

# THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Will intervention end  
slaughter in Yugoslavia?

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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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## Socialist candidate takes up debate on the draft



Militant/Brian Williams  
Presidential candidate James Warren

BY MATILDE ZIMMERMANN

CHICAGO — Speaking on a popular radio talk show here September 19, Socialist Workers presidential candidate James Warren took up the recent debate over whether Democratic Party candidate Bill Clinton was a "draft dodger."

"If Clinton really did dodge the draft from the point of view of being opposed to the Vietnam War, he might be a little different," Warren said. "I don't think he did it because he had some kind of identification with the people being slaughtered by the millions in Vietnam — not like Malcolm X did, not like I did. I think Clinton dodged the draft because he was a coward."

He did what Dan Quayle did and what rich people have been doing at least as far back as the Civil War, used his influence to avoid the draft.

"I turned 18 in 1970," said the socialist candidate. "I got my card, and I put it in my pocket, and I just proceeded to fight against the war like I had done before I turned 18."

Warren explained that Bush and Clinton share the same framework. "They are saying working people should be deciding which president would be most willing and most authoritative to take us to war. The reason they are doing this is because they plan on going to war against Iraq once again. But we have no interest in this war."

Warren also took up the Vietnam War speaking to a class of about 20 Black students at Northeastern Illinois University's Department of Inner-City Studies. "Rich people avoided the draft all the time," he said. "What happened during Vietnam was that poor people did it, Blacks did it on a massive scale. Not in terms of going up and burning our draft cards — we just didn't participate. Millions of people, in and out of uniform, opposed that war."

"We're not here to hustle your vote, to impress you to vote for us," Warren told the students. "We're trying to impress you with your own worth, to get you to think and act. We're interested in what you do in real politics, in action in the streets, in protest advancing our demands against the capitalist parties — not what you do November 3rd."

### Black votes and Clinton

Tambra Massie, 22, asked Warren whether he wasn't worried about taking Black votes away from Clinton. "The fact that Clinton has Blacks on his staff shows me he

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## Europe's currency crisis exposes political tensions

BY FRANK FORRESTAL

Pressures from the world recession and the high costs of German unification have led this month to a European currency crisis, reflecting sharp political tensions throughout the continent. News stories on the mounting monetary gyrations have been on the front pages of big-business dailies for weeks. Headlines have focused on the blows dealt to the European Monetary System.

All the currencies of Europe's weaker imperialist powers have been savaged over the past few weeks, precipitating political crises in several of these countries. Many ruling-class voices in these countries have blamed Bonn's economic policies, particularly their high interest rates, for the crisis.

The government of Finland opened the latest crisis when it devalued its currency, the markka, by 13 percent on September 8 for the second time in less than a year. Finland is deep in crisis with an unemployment rate of 15 percent.

In Sweden, which is in its worst recession since the 1920s, the central bank raised its key lending rates to commercial banks to a whopping 75 percent. Later, when that move did not slow money leaving the country enough to stem massive capital outflow, the bank raised its "marginal lending rate" to a staggering 500 percent. Two of Sweden's largest banks were recently rescued by the state, and unemployment is at an historic high of 7 percent.

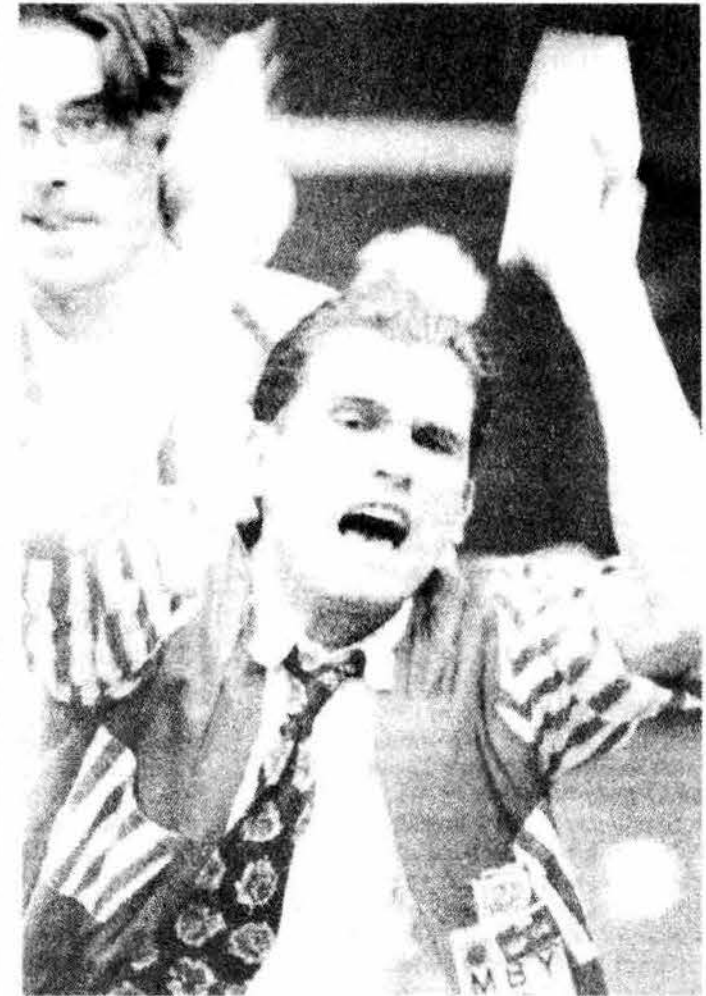
Italy's currency was devalued 7 percent despite a last-ditch effort by the Bank of Italy and the Bundesbank, Germany's central bank, to shore up the lira. The lira is widely expected to be devalued again.

After spending \$7 billion in a futile attempt to defend the pound sterling, Britain dropped out of the European Monetary System on September 16. The last time the British government devalued its currency was in 1967. Britain's chancellor of the exchequer, Norman Lamont, laid blame at Germany's door. Fanning the flames of nationalism, Lamont emphasized, "We will set monetary policy in this country to meet our objectives and it will be a British economic policy and a British monetary policy."

Meanwhile, the U.S. dollar has been falling for months against the German mark to a post-World War II low. U.S. interest rates have been pushed to an all-time low in an effort by the U.S. rulers to stimulate the sagging economy and stave off an increasingly feared "triple-dip" recession.

"This is a crisis of confidence, not only in respect to specific currencies like the pound

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London currency traders in frenzy as interest rates rise. While rulers of each nation act to shore up profits, politicians and labor officialdom step up use of nationalist demagoguery.

## New York police riot at City Hall

BY ELIZABETH KEALY

NEW YORK — A crowd of 10,000 off-duty police officers, many armed and some drinking beer, converged on City Hall here September 16, in a rightist demonstration against a bill that would establish an all-civilian police complaint review board.

Cops shouted "Dinkins must go" and carried signs reading "No justice, no police" and "Dump the washroom attendant," referring to Mayor David Dinkins, the first Black mayor of New York City and a sponsor of the legislation.

The protest, organized by the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association (PBA), the local cop organization, turned into a riot. Some of the cops yelled "nigger" at Dinkins and city council member Una Clarke as they rampaged. During the three-hour action, the cops blocked the Brooklyn Bridge for an hour. Police jumped up and stomped on cars, vandalizing at least eight vehicles. They surged onto the steps of City Hall, breaking through police barricades, while on-duty officers looked on.

Phil Caruso, president of the PBA, stated that the cop riot was "a human reaction. Police feel like pawns in a very complex game of political chess," the *New York Times* reported.

Caruso claimed the ability of the police to carry out their jobs would be hampered by the proposed all-civilian complaint review board, and that the present board works just fine.

This claim was echoed by Republican mayoral hopeful Rudolf Giuliani, a former U.S. district attorney. As cops chanted his name during the protest, Giuliani incited the crowd as he listed a number of Dinkins policies and shouted a profanity after each one.

The current Complaint Review Board has six civilian members from the police depart-

ment and six "outside" members appointed by the mayor. More than half its investigators are police officers and all are police department employees. The mayor's bill would create an agency with 13 civilian members appointed by and on the payroll of

the mayor. The board would have subpoena powers.

A counterdemonstration of 100 people, sponsored by the American Civil Liberties Union and the 15 City Council members

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### Join Youth for Warren and DeBates in campaigning for the socialist alternative.

**James Warren and Estelle DeBates are the Socialist Workers candidates for U.S. president and vice-president. The campaign is a socialist alternative to the twin parties of war, racism, and depression.**

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- ☐ Yes! I want to join Youth for Warren and DeBates on picket lines, in women's rights actions, or other political activities.
- ☐ I will help set up a meeting for socialist candidates at my school \_\_\_\_\_ union \_\_\_\_\_ community organization \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ I want to join other supporters at street-corner campaigning, plant-gate events, or fund-raising activities for the socialist candidates.

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Send to the Socialist Workers 1992 Campaign office nearest you (see directory on page 16) or to the National Campaign headquarters, 191 7th Avenue, New York, NY 10011 (212) 675-6740.

Paid for by the Socialist Workers 1992 Campaign



## IN BRIEF

### Washington turns away ship that traded with Cuba

The U.S. government has enforced for the first time a new regulation denying foreign ships entry to U.S. ports if they are transporting cargo to or from Cuba. A Greek-flagged freighter, carrying Chinese rice to Cuba, was turned away from the harbor at Long Beach, California, State Department officials said September 14.

The port restrictions, announced by President George Bush April 18, tightened by another notch the U.S. trade embargo against Cuba. Bush ordered the new regulations in an attempt to preempt the so-called Cuban Democracy Act of 1992, a more restrictive bill sponsored by Democratic Congressman Robert Torricelli. Torricelli's bill would limit shipping and U.S. subsidiary trade, barring from U.S. ports for six months any ship that trades with Cuba.

### Shining Path leader arrested

Abimael Guzmán, the central figure of Shining Path, was arrested by Peruvian police in Lima September 12, along with other leaders of the group. Shining Path, known in Spanish as *Sendero Luminoso*, has waged a decade-long war against the government. It is a reactionary organization that uses terrorist methods to impose its policies on working people and restrict their ability to engage in political activity.

A group of university professors and students led by Guzmán, a philosophy teacher, founded the organization. Sendero appeals to the most impoverished and desperate layers of society that have been ravaged by the country's economic catastrophe. Six out of every 10 working-age Peruvians are unemployed or underemployed. In Lima, 94 percent of workers earn less than the 1970 minimum wage. More than half of Peru's 22 million people suffer from hunger.

Supporters of President Alberto Fujimori, who suspended the constitution and assumed dictatorial powers in April, have portrayed Guzmán's arrest as a major political victory for the government. Fujimori has called new elections for November, which most opposition parties

have announced they will boycott.

### Managua-Washington conflict

The U.S. government continues to withhold \$104 million in aid promised to Nicaraguan president Violeta Chamorro. Washington is publicly pressuring Managua to replace the leadership of Nicaragua's army and police, controlled by members of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), and to return properties nationalized during the Nicaraguan revolution in the 1980s. In response, Chamorro replaced the chief of police with another member of the FSLN September 5, a move that did not satisfy the U.S. State Department.

The public criticism of Chamorro by the Bush administration came after the release of a report by Republican senator Jesse Helms August 31. It alleged that the country remains under the control of the FSLN, whose leaders are in charge of the army and police. The report claimed FSLN leaders retain confiscated properties and are responsible for killing more than 200 former members of the contra mercenary army.

After the Pacific coast of Nicaragua was lashed September 1 by giant waves that killed at least 116 people, the Bush administration released a meager \$5 million for disaster relief.

### State of Kansas may revoke reservist's medical license

Yolanda Huet-Vaughn, a 40-year old medical doctor and army reserve captain in Kansas, refused to serve in the Persian Gulf when called to active duty during the U.S.-led war against Iraq. She also spoke out against the war, stating it was a "public health catastrophe" in the making. The army court-martialed Huet-Vaughn and sentenced her to 30 months in jail. She was released April 6 after a six-month detention at the disciplinary barracks at Ft. Leavenworth. One day later the disciplinary counsel for the Kansas Board of Healing Arts filed a petition to "revoke, suspend or limit" her medical license on the grounds that she was no longer qualified to practice medicine. A public debate

has unfolded since in the media over the reservist's case. "I don't regret what I did," the doctor told the *Los Angeles Times* recently. "I would do it again."

### Thirty million hungry in U.S.

About 30 million people in the United States, who live below the official poverty line or who struggle to get by, do not have enough food to eat. Some 6 million of the ranks of the hungry receive no federal assistance at all. A recently released report by the U.S. House Select Committee on Hunger said that hunger has grown by 50 percent since the mid-1980s.

### China, U.S. quarrel over jet sale

The Chinese government told Washington September 15 it will not attend a meeting of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council concerning arms control in the Mideast. The move was the first concrete action by Beijing protesting George Bush's decision two weeks ago to sell jet fighters to Taiwan. The U.S. president announced the sale, reversing a 10-year policy, during a campaign stop at a General Dynamics plant in Texas that produces the planes.

Talks between the two governments, aimed at avoiding the imposition of retaliatory tariffs on a "hit list" of Chinese goods imported to the United States, broke down last week. Businessmen and government officials in neighboring Hong Kong are worried about the U.S.-China trade disputes. Of last year's \$20 billion of Chinese exports to the United States the majority was routed through Hong Kong.

### Two Koreas resume talks

The prime ministers of North and South Korea opened another round of talks in Pyongyang, the North's capital, September 15. It was the eighth round since the two countries began negotiations to improve their ties more than a year ago, and the first since Seoul began diplomatic relations with Beijing, one of Pyongyang's closest allies. On September 17 the two governments signed minor accords but failed to agree on a schedule of mutual inspections of nuclear facilities. South Korean president Roh Tae Woo said after this round of negotiations that he saw a diminished danger over the alleged North Korean determination to develop nuclear weapons.

### Philippines moves to legalize CP

The Philippine government ordered the temporary release from jail of Satur Ocampo, a central leader of the guerrilla New People's Army, September 1. At the same time legislators approved a bill repealing a decades-old statute that outlaws the Communist Party (CP). President Fidel Ramos is expected to sign the bill into law soon. Peace talks between a government delegation and exiled CP leaders began in the Netherlands August 31.

### Russian ruble hits new low

The Russian ruble collapsed to an all-time low against the dollar August 27 as govern-



Homeless in Los Angeles line up for food September 3. About 30 million people in the U.S. live below poverty level.

ment officials grimly predicted that prices and unemployment would keep rising in the next 18 months. Losing 20 percent of its value in just days, the shaky Russian currency plummeted to 205 rubles per dollar.

The sharp drop prompted the Central Bank to consider reverting to its old policy of propping up the ruble with an artificially high exchange rate, thus withdrawing the currency from the capitalist market. That "would deal a major blow to President Boris Yeltsin's plans to make the Russian currency convertible around the world," commented an article in the *Los Angeles Times*.

### Italy in turmoil

The Italian government has been thrust into turmoil as the currency crisis in Europe forced Prime Minister Giuliano Amato to devalue the lira and withdraw the Italian currency from the European Community's common currency system. Amato asked the parliament for extraordinary powers to handle the financial crisis, which would allow him to get around the legislature.

The proposal drew protests from many legislators and opposition political parties. On September 16 the government announced budget cuts for 1993 amounting to nearly \$75 billion, mostly in the state pension system.

— ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

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# Washington State socialists win ballot slot

BY HARVEY McARTHUR

SEATTLE — Several heavy freight engines pounded slowly down the main line September 16, past a switch crew setting out rail cars at a downtown factory.

"Hey, Governor! Way to go, Kathy!" the conductor yelled to one of the switch workers.

Word was spreading that Kathleen Wheeler, Socialist Workers candidate for governor of Washington State, had won enough votes in the September 15 primary election to be on the ballot in the November general election.

Wheeler and Mark Severs, socialist candidate for U.S. Senate, qualified for the primary ballot in late July after collecting more than 5,000 signatures on nominating petitions. Under Washington's restrictive electoral laws, however, they would not be on the November ballot unless they received at least 1 percent of the vote in the primary election.

The *Seattle Times* reported that Wheeler received 5,807 votes and would be on the November ballot. Severs was credited with 3,248 votes and will not appear on the general election ballot.

Socialist presidential candidates James Warren and Estelle DeBates will also be on

the Washington ballot in November. David Warshawsky is a write-in candidate for U.S. Congress in the Seventh District. Severs is now barred by Washington law from even running as a write-in in November.

"All the socialist candidates will redouble their efforts to speak out and reach out to working people and youth," Wheeler pledged. "The growing threat of war against the peoples of Iraq and Yugoslavia, the deep economic crisis, and the sharp attacks on our rights by the wealthy and their government demand greater efforts to defend and champion the interests of all working people."

Wheeler and her supporters campaigned among tens of thousands of Boeing aircraft workers who assembled in a mass union meeting September 17. The workers, members of the International Association of Machinists (IAM), voted overwhelmingly to authorize union officials to call a strike if a settlement is not reached with the company when the current contract expires October 3.

Wheeler, Severs, and Warshawsky have waged an aggressive campaign all summer. When the League of Women Voters excluded Wheeler and Severs from candidates' debates, the socialists attended the meetings, winning the right to speak from the floor and getting coverage on a local television station.

Major dailies have included the socialists in their election coverage. Coworkers have read and commented favorably on this news coverage, and the local Socialist Workers campaign center has received inquiries from around the state.

On Labor Day three workers from Alaska Airlines hosted a fund-raising barbecue for the socialist candidates. Severs is a ramp worker at Alaska Airlines and a leader of the union members who are preparing for a possible strike this fall. More



Militant/Sara Lobman

Socialist vice-presidential candidate Estelle DeBates (right) campaigning in Houston

## DeBates tours New England

BY NAOMI CRAINE

BOSTON — "We must demand that the 15,000 who support the right of the Socialist Workers Party to be on the ballot be heard," said Mary Lennox, speaking to a Boston rally for Socialist Workers vice-presidential candidate Estelle DeBates. Lennox spoke at the September 12 meeting to protest the decision of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to exclude the socialist candidates from the ballot.

DeBates opened her talk by explaining that Washington's moves toward war in both Iraq and Yugoslavia is a bipartisan drive, with the Democratic presidential candidate William Clinton urging George Bush on toward war.

DeBates said that "just as they agree on war abroad, Bush and Clinton agree on shifting the burden of the social crisis onto working people. Their themes are summed up by 'family, faith, and country,' or 'family values.'"

"This is a very serious thing," she continued. "It's about shifting more of the burden onto the family." While the Republican party has been seen as taking the lead in speaking for "family values," the Democrats are putting forward the same program. DeBates pointed out that one of the proposals Clinton advocates in this spirit is the Family and Medical Leave Act currently in Congress, which would guarantee the "right" of workers to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave from their jobs to cope with new children and other family emergencies. Instead of socialized medicine and other facilities such as child-care centers, the measure leaves the burden of coping with such emergencies totally in the hands of individual families.

The way Clinton casts this proposal, like the speeches of right-wing spokespeople like Patrick Buchanan on family values, portrays the collapse of the traditional family as the root of the social and economic crisis working people are facing today, DeBates explained. "Central to the discussion on family values is an attack on working women," she continued. It is part of an ideological offensive aimed at convincing working people, especially women, that they themselves are to blame for the problems they confront.

The socialist candidate said that this is part of the drive of the ruling class "to defeat us, the majority, and break our resistance. And their drive against us is provoking a response."

This response includes some important developments in the labor movement. DeBates pointed to the combativity of workers at General Motors who struck recently in Lordstown, Ohio, and to teachers on strike in Rhode Island who decided to continue their strike despite the fact that 18 were sent to prison for striking, as examples of the kinds of fights working people are beginning to carry out.

## Socialists fight undemocratic ballot rulings

BY SARA LOBMAN

Supporters of the Socialist Workers campaign and defenders of democratic rights continue to fight to win ballot status for socialist candidates in states across the country. Ballot fights are currently under way in Delaware, Florida, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, and Ohio.

James Warren and Estelle DeBates, socialist candidates for president and vice-president, are now on the ballot in North Dakota, New Mexico, and the District of Columbia. In addition, James Harris, socialist candidate for U.S. Congress in Michigan, and Joanne Kuniandy and Mark Wyatt, congressional candidates in Pennsylvania, are on the ballot.

With these victories, Warren and DeBates are on the ballot in 11 states and the District of Columbia.

In Delaware, campaign supporters had been told by state election officials that they were required to collect 2,007 signatures on nominating petitions for James Warren, and the same number for DeBates. Supporters collected more than 2,900 for each candidate. State officials now claim that it was only necessary to petition for Warren, but that at least 2,800 names were required. They say only 1,700 of those submitted were valid.

Supporters of the campaign are organizing a fight against this undemocratic exclusion from the ballot. The campaign is asking supporters to send protest letters to the commissioner of elections. Dave Colton, a professor at the University of Delaware, and Julius Gordon, an antiwar activist, are among those participating in this effort.

Campaign activists pointed out that the Election Commission counted as invalid any signature that was not accompanied by a Social Security number. "We met many people who were excited by the campaign's program and wanted to see the socialist candidates on the ballot," explained Roy Inglee, a campaign supporter from Delaware who helped lead the petitioning effort. "But a lot of working people were hesitant about turning over their Social Security numbers."

Inglee noted that the Socialist Workers presidential ticket had been on the ballot in 1976. After that election, he explained, Delaware changed the rules, claiming "it was

than a dozen Alaska workers attended the barbecue, several bringing family and friends to the event.

Severs, a member of IAM Local 2202, has also addressed union meetings as a candidate. At the August meeting, one worker proposed that the local endorse Severs's candidacy. After some debate, the workers voted overwhelmingly to do so.

At the Boeing union meeting, Wheeler spent time with a group of IAM members from Alaska Airlines. These workers passed out thousands of flyers declaring their solidarity with Boeing workers and urging oth-

too confusing" to have parties get on the ballot so easily. The new regulations reserved ballot status for parties that had at least 144 registered members. Others could get on the ballot only as independent candidates, after collecting hundreds or thousands of signatures.

The socialist campaign collected more than 8,000 signatures to place Laura Garza on the ballot for Congress in Florida's 18th District. The petitions, along with a 10-cent-per-name filing fee, were submitted in July. In early August, the state ruled that more than 5,000 of the names were invalid and that Garza's name would not be placed on the November ballot.

The campaign wants to run Garza as an official write-in candidate. This would insure that the thousands of working people in Garza's district who chose to vote for her would be permitted to do so.

But Florida election laws require candidates to file for write-in status in July. In a catch-22 situation, they are only allowed to do this if they are not actively seeking full ballot status. Since Florida officials did not, and are not required to, rule on Garza's ballot status until August, she was still fighting to be on the ballot well past the July deadline.

