

THE MILITANT

INSIDE
Washington's 30-year effort
to destroy Cuban revolution
International Socialist Review — PAGES 7-10

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Bush, Clinton, Perot: no choice for working people

Says Socialist Workers candidate James Warren

BY JOHN COX

"What will determine what happens in the next four years is not who gets elected on November 3, but what the capitalist rulers of this country feel compelled to carry out under the pressure of their economic crisis," stated James Warren, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. president.

With less than three weeks remaining before election day in the United States, millions of workers who face declining living standards and attacks on their democratic rights, farmers suffering under the impact of depression conditions, and young people confronted with an uncertain future are all considering whether any of the capitalist politicians who are running for president — President George Bush, Arkansas governor William Clinton, and H. Ross Perot — have anything to offer.

Warren explained that, in the context of a worldwide economic depression that is producing deep social conflicts in country after country, "the only way to defend ourselves will be to figure out how to fight and, in the process, begin to understand that we are part of an international class that is facing the same problems and that has the same enemy. It will not be by deluding yourself into thinking that somehow Clinton will be a 'lesser evil' than Bush, or vice versa."

'Lesser evil'

The Democratic Party has been looked to, since Franklin D. Roosevelt and the "New



James Warren, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. president.

Militant/Heidi Rose

Deal," by many working people as the party that is more receptive to the needs of workers and farmers in the United States. In actual practice, Democratic party politicians differ from their Republican counterparts

"only in words," the socialist candidate, who is also a member of the Steelworkers' union, pointed out.

"In fact, they're not even separated by

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USAir strike ends with concession contract

BY PAUL MAILHOT

After six days on the picket line striking against the company's takeback demands, members of the International Association of Machinists (IAM) at USAir approved a new contract by a wide margin, according to news reports. Union officials pushed for acceptance of the pact, which included deep wage and benefit cuts.

Workers walked off the job October 5 after rejecting USAir's demands for an 8 percent one-year wage cut, reduced health benefits, and work-rule changes. The company was forced to ground nearly 40 percent of its flights during the strike.

From the moment the tentative pact was reached — even before the membership had voted — USAir and much of the media acted as if the strike was over. Major ads announced a "Welcome Back Bonus" for frequent flyers and explained that all flights would be back to normal within days. The company sought to put maximum pressure on the strikers to accept the pact and hoped to block off further labor solidarity for the strike.

The concessions included in the contract mirrored many of the takeaways that union members had voted down earlier and de-

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Supporters of frame-up victim Mark Curtis launch Parole Now! campaign

BY MIKE GALATI

DES MOINES, Iowa — On November 17 Mark Curtis will go before the Iowa State Board of Parole to be considered for release from prison.

Curtis, a meat-packer at the Monfort/Swift plant here and member of the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 431 at the time of his arrest, is a union and political activist who was falsely accused

and framed on rape and burglary charges by the Des Moines police and prosecutor's office. Leading up to his arrest, Curtis was involved in a fight protesting the arrest of 17 coworkers from Mexico and El Salvador by the immigration police, which raided the Monfort packing plant.

In a letter announcing the launching of an international *Parole Now!* campaign, the Mark Curtis Defense Committee urges sup-

porters of Curtis's fight for justice to "get hundreds of letters to the parole board" to show the community support he has in his effort to win parole. The letter is signed by Alfredo Alvarez, former chair of the Des Moines Human Rights Commission; Harold Ruggless, vice-president of United Auto Workers Local 270; Edna Griffin, member of the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame; and Priscilla Schenk, another leading activist in the Curtis defense committee.

"We want to expand the field for obtaining letters to the Iowa Parole Board urging that Curtis be freed, to draw in our coworkers and others we have met in political activity, both to write letters and to help get others to do so," the defense committee letter explains.

The defense committee activists remind other supporters that Curtis's fight for justice has not been quick or easy.

In an interview from prison, Curtis explained, "While we will be organizing to get hundreds of letters to the parole board, we should emphasize not the numbers, but taking the necessary time to have political discussions about this fight for justice."

In a brochure produced for distribution to potential supporters of Curtis's fight for parole, the defense committee explains that the Iowa Parole Board has been stalling on releasing Curtis despite the fact that he is a good candidate for parole. It explains that Curtis has "a good work record in prison,

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Flight attendants fight back at Nationair in Canada

BY ROGER ANNIS

MONTREAL — A fight by 450 flight attendants for a new collective agreement at Nationair, Canada's largest charter airline, is continuing following company owner Robert Obadia's rejection of a mediator's proposed truce, which sends the workers back to work without a contract.

The flight attendants, members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) in Montreal and Toronto, have been locked out since November 1991. They earn an average annual salary of \$15,600, and have been seeking to negotiate better wages and working conditions. The workers have waged a highly publicized fight since then, campaigning for a boycott of Nationair

among other unionists, students, and travel agents. They have also organized protest marches and spoken to scores of union gatherings.

Their most recent rally on October 5 drew as many as 150 union members and supporters to a protest in front of the Nationair ticket counter at Dorval Airport in Montreal.

The mediator proposed a six-month truce in the lockout. None of the nearly 40 attendants fired during the conflict would resume their jobs. More than 100 newly hired workers, who had not completed their six-month probation period when the lockout was imposed, would also be left out. All these cases would be referred to

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James Warren tours northern California

BY GEORGES MEHRABIAN

SAN FRANCISCO — Socialist Workers presidential candidate James Warren addressed an early afternoon open-air meeting October 5 at Cabrillo College near Santa Cruz, California. The meeting was part of Warren's week-long northern California tour. The meeting at Cabrillo had been aggressively publicized by half a dozen supporters of Youth for Warren and DeBates, as well as a youth group that supports the socialist campaign called The Proletariat, which numbers about 10 people.

Supporters of The Proletariat handed out statements to the crowd, which stated, "The Proletariat strongly endorses the presidential campaign of the Socialist Workers Party, and its candidates James Warren and Estelle DeBates. They stand for equality among people, exploitation of none, and the opportunity of all humans to strive for their potentials."

"All three bourgeois candidates — Bush, Clinton, Perot — are chanting war songs. James Warren and Estelle DeBates call for an end to the oppressive wars which only benefit the wealthy and destroy the working-class people."

Warren's introductory remarks were followed by a two-hour discussion period under a 90-degree sun. Several participants raised concern about the destruction of the environment and how to fight to prevent it. One person said, "One way we can help is by personal commitments, but how do we move beyond that?"

Warren responded, "It has to do with the

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Israel soldiers fire on Palestinians

Israeli soldiers fired plastic and rubber bullets at a march of several thousand Palestinians October 7 in the Gaza Strip, wounding at least 90 protesters. The march was one of the daily demonstrations in support of a hunger strike begun September 27 by 4,500 Palestinian prisoners. The prisoners are demanding better food, more sunlight, less crowding, basic medical care, heating, educational opportunities, and more family visits at 13 Israeli jails.

Four days earlier, six Palestinians were wounded when Israeli troops opened fire on demonstrations in Ramallah, Nablus, and Hebron in the West Bank, also in support of the hunger strike.

Cops assault workers in Japan

Hundreds of riot police patrolled streets of Osaka, Japan, October 4 after four days of violent attacks on day-laborers that left several dozen workers injured. The cops also arrested 12 workers as 30,000 day-laborers protested against the suspension of welfare payments by the local government. Day-laborers usually gather early in the morning to take what are often two- or three-day jobs at construction sites and in small factories. The crash of Osaka's property market and the slowing of factory orders have left many of these workers destitute.

Irish referendum on abortion

The Irish government has announced plans for a three-part referendum to be held December 3. A statement by officials said there would be separate votes on conditions under which abortion might be permitted, the right to travel abroad for abortion, and access in Ireland to information about abortion. The wording of the questions has yet to be specified. In a 1983 referendum, 67 percent of voters approved a constitutional ban on abortion.

Debate deepened in Ireland with the case of a 14-year-old girl who sought to travel to Britain to get an abortion last February. The government denied her right to go, sparking an uproar, including several large demonstrations. The Supreme Court then allowed the



Palestinian women demonstrate in support of thousands of Palestinian prisoners who are on hunger strikes to protest prison conditions. On October 7 Israeli troops fired on Palestinian demonstrators, wounding at least 90.

girl to travel to obtain the procedure, saying it was within the guidelines of Ireland's abortion law.

Austerity resisted in Ecuador

Hundreds of thousands of workers have demonstrated in the streets of Ecuador, protesting the government's drastic austerity measures. The government of President Sixto Durán Ballén devalued the country's currency by nearly 30 percent in September, doubling the prices of basic goods such as bread and fuel.

A 24-hour strike September 23 was organized by the United Workers Front, the main labor union in Ecuador, as well as

other unions, public employees, and students. The strike shut down transportation in the capital city of Quito. Since then, numerous strikes and demonstrations have taken place. Prominent among the demands raised at the protests was a call to end the country's foreign debt.

Separatists push back Georgian troops in Abkhazia region

Separatists have swept Georgian troops from the last two villages in the Black Sea region of Abkhazia October 6, inflicting hundreds of casualties. The government of Georgia accuses Russia of aiding the separatists.

On October 3, the Georgian leadership voted to seize all Russian military hardware on Georgian territory. Pavel Grachev, the Russian defense minister, said fighting between the two former Soviet republics would erupt if Georgia carried out the decision.

Plutonium hazard in Colorado

An internal Department of Energy memorandum reports that substantial amounts of plutonium remain in unstable condition or in potentially unsafe or untested containers inadequately protected against fire at the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant, nearly three years after it was shut down for environmental and safety problems.

Despite this, the department and the author of the memo both claimed there was "no imminent hazard." Last spring Rockwell International Corp., a former operator of the factory, agreed to pay an \$18.5 million

fine for violations of federal environmental laws, the second largest penalty ever assessed against a U.S. corporation.

U.S. delays withdrawal of troops from South Korea

The United States government announced October 8 that no more U.S. troops would leave the Korean peninsula until North Korea had "settled" Washington's charges over its alleged nuclear weapons program. A joint communiqué from the United States and South Korea accused North Korea of not permitting mutual inspections of nuclear installations. North Korea has allowed inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency, while Washington and Seoul have made no provision for North Korean inspection of U.S. bases in South Korea, long known to be the site of nuclear weapons. Seoul claims that Washington no longer has nuclear weapons there. More than 37,000 U.S. troops remain in South Korea.

Brazil cops massacre prisoners

Police and riot troops stormed the Carandiru prison in São Paulo, Brazil, October 2, killing at least 200 people in a wing of the prison where a protest was taking place. Police officials deny the reports, claiming that 111 people died in a riot between prison gangs, and that police went in to break up the fight.

Inmates and witnesses say police charged into the wing and fired randomly into cells. Some prisoners say dogs that were brought in mutilated several prisoners. Two nuns who visited the prison after the assault counted 13 bodies of prisoners who had been shot with their hands tied behind their backs.

Rightist ballot measure opposed

In Portland, Oregon, 10,000 people filled a downtown square October 4 for the largest "No on 9" rally to date. The measure would declare homosexuality to be "abnormal and perverse" and is being opposed by health workers, teachers, students, labor officials, and public officials. Oregon AFL-CIO president Irv Fletcher was among those who addressed the rally.

Protests over Japanese plan to ship one ton of plutonium

The Japanese government is planning to ship almost a ton of plutonium from France to Tokyo. The plutonium, which was reprocessed in France from the spent uranium of a Japanese nuclear power plant, is intended for use as fuel in other nuclear power plants. It contains enough weapons-grade materials to make more than 100 atomic bombs equivalent to the one dropped on Nagasaki in 1945.

Many governments, including those of Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, South Africa, and Argentina, have strongly protested the possible shipment of such a large amount of deadly radioactive material through their coastal waters. In response, Japan said the vessel will stay outside the 200-mile economic zone of all countries, at least "in principle."

—DEREK BRACEY

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Economic crisis felt throughout Europe

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The continuing fallout from Europe's currency crisis is being felt from one end of the continent to the other. The results are reflected in deep-going divisions within the ruling Conservative Party in Britain, mass working-class protests against austerity measures in Italy, and a gloomy outlook for the German economy.

Stock markets throughout Europe dropped precipitously October 5. "After weeks of sometimes sharp declines, Europe's bourses were clobbered yet again," a *Wall Street Journal* article remarked. "Investor confidence withered still further under a combination of slow growth, persistently high interest rates, currency turmoil and a seeming lack of European political leadership."

In Frankfurt, Germany, stocks closed at their lowest point for the year — down 3.6 percent. The London stock exchange experienced its biggest one-day drop since the October 1987 global stock market crash. Other market declines included 4.3 percent in France, and 6.2 percent in Sweden. On Wall Street the Dow Jones Industrial Average plunged 100 points when trading opened October 5 but recovered almost 80 percent of this by the end of the day.

"Europe's currency crisis is rapidly turning into an economic crisis for Britain, raising prospects of higher inflation, rising unemployment and deepening recession," noted the October 7 *Wall Street Journal*. Nearly 3 million British workers are unemployed with announcements of new plant closings occurring virtually every day.

Britain dropped out of the European Community's system of fixed currency values

— called the Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM) — September 16, when the value of the British pound plummeted. Since then the pound has declined in value as much as 20 percent against the German mark.

Disagreements over economic and political policy were at the center of a heated debate at the Conservative Party's annual conference held in Brighton, England, in early October. Since leaving the ERM, British prime minister John Major has vowed to fight for Parliament's approval of the Maastricht Treaty, which seeks a common currency among the 12 capitalist countries comprising the European Community.

Thatcher condemns Maastricht

Writing in the October 8 issue of *The European*, former British prime minister Margaret Thatcher laid out her view that Britain's capitalist rulers would be better off outside both the Maastricht Treaty and the Exchange Rate Mechanism. "The ERM and Maastricht are inextricably linked," Thatcher wrote. "We found the confines of the first unbearable; the straitjacket of the second would be ruinous... Like the Maastricht treaty, the ERM in no way represents what is best for British interests."

Pointing to the policy pursued by the German government of maintaining high interest rates and a strong mark, Thatcher explained, "I do not blame the Germans... They put their country first and in doing so showed up the impossibility of a single currency for a group of such divergent economies as those of Europe."

Britain's chancellor of the Exchequer, Norman Lamont, explained that the present

administration remains committed to rejoining the ERM in the future. He called for the government to "take no risks with inflation" by keeping interest rates at the present high levels, and for clamping down on public spending and wage increases for public-sector employees.

The October 9 *Financial Times* applauded Lamont's call for a tough stand against wage demands from Britain's workers. "The competitive gains of devaluation will only be maintained if nominal wages in the domestic economy grow at a sustainable pace," it editorialized. This "means pay settlements of no more than 2 percent in both the private and public sectors."

The British government is now moving forward with plans to demand a wage freeze for the up to two million workers employed in local government and the National Health Service as part of its plans for deep cuts in public spending.

Massive strikes in Italy

In mid-September Italy also devalued its currency — the lira, which has now lost a fifth of its value against the mark — and withdrew from the ERM. Any further fall in the lira's value would give a sharp boost to Italian exports and would be strongly opposed by other EC member governments.

In a move to rejoin the ERM as soon as possible, Italian prime minister Giuliano Amato is pushing parliament to pass an austerity budget including \$76 billion in cuts. This has been met with the biggest antigovernment protests and strikes in two decades.

Workers are protesting proposed cuts in

pension and health services and demand that the government renegotiate an agreement signed in July ending the system of indexed wages.

