

# THE MILITANT

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defy jailings to win victory

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## Socialist candidate joins picket line with fighting airline workers

BY MATILDE ZIMMERMANN

SEATTLE — Alaska Airlines workers here, involved in a sharp contract dispute with a concession-hungry company, are organizing to mobilize their own ranks and reach out to other workers. Dozens of them took advantage of the three-day visit of James Warren to hear what the socialist candidate for president had to say and discuss issues that have come up in their own struggle.

Most of the workers at Alaska are members of the International Association of Machinists (IAM), which organized an all-day picket and human billboard alongside a busy highway at the airport September 25. Organizers estimated that 500 people participated in the course of the day, with never less than 100 in attendance. Warren walked the picket line for more than an hour, was introduced to at least half the workers there, and got into a wide range of discussions.

"It's a world economy, and they want to bring us down to Third World level instead of bringing the others up," a mechanic with 25 years at Alaska told Warren. "If they have to destroy a million people, they will," agreed his friend, "with guns or economically." A baggage handler told the presidential candidate his relatives in Missouri were miners on strike for safety reasons.



James Warren (second from right) joins picket line with Alaska Airlines workers.

A long-time union fighter who is also an elder of the Haida Native American nation in Kotzebuc, Alaska, said "without the union, we'd be completely sunk"—a theme repeated by the other workers. Gail Bigelow, a leader of the Association of

Flight Attendants, said proudly that 50 Alaska flight attendants had come to the picket during the course of the day. Warren talked to workers about his recent trip to Cuba, about what happened in the Soviet

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## Sweden recession brings on austerity measures

BY CARL-ERIK ISACSSON

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Sweden has been thrust into a political crisis in recent weeks as the central bank and government have raised interest rates and proposed austerity measures in response to the recession and the European currency crash.

"This is a crisis for the capitalists, it is a crisis of their economic system. It is not our crisis," explained a statement issued by the Communist League in Sweden. "It means an opportunity and a necessity for working people in Sweden, together with workers and farmers all over the world, to build solidarity to fight for our rights."

After the Finnish currency was devalued 13 percent September 8, for the second time in less than a year, the Swedish krona came under heavy pressure. The central bank raised interest rates — first to 75 percent and later to 500 percent — to stop currency from being taken out of the country.

Both Sweden and Finland have been drawn into the worldwide depression. Growth rates are negative for the second year in a row. Unemployment is up sharply. In Sweden the unemployment rate increased from 1.2 percent at the beginning of 1990 to 7 percent today. Finland's un-

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## United Auto Workers union strikes giant Michigan car assembly plant

BY JOHN SARGE

LANSING, Michigan — In response to increasingly harsh moves by General Motors (GM) to cut jobs, 4,200 members of United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 602 struck the auto giant's Lansing car assembly plant Saturday, September 26.

UAW members walked out at 10:00 a.m., in the middle of the day shift, after GM had refused for months to negotiate over a long list of local grievances. Local union vice-president Jim Frazier explained that the fight was "over manpower standards, overloading of jobs, health and safety issues, and the moves by the company to cut jobs."

This is the second strike involving local issues to hit GM in a month. On August 27, 2400 members of UAW Local 1714 struck the Lordstown, Ohio, metal fabrication plant. After a nine-day strike that idled more than 42,000 GM workers and thousands of other auto parts workers, the company was forced to back down on immediate job cuts in the plant. The Lansing plant was down one day during the Lordstown strike.

According to older workers on the picket line, this is the first strike in this plant since 1970, when the local was out 69 days.

Workers walking the picket lines described conditions in the plant as bad and deteriorating rapidly. A doorfitter at the plant's main entrance, one of over a dozen pickets covering this entrance, explained that the strike is "not about money, it's about pride, dignity, safety, and jobs." He went on to explain that there have been "chemical

spills and fires in the plant where the company refused to evacuate people or even stop production."

A trim-shop worker at another gate explained that his department superintendent had told his crew that management plans to reorganize jobs so that people on the line would have 57 seconds of work every minute. He has been told that the company's goal "is to produce this car in 26.6 hours. Now it takes between 29 and 30 hours. When we started it was over 35 hours."

As part of GM's downsizing and speed-up drive, they cut 350 jobs in August by switching from tag relief breaks to a mass relief system. The new system, where all workers take their breaks simultaneously, eliminates the relief jobs. Some of the work of relief people is being shifted onto line workers.

GM has big stakes in this confrontation. The *Detroit Free Press* reports that GM is motivated, in part, by a desire to show investors that it will not abandon its downsizing plans in the face of UAW pressure. Last December GM announced plans to cut 75,000 jobs, with 51,000 union jobs going in the next couple of years.

An unnamed company official was quoted by the *Free Press* as saying, "Hell, if we have to draw a line in the sand somewhere, why don't we just go ahead and draw it now?"

This strike comes one week after GM announced that it is slashing white-collar

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Auto workers picket General Motors assembly plant in Lansing, Michigan.

## Immigration cops arrest 300 Nebraska meat-packers

BY SARA LOBMAN

Three hundred and seven workers were arrested when more than 200 armed federal, state, and local cops, some from as far away as Alaska and Puerto Rico, invaded the Monfort packinghouse in Grand Island, Nebraska the evening of September 22. The workers were charged with using counterfeit identification cards to get jobs.

This is the largest number of arrests in an immigration raid since the Immigration Reform and Control Act went into effect in 1986. Hundreds of employees were indiscriminately seized during a work break and herded into the cafeteria. Guards surrounded the plant so that no one could enter or leave. A helicopter and dogs were used to hunt down workers trying to escape. The raid started at 6:00 p.m. and the last busload of arrested workers left at about 3:00 a.m. Those suspected of lacking valid immigration work cards were handcuffed and bused to a temporary jail set up at the Nebraska National Guard Armory.

On Wednesday, 145 of those arrested had already been placed on buses and planes for deportation to Mexico. By Saturday, virtually all 307 workers had been deported.

The immigration cops left a list of 163 day-shift workers with the company, claim-

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## Germany and Japan seek UN Security Council seats

German foreign minister Klaus Kinkel told the United Nations General Assembly September 23 that Bonn wants a permanent seat on the UN Security Council. Kinkel said that Germany would change its constitutional restrictions on use of its military so German soldiers could take part in UN military operations. Kinkel's statement came one day after Japanese foreign minister Michio Watanabe indicated to the General Assembly for the second year in a row that Tokyo feels that Japan's economic importance merits a permanent Security Council seat by 1995. The U.S. government has opposed any discussion on changing the body, saying it fears the possibility of even more sweeping changes.

## Russian debts block new loans

Russian deputy prime minister Aleksandr Shokhin said that the country was unable to use new loans because it could not meet overdue payments on previous debts. Other loans were not being utilized because the weak ruble made imports too expensive, even with the loans. Speaking at a news conference Shokhin also mentioned a \$1 billion loan from the International Monetary Fund, made available since August, that Russia has not used because the 7.5 percent interest rate is too high.

A fight between Washington and Bonn has broken out over Russia's debts. Bonn opposes Russia's request for rescheduling its debt by postponing payments for up to 15 years. Germany, which is owed half of the \$70 billion debt, is advocating new spending by imperialist governments to help Russia pay up. Washington has been backing the rescheduling proposal, much to Germany's ire.

## Child mortality rate in Iraq tripled following war

A new study by researchers financed by the United Nations Children's Fund reports that the death rate for children under five tripled in the months after the Gulf War. Citing steep rises in intestinal diseases and malnutrition, the study estimates that

46,900 more children died in the first seven months of 1991 than would be expected based on child mortality figures in the years preceding the war. The researchers said their findings confirm that "the casualties of war extend far beyond those caused by warfare."

Meanwhile, the United States, Britain, and France have reached agreement on a draft UN resolution that could lead to the seizure of \$1.6 billion in frozen Iraqi assets. Earlier this year Washington made a proposal to seize all frozen Iraqi assets, more than \$4 billion. However, many governments were unwilling to release funds held in their local banks as they were contemplating confiscating the monies themselves.

## U.S. Congress approves measure to extend blockade of Cuba

The United States House of Representatives passed the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992 September 24. The bill, also referred to as the Torricelli bill after its principal author, has aggressive new restrictions on trade with Cuba, including a ban on subsidiaries of U.S. companies based in other countries from trading with the island. The Senate passed the bill September 18, leaving only the president's signature necessary to enact it. Both President George Bush and candidate William Clinton have endorsed the bill, virtually guaranteeing its passage.

## Dominican Republic cops fire on Columbus celebration protesters

Members of a secret service unit fired on anti-Columbus celebration protesters in the Dominican Republic September 20, killing Rafael Efraín Ortiz, head of the Dominican Committee of Human Rights, and wounding two union leaders. The next



Six hundred Japanese troops arrived in Cambodia September 25 to join the United Nations force there, the first Japanese soldiers overseas since World War II. Japan and Germany seek greater international military role.

day the government announced the arrest of ten members of the unit in connection with the shooting. There have been growing protests against the government's austerity measures, focusing on the Columbus anniversary. The government is constructing a half-mile-long, ten-story-high lighthouse, whose beams will be visible for 150 miles.

## Australian recession lingers

Australia continues to reel from its worst recession in 60 years. The government said the August jobless rate remained at a near-record 10.9 percent. Private indicators show weak consumer confidence and declining savings rates. Business leaders say they see little sign of improvement in sales this year. Economists complain that Australian capitalism's biggest problem is the continuing slowdown in the rest of the industrialized world.

## Iran-contra evidence links Bush

More evidence of President George Bush's involvement in the Iran-Contra scandal has shown up in notes of former defense secretary Caspar Weinberger. Weinberger is facing trial for perjury and obstruction of an investigation into the affair. Bush has insisted that he was not involved in and had no knowledge of the setup to sell arms to Iran and use the money to finance the U.S.-organized contra war against Nicaragua. Investigators going through 1,700 pages of Weinberger's notes of that period turned up a reference to an important January 1986 meeting where aides of then-president Reagan debated the plan. Bush has repeatedly denied being at this meeting, despite other aides who say he was there. Weinberger's notes of the meeting indicate Bush was there.

## UN to begin flights to Sudan

A UN official reported September 17 that he had obtained agreement from both sides in the civil war to begin relief flights to Sudan. Hundreds of thousands of Sudanese have been cut off from food and

medicine. The war, which began in 1983, has intensified recently, displacing more than one million people in the last six months. The United Nations is planning to fly food and supplies to 20 cities.

## Mass arrests in Peru

Police and army troops in Peru have been making sweeps throughout Peru arresting hundreds of people accused of being sympathizers of Sendero Luminoso, or Shining Path. "They're still grabbing people. They're razing various places," said former army colonel Jose Bailetti, describing an aggressive government campaign that is directed against Peru's workers and peasants. The government is using the recent arrest of Shining Path leader Abimael Guzman to justify the sweeps, under the guise of making more progress in ending the war between the armed forces and Guzman's group.

## Strikes continue in Greece

Thousands of people marched in Athens in mid-September to protest against proposed social security cutbacks as unions in Greece launched their third two-day general strike in three weeks. The strikes against the austerity measures have cut electricity, disrupted public transit and mail delivery, and shut hospitals and banks. The unions, with more than one million members, are fighting against the government's plans to raise the retirement age and increase workers' pension contributions. In a companion strike protesting a sixfold increase in their pension payments, lawyers have shut down the Greek court system.

## Israeli-Syrian talks end without settlement

Negotiations for a settlement between Syria and Israel ended September 24 without reaching agreement. Both countries had expressed the goal of issuing a joint statement coming out of the talks. During the four-week session, negotiators hinted that agreement for a peace treaty and the return of some or all of the Golan Heights, captured by Israel in the 1967 war, might emerge. A seventh round of Arab-Israeli negotiations is scheduled for Washington, D.C., in late October.

## Polish auto strike ends

A seven-week strike at Poland's FSM auto plant ended September 16 with the government claiming victory in its campaign for wage restraint. Up to 3,000 workers agreed to leave the plant in Tychy in southern Poland after failing to win any concessions other than a 30 percent wage hike agreed to at the end of July. Fiat of Italy will now take over the plant, which has been producing its Cinquecento car since January. The workers were demanding that wages be indexed to the market price of the car. The end of the strike means their wage now will be about \$300 per month.

—DEREK BRACEY

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# Currency turmoil in Britain exposes fact that economy has sunk into depression

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

SHEFFIELD, England — Behind the turmoil of the September 16 devaluation of the pound, interest rate movements, and the shifting sands of Britain's relations with the European Community and other capitalist powers, lies an unavoidable fact: the British capitalist economy has sunk into depression.

The government and capitalist moneybags are seeking to make working people pay for their crisis. Official unemployment jumped 47,000 to 2.8 million in July, the 28th consecutive monthly rise. British Aerospace, Rolls Royce, and Ford all announced job cuts in late September, totaling 5,000 jobs. Other massive job cuts planned include 25,000 miners later this year.

Over the past year the majority of working people have experienced a reduction in their real wages.

Attacks on workers' living standards will increase as a result of measures announced by the government September 25. The government said it would maintain its "anti-inflationary" stance. This had previously been guaranteed through Britain's participation in the European Monetary System (EMS) and the high interest rates associated with supporting the pound.

Now that Britain pulled out of the EMS and devalued the pound by nearly 10 percent, many weaker capitalist companies have been calling for a cut in interest rates to 6 percent or lower. Confronted by declining revenue, they are looking for cheaper credit. The government has refused to cut interest rates below 9 percent.

As part of the drive to make working people pay for the crisis, a cabinet committee is now considering ways of cutting back public spending. The cutbacks will inevitably hit health, education, and other social spending.

For the last two years, government spokespeople have made frequent predictions that Britain was emerging from the recession. These announcements have tailed off as official government figures reveal them to be false. Capitalist political commentators are increasingly concluding that any recovery that may come in 1993 or 1994 will be shallow.

Total output, known as the Gross Domestic Product, has dropped steadily for the past two years.

## Pound collapses

This reality lay behind the massive outflow of funds which led to the pound's collapse. An estimated 10 billion pounds (1 pound = US \$1.70) flowed out in one day, equivalent to half Britain's currency reserves. This was not the work of speculative traders alone, but action by banks and finance houses that concentrate in their hands the money capital of giant corporations.

The 10 biggest of these financial institutions hold a combined market share of 44 percent of currency dealings in London, which is the world's biggest foreign exchange center. London accounts for 30 percent of the \$1.7 trillion that is traded every day in the international currency markets.

These big corporations and finance houses took their lead from rumors spread by the head of Germany's central bank, Helmut Schlesinger, that a devaluation of the pound was imminent. The British rulers, who have relied on their relationship as a junior partner of the United States to strengthen their hand in Europe, found themselves on their own as U.S. traders sought to cash in on this crisis.

Simon Andrews of the Bank of America went on television to boast: "We have had a good day. Selling half a billion pounds made us a clear 10 million pounds profit."

As a result of the perceived weakness of the British economy, international investors are now shying away from Britain. A devalued pound should make Britain an attractive proposition because overseas investors can buy in cheap, but U.S. and Japanese financial institutions have expressed caution about Britain's prospects. Eiji Arima, manager of foreign exchange at Nippon Life Insurance, said the company is "negative about investment in the U.K. [United Kingdom]. We think it will take a long time for the U.K. economy to recover."

The crisis of the pound has hit the British

government, sharpening already existing tensions within the ruling Conservative Party and wealthy circles concerning the government's attitude to the European Community and moves toward European economic and political union. More than 70 Conservative legislators have signed a motion in the House of Commons calling for a "fresh start to economic policy."

While only recently Prime Minister John Major was publicly musing about when the pound might displace the German mark as the main currency in Europe, the government has now been forced to withdraw the pound from the European Monetary System.

A growing number of politicians, such as member of Parliament government and former government minister David Howell, have openly declared that the Maastricht Treaty, the agreement on political union in Europe that 12 governments signed last year, is dead.

Anthony Newton, a leader of the House of Commons, spoke for the government in the face of such pressure: "We are all agreed that we want to see a Europe in which more emphasis is put on the development of co-operation between national governments rather than doing things through centralized bureaucratic structures." For a while, rumors circulated that former prime minister Margaret Thatcher, ousted because of her stance against European union, might be taken back into the government.

## Germany and France

In response, the governments of Germany and France have threatened to move toward economic and political union, leaving other members of the European community behind.

Chancellor of the Exchequer Norman Lamont has been beating the patriotic drum, calling for a "British policy in British interests." Government ministers and members of Parliament of the Conservative and Labour parties alike have targeted Germany in a campaign of nationalist propaganda.

Behind the debates in ruling circles lie genuine conflicts of interest. Britain's capitalist rulers gain a relatively large amount of

their wealth from profits from overseas investments. Those who engage in such investments, prefer high interest rates capable of ensuring a strong pound. Other corporations, which need cheap credit to allow them to be price-competitive in international trade, demand lower rates.

The chairman of the Guinness brewing company announced in a BBC radio interview that 85 percent of the company's revenue came from exports, so Guinness would benefit from the devaluation, which will make their commodity cheaper for overseas buyers. But for importers the devaluation will force up prices, eating into their profits.

In these debates on the economic crisis between different sets of capitalist magnates and politicians, no force is speaking in the interests of working people.

Labour Party leader John Smith argued in the September 25 emergency parliamentary debate on the crisis that the solution was for rapid re-entry into the European Monetary System combined with some measures to stimulate the domestic economy, such as investment incentives and training.

On the other hand, Labour member of Parliament Dennis Healy made a joint call with former Thatcher government member Cecil Parkinson for the government to increase taxes. Member of Parliament Tony Benn, a leader of the left wing of the Labour Party, is campaigning noisily for a referendum on the Maastricht Treaty.

The Trade Union Congress, at its annual gathering in Blackpool at the beginning of September, adopted an emergency motion calling on the government to devalue the pound. Trade union officials have opposed



Economic crisis has hit weaker imperialist economies such as Britain, Italy, and Sweden especially hard. Above, workers in Italy protest government austerity actions.

strikes and protests by union members in the face of attacks on their living standards, with the result that the number of strikes has fallen. Days lost due to strike action in the first seven months of the year stood at 500,000, the lowest annual total since records began in 1920.

But in the plants and the mines, there are continuing skirmishes in the face of employer attacks. Direct action by bosses to impose wage cuts on unionized workers have been extremely rare in Britain. A recent attempt to do so by management at River Don stampings in Sheffield was met by a successful three-week strike. Local government workers here called a strike for September 28 to protest planned job cuts.

