

# THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Britain: NUM activist is victim of thug attack

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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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## Washington continues war moves against Iraq

BY SETH GALINSKY

Joined by a handful of British and French planes, U.S. warplanes have been flying about 50 sorties a day over southern Iraq to enforce a "no-fly zone" declared by President George Bush August 27. This is a drop from the first week of this effort, when Washington sent out 566 flights over the country.

Even with the lower number of flights, the pace has been so intensive that pilots fly up to seven hours at a time. About half the flights have been leaving from bases in Saudi Arabia and half from the USS *Independence* in the Persian Gulf.

The Russian government has sent two warships, expected to arrive in mid-September, to join the U.S. military operation.

President Bush and other officials have made it clear that they are looking for any opportunity to justify bombing Iraq.

When he announced the no-fly zone, which encompasses some 47,520 square miles and includes Basra, Iraq's second largest city, Bush warned Iraqi president Saddam Hussein not to fly civilian or military planes there. U.S. aircraft dropped leaflets telling Iraqi pilots, "don't fly or you'll be shot down," and radar operators, "don't point them at us... or you'll suffer the consequences."

Bush said that if the Iraqi government uses ground forces against Shiite rebels, "quite obviously we would be extraordinarily concerned." Brent Scowcroft, Bush's national security adviser, added August 30 that if Hussein uses ground troops, Washington will respond militarily. Democratic Party presidential contender William Clinton has backed Bush's threats.



U.S. tanks in Saudi Arabia during 1991 war against Iraq. Pentagon has maintained military equipment in the region in preparation for another war.

Despite a lot of bluster about striking back, Hussein has withdrawn planes from the south and so far avoided any further confrontation with the 24,000 U.S. troops in the region.

### Iraqi attacks on Shiites?

Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency, according to AP, reported that the Iraqis had set fire to marshes along the

Iran-Iraq border in an attempt to flush out Shiite rebels. The news agency also said that Hussein's troops had crushed a rebellion in the town of Al-Qurnah, 40 miles north of Basra. This dovetails with Scowcroft's allegations that Iraq was getting ready to attack in the south.

But Rear Adm. Brent Bennett, commander of the eight-ship *Independence* car-

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## Five states exclude socialists from ballot

BY SARA LOBMAN

Supporters of the Socialist Workers campaign and defenders of democratic rights are fighting against the exclusion of the socialist candidates from the ballot in at least five states.

"Fighting to overturn each one of these undemocratic decisions and winning ballot status for the socialist candidates in every state possible will be a central part of the political work and activity of the campaign between now and November," said national campaign director Greg McCartan.

In Boston and Nebraska, Socialist Workers Party candidates for President and Vice-president, James Warren and Estelle DeBates, and Boston congressional candidate Karen Ray, have been denied ballot status due to insufficient valid signatures on nominating petitions. In both states campaigners submitted many more than the required signatures. (See articles on page 5.)

In Mississippi, volunteers collected 1,724 signatures to place Warren and DeBates on the ballot, to meet a requirement of only 1,000. County officials claim only 635 of these are valid. Mississippi requires petitions to be submitted to the county of each signer. This year the socialist candidates submitted signatures to five counties. The county registrar in four of the counties found

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## 'Militant' international sales drive will reach out to workers and youth

BY FRANK FORRESTAL AND ERNIE MAILHOT

Starting on September 19, with the next issue, the *Militant* will be launching a nine-week international campaign to extend the paper's circulation. As in previous drives, the goal will be to win new readers to subscribe to the *Militant* and Spanish-language *Perspectiva Mundial*.

A three-week single-issue campaign, which runs until October 9, will kick off the drive. The following day a six-week subscription drive will begin, ending two weeks after the November elections. During the entire nine weeks, local supporters of the *Militant* will also win readers to *New Inter-*

*national*, a magazine of Marxist politics.

The *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* are the best weapons for supporters of the 1992 socialist election campaign. By aggressively and confidently reaching out with the *Militant* — as part of campaigning for Socialist Workers presidential candidates James Warren and Estelle DeBates — they can meet scores of workers and youth who will want to get active in socialist politics. The number of single issues and subscriptions sold will be one of the best gauges of the successes of the election effort.

This circulation drive comes at a time of growing threats of war against the Iraqi people. President Bush is scraping and claw-

ing his way into a war against Baghdad in a desperate attempt to shore up his faltering re-election bid. Meanwhile, calls for military intervention to end the slaughter in Yugoslavia — including by organizations that claim to speak in the interests of working people — continue to be heard.

The world capitalist system is heading into a deepening economic depression. One of its centerpieces is the ongoing "currency crisis" marked by the free-fall of the U.S. dollar. Not since the 1987 stock market crash has the international monetary system been so close to collapse. The U.S. dollar is the world's dominant currency.

The United States economy has "triple-dipped" itself into a continuing recession and each day the Tokyo Stock Exchange continues its plunge. Unemployment is rising in Germany, with huge layoffs announced recently at Lufthansa, Volkswagen, Mercedes-Benz, Porsche, Hoesch, BMW, and Grundig. Meanwhile, massive financial transfers to eastern Germany are driving the German economy deeper into crisis. Across the channel, Britain too is in an economic depression. Unemployment rose there in August for the 27th consecutive month.

Everyday examples of growing inter-imperialist conflicts mount. Headlines like "Auto wars," "Beer wars," "Soybean wars," and "Steel wars" are common. The entire imperialist world is in the throes of a grave

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## Auto strike at Lordstown blocks GM's cutback plan

BY KIBWE DIARRA AND MIGUEL ZARATE

LORDSTOWN, Ohio — United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 1714, representing 2,400 workers at the Lordstown, Ohio, General Motors (GM) fabrication plant, voted September 5 to end their strike after nine days.

By the time of the vote, GM had closed nine assembly plants and laid off 45,000 workers, claiming lack of parts and company losses that exceeded \$40 million.

From the beginning, Local 1714 spokespersons reported they were forced to strike because GM had not lived up to national contract agreements, in particular in the areas of job security, "outsourcing" or contracting out of work to nonunion plants, and health and safety issues. UAW 1714 negotiator Dave Fascia, said following the ratification vote, "The union was seeking to make GM live up to its previous agreement."

GM narrowly averted a strike at the adjacent Lordstown assembly plant, where the 7,600 workers of UAW Local 1112 were preparing to strike. According to the press, GM agreed to end attempts to break its agreement to keep all J-car assembly at the plant.

The strike successfully broke off an attempt by GM to eliminate 240 jobs in the tool and die operation. Gerald E. Knechtel,

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### GEORGE NOVACK: SOLDIER OF THE REVOLUTION

Memorial meetings to celebrate the life of George Novack

LOS ANGELES September 19

Speakers: Doug Jenness, former editor of the *Militant*  
John Evenhuis, on the meaning of Novack's life for young people today  
Dinner 6:00 p.m. Program 7:00 p.m.

SAN FRANCISCO September 20

Speakers: Doug Jenness, former editor of the *Militant*  
other speakers to be announced  
Reception 2:00 p.m. Program 3:00 p.m.

See page 12 for more details

ANC youth leader speaks on struggle in South Africa — page 8





## U.N. plane downed in Bosnia

An Italian military transport plane with U.N. insignia carrying food and other supplies to Sarajevo, the besieged capital of Bosnia-Herzegovina, was shot down September 3. The entire crew died in the crash. It was the second Italian aircraft to be lost during the Yugoslav war. The firing took place near the town of Jasenik, 20 miles west of Sarajevo, which is territory controlled by the Croatian army. Two U.S. rescue helicopters that flew to the site after the downing received small arms fire and fled. It was unclear from the initial reports whether Croatian army units or the Serbian Democratic Party forces that have encircled and been bombing Sarajevo for months fired the shots. UN flights to Sarajevo were halted after the crash.

## U.S. poverty rate on rise

The number of working people in the United States living in poverty jumped by 2.1 million, to 35.7 million in 1991. It was the second consecutive rise in the poverty rate, which reached 14.2 percent, the highest since the 1981-83 recession. A family of four is classified as poor if it has income less than \$14,000 per year. For Blacks the poverty rate rose to 32.7 percent, from 31.9 percent in 1990. The Census Bureau announced at the same time that the purchasing power of the average U.S. household fell by nearly \$1,100 last year. Real per capita income also dropped.

## Lufthansa to lay off 6,000

Lufthansa, Germany's national airline, plans to lay off 6,000 workers from its workforce of 50,000 in the next two years, the company announced September 1. This will come on top of this year's 2,000 layoffs. The airline, 51 percent state-owned, has sunk deeper into the red in 1992. The job cuts were announced after the company struck deals with the leaderships of the two major unions that organize the work force. The agreements include the postponement of previously agreed-to pay rises for a year. Lufthansa is not an exception. The whole German economy has edged toward recession as the gross domestic product dropped by 0.5 percent for the second consecutive quarter.

## Nationwide strikes in Greece

Hundreds of thousands of workers challenged the Greek government's austerity program at the end of August with a nationwide strike. The strike that began August 27 includes workers at public utilities,



The daily bombardment of Sarajevo by rightist forces continues. On September 3 a plane carrying relief supplies into the city was shot down.

telecommunications, transportation, banks, and the postal service. Unions are opposed to price increases, the sale of the state-owned bus company in Athens that would have been accompanied by thousands of layoffs, and cuts in social services. The government has been using army trucks for transportation in Athens since the bus drivers went on strike at the end of July. The recent walkouts have caused sporadic blackouts in several cities.

## French economy slows down

After an unexpected burst in the start of the year, France's economy ran out of steam in the second quarter, as industrial production and consumer spending sagged and export growth flattened. The gross domestic product inched up barely 0.1 percent, after a first-quarter rise of 0.9 percent. Industrial production slipped 0.4 percent, while consumer spending slid 0.1 percent. Exports stabilized after rising for four consecutive quarters.

## Moscow sends warships to Gulf

The government of Russia announced September 1 it is sending two warships to the Persian Gulf to join the U.S. Navy and forces of other imperialist governments in their preparations for war against Iraq. The ships were being detached from Russia's Pacific Fleet because Moscow could not reach an agreement with the government of Ukraine to send ships from the much nearer

Black Sea Fleet. Moscow had joined the U.S.-led alliance during the war against Iraq in 1991 but did not deploy military forces then.

## Kurdish rebels, Turkish troops clash

Kurdish rebels launched a major attack on a Turkish border post from across the Iranian border August 30, sustaining dozens of fatalities in running battles with Turkish troops, according to a *Reuter's* dispatch. Ten Turkish soldiers were also killed in clashes with forces led by the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) near the town of Semdinli in Hakkari province. The PKK is one of several organizations active among the 10 million Kurdish people in Turkey, who are fighting against national oppression and for an independent Kurdistan. Turkish state television claimed that up to 100 PKK supporters have been killed in the recent clashes. Of the 4,500 Kurds who have been killed since 1984, 1,300 have died this year.

## Elections in Lebanon

About one-third of Lebanon's population seems to be boycotting the first parliamentary elections being held in the country in 20 years. Voting took place in the central portion of the country August 30, one week after the north voted. Balloting will be completed in the south on September 6. Many Christian as well as Muslim politicians have called for a boycott, criticizing the government of Elias Hrawi for holding elections before Syria withdraws its 40,000 troops from the country.

## Singapore: 1,000 jailed without trial

The government of Singapore is holding 1,000 people in jail without trial because it claims the cases against them are not strong enough to result in convictions. The minister of Home Affairs and Law, S.

Jayakumar, alleged August 7 that the detained are "hard-core gangsters and drug traffickers" who are impossible to prosecute because witnesses are afraid to come forward.

Singapore's regime is notorious for its "preventive detentions" without trials. The government is still holding in detention Chia Thye Poh, a former physics lecturer and member of parliament, who was arrested in 1966 for his opposition to the U.S. war against Vietnam. The government is demanding that Chia sign a statement denouncing the now-defunct Communist Party in order to be released.

## Trial of cops who beat Rodney King postponed

The federal trial of the four Los Angeles cops who beat Black construction worker Rodney King has been postponed until February 2 of next year—safely past the presidential elections. Soon after the cops were indicted by a federal grand jury on charges of violating King's civil rights, a federal judge set a September trial. He then agreed that defense lawyers needed more time to prepare their cases.

## U.S. school censorship grows

Reports of censorship in U.S. public schools increased 50 percent last year, according to a new People for the American Way survey. The group reported that the "religious right" was increasingly fighting "objectionable" textbooks and classroom material. The group documented 348 incidents nationally in which parents, school officials, or church groups demanded that classroom or library books be banned. In 41 percent of the cases the censors were successful.

The most frequently challenged book during the last school year was John Steinbeck's novel *Of Mice and Men*. Others included Alice Walker's *The Color Purple*, Mark Twain's *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, and Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath*. Many of those who argued against the books characterized them as "satanic" or "anti-Christian."

## Haitian refugees protest conditions at Guantanamo camp

Some 60 Haitian refugees being held at the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba set fire to their plywood quarters August 29 to protest harsh camp security measures, according to a *Washington Post* report.

There are about 290 Haitians detained at Camp Bulkeley, including 233 that the U.S. Navy says have tested positive for the HIV virus, which causes AIDS. All of them have been accepted as candidates for political asylum in the United States but have been prevented from entering the country because immigration law excludes immigrants who test HIV positive.

—ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

Harry Ring, from Los Angeles, contributed to this week's column.

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## The Militant

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# Rightists attack immigrants in Germany

BY JOHN COX

A wave of racist violence, ignited on August 22 in the Baltic port city of Rostock by ultraright and Nazi gangs, continued over the last week, spreading to other parts of Germany.

In Eberswalde, a small industrial town 25 miles northeast of Berlin, 150 rightists marched to a hostel for immigrants, chanting "Solidarity with Rostock" and "Sieg Heil." Racists in the city of Eisenhüttenstadt, near the Polish border, attacked a hostel with firebombs, while in Zielitz two residents of a hostel were injured by a gas bomb in an attack by 40 Nazi youths.

## Socialist candidate well received in Grenada

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

ST. GEORGES, Grenada — Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. president, James Warren, received wide news media exposure and had a big impact in a two-and-a-half-day visit here. A big proportion



Militant/Brian Williams  
James Warren, on tour in Caribbean.

of people in this country of some 90,000 people either heard or saw the socialist candidate as a result of extensive coverage on TV and radio. Hundreds also met him in person.

Warren's campaign tour in Grenada was hosted by the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM). It included a public meeting attended by 50 people; a tour of two factories; and media interviews with TV, radio, and the island's two major weekly newspapers — the *Grenada Informer* and the *Grenada Voice*.

It has been nearly nine years since followers of Bernard Coard, the leader of a Stalinist faction in the New Jewel Movement, murdered Grenada's outstanding revolutionary leader and prime minister, Maurice Bishop, and turned the army's guns against working people demonstrating on Bishop's behalf. This blow destroyed the Grenadian revolution and paved the way for the U.S. invasion of the island a few days later. However, the experiences and lessons of the revolution are very much on the minds of many working people throughout Grenada.

"The revolution had its problems but we were moving forward," explained one worker at one of many impromptu political discussions Warren had with people throughout the island.

The Grenadian revolution, which triumphed in March 1979, took steps to organize and mobilize working people in bettering their lives. Programs guaranteeing free education and health care were set up. With the aid of Cuban construction workers, a beautiful international airport was built.

During the years of the revolution, the U.S. rulers conducted a slander campaign charging that this new airport was part of a plan for Soviet and military operations in the region. However, the only time the air-

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Refugee hostels were attacked in Cottbus and two other towns in the state of Brandenburg over the weekend of August 29-30, and in Berlin a bomb damaged a memorial to victims of the Holocaust.

In Leverkusen, in western Germany, attacks have been launched on homes of newly arrived people from eastern Germany.

The violence has been directed at immigrants, in particular Romanians, Africans, and Vietnamese, who are forced to live in squalid conditions while awaiting asylum in hostels throughout Germany. The most violent of these attacks have occurred in the eastern part of Germany, which is experiencing a severe economic crisis, characterized by high unemployment and low wages. Unemployment for July rose to 14.6 percent in eastern Germany, with over 1.8 million workers out of work. Unemployment in the western part of the country, by comparison, is 6 percent. Employed workers in the east earn 40-50 percent of the wages earned by workers in western Germany, according to 1991 figures.

### German economy stagnates

Despite the relative strength of its economy, Germany has been far from immune from the economic crisis afflicting capitalism worldwide. An August 20 article in the *London Financial Times* noted that "continuing international recession, virtual stagnation at home, cramped public spending, falling consumer confidence, high interest rates and wages costs are all taking their toll." A report from the West German Federal Bank stated, "In recent months economic development has been moving above all in one direction: downwards and on a wide front."

The economic and social crisis has been particularly acute in the east. The official unemployment figures do not take into account the hundreds of thousands who are on short-time work, have been forced into early retirement, or are working temporary public jobs. Real unemployment is believed to be well in excess of 20 percent; the workforce has shrunk from 9.5 million at the time of reunification in 1990 to 5.6 million, as 15,000-20,000 migrate to western Germany each month.

Conditions in the east have driven workers to desperate measures in some cases. The *Los Angeles Times* reported on July 19 that "women in the city of Magdeburg had submitted to sterilization so they could present themselves to potential employers as low-risk hires who would not get pregnant and quit or let children distract them from their work."

Ultrarightist gangs and political parties have used this deepening crisis to gain more of a hearing for their reactionary "solutions," which blame immigrant workers for high unemployment (even though asylum-seekers are not allowed to work) and other social ills that accompany this recession. These groups operate both within the realm of "respectable" bourgeois politics and in the streets, where they organize attacks on immigrants and commit other acts of racist and anti-Semitic thuggery.

## Cuban youth leader visits United States

Ibis Alvisa González, a researcher at the Center for Studies of Youth in Havana, Cuba, is currently visiting the United States to speak on many campuses about young people and Cuba today.

A second Cuban youth leader, José Antonio Concepción Rangel, will join Alvisa in mid-September. He is also a researcher at the Center for Studies of Youth.