A four-hour nationwide general strike was called for October 13 by Italy's three main union federations. Since September 22 the unions have been carrying out a series of four-hour regional general strikes involving millions of workers. On October 2, in addition to a general strike in Rome and the Lazio region, there was a day-long stoppage by Italy's 3.5 million public-sector employees, which paralyzed government ministries and the airports.

More than 100,000 workers in Sweden participated in nationwide demonstrations October 6 against austerity measures being demanded by the Swedish government, which is seeking cuts in pensions, sickness benefits, housing subsidies, and increased taxes on gasoline and cigarettes. Protest actions occurred in 200 cities and communities.

While the German mark remains Europe's strongest currency, growing economic problems within Germany have that country's capitalist rulers worried. The Bonn Economics Ministry announced that August orders to western Germany's manufacturing industry fell for the sixth consecutive month. August orders were down by almost 7 percent from one year ago.

Western German companies also reported a sharp increase in the number of workers forced onto reduced shifts, mainly in key sectors, like the electrical, machinery, and auto industries.

Strike ends at USAir as workers vote givebacks

Continued from front page

cided to strike over. Union officials sold the deal to IAM members on the basis that management had been forced to back off somewhat, jobs would be guaranteed, and the company would fold without the union's help. "We did help them out and did more than our fair share to keep the company a viable carrier," explained William Scheri, the union's chief negotiator.

USAir insisted that more than \$400 million in givebacks were needed from the 8,300 mechanics, cleaners, and clerks organized by the IAM, and from other company employees. Otherwise, it said, the airline could not survive.

Concession contract

The agreement under which workers will be going back includes a 3.5 percent wage cut for one year. In addition, lower-paid workers must now perform jobs previously done only by mechanics; the starting wage for cleaners is to be \$7.17 an hour, which is \$3.77 less than new employees were paid before. There are cuts in health benefits for union members and retirees; and the company can now schedule work seven days a week at maintenance facilities, which until now have been closed on weekends.

Many news articles noted that the 3.5

percent pay cut was less than the company had been pushing for. But on closer examination the previously demanded 8 percent cut on wages above \$20,000 is actually a smaller reduction — for many workers — than the 3.5 percent cut in total wages.

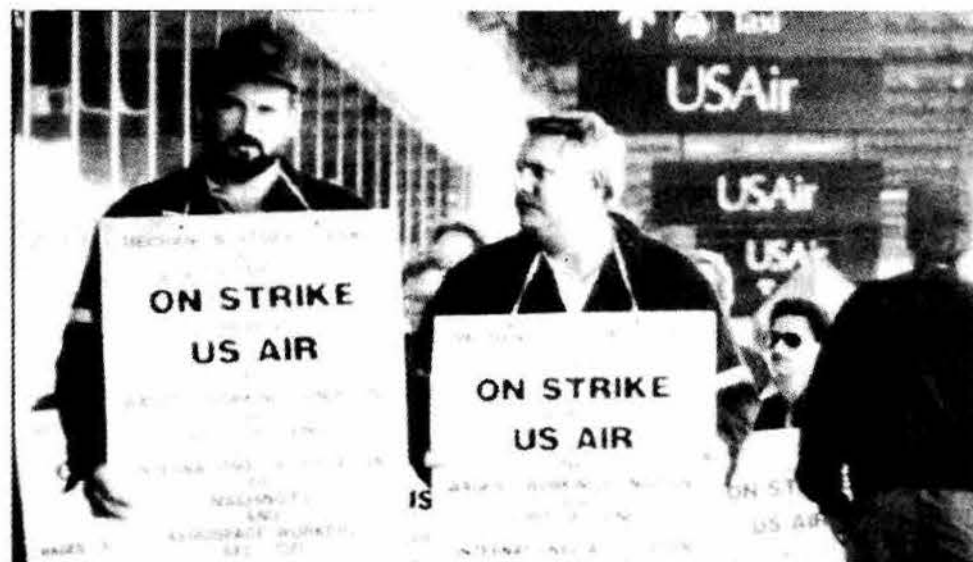
"We're going to vote it up, but basically it is the same contract they proposed to us last week that we voted down," noted one IAM mechanic leaving the contract ratification meeting in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Many USAir workers expressed the view that the contract was the best that could be done, but said their vote was "unenthusiastic."

"I don't think the contract is all that great, but I'm glad we're going back," explained Keith Owens, an IAM member at the airline's Pittsburgh hub. "The company had a few bad years. Now they want us to give back everything we got before."

Some workers argued that accepting concessions would accomplish nothing. A USAir striker in Pittsburgh, who had been a steelworker for 14 years and had gone through several concession contracts, pointed to the importance of the walkout and said, "this is the way to go."

"A lot of guys, if they vote for this contract, will be sorry," said Frank Smith, a stock clerk and IAM member in Pittsburgh.



USAir strikers on the picket line at National Airport in Washington, D.C.

He was convinced that workers would see the problems with the agreement "once the gloss of going back to work and the fear people have is over."

At many contract ratification meetings workers had only sketchy information about the proposed agreement and little time to discuss it among themselves before voting.

Solidarity with strike

Even before the strike began, serious pledges of solidarity were made by IAM members at the union's national convention held in Montreal in early October. The strike was announced during the final days of the gathering.

One delegate from Kansas City, Missouri, rose to explain to the convention, "We can't forget our brothers and sisters at USAir. Those folks on the picket line are fighting our battle. Let's not forget that when we get home." Other delegates took the floor during the final session to push for support actions.

"Solidarity with the USAir strikers began the first days of the fight," reports IAM member Elizabeth Stone, who works at United Airlines in Los Angeles. "Northwest and United workers, former Eastern strikers, and members of several other unions helped with the picketing. Northwest workers took up a collection. USAir flight attendants, who were ordered by a judge to not honor the machinist picket lines, came by and brought food for the strikers," she said.

Spirits on the Los Angeles picket line were raised on the second day, when 20 striking drywall workers from the area and a number of Alaska Airlines workers from Seattle came to the line. The picketers gathered around as Jesús Gómez, one of the central leaders of the drywallers, described their fight and pledged support to the USAir

battle. "We are with you in your strike because working people have to stand together," Gómez said.

In Pittsburgh, workers on strike against the *Pittsburgh Press* showed up at the USAir picket lines. Leaders of the miners' union also pledged to join the Machinists at that city's airport.

IAM members who work for United Airlines at Dulles airport in Washington, D.C., organized a picket line at the main terminal to support the strike. USAir has only a small number of flights out of the airport and no IAM-organized members there.

The solid stand taken by the ranks of the union and the support that was building for the strike had a big impact in the few days of the walkout. A *Wall Street Journal* article that appeared on the second day of the walkout remarked that the Machinists had "plunged much of the travel industry into chaos."

The big-business paper also feared the vulnerability of the company to the IAM's action. "A lengthy strike wouldn't only hurt USAir's balance sheet, but it could also allow competitors to gain capacity on some of USAir's dominant routes," the article observed.

The *Journal* was not particularly optimistic about USAir's chances of defeating the IAM. It recalled the Eastern Airlines strike and noted, "Flight attendants also haven't agreed to concessions, making the company's prospects of breaking the machinists strike even tougher."

Contributors to this article include: Matilde Zimmermann in Pittsburgh; Janice Lynn in Washington, D.C.; Nancy Brown in Winston-Salem, North Carolina; Elizabeth Stone in Los Angeles; and Edwin Fruit, a USAir striker and member of the IAM in Baltimore.

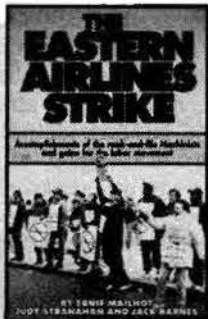
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THE EASTERN AIRLINES STRIKE Accomplishments of the rank-and-file Machinists

BY ERNIE MAILHOT, JUDY STRANAHAN, AND JACK BARNES

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— Jim Lyle
member, International
Association of Machinists
Lodge 141 in Detroit

Print shop first stage nears completion

The George Novack Reconstruction Fund was launched in August at the International Socialist Conference at Oberlin, Ohio. Novack, who died July 30 at the age of 86, was a leader of the socialist movement in the United States for more than half a century.

The aim of the fund is to raise \$150,000 by December 1. The Novack Fund finances the reconstruction project currently taking place in New York's Pathfinder Building, which is pictured at the top of the thermometer graph to the right.

The building is the home of Pathfinder Press, publisher of speeches and writings by revolutionary leaders such as Che Guevara, Leon Trotsky, Maurice Bishop, and Rosa Luxemburg. The *Militant*, *Perspective*, *Mundial*, *New International*, and other socialist publications are also produced in the Pathfinder Building.

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406 West Street, New York, NY 10014

BY JOHN COX

A total of \$6,553 was contributed to the fund in the last week, bringing the amount collected to \$33,701. There is a little less than seven weeks remaining in the drive. A contribution of \$100 was sent in from a supporter in Puerto Rico, and a meeting in Boston to celebrate George Novack's life raised \$1,440. Next week's column will report on the Boston meeting.

The reconstruction project is approaching an important milestone, the completion of a large section of the first floor on the Charles St. side of the building. The print shop, which is on the first floor, has been operating with limited space over the last three months to allow the reconstruction to take place. Machinery such as bindery equipment and folders were removed and placed in storage in order for the construction brigade to work on a large section of the print shop while the remain-

der of the shop continued to produce.

The completion of this stage of the project will enable the shop to bring back this machinery. Being able to bring the binder back into the shop is essential to the ability of workers in the print shop to produce Pathfinder books.

Among the titles Pathfinder will be releasing in the next several weeks are *February 1965: The Final Speeches*, which includes speeches from the last month of Malcolm X's life; a new pamphlet, *Che Guevara and the Fight for Socialism Today*, by Mary-Alice Waters; and *Lenin's Final Fight*, which will include materials related to the struggle that Bolshevik leader V.I. Lenin waged in the last months of his political life against the rising bureaucracy in the Soviet Union, led by Joseph Stalin.

The reconstruction crew and the print shop have set a deadline of November 6 to complete work on the Charles St. side of the first floor and have the shop operating at full capacity again—in a transformed factory, equipped with a brand new floor, new windows and skylights, full heating and air conditioning, new plumbing and wiring, new lighting, and other features. The shop will also have substantially more space in which to work.

A celebration, including an open house, is scheduled for the November 7 weekend.

\$150,000

\$33,761

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PITTSBURGH	4,500	100	3
PORTLAND	750	0	0
ST. LOUIS	6,500	856	14
SALT LAKE CITY	6,500	899	14
SAN FRANCISCO	12,530	5,165	42
SEATTLE	6,000	1,105	19
TWIN CITIES	9,500	1,485	16
WASHINGTON, D.C.	4,500	0	0
U.S. TOTAL	154,230	27,055	18
AUSTRALIA	650	0	0
BELGIUM	1,100	1,100	100
BRITAIN	1,860	300	16
CANADA	2,905	897	31
FRANCE	1,030	1,030	100
GERMANY	1,429	1,429	100
NEW ZEALAND	710	540	76
SWEDEN	2,450	1,250	51
PUERTO RICO	100	100	100
TOTAL	\$166,464	\$33,761	20

Striking Alabama Steelworkers meet DeBates

BY DAVID SANDOR

BESSEMER, Alabama — Eight hundred Steelworkers, members of United Steelworkers of America Local 9226, are standing firm in their strike against Trinity Industries. Estelle DeBates, Socialist Workers candidate for vice-president, came to the picket line October 5 to bring solidarity and learn more about the struggle here.

Trinity is the nation's leading producer of railcars. Steelworkers have been on strike since September 19 to win improved pay and working conditions, and push back the company's concession demands. They are seeking raises above the current wage level of \$7 to \$10 per hour, and relief from insurance payments as high as \$53 a week.

Trinity is offering a 20-cent-per-hour wage increase over three years and 10 cents per hour toward medical costs. The company is seeking to gut the seniority system, combine jobs, and enforce speedup. Many

strikers nodded in agreement when DeBates said that workers everywhere are facing the same take-back drive by the employers, and that their strike is part of a pattern of growing resistance by working people.

Strikers listened closely to DeBates's views on the presidential candidacy of Democrat William Clinton, and why electing Clinton would not be a step forward for working people and the labor movement. "They say politics is in a voting booth, pulling a lever for somebody who will work against us," stated DeBates. "We say politics is in fights like the one here, wherever working people are resisting the effects of the crisis. Politics is what we do in the world, how we fight to defend our rights."

DeBates talked about her trip to Japan and her discussions with workers there. "The workers I talked with in Japan asked me to tell workers in this country that Japan's prosperity was always for the

bosses, that it was taken out of their hides. Now the Japanese economy is going down, and the bosses there are pushing to take even more. Japan, the United States, and all the industrialized countries are heading into a depression. We need to fight for a shorter workweek, 30 hours work for 40 hours pay, as a demand to unite us across international boundaries."

Workers have set up a strike headquarters in a shanty across the road from the plant, and furnished it with a refrigerator and other necessary equipment to maintain round-the-clock picketing. The local has begun efforts to raise money and food donations, collecting more than \$600 since the strike began.

Safe working conditions are a primary

concern to the strikers. Because of the aging plant, antiquated equipment, and the company's drive to speed up production, injuries are an almost daily occurrence, including burns, cuts, and back strains. Strikers described how the company failed to provide medical treatment for injuries, and would force them to return to work before they were fully recovered.

The prevailing mood on the picket line is one of optimism and determination to do what is needed to win this fight. James Webster, a painter, reflected on the future facing working people and drew on the experiences of the union and the civil rights movement. "The only way things will get better is if the people make it better. We have got to struggle," he said.

Trinity strikers set up mass picket to stop scabs and win a contract

BY RAÚL GONZALEZ

BESSEMER, Alabama — Four hundred striking members of United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 9226 and their supporters set up a mass picket at the Trinity Industries plant here October 12 to thwart company plans to bring in replacement workers. While no scabs showed up to start work, management attempted to bring in several carloads of private security cops, dressed in riot gear, across the picket line. They were unsuccessful.

After workers refused to allow the car caravan to pass, company security guards from inside the plant began firing tear gas into the crowd. Workers hurled the canisters back and held the line. Once it became clear that union members were not about to give in, company officials decided to turn tail and leave as the local police looked on.

"We're out here fighting for health care and a decent wage," Arnie Watts, chairman of the grievance committee, told reporters. "We did nothing to provoke this attack. And we're going to continue the fight until this company gives us a good contract."

On October 7 a union meeting of 500 voted overwhelmingly to reject Trinity's

second contract offer and remain on strike. The company is the largest producer of railcars in the United States. Workers at the Bessemer plant have been on strike since September 19.

In what the company termed its final offer, provisions to gut seniority, layoff, and recall rights, were dropped. Union members, however, considered health insurance payments, wages, and the pension plan to be the main problems with the offer.

Under the latest proposal Trinity would upgrade its own health plan, but payments for non-Trinity health insurance would rise above the current level of \$56 a week. "The company insurance only looks cheaper till you get sick," explained Annie, a welder in the plant. "Then it's way more expensive."

Union members also rejected the company's offer of a 3 percent annual wage increase for three years. "They figured we'd get it out of our system, or get tired, and go back on this offer, said Darrel, a shipping track worker. "But it isn't enough. This will send them a message; it gets serious now."

Following the union rejection of the contract, Trinity mailed a letter to all employees

Continued on Page 12



Vice-presidential candidate Estelle DeBates talks with striker at Trinity Industries.