Supporters of the socialist campaign are considering a lawsuit to challenge these laws as unconstitutional. The Florida state constitution protects the right of voters to cast write-in votes. The campaign is already protesting the 10-cent-per-name filing fee. While a motion for emergency relief — that the \$800 paid for this be returned — was denied, the federal court has agreed to hear the case.

In Ohio, the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections ruled Ronald Garnez Parks off the ballot at a September 17 hearing, claiming he was 167 signatures short of the requirement of 1,574. Parks is the Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress in the 11th District.

Initially the board had said Parks was 400 names short. Under pressure from the public protest campaign that the socialist candidate immediately launched, they "discovered" more than 100 more valid signatures.

Campaign supporters found another 50 after pouring for hours over voter registration records. "Individual perceptions vary"

ers to join them in a September 25 union rally against Alaska's concession demands.

"This active labor solidarity is vital for the future of working people," Wheeler explained. "I will be at the September 25 rally and will join Boeing workers on the picket line if they are forced to strike. I urge all others, whether rail workers, farm workers, students, or unemployed workers, to take a stand for humanity and join this fight as well."

Harvey McArthur is a member of United Transportation Union Local 845.

as to what signatures are valid, a board administrator said in justifying the decision.

Campaign spokesperson, Peter Thierjung addressed the September 17 hearing. In addition to protesting Parks's exclusion from the ballot, Thierjung also protested actions by board employees to silence Parks. In recent weeks, employees have approached organizers of election forums to keep Parks from speaking and have written to Cleveland *Plain Dealer* reporters claiming that Parks is not a candidate and his campaign should not be covered.

Socialist campaign supporters plan to file a formal complaint with the board protesting the harassment and will file for official write-in status for Parks.

Peter Thierjung from Cleveland, Ohio, contributed to this article.

## Send protest messages

The Socialist Workers 1992 Campaign is urging supporters around the country to send messages protesting the undemocratic exclusion of socialist candidates from the ballot. Messages can be sent to the following addresses:

**Delaware:** State of Delaware, State Election Commission, Dover, DE 19901.

**Florida:** Florida Department of State, Jim Smith, Secretary of State, Division of Elections Room 1801, The Capitol, Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250.

**Ohio:** Secretary of State Robert Taft, 30 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43266. Copies should be sent to Socialist Workers 1992 Ohio Campaign, 1863 W. 25th St., Cleveland, OH 44113.

**Massachusetts:** Michael Connolly, Secretary of State, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, State House, Boston, MA 02133.

**Mississippi:** Secretary of State Dick Molpus, P.O. Box 136, Jackson, MS 39205.

**Missouri:** Roy Blunt, Secretary of State, P.O. Box 778, Jefferson City, MO 65101.

**Nebraska:** Address letters to Allen Beermann, Secretary of State, and send them to Iowa Socialist Workers 1992 Campaign, 2105 Forest Ave., Des Moines, IA 50311.

# San Francisco meeting raises \$3,000

The George Novack Reconstruction Fund was launched in August at the International Socialist Conference 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, launched in 1990, that makes possible major capital expenditures designed to strengthen the communist movement's ability to produce the arsenal of books and periodicals needed by working-class fighters.

## BY FRANK FORRESTAL

The George Novack Fund needs a big push to get on target. This week we are printing the percentage local supporters in each area have paid toward their goal. A total of \$2,500 was sent in to the fund in the past week. To reach the total pledged in the remaining nine weeks of the drive, at least \$16,000 must be sent in every week. The fund is crucial to ensuring that the

reconstruction project continues.

San Francisco supporters of the fund held a successful memorial meeting September 19. Some 53 people attended the event and \$3,000 was pledged, which takes the local pledge over their goal of \$12,000. Next week this column will carry more complete reports on the September 18-19 San Francisco and Los Angeles memorial fundraising meetings. Doug Jenness, chairperson of the Twin Cities Socialist Workers Party, spoke at both events.

As reported last week, the reconstruction crew has finished pouring the concrete floor in the Charles St. section of the print shop. The crew estimates that it will take up to a month for the floor to cure. They continue to make progress on building a new shipping and receiving department and two new bathroom facilities.

This new section of the plant is scheduled to open at the end of October in this building.

Fund-raising is a political skill that fighters in the trade union and

socialist movements need to learn. George Novack learned and sharpened this skill during his decades of campaigning in defense of working class fighters victimized by capitalists' courts and cops.

Novack's first experience at this was when he was in his mid-twenties. Novack was part of the defense effort for Antonio Bellusi, an Italian coal miner from Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

Bellusi had emigrated to the United States from Italy in 1924 to escape persecution by Mussolini's fascists. He had been imprisoned for ten months and was threatened with deportation by the U.S. immigration authorities in the early 1930s. Although Bellusi was a Communist Party member, the CP refused to organize a solidarity campaign on his behalf.

Novack helped organize the defense committee, which succeeded in winning Bellusi's right to emigrate to a country of his choice. Novack participated in the farewell fund-raising dinner to raise the money for Bellusi's voyage. Unexpectedly, he was called on to speak at the event, when the main speaker had collapsed. Novack recalled years later that "this was my first money-raising effort; it was to be followed by many more."

The committee also defended emigre socialists threatened with deportation to Nazi Germany.

It should be known that the "I Pledge" box below, which lists contributions in dollars, also solicits contributions in all currencies.

	Pledged	Paid	percent paid (should be 21%)
<b>United States</b>			
Atlanta	\$5,500	500	9
Baltimore	4,500	0	0
Birmingham	3,000	0	0
Boston	6,000	930	16
Chicago	6,500	920	19
Cincinnati	1,500	0	0
Cleveland	4,200	500	12
Des Moines	3,500	25	1
Detroit	7,000	150	2
Greensboro	3,000	400	13
Houston	6,000	225	4
Los Angeles	15,000	300	2
Miami	3,250	25	1
Morgantown	3,000	235	8
New Haven	500	50	10
New York	15,000	1,249	8
Newark	12,000	85	1
Philadelphia	4,000	876	22
Pittsburgh	4,500	50	1
Portland	750	0	0
St. Louis	6,500	200	3
Salt Lake City	6,500	631	10
San Francisco	12,000	2,235	19
Seattle	6,000	880	15
Twin Cities	9,500	1,290	14
Washington, D.C.	4,500	0	0
<b>U.S. Total</b>	<b>153,700</b>	<b>11,756</b>	<b>8</b>
Australia	650	0	0
Canada	2,905	340	12
Britain	1,860	300	16
France	1,030	1,030	100
New Zealand	710	540	76
Sweden	2,250	1,100	45
Belgium	1,100	1,100	100
Germany	1,429	1,429	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$165,834</b>	<b>\$17,595</b>	<b>11</b>

\$150,000

\$17,595

## I pledge...

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

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ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTRY \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

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

# USAir workers lose vote for union certification

## BY EDWIN FRUIT AND YVONNE HAYES

BALTIMORE — Some 8,000 baggage handlers and food service workers employed by USAir recently lost a bid for union representation. Nearly 47 percent of the workers at stations around the country returned mail ballots by the August 10 deadline supporting representation by one of two unions — the International Association of Machinists (IAM) or the United Steelworkers of America (USWA).

Prounion had to number more than 50 percent of the eligible voters to get one of the unions in. The IAM and USWA are charging that USAir inflated employee lists,

## UNION TALK

leaving the unions a few hundred votes short of victory.

Mechanics and aircraft cleaners at USAir are already organized by the IAM. In 1990 the Teamsters union lost an election to represent the remainder of the hourly workforce. Since that defeat, the fleet service workers, along with the rest of the workforce, have faced an assault by the company on wages and working conditions. The company has undermined seniority in job bidding, reduced salaries, (including a July 1 wage cut of 2 percent for all full-time workers) and frozen pension plan payments. In Baltimore, USAir forced a large layer of workers to cover split shifts and subsequently required many to accept transfers out of their home terminal in order to hold their full-time jobs. USAir then hired part-time workers to cover the split shifts.

These attacks led many to reconsider the need for union representation. "I didn't use to be for unions," one worker explained. "But the way the company has treated us over the past year convinces me we need to have a contract that the company has to abide by."

This sentiment is reflected in the large increase in prounion balloting from just under 35 percent in December 1991 to nearly 47 percent in the recent vote. A victory for unionization would have given 8,000 more workers a vehicle with the potential to organize a fight against company attacks which are sure to continue. And a victory for the IAM would have united all of the workers at USAir in a single union, putting them in the strongest position to wage this fight together. The recently announced partnership between USAir and British Airways makes clear that this need for unity extends across national boundaries.

Between the two unions, the USWA received the lion's share of the vote — 33 percent against 14 percent for the IAM. This can be attributed, in part, to the Steelworkers'

more aggressive campaigning at several of the larger USAir stations.

In Baltimore, for example, USWA organizers mounted a systematic effort to speak with each eligible voter, spending time in airport cafeterias and at the gates. The IAM local lodge never discussed the organizing effort at its meetings, no organizers were on hand, and no effort was made to generate a campaign among IAM members who work side by side with fleet service employees.

"We can't hand out any fliers on the job because we might get fired," explained an IAM shop steward.

The rivalry between the USWA and IAM did nothing to increase the chances of a victory for unionism. Rather than lending its solidarity to the IAM effort to organize all workers at USAir, the USWA leadership played on and helped deepen divisions that the company has fostered within the workforce.

USWA organizers in Baltimore circulated an anonymous letter to the IAM International, allegedly written by USAir mechanics. "Organizing and bringing into our union a group of employees that the current IAM members do not want will not be tolerated," read the letter. "This new group of employees will outnumber the present membership. We will lose our voice in the way our union is run."

The IAM leadership, for its part, did not wage a serious campaign to answer the mistaken idea that mechanics and ramp workers have separate interests, instead trying to reassure mechanics that they would continue to be covered under a separate contract.

The USWA leadership pointed to the fact that IAM workers at USAir have been laboring under an expired contract since March 1990. But the USWA leadership has no better strategy for fighting to defend the interests of working people. Like the auto union bosses who called off the strike at Caterpillar and the rail union leaders who refused to organize a fight in response to the recent lockout of rail workers, both the IAM and USWA bureaucracies have defaulted in aiding workers who try to fight back. During the Eastern Airlines strike, the IAM leadership did little to mobilize its membership at other airlines or in aerospace to back up the strikers. And the USWA leadership has refused to organize any fight against deteriorating conditions and job losses in the steel industry.

Many workers at USAir, in the face of worsening economic conditions and a swelling of the ranks of the unemployed, are afraid that joining the IAM will result in being led out on strike. The Eastern Airlines strike is raised as a negative example of what it means to be in a union.

In a brochure, the IAM leaders tried to allay these fears, saying that the union "has never had a strike on [USAir] property for 32 plus years. The IAM must be

doing something right!"

In fact, the Eastern strike pointed the road forward for the entire labor movement, especially for airline workers, who face the same attacks. Labor solidarity and joint action, rather than rivalry between the unions is what is needed to give working people the confidence to begin wielding their own power.

"We would be better off if everyone who worked for the company were in the IAM," explained a USAir baggage handler at Baltimore/Washington International Airport who was a mechanic at Eastern when the union went on strike. "Our unity at Eastern prevented Frank Lorenzo from operating a nonunion airline."

Answering charges that the USWA had no knowledge of the airline industry, where the IAM has a large base, the Steelworkers claimed that the union would establish an

**"A fighting perspective would include the two unions fighting side by side rather than dividing our forces."**

airline division and USAir workers could "get in on the ground floor." Only 28 percent of USWA members actually work in steel facilities today.

The question is not airline expertise, but whether either of these unions presents workers with a fighting perspective. To begin with, such a perspective would include the unions fighting side by side to win union recognition at the airline rather than dividing our forces.

Many workers expressed disappointment at the election outcome. "Now that the union has been defeated, the company will continue to attack nonunion workers," said one ramp worker. He thought vacations, bidding rights, and wages would be targeted.

Some workers attributed the defeat to the large percentage of part-time ramp and catering employees. Many of these workers don't feel they have the same stake in getting organized. In Baltimore, part-time workers comprise some 60 percent of fleet service according to union supporters, and they may be as much as 40 percent of the workforce systemwide. "It's a better showing than last year," said another baggage handler. "We just have to work harder convincing people why they need a union."

Edwin Fruit is a member of IAM Local 846 at USAir and Yvonne Hayes is a member of USWA Local 14019.

# DeBates campaigns in Connecticut, Quebec

BY NAOMI CRAINE

MONTREAL — Supporters of the socialist campaign in Connecticut and in Quebec, Canada, organized an exciting week of activities for Estelle DeBates, the Socialist Workers party candidate for vice-president of the United States.

On September 15, DeBates spoke to some 70 high school students at the Hopkins School in New Haven, Connecticut. The lunchtime meeting was organized by a student who had learned about the campaign at a table on the street. One student came back that evening to a public meeting for DeBates at Yale University. She said she would like to have another meeting at the high school with a socialist candidate because many students were continuing to discuss the ideas DeBates had raised. Socialist campaigners in Connecticut are planning to follow up with their local candidates, Will Wilkin for U.S. Senate and Peter Krala for U.S. Congress in the 3rd District.

The night before, DeBates spoke at a meeting organized by campaign supporters in Springfield, Massachusetts. Participants in that meeting contributed \$55 to the campaign and decided to place the fight against

the exclusion of the socialist candidates from the Massachusetts ballot at the center of their campaign efforts.

While in New Haven, DeBates was able to meet workers at U.S. Repeating Arms, a rifle factory, at a campaign table outside the plant. She was also interviewed on WFCR, a public radio station in western Massachusetts.

## Campaigning in Canada

Following her Connecticut tour, DeBates traveled to Quebec. On September 17, she joined Michel Prairie, the Communist League's candidate in the Montreal St. Jacques municipal by-election, for a day of campaigning in Quebec City. Campaign supporters at Laval University set up a table that attracted considerable attention and discussion.

Many students who stopped at the table wanted to know why a candidate for vice-president of the United States would campaign in Canada. DeBates explained the international character of her campaign and the common interests that workers and youth around the world have.

About a dozen students attended a meet-



Militant/Naomi Craine

Estelle DeBates and Michel Prairie (right), Communist League candidate in Montreal, discuss socialist campaign with student at Laval University in Quebec City.

ing that night to hear the candidates. The discussion took up the drive of the United States and Canada toward war in Iraq and Yugoslavia, the question of free-trade and protectionism, and the proposed Canadian constitution.

Another broad ranging discussion took place the following night at a campaign rally

in Montreal. Micheline Durivage, one of more than 400 flight attendants locked out by Nationair, spoke at the meeting. She explained how the flight attendants had just rejected a proposal that would have put some of them back to work with no contract and no guarantees, and would have given the scabs currently working preference over many who were on probation at the time of the lockout last November. She said being locked out had taught her a lot about how to fight and what her interests as a worker are.

DeBates used her talk to explain what is behind the war drive of the United States and other imperialist powers. She pointed to the extreme financial crisis in Europe as a sign of the pressure pushing these governments towards war.

Prairie explained that the local campaign, will continue to support the Nationair workers and other labor struggles; speak out against imperialist intervention in Iraq, Yugoslavia, and elsewhere; and oppose the proposed Canadian constitution, which does not answer the needs of working people, oppressed French-speaking Quebecois, or Native peoples.

## Detroit youth join socialist campaign

BY ROSE ANA BERBEO

DETROIT — During James Warren's four-day tour here, several students and workers decided to be part of the growing number of Youth for Warren and DeBates — young people across the country who are actively campaigning for the socialist candidate and his running mate, Estelle DeBates.

At Henry Ford Community College in Dearborn, Warren discussed Washington's war drive, Malcolm X, the Detroit teachers strike, and other issues with students. The August 14 event was sponsored by the Association of Students of African Descent and the Cultural Activities Center.

One student criticized the so-called "war on drugs," saying that, "what they're doing just doesn't work."

"You're right," Warren replied. "They have no interest in stopping the drug trade. Those who benefit the least are the ones who pay the most." He further explained that the drug problem reflects the lack of a social movement, the fact that young people, especially Blacks, have no options of being part of something to change the conditions of their lives.

"So, as a Black man, do you think we should look through the eyes of Martin Luther King or Malcolm X?" asked another student.

"I think Martin Luther King thought capitalist society could be reformed to serve the needs of humanity," the presidential candidate replied. "Malcolm X had a higher understanding of this society. He explained that a 'chicken cannot lay a duck egg.' This system cannot produce equality for the people who live under capitalism."

What about the four cops who beat Rodney King? another student asked.

"I think they will get off unless we organize some political protests," Warren said.

"The Los Angeles anti-police riots represented a year of frustration because the so-called leaders in the community refused to organize the people. They told them 'this case is won.'"

The discussion continued at a reception, where four people signed up to campaign for the socialist alternative in Michigan. One of them, a former GI who spent seven months in the Persian Gulf during the war on Iraq, helped pass out campaign literature at a rally for Warren outside Aetna Industries, an auto parts plant, later that afternoon.

## Warren takes up debate on military draft

Continued from front page

cares about Black people," Massie insisted. "I feel this means he will do something for poor people."

"Politics is cold-blooded," Warren responded. "And we have to be cold blooded. It doesn't have to do with what we want to be true, what we wish for or pray for or hope for. You have to look at what Clinton has done as governor of Arkansas, what his program is, what he himself says he will do."

"Don't look at someone Black who's making \$100,000 on his staff," Warren continued. "Tell me if he's ever done something for someone working 40 hours a week in a factory at minimum wage."

"For us this is a class question. He will and can help solve the problem of a small Black middle-class layer, but what does that have to do with the lives of millions of us, who are workers?"

Warren is a steelworker, a member of the United Steelworkers of America, on a leave of absence from his job at the Castle Metals

plant here in Chicago. During his campaign tour, he stopped in at the plant to talk to co-workers and invite them to a campaign rally, while a team of supporters passed out campaign materials outside. Warren also campaigned among workers at Precision Scientific, another USWA-organized plant. Many of the workers who gathered outside on their lunch hour were interested in meeting the candidate and wished him well.

### 'Family values' discussion

About 45 people attended Warren's main campaign meeting in Chicago September 19, including several who had just heard about the campaign. He was joined on the platform by Socialist Workers candidate for University of Illinois Board of Trustees Patricia Smith, and introduced by Russell Hall, a 31-year-old painter who learned about the socialist campaign during the Caterpillar strike.

"The Republicans' and Democrats' whole discussion on family values," Warren told

the rally, "is not a sideshow, it's not just about Murphy Brown."

"Remember," he continued, "this came out of events in Los Angeles. Dan Quayle went out to LA and blamed the riots on the breakdown of the Black family, on the lack of traditional family values."

Warren explained that the family only worked as an economic unit for the rich, but that it couldn't defend working people in this crisis. "For us, the family works much better as a place where you can get a little solidarity," he said.

"The 'family value' campaign has to do with the fact that they are driving toward war overseas and they are also waging a war against our standard of living here at home. They are demanding the family unit take more responsibility for human needs, they are cutting back on every service we need to help us survive."

Some \$2,300 was contributed and pledged to the campaign at the rally.

## Contribute to the \$30,000 Socialist Campaign Fund!

Supporters of the Socialist Workers campaign have mapped out an ambitious schedule for the final six weeks of the campaign. The socialist candidates across the United States report a widespread interest in the campaign's perspective that working people can mobilize to confront the effects of the capitalist economic crisis, oppose the

growing threats of U.S. wars abroad, and defend the labor movement.

The \$30,000 fund will make it possible to fight the exclusion of the socialist candidates from the ballot in half a dozen states and to continue to be a part of strikes, protests, and political meetings across the country and around the world.

Enclosed is my donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the Socialist Workers 1992 Campaign Fund.

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Mail to Socialist Workers National Campaign Committee, 191 7th Avenue, New York, NY 10011.



Militant/Russell Hall

James Warren and socialist senatorial candidate Kate Kaku campaigning in Chicago

# Europe's currency crisis exposes tensions

**Continued from front page**  
and lira but in respect to the system as a whole," commented one disgruntled Swiss banker. Said another, "It is no longer a question of interest rates... but of economic fundamentals."

## Dollar is dominant

Unlike anytime since the 1930s, the world capitalist system is heading today into a burgeoning economic and social crisis. As one former German banker explained it, "The world economy is in the worst recession and financial crisis since the 1930s. The most ominous symptom is a worldwide collapse in private credit and broad money growth." The most stable point in the world economy is the steadily rising unemployment. Fear is mounting that the major imperialist economies are all heading willy-nilly toward depression at the same time.

Coming out of World War II, Washington emerged as the dominant power in the world imperialist system, both economically and militarily. For a substantial period following that war industrial profit rates rose in all of the imperialist countries. As a result, competition between the impe-



**Former prime minister Margaret Thatcher will gain greater hearing in Britain's ruling circles as illusion of European unity fades. Thatcher calls for individual nations to "follow their own interests, as happened in the Gulf War."**

rialist powers over markets for commodities and capital, and over sources of raw materials was buffered.

Since the mid-1970s, the combination of the declining rate of profit, halting growth in the mass of profits, and relative slowdown in economic expansion has precipitated growing, and ever sharpening, rivalry among the imperialist ruling classes. Washington's position as an industrial and trading power has slipped in recent decades in the face of growing challenges from Germany, Japan, and other rivals.

U.S. strategic military power remains unchallenged, however, and is the main lever Washington has to compensate for its relative economic decline. There is no replacement for Washington's military power, the absolute size and weight of the U.S. market, or the dollar as the dominant international reserve currency used in world trade and financial dealings. In fact, Washington is still able to wield the historically declining dollar as a club in its economic competition against its imperialist rivals.

## Reflects relationship of forces

The currency crisis that is breaking into the headlines is a reflection of the relationship of forces, and the conflicts, between the imperialist powers. Behind the different currencies stand the relative and shifting military and economic strengths of the rival imperialist regimes.

Nearly one year ago, leaders of the twelve capitalist governments that make up the European Community (EC) agreed to the Maastricht Treaty, named after the town in the Netherlands where it was negotiated, pledging "ever closer union" among themselves. The EC has announced the aim of ending all internal barriers to trade, labor, and capital movements, and presenting a common front against other imperialist ri-

vals in North America, Japan, and the Pacific. Eventually, so the tale is told, the various European governments would share common economic, political, and defense policies.

But a "closer union" is not in the cards, as the events of this month once again confirm. For sure, the French approval of the Maastricht Treaty will be short-lived at best. One columnist referred to the response to the narrow "yes" vote as "muted joy."

