canada stood shoulder-to-shoulder to ensure that women wanting to use the clinics could get in and out safely. The clinic defense was organized by Buffalo United for Choice, a broad coalition of groups.

The second week of clinic defense opened Sunday, April 26, with an antiabortion rally of 950 addressed by Randall Terry, Operation Rescue's central leader. He exhorted his troops to redouble their efforts after a week of failing to close the abortion clinics.

Monday was relatively calm with no arrests. However on Tuesday Operation Rescue struck the Erie Medical Clinic on High Street before 5:30 a.m., catching clinic de-

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New government takes power in Afghanistan amidst fighting

Sigbatullah Mojadedi, head of a coalition of Islamic guerilla groups, arrived in Afghanistan's capital Kabul April 28 and assumed the country's presidency from the previous government, which formally surrendered. Mojadedi, a religious leader of the Islamic sect Pirs, had been elected head of a 50-member ruling council set up by the coalition of mujahedeen guerilla groups that overthrew the former regime of Sayid Mohammed Najibullah.

Rockets fired by forces loyal to Gulbuddin Hekmatyar hit the center of Kabul as Mojadedi took power. Hekmatyar's Hezb-i-Islami, or Islamic Party, was the only guerilla group to oppose Mojadedi's election to head the new regime. Troops loyal to the new government appeared to have driven Hekmatyar's army to the outskirts of the capital by April 28.

Strike disrupts Colombia's telecommunications

Some international communications were restored April 28 in Colombia after long distance telephone and other services were completely cut off for six days as a result of a strike by telephone workers. Telecommunications workers and the government failed to resolve the issues in the strike that has caused disruption in activities from banking to aviation. The union opposes the government plan to privatize Telecom, the state-owned communications company with 14,000 workers.

Spain faces strikes over unemployment benefits

The General Workers' Union (UGT) of Spain announced April 25 it will call for a half-day work stoppage in May and a general strike later this year to protest government cuts in unemployment benefits. The UGT set a meeting with leaders of the Workers' Commissions, the other major union federation led by the Communist Party, to coordinate further mobilizations. Both unions have promised a series of strikes in different sectors of the economy if the government does not withdraw its decree to cut unemployment payments.

Cuban government demands U.S. hand over terrorists

The Cuban government has asked the United Nations Security Council to demand that Washington hand over two Cuban terrorists Havana charges were be-

hind the 1976 bombing of a Cubana Airlines jetliner over Barbados. The two, Orlando Bosch and Luis Posada Carilles, were arrested in Venezuela and charged with having masterminded the bombing which killed 73 people. Posada escaped from a Venezuela jail. While his whereabouts are not known, Cuba charges he is under U.S. protection.



Guerrillas heading for Kabul. After downfall of the Najibullah government, fighting continued between rival Islamic guerrilla groups in Afghanistan.

Bosch was held for 11 years by Venezuelan authorities but was acquitted of the charges. He had been convicted in 1968 of a bazooka attack on a Polish freighter in Miami and served four years in an Atlanta prison. He then violated parole by leaving the U.S. without permission. He now lives in Miami.

S. Africa Conservative Party split over negotiations

South Africa's right-wing Conservative Party (CP) expelled April 27 Koos van der Merwe, the leader of a faction that advocates that the party join the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (Codesa). He was the second CP member of parliament to be dismissed since the party's resounding defeat in a March whites-only referendum on negotiating the abolition of apartheid. At least a dozen CP members are believed to support Van der Merwe's position. Codesa includes the African National Congress, the ruling National Party, and most of the country's political parties.

Gov't officials, oil company face charges in Mexico blast

Mexico's attorney general said nine local government and state oil company officials, along with two others, will face charges for the April 22 blast in Guadalajara that killed 189 people, half of them children, and injured 1,470. Thirty people remain missing.

Gasoline leaking from an oil pipeline into the city sewer system got mixed with other chemicals dumped in the sewer causing a series of explosions that destroyed or damaged 1,422 homes, 450 businesses, and 600 vehicles. Local government officials refused to evacuate the area after residents complained of gas fumes hours before the blast. The mayor took a temporary leave following the disaster.

Tel Aviv opposes U.S. plan for Mideast regional talks

Israeli foreign minister David Levy told U.S. secretary of state James Baker April 28 that Israel would not participate in regional talks on refugee matters and economic development in the Middle East if Washington continued to insist that Palestinian refugees from outside the West Bank and Gaza be able to attend.

The U.S. and Russian governments issued the invitations to the May regional talks April 27. The regional talks supplant peace negotiations between Israel, the Palestinians, and delegations from Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and Egypt, the third round of which is unfolding now in Washington, D.C. The Palestinians boycotted the first round of peace talks in Moscow after their delegation was not accredited.

Japan's industrial output continues to fall

Japan's drop in industrial output is likely to continue through May, despite signs that inventories are declining, the government said. The data for the quarter and the fiscal year that ended March 31 are the worst since World War II. In March, adjusted production

fell a preliminary 2.8 percent from February and unadjusted output fell 5.3 percent, providing further evidence that economic activity in Japan is slowing sharply.

Signs of weak recovery in U.S. economy

The gross domestic product in the United States, the total output of goods and services, grew by 2 percent in the first quarter of 1992. It was the fourth straight quarterly gain. This was mainly the result of a 5.3 percent increase in consumer spending between January and March. At the same time sales of new houses plunged by nearly 15 percent in March, the biggest drop in 10 years.

New factory orders registered slight gains in February for the second consecutive month. U.S. auto makers are planning an 11 percent increase in production the second quarter of this year compared to the same period in 1991. "Do we have a recovery? Yes. Could it fizzle? Yes," Richard Syron, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, told the *Wall Street Journal*.

Clinton: There might be more executions if elected president

William Clinton, the Democratic Party front-runner for the nomination for U.S. president, said at the end of March that there could well be more executions of prisoners on death row if he wins the election. He is for cutting the length of appeals of inmates on death row. The Arkansas governor returned to his state early in the campaign to be present for the controversial execution of Rickey Ray Rector January 24.

Rector, 40, was convicted of killing a police officer in 1981 and shortly afterward shot himself in the head. The attempted suicide left Rector brain dead. "There was no basis for my granting clemency," Clinton said.

Civil liberties group wants to limit ban on sexist pinups

Lois Robinson and other women welders at Jacksonville Shipyards in Florida filed a suit against the shipyard in 1986 after becoming fed up with a workplace filled with pornographic pinups and sexually demeaning cartoons and graffiti. Last year a federal judge ruled that the shipyard had violated the 1964 Civil Rights Act. As a remedy, the judge banned sexist remarks, pinups, and magazines, including in the men's locker room.

The ruling, hailed by women's rights advocates, spurred other similar suits. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) has appealed the case, arguing for limiting the ruling. In a friend-of-the-court brief the ACLU argues that the appeals court should only uphold the ban on posters and remarks that are directed at a particular woman who finds them offensive. In the interests of free speech, sexist jokes aimed at no one in particular, and pinups in hallways, should be allowed, the ACLU says.

— ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

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Korea's fight for independence and unity

Socialist candidate for U.S. vice-president visits Korean War museum

BY ESTELLE DeBATES

PYONGYANG, North Korea — "Korea is one" is a popular slogan here in North Korea. The struggle for the reunification of the Korean nation is a theme in all of the activities being held here during the national holiday commemorating the 80th birthday of President Kim Il Sung. The peninsula has been divided into North Korea and South Korea since 1945, in the aftermath of World War II. Support for reunification is also overwhelming among people in the south.

The Korean people have a long history in their fight for national sovereignty. The Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum here is a massive building containing exhibits of 20th century Korean history.

The museum houses historical exhibits from the anti-Japanese struggle and the Korean war waged by Washington and its allies from 1950 to 1953. One could spend days viewing the documents, photographs, and special exhibits here, which tell the story of how the nation was divided.

A large part of the museum is dedicated to the fight against Japanese rule. At the turn of the century, Korea became increasingly under Japanese domination. In 1910 it was formally annexed by Japan. Koreans were denied freedom of assembly, association, press, and speech.

Koreans were dispossessed of their land and natural resources. Stolen land was sold cheaply to Japanese landlords. Private Korean schools were closed, and the Japanese set up schools for the purpose of assimilating a few Koreans, with a heavy emphasis on the Japanese language. The Korean language and history were excluded from the curriculum.

Anticolonial struggle

During the period of colonial rule by Japan, a significant independence movement emerged. A turning point in the resistance movement came March 1, 1919, when 2 million Koreans participated in peaceful demonstrations. The Japanese responded with military repression, in which some 47,000 Koreans were arrested and nearly 23,000 killed or wounded. The Koreans answered with many other mass protests. An armed guerrilla struggle based in the area along the Korean-Chinese border was organized.

The defeat of Japan in World War II, along with the protracted struggle against the Japanese forces, ended the 36-year-old colonial rule of Korea. The announcement of Japan's defeat on Aug. 15, 1945, sparked a giant social upheaval throughout the Korean peninsula. "People's committees," which united forces that had been active in the anticolonial fight, sprung up around the country and assumed control in many areas. They were set up at province, city, country, and village levels. A wave of union organizing began. Organizations of peasants, youth, and women were formed.

On Sept. 6, 1945, the Korean People's Republic was founded in Seoul with close ties to the people's committees and other mass organizations. The new government's platform called for radical land reform; nationalization of factories, railways, and mines; suffrage for all Koreans — men and women — over age 18; an eight-hour work day; freedom of speech, assembly, and religion; and compulsory elementary-level education for all Koreans.

The radical, pro-working-class agenda advanced in Korea prompted a swift response from Washington. The United States and the Soviet Union mutually agreed to take over after Japan's surrender in Korea. The U.S. military moved up to just south of the 38th parallel. The Soviet forces occupied the peninsula north of the line. Soviet troops moved in to northern Korea on August 9, six days before the Japanese surrender.

U.S. military forces arrived in Seoul on Sept. 8, 1945, only two days after the new Korean republic had been established. Over the next year, the U.S. authorities organized to crush the people's committees and other mass organizations.

Washington replaced the new republic with a puppet regime, subservient to U.S. interests, one maintaining the dominance to the landlords in the countryside and the capitalist ownership of industry. The Ko-



UN troops burn homes of civilians suspected of aiding guerrillas in Korea, 1952.

reans resisted, launching a major rebellion in the autumn of 1946, which included massive strikes by workers and widespread peasant protests. This revolt was put down by troops and right-wing thugs organized by the puppet government. However, a guerrilla movement again developed. Between 1945 and 1950, no less than 100,000 Koreans who participated in strikes, peasant protests, and armed resistance were killed in the south.

In the north, however, the Soviet troops did not interfere with the people's committees that became the foundation of the new government. By the end of 1946 the mines and other industries were nationalized. Radical land reform was carried out, breaking the domination of the landlords in the countryside.

By the time Soviet troops pulled out in late 1948, and U.S. troops in June 1949, the division of the country was becoming institutionalized. The two governments were based on two conflicting social systems with different class interests and property relations. A U.S. military advisory group remained to supervise the forces of the regime in the south.

Only one year after the U.S. troops were

removed, a U.S.-organized invasion of Korea was launched June 25, 1950, in response to what U.S. president Truman called a "communist invasion of the south." As in the Persian Gulf war last year, Washington conducted the assault under the cover of the United Nations flag. Another 15 imperialist countries participated alongside U.S. troops.

The Korean troops from the north met the imperialist invaders with a determination to liberate the country. They swept through the south in a move that was accompanied by popular uprisings. The people's committees were reestablished in many areas, and land reform and nationalization of industry took place in the liberated zones. Over the next few months, Korean troops controlled more than two-thirds of the peninsula, with the U.S. troops and its Korean puppet forces in retreat.

In early August U.S. forces launched a massive counterattack, driving the North Korean troops back to the 38th parallel by the end of September. On September 30, U.S. and allied forces drove into the north with the aim of smashing the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and putting the whole peninsula under imperialist rule.

The imperialist allies used napalm and var-

ious chemical weapons on the population, and launched a massive bombing campaign that reduced the cities and factories of the north to rubble. In the area of the capital, Pyongyang, more than two bombs were dropped for every person living in the city.

As the imperialist forces advanced toward the Chinese border, hundreds of thousands of Chinese volunteers joined the North Korean forces. A section of the museum is dedicated to these fighters from China, who helped push the U.S.-led forces back south of the 38th parallel.

The war ended in June 1953, in a stalemate, leaving the nation divided. In 1950, Korea had a population of 30 million. Some 4 million were killed during the three-year war, including 2 million North Korean and 1 million South Korean civilians, and 500,000 North Korean soldiers. The brutal war also claimed the lives of 900,000 Chinese volunteers. Of the 5.7 million U.S. soldiers engaged in the war, 54,000 died.

Today, 40,000 U.S. troops are deployed in the south with 1,000 nuclear weapons pointed toward North Korea.

The museum here is a testimony to the brutality of imperialism and to the strong desire of the Korean people to control their own nation and future, and their willingness to tenaciously fight for this right.



Militant/Dennis Chambers

Estelle DeBates, socialist candidate.

French judges refuse to indict war criminal, reinforce rightist politics

BY DEREK JEFFERS

A three-judge panel has refused, after a three-year investigation, to indict Paul Touvier, the fascist militia commander from Lyons during World War II, for crimes against humanity.

The April 13 decision was widely seen as reinforcing the conciliatory attitude toward war crimes and anti-Semitism put forward by the National Front, an ultrarightist party which obtained 14 percent of the vote in the March regional elections. National Front boss Jean-Marie Le Pen has notably declared the gassing of millions of Jews to be merely "a detail of the history of the Second World War."

Accused of a large number of murders carried out as a militia chief under the Vichy regime, Touvier has admitted ordering the execution of seven Jewish hostages on June 29, 1944, in the town of Rilleux-le-Pape. According to the judges, however, this was not a "crime against humanity," which French jurisprudence has defined as a crime committed in the framework of "a deliberate plan, carried out by a state systematically practicing a policy of ideological hegemony," that is, totalitarianism.

The government based in Vichy ruled the southern part of France from 1940-44, collaborating with Nazi Germany, whose armies occupied northern France.

Under its homey motto of "work, family, fatherland," the Vichy regime ruthlessly crushed any independent organization by workers, farmers, or even capitalist opponents. Alongside its eager participation in the genocide of Jews, it arrested, tortured, and murdered thousands of working class

activists, some of them guilty merely of distributing leaflets.

Altogether, 75,000 Jews, including 11,000 children, were sent to the Nazi death camps from France under the Vichy regime. Only 2,500 survived.

Writing that the Vichy state was "in no way" totalitarian, the judges describe the "ideology" of Vichy as being, "strictly speaking, a combination of 'good feelings' and political opposition rather than a rigorously constructed system of ideas."

"One can note in it nostalgia from tradition and for the old rural and craftsmen's world, an attachment to Christianity, a disposition to humility in the face of the difficulties of the time, and absolute hostility toward all the political figures held responsible for the defeat [in the war]."

The judges also write that "none of the speeches of [Vichy chief of state] Marshal Pétain contains anti-Semitic statements." This is despite the fact that Pétain himself signed the anti-Jewish laws.

Touvier, today 77, was sentenced to death in his absence by French courts in 1946 and 1947. But he was protected by powerful figures in the Catholic church, who hid him for 45 years, until well after the 20-year statute of limitations on the execution of these sentences ran out. "Crimes against humanity," however, carry no such time limits. In 1971 French President Georges Pompidou signed a secret decree allowing Touvier to return to France and recover his property. He was finally arrested in a monastery in 1989.

The Paris daily *Le Monde* wrote that the judges' decision "obviously plays into the

hands of the National Front, which was the first in France — through the declarations of its president on this or that 'detail' of World War II or its choice of regional election candidates compromised in the collaboration [with the Nazis] — to undertake making the Vichy regime look harmless or even rehabilitate it. Whatever the personal opinion of the three judges, their statement contributes to remaking history according to the views of the National Front."

According to the same newspaper, this particular judicial panel is "one of the most highly reputed of Paris, and is often assigned to sensitive affairs."

In the increasingly anti-immigrant and chauvinistic atmosphere created by the policies of all major parties today in France, the Vichy regime suddenly appears legitimate in the eyes of three respectable judges. The debate is therefore not about the past but where capitalist politics is headed.

The day after the decision against indicting Touvier was made public, World War II resistance fighters and death camp veterans demonstrated in front of the former Gestapo headquarters where Touvier had tortured many of his victims in Lyons. According to a poll taken for a Parisian paper, 73 percent of French citizens said they were "shocked and outraged" by the decision. Only a National Front spokesperson was quoted as approving it.

Under the French legal system the public prosecutor is appealing the panel's decision. However, a trial of Touvier, if it ever takes place, will probably not be held for several years.

Widespread anger at Los Angeles verdict

Continued from front page

tified with the protests in Los Angeles.

The small protests in Los Angeles were soon overshadowed by an antipolice riot, with looting and stores being set on fire. California Gov. Peter Wilson deployed the National Guard at the request of Los Angeles mayor Tom Bradley. As of May 2, close to 8,000 members of the National Guard were deployed along with 5,000 police officers.

"Anybody out there who believes they can take advantage of this situation to create havoc for the law-abiding people of this community, we want to put you on notice we are going to be out there to arrest you," said Bradley at an April 30 press conference. A dusk-to-dawn curfew was imposed.

The arrest tally hit 10,164 with the population of Los Angeles county jails swelling to a record of more than 25,000 by May 4. The overwhelming majority were arrested after the first day and a half of protests. Only 500 had been arrested by Thursday evening, April 30. The state supreme court extended the 48-hour deadline for filing formal charges against arrestees to 96 hours. The district attorney's office announced that it would file the harshest charges legally possible against those detained.

The death toll stood at 51 by May 4. While several died from random shooting during the riots, 11 were killed by the police, including a teenager who was shot for having a toy gun as he lay on the ground.

President George Bush ordered 4,500 army troops into Los Angeles. He also sent 1,000 riot-trained federal cops to the city, including 200 members of the U.S. marshall's special operations group that had been used during the 1990 U.S. invasion of Panama.

"We simply cannot condone violence as a way of changing the system," Bush said in a May 1 speech during a \$1,000-a-plate fund raising dinner in Ohio. "I call on every American to show restraint and to respect people's rights and property." By Sunday evening May 3 nearly 8,500 Marines, Army, and National Guard troops were stationed inside the riot areas.

Though Bradley announced May 3 that the curfew would be lifted the next day, he said there were no plans to withdraw the troops. "If they are needed for weeks," the mayor said, "they are committed to be here for weeks."

Increasingly, people who took to the streets were portrayed as vandals. "The verdict in the King case is not an excuse," said William Clinton, Democratic Party front-runner for the nomination for U.S. president.

"The abandonment of the poor in our cities cannot be avenged" by "savage behavior" and "lawless vandals," he said in a speech in Birmingham, Alabama.

Police riot

Thousands of young people, overwhelmingly Black and Latino, poured into the streets in spontaneous outbursts of anger as soon as the verdict was announced. In the absence of any organized political mobilizations, some initial looting, breaking of glass windows, and torching of stores began to spread.

The frustration of many youth and other workers at the lack of any organized mobilizations against the verdict was evident at a meeting at the First AME Church the night the verdict was announced. An overflow crowd of 3,000 people packed the church and the surrounding area. The church is located in the heart of the Black community in South Los Angeles. "I implore every resident of Los Angeles: Do not lose heart," said Mayor Bradley, addressing the meeting. "I understand full well that we must give voice to our great frustration. But we must do so in ways that bring honor to ourselves and our community." Many people booed and some even heckled the mayor's speech.

Speakers at the meeting included AME Church pastor Chip Murray, NAACP leader Joe DeSosa, Democratic state senator Diane Watson, and numerous other local politicians. Watson proposed a four-point program to protest the verdict.

"We need to get out the vote for Proposition F," she said, referring to the proposition on the ballot in a June referendum. It embodies a series of reforms proposed by the Christopher Commission — measures they claim will curb the independent power of the LAPD and give City Hall a greater voice in its policies.

The Christopher Commission, which includes business figures, corporate lawyers, and educators, was created after the King beating to study the functioning of the LAPD.

Other proposals made by Watson included a voter registration drive. The meeting called a demonstration for Saturday May 2 in downtown Los Angeles. Nothing was done to build the demonstration. About 70 youth who showed up for it were surrounded by the police and arrested when they refused to obey an order to immediately disperse.

"This verdict was set up to happen. And there was no plan to respond," said Brenda Grant, an airline worker at United Airlines who attended the AME Church meeting. "We should have gotten out there and demonstrated and demanded the cops be con-



More than 10,000 have been arrested in Los Angeles. State supreme court is allowing cops to keep people in jail for four days without charges.

victed one way or another."

Random beatings and killings began to take place. One, captured on TV, was the attack on a white worker. Reginald Denny, a truck driver, was dragged from his truck and severely beaten. He was saved by four workers who were Black who chased the gang members away from the scene. They then drove his 18-wheel truck through the pandemonium to a hospital. The rescuers were two men and two women: a young nutrition consultant, a laid-off data control worker, an unemployed aerospace worker, and an unidentified young man. The police did not respond to pleas by reporters on the scene to come to his rescue.

As of May 2 fires had destroyed or damaged an estimated 5,000 buildings, including 1,600 stores, many of them supermarkets in the predominantly Black and Latino south central section of the city. Millions of working people have been put through enormous hardship as a result of the destruction and the repressive measures by government authorities.

Hundreds of supermarkets and drug stores were burned or heavily damaged. Telephone service was interrupted. "There is no place to shop, no phone, no place to get medicine," said Evelyn Jones, a resident of south Los Angeles.

The bus company interrupted service for several days in the south central section of the city. Postal service was shut down.

While many expressed regret and frustration at the results of the riot, others said they were not surprised by the explosion.

"This is not surprising," said Smiley, a porter at Ralph's warehouse. "The Rodney King verdict was just a spark. This has been

building up for a long time. The government and the police just use their power to control us by their brutality and troops. Racism and economic depression is so deep that something has to be done. The four cops that beat Rodney have to be locked up."

Koreatown was one of the sections of the city heavily damaged during the disturbances. There are some 300,000 to 400,000 Korean immigrants living in the Los Angeles area, many of them small shopkeepers. Hundreds of stores were burned or looted in Koreatown. "The police just stood by and let it happen," said Ellen Jin, a Korean high school student, expressing the sentiment of many in the neighborhood. Gun battles unfolded as store owners organized squads with shotguns and rifles in an attempt to prevent attacks on their stores. "It's just like war," Richard Rhee, a supermarket owner told the *Los Angeles Times*. "I'll shoot and worry about the law later."