## Swedish crisis leads to austerity measures

Continued from front page  
employment went from 4 percent to 15 percent during the same time.

### Banks collapse

Two of Sweden's largest banks were recently rescued by the government and a third, Gota Bank, has just gone into bankruptcy. A dramatic drop in the stock market since 1990 has caused heavy credit losses in the banking system.

Major insurance companies such as Scandia and Trygg-Hansa, with substantial assets in commercial real estate and stocks, have also suffered big losses in credit insurance on bad bank loans.

The weakness of the financial institutions in Sweden and other countries in Scandinavia has caused capitalists operating in the international currency markets to stay away from the Swedish krona.

The traditional markets for the relatively strong Swedish capitalists — Scandinavia, North America, Eastern Europe, and many countries in the Third World — have shrunk considerably due to worldwide depression conditions. Competition for these markets has sharpened considerably, especially between Sweden and Germany.

To counter the economic weight of Germany, the Swedish government is seeking closer relations with Washington. The rulers of Sweden hope to show the United States and other imperialist powers in Europe that it is a power to count on militarily in the strategically important Baltic Sea. They also seek to demonstrate Sweden's political weight as the chair of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, and its economic weight by becoming more competitive through drastically lowering social spending.

### Austerity package

As interest rates soared the employers and the national government, run by the capital-

ist parties, campaigned for "national unity" in face of the financial crisis. The Social Democratic Party, which was ousted from the government last September, was called on to negotiate austerity measures to defend the krona.

The government and the Social Democrats, the party that supposedly represents the interests of working people, agreed on severe cutbacks September 19-20. The package is designed to pump 40 billion kronor (\$7.3 billion) into the state coffers to stabilize the economy and prevent a devaluation of the krona.

All major parties have come out in support of the measures announced to protect the krona. Old-age pensions will be reduced. Child benefit increases will be postponed. Housing subsidies will be slashed. Sickness benefits will be lowered.

Taxes on gasoline will be raised 1 krona per liter (about 20 cents a liter or 80 cents a gallon) and the price is already above \$4 a gallon. Taxes on a pack of cigarettes will go up 60 cents and they already cost \$5 a pack.

The government says it will spend \$2 billion on jobs but in reality what it is talking about is increased subsidies to the employers.

The government and the Social Democratic opposition have also come to an agreement that sick pay and occupational injury insurance be taken out of the state treasury and transferred to employers and unions to be negotiated, financed, and administered. The shift of social security from the state to the unions and the employers is supposed to begin in 1995. If implemented it will weaken the protection of the unemployed, youth, women, and immigrants.

"The crisis package is an expression of cowardice," the Communist League statement explains. "It hits hardest at the weakest

groups such as those with long-term illnesses, retired people, and many of those in the countryside. But the government is just preparing for even harder blows against broader groups of workers."

In addition to the announced austerity measures the employers' association is pushing for less taxes and more subsidies. They have also called for cutting wages by 10 percent in companies with low profits, negotiations on a company-by-company basis, and no-strike pledges.

Former Social Democratic finance minister Allan Larsson stated that there is no room for wage increases. Political commentators in the big-business press have hailed the pact between the government and the Social Democrats as a milestone in Swedish politics.

"It means that politicians have obeyed the broad mandate from the voters to take responsibility for the whole country rather than their party," stated the conservative newspaper *Svenska Dagbladet*.

### Protests planned

Several months ago the unions called for nationwide protest demonstrations on October 6, the opening of the fall session of parliament. This had been when austerity measures were to be announced. Up to now the government and the Social Democratic opposition have not been able to whip up nationalism enough to force the unions to call off the protests.

"It is important that we show our solidarity with those who are hit hardest now," says the Communist League statement. "We have to protest, disregarding the false talk that it is 'the country' at stake, and disregarding the position of the Social Democracy and those who say they represent the working people. We must seize the opportunity to protest at the announced demonstrations on October 6."



# Novack remembered as a revolutionary

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, which 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 JOHN COX

The George Novack Fund slipped further behind this week in relation to where it should be by this stage of the fundraising effort. A total of \$2,671 was sent in to the fund in the past week. To reach the total pledged in the remaining eight weeks, an average of at least \$18,000 will have to be sent in each week.

The fund finances the reconstruction project taking place in the Pathfinder building in New York City, which is pictured at the top of the graph showing how much money has been collected. The building is the home of Pathfinder Press, as well as the *Militant* and other socialist publications. The fund is crucial to ensuring that the reconstruction project continues.

Supporters of the fund in San Francisco held a meeting on September 20 to celebrate Novack's life and contributions to the working-class and socialist movements. Javier Aravena, a young worker who volunteered to work on the reconstruction brigade over the summer, gave a brief talk on his experience. Doug Jenness, chairperson of the Socialist Workers Party in Twin Cities and former editor of the *Militant*, gave the main presentation.

Jenness said that while "the young generation may know Novack as a 'socialist scholar'," his more important contribution was his

role in leading fights for democratic rights, organizing fund-raising efforts that made it possible to publish writings of revolutionary leaders like Leon Trotsky and Malcolm X, and in other ways playing an active part in the class struggle.

Novack was also a gifted writer, popularizing the ideas of Marxism and making them more accessible for workers and young people looking for a way to fight, Jenness explained. "Novack wrote for thinking workers, for radicalizing students, not for the so-called intellectuals," Jenness added. "You can tell this, because you can understand his books."

Jenness concluded his talk by saying, "The biggest lesson of this century is not that struggles will occur, or that periods of quiescence will be short-lived. The lesson is the indispensable role of advanced detachments — soldiers of the revolution — who have learned, and can see farther and more clearly," a lesson that "was affirmed by the Russian revolution of 1917 and by the absence of these advanced detachments in other revolutions and revolutionary openings of the last 70 years."

Some 50 people attended the meeting, and \$1,650 was pledged to the Novack fund, including the \$1,175 that was collected. Supporters of the fund in San Francisco have exceeded their goal for pledges and have collected \$4,425.

Paul Montauk in San Francisco contributed to this article.

\$150,000



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PITTSBURGH	4,500	100	3
PORTLAND	750	0	0
ST. LOUIS	6,500	406	7
SALT LAKE CITY	6,500	681	11
SAN FRANCISCO	12,000	2,235	19
SEATTLE	6,000	1,105	19
TWIN CITIES	9,500	1,290	14
WASHINGTON, D.C.	4,500	0	0
<b>U.S. TOTAL</b>	<b>153,700</b>	<b>14,427</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	650	0	0
<b>BELGIUM</b>	1,100	1,100	100
<b>BRITAIN</b>	1,860	300	16
<b>CANADA</b>	2,905	340	12
<b>FRANCE</b>	1,030	1,030	100
<b>GERMANY</b>	1,429	1,429	100
<b>NEW ZEALAND</b>	710	540	76
<b>SWEDEN</b>	2,50	1,100	45
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$165,834</b>	<b>\$20,266</b>	<b>14</b>

## Britain: miner hit by violent attack wins support

BY JOHN SMITH

SHEFFIELD, England — "We support your decision to take a stand against the brutal attack against you. For workmates to make such a degrading attack only helps the employers divide and weaken us all. By taking such a stand you are showing us all that we should unite and stand together."

This was the message from 11 workers at G.E. Lighting, London, to Paul Galloway, a miner who was violently and sexually assaulted August 6 by eight other miners because of his political and union activity. Messages supporting Paul are arriving daily, and so are letters to branch officers of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) and Union of Democratic Mineworkers (UDM)

at the Thoresby coal mine where he works.

In the past week, Thoresby union officers have received letters urging union action from members of International Association of Machinists, Lodge 869 at Rolls Royce in Montreal; André Doucet, a Montreal hospital worker; Wayne Metcalfe, trade union convenor at Brooke Bond Foods in Manchester, England; union officials and workers at Hawker Siddeley Power Transformers in London; 12 rail workers at Waterloo station, London; and others. Letters have arrived from Spain, Canada, the United States, and Sweden.

Paul Galloway's decision to take a public stand has opened a big discussion among miners at the Thoresby colliery. As the is-

ssues are discussed, opinion has been moving in his favor. Galloway reports that those who carried out the attacks are feeling "very uncomfortable." Two UDM members said they would have gone straight to management, but they "admired the way you and your paper are taking this up" by calling on the unions, not the management, to bring his attackers to order.

The newspaper to which they referred is the *Militant*, which receives a good reception when it is sold every week at the pit-head.

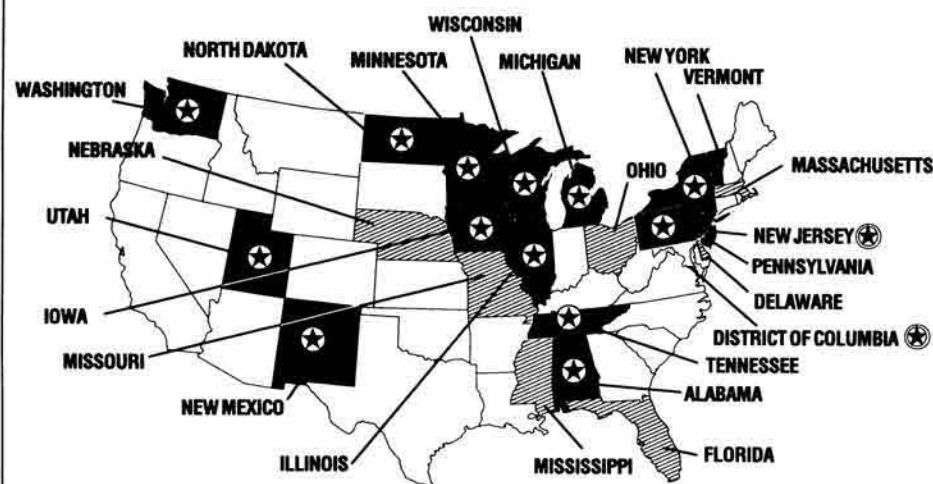
In this situation, the letters arriving from workers around the world are having a real effect. Galloway says "I would like to thank all who have sent letters to the NUM and UDM and personal messages of support to

me; and ask everyone to keep up the pressure, so together we can defeat anti-union violence and win a victory for solidarity between working people."

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, Nottinghamshire, England, NG21 9PS (tel: 0623-822238) and to NUM Thoresby Branch, c/o Keith Stanley, 24 Samson Street, Kirby in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, England NG17 9HT. Please send copies to Paul Galloway at the above address.

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



Supporters of the Socialist Workers 1992 Campaign are petitioning to put James Warren for U.S. president and Estelle DeBates for vice-president on the ballot in 18 states and the District of Columbia. In addition, efforts are under way to place on the ballot socialist candidates for Congress and Senate in many of those states plus Florida, Michigan, Missouri, and Pennsylvania, where antidemocratic restrictions have made petitioning for the socialist presidential candidates prohibitive for the 1992 elections.

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

Militant map by Eric Simpson

## Nebraska state investigation targets socialist campaigner

BY JOHN STUDER

After ruling James Warren and Estelle DeBates, socialist candidates for president and vice-president of the United States, off the ballot, Nebraska state officials are stepping up an attack on the Socialist Workers campaign.

On September 21 the District Court of Lancaster County granted an order, demanded by Lincoln, Nebraska, police officials, ordering Doug Lee-Regier, a campaign supporter and petition circulator, to appear before the Technical Investigations Unit of the police department to provide a handwriting sample.

Election officials have publicly accused Lee-Regier of forgery and false statements. He has not yet been charged with any crime, but the court order is the result of a police investigation prompted by election officials' charges. Lee-Regier is threatened with felony charges, punishable by up to 25 years in prison and a \$25,000 fine.

Officials point to three names they claim were forged. They say one individual's name is on a petition, but that this person says he never signed; another signature they claim is that of a person who died last year.

A third they say is invented, because they couldn't read it. Campaign supporters report that they have found this name and correct address as it appeared on the petition, in the phone book, and that at least one of the other signatures is so difficult to read that it could be a different name.

The socialist campaign has responded by organizing public meetings in Lincoln and Omaha, Nebraska. At the meeting in Omaha September 26, participants discussed how to fight the attacks. Héctor Marroquín, national co-chair of the Socialist Workers 1992 Campaign, linked the attack on the socialist campaign to a series of ruling-class attacks in the state, pointing to the immigration raid at the Monfort packinghouse in Grand Island on September 22.

Almost 4,000 people signed nominating petitions in Nebraska to place the socialist candidates on the ballot. Election officials ruled the campaign off the ballot, claiming that only 836 of these signatures were valid.

John Studer is a member of UAW Local 270 and works at Fawn Manufacturing in Des Moines, Iowa.



# Jailing of 18 strikers fails to break Rhode Island schoolteachers

BY ROSALINDE HOWELL

WARWICK, Rhode Island — A 13-day teachers' strike, which led to the jailing of 18 teachers including 6 union leaders, ended in a victory here September 15.

The 990 members of the Warwick Teachers Union (WTU) began their strike September 1. School officials demanded that they accept a contract that included increased class sizes, a three-year pay freeze, elimination of art and music programs, and substantial layoffs.

This strike was the second round in an ongoing battle between the teachers' union and the Warwick School Committee. Last year the teachers' union conducted a four-day strike when the School Committee offered the WTU a similar contract. That strike ended when school officials agreed to further negotiations under the direction of a state labor arbitrator.

A new contract was never finalized, however. Teachers here have been working without a contract since the summer of 1991.

After teachers walked out September 1, the Warwick School Committee promptly went to court claiming the strike was causing 12,000 students "irreparable harm" and was illegal.

On September 9, Judge Paul Pederzani Jr., ordered teachers to return to their classrooms the following day. Teachers defied the court order, picketing outside their classrooms. In response, Mayor Charles Donovan demanded that each striking teacher be

fined \$200 dollars for each day on strike, and threatened to seek replacements if the teachers did not immediately return to work.

Later that day, city and school officials filed a contempt-of-court order against the teachers. Twenty teachers were subpoenaed. Nineteen of them faced Pederzani in a courtroom packed full of their supporters. When Edith Petrarca, a teacher and union officer, was asked if she was willing to accept the consequences of defying the court order, she stated resolutely, "I'm prepared to deal with that."

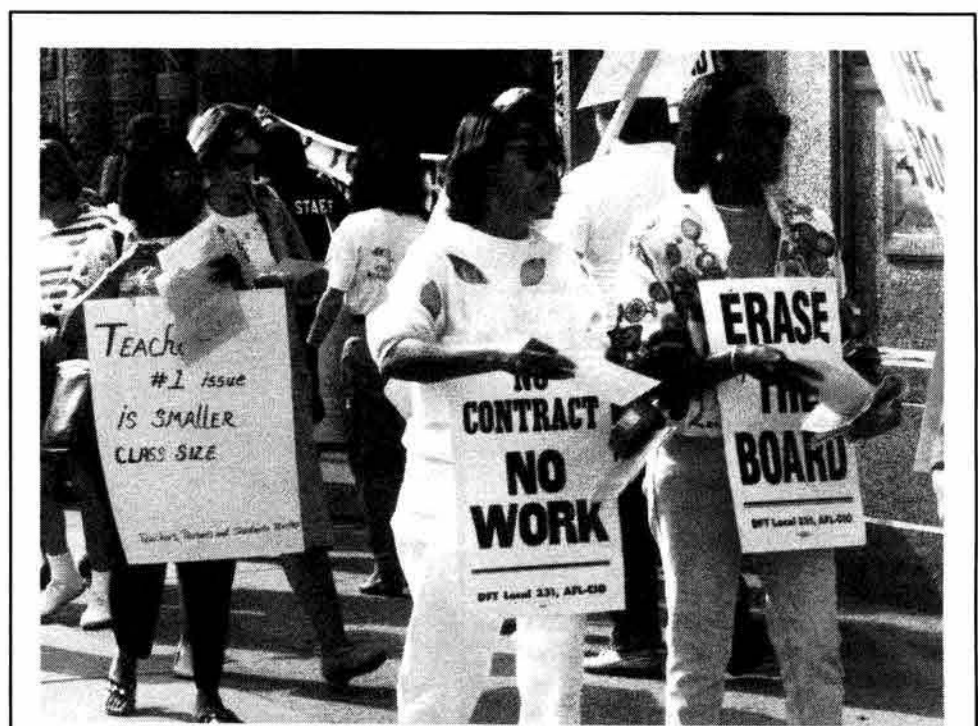
Eighteen of the 19 unionists, including WTU president Mary Pendergast, were sentenced to indefinite jail terms at the Adult Correctional Institute, the state prison in Cranston. The unionists were also ordered to pay fines of \$300 dollars a day.

The 18 teachers were led away to the roar of applause from the crowd of strike supporters in the courtroom. Outside the courthouse, fellow strikers flanked the police cars transporting the teachers to jail and marched in solidarity to the state prison.

## Judge backs down

Another 50 teachers were then subpoenaed and ordered to appear in court September 14. When all 50 subpoenaed teachers appeared in court, solidly behind the strike and prepared to go to jail, Pederzani backed down.

He proposed that the teachers return to work under the expired contract while negotiations continue. The expired agreement as-



Militant/John Sarge

Detroit teachers, who went on strike August 31, defied a court order to return to work September 24. As the order was read to the union meeting, the 5,000 teachers present walked out. Picket lines were in place the same day. Three days later, a tentative contract agreement was reached. A meeting of 2,000 union members voted almost unanimously to return to work. Teachers will vote on the proposal October 5-7.

sured teachers their previous wages and medical coverage, smaller classes, and increased hiring. The union leadership agreed and the 50 subpoenaed teachers were not jailed.

Minutes later the teachers jailed earlier emerged from the courthouse and joined the crowd of 400 students, parents, teachers, and other unionists, including Teamsters, telephone workers, and nurses. Many flashed the "V" sign for victory, to the cheers of supporters.

Addressing the crowd, striking teacher Myron Rekrut stated, "A lesson has been learned. Those who thought they'd break us with threats and delays were wrong."

Some teachers pointed out that they had never hoped to win such a favorable contract at the bargaining table. "This is a big victory because we stuck together," stated Jaime Horowitz. In a meeting later that night 900 enthusiastic WTU members agreed by an unanimous vote to return to work.

# 'Depression mentality' dominates U.S. farming

BY DEREK BRACEY

Family farms in the United States have undergone significant changes as a result of the massive crisis of the last decade. Farmers were brutalized by the drive by the big bankers and the government to make them pay for the debt crisis, and now many are faced with unwillingness on the part of the banks to provide loans or other assistance.