For more information on their visit, contact the Faculty and Students Coordinating Committee for Campus Lectures of Cuban Youth, Borough of Manhattan Community College in New York, which is sponsoring the tour, at: P.O. Box 1597, New York, NY 10011 or call (212) 346-8000.

September 7-12	Chicago
September 13-17	Pittsburgh
September 18-22	Washington, D.C.
September 23-30	New York



Thousands in Rostock, Germany, protest anti-immigrant violence.

The number of Germans claiming membership in far-right groups and parties increased from 32,300 in 1990 to 39,800 last year. Racist attacks by these gangs quadrupled in 1991 from the previous year, according to the Bonn government. While the most recent attacks have been concentrated in the east, western Germany has experienced a similar rise in racist attacks; 70 percent of last year's attacks took place in the west.

The current wave of racist violence began in Rostock, which had been the main seaport of East Germany and home to its shipbuilding industry, deep-sea fishing fleet, and merchant marine. Privatization has eliminated more than two-thirds of the jobs in the marine industries in the last two years; the Neptun-Werft shipyard, which employed 6,500 workers in 1989, currently has 900. Unemployment in the city is estimated at 40-50 percent.

### Official 'understands' thugs

While early reports suggested support for these attacks among the population of Rostock, opinion polls indicate that 86 percent of all Germans oppose the violence.

Residents of Kolkwitz near the Polish border, in a gesture of opposition to the assaults, greeted a busload of asylum-seekers with gifts of clothing, blankets, and other supplies. Meanwhile, trade unions and some left-wing groups have taken a lead in organizing antiracist demonstrations, including a march of 20,000 in Rostock August 29.

The response of the government, on the other hand, has been to provide justifications for the attacks, while making public proclamations against them.

## New addition to 'Militant' staff

BY FRANK FORRESTAL

The *Militant* has added John Cox to its editorial staff. Cox, 29 years-old, joined the socialist movement in 1985 as a student at Appalachian State University in North Carolina. He has been active in the socialist and trade union movements ever since.

Like many other young people, Cox was attracted to the South African freedom struggle and the Nicaraguan revolution. While in college, Cox was active in the student antiapartheid movement in North Carolina. In 1987 Cox participated on a construction brigade in Nicaragua, organized by the Nicaragua Network.

In 1986 Cox moved to Greensboro where he became more involved in building the Young Socialist Alliance. For the next three years, Cox worked in textile mills organized by the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers' Union. After a brief stint in a United Steelworkers of America organized plant, Cox moved to Washington, D.C., where he got a job as a brakeman on the railroad at Norfolk and Western.

For the next two years Cox was an active socialist in United Transportation Union (UTU) Local 769. In 1990, Cox covered for the *Militant* an important rally, organized by rail workers in Cumberland, Maryland, to protest unionbusting by CSX railroad. He was elected to the steering committee heading the work of Socialist Workers Party members in the UTU in 1991.

Cox has been an active defender of the

Lothar Kupfer, the Interior Minister of the state of Mecklenburg, where Rostock is located, acknowledged "a certain understanding" for the racist thugs after the first nights of rioting. He added, "People who camp out in front of other peoples' homes arouse aggression." According to the *Süd-deutsche Zeitung*, authorities in Mecklenburg, including Kupfer, had known for several days in advance that the attacks in Rostock were being prepared, but took no measures against them.

Government officials were unanimous in their call for restrictions on the right to immigration as the solution to the wave of racist violence. The German Social Democratic Party (SPD) changed its position on the eve of the Rostock riots, coming out in favor of more strict immigration controls, with party leader Björn Engholm saying that immigration must be "braked and controlled." At the same conference, the SPD announced the reversal of its long-standing opposition to the use of German forces in UN-organized military operations. The Social Democrats, who are currently a minority party in the parliament, have ties to the labor unions and have traditionally presented themselves as "socialist."

The former Stalinist ruling party of East Germany, which now calls itself the Party of Democratic Socialism, has also lent credence to the racist attacks. An editorial in the August 24 issue of its paper, *Neues Deutschland*, sympathized with the racists, asking, "Are they therefore extremists, even fascists, on the warpath? Nonsense, they are neighbors.... There was noise and filth and strange people."



John Cox

Militant/Sara Lobman

Cuban revolution. He is currently working on the nine-city speaking tour of Ibis Alvisa González, a young Cuban researcher from the Center for Studies of Youth in Havana.

Earlier this year, Cox toured and met with young socialists in Australia, Britain, Iceland, and New Zealand. While in Australia he participated in the first annual Australian Book Fair in Sydney.

During the next two months, Cox will be campaigning, speaking, and writing on behalf of Youth for Warren and DeBates.



# St. Paul meeting raises \$1,177 for fund

BY FRANK FORRESTAL

The George Novack Reconstruction Fund was launched at the International Socialist Conference last month in Oberlin, Ohio. The aim of the fund is to raise more than \$150,000 by December 1.

This effort is part of the International Expansion Fund that was launched in 1990, making possible major capital expenditures designed to strengthen the ability of the communist movement to produce the arsenal of books and periodicals needed by working-class fighters.

A successful event to celebrate the life of George Novack, a longtime leader of the Socialist Workers Party, was held in St. Paul, Minnesota, on August 29. The speakers at the meeting included Doug Jenness, chairperson of the Twin Cities SWP and a member of United Steel Workers of America Local 15199 and Charlie Scheer, a retired railworker. Scheer was a founding

member of the SWP and worked with Novack in defending party leaders who were framed up for opposing World War II.

A highlight of the meeting was the messages. John Enesvedt, a socialist farmer since the 1930s who was active in the National Farmers Holiday Association, said one of the occasions on which he got to know Novack was during an earlier reconstruction project in the Pathfinder Building. In the early 1970s, Enesvedt helped build the spiral staircase that still connects the building's fifth and sixth floors.

A message from Erling Sannes, a Militant supporter from Bismark, North Dakota, noted that Novack helped Sannes with research he was doing on the labor battles of the 1930s in Minnesota and the Dakotas. Just prior to the meeting, Sannes helped the Socialist Workers presidential campaign file nearly 4,500 signatures to get on the ballot in North Dakota.

Another message came from Mildred Solem, an SWP supporter for

several decades, who related her memories of Novack in the 1930s and 1940s. Novack was a member of the Twin Cities branch in the early 1940s. "George came to Minneapolis again during the indictment and trials of the leaders of the SWP and the midwest Teamsters union for their opposition to U.S. entry into the Second World War," said the message. "When the 'Honorable Eighteen' [the framed-up SWP leaders] left for prison those were very dark days indeed, and George's quiet strength and leadership were a tremendous help for all of us."

At the Oberlin conference, 27 people from Minnesota pledged \$6,495 to the fund. Another seven pledged \$1,177 at the St. Paul meeting bringing the local total to \$8,265.

Further Novack memorial meetings are scheduled to take place in Los Angeles and San Francisco on the weekend of September 18-19. (See ad on page 1.) A key part of each of these meetings is raising thousands more dollars for the fund.

This past week four truckloads of concrete were poured in the building that will become the new Pathfinder bindery. This was quite an achievement. After four more truckloads worth of cement are poured this week, the new floor will be finished! Underneath the concrete is the new electrical and plumbing system.

The chart on this page includes the proposed goals for supporters in local areas. These are based on getting new pledges from supporters and friends of the socialist movement.

This week \$1,885 was sent in to the fund. Supporters in every area need to begin sending regular weekly payments. Beginning next week the percentage that each area has paid will appear.

United States	Pledged	Goal
Atlanta	\$2,725	\$5,500
Baltimore	3,575	4,500
Birmingham	2,050	3,000
Boston	4,113	6,000
Chicago	3,030	6,500
Cincinnati	1,000	1,500
Cleveland	2,700	3,500
Des Moines	2,575	3,500
Detroit	5,825	7,000
Greensboro	2,450	3,000
Houston	2,275	6,000
Los Angeles	5,970	15,000
Miami	2,725	3,250
Morgantown	1,860	3,000
New Haven	300	500
New York	12,789	15,000
Newark	8,840	12,000
Philadelphia	3,105	4,000
Pittsburgh	2,850	4,500
Portland	450	750
St. Louis	5,250	6,500
Salt Lake City	4,235	6,500
San Francisco	6,245	12,000
Seattle	4,520	6,000
Twin Cities	7,005	9,500
Washington, D.C.	3,300	4,500
Australia	650	
Canada	2,765	
Britain	1,700	
France	1,030	
New Zealand	710	
Sweden	2,250	
Belgium	1,050	
Netherlands	50	
Puerto Rico	100	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$112,067</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>

\$150,000

\$11,281

## I pledge...

☐ \$1000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$Other\_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTRY \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Send to the George Novack Reconstruction Fund, 406 West Street, New York, NY 10014

## Newark cops attempt to justify shootings of young Blacks

BY TED LEONARD

NEWARK, New Jersey — In the last two weeks, cops in Newark and neighboring communities have shot and killed two youths and wounded two others. To justify their brutal assaults the cops claim the youth were driving stolen cars and were threatening the cops' lives.

On August 22, two off-duty police returning from a bachelor party in the early morning fatally shot Barry Shelton, 18, and Michael Chapman, 16. The two cops claim that the car the youths were riding in nearly collided with them, then, shortly after, Shelton threatened them with a gun. When one of the cops told him he was a

police officer and to freeze, they say the youth continued to raise his gun. The cop fired, killing Shelton. An unloaded gun was reported found at the scene. The car was later reported stolen.

After Shelton was shot, Chapman and his friends sped away in the car. The cops fired four to six shots at the car. One bullet passed through the trunk hitting Chapman in the head. According to the police department, the two cops fired when they saw the youths bending down in the car because they thought that they were reaching for weapons. Both cops, and the two dead youth, are Black.

Chapman's father has accused the cops of

firing unnecessarily. He told the press he believes that his son had been ducking to avoid the cop's shots. "If a car is fleeing away from you, doesn't it seem that it's trying to get away from you?" he said.

On August 27, Steve Reeves, 21, was shot and wounded by Newark cops. According to police, they stopped the vehicle Reeves was driving because it was reported stolen. Police shot Reeves when he allegedly drove off with a cop who had reached inside the driver's side being dragged along.

Bellville cops shot and seriously wounded Romeo Marques, 17, August 30. Marques was shot in the head, chest, and wrist. The cops say Marques was driving a stolen car.

These are just a few of the incidents that have taken place only two months after Howard Caesar, 17, was ambushed by at least six Newark cops. In June, cops hid in a park and opened fire on Caesar when he got out of a car he was driving after it hit a curb. Caesar was critically wounded. After the shooting, witnesses say the cops picked up their spent bullets and left.

Three other cops have since been charged with conspiracy and official misconduct for failing to report or falsely reporting this incident. The car Caesar was driving was later reported stolen. It belonged to the mother of one of the cops on the scene.

Condemning the rash of cops shooting  
Continued on Page 12

## Warren supporters challenge undemocratic Nebraska ruling

The following statement was released November 4 by the Iowa Socialist Workers campaign.

Supporters of Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate James Warren issued a strong protest today after being informed that Warren's name will not be placed on the ballot in Nebraska.

In a statement to the Socialist Workers campaign, Allen Beermann, Nebraska secretary of state, said that only 836 of the 3,963 signatures submitted were validated. The requirement for ballot status is 2,500 signatures.

Mr. Beermann also explained his belief that many names of people who signed were "obviously not signed by the person." He asserted that the petition gatherers must have gotten names "out of the phone book" and forged their signatures to the petitions.

"These accusations are patently false," said Hector Marroquin, a national chairperson for the Socialist Workers campaign who resides in Des Moines, Iowa. "Supporters of the socialist campaign spent many hours, at a great personal sacrifice, to meet the State of Nebraska's requirements. To imply that they forged signatures is a gross attack on the integrity of the Socialist Workers campaign and a clear attempt to intimidate all

those who support the democratic right of James Warren to be placed on the ballot."

Secretary of State Beermann also stated that someone in the office of the Lancaster County Elections Commission had called at least one signer on the socialists' petitions to question them about their signature.

"An election official's call to a petition signer is simply an open threat," Marroquin said. "We condemn this action."

In addition, Mr. Beermann informed the socialist campaign that due to alleged "irregularities" in the petitions, the Lancaster County Election Commission had contacted the county attorney and met with the Lincoln police. Officer Dennis Duckworth from the Lincoln police department then phoned a circulator of the SWP petitions and attempted to interrogate him.

"We strongly protest these actions by the State of Nebraska to keep Socialist Workers candidates off the ballot," Marroquin said. "We condemn the undemocratic conduct of the election officials and their tactics of intimidation, which shows they are prejudicial against working-class and socialist candidates. We demand that the Socialist Workers candidates be immediately placed on the ballot."

### The fight to put socialists on the ballot in 1992



\* District of Columbia: petitioning is completed

Supporters of the Socialist Workers 1992 Campaign are petitioning to put James Warren for U.S. president and Estelle DeBates for vice-president on the ballot in 19 states and the District of Columbia. In addition, efforts are underway to place on the ballot socialist candidates for Congress and Senate in many of those states plus Florida, Michigan, and Pennsylvania, where antidemocratic restrictions have made petitioning for the socialist presidential candidates prohibitive for the 1992 elections.

Militant map by Eric Simpson

★ On the ballot  
■ Petitioning is under way  
▨ Petitioning is completed  
□ Ballot fight underway.



# Socialists sue for Massachusetts ballot slot

BY JASON COUGHLIN

BOSTON — At a press conference here September 3, the Massachusetts Socialist Workers Campaign announced it is suing the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Boston Election Commission. The lawsuit in Suffolk County Court was filed in response to the state's decision to deny ballot status to Socialist Workers Party candidates in this year's election.

The SWP had filed petitions to place James Warren and Estelle DeBates on the ballot for president and vice-president, along with congressional candidate Karen Ray, who is running in Boston's 9th Congressional District.



Militant/Neil Callender

Supporters of Socialist Workers campaign in Boston protest exclusion from ballot

## Working-class alternative ruled off ballot in five states

Continued from front page

between 46 percent and 71 percent of the signatures valid. Lauderdale County, where 1,059 of the signatures were collected, claimed a validity rate of only 22 percent. They certified only 237 of the names!

Lauderdale County officials gave various reasons for rejecting such a large proportion of the signers. Forty-six percent were not registered to vote, they said. Another 245 were said to have signed with a different address than the records showed. County officials also claimed that 86 names were "illegible." Campaign supporters report that Lauderdale County has not updated its voter registration rolls since 1979.

Campaign supporters in the region have asked all those who defend the socialists' right to be on the ballot to be part of an aggressive campaign to demand that the State Board of Elections place Warren and DeBates on the ballot. "More than 1,700 people have said they think the Socialist Workers candidates should be on the ballot," Dan Furman, candidate for Alabama Public Service Commission, said. The campaign has held two press conferences in Jackson, the state capital of Mississippi, to protest the ballot exclusion.

In Alabama, John Hawkins, a laid-off coal miner, is running for Congress. Due to recent redistricting, his campaign committee requested accurate information on signature requirements. They received a written response from Director of Elections Jerry Henderson informing them that they needed 1,700 signatures. Campaign volunteers submitted 2,500. Only after the deadline for turning in new names had passed did Hawkins receive a second letter informing him that the requirement was in fact almost 3,200 signatures and he was therefore ruled off the ballot.

In Ohio, two socialist candidates for State Representative have been denied a place on the ballot. Valerie Libby and Mark Gilsdorf were told they were 38 and 83 signatures short respectively. After looking through the names that officials had rejected, campaign supporters turned up more valid signers. They were told they would still be kept off the ballot. Libby reports that they are now appealing to the Secretary of State.

In Cleveland, where Ronald Garnez Parks is running for U.S. Congress, volunteers turned in more than 3,000 signatures, almost twice the 1,574 required. Officials

"The undemocratic denial of ballot status to the Socialist Campaign comes at a time when Washington is preparing to go to war in Iraq and considering armed intervention in Yugoslavia," Ray stated at a press conference on the steps of the Massachusetts State House. Joining Ray were an abortion rights activist, a member of the Massachusetts Green Party, and a member of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES).

Michael Prokosch, New England director of CISPES, said that, because of his experience with the political situation in El Salvador, he sees the denial of ballot rights as an "example of government repression of political ideas." Messages of support were

read to the conference from the Massachusetts Libertarian Party and the Asia Resource Center.

After the press conference Ray was interviewed by five radio stations. Supporters at the socialist campaign headquarters received several calls from people who heard the radio reports and were eager to lend support.

In June and July, campaigners for the socialist alternative gathered more than 15,000 signatures to put Warren and DeBates on the ballot and 4,900 to put Ray's name on the ballot. This is well over the state's requirements of 10,000 and 2,000 signatures respectively.

The state ruled that less than a third of these signatures were valid. Officials suggested to socialist campaigners that they did not petition in areas with a high enough proportion of registered voters.

"Their decision to keep us off the ballot has nothing to do with where we petitioned," Ray said. "Instead it represents an effort to maintain the monopoly the Democrats and Republicans have on politics."

There is a long history of moves by state and city officials in Massachusetts to keep socialist candidates off the ballot.

- In 1983 Eloise Linger, Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of Boston, was informed that in spite of submitting almost 10,000 signatures, well over the requirement of 3,000, she did not qualify for ballot status. Only after a series of protests were officials forced to place her name on the ballot.

- In 1985, Christopher Hedges submitted more than 3,000 signatures to appear on the ballot for Boston City Council. The Boston Election Commission ruled Hedges off the ballot, saying that only 1,202 were valid, less than the 1,500 required.

- Jon Hillson, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress in 1986, was ruled off the ballot when only 480 of the 4,274 signatures submitted to the Boston Election commission were ruled valid.

- Most recently, Denise McInerney, can-

didate for Boston school committee in 1987, was ruled off the ballot for insufficient valid signatures. Although the Massachusetts Superior Court later decided that many of these signatures were in fact valid, the chief justice ruled that, at that stage, it was impossible to reprint the ballots with McInerney's name, effectively excluding her.