Some who participated in the attacks on the Korean-owned stores yelled about the killing last year of Latasha Harlins, a Black teenager, by a Korean store owner. Soon Ja Du shot Harlins in the back of the head after accusing her of trying to steal a bottle of orange juice. Last fall, a jury convicted Du of voluntary manslaughter. On March 16, Superior Court judge Joyce Karlin gave Du a 10-year suspended prison sentence and ordered her to pay a \$500 fine and do some community service.

"While the politicians try to scapegoat us, there is racism against Blacks in the Korean community," said Haekyung Chung, a hospital worker, who is Korean, referring to the shooting of Harlins. "I hope this might spark a discussion on how to fight against it."

Los Angeles County sheriff Sherman Block called May 3 for federal prosecution under civil rights laws of those who he said targeted Korean businesses and beat truck driver Reginald Denny. Block said these acts "clearly constitute attacks on people and property simply because of their race." Charles Parsons, special agent in charge of the Los Angeles FBI office, has opened an investigation in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Justice of "various incidents" that occurred during the riots, including the beating of Denny and the arsons of Korean stores.

More than 30,000 people, overwhelmingly Korean, marched May 2 through the neighborhood. The demonstration, built mainly through announcements by Radio Korea, focused on demands to "rebuild Koreatown." Many signs echoed demands by the South Korean government that Washington provide reparations for those whose businesses or homes were destroyed. "Justice for King" signs dotted the crowd. "It was not fair setting the fires. It was not our fault. Our parents worked hard to build these stores," said Jimmy Choi, a student at Palisades High School. "I am here because of what they did to Rodney King," said Annalisa Chang, another high school student. "The government has to bring charges against those four cops."

"No way those officers can be let free," said Lauren Davis, a worker from north Hollywood who is Black. She said she joined the march "because we need unity."

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Socialist candidate demands U.S. indict cops

Continued from front page

campaign rally in Los Angeles to hear Warren and the socialist candidates for U.S. Congress and Senate and to have a discussion on how best to press the fight for federal indictments.

"The acquittal of four Los Angeles police officers guilty of the barbaric beating of Rodney King should be condemned by youth, working people, and all defenders of democratic rights the world over. Our opponents urge 'calm' in face of this outrage," Warren said. "They will continue to point to cases like that of Rodney King as isolated incidents that should be treated as the exception rather than the rule. The truth, as millions of working people from Ireland to South Africa to New Zealand and elsewhere know, is just the opposite."

Warren, DeBates, and Joel Britton, candidate for U.S. Senate in California, issued a statement immediately following the verdict. It was reproduced in the thousands by supporters who received it by fax across the United States, and in Canada, Iceland, Sweden, Britain, New Zealand, Australia, and elsewhere.

"This verdict," the statement reads, "is one more indication of the increasingly reactionary policies carried out by the wealthy rulers of the United States and the two parties that serve them — the Democrats and Republicans. It is a piece of what the two

parties of war, racism, and economic depression have to offer youth and working people the world over."

The night of the verdict, Warren and a team of campaign supporters attended a meeting of 3,000 in South Central Los Angeles at the First AME Church, one of the prominent Black churches in the city.

The statement was snapped up by hundreds of participants and many expressed agreement with the campaign's demands. Warren spoke at California State University, Los Angeles, the next day and led a lively discussion with students on the events leading up to the verdict and the reaction among working people. Three participants expressed interest in the campaign and one signed up as an endorser.

Following the meeting, SWP congressional candidate Thabo Ntweng spoke to more than 200 students at an "open mike" event, receiving applause when he pointed out that Washington's war in Iraq a year ago was no different from Gates and his henchmen's conduct in Los Angeles.

Warren also spoke with workers at a shift change at the McDonnell Douglas aircraft-manufacturing plant near Los Angeles. Many welcomed the opportunity to discuss the verdict in the cops' trial, a response Warren found at each campaign event.

That same day, April 30, the campaign headquarters, located on the premises of

the Pathfinder Bookstore, burned down after a fire in an adjacent shoe store that was looted and torched spread down the block.

Supporters of the bookstore and the socialist campaign fanned out in the area to search for a new location. By evening they had secured a storefront three doors down from the original building.

On Saturday, supporters campaigned from a table in front of the new facility as others cleaned and fixed it up for the May 3 public campaign meeting.

Campaigners also fanned out around Los Angeles to build the Sunday meeting. Warren and a team of supporters went to the First AME Church where several hundred people showed up expecting a demonstration. Instead, they were put to work sorting and loading clothes and food for those who were hard hit by the anti-police riot. Warren and his supporters joined in the effort and passed out the campaign statement.

On Sunday, chants of "Indict the cops!" resounded as the rally began in the new campaign headquarters. Working people, students, and others who had heard about the campaign attended the event as National Guard troops patrolled outside. "Join us this week campaigning throughout the city," Britton encouraged the audience. "Join the socialist alternative in 1992."

Beating violated 'the most elementary rights of Rodney King,' says socialist

The following is a talk given in Los Angeles by Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president James Warren at a campaign rally of 120 people May 3. Warren participated in public meetings and rallies, and held discussions with working people and youth across the city in the week following the "not guilty" verdict that was issued for the four cops who were tried for the beating of Rodney King last year.

In the *Los Angeles Times* today there is an item called "The Toll." It says that "as of 9:00 p.m. Saturday, authorities reported the following tallies: deaths, 45; injuries, 2,116, including 211 critical; fires, 5,534 responses; arrests, 7,495; National Guard troops deployment, 7,742; California Highway Patrol deployment, 750; federal agencies deployment, 1,545, including 250 FBI agents; firefighter deployment, 3,350; estimate of damages, \$550 million, 5,000 buildings damaged." Four thousand five hundred federal troops are also on standby, awaiting deployment orders.

What the government has done in response to the outrage expressed when the cops who beat Rodney King walked free is consistent with everything they have done in response to the growing world social and economic crisis. The verdict, the massive deployment of cops and troops, and the rounding up of thousands of Black and

“**When the verdict was announced people expressed outrage in the framework of having no leadership . . .**”

Latino youths is one piece of the increasingly reactionary policies of the Democratic and Republican parties.

What the four major candidates for president have said and done since this crisis began illustrates this point.

George Bush said he is going to think over the next period about the possibility of maybe — following a thorough investigation — indicting the four cops under federal civil rights laws.

Bill Clinton, who completely sidesteps the issue of bringing indictments on federal civil rights charges, said: "People are looting because they are not part of the system at all anymore. They do not share our values, and their children are growing up in a culture alien from ours, without family, without neighborhood, without church, without support."

Brown: 'Stop the breeding grounds'

On a Cable News Network television show two of the other candidates, Patrick Buchanan and Edmund Brown, had a debate

Widespread anger at Los Angeles verdict

Continued from Page 4

Koreans are not the problem. We have to keep our fire on the government." Diane Taylor, a Latina teacher, said, "I felt depressed after the verdict. But I now feel much better after I joined the march because I was involved. It gives us a chance to discuss how we can put these cops where they belong, in jail."

Not everyone felt the same way. "You Koreans just come out because you lost some property, you don't give a damn about Rodney King or anybody Black," yelled a bystander.

No further mobilizations to protest the verdict have been called.

As the riots spread in Los Angeles, President Bush hinted at the possibility of civil rights charges being filed against the four cops that were acquitted for beating King. Few politicians or figures in the Black community are calling for immediate indictments on civil rights charges.

on the verdict, hosted by Jesse Jackson. Brown said, "Without justice there is no peace." Concentrating solely on those who have been part of the looting, Brown said they "have been living in subhuman, degrading conditions." He said the way to "cure that is upstream" by "stopping the breeding grounds." That is his way of talking about poor people.

Brown contrasted the lack of government response to the deteriorating conditions of life for whole sections of the Black population to the billions Washington devoted in their war against the Iraqi people. But the problem with the war, he said, was the money spent, not the hundreds of millions of working people whose lives were devastated by that crime against humanity.

Patrick Buchanan did on this issue what he does on every issue: he takes what the other candidates are saying and says it consistently, without apology, and to the end: "The looting of a great American city" was caused by "an outbreak of anarchy by hoodlums and thugs."

This is part of their debate about whether or not to make a little bit more money available to programs benefiting working people in this country or whether or not the problem is the character of the people involved in these actions. Buchanan unabashedly says in response: the federal budget "is already \$1.5 trillion, but the problem is the character" of the people involved. "Superior force should have been used from the beginning," he said.

The central political question in this fight has to do with something else, and that is: the four officers responsible for beating Rodney King were acquitted. They should have been indicted on federal charges an hour after the verdict.

Indict cops now

Our campaign says: Indict the barbaric cops now. There is no reason for an "investigation" as proposed by President Bush. There is no reason for a delay. Young people, working people, and everyone outraged by the verdict should have no illusions whatsoever — the bringing of these charges is not automatic. The minute after Bush raised the federal indictments he began to retreat from them.

Rather than handing down indictments, the government sends in massive armed force, declares a curfew, and arrests thousands. These moves — the "superior force" — will only result in the victimization, murder, and brutalization of thousands more working people.

What is the rage expressed and where does it come from? Do we really believe what they say? Government officials and my opponents are trying to say that people who are poor, who have been excluded from productive society for decades, who face a crisis in housing, education, and health care, and who are living in depression conditions, can all of a sudden wake up one day and decide to carry out the acts such as the looting and burning of buildings that have been carried out the last four days.

Never mind the thousands who have joined — or sought to join — peaceful protests here in Los Angeles and across the country. The big-business media, the city government, and my opponents concentrate on the looting and the buildings set aflame as if that was the totality of the response here and around the world. It was not.

But the question still is: Are we the type of subhumans that Patrick Buchanan says?

Depression-like conditions

It is true that we live in depression-like conditions in cities throughout this country and the world. That does not lead us to make the decision to go out in the streets, set fires by the thousands, and to the degree possible face off the police and military authorities in the process.

What is the reason people are in the streets? The reason is the decision handed down by the jury against the four cops. Being poor, being hungry, even living with the effects of a depression doesn't lead people to go out in the streets as we have seen the past several days. It has to do with a total complete injustice in the Rodney King case. It has to do with that.

Why did it occur this way? We have to look at a different place for this. The very people — both those I have quoted and top officials of major Black and trade union organizations — who are "explaining" what led to these explosions here are in fact responsible for what happened over the past four days. They have organized to prevent working people from expressing their opinion about and taking political action around this case from the day Rodney King was beaten.

Because the major organizations that speak in the name of the oppressed in this country refused to organize any sustained action to press forward the fight against police brutality, they blocked off the possi-



Militant/Argiris Malapanis
James Warren (right), socialist presidential candidate, campaigning outside new Pathfinder Bookstore in Los Angeles after anti-police riot. Socialist election campaign is joining and encouraging mass public protests against verdict in Rodney King case.

bility of Blacks, Latinos, and others to take this issue into the trade unions, and the membership of the unions from having any impact on this decision.

The trade unions are both the largest and the most integrated organizations in this city. But the cowardly officials of the unions showed no interest in bringing the unions into this fight. Thus there was no political response organized by the "official" leadership — the middle-class Black or trade union officials.

No leadership

Working people in this city organized demonstrations to force police chief Gates out of office. But because there was no leadership they could neither be sustained nor draw larger numbers into them. Working people and young people wanted to oppose the cops when they proposed changing the site of the trial. Workers on the job, students, and people on the streets have expressed their opinion about this case — which was not the case prosecuted by the state.

The state conducted this trial to lose it. They tried this case on the basis of police procedure alone, which began with the assumption that it is OK for the cops to beat you, it's just a question of how much they do it and how they do it. We reject this concept completely.

They tried to say that this is not a political case, that it is not a racial case. We agree. It was the case of four racist cops beating yet another working person, a Black worker. Because this is a daily occurrence, one suffered by working people around the world, it did become a political fight with explosive consequences.

Working people, around the world, Black and white, see this case as a violation of the most elementary democratic and human rights of Rodney King. When we watched the video, that was our reaction. We didn't try to figure out whether Rodney King moved too much when he was being beaten.

We watched the refusal of police chief Daryl Gates to resign and the political, ultra-rightist demonstrations he and his supporters organized in his defense. We watched the conduct of the trial and we watched the

prosecutors snatch defeat out of the jaws of victory. The response to the verdict was not a surprise. The middle-class politicians and labor fakers blocked us from having an impact for more than a year. They praised the prosecutor for "objectivity."

Year of frustration

You can see what happens to people who are forced to sit through a process like this, who are made to feel as if we have no ability to affect the outcome of events. This was a year of frustration — without being able to express our political opinion through constructive political protest.

When the verdict was announced, tens of thousands simply expressed their outrage in

any form they could in the framework of having no leadership — not only for the past year but for the whole past period of time.

The most extreme form of this — shown repeatedly on television over the past several days in the burning buildings and looting — was what Malcolm X called an anti-police riot. It was a response to the actions of the police themselves. We think there are political ways to respond, ways that help advance a broader struggle. But we don't hold those participating responsible for what happened. That rests squarely with the government and their apologists.

What is needed most is political action and discussion in response to this decision. Our campaign — not just here in California, but in New Zealand and Australia where I just toured and elsewhere around the world — is doing just that.

We are joining and encouraging protests, picket lines, and other actions against this decision and the crackdown in relation to it. Only when broader numbers of working people and youth chart such a course can those marginalized by the workings of the capitalist system be drawn into effective political action that can place a working-class stamp on the outcome of such fights.

The conditions that led to situations such as those here in Los Angeles are conditions that working people face throughout the world. I know this first-hand from my recent trip. My running mate, Estelle DeBates, and I just returned from campaign trips to North Korea, Japan, New Zealand, and Australia. Estelle is in San Francisco right now, speaking at college campuses, at protest meetings, and to working people at plant gates and elsewhere.

Capitalist economic crisis

In New Zealand, Japan, and Australia, both of us faced the same questions: is the real problem a bad police chief, a cowardly middle-class leadership, a pro-company trade union officialdom? No. These are simply manifestations of the capitalist economic crisis and the more and more reactionary policies of the parties of big business.

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Jury takes only one day to exonerate cops

BY HARRY RING

LOS ANGELES — The jury that cleared the four cops who beat Rodney King did so after deliberating but one full day.

They spent several more days arguing about whether Laurence Powell, the cop who beat King most vigorously, should be convicted of one of the several charges against him. They deadlocked on this, with eight favoring acquittal.

(One juror told the media they had deliberated several days before deciding "not guilty." But this was flatly contradicted in open court by the jury forewoman, responding to questions by the judge.)

The verdict was surely a minority opinion in this country. A poll conducted by the paper *USA Today* found that 100 percent of people who are Black feel the verdict was wrong, as do 86 percent of whites.

An ABC poll found that 97 percent of Blacks and 63 percent of whites feel the Justice Department should prosecute the cops.

At the outset of the trial, it seemed unlikely that all four cops would be acquitted. The celebrated video tape of the beating seemed like irrefutable evidence.

But the deck was stacked for the cops to win.

Part of the stacking began when the courts ordered the trial out of Los Angeles.

Then presiding Judge Stanley Weisberg, a former assistant district attorney, selected Simi Valley, some 60 miles from here, as the trial site.

Jury composition

A small town of higher-paid workers and middle-class people, plus a large number of cops and their families, Simi Valley is overwhelmingly white. Blacks are 2 percent of the population. There were none on the jury,

which included ten Anglos, a Latina, and a woman from the Philippines.

The jurors included at least two members of the right-wing National Rifle Association. Two are former members of military police units, another the brother of a retired cop. The forewoman is program director for a company with substantial government military contracts.

In sum, it was not the kind of jury that was likely to have first-hand knowledge of the brutality and racism of an institution like the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD).

The role of the prosecution was a major obstacle to winning a guilty verdict.

It carefully limited its case to the "excessive" force used by the cops on trial, totally avoiding the fact that what these cops did was the product of the institutionalized violence and racism of the LAPD.

The prosecution did not even mention the Christopher Commission report. While that study of the police department, conducted in the wake of the King beating, asserts that only a minority of "problem" cops are responsible, it does include extensive, graphic evidence of brutality and racism of the Los Angeles cops.

The prosecution did point to the racist "Gorillas in the Mist" message sent out by Laurence Powell on his patrol car computer. But it did not mention that the Christopher Commission published an entire booklet of police computer messages reeking of racism, sexism, homophobia, and a sadistic thirst for violence.

Particularly damaging was the refusal of the prosecution to bring Rodney King to the witness stand, with the lame explanation that they did not want him to become the focus of the trial.

The prosecution also declined to call the numerous people who witnessed the beating



Los Angeles policemen Timothy Wind, Laurence Powell, and Stacey Koon after their acquittal. One defense lawyer said, "They don't get paid to roll around in the dirt with the likes of Rodney Glenn King."

from the nearby apartment building from which George Holliday recorded the beating.

During the trial, a local TV station broadcast a second video made from the same location. This one begins as Rodney King is being carted off, hog-tied. On the sound track people are heard voicing shock and outrage at the horrifying scene they have just seen. None were called as witnesses.

Perhaps the most decisive factor in the failure to win a conviction was the abdica-

tion of responsibility by those who are presented as the "leaders" of the Black community, and the disgraceful inaction of the trade union officialdom.

'Gates must go' protest

In the furor that erupted with the initial showing of the Holliday video, a protest sprang up, focusing on the demand for the ouster of police chief Daryl Gates.

Leading Black figures and some union officials endorsed this, but did little to build the marches and rallies held at the time.

With the vague announcement by Gates of his projected retirement, Black and union officials generally lapsed into silence.

With the trial under way, and several hundred thousand people watching it daily on TV, there was every reason for organizing large public demonstrations demanding conviction of the cops. Despite the composition of the jury, such mass pressure would have had a strong effect.

In the absence of this, the defense pressed its racist appeal to the jury with little inhibition.

They argued to the jury that in beating King, the cops were responding to the threat of a crazed "monster." These cops, they declared, were part of the "thin blue line" which assertedly stands between "society and chaos."

Explaining why the cops chose to beat and stomp King rather than overpower him, one lawyer unabashedly declared:

"They don't get paid to roll in the dirt with the likes of Rodney Glenn King."

This evoked an echo from the jury. One juror later told a reporter:

"They're policemen, they're not angels. They're out there to do a low-down, dirty job."

Rodney King, she added, was "obviously a dangerous person."

Meanwhile, with the massive explosion at the whitewash of the cops, the Justice Department hastily convened a press conference here to announce that it has resumed its review of the case and will be presenting it to a grand jury.

—CALENDAR—

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Witness to Struggle: Massacre in East Timor. Speakers: José Ramos Horta, spokesperson for National Council of Maubere Resistance, the principal coalition of Timorese nationalist groups; Right Rev. Paul Moore Jr., visited East Timor in 1990; Amy Goodman, news director of WBAI, was severely beaten during Nov. 12, 1991, massacre; others. Tues., May 12, 7 p.m. St. Bartholomew's Church, Park Ave. and 50th St. Donation: \$5. Sponsor: East Timor Action Network. For more information: (212) 861-5119.

SWEDEN

Stockholm

After the Victory in the Trial Against the Police — Mark Curtis Continues to Fight. A panel of speakers. Sat., May 9, 5 p.m. Medborgarhuset Sal 301. Tel: (08) 31 69 33. Sponsor: Supporters of Mark Curtis.

Protests across the country condemn pro-cop verdict in King beating trial

The acquittal of the cops who beat Rodney King caused outrage across the United States and around the world.

High school students walked out of classes in protest, university students organized demonstrations, and working people and youth discussed the meaning of the acquittal, what can be done to fight police violence, and the results of the rebellion.

What follows are reports on just a small number of the protests that took place within two or three days of the verdict. Besides those mentioned below, the *Militant* received reports of protest actions from Birmingham, Alabama; San Jose, Berkeley, San Diego, Arcata, and Irvine, California; Denver and Boulder, Colorado; Bridgeport and Hartford, Connecticut; Tampa and Miami, Florida; Boise, Idaho; Peoria, Carbondale, Champaign, Normal, and Macomb, Illinois; Fort Wayne, Indiana; Des Moines, Iowa; Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Amherst, Massachusetts; St. Louis, Missouri; Omaha, Nebraska; Las Vegas, Nevada; New York City and New Rochelle, New York; Fayetteville, North Carolina; Portland and Eugene, Oregon; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Houston and Dallas, Texas; Seattle and Tacoma, Washington; Morgantown and Charleston, West Virginia; and Madison, Wisconsin.

* * *

2,000 march in Pittsburgh

Two thousand people marched in Pittsburgh May 2 to protest the Rodney King verdict. The action was called by the NAACP. Most of the marchers were Black; about one third were white.

"We're fired up, won't take it no more," rang from the downtown office towers on the way to the rally at the U.S. Federal Building.

Marchers carried signs saying, "Stop police on Black violence," "Your eyes don't lie," "How many Kings will it take?" and "The police are guilty."

"I saw the video myself," said Maurice Walcott, a Black student at the University of Pittsburgh. "Seeing is believing. The so-called leaders came out at the time of the beating and said, 'Let the justice system work.' Now look."

"It has to stop," said Vernon, a white

student. "We have to stand up for every American of all races. The world is looking at us right now."

North Carolina high school students speak out

Opposing the acquittal of the Los Angeles cops is "not a Black thing or a white thing, but the right thing," stated a high school student to applause at a May 1 rally in Durham, North Carolina.

She was one of dozens of students from the School of Science and Math who spoke at the open mike at an event attended by 250 students. The serious discussion on racism, police brutality, the legal system, and tactics in the fight against cop violence lasted for an hour and a half.

Originally planned as a public protest, plans for a walk-out and outdoor rally spread rapidly through the dormitories at this boarding school. School officials however, got wind of the plans that morning. They met with student leaders and turned the protest into a school-sanctioned students-only event.

The conveners of the rally were black-garbed female students — both Black and white — who united behind the idea that "when Rodney King was on the ground being beaten, we were being beaten."

One speaker contrasted the Bush administration's readiness to go to war against countries accused of violating international law to the lack of federal action against the Los Angeles cops.

A leaflet was distributed during the protest explaining the aims of the organizers: "To declare that justice was not served"; "that such abominations could happen to anyone in this country regardless of race or the region" they live in; and to hold a non-violent, open, and orderly discussion.

Outrage in Salt Lake City

One hundred people, mostly young, demonstrated May 1 against the Rodney King verdict in Salt Lake City, Utah. Some participants held up a sign that said, "Honk if you support Rodney King." Passersby honked for 45 minutes.

Among the demonstrators were Chicanos, Blacks, Native Americans, and people

from Tonga, an island in the south Pacific.

Rallies in Bloomington, Indiana

Two thousands people protested the King verdict at a rally at the Indiana University Campus, in Bloomington. The next day 1,000 people protested again, chanting, "No justice, no peace."