As a result, there has been a shift in farming practices by many working farmers. A recent *Wall Street Journal* report detailed some of the changes. The most dramatic change is that carrying out farm operations through taking out loans, once used by most working farmers to finance nearly everything from planting to harvesting, has

dropped dramatically.

A national survey showed that farmers are now using only 40 percent of their borrowing capacity, down from 95 percent in 1981. As many farmers had their land taken away to pay their debts, they were forced to rent to continue farming. Now, more than 42 percent of farm land is rented, up from 35 percent in 1970.

Last fall, wheat growers planted less land than economists expected, despite the fact that crop prices were rising as stockpiles hit their lowest levels since 1973. Cattle herds have not expanded either, despite recent stronger prices. "What we are dealing with is a depression mentality," said Jim Ryan, an Agriculture Department economist.

"We're farming with old cows, old machines, and old buildings," said Harry Tucker, a farm management specialist in Iowa. The average U.S. tractor now is a record 19 years old. The decline in buying by farmers has had a significant adverse impact on companies that sell farm equipment and supplies.

Analyzing this, the *Wall Street Journal* article says, "Manufacturers say their equipment wasn't designed to last so long. They expected the combination of three years of strong farm incomes and aging equipment to ignite sales this year. But business hasn't recovered as expected. Disappointing second-quarter sales prompted a hasty late-July meeting of the companies' executives and farm groups to discuss farmers' tightfisted-

ness at a Chicago hotel."

A major reason for the decline in borrowing has been an increased reluctance by banks to lend money. Farm banks are lending only 54 percent of their deposits, compared with 74 percent for the banking industry as a whole.

Many banks have harsher lending policies than before. It is common for a bank to require a 40 percent down payment to buy land, compared with 25 percent before the farm crisis. Farm activists note that one-third of borrowers from a decade ago would not qualify today. Farm banks have recently been maintaining higher interest rates than other banks.

The *Journal* notes, "Several years ago, farm bankers typically sealed deals over the phone. Lending rules are a lot stricter now at... Davis County Savings Bank [in Bloomfield, Iowa]. There, Doran Ryan, a vice president, uses a desktop computer to figure out whether a farmer can make a go of it. He crunches [calculates] how much cash flow a farmer can generate, based on everything from past harvests to shifting government policy."

Many economists say the debt is getting too low. Neil Harl, an Iowa State University professor who was one of the first to complain about too much farm debt a decade ago, said, "There is such a thing as too little debt, too."

The *Journal* laments, "Debt as a percentage of farm assets has fallen back to 16 percent, where it was in the ho-hum 1960s, from a high of 23 percent in 1985. And it seems likely to stay stuck at current levels."

Farm banks were hit hard during the crisis. Of the \$55 billion drop in farm debts in the past seven years, one third came from lenders writing off bad debts. As a result, many of these banks are very reluctant to take a chance on "bad loans."

Instead, they are investing heavily in U.S. Treasury securities. Nationwide, small-town farm banks have more assets directed toward securities than loans to farmers. As a result they have become one of the strongest sectors of the banking industry, earning a record \$1.7 billion last year.

Many are concerned that the decline in borrowing will break many more businesses in the near future. Shirley Smith, the sister-in-law of a banker in Bloomfield, Iowa, said, "The key to a small town's survival is its banks. I don't know what the key is to getting the bank less afraid."

# Myanmar rulers proclaim end to martial law

BY SARA LOBMAN

The government of Myanmar (formerly Burma) announced September 26 that it would lift the last of the martial law decrees that it imposed in 1989 to crush the democratic rights movement. The action was primarily cosmetic.

Myanmar, which shares borders with India, China, Bangladesh, Laos, and Thailand, has a population of 42 million. It was a colony of Britain until 1948. In 1988 a massive movement developed demanding democracy and free elections. The response of the military was to openly take power in September 1988 and to launch a murderous assault on the prodemocracy movement. The military now runs the country in the name of the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC).

Under pressure from broad sections of the population, including within the military, and growing isolation in the world, the SLORC organized elections for a national assembly in May 1990. The National League for Democracy (NLD) won 392 of the 485 seats contested, but the SLORC has refused to convene the assembly. NLD leader Aung San Suu Kyi was arrested in 1989 in the period leading up to elections staged by Myanmar's military-backed dictatorship. The government has said it will free her only if she agrees to return to Britain where her husband and two sons live. She refuses to leave the country. Her continued arrest highlights the ongoing repression that exists in Myanmar.

Another important factor in Burmese politics is the decades-long struggle against the central Burmese government that has been carried out by members of the many national minorities that live within the country. One third of Myanmar's population belongs to one of almost 30 distinct national groups. Following the 1988 crackdown, approximately 7,000 opponents of the regime — mainly students — fled from the capital to the border areas where they joined forces with these guerrillas. Many of the youths died of hunger and disease, but 3,000 still live in make-shift camps on the border.

According to The Burma Project, an organization that publicizes the struggle for democratic rights in Myanmar, there are 6,000 political prisoners, including 350 monks, in Myanmar. None have been brought to trial and many were not even brought before a military tribunal for sentencing.

An estimated 37 percent of Myanmar's budget goes to military spending. The regime has 250,000 troops.

The SLORC has adopted an "open door policy" of selling off natural resources to foreign investors. Practices such as clear-cut logging of teak forests, oil exploration, and gem and tin mining bring in revenue to the military, but are carried out with no regard for the environment.

The civil war has created hundreds of thousands of refugees from Myanmar in the region. More than 70,000 are in Thailand, thousands more are in India and China.

Earlier this year, more than 200,000 refugees, mostly Muslims from the Rohingya ethnic group, entered Bangladesh. While the Myanmar government has said it will admit the refugees back into the country, many of them say they have faced persecution at the hands of the army. The United Nations investigating team has said that it would not assist or support such a repatriation unless the situation inside Myanmar is safe.

The UN Human Rights Commission has condemned Myanmar for serious human rights violations. The European Community has called for a ban on arms sales to the country.

In April, Saw Maung, who had been chief of the SLORC, was replaced by Tan Shwe. The SLORC released some political prisoners and said it would meet with opposition leaders to discuss drawing up a constitution. But the government says it has no intention of releasing Aung San Suu Kyi from house arrest.

SLORC foreign minister Ohn Gyaw has said that Tan Shwe is continuing the previous policies of the governing junta. He said the organizations representing the national minorities would not be included in the dialogue on the constitution. "People wearing the jacket of insurgents as well as terrorists can surrender their arms and then they can take part in their own way in the process," he said.

The proposed meeting has not been held, nor have there been any other steps taken toward drawing up a constitution.



# Debate on immigrant rights in Georgia

BY BOB ROWAND

ATLANTA — For the past several weeks, the city's northern suburb of Chamblee has been the scene of a heated controversy over the rights of immigrant workers, mainly from Mexico and other Latin American countries.

On August 15, the Chamblee City Council held a meeting at which some local residents complained that the Latino construction workers who gather every morning at a local convenience food store to try to get day-labor jobs were drunk and using the surrounding area as a public toilet.

Councilman O.T. Foster suggested that residents set bear traps to keep the workers off their property. Police chief Reed Miller added that the residents' problems wouldn't be solved "until these people go back where they came from."

A storm of protest followed. The consuls of several Latin American countries issued a statement of concern over the remarks by Chamblee officials. The Latin American Association and other groups from Atlanta's growing Latino community also protested. The Atlanta *Constitution* reported August 21 that calls condemning the officials' statements were flooding City Hall, the Latin American Association, and the Atlanta office of the U.S. Justice Department.

The Chamblee racists backed off almost immediately, at least to the extent of apologizing for their remarks. Councilman Foster said he "didn't mean to offend anybody" with his bear-trap remark. Police chief Miller said it "was probably a bad choice" of words on his part.

A public meeting to protest the attacks against Latino workers in Chamblee took place August 29, sponsored by the Militant Labor Forum. Featured speakers were Reverend Joseph Fahey from the Hispanic



Immigration laws keep workers who come to United States "down, underpaid, and in the worst jobs," explained Susan LaMont, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress from Georgia. Above, immigrant workers in New York.

Apostolate of the Catholic Archdiocese of Atlanta; Reverend Waldo Pinilla from the Hispanic Ministry of the Druid Hills Presbyterian Church; Carlos Miranda, editor of the Spanish-language community paper *Los Primos*; and Miguel Zárate, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate and a member of United Auto Workers Local 882 at the Ford assembly plant here.

Fahey spoke of the responsibility of the U.S. government in creating the conditions in Mexico and throughout Latin America

that force millions of workers and peasants to flee their homelands in order to survive. Pinilla and Miranda stressed the need for mutual education between those born in the United States and newly-arrived immigrants.

"What's happening in Chamblee is part of a general assault on workers as the worldwide depression and drive towards war deepen," Zárate said. The real problem in Chamblee is the criminally low wages and lack of social services provided immigrant

workers, he added.

"The fight for unity among working people is key," Zárate said, because attacks on immigrant workers will continue, whether in Europe as tens of thousands continue to flee the war in Yugoslavia or in the United States, where anti-immigrant rhetoric is becoming more and more a feature of rightward-moving capitalist politics.

On September 3, another city council meeting was held in Chamblee to discuss the events. Representatives of church groups, businesspeople and civic association representatives from the Latino community, Chamblee residents, and others came to the packed meeting.

By this time, the Chamblee officials were clearly on the defensive, and the hour-long meeting focused on setting up a task force to improve "community relations." Suggestions to have police learn some Spanish and to provide other information about laws and public services in Spanish were duly noted. Chief Miller even said he would like to hire a Hispanic police officer. "My only problem is finding one who's qualified," he said.

After public health and law enforcement were identified as issues to be addressed by the new task force, the chair asked if there were suggestions of other issues the group should look at. "One of the most important issues is the immigration laws," said Susan LaMont, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress in the 6th C.D. "Working people in Chamblee and throughout Atlanta have to welcome and defend the rights of our immigrant brothers and sisters, regardless of whether they have papers or not. That's not our concern."

"Our concern is forging solidarity and not allowing ourselves to be divided on the basis of who's legal and who's illegal," LaMont continued. "After all, we know that the purpose of the immigration laws is not to keep people out of the country, but to keep many of those who come here down, underpaid, in the worst jobs, with no rights, or access to services."

While the chair quickly ruled discussion of immigration out of order — "we've dealt with that already," she said — others in the room applauded the socialist candidate's remarks. During the rest of the meeting, several other speakers also found a way to raise the view that the events in Chamblee were not a matter for the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Meanwhile, Latino laborers are no longer allowed to gather at the market to wait for jobs. City officials say they are looking into arranging an alternative site.

## Canada coal miners fight concessions

BY TOM LEYS  
AND PAUL KOURI

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — Westar Mining, the largest coal mining company in British Columbia, locked out 1,100 members of the United Mineworkers of America (UMWA) from its Balmer mine May 1 after 62 percent of them voted against the company's "final offer."

The company was declared bankrupt August 31.

Digging open pit seams of low-sulfur coal as high as 50 feet, 1,750 miners worked some of the largest equipment in the world. These miners at Westar's Balmer and Greenhills mines are now waiting to see if their jobs will remain if new owners take over.

Some 3,000 coal miners produce about 20 million tons of coal per year at five different mines in this region, known as the Elk Valley, in the southeastern part of British Columbia. The annual one billion dollars of coal production from the Elk Valley generates important profits for some of Canada's largest corporations. One such corporation is Canadian Pacific, which owns Fording Coal, operator of the second largest mine in the area. This mine has also been shut down since May 8 when 850 miners, members of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA), struck the plant.

The impact of these two struggles was felt immediately. A number of small businesses in the region closed. Canadian Pacific Rail laid off more than 100 rail workers.

### UMWA resists concession demands

Westar, which owed \$365 million to its creditors, demanded the UMWA-organized miners accept a two-year wage freeze and changes in work rules that would have given it greater flexibility to contract out work, reassign jobs, and eliminate seven sick days per year used by the workforce since 1948. The company calculated this would save it \$6 million per year.

With the backing of some local and provincial news media Westar waged an intense campaign to convince miners and their families that unless they gave these concessions the mine would shut down.

The UMWA miners have also been under considerable financial pressure. In August UMWA miners organized a demonstration

in front of Employment and Immigration offices to demand unemployment insurance benefits. A few weeks later officials ruled in favor of the miners, granting them benefits as of August 25. The federal Conservative and provincial New Democratic Party governments had insisted the mine was closed due to a labor dispute, not for economic reasons. The UMWA miners have had to get by on money their local union has borrowed, including from the UMWA international headquarters.

On August 13 workers at Balmer voted once again by the same margin of 62 percent to oppose Westar's concession offer. In 1986 the UMWA workers defeated a four-month lockout by Westar also designed to impose concessions on the workers.

Ezner DeAnna, president of UMWA Local 7292, which represents the 1,100 miners at the Balmer mine, explained in an interview August 31 that in his opinion the lockout was merely a pretext to close the mine and force Westar's creditors to lower their loan repayment demands.

"UMWA miners at the Balmer mine have made more than \$300 million in net profit for the company over the past ten years. They blew it. It's not our fault."

### Raid on UMWA

Westar's other mine, Greenhills, employs approximately 600 miners who are members of the Greenhills Workers Association (GWA), not an officially recognized union. The GWA organized the work force to work without pay the first week of the bankruptcy as part of its campaign to present itself as a "reasonable" union alternative to the UMWA.

At the end of August the GWA initiated a raid on the UMWA. GWA president Eric Cable has charged the UMWA with "the explicit goal of bankrupting Westar. The 1,300 jobs at Balmer are on the line because of the polarized, negative labor relations between the UMWA and the Balmer management. This has to change," he said. "Working together we can solve the problems at Balmer and secure the jobs of the 1,300 people employed [there]."

This campaign has sown some confusion and divisions among the Balmer and Greenhills' work forces. Some of them believe that the GWA's approach is more likely to attract new owners to keep the mines

running. Recently the GWA suspended its raid at the request of the NDP government, which is discussing with potential investors taking over the bankrupt mines.

Meanwhile the UMWA announced its own buy-out plan.

The outcome for these 1,700 coal miners is far from certain. Their fate will have a big impact on coal miners and the labor movement as a whole.

Tom Leys is an unemployed steelworker. Paul Kouri is a member of USWA Local 3495.

## Antiracist meeting in Illinois protests Ku Klux Klan rally

BY ROLLANDE GIRARD  
AND DAVE SANDOR

ALTON, Illinois — More than 200 people turned out here for an antiracist protest September 12 in response to a Ku Klux Klan rally and cross-burning held in nearby Foster Township.

The Klan event, which drew about 100, was addressed by KKK national grand wizard Thomas Robb. "If you think you have trouble with minorities today," he said, "What will it be like when they are the majority." It was reportedly the first Klan rally in the area.

Prior to the ultrarightist gathering, a public discussion broke out on how to respond to it. Some, such as the local NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People), proposed not to protest the KKK action. Others agreed with Rev. Tony Roberts, who said, "If we ignore this [the Klan rally], it may look like we condone it."

The antiracist action, organized by local residents, was publicized as a unity rally. Young people held signs that read "We are one race," and "End racism."

"We must put the emphasis on doing something, not just talking," said long-time civil rights activist Josephine Beckwith at the anti-KKK demonstration.

Bob Collins, president of a local group called 100 Black Men of Alton, explained, "We all came here on different ships, but

now we're all on the same boat."

Ingrid, a college student, said she came to the counter-rally because she was opposed to the Ku Klux Klan. She said immigrants should not be blamed for the social problems in the country.

Nearly 40 students from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville marched past the site of the cross-burning and over to the counter-rally.

Supporters of the Socialist Workers election campaign also participated in the anti-Klan rally. They distributed a statement by Ellen Haywood, socialist candidate for U.S. Congress in Illinois's 12th District.

Referring to the KKK action, the socialist candidate's statement said, "In opposition to their ideas of 'white rights' and 'America first,' we need to build a united movement of working people and our allies to fight for: a shorter workweek with no cut in pay to provide jobs for all, affirmative action programs to fight racist and sexist practices and insure unity in our ranks, and cancellation of the Third World debt," which is exploiting millions of working people in semicolonial countries.

Haywood added that working people "also need to fight for open borders to prevent the capitalists from discriminating against workers from other countries and to help unite us internationally."



# Miners, students, political activists buy the 'Militant'

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Results from the first week of the international sales drive indicate some encouraging opportunities for circulating the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and *New International* among working people and youth.

The goal is to sell 3,200 copies of the *Militant* each week for the first three weeks, then to switch to a six-week subscription drive, aiming for a total of 2,500 subscriptions by November 21.

dents came up to the campaign table on campus after reading the article. Twenty-three bought copies of the *Militant*, and two students signed up for introductory subscriptions.

## Campaign 'soap-boxing'

In Cleveland, socialist campaign supporters have been setting up tables on busy street corners and "soap-boxing." When a bus arrives or a group of people passes

dates from appearing on the ballot. At a table set up at the University of Delaware in Newark, supporters sold 17 *Militants* and a subscription, and 24 people signed up to find out more about the Socialist Workers campaign.

To organize successful sales efforts each week it is essential to make Saturday a full day of campaign and sales activities. Teams that set up attractive campaign tables by shopping areas in working-class communities and that aggressively hawk the paper on busy street corners will maximize the number of papers they sell. Boston socialist campaigners report that one useful technique to keep up a campaign spirit around the drive is to encourage each team to take a goal when it goes out on a sale.

## Sales at political events

Participation with the *Militant* at political events is another important aspect of the sales campaign. Supporters in Boston sold 9 *Militants* at a meeting of 500 people that commemorated the one-year anniversary of the military coup in Haiti that overthrew the democratically elected government of Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

In Puerto Rico the sales campaign got off to a good start at the annual commemoration of the 1868 uprising against Spanish rule known as *Grito de Lares*, which drew 10,000 people. Ron Richards reports selling 3 copies of the *Militant*, 11 of *Perspectiva Mundial*, and 2 of *Nueva Internacional*, as well as \$80 worth of Pathfinder literature at this event.

Supporters in Salt Lake City, Utah, found a good place for *Militant* sales at lines for the movie *Incident at Oglala*, which tells the story of the frame-up of Native American activist Leonard Peltier. They sold 19 papers between two showings and set up a special Pathfinder literature display featuring *The Communist Manifesto*, *Genocide Against the Indians*, and *The Long View of History*.