The plans for a European Community were based on the period before the dissolution of the Soviet Union, with a balance of forces that included a divided Germany. The Soviet Union was still a strong political and military power and East Germany was part of the Soviet alliance. This framework has come apart. Earlier this year, former British prime minister Margaret Thatcher dismissed EC institutions as "yesterday's solutions, becoming tomorrow's problems."

During the past three decades, Germany has developed into the strongest industrial and trading power in Europe. In recent years, it has become the world's largest exporter, surpassing the United States. The weight of the German mark was felt throughout capitalist Europe and beyond, and increasing volumes of world trade and financial dealings were conducted in marks.

## Huge cost of German unification

The cost of unification, however, was underestimated by German's rulers. Two years ago German chancellor Helmut Kohl promised that German unification would not cost anything. "None shall be worse off," he pledged. Economic and social conditions would be roughly leveled within half a decade, some German capitalist politicians pronounced.

Kohl even agreed to exchange the worthless East German marks for Deutsche marks at a 1-1 rate for wages, pensions and some savings. German inflation, which had been as low as 1.3 percent in 1988, crept up towards 4.8 percent this year, a rate unacceptable to Bonn.

This year alone the German government has poured \$122 billion into eastern Germany, and these huge transfers are expected to continue for years. To pay for these staggering expenses, Germany raised its interest rates, peaking this summer at 9.75 percent, in an attempt to attract more foreign capital and rein in inflation. Because the mark is the strongest currency, other European capitalist governments have been obligated to tie their interest rates to those of Germany.

As a result, Germany's economic competitors in Europe are effectively subsidizing the reconstruction of eastern Germany at the cost of their own profits and economic growth. Big business interests and their press and political spokespersons have responded by fueling anti-German sentiment in Europe, particularly in Britain and Italy.

"While Britons and Italians lament the sharp decline in the relative value of their currencies, Germans are celebrating what amounts to the victory of the Deutsche mark," wrote the *New York Times*. "Newly impressed with the mark's strength, many are less willing than ever to support Mr. Kohl's advocacy of a single European currency to replace it."

"The image of a one-mark coin today dominated the front page of *Bild*, the country's best-selling newspaper. 'You beautiful, strong D-mark!' the caption said. 'You make our life cheaper,'" continued the *Times*.

The German rulers face big problems at home. Despite the strength of the mark, the Kohl government raised income taxes 25 percent this year. Bonn is also on a collision course with the German labor movement. The German employers have made it clear that they want a "solidarity pact" guaranteeing wage restraint by the end of the year.

## Common interests?

The Persian Gulf War in 1990-91 underlined the limits of the European Community's modest steps toward economic integration. The U.S.-engineered war exposed beyond a shadow of a doubt that these measures (lowered barriers to trade, investment, and so on) did not trans-



**German rulers face big problems at home. Despite strength of the mark, government raised income taxes 25 percent as part of the continuing cost of reunification. Strikes last April (above) showed rulers are on a collision course with labor movement.**

late into a "common" European foreign policy. Instead, the rival capitalist classes in the European Community were further propelled toward defending their separate state interests. The war set back German imperialism's goal of an integrated European Community under Bonn's domination.

As Thatcher put it this spring, "We will have more harmonious relationships between the states of Europe if they continue to have room to make their own decisions and to follow their own interests, as happened in the Gulf War."

The same pattern of conflicts had asserted itself in relation to Yugoslavia. Bonn pursued its own imperialist interests by recognizing Croatia and Slovenia. Later, Paris too, maneuvering between Bonn and Washington, attempted to promote its own interests in Yugoslavia.

The ongoing currency crisis is putting a spotlight on the sharp inter-imperialist conflicts among the European ruling classes. The rival national capitalist classes will not give up their separate states, which protect their interests against each other—and above all against the working people from whose labor all of them grow wealthy.

## Role of nationalist demagogy

In order to pursue its economic interests in Europe and in the Baltic area, the Swedish government has aligned itself more with the United States to strengthen its hand against Germany. In a similar fashion, the British rulers, through their loyal participation at the side of Washington during the Gulf War, have been able to act as privileged junior partners of the United States, although with the latest blows to Britain's currency London's pretensions to be a predominant power in Europe have had the shine taken off them. As independent actors on the world scene, both countries, Sweden and Britain, are weaker than

Germany and seek protection in Washington's shadow.

Working people are victims of the efforts by each ruling class to defend its profits and competitive position. The rulers, helped by the labor officialdom, resort to nationalist demagogy to appeal for sacrifice. Nonetheless, further resistance is on the horizon across Europe as governments attempt to impose austerity measures on Europe's working people. The currency devaluations raise the prices of imported goods and lower workers' standard of living.

In August, hundreds of thousands of workers protested the Greek government's austerity program. In Germany, large anti-racist demonstrations of tens of thousands have taken place against violent rightist hooligan attacks on immigrants. The German government has just concluded an agreement with Romania to deport thousands of Romanians, most of them Gypsies.

The Swedish government is planning across-the-board social cuts. In response, unions have called a nationwide protest on October 6. The Italian government has announced huge cuts in health-care and social security benefits and a wage freeze for public-sector workers. According to the *Financial Times*, this is "the biggest attack on health and social security spending since Italy's welfare state was set up after the war."

In response, Italy's three union federations announced a series of demonstrations, culminating in a one-day stoppage planned for October 2. After the devaluation of the lira, Prime Minister Giuliano Amato went before the Chamber of Deputies to defend his controversial decision on September 9 to seek emergency powers to handle the economy.

*Carl-Erik Isacson, a member of the Metalworkers Union at Saab-Scania in Stockholm, Sweden contributed to this article.*

## Supporters of Pathfinder Bookstore in Toronto protest attack by vandals

BY NAOMI CRAINE

The Pathfinder Bookstore in Toronto, Ontario, was attacked in the early morning hours of Sunday, September 20. Two rocks were hurled through the bookstore's double-paned, plate glass window between 1:00 a.m. and 9:45 a.m.

The evening before, Jabu Dube, information officer of the African National Congress in Canada, was the featured speaker at a Militant Labor Forum held at the bookstore. The Pathfinder Bookstore is known across the city as an outlet for books by Malcolm X, Nelson Mandela, Fidel Castro, Che Guevara, Karl Marx, Leon Trotsky, and other working-class and revolutionary leaders.

The rocks hit displays on Nelson Mandela and Malcolm X. There was no attempt at robbery and no other vandalism in the area.

"This attack was politically motivated," Pathfinder Bookstore manager Robert Simms explained. "It's an attempt to intimidate working-class fighters and political activists and is a serious attack on the right to free speech and the exchange of ideas. We are demanding that the police carry out a full investigation and prosecute the attackers to the full extent of the law."

A news conference to protest the attack was scheduled at the Pathfinder Bookstore in Toronto September 23. Simms, Dube, and a representative of the Ontario Coalition for Abortion Clinics will speak.

# 'Militant' welcomed by fighting unionists, youth

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The international campaign to win new readers of the *Militant* and other socialist publications began in a big way Saturday, September 19. Hundreds of supporters in several countries around the world took to the streets, setting up literature tables on busy street corners, visiting campuses, and going door-to-door in working-class communities to introduce workers and youth to the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and *New International*.

This nine-week circulation campaign includes a three-week effort to step up sales of single issues of the paper, which concludes on October 9 and is to be followed by a six-week campaign to win new subscribers, lasting through November 21.

The drive goes hand-in-hand with campaigning for the Socialist Workers candidates, who present working-class solutions to the crisis of the capitalist system, in answer to the Democratic and Republican politicians who have nothing to offer working people but new wars, racism, and depression.

A big issue on the minds of many working people in New York City was the recent riot by 10,000 off-duty cops who converged on City Hall to protest a bill aimed at estab-

ica (UMWA) contract with the Bituminous Coal Operators' Association approaches. Coal miners are resisting the employers' attacks on health care and safety regulations, and their attempts to impose speedup and work rule changes.

*Militant* supporters in the coalfields are organizing special campaign teams to visit mine portals and communities where coal miners live. In late September Socialist Workers vice-presidential candidate Estelle DeBates will visit Logan County in southern West Virginia to campaign and discuss politics with coal miners.

SWP presidential candidate James Warren will take his campaign to Craig, Colorado, where UMWA members recently conducted a year-long strike in defense of their union. During the last *Militant* circulation drive several striking UMWA miners in Craig signed up as regular readers of the *Militant*.

## Coverage of labor movement

Supporters in Birmingham, Alabama, have mapped out ambitious plans to reach each of the close to 20 unionized underground and strip mines in Alabama during the single-issue drive. Plans are also in the works for fielding a week-long team

cently concluded a successful strike against General Motors in Lordstown, Ohio, beating back the company's move to eliminate 240 jobs. During the course of this strike GM was forced to close nine assembly plants.

Many auto workers are eager to discuss the experience of this fight and draw the lessons for the upcoming battles. *Militant* supporters in Cleveland have been sending teams to Lordstown and Warren, Ohio, where many auto workers live. Through door-to-door sales they are meeting auto workers and introducing them to the socialist campaign newspaper.

Some 600 members of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union (UFCW) struck Fischer Packing in Louisville, Kentucky, May 8. These unionists who took a stand against company-demanded concessions voted September 10 to return to work. *Militant* supporters continue to find keen interest in the socialist press. At a shopping center near the plant a recent campaign team sold nine copies of the *Militant* in half an hour.

In Winston-Salem, North Carolina, around 500 members of International Association of Machinists Local 2444 attended a union meeting September 12 to discuss the possibility of striking USAir. The local has been tied up in federal mediation for two and a half years since their contract expired. The mediator recently declared a deadlock, starting a countdown that expires September 24.

Socialist campaigners spoke with the unionists as they entered the meeting. Most had heard of the *Militant*. While some were not receptive to a communist newspaper, others were. "The *Militant*!" exclaimed one worker. "I don't agree with you on many things but you guys sure walked the Eastern picket lines," he said as he purchased a paper.

*Militant* supporters also recently traveled to Hamlet, North Carolina, to participate in the one-year commemoration of the death of 25 workers in a chicken processing plant there. In a short span of time as the meeting was breaking up, 10 *Militants* and a subscription were sold.

## Enthusiastic response on campus

Supporters in Baltimore report receiving an enthusiastic response to the *Militant* and socialist campaign literature at local campuses.

"This is exactly what I've been looking for," exclaimed one young woman as she came across a campaign table at the University of Maryland. "I just transferred from Liberty University where there was nothing like this." Liberty University, located in Lynchburg, Virginia, is headed by ultrarightist Jerry Falwell. She bought a paper, signed a campaign endorser card, and took literature about the upcoming tour of socialist vice-presidential candidate Estelle DeBates.

Many students expressed opposition to Washington's renewed war drive against Iraq and were quite interested in discussing what lies behind the Yugoslav conflict. At Towson State University, 10 students bought copies of the *Militant*.

In New York City socialist campaigners have been setting up weekly tables at the Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC). These tables are the scene of many political discussions with students. Last week, supporters sold nine *Militants*, signed up one new campaign endorser, and five others who want more information. A member of the BMCC student gov-

ernment who is also active in Youth for Philippine Action stopped by and offered to set up a meeting on campus for the socialist candidates.

The scoreboard printed in next week's paper will report on the first week of the sales campaign. Results

must be phoned or faxed to the *Militant* business office by Saturday, 12:00 noon EST. In addition, supporters are reminded that the deadline for faxing in their subscription goals is Sunday, September 27 at 12:00 midnight EST.

## AROUND THE WORLD

The Militant	Perspectiva Mundial	New International
Weekly single copies GOAL	Weekly single copies GOAL	Nine-week GOAL
<b>UNITED STATES</b>		
Atlanta	90	35
Baltimore	105	35
Birmingham, AL	85	35
Boston	130	45
Chicago	100	45
Cincinnati	40	5
Cleveland	105	40
Des Moines, IA	105	40
Detroit	80	35
Greensboro, NC	105	30
Houston	80	30
Los Angeles	150	70
Miami	95	40
Morgantown, WV	80	30
New Haven, CT*	30	6
New York	250	90
Newark, NJ	155	65
Philadelphia	110	35
Pittsburgh	80	35
Portland, OR*	20	5
Salt Lake City, UT	85	35
San Francisco	100	60
Santa Cruz, CA	8	4
Seattle	95	35
St. Louis	120	35
Twin Cities, MN	125	45
Washington, DC	85	35
<b>U.S. TOTAL</b>	<b>2613</b>	<b>1000</b>
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>BARBADOS</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>BELGIUM*</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>BRITAIN</b>		
London	75	40
Manchester*	60	30
Sheffield*	40	20
<b>BRITAIN TOTAL</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>CANADA</b>		
Montreal	80	70
Toronto	90	45
Vancouver	80	20
<b>CANADA TOTAL</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>135</b>
<b>FRANCE</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>ICELAND</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>MEXICO</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>NEW ZEALAND</b>		
Auckland	35	8
Christchurch	30	8
Wellington	30	10
<b>N.Z. TOTAL</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>PUERTO RICO</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>SWEDEN</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,243</b>	<b>1,319</b>
<b>PROPOSED GOALS</b>	<b>3,200</b>	<b>1,300</b>

\* Goals proposed by the *Militant*.



Militant

Selling 'Perspectiva Mundial' in Sydney, Australia.

lishing an all-civilian police review board.

Ed Warren, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate from New York, participated in a counterdemonstration sponsored by the American Civil Liberties Union later that day. The socialist candidate and his supporters set up a campaign table and engaged in discussions with many people eager to join the fight against police brutality. Campaign supporters signed up four new endorsers and sold 8 *Militants* and one *Perspectiva Mundial* at the counterprotest, attended by 100 people.

## Teams to the coalfields

Wildcat strikes and skirmishes with the coal bosses are on the rise in southern West Virginia as the February 1993 expiration date of the United Mine Workers of Amer-

to southwestern Virginia, where the big majority of Pittston mines are located.

Supporters in Morgantown, West Virginia, are planning an early October weekend team to Clairfield, Tennessee, where UMWA miners have been on strike for 23 months against Colquest Energy. The idea of organizing such a trip was suggested by one of the team of Colquest miners currently stationed in Morgantown to organize support for their strike.

The *Militant* remains the best source of news on developments in the labor movement. With worker-correspondents on the scene in cities throughout the United States and in at least nine other countries, the paper covers important strike battles and discussions among working people.

The United Auto Workers re-

## IN THE UNIONS

Union	Militant/PM sales goal	New International
ACTWU	32	26
IAM	80	42
ILGWU	—	—
OCAW	25	20
UAW	50	—
UFCW	25	—
UMWA	18	—
USWA	90	30
UTU	50	—
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>118</b>

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

# Socialist oil workers discuss war threats, political openings

BY JIM ALTENBERG

HOUSTON — Socialist Workers Party members who are active in the Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers union (OCAW) gathered here August 22-23. Discussion at the meeting centered on the stepped-up threats by Washington and its allies to launch air strikes against Iraq, deteriorating conditions facing oil workers, and the opportunities that exist for socialists to discuss politics on the job and in the union today.

The main political report, given by OCAW member Joanne Kuniansky, explained that control over oil is key to the competitive battle between the capitalist classes of the United States, Europe, and Japan. The price of crude oil, and products derived from it, play a central role in the world economy. As the world economic crisis worsens and capitalist profit rates decline even further, Washington will use its military power to gain a bigger edge over its competitors, including to continue its control over Middle Eastern oil reserves.

Coupled with the drive toward war in Iraq, Kuniansky explained, is the effort by the owners of the giant oil companies to increase their profits. Restructuring of the oil industry since the mid-1980s and the sharp recession of the past year have led to the shutdown of one third of U.S. refineries and layoffs of tens of thousands of oil workers.

Those refineries that remain have in-

creased their production significantly with far fewer people. Process equipment is routinely run beyond its capacity. Essential maintenance is put off or done haphazardly by workers who are not properly trained for the job.

These and other moves by the oil bosses to cut costs have led to a sharp deterioration of oil and chemical plants. In the past six years 87 serious leaks, fires, and explosions in oil and chemical plants have killed 159 workers, and injured at least 2,200 others, according to an April, 1992, report in *Harper's* magazine cited by Kuniansky. And these represent only the largest, most deadly accidents.

OCAW union officials have continued to retreat in the face of the oil bosses' attacks. They promote union-company "teamwork" schemes and look to the capitalist government to protect workers against worsening health and safety conditions. Immigrants and "foreign" companies are often blamed for the problems facing oil workers.

But deteriorating working conditions, along with the upcoming expiration of union contracts in oil refineries in February, 1993, have led to increased discussion among oil workers about how an effective fight can be waged.

Contracts in the coal mines organized by the United Mine Workers of America also expire in February, 1993.

Socialist oil workers at the meeting



One discussion at meeting of socialist oil workers was on working conditions for oil refinery workers. In past six years, 159 workers have died in refinery accidents.

pointed out that there is keen interest among coworkers in union struggles taking place today. Many OCAW members have followed the strikes at Caterpillar, Ravenswood Aluminum, and the *Pittsburgh Press*.

## Support for abortion rights

In Houston, socialist oil workers joined a serious discussion among coworkers about abortion rights as hundreds of working people and youth waged a victorious fight to defeat Operation Rescue's effort to close clinics during the Republican Party convention. Socialists reported that in the plants support for a woman's right to choose was widespread, and that the few vocal opponents of abortion rights were unwilling to say much.

Some OCAW members participated in the clinic defense, where they were well received by the young fighters there. A number of socialist OCAW members came to Houston early to participate in defending the clinics. A few were able to get union time off to join the fight.

Kuniansky reported that the OCAW planned to hold a series of regional women's conferences and a national conference in the coming months. More than 900 women members of the union sent in coupons expressing interest in these conferences. Women's committees are being set up in many locals.

Participants in the meeting took note of the wide space that exists for political debate on every question within the working class today. The Socialist Workers election campaign was pointed to as providing one of the best vehicles to join the political discussion. Socialist workers decided to push to set up house meetings, plant-gate campaign events, and speaking engagements before OCAW local meetings for socialist candidates.

An important side of the socialist campaign discussed at the meeting was the series of international trips taken by candidates to solidarize with workers fights around the world. Joel Britton, a member of the OCAW and the Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate from California, recently met with refinery workers in Japan.

Trips such as these are essential to better understand and explain that workers' conditions and experiences cut across national boundaries, and that workers need to collaborate and struggle together against capitalism in every country.

Participants in the meeting also decided to begin a drive to increase sales of single copies and subscriptions to the *Militant* newspaper on the job.

*Jim Altenberg is a member of OCAW Local 1-5 in Martinez, California.*

# Canada auto workers launch strike

BY DARLA WHITE  
AND SUSAN BERMAN

INGERSOLL, Ontario — On September 14, 2,100 members of Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) Local 88 went out on strike here at the CAMI auto assembly plant. The 3-year contract, which expired that day, was the first contract at this plant, which opened in 1989.

The workers are striking to match the wages, benefits, and working conditions with autoworkers at the Big Three (Ford, Chrysler, and General Motors).

CAMI, a joint venture by General Motors and Suzuki, produces Geo Metro subcompacts, Asuna Sunrunners, Suzuki Sidekicks, and other subcompacts and sports vehicles.

CAMI was touted as a symbol of co-operation between North American and Japanese automakers when it opened. This is the only non-North American owned auto assembly plant organized by the CAW.

Strikers explained that when they were recruited they were told this would be a new kind of management, where workers and the company would work together to solve problems and make things work. Each morning started with exercises for ten minutes (on workers' own time). At the end of the exercise session, everyone would yell "Yosh" ("go for it" in Japanese). Today a big banner stands at the picket line with an international "no" symbol through the word Yosh and "CAMI values... the big lie!"

Work was organized under the team concept with groups of workers taking responsibility for all the work in their section. If someone was absent, the rest of the team would simply have to cover his job.

Part of the "team" spirit included a contract at wages \$4 per hour below the Big Three autoworkers for the first 30 months, and \$1 per hour below in the final stage of the contract. Benefits and pensions fall about \$2 per hour short of other autoworkers' contracts. CAMI has the lowest wage and economic package of any auto assembly plant in North America. Susan Nicholson, CAMI spokesperson, said the CAW "is abandoning the foundations on which the CAMI investment was made" by fighting for wage parity.

Seniority is a big question in the strike. Workers can be laid off out of seniority for up to 30 days. Unlike the other CAW-organized auto plants, there are no job postings and job transfers are not done by seniority. Striker Al Glosnik explained, "they use job transfers like the carrot and the stick."

A CAMI spokesperson said the strike is a result of "growing pains." Glosnik and Karl Charron, another striker, explained, "the strike isn't the result of growing pains but the cracking of the whip... If we don't settle this now, we'll be screwed for life."

At an August 23 union meeting, 99 percent of the workers voted to strike if no offer meeting their demands was put forward. Negotiations have broken off. These workers are determined to stay out till they get a decent contract.

Many strikers explained that they had been excited about working at CAMI and the idea of being part of the CAMI "family." Now they feel stabbed in the back. Charron explained that part of workers taking responsibility for production meant that "management even goes around asking other workers who they think they should lay off." Injured workers were told that they shouldn't work in auto if they were hurt. Strikers described how the company would "lose" records of job injuries. There are currently 500 outstanding grievances.

Health benefits are also under attack. "Now they also want us to pay for some of our health-care benefits. Meanwhile the company went out and spent over \$100,000 on CAMI T-shirts for the workers as part of the whole 'Think CAMI' campaign," Glosnik said.

This strike is the second blow to General Motors over the last few weeks. Workers at the GM Lordstown parts facility in Ohio struck and pushed back company attempts to contract out 240 jobs. Business analysts say the strike at CAMI does not bode well for the contract negotiations at the Big Three next year.

Strikers seem confident. "We're out here for the long haul, and we'll be out here until they decide to change," Charron explained. Picket lines are up 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

*Susan Berman is a member of Canadian Auto Workers Local 303-A in Scarborough, Ontario.*

# Iowa meat-packers fight for better contract

BY MIKE GALATI

DUBUQUE, Iowa — Some 1,400 members of United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 150-A struck the FDL Foods Inc. meat-packing plant here September 1-3. Members of the local had voted to reject a tentative contract agreement reached earlier in the week by negotiators for the company and the union.

The agreement had called for wage increases of 25 cents an hour the first year and 15 cents an hour for each of the following two years.

The previous three-year contract signed in 1989 had provided a 20-cent-an-hour raise the first year and no wage increase for the past two years.

Union workers walked off the job at 6:00 pm, shutting down the second shift. While the union set up picket teams in front of the four entrances to the plant, about 60 workers gathered in a parking lot across the street from the plant, carrying signs and speaking to the press.