Militant/Denise McInerney

'I've got the subscription, I've got the book, I'm all set'

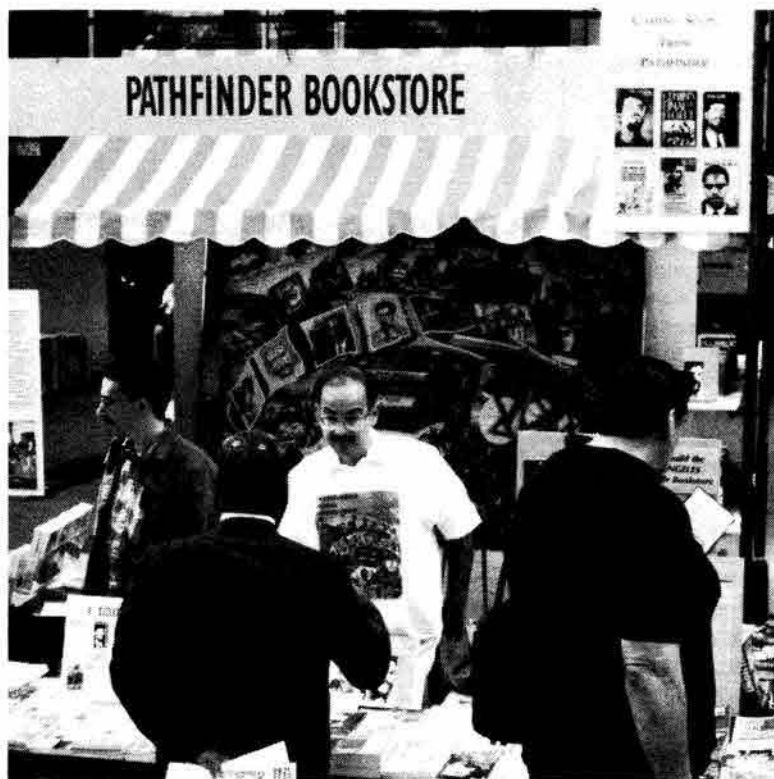
BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

From strike battles, to USAir contract ratification meetings, to the defense of abortion clinics from right-wing assaults, the *Militant* has been a welcome part of discussions on how to fight back against employer and government attacks on unions and democratic rights.

With the international subscription drive now under way, supporters of the socialist publications are gearing up for a special October 24 to November 1 target week of sales to coincide with the final days of the U.S. election campaign.

"I've got the subscription, I've got the book, so I'm all set," one worker commented as he walked into the International Association of Machinists (IAM) union meeting to vote on the USAir contract. The book he was referring to is the Pathfinder title *The Eastern Airlines Strike*, which is the subject of a special offer on page 3. After reading the entire book on the Eastern strike that day, he initiated discussions the following day with other strikers about some of the valuable political lessons contained in it. Workers were reading parts of the book while doing their shifts on the picket line.

Airport workers in Los Angeles



The Militant, Perspectiva Mundial, and New International, as well as a variety of Pathfinder literature, were sold at the "New York is Book Country" fair. See article on page 11.

last week bought 7 *Militant* subscriptions and 29 copies of the paper, 2 copies of the Spanish-language magazine *Perspectiva Mundial*, and 11 copies of *The Eastern Airlines Strike*. Most of these were bought by USAir strikers.

In Pittsburgh, at an October 10 contract vote meeting attended by 1,500 machinists and held in a local high school football stadium, workers purchased 65 *Militants*, 1 subscription, and 2 copies of *The Eastern Airlines Strike*. Workers were attracted by the *Militant's* front page headline calling for solidarity with USAir workers.

In San Francisco many strikers took copies of the Socialist Workers campaign statement expressing support for the Machinists' fight. Supporters sold 5 *Militants* and a subscription at the contract ratification meeting. "We need to know how this is happening all over the place," said a striking utility worker. "My husband works for the state of California, and he didn't get paid for two months. They just gave him IOUs. If you work for a living, you're in trouble no matter who gets elected in November."

In Winston-Salem, North Carolina, socialist senatorial candidate Bruce Kimball campaigned outside the USAir contract vote meeting and received a very good response to the socialist campaign message. Campaigners sold 9 copies of the *Militant* there and several more at the picket lines at the airport further south in Charlotte.

In Birmingham, Alabama, members of the United Steelworkers of America have been on strike against Trinity Industries since September 19. (See article on page 4) On the Steelworkers' picket line this past week, strikers bought 30 copies of the *Militant* and 2 subscriptions.

At a sale organized outside the Fischer Packing Company in Louisville, Kentucky, campaigners sold 19 *Militants*. Members of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 227, who recently ended a 19-week strike at this plant, are still in the midst of a battle against company moves to impose a concession contract. "Workers are facing horrible conditions in the plant and wanted to read what people are doing around the country to fight," commented *Militant* salesperson Valerie Libby.

Discussions on Cuba

Militant sales were brisk in Miami following the visit by two Cuban youth leaders who spoke to a meeting of 225 people at Florida International University in Miami. At a socialist campaign table set up on campus October 8, supporters sold 3 *Militant* subscriptions, 8 single copies of the *Militant*, and 5 of *Perspectiva Mundial*.

Following days of heated discussions about the tour, socialists also sold 7 *Militants* and 3 *Perspectiva Mundials* last week at the Kuppenheimer garment factory, which is organized by the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union.

In Vancouver, British Columbia, salespeople are combining *Militant* sales with distribution of the special *International Socialist Review (ISR)* supplement to the *Militant* entitled, "The fight for national rights of Quebecois and Natives in Canada."

Canadians will be voting October 26 on constitutional amendments that would deny the right to self-determination of Quebecois and Native people. The *ISR* is an important contribution to this discussion. In the last three weeks 71 *ISRs* have been sold by supporters in Vancouver. At the Hospital Employees Union convention in British Columbia, delegates bought 11 *ISRs* and 21 *Militants*. Vancouver supporters have set a goal of selling another 100 *ISRs* by October 26.

Militant supporters from St. Paul, Minnesota, report selling more than 40 papers and 2 subscriptions in the past five weeks to pro-choice activists helping to defend the Robbinsdale abortion clinic from right-wing attacks.

Next week's paper will print the results from the first week of the subscription drive. To appear on the scoreboard, supporters must have subscriptions and reports on *New International* into the *Militant* business office by Friday at noon EST.

Contributing to this article were Elizabeth Stone in Los Angeles; Matilde Zimmermann in Pittsburgh; Kathleen Denny in San Francisco; Nancy Brown in Greensboro, North Carolina; Dan Fein in Miami; John Munoru in Vancouver; and Jon Hillson in St. Paul, Minnesota.

SINGLE ISSUE SALES

Goal: 3,200 copies per week

week 3

	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	
UNITED STATES								
Portland	25	12	208%	1	1	0	10	
Seattle	124	95	131%	2	8	0	35	
Cincinnati	51	40	128%	0	1	3	5	
Birmingham, AL	94	85	111%	0	2	0	35	
Los Angeles	165	150	110%	25	25	7	70	
Chicago	104	100	104%	5	5	3	45	
Greensboro, NC	107	105	102%	2	3	4	30	
Morgantown, WV	80	80	100%	0	1	4	30	
Des Moines, IA	105	105	100%	8	8	0	40	
Houston	77	80	96%	6	10	2	30	
Atlanta	83	90	92%	4	3	1	30	
Pittsburgh	70	80	88%	0	1	4	35	
St. Louis	103	120	86%	8	3	3	35	
Salt Lake City	72	85	85%	5	5	1	20	
Cleveland	88	105	84%	1	3	0	40	
Philadelphia	91	110	83%	4	5	4	35	
Detroit	56	80	70%	2	2	2	35	
Twin Cities, MN	87	125	70%	1	5	0	30	
Newark, NJ	107	155	69%	1	10	9	65	
New York	150	250	60%	6	15	23	90	
Washington DC	50	85	59%	3	6	1	35	
San Francisco	56	100	56%	7	5	2	60	
Miami	48	95	51%	3	7	4	40	
Baltimore	46	105	44%	2	3	0	25	
Boston	40	130	31%	3	5	11	45	
New Haven, CT	3	15	20%	0	1	1	6	
Santa Cruz	0	8	0%	0	1	0	4	
U.S. TOTAL	2,082	2,590	80%	99	144	89	960	
AUSTRALIA	33	30	110%	2	2	7	15	
BARBADOS	0	10	0%	0	0	0	5	
BELGIUM	5	10	50%	3	1	1	10	
BRITAIN								
Sheffield	31	40	78%	0	1	0	20	
London	0	75	0%	0	2	2	40	
Manchester	0	60	0%	0	1	0	30	
BRITAIN TOTAL	31	175	18%	0	4	2	90	
CANADA								
Vancouver	95	80	119%	1	3	6	20	
Montreal	69	80	86%	1	7	9	50	
Toronto	57	90	63%	3	7	2	40	
CANADA TOTAL	221	250	88%	5	17	17	110	
FRANCE	3	3	100%	1	1	1	10	
ICELAND	0	5	0%	0	1	0	5	
MEXICO	0	0	0%	0	3	0	3	
NEW ZEALAND								
Wellington	33	30	110%	0	0	0	10	
Auckland	35	35	100%	0	1	0	8	
Christchurch	12	30	40%	0	0	0	8	
N.Z. TOTAL	80	95	84%	0	1	0	26	
PUERTO RICO	1	2	50%	5	4	2	4	
SWEDEN	72	50	144%	10	5	5	20	
TOTAL	2,523	3,200	79%	125	183	124	1,253	
SHOULD BE		3,200	100%		175		433	

IN THE UNIONS

Union	Militant/PM			NEW INTERNATIONAL	
	SOLD	GOAL	%SOLD	SOLD	GOAL
UFCW	31	25	124%	0	15
IAM	91	80	114%	1	42
USWA	87	90	97%	0	30
ACTWU	29	32	91%	1	26
UMWA	18	20	90%	0	0
UAW	29	50	58%	1	0
OCAW	11	25	44%	1	20
UTU	16	45	36%	0	0
ILGWU	4	18	22%	1	9
TOTAL	316	385	82%	5	142

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

James Warren tours northern California

Continued from front page

organization of political protest. Environmental groups tend to approach it either by a moral appeal to the capitalist polluters or by civil disobedience. The problem with that is that the polluters have no morals. We have to involve tens of thousands in action without it being a precondition that you be willing to go unnecessarily to jail. The only ultimate answer to the problem of the destruction of the environment is to take power from the capitalist class."

One student raised, "As an American I feel disenfranchised. Your being here makes people think we have an alternative. How can the ideas of socialism be made more accessible?" Jim, another student, asked, "What are the concrete ways we can do away with capitalism?"

The socialist replied, "The capitalist system itself creates the working class and the oppressed nationalities, who have the greatest interest in getting rid of this system. Social classes make revolutions, and we prepare ourselves for that by joining struggles that are going on today, even though these struggles do not have the aim of overthrowing capitalism. We have to prepare for the massive working-class struggles that will inevitably take place."

In a discussion afterward, Jim commented, "I believe the majority of what Warren says, but capitalism has to be ousted now!"

Many other questions were raised by students: "What is your party's position on the North American Free Trade Agreement?" "Why do you campaign all over the world?" "Should we vote?" "What is the SWP position on the state of Israel?" The student asking the last question walked out when Warren explained that he was an uncompromising supporter of the Palestinian people's rights.

"What is your stand on gay and lesbian issues? Homophobia always exists — look at Measure 9 in Oregon," one young woman raised, referring to an anti-gay rights referendum on the ballot in that state.

"The referendum in Oregon is genuinely reactionary," Warren stressed. "It's aimed at regulating what's 'moral' and what's not. Attacks on gays and lesbians are a big part of the right-wing attacks today."

"When the Russian revolution in its early years recognized the rights of gays," he added, "this was one of the questions the Nazis used to denounce that revolution. A depression inevitably gives rise to fascist forces, who include gays among the scapegoats they point to as being responsible

for society's problems." The discussion continued that night at a meeting of 40 students and others on the campus of the University of California-Santa Cruz (UCSC). The audience included UCSC students as well as young workers and students who had participated in the earlier meeting.

"How can shortening the workweek be a solution? Who will pay? How will American industry remain competitive?" were the first questions asked.

"The money will come out of the pockets of the capitalists," responded Warren. "Their competitiveness is not our problem. They're in crisis, and their answer is to take it out of our hides. We can't accept that framework. That's exactly what working people refused to do in the 1930s, and in that period, students were inspired by the struggles of the working class in this country and became part of them."

Another student asked, "How can we avoid the next imperialist war?" Warren said it would take "the total defeat of the working class" by the rulers to have an inter-imperialist war. "We don't accept that. World War II didn't have to happen. It was a product of the default of the so-called leadership of the working class."

"It will take young people and workers entering politics in a massive way to prevent a third world war."

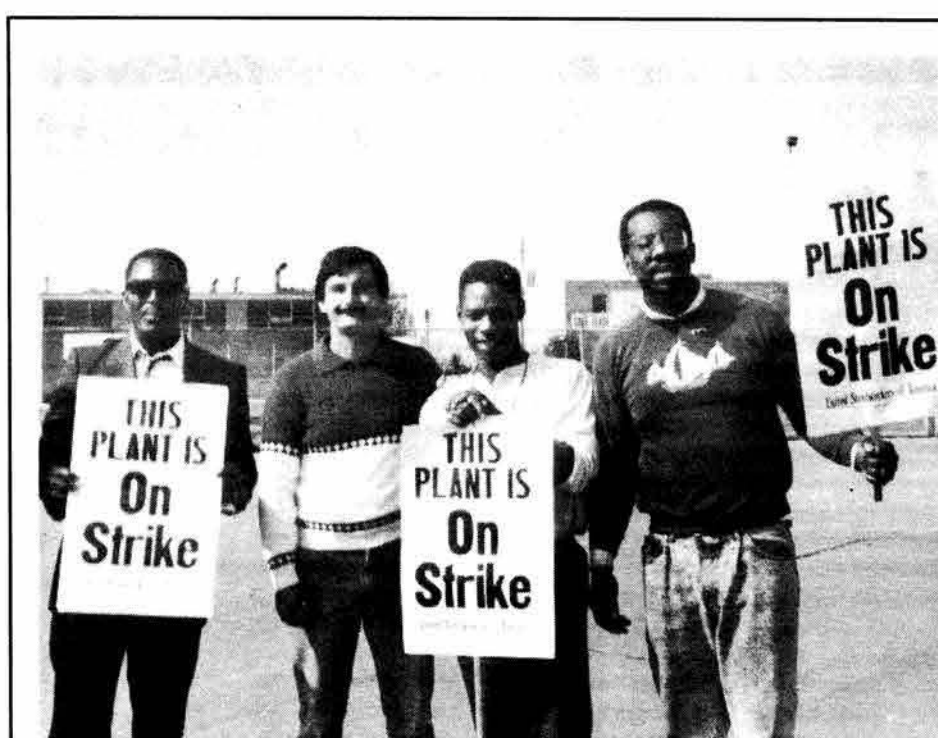
Nicole, a UCSC student, said afterwards, "I have checked out many socialist meetings and have left them with the feeling that something was lacking. Not this time. I have a lot to think about." She left with a subscription to the *Militant*.

On October 6 Warren spoke to a meeting sponsored by the Campus Left on the San Jose State University campus. The meeting was announced on the front page of the campus paper.

Warren was interviewed by the campus press on all three campuses. He was also questioned for 50 minutes on a live call-in show on KQED radio in San Francisco.

While in the San Francisco Bay Area, the Socialist Workers candidate also visited the striking USAir workers at the San Francisco airport to show his solidarity with the union fighters.

Georges Mehrabian is a member of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union Local 101 and is the Socialist Workers candidate for the California State Assembly, 13th district.