## Book fairs

Many local book fairs that attract sizeable crowds are proving to be another good place to sell the *Militant*. At the Pathfinder literature table set up at the New Jersey State Book Fair September 19 in New Brunswick, supporters sold 50 copies of the *Militant* and 5 of *Perspectiva Mundial*, 2 subscriptions to each periodical, and 3 copies of *New International*, as well as \$240 worth of revolutionary literature.

In New York City, students attending Stuyvesant High School purchased 6 copies of the *Militant* from a team of socialists campaigning outside the school one morning. Several students wanted to know when the team would be back since they didn't have any money that day. New York *Militant* supporters are planning to make this sale a regular feature of their weekly campaign efforts.

We need reports on successful sales activities in the *Militant* business office, so write them up and send them in. Finally, a reminder that the deadline for receiving sales results for the scoreboard is Saturday at 12:00 noon EST.

Pete Seidman in Philadelphia contributed to this article.



Participants at the New Jersey Book Fair snatched up the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, *New International*, and Pathfinder literature.

The *Militant* provides a working-class perspective on major international political developments such as the currency crisis in Europe and on-the-scene coverage of important labor battles around the world — from the United Auto Workers strike against General Motors in Lansing, Michigan, to the ongoing fight by gold miners in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, in Canada.

Distribution of the *Militant* is one of the best means of campaigning for the Socialist Workers candidates. Ellen Haywood, SWP candidate for U.S. Congress in Southern Illinois is on a leave of absence from her job as a steelworker. She just led a team of campaign supporters on a one-week tour of the state's coalfield areas. Campaigning in front of eight mine portals, Haywood discussed with United Mine Workers of America members some of the big questions confronting working people, including the fight that many miners expect when their contract expires early next year.

## 'Citizens of the world'

"We have to start acting more like citizens of the world and fight together with workers in other countries who are facing the very same attacks that are coming down on us in this country," Haywood explained in many discussions with miners and other working people. "One miner responded, 'I think that's a good way of putting it, citizens of the world,'" Haywood recounted. Twenty-four miners bought the *Militant* from the team.

At Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Haywood was interviewed for the campus paper, which printed a front-page story under the headline, "Socialist candidate says: Capitalism dying, workers should unite." Many stu-

by, one supporter stands on a chair and starts talking to the crowd about the socialist alternative to the bipartisan war policies of the Democratic and Republican parties. This draws interest. One team sold 16 *Militants* this way.

In Philadelphia, Democratic mayor Edward Rendell imposed a new concession contract September 23 on unions representing 15,000 city workers. The contract proposal, which calls for a two-year wage freeze and the replacement of the union-run health-care plan with a more expensive city plan, has led to a discussion of possible job actions among members of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME).

Supporters of the socialist candidates have been campaigning among AFSCME members, 14 of whom bought copies of the *Militant* and one subscription last week. A statement issued by the Pennsylvania Socialist Workers campaign, which got a good hearing among city workers, explained, "Rendell doesn't demand concessions from the wealthy holders of municipal bonds, who will receive some \$138 million in tax-free interest payments this year. He doesn't demand that the deadbeat landlords and corporations who owe the city \$260 million in back taxes pay up."

"This shows the real priorities of Rendell's Democratic administration — to put the profits of a small handful of wealthy families ahead of the human needs of Philadelphia's 15,000 city workers represented by AFSCME and the 1.6 million people who live here and depend on the vital services they provide."

## Ballot rights fight

In Delaware campaign supporters are organizing protest actions against that state's ruling that prevents the Socialist Workers candi-

## SINGLE ISSUE SALES

Goal: 3,200 copies per week

week 1

	RESULTS	GOAL
3,200		
3,000		
2,000		
1,000		

## AROUND THE WORLD

	The Militant			Perspectiva Mundial		New International		
	Weekly single copies			Weekly single copies		Nine weeks		
	SOLD	GOAL	%SOLD	SOLD	GOAL	SOLD	GOAL	
<b>UNITED STATES</b>								
Birmingham, AL	97	85	114%	0	2	0	35	
Los Angeles	162	150	108%	30	25	2	70	
Cleveland	110	105	105%	0	3	0	40	
Chicago	104	100	104%	4	5	3	45	
New York	253	250	101%	23	15	7	90	
Greensboro, NC	106	105	101%	0	3	3	30	
Philadelphia	111	110	101%	5	5	0	35	
Morgantown, WV	80	80	100%	1	1	3	30	
Pittsburgh	80	80	100%	0	0	3	35	
Miami	95	95	100%	5	7	0	40	
St. Louis	119	120	99%	4	3	3	35	
Houston	78	80	98%	8	10	2	30	
Newark, NJ	149	155	96%	6	10	3	65	
Atlanta	85	90	94%	3	3	0	30	
Detroit	74	80	93%	3	2	2	35	
Boston	114	130	88%	5	5	0	45	
Seattle	81	95	85%	2	8	0	35	
Baltimore	77	105	73%	0	3	0	35	
Salt Lake City	60	85	71%	5	5	0	20	
Washington DC	55	85	65%	3	6	0	35	
San Francisco	60	100	60%	2	5	1	60	
Des Moines, IA	55	105	52%	2	8	0	40	
Portland, OR	6	12	50%	0	1	0	10	
Cincinnati	13	40	33%	0	1	0	5	
Twin Cities, MN	0	125	0%	0	5	0	45	
Santa Cruz	0	8	0%	0	1	0	4	
New Haven, CT	0	15	0%	0	0	0	6	
<b>U.S. TOTAL</b>	<b>2,224</b>	<b>2,590</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>985</b>	
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>	
<b>BARBADOS</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	
<b>BELGIUM</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	
<b>BRITAIN</b>								
Manchester	40	60	67%	0	1	0	30	
London	27	75	36%	0	2	0	40	
Sheffield	0	40	0%	0	1	0	20	
<b>BRITAIN TOTAL</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>90</b>	
<b>CANADA</b>								
Toronto	78	90	87%	8	7	0	45	
Vancouver	64	80	80%	0	3	0	20	
Montreal	23	80	29%	0	7	2	70	
<b>CANADA TOTAL</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>135</b>	
<b>FRANCE</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>133%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	
<b>ICELAND</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	
<b>MEXICO</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	
<b>NEW ZEALAND</b>								
Christchurch	43	30	143%	0	0	0	8	
Auckland	40	35	114%	0	1	0	8	
Wellington	32	30	107%	0	0	0	10	
<b>N.Z. TOTAL</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>121%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>26</b>	
<b>PUERTO RICO</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>150%</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	
<b>SWEDEN</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,612</b>	<b>3,220</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>1,306</b>	
<b>SHOULD BE</b>		<b>3,200</b>	<b>100%</b>		<b>175</b>		<b>144</b>	

## IN THE UNIONS

Union	Militant/PM			NEW INTERNATIONAL	
	SOLD	GOAL	%SOLD	SOLD	GOAL
UMWA	39	20	195%	0	0
ACTWU	23	32	72%	0	26
UAW	33	50	66%	1	0
ILGWU	10	18	56%	0	9
IAM	38	80	48%	0	42
USWA	41	90	46%	0	30
UTU	15	45	33%	0	0
UFCW	8	25	32%	0	15
OCAW	3	25	12%	0	20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>142</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



# Nicaraguan peasants fight for land rights

## Sandinistas and former contras find themselves on both sides of farm conflict

BY AARON RUBY

SAN JUAN DEL RIO COCO, Nicaragua — Nicaragua's countryside is the scene of a polarization between large landowners and peasants who are either seeking land or fighting for the ability to farm on the plots they occupy.

On each side of this polarization are leaders and supporters of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN). Also on both sides are members of the opposition movement known as the *contras*, which was organized by Washington and which for several years in the 1980s waged a bloody attempt to overthrow the Sandinista-led government.

Visits to a number of farms in this region illustrated the process that is unfolding here.

El Carmen is a relatively large coffee farm, a 45-minute journey by jeep from San Juan, which is located 150 miles northeast of Managua. The farm used to belong to a colonel in the National Guard under the dictatorship of Anastasio Somoza. After the 1979 revolution led by the FSLN, it was seized by the workers employed there and became a state farm.

The revolutionary government nationalized a number of farms. It launched an agrarian reform program that gave land to tens of thousands of landless peasants who mobilized to demand land, although tens of thousands more never received land. Nutrition, health, and educational programs were also instituted, relieving some of the brutal living conditions and increasing the self-confidence of the rural toilers.

El Carmen, vigorously defended by the workers during the contra war, was severely damaged during one of two major attacks.

Today El Carmen is a private farm again. Now it belongs to former majors of the Sandinista army, who received it as part of the demobilization accords following the contra war. Under these accords, members of the former Sandinista People's Army received 14 percent of the former state property; the contra forces, known as the National Resistance, received close to 16 percent; and 33 percent was designated as property of the workers. Of the original state-owned property, 37 percent has not yet been privatized.

For four months the 120 workers and their families on El Carmen farm have not received their daily wage of \$1.35 plus meals. They are living on what food they can grow on small plots that belong to the landowners.

On April 4 of this year the workers sent a letter to Nicaraguan president Violeta Chamorro, in which they demanded 25 percent of the profits from the crop, along with 25 percent for social benefits such as the day-care center and food program for children. The eight former army majors would receive the remaining half of the profits.

The majors say the 35 houses to which the workers had received titles from the Sandinista government in 1985 do not belong to them, and have threatened action against the workers.

Ernesto Gutiérrez, one of the workers on the farm and a long-time member of the FSLN, said the majors were "only Sandinistas on the outside." He complained that his union, the Association of Rural Workers (ATC), was not helping to defend the workers.

### In defense of property

According to Alba Palacios, secretary of international relations for the ATC, the association has concentrated on organizing workers on former state farms and is not attempting to organize workers on private farms where there is strong resistance by the owners. The ATC has lost half of its membership of 70,000 over the past two years.

The ATC backs the call by the FSLN for workers to support those landlords who belong to the FSLN. In the words of FSLN general secretary Daniel Ortega, these owners are not "savage capitalists." The central slogan of the FSLN is "In defense of property."

"The struggle is for the democratization of property, the road toward preserving the revolution. We want to create an even stronger group than COSEP [the large capitalists' council in Nicaragua] based on Sandinista property," said José Angel Ber-

múdez, a national leader of the National Employees' Union (UNE) and the Sandinista Workers Federation (CST).

At La Dalia, a coffee plantation in San Juan del Río Coco, the formal ownership by the workers has meant that some gains and rights, not available on private farms, have not been completely lost for the moment. Róger Rivas, union secretary at La Dalia, explained, however, that after the coffee farm was given to them the workers were obliged to hire the previous administration. The administration was given the right to hire, fire, and set wages, with the agreement of the workers. Subsequently a number of workers were laid off. They were also obliged to use their first months' wages to pay for coffee seedlings. Child care, including a daily meal, which was an important gain for women workers during the initial years of the revolution, had been free but now costs \$4 per child every month out of a \$27 monthly wage. Some workers have

them a month after the occupation. To avoid a violent clash the workers agreed to leave. Once the police left however, they reoccupied the land and have remained since.

Like Gerardo Rodríguez, who spent 10 years in the Sandinista army, and Danilo Ramos, who was in the National Resistance for 5 years, there are a number of war veterans among the squatters.

"The main thing is that we are all poor peasants," Ramos explained. "None of us are happy with the current government and its policies," he continued as the others nodded.

This is not the first occupation in the area. In 1990 27 families occupied 1,140 acres of Los Cedrales farm in the Ojoche area. They have been granted provisional titles to the land.

Ramos stated that many in the region do not have any or enough land. A few days before, he said, 40 families attempted to



Militant/Aaron Ruby

"The main thing is that we are all poor peasants," explained workers who had taken over the land at the San Pedro farm (pictured above). "None of us are happy with the current government and its policies."

left La Dalia to participate in land occupations.

"If the agrarian reform is not deepened there will be war in the countryside," Palacios warned. "It is an explosive situation."

### Land seizure

On May 20, not far from El Carmen farm, 45 families occupied the 440-acre private farm called San Pedro, located in the town of Cerro Blanco Abajo. Visitación Torres Gonzales, who was a farmhand at San Pedro, explained that the farm had been abandoned since 1982.

Like Danilo Ramos, who was renting three and a half acres nearby, most of the families had been squatting on the land of family and friends in the area, some with as little as one-third of an acre.

After appealing for land at the offices of the Ministry of Agrarian Reform, to no avail, the families decided to occupy the farm.

The farm is being divided into individual lots, with each family receiving three and a half acres. The rest of the land is used communally. Forty acres have already been planted with corn, beans, and other subsistence crops. There are 10 families now living on the farm with the rest living elsewhere while they work the land. Torres said they may organize a cooperative to pool their resources.

"The fight right now is to get legal ownership of the land," Ramos explained. Without a title of ownership they are not eligible for loans that the farmers need to bridge the seasonal lull, obtain seed and tools, make payments, and otherwise maintain the farm.

The police made one attempt to evict

occupy the nearby 500-acre El Dolores farm.

### Opposition by landowners

"I agree with taking the land that belongs to the state, but they have to respect private property" said Gonzalo Abarca, owner of Los Milagros, a 90-acre coffee farm bordering San Pedro. Abarca, a small capitalist farmer who opposes the land seizure, has owned Los Milagros for 35 years.

Aside from seasonal labor, which sometimes reaches 100, Abarca currently employs 8 workers year-round and wants to hire 10 more but has not been able to find any willing to work at the current very low wages. "Why work if they can steal someone's land. The problem is that people don't want to work anymore. The previous government didn't teach them the work ethic and now they don't want to work hard," Abarca complained.

Referring to the low wages he pays — \$1.20 a day including food — Abarca maintained that, "the biggest problem both for the employer and the worker is the lower price of coffee on the world market. I didn't even make enough to cover costs and to reinvest in upkeep of the coffee fields during the last harvest."

### Pressure on cooperatives

Quibuto is a hamlet of 1,700 people, located southeast of San Juan, which has two cooperatives and one collective farm.

Through the agrarian reform, some peasants established cooperatives and collectives to cushion themselves from the market fluctuations through credits and guaranteed markets supported by the state.

"Establishing legal ownership of the land is the main problem the cooperative faces," said Miguel Hernández, the president of the Zacarías Padilla Cooperative of 40 members, which was founded in 1980 with 230 acres of coffee and some basic grains. They are members of the National Union of Farmers and Cattlemen (UNAG).

The current government does not legally recognize most cooperatives, under the pretext that the titles that were granted under the agrarian reform law during the first years of the revolutionary government are not valid. The disputes are being decided by the government on a case-by-case basis.

Members of the cooperatives as well as other small farmers in the area have been forced to sell land in order to meet bank payments and to obtain some cash to live on.

As a result of these pressures there is increasing differentiation within and between the cooperatives, as well as among other landowners.

Hernández said the goal was to form a local association of cooperatives to strengthen them economically.

Another cooperative in Quibuto, called Armando Zeledón, was founded in 1986. The land was given in exchange for the land the occupants lost when they were relocated by the army to Quibuto from an area of strong support for the contras.

When asked about the past conflict between Sandinistas and contras who now appeared to be getting along together in the farm, cooperative president Pedro Quintero said, "The contras and the Sandinistas who were poor remain poor; as peasants we have the same interests."

### Land conflict

According to Reynaldo Laguna, secretary for the FSLN and for UNAG in San Juan del Río Coco, in that area there are 1,130 unresolved cases of land ownership without titles. A government commission is projected to resolve 150–500 of these cases. The government says, however, that it will not decide in several cases where the ownership is in dispute.

According to Laguna the commission's decisions "will only generate further problems because it will leave everyone else resentful of the others and it will reinforce the idea that the only way to resolve the problem is with a gun."

In the San Juan area, scene of heavy fighting during the contra war, there are a number of groups of former Sandinistas called *recompas*, and groups of former contras called *recontras*. They have taken up arms and in some cases united to demand that the government fulfill the agreements and that they be granted land. Some bands have been assaulting travelers. On July 20 recontras machine-gunned vehicles at a cooperative outside San Juan.

"There are 40,000 landless peasants in the northern region and the government doesn't have any more land to give," said Miguel Hernández of Quibuto. "Further land can only be obtained through pressure; only those who are strong enough will get land."

Hernández, who described the land occupations as acts of desperation, said, "UNAG seeks to resolve the problems of the land peacefully in terms of the cooperatives." Daniel Núñez, UNAG national president, declared earlier this year that "the land seizures provoke instability in the countryside that affects all of us."

According to the ATC, in the period since the military demobilization and the January 1990 election of the new government, some 6,000 families have occupied 70,000 acres, mostly on the 37 percent of state lands that had not been privatized. These occupations have declined and as of July there were only 45 across the country. In 1992 there have been 12 evictions by the army and police. One hundred workers and peasants have been arrested in the course of these evictions.

According to the ATC there are currently 100,000 unemployed in the countryside, bringing the combined unemployment and underemployment to 60 percent. Many poor peasants and workers explain that they see obtaining some land as the only means of survival in the worsening crisis.



# Barbados workers fight austerity drive

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

One of the special guests attending the International Socialist Conference held in Oberlin, Ohio, August 5-9 was David Denny, president of the League of Progressive Youth of Barbados.

In an interview, Denny described the attacks facing working people in Barbados as a result of the government's steps to implement a series of austerity measures demanded by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Barbados is an island country in the Caribbean with a population of 240,000 that is 90 percent Black.

In September 1991 the government led by Erskine Sandiford announced a series of belt-tightening measures stipulated by the IMF in exchange for a \$58 million loan. These included a wage cut of 8 percent, layoffs of 2,000 public employees, reductions in severance pay and unemployment benefits, increased taxes, and wide-ranging price hikes.

Last November 30,000 workers marched in Bridgetown, to protest these austerity measures. The march launched a two-day general strike that closed most businesses.

The IMF's "structural adjustment program" has created great hardship for the working people of Barbados, Denny explained. One of its central aims is "to reduce the standard of living of workers, to destroy unions so that transnational corporations

will be able to come into Barbados and get the cheapest labor possible while creating some of the worst working conditions," he said.

"Conditions in the city and some parts of the rural areas are very bad," Denny continued. Some people are malnourished and "a number of people are losing their homes because they cannot pay the rent."

"Workers in Barbados will rebel against this situation," stated Denny.

After taxes, the average take-home wage in Barbados is about \$96 a week, he explained. Out of this a working woman with two children must pay \$30 a week to cover child-care expenses.