The Massachusetts socialist campaign is vowing not to back away from the fight to get socialist candidates on the ballot. "We've initiated a letter writing campaign, and now bring information about the fight wherever we go," said Ray. "Many coworkers along with youth we've met on the street are angered by what is happening and have written letters demanding that this injustice be reversed."

The socialist's lawsuit demands that the court reverse the state's undemocratic ruling and place the socialist candidates on the ballot. However, the court sees no urgency in the case, which is not scheduled to be heard until January 15, well after the presidential elections.

### By Malcolm X

Malcolm X Talks to Young People \$9.95

By Any Means Necessary \$13.95

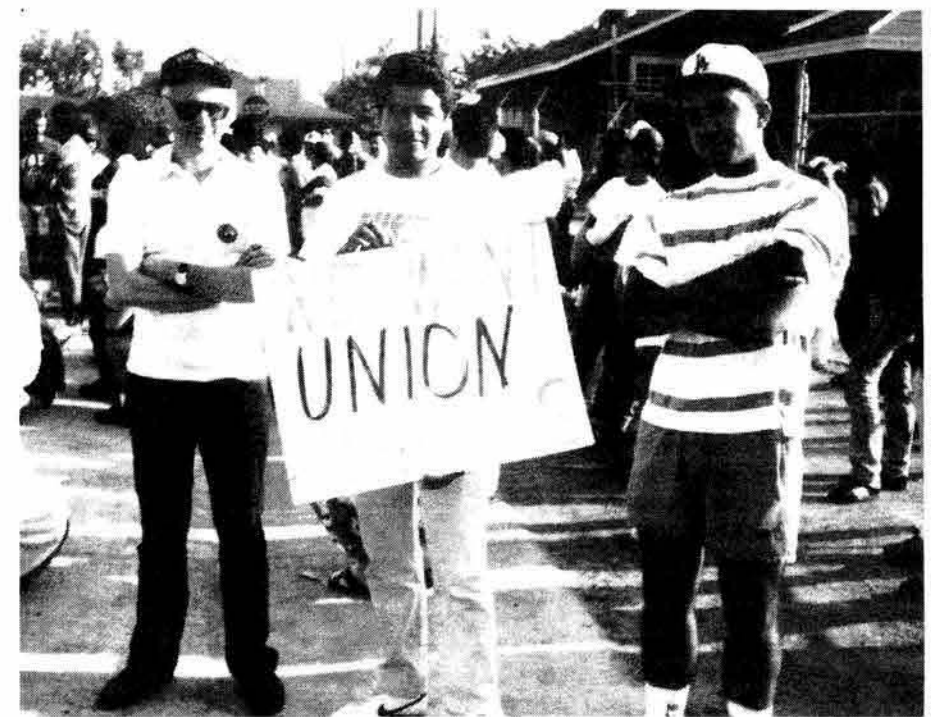
Malcolm X on Afro-American History \$7.95

Malcolm X Speaks (cloth) \$16.95

Malcolm X: The Last Speeches \$15.95

Available from Pathfinder bookstores listed on page 12 or by mail from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Include \$3.00 for postage and handling.

## Socialist campaigners in action



Militant

Joel Britton (left), socialist candidate for U.S. Senate, joins striking drywall workers in successful picket action at Los Angeles construction site.

BY SARA LOBMAN

Socialist candidates and their supporters are pushing to take advantage of every opening possible to introduce the campaign to working people and youth in the two months before the elections.

James Warren and Estelle DeBates, Socialist Workers candidates for president and vice-president, will visit more than 30 U.S. cities. Warren is currently on a four-nation tour of the Caribbean. He will also visit Britain and Sweden. DeBates will spend a week in the Philippines.

The city and state-wide socialist campaigns are also on the move. Laura Garza, socialist candidate for Congress from Miami, reports that the campaign is in the thick of discussions on the social crisis resulting from Hurricane Andrew. The Ohio campaign joined United Auto Work-

ers union members on strike against General Motors on the picket line.

Campaign supporters in Illinois are putting together an ambitious regional tour. They plan to visit several of the big state universities as soon as the fall semester starts. They will also take the Illinois campaign to working people and youth in Wisconsin.

National Campaign Financial Director Dean Athans reports that this stepped up activity makes it especially important to make the \$30,000 campaign fund launched the beginning of August. "An updated brochure, travel expenses, and fighting to get on the ballot, all cost money," Athans said.

Contributions can be sent to: Socialist Workers 1992 National Campaign, 191 7th Avenue., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10011.



# Britain: thugs assault mine union activist

## Supporters call for messages of protest to be sent to mineworkers' unions

BY PAUL MAILHOT

SHEFFIELD, England — On August 6 Paul Galloway, 33, a long-time member of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), was sexually assaulted, during a violent planned attack, at the Thoresby Colliery near Edwinstowe in Nottinghamshire where he has worked for more than 15 years.

As Galloway left the mine that night a group of workers followed him into one of the empty cars on the paddy — the underground train that carries workers to and from their work areas in the mine — and said, "We're going to get you, Gall." The seven or eight miners who participated in the attack were primarily members of the Union of Democratic Miners (UDM), the union that the majority of miners at Thoresby belong to, although at least two of the attackers were members of the NUM.

The thugs pinned Galloway down to the floor of the car and cut off all his clothes. They poured semi-frozen lemon soda all over him and greased his body with barrier cream. Several yanked at his genitals causing extreme pain and then one shoved his finger up his anus.

The next day this attacker bragged to others that he had "finger-fucked Galloway last night." He then tried to provoke a fight, calling Galloway "you NUM little bastard" and shoving him. When Galloway stood his ground a number of the thug's friends tried to taunt him into starting a fight.

The attack on Galloway is part of the campaign of intimidation and harassment against miners by British Coal, the state-owned coal company, as it drives to privatize the nationalized coal industry and further attack the rights and living standards of coal miners. Galloway has been a particular target of this campaign because of his outspoken views against the government's attacks.

Supporters of Galloway have begun to organize a protest campaign against this

serious assault and are asking miners and other working-class fighters around the world to condemn the attack.

### British Coal plans pit closures

The attacks take place as the government plans to sell off the nationalized coal industry to wealthy capitalist families. Press reports indicate British Coal plans to close another 30 pits with the loss of 25,000 jobs, although British Coal denies this. Many of those targeted for closure are in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire, areas dominated by the UDM.

Workers at the Thoresby pit are divided. About 175 miners belong to the National Union of Mineworkers. Most of the remaining 825 belong to the Union of Democratic Miners. A significant number are non-union. The division dates back to the 1984-85 national strike organized by the NUM against British Coal's plans for massive pit closures.

In the Nottinghamshire area the majority of miners did not join the strike. The pits in this area are among British Coal's most productive mines. Through a system of bonuses miners earn substantially more wages than workers in other areas. Certain leaders of the NUM in the Nottinghamshire area sided with British Coal against the strike and organized the UDM.

A minority of miners nationwide joined the UDM, but at some pits, particularly in the Nottinghamshire area, the majority followed the UDM and continued to work.

Many miners in Nottinghamshire, like Galloway, fought to maintain the unity of mineworkers during the year-long battle and stayed out even though a majority of their coworkers refused to strike.

Since the strike British Coal has moved ahead with its plans to restructure the mining industry, close the majority of pits, and lay off tens of thousands of miners. More than 115 pits have already been closed, resulting in 150,000 miners thrown out of



Paul Galloway, at right, with miners during Pittston strike, 1989.

Militant/Bernie Senter

work. Throughout Britain, coal mining communities, where mine jobs are the most important source of employment, have been reeling from the pit closures.

### Fight for unity

The experiences of the strike and British Coal's unrelenting drive to make working people pay for the capitalist crisis in Britain and worldwide led Galloway to become part of the socialist movement. He joined the Socialist League, predecessor of the Communist League in Britain during the strike.

Galloway has continued to fight for unity among the miners and has been a tireless campaigner for the NUM. He has also helped to build solidarity for the fights of mineworkers in other parts of the world. In 1989 he traveled to the United States to offer his support to striking United Mine Workers union members in their battle against Pittston Coal. He also visited with Eastern Airlines strikers to get a firsthand account of their struggle. He used the experience of his trip to explain the stakes of those fights to mineworkers and other workers in Britain.

Galloway has also been an outspoken opponent of the war against Iraq and British imperialism's role in that war. In spite of serious harassment, he has continued to campaign against the war and to try to convince coworkers of his antiwar views.

Galloway's views and activities in support of miners at the Thoresby pit and of workers around the world have made him a particular target of management and those miners who identify their interests with those of the company.

Some UDM miners and officials, who are determined to not rock the boat as British Coal heads toward privatization, hoping thereby to save their jobs, are particularly incensed by Galloway's activities in support of the NUM and its campaign against privatization. One of these officials, who took part in the attack, had told Galloway, "We're drumming all you NUMers out of here."

Recently Galloway has been helping miners figure out the way that miners are paid for their hours of work. British Coal uses a complicated system of codes for different jobs and hours of work. Galloway prepared a simple work diary that helps miners keep track of exactly how much they should be paid for their work. "This doesn't make management very happy, but miners should get paid exactly right," he explained.

"This latest attack isn't going to demoralize me," said Galloway. "They know that it would have been easier to take if they had just beaten me up. But this rape is not going to work. My NUM branch has placed this attack on the agenda for the next branch meeting. And I hope NUM members and UDM members and workers around the world will publicly condemn the assault."

Another NUM miner, Jim Spaul, who works at Kellingley, explained that "there's a lot at stake in defending Paul. The coal companies want to cut back and privatize the mines. They know that the only thing that stands between them and their plans is the NUM and fighters like Paul who think that industry should benefit working people."

"This is an attack on Paul, on the NUM at Thoresby, on the union nationally, and on

the Communist League," he explained.

Many miners at the Thoresby pit have gone out of their way to talk to Galloway and ask him how he is doing. In this way both UDM and NUM members have begun to express some elementary solidarity in the face of an assault that most miners view with disgust.

Supporters of Galloway are asking that messages be sent to the leadership of the UDM and NUM branches at the mine demanding that the actions of the thugs who assaulted Galloway be publicly condemned. Protests from miners and other fighters will help to isolate the hoodlums who took part in the attack and help to protect the rights of all miners in the pit to express their views without fear of violence.

Protests should be addressed to the UDM Office, British Coal, Thoresby Colliery, Ollerton Road, Edwinstowe near Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, England NG 21 9PS. Tel: 0623-822238; and to the NUM, c/o Keith Stanley, 24 Samson St. Kirkby in Ashfield, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, England NG 17 9HT. Please send copies of messages to Paul Galloway, c/o Pathfinder Books, 1 Gower St., Sheffield, England S4 7HA.

## Coal operators look to cut benefits to retired miners

BY CLAY DENNISON

MORGANTOWN, West Virginia — A crisis in medical coverage for retired coal miners appears to have been averted for the time being. The United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) retirees' health-care fund had a \$100 million deficit and its trustees threatened an end to benefit payments. Now an amendment restructuring the financing of the fund and maintaining medical coverage has been passed by Congress and sent to the White House for signing.

Working miners and retirees, who took the threats very seriously, see this as a victory. There had been talk of a strike over the issue.

The UMWA won a nationwide pension and health-care plan for the first time in 1946. A hard-fought two month strike led to sweeping changes in hours and safety and the establishment of a welfare fund financed by a royalty paid by the operator on each ton of coal. These gains revolutionized health care in the coalfields.

All UMWA retirees who have worked long enough to qualify get lifetime medical coverage, but the courts ruled that a company's obligation to pay the royalties ends when the union contract runs out. Some companies have gone out of the coal business and some have broken the union or gotten out of royalty payments by other means. The result of this is that of the 120,000 beneficiaries of the funds, three fourths are so-called "orphans" — retirees, widows, or dependents from companies that have stopped paying.

Because of rising health-care costs, by mid-1990 the retiree health-care funds were running a \$95 million deficit that was expected to climb to \$300 million by 1993. Early in 1992 the administrators of the funds threatened to cut off miners' health benefits if the employers did not double their contributions immediately. This brought the crisis to a head. Anger over the threat spread and the cut-off was postponed by a court injunction that ordered the companies still paying to increase funding, and barred the trustees

from stopping benefits.

Citing the sacrifices made by miners and the potential for turmoil in the coal fields, Senator John Rockefeller of West Virginia introduced a bill that bailed out the funds by measures including a royalty to be paid by all coal operators. Some members of the Bituminous Coal Operators Association (BCOA) who are still paying the royalties backed the plan, but it was very unpopular with the non-union operators.

The bill was attached to a major tax bill but was vetoed by President George Bush.

Miners union officials began predicting that, without a legal remedy, the crisis could cause a break-up of the BCOA and an end to industrywide bargaining for miners. A new bill was introduced as part of the 1992 energy bill. Future health care cost increases will be limited by a new "managed care" program. The bill is expected to be signed into law.

A 1988 shift of the basis of royalty payments from tonnage to hours worked has been blamed for the crisis since coal output is high and the number of union miners is decreasing. However, either funding formula ties health care to production. Drops in output will occur in the course of the economic depression workers are facing, and health-care or pension funds tied to the fortunes of the bosses will inevitably come up short.

Health insurance plans are not pools of money out of which the actual costs of providing health care are met. They become first and foremost a guarantee of profits for the owners of the insurance, hospital, and pharmaceutical industries.

Whether such funds are provided company by company as in the United States, or nationwide as they are in England or Canada, they are all tied up with the delivery of health care as a commodity in a capitalist marketplace.

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

## —CALENDAR—

### CONNECTICUT

#### Hartford

Hear Estelle DeBates, Socialist Workers Candidate for Vice-president. Mon., Sept. 14, 4 p.m. Trinity College. Call for location. Tel: (203) 688-5418.

#### New Haven

Hear Estelle DeBates, Socialist Workers Candidate for Vice-president. Tues., Sept. 15, 5:30 p.m. Dwight Hall, 67 High Street, Yale Old Campus. Donation: \$3. Tel: (203) 937-9741.

### MASSACHUSETTS

#### Boston

Hear Estelle DeBates, Socialist Workers Candidate for Vice-president. Mon., Sept. 14, 7:30 p.m. ARISE Office, 718 State Street. Tel: (413) 732-3355.

### PENNSYLVANIA

#### Pittsburgh

The Lives and Struggles of Youth in Cuba. Speaker: Ibis Alvisa González, Cuban youth leader on tour in U.S. Tues., Sept. 15, 11:30 a.m. 5G56 Forbes Quadrangle, University of Pittsburgh campus.

Young People in Cuba Today. Speaker: Ibis Alvisa González, Cuban youth leader on tour in U.S. Wed., Sept. 16, 7 p.m. 100 Porter Hall, Carnegie-Mellon University campus.

### NEW ZEALAND

#### Wellington

No to Racism and Depression. Discuss the socialist alternative with Communist League candidate for mayor, Patrick Brown. Wed., Sept. 16, 5:30 p.m. Victoria University Student Union building, Meeting Room One.

Educational Discussion on "The Origins of Women's Oppression". Sun., Sept. 20, 2 p.m. 23 Majoribanks St., Courtenay Pl. Donation: \$3. Tel: (4) 384-4205.



# Workers Party, Landless Rural Workers of Brazil, greet Ohio socialist conference

A full report on the International Socialist Conference held in Oberlin, Ohio, on the theme of "The Communist Manifesto Today," appeared in the previous issue of the *Militant*. Printed below are some of the messages received by the conference. The conference also voted to send three messages to individuals who for various reasons were unable to attend the gathering. These messages were sent to Howard Mayhew and Pearl Chertov, veteran activists in the socialist movement who joined as young fighters in the labor battles of the 1930s, and Mark Curtis, an active unionist and member of the Socialist Workers Party imprisoned on frame-up charges in Fort Madison, Iowa.

The following message was received from the Partido dos Trabalhadores (Workers Party — PT) of Brazil [translation from Spanish.]

On behalf of the National Leadership of the Workers Party, we would like to express cordial greetings to the Socialist Workers Party on the occasion of your International Socialist Conference.

We take this opportunity to wish you great success in your work, and to express our interest in receiving your resolutions. We are certain they will make an important contribution to advance movements of solidarity across the continent.

At this moment, when neoliberal policies are subjecting our countries to greater economic dependency and to starvation wages, it is imperative to continue strengthening the ties with all who fight against this situation.

We repeat our commitment of solidarity and common action with all the democratic and progressive forces of the continent, and we express our desire to deepen our rela-



The Landless Rural Workers Movement in Brazil carries out land takeovers and fights for agrarian reform. At the Fazenda Ipanema camp shown above, 800 families have occupied 1,800 hectares of government land.

tions along the road of common struggle for a more just and united America.

Fraternal greetings,

s/ Marco Aurélio Garcia

Secretary of International Relations

Excerpts of two messages from the Movement of Landless Rural Workers [translations from Portuguese].

August 5 and August 13, 1992  
São Paulo, Brazil.

To the International Socialist Conference  
The Movement of Landless Rural Workers (MST) greets all the young conference participants.

Although it is impossible for us to be there in person, we are there in spirit and in solidarity at such an important historic moment for all those fighting for social justice, peace, and freedom.

In Brazil we continue to move forward. We are going through a rather complex and

unfavorable situation for the workers.

The continuing economic crisis pushes workers more and more into poverty. A deep recession and an inflation rate of 20 percent or more, the generalized increase in unemployment, and repression against rural workers are some of the consequences of the neoliberal policies that are victimizing the Brazilian people.

Our meager financial resources continue to be transferred, through the foreign debt, to the governments and banks of the rich countries, creating a hemorrhage of wealth without precedent in our history.

Nevertheless, in spite of the social disorder caused by profit greed of the rulers of our country, we are not cowed. Every day we take bigger and more confident strides in our struggle.

\* \* \*

During the recent National Week of Struggle from July 20 to 25, the MST, together with the United Workers Federation (CUT), left political parties, progressive churches, and other popular organizations, took a few more steps towards an agrarian reform. We carried out innumerable occupations of large landed estates and government institutions, public marches, vigils, etc., which showed our strength and mobilized society.

In this struggle we also pointed to the need to remove the Collor government and his political group. We hope to contribute in this way to achieve a democratic, popular government controlled by working people in our country.