Militant/Johanna Ryan
James Warren (left) with striking coworkers at A. M. Castle Metals in Chicago.

Presidential candidate joins coworkers on the picket line

BY KATE KAKU
AND JOHANNA RYAN

CHICAGO — Members of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) in this city, Cleveland, and Kansas City, Missouri, struck A. M. Castle Metals October 5. Charles Clark, vice-president of USWA Local 3247 here, said the main issues are health-care givebacks and a proposed new "anti-drug" policy that the company is demanding. The policy would allow management to test workers for alcohol and drugs, and to search cars and lockers, whenever they want.

James Warren, Socialist Workers

candidate for U.S. president, is currently on leave of absence from his job at A. M. Castle Metals. He interrupted his California tour to fly back to Chicago and join his fellow union members on the picket line October 7. "All right now! Here comes the president!" one striker called out as Warren walked up. After filling him in on the progress of the strike, Warren's coworkers wanted to know more about the campaign. "We're behind Jim all the way," one worker commented. "We wish him the best of luck." The local was instrumental in winning Warren's right to take a leave from his job to run for president.

Young supporters of Warren and DeBates campaign for socialist ticket

BY JOHN COX

Supporters of the Socialist Workers campaign of James Warren for president and Estelle DeBates for vice-president, and of local socialist campaigns around the country, have found great interest in the ideas and activities of the campaign among students and other young people.

"I wouldn't say that there is some large-scale youth radicalization taking place today, but there is a noticeable increase in the interest that we are receiving," said Georges Mehrabian, director of the Socialist Workers campaign in San Francisco. "This is reflected in the large number of young people we've worked with who consider themselves Youth for Warren and DeBates."

Warren toured the San Francisco area during the first week of October. In preparation for the tour, a number of young people who had become active in the local socialist campaign helped get the word out about Warren's tour throughout the Bay Area.

Sixteen young people attended a meeting September 19 to plan for the presidential candidate's tour. Students and activists from Santa Cruz and San Jose drove up for the meeting, where plans were made for speaking engagements at the University of California in Santa Cruz, Cabrillo College in Santa Cruz, and San Jose State University.

"We are finding that a large section of this generation is being forced to think politically by what they see around them every day — the human toll of the new world disorder," commented Mehrabian afterwards. "They can see what capitalism is doing to the world, and they do not believe that we have to accept this. We have found many of these young people who want to get active in the socialist campaign."

Socialist campaigners in Connecticut and Vermont report similar experiences. Vice-presidential candidate Estelle DeBates spoke to a group of 70 high school students in New Haven, Connecticut, at a meeting in September that was organized by one of the students. In Greensboro, North Carolina, students who came to a debate between

DeBates and representatives of the Democratic, Republican, and Libertarian parties have gotten involved with the local socialist campaign for U.S. Congress.

The potential to attract young people to the socialist campaign is not limited to the United States. Students at Farsta High School in Stockholm, Sweden, are organizing a meeting for Warren when he comes through in mid-October. "Everybody is talking about the meeting," remarked Alexander, a student at Farsta.

In Washington, D.C., socialist campaigners have also found that, by taking the campaign to the campuses and other places where they can reach young people, students as well as young workers have been interested in getting involved.

"We've been getting names and phone numbers of people we meet who support the campaign," said Emily Fitzsimmons, the local campaign director, "but we really hadn't made the effort necessary to reach these people. When we did, we found that several of them wanted to go out campaigning with us. We also got three offers to set up meetings for candidates on different campuses."

Derek Bracey, one of the co-chairs of the Socialist Workers national campaign, recently visited Pittsburgh to work with campaign supporters in that city, where a number of young people at the University of Pittsburgh have become involved.

"We don't start by asking people to join something. We simply explain what the campaign is about and invite people who are interested to work with us. There are no preconditions to doing this. You don't have to consider yourself a socialist, you don't have to understand or agree with every position the socialists put forward," Bracey stressed. "If you want to fight against what the capitalists are doing to the working class internationally — from attacks on abortion rights here to preparations for another massacre in Iraq — and if you believe the Democrats and Republicans are a dead end for workers and young people, you should get involved in this campaign."

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MARY-ALICE WATERS

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International Socialist Review

Supplement to the Militant

October 1992

Why Washington's 'Cold War' against Cuba doesn't end

Introduction to Pathfinder book 'To Speak the Truth'

The following is the introduction to the new Pathfinder book *To Speak the Truth: Why Washington's 'Cold War' against Cuba Doesn't End*, which contains speeches by Cuban revolutionary leaders Fidel Castro and Ernesto Che Guevara to the United Nations.

BY MARY-ALICE WATERS

For more than thirty years, Cuba has been the target of an unremitting effort by the government of the United States to rid the Americas of the revolutionary government that came to power in January 1959 with the armed popular overthrow of the Batista tyranny, a regime long nourished and protected by Washington.

In August 1991 Cuban foreign minister Ricardo Alarcón, then Havana's permanent representative to the United Nations, explained that from the beginning Washington's aggressive policy has had "the declared aim of imposing on [Cuba] the political, social and economic order which the United States authorities consider most fitting. This policy has included direct military intervention, the threat of nuclear annihilation, the instigation and carrying out of countless acts of sabotage and plans to assassinate Cuban leaders, all of which has been officially recognized by successive United States administrations and documented in detail in the United States Congressional Record."

An essential element of this course, pursued for close to three and a half decades, has been an economic, commercial, and financial embargo aimed at crippling Cuba's economy. The embargo is so sweeping that it includes a total prohibition on Cuba's acquisition of foodstuffs, medicine, and medical supplies and equipment of United States origin. Currency restrictions prevent U.S. residents wishing to see Cuba for themselves from exercising their basic constitutional right to freedom of travel.

Despite strong protests by some of Washington's closest allies such as Canada, Britain, and France, the U.S. government has also tried, through various forms of coercion and economic blackmail, to impose its embargo laws beyond U.S. borders. Through legal entanglements and measures such as preventing ships engaged in trade with Cuba from docking in transit at U.S. ports, Washington attempts—albeit with diminishing success—to prevent its competitors from trading in the Cuban markets that U.S. businesses have abandoned.

The obvious question is *why*. Why this thirty-plus-year history of implacable hostility that has no parallel in modern times? Even the blockade of revolutionary and Napoleonic France following the 1789 overthrow of the old feudal order—a blockade imposed by the reactionary powers of the Continent led by the British crown—was of shorter duration than the twentieth-century U.S. embargo of Washington's small island neighbor.

Why does the U.S. government persist? The reasons are nowhere explained more clearly than in the four speeches that follow in the pages of this book.

These speeches were delivered over a twenty-year period before bodies of the United Nations by the two most authoritative international representatives, and individual products, of the Cuban revolution, Fidel Castro and Ernesto Che Guevara. The issues they address—and the answers they give—are as timely today as they were when Castro and

Guevara originally disrupted the diplomatic decorum of those halls by speaking the truth.

All these speeches were printed in Cuban publications at the time they were given; new English translations have been made for this volume by Michael Taber and Michael Baumann.

In September 1960, in the address that opens this collection, Cuban prime minister Fidel Castro refers in passing to John F. Kennedy, then the Democratic Party candidate for president of the United States, as an "illiterate and ignorant millionaire" who doesn't understand that "it is not possible to carry out a revolution over the opposition of the peasants." He then quickly adds, to general laughter, that such opinions about Kennedy do not imply any preference for his opponent

lapse of the old Stalinist regimes of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union has brought no relief from the economic and social realities documented by Castro and Guevara. The instability, inequities, and explosive social conflicts of the disintegrating old world order have only sharpened.

* * *

Castro's trip to the United States in September 1960 to address the United Nations General Assembly coincided with a decisive turning point in the revolution. In response to Washington's accelerating political, economic, and military aggression, which Castro concretely documents in his speech, virtually all imperialist-owned banks and industries in Cuba, along with the largest holdings of Cuba's capitalist owners, were nationalized between August and October 1960. Day after day, tens of thousands of Cuban working people occupied fields and factories and mobilized in the streets to guarantee that everything from AT&T, to Standard Oil, to United Fruit, to Bacardi Rum and the Havana Hilton—all the most hated symbols of U.S.-organized and -supported exploitation and degradation—became the property of the Cuban people. The transition to a planned socialist economy had begun.

Castro's defense of the revolution before the General Assembly captures the power—and tension—of this historic moment, as Cuba's working people took their own future in hand, knowing full-well the confrontation that lay ahead.

As the Cuban leader explains to the world through his address before the General Assembly, the conflicts with Washington began in the first months of the revolution over payments and indemnities to the U.S.-owned telephone and electrical monopolies and for land holdings affected by the first agrarian reform law adopted in May 1959.

Notes from the U.S. State Department began to rain down on Cuba. They never asked us about our problems, not even to express sympathy or because of their responsibility in creating the problems. They never asked us how many died of starvation in our country, how many were suffering from tuberculosis, how many were unemployed. No. Did they ever express solidarity regarding our needs? Never. Every conversation we had with the representatives of the U.S. government centered around the telephone company, the electricity company, the problem of the land owned by U.S. companies. The question they asked was how we were going to pay. Naturally, the first thing they should have asked was not "How?" but "With what?"

This was a poor, underdeveloped country with 600,000 unemployed, with an extremely high rate of disease and illiteracy, whose reserves had been sapped, that had contributed to the economy of a powerful country to the tune of \$1 billion in ten years. Where were we to find the means to pay for the land affected by the agrarian reform, at the prices they wanted?

What were the wishes raised by the U.S. State Department concerning U.S. interests being affected? They demanded three things: "speedy, efficient, and just payment." Do you understand that language? "Speedy, efficient, and just payment." That means, "Pay this instant, in dollars, and whatever we ask." [Applause]

We were not 150 percent communists at that time, [Laughter] we just appeared slightly pink. We were not confiscating land. We simply proposed to pay for it in twenty years, and in the only way we could—by bonds that would



Workers rally in Havana on May Day, 1990. Washington's hatred of Cuba stems from example set by Cuban people in carrying out a social revolution and aiding those under attack by imperialism.

Militant/Jon Hillson

Richard Nixon, then the vice-president of the United States.

Interrupted by the president of the General Assembly and asked to consider whether it is "right and proper" to express such views at the rostrum of the United Nations, Castro promises his full cooperation in abiding by the conventions of UN debate.

"I have no intention of offending anyone," Castro insists. "It is somewhat a question of style and, above all, a question of confidence in the assembly."

As such exchanges confirm, the appearances of Guevara and Castro before the United Nations are marked above all by the absence of empty diplomatic formulae, boring and ritualistic statements for the record, or mock-serious bombast. From the rostrum of the United Nations they speak not to the rich, powerful, and cynical of the world, but for and to the immense majority of toiling humanity, defending the "righteous rebellion of the peoples" who have been "denied the right to life and to human dignity."

At the center of all four speeches is the character, history, and centrality of United States commerce and foreign policy in relationship to Cuba, to Latin America, and to the rest of the semicolonial world exploited for so long by the imperialist world order. The reader is struck by the fact that the "new" world order proclaimed by Washington following the col-

mature in twenty years, at 4.5 percent interest amortized annually.

The choice before the revolutionary government, Castro notes, was either to betray the interests of the Cuban people by abandoning the land reform, or risk aggression by the powerful northern neighbor. "As far as the president of the United States [Dwight D. Eisenhower] is concerned, of course, what we have done is a betrayal of our people," Castro says. But "he surely would not have considered it a betrayal if, instead of being true to its people, the revolutionary government had rather been true to the monopolies that were exploiting Cuba."

Cubans were warned that the agrarian reform had ruined the country, Castro points out. "It's possible [Washington] imagined that without the all-powerful monopolies we Cubans were incapable of producing sugar." But clearly, "if the revolution had ruined the country, the United States would have had no need to attack us," he notes. "They would have left us alone and the U.S. government would have appeared as a very noble and honorable government while we ruined the nation, proving that you cannot make a revolution because revolutions ruin countries."

History, and the course pursued by the U.S. government, proved the opposite, however. "Cuba had not been ruined and it therefore had to be ruined," Castro explains.

That was the origin of the course that Washington has pursued for more than thirty years.

In his 1964 address to the United Nations-sponsored conference on Trade and Development in Geneva, Switzerland, Ernesto Che Guevara quotes then U.S. secretary of state Dean Rusk as saying there could be no improvement in relations with Cuba so long as it represented a threat to the Americas. "That threat can be ended to Washington's satisfaction only with the overthrow of the Castro regime by the Cuban people," Rusk said. "We regard that regime as temporary."

The Cuban revolution has proven far less temporary than Rusk and his successors ever dreamed. As Castro and Guevara document throughout these pages, Washington's implacable hatred of it is rooted in the example set by the Cuban people in daring to defy the prerogatives of capital and instead lead laboring millions to carry out a genuine social revolution and selflessly aid those under attack—from Vietnam to Panama, from southern Africa to Nicaragua. The Cuban people have successfully stood up to unrelenting U.S. aggression in all its varied forms.

For that reason the working people of Cuba continue to be punished; and in defense of that revolution they continue to defy, and withstand, Washington's pressures today.

* * *

Guevara's 1964 address to the Geneva trade conference details in clear and scientific terms the meaning for the great majority of humanity of the international economic institutions established at the end of World War II under the guiding hand of the all-powerful imperialist victor, the United States. Guevara's explanation of the workings of the International Monetary Fund, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (the World Bank), the Inter-American Development Bank, and other such entities reads like a primer for understanding the inter-imperialist trade wars, the monetary and banking crises, and the political antagonisms sharpening today.

Guevara presents the inevitable economic and social consequences for countries dominated by imperialism and predicts the crushing impact of the approaching foreign debt crisis facing the underdeveloped countries. Guevara



United Nations
Castro speaks to UN General Assembly in 1960

needed no crystal ball, however. He simply describes how finance capital works. The debt crisis would not be an aberration, a momentary pathological condition, disfiguring an otherwise "healthy" and beneficial relationship between the major capitalist powers and the semicolonial world, he explains. Finance capital cannot act otherwise.

Using Cuba as an example, Guevara documents the fundamentals of imperialist exploitation, explaining why "the penetration of capital from the developed countries is the essential condition" for economic dependence. He points to the subtle and not-so-subtle forms of economic aggression: "Loans granted on onerous terms, investments that place a given country under the power of the investors, almost total technological subordination of the dependent country to the developed country, control of a country's foreign trade by the big international monopolies, and, in extreme cases, the use of force as an economic power."

Guevara dissects the results of the Alliance for Progress proclaimed by President Kennedy in 1961 in response to the dangerous example set by the Cuban revolution. Offering it as a case study in the devastating results of imperialist "aid," Guevara notes that during the three months of the Geneva trade conference alone, Latin American countries would lose directly or indirectly almost \$1.6 billion in the forms of interest payments on foreign investments and loans, capital flight, and loss of purchasing power through deterioration in terms of trade. The \$2 billion a year in loans Washington was to deliver through the imperialist banks as part of the Alliance for Progress would only accelerate this transfer to imperialist coffers of wealth created by the toilers of Latin America.

"Latin America's experience with the real results of this type of 'aid' . . . has been a sad one," Guevara says. "For this very reason it may serve as a lesson for other regions and for the underdeveloped world in general."