"Unemployment in 1986 was 30 percent," said Denny. "Today it's in the area of 40 percent."

The government has also begun to privatize many state-owned corporations. Telecommunication companies have been sold off. There is talk about selling off the cement plant as well as the oil and natural gas industry, Denny explained. U.S. corporations operate nonunion electronics and garment plants in Barbados.

## Emigration to United States

Because of the high levels of unemployment on the island, a growing number of people have been leaving for the United States. "It's a struggle for survival," said Denny. "When people come here [to the



Militant/Brian Williams  
David Denny (far left) and James Warren, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. president (fourth from left), with sanitation workers in Bridgetown, Barbados.

United States], though, they realize that the situation is the same."

A number of skilled workers who come to the United States find that they cannot get decent jobs. "A person who is a nurse will come to the States and become a nanny because she cannot get a job as a nurse in the States or in Barbados," Denny pointed out.

Denny first became involved in politics in 1979 when he joined the Democratic Labor Party. The assassination of Grenadian revolutionary leader Maurice Bishop in 1983 by forces led by Bernard Coard had a big impact on him.

"Once they killed Bishop they killed the revolution in Grenada," stated Denny. "Bishop is seen by working people as the main hero in the English-speaking Caribbean for the 1980s."

The Barbados government allowed the United States to use its airport as a staging ground for launching the invasion of Grenada that followed the overthrow of the revolutionary government by the Coard group, Denny explained. However, it refused to let Cuban airplanes land in Barbados as a stopover point in the shipment of arms and troops to assist the Angolan freedom fighters standing up to the invasion by the South African apartheid regime in 1987-88.

These actions by the capitalist government in Barbados against the interests of working people, Denny stressed, show that "our struggle is not a struggle of race, but a struggle between classes. If you really look at the very last year of Malcolm X you'll see that Malcolm engaged himself in a class struggle and not a race struggle, and that was in the interest of working-class people."

Denny joined the Workers Party of Barbados in 1985 and became a member of its Central Committee. He also became the founding president of the League of Progressive Youth, which joined the World Federation of Democratic Youth in 1989. The Workers Party dissolved in 1990 because of political differences resulting from the fall of the ruling Stalinist parties in the East European countries.

One of Denny's immediate projects is establishing a Pathfinder literature outlet in Barbados, featuring political books and posters by revolutionary leaders such as Malcolm X, Che Guevara, Karl Marx, and Nelson Mandela, and offering the *Militant* for sale to working people and youth on the island.

Since this interview, Denny has gained publicity for the book outlet in *Pulse*, a Barbados weekly. Several people have already phoned up to place orders for books.

## Workers must organize independently of capitalist parties, says Warren

BY MATILDE ZIMMERMANN

PORTLAND, Oregon — "We're not running to put pressure on the Democrats and Republicans, and we don't care what they think," James Warren told local television and radio stations at a news conference here September 22. "We are running to explain that the Democratic and Republican parties are not our parties. They are the parties of the ruling rich. If we don't organize massive numbers in the streets independent of them and against what they are doing, we will never see any progress."

It was a theme Warren returned to several times during his two-day campaign stop, telling 20 supporters at a potluck dinner that "the single biggest obstacle facing working people" was the illusion that some capitalist politician would make things a little better.

Democrat Jesse Jackson and venture-capitalist Peter Ueberroth were campaigning in Portland the same time as Warren. "Jackson and Ueberroth represent the best the capitalist parties have to offer in a certain sense," the socialist candidate said at his campaign meeting at Portland State University. "For most capitalist politicians Jackson and Ueberroth go way too far."

"But what is missing from everything these capitalist politicians say, and everything the leaders of the unions, the Black movement, the women's movement say, is the idea that ordinary men and women can organize ourselves to carry out a struggle."

"Jesse Jackson doesn't mobilize anyone for anything," Warren pointed out, "though he knows how to do it. He goes to where people are already mobilized and tells them the most important thing they can do is register to vote."

Ueberroth calls for a "tripod" approach to solving the problems of Los Angeles and the country — what he refers to as a partnership of business, the people and government. Warren said it reminded him of "the kind of partnership the banks have with Third World countries."

Warren's Portland visit received significant media coverage. His demands for a shorter work week and warnings of the threat of a new war were picked up on the evening and late night television news, and there was extensive reporting from his press conference on a morning news program that many people listen to driving to work.

The media also picked up the presidential candidate's call for a "No" vote on Measure 9, the anti-gay referendum he called "an attack on everyone's democratic rights." Pollsters in Oregon say the measure has a chance of passing.

Warren told reporters here that "The idea that this government has a right to declare what is moral and what's not, what is normal and what's not, what is acceptable private behavior and what's not — is out of this world."

## Alaska Airlines workers talk with Warren

Continued from front page  
Union, and about the Persian Gulf War.

Invited to address the short rally at the end of the picket, Warren said, "What you are doing here and what you will be doing in the next few weeks is a lot more important than who is elected president, because regardless of which of them becomes president, we will have to wage struggles like this to advance our interests."

The discussions continued at a campaign open house in a hotel across the street. More than 35 people attended, including about 10 Alaska Airlines workers. Warren was introduced by Mark Severs, the Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate from Washington. Severs is a baggage handler at Alaska, and a leader of the struggle developing there.

Warren had spoken at a similar-size campaign meeting two days earlier at the Seattle Pathfinder Bookstore, which drew half-a-dozen Alaska Airlines workers.

"We have to begin with the realization that we are all citizens of the world," said Warren, setting the theme for both meetings. "And the most important question facing us and workers around the world is the question of war."

In his remarks and the lively question-and-answer period at both meetings, Warren hit repeatedly on the need for working-class solidarity. "The biggest division we face," he explained, "is the division between workers who have jobs and those who don't."

"The reason unemployed workers cross the picket lines today and they didn't so much in the 1930s," Warren said, "was because then the rising industrial union movement in the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) defended the class as a whole, including the unemployed. And until the unions reach out to the 85 percent of the working class that is unorganized, there will always be 50 workers lining up for your job when we go on strike."

John Wilson, 34, a mechanic at Alaska

Airlines, explained in the discussion at the first rally that he had been inspired by the striking drywall workers on a solidarity visit to Los Angeles. "They're all Mexican," Wilson said. "They had everything stacked against them; nothing more to be taken away. But when they are picketing and someone comes around to work, they sit down with him, approach him as a brother. I'd never seen or heard of this before, but I became part of it down there, and it works."

Wilson said in an interview after the rally that he had only been involved in politics and union activity a few months. "The first time I heard Mark [Severs] talk," he said, "it really turned me off. But we talked some more, and I read the Eastern Airlines book [by Pathfinder on the 1989-91 strike], and I got involved in everything. And the drywallers really educated me." Wilson chaired the IAM rally at the airport.

Another Alaska Airlines mechanic at the bookstore rally was 31-year-old Air Force veteran Guy Blue. Blue said he thought Warren was "dead on" when he talked about "pitting us with jobs against people without jobs."

"Mr. Warren's approach makes total sense to me. I don't know why this message isn't out there."

For Willow Gilroy and Brad Webster, the rally at the Pathfinder Bookstore was the first time they had ever heard a socialist candidate, or any candidate. The two sixteen-year-olds were handed a leaflet at a concert a week earlier. When they left the rally, Gilroy said, "I'm glad I came — I'm going to do some campaigning." They both returned to the Alaska Airlines workers picket two days later, attended the campaign open house, and talked there about how they could use the next five weeks to spread the word about the socialist campaign among their friends.

## The Eastern Airlines Strike

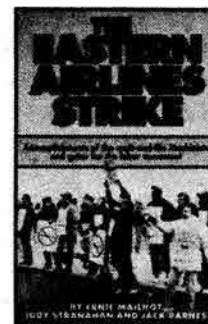
Accomplishments of the rank-and-file Machinists and gains for the labor movement.

By Ernie Mailhot, Judy Stranahan, and Jack Barnes

The story of the 22-month strike against Eastern Airlines by members of the International Association of Machinists that prevented notorious union-buster Frank Lorenzo from running a profitable nonunion airline.

91 pp., photos. \$8.95

Available from the Pathfinder bookstore nearest you (see addresses on p. 12.) or from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Please add \$3.00 for shipping and handling.





# Pathfinder on display at Sweden book fair

BY BARBRO DAVIDSON

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Pathfinder participated for the first time in the Book and Library Fair in Gothenburg, Sweden, October, 9-13.

The fair, which was visited by around 80,000 people, was the fifth annual book fair in Gothenburg. A range of publishing houses, bookstores, distribution chains, libraries, and literary and union magazines from the Nordic countries participated.

Four representatives from Pathfinder Stockholm and one from Pathfinder London made up the Pathfinder team at the fair. The Pathfinder stand displayed a wide range of the publisher's books. Among those that attracted a big interest among librarians and especially among the public were the three Pathfinder titles published in Swedish — translations of Che Guevara's *Socialism and Man in Cuba*, *The Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis* by Doug

Jenness and *A Working Class Campaign Against Imperialism and War* by Jack Barnes.

The first two days of the fair were restricted to people in the book trade. The Pathfinder representatives spent a lot of time visiting prospective customers. Many librarians came by the Pathfinder booth to look at the books. As one librarian expressed it: "This is a gold mine for the large libraries." Nearly every librarian at the fair had something to say about the big interest in books by Malcolm X. Only two books by Malcolm X, the autobiography and *Malcolm X Speaks*, have ever been published in Swedish, and they have long been out of print.

## Pathfinder Mural attracts attention

During the two and a half days that were open to the public the Pathfinder booth was crowded all the time. There was interest in the whole range of books. Along one side of the booth was a large photo of the Pathfinder

Mural, the six-story mural with paintings of revolutionary leaders published by Pathfinder and other fighters from all over the world that covers the wall of the Pathfinder Building in New York. Many visitors admired the mural, and spent time pinpointing the portraits of Swedish fighters Joe Hill and Carl Skogland, and checking out those of fighters from the Iranian revolution, from the fight to abolish slavery in the South of the United States, and from the colonial revolution.

For the first time in Sweden, Pathfinder had on display a four volume facsimile of the Russian-language bulletins of the opposition against the growing Stalinist bureaucracy in the Soviet Union and in defense of the Russian revolution. This magazine appeared from 1927 to 1939, under the guidance of Leon Trotsky, a central leader of the 1917 Bolshevik revolution. At the second open day, this four-volume series was sold to a man who was going to send the books to friends in Moscow. "This is fantastic. They are unique. I didn't know they existed," were his first surprised comments.

At the booth one copy of the new Pathfinder edition of *Art and Revolution* by Leon Trotsky was on display. The book, with its very attractive cover featuring part of a mural by Mexican artist Diego Rivera, attracted a lot of attention. The single copy could not be sold at the fair, but several customers left their names in order to receive the book later.

One visitor was interested in finding out which books had been published since 1989, because "that was when it all happened," he said, referring to the fall of many Stalinist regimes in Eastern Europe.

Another visitor bought some pamphlets, and said he had already bought in Gumperts, one of the major commercial bookstores in

Gothenburg, a copy of *New International* no. 7, "The Opening Guns of World War III." This book deals with the kind of world we are living in, what led up to the war in Iraq, and the inter-imperialist conflicts that were accelerated by that war.

## Public speeches at the fair

As part of Pathfinder's participation at the fair, two presentations were given at the "Speakers' Corner." Birgitta Isacson gave a 20-minute presentation on "The Importance of Malcolm X Today," and Catherine Tirsén spoke on "Che Guevara and Cuba Today." Some 20 to 50 people listened to each of the presentations, and a couple of them later came by the Pathfinder booth. Books by Malcolm X and Che Guevara were some of the best sellers at the fair. Fifteen copies of *Socialism and Man in Cuba* were sold, in Swedish, French, Icelandic, and Farsi. Some 13 different titles by Malcolm X were sold.

Other top sellers were the *Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis*, the *Communist Manifesto*, *How Far We Slaves have Come*, speeches by Nelson Mandela and Fidel Castro in English and Spanish and *A Working Class Campaign against Imperialism and War* in Swedish. Five copies of each of these were sold; three copies of "The Opening Guns of World War III" were sold in Spanish and English.

Some 450 Pathfinder catalogs, leaflets on new titles, and leaflets advertising the Stockholm Pathfinder Bookstore were distributed, and just over US\$1,000 were sold.

The Pathfinder Bookstore in Stockholm was also a subject of interest at the fair. The first day the shop was open after the fair, two customers from the fair visited the store to look more closely at the books, discuss politics, and make some more purchases.



Participants in Gothenburg Book and Library Fair showed interest in Pathfinder's entire range of books, including by Che Guevara, Malcolm X, and Leon Trotsky.

## BOOKS IN FRENCH FROM PATHFINDER LIVRES EN FRANÇAIS DE PATHFINDER

CARLOS TABLADA

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### La guerre contre l'Irak: les premières salves de la troisième guerre mondiale PAR JACK BARNES

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#### Le deuxième assassinat de Maurice Bishop PAR STEVE CLARK

Les réalisations de la révolution de 1979 à Grenade et l'héritage de l'orientation révolutionnaire de son principal dirigeant Maurice Bishop. Troisième numéro. 232 pages \$11.00

En vente aux librairies Pathfinder (voir page 12). Ou écrivez à Pathfinder, 410 West St. New York, NY 10014



## PATHFINDER AROUND THE WORLD

BY PAT SMITH

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

"Do you have the one up there on the poster, *Genocide against the Indians*?"

"How about that book on the war?"

The Newark Pathfinder Bookstore was hard to miss at the New Jersey Book Fair, held September 19 in nearby New Brunswick.

The Pathfinder table, set off by large posters featuring recent titles on the Gulf War, the fight for women's liberation, and the *Communist Manifesto* in Spanish, was a center of attraction for young people, both students and workers, throughout the day.

The fair, an annual event sponsored by the *New York Times*, drew several thousand people, including many students and teachers from local campuses and high schools.

The broad range of titles in the Pathfinder display resulted in substantial sales (\$350 worth of literature sold). It also helped convert the open-air booth into an all-day political forum for questions, debate, and discussions. Topics included the recent attacks on foreign-born workers in Germany, the reactionary character of population-control measures, the situation in Cuba today, and the fight against tuition hikes at Rutgers, the local state university.

Over the course of the day, students from more than a dozen countries stopped by the booth to talk, pick up a catalog, and examine the books and pamphlets.

Six volunteers from the local Pathfinder store were on the spot to staff the tables, answer questions about the books, and introduce new readers to the range of periodicals stocked in Pathfinder bookstores around the world.

Four bookstores in Copenhagen bought a total of 53 Pathfinder books and pamphlets when London-based Pathfinder representative Marcella Fitzgerald made a brief visit to that city after the Gothenburg Book Fair (see report on the fair on this page). She reported that the buyer at one shop "was glad to see us, had sold out of Malcolm X books very quickly so reordered and also took *Cointelpro*, *Art and Revolution*, and the "Opening Guns of World War III: Washington's Assault on Iraq," in *New International* no. 7."

Paid a pittance for their labor behind bars, prisoners find many ways to purchase the books they want to study. Prisoners at a Missouri prison recently sent in a check for books from their Inmate Canteen Fund. The books they chose included *Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women*; *Woman's Evolution*; *By Any Means Necessary* by Malcolm X; and *Cointelpro: The FBI's Secret War on Political Freedom*.

Pathfinder offers all prisoners a discount of 50 percent on books and pamphlets, plus \$2.50 shipping and handling for each order. We also encourage our readers behind bars to urge their prison library to stock Pathfinder titles. Contributions to help provide books to prisoners can be sent to Pathfinder, 410 West Street, New York, NY 10014.

The Library of Congress, the national library of the United States, has decided to provide *Malcolm X Talks to Young People* in both braille and recorded form for their National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. *Malcolm X Talks to Young People* was also chosen by the New York Public Library as one of their titles in "1992 Books for the Teen Age."

Mike Bauman from Newark, New Jersey, contributed to this column.



# The forces that broke Grace Carlson from communism in 1950s

Grace Carlson, a founding member of the Socialist Workers Party, died July 7 in Madison, Wisconsin. She was one of 18 leaders of the SWP and the Minneapolis General Drivers' union who were convicted in 1941 under the Smith Act for their opposition to the entry of the United States into World War II. Carlson served 16 months in federal prison in Alderson, West Virginia, for her antiwar and socialist views.

The September 18 issue of the *Militant* carried a short article on Grace Carlson's 16 years of activity as an organizer and well-known public spokesperson for the SWP. She ran for office many times as a Socialist Workers candidate in Minnesota and was the party's vice-presidential candidate in 1948.

The article also explained that Carlson abandoned the socialist movement and went back to the Catholic Church in 1952. For a better understanding of Carlson's career as a revolutionary and fighter for socialism, and what led her to abandon those goals, readers of the *Militant* will be interested in the article reprinted below from the July 7, 1952, issue of the *Militant*, "How we won Grace Carlson and how we lost her," by James P. Cannon.

Cannon was a founder and principal leader of the Socialist Workers Party for many decades. His article can be found in the book *Notebook of an Agitator* published by Pathfinder Press.

\* \* \*

Grace Carlson is a victim of the reactionary atmosphere in general and the witch-hunt in particular. Her sudden action in resigning from the numerically small and persecuted Socialist Workers Party, for sanctuary in the rich and powerful Catholic Church, is only the final effect of the many successive blows of persecution, poverty and discrimination which had been inflicted upon her during the long time she fought on the side of the poor for the great ideals of socialism.

There had been no previous intimation of this sudden decision. Within the past month she spoke and debated on the campuses of New York University and the University of Minnesota in defense of Marxism against political opponents. The reason she now gives for her precipitate resignation from the party — "a difference in basic philosophy" — is not the real reason.

When Grace Carlson came to the Social-

ist Workers Party in 1936 she held a good position in the Minnesota State Department of Education, received a good salary and was honored and respected in the Twin City circles of the rich and powerful as a Doctor of Philosophy. Her decision at that time to join with us in the service of the great ideal of socialism was a happy decision, as she stated at the time and repeated many times thereafter. We won her by our ideas and ideals and kept her for 16 years. We won her by persuasion, by arguments and by the example of comrades putting service to a great cause above personal interest.