For that reason, even though we will be physically absent from such an important conference, we feel our presence will be represented there. We know that the struggle of the African National Congress, the struggles of the Cuban people, the struggle for the freedom of Mark Curtis, are also our struggles. They are socialist struggles, of all revolutionaries in the world today.

We congratulate the comrades of the SWP for this excellent initiative and we hope to continue strengthening our ties of exchange and friendship.

Socialist greetings to all the congress participants!

Long live socialism!

Long live the Cuban revolution!

s/

Egidio Brunetto

National Directorate MST

## Conference goers snap up Pathfinder titles

BY PAT SMITH

Participants in the 1992 International Socialist Conference held in Oberlin, Ohio August 5-9, went away with hundreds of books and pamphlets by revolutionary and communist leaders published or distributed by Pathfinder Press.

More than \$10,000 worth of literature was sold over five days to conference goers. *Communist Continuity and the Fight for Women's Liberation: Documents of the Socialist Workers Party, 1971-86* topped the sales list with 91 sets of three volumes. Part of the Education for Socialists series, this new set contains resolutions, reports, and articles that come out of the active involvement of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance in the fight for women's rights.

The book sales at the conference were organized by Pathfinder supporters from Pittsburgh, and Morgantown, West Virginia. Visitors to the Pathfinder tables were treated to a display of large, colorful covers of new and forthcoming titles published by Pathfinder. These include *Lenin's Final Fight: Writings and Speeches, 1922-1923*; *Malcolm X February 1965: The Final Speeches*; *Carlos Fonseca Speaks: Building Nicaragua's Sandinista Liberation Front, 1960-1976*; *To Speak the Truth: Why Washington's 'Cold War' against Cuba Doesn't End*; and *El socialismo y el hombre en Cuba* (Socialism and Man in Cuba).

A beautiful cover is also on the new Pathfinder pamphlet, *El manifiesto comunista* (The Communist Manifesto), printed on the eve of the conference. The cover design is taken from a segment of the six-story Pathfinder Mural in New York City which depicts the working-class fight for the eight-hour day.

Responding to the theme of the conference, "The Communist Manifesto Today," conference participants snapped up 76 copies of the manifesto in English and Spanish.

Conference participants also bought hundreds of books containing writings and speeches of Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, the founding leaders of the communist movement, and of V.I. Lenin, the central leader of the 1917 Russian revolution and the Bolshevik Party.

Also purchased were forty-eight titles by Leon Trotsky, also a leader of the Russian

revolution who, following Lenin's death, led the fight against the privileged bureaucracy that eventually usurped the power of the workers and peasants. Sixty-two books and pamphlets written by George Novack, a long-time leader of the Socialist Workers Party who died on July 30, were sold, including 18 copies of *Understanding History*, recently reissued by Pathfinder.

Many titles on the Pathfinder tables were offered at 25 percent discount to members of the Pathfinder Readers Club. Forty-eight people took advantage of this and joined or renewed their membership to the club. Readers Club entitles members to a regular 15 percent discount on all titles published by Pathfinder and is available at any Pathfinder bookstore, listed on page 12.

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# The ANC's strategy of mass mobilization

BY SARA LOBMAN

OBERLIN, Ohio — "The South African regime did not ban the African National Congress in 1990," said Peter Mokaba, president of the ANC Youth League (ANCYL). "It was not through anything but the mobilization of our people into united mass action," he stressed, that President F.W. de Klerk "has been forced to come to the negotiations table."

Mokaba was addressing participants in the International Socialist Conference here August 7 at a panel discussion on the South African revolution today. Joining him was Andile Yawa, president of the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY) and a leader of the ANCYL.

Also on the panel were Estelle DeBates, Socialist Workers candidate for vice-president of the United States, and Greg McCartan, national campaign director for the Socialist Workers campaign and editor of the *Militant*. McCartan and DeBates had recently returned from a fact-finding trip to South Africa. Following the presentations, the four young revolutionary leaders fielded a broad range of questions from the audience.

Mokaba described how the ANC is leading millions of people in a struggle for power to "transform South Africa into a democratic, non-sexist, non-racial, unitary country."

He explained that "the kind of democracy that we want to bring in South Africa is a deeper, more fundamental democracy that rests in the workers, the women, the youth, the masses of our people in the countryside and in the urban areas."

Yawa pointed to the worldwide support the South African freedom struggle has won. He told the gathering that the ANC Youth League considered it important to be part of WFDY, especially now, "when there are so many challenges and opportunities for youth" in the world. He pointed to the end of the Cold War and the sharpening economic and political crisis of capitalism. "WFDY's goal," he said, "is to open the doors to all democratic youth."

The conference participants had many questions for the panelists, ranging from the role of the United Nations observers recently sent to South Africa at the ANC's request, to the fight for abortion rights in South Africa, to the attitude an ANC-led government would take toward the Cuban revolution.

DeBates reported that a big discussion is opening in South Africa on the fight for women's rights, particularly on the question of a woman's right to choose abortion.

The Freedom Charter, the basic programmatic document of the revolutionary-democratic movement, drafted in 1955, takes a strong stand in favor of achieving equal rights for women, she said. The ANC is working on a charter for women's rights and is striving to draw different women's rights organizations into common activities.

Mokaba added that the ANC has established a Women's Emancipation Commission headed up by ANC chairman Oliver Tambo. While the ANC has not taken a position in favor of abortion, members of this commission have said on T.V. that "abortion should be a private decision of a free woman deciding whether to have a child or not."

On the question of the UN observers,



Participants in panel discussion on South Africa were (from left): Greg McCartan, Peter Mokaba, Andile Yawa, and Estelle DeBates.

Mokaba explained that the ANC has long called for "the involvement of the international community" to put pressure on the white minority regime. "We know that the United Nations is dominated by the United States," he said. "When we talk about the international community we don't just mean the UN," but other organizations as well. The call for international observers is aimed at publicly exposing the regime's role in instigating violence in South Africa.

McCartan described the self-defense units that have been organized in Black

townships to defend residents from the government-sponsored violence. These disciplined, unarmed units set up barricades, regular nighttime patrols, and organize evening curfews to make it harder for security forces and others to carry out acts of violence in the townships.

Mokaba had explained in his opening remarks that a victorious revolution in South Africa would mean that "Cuba would not be alone." During the discussion he pointed out how revolutionary Cuba had consistently supported the South African freedom

struggle over the past three decades. "There is no way the South African people can forget Cuba. There is no force that can prevent us from relating to Cuba unreservedly. A democratic South Africa will ignore the U.S. blockade against Cuba," he concluded.

DeBates responded to a question on what international support could be organized for the South African freedom struggle.

"Today there is no big international movement of solidarity" with the people of South Africa, she said, because few people understand that there is a revolution unfolding there today. Young fighters around the world "need to rise to the challenge and confront this."

This underlines the need to study and read about the South African revolution, she said, and to seek to get the truth about this revolution into the hands of as many working-class and young fighters as possible.

DeBates urged conference participants to pick up copies of books like *How Far We Slaves Have Come*, which has the speeches that Fidel Castro and Nelson Mandela gave when Mandela was in Cuba in 1990, Mandela's autobiography, *The Struggle is My Life*, and the article "The Coming Revolution in South Africa" in *New International* no. 5. All are available from Pathfinder Press.

Yawa added that the ANC Youth League would be setting up a mission in the U.S. that would help build solidarity with the anti-apartheid struggle.

## Head of ANC Youth League speaks

BY DEREK BRACEY

OBERLIN, Ohio — Peter Mokaba, president of the African National Congress (ANC) Youth League, was the keynote speaker at a panel discussion on the revolution in South Africa held here August 7 during the International Socialist Conference. (See accompanying article.)

"We are involved in a national democratic revolution," Mokaba said. "What the South African people are doing is engaging in a conscious struggle for power. And all revolutions are about power. The South African one is not an exception."

"This is the struggle of the African National Congress," he continued. "It is the struggle of the people of South Africa. It is the struggle to transform South Africa into a nonsexist, nonracial, unitary country."

Mokaba described the successful general strike that took place August 3-4. The ANC-led strike called for an end to government-sponsored violence and for establishing a constituent assembly to replace the apartheid regime.

The ANC youth leader quoted from a talk given by Nelson Mandela the previous day at a rally at the Union Building.

"The president of the ANC and of the people of South Africa, comrade Mandela said, 'Our country is passing through the most important phase in its history. The passing of the old order of apartheid rule and the birth of a new era of peace, democracy, and justice is marked with trials, tribulations, and immense sacrifice. The general

strike on Monday and Tuesday is unquestionably one of the greatest events in our history. More than 4 million people out of a work force of about 6 million workers stayed away.'"

Mokaba described how the ANC has sought to take advantage of the openings created by its legalization in February 1990. When the ANC and other anti-apartheid groups were banned in the early 1960s, the ANC, "placed before our people four means" through which to organize the struggle, he said.

"We said that because a negotiated settlement was not possible, the struggle in South Africa would be carried out by first establishing the underground of the ANC and its allies, secondly by conducting mass united action, thirdly by a relentless armed struggle, and fourthly, through international solidarity."

These "four pillars" of struggle guided the ANC's work during the years when conditions prevented it from functioning openly in South Africa. The ANC's unbanning, and the return of its leaders from prison and exile, opened the possibility of bringing the weight of working people to bear in the revolutionary democratic struggle in a massive way.

Because of this, Mokaba said, "our strategy had to be revised. We have revised the tactics and not the objective. The objective is still the transference of power from the minority to the democratic majority. And note that I am saying democratic majority, and not Black majority."

The ANC Youth League president remarked, "The regime did not ban the African National Congress in 1960 in order to negotiate with the ANC in 1990."

He added, "It was not through anything but the mobilization of our people into united mass action and the ability of our people to act together in unity, together with armed struggle and your support, that de Klerk has been forced to come to the negotiations table."

It is in this framework that negotiations involving the ANC, the South African government, and 18 other political organizations have taken place. Two rounds of talks called the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (Codesa), have taken place.

"We entered negotiations in order to pursue the same struggle and ensure that we deliver freedom to our people and therefore defeat de Klerk."

Mokaba explained that the key to the ANC's perspective has been drawing the

greatest numbers of South Africans into the active fight against apartheid. This is important, he said, because "revolution is the festival of the oppressed, of the masses. It can never be carried out on their behalf."

"We are not counterposing negotiations to mass action. We are also not treating mass action as a prop for negotiations. Mass action must be able to strengthen negotiations but at the same time demolish apartheid and empower our people by forming the structures of the people on the ground and ensure that we are able to defend and consolidate them."

Mokaba said South African revolutionaries had learned from the example of revolutionary Cuba and the effort there to draw in the masses of working people. "We are aware, that should we leave the process of change in the hands of the leaders alone, we are likely to be thwarted by the imperialists. Therefore, the first objective of this program of mass action is to deliver hammer blows against the enemy; secondly, maximum unity of our people; and thirdly, empowerment of our people by forming structures at the street, house, block, kraal, village, and township level."

Mokaba said it would be a mistake to ask what the ANC would do after the mass action campaign. "Mass action is forever," he said. The ANC's perspective "is protracted mass action."

"This then means that if de Klerk tomorrow agrees that there should be majority rule in South Africa, then mass action will transform itself in such a way that our people consolidate that gain and fight for more space."

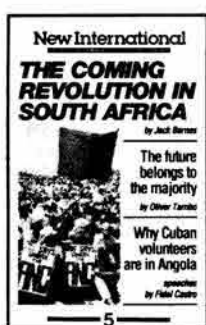
Mokaba explained that the revolutionary-democratic movement has continued to organize broader forces and draw forces toward it that have previously been allied to the white minority regime.

"We have formed an organization of policemen and prison wardens who are allied to the African National Congress," he said. "We have organized the tribal chiefs, who were used by the regime against the rural masses, and they are totally supporting the ANC."

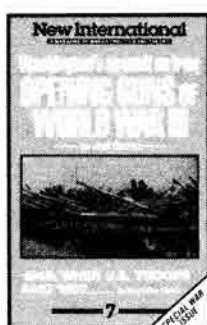
Mokaba explained the role of Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party, which is based in KwaZulu Bantustan. Inkatha opposes the ANC and has collaborated with the apartheid regime, including in violent attacks on anti-apartheid fighters.

"But even in KwaZulu itself we now have organized a branch of the ANC."

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# Slow response abets disaster in Florida

BY MAGGIE MCCRAW

MIAMI — Two weeks after Hurricane Andrew hit, the people of southern Florida continue to suffer from the combined effects of the natural disaster and an unnatural disaster: the negligent and inadequate response of the government. Tens of thousands are camped out in their crumbling homes; an estimated 350,000 remain without electricity; 57,000 have no phone service, 250,000 are homeless. The death toll from the hurricane and its aftermath stands at 38.

A health crisis is emerging in southern Dade County, with diseases ranging from dehydration due to intense heat and lack of water to salmonella and dysentery from contaminated food and water. There is a growing threat of typhoid, malaria, encephalitis, hepatitis, and even cholera. Infestations of mosquitoes and rats are becoming more common.

In addition, thousands have suffered injuries, such as poisoning and burns from gasoline-powered generators, puncture wounds from nails in debris, and other injuries directly related to the devastation. Hundreds of doctors' offices and pharmacies were demolished in the storm and medical equipment water damaged. Major area hospitals remain closed.

In southern rural areas the injured — including many poverty-stricken farm workers — have waited days for help. It was three days before a field hospital was set up

in Homestead, one of the most impoverished and worst-hit areas.

The help that has come from government sources, in addition to being late, has been inadequate. Despite the thousands of federal troops and emergency government aid that was finally dispatched, as well as the mammoth amount of private charity donations and the outpouring of local volunteers, the social programs and aid are still not reaching all those in need. It took a full 10 days after Andrew hit for the government to complete four tent cities capable of housing thousands, for example.

## Late and inefficient

As well as being late, the relief effort has been characterized by inefficiency. Food sits rotting alongside mountains of rain-soaked clothing and boxes of disposable diapers.

The main role the police and military have played is to protect the private property of business, not to provide service to the victims of this disaster. They have arrested 105 people for looting and another 1,000 for curfew violations. One judge admitted, "Most of them were seeking groceries, gasoline, or water."

The immediate need is for a huge mobilization of labor power aimed at distribution of vitally needed goods. Only a few government-created jobs for hurricane victims have been offered. No program on the scale needed has been initiated.

In the context of the capitalist economic depression, the impact of Hurricane Andrew has magnified the problems facing working people and brought the class divisions into sharp relief.

Banks, insurance companies, and large corporations run full-page advertisements in the *Miami Herald* every day proclaiming, "We're all in this together." But this is clearly not the case. Burger King and IBM executives find temporary shelter at the Doral Country Club or hotels in Miami Beach, while thousands of workers and their families sit in dangerous, roofless homes with no electricity or water.

The hurricane destroyed 1,000 of the 1,600 public housing units in Dade County. In Homestead, where the median income was \$330 a month before the disaster, at least one in five homes inspected was declared uninhabitable. Every trailer park was leveled. While many middle-class homeowners can find and afford housing in better-off areas, workers are finding little available.

petition for jobs and over which plants to keep open. GM, the world's largest corporation, is determined to make workers shoulder the burden of its drive to become more competitive and make bigger profits.

Battered by more than a decade of concessions to the big three automakers, UAW members face an important challenge to their power to bargain effectively and defend the rights of all UAW members.

If GM is successful in dealing blows in the current strike and over the next year to the UAW, it will send a signal — as did the setback in the Peoria Caterpillar strike — that the employers can step up their union-busting and go after the largest industrial unions. Like jackals, the taste of blood will only drive them to greater assaults.

Solidarity and unity are the cornerstones in any strategy to defend ourselves against the bosses. The battle today is not just for the Lordstown UAW local. All UAW members have a stake in the outcome and need to oppose any effort to divide the union along local lines. The way to defend jobs is by sticking together, not fighting each other.

All unionists and working people should extend solidarity and whatever aid needed to the auto workers on strike. A victory in this battle would be one for all working people and will only strengthen the union in the larger confrontation looming in national contract talks next year.



Militant/Maggie McCraw

Socialist candidate for U.S. Senate Dan Fein hands out campaign statement at Miami airport. The socialists put out an "action program to confront the disaster."

## Laws of supply and demand at work

The supply and demand laws of capitalism are already at work here as the big property owners see a chance to profit from this housing crisis. One family was quoted \$1,600 for monthly rent on a two-bedroom house; the next day it had gone up to \$2,700. Insurance companies are taking advantage of the catastrophe to increase their rates.

The U.S. Attorney's office expects up to 10,000 housing discrimination complaints, as many landlords bar Black and Latino storm victims. A young woman was told she could rent an apartment, but when the manager saw her in person she was told it was rented. When she called back the same day, she was told it was available.

In the face of the negligent response of the government, and the price-gouging of the capitalists, some union locals have organized to provide aid. A special meeting of shop stewards from International Association of Machinists (IAM) Locals 368, 1126, and 2643 was held in Miami with officials from other union locals throughout the country. They made plans to help IAM members whose housing had been destroyed or damaged by mobilizing IAM members who are skilled construction workers to come to Dade County. The Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union is organizing a caravan with supplies on Labor Day.

## Who will profit?

Meanwhile, politicians and businessmen are debating what and how much to rebuild, who will profit, and who will foot the bill. Both President George Bush and Democratic Party candidate Bill Clinton have made their priorities clear, pledging to rebuild Homestead Air Force Base, which was destroyed.

The base employs 8,400 military and civilian personnel. But providing jobs is not the government's main concern. A September 2 editorial in the *Miami Herald* explained, "Fortunately, the base's military value prevailed again. Homestead is well situated geographically for its mission as a training facility and as a potential staging

area for operations in Latin America and the Caribbean."

Local politicians and business figures have proposed schemes such as a one-cent sales tax increase to pay for the clean up, which will shift the burden further onto working people. They also seek to placate the increasingly impatient victims of Hurricane Andrew. One newscast even compared the government's goals to "the pacification program during the Vietnam War."