'Stop racist attacks from Toronto to Los Angeles'

An undercover cop in Toronto, shot and killed a young Black man in the early morning hours of May 2. In the last four years, cops in the greater Toronto area have shot nine Black people. Not a single officer has been convicted of an offense. Police have not yet released the name of the latest victim, whom they accuse of drug dealing.

Within hours of the shooting, police chief William McCormack appealed for calm. He expressed concern about the potential for a Los Angeles-type rebellion.

The shooting has increased anger over the acquittal of the four Los Angeles cops who beat Rodney King.

"Apparently it's open season on Black kids," said Wilson Head, founding chairman of the Urban Alliance on Race Relations.

The Black Action Defense Committee is organizing a demonstration at the U.S. Consulate in Toronto May 4 to demand, "Stop racist attacks from Toronto to Los Angeles."

Students at U.S. military base join protests

One hundred students at Mead High School located at Fort Mead military base in Maryland staged a sit-in at the school gymnasium. They were demanding a meeting to discuss what happened in Los Angeles. Cops and national guardsmen were called in to force them back to class.

Michael Pennock, a member of United Steelworkers of America Local 1196 in Pittsburgh, Sarah Harris in Greensboro, North Carolina, Meg Hall in Salt Lake City, Utah, Beverly Bernardo, a member of Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 219 in Toronto, Dan Page and Sarah Button in Illinois, and Yvonne Hayes in Baltimore, contributed to this article.

Atlanta cops teargas protesters on campus

BY MACEO DIXON

ATLANTA — Rallies, protest meetings, and demonstrations to protest the acquittal of the cops who beat Rodney King were held here immediately after the verdict was announced. Students from the Atlanta University Center (AUC) led the actions.

On April 30 the newly formed organization AUC for Rodney quickly organized a 1,000-strong march from the campus to the state capitol in downtown Atlanta. From the capitol they marched to City Hall.

Atlanta mayor Maynard Jackson, his staff, members of the City Council, and several Fulton County commissioners confronted the students at City Hall. Their aim was to get the students to go back to the campus. A heated debate began. Each time Jackson tried to speak he was shouted down with "Justice for Rodney!"

When Jackson was finally able to speak he said, "The verdict was deplorable. It happened because we went to sleep at the wheel. People stopped voting. People stopped caring. We've got to register to vote." Some in the crowd shouted back, "That ain't got nothing to do with police brutality." A student with a bullhorn next to Jackson shouted, "This is not a press conference for the mayor. We're here to demand justice!"

In addition to demanding justice for King, the students were demanding the release of AUC students arrested earlier in the day for protest activities.

Jackson urged the students to march with him back to the campus. They chanted in response, "Hell no, we won't go!" The protesters left City Hall and began marching through downtown Atlanta. Many onlookers joined in. Traffic was tied up.

Some of the youths began smashing store windows and taking merchandise from the stores. Scores of whites were attacked, some seriously. The cops moved

in and arrested 320 people that evening. Georgia governor Zell Miller called out the National Guard.

On May 1 police, state troopers, and Georgia Bureau of Investigation units sealed off the entire AUC complex. Students were not allowed to leave. Students tried to hold an on-campus rally, but the cops shot tear gas into the crowd. The students battled the cops for several hours with bricks, bottles, and whatever they could get their hands on. The cops were forced to retreat and the students ended the protests.

Massive political debate took place throughout the city about the verdict, the rebellions in Los Angeles and Atlanta, and the struggle against racism and police brutality. Opposition to the not-guilty verdict is overwhelming. The main focus of the debate has centered on the reaction to the verdict. Should outraged Blacks burn down Los Angeles? Why attack innocent people?

Industrial workers here are discussing these questions. Miguel Zárate reported the discussions at the big United Auto Workers (UAW)—organized Ford assembly plant in Hapeville, Georgia where he works. Zárate is the Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate. He explained that workers there were almost universally stunned by the verdict, except for some union officials who support the acquittal of the cops.

The UAW Local 882 president said, "A lot more happened than what was on the 80-second video. There were other witnesses and testimony at the trial. We weren't at the trial. We don't know all that went on."

But lots of Zárate's coworkers — Black and white — have had some experience with police brutality or harassment. Opinions varied from "burn Los Angeles to the ground" to "something has to change."

At a United Steelworkers of America—or-



Militant/Argiris Malapanis

More than 30,000 people marched in Los Angeles's Koreatown May 2. The demonstration focused on demands to 'rebuild Koreatown.' 'Justice for King' signs dotted the crowd. See article starting on page 1.

ganized plant south of Atlanta a number of workers are from Mexico. For months, these Mexican workers have been victims of police harassment. They have been told that they cannot even walk through a public park in that area. One worker said, "There's no human rights in America. Something should be done about the cops."

There are also big discussions at the maintenance base at Northwest Airlines. Cotton, an airplane cleaner, said, "When I first heard the verdict I couldn't believe it. I became very angry. I thought they should burn L.A. to the ground. Then as the days went by I went back and forth on whether L.A. should be burned or not." Lloyd, another cleaner, expressed outrage and kept repeating, "They shouldn't have let those cops go. There's going to be more

trouble."

An emergency speak-out held May 2 at the Pathfinder Bookstore drew workers from the *Atlanta Constitution*, Ford, Northwest Airlines, and Atlantic Steel, along with students from several campuses including AUC.

Socialist senatorial candidate Zárate gave the keynote talk. He called for the immediate prosecution of the cops under federal civil rights laws and demanded that all those arrested for protesting the verdict be released and all charges dropped.

Maceo Dixon is a member of International Association of Machinists Lodge 26650. Jeff Rogers, a member of the United Food and Commercial Workers union, contributed to this article.

'King's most elementary rights were violated'

Continued from Page 5

Our campaign is explaining — and we received major coverage by the press in New Zealand and Australia about this very point — that the imperialist assault against Iraq signaled the opening guns of World War III. Instead of a "new world order" growing out of that war and the breakup of the Soviet Union, what the imperialists face is a growing world disorder. There are no "American" problems or national solutions to the fundamental political questions facing working people. We must begin with an internationalist perspective and course of action.

The Democrats and Republicans — the two parties of war, racism, and economic depression — have no solutions to the economic crisis that will benefit working people. In fact, until a few days ago, we were not even a part of who was talked about in their campaign speeches. They still don't. With the events here they are now talking about us, about the section of the working class that has been most devastated by the depression. But they appeal to the fears and insecurities of middle-class layers in presenting their reactionary solutions to this crisis.

Their only solution: War

They have no solutions except the one pursued by the ruling rich to get out of the depression of the 1930s — World War II. The same is true today. The fight against them doing this to us again begins now — by resisting them on all levels of politics. The fight to bring indictments against the cops is part and parcel of the fight to prevent them from imposing war on us.

Washington's moves toward war against Iraq, Korea, or Libya are not in our interests. The fight in Buffalo, New York, to defend abortion rights, the struggle by workers at Caterpillar against the company's concession demands, the fight here to get the cops indicted — are all the same fight.

Growing layers of working people face layoffs or extended periods out of work. We need jobs for all, across the board. The labor

movement needs to demand and fight for a 30-hour workweek at 40 hours' pay. This must be an international fight, similar to the one that won the 40-hour week.

We must demand affirmative action programs in employment, housing, and education. It must be done on a massive scale, as the African National Congress will do when it takes political power out of the hands of the racist South African regime.

And we must oppose, tooth and nail, the economic relations between the imperialist countries and the semi-industrialized and semicolonial countries. We call for the cancellation of the foreign debt of these countries, a debt used to bleed working people and fatten the accounts of the bankers and

the wealthy rulers of this country.

There is a growing awareness that what the cops, courts, and the rest of the government are doing to working people in this city is not limited to Los Angeles or to police brutality. It is what they are doing to working people around the world.

There are two counterposed positions. You can go in the direction of the rulers or with the conviction that working people here are part of a class in the world that has enormous potential political power.

Supporters of the Pathfinder Bookstore and supporters of our campaign will organize ourselves to go out across the city and state, with these ideas and perspectives. We will take it to the fights and struggles, to

young people, working people, and all who want to engage in political activity.

We will introduce them to the kind of movement we are convinced can be built — a movement of self-confident, class-conscious, and political fighters. Through this and the struggles ahead, a leadership will be forged that is worthy of working people, who will be driven into political and class struggle in the coming years.

Millions will fight and engage in political action. That is guaranteed. What is not guaranteed is that the leadership worthy of such a fight can be constructed. This must be organized and prepared beforehand. That is the reason for our campaign. Join us in doing so.

Support the Socialist Workers 1992 Campaign

The Socialist Workers 1992 Campaign appeals to all youth and working people to join us in the internationalist alternative to the wars, racism, and world economic catastrophe capitalism has created. The Socialist Workers campaign is fielding candidates for President and Vice-president, U.S. Senate, Congress, and numerous state positions. Join us!

Please clip and mail to regional offices listed below or give our campaign volunteers a call.

- ☐ Enclosed is my contribution of \$ ____.
- ☐ I would like to: ____ Campaign for the socialist candidates in my area. ____ Help petition to put the campaign on the ballot.
- ☐ Set up a meeting for a candidate in () my union, () school, () church, or () community.
- ☐ Please send me ____ campaign brochures at \$.10 each. Enclosed is \$ ____.
- ☐ Yes! I would like to attend the Socialist and Campaign International Conference of youth, workers, and activists scheduled for August 5-9 in Oberlin, Ohio.
- ☐ I would like to subscribe to the *Militant*, the weekly socialist paper that covers the campaign. Enclosed is \$10 for 12 weeks.
- ☐ Please send me a six-month subscription to the Spanish-language *Perspectiva Mundial*. Enclosed is \$10 for six issues.

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Operation Rescue suffers big defeat in Buffalo, New York

Continued from front page

defenders by surprise. They were able to place significant forces on the sidewalk directly in front of the clinic. With the complicity of the police, who moved clinic defenders away from one entrance using their clubs, antiabortionists were able to break through the clinic defenders' lines. Then they were stopped and arrested by the police.

Five clinic defenders who tried to stop Operation Rescue from crossing their lines were arrested by the police. Seventy-three antiabortion thugs went to jail. As word of the assault on the clinic spread, the ranks of abortion rights defenders swelled to 400, outnumbering Operation Rescue and ensuring no further breaks in the line.

Also on Tuesday, criminal charges were laid against five Operation Rescue leaders for violating a court injunction forbidding them from blocking access to Buffalo abortion clinics. Rev. Joseph Slovenec, an Operation Rescue leader, responded, "We have an injunction from God to rescue those children before they are led to death."

More drawn into defense

Having faced a determined defense of the clinics, Operation Rescue leaders proclaimed Wednesday and Thursday days of prayer and fasting. Clinic defenders did not remain idle. Buffalo United for Choice sent teams downtown and onto area campuses to draw more people into clinic defense.

Thursday night, hundreds of Operation Rescue rightists targeted the office of Dr. Shalom Press, calling it a "death camp." They chose the day used to commemorate the victims of the Holocaust. Rev. Keith Tucci, a national Operation Rescue leader, proclaimed, "This is the international day to remember the Holocaust and this place is where the Holocaust continues to happen."

Leaders of the Jewish Federation of Buffalo protested Operation Rescue's action against Dr. Press.

Harassment of doctors who perform abortions has been a major aspect of Operation Rescue's campaign in Buffalo. One anti-abortion ad on six local radio stations begins with a newborn baby's cry while the announcer says, "Some doctors deliver babies." The crying is cut short and the announcer says, "Some doctors kill them." The ad names five local doctors including Dr. Press.

Friday, May 1, the antiabortion forces hit the Sweet Home Clinic in Amherst, a suburb of Buffalo. With a helping hand from the Amherst police they were able to get onto the clinic grounds. The Amherst police ordered clinic defenders not to lock arms under threat of arrest. When three clinic defenders locked arms to prevent Operation Rescue members from crossing their defense line they were arrested. The police also allowed the rightists to mingle with

clinic defenders. More than 100 Operation Rescue supporters were arrested on the clinic grounds.

Saturday, May 2, proved to be another major day of confrontation. Tucci told 1,000 rightists Friday night: "Tomorrow morning is the most important day. They are proclaiming us dead. Now they'll have to say we've risen." But once again 500 clinic defenders stood their ground and blocked aggressive Operation Rescue attempts to push through their lines. Once again patients were able to use the clinic. Sixty-eight more rightists were arrested, bringing the total number of them arrested to 600.

Clinic defenders' role crucial

Clinic defenders saw their role as crucial in keeping the clinics open. Julie Parsons of Buffalo State University explained, "We are the voluntary police force. These clinics would have been shut down if we hadn't been here."

In Buffalo, Operation Rescue failed to disrupt the functioning of any of the clinics. This is in contrast to what happened in Wichita, Kansas, last summer, where abortion rights supporters relied on the police and the courts to keep the clinics open.

Operation Rescue failed to win signifi-



Militant/Brian Williams

Students from the University of Rochester participating April 27 in defense of Buffalo abortion clinic against Operation Rescue.

cant support among working people in Buffalo. Even among those opposed to abortion they received very little support. A Buffalo News survey found that 6.2 percent of those opposed to abortion said they would participate in Operation Rescue while 89.9 percent said they would not.

Young people from high schools and colleges in the area and beyond were the

backbone of the clinic defense. They understood the national significance of the confrontation with Operation Rescue in Buffalo for the defense of a woman's right to choose abortion. Kay Bork of the University of Buffalo, an active clinic defender, underlined this point: "We want Buffalo to be an inspiration to the rest of the country."

Bay Area protests: 'Justice for King!'

BY ESTELLE DeBATES

SAN FRANCISCO — Thousands came out throughout the Bay Area to express their outrage at the "not guilty" verdict handed down in the trial of the cops who beat Rodney King and to demand justice. In response to the protests, Mayor Frank Jordan declared a state of emergency and imposed a dawn-to-dusk curfew in the city.

Jordan imposed the curfew at 9:00 p.m. April 30 after a mobilized police force had already arrested at least 340 protesters. It is the first such curfew in this city since the one ordered in 1906 after a major earthquake. Police were ordered to use their judgment but to arrest any "suspicious persons" on the street after 9:00 p.m.

Protests began early that morning as enraged students walked out of middle schools, high schools, and college campuses throughout the city. Students as young as 12 led the walk-outs.

At San Francisco State University, students marched through classroom buildings demanding that all classes be cancelled. Holding signs reading, "Justice for Rodney King," 500 students, as well as some faculty members, blocked the busy intersection of 19th and Holloway. In the same area, a group of young protesters marched onto Interstate 280, closing the expressway for an hour before police rushed in and arrested 60 demonstrators.

One thousand students rallied at the University of California in Berkeley. Later, a crowd consisting mainly of teenagers and other students marched down University Avenue in Berkeley and onto Interstate 80. Marchers took over the Bay Bridge toll plaza, where they were met by riot police armed with billy clubs. The cops cornered the demonstration and arrested 380 people.

Tensions were high after protesters who had clashed with police throughout the day converged on downtown San Francisco for a citywide demonstration in the late afternoon. As the march proceeded toward Market Street, massive numbers of police were rushed into the area. Police carried out acts of provocation such as squads of riot police rushing toward demonstrators. Young demonstrators screamed at the cops, windows of cars and businesses were smashed, and police motorcycles were torched, as cops moved in on the demonstration. Police encircled the protesters.

Thousands worked their way out to go to a meeting at nearby Glide Memorial Church, where Reverend Cecil Williams condemned the verdict and provided an open mike to protesters. Speakers expressed

their outrage; many called for keeping the protests peaceful.

Hundreds rounded up

The streets were full of people when the state of emergency was declared. All cable cars, bus lines, and trains in the downtown area were shut down, forcing thousands to walk, searching for transportation. Reports here say 340 were arrested. A curfew was also adopted in Oakland, where police arrested 140.

Mayor Jordan came under fire for the extreme measures taken by the city. "I want the public to understand," the mayor said, "that my administration respects the right to freedom of expression, freedom of assembly, and freedom of dissent. However, I will not tolerate violations of the law, especially when they endanger persons and property."

The free rein handed to the police led to mass arrests the following day. Using his new emergency powers, Police Chief Richard Hongisto went to the Mission Dis-

trict, a largely Latino neighborhood, and declared a proposed rally an "unlawful assembly." At 7:00 p.m. — two hours before the 9:00 p.m. curfew — police arrested hundreds on the street. The cops repeated the same scene in the nearby Castro area. Some 380 were arrested, many of them teenagers.

The mass arrests led to another outpouring of outrage. Following another mass meeting at Glide Memorial Church, hundreds protested outside the City Council meeting. The council voted 7-1 to lift the state of emergency.

City officials have taken a hard line toward those arrested. "The district attorney's office will ask for the maximum bail and the maximum sentence," said San Francisco district attorney Arlo Smith.

At campuses, churches, and in communities, protest activities continue throughout the Bay Area, as thousands of people discuss how to win justice for Rodney King and how to defend those victimized by police during the protests.

Costs of German reunification rise

Continued from Page 17

sued a sharp response to Mulford's call.

Mulford complained that high German interest rates were slowing economic growth in Europe and the rest of the world.

Horst Köhler of the German Finance Ministry replied that the United States should not meddle in Germany's internal affairs.

Several other governments, including Britain and France, as well as the International Monetary Fund, are also urging Germany to lower interest rates.

The German government took a further buffeting when Hans-Dietrich Genscher, foreign minister for 18 years, resigned April 27 without specifying why. He was the third cabinet minister to resign in the past month.

Genscher was closely identified with Germany's push to be the most influential imperialist power in eastern Europe. He was among the first senior capitalist officials internationally to advocate working with former Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev. When the East German government erupted in crisis in 1989, Genscher accelerated the push for German reunification.

A minor power struggle was touched off by Genscher's resignation. Kohl announced

that his replacement would be housing minister Irmgard Schwaetzer, from the Free Democratic Party (FDP), Genscher's party. On April 28, however, an FDP caucus meeting rejected that choice, instead choosing justice minister Klaus Kinkel.

The following day, Jürgen Möllemann, the economics minister and FDP nominee for Genscher's other post as deputy chancellor, called for major budget cuts. He demanded cuts in social spending, which Kohl had ruled out. Möllemann also called for urgent action to raise cash, including privatizing state holdings such as the state-owned airline, telecommunications company, and post office savings bank.

The flow of resources to the east continues to drain the once-healthy western capitalist economy. Meanwhile, no serious headway has been made in transforming the economy of the east, where capitalism was abolished, into a functioning capitalist system. This means the prospect is for the problems to deepen.

The London *Economist* recognized some of this reality when it described the stakes in the government's fight against wage demands: "If the government loses this fight, higher taxes and lower subsidies will provide no answer: they will only further wage demands and industrial unrest."

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Minneapolis marchers say 'jail the cops'

BY JON HILLSON

MINNEAPOLIS — Chanting, "We don't get no justice, they don't get no peace — prosecute the police!" the voices of 6,000 angry marchers sounded as one in a united protest against the acquittal of the four Los Angeles cops who brutalized Rodney King.

Ovations greeted calls for their arrest and conviction on criminal civil rights violation charges. "Prosecute the police — put them away," read a huge banner carried by demonstrators.

The May 2 action was called at a news conference and emergency demonstration of 300 some 48 hours earlier, in the wake of the verdict.

The marchers were a cross-section of the Twin Cities population, from Black high school students to groups of Native Americans, unionists from the Ford auto assembly plant, college students, political activists, and delegations from churches. The crowd, which was majority Black, included a sizeable number of whites.

Hundreds, responding to the steady stream of chants from a sound truck, danced the toi-toi, the rhythmic march-step of young South African liberation fighters.

Scores carried home-made signs, among them Nancy Yang, a young Hmong immigrant from Laos, her small children clinging to her legs. The placard, in Hmong, "means 'stop treating people of color like animals,'" she said.



Militant/Jon Hillson
Chris Nisan, Minneapolis protest leader and socialist candidate for Congress.

The jury that convicted King, Melissa, a white 17-year-old high school student said, looked at the case "from a policeman's point of view, not a human point of view."

Her companion, an 18-year-old Asian student, said she was "marching for freedom and equality for all people. King didn't get a fair deal. And it's bad what's going on now."

Rodney Glover, a 37-year-old worker in the trim shop at the Ford assembly plant, said the discussion sparked by the verdict was unlike anything he had seen in 18 years at the plant. "It was unique because everybody was talking about the same thing," he said. Ten of his coworkers came to the rally. "It's not enough, but next time we'll do better," Glover said.

A small number of elected officials also participated, including Minneapolis mayor Donald Fraser, along with Minneapolis police chief John Laux, whose troops were under orders to remain at the periphery of the route, virtually out of sight.

The march kicked off, to cheers, chants, and horns in the North Minneapolis Black community, its ranks swelling along a three-mile route to a City Hall rally, as families on porches and apartment dwellers waved and saluted with peace signs and clenched fists.

They departed from the assembly site with an anger tempered by realization of the high stakes riding on the outcome of the protest.

"Who are we?" Chris Nisan, a central organizer of the event and Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress (5th C.D.), asked the crowd as they prepared to march. "We are serious people with a serious message. We want justice for Rodney King. But we know we are not doing this just for brother Rodney. The attack on him was an attack on us. We are defending him and we are defending ourselves."

"We want the cops, the racists cops, the criminal cops, the thugs in blue, arrested, prosecuted, and in jail," Nisan said, as the assembly roared approval. "And we want that message to get across."

"We want a disciplined march, a militant march, a peaceful march," he said, as marshals lined up to lead the assembly.

Today, he continued, "we are not out to attack anybody and we don't want anybody to attack us. That's what we mean by discipline. We will discipline ourselves to get our message out. That's what we mean by peaceful; we are not going to give anybody a chance to attack us. And we are going to be militant. Like Mandela, like Malcolm."

"Does militant mean we are not mad?" he asked the crowd.

"No!" it roared back.

"Does it mean we're not angry?"

"No!" came the roar again.

"Does it mean we're not fired up?"

"No!" again, louder.

"So are we all in favor of a disciplined, militant, peaceful march and rally?" Nisan asked. "Yes!" the marchers shouted.

Speakers at the City Hall rally denounced the verdict, calling for continued, united mobilization.

Black community leader Spike Moss blasted the violence-baiting campaign of the media and Democratic and Republican politicians. "Violence is when you are born in South Central Los Angeles; it's what happens to you every day. And if you are a working-class white, if you aren't part of the rich," he said to applause and shouts of approval, "you are part of us."

Teamster official Bill Ervin offered his union's "eagerness to stand with you, shoulder to shoulder, until justice is served."

Rodney King was not solely "a person of

color, but a human being," Rickey Brown, a member of the Civil Rights Committee of Ford United Auto Workers Local 879, told the crowd. "Union people, working people, all people must begin to unite for justice now," he said.