## Pounded by forces of reaction

The forces of reaction have finally broken her away from the socialist movement by a different method. They made Grace Carlson pay for her idealistic and self-sacrificing work for socialism. She had to give up her position with the Minnesota State Department of Education and drastically cut her standard of living. She had to sacrifice her honored position in the community. In 1943 she had to go to Federal prison along with 17 other members of the party. On her return from prison in 1945, she had to register with the Police Department of St. Paul as an ex-convict. She was blacklisted from all employment in the Twin Cities. Sacrifice after sacrifice was imposed upon her.

For 16 years the powerful forces of reaction hammered and pounded at this woman until they finally beat her down, broke her spirit of resistance and compelled her to leave the party which she had served so long and so honorably. That's how the Catholic Church won a shabby victory against the Socialist Workers Party over the body of Grace Carlson. The question of "philosophy" had nothing to do with it. That's merely the explanation, not the reason.

In her statement to the press, Grace emphasized what she had told us at parting, that she was not going to join the ranks of the contemptible informers. "I want it understood I am not becoming an informer on my friends of many years. Neither am I going to write any books like Budenz." That does her credit, as do the 16 years of service she gave to the good cause in comradesly association with these same friends. But it really doesn't make much difference to us. The Socialist Workers Party is not a conspiracy but a political movement which reports all its activities and says everything it has to say in its press. All the "information" any-



James P. Cannon, leader of the Socialist Workers Party, speaking in 1940s.

one can find against us is printed there.

In her press interview, reported in the *Minneapolis Star*, June 30, Grace refers to her last meeting with me in Minneapolis on Friday, June 20. The reporter quotes her as saying: "It was one of the saddest meetings I have ever attended." I don't doubt that, but the reason for her sadness should be explained.

She did not make any arguments to sustain her action. She did not express any differences with the party program nor any grievances against its people. On the contrary, she affirmed her love and respect for the comrades with who she had worked so long.

## Catholic Church

I spoke to her about the Catholic Church which exploits the religious sentiments of its communicants to support reaction and oppression everywhere.

I reminded her that the policies of the Catholic Church are not determined by the parishioners nor by the parish priests, but by the Catholic hierarchy, which is first of all a political power, the most reactionary and obscurantist force in the entire world. I reminded her of Cardinal Spellman, who broke the strike of the cemetery workers in New York, and who has just recently been to Spain, where he paid homage to the bloody dictator Franco. I reminded her that her socialist comrades in Spain are in Franco's prisons and torture chambers, if they are not in their graves.

Grace Carlson knows all that as well as I do, and has said it many times. She didn't

answer my reminders with any argument or justification, but with the bitter tears of a defeated and broken woman. She does well to say that it was a sad meeting for her. It was a sad meeting for me too, but for different reasons.

## Socialist movement continues

Socialists have deserted the movement before under pressure. But still the movement grew. There are more socialists in the world today than ever before. The worldwide cause is growing and will continue to grow. That will be the case in this country too. Individuals, broken by too many blows, may fall by the wayside. But the great movement for the socialist emancipation of mankind will march on and conquer. Grace Carlson's desertion will not affect this course. The party will draw its ranks closer together in defense against the raging reaction which has reached inside our ranks to strike down one of our women comrades.

The forthcoming convention of the Socialist Workers Party in New York, called to nominate its presidential candidates for the 1952 campaign, will demonstrate this. The convention will demonstrate the determination of the members to do a little more and give a little more to make up any losses suffered by this defection.

The convention will reaffirm again, what Grace Carlson said many times before her defection, that the place to fight against the threatening war, and all the evils of this diseased capitalist society and for a better life on earth, is not in the Catholic Church but in the socialist movement.

## —FROM THE PATHFINDER MURAL—

# Simón Bolívar, famed as liberator of South America from Spanish yoke

BY SARA LOBMAN

With this article we begin a regular monthly column that will feature the working-class leaders and the fighters for social justice from around the world that are depicted on the Pathfinder Mural.

The six-story mural was painted by an international team of 80 artists from 20 countries. Included in the mural are portraits of revolutionary leaders such as Malcolm X, Che Guevara, Nelson Mandela, Fidel Castro, and Karl Marx, whose speeches and writings are published by Pathfinder Press.

Simón Bolívar, portrayed here by Colombian artist Alirio Vargas, is known throughout Latin America as the Liberator. He led the armed rebellions in 1810-25 that helped win independence from Spain for Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, and Colombia.

Bolívar was born in 1783 in Caracas, now the capital of Venezuela, when most of the countries of South America were still Spanish colonies. The formal declaration of independence, signed in 1811, initiated a 10-year revolutionary struggle against forces loyal to the Spanish monarchy, triumphing in 1821 at the battle of Carabobo.

Bolívar's revolutionary army also swept through Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia, which by 1825 were no longer Spanish colonies.

Bolívar was elected president of the Republic of Gran Colombia, a union of Venezuela, Colombia, and Ecuador, which lasted until 1830. He fought for the perspective of a South American federation of republics.

Vargas painted the portrait of Simón



Militant/Andrea Brizzi

Simón Bolívar led bourgeois-democratic revolutions in early 19th century.

Bolívar on the Pathfinder Mural in 1989. Bolívar is shown on a white horse wrapped in the yellow, red, and blue independence flag.

The Pathfinder Mural and the Pathfinder Mural Bookstore are located at the corner of West and Charles Streets in New York City. The bookstore offers a complete selection of Pathfinder books and pamphlets as well as postcards, posters, and T-shirts depicting the mural. Contributions for the promotion, development, and preservation of the mural can be sent to: Friends of the Pathfinder Mural, 191 Seventh Ave., New York, NY 10011. Telephone: (212) 727-8421.

## UAW strikes assembly plant

Continued from front page  
employee benefits.

The announcement is seen as a warning to unionized workers that the company will demand major concessions in the 1993 national negotiations.

Even though the Lansing plant produces the Grand Am, GM's second highest selling vehicle, workers anticipate a long strike. There is a reported stockpile of 55-60 days supply of cars from this plant.

The strike will not have the same immediate effect as the Lordstown strike. As this is an assembly plant, not a parts plant, the strike may effect some parts plants, but will

not threaten GM's other vehicle production. It has already shut down the chassis plant across town.

The workers on the picket line on the first evening seemed prepared to stand up to the auto giant. As a picketing paint shop worker explained, "We'll do what it takes as long as it takes."

John Sarge is a member of UAW Local 900 and works for Ford in Wayne Michigan.

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## —CALENDAR—

### OREGON

#### Portland

'No on 9' Rally. Sun., Oct. 4, 1 p.m. Pioneer Courthouse Square, downtown Portland. Sponsored by the No on 9 Campaign: The Campaign for a Hate-Free Oregon. Tel: (503) 232-4501.

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### NEW ZEALAND

#### Auckland

The Communist Manifesto Today and the Road Forward for Working People. Class series. Wednesdays, Oct. 7 and 14, 7 p.m. La Gonda Arcade, 203 Karangahape Rd. Donation: \$3. Tel: (9) 379-3075.



# INS conducts massive raid at packinghouse

Continued from front page

ing that they too were "illegal" and were not to be allowed in the plant the next day. In addition, many workers who are not on the list have been scared into not showing up. Workers in the plant report that almost 600 workers have either been arrested, effectively laid off, or intimidated from coming to work.

The raid occurs in the midst of a United Food and Commercial Workers Union effort to organize the nonunion plant. Union officials told the *Militant* that 1,100 out of 1,700 workers had signed union cards. More than 400 of those who had signed up were among those arrested or run out of the plant by the raid.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) claims that Monfort officials have been uncooperative in working to spot false identification cards and turn information over to immigration officials.

Monfort officials say they have offered to work with the government. They report that in March, the company security director met with INS officials in Omaha and asked for help in tracking down "illegal aliens." Twice in May, INS officials asked the company for personnel records. With the exception of payroll records, the company reports, the officials were given everything they requested.

James Cole, INS district director in Omaha, reports that in August the agency took 3,000 personnel files from the plant office.

Friends and relatives of the arrested workers questioned the timing of the immigration raid. They note that Monfort was due to pay a year-end "bonus" of as much as \$2,000 per employee in mid-October.

Yolanda Chávez-Nuncio, a member of the Nebraska Mexican-American Commission, attacked the raid as "immigration bashing." She complained that officials should not have shoved and yelled at U.S. citizens working in the plant.

The *Omaha World-Herald* argued that "Willful violation of the immigration laws, whether by immigrants, employers, or the counterfeiters of phony work documents, can't be condoned." It then added, "But it's hard to be angry at men and women... [who] have come to a new country to provide for their loved ones."

Pam Nelson, a union organizer who has worked to organize the nonunion plant since 1988, said that Monfort hires the undocumented workers because of greed. "Monfort can exploit illegal immigrants," Nelson said. Plant executives "can work them for less money. They can hold them in fear of losing their jobs. If a worker gets injured, Monfort can get rid of them and maybe not pay the workmen's comp claim."

The Socialist Workers 1992 Campaign, in a statement released to the press on September 25, condemned the immigration raid. "The goal of this raid is not just to victimize workers who happened to be born in another country," explained Andrew Pulley and Héctor Marroquín. "It is also to divide and weaken the entire working class." Pulley is the Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate in Iowa and works at the IBP Packinghouse in Perry, Iowa. Marroquín, a national co-chair of the Socialist Workers 1992 Campaign, won an 11-year fight to live and work in the United States. He was born in Mexico.

"Our problem is not workers from Mexico, or anywhere else," the campaign spokespeople continued. "Our problem is the profit drive of the employers backed by their government." The real cause of the economic crisis, the statement explained, "is the historic crisis of capitalism. All workers—whether born in Mexico, the U.S., southeast Asia, or elsewhere—need to unite to fight these attacks."

The labor unions, the statement added, must help lead the fight to defend all victims of the bosses' immigration policy.

The socialists called for the immediate halt to the deportations and the unconditional release of the 307 arrested workers.

Mike Galati, reporting from Grand Island, Nebraska, is a member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 50N at the Monfort packinghouse in Marshalltown, Iowa.

## MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

### CALIFORNIA

#### Los Angeles

**Why Neither Free Trade Nor 'Buy American' Will Aid Workers.** Speaker: Craig Honts, member United Transportation Union, Local 1544. Sat., Oct. 3, 7:30 p.m. 2552-B W. Pico Blvd. Donation: \$4. Tel: (213) 380-9460. Translation to Spanish.

### MINNESOTA

#### St. Paul

**What's Behind the Campaign for 'Family Values'.** Sun., Oct. 11, 7:30 p.m. 508 N. Snelling Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

### NORTH CAROLINA

#### Greensboro

**One Year After the Hamlet Fire: The Fight for Job Safety.** Speakers: Bruce Kimball, member Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union at Cone Mills and Socialist Workers Party; others. Sat., Oct. 3, 7:30 p.m. 2000-C S. Elm-Eugene Street. Donation: \$3. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

### OHIO

#### Cleveland

**The 1992 Elections, 'Family Values,' and Attacks on Gay and Lesbian Rights.** Panel discussion. Sat., Oct. 3, 7:30 p.m. 1863 W. 25th St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (216) 861-6150.

**Cuba Today: A Slideshow Presentation.** Speakers: James Munro, visited Cuba in June; Amy Husk, Socialist Workers Party, member International Association of Machinists Local 1130. Sat.,

Oct. 10, 7:30 p.m. 1863 W. 25th St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (216) 861-6150.

### UTAH

#### Salt Lake City

**South Africa: Revolutionary Strategy in Action.** Speaker: Nelson Gonzalez. Sat., Oct. 3, 7:30 p.m. 147 E. 900 S. Donation: \$3. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

**Columbus, Capitalism, and the Conquest of the Indians.** Speaker: Jesse Smith. Sat., Oct. 10, 7:30 p.m. 147 E. 900 S. Donation: \$3. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

### WASHINGTON

#### Seattle

**U.S. Youth Speaks Out for Cuba: Eyewitness Report and Discussion.** Speaker: Don McIntosh, student at Portland State University. Sat., Oct. 3, 7:30 p.m. 1405 E. Madison. Donation: \$3. Tel: (206) 323-1755.

### 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 Defend Paul Galloway.** Sat., Oct. 3, 6 p.m. 1 Gower St., Spital Hill. Donation: £1. Tel: 0742-765070.

### CANADA

#### Toronto

**Auto Strikes from GM-Lordstown to CAMI-Ingersoll: Workers Resist the Growing Crisis.** Speakers: John Sarge, member United Auto Workers, Detroit; Susan Berman, member Canadian Auto Workers, member Communist League. Sat., Oct. 3, 7:30 p.m. 827 Bloor St. West. Donation requested. Tel: (416) 533-4324.

#### Vancouver

**Yellowknife Mine Disaster: Solidarity with Royal Oak Mine Strikers.** Speakers: Ned Dmytryshyn, *Militant* reporter who went to Yellowknife in June and July to cover the strike and member of Teamsters Union Local 213; others. Sat., Oct. 3, 7:30 p.m. 3967 Main St. (between 23rd and 24th Ave). Donation: \$4. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

### NEW ZEALAND

#### Auckland

**South Africa: The Mass Action Campaign.** Sat., Oct. 3, 7 p.m. La Gonda Arcade, 203 Karangahape Rd. Donation: \$3. Tel: (9) 379-3075.

### SWEDEN

#### Stockholm

**We Won't Pay for Capitalism's Crisis.** Sat., Oct. 3, 4 p.m. Vikingagatan 10 (T-bana St. Eriksplan). Tel: (08) 31 69 33.

## Imperialist buildup grows in Somalia

BY SARA LOBMAN

Four United States warships carrying 2,100 marines are currently stationed off the coast of Somalia. The U.S. troops are part of a growing military operation being organized in that country in the name of the United Nations.

Forty armed UN troops, all from Pakistan, arrived in Somalia's capital, Mogadishu, in mid-September. The United Nations has authorized a total of 3,500 troops and the European Community will send 550 Belgian paratroopers.

UN and U.S. officials claim the military buildup is a necessary part of the relief effort being organized in response to a devastating famine.

According to the UN estimates, 2 million people in Somalia face imminent starvation. The famine, a result of decades of imperialist plunder and underdevelopment, was triggered by civil war and drought.

Disease has added to the death toll. Relief workers explain that the lack of medical care for those suffering from measles, malaria, respiratory ailments, and diarrhea has kept the death toll higher than it should be, especially given the increased food shipments now arriving through various relief efforts.

In the town of Baidoa, in southern Somalia, the head of the United Nations Children's

Fund recommended an immunization campaign the first week of August. It was not until a month later, a week and a half after the first cases of measles were reported, that a program was hastily arranged. Starving children rarely survive the illness, Gudrun Engstrom, the nurse in charge of the immunizations, explained.

The fighting in Somalia began when forces organized by the United Somali Congress overthrew the brutal regime of Mohamed Siad Barre in January 1991. Fighting broke out between different factions of the organization competing for power. An estimated 30,000 people have been killed and the capital city, Mogadishu, is in ruins.

U.S. government officials and spokespeople of other imperialist powers have argued that it is close to impossible to get food into Somalia because of the civil war. They say the military presence is needed to stop armed gangs from stealing the relief food to sell on the black market.

Writing in the *Wall Street Journal*, John Prendergast pointed to the importance of sending massive quantities of food into the country. "No matter how many troops the U.N. sends to Somalia, there won't be any semblance of stability until food is so plentiful that bandits won't have to kill for it, and merchants won't be able to control all

of it," Prendergast, a research associate at the Center of Concern, said.

One of the problems government and relief officials point to is that General Mohamed Farrah Aidid, leader of one of the rival factions, has refused to allow the vast majority of the 3,500 UN troops into the country, arguing that the food relief is welcome but the foreign troops are not. A U.S. airlift into Baidoa was greeted by demonstrators carrying signs that said, "Foreign Army No, Food Yes."

The United States has sent just a little more than 300 tons of food. In Mogadishu alone, where less than a quarter of the population lives, 20,000 tons of food are needed monthly. The United States had pledged another 145,000 tons for the fiscal year that begins October 1.

On September 17 the U.S. government submitted a proposal to the United Nations on Somalia. The heart of the plan is that only half the 145,000 tons be distributed free to victims of the famine. The rest would be sold to traders. Foreign government officials claim this would bring down prices.

The International Red Cross has started distributing 1,000 tons of seed. The seeds—cowpeas, sorghum, corn, and millet—must be planted before the rainy season begins in several weeks.

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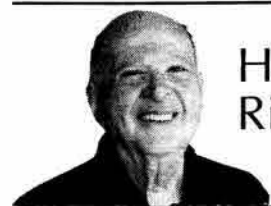
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**Why assume they forgot?** — To help workers at their Lordstown, Ohio, plant adjust to their



Harry Ring

new round-the-clock schedule, GM distributed cards suggesting to crew members when to eat, sleep, and socialize on their new schedules. Placards began appearing on cars coming down the assembly line declaring, "Hey General Motors, you forgot to tell us when to have sex."

**Preach, bro** — "If you can't support yourself on the god-damned job, how can you value it? And yet we think the work ethic is something in people, something immutable, as though it were independent of the nature of work." — Author Elliot Liebrow.

**Enjoy** — The government estimates that 35 percent of the chicken on the market is contaminated with salmonella, which causes food poisoning. What to do about it? Establish procedures to reduce contamination? Put more inspectors on the job? Don't be silly. The feds approved permitting the industry to zap the birds with radioactive gamma rays which, they assure, is safe

for poultry workers and consumers alike.

**Shop early for Xmas** — We stopped subscribing to the Neiman Marcus catalog when they started charging for it. But a news item says it includes a tiny diamond-studded train pulling four 18-karat gold carts piled with rubies, emeralds, diamonds and sapphires. \$100,000.

**Handy while waiting to tee off** — The N-M catalog offers a Mercedes-Benz golf cart, including a TV, CD player, and cellular phone. \$9,700.

**He's overqualified?** — "Mario Biaggi, the former Bronx Demo-

cratic Congressman, who was too sick to serve his full prison term, is feeling better. So much better that he's running for Congress again." — News item.

**And guess what color she is** — Order now, the first in a collector series of Barbie dolls. Crafted from porcelain and decked out in rhinestone-studded silk and satin, it's "A doll you don't want to miss." \$175, plus postage.

**Cleaning project** — The state of Wyoming lent a company \$8 million to build a demonstration clean-coal plant. That was six years ago and ground has yet to be broken on the project. But the company has expended \$4 million in start-up

costs, including \$411,000 in wages for the head man.

**Even greener pasture?** — Retiring University of California prez David Gardner already has a new job, heading up a charitable foundation. He'll draw a \$120,000 annual UC pension plus an \$857,000 retirement benefit package. He declined to disclose how much the charity job will pay.