"The company makes it seem like we're making big money," said Wayne, a boner on the loin line with six and a half years in the plant. "But \$9.25 isn't a lot. I'm 25 years

old, I've got truck payments and insurance payments. With what's left, I can't even afford my own place to live. I still have to live with my parents."

FDL is partly owned by George A. Hormel and Co., and its products are currently marketed under the Hormel brand name.

"What we're fighting for is what they get at Hormel," said John, a kill floor worker. "We're doing Hormel work for \$9.25 an hour while they get paid \$11.15. We deserve the same pay because we do the same work. FDL is offering us a 55 cent raise over three years."

Support for the strikers among other unionists was immediately evident. The first night of the walkout a contingent of UFCW members from Local 1540 at the FDL plant in Rochelle, Illinois, came to the picket line to show their support. They had voted to accept the same contract that the Dubuque workers had rejected the week before.

Members of Operating Engineers Local 758, who organize the mechanics in the FDL plant, and members of Teamsters Local 421, who organize the laundry workers, agreed not to cross the UFCW picket line.

On September 3 members of UFCW Local 150-A voted 770-386 to accept a

slightly modified contract offer by FDL and return to work. The new contract contained the same wage proposals by the company as the previous offer rejected five days before. It contained some minor improvements in insurance costs and company payments to a retirement benefit plan.

FDL management had threatened to break off negotiations and cancel medical insurance coverage for all the strikers if they did not vote to approve the new offer.

Following the vote Bruce, a worker on the cut floor for more than ten years, said in an interview that many of the older workers were scared by the company's threats, but that in general the younger workers wanted to stay out longer. He added, "I think that if we could have stayed out longer we could have gotten more money from the company. Business right now is good. Just being out two days was already starting to hurt them. We could've gotten more."

*Mike Galati is a meat-packer at the Monfort packing plant in Marshalltown, Iowa, and a member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 50N.*

# Workers resist attacks of coal bosses

BY LINDA JOYCE

LOGAN, West Virginia — Coalfield bosses are trying to deal blows to miners in the coalfields of southern West Virginia as they gear up for contract negotiations. The Bituminous Coal Operators' Association (BCOA) contract expires February 1, 1993, and the coal barons want to deepen their attacks on the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) by targeting health care benefits and safety regulations. They are trying to impose speed-up, change work rules, cut hours, and in many cases, bust the union.

Coal miners are resisting these attacks. In Logan County, miners explained the skirmishes that are breaking out. At Arch Minerals' Ruffner mine near Rum Creek, two people were fired for refusing mandatory overtime and one for punching a foreman who repeatedly harassed the 57-year-old miner as he was seeking medical attention at a local hospital for a work injury. The miners walked out over the firings August

10-14, refusing a back-to-work order until federal marshals were brought in. The workers got suspensions instead of firings.

One miner with 26 years experience, a member of UMWA Local 5898, explained that at Ruffner, hours have been cut back to 7-and-a-quarter hours instead of 8. He said that the bosses are trying to cut corners and get miners to work through lunch.

At the nearby Elkay mine, a Pittston mine that is almost mined out, a miner said the bosses are issuing safety violation warnings to workers in cases where they never have before. "It's a form of harassment," he said, "and since we're about to shut down, people are hesitant to respond."

Federal marshals have been brought in at Island Creek mine to escort trucks in and out in a dispute over nonunion truck drivers. This fight remains unresolved.

At the Chaffin mine near Man, UMWA Local 9553 has been on selective strike for about four months.

The miners on the picket line explained

that the owners, the Chaffins, have steadily replaced union miners with nonunion contract workers over the last five years. They are changing the mine's name, as many mine owners do in a paper shuffle to avoid honoring union contracts. Now the mine is completely nonunion.

The miners were not hopeful that their limited picketing would do any good. As scabs drove in and out, one miner who did not want to be identified commented, "Selective strikes will never work because the union is based on united we stand, divided we fall." Another miner showed how company thug Jimmy Brown had shot at the pickets, six times with a pistol and twice with a rifle.

## State troopers' role in disputes

The pickets also explained a federal court decision this summer allowing state troopers to intervene in labor disputes. Previously in West Virginia, troopers were supposed to remain "neutral." But a 4th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that a clause in the state's trespass laws saying state troopers remain neutral during a work action violated the constitutional rights of Rum Creek Coal Company, a subsidiary of A.T. Massey, to withstand a strike. The ruling also struck down a portion of the state code that suspended trespass laws during a labor dispute.

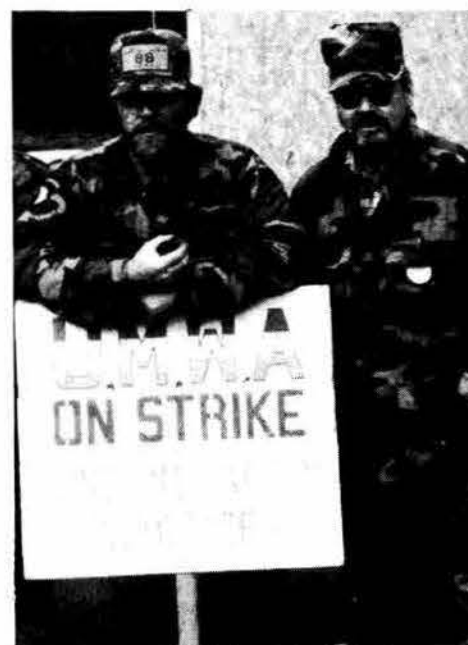
The combined effect of the ruling is that company owners will be able to have state troopers remove pickets from company property. Given the extent that these companies have bought up the land in West Virginia, the miners pointed out, this would make picketing impossible. "The government should stay out of it," concluded one miner.

A 19-year-old supporter of the miners was also on the picket line. He said that he and his friends would like to help the miners shut the mine down. "Given half the chance," he said, "young people would fight."

Several groups of miners and their friends were having coffee and discussions at a local restaurant in nearby Chapmanville. For hours they discussed the layoffs, cutbacks, forced overtime, and other attacks on the union.

Many miners said the bosses will try to gut health care benefits. As one Pittston miner put it, "The [government's] health care bail-out covers people already retired, and may only be a temporary solution to a long term problem. It doesn't say anything about working miners."

The changes in the law regarding mine ventilation rules "are like a gun to our head. They take the responsibility off upper man-



Militant/Steve Marshall

Through an 11-month struggle in 1989-90, some 1,700 miners beat back Pittston Coal's union-busting drive. With BCOA contract expiration looming, coal bosses are on the prod against miners.

agement so that they can say we killed ourselves," said another.

Most said that conditions are perilous in the mines, and getting worse. The Pittston miner continued, "Our continuous miner is running 24 hours a day, 7 days a week except for 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Sundays. There is virtually no preventative maintenance being done. They are also making safety a condition of employment. If you get hurt four or five times — you're out."

UMWA Local 633, at the Eagle Nest mine in Van, West Virginia, went out on a wildcat strike on the midnight shift September 13. The bosses are requiring miners to run continuous miners, roof bolters, scoops, and shuttle cars to qualify for certain jobs.

"We're fed up," said Libby Lindsay, a roof bolter who has worked at the Beth Energy mine for 17 years. "It amounts to job combination and favoritism, and gives up seniority and job bidding rights."

The company announced that the mine was "idled" until further notice. The company announced September 16 it was laying off 159 miners and that unless the miners ended their strike they would not receive unemployment benefits. The miners voted to officially end the strike. This leaves 13 miners still working and the future uncertain.

## Socialists campaign at miners' Labor Day rally

BY LINDA JOYCE

RACINE, West Virginia — About 800 people attended the 54th annual Labor Day Celebration here in southern West Virginia. Under a searing sun, miners, pensioners, and their friends and families listened to country music and to speeches by union officials and politicians.

Richard Trumka, United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) international president, stood on the stage with U.S. Senator Jay Rockefeller and West Virginia governor Gaston Caperton. He lauded their help in getting a health-care bail-out package for UMWA retirees.

Cody Dickens, a 75 year-old retired miner who is a member of UMWA Local 6608 and who worked 46 years underground, said in an interview that he remembered when he earned 16 cents for mining a ton of coal in 1931. Referring to the attacks on retirees' health care, he said, "If there's not something done, they'll take it all away."

Although the speeches focused on the health-care bill, there was a lot of informal discussion among the miners on the increasing attacks on health and safety for working miners, speed-up, layoffs and mine closings.

One miner, who has been laid off since 1986 from U.S. Steel mine #43 in Boone County, is now working in a nonunion mine in Mingo County. "I'll tell you this," he said, "You go into work — you don't open your mouth — and you go back in the next day. They hire and fire every day of the week." He explained that he now works for lower wages than he did as a union miner, with no job classification, and inferior working conditions. "There's no chance to fight back," he added, "They'd shut it down before they'd see it organized."

About a dozen steelworkers, members of United Steelworkers of America Local 5668, who won their jobs back last June after being locked out for 20 months at

Ravenswood Aluminum Corporation, came down from Ravenswood, West Virginia, to the Labor Day event. They came to support the miners, said Janice and Richard Brown, "Because the miners were one of our biggest supporters. A lot of our relatives were coal miners — we'll do anything they want to help them."

One miner, a woman who has driven a coal truck for six years at Hobet Mine in Boone County, said that there was a three-day walkout at that mine last spring over work rule changes. "The boss backed off after that," she said. She decried the fact that many contracts in the coalfields have different expiration dates. "We've got to go back to when there was one contract for all."

Bernie Senter, Socialist Workers candidate for governor of West Virginia, and a member of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union, and Jeanne FitzMaurice, a laid-off miner and SWP candidate for House of Delegates, Monongahela County, campaigned from a table of supporters of the socialist alternative. They sold a dozen copies of the *Militant* and passed out a statement linking the attacks on coal miners to the overall war drive on the part of the U.S. government and the employers.

The statement reads in part, "The UMWA has played a vanguard role in resisting the decade-long assault by the employing class on our living standards and working conditions. They have been a model to striking auto workers in Lordstown, Ohio, Pittsburgh Press workers, and Ravenswoods steelworkers. As miners face the expiration of the BCOA (Bituminous Coal Operators Association) contract next year, the coal operators have been on the prod... As miners have shown in the past, our livelihood is determined by what can be wrested from the employing class through struggle and international solidarity. The Socialist Workers campaign advances demands on the government that defend the interests of all working people."



Militant/Tom Nichols

Jeanne FitzMaurice, socialist candidate for West Virginia House of Delegates, campaigns at a Chaffin mine strike rally in September.

## Alabama Steelworkers reject company contract proposal

BY RAÚL GONZALEZ

BESSEMER, Alabama — Members of United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 9226 voted unanimously to reject a contract offer made by Trinity Industries September 18 and strike its plant here. Trinity is the nation's largest producer of railcars. Some 800 workers are members of the USWA at the plant.

"Medical insurance, pay, seniority and the pension plan are the main issues," said Donald, a paint department worker. The bulk of Trinity workers make less than \$10 an hour. Medical insurance for workers with families can cost up to \$53 a week.

"They offered us an upgrade on that," said Darryl Turner, a shipping track worker. "It's not too bad for a single person, but you have to pay about \$1,600 out-of-pocket before it really kicks in."

"The company said they were sympathetic to the high cost of insurance," Turner added, "so they offered us all a 10 cent across-the-board raise along with a two percent wage increase for each year of a three-year contract. This is less than a dollar altogether."

Trinity also demanded the elimination of plant-wide seniority, and the loss of overtime after eight hours.

"They're forcing us to strike," said Art, "We've no choice but to fight them so that's what we'll do."

Many workers had wanted to get parity with the pay and conditions of Trinity work-

ers at the company's plant in Greenville, Pennsylvania, which is organized by the United Auto Workers union. "It might be they think they can pay us less because this is the South," said Sam, a machine operator, "But we won't let them get away with that."

In the mid 1980s the Pullman Railcar Co. closed its plants and sold them to Trinity Industries, which reopened them as non-union plants. In 1988 after a militant six-week strike the Bessemer plant workers won union recognition and a four-year contract. Trinity controls 50 percent of the railcar market in the United States. It has a barge building and a steel division with plants across the country.

"They say they have no money and might have to close the plant," said Turner. "We've heard that before, they have the money. And whether they close the plant or not doesn't depend on how much they pay us. Trying to scare us with that won't work. If they close it I'll survive, but to work it they have to pay us decent. I think I speak for most of us when I say that."

Pickets went up at midnight September 19, as company guards locked the gate. The company said they did not want any hourly employees to try to cross the picket line for now so as to avoid "trouble."

Raúl Gonzalez is a member of USWA Local 9226 at Trinity Industries. He is the Socialist Workers candidate for Alabama Public Service Commissioner.

# James Warren speaks on Grenada radio

## Socialist candidate discusses Third World debt, lessons of Grenada revolution

BY JOHN COX

James Warren, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. president, recently concluded a two-week tour of the Caribbean that took him to Barbados, Grenada, Trinidad, and Curaçao. In addition to the public speaking engagements and meetings Warren had with leaders of various trade unions and other working-class and political organizations, his tour got considerable attention in the major press in each of these countries.

An example of the interest in the ideas presented by the campaign was a live interview with Warren on a program called "To the Point" on KBC radio in Grenada. After being introduced, Warren explained some of the ideas he has been campaigning on, focusing on the massive foreign debt that has been imposed on the semicolonial and semi-industrialized nations of the world.

"The most economically advanced countries use their economic strength to dominate the world market," Warren explained. Through this domination they set low prices for raw materials and agricultural goods coming from the Third World countries. They set the price for the goods coming from the developed countries into the underdeveloped countries very high. It's out-and-out robbery.

"As a result of this setup they force Third World countries into debt," he commented. "Once the debt reaches a certain point, they begin to lend Third World countries money; not for development, not for advancing the needs of society as a whole, but money to pay interest on the debt they owe to the largest and most powerful lending institutions in the world.

### 'Cancel the debt'

"It's a form of loan-sharkism; what the Mafia does illegally, they do legally, openly, and aboveboard. And it's one of the most nefarious forms of intervention, resulting in billions of dollars from the underdeveloped world being stolen from these countries where people are hungry, where people are poor, where people work hard and produce goods that are used in the developed countries of the world. These resources go directly into the accounts of the major lending institutions, into the major banks in the imperialist centers.

"We consider it robbery," the socialist candidate said. "If I were elected president, the first step I would take would be to simply cancel every debt of every Third World country in the world that's owed to the United States. These are ill-gotten gains of the rich countries which use their domination of the world economy against the people of the world.

"I'm sure that such a decision would get popular support among the vast majority of humanity, including among working people in the U.S., especially working people on the land who have suffered debts similar to the debts of the Third World," he concluded.

Following Warren's comments, the show was opened up to questions and remarks from listeners. The first caller stated, "These debts are not just going to go away, they are going to return." He asked, "How can you expect to do what you just announced?"

Warren replied, "Only a socialist party could propose what I'm proposing. The fact is the debt can be canceled and Third World countries can find themselves right back in debt again if the world order is allowed to stay the way it is. We begin by canceling the debt; then we have to dismantle this loan-sharking operation being carried out against the majority of humanity."

Warren added that those who benefit from the superexploitation of the semi-colonial world "will not voluntarily surrender these resources. They're the ones who will think it's 'unrealistic.' The interests of the vast majority of humanity and the interests of the tiny minority that benefits from the market system of exploitation of humanity cannot be reconciled."

The U.S. socialist explained that, in the context of the current depression of the world market system, the imperialist nations will try to intensify this exploitation, using agencies like the International Monetary Fund (IMF). "They're not going to give anything to anyone except arms, bombs, and ammunition to prevent those who want to change society and change the relationship



Militant/Arnold Weissberg  
Maurice Bishop, prime minister in Grenada's revolutionary government. "Maurice Bishop was a representative of the future of humanity," said Warren.

of their countries to the world from doing so. That's the aid they give," he said.

"They will train troops, they will train police to put down rebellions and fights of working people in these countries. They will not give any aid on the level of social development, the kind of aid that would allow these countries to meet the needs of the people.

"It's for this reason that our perspective, demanding that this debt be canceled, is the only realistic perspective," Warren added. Some people, he said, argue that those who advocate cancellation of the Third World debt are impractical. "We're the ones who are the most practical of all," he responded. "What's impractical is to think that you can go begging to these people to get them to take some kind of different attitude. We look to them for nothing, and we look to the mass of humanity to begin to move into political activity and fight to change this world."

The moderator of the program said that socialism might sound like a good idea, but the experience of the Grenadian revolution had led many people to be suspicious of it.

In 1979 the New Jewel Movement (NJM), whose central leader was Maurice Bishop, led a revolution in Grenada that overthrew the corrupt dictatorship of Eric Gairy and established a workers' and farmers' government. The Bishop leadership charted a course of mobilizing working people to gain political experience, consciousness, and confidence in their own capacity to govern. In October 1983 a faction within the NJM leadership organized by Bernard Coard overthrew the revolutionary government, murdered Bishop and other leaders of the revolution, and imposed a reign of terror on the population. These actions dealt a death blow to the revolution, giving the United States government the opening it sought to invade Grenada a few days later.

"Down here in Grenada we had an awful experience," the moderator said. "On paper it looked wonderful, but some people got greedy under even that system that promised so much. . . . People here are just not prepared to go through that again and face the risk of more greedy people coming in and making things even worse for us. What do you say to that?"

Warren responded by characterizing the Coard group as Stalinist, which distinguished it sharply from the revolutionary Bishop leadership. "I think it's important to recognize the fact that the Coardites in Grenada are no different than the Stalinists in the Soviet Union. And they played the same role, they did the same thing. They are Stalinists; not communists, not socialists.

"They represented the opposite of socialism," Warren pointed out. "Maurice Bishop was a representative of the future of humanity and these Coardites are representatives of the negation of what Bishop represented. In reality they should never have been a part of any sort of party associated with Maurice Bishop.

"You will never find anything that Maurice Bishop ever wrote or said that would justify turning your arms on ordinary working men or women," Warren continued. When the Coard gang seized power and imprisoned Bishop, 30,000 Grenadians

poured into the streets to demand the reinstatement of the revolutionary government. The Coard regime violently suppressed the demonstration and killed Bishop.

"You won't find anything in what Bishop said or did that would justify any idea that some little committee calling itself the Central Committee was a higher authority than the vast majority of the Grenadian people. Bishop rejected this, and because of that he was put under house arrest and assassinated. I don't agree with the idea of banning newspapers, arresting people for their ideas because they are not convinced of the need for socialism. You can't hold Maurice Bishop responsible for the faction that overthrew the revolution, Warren concluded.

In response to another caller, who referred to the socialist presidential candidate as a "wolf in sheep's clothing," Warren further explained the differences between genuine communism and Stalinism.

### Communism versus Stalinism

As communists, he said, "We say everything we think openly and above board. We've spent time in jail for doing so, we've been murdered for doing so — not only by the capitalists but by the Stalinists. The main victims of the Stalinists in the world have not been people who are for capitalism. The main victims of the Stalinists in the world have been people like myself who are communists, who are convinced that we can have a socialist future."

The next person who called in to the radio show asked about the role of Blacks in politics in the United States. A large majority of Grenada's 90,000 people are Black, and there is a strong identification with the struggle of Blacks in the United States.

"Black people are class-divided in the U.S.," Warren said. "There are two Black Americas. One is the America that the Black politicians represent. They represent, not the interests of Black people as a whole, but the interests of Black middle-class people in the country.

"If you take a look at the developments in Los Angeles, you will see two things at the same time," he pointed out. "On the one hand, you will see youths who are Black who took to the streets in riots, the only form of rebellion open to them against the lack of justice in the Los Angeles court system.

"On the other hand, representatives of the government, of the powers that be — the prosecutor in the case, the mayor, the majority of the city council, a big percentage of the state legislature in California — are actually Black and Latino."

"What do you think of [Louis] Farrakhan?," another caller asked, referring to the leader of the Nation of Islam.

Warren answered that he considered Farrakhan "a businessman with a following. . . . I think Farrakhan is a representative of the aspirations of a middle-class layer of Blacks in U.S. society. His economic perspective is that Blacks can have some kind of economic independence in the framework of that society. I don't accept this.

"I think that American capitalism is way beyond any idea of small entrepreneurs moving in the direction of becoming billionaires like Ross Perot," the socialist candidate explained. "American capitalism has degenerated way beyond that point. He [Farrakhan] looks at Black people in the U.S. and he sees consumers and possible businessmen.

"I look at Black people in the U.S. and I see a working class that is strategically placed in the most important industries in the country. On the economic level we have the capacity to bring this country to its knees if we use that economic might. The real economic strength of Blacks in the U.S. is their place as workers, not as consumers and not as businesspeople."

Farrakhan's procapitalist perspective and the working-class course advocated by the socialist campaign "look to two different classes in U.S. society. In that sense, I'm in much more agreement with Malcolm X than with Farrakhan," Warren said, referring to the U.S.-born revolutionary-internationalist leader.

## Warren meets Curaçao unionists



Militant/Brian Williams  
Socialist Workers presidential candidate James Warren (right) greeting Randolph Gijsbertha, president of the Petroleum Workers Federation of Curaçao (PWFC), at the union's offices in Willemstad, Curaçao, September 5. Following their meeting Gijsbertha took Warren on a drive-through tour of the oil refinery. Some 2,700 workers — 1,500 in the union and 1,200 contract workers — are employed at the giant state-owned refinery, which was originally the property of Royal Dutch/Shell. It is currently leased by Venezuela's state oil company. Warren visited Curaçao as part of a four-nation campaign tour of the Caribbean with other stops in Barbados, Grenada, and Trinidad.

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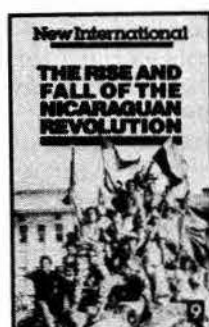
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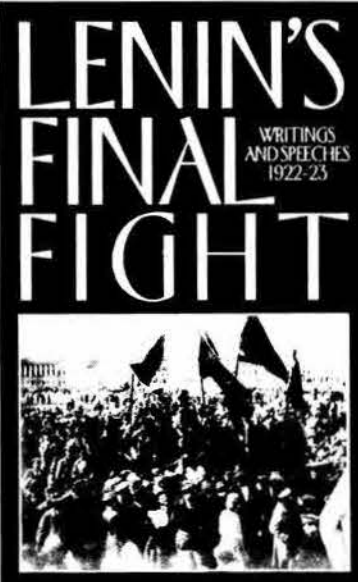


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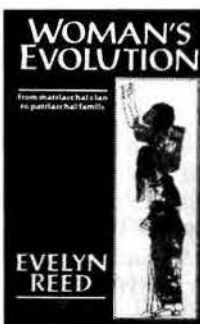
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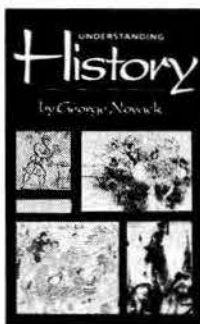
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# Will intervention stop Yugoslav slaughter?