Other speakers included Vernon Bellecourt of the American Indian Movement; Rev. Bill Smith, who read a letter from the Black Ministerial Alliance to President George Bush demanding immediate action on the King case; Brian Roberts, a national leader of the Black American Law Students; and Gerardo Sanchez, a member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 789 and SWP candidate for Minnesota State Senate.

At the same time in St. Paul, 500 people filled Mt. Olivet Baptist Church to protest the cops acquittal, in an event called by City Council President William Wilson. Among the speakers were St. Paul mayor Jim Scheibel, U.S. senator Paul Wellstone and St. Paul police captain William Finney.

Warren talks to locked-out workers in New Zealand

BY JOAN SHIELDS

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand — James Warren, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president, reached thousands of working people and youth through radio, television, and newspaper interviews during his five-day tour here at the end of April. One of his campaign events that was covered in the press and on TV was his visit to the picket line outside Christchurch Carpet Yarns.

Workers there have been locked out for refusing to sign a new contract that undermines their current wages and conditions.

Warren explained that he visited the picket line to find out what the locked-out workers thought about their fight and to share his own experiences and knowledge of other working-class battles around the world.

The picketing workers were keen to discuss the challenge posed to their ability to win the dispute by the fact that production at the factory has restarted using nonunion labor.

While 88 workers remain on the picket line, 45 of their former coworkers have gone back to work. The company has also hired 30 "temporary" workers. Three times a day,

at each shift change, up to a dozen police are used to escort the scabs in and out of the factory.

Warren said that it was difficult to effectively meet this challenge unless a way could be found to tap the potential that exists to build broader support for the unionists. "The most important way other workers can show solidarity is to join the picket line," he stated.

Among those who have visited the picket are several members of New Zealand's Parliament. The unionists were interested in Warren's explanation of the difference between working-class and capitalist politicians. It is ordinary working people who create the conditions for massive fundamental change, Warren told the locked-out workers. "We don't make promises to people about what we'll do for them if elected. We tell people: this is what you're capable of, this is what we can do together."

"The thing that really came through to me was the spirit of struggle among the workers on the picket line: a determination to see the fight through," Warren told a Militant Labor Forum the evening after he visited the picket. "That's what I'm going to take back with me and explain to workers in the United States."

Socialist Campaign in the News

BIRMINGHAM NEWS, APRIL 20, 1992

Socialists rally here, don't expect many votes

By Phil Pierce
News staff writer

In this season of multi-million-dollar political campaigns, it seems strange to see a roomful of candidates who don't expect to get elected.

Socialist Workers Party candidates from several Southern states compared themselves to the man who seems to represent the absolute opposite of their beliefs: Republican presidential candidate Patrick Buchanan.

"We're doing the same thing from the other side that Patrick Buchanan is doing. We're using this to build a movement," said John Hawkins, a laid-off coal miner running for Congress in Alabama's 7th District.

Buchanan has little chance of election this year, but his movement is gaining steam and could move the country toward "the imposition of a fascist dictatorship," Hawkins said.

Hawkins and other socialists from Alabama, North Carolina, Florida and Texas spoke to more than 50 people attending the party's regional rally in Birmingham on Saturday night.

Not only do they expect to lose at the ballot box, but many of the candidates are struggling to get on the ballots.

'Defend democratic rights'

"We never base what we say in these campaigns on what we think will be necessary to get us elected," said Dan Furman, a steel worker in Bessemer who's running for a seat on the Alabama Public Service Commission.

Given the recent collapse of the totalitarian regimes in the Eastern bloc — including the Soviet Union, which many Americans equate with socialism — are these American socialists wasting their time?

They don't think so.

They say they're hoping dissatisfied American workers will listen to their message and not identify them with the systems being pronounced dead around the world.

"We welcomed the downfall of those regimes," said Laura Garza, a congressional candidate from Miami.

The system that failed in the Soviet Union was a bureaucracy that bore little real resemblance to true communism or socialism, she said.

Hawkins told the audience his party is committed to "defend democratic rights."

Expect war soon

Specifically, the candidates said they want to enforce affirmative action, keep abortion legal, open the country's borders to immigrants, pre-

serve school desegregation, shorten the work week, cancel Third World debt and steer the country off a course they say is bound for World War III.

Hawkins said he has no doubt the United States will enter another war by November. The early stages of war already have begun in Libya, Ms. Garza said.

Workers can't count on politicians or union leaders to look out for them, candidates said, and rich business leaders want to distract American workers from their real problems by pitting them against Japanese or Mexican workers.

Economically, "more and more people in this country realize we're living through a depression," Hawkins said, and the Democratic and Republican candidates "have no solutions to it."

Not against American values

The socialist workers' solution involves scrapping the capitalist system, but the party can win victories without that happening, Hawkins said.

"If we're able to defend democratic rights in this country, that's a big victory for us," he said. "You don't have to have a socialist revolution to win a strike."

Hawkins said socialism isn't against American values. "We think that working people have more interest in defending the Bill of Rights than any other class."

Campaign against framed-up unionist is part of right-wing shift in politics

Mark Curtis, a packinghouse worker and political activist, was framed up on charges of rape and burglary in March 1988 because of his union and political activities.

This is the second installment of an article replying to United Transportation Union official Greg McNaghten, who wrote a lengthy article in support of the jailing of Curtis.

Last week's installment explained why police, city officials, and the employers are not content to leave Curtis alone now that he is in prison.

(Second of a two-part series)

BY HARVEY McARTHUR

SEATTLE, Washington — On March 1, 1988, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) cops raided the Swift meatpacking plant in Des Moines. They had worked with the company to prepare the raid, combing through personnel files to decide which workers to target. The raid itself, a surprise attack launched during the middle of the day shift, was organized so as to have the greatest intimidating impact on the workers. It is just one example of the counterattack mounted to try to break the resistance the employers have encountered. But the company and the government ran into a fight they did not necessarily expect.

Mark Curtis and some other workers immediately responded by launching a public campaign in defense of the arrested workers.

Several days after the INS raid, when company officials refused to allow workers to leave early to attend a protest meeting to demand that INS officials reverse the arrests, some Hispanic workers walked off the line. This action stopped production until the company agreed the workers could attend a second meeting later that day.

For Gregory McNaghten, a United Transportation Union (UTU) official, the important point here is his spurious claim that Curtis was a "nobody" because he did not "walk off" the line as well. Possibly hoping readers will not catch it, McNaghten does



Militant/Stu Singer

Mark Curtis, after beating by Des Moines cops. Cops told Curtis he was a 'Mexican-lover, just like you love those coloreds,' as they beat him.

not explain how to "walk off" an already shut-down line. Curtis never claimed he started the action; he has a well-documented case of his participation in this and subsequent activities to defend his arrested coworkers.

This spontaneous walkout underscored the perfidious role of United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) officials in response to the INS raid. They took no part in organizing the defense effort, leaving workers to risk individual protest actions rather than using the collective power and resources of the union to mount a united defense.

McNaghten has to cite "a member" of UFCW Local 431, not an official, to get an account of what happened at those protest meetings. Unlike Curtis, none of the union officers attended the meetings, joined a sub-

sequent protest march March 12, or did anything to help these workers whom they supposedly represented.

In this vacuum created by the default of the UFCW officials, each worker was left to make a tactical judgment of the relationship of forces and the steps that would best advance the workers' interests at that moment. Curtis's efforts to draw in the union as a body and to win more coworkers to join the protests were the key focus for such a campaign.

This is precisely what the bosses and their agents did not want to see. The Des Moines cops drove home this point a few hours later when they called Curtis a "Mexican-lover" as they beat him while in custody in the city jail.

Antiracist fighter

McNaghten takes up another protest Curtis participated in — the Feb. 20, 1988, march against police racism held in the town of Clive. The chief of police had distributed a flyer throughout this overwhelmingly white suburb urging residents: "if you see a black male in your neighborhood at night, please call the Clive police immediately so that we can try to find out who the individual is."

McNaghten downplays this dangerous, racist act, calling it only a "racist comment by the Chief."

Fortunately, others took it more seriously. A coalition of 11 groups called for a protest march in Clive. Curtis was among the hundreds who turned out, and he staffed a socialist literature table on the lawn of the police station where the rally was held.

McNaghten repeats the prosecution's contention that Curtis's participation was irrelevant since some county government officials also attended the march. But there is a world of difference between the participation of such government officials and that of a worker-activist. The officials knew that the blatantly racist act by a top police official hurt their credibility and so they went to try to repair the damage.

Curtis, like other militant workers, knew the cop letter was not an aberration but a manifestation of the brutal and racist character of the police in this country. He participated in the march to advance this understanding, help others, and promote more resolute protests against such police brutality.

The cops proved they were fully aware of the distinction when they told Curtis "you love those coloreds" as they beat him unconscious in the jailhouse.

McNaghten and Buchananism

The evolution of politics since Curtis was arrested four years ago bears out the unionist's contention as to why he was framed up and beaten. From the employers' assault on the unions, to anti-immigrant at-

tacks, to protests against police racism and brutality, the issues and stakes in the case are posed more openly and sharply today. The rise of Buchananism, an open fascist current in mainstream capitalist politics, an outgrowth of the rightward shift in the policies of Democratic and Republican politicians, is one example of the sharpening employers' offensive against working people.

Buchanan seeks to build a movement, winning cadre with his appeals to Jew-hatred, racism, anti-woman prejudice, and American chauvinism. He foments greater divisions among the working class with his anti-immigrant, antiforeigner rhetoric and the chauvinist "America first" theme he and other capitalist politicians promote.

Buchanan rails against the corruption of many politicians — but never attacks capitalism itself. His demands that people from Britain be allowed to emigrate to the United States but not Zulus, and his calls for building a ditch to stem the flow of immigration from Latin America, give new life-blood to what the cops yelled at Curtis as they beat him.

The rightist course of the two parties of big business results from the necessity the employers have to move decisively against the working class to end the relationship of forces between labor and capital established since the end of World War II. The strike at Caterpillar is the latest example of the fact that the bosses will meet increasing resistance as they drive against our wages and working conditions, and have to seek rougher methods to make workers submit.

A glimpse of the future of a Buchanan-type movement can be seen in the rightist thugs mobilizing under the direction of Operation Rescue. These thugs take to the streets, using intimidation and violence to deny women their democratic right to control their lives and choose abortion. Such fascist goons will be used — along with the regular police forces — to attack the organized working-class movement, assaulting picket lines, union headquarters, and individual workers.

The cops and courts play a big role in this rightist shift by the government. They are given greater latitude to act against working people, especially Blacks, Hispanics, immigrants, and other national minorities. They seek to intimidate working people through individual brutalization, as in the case of Rodney King, and when needed with large-scale crackdowns on protests and strikes.

"Which side are you on?" goes the old labor song. You are either with the workers or with the bosses. This is the basic reality McNaghten tries to cover up. Like Buchanan, he tries to get workers to identify with those who oppress us — in this case the Des Moines police, prosecutors, and judges — and to blame fellow workers who are victims of the system.

The campaign against Curtis is one face of ultrarightism. It is aimed at the Socialist Workers Party in particular, a party the employers and the government know is involved in the day-to-day fights and skirmishes in factories, mines, and mills across the country. As part of the vanguard of working-class fighters, the SWP is known for its participation and championing of the fight for women's rights, against imperialist war, defending Black rights, and much more.

Those involved in this rightist effort aim to close down political space and attempt to isolate the party and its members from the struggles of today.

Given these class tensions and political polarization, many union officials and middle-class layers fear militant workers such as Mark Curtis. They fear those who will not accept the way things are and who seek to unite all workers into a common struggle against the wealthy rulers of the United States.

That is why this case is so important for the labor movement. Championing Curtis's fight and defeating the frame-up will beat back the intimidation drive by the cops and courts. It will also help forge a more con-

Judge found cops guilty of beating Mark Curtis

The following are excerpts from federal judge Charles Wolle's January 31, 1992, ruling in favor of Mark Curtis in his suit against the police officers who beat him on March 4, 1988.

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

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

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

9. A paramedic was called; plaintiff was transported to a hospital, where he received fifteen stitches beneath his left eye. He suffered pain, severe bruising of the abdomen and face, facial lacerations, and a blow-out type fracture of the or-

bital floor of the left eye.

10. Plaintiff sustained immediate severe pain and suffering from the blows to his face and groin, and when he regained consciousness he sustained further pain and emotional distress from the bleeding wounds to his face, vividly pictured in photographs. He required medical attention and hospital care. He sustained loss of some bodily functions for about three weeks. The pain, emotional distress, and disability caused by his injuries lasted until the wounds finally healed several months after the incident.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

... 5. Wolf and Dusenberry used excessive force against the plaintiff... the court also does not find credible the officers' testimony that plaintiff was trying to bite and kick them and kicked Wolf in the head while barefoot and lying handcuffed on his back.... Wolf and Dusenberry both knew they were using excessive force when they kneed plaintiff in the eye and groin while he was lying on the floor on his back, unable to flee or cause them harm....

10. Plaintiff is entitled to damages for redress for the violation of his constitutional rights and for the personal injuries he sustained....

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

scious, more organized, more militant layer of worker activists who will be better prepared to take on the next challenge the employers throw at us.

Police frame-up

Now, let's look in more detail at McNaghten's arguments.

"What about Curtis' claim of a frame-up," McNaghten writes. "Could it be true. I don't believe so." When prosecutor Thune defends the cops and denies there was a frame-up, "her argument makes sense," he adds.

What are the facts? Is there evidence of police intent to get Curtis for political reasons?

The arresting officer admitted he searched Curtis's car right after arresting him. In it were leaflets publicizing a meeting to celebrate the victory won by the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance in a historic lawsuit against decades of FBI spying, harassment, and disruption. The flyers also mentioned the INS raid at Swift, the Clive protest, and other political protests sure to catch the cops' attention.

In addition, the Des Moines police had access to the FBI national computer files, including those identifying Mark Curtis as a political activist.

The cops' attitudes toward Mark were also revealed in their internal files describing him when he was admitted to the Anamosa state penitentiary in the fall of 1988. Parts of these files were released to Curtis's attorneys in 1991.

"Political activist for El Salvador," the prison cops wrote. "Involved in labor dispute at Swift Packing two days before arrest."

McNaghten attempts to dismiss the importance of the FBI files. "Mark's file only contained the information that he was a Socialist Workers Party member and a leader in CISPEP [Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador] and other biographical data that was public knowledge," he writes.

But the FBI spies are not simply gathering information for public research. They use their files to target individuals and organizations that pose a threat to the employers and their governments. Their primary victims are working-class organizations, including unions and labor activists.

Think for a minute what would have happened last year if rail workers had decided to stay on strike after the government declared their walkout illegal in April 1991? What if the workers had simply insisted on the right not to work under terms of a contract they found unacceptable?

They would have run right up against the government, acting on behalf of the rail bosses and the billionaire owners of land, banks, and industry in general. Their cop agencies, including the FBI and Des Moines police, would have been turned loose to suppress the strike, as they have done countless times before. Any files they had on worker activists would have been put to use to select targets for arrest and other victimization.

McNaghten's lighthearted dismissal of these files is a gross disservice that disarms other workers in face of the employer-government attacks coming in the future.

Defends cops and courts

McNaghten entitled his 29-page piece "The case against Mark Curtis," but it would better have been called "In defense of the cops and courts."

"Curtis was given a fair trial... he was not persecuted, nor framed, nor is he now being denied parole, for his political or Union activities," he says. This quickly leads him to cover up a cop's record of lying and brutality.

Key to the prosecution was the testimony of Officer Joseph Gonzalez, who arrested Curtis and claimed he caught him in the act of assaulting a young Black woman. Curtis supporters point to the fact that Gonzalez was once suspended from the force for lying on police reports as evidence that his testimony is not reliable.

The judge, however, refused to allow this fact to be presented to the jury. In a closed session with the judge, Gonzalez admitted he had falsified the report, and claimed he did so to protect a police informer.

Can the cops be trusted?

McNaghten jumps to defend Gonzalez.

"Everybody has told a lie at one time in their life.... Perhaps ten years ago Gonzalez [sic] felt protecting an informant was also a good reason to lie. One disciplinary action on his record in 13 years for a lie he told ten years ago doesn't seem very relevant to me," he writes.

In fact, Gonzalez lied in 1978 and lied again to the judge about the reasons for it. McNaghten simply repeats his lie.

The May 24, 1978, Des Moines Register reported on Police Chief Wendell Nichols's decision to reprimand and suspend Gonzalez.

"According to [Assistant City Attorney James] Sullivan's letter," the article states, Gonzalez's partner "without provocation... placed his foot on Walte's chest and pushed him into a police cruiser."

"Later, while the two were being booked at police headquarters, 'Gonzalez attempted to provoke [Walte] into a fight' and in the process Walte suffered a head injury, the letter said."

Gonzalez "was suspended for four days for using unnecessary force and ten days for 'lying' about details of the incident, Nichols said," the paper reported.

Maybe McNaghten thinks brutalizing a suspect is "a good reason to lie" but no thinking worker should be taken in by his defense of the cops.

And is the fact that Gonzalez has only been disciplined once for such actions mean it really does not matter? Hardly, given the police record of covering up for their acts of violence and protecting each other whenever they come under public criticism. Any worker with an ounce of common sense will smell a rat here.

Presumption of innocence

McNaghten's campaign feeds the rightist attacks on the right to be presumed innocent. This right, along with the right to protection from arbitrary search and seizure, cruel and unusual punishment, and protection against self-incrimination, was fought for and enshrined in the Bill of Rights. This marked a big step forward from earlier times, when a commoner accused by an aristocrat or a slave accused by a slaveowner was assumed guilty and almost invariably punished at the demand of the accuser.

The presumption of innocence continues to be crucial to democratic freedoms and workers' rights today. The court system and police are not neutral or impartial administrators of justice. Some police departments have a slogan emblazoned on their patrol cars: "Defending your lives and property." In reality they defend the rights and property of the billionaires who own the nation's wealth — the land, banks, and factories — and who exploit the labor of workers and working farmers.

What Mark Curtis did on March 4, 1988

At the September 7-9, 1988, trial of Mark Curtis on charges of sexual abuse and burglary, the alleged victim testified that on the evening of March 4, 1988, when one of her favorite television shows had just begun, a man called on the telephone asking for Bonita, Denise, or Keith. The show began at 8:00 p.m. She told the caller that her parents, Denise and Keith, weren't home.

Five or ten minutes later, she testified, a man knocked on the door, asking for the same people; she opened the door, started talking to him, and he proceeded to sexually molest and beat her until the police arrived. She said the man who did this was Mark Curtis. Below is a chronology, constructed from eyewitness evidence presented at the trial, of what Mark Curtis did that day and where he was at the time of the alleged rape took place.

7:00 a.m. Curtis leaves home for work at Swift packinghouse in Des Moines.

2:00 p.m. Several Swift workers walk off production line to protest management decision to not allow them to go to 2:00 p.m. meeting to protest in-plant arrest three days earlier of 17 Latino workers by immigration cops. Line stopped for 10 minutes.

4:45 p.m. Curtis gets off work for the day.

5:00 p.m. Meeting at United Mexican-American Community Center to protest arrest of Swift 17. Curtis speaks at meeting, in Spanish, about need to involve the union at Swift, United Food and Commercial Workers Local 431, in fight to defend these workers. The meeting approved a call for a demonstration March 12 to protest arrests.

7:00 p.m. Curtis arrives at Los Compadres bar and restaurant after Swift 17 protest meeting. Talks to two friends from Swift plant about the meeting and plans for the following week's protest.

8:30 p.m. Curtis leaves Los Compadres and drives home.

8:40-8:45 p.m. Curtis calls friend Ellen Whitt and leaves message on her answering machine that he's going out for

a few minutes and could she please let two friends of his, who are coming over to visit him, into her house if they show up before he gets back. Tells her that he is going to the store to buy food to cook dinner for people attending Militant Labor Forum the next night. Since Whitt isn't home, he calls neighbor Jackie Floyd and tells her same thing.

8:45-8:50 p.m. Curtis leaves house to go to Hy-Vee grocery store. Woman stops Curtis at traffic light on corner of Clark and Harding, five blocks from his house, and asks for a ride home because a man is chasing her. Curtis gives her lift to what turns out to be the house of the Morris family. She asks him to wait on porch while he goes inside.

8:51 p.m. Police say they receive a 911 emergency call from someone whispering that his sister is being raped on the porch.

8:52 p.m. Police testify that they dispatch car to house.

8:53 p.m. Police officer Joseph Gonzalez testifies cops arrive within 30 seconds. According to Curtis, a minute or two after he walks up to porch, cops arrive, burst on to porch, and Gonzalez grabs him. He handcuffs Curtis, pulls down his pants, and arrests him.

This class reality was immediately apparent when rail workers went on strike nationwide last year. Within hours, Congress passed and President Bush signed a bill ordering the strikers back to work. Behind them stood the courts, ready to issue injunctions against the unions, order the arrest of union officials and impose massive fines if the workers insisted on their right to strike. And behind them stood the cops of all varieties, ready to arrest workers, crack down on our picket lines, spy on us, and frame us up on whatever charge they think they could get away with. As things turned out none of this was necessary because the top union officials folded, telling the membership to return to work.

McNaghten turns the question of the presumption of innocence on its head and demands that Curtis prove he is innocent, instead of placing the burden on the prosecution to prove his guilt.

He notes the lack of physical evidence tying Curtis to the woman who accused him of rape, but goes on to say: "The absence of seminal fluid or pubic hair is evidence, but not nearly the conclusive evidence the MDCD [Mark Curtis Defense Committee] would have us believe." McNaghten demands Curtis prove his innocence — but

supporters of Curtis point out that the prosecution failed to prove his guilt.

Curtis and his supporters, in demanding a careful examination of the facts in this case, are the ones who take rape charges seriously.

Rape is a pervasive evil in this society, a product of the oppression women face as well as the breakdown in human solidarity fostered by the dog-eat-dog competition inherent in capitalism. The cops and courts that perpetuate this system are no friends or defenders of women's rights. That is why it is important to insist that every woman who says she was attacked get a serious hearing and thorough investigation into all the facts of each case.

At the same time, charges of rape have long been used to victimize militant workers, Black rights fighters, antiwar protesters, and other activists the employers and their government fear. Furthermore, cops and prosecutors often decide to "solve" a case by pinning a crime on the first likely person to fall into their hands.

Only by insisting on a careful scrutiny of the facts in each case can supporters of women's rights win a serious hearing of these charges. It is Curtis and his defenders

Continued on Page 12

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. \$5.00.

Order from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. (Please include \$3.00 for shipping; \$.50 each additional copy.)