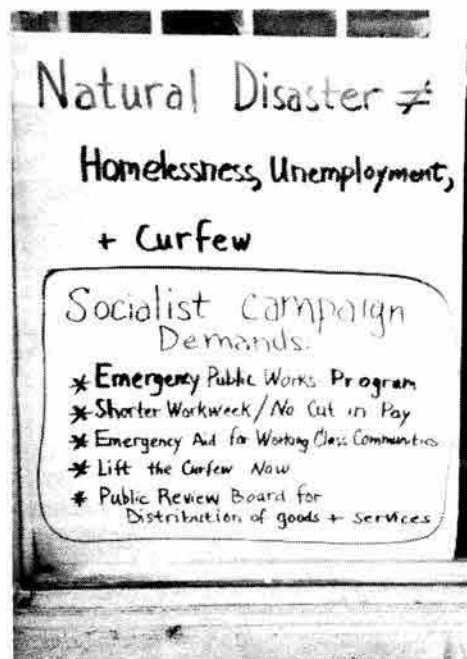
In contrast, the slate of Socialist Workers Party candidates released a statement entitled, "Hurricane Andrew — An Action Program to Confront the Disaster Facing Working People," which puts forward demands that place the needs of working-class people first.

"This natural disaster should not have become a massive social disaster for millions," said Dan Fein, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate. "The working class should not be forced to bear the brunt of this economic depression — unemployment, homelessness, lack of health care. The resources exist in this country to put people to work, to house and feed them. Instead, the government is using these resources to prepare a new war against Iraq, to protect the oil profits of the rich."

The socialist candidates call for providing jobs for all by shortening the workweek to 30 hours for 40 hours' pay. They demand a massive public works project, at union wages, to put people to work rebuilding needed housing, schools, hospitals, and infrastructure.

The socialists have distributed the statement at workplaces and elsewhere. Jill Fein, socialist candidate for Congress in the 17th C.D., reports that many of her coworkers agreed with her campaign's proposals. Of the 100 workers in her shop, which is organized by the IAM, 20 lost their homes or apartments.

Janet Post, who works in the emergency room at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami, and Dan Fein, a member of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union (OCAW) Local 3-681 at CITGO, contributed to this article.



Militant/Maggie McCraw

Window of Pathfinder bookstore in Miami

# Socialist campaign reaches out to striking UAW workers

The following statement was released by the Ohio Socialist Workers 1992 Campaign on behalf of candidates Peter Thierjung, 10th C.D.; Ronald Garmez Parks, 11th C.D.; and Don Mackle, 19th C.D.

## Solidarity with Lordstown UAW strikers!

The strike by 2,400 members of the United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 1714 against General Motors (GM) at the Lordstown metal fabrication plant deserves everyone's active support and solidarity.

GM forced the strike by demanding concessions, gutting job security, contracting out work to non-union companies that pay their workers less and provide fewer benefits, and cutting back health and safety benefits.

Similar demands by the auto giant threatened to force out on strike some 7,800 members of Local 1112 at GM's Lordstown assembly plant. Negotiations there, however, have been settled.

The strike by Local 1714 occurs as the company stakes out its ground in next year's national negotiations with the UAW. GM has already announced plans to eliminate some 50,000 union jobs and shut down 21 plants through 1995.

Using the restructuring plan as a club, the auto giant is working to divide the UAW and pit local unions against each other in a com-

# UAW strikers push back GM

## Continued from front page

GM vice-president of personnel, called the Lordstown settlement "equitable." However, Linda Cook, a GM spokesperson, said the company would continue to move tool-and-die work from Lordstown to some of the other 10 shops it maintains in four states and Canada. "We have agreed and committed to a plan to retain some work to match the work level with a planned declining work force," she said in an interview with the *New York Times*.

In its drive for greater profits, GM has unveiled a restructuring plan that calls for closing 21 plants and eliminating 74,000 jobs. Wall Street has applauded this plan and paid close attention to this strike. If the plan is implemented, competition between auto plants for maintaining jobs will intensify.

Many investment brokers, Wall Street analysts, and big-business newspapers openly encouraged GM to turn the Lordstown strike situation into the opening salvo in its drive to reorganize and limit the ability of the UAW to defend the work force.

A September 5 editorial in the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* said, "Using the strike weapon at Lordstown appears anachronistic." Members of Local 1714 thought otherwise.

"We had to go on strike," said Ahmad Hakeem, a 22-year veteran at the plant, "or we would get nothing." Another striker, Scott Bricker, said "the strike saved the tool-and-die room" at the plant.

A number of workers who spoke to the *Militant* contended that the strike weapon was justified and was decisive in this battle. They felt good about being part of a victory, although with reservations in many cases. "GM will promise anything, but we had better be prepared," as Walter Schnitzer and Dennis Stahl, two tool-and-die makers, explained. Both felt that GM was not happy about the outcome of the strike, its timing, its scope, and the solidarity it produced. But GM, they warned, "won't play dead."

Kibwe Diarra is a member of UAW Local 538 in Cleveland; Miguel Zárate is a member of UAW Local 882 in Atlanta.



# Indigenous youth hold conference

BY KATY LEROUGETEL  
AND MARC-ANDRÉ ETHIER

QUEBEC CITY—Youth, Native elders, and others met here July 13–17 in the First World Indigenous Youth Conference (IYC), hosted by the Cree Nation Youth Council of Quebec. Some 300 people attended the event.

The largest delegations came from the Cree Indians of Canada and the aborigines of Australia, with delegates also from the Quechua, Aymara, Mapuche, and other peoples from South and Central America; the Dalit of India; and the Ainu of Japan. There were also indigenous peoples from Papua-New Guinea, Hawaii, Scandinavia, Thailand, Canada, the United States, and other countries.

A number of delegates came to the IYC fresh from attending the Mohawk powwow in Kahnawake near Montreal which celebrated the acquittal of 34 Mohawks and other supporters on charges stemming from the 1990 confrontation at Oka, Quebec, between Mohawks and the federal army and police.

The holding of a conference bringing together indigenous peoples from around the world bears testimony to the growing weight of the fight for their rights in world politics and of the solidarity which they have commanded.

## The fight for self-determination

Chief Ted Moses, Cree ambassador to the United Nations, addressed the conference, outlining his people's fight against a massive hydro-electric project proposed by the Quebec government in James Bay. "The Crees of James Bay are trying to save our lands from a man-made disaster, dams which will flood an area the size of France"

and destroy our livelihoods and communities, he explained.

Aborigines from Australia, Mankayan from the Philippines, and delegates from indigenous peoples of Chile all recounted struggles against mining companies' appropriation of their lands.

In his keynote speech, Alain Perreault, president of the Quebec-government-funded Standing Youth Council, refused to come out clearly in favor of Natives' right to self-determination. This is a central issue in current constitutional talks in Canada. Responding to delegates' questions, Perreault claimed, "These discussions are useless because they're based on hypothetical situations."

## Cop brutality

Shireen Malamoo, from Australia, spoke about the campaign against the deaths of aborigines in police custody.

Several other delegates from Australia told personal stories of relatives who were killed when their skulls were cracked on the sides of police vans and of other brutalities suffered while in the hands of the cops. In the space of two years, 99 aborigines have died while in prison or under arrest.

Carol Moses, representative of the South African Student Press, introduced a video of Nelson Mandela's address to the IYC. Holding up a photograph from the previous days' edition of Canada's major daily newspaper, she said, "This is a picture of police attacking people in Capetown, where I come from. If I weren't here at this conference, I would have dog bites all over my body."

In the video message, Nelson Mandela, president of the African National Con-



Demonstration in 1990 to support Mohawk fight to defend their land in Quebec

gress, saluted the struggle of indigenous peoples, stressing the need for unity and inviting everyone to join in the international fight to isolate the apartheid regime.

## Women's rights

In her presentation on "Women and Society" Malamoo provoked a lively exchange by saying, "We are not fighting against men. Women get bashed. It happens, but we have to surround our men with love."

Most subsequent speakers rejected the idea that women's acceptance of such abuse would in any way advance the interests of Native people.

The only non-indigenous youth organization to formally deliver greetings to the IYC was the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY).

Marc-André Ethier, representing WFDY, saluted the conference. He pointed to mass actions against the apartheid regime in

South Africa, the Mohawk fight, and anti-war demonstrations in Yugoslavia as examples of the road forward to unite the oppressed and exploited in a common worldwide struggle. Ethier invited delegates to join other fighting youth at the International Socialist Conference in Oberlin, Ohio, in August sponsored by the Young Socialist Alliance, an affiliate of WFDY. A number of delegates crowded around him afterwards, requesting more information on the conference.

The IYC adopted a declaration of indigenous youth solidarity; a call for the next conference, to be held in the Northern Territories of Australia; and projections for marking 1993, which the UN has declared the Year of Indigenous Peoples.

Katy Lerougetel is a member of the United Steelworkers of America Local 6932 in Montreal. Marc-André Ethier is a student at the University of Montreal.

# Grace Carlson, socialist leader in 1930s and 40s

Grace Carlson, a founding member of the Socialist Workers Party, died on July 7 of this year in Madison, Wisconsin.

BY CHARLES SCHEER

MINNEAPOLIS—In the midst of the Great Depression, the 1930s became a period of radicalization of workers, farmers, the unemployed, and students. One of the major labor battles of this period was the 1934 Teamsters strikes in Minneapolis. Led by members of the Communist League of America, the forerunner of the Socialist Workers Party, and other fighting workers the Teamsters won three great strikes. These victories changed Minneapolis from a bastion of the open shop to a union town.

This had a profound effect on thousands of people, among them Grace Carlson. She became a charter member of the Minnesota

State Employees Union, Local 10. In 1936 she made the "happy decision" to join the revolutionary socialist movement. She had a doctor's degree in psychology and was working as a vocational rehabilitation counselor for the Minnesota Department of Education. She was widely known and respected.

For the next 16 years she devoted her life to the struggle for socialism. She worked much of the time as an organizer for the Socialist Workers Party. She ran for mayor in Minneapolis in 1942, and for Congress in 1940, 1946, and 1950 on the SWP ticket. She won a legal fight in the Minnesota Supreme Court against the capitalist political bureaucrats and their effort to keep her off the ballot. The decision in that case made it easier for minority parties to gain access to the ballot in Minnesota.

In 1948 Carlson was the Socialist Workers Party candidate for vice-president of the United States.

A part of the struggle for socialism is the fight against imperialist war. Carlson was one of the 18 leaders of the SWP and the Minneapolis General Drivers union who were convicted under the infamous Smith "gag act" for their opposition to the entry of the United States into World War II. She served 16 months in the federal prison for women in Alderson, West Virginia.

In a send-off banquet given by the party, Carlson said in a brief speech:

"It might seem that in the midst of worldwide slaughter on a scale that the world has never before seen, the fate of 18 people is relatively unimportant. But the 18 represent the future socialist society, which will inevi-

tably replace the decadent capitalist system.

"The spirit in which we Trotskyists have lived and worked is one of absolute conviction that one day in the not too distant future the workers of the world, many of whom have been imprisoned and have died for revolutionary ideas, will replace this rotten system which breeds war and fascism with an international society of free and equal human beings."

Carlson used her political education to work with other young women in the prison population during her time there. In the post-World War II period, with the growing reactionary atmosphere in general and the witchhunt in particular, Carlson suffered from discrimination and persecution. She went back to the Catholic church in 1952 and taught at St. Mary's Junior College in Minneapolis.

In her last month as a member of the SWP, Carlson spoke on the campus of the University of Minnesota and at New York University in support of Marxism and against its political opponents. She retained a friendly attitude toward the party, continued to be a regular reader of the *Militant*, and continued to consider herself a socialist until her death.

# Pathfinder reprints speeches of Fidel Castro

BY MIKE TABER

"There are no middle roads between capitalism and socialism."

At the time Fidel Castro spoke these words in 1961, Cuba's workers and peasants had carried out a fundamental social transformation. Following an intense struggle, the toilers expropriated the country's capitalist exploiters — both foreign and domestic — and established a workers' state.

The political lessons from Cuba's revolutionary struggle are especially important today. As a result of the expanding crisis of world imperialism in the 1990s and the crumbling of the bureaucratic regimes that formerly masqueraded as socialist, new opportunities exist for young fighters to find a road toward communism. For this new generation, the lessons and experiences of the Cuban revolution provide an inspiring example of uncompromising struggle, led by a genuine communist leadership, against imperialist oppression and war.

A good starting point for studying these lessons are the speeches and writings of Fidel Castro and Ernesto Che Guevara. Since the early 1960s Pathfinder Press has published many books and pamphlets by

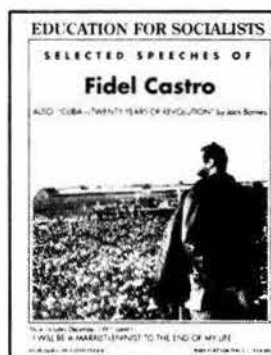
these revolutionary leaders.

Pathfinder has just brought one such collection back into print: *Selected Speeches of Fidel Castro*. This 134-page, large format Education for Socialists publication contains eight speeches by Castro from 1960 to 1979, the majority of them from the 1960s. Originally published in 1979, it has been out of stock for over a year.

Included are major policy statements that recount important chapters in the revolution's history. Among these are the 1962 battle against a petty-bourgeois bureaucratic faction led by Anibal Escalante; Cuba's support for revolutionary struggle in Latin America; Castro's position on the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968; and others.

For this edition, Pathfinder has added a new item: Castro's speech of December 2, 1961. On that occasion the Cuban leader recounted the history of the revolutionary struggle and explained, "I shall be a Marxist-Leninist to the end of my life."

At the time the address was given, it



received wide publicity in the world capitalist media as proof that Castro had "betrayed" the "original goals" of the revolution. In fact, Castro explains why only a socialist revolution could accomplish the goals working people were fighting for, and why the procapitalist forces that expressed support for the revolution at an earlier stage had broken with it.

This important speech has been unavailable in English for over three decades.

Included as an introduction to the collection is a December 31, 1978, talk by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, entitled "Cuba — Twenty Years of Revolution."

*Selected Speeches of Fidel Castro*, available at \$14.00, can be obtained from any Pathfinder bookstore around the world (see addresses on page 12) or through Pathfinder, 410 West Street, New York, NY 10014. If ordering by mail, add \$3.00 to cover postage and handling.



Grace Carlson was Socialist Workers candidate for vice-president in 1948.



# International drive launched to win new readers of 'Militant'

Continued from front page

economic and social crisis — marked by rising unemployment, increasing homelessness and poverty, and outbreaks of diseases.

Social explosions and riots against police brutality and rightist attacks have broken out in the United States, Britain, France, Germany, and elsewhere. Out of the rising social and economic pressures, ultrarightist and fascist groupings have arisen, blaming the evils of capitalism on scapegoats — such as Jews, Gypsies, and immigrant workers.

## Big shifts in world politics

Working people are living through some of the biggest changes in world politics since the 1917 Russian revolution. A central piece in this is the breakup of the Stalinist stranglehold in what used to be the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. For 60 years working people were cut off from communicating with each other by the Stalinist murder machine. This is no longer true.

Today there are widening opportunities to reach fighting workers and youth in the United States and around the world with the *Militant*. Despite setbacks and retreats by the labor movement, the employers have not been able to defeat the resistance put up by working people in the United States.

In fact, there are more signs of resistance to the employers' offensive. The nine-day showdown in Lordstown, Ohio, by auto workers against General Motors (GM) is a preview of the battles on the horizon. More

than 40,000 workers were involved in the strike and were successful in holding off the GM attack for the time being. (See article on page 1.) The GM bosses have declared war, saying that over the next few years they aim to eliminate 74,000 auto jobs.

During the recent strike, GM bondholders and their minions in the big-business press minced few words in their drive to crush the union. The *Wall Street Journal* wrote with gusto that "Wall Street had cheered on GM in its fight to shed UAW jobs."

Over the past few days, *Militant* supporters sold 35 copies to strikers and distributed socialist campaign statements in support of their fight in the Lordstown area.

The *Militant* has been in the forefront in reporting on the important labor battles and skirmishes that have been taking place this year.

## Caterpillar: resistance continues

The five-month strike by the United Auto Workers (UAW) against Caterpillar Corp., which had openly declared war on the union, ended in a defeat for the UAW but important resistance continues. This has been demonstrated by the reception to *Militant* sales teams who recently visited UAW-organized Caterpillar plants in Peoria, Illinois, and York, Pennsylvania. Thirty-five papers were sold in Peoria and 27 in York.

As one Caterpillar worker put it in a letter to the *Militant*: "Just a reminder that we at Caterpillar are still having to bear the attack from both sides of the fence without a con-



Caterpillar strikers at plant-gate rally. International circulation drive will get the *Militant* into hands of vanguard workers and youth.

tract . . . I would like to see more of our fight in your paper to show the world that even though they don't read about us on national news, the fight is still on."

The recent concession agreement between the International Association of Machinists (IAM) and Trans World Airlines (TWA) has sparked a big discussion in the union. The agreement calls for a 15 percent wage reduction, the giving up of two paid holidays, and cuts in medical-care coverage.

Last week at an IAM Local 1056 union meeting near JFK International Airport in New York, where the agreement was discussed, a sales team sold 30 copies of the *Militant*. In addition, 7 copies of the Pathfinder pamphlet *An Action Program to*

*Confront the Coming Economic Crisis* were sold to TWA workers.

Over the past several months important strikes have been covered by the *Militant*: the *New York Times* drivers strike; the *Pittsburgh Press* strike; strikes at United Food and Commercial Workers-organized plants at Wilson Foods and Krogers, and now at Fischer Packing Co. in Louisville, Kentucky; the rail lockout at CSX; the drywall construction workers strike in California; strikes by New Zealand paperworkers; and a wildcat strike by workers in Sweden against Scandinavian Airlines System.

## Broader view that fighters need

Reading the *Militant* is the only way to keep up with what is going on in the labor movement. The *Militant* provides the broader social, political, and international news that vanguard workers need to see themselves as part of the working-class fighters around the world.