## Why military moves by Washington and European powers should be opposed

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

As the death toll of civilians in Bosnia-Herzegovina continues to mount, calls for outside military intervention, ostensibly to end the slaughter, are also growing. These include calls by organizations that claim to speak in the interests of working people.

The AFL-CIO sponsored a rally on August 26 in front of the Yugoslav embassy in Washington, D.C. Top union officials backed proposals by Democratic presidential contender Bill Clinton for U.S. intervention in Yugoslavia. "Do we have to wait for another Hitler to resurface before we do anything to help these people?" asked William Bywater, International Union of Electronic Workers (IUE) president, in a press release commenting on the rally.

In a center-spread feature in the August 12-19 issue of the *Guardian*, a weekly newspaper published in New York, Jill Benderly and Evan Kraft argue that the "world" must intervene militarily in Bosnia to put an end to the slaughter.

Whatever their intentions — whether outright support for the bipartisan foreign-policy goals of the U.S. capitalist class, or confusion over how to stop the devastation working people face in former Yugoslavia — these forces end up calling on the same government that acts for a handful of wealthy families who rule this country to intervene to "save" working people in the Balkans.

But history has proven that military intervention by Washington or other imperialist powers anywhere in the world wreaks havoc on workers and farmers. Arguments like those presented by the *Guardian* authors go in the opposite direction of the only way working people can advance: by organizing themselves as a class to act in defense of the interests of the toiling majority of humanity.

Following a reporting visit for the *Militant* to Belgrade, Zagreb, Split, Dubrovnik, and Sarajevo in July, this reporter spoke at public forums on the Yugoslav War in Montreal, New York, and Philadelphia. From the audience each time questions were raised similar to those posed in the *Guardian* article.

### Should the 'world' intervene?

Is it true that continued slaughter and imperialist military intervention are the only alternatives working people in the former Yugoslavia face? Is there a "world" or an "international community" that can act in the interests of the people of Bosnia? Is the United Nations an "international peace-keeping organization"? What is the cause of the strife in Yugoslavia? What can working people there do, if anything, to affect the course of events?

These questions are on the minds of working people in the United States and throughout the world, as they continue to watch on TV stark pictures of violence against fellow workers of all nationalities in Bosnia.

"The brutal and muddled war," write

Kraft and Benderly, "has led many progressives, including ourselves, to feel for the first time ever a strong desire to see the world intercede militarily — to stop the murder in Bosnia." They express hope that "the United Nations, the European Community, and Washington will heed Bosnian pleas for military assistance."

First of all, there is no such thing as "the world" that can intervene in Bosnia; there are specific governments that defend particular class interests. In the capitalist countries of North America, Europe, and much of the rest of the world, the capitalist class owns the mines, mills, factories, banks, and most of the land and wields political power over the state to defend those class interests and property relations. The world is further divided into a handful of imperialist countries whose ruling classes dominate and superexploit the overwhelming majority of the rest of humanity in the semicolonial world.

It is these imperialist powers — the *Guardian* names one, Washington — that are debating the merits of direct military intervention, organized and led by them, in Bosnia-Herzegovina, not some classless "world." The governments of the United States, Britain, France, Italy, Germany, and Japan have a long history of using their massive armed forces against the struggles of working people the world over.

The U.S. invasions of Panama (1989-90) and Grenada (1983), London's war against Argentina to maintain its colonization of the Malvinas Islands (1982), and the 1991 U.S.-led war against the people of Iraq are simply the more recent examples.

### The United Nations

Many see the United Nations as something distinct from the imperialist powers that control it. But contrary to Benderly and Kraft's implication, the UN has never been a mechanism, effective or otherwise, for the maintenance of international peace and security.

The UN was established on the terms of the victors in the most bloody and destructive interimperialist war the world has seen, World War II. The Allied capitalist regimes of the United States, Britain, and France had emerged supreme over the Axis governments of Germany, Japan, and Italy.

In that war, despite the reactionary course of the Stalinist regime in Moscow, also part of the Allied military coalition, the workers and farmers of the Soviet Union — at the cost of ten of millions of lives — had succeeded in turning back the onslaught of German imperialism aimed at subjugating them once again to direct capitalist exploitation.

As the Allied powers neared victory in April 1945, the UN was set up to give a stamp of legitimacy to the postwar international status quo. U.S. president Franklin Roosevelt, British prime minister Winston Churchill, and Soviet premier Joseph Stalin



Nurse whose leg was blown off during Serbian shelling of bread line in Sarajevo. War is being waged by rival bureaucratic gangs against the interests of working people.

met in Yalta in the Soviet Union to divide up the world into spheres of influence. Behind closed doors the national self-determination of peoples and countries and the interests of workers and farmers the world over were trampled into the dust.

These three governments were the true "United Nations" at its birth. Their mutual veto privileges in the Security Council established a framework in which they could continue to advance their common interests, while blocking each other where their interests diverged. Subsequently the initial Big Three were expanded to a Big Five, including the governments of France and China.

At the opening of the 1950s Washington organized the massive invasion of Korea under the blue flag of the UN. Imperialist troops fought the entire 1950-53 Korean War with a Security Council mandate, with the result that the forcible division of the Korean peninsula against the will of the big majority of its people was extended and reinforced. U.S. troops, stationed along the border that divides Korea today, still fly the UN flag.

In 1960 UN forces were complicit in the assassination of Patrice Lumumba, prime minister of the African country of the Congo (now Zaire), who had led that country's independence struggle from Belgium. Faced with a secessionist movement organized by the former Belgian rulers, Lumumba himself appealed to the UN to send a peacekeeping force to help defend the newly-established independent government.

Washington voted for Lumumba's request for UN troops in the Security Council, as did the four other permanent members. At the very same time, according to a 1975 U.S. Senate report, the CIA was plotting Lumumba's assassination as "an urgent and prime objective," in the words of then CIA director Allen Dulles. The Senate report accepted as a "reasonable inference" that the order to kill the Congolese leader came directly from President Dwight Eisenhower.

Many of the UN-sponsored troops were supplied by the government of Sweden, an imperialist regime that was often touted as "neutralist" and "pro-Third World." When they arrived in the Congo, the UN troops refused to take any action against the local rightist forces. Instead they disarmed Lumumba's troops and stood by while his government was ousted by the Belgian- and U.S.-sponsored forces, and while Lumumba himself — who had come to symbolize the anticolonial fight to millions in Africa and around the world — was murdered in cold blood.

### Parallel with war against Iraq

Washington's war against the people of Iraq was the largest military operation to take place with UN Security Council endorsement since the Korean War.

Recalling the U.S.-led war against Iraq, the *Guardian* authors acknowledge that the prospect of a similar intervention in Yugo-

slavia "stirs fears of another nasty bombing mission and botched political aftermath sponsored by the global rent-a-cop."

But they continue: "To us, international intervention, with all the geopolitical implications it brings, is preferable to standing by indifferently as villages are destroyed, civilians killed by land mines and shoppers gunned down trying to buy the few groceries available to them."

What are the "geopolitical implications"? Leaving aside the muddleheadedness expressed in such terms, what in fact were the implications — or, better, the consequences — of the U.S.-led war against Iraq?

As many as 150,000 human beings were slaughtered. In February 1991, as Iraqi soldiers and civilians were fleeing from Kuwait City to Basra, the U.S.-led forces closed the highway at both ends and simply kept bombing and shelling every person, jeep, truck, car, and bicycle. The carnage on the road to Basra ranks among the worst atrocities of modern warfare.

When, later on, hundreds of thousands of Kurdish people were forced to flee Saddam Hussein's terror in northern Iraq, neither Washington nor other imperialist governments opened their borders to Kurdish refugees. Thousands of Iraqi working people, including many children, have lost their lives because of the two-year-long embargo imposed on Iraq with UN camouflage. This is what George Bush and Bill Clinton are preparing to repeat in Iraq with the imposition of the "no-fly zone" south of the 32nd parallel.

The "European Community" that the *Guardian* authors also place hopes in took an active part in the Iraqi massacre.

### Interimperialist competition

The rival imperialist powers of North America and Europe are seeking ways to intervene in the Yugoslav war and place their stamp on the outcome of events. They are driven to do this by increased conflicts among themselves in the context of a world capitalist economy marked by declining profit rates and stiffening competition for markets for commodities and capital.

The ruling families of the United States, Germany, Britain, and France are contemplating military intervention in Bosnia not to stop atrocities in prison camps or the continued bombardment of Sarajevo, Gorazde, and other Bosnian cities. Their hearts go out only to cold cash, not human misery.

Washington is considering intervention to stem its imperialist rivals in Europe from getting a firmer economic foothold in former Yugoslavia. In fact, the U.S. government initially sought to avert the break up of Yugoslavia to avoid instability that it feared would work to the advantage of its rivals. Washington worries that the U.S.-dominated NATO might lose its ability to call all the shots over military matters in Europe to one or another institution domi-



U.S. military intervention against Iraq resulted in as many as 150,000 people slaughtered. Two-year-long embargo against Iraq has cost thousands more lives.

nated by Bonn and Paris.

Particular imperialist governments have forged links to the Croatian regime of President Franjo Tudjman, others to Serbian president Slobodan Milosevic. German capital, for example, has developed a bigger stake in Croatia than other former republics of Yugoslavia. Only after Bonn got its foot in the door by open support to the Croatian regime did Washington recognize Bosnia-Herzegovina as an independent state and begin talking about intervention.

The hypocrisy of the imperialist governments' professed humanitarian concerns is most glaring in their stance towards the millions of refugees fleeing the carnage. London has expelled refugees seeking asylum, while Paris and Washington have allowed in only a few hundred.

#### A "sensible" intervention?

"The kind of intervention that seems most sensible would be to arm the Bosnians against the Serbs," says the *Guardian* article. "At the moment the across-the-board arms embargo on the region—though porous—gives the already well-stocked Yugoslav army a tremendous advantage."

The people of Sarajevo and other Bosnian towns who are defending themselves against "ethnic cleansing," have the right to get weapons wherever they can. The labor movement in the United States and elsewhere should oppose the arms embargo, as well as the inhuman economic sanctions imposed on the people of Serbia and Montenegro.

But that is a different story from calling on the U.S. ruling class to "arm the Bosnians." The *Guardian* authors turn their eyes, once again, toward the very same class that is responsible for the oppression and exploitation of working people not only in Yugoslavia, but around the world.

More than 45 years ago, the Yugoslav workers and peasants led a successful revolution to get land, democratic rights, and better social conditions. In the process they forged working-class unity that cut across ethnic and religious lines. They did so in a mighty struggle—led by an armed movement called the Partisans—against the

local landlords and capitalists, as well as the imperialist powers of Europe and the United States.

Following the victory, however, the Stalinist misleadership of Joseph Tito and other leaders of the League of Yugoslav Communists (the dominant political force in the Partisans) blocked progress in consolidating the steps toward overcoming national inequality and organizing working people to advance toward socialism.

This bureaucratic, petty bourgeois social layer, whose privileges were once defended by the Yugoslav Communist Party, is now fragmented into conflicting groups based in Belgrade, Ljubljana, Zagreb, Sarajevo, and Skopje.

Milosevic, Tudjman, Bosnian president Alija Izetbegovich and the rest, all come from the now-defunct apparatus of the former ruling League of Yugoslav Communists. Now they are ganging up with would-be capitalists to grab as big a portion of the loot as they can in a mafia-type war to protect and enlarge their own turf. In the process, they resort to nationalist demagoguery to pit working people against each other. (For an analysis of the 1945 Yugoslav revolution, its accomplishments, and its degeneration, see "Behind Belgrade's carnage in Yugoslavia," in the *International Socialist Review*, published as a supplement to the August 14 issue of the *Militant*. You can order a copy from the *Militant* for \$1.50.)

In their successful struggle to overthrow capitalism and establish a workers' and farmers' government, Yugoslav toilers fought against imperialist powers like Germany, Britain, and France, which had dominated the country, much like a colony, prior to World War II. Following the war, with the aid of Moscow, Washington and London successfully blocked the victory of a workers' and farmers' regime in neighboring Greece, but were not strong enough to force back the revolution in Yugoslavia.

Yet these are the same capitalist powers that the *Guardian* authors are calling upon to rescue working people in Bosnia today.

#### Way forward for working people

The last thing the people of Yugoslavia need is imperialist military intervention or economic sanctions.



Students demonstrate against Milosevic regime in Belgrade. Working people and youth throughout Yugoslavia have shown through many actions their opposition to the war.

From the beginning of the bloody war, more than a year ago, layers of the working class in Yugoslavia have shown by their own actions the potential they possess to resist the slaughter and the horrors of "ethnic cleansing."

Hundreds of thousands of students and workers have protested against the war in Belgrade. Thousands of young people have refused to fight in the "Yugoslav" army against fellow working people in Slovenia, Croatia, and Bosnia.

Mothers of soldiers from Serbia organized joint demonstrations with their Croatian counterparts in Zagreb demanding their sons be brought back from Slovenia.

Some of the biggest antiwar demonstrations took place in Sarajevo last March, before the siege of the city began. Since then, large numbers of Sarajevo citizens of Serbian and Croatian origin have fought alongside their Muslim brothers and sisters against the rightist gangs of the Serbian Democratic Party that are indiscriminately bombing the city.

Will working people in Yugoslavia be able to replace the rival gangs in power with their own government and put an end to the war? That depends above all on progress toward forging a working-class leadership with a clear political perspective. Reliance on their own independent organization—not on any wing of the caste, nor any capitalist government—is

the only road forward. Working people in Yugoslavia need time and the freedom to put different leaderships and perspectives to the test.

In their fight to end the onslaught, they do need and deserve international solidarity. Calls for imperialist military intervention by forces linked to the labor movement in the United States are a blow not only against workers in the Balkans but weaken the working class and the labor movement in this country as well.

Instead, working people and the unions in the United States and the world over should demand:

End all plans for military intervention in Bosnia!

Lift economic sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro, as well as the arms embargo against all the former Yugoslav republics!

Send massive food and medical aid to the besieged people of Sarajevo and other Bosnian towns!

Open the U.S. and other imperialist borders to the refugees from the Yugoslav carnage!

## Communist League in Sweden says: 'asylum for Yugoslav refugees!'

BY JOHN COX

The Communist League in Sweden is circulating a statement that focuses on the demand that the Swedish government grant asylum to refugees fleeing the war in the former Yugoslavia. The statement also denounces the threats of military intervention in Yugoslavia by the United States and other imperialist nations, including Sweden itself.

The Swedish government recently deported 25,000 Albanians who had fled the Kosovo region of Serbia. The communists' statement points out that "Kosovo is an occupied province today, with tanks in the streets and the Albanians living under apartheid-like conditions."

"The Swedish rulers are trying to hide this behind a raging campaign against refugees, and against Albanians from Kosovo especially," the Communist League statement further explains, adding that this campaign has been promoted by top government officials and the social-democratic leaders of the trade unions.

"This campaign gives force to the far right in the form of anti-immigrant groups and terrorists," says the statement. For example, encouraged by the increasing restrictions the Swedish government is placing on the right to asylum, a mob of rightists recently attacked a refugee camp in the city of Solna.

The Communist League statement exposes the hypocrisy of the imperialist war makers, who justify their moves toward military intervention into Yugoslavia with "humanitarian" rhetoric, professing concern for the victims of the war. But the reality is that,

from the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, to the massacre of Iraqi soldiers and civilians fleeing Kuwait City for Basra last year, the imperialist governments "all have blood on their hands."

The statement explains that the rulers of the United States, Britain, and France are motivated primarily by their desire to "gain greater political influence and initiative in the area and to limit the influence of their competitors, above all that of Germany," an interest that is shared by Swedish imperialism. The Swedish government "will have a central role in the coming war effort in the former Yugoslavia" by virtue of its chairmanship, beginning in December, of the European Security Conference. "No wonder the government is trying to establish a new law which gives them the legal right to send 3,000 troops upon request of any international organizations of which Sweden is a member without having to ask parliament."

The statement continues, "The representatives of the imperialist powers show horror and disgust over 'ethnic violence' in former Yugoslavia. These are the same imperialist powers who during the last century have tried to rule and control the world by whipping up nationalism, racism and other prejudices to weaken the struggle of workers and other oppressed peoples for a more decent life."

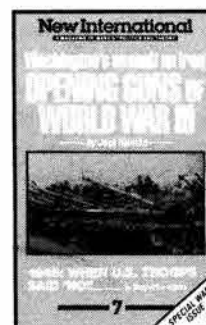
The Communist League statement also describes the source of the conflict: "The war in Yugoslavia is a civil war against the civilian population organized by the privileged and corrupt bureaucrats who have seized power in the different regions." The

bureaucracies of the various republics, which have their origin in the Stalinist bureaucracy that ruled Yugoslavia when it was a united country, "have developed into groups resembling the mafia, fighting over the crumbling surplus" produced by Yugoslavia's working people. "It is in these gangsters' interest to terrorize the workers in order to cling on to power and block new popular mobilizations—an interest they have in common with the imperialist powers."

The statement notes that in Yugoslavia "there is an opposition against the war among working people of all nationalities. Many have united in an attempt to end the war, from mass desertions when [Serbian president Slobodan] Milosevic tried to mobilize the old federal army, to mass demonstrations of as many as 100,000 people in Belgrade demanding an end to the war. These actions show the way forward for the toilers in Yugoslavia. They are the only ones who can overturn the bureaucrats, end the war, and start on a road towards solving the economic and social problems in the region. An imperialist intervention would only block that possibility."

As well as demanding an end to the war threats, the Communist League calls on youth and working people to demand that "the government grant asylum to those who leave the region. This is the best form of support we can give today to the youth and working people who tomorrow will be able to stop the murdering by seizing power" and putting an end to the bloodletting by the bureaucratic criminals.

### New International no. 7 Opening Guns of World War III Washington's Assault on Iraq by Jack Barnes



"In *Opening Guns of World War III: Washington's Assault on Iraq*, author Jack Barnes maintains that Washington's devastation of Iraq did not mark the opening of a new world order, it held a mirror to the declining world order of capitalism and to its accelerating conflicts and contradictions. With President Bush's management of the Gulf conflict coming into question from conservative as well as liberal sources, and with his decisions before, during, and after the Desert Shield and Desert Storm operations entering the current political arena for charge and counter-charge, *Opening Guns of World War III* with its unique perspective offers valuable insights into this and possible future conflicts as we play out the final decade of the twentieth century."

—The Bookwatch,  
Official Newsletter of  
The Midwest Book Review

Available from Pathfinder bookstores listed on page 16 for \$12, or by mail from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Please include \$3 handling, \$.50 for each additional book.

# Unionists in Britain express outrage at assault on miner

BY TONY HUNT

SHEFFIELD, England — "It's disgusting, what they did to Paul Galloway," exclaimed a miner to a *Militant* seller outside Thoresby colliery. Thoresby is where National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) activist Paul Galloway has worked for more than 15 years. He was sexually assaulted August 6 by eight other miners because of his union and political activity. This attack has become a big talking point at the mine.

British Coal security guards asked *Militant* sellers at one point to move away from the mine entrance. Management also called the police. "This is the first time that I can remember British Coal management at Thoresby calling the police to try to stop us from exercising our democratic right to sell," explained *Militant* supporter Shellia Kennedy. "This is a sure sign that the campaign to defend Paul is starting to have some effect."

Galloway recently received a message of solidarity from framed-up union and political activist Mark Curtis. Writing from his cell in Fort Madison, Iowa, Curtis described his anger on reading about the "cowardly attack" on Galloway. Curtis told the NUM activist he stood "shoulder to shoulder" with him in his fight to turn back this attack and

strengthen the union. Curtis will also be talking to fellow inmates about Galloway's fight.

Several messages have been sent to the NUM and Union of Democratic Miners (UDM) at Thoresby protesting the August 6 assault. Six of Galloway's attackers were UDM members and 2 were in the NUM. "We write expressing deepest disgust at the events that occurred at the Thoresby Colliery on August 6," wrote the shop stewards' committee at IBC Vehicles, Luton, near London. "We expect a full NUM inquiry into the violent attack on Paul Galloway." A similar letter was also sent to the UDM.

"This degrading physical and sexual assault on Paul was clearly organized against him for his outspoken stand against attacks on working people by both government and employer," wrote Lee Parlett, Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union convenor at London Underground (subway) workshops in Acton West, London. Parlett, writing in a personal capacity, urged both unions to "act publicly against the thugs who took part in this assault."

Eleven rank-and-file members of the General Municipal and Boilermakers Union at the Abrafact machine shop in Sheffield sent a joint message of protest to the NUM



Paul Galloway campaigning to build support for the fight of Mark Curtis

Militant

and UDM at Thoresby. Their message explained, "Those engaged in the assault clearly wanted to silence Paul Galloway and those like him." They added, "With violence and intimidation there can be no trade union movement; only the employers will gain."

Galloway's supporters are encouraging rank-and-file trade unionists to send messages of solidarity to Galloway himself as

well as letters of protest to the unions. "Many workers, when they hear about it, feel angry about what happened to Paul and will want to show solidarity," said fellow NUM activist Jim Spaul.

Further evidence of the scale of proposed attacks on coal miners' jobs was revealed in a report in the London *Guardian* September 18. The article reported on a leaked letter between two government departments that detailed proposals to rapidly shut 30 mines in Britain with the loss of 25,000 jobs. The announcement of these closures was due to be made by the end of September. One of the mines already marked for closure is Trentham colliery near Stoke-on-Trent. Trentham became the first mine in Britain to produce 2 million tons of coal this year.

Messages of support to Paul Galloway can be sent to him, c/o Pathfinder Bookshop, 1 Gower Street, Sheffield, S4 7HA, England.

Messages of protest against the attack should be sent to: UDM Office, British Coal, Thoresby Colliery, Ollerton Road, Edwinstowe near Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, England NG21 9PS (tel: 0623-822238) and to NUM Thoresby Branch, c/o Keith Stanley, 24 Samson Street., Kirkby in Ashfield, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, England NG17 9HT. Please send copies to Paul Galloway at the above address.

Anne Howie in London, and Jim Spaul and Jonathan Silberman in Sheffield, contributed to this article.