Militant/ Stu Singer
Curtis being interviewed by television crew at March 12, 1988, protest against deportation of Latino coworkers. He proposed that union back the protest actions.

Right-wing attack on framed-up unionist

Continued from Page 11

— who uphold such elementary standards of conduct against the cops and their supporters — who do a service for women who are victims of assault today.

McNaghten is forced to acknowledge that the facts presented in court by Curtis's accuser do not prove that he attacked her. "These discrepancies would seem to support the MCDC's position that Curtis was framed or at the very least mistakenly charged," he writes.

The woman testified that the man who attacked her arrived shortly after the start of a TV program she was watching. This would place the start of the attack at no later than a few minutes after 8:00 p.m., a time when Curtis was still in Los Compadres bar talking with coworkers. She also testified her attacker had a belt; Curtis wore none that night. She said he had smoker's breath; Curtis never smoked.

She also told the hospital personnel who examined her the night she said she was attacked that her assailant was five feet, six inches tall and that he wore a tan jacket. Curtis is over six feet, one inch tall and was wearing a burgundy jacket. (She changed these two points during her testimony in court, saying she did not recall exactly.)

McNaghten attempts to get his reader in a different framework, one that if applied to all cases would deal a fatal blow to the right to be presumed innocent. He begins "filling in" the holes in the prosecution's case, looking back to convince the unconvinced.

First he suggests the woman just could not recall things clearly: "her jumbled sense of time and other seeming discrepancies were the result of shock," he theorizes.

Is there any reason to accept his arguments? Her testimony in court as to the time of the attack and other details was straightforward, insisted upon, and to the point.

What about her account of the attack given to the nurse and doctor who examined and questioned her that night in the hospital? Here again, the description she gave could not have been that of Mark Curtis.

According to testimony by both these medical examiners, the woman was crying and upset. However, Nurse Brackney's notes taken the night of the incident included the observation that the woman was "able to relate very well," and she testified to that effect during the trial.

So why dismiss her testimony, except for the fact it does not help the frame-up work?

Contradictions in cops' story

McNaghten states, "the discrepancies between [Officers Joseph] Gonzales' and [Richard] Glade's testimony are so minor as to be negligible and are obviously due to the fact that no two people ever agree completely in every particular of an event they both witness."

In fact the officers disagreed both between themselves and with other alleged witnesses to the attack.

- Asked by the prosecutor if she said anything to the cops when they first arrived, the woman testified, "No, I was in shock."

According to Gonzalez, she ran out of the house saying, "He just raped me." Glade said, "she stated to us that she had just been raped."

- The woman testified that she went back into the house after the police had arrested her assailant and saw him sitting on a bed, handcuffed, with his pants down and his penis hanging out. Both cops testified that it was not possible for her to have seen him again or that he was exposed by the time she reentered the house.

- Gonzalez testified that he caught Curtis in a back bedroom, had him place his hands on a bed, searched and then handcuffed him. Glade testified that he saw Gonzalez handcuffing Curtis who was lying on the floor.

- Did the woman's brother leave the house after the police arrived? Glade initially testified that he had not. He then changed his story to "I really can't remember" after the prosecutor told him the boy had testified to having done so.

No physical evidence against Curtis

In preparing their case, the cops had forensic examiner Paul Bush examine the clothing worn by the woman and by Curtis

the night of the alleged attack. Bush testified that he looked for signs of semen or hair transfer or other physical indications that the sexual contact alleged by the prosecution occurred.

In conclusion, he told the court, "that evidence, as far as I'm concerned, does not tie the two together. . . . As far as sexual

Curtis was laying on [her]." This invention on McNaghten's part is in total contradiction with the woman's description of the attack, in which she detailed how her assailant wrestled with her repeatedly and would inevitably have had prolonged contact with the dirty floor.

Even more revealing is the fact, which



Larry Milton after beating by Des Moines police last December. Protests of this incident helped create climate for court ruling against cops who beat Mark Curtis.

contact is concerned I found no seminal fluid or hairs to tie the two individuals together."

To McNaghten, however, "the absence of seminal fluid or pubic hair is evidence, but not nearly the conclusive evidence the MCDC would have us believe."

Once again, McNaghten turns the question on its head. Bush testified to the total absence of evidence linking Curtis to the attack on the young woman. The burden of proof must be on the prosecution, not on Curtis as McNaghten keeps trying to get us to assume.

Bush also testified that he found animal hairs on the woman's sweatshirt but none on Curtis's clothing. The woman had previously testified that the family regularly kept a large shaggy dog on the front porch. She described the alleged attack at length, stating that her assailant repeatedly wrestled with her on the floor. According to her description, the floor had dirt, leaves, and dog hairs on it.

Bush testified that he found animal hairs on her, but none on Curtis's clothing. Also, the medical examiner said she found bits of leaves in the woman's hair.

Bush testified that Mark's clothes had no hair or traces of leaves as would be likely if they had been in such prolonged contact with the dirty floor.

McNaghten has to paint a false picture of the alleged attack in his attempt to explain away this lack of evidence against Mark. "Only the MCDC says her sweatshirt was covered with dog hair," he alleges. "Prosecutor Thune says there was some dog hair but not enough to consider the sweatshirt 'covered' with it."

In fact, it was the nurse-examiner Brackney who testified, based on her examination of the woman the night of the alleged attack, "that she had parts, you know, pieces of leaves in her hair, and dog hair all over her sweater."

McNaghten asserts that only the woman would have had hair on her clothing since "only [the woman] was laying on the floor,

McNaghten ignores, that Bush did find other human hairs on the woman's clothing but not on Curtis.

"Do you know whether that was her hair or not?" the defense attorney asked Bush.

"Do not know whether those Black or Negroid hairs belonged to [the woman] since I did not receive known head hairs from [her]," Bush replied.

"Wouldn't that be important, to see maybe whether or not they were her hair or maybe some other Black individual?" the attorney asked.

"As far as this case warrants the alleged sexual assault was purportedly from a Caucasian individual. In this case I was attempting to find Caucasian hairs on the sweatshirt," Bush stated.

Here was an obvious lead to clarify the case and help answer the question of whether someone other than Curtis had actually attacked the woman. But the cops and their investigators did not even take the most elementary step to investigate this since they had already decided to pin the rap on Curtis. They only wanted evidence that would convict him.

Thus they carried out McNaghten's "fair" investigation and trial.

Did Curtis receive a fair trial?

"I have come to the conclusion that Mark Curtis was given a fair trial and was in fact guilty of the crimes he was charged with," McNaghten writes.

The fact is, no worker ever gets a fair trial in the capitalist courts.

Look at the federal court case in which Curtis won a ruling against the cops who beat him in the police station the night of his arrest. This was undoubtedly a victory for Curtis and all other fighters against police brutality. But was it a fair trial? Did Curtis get a fair hearing?

Consider the situation: he was alone in a room with a handful of cops when they beat him. No witnesses, no video camera.

When it came time to hear the case, Judge Charles Wolle accepted the cops' story

against Mark's explanation every time. He held that Mark lunged at the cops and that they were justified in restraining him. He held that the cops did not say anything to Curtis while beating him. He held that the cops were legitimately questioning Curtis, not badgering and insulting him, trying to get him to confess to a crime before allowing him contact with an attorney.

So why did Curtis win a round in this case?

First, because of the physical evidence of the brutal beating he suffered, including photos and testimony by the hospital personnel who treated him that night.

Second, because the cops could not come up with a good story to cover their attack. They admitted they had Curtis lying on the floor, with his hands handcuffed behind his back and with two cops on top of him — and then they started beating him.

Third, because at the time this case was being considered, thousands of people in Des Moines, mostly Black workers, were joining angry protests against the cops for the vicious beating they administered to a Black worker Larry Milton last December. In the Milton case, as in that of Curtis, the police department "investigated" the charges and held that the cops acted properly.

Thus the judge ruled that the cops were guilty of using excessive force and ordered them to pay damages to Curtis.

So much for McNaghten's version of the prosecutions' and cops' lie that "while being processed, Curtis attempted to assault several police officers and was injured while being subdued." Or his fanciful assertion that Curtis "got himself beat up" as part of a conscious attempt to cover up his alleged assault on the young woman.

A jury of one's peers?

What of Curtis's original trial, the one McNaghten says was so fair?

Curtis contends he did not get a jury of his peers and being denied this right made the trial inherently unfair. There were only two factory workers, no Blacks, and only one Hispanic on the jury. The lone Hispanic was dismissed over defense objections before the final deliberations began.

McNaghten defends the jury selection process saying, "I don't see anything that makes me think that this jury wasn't a random group from the community at large."

Here again a class question is posed. Jury selection, usually based upon lists of registered voters, tends to be biased toward middle- and upper-class individuals whose experiences — including their relations with police — are different from those of a worker, though perhaps not from those of a comfortable trade union official.

Workers such as Mark, and particularly Black and Hispanic workers, are much more likely to be targets of police brutality and frame-ups and hence are more likely to give Curtis a fair hearing of the facts presented to them.

McNaghten ridicules the idea that Curtis's peers should be workers. (He even adds, "I'll ignore the difficult question of how we define a worker." Perhaps this is a challenge for a boss-oriented union official, but should pose no difficulty for any class-conscious worker.)

McNaghten's antiworker bias is revealed in his assertion that if Mark's peers are workers, then a cop accused of brutality should be tried by a jury of other police officers. In fact, a jury of workers, the peers of victims of police brutality, should sit in judgment of such police officers. The problem with the "justice" system is not that cops are unfairly convicted of acts of brutality, but rather that they get away with it in the vast majority of cases.

Key evidence excluded from trial

McNaghten admits that the case against Curtis hinged on testimony by the cops who arrested him. After acknowledging the big contradictions in the story of the woman who accused Mark, McNaghten says, "luckily for the Prosecution . . . there was the testimony of three other witnesses and one key piece of physical evidence left to present to the jury." Two of these other witnesses were the arresting officers (the

third was the woman's younger brother) and the supposed "key piece of physical evidence" was Curtis's detention by the cops at the house.

Hence the question of the reliability of the cops' testimony is pretty important. Did they have reason to want to get Mark Curtis?

Presenting testimony about who Curtis is and what the police knew about his political activity would be relevant to any impartial jury. So would the facts about the beating Curtis received at the hands of the cops and their racist slurs as they beat him. But all this was excluded from testimony at the trial, with McNaghten's blessing.

Why was Curtis at the house at all? What is his motive? Is he someone who would be taken in by a woman claiming she was in danger of attack? Curtis tried to explain why he would act to help someone without question — including his personal experience with the horror of rape when a member of his family was attacked, but this testimony was not allowed by the judge.

McNaghten makes a lot out of the fact that Curtis managed to get one or two sentences hinting at the beating and about the attack on his relative before the judge shut him up. "Interestingly enough, Curtis was able to get two other points out in front of the jury that had been ruled inadmissible during pre-trial motions," says McNaghten. Did this give the jury a serious chance to consider these facts or hear arguments from the defense based on these facts? So much for the worker's right to a full and fair hearing!

A key piece of evidence on the character of the trial is the affidavit submitted by one of the jurors, Blanche Stockbauer, shortly after the trial.

"I was one of four jurors who believed the State of Iowa had not proven their case against Mark Curtis beyond a reasonable doubt," Stockbauer said.

"Although I eventually voted guilty, it is my belief that Mark Curtis is not guilty of the crime charged. I did not know that, if I continued my vote of not guilty, a mistrial would occur, which would result in a new trial for Mr. Curtis.

"One juror expressed, during deliberations, that he had made his mind up about Mr. Curtis' guilt before the defense presented any evidence in this case."

This speaks directly to McNaghten's concluding declaration, "The last word I have regarding Mark Curtis is this: A jury found him guilty and I found nothing in the record that makes me think he did not get a fair trial or was innocent."

What about jurors who make up their mind before the evidence is even presented? What does that have to do with a fair trial, based on the presumption of innocence?

McNaghten dismisses Stockbauer's testimony that she considered Curtis innocent and did not understand the trial procedures well enough to know what to do when under pressure to change her vote to guilty. He

sticks by the letter of the law: she said guilty one day in court and so be it.

However, this stance has nothing in common with objectively assessing the facts of the case or the fairness of the trial procedure, including the adequacy of the instructions given to the jury and the pressures on individual jurors to agree on a verdict.

Conviction in a capitalist court is no proof of guilt. For working people there is always an element of a frame-up in a trial. Although the wealthy can receive a "fair" trial, workers never do in the capitalist courts. When upholding the presumption of innocence, defenders of democratic rights cannot start with "innocent until proven guilty" but the fact that working people are innocent victims of a rigged court system and a vicious police force.

McNaghten's 'crucial witness'

McNaghten, following the prosecutor's lead, makes much of the testimony by the woman's 11-year-old brother who allegedly witnessed the attack.

"This witness, according to Thune," he writes, "[was] probably the most crucial one for the prosecution."

According to McNaghten, the child's testimony "is believable even when it is only the printed version and we can't see his emotional state or hear the inflection he delivered it with. . . . His testimony rings true in the transcript as it must have in court."

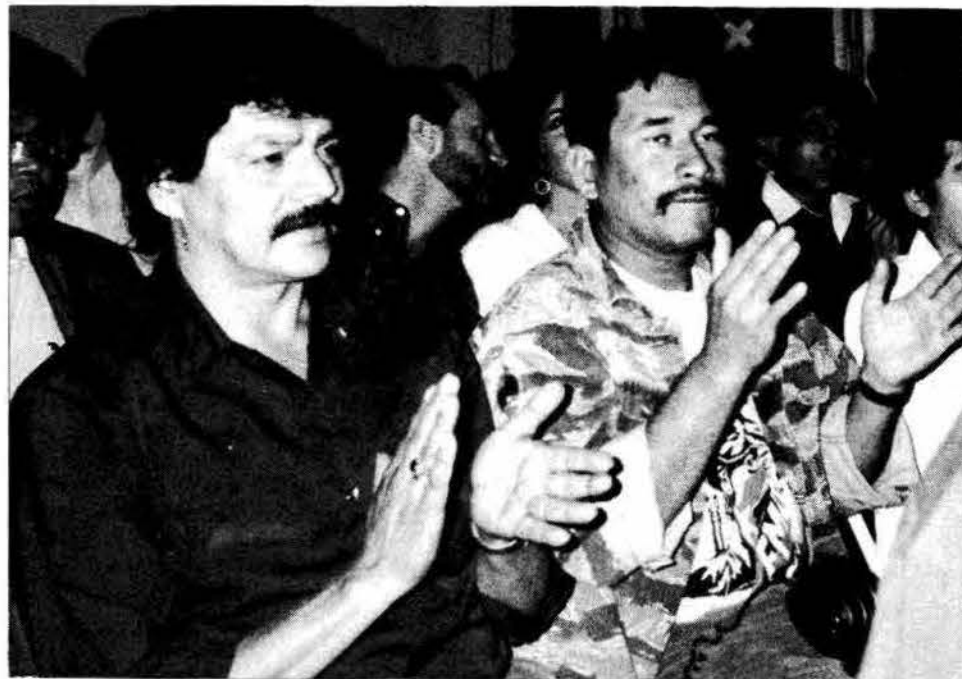
Why is this so? Why does not Mark's testimony ring true? He does not say.

Is an 11-year-old such an inherently reliable witness, as McNaghten would have us believe here? Hardly, as some recent cases involving charges of child abuse have demonstrated. Children have proven to be capable of making up an entire story — either on their own or under prompting from adults — and presenting it convincingly in court. There is no a priori reason to accept this testimony.

McNaghten would do well to study the record of another case of a police frame-up. On March 25, two Black men, Benny Powell and Clarence Chance, were released from prison after 17 years when they were shown to have been framed up on murder charges by the Los Angeles police. A key witness for the prosecution in this frame-up, the only "eyewitness" to the alleged crime, was an 11-year-old girl who, it was later established, testified only under relentless police pressure.

What about the testimony of Curtis's 11-year-old accuser?

When asked by the prosecutor at what time the man who allegedly attacked his sister knocked on their door, the boy answered, "Probably around 9:08." How did he know? Where did he get such a precise time? He was not asked. If his testimony is so believable, why does he place the arrival of the stranger so precisely — twenty minutes after Curtis had already been arrested?



Militant/Walter Cameron
Los Angeles rally in 1989 in support of Mark Curtis. Thousands of people have campaigned around the world to win justice for the framed-up activist.

The boy allegedly placed a call to 911 while his sister was being attacked. If his testimony on the time is correct, this also would have had to occur well after Curtis's arrest.

Yet McNaghten, apparently without having even heard the tape, says, "the jury heard the actual taped conversation of [the] call. They heard a young, obviously frightened, boy whispering into the phone that his sister was being raped on the front porch."

The 911 operator testified that the call was made at 8:51 p.m. Assuming that is true, it was exactly the time such a call would have been made to trap whoever had been lured to the front porch.

Why is McNaghten so sure the voice on the tape was not that of a nervous young boy who was made to place a call to the police that night? His confident assertions are pure fabrications designed to bolster the prosecution's case.

The drug charge

One of the biggest challenges facing the prosecution was coming up with a plausible explanation of why Curtis went to the house in the first place.

Why would Curtis go to a house he had never been to before, where he knew nobody, and then suddenly assault a young woman in the presence of — at least — her brother?

Extensive testimony of character witnesses in court showed that such conduct was totally at odds with Curtis's entire previous history.

Here is a political worker, deeply involved with coworkers in a serious fight with the company and the immigration cops, rushing from meeting to meeting. Is this the time he would suddenly develop an impulse to rape?

On the contrary, Curtis's explanation of how he got to the house makes sense and fits the known facts. He is precisely a person who would take time to respond immediately to a woman's plea for help and to drive her a few blocks to what she said was her home.

The prosecution's lame story was that Curtis was looking for a nearby house, one which a neighbor of his had recently moved to. This ex-neighbor, however, testified that she barely knew Curtis, that he had never been to her house before and had no reason to go there.

So the prosecution, without presenting any evidence, threw in the allegation that Curtis was looking for drugs, all to make the story more plausible to the jury.

McNaghten simply reports, "Prosecutor Thune told me she may have indeed argued that Curtis was out to get drugs from his old neighbor that night."

The prosecution, however, had a big problem with this line as well. Curtis is a member of the Socialist Workers Party, a party with a strict policy prohibiting any member from having any contact with illegal drugs. This is not a moral position, but a policy designed to make it harder for the cops to use drugs to frame party members and supporters. It is a policy enforced by expulsion of any conscious violator of the rule from the ranks of the party.

This is a policy other vanguard workers should adopt as an elementary precaution as well.

Parole for Mark Curtis

Curtis and his supporters are now concentrating on convincing the Iowa State Parole Board to release him. This is the quickest way to win his freedom, given that the appeal of his trial to federal courts is apt to take some time to get a hearing.

In theory, the parole board is supposed to consider three things in deciding on parole: sentence and time served, conduct while in prison, and community support for the inmate, that is, whether he will have a job and other assistance in taking his place in society again.

Mark meets all these criteria. He has served more than the average time for someone convicted on third-degree sexual assault, the main charge against him. He has an excellent conduct record in prison. "Excellent worker . . . since coming to the reformatory, Curtis has behaved commendably," typical reports on him read. And he has widespread support, including offers of employment from union and civil rights organizations.

Yet the parole board has consistently turned him down.

In a November 1991 hearing, board members refused to consider whether Curtis met the usual criteria for release. Instead they repeatedly told him he would have to enter and complete a state-sponsored Sex Offenders Treatment Program before they would take up his request.

Board chairman Walter Saur told Curtis, "Either you go through the program and get out early or you don't go through and serve your time."

Mark Curtis would appreciate receiving letters from supporters. Write to him at:

Mark Curtis 805338
Iowa State Penitentiary
P.O. Box 316
Fort Madison, IA 52627

Board members implied Curtis would have to give up his defense efforts to get consideration for release on parole. "Some prisoners serve their entire sentence because they don't admit their guilt," Barbara Binnie told him.

McNaghten jumps on this bandwagon, joining the prison authorities in their efforts to break Mark today.

His main argument is that Curtis really has not served enough time, since he has the 25-year sentence for burglary as well as the 10-year term for the sexual assault charge.

This only perpetuates the abuse of the laws by the prosecution. Curtis was initially charged with second-degree sexual assault, based on the cops' claim that he threatened the woman with a knife. This was reported in the March 5, 1988, *Des Moines Register* in an article based solely on information from the police. Later on, when the cops failed to produce a knife, they had to reduce the charge to third-degree sexual assault.

They also initially charged Curtis with assaulting the police officers who beat him, a charge they dropped shortly after.

When Curtis refused to give in and instead launched a determined defense campaign, the prosecutors upped the ante by

Continued on Page 16

Literature available from the Mark Curtis Defense Committee

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.

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.

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, IA 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.

Capitalists face 'a world of uncertainty'

Increasingly look to economic and military intervention around the world

BY PAUL MAILHOT

As finance ministers and banking officials from the seven major capitalist countries — Germany, United States, Japan, France, Britain, Italy, and Canada, known as the Group of Seven — assembled in Washington at the end of April, there were widening expressions of concern at the poor health and lack of direction of the world economy. Major political and economic changes in the past year have destabilized the capitalist system. Economic, political, and military intervention are more and more being discussed and threatened.

Peter Norman, in the London *Financial Times*, noted the pessimism about the state of capitalism in an article titled "A World of Uncertainty."

"By rights, the next few days in Washington should be a period of quiet satisfaction for the capitalist west.

"Russia and the other republics that emerged from the wreckage of the former Soviet Union are due to join the International Monetary Fund (IMF), marking their entry into the international financial community and their acceptance of market economics.

"But there is no sense of triumph in the finance ministries and the central banks of the world's richest nations."

The mood of the major capitalist powers seems to be more what columnist Jim Hoagland describes in the April 23 *Washington Post*, in a piece significantly named "New World Disorder."

"The collapse of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia has loosed upon the world 20 new fragile nation states. Iraq, another imperfect creation of 20th century political engineers, totters toward disintegration, while Ethiopia and Somalia deconstruct themselves.

"It sounds like a script for a New World Disorder rather than the harmonious global arrangement under U.S. leadership that President Bush sketched a year ago as the Persian Gulf War ended."

Major reasons for concern

The crisis of the market system worldwide, along with the results of the Iraq war, has sharpened rivalries among the major industrial countries. Many old alignments are shifting as competing capitalist powers vie for greater control of and access to the



U.S. troops walk past dead Iraqi soldier during Gulf war. One writer says of interventionist policy of United States and other powers: 'Imperialism is back in fashion.'

world's markets and natural resources.

As Norman writes, "The old certainties have been replaced by widespread uncertainty and confusion."