**Maybe Gardner can qualify** — University of California regents accepted a \$513,842 bequest for "poor American Caucasian academic scholars." The regents said this did not violate federal antibias rules and assured it was not the first whites-only gift accepted by the university.

## Hundreds in San Francisco area hear Cuban

BY ELIZABETH WHITTAKER

SAN FRANCISCO — Some 110 students and others turned out September 3 to hear Ibis Alvisa González at a meeting held at the University of California at Berkeley (UCB). Members of the group of Students Against Intervention in Central America and the Organization of Latin American Students participated in publicizing the campus meeting by setting up informational tables, leafleting, hanging up a banner on campus, and writing an article in the *Daily Californian*, the campus newspaper.

Alvisa, a researcher at the Center for Youth Studies in Havana, Cuba, was in the San Francisco Bay Area as part of a national tour by two Cuban youth. She spoke at San Jose State University, Laney College in Oakland, and the University of California at Santa Cruz. She also attended a potluck at the Independent School of the Arts in San Jose and a wrap-up reception at UCB. Close to 800 people heard Alvisa speak over the course of the week.

At the Berkeley meeting, Alvisa focused her presentation on the current situation in Cuba.

"The period of rectification of errors in Cuba is not over," she stated. "Cuba initiated this process as a way to seek our own solutions to developing a strategy of economic independence. It has been compared to what happened in the Soviet Union known as 'perestroika.' But time has shown that these are two completely different things. Che Guevara's studies in the 1960s of the Soviet economic model invalidated that model and we found that copying the Soviet model did not fulfill the needs of the Cuban population.

"In Cuba, the economy is put at the service of human beings," Alvisa continued. "Through rectification, volunteer labor — which had been abandoned — was reintroduced as part of the political education of a new generation of Cubans."

"Cuba is living through a very difficult moment" Alvisa explained. She described a "double blockade" Cuba faces, with the ongoing embargo imposed by the United States intensified by the collapse in trade

with Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

Alvisa said the importation of oil has dropped from 13.8 million tons per year to 6 million. "This drop in oil has had a major effect on the economy. Cuba has very little hard currency so it is difficult to buy oil in the international market. Our food supply has also been affected."

For two hours the room was filled with raised hands. Students strained to get two or three questions answered at a time.

A student pointed to Fidel Castro as the figure the revolution was based on, and asked, "What will happen when he dies? Can you comment on how to demystify Fidel?"

Alvisa replied, "This question always comes up. Fidel is a symbol to the people in Latin America. However," she continued, "the revolution's triumph and development has shown that it is not one man's revolution." She challenged the audience to consider two facts: "Cuba has withstood more than 30 years of a blockade and has managed to develop; and just recently 100,000 students during their school vacations volunteered to help on agricultural projects. Do you think these things could be ordered?" she asked.

Applause greeted her answer to "What do you think of Sendero Luminoso?" known in English as the Shining Path. Sendero Luminoso has waged a decade-long war against the government of Peru, using terrorist methods against working people.

Alvisa said that, while she was "no specialist on this group," she "disagreed with their form of struggling" and pointed out that "if you study the history of the world and revolutionary movements, history has proven that their path is not the way to carry out a revolutionary fight." She also said that "many people have been victimized because of their actions."

Asked, "do differences exist between conditions in rural versus urban areas of Cuba," Alvisa answered, "Yes. A great deal of attention has been given to rural areas by the revolution but development in these areas has not yet reached that of the cities." She pointed to the "big role students are playing in this area by making a moral commitment to work two years wherever the revolution needs their efforts."

BY ARNOLD WEISSBERG

PITTSBURGH — The City Council here declared September 15 and 16 "Pittsburgh Cuba Friendship Days" in response to a visit to the city by Ibis Alvisa González, a Cuban youth leader. The resolution, introduced by council member Jim Ferlo, was unanimously approved.

Ferlo handed Alvisa an official copy of the resolution to applause from the council. Following the presentation, Ferlo, in brief remarks, called on the U.S. government to end the embargo on Cuba and establish normal diplomatic and economic relations.

During her stay in Pittsburgh, Alvisa spoke at the University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Mellon University, and Edinboro State University, addressing a total of about 200 people.



Members of volunteer agricultural brigade in Cuba. Ibis Alvisa reported that tens of thousands of Cuban students volunteered on agricultural projects over their vacation.

## — 25 AND 50 YEARS AGO —

**THE MILITANT**  
Published in the Interest of the Working People  
October 9, 1967 Price 10¢

U.S. ruling circles are more deeply split than ever over the Vietnam war. An important indication of this has been the emergence of a new crop of "doves" within the Republican Party, many of whom are calling for a Republican "peace" candidate in 1968.

Thurston Morton, one of the Senate's top Republicans and former national chairman of the Republican Party, advocates stopping the bombing, but others want to go further. At the meeting of antiwar business executives, Marriner S. Eccles, former chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, called for immediate withdrawal from Vietnam.

Obviously, this new opposition to the war does not result from any sudden concern on the part of these gentlemen for telling the truth. Nor does it represent any principled opposition to the use of military force to crush the Vietnamese. What Romney, Morton, and company are concerned about is that the war in Vietnam is creating more dangers and problems for the capitalist class than gains. The heroic resistance of the Vietnamese people has made the price of aggression too high.

When the thieves fall out, the rest of us can only gain. It is the job of the antiwar movement to reach out now to the tens of millions of ordinary Americans who are being affected by this process, and who can be mobilized for the fight to bring the troops home now.

**THE MILITANT**  
PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE  
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October 11, 1942

Hitler's speech on Sept. 30 was in glaring contrast to his speech made nearly a year before, when he declared, referring to the

USSR, that "this enemy has been broken and never will rise again."

The Soviet masses, defending the remaining conquests of the Russian Revolution, despite the handicap of the Stalinist bureaucratic regime, have taught Hitler to speak with a certain amount of caution.

This time he stated that his aim was to consolidate his gains, while remaining on the defensive: "We must let the others attack as much as they wish wherever we have no intention to advance. We must hold everything and must wait and see who tires soonest."

Hitler [has attempted] to allay the fears of the German people who have been appalled at the long casualty lists. He holds out the hope of a diminution of the slaughter, at least for a year.

Hitler was forced to admit that the last year was a terribly hard one, but claimed that this winter conditions will be improved.

The hunger and suffering of the masses of the conquered nations create and continue the conditions and the desire for revolt.

In an effort to whip up the masses of Germany into continued support of the war, Hitler again used his most potent argument that if the Allies conquered, they would impose another Versailles treaty on the German and Italian peoples.

Hitler demagogically attempts to utilize the hatred of the masses against capitalism by posing as an adversary of the system. He proclaimed as his "aim" the annihilation not only of Bolshevism but of the capitalists and plutocracy.

Hitler is able to keep power, above all, because of the fear of the German masses of their fate at the hands of victorious Allied capitalism. By playing on this fear, he succeeds in keeping the masses from rising — for a while.

The Churchills and Roosevelts give support to this fear. As representatives of capitalism, they will wreak terrible vengeance, not primarily on the German ruling class to whom they feel very close, but on the German masses.

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# Defend immigrant workers!

The immigration raid at the Monfort meat-packing plant in Grand Island, Nebraska, involving the arrest of 307 workers, and the rapid deportation of many of them, should be condemned by all working people. If the bosses and their government are allowed to get away with this attack, it will weaken the ability of all workers to stand together against the bosses' offensive to drive down wages and weaken the unions.

Almost 200 armed federal, state, and local cops invaded the Monfort packinghouse on September 22, seizing hundreds of Latino workers and intimidating and harassing the entire work force. This was the largest immigration raid since the 1986 immigration law went into effect. Many of those arrested and deported have active applications for permanent residence in the United States. Many others who were citizens and legal residents were held for hours before being released. INS officials have threatened to launch similar raids against other packinghouses in the midwest.

The bosses and their government use raids like this one, not to drive workers from other countries out of the factories, but to intimidate and terrorize them into not joining unions and not fighting for their rights on the job. This has never been clearer than it is in Grand Island where 1,100 workers have signed union cards as part of an organizing drive to get the United Food and Commercial Workers union recognized. More than 400 of these workers were victims of the raid.

The bosses seek to utilize divisions among the working

class, whether by language, nationality, sex, or age, to weaken our ability to stand together to defend our rights. They try to convince workers born in the United States that workers and bosses alike in the United States have interests in common against those in other countries.

This is a lie. Working people, regardless of what country we are from and what country we live in, need to view ourselves as fellow fighters. We share the same interests in fighting against the impact on our class of the deepening crisis of the bosses' capitalist system. One only need look at the example of the hundreds of workers in Grand Island who signed union cards in a plant where the majority of workers are Latino, or at the drywall workers' strike in California where predominately Mexican workers are fighting to defend the union, to see how workers from other countries strengthen our ability to fight.

Identical questions to the ones posed in Grand Island are burning issues for millions around the world as workers and farmers cross and recross borders in search of jobs and decent living conditions for their families. There truly is no such thing as an "American" worker, or a "German" worker, or a "British" worker. We must demand the right of all to travel, work, and practice politics wherever they choose.

This is a life and death question for the trade unions. Unionists and all working people should demand an immediate end to the deportations. Drop the charges against those arrested! For a world without borders!

# World tensions reach new peak

Interimperialist tensions and recriminations have reached new heights in the aftermath of the European currency crisis. National antagonism, protectionism, and economic uncertainty have all been wound up several notches.

Accusatory fingers, particularly in Britain though not only there, point to the "Teutonic arrogance" of Germany's central bank for the crisis. "Major at war with Germany" and "Germans gloat over 'victory' letting them spend, spend, spend," screamed the *Daily Express*, one of Britain's daily tabloids. One row after another has broken out between the rulers of Germany and Britain. The latest included German plans to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the first launch of Hitler's "wonder weapon," the V2 rocket.

"Critics say the celebration in the former rocket base of Peenemunde is in poor taste, because the supersonic V2 killed thousands of British civilians, while 20,000 concentration camp inmates died making it," wrote the *Financial Times*. Earlier this year, the Germans protested the erection of a statue to honor General Arthur "Bomber" Harris, the architect of the carpet bombing of Germany which killed 593,000 civilians during World War II.

Other ruling class figures, such as France's finance minister Michel Sapin, have blamed "speculators" for the currency crisis. Baying for blood, Sapin warned that during the French Revolution speculators were beheaded. But

speculation is as much an everyday part of the world capitalist system as trading in stocks and bonds. In fact, in addition to currency traders, large corporations, pension and investment fund bankers, and a range of capitalist investors made a killing on the currency devaluations.

The growing political tensions, economic uncertainty, and intensified interimperialist competition on the European continent are symptoms of the profound crisis of capital accumulation infecting the entire body of the world imperialist system. This is what underlies the currency crisis and gives it sustenance. The latest crisis fits into the pattern of such developments as the 1987 stock market crash, the "mini-crash" of 1989, the savings-and-loan disaster, the higher rates of bankruptcy and default, and this year's collapse in the Tokyo stock market.

Throughout the history of capitalism, every major economic and social crisis has been signaled in the most heated and vulnerable spot in the capitalist economy: the arena of credit and monetary relations. Once again this has been proven true with the near collapse of the European Monetary System.

These events bring closer the looming worldwide depression of industrial production and employment. But more important, the social crisis that springs from this depression will give rise to mass political battles and polarization that will tie together as never before the prospects for working people in every country across the globe.

# Food, not troops, to Somalia!

The workers and farmers who are starving in Somalia need food and medical aid, not thousands of armed troops. According to United Nations estimates, as many as 2 million people could die in the coming months unless massive relief is immediately sent into the country. Another 4.5 million people require emergency assistance.

Massive aid should be sent immediately to Somalia. It is outrageous that the wealthy rulers of the United States — a country that has the capacity to feed the entire world — have seen fit to send a mere 300 tons of food and now propose selling half of next year's allotment to merchants, instead of distributing it to those who are starving. It is equally intolerable that immunization programs and other medical care that were called for months ago are only now beginning to be organized.

The imperialist governments in Europe, North America, Japan, Australia, and New Zealand, are responsible for this catastrophe. It is not primarily a natural disaster. Somalia, like the rest of Africa and the Third World, has been blocked for 150 years by colonial and neocolonial exploitation from developing its economy. Then, for more than a decade Washington, with the support of its allies, used the dictatorial regime of Mohamed Siad Barre as a pawn to advance U.S. interests in the region, in an attempt to

overthrow the Ethiopian revolution.

The exploiting classes the world over promote the idea that the famine in Somalia is caused by "armed gangs" or "clan warfare." This too glosses over imperialism's role in Somalia in recent decades.

The billionaire families and their governments have spent months pondering the "technical difficulties" of sending food to Somalia. They argue that, without a strong military presence, it is impossible to send food and medicine. Already more than 2,000 U.S. marines are stationed off the coast of Somalia, and the UN plans to send thousands more so called peacekeepers.

These troops set one more precedent for the presumed "right" of Washington and other imperialist powers, acting under the UN cloak, to intervene anywhere in the world they choose. The troops are not required to provide the aid that is needed.

What the United States and the other imperialist powers can and should do is to flood the country with food, medical supplies, and seed for next year's crops. Massive aid, on a scale many times what is being done now, offers the best hope for the hundreds of thousands of our fellow working people who face starvation and disease.

# The power of the U.S. dollar

The European currency crisis has underlined the power of the German mark in relation to the currencies of the weaker imperialist powers of the region. The following excerpt from a Socialist Workers Party resolution adopted by the SWP convention in August 1988 explains the reasons for the continued dominance of the United States dollar in the world. The document was written following the 1987 stock market crash, but before the unification of Germany and the collapse of the Eastern European and Soviet regimes.

In addition to Washington's military power, the enormous size and weight of the U.S. market and productive capacity also preclude any replacement of U.S. imperialist dominance in the capitalist world. The conditions of production, finance, and trade in the United States are the primary determinant of the direction and prospects of the entire international capitalist economy. This remains true to a much greater degree than for any other imperialist country.

The relative decline of U.S. capitalism increases the vulnerability of all the imperialist economies to partial crises. No other power, however, has the economic size to serve as a counterweight that could salvage the equilibrium of the world capitalist system.

Despite the rapid end of the industrial monopoly of U.S. imperialism that came out of World War II, the annual output of U.S. capitalism today remains three times that of its closest competition, Japan. The U.S. share of world exports has fallen from 15 percent at the beginning of the 1960s to around 11 percent in the mid-1980s. But this frequently cited figure overstates the erosion of U.S. economic power, since it leaves out commodities produced and exported by U.S.-owned factories in other countries.

U.S.-owned corporations today produce 17 percent of the exports on the world market, roughly the same as two decades ago. . . .

The big majority of commodities produced in the United States are sold on the U.S. market, and U.S. capital has often found it more profitable to produce overseas for sales on foreign markets.

The enormous size of the U.S. economy can be gauged by how much it buys, as well as how much it sells. The U.S. market alone absorbs some 25 percent of the goods imported by all the imperialist countries combined. The United States, for example, makes up half the international market for consumer electronics, and 25 to 30 percent of world purchases of auto parts.

## Dollar cannot be replaced

The economic power of U.S. imperialism that stands behind the dollar precludes its replacement as the international reserve currency in capitalist trade and finance. At the end of 1987, more than two-thirds of the foreign exchange reserves of all the world's governments were held in U.S. dollars, while 15 percent were held in West German marks and 7 percent in Japanese yen.

The U.S. rulers are even able to wield the historically declining dollar as a club in their economic competition against their imperialist rivals. In 1987, for example, the central banks of other imperialist governments bought up \$130 billion in dollars to help bolster the plummeting value of the U.S. currency and defend the competitiveness of their own exports. Together with dollars bought over previous years, Tokyo, Bonn, London, and other rivals of U.S. imperialism ended up sitting on more than \$450 billion of the depreciating currency at the end of 1987. But doing so was a lesser evil for Washington's rivals than allowing a free-falling dollar to endanger the entire international monetary system. . . .

This balance of forces among the capitalist powers cannot be substantially altered by agreements among the 12 Western European governments that make up the European Community, popularly called the European Common Market. The EC is scheduled to end all internal barriers to trade, labor, and capital flows by 1992, creating a common market for some 350 million people. But the 1992 goal is already in trouble, as rival capitalist interests jockey to protect their own profits.

Competition among the dozen European ruling classes will intensify, not abate, with the next world recession or explosion of inflation, let alone a more devastating social and economic crisis. The rival national capitals will not give up their separate states, which protect their interests against each other and above all against the working people off whose labor they grow wealthy.

Without a common European state there can be no common currency to rival the dollar, nor common monetary and financial policies. Whatever their efforts to ensure a wider European market for their goods and capital, the German exploiters will never mortgage their profits to the fortunes of the French economy, the French to the fortunes of the British, the British to the Portuguese, Danish, Spanish, or Greek. Thus no one of their currencies can become the world's reserve currency replacing the dollar.

\* \* \*

## CORRECTION

In the *Militant*, October 2, an error appeared in the article on page 4, "USAir workers lose vote for union certification." The wage cut taken by ramp workers on July 1 was 8 percent across the board, not 2 percent as the article stated.



# Kentucky meat-packers end 19-week-long strike

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

We invite you to contribute short items to this column as a way for other fighting workers

## ON THE PICKET LINE

around the world to read about and learn from these important struggles.

Members of the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 227 who have been on strike against the Fischer Packing Company in Louisville, Kentucky, began returning to work September 20. The strike started May 8 after the company demanded more than 27 concessions in the new contract.

The 600 striking meatpackers voted overwhelmingly to return to work under the terms of the old contract, after a National Labor Relations Board preliminary ruling charged the company with unfair labor practices. The company then announced it would take back all but about 20 of the strikers and release the scab workers from employment, placing them on a preferential hiring list if new openings became available. The union is fighting to bring back the 20 workers charged with violating a picket line injunction.

The union plans to continue the boycott of Fischer products until a new contract is negotiated. The boycott has had a big impact. A retired carpenter said, "I saw more support for this strike than I have in 35 years."

Already the company has threatened to impose a concessions contract. The union says it will seek an injunction against any such moves.

The Lexington, Kentucky, AFL-CIO is hosting a solidarity rally for the Fischer workers September 26. A mock trial of the company for crimes against Fischer workers will take place October 9.