Fifteen years later, in the October 1979 speech that is the final selection in this book, Fidel Castro returns to the fraud of loan packages cloaked as "development aid." In his address to the United Nations General Assembly on behalf of the Movement of Nonaligned Countries, televised throughout North America and around the world, Castro points to the rapidly accelerating indebtedness of the developing countries even then, several years before the devastating explosion of the debt crisis in the early 1980s. "Most of the funds received from abroad by the developing nations are earmarked to cover their trade balances and negative current accounts, to renew their debts, and to make interest payments," Castro says. This revolving fund to enrich the imperialist banks did not result in increased production of food and distribution for the great majority, or sustainable indigenous industrial development, let alone permanently improved health care, schools, or housing.

Per capita food production in Africa in 1977 was 11 percent below that of ten years earlier, Castro notes. This was only one measure of the widening gulf between the

“The only way to solve the problems now besetting humanity is to eliminate completely the exploitation of dependent countries by developed capitalist countries, with all the consequences that implies . . .”

conditions of life for the toiling masses of the underdeveloped world and the wealth accumulated by the handful of families on top of the imperialist pyramid.

In July 1991, at the first Ibero-American Summit meeting held in Guadalajara, Mexico, Castro updated the Latin American realities explained by Guevara almost thirty years earlier.

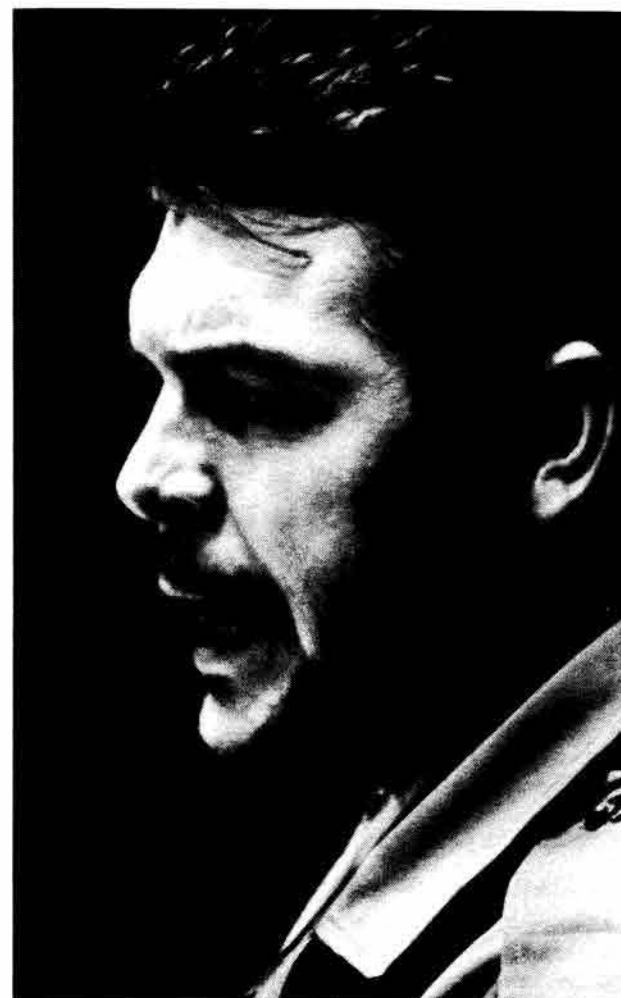
For the tenth consecutive year, the economic crisis continues to affect all our economies. The per capita Gross National Product today does not exceed the level reached 13 years ago. The import-export price ratio is 21 percent worse than at the beginning of the 1980s. The foreign debt remains above \$400 billion, despite the fact that the region has transferred resources abroad to the tune of \$224 billion in just eight years. Inflation reached unprecedented levels during this period.

The policies decided upon by the big economic powers and the international financial institutions under their control have not led to development but have made 250 million people poorer; they have failed to bring in [net] foreign capital but have facilitated the flow of capital toward the developed countries. . . .

If the total value of the net foreign exchange leaving Latin America each year were converted to gold, it would be greater than all the gold and silver that Spain and Portugal took away during 300 years.

At the 1964 World Conference on Trade and Development in Geneva, Guevara explains that all the phrases and formulae about "equal treatment and reciprocal concessions between developed and underdeveloped countries" amount to one thing: perpetuating the interests of the former, thus guaranteeing that the real gap between these countries will widen. That's what "freedom of competition" means under capitalism, Guevara says.

To imperialism, free trade does not mean "the right of all nations to unrestricted freedom of trade . . . the right of all countries to freely arrange the shipment of their goods



United Nations
Che Guevara at the United Nations in 1964

by sea or air and to move them freely throughout the world without hindrance," Guevara explains. To the contrary, both free trade and protectionism are policy tools of competing imperialist interests.

Genuinely fair trade, not free trade, can be the only foundation for world peace or economic development. "And fairness, in this context, is not equality; fairness is the inequality needed to enable the exploited peoples to attain an acceptable standard of living."

Throughout these pages both Guevara and Castro affirm and explain that a new world economic order based on such objectives can be achieved only if the oppressed and exploited of the world take the road of anticapitalist revolution. Imperialism is the cause of the evils from which the majority of the world's people suffer, Guevara tells the Geneva conference. "The only way to solve the problems now besetting

humanity is to eliminate completely the exploitation of dependent countries by developed capitalist countries," Guevara says, "with all the consequences that implies."

The more than thirty-year-long U.S. embargo against Cuba testifies eloquently that the Yankee colossus is convinced that this objective—the complete elimination of imperialist exploitation and oppression, "with all the consequences that implies"—remains Cuba's international goal and inspires its revolutionary course.

* * *

Cuba's support for the national liberation struggles of the peoples of Africa is one of the threads that runs through this collection of speeches.

Guevara was on his way to Africa in December 1964 when he addressed the United Nations General Assembly. He spent three months in Africa meeting with leaders of many national liberation movements and newly independent African countries. Shortly after returning to Cuba in early 1965, he formally resigned his government posts as well as party and military responsibilities and went back to Africa to fight alongside the guerrilla forces in the Congo attempting to break the imperialists' stranglehold on the vast, mineral-rich country today known as Zaire.

Speaking before the General Assembly, Guevara denounces the role of United Nations troops in the Congo, "under whose auspices" the assassins of Congolese independence leader Patrice Lumumba had "acted with impunity." He condemns the massacres being perpetrated there by "Western civilization" and the "imperial white man" in the name of humanitarianism. And he makes clear his future course. "All free men of the world must be prepared to avenge the crime of the Congo," he tells the delegates to the United Nations.

"Those peoples whose skins are darkened by a different

sun, colored by different pigments, constitute the majority" in the General Assembly, Guevara says. "And they fully and clearly understand that the difference between men does not lie in the color of their skin, but in the forms of ownership of the means of production, in the relations of production."

More than a quarter century later, at a rally of tens of thousands in Matanzas, Cuba, on July 26, 1991, African National Congress president Nelson Mandela paid tribute to the Cuban revolution's aid to African independence struggles. He acknowledged the impact of the contributions made by "the great Che Guevara," whose revolutionary actions in Africa in the mid-1960s, Mandela said, "were too powerful for any prison censors to hide from us."

"What other country can point to a record of greater selflessness than Cuba has displayed in its relations with Africa?" Mandela asked. He pointed especially to the fifteen-year effort of several hundred thousand Cuban volunteers to aid the Angolan government in defeating the South African apartheid army's invasion of that country.

It was in prison when I first heard of the massive assistance that the Cuban internationalist forces provided to the people of Angola, on such a scale that one hesitated to believe, when the Angolans came under combined attack of South African, CIA-financed FNLA, mercenary, Unita, and Zairean troops in 1975.¹

We in Africa are used to being victims of countries wanting to carve up our territory or subvert our sovereignty. It is unparalleled in African history to have another people rise to the defense of one of us. . . .

Your presence and the reinforcement of your forces in the battle of Cuito Cuanavale was of truly historic significance.² The crushing defeat of the racist army at Cuito Cuanavale was a victory for the whole of Africa . . . a turning point in the struggle to free the continent and our country from the scourge of apartheid!

Mandela also took note of the aid the African National Congress had received from Cuba when vicious repression by the apartheid regime in the 1960s left the ANC "no choice but to do what every self-respecting people, including the Cubans, have done—that is, to take up arms to win our country back from the racists."

When the ANC needed weapons and training, Mandela said, "we approached numerous Western governments for assistance and we were never able to see any but the most junior ministers. When we visited Cuba we were received by the highest officials and were immediately offered whatever we wanted and needed. That was our earliest experience with Cuban internationalism."

* * *

The lesson of the Congo experience that Guevara points to in the General Assembly speech was dear. It was paid for by the life of Patrice Lumumba, the Congo's first president, and by untold thousands of others who mistakenly believed that military forces operating under the United Nations flag came as "peacekeepers." Only too late did they learn that blue helmets and blue flags were there to defend imperialist interests, as Guevara described.

But the lesson of the Congo, like the earlier lesson of the Korean War—also fought under the banner of the United Nations—was not lost on the leaders of the Cuban revolution. The Cuban government has always categorically rejected, as a violation of Cuban sovereignty and independence, any and all demands for United Nations "inspection" or "supervision" of anything in Cuba.

As the Congo example confirms, the United Nations never uses economic or military force contrary to imperialist interests. Like the International Monetary Fund, World Bank, and other institutions born of U.S. paternity at the end of World War II, the United Nations was structured from the beginning to assure and facilitate the perpetuation of the capitalist world order. The fifteen-member Security Council, the body in which the UN's executive powers are vested, operates on the basis of the veto privilege, with each of the Council's five permanent members—the governments of Britain, China, France, Russia (formerly the Soviet Union), and the United States—enjoying the right to veto any proposal that comes before that body. Nonpermanent members have no veto power.

Speaking to the General Assembly in 1960, Fidel Castro notes with alarm U.S. president Eisenhower's proposal that

1. Shortly before Angola's independence from Portuguese colonial rule was to be formally celebrated on November 11, 1975, the country's new government—led by the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA)—was attacked by South African and Zairean troops. The invading forces were allied with the Angolan National Liberation Front (FNLA) and the Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA).

2. In early 1988 combined Cuban, Angolan, and Namibian forces dealt a decisive military defeat to South Africa's invading troops at Cuito Cuanavale in southern Angola. South Africa then opened negotiations leading to an accord signed in December 1988 in which Pretoria agreed to withdraw from Namibia. Describing Cuba's attitude toward the battle at Cuito Cuanavale, Fidel Castro said, "Our country staked everything by sending its best weapons and over 50,000 men." For Cuba, he said, everything was on the line, including the revolution. (Fidel Castro, speech to Council of State, July 9, 1989, in *Granma*, July 12, 1989. This speech was also printed in *Granma Weekly Review*, July 23, 1989, and the *Militant*, August 11, 1989.)



An enthusiastic crowd greets Fidel Castro and Cuba's UN delegation in Harlem in September 1960. The Cubans stayed at Harlem's Hotel Theresa in solidarity with the struggle of Black people in the United States.

United Nations "observers" and emergency "forces" be ready "to promote peaceful change as well as to assist economic and social progress" in the "developing areas." "We wish to state here," Castro says, "that the Cuban delegation does not agree with such an emergency force until all peoples of the world can feel sure that these forces will not be put at the disposal of colonialism and imperialism. [Applause] This is especially so inasmuch as our countries can at any moment become the victim of the use of such forces against the rights of our peoples."

In the wake of one of the most brutal imperialist assaults on an underdeveloped country in history—the 1990-91 U.S.-led war on Iraq, organized under the flag of the United Nations—Castro's warning of thirty years earlier has a prophetic ring. It required no genius or supernatural powers, however, just a scientific understanding of the nature of imperialism and the courage to speak the truth.

"Since the United Nations was born," Cuban ambassador

Alarcón told the Security Council on August 9, 1990, "we have seen how certain great powers have sought to use the Council as a tool for their own strategic interests rather than as a body working for the maintenance of international peace and security." That understanding, as shown in the pages that follow, has shaped Cuba's defense of the interests of the oppressed in the world forum of the United Nations.

* * *

High on the list of the Cuban government's permanent priorities has been defense of the rights of peoples most directly oppressed by the imperialist power the Cuban people know best. The Cuban delegation's demonstrative decision in 1960 to accept the invitation extended to them by Malcolm X, on behalf of the Harlem Welcoming Committee, to stay at Harlem's Hotel Theresa is recounted in the appendix to this book. In December 1964, while Guevara was in New York to address the UN General Assembly, he accepted an invitation from Malcolm X to speak at a rally of the Organization of Afro-American Unity held at the Audubon Ballroom in Harlem. At the last minute, security considerations prevented Guevara from appearing. But he sent a message that Malcolm himself, calling the Cuban revolutionary leader "a very good friend of ours," insisted on reading to the audience. Guevara sent "the warm salutations of the Cuban people and especially Fidel, who remembers enthusiastically his visit to Harlem a few years ago."

"The United States intervenes in Latin America invoking the defense of free institutions," Guevara tells the General Assembly during that visit in 1964. This was barely four months after Harlem had exploded in what was the first of the major rebellions that occurred in the Black ghettos of the United States in the 1960s. (It was also barely four months after the U.S. Congress passed the infamous Tonkin Gulf resolution, authorizing the massive escalation of the U.S. war against Vietnam; Guevara condemns this rapidly expanding aggression against the peoples of Indochina in his remarks.) "The time will come," Guevara says,

when this assembly will acquire greater maturity and demand of the United States government guarantees for the lives of the Blacks and Latin Americans who live in that country, most of them U.S. citizens by origin or adoption.

Those who kill their own children and discriminate daily against them because of the color of their skin; those who let the murderers of Blacks remain free, protecting them, and furthermore punishing the Black population because they demand their legitimate rights as free men—how can those who do this consider themselves guardians of freedom?

Puerto Rico's right to independence and national sovereignty is also a cause the Cuban people defend with an internationalist conviction buoyed by the closely shared history of the two nations. Guevara's tribute to Puerto Rican patriot Pedro Albizu Campos in his 1964 address to the General Assembly spotlights the brutal treatment meted out to Puerto Rican nationalists in the federal prisons of the United States—a country that, contrary to its fondest

Continued on next page

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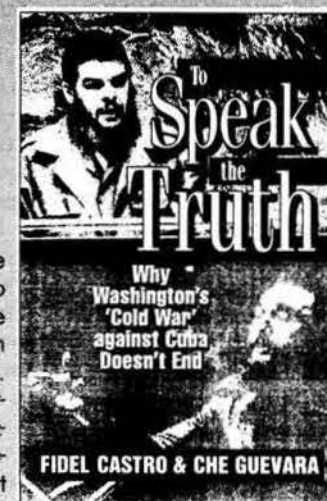
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Cuba forum has big impact in Miami

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS
AND DAN FEIN

MIAMI — One week after the event, the tumultuous public forum at Florida International University (FIU) south campus was still the talk of the town in the Cuban-American community here. The October 1 meeting featured Cuban youth leaders Ibis Alvisa González and José Antonio Concepción Rángel.

Television and radio stations covered the event and the public debate it generated, particularly the week following the meeting. "Speech on Cuba ends in disturbance at FIU" and "Castro's followers campaign in Miami" were some of the headlines of Spanish-language newspaper articles.

Numerous items on the same themes have appeared in the English- and Spanish-language editions of the *Miami Herald*, *Diario de las Américas*, and the *Beacon*, the FIU student newspaper.

Alvisa and Concepción are researchers for the Center of Studies of Youth in Havana. They are also members of the Union of Young Communists. Their visit in Miami was the last stop of a 10-city tour in the United States.

FIU has a student population of 23,000, of which one-third is of Cuban origin. The FIU south campus has an even higher proportion of Cuban students. The Latin America and Caribbean Center and the Cuban Research Institute at the university have sponsored seminars with researchers from Cuba.