The German rulers are finding it increasingly difficult to make that country's unification successful. In spite of massive subsidies to the east the situation continues to deteriorate and threatens to drag down one of the world's strongest capitalist economies.

The government has been forced into massive deficit spending to sustain the standard of living in eastern Germany, while attempting to transform its economy into a capitalist market system. Some \$80 billion was spent on the unification process last year alone.

In order to avoid inflationary results from this massive transfer of resources German banks have raised interest rates, which are now at their highest levels since the 1930s.

Washington, on the other hand, has tried without success to pressure Germany to lower its interest rates. The U.S. government sees this as necessary to stimulate European economic expansion so that the weak recovery in the United States doesn't peter out.

Nobody knows how far the devastating

crisis in Russia may develop. While there has been much fanfare about Russia's acceptance into the International Monetary Fund, nobody is convinced that the severe austerity measures the IMF is dictating for its loans can be carried out short of prompting a massive social explosion.

Yegor Gaidar, the Russian deputy prime minister and one of the country's biggest boosters of capitalist market reforms, explained that he believed that, even with massive assistance from the IMF, it would take most of the decade to transform Russia to capitalism. "It is a slow process, a process that is politically difficult, socially depressing," he said.

Before the Group of Seven meeting one official asked despairingly, "What if Russia is just a bigger and endless version of eastern Germany?"

Arguing that it will be impossible to pay the economic costs of bringing Russia and the former Soviet republics up to the level of western industrial nations, Leonard Silk in a May 1 *New York Times* article explains that such costs, "will total \$180 billion a year for 10 years," in order to meet capital needs.

Another rising concern is the economy of Japan. The Japanese stock market has lost about 50 percent of its value since 1989 and economists worldwide fear the country may slide into a deep recession. They are worried that this would not only hurt the market for exports to Japan but would force Japanese capitalists to curtail or withdraw some of the investment capital they have poured into countries around the world.

Peter Norman argues that the major problems in the world's economy cannot "be taken in isolation. The interdependence of the world economy means that all have serious implication for other countries."

Insecurity breeds new interventionism

The increasing instability in the world has pushed the capitalist rulers' discussion of economic as well as military intervention more and more to the fore.

Columnist Hoagland writes approvingly of Washington's moves to intervene militarily against Iraq and Libya. He describes the Bush administration's "willingness to help define an international right to intervene and to see it used in these specific cases" as a "praiseworthy innovation." He complains that Washington has not sent U.S. troops to be part of the United Nations forces now stationed in Yugoslavia.

For decades the threat of communism was used as the justification for imperialist military intervention around the world. With the downfall of the regimes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, Washington has quickly turned to the continuing proliferation of nuclear weapons, particularly among Third World countries, as its main excuse for policing the world.

Washington has threatened to preempt North Korean nuclear capability by military force. Tokyo has aided the U.S. campaign by demanding that the North Korean government not only abolish any nuclear reprocessing capability but even renounce acquiring any such technology in the future in order to qualify for aid.

Yet another example of Washington's steadily escalating campaign against other governments' nuclear weapons appeared in an April 28 *New York Times* editorial that warned against "India's headlong rush to acquire nuclear arms." The editorial also calls for tightening an embargo on Pakistan because of its nuclear weaponry. In order to make clear the danger, the *Times* reminds its readers, "India, which long ago abandoned the pacifism of Mohandas Gandhi, has built up formidable forces — and used them, starting more wars in the past 40 years than any other country."

Policies of increased intervention by Washington, Tokyo, Bonn, and other major powers add up to the fact that "imperialism is back in fashion," according to *Financial Times* writer James Morgan. Morgan compares the scale of direct intervention into other countries by the most powerful capitalist nations to how the world was divided up by the colonial powers before 1914. He admits that the term "imperialism" may be resented by many in the world but believes it to be one that most accurately describes what is going on in the world today.

Washington cautious on relations with Peru

BY SETH GALINSKY

The first high-level talks between the Bush Administration and President Alberto Fujimori since the Peruvian president dissolved Congress and suspended the constitution were scheduled to take place May 2 in Lima, the capital of Peru.

Immediately after the April 6 coup, U.S. president George Bush — worried that Fujimori's actions could increase instability in the region — suspended most aid to Peru.

Bush recalled 20 Green Berets who were training the Peruvian Army and announced plans to dismantle two radar stations and remove the 60 Air Force personnel that run them.

The U.S. president reacted coolly to an April 21 announcement by Fujimori that he would hold a series of referenda later in the year to legitimize his power.

For three years the United States has operated a base in Peru's Upper Huallaga Valley, ostensibly for the "war on drugs" and to aid the Peruvian government in its fight against the guerrilla group Shining Path.

U.S. State Department spokesperson Cynthia Whittlesey confirmed May 1, however, that 30 Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) agents and special State Department personnel will remain.

Tensions between Washington and Lima increased with an attack by two Peruvian fighter planes on a U.S. military transport plane April 24.

After the attack, in which one crewman died and two were wounded, the U.S. State Department announced that Washington had suspended further such "antidrug" flights.

In spite of official apologies, the attack on the unarmed C-130 transport was clearly

no accident. The two Peruvian jets fired at the transport plane after following it for hundreds of miles. The plane was hit by machine-gun fire from the Peruvian aircraft, blowing open a door.

Peruvian Air Force officials said the U.S. plane had strayed from its permitted course and ignored signals ordering it to land.

The Peruvian fighters — armed with missiles and rockets in addition to the machine guns — "could have put that plane in the bottom of the sea" if they had wanted to, said one Peruvian air force official, according to the *New York Times*.

U.S. response to the attack has so far been limited to suspension of further flights.

Fujimori creates a stir

Tensions between Lima and Washington have been brewing for some time. They came to the surface during a February meeting of several Latin American heads of state in San Antonio, Texas, to discuss drug trafficking.

Fujimori created quite a stir when he rejected U.S.-backed proposals at the conference that would have required Peru to cut deeper into the drug trade. The Peruvian president accused the DEA of corruption and abuse of human rights. He said U.S. "antidrug" aid, totaling some \$135 million last year, was insufficient.

Although Washington's relations with Peru have deteriorated, Japan has been currying favor with Lima. Tokyo, which has pledged \$126 million in economic assistance this year, called Fujimori's referendum plan an "important step toward normalization."

New York Times columnist Leslie Gelb, in an April 13 column, summarized the Bush administration's strategy.

"Publicly, they will continue to censure the coup and reaffirm the cutoff of new U.S. aid," he writes. "Privately, the Administration will try to deal with the hellish realities of Peru."

Several prominent conservative figures have criticized the White House for being too strong in its condemnation of Fujimori.

Former U.S. State Department official Elliot Abrams wrote in the May 11 issue of *National Review*, "If Fujimori can use the time he has bought to build more honest and efficient institutions, Peru will have gained much."

"There is no way an American can approve of such undemocratic procedures," he says, "but the protests should be low-key."

Citing the growth of Shining Path, Robert Barro, a contributing editor of the *Wall Street Journal*, says, "The economic and political situations there are sufficiently desperate that President Alberto Fujimori's iron hand represents the only hope for improvement."

But the *New York Times* advised the Bush administration in an April 13 editorial: "Get Tougher With the Tyrant in Peru."

"In Peru, the military-backed governments of the 1970's nurtured the seeds of the horrific Shining Path insurgency," the editorial says. "Democracy, drug control and the defeat of terrorism — every Latin American interest cries out for promptly returning constitutional rule in Peru."

Meanwhile, Fujimori has continued to step up repression. On April 26 he decreed that anyone who opposes the "institutional coup" can be jailed. On April 24 police announced that a week earlier they had raided *El Diario*, a newspaper that supports Shining Path, and arrested 23 alleged staff members.

The Opening Guns of World War III

The War Against Iraq
By Jack Barnes

In *New International* no. 7.

This issue of *New International*, published just after the 1991 Gulf War ended, remains indispensable for understanding the threat of war today and what working people can do to fight against it. 333 pp. \$12.

Available from bookstores listed on page 16 or from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Include \$3 shipping, \$.50 each additional title.

'Militant' sells well at King trial protests

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

As thousands have taken to the streets to protest the verdict in the Rodney King case, the *Militant* has been an important part of the discussions and protests. The paper's coverage and analysis of developments in the trial of King's attackers and actions condemning police brutality — from Des Moines, Iowa, to Newark, New Jersey — is most relevant to young activists looking for a political perspective on how to effectively fight back.

Distributors of the paper around the country report increased sales and opportunities for winning new subscribers at these meetings and protests. Supporters in several areas ordered additional papers after selling out their entire bundles. Many are raising their bundle orders for this week.

"It's been fantastic here," reports Diane Shur from Greensboro. "We were out campaigning all day Saturday and during the week when [right-wing politician] Patrick Buchanan was in town."

"I was going door-to-door in the Black community," she continued. "I got invited into a lot more living rooms this time. People want to talk about what to do. I was able to show them through the pages of the *Militant* that this is not just a problem in the United States. The article from Britain on cop violence and the photograph showing police brutality in Minneapolis were very powerful and got a lot of responses. I talked about what can be done by pointing to the article on the victory won in beating back Operation Rescue in Buffalo."

In Pittsburgh, at a rally of 2,000 against the trial verdict called by the NAACP, *Militant* supporters sold 4 subscriptions, 50 copies of the paper, and 1 of the Marxist magazine *New Internationalist*.

At a rally of 1,000 people at West Virginia University in Morgantown, supporters sold 20 copies of the *Militant*, 1 subscription, and 2 *International Socialist Review* supplements on how to fight Buchananism.

Supporters in Stockholm, Sweden, who are more than halfway toward meeting their *Militant* subscription goal, received an excellent response at the May Day events there, selling 5 *Militant* subscriptions, 42 copies of the paper, and 8 subscriptions to *Perspectiva Mundial*.

'Lessons of Caterpillar'

Mike Shur from Salt Lake City, which is tied for the top spot on this week's scoreboard, reports that the *Militant*'s coverage on the lessons of the Caterpillar strike is of great interest to coal miners and other working people there. He writes:

"The highlight of this first part of the target week was a team we sent to Craig, Colorado, where the United Mine Workers of America members at the Cypress mine ended their strike with a new contract. The team sold 4 *Militant* subscriptions. Nine sub-

scriptions were sold to coworkers this week. In addition there are a total of 12 subscriptions that have been sold to UMW members."

Salt Lake City supporters also report stepped-up sales at local plant gates this past week. This complements the political reach of the subscription campaign.

Mary Zins from St. Louis reports: "Two subscriptions were sold by a Saturday door-to-door team in Decatur, Illinois. There was interest in Caterpillar from all kinds of workers. Sixteen *Militants* were also sold to United Auto Workers members at the Chrysler plant gate in Fenton, Missouri, where there was lots of discussion about Caterpillar. Most expressed the view that the strike should not have been called off."

"At a socialist campaign meeting at the University of Missouri in Columbia, two students bought *Militant* subscriptions and four endorsed the campaign."

In Buffalo, New York, a team of *Militant* supporters have been participating in the actions defending the abortion clinics against Operation Rescue's threatened attacks, and circulating the *Militant* among the pro-choice activists on the clinic defense lines as well as at campuses, door-to-door in working class communities, and at the plant gates.

Last week supporters there sold 7 *Militant* subscriptions and 135 single copies, bringing the totals for the past three-week period to 20 subscriptions and more than 300 copies of the paper.

John Harris in Buffalo reports: "A high school student bought a *Militant* subscription at a picket line protesting Operation Rescue founder Randall Terry's visit to the area. She commented that the media in Buffalo is unfair to the pro-choice effort and liked the stance the *Militant* was taking in support of abortion rights."

"A student at the Buffalo State campus bought a subscription, explaining that he was beginning to read some Marx and Lenin in his classes and wanted to subscribe to a socialist paper."

The scoreboard printed below indicates that the circulation drive is 13 percent behind schedule as of the end of the fourth week of this 11-week campaign. With only five cities ahead of schedule, a special push will be needed by distributors internationally to catch up and place the drive back on schedule.

Starting this week the drive should receive a boost from supporters in New York and Newark, whose combined goals com-

'We can learn from our Belgian brothers'

BY PAUL MAILHOT

Hundreds of Caterpillar workers bought copies of the *Militant* during the past month. They wanted to check out the favorable coverage the paper was giving to their strike and other articles that were featured.

Two comments this reporter encountered showed something about workers' attitude toward the paper. At the picket shack in front of the giant Mossville engine plant a *Militant* article was tacked up on the wall. The article included a report on the one-week strike by Caterpillar workers in Belgium and a threatened solidarity strike by the metalworkers union, which forced the company to back down from its concessionary contract demands. The paragraphs about the Belgian workers were circled with a message written at the bottom by one of the workers. It read, "Maybe we can learn something from our Belgian brothers."

Many other unionists and supporters of the strike also bought the paper. At a rally in Decatur, Illinois, I sold the *Militant* to a member of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees union whom I had met at previous solidarity events. I pointed out to him that, since this was the third time he had bought the paper, he ought to pick up a subscription, save a little money, and keep up with the coverage week to week. He declined the invitation, explaining that he didn't really agree with everything in the paper. Then he added, "But you know the scary thing is how much I do agree with it."



Militant/Linda Joyce
Chris Rayson (right), socialist candidate in the First Congressional District in West Virginia, at student protest against King verdict in Morgantown.

prise 13 percent of the entire drive. For the past several weeks, the drive in these cities has been held back as supporters there have been spending most of their spare time helping organize and set up the new library in the Pathfinder Building in Manhattan — a project that has now been successfully completed.

Distributors are encouraged to fax in reports by next Saturday on results of target week sales in their areas and plans for the remaining weeks of the drive. And all are reminded that for subscriptions to be counted on the following week's scoreboard they must be received in the *Militant* business office by Friday at noon.

Sales Drive Scoreboard

Areas	The Militant			Perspectiva Mundial		L'Internationale		New Internationalist		Total	
	Goal	Total Sold	% Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold
UNITED STATES											
Salt Lake City	130	52	40%	20	3	2	0	30	1	182	56
Des Moines, IA	130	52	40%	25	8	2	0	40	5	197	65
Seattle	120	41	34%	35	13	3	0	25	1	183	55
Pittsburgh	90	29	32%	5	2	2	0	30	0	127	31
Cincinnati	20	6	30%	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	6
Chicago	150	40	27%	35	7	5	0	70	11	260	58
St. Louis	100	26	26%	5	0	2	0	25	1	132	27
Greensboro, NC	80	20	25%	8	0	2	1	15	0	105	21
Birmingham, AL	80	19	24%	5	1	2	0	40	0	127	20
Los Angeles	180	39	22%	100	15	4	0	110	15	394	69
Houston	80	17	21%	20	2	2	0	20	3	122	22
Baltimore	110	23	21%	12	2	3	0	30	0	155	25
Newark, NJ	160	33	21%	50	0	15	0	70	5	295	38
Ft. Madison, IA	5	1	20%	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	1
Morgantown, WV	80	15	19%	3	0	2	0	30	1	115	16
Washington DC	130	24	18%	20	10	10	0	55	6	215	40
Cleveland	90	16	18%	10	0	2	1	20	6	122	23
Twin Cities, MN	140	24	17%	20	5	2	0	30	2	192	31
New York	250	42	17%	100	3	20	1	110	10	480	56
Detroit	140	22	16%	10	0	2	0	30	14	182	36
Atlanta	90	14	16%	8	3	2	0	30	4	130	21
Boston	135	21	16%	40	11	15	1	50	0	240	33
Miami	110	17	15%	30	7	15	4	45	3	200	31
San Francisco	150	21	14%	50	4	8	0	70	15	278	40
Philadelphia	85	8	9%	20	3	3	0	30	6	138	17
New Haven, CT	10	0	0%	2	1	0	0	3	0	15	1
U.S. TOTAL	2,845	622	22%	633	100	125	8	1,008	109	4,611	839
AUSTRALIA	45	7	16%	14	1	1	0	10	2	70	10
BELGIUM	3	0	0%	1	0	12	0	8	0	24	0
BRITAIN											
Sheffield	50	15	30%	3	0	2	0	25	5	80	20
London	80	13	16%	6	0	2	0	40	5	128	18
Manchester	50	7	14%	2	0	1	0	30	6	83	13
BRITAIN TOTAL	180	35	19%	11	0	5	0	95	16	291	51
CANADA											
Vancouver	90	35	39%	15	3	5	1	30	7	140	46
Montreal	65	21	32%	20	3	30	7	50	17	165	48
Toronto	90	20	22%	20	2	5	0	45	2	160	24
CANADA TOTAL	245	76	31%	55	8	40	8	125	26	465	118
FRANCE	5	0	0%	2	0	15	0	5	0	27	0
ICELAND	20	4	20%	1	0	1	0	5	0	27	4
MEXICO	0	0	0%	5	0	0	0	0	0	5	0
NEW ZEALAND											
Auckland	55	22	40%	5	0	1	0	13	2	74	24
Wellington	40	13	33%	1	0	1	0	10	0	52	13
Christchurch	40	11	28%	1	0	1	0	10	0	52	11
Other N.Z.	4	2	50%	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2
N.Z. TOTAL	139	48	35%	7	0	3	0	33	2	182	50
PUERTO RICO	1	0	0%	5	0	0	0	2	0	8	0
SWEDEN	55	28	51%	30	5	3	0	10	1	98	34
TOTAL	3,535	820	23%	764	114	205	16	1,301	156	5,808	1,106
SHOULD BE		1260	36%		270		72		450		2,052
DRIVE GOALS	3,500			750		200		1,250		5,700	

Selling the socialist press to unionists

Union	% Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold
UNITED STATES					
ACTWU	18%	55	10	25	
IAM	16%	110	18	19	
OCAW	18%	39	7	15	1
UFCW	20%	90	18	30	2
USWA	28%	85	24	20	
TOTAL	20%	379	77	109	3
SHOULD BE	36%		136		39
AUSTRALIA					
MTFU		5		2	
SHOULD BE					
SWEDEN					
FOOD WORKERS	50%	4	2		
METAL	33%	9	3	3	
TOTAL	38%	13	5		
SHOULD BE	36%		5		

ACTWU — Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union; IAM — International Association of Machinists; MTFU — Metal Trades Federation of Unions; OCAW — Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers' union; UFCW — United Food and Commercial Workers; USWA — United Steelworkers of America.

* Also includes subscriptions to *Perspectiva Mundial* and *L'Internationale*.

ALABAMA

Birmingham

Justice for Rodney King and Benny Rembert! Prosecute All the Cops and Fascist Skinheads Responsible. Speaker: Dan Furman, Socialist Workers candidate for 4th Congressional District; others to be announced. Sun., May 10, 5:30 p.m. 111 21st St. S. Donation: \$3. Tel: (205) 323-3079.

Victory for Women's Rights in Buffalo. Sun., May 31, 5:30 p.m. 111 21st St. S. Donation: \$3. Tel: (205) 323-3079.

FLORIDA

Miami

Justice for Rodney King! Protest Meeting and Speak-Out. Sat., May 9, 7:30 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (305) 756-1020.

ILLINOIS

Chicago

Justice for Rodney King. Panel discussion. Sat., May 9, 7 p.m. 545 W Roosevelt Rd. Donation: \$4. Tel: (312) 829-6815 or 829-7018.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

In Defense of Abortion Rights — Reportback from Buffalo. Speaker: representative Socialist Workers Party. Sat., May 9, 7:30 p.m. 780 Tremont St., corner Massachusetts Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

Right-wing attack on unionist

Continued from page 13

adding the charge of burglary. This was based on a legal technicality. No one claimed Curtis stole or attempted to steal anything; rather, he was accused of illegal entry to the house, which, under Iowa state law, can be charged as burglary.

This is one more instance of the arbitrary authority given prosecutors and their determination to take advantage of legal technicalities to punish someone who does not give in to them.

Is a frame-up too improbable?

McNaghten ridicules the possibility that Curtis is the victim of a frame-up by saying, "Every conspiracy you can imagine in this case depends on too many improbable events and dumb luck." He goes on to invent one such scenario, one full of improbable coincidences.

Unlike McNaghten's inventions, however, Curtis's explanation of the events that night is logical and fits the known facts of the case. There is no need to speculate on questions that remain unanswered in order to take a stand in this case.

Who lured Curtis to the house that night, and why? So far, that information has not been forced out into public light. Was there a plan to get Mark Curtis from the start? While this is a possibility, Curtis has never asserted that.

The only important fact is that the evidence presented does not convict Mark Curtis of the alleged crime.

In addition, there is enough known to prove that it involves a police frame-up with a political motivation.

From the moment Officer Gonzalez pulled down Curtis's pants, a cop frame-up was in process. The officer was fabricating evidence to make a conviction more likely.

A few minutes later, the police had searched Mark's car that contained abundant political literature. Their reaction was shown shortly afterward when they beat him for being a "Mexican-lover, just like you love those coloreds," proof of the political character of the case, whatever its origins may have been.

Next stage in the fight

McNaghten errs in his final point as well: "All of Curtis's appeals have been turned down and the CDC is now campaigning hard for an early parole for Curtis since a new trial is an extremely remote possibility."

Not so. Curtis has yet to have a chance to take his case to federal court. He and his attorneys are now preparing this case and supporters are raising the funds necessary to pursue it.

Moreover, the real appeal of Curtis's case — like that of any victimized worker — is to the millions of workers and farmers here and around the world. It is to those who, unlike McNaghten and his ilk, see the cop frame-up for what it is and realize the importance of standing up in accordance with the traditional working-class slogan: "An

MICHIGAN

Detroit

Justice for Rodney King: The Meaning of the Explosion in Los Angeles. Speakers: James Harris, Socialist Workers candidate for Congress, 15th C.D.; Dave Alvarez, Socialist Workers Party, member United Auto Workers Local 369; Larry Archer, member International Association of Machinists Local Lodge 141, victim of police brutality. Sun., May 10, 5 p.m. 5019 1/2 Woodward Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (313) 831-1177.

MISSOURI

St. Louis

Speak-Out Against Acquittal of Cops Who Beat Rodney King. No Excuse for Police Brutality. Speakers: Mary Zins, Socialist Workers candidate for Missouri governor; others. Sat. May 9, 7:30 p.m. 1622 S Broadway. Donation: \$3. Tel: (314) 361-0250.

Malcolm X on the Cops, Courts, and the Capitalist System. Speakers: Andrea González, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress, 3rd C.D.; others. Sat., May 16, 7:30 p.m. 1622 S Broadway. Donation: \$3. Tel: (314) 361-0250.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

Justice for Rodney King! Protest the Acquittal of the L.A. Cops. Sat., May 9, 7:30 p.m. 2000-C South Elm-Eugene St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

injury to one is an injury to all."