This summer the *Militant* sent reporting teams to South Africa to report on the unfolding revolution there and to Yugoslavia to cover the events in Serbia, Croatia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

During the drive, sales teams will be organized to the coalfields, where the *Militant* is well-known, and to areas where there are large concentrations of auto workers. Miners have been part of the fights at Caterpillar, the United Steelworkers of America strike at Ravenswood Aluminum Co., and the strike against the *Pittsburgh Press*. Important fights by the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) are brewing in the coalfields over forced overtime and the mining bosses' attacks on health care and pensions. The UMWA contract is up on Feb. 1, 1993.

Some of the best *Militant* sales recently have been at actions defending abortion clinics. In the course of two weeks, 175 *Militants* and 7 subscriptions were sold in the Houston area during the attacks on clinics at the time of the Republican conven-

Continued on Page 12

# Talks between Israel, Palestinians, discuss fate of occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip

BY NAOMI CRAINE

Negotiations opened August 24 in Washington between representatives of Israel, the Palestinians, and Arab governments over issues related to Israeli-occupied territories. This is the sixth round of talks in a series that began with meetings in Madrid, Spain in October 1991 and is expected to last a month.

During the first days of the negotiations, Israeli representatives put forward a proposal for limited self-rule by Palestinians of the occupied territories of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. They suggested the election of an "administrative council" that would take on many local functions of government, but would leave most important powers, including defense and foreign policy, in the hands of Tel Aviv.

The Israeli government describes this as a transitional arrangement, with negotiations on the "final" status of the occupied territories to begin in three years.

The Palestinian negotiating team has called for a 180-member elected legislature with full governmental powers in the West Bank and Gaza. They point out that the Israeli proposals "do not depart on many points from the Israeli documents presented previously." At the insistence of the Israeli government, the Palestinian delegation is officially part of a joint delegation with Jordan.

Last year Tel Aviv backed off of another demand that no Palestinian negotiators have open ties with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). Most, if not all, of the Palestinian delegates are open supporters of the PLO, and the Palestine National Council (PNC), a parliament in exile, voted last year to approve participation in the talks.

Hanan Ashrawi, the main spokesperson for the Palestinian delegation, said, "when you look at the proposals, you'll find that we do have a long way to go still. There are grounds for being optimistic, but at the same time, there are actually more legitimate grounds for being very cautious and treading very carefully on terrain that might be a minefield."

Ibrahim Khraishi, the student council president at Bir Zeit University on the West Bank, said he wants "a change in depth, not only on the surface. The changes Rabin has tried, to say he's a different man, are not deep. It's a very small thing. Before we talk

about releases from prison, we must talk about why they put us in prison."

Kraishi was referring to moves made by recently elected Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin in the days leading up to the talks. These included the early release of 800 of the 7,000 Palestinian political prisoners and the cancellation of deportation orders against 11 Palestinian activists. Until now, virtually every deportation the Israeli government has announced has been carried out.

Earlier in August, Rabin reached an agreement with Washington to cut back on new Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, thereby securing Bush's support for \$10 billion in loan guarantees to Israel. The U.S. government held up the loan guarantees for months because of the refusal of the previous Israeli government, headed by Yitzhak Shamir, to slow such settlements.

The dispute over the loan guarantees reflects the growing divergence of foreign policy interests between Tel Aviv and Washington. The U.S. government sees opportunities to deepen relations with various Arab governments and wants to distance itself from the Israeli regime's policy of consolidating its grip on the West Bank through building more settlements.

Under the agreement with Washington, the Israeli government has said it will cancel contracts for 6,681 new housing units for Jewish settlers, but will complete more than 10,000 units already under construction in the occupied territories.

Despite the shifts leading up to the negotiations and other concessions, such as allowing the Bir Zeit University to reopen, the Israeli government continues to attack and harass Palestinian activists. The Palestinian delegation was stopped at the Jordanian border on August 21 by Israeli troops who claimed the younger members of the delegation did not have appropriate papers. The Israeli government requires all Palestinians under 35 to obtain special permission if they wish to leave the West Bank or Gaza for less than nine months.

On August 26, an undercover paramilitary squad of the Israeli Border Patrol killed three Palestinians and seriously wounded three others, including two young children, in Jenin on the West Bank. Undercover units

of the Border Patrol often wear civilian clothes in order to stalk Palestinians accused of taking part in the fight against the Israeli occupation.

A report issued by the Jerusalem Media and Communication Centre reports that, since the election of Rabin's Labor Party government in June, confiscations continue of Palestinian land and trees are being bulldozed in the West Bank and Gaza, in order to construct new roads to Israeli settlements.

Another important side of the negotiations are talks between Israeli and Syrian government representatives over control of the Golan Heights, which Israel has occupied since 1967. Foreign minister Shimon Peres initially indicated that the Israeli government was willing to make some territorial compromises with Syria. Rabin later said that they were not making any specific offer to withdraw from the Heights. Syrian officials are demanding the complete return of the territory seized by Israel.

## PERSPECTIVA MUNDIAL

*A socialist monthly in Spanish published in the interests of working people*

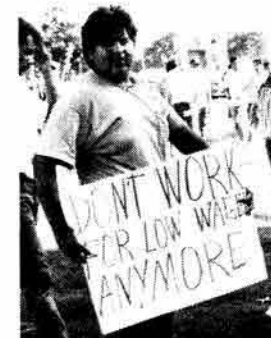
### The September issue includes:

- The strike of drywall workers in Los Angeles;
- The life of George Novack, longtime member of the Socialist Workers Party who recently died in New York;
- The Third Conference of Movements and Political Parties of the São Paulo Forum held in Managua;
- Developments in South Africa;
- The fight for abortion rights in Houston;
- The unfolding war in Yugoslavia.

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# U.S. war moves continue in Iraq

Continued from front page

rier group, contradicted both the news reports and Scowcroft. He said that the round-the-clock U.S. surveillance had found no evidence of marsh fires or any signs of a new military buildup by the Hussein regime in the south.

Washington has had only limited success in gaining support for its no-fly zone and related war moves against Iraq, even though coming out of last year's war the Pentagon convinced some of the area regimes to allow it to pre-position equipment within their borders.

The island oil kingdom of Bahrain in the Persian Gulf, which allowed 17,500 U.S. soldiers and 200 U.S. and British aircraft to be stationed there last year, is reluctant to allow any of its cooperation this time around to be made public.

In an interview with the *Financial Times* of London in late June, Sheik Khalifa bin Sulman al Khalifa, prime minister of Bahrain, said that it was time to open a new chapter in relations with Iraq and move on from "whatever had happened between us."

Saudi Arabia, while cooperating with the U.S. forces and flying back-up missions for the U.S. sorties, is still nervous about the U.S. presence.

A *Washington Post* correspondent aboard the USS *LaSalle* noted in the paper's August 31 edition that reporters are prohibited by Pentagon censorship from saying where the *LaSalle* is berthed, ostensibly because "Arab sensitivity is so deep."

Many Arab regimes, and sections of the U.S. ruling class, worry that the no-fly zone will result in the division of Iraq and will strengthen Iran more than the U.S. government wishes.

## Mideast regimes arm themselves

Since the end of the war against Iraq, Mideast governments, including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Israel, Iran, Turkey, Egypt, and Syria, have been massively arming themselves. The Kuwaiti government has allocated an extra \$12 billion for advanced weapons and building up of its armed forces over the next 12 years. The *Financial Times* says that as much as \$45 billion in arms has been ordered by Middle Eastern governments over the last year.

Neither the increased armaments nor U.S. troop maneuvers currently underway in Kuwait have bolstered the confidence of the Kuwaiti rulers. Immediately after Iraqi television broadcast a program that continues to assert that Kuwait is historically part of Iraq, some of the emirate's citizens packed up their bags and headed out of the country.

Although Washington has not come close to duplicating last year's coalition of governments backing its war moves, it has sought to repeat its success in keeping Israel out of the war. The Israeli daily *Yediot Ahronot* said Bush sent Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin a message aimed at making sure Israel refrains from direct involvement, once again.

The UN embargo imposed since Iraq invaded Kuwait continues to take its toll in spite of restoration of some of the vital services destroyed by allied bombing during the war.

Electrical power has been restored in much of the country, one-third of the telephone exchanges have been rebuilt, and satellite ground stations for television and military communication repaired. But this has done little to overcome the health and economic crisis caused by the war and the embargo.

Nearly 30,000 Iraqi children died in the first four months of 1992, mostly from malnutrition and dehydration. Infant mortality has risen 310 percent from its pre-war level.

Prices of basic commodities have skyrocketed, some by as much as 2,000 percent since the end of the war.

The embargo has been tightened in recent weeks, due both to U.S. pressure and to hoarding by Jordanian and Iraqi merchants after Hussein ordered 42 businessmen executed for price-gouging in July.

Only 12 trucks a day are entering Iraq from Jordan, down from a high of nearly 200. New York *Newsday* correspondent Susan Sachs reports that rice and tea "have all but disappeared from Iraqi markets."

In mid-August, Baghdad announced it was banning the import of 150 items it described as "luxuries," ranging from tomatoes and bananas to whiskey, radios, and refrigerators.

# MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

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

## CALIFORNIA

### Los Angeles

**Brutal State Budget Cuts: Attack on Working People and Students.** Speakers: Thabo Ntweng, Socialist Workers candidate for Congress; Nannette Clark, student activist, Compton College. Sat., Sept. 12, 7:30 p.m. 2552-B W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$4. Tel: (213) 380-9460.

**George Novack, Soldier of the Revolution.** Speakers: Doug Jenness, former editor of the *Militant*; John Evenhuis, on the meaning of Novack's life for young people today. Sat., Sept. 19, dinner 6 p.m., program 7:30 p.m. 2552-B W Pico Blvd. Proceeds go to George Novack Reconstruction Fund. Tel: (213) 380-9460.

### San Francisco

**A Celebration of the Life of George Novack.** Speakers: Doug Jenness, former editor of the *Militant*; others to be announced. Sun., Sept. 20, reception 2 p.m., program 3 p.m. 3284 23rd St. (near Mission). Donation: \$5. Tel: (415) 282-6255.

## GEORGIA

### Atlanta

**'No-fly Zone': A first Step Toward U.S. War on Iraq.** Speakers: Susan LaMont, Socialist Workers candidate for Congress, member, Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union. Sat., Sept. 12, 7:30 p.m. 172 Trinity Ave. S.W. Donation: \$3. Tel: (404) 577-4065.

## ILLINOIS

### Chicago

**Socialist Workers Campaign Rally.** Speaker: James Warren, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. president. Sat., Sept. 19, open house 6 p.m., rally 7 p.m. 545 W Roosevelt Rd. Tel: (312) 829-6815.

## MICHIGAN

### Detroit

**Hear Socialist Workers Candidate for U.S. President James Warren.** Sat., Sept. 12, 7 p.m. 5019 1/2 Woodward Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (313) 831-1177.

## MISSOURI

### St. Louis

**Rally for Democratic Rights: Protest Exclusion of Socialist Workers Party from Missouri Election Ballot.** Speaker: Deborah Lazar, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress, 1st C.D. Fri., Sept. 11, 7:30 p.m. 1622 S Broadway. Donation: \$5. Tel: (314) 421-3808.

**Labor Resistance Today: From Caterpillar to Doe Run to the GM Lordstown Strike.** Speakers: Larry Solomon, president UAW Local 751 at Caterpillar; Roy Ramsey, Doe Run striker, Teamsters Local 688; John Grayned, member UAW Local 751 at Caterpillar; Ernie Mailhot, former strike coordinator for IAM at Eastern Airlines, New York, member, Socialist Workers Party National Committee. Sat., Sept. 19, 7:30 p.m. 1622 S Broadway. Donation: \$3. Tel: (314) 421-3808.

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

**MISSOURI:** St. Louis: 1622 S. Broadway.

## NEW JERSEY

### Newark

**The U.S. War Drive Against Iraq and Yugoslavia.** Speaker: Greg McCartan, director Socialist Workers 1992 Campaign and editor *Militant* newspaper. Sat., Sept. 12, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St., 2nd floor. Donation: \$5. Tel: (201) 643-3341.

## PENNSYLVANIA

### Pittsburgh

**The U.S. War Drive Against Iraq and Yugoslavia.** Speaker: Derek Bracey, *Militant* staff writer, member Socialist Workers Party National Committee. Sat., Sept. 12, 7 p.m. 4905 Penn Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

**Iran and the Neighboring Republics of the Former USSR: An Eyewitness Report.** Speaker: Ma'mud Shirvani, just back from Iran. Sat., Sept. 19, 7 p.m. 4905 Penn Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

## WASHINGTON

### Seattle

**Iran and Neighboring Republics of the former USSR.** Speaker: Ma'mud Shirvani, just back from Iran. Sat., Sept. 12, 7:30 p.m. West Coast Hotel, Seattle Room. 18415 Pacific Highway South. Donation: \$5. Tel: (206) 323-1755

## BRITAIN

### London

**How Millions Fight Apartheid Today: Eyewitness Report from South Africa.** Sat., Sept. 12, 7:30 p.m. 47 The Cut, SE 1. Donation: £2. Tel: 71-928-7993.

### Manchester

**Malcolm X Speaks: Video of Life and Ideas.** Speaker: Helen Arthur, member, Communist League. Sat., Sept. 12, 6 p.m. Unit 4, 60 Shudehill. Donation: £1. Tel: 061-839 1766.

## CANADA

### Toronto

**Why the New Immigration Bill Must Be Defeated: A Panel Discussion.** Speakers: Abdurahman Hosh, refugee-rights activist from Somalia; Dudley Laws, leader of Black Action Defense Committee; Sylvie Charbin, member, Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, member, Communist League; representative, Coalition for a Just Refugee and Immigration Policy; others. Sat., Sept. 12, 7:30 p.m. 827 Bloor St. West. Donation: \$4. Tel: (416) 533-4324.

## NEW ZEALAND

### Christchurch

**Socialist Election Campaign Rally.** Speakers:

# Newark cops shoot Black youths

Continued from Page 4

young people, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress in Newark, Simone Berg, explained, "the cops, with the full backing of the mayor, police chief and *Star Ledger*, are using the pretense of stolen cars to declare open season on young people.

"Not only are young people victims of the trigger-happy cops, so is the Bill of Rights. The right to be presumed innocent until

Joan Shields, Communist League candidate for mayor; others. Sat., Sept. 12, 7 p.m. 593a Colombo St. (upstairs). Donation \$5 (includes supper) Tel: (3) 365-6055.

**The Fight for Women's Rights Today.** Sat., Sept. 19, 7 p.m. 593a Colombo St. (upstairs). Donation \$3. Tel: (3) 365-6055.

## Wellington

**South Africa: The Mass Action Campaign.** Sat., Sept. 12, 4 p.m. 23 Majoribanks St., Courtenay Pl. Donation \$3. Tel: (4) 384-4205.

## SWEDEN

### Stockholm

**Malcolm X and the Relevance of His Ideas Today.** Speaker: Dechor Hien, Communist League. Sat., Sept. 12, 4 p.m. Vikingagatan 10 (T-Bana St Eriksplan). Tel: (08) 31 69 33.

## Sales drive to begin

Continued from Page 11

tion. Over the next two months, *Militant* staff writers—including Derek Bracey, John Cox, Naomi Craine, Sara Lobman and Argiris Malapanis—will be joining both James Warren and Estelle DeBates as their campaigns, and the various socialist state and local campaigns, go into high gear this fall.

*Militant* staff writers will also be available to speak for the socialist alternative and to take part in activities of young people supporting the campaign. The circulation drive is scheduled to begin on the heels of national meetings of socialist workers in nine different trade unions that have been taking place around the country. Each of these meetings is discussing the increasing opportunities to circulate the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* among coworkers and in the union.

The single-sales effort is designed to help supporters reach out broadly, thus laying the basis for a successful subscription drive. Supporters will be selling at local colleges and high schools, at industrial plant gates and on the job, at protest meetings, and door-to-door. The goals for supporters in local areas will be printed in next week's issue.

*Ernie Mailhot is a member of the United Steelworkers of America union in St. Louis, Missouri.*

## BRITAIN

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

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**Vancouver:** 3967 Main St. Postal code: V5V 3P3. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

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## NEW ZEALAND

**Auckland:** La Gonda Arcade, 203 Karangahape Road. Postal Address: P.O. Box 3025. Tel: (9) 379-3075.

**Christchurch:** 593a Colombo St. (upstairs). Postal address: P.O. Box 22-530. Tel: (3) 365-6055.

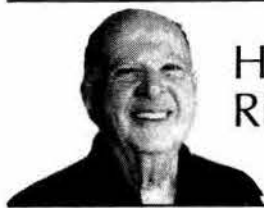
**Wellington:** 23 Majoribanks St., Courtenay Pl. Postal address: P.O. Box 9092. Tel: (4) 384-4205.

## SWEDEN

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



**March of science** — It has rows of boxes, laser beams and an automatic phone link to a pager. It



Harry Ring

churns out computer printouts updating results. It's called the "Mouse Alert" system and a British firm hopes to sell it to air and rail control centers and others who need to keep the little critters out of their

hi-tech equipment.

**Thorny question** — "ANKARA, Turkey — The Turkish government Wednesday withdrew long-awaited draft legislation aimed at discouraging torture because of disagreement within the governing coalition." — News item.

**But it's their divine right** — In a British newspaper survey, 90 percent of those polled thought the royal family should start paying taxes, with 83 percent saying they should get off the taxpayers' backs altogether. The Queen alone draws more than \$15 million a year.

**"You're just the right size to be fired."** — Company execs are getting touchy about how they describe cutbacks and layoffs. "We don't call it downsizing anymore," one explains. "We're trying to right-size."

**Glower power** — An exec at Ameritech Corp. explained that cutting the number of low-level supervisors is "empowerment." Adding, "That means an individual is being asked to supervise more people than before."

**Read-it-and-retch-dep't** — The Los Angeles City Council re-

fused to increase a settlement to Raymond Hewitt, a deaf and legally blind indigent, 72, who was clobbered by two cops. The Beverly Hills shyster who represented Hewitt and agreed to the \$36,000 settlement will pocket fees and expenses totalling \$23,502.