The October 1 event, however, was the first advertised public forum with Cuban revolutionaries on the platform that has taken place in Miami in many years.

A flyer announcing the meeting, with the sponsorship of the College Democrats, FIU National Organization for Women, Stonewall Student Association, Student Organization Council (SOC), Student Government Association, history professor Brian Peterson, and the Women's Studies department was distributed on campus throughout the two days before the event. Most leaflets posted around campus were taken down by opponents of the meeting, but others kept posting them up.

Several professors announced the event in their classes. *El Nuevo Herald*, with a circulation of 100,000, ran an article with information about the forum the day of the event.

The majority of the 225 participants, mostly students, were opposed to the Cuban revolution. Among them was a small number of right-wing Cubans organized in such groups as the Cuban American National Foundation, the Democratic Platform, and the Revolutionary Democratic Directorate. Some of them placed leaflets on all the seats

in the ballroom of the student union, where the meeting was held, alleging widespread human rights violations by the Cuban government.

After the meeting was opened by the student government president and others who spoke in support of free speech, Alvisa gave a short presentation.

She explained that the collapse of Cuba's trade with the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe and the 33-year U.S. blockade have caused the current economic difficulties. In response, the Cuban government has launched an ambitious agricultural program to achieve food self-sufficiency through the massive mobilization of voluntary labor.

"In 1992 the sugar harvest was 7 million tons," she said,

United States and Cuba, but between the Cuban people and one dictator, Fidel Castro," said the first speaker from the audience.

Alvisa replied that, while not everybody in Cuba supported the revolution, clearly the majority of Cubans are in favor of the measures adopted by the government to move forward during what is described as "the special period in peacetime." She cited the mobilizations of hundreds of thousands of volunteers for the agricultural work brigades among young people as proof of her point.

Several people from the audience started yelling allegations of human rights violations by the Cuban government. They were shushed by many in the audience who wanted the discussion to continue.

"I was born in Cuba and left three years ago," said a student in a very animated way. "How can you say work in the brigades is voluntary when you get penalized if you don't do it?" Alvisa explained that the right to free education and a job remains a guarantee for all Cuban youth. "More than 600,000 students participated in the sugar harvest after appeals by the UJC and the Federation of University Students," she said. Voluntary labor is essential in the fight by working people to take their destiny in their own hands and solve the social problems they face, Alvisa said.

"When Nelson Mandela was in Havana last year he praised Cuba for having made unparalleled progress towards eradicating racism," another questioner commented. "What was the role of Cuban troops in Angola?" He was followed by a hostile question. "After 50,000 Cuban troops died in Angola why doesn't Fidel follow Angola's example and hold free elections?"

Alvisa, who served in Angola in 1987-88, said that 300,000 Cuban volunteers went there at the request of the Angolan government from 1975 to 1988, "of which 2,000 gave their lives to confront the racist apartheid army."

The defeat of repeated South African invasions led not only to the successful defense of Angola's sovereignty and the winning of Namibia's independence, but to the advance of the struggle for a democratic nonracial South Africa.

"My conception of democracy is far different from the conception of democracy in this country," Alvisa said. "We have been carrying out elections since 1976 in Cuba. But the most important thing is the participation of the people through the mass organizations and voluntary work in solving social problems."

This answer, and others by Alvisa and Concepción, were met by shouts of protest by many in the audience. One man

Continued on Page 14



Press coverage for speaking event of Cuban leaders

"nearly the same as the year before, but using 30 percent less resources in energy and machinery." Hard currency for imports is being sought through investments in biotechnology and tourism. "Despite the tightening of the U.S. blockade, the Cuban people are determined to move forward," she declared.

A storm of hands and shouts to be recognized went up before Alvisa sat down. "The problem is not between the

Washington's 30-year campaign against Cuba

Continued from previous page

self-image, remains a colonial power even as the twentieth century comes to a close.

In 1979 Castro once again used his New York visit in a demonstrative way, organizing time to meet with Rafael Cancel Miranda, Lolita Lebrón, and Irving Flores. The three historic champions of Puerto Rico's independence struggle had been released from U.S. prisons the previous month after serving twenty-five-year sentences for a 1954 armed demonstration, in the visitors' gallery of the House of Representatives, against Washington's colonial policies.

* * *

When Fidel Castro returned to the United Nations General Assembly in 1979, it was not to speak as Cuba's head of state and government. Instead, Castro speaks on behalf of the ninety-five members of the Movement of Nonaligned Countries, "representing the immense majority of humanity... joined together in our determination to change the present system of international relations, based as it is on injustice, inequality, and oppression."

Cuba was a founding member of the Movement of Nonaligned Countries, constituted in Belgrade in 1961, and has played an active role in shaping its course. "The quintessence of the policy of nonalignment," Castro affirms on behalf of the Movement, "involves the struggle against imperialism, colonialism, neocolonialism, apartheid, racism including Zionism, and all forms of foreign aggression, occupation, domination, interference, or hegemony, as well as against great-power and bloc policies."

The principles of peaceful coexistence defended by the Nonaligned Movement as the basis for international relations, Castro says, include the unconditional "right of peoples under foreign and colonial domination to self-determination. They include independence; sovereignty; the territorial integrity of states; the right of every country to put an end to foreign occupation and to the acquisition of territory by force; and the right to choose its own social, political, and economic system."

Bound together by a common history of colonialism and

imperialist domination, the Nonaligned Movement is economically and politically heterogeneous. Member countries range from those whose governments are closely aligned with imperialist powers; to countries such as the former Yugoslavia under the Tito leadership, which was trying to gain some leverage vis-à-vis the Soviet Union; to Cuba, with its proletarian internationalist foreign policy. Nonaligned summit meetings are diplomatic battlegrounds among these contending forces, with the leaders of the host country able to exert considerable influence in shaping the agenda and casting the resolutions adopted.

In 1979, despite concerted efforts by the U.S. government, the Nonaligned summit meeting was held in Havana, and the rotating chairmanship devolved upon Fidel Castro, president of the host country. The Havana summit came a matter of weeks after the victorious revolutionary overthrow of the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Anastasio Somoza in Nicaragua. That same year the Pol Pot regime in Cambodia had fallen, under the combined blows of an internal revolt and the intervention of the Vietnamese army; the shah of Iran had been toppled by a mass revolutionary uprising; and Grenadian dictator Eric Gairy had been overthrown by a popular revolutionary movement under the leadership of Maurice Bishop.

These historic events are the backdrop to Castro's address "on behalf of the children of the world who do not even have a piece of bread."

Carefully delineating the deteriorating economic conditions faced by the toiling masses of the underdeveloped world, Castro outlines the minimum conditions that must be met by the developed capitalist countries to effect any change.

Unequal exchange is ruining our peoples. It must end!
Inflation, which is being exported to us, is crushing our peoples. It must end!

Protectionism is impoverishing our peoples. It must end!
The existing imbalance in the exploitation of the resources of the sea is abusive. It must be abolished!

The financial resources received by the developing countries are insufficient. They must be increased!

Arms expenditures are irrational. They must cease and the funds thus released must be used to finance development!

The international monetary system prevailing today is bankrupt. It must be replaced!

The debts of the least-developed countries, and of those in a disadvantageous position, are burdens impossible to bear, to which no solution can be found. They must be cancelled!

Indebtedness oppresses the rest of the developing countries economically. There must be relief!

The economic chasm between the developed countries and the countries seeking development is not narrowing but widening. It must be closed!

If these demands of the underdeveloped countries are incompatible with the continued existence of the current world economic order, Castro makes clear, then capitalism must go. "Why should some people go barefoot," he asks, "so that others may travel in expensive cars? Why should some live only thirty-five years, so that others may live seventy? Why should some be miserably poor, so that others may be exaggeratedly rich? ... Why then civilization?"

"In any case," Castro tells the millions in North America and around the world watching his televised address, "the prospect of a world without capitalism is not too frightening to us revolutionaries."

In closing his remarks Castro offers a glimpse of the world panorama now unfolding in the 1990s, as the shadow of economic depression spreads, social tensions sharpen, and the opening guns of World War III are heard from Iraq to the Balkans. "I have not come here as a prophet of revolution," Castro states. "I have not come here to ask or to wish that the world be violently convulsed. I have come to speak of peace and cooperation among the peoples. And I have come to warn that if we do not peacefully and wisely resolve the present injustices and inequalities, the future will be apocalyptic."

Reading this volume today helps us to better understand and act in the increasingly apocalyptic world in which we live. It also explains why Washington's unending "cold war" and inhuman economic embargo against Cuba go on—a backhanded tribute to the fact that the Cuban revolution lives.

September 1992

Bush, Clinton, Perot: no choice for workers

Continued from front page

their hollow promises and rhetoric any longer — Clinton does not claim that he will do anything differently from what Bush will do. They represent the same interests, those of the wealthy rulers of this society, and they'll act accordingly," Warren added.

"The least important issue from the point of view of the rulers in these elections is economics," said Warren. "How can it be an issue, when there is no difference whatsoever in what the capitalist candidates claim to offer? It could only be a serious issue if there were contending forces with alternative programs prompting a wing of the capitalist class to offer massive social spending and public works measures in order to divert popular struggles. This is not the case today," Warren stated. "Bill Clinton offering jobs and criticizing in vague terms Bush's management of the economy does not make him any different."

No disagreement with Perot

Significantly, neither Bush nor Clinton have raised any fundamental disagreements with the economic program put forward by Texas billionaire Ross Perot. Perot calls for austerity measures of the sort being imposed in countries from Sweden to Italy to New Zealand. Among his proposals are a 50-cent tax increase on gasoline — the type of regressive tax that is felt most sharply by working people — and drastic cuts in social programs, while maintaining the military budget.

Perot, who understands that he will not win the election and is less bound by fears of alienating potential voters, expresses what the capitalists will have to do to reverse their economic fortunes.

The Clinton campaign, meanwhile, has released a television commercial that boasts how Clinton has "called for an end to welfare as we know it." The commercial also proudly defends his use of the death penalty as governor of Arkansas.

Clinton has won the endorsement of a

large number of corporate figures and economists, in many cases individuals long associated with the Republican Party. A column in the August 27 *Wall Street Journal*, written by Rudiger Dornbusch, an economist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, explained the attraction of a Clinton presidency. "Our best chance is to have a conservative Democrat," Dornbusch emphasizes, "conservative because it is no longer spend-spend time, and a Democrat because too much time at the helm has removed the Bush administration's understanding of what is happening in the engine room."

Dornbusch goes on to explain that "the 'Bush recovery' is sapping the confidence of workers and the profits in business." He concludes by writing that "the business community is beginning to join the consensus: George Bush blew it!"

In the field of foreign policy, there has also been "little if any difference" in the platforms of the three candidates, Warren said. "If you are opposed to U.S. military intervention and you think that a vote for Clinton is a vote for the 'lesser of two evils,' you're terribly mistaken," Warren asserted. "It may be the greater of the two evils." Clinton has promoted the campaign against Cuba and has promised a more aggressive use of military power in the former Yugoslavia.

Bush faces scandal over Iraq

The problems facing the Bush campaign have been heightened by an emerging scandal involving the U.S. government's military and political support to the Saddam Hussein regime prior to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Senator Albert Gore, Clinton's vice-presidential candidate, delivered a speech September 29 in which he denounced the Bush administration's "bungling policies" that "led directly to a war that should never have taken place."

Gore emphasized his support of the U.S. position backing Baghdad during the Iran-Iraq war. But he stated that "the strategic

justification for looking the other way at their [Baghdad's] acts of terrorism was all of a sudden gone" after the war with Iran ended in 1988. He also praised Bush's "fortitude and skill" in organizing the war against the Iraqi people.

Writing in the *New York Times* October 8, conservative columnist William Safire accuses the Bush administration of organizing a cover-up and of trying to divert the blame by pointing out that Clinton once met with the Iraqi ambassador to the U.S. This, Safire remarks, "shows what sort of desperate state he is in."

"The harshness of these attacks on Bush are an indication that he is rapidly losing the

confidence of the ruling class to lead their government in this period," Warren commented. The opinion columns by Safire, and the prominent coverage given Gore's speech, "would not have happened if this were not the case. This so-called scandal is pretty small-time compared to all the crimes they carry out daily," Warren continued. He added that the so-called "Iraq-gate" scandal — which has produced a conflict between CIA and Justice Department officials over responsibility — is also an indication of the "more general crisis the rulers face in implementing their policies, stemming from their inability to accomplish the political goals" they sought in the Persian Gulf War.



PATHFINDER AROUND THE WORLD

PAT SMITH

Pathfinder, located in New York with distributors in Australia, Britain, and Canada, publishes the works of working-class and communist leaders of the worldwide struggles against exploitation and oppression. Pathfinder bookstores are listed in the directory on page 12.

A recent table stocked with Pathfinder books and pamphlets attracted a lot of interest at Humboldt University, located in the center of Berlin, Germany.

"There was a lot of activity going on," reports Dag Tirsén, one of the Pathfinder supporters from Sweden who visited Germany in early October, and we "had discussions with students on many different political questions." The resistance to the racist attacks in Germany, the fight to keep abortion legal, Nelson Mandela and Malcolm X, and Cuba's role in Africa were some of the issues and political figures the students wanted to discuss at the book table.

Another table was set up October 2 in the eastern town of Schwerin, on the day of a government-sponsored rally for the anniversary of German reunification and a counter-rally protesting the rising unemployment and cuts in social services in eastern Germany. Many people walking back and forth between the two rallies to hear what each side was saying stopped at the Pathfinder table.

"Decades of isolation of people in this region was shown in the fact that few knew of Malcolm X, for example. But those who stopped by were very curious about our books and overwhelmingly friendly," reports Carl-Erik Isacsson. "Several showed interest in the book *Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism*. Some said they would like to have it in German. Everyone we talked with was in favor of the reunification of Germany but opposed the rise in unemployment, rent, and hospital closings."

The visit to Germany included a stop at the Third World Bookstore in Berlin. On the shelves were Pathfinder books by Nelson Mandela, Maurice Bishop, Malcolm X, and Fidel Castro. "The store salesperson was glad to see us," Tirsén reports. "The buyer told us the Pathfinder books she stocked were best-sellers."

A Pathfinder supporter who works at the Ford auto plant in Edison, New Jersey, reports that she sold seven books and pamphlets — in English, Spanish, and French — to coworkers last week. A Dominican-born worker, who fought the

U.S. invasion of that country in 1965, also decided to join the Pathfinder Readers Club. His collection of Pathfinder titles to date includes *Los cañonazos iniciales de la tercera guerra mundial* [Opening Guns of World War III], *Sudáfrica: la revolución en camino* [The Coming Revolution in South Africa], *Women's Liberation and the African Freedom Struggle*, and *El aborto: derecho fundamental de la mujer* [Abortion Is a Woman's Right].

Forty-nine copies of the new Pathfinder book *Che Guevara: L'économie et la politique dans la transition au socialisme* [Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism] were ordered by bookstores in Paris, France; Brussels, Belgium; and the Netherlands during a recent sales visit to those countries by Pathfinder London sales representatives Rich Palser and Marcella Fitzgerald.

Some \$5,000 worth of books and pamphlets were sold to 23 bookstores during the visits. In Brussels and the Netherlands, 15 bookstores ordered a total of 264 books and 10 pamphlets in French and English. More than 80 books on Malcolm X and 13 copies of *Woman's Evolution* were bought; more than a quarter of the total order were books on the Cuban revolution.

* * *

The New York Pathfinder bookstore had a stand at the recent "New York Is Book Country" bookfair. Held annually along Manhattan's Fifth Avenue, this year's fair attracted tens of thousands of browsers.