Just before he was sentenced, Curtis stood up in court and told the judge: "The State of Iowa v. Mark Curtis is not about rape or burglary or assaulting police officers or any of the other things I was accused of. It's about putting the fear of jail, the fear of the billy club, into the hearts of working people."

"Up to now, the goal of a conviction has succeeded. And like many others, I will do jail time. This will be fought around the world until it is defeated. But the goal of demoralizing and discrediting me and my supporters has not and will not succeed."

"I'm going to keep on being a part of the fight for working people. As far as that goes I'll never be separated from people in struggle for their rights."

Working people everywhere can join Mark and the thousands worldwide campaigning to win justice in this case. In doing so they will be joining the fight against what the employers and their government have in store for all those who labor for a living. They will also be joining the fight against one face of ultrarightism in this country — those who are campaigning against Curtis and what he represents.

Harvey McArthur is a switchman on the Burlington Northern Railroad in Seattle and member of United Transportation Union Local 845.

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

PENNSYLVANIA

Pittsburgh

Justice for Rodney King! Indict the Cops Who Beat Him! Sat., May 9, 7:30 p.m. 4905 Penn Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

TEXAS

Houston

New Stage in the Struggle to End Apartheid. Speakers: Hilton Mokoka, African National Congress; representative of Socialist Workers Party. Sat., May 9, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$3. Tel: (713) 522-8054.

UTAH

Salt Lake City

The L.A. Rebellion, Police Brutality, and the Fight for Justice for Rodney King. A panel of speakers. Sat., May 9, 7:30 p.m. 147 E 900 S. Donation: \$3. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

The Fight to Free Mark Curtis: An Answer to Right-Wing Supporters of a Police Frame-Up. Speaker: Nels J'Anthony, Socialist Workers candidate for Congress, member United Transportation Union. Sat., May 16, 7:30 p.m. 147 E 900 S. Donation: \$3. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

WEST VIRGINIA

Morgantown

The Rodney King Verdict — Police Brutality and the Social Explosion in Los Angeles. A panel discussion. Sat., May 9, 7:30 p.m. 242 Walnut St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (304) 296-0055.

BRITAIN

London

Los Angeles: Jail the Guilty Cops; Justice for Rodney King. Speaker: Marcella Fitzgerald, Communist League. Sat., May 9, 7:30 p.m. 47 The Cut, SE 1. Donation: £1. Tel: 71-928-7993.

Manchester

Justice for Rodney King! From Los Angeles to Manchester: Stop Police Brutality, Racism, and Frame-Ups. Speaker: Helen Arthur, Communist League, member Transport and General

Bookstore rebuilding wins backing

Continued from front page

questions confronting the working class internationally. One of the most developed translation systems in the Los Angeles area allows the discussion to take place simultaneously in both English and Spanish.

Replacing the forum's sound system, chairs, and translation system is part of the fund-raising effort.

Only two days after the conflagration, supporters of Pathfinder were out cleaning up broken glass, painting new signs, and repairing the new site. A resident of the neighborhood who is a professional sign-maker donated a full day's effort in painting and hanging a brightly colored sign. Another called for help and donations to rebuild the bookstore.

A literature table staffed in front of the

Workers Union. Sat., May 9, 7 p.m. Unit 4, 60 Shudehill. Donation: £1. Tel: 061-839 1766.

CANADA

Toronto

Buffalo: the Fight to Defend Abortion Rights Against Operation Rescue. Speakers: Sharon Fawley, Buffalo United for Choice; Lynne Rich, Buffalo United for Choice; Merle Terlesky, Ontario Coalition for Abortion Clinics; Brigitte Groulx, Young Socialists. Sat., May 9, 7:30 p.m. 827 Bloor St. West. Translation in French. Donation: \$4. Tel: (416) 533-4324.

Vancouver

Pathfinder Bookstore Grand Opening. From Los Angeles to Vancouver: Cop Brutality, Racism, and Attacks on Working People — A Socialist Perspective. Speakers: Steve Penner, Communist League; David Warshawsky, U.S. Socialist Workers candidate for Congress, Washington state, 7th C.D. Sat., May 9. Reception, 5:30 p.m.; rally, 7:30 p.m. 3967 Main St. (between 23rd and 24th Ave). Donation: \$3. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

ICELAND

Reykjavik

When Courts Tell Cops in All Countries That It's OK to Beat Us, We Must Protest. Speaker: Petur Bodvarsson. Sat., May 9, 1 p.m. Klapparstíg 26. Tel: (91) 17513.

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland

Behind the Los Angeles Rebellion Against Police Brutality. Speaker: James Robb, Communist League, member Food and Textile Workers Union. Sat., May 9, 7 p.m. La Gonda Arcade, 203 Karangahape Rd. Donation: \$3. Tel: (9) 793-075.

Farmers Face the Crisis of the 1990s. Speaker: Brendan Gleeson, Communist League, member Food and Textile Workers Union. Sat., May 16, 7 p.m. La Gonda Arcade, 203 Karangahape Rd. Donation: \$3. Tel: (9) 793-075.

store by volunteers was the scene of political discussion in the neighborhood. The new site was filled with volunteers coming in to help on the reconstruction effort.

More than \$100 in small donations were made by mostly Spanish-speaking workers driving or walking by the store.

"Take a good look around," Kim Allen told the May 3 rally. "We hope that within months you will not recognize this place. We encourage everyone to help us build a modern, well-stocked bookstore that can be a real center for activists thirsty for the ideas found in the books and pamphlets Pathfinder publishes."

Donations can be sent to the Pathfinder Bookstore Reconstruction Fund at 2552-B W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90006.

BRITAIN

London: 47 The Cut. Postal code: SE1 8LL. Tel: 071-401 2293.

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NEW ZEALAND

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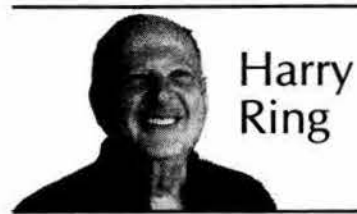
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Wellington: 23 Majoribanks St., Courtenay Pl. Postal address: P.O. Box 9092. Tel: (4) 384-4205.

SWEDEN

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

They can still figure — When we read recently the Census Bureau finding that 60 percent of the new



Harry Ring

jobs created in the 80s were "high-paying," we knew it was a crock and wondered how they did it. Simple. According to Reuter's news agency, they classified anything over \$6 an hour as high-paying.

Happy ending — In the former USSR, Alexandra Sergeyevna, a textile worker, bought the winning lottery ticket for a car. For safe-keeping, she gave it to her husband who died and was buried with the ticket in the pocket of his best suit. The body was exhumed, but the casket had been ripped off and the body stripped. Meanwhile, the prize was claimed by a man who bought the suit in a thrift store. Sergeyevna finally got the car, cashed it in, and donated the money to Chernobyl victims.

But it's a free country, right? — "The only doctor who performs

abortions in South Dakota works in a cinder-block office, protected by alarms and bullet-proof windows. The only doctor who performs abortions in North Dakota lives in Minnesota." — Law professor Susan Estrich.

Maybe if they wore brown shirts — When right-winger Patrick Buchanan was departing a Minneapolis campaign trip, two cabs were summoned to take him and his crew to the airport. After waiting almost an hour, the cabbies were told he'd changed his plans. When they requested waiting time, the reply came back, "We don't have any resources for that. Sorry."

Give 'em a plaque — Dentists have been receiving a "newsletter" from something called the Princeton Dental Resource Center. One recent issue reported that, contrary to general assumption, chocolate can fight cavities. The scientist whose study was cited howled that it had been twisted. The "Institute" is financed by M&M/Mars, the candy folk.

The tasteful set — According to a first page article in the *Los Angeles Times*, local wealthy folk are demonstrating that they realize there's a recession, homeless people, and all that. For instance, the spouse of one Hollywood money-

maker is now driving a jeep instead of her Rolls Royce. "People feel foolish if they become too opulent," she explains. "It's just not good taste..."

Double standard? Nonsense — A Los Angeles cop who fractured the skull of a Latino youth in a beating six years ago, and then busted him on a false assaulting-an-officer charge, was convicted of violating the victim's civil rights. The judge scored the cop for lying on the stand and assailed the "cover-up" practice of falsely arresting victims. He then meted out sentence — a year and a day.

German workers strike as economy deteriorates and cost of reunification continues to rise

BY DEREK BRACEY

A series of developments in Germany has underlined the sharpness of its rivalry with other imperialist powers and has shown the huge cost of attempting to incorporate into Germany the workers' state in the east.

Public service employees in the west began a strike April 27 that has disrupted transportation, garbage collection, mail delivery, and other services. In the first public sector strike since 1974, the Union of Public Services had pulled out 215,000 members by April 29. They announced that more workers, including airport workers, would strike the following week if their demands were not met.

The same day 130,000 members of the I.G. Metall union organized a short warning strike over pay demands. The union, Germany's largest, is threatening a full work stoppage by its 3.6 million members by mid-May.

The unions point out that workers are bearing the costs of German reunification while employers have made high profits during the past few years. They are seeking

a 9.5 percent raise, above the 4.7 percent inflation rate. This is to compensate for higher taxes and previous decisions to hold back on pay demands in order to assist the unification process.

The strikes are affecting only western Germany. Workers in the former East Germany have separate wage agreements.

The Kohl government says it can go no higher than 4.8 percent for the public sector workers. Employers have offered the metalworkers union a 3.3 percent raise.

The strikes reflect rising resistance to the sacrifices brought on by the reunification process. Kohl predicted at the beginning of reunification that it would take only three to five years to thoroughly merge the two economies, and the process would have little effect on west German living standards.

Instead, the costs of the reunification have dramatically escalated, while fewer now believe the two economies can be successfully integrated. Payments from Bonn to sustain the system in the east will be \$110 billion in 1992, nearly twice the yearly cost at the

beginning of the process.

The German government has financed this so far with massive deficit spending. It is estimated that the public debt will be more than \$61 billion this year. Of total expenditure on eastern Germany, only 25 percent has been used for investments in the infrastructure while a colossal 75 percent has been absorbed sustaining the social wage in the eastern part of the country — such things as unemployment benefits, pensions, and other social services.

This has sharply affected the capitalist economy in the west, which is expected to grow by only 1 percent in 1992, down from 3.1 percent last year. Inflation is higher, and last year Kohl also levied a 7.5 percent "solidarity" tax and extra sales taxes to help finance reunification.

The effects of the German government's actions to raise funds for reunification — chiefly the maintenance of high interest rates in Germany — have brought it into conflict with other imperialist powers.

Three days before a meeting of finance ministers from the Group of Seven, a gathering of the top imperialist nations, U.S. Treasury under secretary David Mulford chastised the German government for keeping interest rates at German banks high. On April 25, the German finance ministry is-

Continued on Page 8



Striking public service workers in Germany. This is first such strike since 1974.

Gov't rests case in Hartford 15 trial

BY TIM CRAINE
AND MARTIN KOPPEL

BRIDGEPORT, Connecticut — After three weeks of testimony by dozens of FBI agents and informers, the federal government rested its case against Puerto Rican independence fighter Yvonne Meléndez Carrión without having presented any evidence to prove their charges against her.

Meléndez is one of 15 independence activists, known as the Hartford 15, arrested in Puerto Rico on charges stemming from the 1983 robbery of a Wells Fargo depot in West Hartford, Connecticut. The FBI accused Meléndez of conspiracy to carry out the robbery and transportation of stolen money. She faces up to 15 years in prison if convicted.

Prior to the arrests, FBI agents surreptitiously recorded hundreds of hours of private conversations by the independence activists. These taped conversations are the cornerstone of the government's frame-up against Meléndez.

After the government rested its case April 29, Meléndez's attorney James Sultan presented a motion for acquittal. "Nothing, neither the recordings nor the documents presented, tie my client" to the charges against her, he said.

Sultan also made a motion to strike the vast majority of the prosecution testimony, much of which described the taped conversations, because it had nothing to do with Meléndez. A large part of the testimony was in relation to another defendant, Filiberto Ojeda Ríos, who jumped bail and is being tried in absentia together with Meléndez.

The last prosecution witness was Joseph Rodríguez, the FBI official who directed the wiretapping operation and the massive 1985 FBI raid that led to the arrests of the 15. Under cross-examination Rodríguez admitted that none of the physical evidence offered — audiotapes, videotapes, travel documents, fingerprints — identified Meléndez in connection with the alleged actions.

In fact, even the tape transcriptions prepared by the FBI refer mainly to "unidentified male," "unidentified female," or to sup-

posed code names such as "Martín," "El Greco," and "Falcón."

The FBI claimed "Falcón" referred to Meléndez. On what basis? On the testimony of an "expert," FBI agent Marlene Hunter, who said she reached that conclusion after "analysis."

The government prosecutors alleged that Meléndez must have been part of a conspiracy by members of the proindependence group Macheteros to rob the Wells Fargo depot. Why? Because, they said, she took minutes for some of the meetings of the group's Central Committee.

During the court recess April 29, 40 supporters of the Hartford 15 held a picket line outside the U.S. district court here demanding justice for Meléndez. They carried Puerto Rican flags and signs reading "FBI: Wanted for illegal wiretapping" and "Stop the repression against the Puerto Rican independence movement."

Meléndez spoke to her supporters. "I've been asked," she said, "if I am prepared for the results of this trial" in case the court rules against her. "I am not shaken by the fact that the government has lied in the trial. What would affect me is being isolated and people not knowing the truth. But I feel strong because you are here. You are sending a message to the government."

"If they send me to jail, I will keep on fighting," Meléndez declared. "This is just one more battle, because other independence fighters have also been jailed. We must fight to win freedom for all of them."

Joel González, a 27-year-old Puerto Rican man who took part in the picket line, told the *Militant* he came to the trial after hearing about the case in the local newspaper. "I thought what I read in the paper against her might be true," he said. "So I decided to come here and see for myself. But I saw that they don't have anything against her. They're saying that if these people are independence supporters, they're just terrorists. I think the government should tell the truth about the history of Puerto Rico."

25 AND 50 YEARS AGO



NEW YORK — A new attack on the ballot rights of minority political parties was signed into law on April 22 by Governor Rockefeller. Aimed explicitly at the Socialist Workers Party, the law was described by the *New York Times* as the "anti-Judy White bill." Specifically the law bars an "ineligible" person from being nominated for public office, or appearing on the ballot.

The rationale of the backers of the law was to keep New Yorkers from "wasting" their votes on a candidate who "could not take office even if elected." These pious do-gooders didn't seem particularly concerned about New Yorkers wasting their votes on the Republican and Democratic politicians now in office.

Judy White, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Governor of New York in 1966, was described by the *Times* as an "18-year-old brunette." The *Times*, usually claiming to be so scrupulous about their facts, apparently felt the need to stretch the facts a little to prove their point, as Miss White is 28.

The whole question of "ineligibility" is based on a series of special "qualifications" adopted in colonial times to help promote the election of "men of property." These include the exclusion of youth from public office and lengthy local residence requirements. The real intent of the law is plain: it is to throw another roadblock in the path of minority political parties. The SWP is especially singled out for its uncompromising fight against the war in Vietnam, which its candidates have carried to the people of this state. Judy White, who is an active fighter

in the antiwar movement, was the only candidate for governor in last year's election who opposed the war and called for the immediate withdrawal of American troops.

THE MILITANT

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

May 16, 1942

The United States Supreme Court refused last week to review the case of Odell Waller, a Negro sharecropper scheduled to be executed in Virginia on June 19 for the self-defense killing of his white landlord who had tried to cheat the Waller family out of their share of a crop.

The Workers Defense League, supported by many labor and Negro organizations, presented evidence to the Court showing that Waller had not received a trial by a jury of his peers because of the Virginia poll tax law which not only bars non-payers of the tax from voting but also from serving on juries. The evidence given the court also showed that more than 80 percent of the population in Pittsylvania County, where the trial was held, are unable because of the grinding poverty in which they live to pay the poll tax.

As the Workers Defense League pointed out, "Of the many Negroes in his county, only one in 125 cast a ballot. A citizen would often have to pay more than a week's income in order to vote. There were no sharecroppers on Odell Waller's jury."

The Workers Defense League has presented the Supreme Court with a final petition for re-hearing. Every worker and every workers' organization in this country should now speak up loudly and aggressively to let the Court know that they want the Waller case reviewed.

Indict cops; free 10,000 in jail!

The injustice of the verdict in the trial of the cops who beat Rodney King has outraged the world. Four white cops who beat a Black worker nearly to death, and whose actions were captured on video for the world to see, have been exonerated.

Working people, students, and all supporters of justice and equality should demand that President George Bush take immediate steps to charge the four police officers with federal civil rights violations.

Thousands of people in Los Angeles and across the country took to the streets to protest the cops' acquittal. Because of the leadership default that blocked off the possibility of a sustained fight to demand justice for King after his beating, the guilty cops were allowed to get off scot-free. The resulting outrage in Los Angeles quickly turned into an antipolice riot.

The government responded by unleashing the police, National Guard, and federal armed forces on the working people of Los Angeles. The result of this injustice has been more than 50 dead, primarily Blacks and Latinos; 2,000 injured; and 10,000 people in jail. Hundreds of small businesses and thousands of buildings were damaged and destroyed.

From the beating of King, to the verdict that cleared the cops, to the repression and jailing of thousands of Blacks and Latinos, the rulers of Los Angeles and the federal government have demonstrated their complete disregard for the human rights of working people, and especially Black workers.

Rodney King deserves justice. The labor movement, along with Black, Latino, and all civil rights organizations, should mobilize to force the federal government to prose-

cute the cops.

The thousands of working people and youth who have been rounded up by the cops and jailed urgently need defending. The government will try to make the young people who burst out in rage against the Rodney King verdict pay a dear price. In a blatant disregard for democratic rights, the California Supreme Court extended from two to four days the period of time that these youth can be held in prison without charges.

Government officials are working overtime to bring the toughest charges possible against those arrested. The message they are trying to send is that no amount of abuse by the system warrants protest action. For the government, "law and order" and defending property rights comes before human rights.

Los Angeles County Sheriff Sherman Block has issued a call for federal prosecution under civil rights laws of those accused of involvement in assaulting white motorists and Korean shopkeepers. The government has never shown any concern for defending the rights of Asians or immigrants. This cynical move stands in sharp contrast to the authorities' refusal to take the same step against the cops who beat Rodney King.

Working people around the world should raise their voices in protest against the police beating of Rodney King and the thousands of people who have become the victims of the police and military crackdown in Los Angeles.

Indict the cops now!

Free the thousands thrown in Los Angeles jails!

Withdraw the troops from Los Angeles!

Facing a new world disorder

President George Bush's promise of a new world order coming out of the Iraq war seems like a cruel joke in today's world. The economic downturn of the past year and growing military conflicts worldwide speak more of a new world disorder.

Germany's economy is being dragged down by massive capital transfers to shore up the eastern part of the country and by attempts to institute a market economy there. In turn, Germany's tight money policy has hampered other European countries from pulling themselves out of recession.

The nearly two dozen new nation-states that have emerged out of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe are facing a crisis that the small amount of aid being pledged by the International Monetary Fund cannot solve.

The weak economic recovery in the United States has provided little relief for working people and is threatened by the decline of export trade as Japan and much of Europe go through an economic downturn.

Third World countries rely heavily on the industrial nations for export earnings. Massive debts, trade barriers, and a slowdown of economic growth in the major capitalist nations have hurt all Third World countries. According to the World Bank, for the first time since World War II, per capita income in the Third World as a whole has declined for two consecutive years. This comes on top of the devastation of working people's living standards in semi-colonial countries over the past decade.

In spite of the market system's failure the capitalist families that rule are out to save their system. Their answer

to the economic and social problems of the day is to assault the living standards of working people, scapegoat immigrant and foreign workers for the deteriorating economic conditions, and go to war to gain access to markets and resources.

The new world disorder drives the wealthy rulers further apart and into fierce competition for the declining piece of the pie. On the other hand it emphasizes the need for working people around the world to join together in solidarity and united action to defend ourselves against their assault on us.

In every major capitalist country the working class is more international, with workers coming from many countries. This factor aids the unity of working people across national boundaries, which is key to mount an effective fight against future imperialist wars.

The working class worldwide also benefits from the struggles of oppressed nationalities and women for greater rights in society. We also gain from the fights of working farmers against the effects of the capitalist crisis on them.

The crisis of the market system means the capitalist rulers will go to extreme lengths to maintain and protect their wealth. The Iraq war was a small but brutal example.

But their attacks will also provoke fights and resistance on the part of working people. Out of that resistance will come uncompromising fighters for a truly new world order that puts human life and needs above the private profit system.

An essential weapon for fighters

Recent political events — from the explosion in Los Angeles over the verdict in the Rodney King beating trial to the confrontations in the streets of Buffalo around abortion rights to the Caterpillar strike — underline the importance of winning new readers to the *Militant*.

The *Militant* presents the facts together with a revolutionary working-class analysis of what capitalism and its growing world disorder has in store for the working people of the world. Today more than ever youth and working-class fighters need to read the *Militant* to follow and understand what is happening in the world and to chart an effective course of action.

Readers and supporters of the *Militant* are currently involved in an international campaign to increase by several thousand the readership of this paper, the Spanish-language *Perspectiva Mundial*, the French-language *L'Internationaliste*, and the Marxist journal *New International*.

Hundreds of copies of the *Militant* have been sold to workers in Illinois who were involved in the Caterpillar strike, to abortion rights fighters in Buffalo, and at nationwide actions protesting police brutality and the King verdict. Through patient political discussion about the big issues confronting working people many of these activists and others like them can be convinced to sign up for introductory subscriptions.

With about one-third of the international circulation campaign completed, the drive has fallen 13 percent behind schedule. *Militant* supporters throughout the world now need to redouble their efforts to meet their adopted goals.

The Socialist Workers election campaigns present big opportunities to campaign with the *Militant*. Everyone interested in supporting and following the socialist alternative to the capitalist parties of war, racism, and economic depression should be urged to sign up for an introductory subscription.

The ambitious petitioning efforts to win ballot status in states throughout the country, which supporters are undertaking this spring and summer, will present additional opportunities to meet, discuss politics with, and sign up thousands of working people, not only on the ballot petitions but as subscribers to the *Militant*.

Circulating the *International Socialist Review* supplement, which reports on the launching of the SWP presidential ticket and contains the article "Buchananism: What it is and how to fight it," can help convince working-class fighters of why they need to read the political analysis contained in the *Militant* on a regular basis. All new subscribers will receive a copy of this supplement free.

The goal set for the drive is well within reach. All readers can help by buying or renewing a subscription if you haven't already done so. You can take a small bundle of papers, subscription forms, and *International Socialist Review* supplements to sell subscriptions to coworkers or fellow students. Or you can join the many organized sales teams that are being organized out of the Pathfinder bookstores, whose addresses are listed on page 12. Let's make the circulation campaign a victory!