**Aw gee** — The Los Angeles City Council stipulated that the \$12,498 left for Raymond Hewitt will be put into a special-needs trust fund that will not jeopardize his welfare payments.

**Take it with a dose of salt** — Campbell's promised the feds that

in most future ads suggesting that its "healthy" soups are good for your heart, it will include mention of their high salt content. Also, it said it will not imply that soup can help reduce heart disease without offering evidence of same.

**Would Coors lie to you?** — Did you notice those wonderfully scenic commercials assuring that Coors Light is made only with the purest Rocky Mountain spring water? Rival Anheuser Busch established that a concentrated version of the brew is shipped in tanks to Virginia where local water is added before bottling.

## U.S. socialist gets wide hearing in Grenada

Continued from Page 3

port was ever used for military intervention was when U.S. troops invaded Grenada.

The MBPM is currently conducting a campaign to demand that the name of the airport be changed. They have been posting stickers around the island that say, "Maurice Bishop International Airport — A Must."

"We feel a special responsibility and obligation to the people of Grenada," commented Warren, "because this is a country that the U.S. government invaded and bombed. Washington promised millions of dollars in aid to Grenada, which never materialized. In fact, many of those who were injured, had family members killed, or property destroyed, received nothing. We demand that Washington provide this aid."

### Welcomed at public meeting

One of the highlights of the tour was the public meeting, which was organized by the MBPM. Chairing the meeting and welcoming Warren was Terry Marryshow, political leader of the MBPM. "Our party is happy to be associated with this effort," said Marryshow in his opening remarks. "We like to be seen as encouraging all kinds of views in this country and to open the country to the ideas of people like brother James Warren."

In his presentation Warren spoke about important recent developments in U.S. and world politics. The U.S. presidential election is occurring in the context of a world depression," stated Warren. "The problem is not bad policies by one or another capitalist politician but the capitalist system itself. Their crisis stems from the declining rate of profits and the breakdown of the market system. A crisis of overproduction leads to competition between major powers, competition with minor powers, and competition between countries that are no powers at all," stated Warren.

"Foreign policy is an extension of domestic policy and not the other way around," said Warren. "What they're doing in Iraq and in Yugoslavia, what they're trying to do to working people throughout the world is what they're doing to working people in Los Angeles, Detroit, and cities around the United States."

"U.S. capitalism is in deep crisis. The offensive of the employers is driving working people in the United States into the arms of working people around the world," said Warren.

Following the presentation and discussion, participants surrounded the Pathfinder literature table, buying \$62 worth of pamphlets and books.

One of the active builders of this meeting was Patrice, a student from the island of Guadeloupe, who happened to be staying at the same guest house in Grenada as Warren. After a discussion with the socialist candidate, he began building the meeting and succeeded in bringing four of his friends. Patrice promised to talk to many other people about the campaign when he got back to Guadeloupe.

### Stalinism is negation of communism

In many discussions throughout the tour Warren took the opportunity to explain the difference between the communist perspective he represents and that of Stalinism, which destroyed the Grenadian revolution.

"Stalinism is the negation of communism," stated Warren. "It's using police state methods to oppress working people. You don't build socialism by using guns against working people or your political opponents. Ever since the Stalinists defeated the com-



James Warren (at left) speaking at news conference at Clement Payne Cultural Center in Bridgetown, Barbados.

munists in the Soviet Union in the mid-to late 1920s, communists have been one of the main victims of the Stalinist murder machine, which arose out of the Soviet secret police. Maurice Bishop and his colleagues were simply some of the most recent victims.

"Coard and his supporters in Grenada are no different than the Stalinists in the USSR," continued Warren. "They both carried out the same things. Maurice Bishop represented the best qualities in the fight for socialism in the world. He was totally accessible to the people of Grenada. Bishop was a representative of the future of humanity. Coard and his ilk are the opposite of what Bishop represented."

Pointing to developments in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, Warren explained, "The workers and farmers who overthrew Stalinist regimes in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe opened up possibilities of moving forward to real communism. A roadblock has been cleared from their path."

Warren was interviewed for 30 minutes by a reporter from GBC-TV. A five-minute segment was featured on the evening news as the second major story of the day, and replayed the next morning. "What exists in the U.S. is tens of millions of people living below the poverty level, and not just Blacks," said Warren on the program.

"Real politics is what occurs in the streets. Working people need leaders who are political fighters and they need to become political fighters themselves," said Warren. "The Socialist Workers candidates throughout the country are political fighters, not law writers, though they're perfectly capable of writing and arguing laws as well."

Warren also appeared on "To the Point," a one-hour live radio call-in show. He fielded a wide variety of questions ranging from "Why are you campaigning here in Grenada?" to "What do you think of [Nation of Islam leader Louis] Farrakhan?"

Warren explained that one of the central planks in his election platform is cancellation of the debt owed by the Third World nations to banks in the imperialist countries and "dismantling this loan-sharking operation being carried out against the majority of humanity."

"I'm not quite sure what communism is but from the little I've heard it seems that it would be the best system," the proprietor of a clothing shop told Warren after hearing

him on the radio call-in show.

The president of the Commercial and Industrial Workers Union (CIWU), Anselm

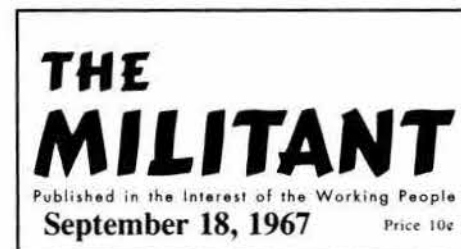
DeBourg, took Warren on a tour of two work sites organized by the union — the Marketing and National Importing Board, and Consolidated Industries Ltd., which bottles Coca Cola.

The state-owned Marketing and National Importing Board functions as a central clearinghouse for importing and exporting essential agricultural goods in Grenada. Since the downfall of the revolution the government has privatized a number of state-owned businesses. DeBourg expressed some uncertainty about what the future holds for the marketing board.

DeBourg told Warren that CIWU organizing really took off in 1979 with the triumph of the revolution. The union still continues to successfully organize new work sites. The CIWU currently organizes almost 900 workers in 37 different workplaces throughout the island. There are eight different unions in Grenada.

Warren left Grenada optimistic about prospects that exist for rebuilding a revolutionary movement there. The next stops on the socialist's Caribbean tour are Curaçao, and Trinidad and Tobago.

## — 25 AND 50 YEARS AGO —



Four thousand people crammed into Camden, New Jersey's Convention Hall to hear SNCC chairman H. Rap Brown recently. The meeting was called over the protests of the chief of police and the Camden NAACP by a coalition of Camden organizations.

The audience was overwhelmingly young and included a large number of high school students.

Across the river in Philadelphia, where near martial law has been maintained in the black community, one paper reported that, "police kept a tight watch on bridges leading to Philadelphia. If Brown tried to cross the river, the police orders read, he was to be stopped."

By 1970 more than half of the black population of the U.S. will live in the North, according to the Aug. 27 *Baltimore Afro-American*. When the last census was taken in 1960, 60 percent of Afro-Americans lived in the South. In 1964 it had dropped to 54.4, and in 1965 to 53.6.



September 19, 1942

More than any other people, the Jews have become the burning symbol of capitalism in decay. The Nazis have made the Jewish people the scapegoat of their system of rule by terror. For three years now the Jews in unoccupied France have suffered untold misery in the hands of the French collaborators with Hitler.

Meantime what was the attitude of England and the United States? We know how England refused permission to whole boatloads of Jewish refugees to land in Palestine, even when already in sight of its shores. The sinking of several such boats with the loss of hundreds of lives became international scandals.

The United States has shown the same hypocritical attitudes as the British. The whole machinery of government, from State Department to foreign consular officials, was set into motion for but a single purpose: to keep the Jews out.

The Germans applied pressure on Vichy to exile 20,000 Jews from unoccupied France. [Vichy government leader] Laval pretended that these Jews were to be sent back to their homelands. Actually, they were to be shipped off to Russia and Poland as slave labor—if not to be killed outright by gas or machine-gunning on the way.

The government of the United States, which might have saved all these unfortunate during the past three years by granting them visas, now that it is too late, registers its protest against the French treatment of Jewish refugees. Laval promptly retorted that he would gladly send all those to be deported to the United States, if this country would receive them. Hull stated hypocritically that he had received no information from the American Embassy at Vichy that the Laval government would permit the Jews to come to the United States.

Many [Jews] accept the war as a fight between fascism and democracy. They support the democracies heart and soul under the delusion that if the democracies win, the Jewish question will find its solution. The truth is that a victory for the United Nations will still leave the Jewish question unsolved.

Under capitalism the Jews remain nothing but a football of diplomacy. The roots of the oppression of the Jews are intertwined with the general oppression of the workers and toilers by the ruling class. That is why the solution of the Jewish question can be achieved only with the aid of the world proletariat, only with the victory of socialism over capitalism.



# Fight undemocratic ballot laws

Working people and all defenders of democratic rights have a big stake in fighting the exclusion from the ballot of socialist candidates in Massachusetts, Mississippi, Nebraska, Ohio, and Alabama.

The ballot laws in the United States, with their maze of rules, requirements, and restrictions, are aimed at keeping working-class candidates off the ballot.

The routine disqualifying of hundreds, or in some cases thousands of names from nominating petitions, effectively disenfranchises these individuals and is an attack on everyone's rights.

In Lauderdale County, Mississippi, for example, more than 1,000 people indicated that they thought the Socialist Workers Party candidates for president and vice-president, James Warren and Estelle DeBates, should be on the ballot. Citing technicalities, county election officials discount over 80 percent of these!

In Nebraska, election officials harassed one petition signer and local cops tried to intimidate a campaign supporter.

The June U.S. Supreme Court ruling upholding Hawaii's undemocratic ban on write-in voting also restricts the space that working people have to exchange ideas and discuss politics. Between the years 1988 and 1992, 210 Socialist Workers candidates were forced to run as write-in candidates because of exclusionary ballot laws.

As the 1992 elections approach, it is clearer than ever that

working people face a worldwide economic depression. As this crisis deepens, capitalist politics will continue to move to the right, spawning more demagogic figures like Patrick Buchanan and H. Ross Perot. We will see more of the "America First", anti-immigrant, anti-woman, and anti-working class rhetoric used by the capitalist candidates.

The rulers, from both the Democratic and Republican Parties, are driving towards a second war in Iraq. They are seeking ways to intervene militarily in Yugoslavia.

At the same time, working people and youth continue to try to find a means of resisting the bosses' attacks. From UAW members in Ohio, to drywall workers in California, to the thousands of young people who have turned out in city after city to defend abortion clinics, it is clear that the working class has not been defeated.

In fact, the tens of thousands of people who signed petitions to place the socialist candidates on the ballot are an indication that there is growing space for discussion and debate within the working class.

Under these conditions, it is more important than ever that the broadest possible fight be waged to defend the democratic rights that working people have won in past struggles.

The fight against undemocratic ballot restrictions will be an integral part of the campaign of the Socialist Workers candidates between now and the elections.

All those who want to defend and extend democratic rights are urged to join this battle.

# GM set back at Lordstown

Workers at the General Motors metal fabrication plant in Lordstown, Ohio, have won an important victory, pushing back GM in its attempt to impose unilateral changes in the contract and place itself in a stronger position for next year's national contract negotiations.

GM forced the strike by demanding concessions gutting job security, contracting out work to nonunion companies, and cutting back health and safety benefits. They also hoped to eliminate 240 jobs in the tool and die shop at the Lordstown plant as part of their recently announced plan to "restructure" their operations. This plan calls for the shutdown of 21 plants, eliminating 74,000 jobs. GM is using this plan to try to divide UAW workers and pit local unions against each other in a competition over which plants will remain open.

What the bosses did not expect, though, was the response from the workers, organized by the United Auto Workers (UAW), and the solidarity the strike received from other unionists. This is one indication that the capitalist rulers have not been able to defeat the working class and impose the kind of conditions they would like.

Autoworkers at GM and Caterpillar, Steelworkers at Ravenswood Aluminum Corp., truckdrivers who struck the *New York Times* earlier this year, and drywall construction workers currently on strike in southern California are all powerful examples of this resistance. These strikes have also demonstrated the very real potential to gain solidarity from other working people. More and more workers, tired of accepting concession contracts without a struggle, are

looking for a way to fight back and quickly identify with those who are in combat.

For the employing class and its spokespeople, the strike at Lordstown was also very important. For General Motors, which lost \$4.5 billion last year and saw its share of the passenger car market fall to its lowest level in decades, a victory in the strike would have opened the door to greater attacks on its workers. But the ramifications would have been even more widespread.

Recognizing this, the *Wall Street Journal* commented that the "strike by GM workers at Lordstown continues to cascade through the world's biggest company" and called on the UAW workers to tighten their belts for the benefit of GM's profitability. The editorial quoted approvingly from a UAW official in Tennessee who said, referring to the strike, "I don't support the current process. We can't continue to remove wages from competition in the international economy." The official added that if unions were to survive, it could not be through an "adversarial" approach to the bosses but by "exploring opportunities to compete."

In the face of the devastating living and working conditions being forced on workers as the economic crisis intensifies, fewer workers are willing to accept this sort of advice today.

The Lordstown workers have set an example, showing it is possible to resist the bosses' continuing assault. This fight is also a step in the direction of a wider fightback against the massive cuts GM is determined to implement.

# Racist attacks in Germany

The incidents of racist violence that have taken place in Germany in the last two weeks should serve as a warning to the labor movement and the working class everywhere of what is on the horizon as the capitalist world sinks deeper into economic depression.

This violence is not unique to Germany, nor are its causes. The attacks on immigrant hostels are the products of the economic crisis in Germany and the resulting social tensions, fanned by the nationalistic, racist policies of the ruling class and its government in Bonn.

The National Front of Jean-Marie Le Pen in France, the British National Party, and the campaign of Patrick Buchanan in the United States are all examples of the same phenomenon. Buchanan's proposal for a trench along the Mexican border and Le Pen's call for the forced deportation of immigrants from France do not mark them as something outside of capitalist politics in these countries. Quite the contrary; they merely advance in a more forceful way the perspectives of the less demagogic capitalist parties and politicians.

Desperate to find a way out of the depression created by their system, while seeking to shore up their profits at home, the governments of the imperialist ruling classes increasingly turn to extreme nationalism and war threats. They seek to turn the victims of this crisis against each other, telling us that our enemies are workers from other countries.

Workers in the U.S. are told to blame workers in Mexico for unemployment; similarly, workers in Germany are

turned against their brothers and sisters from eastern Europe and elsewhere. The logic of this virulent nationalism is that we should attack and ultimately go to war against our fellow workers simply because they happen to come from or reside in another part of the world.

The last thing they want working people to recognize is that the workings of the capitalist system itself is the source of the social ills that are more and more visible today. A system based on the exploitation of the many for the profit of the few cannot survive without producing tremendous social inequalities, unemployment, poverty and hunger, and so on. These problems become exaggerated in times of economic crisis if the working class is not able to organize a powerful movement to defend its interests.

While feeling compelled to publicly condemn the violence, the only answer the government and the "opposition" parties have, is to further restrict immigration, thereby, according to their argument, eliminating the "source of the problem." This is another attempt to divide the working class, and it lends comfort to the racists who have instigated the attacks.

The only answer to this crisis and to its consequences, such as the racist attacks in Germany, is for working people and exploited farmers to unite across national borders and to reject all the other artificial borders that the rulers use to divide us, whether this be based on skin color, gender, employed versus unemployed, or anything else.

For a world without borders!

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.

Joe Blakeney, in a letter printed in the August 28 *Militant*, asks how the demand for a 30-hour workweek with 40 hours' pay could work. How could employers grant such a concession when they are experiencing economic difficulties?

The demand for a shorter workweek is based on the need to solve one of the biggest problems under capitalism —

## DISCUSSION WITH OUR READERS

massive unemployment that drives workers to poverty and despair. By fighting for the demand of "30 for 40," the labor movement would help to overcome one of the deepest divisions in the working class — that between employed and unemployed workers. Every worker who decides to go out on strike, especially under the depression conditions of today, is faced with an employer who says, "Go ahead, there's a thousand people out there who'll take your place."

The fight for a shorter workweek has to be a political fight directed at the federal government, not simply at each individual employer, plant-by-plant, industry-by-industry. The demand should be for legislation to shorten the workweek and the working day as well.

A movement strong enough to win this will lay a basis for a struggle by labor to maintain 40 hours' pay. This fight can begin with the demand that all government employees maintain 40 hours' pay.

The fight for a shorter workweek is an important part of the history of the workers movement. In earlier periods, the bosses forced workers to toil for 14 and 16 hours a day. It took mighty battles to win the 10-hour day and then the 8-hour day. Then, as they do today, the bosses counseled workers that their demands were "unrealistic."

\* \* \*

Reader Marty Michaels in the August 21 *Militant* asks, "What constitutes the working class?" Simply put, workers are the great majority; those who have been separated from ownership of the means of production and only survive by selling their labor power.

In the *Communist Manifesto*, Karl Marx and Frederick Engels explained, "As the bourgeoisie, i.e., capital, is developed, in the same proportion is the proletariat, the modern working class, developed — a class of laborers, who live only so long as they find work and find work only so long as their labor increases capital. These laborers, who must sell themselves piecemeal, are a commodity, like every other article of commerce, and are consequently exposed to all the vicissitudes of competition, to all the fluctuations of the market."

While the working class encompasses those working in basic industry as well as the service sector, workers in basic production have the greatest potential economic and political power because of the vast social wealth they produce.

Middle-class layers include small businesspeople, professionals like lawyers and doctors, and management personnel. These layers can grow greatly in times of economic boom, and then shrink in times of prolonged recession.

Michaels is mistaken when she states, "Marx didn't envision a (albeit shrinking) middle class." The *Communist Manifesto*, written in 1847, states, "The lower strata of the middle class — the small trades people, shopkeepers, . . . handicraftsmen and peasants — all these sink gradually into the proletariat . . . partly because their specialized skill is rendered worthless by new methods of production. Thus the proletariat is recruited from all classes of the population."