## New book on the revolutionary contributions of Che Guevara just published in French

BY MICHEL DUGRÉ

MONTREAL — Pathfinder's French-language edition of *Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism* has just come off the press. The book examines Ernesto Che Guevara's contributions to the building of socialism from 1959 to 1965, when he had major leadership responsibilities in the Communist Party and government of Cuba.

The book's author, Carlos Tablada, is a Cuban economist who has worked for many years in Cuban state enterprise management. In 1987 Tablada was awarded the Ernesto Che Guevara special prize for this book in the Casa de las Américas literary competition in Cuba. An English-language edition was printed by Pathfinder in 1989.

The book takes up questions addressed by Guevara such as: the role of increasing political consciousness and growing control of industry by working people in the building of a new society; how to progressively restrict the field of operation of the law of value and its reactionary social consequences in reproducing capitalist relations; the role of mass voluntary labor; and internationalism as a school of communism.

The proletarian and internationalist perspective charted by Che Guevara in the crucible of the Cuban revolution is the only realistic alternative to the bureaucratic mismanagement by the privileged strata that have repressed workers in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union for more than half a century.

The printing of the French edition of this book is even more important in light of the collapse of these Stalinist regimes. This is explained by Pathfinder director Mary-Alice

Waters in her introduction to the book (reprinted in the August 21 issue of the *Militant*).

Most of Guevara's speeches and documents quoted in the book have either not previously been translated in French or have long been out of print. The new edition by Pathfinder will make his communist ideas and political perspectives available to a new generation of working-class fighters and youth who speak French in Quebec, among Haitian-born communities in the United States, as well as among the French-speaking peoples of Europe and Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific.

This French edition was first translated earlier this year in southern France by Leonor Goldstein, working from a new Spanish edition.

Production shifted during the summer to Montreal where a team of a dozen aerospace, textile, garment, and other workers, and students from Paris, Toronto, and Montreal, spent two months revising, copyediting, typesetting, and proofreading the translated text.

Volunteers in New York worked on the book during August preparing the cover, index, photo signature, and promotional material. Constant collaboration was maintained with Tablada in Cuba at each crucial stage of the project.

### Big campaign to sell Che book

In Canada, unionists and students who support Pathfinder and the Cuban revolution have launched an ambitious campaign to sell the book. Pathfinder bookstores in Montreal, Toronto, and Vancouver are making special displays to attract people's attention to the book.

In Montreal the book on Guevara is featured with a special announcement at *Militant* Labor forums. There are also plans to promote the book through literature tables at the many events that will be held to discuss the upcoming constitutional referendum in Canada.

Sales of the book are also projected for the big campuses throughout the country. Pathfinder bookstores will offer all titles by and about Che Guevara at a 25 percent discount for Pathfinder Readers Club members through November 21.

After two days of visiting bookstores in Montreal, Pathfinder representatives report that all French-language bookstores they visited took the book. They also found that the Guevara book opens doors to other Path-

finder publications, such as *Oser inventer l'avenir*, by Burkina Faso revolutionary leader Thomas Sankara, who was assassinated in 1987.

One bookstore, which previously only carried books in French, has bought copies of *Malcolm X Talks to Young People* for a window display.

The Pathfinder distributorship in London is organizing visits to bookstores in France and Belgium in collaboration with Pathfinder supporters in those countries. Their efforts will culminate in a fall tour by Carlos Tablada in Sweden, Britain, Belgium, and France.

Pathfinder in New York is urging local Pathfinder bookstores around the United States to organize sales of the book to French-speaking industrial workers and to get reviews of it in the French-language media.

## Baltimore workers back Galloway

BY YVONNE HAYES

BALTIMORE — *Militant* readers here have jumped into the campaign to alert unionists to the attack on British miner Paul Galloway and to register a protest against the assault. Using a leaflet made from a *Militant* article on the assault, supporters of the paper initiated discussions about the attack, Galloway's response, and the challenges facing miners in Britain at their work places.

"Some people are so stupid. Don't they see that the companies are just trying to divide them," said a member of the United Steelworkers union at SCM Chemicals when he learned of the attack. "I have family in England and Ireland and I know they fought hard to build those unions." He took the flyer to pass along to workers in another area of the plant.

In one breakroom, a group of workers listened while a union steward read out loud the account of the assault. Several thought Galloway should have responded in kind to the physical violence.

One operator was surprised that Galloway has refused to turn over the names of his assailants to the mine bosses.

"He can't turn them in to the company," another worker explained. "Don't you see? That would make him look even worse than what already happened to him. You've got to take care of this yourself in the union."

"Well, I'll tell you this guy is a stronger man than me," the first worker responded. "He's got a lot of courage to stand up to this."

A number of discussions revolved around rape and sexual assault as crimes of violence, aimed at humiliating and silencing the victim. "You've got to understand what it's like for a man to have this happen to him," said one worker.

"How's it different from sexual assault on a woman?" he was asked by a woman worker.

A long pause in the conversation ensued. Then another male worker said, "She's right. It's no different."

Out of these discussions, a couple of workers in the packing area drafted a letter to be circulated among their coworkers. "Paul Galloway is trying to unite British miners in one union to build the strongest possible defense against job losses and other attacks on mineworkers by British Coal," reads the draft. "The assault on Paul sets back the cause of all mine workers fighting for justice and freedom. We demand that the perpetrators of this assault be publicly condemned . . . An injury to one is an injury to all."

Yvonne Hayes is a member of USWA Local 14019 at SCM Chemicals in Baltimore.

### NOW IN FRENCH!

### Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism \$26.95

Available from the Pathfinder bookstores listed on page 16 or by mail from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Please include \$3 postage and handling, \$.50 for each additional book.

# Utah unionists, youth protest cop brutality

BY CHERYL GOERTZ  
AND ELEANOR GARCÍA

MAGNA, Utah — The streets of this small copper mining town reverberated with chants—"Justice for Stevie," "Police brutality—no excuse," and "Hey, hey, ho, ho, Deputy Allen has got to go!" as 200 protesters marched, demanding justice for Stevie Manzanares and that the cop who shot him be held accountable.

On August 7, Stevie Manzanares was shot through the head by sheriff's deputy Vaughn Allen. Manzanares was the driver of a car when one of two friends with him allegedly stole a case of beer from a grocery store. Two sheriff's deputies blocked off his car and ran to the front windows with their guns drawn. Manzanares was facing away from Allen when he shot the young man below the right ear, claiming that he felt his life

was in danger. Manzanares's jaw was destroyed and an artery was severed, causing some brain damage.

The shooting caused outrage among working people, especially among Chicanos. On August 21, Raynel Martinez, the shooting victim's cousin, put out a call for an ad hoc committee to build a march and rally one week later on August 29, in Magna where Manzanares and Allen live.

Among the marchers were a large number of elementary and high school students whose anger and spirit set the tone for the march. Also present were many United Steelworkers of America (USWA) members from Kennecott Copper who work in the mine, refinery, and smelter, most of whom live or grew up in Magna. These steelworkers as well as steelworkers from USWA Local 8319 at Magcorp volunteered to march

the march to ensure that it remained peaceful.

Demonstrators attended a rally following the march. Among the speakers were representatives from the Hispanic Student Union, Justice for Stevie Manzanares Committee, NAACP, Socialist Workers Party, Utah Coalition of La Raza, USWA Local 8319, and the William Andrews Justice for All Committee.

Father Reyes, a Magna priest, drew applause from the crowd when he pointed out that those present were the ones who mined the copper, created the wealth, and who fought for their conditions and rights on and off the job. "We will not be silent. Everyone must be guaranteed justice. If you don't guarantee justice for yourself, no one will guarantee it for you," he said.

Raynel Martinez, coordinator of the Justice for Stevie Manzanares Committee, pointed to the need to draw in broader forces when he said, "We're fighting for all the young kids." Among the many signs and banners, one stated, "You or your kids could be next."

One or two speakers called for improving the police force through higher pay and better training but it was the demand expressed by a number of speakers that Deputy Allen be

fired and prosecuted to the full extent of the law that received shouts of approval and the most enthusiastic applause.

Eleanor García, Socialist Workers candidate for governor of Utah, called for continued peaceful, legal protests. "We'll want to build bigger and broader protests to send a message, to warn the cops that every time they step over the line, we will be out in the streets."

Messages of support were sent by Delbert Archuleta, vice-president of UMWA Local 1799 from Craig, Colorado, and Carl Burnett, USWA Local 8319 president. Both messages pointed to their own experiences with cop brutality on picket lines and the need for unions to take up the fight to demand justice for Manzanares.

The Justice for Stevie Manzanares Committee is seeking to speak to union meetings and a fund-raiser is being planned to help with Manzanares's mounting medical costs. Donations can be sent to First Security Bank, 8295 W. 3500 South, Magna, Utah 84044: Steve Manzanares Account.

Eleanor García is a steelworker at the Kennecott Smelter and a member of USWA Local 4347.

## British rail workers strike over firings of unionists

BY TIM RIGBY  
AND HELEN WARNOCK

MANCHESTER, England — Rail workers employed as guards at Manchester Piccadilly struck the rail terminal August 21, halting most passenger traffic at the station. The strike came in retaliation for management's firing of four local representatives of the Railway and Maritime Transport Union (RMT).

Last February management and the RMT reached an agreement that drivers in training would not be pre-rostered to undertake the work of guards, who work in the guard's van (caboose) of the train. On August 20 management broke the agreement by signing up drivers in training for guards' duties.

After management rejected a request by the union representatives for a meeting, the guards were instructed to stay in the rest room and not come out to work.

Seeking to provoke a confrontation, a management representative proceeded to publicly instruct a guard to work on an upcoming train. He refused to do so. Local union representative Mike Harrison then began to explain the union's position. Management responded by delivering typed individual letters for the union representatives informing them that they had been fired for inciting other workers to take illegal action.

At one minute past midnight on August 21 the guards struck and set up picket lines at the station. A mass meeting was held that evening in Manchester where the guards were advised by the national union leadership to go back to work and wait for a vote to be held on whether to sanction industrial action on a local level. The balloting took

place August 26. With the fired union representatives not allowed on British Rail property, management stepped up their intimidation of guards at work.

On September 2 at a meeting of some 60 guards the balloting results were announced with a 2-1 majority voting for strike action.

"If they get away with this no one will be safe from attack by management," explained rail worker Tony Crowthers. Plans were announced for a series of 24-hour strikes starting the following Friday, with a further mass meeting to be held September 8.

The day before the meeting management announced that they would hold an appeal hearing on the case of the fired workers. The national executive union leadership then agreed to halt the strike action pending the outcome of the appeal.

The mood of the September 8 union meeting was one of anger against the national leadership and cynicism about management's new willingness to discuss the firings. Many workers spoke about the need to continue to mobilize around the dispute and not have any faith in the appeal hearing.

Messages of support for the fired workers, along with donations can be sent to: Manchester Piccadilly Guards Hardship Fund, c/o Mike Harrison, 9 Shelford Ave., Gorton, Manchester, M18 7DE. Messages of union support should be sent to: RMT Picc no. 1 branch, c/o Unity House, Euston Rd., London, NW1 2BL.

Tim Rigby and Helen Warnock are members of the RMT in Manchester.

## Minnesota meat-packers suffer setback in union election

BY TONY LANE

ST. PAUL, Minnesota — United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 789, representing workers at Long Prairie Packing in South St. Paul, Minnesota, lost a decertification vote at the plant September 17, by a vote of 97-68. Workers at the plant had voted in the union a year ago 92-63.

At a solidarity event held August 28 at UFCW Local 789 union hall in South St. Paul, James Graves, a shop steward at the plant, explained how the company had campaigned against the union. Long Prairie brought in a union-busting lawyer, Kelvin Berens of Omaha, to direct the company fight.

"Some people got tired because there was no movement in negotiations," explained Graves. The union also lost some of its supporters as a result of the many injuries in the plant.

More than 140 workers, family members, and other supporters turned out for the solidarity event to back the Long Prairie meat-packers and workers from Century Circuits. Workers at Century Circuits are involved in a fight to win their first contract.

Four women who had helped organize workers at Century Circuits into the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers

Union spoke at the event. They detailed the conditions in the plant that led to the successful organizing drive. The company had taken away health and life insurance, and other benefits.

Century City has laid off two-thirds of the work force since the union election but the workers remain determined. "If we stand together, and support each other, eventually we will win," explained one of the union activists.

Gerardo Sanchez, a UFCW member at Long Prairie, described the company's efforts against the union as a "war campaign." He explained that the company has sought to intimidate people against voting for the union by threatening to fire workers and close the plant.

"The company lawyer says he wants to be fair," said Sanchez at the meeting, "but the fairest way for the workers is to have the company and the union in a debate where the workers can ask questions and explain their point of view." This, he commented, the company and their lawyer had refused to do.

Tony Lane is a member of UFCW Local 789 and works at the Long Prairie Packing plant.



## PATHFINDER AROUND THE WORLD

BY RICH STUART

**Pathfinder, located in New York with distributors in Australia, Britain, and Canada, publishes the works of working-class and communist leaders who have made central contributions to the forward march of humanity against exploitation and oppression. Pathfinder bookstores are listed in the directory on page 16.**

Thousands of students around the United States will be using books by Pathfinder in their college classes this fall. Karl Marx, Leon Trotsky, Che Guevara, Malcolm X, and Farrell Dobbs are among the Pathfinder authors being studied.

*The Communist Manifesto* by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels is among the most widely used Pathfinder titles. It is studied at Memphis State University, Southwest Texas State University, North Carolina State University, and others. Pathfinder's *Introduction to the Logic of Marxism* by George Novack, *Reform or Revolution* by Rosa Luxemburg, and *Introduction to Marxist Economic Theory* by Ernest Mandel are other Pathfinder books introducing Marxism to young people in college classes.

*Their Morals and Ours: The Class Foundations of Moral Practice* by Leon Trotsky, recently reissued by Pathfinder, is discussed by students at George Washington University and the University of California at Los Angeles. Trotsky's *The Revolution Betrayed: What Is the Soviet Union and Where Is It Going?* is studied at the University of Chicago, and Trotsky's *History of the Russian Revolution* is used in a Harvard University class.

Another class at Harvard uses the newly reissued *Selected Speeches of Fidel Castro*, one of Pathfinder's Education for Socialists publications. Other Pathfinder titles on the Cuban revolution are also used for classroom study. One hundred copies of *Che Guevara, Cuba, and the Road to Socialism* were recently ordered for use at the University of Minnesota. *Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution* is studied at the University of Utah.

*The Struggle Is My Life* by Nelson Mandela, the record of the African National Congress president's leadership of the struggle against apartheid, is used in a number of college courses from Cornell University to Merritt College to San Jose State University.

Students learn labor history in a Fordham University class from *Teamster Rebellion* by Farrell Dobbs, and a Duke University professor has selected *Labor's Giant Step* by Art Preis for a class there. Students at Gustavus Adolphus College use *Eugene V. Debs Speaks*.

*Woman's Evolution: From Matriarchal Clan to Patriarchal Society* by Evelyn Reed was recently adopted as a classroom text at Monmouth College in New Jersey.

Pathfinder's books by Malcolm X are widely used in college classrooms from Santa Monica College, to Texas A&M, to Buffalo State University.

Art and music students at several colleges include *What Is Surrealism?* by Andre Breton and *Black Nationalism and the Revolution in Music* in their studies.

Pathfinder books are also used as classroom texts at several colleges and universities in Canada.

Pathfinder has significantly expanded its line of Spanish-language books with the publication of *El manifiesto comunista* (The Communist Manifesto) by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, *La revolución traicionada* (The Revolution Betrayed) by Leon Trotsky, and *El socialismo y el hombre en Cuba* (Socialism and Man in Cuba) by Che Guevara. Already, 15 copies of *El socialismo y el hombre* have been sold to public libraries in the United States. Pathfinder will take another step with the publication in November of *Habla Malcolm X* (Malcolm X Speaks), a new book of speeches by Malcolm X. With the growing Spanish-speaking population in the U.S., Pathfinder is seeing a rise in interest in its Spanish-language books.

As part of the worldwide discussion on the 500th anniversary of the Columbus expedition's arrival in the Americas, Pathfinder Readers Club members can get 25 percent off Pathfinder's *Genocide Against the Indians*, *The Long View of History*, and *The Communist Manifesto*. These pamphlets equip workers and youth with a Marxist analysis of the rise and expansion of capitalism in which Columbus's voyage to the Americas was a crucial step.

For a \$10 annual fee, Readers Club members get a 15 percent discount on books and pamphlets distributed by Pathfinder and special discounts on selected titles.

New memberships in the Pathfinder Readers Club in recent months have come from Bridgetown, Barbados; Buffalo, N.Y.; Istanbul, Turkey; Marine On St. Croix, Minnesota; Peoria, Illinois; and Trujillo, Venezuela. They have been sent to Pathfinder by *Militant* readers and by individuals who have received a Pathfinder catalog.

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

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

## GEORGIA

**Atlanta**  
Labor Resistance Today: From GM Lords-town to Atlanta Bus Drivers Strike. Sat., Sept. 26, 7:30 p.m. 172 Trinity Ave. SW. Donation: \$3. Tel: (404) 577-4065.

## MINNESOTA

**St. Paul**  
The Economic and Social Crisis in Europe. Sat., Sept. 26, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (612) 644-6325.  
What's Behind the Campaign for Family Values. Sat. Oct. 3, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

## PENNSYLVANIA

**Philadelphia**  
Somalia in Crisis: What Creates the Famines in Africa. Sat., Sept. 26, 7:30 p.m. 1906 South St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (215) 546-8218.

## UTAH

**Salt Lake City**  
Hear James Warren, Socialist Workers Candidate for U.S. President. Sat., Sept. 26. Reception

# N.Y. cops riot at City Hall

Continued from front page  
who favor the mayor's legislation, was held later the same day.

Ed Warren, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate in New York, attended the counterprotest and spoke with youth and workers who want to fight against police brutality. Many who attended believed the new review board would help put a spotlight on police racism, harassment, and violence. Warren put forward a different approach to the fight against police brutality.

"We must respond with mass mobilizations of our own every time there is an incident of police brutality. Our central demand should be the prosecution and jailing of cops who beat up, kill, or otherwise intimidate anyone in this city," the socialist candidate stressed.

"The various proposals for civilian review boards are simply ways to try and shine up the tarnished image of the cops. It is a way the ruling rich hope to restore our confidence in their repressive force."

## Police brutality and racism

Dinkins himself has repeatedly stressed that, since he was elected in 1990, the city has hired 3,700 more cops while cutting back on other city services.

Warren referred to several instances of police brutality and racism during Dinkins's term, the most recent prominent incidents being the murders of two Dominican youths last July in Washington Heights. Not one cop has been convicted of these crimes. After Michael O'Keefe, the cop who killed José "Kiko" García in Washington Heights, was cleared by a grand jury that decided not to indict him, Dinkins mobilized 500 additional cops in the neighborhood to intimidate any organized protests.

Since O'Keefe was cleared, the local news media has shifted from referring to his victim, García as a "drug suspect" to a "drug dealer." O'Keefe was one of the featured speakers at the cop rally.

Throughout the protest the cops showed their anti-working class colors. In addition to the cries of "nigger," signs were held up with racist slurs like: "Dinkins, We Know Your True Color — Yellow Bellied." Other signs with crude drawings of Dinkins performing perverted sex acts were displayed. From the crowd shouts of "How do you like the niggers beating you up in Crown Heights?" referring to protests that exploded last year in a Brooklyn neighborhood against racist abuse.

Police rioters shouted racist insults at passersby and roughed up a few reporters and photographers.

The cops also harassed women walking by the protest, and one yelled at a woman reporter. "Here, let me grab your ass." Throughout the protest, the cops made it clear they thought they were above the law,

6:30 p.m., program 7:30 p.m. 147 E 900 S. Donation: \$5. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

## WEST VIRGINIA

**Morgantown**  
Hear Estelle DeBates, Socialist Workers Candidate for U.S. Vice-president. Sat., Sept. 26. Reception 6 p.m., rally 6:30 p.m. 242 Walnut St. Donation: \$5. Tel: (304) 296-0055.

## WASHINGTON, D.C.

The War in Yugoslavia. An Eyewitness Report. Speaker: Argiris Malapanis, *Militant* staff writer recently returned from Yugoslavia. Sat., Sept. 26, 7:30 p.m. 523 8th St. SE. Donation: \$5. Tel: (202) 547-7557.

## AUSTRALIA

**Sydney**  
The Crisis of European Union: Trade Wars and Depression. Speaker: Ron Poulsen, Communist League. Sat., Oct. 3, 6 p.m. 66 Albion St., Surry Hills. Donation: \$3. Tel: 02-281 3297.

## BRITAIN

**Sheffield**  
Assault on NUM Activist. The Stakes in the Fight to Gower Paul Galloway. Sat., Sept. 26, 6 p.m. 1 Gower St., Spital Hill. Donation: £1. Tel: 0742-765070.

## CANADA

**Montreal**  
The Socialist Alternative to War, Depression and the Oppression of Quebecois and Native People. Speaker: Michel Prairie, Communist League, member of Amalgamated Clothing and

yelling insults at fellow cops who were assigned to the rally when they were told to climb down from cars they were damaging.

One group of beer-drinking cops tripped up and severely beat a Black youth, Yunus Mohammed, in a subway car as they left the protest, smashing his jaw.

Dinkins called the conduct of the cops "bordering on hooliganism." But he was also careful to stress, "I still say it's the best police department in the world, certainly in this country."

## Warren: 'Cops can't be reformed'

Ed Warren explained that the cops' protest and the mayor's response shows all they are concerned about is the ability of the police to "do their job." "They know the daily brutality of cops will be met with response by working people. City officials hope to divert this response into the civilian complaint review board and a 'reformed' police department."

"The cop riot is an example of the real breeding ground of fascist forces that the cops represent. They cannot be reformed," the socialist candidate pointed out. "We must organize, mobilize, and keep up protests demanding that the city and state governments vigorously prosecute and jail any cop responsible for brutality and violence."

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No-Fly Zone is First Step Toward War Against Iraq. Speaker: Colin McNeil, Communist League. Sat., Sept. 26, 7:30 p.m. 827 Bloor St. West. Donation: \$3. Tel: (416) 533-4324.

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Crisis in the Fishing Industry. What Happened to the Salmon? Speakers: Erle Crey, manager of Lower Fraser Fishing Authority, member of the Cheam Indian band; Robert Demorest, Communist League, member of Canadian Auto Workers. Sat., Sept. 26, 7:30 p.m. 3967 Main St. (between 23rd and 24 Ave). Donation: \$4. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

## ICELAND

**Reykjavik**  
South Africa, the Apartheid System and the Mass Actions Today. Sat., Sept. 26, 1:30 p.m. Klappartíg 26. Sponsor: Internationalist Fo-

## BY CANDACE WAGNER

DETROIT — As the *Militant* goes to press, 10,500 teachers move into the third week of their strike against the Detroit School Board. The Detroit school district serves 168,000 students.