Surrounded by two-deep rows of people for much of the day, the Pathfinder booth displayed a large image of the Pathfinder Mural, which covers an entire six-story wall of the building in New York where Pathfinder books are published. Booth staffers wore colorful T-shirts depicting the mural. Three thousand flyers announcing the opening of the Pathfinder Mural Bookstore, at the site of the mural, were distributed to fair attendees.

More than \$800 worth of literature was sold from the wide range of the books, pamphlets, and magazines on display. Fourteen titles on women's liberation were bought, with several titles running out well before the day was over. Nineteen books by Malcolm X and seven by the socialist leader George Novack were also bought.

* * *

Arthur Hughes, Dag Tirsén, and Carl-Erik Isacsson contributed to this column.

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION
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9. For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail special rates (DMM Section 423.12 only): Does not apply.
10. Extent and nature of circulation. Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months. A. Total no. copies (net press run): 7,397. B. Paid and/or requested circulation: (1) Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors, and counter sales: 3,536. (2) Mail subscription: 2,562. C. Total paid and/or requested circulation (sum of 10B1 and 10B2): 6,098. D. Free distribution by mail, carrier or other means, samples, complimentary, and other free copies: 457. E. Total distribution (sum of C and D): 6,555. F. Copies not distributed: (1) Office use, left over, unaccounted, spoiled after printing: 832. (2) Return from news agents: 10. G. Total (sum of E, F1 and 2 — should equal net press run shown in A): 7,397.
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11. I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.
(signed)
Brian Williams
Business Manager

MARYLAND

Baltimore

The Freedom Charter: ANC Program for the Unfolding South African Revolution. Speaker: Glen Swanson, Socialist Workers Party, member International Association of Machinists Local 1651. Sat., Oct. 17, 7:30 p.m. 2905 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (410) 235-0013.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

Farmers Face the Crisis of the 1990s. Speakers: Mark Richie, executive director, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy; Carroll Narmeyer, vice-president, American Agricultural Movement, Iowa; Doug Jenness, author of Pathfinder pamphlet *Farmers Face the Crisis of the 1990s*, others. Sat., Oct. 17, 7:30 p.m. 508 N. Snelling Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI

St. Louis

Celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Russian Revolution. Speaker: to be announced. Sat., Oct. 17, 7:30 p.m. 1622 S. Broadway. Donation: \$3. Tel: (314) 421-3808.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

The Crisis of Capitalism and the Causes of Crime. Speaker: Ted Leonard, Socialist Workers candidate for Congress, 13th District. Sat., Oct. 17, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St., 2nd floor. Donation: \$3. Tel: (201) 643-3341.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

The North American Free Trade Agreement: What Stance Should Working People Take? Speakers: Martin Koppel, staff writer, *Militant* newspaper; Joanne Wallador, trade union activist, Canada; Andy Brandford, former member, Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, Britain. Sat., Oct. 17, 7:30 p.m. 191 7th Ave. Donation: \$4. Tel: (212) 675-6740.

OHIO

Cleveland

500 Years Since Columbus and the Conquest of the 'New World.' Speakers: Juanita Helphrey, Homeland Ministries, United Church of Christ; Juan Reyna, member Lake Erie Native American Council; Garnez Parks, Socialist Workers candidate in the 19th Congressional District. Sat., Oct. 17, 7:30 p.m. 1863 W. 25th St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (216) 861-6150.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

Lessons of the USAir and City Workers' Strikes. Panel of speakers. Sat., Oct. 17, 7:30 p.m. 1906 South St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (215) 546-8218.

—CALENDAR—

FLORIDA

Miami

Rally for the Socialist Alternative to the Two Parties of War, Racism, and Economic Depression. Speaker: Estelle DeBates, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. vice-president. Sponsored by Florida Socialist Workers 1992 Campaign. Sun., Oct. 18, 137 N.E. 54th St. Donation: \$5. Tel: (305) 756-1020.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

A Day of Socialist Education and Campaigning. Class: Socialism and the Fight Against Racism Today. Speaker: Chris Nisan, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress, 5th District, 10 a.m. **Street Rally** at corner of Lagoon and Hennepin, 2 p.m. **Buffet Dinner**, 5 p.m. **Campaign Rally.** Speaker: Estelle DeBates, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. vice-president. 7 p.m. Sat., Oct. 24. Class, dinner, and rally at 508 N. Snelling Ave. Donation: \$10 for class, dinner, and rally. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

U.S. Troops and Nuclear Weapons Out of Korea! Picket at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations. Thurs., Oct. 15, 5 p.m. 43rd St. and 1st Ave. Sponsor: U.S. Out of Korea Committee. Tel: (212) 633-6646.

NEW ZEALAND

Wellington

Socialist Educational Weekend. Talks, classes, workshops. Topics include: building a movement against war and depression; the *Communist Manifesto*; racism and sexism; trade unions; the break-up of Stalinism; farmers; defending democratic rights; Cuba and South Africa. For further details, contact the Communist League: Auckland Tel: 379-3075; Christchurch Tel: 365-6055; Wellington Tel: 384-4205; or write to P.O. Box 9092, Wellington.

Support the Socialist Alternative in 1992. Speakers: Socialist Workers candidates for U.S. Senate and Congress, 2nd District. Sat., Oct. 24. Reception, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7 p.m. 1906 South St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (215) 546-8218.

TEXAS

Houston

Columbus: Capitalism and the Roots of the Conquest of the New World. Speaker: Al Budka, representative, 1992 Socialist Workers Campaign. Sat., Oct. 17, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$3. Tel: (713) 522-8054.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

Columbus and Capitalism: Roots of the Conquest of the New World. Speakers: David Warshawsky, Socialist Workers candidate for Congress, 7th district; others. Sat., Oct. 17, 7:30 p.m. 1405 E. Madison. Donation: \$3. Tel: (206) 323-1755. Translation to Spanish.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Latin America Today: 500 Years Since Columbus. Sat., Oct. 17, 7:30 p.m. 523 8th St. SE. Donation: \$4. Tel: (202) 547-7557.

CANADA

Toronto

The Socialist Alternative to War, Depression, and Oppression of Quebecois and Native People. Speakers: Michel Prairie and John Steele, Communist League candidates in by-elections in Montreal and Toronto. Sat., Oct. 17, 7:30 p.m. 827 Bloor St. West. Donation: \$5. Tel: (416) 533-4324.

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland

Does Winston Peters Represent a Way For-

ward for Working People? Speaker: member, Communist League. Sat., Oct. 17, 7 p.m. La Gonda Arcade, 203 Karangahape Rd. Donation: \$3. Tel: (9) 379-3075.

Christchurch

Europe's Currency Crisis Exposes Political Tensions. Sat., Oct. 17, 7 p.m. 593a Colombo St. (upstairs). Donation: \$3. Tel: (3) 656-055.

Wellington

Lessons of the Revolution in Grenada and Its Overthrow. Video and speaker. Sat., Oct. 17, 4 p.m. 23 Majoribanks St., Courtenay Pl. Donation: \$3. Tel: (4) 384-4205.

SWEDEN

Stockholm

Meet James Warren, Socialist Candidate for U.S. President. Fri., Oct. 16, 4 p.m. Vikingagatan 10 (T-bana St Eriksplan). Tel: (08) 31 69 33.

Flight attendants battle Nationair

Continued from front page
arbitration in labor courts.

During the truce, the terms of the old collective agreement would apply and negotiations would continue. Scab flight attendants would retain the jobs not filled by returning unionized attendants. The union would also end the boycott campaign.

Fifty-six percent of the workers voted by secret ballot October 4-6 in support of the recommendation by CUPE officials to accept the mediator's terms. The following day, the news reported an end to the conflict. However, on October 9, Obadia announced that he was not willing to abide by the conditions of the old collective agreement. He is demanding changes in work scheduling, which would mean longer hours with lower salaries and less control by flight attendants over their schedules.

The proposal by union officials to accept the mediator's offer has provoked considerable debate in the union.

Kym Joseph has worked at Nationair for six and a half years and is one of those fired, for alleged picket line misconduct. "I think it's the right decision," she said in an interview during a rally at Dorval Airport on October 7. "Our union has a lot of solidarity and hopefully Obadia's plans to divide and conquer us won't succeed."

Like most of the fired workers, Joseph is confident that she will win back her job through arbitration.

'A bad deal'

"It's a bad deal," according to flight attendant Patsy Ellis. "It makes no sense to go back to work with so little achieved and with so many of us not allowed back. We'll be working with no wage increase and no collective agreement."

"We should continue even if we have to fight for another 10 months because it's not

right to go back like this," she said.

Ellis has also been fired, in her case for allegedly uttering death threats to an in-flight director.

"That's ridiculous," she explains. "I even have a witness to the conversation I had with the person in question."

"If I said such a serious thing, how come the police haven't come to my door to arrest me?"

Many attendants are concerned about what they will face if they return under the mediator's conditions. "It will be very hard to return to work under these conditions," according to attendant Christian Duval. "It's very risky, very dangerous. How could we fight a firing, for example?"

"The company will use and abuse us if we go back like this," said another attendant. "There will be more firings and discipline — how can we defend ourselves under such conditions?"

For flight attendant Micheline Durivage,

Trinity strikers hold mass picket

Continued from Page 4

informing them that the company would open the gates on October 12. It stated, "If we do not get enough employees back on the job, we will hire replacements for those who choose to remain on strike."

In the face of the company's union-busting moves, workers are determined to keep up the fight. "We'll burn this letter, like we burned the one they sent us during the 1988 strike," said Cecil, a member of the local union. "If you look around," said Annie, "a lot of people are on strike. It's the only way we'll ever get anything. We just have to keep the plant shut down and get support."

Solidarity from working people has begun

the recently announced "independent association" of Nationair flight attendants, composed of scab replacement workers, was a factor in the vote on the mediator's offer. "Many people are concerned that this group could win some kind of certification from the labor board. That would cause the lockout to go on much longer," stated Durivage.

The attendants are continuing their actions against Nationair. Three protests were organized in front of the Nationair counter at Dorval Airport in Montreal in the days during and following the vote on the mediator's offer.

A boycott campaign blitz is being organized for October 13, which targets the launching of \$88 Nationair flights between Toronto and Montreal, the busiest and most lucrative air travel corridor in Canada. Nationair calls it a trial service designed to last a few months, at which time a decision will be made whether to continue. Air Canada's comparable price for the Montreal-Toronto market is \$213.

to come in. Members of several unions have come by the picket line. Donations of food and money have helped to keep the strikers fed while on picket duty. Local 9226 members have spoken before meetings of the United Mine Workers of America, other USWA locals, and the United Auto Workers of America to explain the issues of the fight and invite workers to join the picket line and other solidarity activities.

Messages of support and donations can be sent to USWA Local 9226, 1919 7th Ave., Bessemer, AL 35020. Tel: (205) 425-9226.

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

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Mexico City: Apdo. Postal 27-575, Col. Roma Sur. Mexico D.F.

NEW ZEALAND

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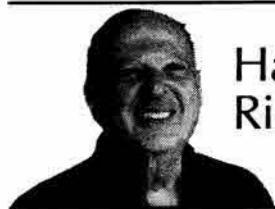
Christchurch: 593a Colombo St. (upstairs). Postal address: P.O. Box 22-530. Tel: (3) 365-6055.

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

SWEDEN

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

Nothing colder than a boss's heart — Alex Bryson, 63, a British Rail clerk, and four coworkers were fired for having a few drinks at his leaving party. Bryson, who had half



Harry Ring

a glass of shandy (a beer and lemonade mix), was denied his £20,000 (US\$34,000) severance pay. He had been counting on it to get himself and his wife through the next two years till his pension comes in.

How to unscramble the omelet? — We were totally perplexed by the Russian plan to give each citizen a voucher representing future shares in companies they plan to privatize. We were somewhat relieved when Ivan Chimburov, a Russian ad man involved in promoting the deal, observed, "Anyone who understands it should be put in a straitjacket."

Now we get it — A top international ad agency contracted with Moscow to promote the voucher deal but its staff members are unconcerned about the economic complexities. Observed one: "Selling privatization is a bit like selling Marlboros, really. It's another product. The trick, as always, is to add

'value' to the brand."

Simply put — In one area of Russia, graffiti has appeared, explaining: "Privatization vouchers are toilet paper."

Big Mac — Built to last! — In Australia, the *Sydney Morning Herald* reported that two years ago, a high school teacher bought a McDonald's cheeseburger and inadvertently left it lying on a desk. In 1991 it was found and examined — no decay. This year, students tested scrapings — no bacteria. A teacher now uses it as a paperweight.

Chop cop — "They were swinging those batons like little girls. They should have laid some

good chops on him. Three or four good chops. Chop! Chop! And that would have been the end of it." — Henry Cousine, a member of the Los Angeles Police Dept., commenting on the Rodney King beating. Cousine was one of 44 LAPD members cited by the Christopher Commission as "problem" cops.

Trying to mess up his head — Officer Cousine has taken a total of 170 days of suspension for various altercations with people. An LAPD psychologist has seen him four times recently, and he's been assigned to a desk job. He bitterly complains: "Now they got me doing the job of a pregnant woman."

Cause and effect — According to *Forbes* magazine, on average, the 400 richest U.S. individuals got \$31 million richer last year. Meanwhile, with inflation outpacing wage increases, U.S. workers took a cut in real income.

Can't take care of everyone — At Waterstone's book chain in Britain, a bonus scheme for sales clerks initiated four months earlier was scrapped — retroactively. Waterstone's is a subsidiary of the huge WH Smith chain. A few days after the bonus plan was torpedoed, it was disclosed that WH Smith's managing director was handed a 57 percent increase to £323,000 (US \$549,000).

Nebraska officials victimize socialist campaigner

BY JOHN STUDER

DES MOINES, Iowa — Doug Lee-Regier, a supporter of the 1992 Socialist Workers campaign of James Warren for president and Estelle DeBates for vice-president, was compelled September 30 by court order to surrender to Lincoln, Nebraska, police to provide samples of his handwriting. The cops held Lee-Regier, who was accompanied by his attorney Mark Cohen, for more than two hours, forcing him to write his and other signatures and addresses in different ways.

As part of a campaign of harassment and threatened criminal indictment, Nebraska election officials and Lincoln police have publicly alleged that Lee-Regier forged signatures on nomination petitions filed for the Socialist Workers ticket. Supporters of the socialist campaign submitted almost 4,000 signatures in an effort to win ballot status there, but were told that less than 1,000 were valid; the socialist candidates were ruled off the ballot.

The district court of Lancaster County, where Lincoln is located, had ruled September 21 that Lee-Regier would be required to turn himself in to have his handwriting examined. In a hearing which Lee-Regier was not informed about and could not attend, the judge ruled that he could be held by the cops for no more than five hours.

The court order was based on an affidavit submitted by Dennis Duckworth, a Lincoln cop.

Duckworth explains that Patricia Hansen, Lancaster County election commissioner, called people whose names she claims to have recognized on the socialists' petitions,

to question whether they had actually signed them. She then turned those signatures over to the secretary of state and to Duckworth, the police officer claims, alleging that three signatures were either forged, the name of a dead person, or illegible, which she deemed suspicious.

Duckworth has also been calling up and interrogating people whose names are on the petition.

"Duckworth contacted some of the Lancaster County residents whose names appear on the petitions," he stated in his sworn



Militant/Ruth Nebbia
Héctor Marroquín, a co-chair of Socialist Workers 1992 national campaign, condemned harassment by Nebraska officials.

statement. "At least eleven of the people whose names appear on the first petition say that they did not sign the document."