\* \* \*

Carl Weinberg in a letter also printed in the August 21 issue questions the demand raised by Socialist Workers presidential candidate James Warren that Washington send emergency aid to the people of Sarajevo. He asks, "How can a socialist demand that the United States send aid, when, given the civil war raging, this inevitably means some sort of military intervention?"

Massive food aid sent to Sarajevo and other devastated cities with no strings attached is what the hundreds of thousands of working people there desperately need.

Providing food and other aid does not have to depend on the use of aggressive military firepower in the region.

It's certainly true that Washington uses the withholding of food as a weapon of its foreign policy, and that the U.S. government is currently moving toward military intervention in Yugoslavia, falsely using the argument that they are seeking to protect food and other humanitarian shipments there. Therefore, the demand for immediate aid for the besieged people at Sarajevo should be combined with the demand of no military intervention, as the socialist campaign has pointed out.



# New Zealand meatpackers block factory gate

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

hired a dozen new workers, forcing them to sign its proposed new contract and placing them on a lower pay scale than the existing work force. But when the lockout came, most of

Committee (FLOC) led a march in Toledo, Ohio, of more than 100 farm workers and their families along with a few supporters August 21 to press their fight to gain employee status for workers in the cucumber fields. FLOC is a farm workers union based in Toledo that organizes farm workers in Ohio and Michigan.

The 1993 cucumber crop will be the first in this region not to be harvested under sharecropping arrangements. Until now migrant farm workers were forced to sign contracts for sections of the cucumber fields. They were responsible for tending and harvesting these plots, and were paid for only part of the crop. Because they were under "contract" the farm workers were not eligible for workers compensation for on-the-job injuries, social security, or unemployment compensation. These contracts shifted much of the risk involved in farming onto the workers themselves.

FLOC, through a campaign to organize the workers in the fields against some of the largest processors, has won three-way agreements between the workers, some processors, and farmers under contract to these food giants to shift the farm workers to employee status. FLOC has signed agreements with Heinz and some other processors.

Under these agreements, the cucumber harvest workers are to become employees for the first time next season, giving them access to the coverage afforded other workers.

The union is organizing to pressure the big processors to cover the increased costs this will involve. FLOC president Baldemar Velásquez explained, "To ask the growers or the workers to pick up

this cost seriously threatens and undermines the job sites of 6,000 to 7,000 workers." Some of the growers have said that they will stop planting cucumbers if they have to cover the costs of the change.

Velásquez reported that FLOC plans to send organizers into North Carolina, the second largest cucumber producing area, to organize the workers there and to make sure the giant processors don't try to shift production.

## Swedish workers face longer working day

One result of the international depression that is being felt by workers in Sweden today is a move toward longer working hours in the factories.

At the Konsum Chark meat processing plant in Stockholm, management has fired all temporary workers and forced the remaining workers to take on the additional work with no increase in pay. The work force has been reduced by 10 percent, while at the same time production has increased 10 percent because workers are putting in longer hours. Workers in some departments no longer know when they will finish work and be allowed to leave.

The pressure on workers from management is increasing. Among the workers there are more and more complaints and many workers are looking for new jobs.

"Why should we work so much when there are more and more people unemployed," one worker said.

On the sausage-producing floor an increasing number of workers are being injured from the hard work. A discussion is developing about the need for more workers so that jobs can be rotated more often, reducing

the stress and risk of injury.

## Teachers rally with Pittsburgh Press strikers

Thousands of teachers, meeting at the national convention of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) in Pittsburgh, marched and rallied in support of the striking *Pittsburgh Press* workers August 15. Hundreds of strikers, their families, and supporters joined the march, which was led by the Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers Local 400, from the convention center to a rally at the *Pittsburgh Press* building. This was the first street demonstration of support for the strike since the company ceased production and the union withdrew pickets "as a show of good faith for the negotiations."

Support for the strike continues to come in from around the country, according to Rich O'Malley, a striking driver who spends many hours staffing the strike office. This includes unsolicited checks, which have been turned over to the hardship fund to help strikers who have special needs. The union has established a speakers bureau to meet requests to speak before unions and other organizations.

A busload of coal miners who work at Pittston Coal in Virginia visited the strike headquarters recently to express their solidarity.

Negotiations involving both sides and a federal mediator have continued on and off with no breakthrough in sight.

Ruth Gray, member of the Engineers Union in Auckland, New Zealand; John Sarge, member of the United Auto Workers Local 900 in Wayne, Michigan; Maria Hamberg, member of the Foodworkers Union in Stockholm; and Bill Scheer in Pittsburgh contributed to this column.

## ON THE PICKET LINE

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

Workers at the South Pacific Meat Corporation in Morrinsville, New Zealand, 150 kilometers south of Auckland, have been waging a determined fight to defend their wages and conditions. On July 20 they were locked out by their employer when they refused to bow to his demands to sign a new contract that would extend their working day to 10 1/2 hours while cutting their overall pay by up to \$7000 (US\$3,780) per year.

Three weeks later, when the company ended the lockout without agreeing to abandon the 10 1/2 hour demand, the Auckland Freezing Workers Union members went on strike. They have been maintaining a round-the-clock picket line at the entrance to the beef processing plant to block the owner's efforts to reopen it with nonunion labor.

Max Cooper, the secretary of the local union, explained that even while negotiations over the contract were continuing, the company had

these new hires joined the picket line.

Forty police arrived at the picket line August 19 to escort a busload of strikebreakers through the 50 strikers into the plant. "It looked like an army battalion," Cooper said.

The strikers barricaded the entrance with two walls of rocks and a truck trailer, and prepared to defend themselves with whatever was at hand from a concerted police assault. "We thought we were all going to end up in jail," commented one.

However, the busload of scabs never showed. The local bus companies would not rent a bus to the meat company. One reason for the hesitation, the union secretary said, was their belief that the picket line would be reinforced from among the 850 paperworkers in nearby Tokoroa, also on a six-week strike against New Zealand Forest Products.

Solidarity has begun to develop between the two strikes. When workers at the Pacific freezing works in Hastings donated a truckload of food to the Morrinsville strike, half of the produce was donated to the paperworkers.

Other support has come from the Council of Trade Unions in Hamilton and from journalists on the local *Waikato Times*.

## Farm workers hold march in Toledo, Ohio

The Farm Labor Organizing

## LETTERS

### South Africa

I am presently being incarcerated in a total lock-down unit in which I have come across one of your back issues. I am very interested in getting a prisoner subscription. The articles that you have written on South Africa have enlightened me greatly. I am at the point in my political development where I am asking myself why Nelson Mandela is still intent on working through the government. It is apparent that a people's war is necessary to truly ensure the end

of apartheid and to establish a people's government.

It was Malcolm X who said that anytime we try to work with the same system that has always created designs to further our oppression, we were in fact trying to crawl back onto the plantation.

Also, there is no compromise with capitalism. Either one is with it or against it, and that comes down to the issue of if one is truly for the people or for the further exploitation of the people.

I am hoping you can send me one of your issues of the *Militant* and a price that prisoners pay for a subscription.

In solidarity; the struggle continues.

A prisoner,  
Jefferson City, Missouri

### Pathfinder Readers Club

I learned of the Pathfinder Readers Club in a recent issue of the *Militant*

Would you kindly forward me information concerning your Readers Club and also your catalog of presently available books?

Could you also send me information on how I can subscribe to the *Militant* at a lower rate. I'm warehoused in Indiana. The gentleman I've been sharing with will be departing soon.

In the struggle,

A prisoner  
Pendleton, Indiana.

### Westray Mine Disaster

A few weeks ago the *Militant* reported on the disaster at the Westray Mine in Plymouth, Nova Scotia, where 26 miners died because of unsafe working conditions. Two of the miners killed were former British Coal workers who had moved to Canada hoping



for a better life.

Testimony by Westray miners about horrendous safety conditions in the mine continue to fill the newspapers, radio, and television news. Reports from Nova Scotia say that some 250 miners have been killed in the past century. Now the United Mine-workers of America (UMWA) is fighting against revised ventilation regulations.

Since the end of the 1984-85 British miners strike, more and more U.S. mining methods are being introduced in British mines. Currently in British mines there

are two ventilation fans, one in use and the other one on stand-by or under maintenance. No two fans are to be off at one time, other than during an electrical failure. Then, if the fans are off for long, a safe way to withdraw the men from the mine is to be put into operation.

The new administration of Safety and Health at mines (HSC), which will be finalized on September 22, 1992, will weaken the safety responsibilities of deputies. The role of the deputies, whose priority is to put safety before production, will be replaced by su-

pervisors, whose priorities are the reverse, and health and safety standards will be reduced.

Paul Galloway  
Jim Spaul  
Yorkshire, England.

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.

### 'MILITANT' PRISONER SUBSCRIPTION FUND

The *Militant* offers reduced subscription rates to workers and farmers behind bars. A 6-month subscription to the *Militant* costs \$6, and one year costs \$12. We send a free sample copy of the *Militant* or the Spanish-language *Perspectiva Mundial* to every prisoner who requests one.

Contributions to the *Militant* Prisoner Subscription Fund make these special rates possible for those who cannot afford our regular rates. To contribute to this important cause, please send your donation to: *Militant* Prisoner Subscription Fund, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.



## Kentucky rally backs meat-packers

BY VALERIE LIBBY

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky — Close to 1,000 trade unionists from dozens of locals throughout the Louisville area marched from the Ohio River to a rally at the downtown courthouse here August 29. They were there to support Fischer Packing workers, who have been on strike since May 8.

Pat Smith, one of 600 Fischer strikers in United Food and Commercial Workers Local 227, explained, "The company demanded 27 takeaways when the contract came up. One of the biggest issues is seniority. The company wants to be able to put people on different jobs on a week-to-week basis. Fischer also wants us to pay more for health care and doesn't want to give the retirees any benefits."

Smith, who has worked at the hog processing plant 5 years, said that workers have taken wage cuts, freezes, and massive layoffs for 12 years. "The new owner who bought the plant last year was seen as the 'white knight' who was going to save jobs," she said. "They said they weren't out to bust the union. All we want is a fair contract so we can go back to work."

At the rally, representatives from many

local unions spoke in support of the Fischer workers. The president of International Union of Electronic Workers Local 761 at the large General Electric appliance plant here pledged, "We're going to stand behind them. Fischer, you're not going to starve them out." He announced that his local had voted to contribute \$8,000 a week to the strikers. He called on other locals present to do the same.

Speakers also brought messages of solidarity from the National Organization for Women, an ad hoc support committee of professors at the University of Louisville, and the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists. Support was extended to workers on strike at Kentucky Paper Box Co.

Thirty-six members of International Chemical Workers Local 15 at the Colgate plant attended the rally. "I've never seen the community get behind and support a strike so strong," Local 15 member Jim Horn said. "Fischer sales have dropped 80 percent. The boycott has been hurting them. Last week they put out coupons to try to get people to buy their products. But the strikers are staying strong."

Valerie Libby is a member of United Auto Workers Local 647 in Cincinnati.



Militant/Valerie Libby

Striking Fischer Packing workers and their supporters rally at the downtown courthouse in Louisville August 29. The 600 unionists have been on strike since May 8 against Fischer's takeback demands.

## Turkish government orders workers to end strike

BY BOBBIS BAYOGLU

ISTANBUL, Turkey — After 14 days on strike, more than 50,000 municipal workers here have been ordered back to work by the government. The strike action, which began July 30, affected city centers across the country, including Istanbul, Ankara, and Izmir. Ten thousand workers, including in the health and transportation sectors, did not participate due to an antistrike law.

The municipal workers are fighting for higher wages. Inflation is running at more than 70 percent a year in Turkey according to the labor confederation Hak-Is. A family of four needs an average of 4.5 million liras (US\$652) per month to get by. But most workers' wages in Turkey, including those of the municipal workers, range between \$167 and \$209 a month.

The strike action was a major challenge to the policies of the capitalist coalition government of the True Path Party (DYP) and the Social Democratic Populist Party (SHP). The government is faced with a huge budget deficit, which has climbed to \$2.23 billion; a foreign debt which since 1980 has almost tripled to \$40 billion; and with more than 10 percent of its GNP and more than 50 percent of its declining income from exports going to repay this debt to the imperialist banks.

The rulers seek to make workers shoulder the burden of this capitalist crisis, which accelerated after the imperialist war against the Iraqi people. Before the war, Iraq was Turkey's third biggest trade partner, supplying 60 percent of its oil needs and paying into the state treasury \$300 million a year in oil pipeline transit fees. The Turkish capitalist regime, by joining the war against Iraq and honoring the blockade by shutting the oil pipeline, has suffered heavy economic losses.

In order to raise funds the government has been selling state-owned industries, raising taxes, and making cuts in social spending. At the same time, parliament passed a "Pardon Law" under which more than \$1.2 billion owed in taxes by wealthy individuals and businesses was "forgiven."

Responding to the demands of workers for a pay raise to \$629, the provincial governments have claimed that there are no funds available.

In some districts the government tried to break the strike by hiring subcontracting firms to collect the garbage. A demonstration in support of the strike in Ankara was declared illegal and attacked by the police. A protest by hundreds of strikers' wives in Adana was also attacked and 10 of them were arrested.

To counter this campaign and win solidarity, the workers distributed a statement.

"For years we have been oppressed and exploited," they explained, pointing to the severe repression after a military dictatorship was installed in 1980. "Then we had the promises of the DYP and SHP parties. We see no difference in their programs. The masks of the Social Democratic 'friends of labor' [who control most of the local governments] have fallen."

"Our salaries," the statement continued, "should not be based on how much profit they make but on what our needs are. All workers should unite to fight for a decent wage. We should have the right to speak and make decisions. Hope exists in labor solidarity and together we must fight for a humane life."

In a common statement August 5, eight major industrial unions, including oil, leather, and defense industry workers, offered their support. Thousands of workers from these unions have visited the unionists on strike to

show their solidarity. The major confederation of labor unions, Türk-Is, has also backed the strike.

Although repressive legislation still exists and major violations of democratic and human rights occur, working people here have begun to use the space they have won in recent years to fight for their interests. An indication of this has been the substantial increase in the number of workers joining unions. In the first six months of this year, 62,000 have joined unions, raising the unionized force to 64 percent of the work force of 3.6 million.

This year also, the Revolutionary Labor Union Confederation (DISK), the massive radical organization of workers that was smashed by the military dictatorship in 1980, has been legalized and has begun to reorganize. According to the Ministry of Labor, 1,533 strikes took place between 1987 and the first six months of 1992. An estimated 455,000 workers participated in

these strikes, 410 of which started as lockouts by the bosses.

In January, although a general strike called by Türk-Is was declared illegal by the government, it still took place with 90 percent participation. In May, thousands of civil servants demonstrated in Ankara and in Istanbul demanding better wages, the right to organize a union, and to strike. In July nurses and other health workers in Ankara protested the austerity policies of the government.

Working people are now more openly discussing politics. The writings of revolutionary and communist leaders, from Karl Marx to Che Guevara and Fidel Castro, are now sold at bookstores, at universities, at newsstands, and in the streets. At the demonstration of civil workers in Ankara, for example, after a leaflet was distributed explaining why all workers should support the fight of the Kurdish people for their national rights, a sharp discussion broke out, with some expressing support and others opposition.

## TWA workers discuss 'ownership' proposal

BY NANCY ROSENSTOCK

NEW YORK — Members of the International Association of Machinists (IAM) at Trans World Airlines (TWA) are discussing a plan to turn over ownership of the troubled airline to the creditors and the unions in exchange for major concessions. TWA has been operating under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code since January and has reported losses of \$1 million a day.

Under the threat of immediate liquidation, TWA management has worked out a deal with the IAM, the Independent Federation of Flight Attendants (IFFA), and the Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA). All three unions organize workers at TWA.

The proposed plan calls for work-rule concessions and a 15 percent cut in wages and benefits in exchange for 45 percent "equity ownership." The creditors would forgive about \$1 billion of the airline's \$1.5 billion in debt in exchange for a 55 percent stake in the company. Just the workers' concessions will save TWA about \$540 million a year.

Under the plan, Carl Icahn, who owns 90 percent of the carrier that he bought in 1986, would step down from his current position as TWA chairman but continue to be an investor in the airline.

The proposed plan must be ratified by the

union memberships, the Federal Bankruptcy Court, and the board of directors of the airline.

The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp. (PBGC), a self-financed government body that insures 85,000 privately run pension plans, claims that the TWA fund is underfunded by \$1.2 billion. As long as Icahn continues to own a 90 percent stake in TWA, the PBGC has leverage. Under the Employee Retirement and Income Security Act, if Icahn's ownership in TWA exceeds 80 percent, then any other company in which he owns 80 percent is considered "commonly controlled" and can be tapped for the pension agency's claims.

The PBGC is concerned that Icahn is trying to avoid his responsibilities by trying to decrease his share of ownership in TWA. The PBGC has already been left with a \$2.5 billion deficit caused in part by the shutting down of both Pan American World Airways and Eastern Airlines. If the agency is forced to take over TWA's pension, it would only guarantee half, or \$600 million, of the shortfall.

The concessions went into effect September 1, before voting by the rank and file of the three unions involved. Workers have been told that the money from the wage and benefit cuts will be paid into a escrow account and returned with interest if the agree-

ment is not ratified.

The company has already announced some of its plans to "streamline" the airline. On August 27, TWA said it would close its Manhattan reservation office, laying off 450 IAM members. The company also announced that it will present a full plan of layoffs in September.

Reactions by workers at John F. Kennedy International Airport have varied. Aware of the economic crisis and the difficulty in finding a job at union scale, many workers are reluctantly going along with the plan. "Yeah, I don't like it, but what's my alternative? I need a job," is a common statement.

Others point to the fact that Icahn is responsible for the airline's present situation.

Icahn will now walk away and leave the workers as "owners" of an airline that is not worth much anyway, they say. Some workers hold Icahn responsible for the underfunding of the pension fund as well.

As the depth of the concession package becomes clear, many are simply saying, "No, this is too much."

Nancy Rosenstock works for TWA on the ramp at JFK International Airport. She is a member of International Association of Machinists Local 1056.