Tom Clark, UFCW International Boycott Coordinator, expressed optimism in being able to win a decent contract: "This strike was received by more segments of the community than any other strike we've seen anywhere."

### Strike continues at two New Zealand paper mills

As of September 18, pulp and paper workers at the New Zealand Forest Products mill at Te Papapa in Auckland, New Zealand, are

continuing their strike. Workers at the Kinleith mill, some 200 kilometers south of Auckland, also remain out.

One of the key issues of the strike, which began July 17, has been the continuation of a single company-wide contract. Recently a majority

of workers at four struck mills, including the two still out, upon the recommendation of union negotiators, voted to accept four separate site contracts.

It was agreed that a return to work would occur as each site reached agreement with the company on the terms of the contract. Work resumed at the Mataura paper mill September 15 and at the Whakatane Board Mills the following day.

However, there has been little progress in negotiations at Kinleith, and the company has yet to even agree to return to negotiations at Te Papapa.



Teamsters Local 688 members at RitePoint Pen Co. in Fenton, Missouri, have been on strike since March 5 over seniority rights and job bidding. Strike has been receiving support from many other unions.

Morale at the Te Papapa picket line remains high. The workers there have successfully prevented the company from using scab labor and have kept the mill shut for the past two months.

Strike hats identifying the wearer as a "Te Papapa scab buster 1992" are very popular.

One striker explained that she is looking forward to returning to work wearing her hat and union buttons and announcing to her supervisors, "I am your worst night-

mare and I'm back."

A successful benefit rock concert held at a popular Auckland bar September 13 raised more than \$1,600 for the strike fund. Supporters continue to bring food and money to the picket line.

With no immediate end to the strike in sight, support for the workers and their families remains essential. Send donations to: United Welfare Fund, P.O. Box 219, Tokorua, New Zealand.

### Unionists join Teamsters rally in show of support

Members of Teamsters Local 688, on strike against the RitePoint Pen Co. in Fenton, Missouri, received support from other union members who joined an expanded picket line and rally September 8. The gathering of about 200 people, made up of members of the Communications Workers of America (CWA), United Auto Workers (UAW), United Steelworkers of America, Teamsters, and other unions, was initiated by the CWA.

About 160 Teamsters were

Since then, however, the ranks have held strong.

Among the unionists participating in the picket line and rally were striking Teamsters from the Doe Run lead smelter.

The rally was punctuated with shouts of "Scab!" as a few of RitePoint's strikebreakers ventured into view or drove past the pickets. While adamant in expressing their disgust with the strikebreakers, the unionists maintained self-discipline throughout the event.

Local unions have recently begun extending solidarity in other forms. Members of UAW Local 110 voted to conduct a gate collection and match the funds collected at the gate with money from the general union fund. The total contribution exceeded \$4,000 according to the local's financial secretary. This local and others have collected donations of food for the strikers' pantry.

### Los Angeles machinists discuss labor solidarity

More than 125 members of International Association of Machin-

wages and benefits. Jesús Gómez, who led several strikes in Mexico and was jailed there for his union activities, explained how the strikers go from "construction site to construction site calling on the workers to come out and join the picket." The drywallers have received important support in the form of food and donations from as far north as San Francisco. In thanking the crowd for a collection of \$125, Navarro invited everyone to join them on the picket line.

Also attending the Los Angeles IAM meeting was a delegation of machinists from Alaska Airlines in Seattle, including Linda Layton, vice-president of IAM District 143, ground service worker Mark Severs, and mechanic John Wilson. Layton and Severs spoke about the open shop at Alaska, and the existing seven-year wage freeze and the company's demands to extend this for another four years, with major cuts in medical benefits for part-time workers.

"We are trying to break the circle of concessions. We have begun to unify mechanics, ticket agents, and baggage workers, recruiting more of them into the union while also working with flight attendants and pilots," stated Severs. "We held an informational picket of 200, and welcome the opportunity to come here."

Herb Bradley, a former Eastern Airlines strike leader, and now a local IAM leader told the unionists, "The situation at Alaska is the handwriting on the wall for Northwest. We need the unity of every working person in the U.S. to back the corporations down. Having gone to Seattle and been on the Alaska picket, it was like being home again having gone through the Eastern strike."

Plans are underway for a delegation of Los Angeles IAM members to go to Seattle for their next picket and to spread the word and organize Alaska workers in Los Angeles, Long Beach, Burbank, and throughout California.

The following people contributed to this week's column: Jim Horn, member of International Chemical Workers Local 15 in Jeffersonville, Indiana; Valerie Libby, member of UAW Local 647 in Cincinnati, Ohio; Colin Parker in Auckland, New Zealand; Jim Garrison, member of UAW Local 110 in Fenton, Missouri; and Mark Friedman, member of IAM Local 2785 in Los Angeles.

## LETTERS

### Interest in Cuba

I have heard different speakers from Cuba over the last few years. September 17 I heard Ibis Alviza González on the campus of Edinboro University of Pennsylvania.

### 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.

There is a marked positive difference I noticed with Ms. Alviza's talk. The audience was even more attentive than I recall from past speakers. The members of the audience seemed almost hungry for a different view. Ms. Alviza provided a different view, forcefully and in detail. There was a particularly meaty exchange when one audience member wanted to go back to the early 1960s to blame Cuba for the poor relations with the U.S. over the issue of nuclear weapons.

Possibly the hunger for information on a different way to organize society is an extension of the general hunger of the 1990s as chronic unemployment gnaws away at workers and the concentration of wealth fattens the top 1 percent with even more than they have had in the past.

I hope to hear other speakers like Ms. Alviza in the future.

James Smith  
Erie, Pennsylvania

### Support for Curtis

Supporters of Mark Curtis held a Labor Day barbecue to raise funds for the fight to win parole for him this fall. About 25 people attended, paying \$5 each for "all you can eat." Curtis supporters also raised money by selling advance tickets to coworkers during the week before the barbecue. Several coworkers who could not attend the event donated money for the parole fight, including one worker at the Ford assembly plant who donated \$22.

During the barbecue Curtis supporters showed the video *The Frame-up of Mark Curtis* by Hollywood director Nick Castle and led a discussion about Curtis's fight for parole, his victory early this year in a civil suit against the police who beat him, and the countercampaign against the framed-up union and political activist.

Two people signed to become endorsers of the Mark Curtis De-

fense Committee and several agreed to write a letter to the Iowa State Board of Parole urging that Curtis be freed. A total of \$167 was raised toward the parole fight. Atlanta supporters of Curtis plan to use some of this money to put out a mailing informing more people in the area about efforts to win his parole this fall.

Marla Puziss  
Atlanta, Georgia

### Socialist campaign

Just as Malcolm X said about the *Militant*, that what you put into it will see that it gets around, what is going into the socialist campaign is apparently seeing that it gets around.

Socialist Workers presidential candidate James Warren, although he has never campaigned there, has a few supporters in the Baltimore suburb of Reisterstown, according to an informal presidential poll.

During a recent end-of-summer community festival in Reisterstown a prominent Democratic member of the Maryland legislature conducted an informal poll of festival-goers to learn of their favorite candidate. Bill Clinton came in first. George Bush came in second.

Five people cast write-in ballots. Three of them were for Texas billionaire H. Ross Perot. Two were for Warren.

"I never heard of him before," the Democratic senator said of Warren. "A socialist, a socialist."

Indeed, a socialist.  
Baxter Smith  
Baltimore, Maryland

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.



## Nine killed in Canada mine disaster

### Police and news media seek to frame up striking miners for explosion

BY NED DMYTRYSHYN

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — Nine replacement workers were killed as a violent explosion rocked the Royal Oak gold mine in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, September 18. Since May 23, this mine has been the scene of a determined strike by 240 gold miners, members of the Canadian Association of Smelter and Allied Workers (CASAW) Local 4, against concessions and the boss's use of replacement workers to break the union. Six of the miners killed were CASAW members from Yellowknife who had crossed the picket line.

Within hours of the blast the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) announced that it was treating the explosion as a criminal matter. A hysterical campaign implying

that the strikers were responsible for the blast has resulted in death threats against strikers and their families and physical attacks against the union hall.

"This attack against the strikers is the most serious antilabor assault in Canada today," stated Communist League candidates Michel Prairie and Paul Kouri in a statement issued to the media. "We call upon the entire labor movement to conduct a widespread, active campaign of solidarity with these striking miners. They now represent the front line of defense of the labor movement as a whole." Prairie is running in the November 1 provincial by-election in St-Jacques, Montreal. Kouri ran in the September 19 municipal by-election in Vancouver.

Prior to the explosion replacement workers had informed CASAW Local 4 that miners were being transported with a load of explosives. "It is a cardinal rule that you never transport explosives along with workers no matter how much time and money it may save," stated Harry Seeton, president of Local 4. The union offered its deepest sympathies and moral support to the families of the replacement workers involved in the fatal explosion.

This explosion has received major media coverage in Canada. Much of it has been designed to frame-up the striking union members for the tragedy. "We are opposed to terrorism," stated Seeton. "The violence during this strike has not come from us, it's been provoked by the company, and their

hired Pinkertons, and the RCMP. We're being set up and the courts are going along with this. One hundred and four of our members are facing false charges from picket-line activity and because of this are not allowed to go to the picket line."

On May 26, several days after the strike began, a 58-member "tactical team" of RCMP was flown in from Edmonton at government expense. The RCMP members together with 50 Pinkerton cops, armed to the teeth, have consistently harassed striking miners and attacked the picket lines.

"The nine miners who lost their lives are victims of the boss's offensive to protect their profits by treating workers' lives and safety procedures with contempt," stated Communist League candidates Prairie and Kouri. "The company even refused the help of experienced miners on strike who volunteered to join the rescue teams after the explosion."

Safety is one of the central issues in this strike. From January through April of this year there have been 81 reported accidents out of a workforce of 240. The company is seeking to drastically cut back mining inspections and is demanding concessions that would seriously erode seniority rights.

Since the strike started the company has informed the union that they want an additional \$1.5 million in concessions to pay for lost production because of the strike.

Send messages of support and donations to: CASAW, Local 4, P.O. Box 1628, Yellowknife, NWT, X1A2P2

Ned Dmytryshyn is a member of Teamsters Local 213 in Vancouver, Canada.

## Steelworkers on strike in Alabama

BY RAÚL GONZALEZ

BESSEMER, Alabama — "Who are we? Union!" "What time is it? Union time!" These chants rang out as some 150 members of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 9226 struck Trinity Industries and set up picket lines at midnight September 19. Trinity is the nation's leading producer of rail cars.

An impromptu rally began at the picket line when a local television news team arrived. "This is not South Africa and the days of slavery are long gone," stated striking welder Grady King. "This company acts like they don't know that. So we have to teach them that we know different, that we're not dogs, that we won't take just any old kind of treatment. That's why we strike!"

"This company needed to be struck," stated Keith Witherspoon, another welder. "Skilled welders, painters, and machinists make \$10 an hour and pay \$50 a week for insurance. The pay's too low, and with so many layoffs we don't always get 40 hours." Many workers refer to Trinity as the best part-time job in Alabama because of the frequent temporary layoffs.

Management is also attempting to gut the seniority system. Bosses want to be able to pick and choose who to lay off and recall. "They'd have us fighting one another for who could do the most work the fastest so we wouldn't get laid off," said Sam, a painter at the plant.

Trinity Industries employs close to

10,000 workers nationwide and brought in more than \$1.26 billion in revenue in 1991. In the mid-1980s Trinity spent more than \$20 million to buy the Pullman Standard Car Company, reopening Pullman's closed plants nonunion.

Approximately 800 people work in the Bessemer plant — 98 percent of whom are members of the USWA in this "right-to-work" state. Three hundred had been laid off since early summer.

In the weeks leading up to the contract deadline the management arbitrarily fired close to 40 workers for allegedly violating attendance rules. Injured workers receiving workers compensation were brought back and placed on light duty so the company wouldn't have to keep up payments to them in the event of a strike. Many of the laid off workers were also recalled a few days before the strike deadline.

### Successful strike in 1988

In 1988 workers struck the plant for six weeks in a successful battle for union recognition. One striker explained that, during that strike, "Trinity sent out letters calling us all back to work and said if we didn't show up they'd fire us."

"We took those letters and made a bonfire in front of the plant gate and stayed out," he continued. "No one lost their job. And a few that crossed the line then are out on strike today."

Trinity has tested the determination of the strikers by attempting to provoke a couple

of incidents. On one occasion a Trinity truck bumped a striker on the picket line. On another a small caravan of guards attempted to come in the wrong gate and was turned away.

The local has issued a statement appealing for support and donations. These can be sent to USWA Local 9226, 1919 7th Ave., Bessemer, AL 35020. Phone (205) 425-9226.

Raúl Gonzalez is the Socialist Workers candidate for Public Service Commissioner in Alabama and a member of USWA Local 9226.

## Protests win stay of execution for frame-up victim in Texas

BY MICHAEL CHAMBERLAIN

HOUSTON — Ricardo Aldape Guerra won a stay of execution September 21 from the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals in Austin. The appeals court overturned a lower-court ruling earlier that day ordering that Aldape's execution go forward. "This case has been litigated to death," said Harris County judge Woody Densen in ordering the execution. Fifty Aldape supporters jammed the tense hearing before Densen.

Two days earlier more than 250 people marched and rallied here to save the life of Aldape, a young Mexican worker framed up on charges of killing a Houston cop. Aldape was scheduled to be executed September 24.

"Marches like this are very important to win justice for this fellow worker," explained Matt Herreshoff, one of the participants in the demonstration and the Socialist Workers candidate for Congress from Texas in the 25th District. "The entire labor movement and all supporters of justice should demand freedom for Aldape Guerra."

The fight to win justice for Aldape has drawn extensive support, including from the Mexican government. The case is widely discussed among Chicano and Mexican workers in Houston, and has been covered nightly on the Spanish-language TV stations in the days leading up to the planned execution.

Participants in the September 19 march came from as far away as Denver, Chicago, and Mexico. "I'm involved because of all the injustices committed against *la raza*. This isn't just a struggle for him but for all of us," stated Reyna Salazar, a housewife, who joined the movement to free Aldape ten years ago. Aldape was first arrested in July, 1982.

### 'We must not let this happen'

"We must not let this happen, he's innocent!" insisted María Núñez, a student from Milby High School. "We need to stop rac-

ism," she added. Núñez said that several other students from her school were also participating in the march. Many of the marchers had never been part of a political protest before.

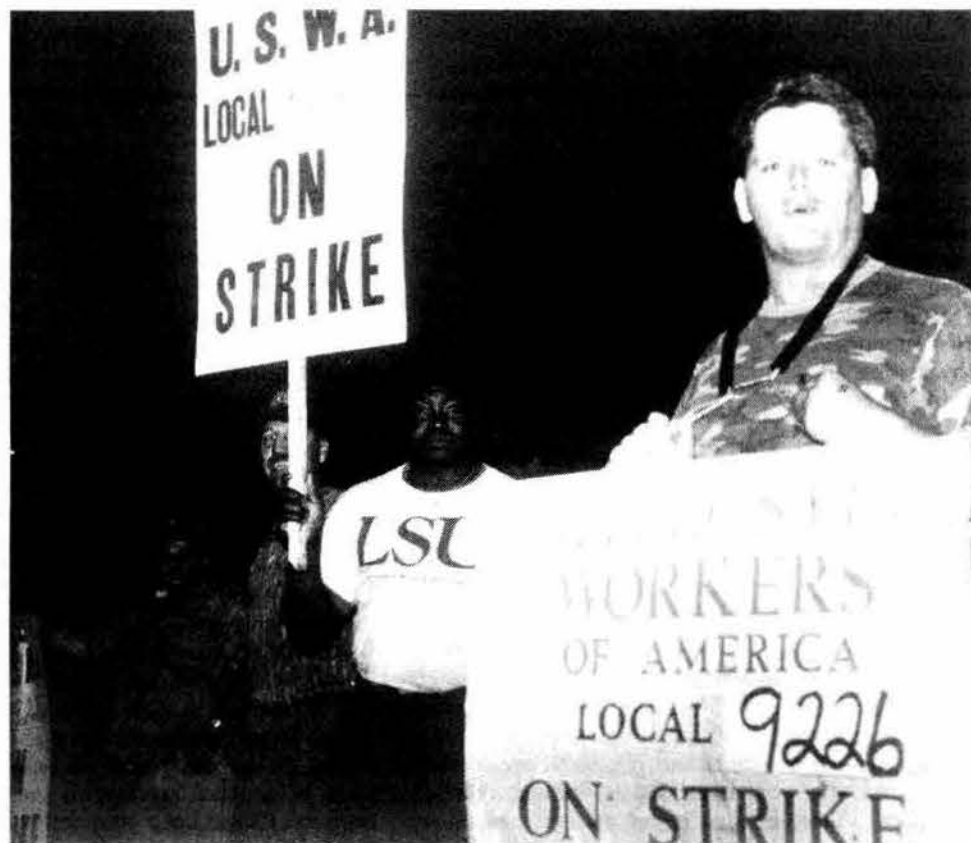
Elizar Torres, a Houston construction worker, was marching "to help this boy that we know is innocent." Torres has been involved in the defense efforts for six months and has attended all the protests.

Luis Mendoza, a student from the University of Texas in Austin, attended the march because he feels that the authorities "need to see that there is outrage" over the conviction and planned execution of Aldape. The case is "a prime example of what's wrong with the death penalty in general. Texas has a history of condemning people to die who are actually innocent," he said. He pointed to the case of Clarence Brandley as an example. Brandley was sentenced to die only to have new evidence prove his innocence.

The appeal of Aldape's conviction points to prosecution's suppression of evidence favorable to the defense. In particular the prosecution prevented one witness, Héctor Anguiano, from coming forward. Anguiano swears to Aldape's innocence.

The Ricardo Aldape Guerra Defense Committee plans to continue to mobilize public protests to win his freedom. Included in these events is a car caravan from Houston to Austin on October 2.

The defense committee is asking that messages protesting Aldape's death sentence and calling for his release be sent to: Governor Ann Richards, State Capitol, Austin, TX 78711, Tel: (800) 843-5789; and Court of Criminal Appeals, Capitol Station, P.O. Box 12308, Austin, TX 78711, Tel: (512) 463-1551. Copies should be sent to the defense committee at: 2510 Broad St., Suite 200, Houston, TX 77087. For more information call the committee at (713) 641-0026.



Striking Steelworkers picket Trinity Industries in Bessemer, Alabama.

Militant/Denise McInerney