Every weekday morning hundreds of teachers picket the Board of Education building. Four days a week picket lines go up at the schools. Five thousand teachers and their supporters circled the Board of Education building September 16 demanding a fair contract. Another mass picket was planned for September 22.

A daily *Union Hot Line* newsletter reports that other unionists are joining the line. A group of Kroger grocery workers who sustained a nine-week strike last spring brought donuts and coffee to the strikers. A number of Detroit teachers joined picketing teachers in the nearby Inkster school district until that dispute was settled last week.

The main issues in the strike are wages and teachers' opposition to an "empowerment" program being promoted by Superintendent of Schools Deborah McGriff. This program is being promoted as an opportunity for some schools to cut through bureaucracy and gain more local control, thus improving the quality of education.

The teachers, however, point to the union-busting impact of this program. It would allow individual schools to waive union contracts, shift administrative work onto the teachers, and increase the inequality of education available to Detroit schoolchildren.

The union is asking for 8 percent wage increase this year. The Board of Education is offering a 3 percent bonus with the possibility of rolling it into the teachers' wages, and a possible additional 3 percent at the end of the

year. The board's bonus offer is tied to the requirement that teachers attend 50 hours of unpaid workshops during the school year.

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No to Washington's War Drive! Speaker: Patrick Brown, Communist League candidate for mayor. Sat., Sept. 26, 4 p.m. 23 Majoribanks St., Courtenay Pl. Donation \$3. Tel: (4) 384-4205.

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**Stockholm**  
Mass Action Campaign in South Africa. Speaker: Nosphe Diseko, chief representative of the ANC in Scandinavia. Sat., Sept. 26, 4 p.m. Vikingagatan 10 (T-banan St Eriksplan). Tel: (08) 31 69 33.

# Detroit teachers strike over wages, union-busting plan

year. The board's bonus offer is tied to the requirement that teachers attend 50 hours of unpaid workshops during the school year.

Detroit teachers' wages rank 72nd out of 87 districts in the metropolitan area. Many picket signs and chants point to the fact that McGriff is the second-highest-paid school superintendent in this area.

The Detroit School Board has gone to court seeking an injunction against the strike. The injunction was denied September 4 but another hearing was scheduled for September 21.

Teachers on the picket line vow to defy an injunction. "They can't put all 10,000 of us in prison," explained a third-grade teacher from McMillan Elementary School. "They jailed our leaders before and we still won." In 1973 a Wayne County circuit judge found the Detroit Teachers Union in contempt of court for ignoring his back-to-work order and fined it \$2.5 million. The fines were dismissed after a settlement was reached.

The attacks on the teachers occur in the context of wage cuts and layoffs of city workers. Mayor Coleman Young has threatened the privatization of social services if unions do not accept a 10 percent wage cut. Skilled tradesmen who work for the School Board attended a board meeting prior to the teachers' strike to press their demands. They have been working without a contract for 15 months.

The local big-business press has joined the school board in its propaganda campaign against the teachers. The *Detroit News*, in a September 1 editorial, called for a court injunction against the teachers. The op-ed page featured a cartoon comparing Detroit schoolchildren to children caught in the cross-fire of Yugoslavia's civil war.

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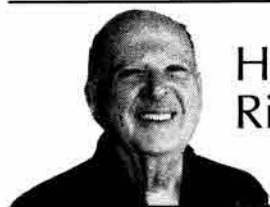
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## SWEDEN

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Except the gougers get away with it — "I don't see any difference between the looters who go through the rubble in the trailer



**Harry Ring**

parks and the business people who cash in on this disaster by gouging customers." — Florida's attorney-general on the post-hurricane jack-up in construction supply prices.

**Now favors green bombs —** With U.S. bombers readying a new round of environmental and human destruction in Iraq, retired general "Stormin Norman" Schwarzkopf has joined the board of Nature Conservancy.

**Mr. McDonald, U.S.A. —** With prize bulls fetching up to \$200,000, appearance is important. Contestants in livestock shows have been found sporting dyed horsehair wigs. Some have been given diuretics to reduce bloat, or beer to round out flat tummies. There's a bovine version of silicone implants, a vegetable oil to "improve their contours."

**Resolute chap —** Kevin Maxwell, son of late, busted British media mogul, filed for personal bankruptcy, declaring debts of \$798 million. He then applied for jobless benefits but, like many, found himself in the wrong building. Undaunted, he toiled over to the right place in his silver Mercedes station wagon.

**Just roll it over —** Visa and Mastercard complain that in 1991 users racked up uncollectible debts totaling \$8 billion, a jolting 45 percent jump over the previous year.

**You figure it out —** British immigration cops deported a young

Swedish male working as a live-in babysitter. An official said "au pair" jobs are limited to young unmarried female immigrants and young men were excluded to avoid "potential abuse of U.K. [United Kingdom] immigration control in a way that could undermine the objective of protecting the domestic labor market."

**Higher education —** The University of California is not escaping the current state slashes in education. Meanwhile it's disclosed that retiring UC president David Gardner has been "earning" \$452,000 a year. We're not sure if that includes the \$48,000 he re-

ceives to maintain his home.

**Maybe they weren't comfortable —** L.A. Gear is suing Michael Jackson, demanding the return of \$5 million he received for doing a commercial. The company complains, "Jackson refused to, and did not, wear L.A. Gear shoes" in the commercial.

**Thought for the week —** "We can design homes to withstand any hurricane. But you've got to weigh the economic consequences. And there are a lot of people who don't have a lot to spend on housing." Jack Haslam of the Florida Homebuilders Assn.

# California passes 'slash and burn' budget

## Democrats and Republicans make working people pay for state financial crisis

BY JIM GOTESKY

SAN FRANCISCO — After a 63-day deadlock the California state legislature finally passed a new budget Sept 2 that drastically cuts back state funding for social services and education.

The \$57 billion budget, promoted by Republican governor Pete Wilson and approved by the Democratic-controlled legislature, slashes \$1.9 billion from public education, \$1.7 billion from welfare and social service programs to help the handicapped and aged, and \$1.4 billion from aid to cities.

After legislators approved the budget Wilson used his veto power to cut an additional \$520 million from education and \$450 million in funds earmarked for earthquake damage, insurance fraud investigations, and the California State Patrol.

"This new bipartisan slash-and-burn budget is aimed directly at working people in California," said Natasha Terlexis, Socialist Workers candidate in the Third Senatorial District. "Public employees and teachers unions, welfare recipients, the aged, and the disabled are in the cross hairs of this attack. The level of misery, joblessness, and home-

lessness in California will grow. budget cuts, powerful national and local capitalist financial institutions mounted a pressure campaign to force through the cuts. Standard and Poors Corp. and Moody's Investor Services, key national bond rating services, lowered California's bond ratings.

By the beginning of August, major banks including Bank of America, Security Pacific, and Wells Fargo tightened the screws on the legislature by refusing to honor the warrants, leaving thousands of government workers without income.

### Deep education cuts

California's educational system, once touted as among the best in the country, suffered the biggest cuts. Funding is slashed by 11 percent for the University of California and for California State University by almost 9 percent. Fees in the State University system will increase by 40 percent this year on top of a 20 percent increase imposed last year. Already colleges like San Francisco State University are unable to offer enough courses for students to get their degrees in the normal four years.

Cuts in primary and secondary education will be equally devastating. The Los Angeles school district, one of the five largest in the United States, will lose 2 percent of its budget. Teachers face pay cuts of between 6 and 16 percent. Per capita education funding in California now falls to 39th in the nation.

The \$1.4 billion cut from funding to the cities will cost many jobs and lead to new tax increases on city services and utilities. In Los Angeles County alone the budget ax will slice between 8,000 and 12,000 jobs. County officials are currently considering the closure of 16 of the 47 health clinics and a reduction of clinic health services by 35 percent, shutting down 20 of the county's 92 libraries, and a 12 percent cut in the homecare program for the disabled.

Governor Wilson is aggressively campaigning for additional cuts through passage in November of a major ballot proposition, cynically named the Government Accountability and Taxpayer Protection Act, which promises draconian new cuts in welfare benefits.

This initiative is heavily backed by many of California's largest capitalist corporations. Among those endorsing and funding the initiative are, Southern California Edison, PAC TEL, Lockheed Corporation, and the California Chamber of Commerce.

The measure holds special appeal to big business because it unilaterally empowers the governor to declare a budget emergency and enforce new cuts.

Such an emergency may come soon. The austerity measures in the new budget, which reduces tax revenues and raises the level of unemployment, will eliminate the projected \$435 million budget surplus and most likely create a new state funding crisis by the spring.

The California economy, mired in depression, may not recover soon. The official state unemployment rate is 9.8 percent, the highest since the 1981 recession. The census bureau reports that almost 16 percent of Californians now live under the official poverty line. The number of children under 18 living in poverty

climbed by 41 percent last year.

The California real estate market is in a steep decline, threatening a wide-scale banking crisis. According to the *American Banker*, 70 percent of southern California banks have been sent warnings from federal bank regulators or are subject to direct regulatory intervention.

### Bipartisan attacks

Both Democratic and Republican party leaders took the same view of austerity measures. Governor Wilson described this budget as one that, "reflects the trying times that we are experiencing, the worst economic times since the Great Depression."

Democratic assembly speaker Willie Brown, sounded a similar note, explaining "This budget reflects the tenor of the times, and the pain and agony that people are going to experience."

Some Democrats played at opposition to the Republican budget proposals, but no serious fight was mounted against Governor Wilson's budget plan.

Socialist candidate Terlexis joined unionists and community activists in a protest meeting in San Jose called by the Amalgamated Transportation Union.

Terlexis called for all those opposed to the cuts to join protest activities on campuses, at city halls, or wherever they occur.

"The money is there for education, for jobs, and health services," she said, "if it isn't doled out to the rich in tax breaks or spent by Washington for war preparations against Iraq or new weapons systems. I believe not one cent should be spent for war. A massive federally funded jobs program is needed to meet the economic crisis in California and elsewhere in the country."

Terlexis pointed out that California's large trade unions can play a key role in opposing the cuts by mobilizing their members in protest actions. She explained that, "union workers must also fight for a shorter workweek with no cut in pay to provide jobs for all."

Jim Gotesky is a member of United Steelworkers of America Local 1440

## 25 AND 50 YEARS AGO



Dover, Delaware — Paul Boutelle, Socialist Workers candidate for Vice President, opened a Southern speaking tour with a highly successful visit at Delaware State College, a predominantly black school here.

The visit here opened with a meeting where the interest was so great that it went on for nearly four hours, with a smaller group continuing after that. The meeting was sponsored by the Student Government Association and chaired by Leroy Tate, chairman of the Student Government.

Most of the questions revolved around socialism and what it has to offer and just exactly what black power is. There were a number of questions about the colonial revolution. Much of this centered on the situation in Southern Africa. The Arab-Israel war was also discussed. About a hundred stayed for the entire four-hour period.

The most sought-after literature was the material by and about the late Brother Malcolm X. The next night we had a six-hour discussion with nearly 20 students in the men's dormitory. This went on until 2 a.m. The discussion covered the whole range of politics, race, religion, revolution, history, and so on.

Eleven people signed up as endorsers of Afro-Americans for Halstead and Boutelle.



October 3, 1942

The London *Sunday Dispatch* of August 30 features an article signed "By Our Diplomatic Correspondent," which accuses the

British Trotskyists of spreading "radio propaganda from Germany." "A 'Workers Challenge' station in Germany," declares the unknown "Correspondent," sends out 'Directives' to the Trotskyists in Britain.

The *Sunday Dispatch* is not an official Stalinist organ as the above article might lead one to believe. It is a reactionary Tory newspaper of the Lord Rotheimer chain. Nevertheless, it is not difficult to give the real name of the "Correspondent." It is none other than Stalin's GPU.

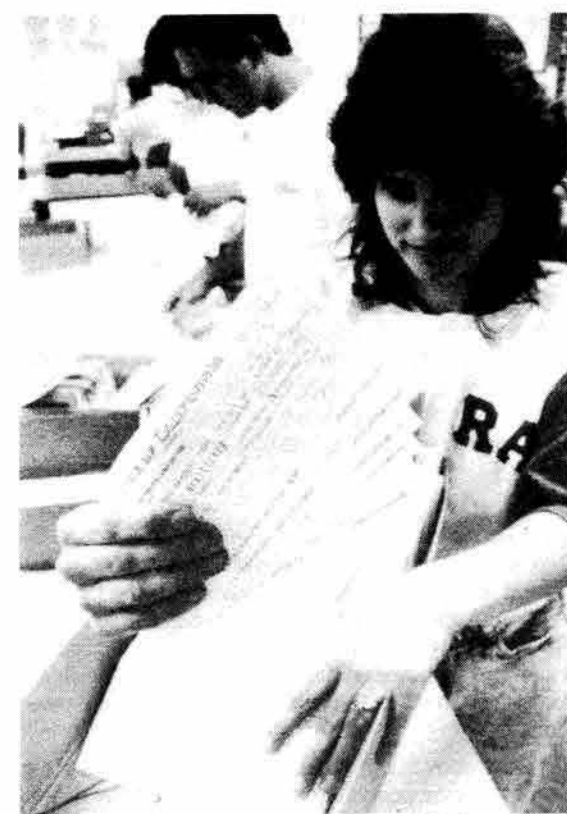
While the Stalin-Hitler pact was in effect, part of the work of the GPU consisted in obtaining "favorable publicity" in capitalist organs. Thus they spread the slander that Trotsky was an "agent of the Dies Committee" and in the service of "Yankee imperialism."

With the shift in Stalin's foreign policy following the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union, it was to be expected that the GPU would attempt collaboration with the spy organizations of the "democratic" imperialists. As in the previous period, part of the collaboration would consist of "favorable publicity" in the capitalist organs, particularly propaganda directed against the Trotskyists who carry the banner of the socialist revolution.

The article in the *Sunday Dispatch* attacks *Socialist Appeal*, a paper that adheres to the revolutionary program of Trotskyism, as "trying to hoodwink the workers" — this is a Tory newspaper! — by opposing Stalin's version of how to fight Hitler via a second front. It mentions that "police inquiries have been going on" of the "activities of the Trotskyists." A typical GPU item, this bit about the police!

The old GPU trick of dumping all enemies into one sack is also repeated for the ten thousandth time, in the usual "clever" way, by insinuating that the Independent Labor Party is likewise in the pay of Hitler!

In the last world war, the Social-Democratic predecessors of the Stalinist bureaucracy likewise slandered Lenin and Trotsky as "agents" of the Kaiser.



For two months California issued IOUs instead of checks to pay workers, hospitals, and suppliers. Many banks began to refuse payment.

lessness in California will grow.

"These cuts are part of the U.S. and world economic crisis of capitalism," continued Terlexis, "which is leading to more war, poverty, and homelessness from California to Bosnia-Herzegovina to Iraq. They are a warning about the future capitalism has in store for working people across the country and around the world."

During the two months of political wrangling over the budget in the legislature in Sacramento, the state issued IOU's instead of checks to state workers, state-funded hospital facilities, and suppliers. California has not used IOU's to pay its bills since the depression of the 1930s

When legislators hesitated to enact the deep

# Europe's workers face austerity

Workers and farmers in Europe should gird themselves for an across-the-board assault on their democratic rights and standard of living. This is the message behind the "interest rate wars," the "devaluations," and the so-called currency crunch that ripped apart the European monetary system this past week.

In the process the weaker imperialist powers took a good beating. But they are determined to claw their way back. They will attempt to pay for their crisis by taking it out of the hides of Europe's workers and farmers. Working people in Italy were the first to suffer a body blow. In addition to the 7 percent devaluation of the lira, which affected working people the hardest, next year's proposed budget includes \$75 billion in cuts. This is the biggest attack on Italy's social wage since World War II. Working people also got a taste of Bonapartism when Prime Minister Giuliano Amato asked parliament for three years of so-called emergency powers to handle the economy.

Sweden's ruling class, in an effort to "calm" the markets and to avoid devaluation at all costs, passed a massive economic austerity package September 20 totaling \$5 billion. It received whole-hearted approval from the social democratic opposition.

But this is just the beginning. Other capitalist governments will follow suit. It is clear that the government subsidies given farmers in Spain, France, Italy, and elsewhere will come under attack as well.

The working class in Germany — in both the east and the west — is still Bonn's biggest headache. The German government's economic policy is above all designed to press wages down as far as possible. A big question mark still hangs over the proposed "solidarity pact" there. Will workers in Germany go along with the wage concessions demanded by the government? This fight will be followed closely by working people in the coming months.

In every country throughout Europe the ruling classes are clamoring for national unity in the face of deepening recession, unemployment, and working-class resistance. They have received full cooperation from the social democratic and labor parties, which continue to move rightward. The rulers' goal is to protect their profits by slashing the social wage.

Workers and youth are taking to the streets in protests in Greece, Italy, and Sweden against these attacks on their rights and living standards. They deserve the full support of the international labor movement.

# Protest New York City cop riot

The true face of the police was shown when 10,000 New York City cops rioted at City Hall September 16 to protest a proposed all-civilian police complaint review board. The cops shouted racist epithets at Mayor David Dinkins and city council member Una Clarke.

The cops blocked the Brooklyn Bridge for an hour, vandalized cars parked in front of City Hall, and at one point surged onto the steps of the buildings as on-duty officers stood by.

As they left the scene, several beer-drinking cops severely beat Yunus Mohammed, a young Black man, in a subway car and later, smashed his jaw after they had handcuffed him. The police behavior at the rally was defended by the Police Benevolent Association from the beginning.

This rampage simply expressed in a concentrated way the racist and sexist violence that the police direct every day at working people in every city and town in the United States—and around the world.

Mayor Dinkins and other city officials condemned the riot. But Dinkins hastened to place the blame on a just few racist cops.

Dinkins and other spokepeople for the ruling class are concerned that the cops may have blown their own credibility too much by the grossness of their protest. In a similar vein the *New York Times* ran an editorial two days after the riot calling the police "New York's Finest Mob," but emphasizing "New Yorkers need reassurance" that the city government was in control of the police.

Dinkins' proposal for a Civilian Complaint Review Board is aimed at restoring credibility in the cops. Working people have no interest in supporting it. The explicit purpose of such a board is to put a lid on explosive situations, to whitewash the activities of the cops, and to demobilize any real fight against police brutality.

There is only one road forward to fight against cop violence. As Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate, Ed Warren explained, "We must respond with mass mobilizations of our own, every time there is an incident of police brutality. Our central demand should be the prosecution and jailing of cops who beat up, kill, or otherwise intimidate anyone in this city."

The police are not there to "serve and protect" working people. Rather, they exist to defend the rights, property, and prerogatives of the wealthy minority. Intimidating and brutalizing workers and youth is an everyday part of their job.

As the world-wide economic crisis advances, more and more blatant examples of the reactionary role of the cops will surface. The September 16 cop riot shows how the police departments are a breeding ground for fascist and ultra-rightist forces.

Working people, youth, and all those who are outraged by the violence of the police should demand that the cops who were guilty of violent and illegal behavior at the rally, and those who beat Yunus Mohammed afterwards, be prosecuted and jailed.

# Resistance to capitalist crisis

Democratic Party presidential hopeful William Clinton has been running an ad this week attacking President George Bush's handling of the economy. The ad concludes by asking, "If George Bush doesn't understand the problem, how can he solve it?" To be honest, Clinton should have added, "And neither can I."

The economic crisis that has gripped much of the world is a product of the workings of capitalism. Today this is marked by financial crisis, massive unemployment, and austerity measures everywhere, as governments from Sweden to the United States to South Africa cut back on the living standard of the vast majority of working people. Both Clinton and Bush are dedicated to upholding this system that handsomely benefits a wealthy few and drives millions into poverty, homelessness, and even starvation.

These conditions are also producing resistance by working people, in struggles that point a way forward. Readers of the *Militant* have the benefit of reading about the most important labor battles and other fights that are taking place. But this is largely an untold story. It is one of the reasons that distributing the paper in a big way among working people and youth worldwide is so important.

Canadian auto workers have recently gone out on strike in Ingersoll, Ontario, for better wages and benefits. Owners of the CAMI auto plant, a joint venture by General Motors and Suzuki that is being struck, had touted themselves as a new kind of management that cooperated with the workers. That "cooperation" started with workers being paid \$4-an-hour less in wages and benefits than other auto workers in North America. As one striker put it, "If we

don't settle this now, we'll be screwed for life."

The Canadian Auto Workers strike is another big blow to General Motors' plans to close 21 plants and lay off 74,000 auto workers. On September 5, United Auto Workers members in Lordstown, Ohio, voted to end their nine-day strike after GM backed down from eliminating 240 jobs.

While massive unemployment puts tremendous pressure on workers not to fight — something the companies and the government are keen to take advantage of — more and more workers are reaching the conclusion that a fight is necessary. "We had to go on strike," said Ahmad Hakeem, a 22-year veteran at the Lordstown plant, "or we would get nothing."

That's the same sentiment expressed by coal miners in Van, West Virginia, who went out on a wildcat strike on September 13 in response to job combinations and attacks on seniority rights. "We're fed up," explained Libby Lindsay, a roof bolter who has worked at the Beth Energy mine for 17 years.

Readers of this issue of the *Militant* will also find reports on other struggles in the coalfields, and strike action taken by teachers in Detroit and steelworkers in Bessemer, Alabama.

The Socialist Workers campaign is a part of these struggles. Unlike Clinton and Bush, socialist candidates James Warren and Estelle DeBates solidarize with workers in struggle. Because of this perspective their campaign and those of their fellow socialist candidates is getting serious attention, from New Zealand to Grenada to Chicago.

# Free trade and capitalism

In a letter published in this week's issue, *Militant* reader Bill Fowler from British Columbia, Canada, urges the paper to deepen its "analysis of free trade capitalism and the effects on all workers involved." He argues that the *Militant* is seriously in error for not condemning the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

Recent *Militant* articles point out that the trade agree-

## DISCUSSION WITH OUR READERS

ment negotiated by government officials of the United States, Canada, and Mexico does not serve the interests of workers and farmers. Whether or not the three countries adopt a primarily free-trade system or continue with the many protectionist barriers in place, is a question between capitalists — not workers. Under either plan the super-exploitation of labor will continue. For that reason socialists have no interest in favoring one over the other.