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

In her letter, reader Amanda Byrne questions the *Militant's* description of Puerto Rican independence fighter Yvonne Meléndez as the victim of a political frame-up. The numerous violations of her rights are "not outrageous," she states, "considering the seriousness of the charges she faces."

The most fundamental fact that all defenders of democratic rights should start with, however, is the presumption

DISCUSSION WITH OUR READERS

of innocence. This is precisely the most important right that the government has violated regarding Meléndez and other members of the Hartford 15, who were arrested in 1985 and charged in connection with the 1983 robbery of a Wells Fargo depot (see article on page 13).

Meléndez is innocent. It is not her obligation to prove her innocence; it is up to the government to prove its accusations. Yet, in the six and a half years since her arrest, the government has punished her without the benefit of a trial. The FBI arrested the 15 Puerto Rican independence activists during a raid in which they burst into dozens of homes without producing a search or arrest warrant. Pointing guns at her children, FBI agents dragged Meléndez out of her home blindfolded without even allowing her to get dressed.

In violation of the Eighth Amendment the 15 activists were denied their right to bail and kept in jail for 16 months or more. They were denied the right to a speedy trial. They were also denied the constitutional right to a trial of their peers. The government used the charge of conspiracy, a loosely defined legal term, to accuse individuals simply on the basis of talking or associating with others. The fraudulence of this accusation was visible when the government recently withdrew conspiracy charges against six of the activists and dropped all charges against two others.

The main basis for the prosecution's case is the 1,000 hours of taped private conversations carried out by massive FBI wiretapping in violation of the Puerto Rican constitution. Some of the tapes remained unsealed for up to four months and were tampered with.

Even so, the prosecution was unable to offer any proof of its charges against Meléndez. However, the judge's allowing the tapes as evidence and permitting three weeks of testimony by numerous cops who purportedly described various aspects of the robbery, even though most of the testimony did not pertain to Meléndez herself, has been used to prejudice the jury against her.

These facts also demonstrate that, in addition to being a frame-up, the case is not about a bank robbery but is of a political nature. From the start the government has tried to smear the Hartford 15 as terrorists. When one FBI agent was questioned about his role in searching the activists' homes during the 1985 arrests, he admitted that he had been instructed to seize "anything of a political nature."

The use of criminal charges to frame up political activists is standard practice for the U.S. government. That is exactly what happened in the case of Mark Curtis, a union and political activist who was falsely convicted of raping a young Black woman in Des Moines, Iowa.

The Hartford 15 case does not occur in a vacuum. The U.S. government's long campaign of repression against the Puerto Rican independence movement — including frame-ups, illegal spying, disruption, and murder — has been widely exposed as a result of the Cerro Maravilla case that is being investigated in the current Puerto Rican Senate hearings. Those hearings have begun to reveal the involvement of the FBI in the police murder of two independence activists in 1978.

The 1985 arrests of the Hartford 15 were attempts to further attack the independence movement and to counter the growing opposition to the FBI's crimes, both in Puerto Rico and the United States.

* * *

Two corrections: An article by Jim Spaul in the May 1 issue, on a mining accident at the Shelby coalfield in England, attributed a quote to Mark Davis, National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) branch secretary at the pit. The quote, criticizing British Coal for sacrificing health and safety to the drive for profits, actually came from Ken Homer, general secretary of the NUM in Yorkshire.

An editorial in the same issue referred to the social democratic party in Sweden, which was voted out of office in 1991, as the Socialist Party. Its name is in fact the Social Democratic Labor Party.

* * *

Articles written by active unionists from all over the world are a very important feature of the *Militant*. This workers correspondence covers not only directly union-related issues but the whole range of political topics dealt with in the paper. If you are a union member and send in an article for the *Militant*, please also send details of the union you are a member of and your workplace, so these can be noted at the end of the article for the information of our readers.

Ravenswood workers hail ouster of boss

BY LINDA JOYCE

RAVENSWOOD, West Virginia — Braving a driving rainstorm, 500 locked-out members of United Steelworkers of America Local 5668, their families, and supporters loudly celebrated the ouster of the hated Ravenswood Aluminum Corp. (RAC) chairman Emmett Boyle here. The rally took place at the union hall grounds, dubbed "Fort Unity."

Former RAC chief executive officer Boyle's firing came as part of a corporate shake-up at the company last week. Don Worledge, company president and chief operating officer, announced his retirement. A new company spokesperson and public relations firm were picked. RAC asked for an immediate reopening of negotiations, which have been discontinued since last July.

This activity came in the context of the expected release of a ruling by National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) administrative judge Bernard Reis on whether the company violated labor laws by illegally locking out workers on Nov. 1, 1990, and hiring over 1,000 scabs to replace them. Millions of dollars of back pay are also at issue. The NLRB had previously ruled in the union's favor, and the company appealed. RAC lawyers asked for a delay in the release of the ruling until after negotiations. Judge Reis obliged by postponing publication of his decision until June 1.

"We lasted one day longer than Emmett Boyle, who has been permanently replaced," Charlie McDowell, chair of the United Steelworkers (USWA) Local 5668 grievance committee, told this reporter. "We'll be negotiating a contract. They're doing this because of the ruling, otherwise he'd be a hero. The back pay is a big hammer hanging over their head."

Union members held firm

For 18 months the 1,700 Steelworkers have maintained around-the-clock pickets at two road entrances to the plant. They have held weekly, biweekly during the winter, picnics and rallies. They have reached out across the United States and around the world for solidarity. Although most of the work force is at or near retirement, only 12 union members crossed the picketline.

Many Steelworkers are convinced they will be going back to work soon. Marge Flanagan, chair of the Women's Support Group, explained, "I'm proud of all the



Militant/Tom Nichols

Steelworkers attending union rally in West Virginia. The Ravenswood Aluminum Corp. has locked out 1,700 USWA members for the past 18 months.

Steelworkers and their families. This just didn't happen; it was dedication to the union, and the solidarity we received. What we did here will help all labor. And the Women's Support Group isn't stopping with this," she said. "We made a vow that we'll go anywhere in the U.S.A. to help with labor disputes and we'll fight the government for whatever is right for the labor movement."

Some are wary of what conditions they will have to meet to go back. Willard Carver, a locked-out Steelworker with 33 years in the plant, also opposes any delay in making known the judge's decision. "No, it wouldn't be right. The company knows they're beat," he said. "They tried to whittle us down. After we fought so long, I'd be mad if that happened. And the scabs have to go; there is no way we're going back with the scabs."

George Becker, USWA international vice-president, said that the union opposes

any delay in the ruling and will insist that the scabs must leave.

In answering the question, "Why now?" Dan Stidham, the local union president, was of the opinion that the financial situation of the plant and the state of the aluminum industry also contributed to the sudden change of heart. "Boyle's strategy didn't work, they were not making a profit. The stockholders demanded that something be done."

Linda Mays, an activist in the Women's Support Group, reflected a cautious mood that some expressed during discussions at the rally of winning a battle but not the war. "Really nothing has changed," she said. "We got rid of Emmett — but who's he? He was just being used by the company. They'll keep us busy but in the long run it will take more. This union-busting, like at Caterpillar, is continuing to happen everywhere," she added. "All that's agreed is that there will

be negotiations. That could go on a long time. If we don't concede enough during negotiations, they'll say, alright, we'll shut the plant down." Others worried about the company and union officials meeting behind closed doors in Pittsburgh.

Support from other unions

Chuck Whaley, Steelworkers Local 5724 vice-president at Ravenswood Aluminum's sister plant, Ormet, in nearby Hannibal, Ohio, said that Boyle is still the chief there. Both plants are being managed by ORALCO, a Wheeling-based management service. The members of Local 5724 there, he explained, take up monthly collections and have donated several thousand dollars to help the struggle of Local 5668 in Ravenswood.

Pennsylvania Steelworkers District 15 members came to the rally by bus and caravan. District president Lefty Palm presented the locked-out workers with a check for \$11,554. He and other union officials called for the defeat of George Bush in the elections, even if it meant "electing Mickey Mouse."

Other unionists, from the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers, and the American Federation of Teachers, garment workers, and others attended the event. Denver Cutlip, a laid-off miner and member of the United Mine Workers of America from Craigsville, West Virginia, said he came to show solidarity. "If organized labor goes under, we all go under."

A group of development workers from Africa at a workshop near here came to the rally. Hamado-Hubert Billa, from Burkina Faso, said, "It's like the feeling of the workers rallies in Burkina Faso. I feel it is in the same tradition. I'm somebody working and fighting against poverty and it's the same thing as fighting for jobs."

Sue Ramsey, one of the locked-out steelworkers with over 17 years in the plant, said that whatever happens, "People will not give up. We will be more generous when helping other unions. We'll get more active politically. This has just changed everyone."

Linda Joyce is a member of International Union of Electronic Workers Local 627 in Fairmont, West Virginia.

LETTERS

Needs the 'Militant'

I am a prisoner and I would like a year's subscription to your social-interest newsweekly.

With just a little over 19 years in prison, I'm needing all the help and information I can get to keep ahold of the reality of the outside world. The *Militant*, and sharing with Mark Curtis, helps me greatly.

A prisoner
Fort Madison, Iowa

'Pulls no punches'

My hopes are that when these few lines reach you there, you are all in the best of what life has to offer. I am sending \$6.00 to renew my subscription. In today's world where there is so much change, one needs the truth. Unlike the Reading, Pennsylvania, newspaper, which only tells one side, the *Militant* pulls no punches. Thanks for being there.

A prisoner
Leesport, Pennsylvania

Meléndez trial

I have just read the article in the *Militant*, April 24, 1992, regarding the trial of Puerto Rican activist Yvonne Meléndez.

Although I will quickly acknowledge that justice in the United States is not always fair and swift, it is often lawyers that prevent cases from coming to trial in a quick manner.

Additionally, I was struck at how not once during the article were the facts of the case described, only allegations of rights' violation. Her points of violation,

specifically "house arrest" between midnight and 6 a.m. and permission to leave the state of Connecticut, are not outrageous demands, considering the seriousness of the charges she faces. A question that comes to mind was whether Meléndez was ever denied leaving Connecticut after having presented a request?

Another point I feel compelled to discuss is the Meléndez contention that she feels a special responsibility in this case because she is the only woman and "women in the struggle are ignored." The fact is that bank robbery, the charge she not once refuted in this article, has nothing to do with the independence of Puerto Rico. Additionally to consider Meléndez a "Political Prisoner" degenerates true political prisoners around the world.

If you can show me how Meléndez is a political prisoner, I will happily concede my previous point, but the article written about her has not shown me that she is one.

Amanda Byrne
Cleveland, Ohio

Brown's flat tax plan

I was pleased to see the article on Gerald Brown's flat-rate tax plan in the recent issue of the *Militant*. This sort of "solution" has nothing to do with dealing with the problems that working people face.

I don't have any of the details on hand about the fight for a progressive tax structure and the gain that was for the working class. A little information on this would have

broadened the article a bit.

Another interesting point is that not only is it put forward by a "liberal" politician, but this plan has also received support from other "liberal" and "left" politicians and writers (such as Alexander Cockburn.)

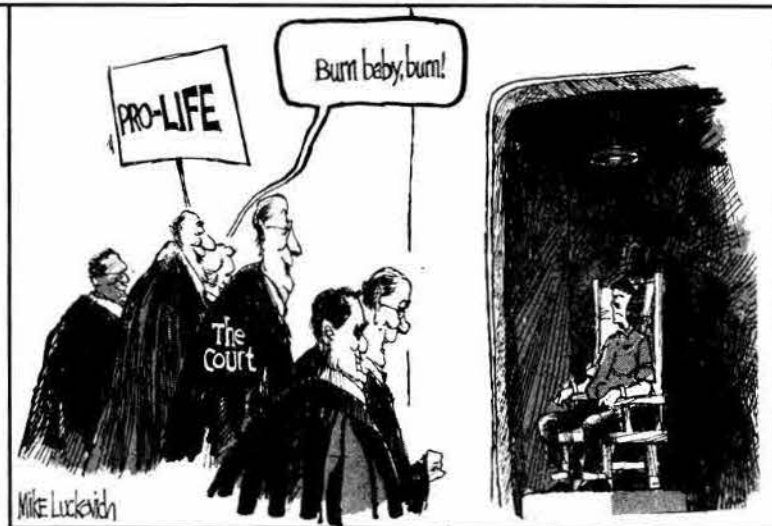
But when all is said and done, the communist view of taxes under capitalism is best summed up by Marx and Engels, the founders of scientific socialism. In the Address of the Central Committee to the Communist League in March 1850, they present their view as follows:

"If the democrats propose proportional taxes, the workers must demand progressive taxes; if the democrats themselves put forward a moderately progressive tax, the workers must insist on a tax with rates that rise so steeply that big capital will be ruined by it; if the democrats demand the regulation of state debts, the workers must demand state bankruptcy." [See Marx and Engels, *Selected Works*, Volume 1, pp. 183-84.]

Tim Mailhot
New York, New York

Auto Worker rally

About 150 union members and officials gathered at a rally in support of UAW members at Caterpillar, and in protest against the company's attacks on the workers. The noon-hour rally was held on April 29 in front of a Caterpillar distribution center in suburban Roseville, Minnesota. It was called by the Minnesota Industrial Union Council.



The main speaker at the rally was UAW president Owen Bieber. Bieber and other speakers said that the fight at Caterpillar was not over, despite the fact that the union had called off its 5-month strike in the face of the company's threats to hire scabs. Bieber said negotiations with the company would resume on April 30 in St. Louis. He also called on union members present to lobby Sen. David Durenberger to support legislation pending against the use of scabs, and he called for voting George Bush out of office.

After the rally, union members went into the building and presented local Caterpillar management with a letter to Caterpillar chairman Donald Fites, demanding that the company bargain in good faith.

Among the union members at the rally were members of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 653 who are on strike

against concession demands by Country Club Markets, a local food chain. They distributed fliers about their struggle.

The Caterpillar strike has been a big topic of discussion at the Ford plant in the Twin Cities. Many workers say that by ending the strike, the Caterpillar workers "gave up their bargaining leverage," to resolve the issues. Many workers expect the auto companies to follow the lead of Caterpillar next year in contract talks with the UAW, demanding major concessions.

Joe Callahan
St. Paul, Minnesota

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.

Swedish rulers seek closer U.S. ties as European trade rivalry increases

BY CARL-ERIK ISACSSON

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — It is unusual that a newly installed prime minister is invited to meet the U.S. president. But Swedish prime minister Carl Bildt got an invitation from President George Bush only three weeks after his government was set up following the defeat of the social democrats in the elections last fall.

In an interview in the liberal daily *Dagens Nyheter*, Bildt explains, "The fact that we got an invitation so soon is because we are considered a very interesting new actor in the buildup of a new European security policy and the forming of new relations between states in Europe. That is also confirmed by the fact that Sweden will chair the European Security Conference meeting in Stockholm in December this year."

The European Conference on Security and Cooperation is the organization that first met in Helsinki in 1975 to sign accords that placed restrictions on troop movements. It includes all Western and Eastern European states plus the United States and Canada.

Bildt's visit to the United States in February included meetings with President Bush, Secretary of State James Baker, Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney, and CIA chief Robert Gates. They discussed security policy in Europe following the end of the cold war and economic assistance to the countries in Eastern Europe, especially the Baltic states.

Bildt hopes that the Baltic states will be International Monetary Fund (IMF) members this year. At a press conference following meetings with U.S. Federal Reserve Board chairman Alan Greenspan, Bildt stated that Sweden will give big financial support to the Baltic states. "Normally we give a 2.5 percent share in International Monetary Fund loans, but for the Baltic states Sweden will give 10-15 percent," he said. Bildt also met IMF chief Michel Camdessus on the subject of aid to the Baltic states. Also discussed during that meeting were the Swedish arms trade in Scandinavia and the government's application for a seat in the UN Security Council for the next two years.

Stockholm was never neutral

During the Vietnam war and after the 1979 revolution in Nicaragua, the so-called neutral policy of the Swedish government led to frosty relations with the United States. In reality, Stockholm never had a neutral stance between capitalism and communism. Young Swedish draftees were always told that the enemy would attack from the east, that is the former Soviet Union. The substantial Swedish military forces were always directed against the Soviet Union. They were even used by NATO and the CIA for spying against the Warsaw Pact countries. From the point of view of the imperialists as a whole, the Swedish social democratic government did a good job in Nicaragua, helping to defeat the Sandinista revolution from within. Although Ronald Reagan criticized Stockholm for opposing the contra war, he also invited then Social Democratic prime minister Ingvar Carlsson to Washington in 1987.

During the military buildup and the war against the Iraqi people, the social democratic government never raised its voice against Washington. Things were different by then. The debt crisis in the third world had considerably diminished the possibilities for trade between these countries and Swedish capitalists, making a neutral policy less profitable. At the same time, sharpening competition between the United States, Europe, and Japan began to pressure the world to line up in trading blocs, in which the Swedish rulers had to take sides.

In the autumn of 1990 the Swedish economy went into a deep recession. The social democratic government responded by supporting the war buildup, attacking social

benefits, and applying for membership in the European Community. It also supported the U.S.-Canadian-Australian bloc against protectionism in the GATT negotiations, which were chaired by the Swedish minister of agriculture.

Pegging the krona to the mark

So as to appear like a serious applicant for membership in the European Community, the social democratic government voluntarily pegged the krona to the German mark. This policy was far from favorable for most Swedish capitalists who have traditionally waged trade wars by lowering the value of the krona to strengthen Swedish exports.

With Germany emerging economically as the strongest power in Europe, with a special interest in developing its trade and economic ties in its traditional backyard in central, eastern, and northern Europe, the Swedish economy risked becoming a simple appendage to the German mark.

That is something the Swedish rulers want to avoid. Being the strongest economic and military power in Scandinavia, the Swedish rulers compete with Germany there, as well as in Poland, the Baltic states, and even Russia. Considering the relative weakness that Swedish imperialism has in relation to the power of Germany, Stockholm must look for help from the outside. That is where the interests of Washington and Swedish imperialism now come together.

U.S. is losing ground in Europe

Following the end of the cold war, U.S. imperialism has lost ground to Germany in Europe. Two years ago the United States had 314,000 soldiers in the continent, mainly in Germany. Today it has 208,000 and is steadily withdrawing them. The enormous U.S. military presence cannot be so easily motivated as the former Soviet bloc is disintegrating and becoming much weaker militarily.

In a Pentagon report that was recently leaked to the press in the United States, plans are outlined to maintain U.S. military strength and to prevent the emergence of any power that could challenge Washington's undisputed military dominance in the world. Singling out Japan the report states, "We must maintain our status as a military power of the first magnitude in East Asia."

In a not-so-subtle swipe at Germany, the Pentagon report warns that "we must seek to prevent the emergence of European-only security arrangements which would undermine NATO, particularly the alliance's integrated command structure."

Strategic military areas

In another Pentagon report, seven possible war scenarios are described that the U.S. military must be ready for in order to maintain its superpower status. One of these scenarios is an attack by Russia on the Baltic states. It is only in Scandinavia that Russia, militarily the strongest of the workers' states, borders on small imperialist countries. In central Europe there is a buffer zone of militarily weaker workers states. That makes Scandinavia an important military-strategic area.

Finland, hit hard by its loss of trade with the former Soviet Union and deeply drawn into the world-wide depression, has ended its military agreements with the former Soviet Union. Like Sweden, it applied for membership in the European Community. Helsinki now plans to buy 67 jet fighters, most probably Saab planes from Sweden.

Norway, a member of NATO, is also interested in buying Swedish jet fighters. The Wallengbergs, the strongest capitalist group in Sweden, are in a good position to get these orders as they can offer favorable trade exchanges. The Finnish and Norwegian governments hope such deals will help them get out of the recession.

Sweden exported weapons worth 2.7 bil-

lion Swedish krona [U.S.\$460 million] during 1991. This represented a 17 percent decline compared to the previous year. But Sweden remains among the 10 biggest armaments exporters in the world. The Swedish government is increasing its military spending and wants to maintain a differentiated arms industry for export.

Right to send troops abroad

The country's capitalist rulers are trying to pass a law that would permit them to send up to 3,000 "peacekeeping" troops abroad on the request of any international body that Sweden is a member of, now or in the future, without obtaining approval from parliament. This fits into what was decided by the European Conference on Security and Cooperation earlier this year — that it could intervene against a member with sanctions. Sweden supported that decision.

At the beginning of April, Prime Minister Bildt said in a public statement, "The presence of Russian troops in the Baltic states is a security risk for the whole of Europe." Bildt also said that the Baltic states should respond to the demands of the Russian minorities for democratic rights and not pursue any change of borders.

While Bildt was clearly promoting the interests of Swedish imperialism in the Baltics, he would not have spoken out in this way without the backing and agreement of Washington.

During Bildt's visit to the United States, several U.S. government statements favorably mentioned the strong engagement by the Swedish government in European security policy. At the same time Bildt repeatedly stated his appreciation of increased involvement by Washington in European policy and security arrangements.

ANC support broadens with backing of five legislators



Militant/Ruth Haswell

ANC president Nelson Mandela leaving a rally in Durban, South Africa, last July.

BY GEORGE BUCHANAN

Five members of South Africa's all-white legislature have joined the African National Congress, abandoning the Democratic Party.

This is the first time the ANC has gained any voice in the country's parliament, which as an all-white institution that excludes Blacks both from membership and from the right to vote is a central component of the apartheid regime and the social system it has acted to defend. Because of the parliament's character the African National Congress (ANC) refuses to recognize its legitimacy.

In a statement issued in Johannesburg, the ANC hailed the move by the five. "This decision further enhances the nonracial approach of the ANC both within the organization and in our commitment to a truly nonracial South Africa."

"We have no doubt that the experience and traditions they bring to the ANC will strengthen our efforts to build a democratic future for all our people."

The legislators said they would technically represent their constituencies as independents while working for the program of the ANC.

In a further development, African National Congress president Nelson Mandela rejected the de Klerk government's latest proposal for a transitional government. De Klerk suggested an executive council made up of representatives of three to five parties that received the highest votes in a special poll. The country's presidency would then be rotated in six-month stints between the members of this body.

Mandela dismissed the idea as a ploy to keep the losers of a free election in power. "If accepted, the outcome will not be an interim government that enjoys the confidence of the majority of South Africans, but a slightly refurbished National Party government," he said. A *New York Times* article noted that the ANC "is expected to win the most votes in a free election. But the National Party and Inkatha would probably be runners-up, although they would finish well behind the congress. Mr. de Klerk's plan would entitle him and Chief Buthelezi to take their turns as president, preventing Mr. Mandela from initially becoming head of state for longer than six months."