### Engels on free trade

Frederick Engels, a socialist and working-class leader, explained this more than 100 years ago when he wrote, "The question of Free Trade or Protection moves entirely within the bounds of the present system of capitalist production, and has therefore no direct interest for us as Socialists who want to do away with that system."

Capitalists attempt to win working people to support their various trade schemes. They argue that one or the other course is really in the national interest, that one or the other plan will provide more jobs or better jobs, that cheaper consumer goods will be the result. But these arguments just disguise the fact that they are fighting among themselves for a bigger share of the market. In the present deteriorating economic conditions, that competition is becoming increasingly fierce and is leading not only to trade wars but towards shooting wars as well.

The recent NAFTA accord is aimed especially at improving the position of U.S. and Canadian capitalists in relation to their European and Japanese competitors. The "free trade" agreement actually amounts to increased protectionist measures against Japan and Europe in the North American market. NAFTA is also aimed at opening up the Mexican market, which has been highly protected, to goods and investment from Canada and the United States.

Fowler argues that NAFTA represents a victory of transnational corporations over national capitalists. "Mexican labor and Canadian resources will work in the interests of primarily American (but some Canadian) capital," he writes. The result of this will be "deterioration in prospective income levels for workers in all three countries."

But the massive job losses and deteriorating living standards for working people in the last 15 years have been the result of the crisis of the market system — of capitalism worldwide. Canadian workers laboring for Canadian bosses have not necessarily fared any better than Canadian workers in plants owned by U.S. capitalists. Mexican workers laboring for Mexican capitalists are not necessarily better off than Mexican workers in plants owned by Canadian capitalists. Employers in every country take advantage of the local conditions of competition for jobs that workers face under capitalism to drive down labor costs and beat out their competitors. It makes no difference to them if their employees are native born.

### What labor must do

The challenge facing the labor movement is not to tie ourselves to our "national capitalists" but to unite across borders and to fight the attacks on our standard of living. The position taken by labor officials in the United States, Canada, and many in Mexico in favor of protectionism, stakes workers' fortunes on their bosses instead of with the fight of workers in other countries who are facing the same conditions.

If the labor movement is to succeed in advancing the interests of working people it must chart a radically different course than that promoted by the present trade union officialdom. An appropriate response by the labor movement to the bosses' North American Free Trade Agreement would be a fight around the following demands:

- Shorten the workweek with no cut in pay to create jobs for all.
- Cancel the Third-World debt that is squeezing working people around the globe.
- Open the borders and defend the rights of immigrant workers.

— PAUL MAILHOT

### CORRECTION

A factual error appeared in the article "Slow response abets disaster in Florida," in the September 18 *Militant*. The article should have stated "In Homestead, where the median rent was \$330 a month before the disaster, at least one in five homes inspected was declared uninhabitable." It erroneously said that the median income was \$330 a month.

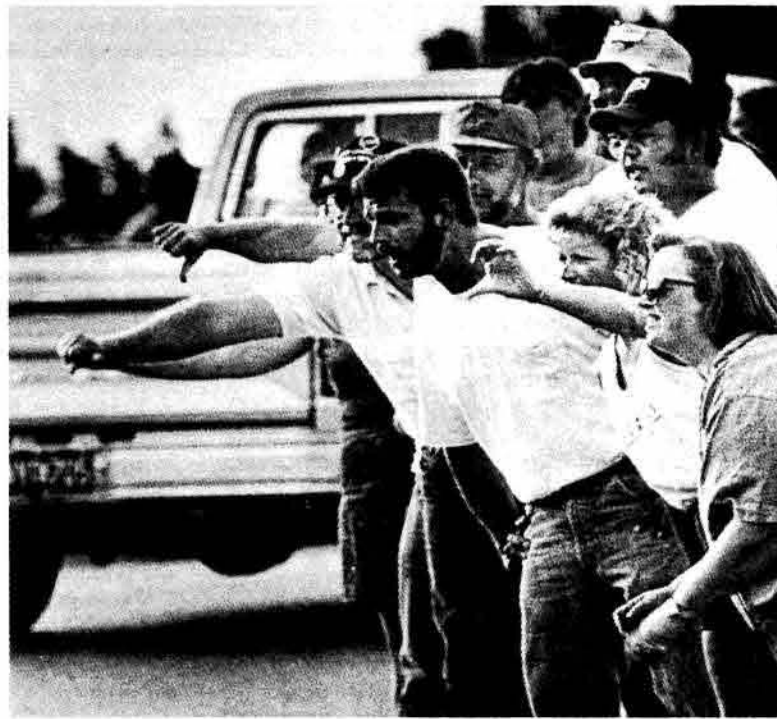
# Striking Missouri Teamsters fight concessions

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

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

The workers, members of International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 688, voted 272-0 against the company's so-called final offer and walked out of the plant when the company unilaterally began to implement it.

Only one member has crossed the picket line, along with about 100 temporary workers who the company claims are doing "envi-



A couple of hundred striking Teamsters and their supporters turn out daily at the Doe Run smelter plant gate to confront scabs.

## ON THE PICKET LINE

mands, lockouts, and union-busting moves have gone on strike to force the bosses to back down.

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

More than 300 Teamsters have been conducting a strike against Doe Run Co. in Herculanum, Missouri, since July 30. Doe Run, the largest lead company in North America, and the worst polluter in the state of Missouri, has been on the offensive against the union since 1985, when it slashed medical benefits, cut wages, combined job classifications, and took away double time for Sunday work.

The company's current contract offer calls for eliminating departmentwide seniority, cutting medical and life insurance, taking back a "lead bonus" workers had been receiving for high productivity, and wage reductions of 25 percent at any time on notification of the union.

ronmental cleanup work." While the company claims to be operating at 90 percent of the prestrike level using only salaried personnel, pickets report very little activity inside the plant.

The company has massed a force of 100 security guards, who threaten strikers and have attacked pickets on one occasion on railroad property near the plant.

The strike is receiving strong support from the surrounding community and other unions. During the recent letter carriers' union convention in St. Louis, a contingent of delegates joined the picket lines and the union pledged \$5,000 to help the strike. A picket headquarters has been set up across the street from the plant in the local Amvets hall, and food and refreshments are continually donated by local stores. Several large rallies and benefits have been organized in Herculanum, a town of 2,500, to build support for the strike, including one rally of 1,000 people.

"Most all of the employees feel that the hazard of working in a lead smelter far outweighs their contract proposals," said striker Roy Ramsey. "We work under extreme conditions of heat, the constant danger of lead poisoning, and permanent damage to our bodies from

all the toxic chemicals we are exposed to on a daily basis."

The union has requested continued negotiations, the company replied that any new offer would be worse than the last one. No negotiations date has been set.

### Steelworkers in Canada fight company lockout

United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 8269 has been locked out since June 8, when their Toronto-area employer, Commander Business Furniture, learned that more than 80 percent of the workers had voted in favor of a strike. "We're not going in for less," said Burchell Barnes, who, together with her coworkers, many with more than 20 years experience, was faced with a 20 percent cut in pay and demands for a 30 percent in-

crease in productivity. The company's second offer was for a 25 percent giveback in wages.

Since 1990 the workers have been working short weeks and participating in "work sharing." The average wage for a worker with 35 years seniority is \$12.50 an hour. Strikers are incensed at the company's demand that they accept pay cuts. Some have had to look for work elsewhere to survive. Most continue to participate daily in picket line activities. The strikers are seeking to broaden support for their fight. "We are standing and we want to stand till the end," declared Gabriel Galarza.

### Workers stage walkout at Minnesota cannery

On September 1 about 150 workers walked out of the Green Giant

corn cannery in Montgomery, Minnesota. The workers had been working only two or three days a week and were protesting the lack of work. Minnesota's corn crop has been limited by cool weather this year.

The Chicano and Mexican work force was demanding that the company let them return to their homes in southwestern Texas and receive unemployment benefits. Many had traveled 1,300 miles for what is usually six to eight weeks of work, six days a week, at wages of \$4.50 to \$5.05 per hour.

The following day, Pillsbury Corp., the parent company of Green Giant, succeeded in getting half the workers to return by promising more regular work and offering free meal vouchers for the company cafeteria. The other workers said they were planning to go back to Texas after receiving the paychecks.

Members of United Auto Workers Local 879, including Recording Secretary Tom Laney, spoke with the cannery workers on September 2 and promised to put pressure on Pillsbury if the company contested the unemployment claims. Green Giant management has promised to provide workers with a letter stating that they left because of a shortage of work which they could use in their unemployment claims.

Sylvia Hernandez, a worker at the cannery, said the company had turned off the water in company trailers, which house up to 20 people in bunk beds. The company also has not allowed workers access to the trailer that has a TV.

The following people contributed to this week's column: Fred Stanton, member of International Association of Machinists Local 1345 in St. Louis; Janet Fisher, member of United Steelworkers of America Local 9046 in Toronto; and Joe Callahan from Minneapolis.

## LETTERS

### Aid, not air base

Many capitalist politicians, led by George Bush, Bill Clinton, and Florida Governor Lawton Chiles want to tie the hopes of working people in South Dade County, Florida, who have been devastated by Hurricane Andrew, to the reconstruction of Homestead Air Force Base. This big business campaign stands in the way of the fight for jobs, housing, food, and medical care for workers and farmers in South Dade.

The base was completely destroyed by Hurricane Andrew. Estimates to rebuild it go as high as \$1 billion.

Some Democratic politicians like Rep. Les Aspin and Sen. Sam Nunn have said they think the base should not be rebuilt. In 1991, Congress nearly shut down Homestead AFB, until Air Force Secretary Donald Rice told a closed door meeting about secret electronic surveillance equipment at Homestead that is used against Cuba and other Latin American countries. These politicians only want to use the money for other U.S. war plans. They offer nothing to working people.

While a few military retirees use the hospitals on the base, working people in South Dade must go forty miles north to Miami Jackson Hospital, Dade County's only public hospital. What South Dade working people need is more hospitals, not an air base.

Homestead AFB's purpose is to bring about wars and devastation to working people in this country and around the world, not to help working people. Asking for crumbs from the U.S. war machine helps cover their war drive. It divides the fight to rebuild South Dade between base

employees and other workers, veterans and nonveterans.

Capitalist politicians use the base to stress that workers and farmers have no right to recover from the storm unless we go along with their plans for cutbacks, war, and deeper exploitation.

We need a united fight to use the billions of dollars of wealth created by working people to give jobs with union wages and benefits, housing, food, and free medical care to all workers. We don't need an air base.

Tony Thomas  
Miami, Florida

### Stop Yugoslav war

I'm deeply shocked and saddened by reports of civil strife and killing in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia. I'm appealing to the leaders of Serbia, Croatia, and Muslims in Yugoslavia to enter into immediate peace negotiations, otherwise the fratricidal clashes will only lead to greater disasters.

The war between Serbs, Croats, and Muslims is being waged by competing bureaucracies, all using nationalistic rightist rhetoric to maintain their rule and privileges that go with their position. Working people in Yugoslavia, who gain only death and destruction through the civil war, are resisting in many ways, from widespread refusal to join the fighting to the beginnings of street protests.

The war is being orchestrated by the reactionary, conservative bureaucrats who have grabbed power in different regions of the country. While the bureaucratic regimes devour the country's resources, working people pay with their lives. The action of working people demanding an end to the war points the way

forward in Yugoslavia.  
L. Vukmanovich  
San Gabriel, California.

### Free trade pact

The *Militant* is correct when it states that neither free trade nor protectionist capitalism are systems designed to serve the interests of working people. However it seriously errs by not condemning NAFTA [the North American Free Trade Agreement] as the more highly developed form of capitalism, designed in the interests of transnational corporations for the superexploitation of workers and the environment.

By not more vociferously attacking NAFTA, the *Militant* leaves unopposed the runaway companies in the U.S. and Canada who will leave workers unemployed and move on to exploit our Mexican sisters and brothers with a wage that is worth less each month.

You attack the labor bosses who oppose NAFTA. As a rank-and-file trade unionist I criticize those labor bosses who are either incapable of forming a coalition with community groups against NAFTA or unwilling to. Many American union bureaucrats have apparently decided that now is not the time to be critical of Clinton's acquiescence to the NAFTA deal.

What is also required of U.S. and Canadian progressive unionists is to make more direct linkages with the progressive Mexican unionists, so that runaway companies will find stiff resistance in Mexico and so that Mexican wages and benefits are brought up to our level, not ours reduced to their level.

What NAFTA represents is the economic demands of transnational corporations. Where the demands of national capitalists have conflicted,

they have been pushed aside by these stronger forces. It also represents a new consolidation for American Imperialism. Mexican labor and Canadian resources will work in the interests of primarily American (but some Canadian) capital. Disputes will be settled under American trade law.

This represents a serious deterioration in prospective income levels for workers in all three countries. However, it is entirely consistent with a World Bank policy that forces countries into monoculture agriculture and economic subservience.

I implore the *Militant* to deepen its analysis of free trade capitalism and the effects on all workers involved.

Bill Fowler  
British Columbia, Canada

### Pathfinder Mural

In the midst of the current economic crisis the *Militant* has become even more relevant as a tool for analyzing events as they unfold and in pointing to a direction that can advance the struggle. While I feel that the *Militant* stands alone in its coverage of the news, I feel that there is one area that could stand improvement.

In the words of Malcolm X, "the greatest mistake of the movement has been trying to organize a sleeping people. You have to wake up the people first to their humanity and to their heritage. Then you'll get action."

The Pathfinder Mural has gone a long way in showing us what our heritage as working people is. However, after having been a regular *Militant* reader for the last 20 years I am unfamiliar with the background of many of the individuals who are represented on the mural. The most inspiring aspect of the Pathfinder

Mural to me is to know that those who were painted on it had the courage to stand up for what is right, and had an impact in advancing the struggle.

In short, I think it would behoove the *Militant* to run a series of articles outlining the history of those leaders who are represented on the mural and others who are not.

Steve Halpern  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

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.

### 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 on request.

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

## Poultry plant fire deaths remembered

BY ROBERT DEES

HAMLET, North Carolina — An angry memorial service was held for the 25 workers killed Sept. 3, 1991, when a fire broke out at Imperial Food Products. Virtually all the deaths were from smoke inhalation. Exit doors at the chicken-processing plant had been locked by management, allegedly to prevent theft, trapping the workers inside.

The event, held at St. Peter United Methodist Church, was organized by a local coalition that includes survivors of the fire and family members of those who perished. A separate service, organized by the Hamlet city government, was held at City Lake Park.

Originally a single program was planned, involving both city officials and the coalition. "In good faith, the workers worked tirelessly for an uplifting commemoration," Cassandra Smith, chairperson of the coalition, reported to the rally at the church. This included organizing to raise money privately for an engraved stone marker.

But "the city fought the wording of the monument and changed the program so virtually no workers were included. They were disrespectful to the workers, and refused to

allow Rev. Jesse Jackson to speak, even barring him from city property. This is the reason for two services. Despite these setbacks, we have persevered," she concluded, to a cheering audience.

Nearly 500 people, in the town of 6,200, packed the pews and aisles of the white clapboard church up the street from where the fire-blackened plant still stands. Many more people were left standing in the small entrance area and outside.

### 'We need a future!'

"I helped pass out food baskets to survivors and family members," elder Tommy Legrand said. "But that only sustains us for a short time. We need jobs! Something needs to be done about your tomorrow. What we need is not a band-aid, but a future."

Gospel music was provided during the program by the Outreach Chorus, with enthusiastic audience participation. Jesse Jackson was the featured speaker at the event.

North Carolina newspapers have recently given prominent coverage to a package of laws passed in the last several months by the state legislature. Politicians and media allege that these measures will make working conditions safer.

At the time of the fire, however, there were numerous laws on the books aimed at ensuring work place safety. These laws were ignored by government officials on all levels. (See Nov. 15, 1991, *Militant*)

Before the fire, North Carolina had the smallest safety inspection staff of any state in the country. Now it will claim the second-largest. Nevertheless, Assistant Labor Commissioner Charles Jeffress said, "In terms of anybody seeing an inspector every year, it's not going to happen."

Loretta Goodwin was at work the morning of the fire, and barely escaped alive. Asked in an interview what government officials have done in the intervening year to assist survivors and the victims' families, Goodwin replied bluntly, "Nothing. I can't even get food stamps. Our life has been a nightmare. We have gotten no more than the \$145 a month in workmen's compensation. Other than bringing the charges," she continued, "I can't see that they've done anything other than try to save themselves."

In March of this year, Imperial Food owner Emmett Roe, Operations Manager Brad Roe, and Plant Manager James Hair, were each indicted on 25 counts of involuntary manslaughter. The three each faced up

to 250 years in prison. In a plea bargain announced September 14, all criminal charges against Brad Roe and James Hair were dropped.

Assistant District Attorney David Graham said their investigation showed that plant owner Emmett Roe "ran the plant as a dictator. He personally made the decision to padlock the doors." The district attorney's office agreed to a 19-year, 11-month sentence for Roe. He will be eligible for parole in two and a half years.

State officials have levied \$808,150 in fines against the company and the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration another \$144,500. Roe claims he has no money to pay these fines and has filed for bankruptcy protection.

State labor commissioner John Brooks filed an affidavit in a federal bankruptcy court in Greensboro stating that he walked into the plant office the day after the fire and overheard Roe telling his lawyers to transfer everything out of my name as fast as you can."

Imperial had \$16 million in coverage with three insurance companies. But the insurers claim they have no responsibility to pay the victims more than what they can get through workmen's compensation.

## Drywall strikers continue fight and gain solidarity

BY ELIZABETH STONE

ORANGE, California — It is 5:00 a.m. and the Carpenter's union hall in Orange County is already filling up with workers. Pretty soon shouts of "vamos" (let's go) ring out and workers begin to pile into pickup trucks and campers.

This is the way each day starts for many of the more than 3,500 drywall construction workers who are striking to win a union.

Every day hundreds of workers go out to construction sites ranging from north of Los Angeles to San Diego. Their goal: to shut down the sites and convince the approximately 3,000 drywall workers who are still working to join their strike.

This day, August 19, they are headed for a housing tract under construction in nearby Anaheim.

More than 200 strikers are at the site when a busload of 47 workers hired by the construction company draws up at 8:00 a.m. The workers block the front of the driveway, making it impossible for the bus to get through.

Forty-five cops, with riot-gear and gas

masks, line up in front of the bus, threatening arrests. After an hour and a half of negotiations, an agreement is made to allow the bus to enter the construction site in exchange for the right of the strikers to talk with the workers in the bus.

For hours there is a tense stand-off between the cops, the construction company managers and the pickets outside as the workers inside ponder what to do. Sounds of hammering can be heard but most workers seem to be talking and standing around. Two workers come to the fence to talk to the strikers, reporting that about 30 of those inside are thinking of coming out. In response the pickets chant more loudly in Spanish, "Brothers—come join us!" "Come out;" "Our struggle is your struggle."

By 1:30 the temperature has risen to well above 90 degrees. The police push workers away from the fence in an area where they claim pickets have entered the compound, threatening those inside. The picketline continues. A resident of the neighborhood offers his hose to replenish the strikers' water supply. No one has eaten for hours. Finally, at 2:20 p.m., the busload of all 47 workers leaves.

### Cops arrest strikers

The next day, a new busload of potential strikebreakers rolls up to the site and there is another confrontation. Several arrests are made by the cops on phoney charges. A leader of Hermandad Mexicana Nacional, an immigrant rights group that has given significant support to the strike, is one of those arrested.

More days go by and the new construction project is finally completed, "That was a tough one," striker Jesús Gómez comments later, "But we did succeed in slowing down their progress for about a month."

Gómez is one of the initiators and organizers of the strike. He says, "If you quote me writing about the strike, don't say I'm a big leader, or anything like that. I'm a drywall worker—that's all."

You hear the same theme from other strike activists. This is a strike being led and organized by the drywallers themselves.

After three months on strike, they have contracts including benefits and better wages, with eight construction companies. Strikers take turns working the jobs and contribute half their wages to share with other strikers. The contracts are signed with the Carpenters' union.



Militant/Elizabeth Stone

Striking drywallers and supporters block driveway at construction site in Anaheim, California. More than 3,500 California drywall workers are striking for a union.

A strike kitchen has been set up, with strikers cooking the meals for the hundreds who are served daily at the union hall. Tons of food has been donated from other unions, including the Carpenters' locals in Northern California.

The pickets experience constant harassment from the cops. There have been mass arrests on two occasions.

### Union pushed out of construction

During the past decade, union drywallers have been pushed out of most housing construction in Southern California. During the same period immigrant workers became almost the entire drywall workforce. Wages plummeted from approximately \$600 a week to \$300, with the workweek expanded to 60 hours.

Many strikers are former members of the Carpenter's union who dropped out when the union jobs dried up.

Building trade union presence in commercial construction is also being pushed back by the relentless anti-union drive of the contractors under depression conditions.

On September 3, nearly one thousand members and supporters of the Carpenters' union picketed the World Trade Center in downtown Los Angeles where non-union workers are being hired at about half union pay. Several hundred striking drywallers

participated.

In the past, many union carpenters have blamed the weakening of the union on the growing number of immigrant workers in the industry, instead of looking to the possibility for a united struggle against the common foe—the construction contractors and their relentless anti-union, anti-immigrant attacks.

Now, through their fight, respect and support for the striking drywallers is increasing among union carpenters. "They are on the front lines," commented Brenda Ellison, a 26-year-old carpenter who participated in the September 3 picket.

Increasing numbers of unions in the Los Angeles area are giving solidarity to the strike through contributions and invitations to speak at union meetings. At the September 7 Labor Day march of 600 sponsored by unions in the Los Angeles harbor, the contingent of 200 drywallers was a center of attention.

More support is needed. Contributions can be sent to: Carpenters Union Local 2361, 1916 W. Chapman Ave., Orange CA 92668. Telephone: (714) 978-2361.

The stakes are high. Sixto Espana, a veteran drywall worker who joined the strike two months ago put it this way: "The construction companies are afraid of us because if we can get contracts, other workers in construction will follow."

### Socialist candidate joins picket line

Joel Britton, Socialist Workers Candidate for U.S. Senate in California, participated in picketing at the Anaheim construction site.

An oil refinery worker and member of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union, Britton told reporters that the struggle of the drywallers to restore union wages and benefits lost over the last decade is an example for all workers.

"The stakes are high. This battle for union recognition and a living wage is occurring as depression conditions develop in the United States and as Washington drives toward war in Iraq," said Britton.

"These strikers are carrying out an effective struggle and making some headway against great odds. Other workers should join these fighters on the picketline to help block the construction bosses from using strikebreakers and to help win over workers not yet on strike," Britton said.