"At least seven of the people listed on the second petition say that they did not sign that document. At least three of the people listed on the third petition say that they did not sign that document. Two of the purported signatures are of persons deceased," Duckworth charged.

Investigation will continue

After having been forced to spend two hours providing police investigators with writing samples, Lee-Regier was told the investigation could take weeks or months.

"The so-called investigation is dead serious," said Héctor Marroquín, a national co-chair of the Socialist Workers 1992 campaign and director of the ballot drive in Iowa and Nebraska. "It is an effort to harass those who supported the right of the Socialist Workers to appear on the Nebraska ballot and to intimidate anyone who might want to support the campaign."

"For decades the federal courts have protected those who support and contribute

to our campaigns from having their names disclosed to government officials, because of the proven record of government harassment and victimization of our party. Now, using frame-up forgery allegations, Nebraska officials are calling petition signers, interrogating and intimidating them, and then turning around and threatening those who circulated the petitions with 25 years in prison," Marroquín added.

"We will fight to halt this campaign of victimization. And we will fight to defeat this threat to put one of our supporters in jail," he said. Supporters of political rights are urged to send messages to secretary of state Allen Beerman, Suite 2300, Capitol Building, Lincoln, Nebraska 68509, demanding that this campaign be halted. Contributions are also urgently needed to cover the legal costs of defending Lee-Regier, Marroquín explained. Checks can be made out to the Socialist Workers 1992 Campaign Committee, earmarked for the Lee-Regier defense, and sent to the Socialist Workers Campaign, 2105 Forest Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50311.

— 25 AND 50 YEARS AGO —



U.S. aggression in Vietnam and for failing to make Vietnam "an inviolable part of socialist territory."

In leaving Cuba to help advance the struggle in Bolivia, Che understood full well the risks involved. But the overriding consideration was the critical urgency to extend the struggle.

Che lives in his irrepressible revolutionary ideas and he lives in all those who will continue the struggle that can only end in victory.

Viva Che!



October 24, 1942

The War Labor Board in a recent decision exposed its real character by taking away the union shop from workers who had already achieved it. The union involved was Local 148 of United Paper, Novelty and Toy Workers (C.I.O.) at the Wilson-Jones Company, a large stationery manufacturer in Elizabeth, New Jersey, and Chicago.

The workers fought almost single-handed for five years against a union-hating reactionary management. Starting with a sit-down strike in Chicago, in 1937, the union finally organized both plants and in 1940 the company signed a union shop agreement. In 1941, the company refused to increase wages and the union went out on a six weeks' strike. Finally the War Labor Board took the case.

A panel of the War Labor Board heard all the evidence and recommended that the union be allowed to keep the union shop. Despite the panel recommendation, the Board members simply took away the union shop. Richard Frankenstein, the CIO member [on the Board], joined in signing the order.

The workers of Wilson-Jones now realize that the War Labor Board has done what the company itself could not accomplish.

Curtis parole campaign launched

Continued from front page

community support," and has served more than the average time of three and a half years for those convicted of the sexual abuse charge on which Curtis was framed. Curtis has been in jail for more than four years.

Curtis's victory in a police brutality suit earlier this year raised the stakes in his fight for justice. The defense committee brochure explains that "on January 31, 1992, Federal Judge Charles Wolle ruled in favor of the civil rights lawsuit Curtis filed against the Des Moines cops for brutally beating him the night he was arrested and framed up."

This victory "is further proof that the cops lied when they attempted to cover up his beating, and raises important new questions about the police charges and testimony that led to Curtis's frame-up conviction. This victory will inspire other fighters against police brutality."

In response to Curtis's victory, an aggressive campaign against Curtis and his supporters was organized to brand him a rapist, defense committee activists explain. "Forces that support the prosecution and cop frame-up are trying to convince supporters that our cause is wrong. We must step up our efforts to answer the lies and distortions being advanced by opponents of Curtis's fight for freedom."

Curtis activists plan a parole fight that includes "organizing meetings with endorsers, reaching out to new people and taking the time to explain the truth about this important fight."

As part of the *Parole Now!* campaign,

supporters of Curtis around the world have also launched a drive to raise \$25,000 by the end of November. These funds will make possible continued defense activities for the next five months.

To join in this fight, contributions and letters to the Iowa State Board of Parole should be sent to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, P.O. Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311.

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

From Pathfinder

The Frame-up of Mark Curtis

A Packinghouse Worker's Fight for Justice
by Margaret Jayko

This pamphlet tells the story of Mark Curtis, a unionist and fighter for immigrant rights, who is serving a 25-year sentence in an Iowa prison on trumped-up rape charges. 71 pp. \$5.00.

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

USAir and concessions fight

As the strike by 8,300 members of the International Association of Machinists (IAM) against USAir entered its second day the *Wall Street Journal* complained that the walkout had "plunged much of the travel industry into chaos." After the strike the *Journal* noted that while the company contended that a substantial portion of its service continued during the walkout, "evidence indicates that the strike may have had a more acute affect. At Baltimore/Washington International Airport and at Washington National Airport, hundreds of part-time baggage handlers were laid off, and many smaller jets sat idled."

Once again union members showed — through strike action — the power of working people to fight against employers' attempts to drive down our standard of living. The deep concession contract that union officials agreed to, and pressured the membership to adopt, was an unnecessary setback.

The new contract allows the company to deepen the divisions among workers at USAir. A newly hired cleaner will be paid \$3.77-an-hour less than someone doing the same job but hired before the contract was ratified.

The new pact will take millions of dollars from workers in lost wages and benefits and transfer it to the wealthy owners of the airline. It will make the conditions of work more difficult and make the company less responsible for injuries on the job.

Acceptance of this contract has hurt the drive to organize ramp workers at the airline and to build a stronger union movement at USAir and in the airline industry.

The USAir agreement is certain to become a standard for other airline companies pressing for major takeback contracts. This was the reason many airline workers saw the USAir fight as their fight from the very beginning. "We're next," explained an Alaska Airlines flight attendant stopping by the picket line in San Francisco. "What can I do to help?" This expression of solidarity didn't just come from airline workers. Drywall workers fighting for a union in the Los Angeles area, Pittsburgh Press strikers, and

many other unionists went to IAM picket lines and offered support.

The airline industry is in crisis, as are many other capitalist businesses today. Fierce competition between carriers is pushing them to cut jobs, drive down wages, and close unprofitable routes. USAir alone reports losses of \$900 million since 1990.

Workers face only two alternatives when confronted by the type of contract USAir sought to impose: we can fight against it or we can allow the employers to weaken our unions and set an example that other bosses are certain to emulate.

The will to fight is not in short supply among working people today. But how to push a fight forward against the many obstacles put in our way by the employers — and often by union officials who are not interested in leading a struggle — is a discussion many working people want to have.

Airline workers and other union members can learn some valuable lessons on this from a Pathfinder book entitled, *The Eastern Airlines Strike: Accomplishments of the Rank-and-File Machinists and Gains for the Labor Movement*.

This book, advertised on page 3, tells the story of the historic 1989–91 battle at Eastern. Written by longtime participants in the working-class struggle, its vantage point is the picket line and rank-and-file initiatives that spearheaded the victory over Lorenzo, Eastern's chief executive. This important book underlines the lessons of the struggle for working people everywhere and how the IAM fighters at Eastern and their supporters forced the company to close rather than allow the airline to operate nonunion.

The ghost of the Eastern Airlines strike continues to haunt the wealthy class that owns the airline industry. That strike showed that workers, with our numbers and with the support of other working people, can take on even the biggest union busters of all.

Build on Miami victory

A big victory for free speech was scored by the success of the October 1 forum at Florida International University (FIU) in Miami. It was also a big victory for all those who want to pursue dialogue with the people of Cuba, normalization of relations between Washington and Havana, and an end to the U.S. embargo and restrictions on travel to Cuba.

A few years ago such an event would have been inconceivable in Miami. For decades right-wing Cuban thugs had carried out terrorist attacks, bombings, and assassinations, and broken up meetings to intimidate friends and supporters of the Cuban revolution. A recent report by Americas Watch shows that some acts of intimidation continue to be carried out, primarily by right-wing Cuban-American organizations. However, these acts, and the numbers supporting them, have diminished.

Today, a growing number of Cuban-Americans support the right of free speech and the idea of an open dialogue with the Cuban people, 90 miles south of the Florida Keys. They include many who for the moment are opposed to the Cuban revolution, its socialist course, and its communist leadership.

Cuban-American workers, university students, journalists, and others showed last week in Miami that they appreciated the opportunity to have an open exchange, even though sharp at times, with revolutionary youth leaders from Havana.

A column in the *Miami Herald* condemned the punching of usher Anthony Thomas at the end of the FIU forum. While the attack on Thomas should be condemned and those responsible prosecuted, the incident pales compared to previous acts of intimidation of supporters of the Cuban revolution.

Organizers of the tour of Ibis Alvisa González and José Antonio Concepción in Miami are pursuing the idea of a public debate between young communists from Cuba and Cuban-American student groups. Miami, of course, was not exceptional. Alvisa and Concepción spoke to dozens of meetings across the United States, mostly on college campuses. Sharp exchanges took place at forums in Chi-

cago, New York, and Washington, D.C. However, the overwhelming majority of the participants ensured that a free discussion took place.

Interest in what the Cuban youth leaders had to say was far from limited to Cuban-Americans. More than 3,000 students and others turned out to hear Alvisa and Concepción during their 10-city tour.

Supporters of the Cuban revolution have the responsibility to build on these accomplishments. More meetings like the one at FIU and the dozens of others that took place during the tour of the Cuban youth leaders can and should be organized.

Supporters of the Cuban revolution should also make use of the political tools that exist to get out the truth about the accomplishments of and challenges facing the revolution in this Caribbean island, explain why Washington maintains its unrelenting campaign against the Cuban revolution, and help expand the fight against the U.S. embargo and travel ban.

This issue of the *Militant* features the introduction by Mary-Alice Waters to the Pathfinder book *To Speak the Truth: Why Washington's 'Cold War' Against Cuba Doesn't End*. We strongly encourage *Militant* readers to buy, read, and distribute this book. Readers are also encouraged to order and distribute bundles of the new Pathfinder pamphlet *Che Guevara and the Fight for Socialism Today* (see ad on page 6.)

Readers will find by using these tools that explain the ideas of Castro and Guevara, they will be in a much better position to understand and explain not just the U.S. cold war against Cuba but also the imperialist drive towards another World War; why the current financial and banking crisis is wreaking havoc in the imperialist world; why the massive foreign debt is breaking the backs of toilers in Africa, Asia, and Latin America; and what can be done to end the misery wrought by capitalism.

Thousands more youth and working people will in this way be able to draw the lessons about how to change the world.

Miami meeting

Continued from page 10

tried to make his way toward the stage to present the speakers with documents alleging human-rights violations by Havana. Ushers stopped him and were given the documents, which were later presented to the speakers. At that point a couple dozen right-wing participants moved to the front of the meeting room shouting. The moderators of the meeting, with the help of the ushers, campus police officers, and many participants who insisted that the debate continue, calmed things down. The often-heated exchange went on as planned until the announced 5:00 p.m. adjournment time.

As the speakers were leaving the meeting room for their next engagement, a couple dozen people rushed toward the front of the ballroom. Marcel Felipe, a young Cuban-American right-winger, punched usher Anthony Thomas in the face. Felipe was arrested by campus cops on the spot. In a press conference covered by TV and radio stations October 5, Thomas announced he had filed battery charges against Felipe.

Defending free speech

"Provoked or not, the punch is unacceptable," wrote columnist Liz Balmaseda in the October 7 *Miami Herald*. "But there is much more to this story than the unfortunate punch," she said. "The very fact of this visit from young Communists Ibis Alvisa González and José Antonio Concepción Rangel is encouraging." Balmaseda frequently writes columns critical of the Cuban revolution.

Much of the press coverage attempted to give the false impression that the meeting had been broken up. Right-wing commentators on radio shows denounced the meeting as "a provocation by Castro agents."

But several people interviewed on television described the meeting as a legitimate expression of free speech. Modesto Maidique, the FIU president, who is Cuban-American, defended the right of free speech in an October 3 interview with *El Nuevo Herald*. "FIU has to be a place where there are no thought police," he said.

Spanish-language TV channels 23 and 51 featured coverage of the FIU forum the evening of October 1. Between Alvisa and Concepción on the platform was Francisco Picado, their translator, who appeared on the TV coverage. Picado is a garment worker at Kuppenheimer Clothes, a shop organized by the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union.

Most workers at Kuppenheimer are older Cuban-Americans who are opposed to the Cuban revolution. Some of them, outraged at Picado's participation at the meeting, spent the morning of October 2 trying to intimidate him and others who supported the FIU event.

Protest at garment plant

About 25 workers participated in a rally for five minutes during the morning break demanding Picado's firing. "He must go!" they shouted. The action got immediate coverage on WQBA radio. At the same time, other workers in the plant made a point of sitting with Picado during breaks and showing him their support. "Hold your head high for what you did," a Nicaraguan-born worker told Picado.

At lunch break 40 workers, mostly Cuban-Americans, held a demonstration outside the plant, which was covered by TV channel 51. "Cuba yes, Fidel no!" they shouted. Union officials in the factory were involved in organizing the demonstration. Two company supervisors participated. Police showed up at the lunchtime rally to investigate alleged threats against Picado. One worker told Picado that — according to a plant manager — one of the bosses called the police because management did not like to see the name of the company being associated with the demonstration.

Picado later discussed the rumors of threats against him, his right to free speech, and his right to keep his job, with many coworkers as well as with his union shop steward and other leaders of the picket line. Many, including organizers of the protest, responded that they opposed not him but his ideas, and were against violence. They agreed that physical threats had no place in the union and Picado had a right to his job. After work, Picado walked out of the plant with a number of sympathetic coworkers.

Along with another coworker he joined a picket line that afternoon protesting the tightening of the U.S. embargo against Cuba. This protest was sponsored by the Antonio Maceo Brigade (BAM) and the Association of Workers of the Community (ATC). It was held outside the offices of Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, a Cuban-American congresswoman who supports the recently approved Torricelli bill, which calls for further economic moves against Cuba.

While in Miami, Alvisa and Concepción were interviewed by Francisco Aruca on Radio Progreso. Aruca's radio show, "Hoy Vivo" (Today Live), is the Spanish-language radio program with the biggest listening audience in the area. Dozens of people called the station at the end of the interview, which was aired October 5, mostly with favorable comments.

The Cuban youth leaders also addressed a meeting of 50 activists of BAM and the ATC. These two organizations have conducted a petition campaign in Miami and collected more than 35,000 signatures of people calling for the lifting of the U.S. embargo against Cuba.

Alvisa and Concepción received an enthusiastic response from 200 Haitian workers at a meeting sponsored by the Haitian community group Veye Yo. Before returning to Havana, the Cuban youth toured Homestead, an area devastated by Hurricane Andrew, and talked to farm workers there fighting to get government relief after the disaster.

Dan Fein is an aircraft fueler and member of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union.

GM auto workers in Michigan vote to end 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 around the world to read about and learn from these important struggles. Jot down a few lines to

plants in Anderson could strike October 14.

A strike in Anderson could cripple GM production. These plants produce parts for 95 percent of all vehicles built by the company in North America.

Detroit demands pay cut from all city workers

More than 500 city workers in

ON THE PICKET LINE

let other *Militant* readers know about what is happening at your work place or in your union. If there is an interesting political discussion going on at work, we would like to hear about that too.

Members of United Auto Workers Local 602 in Lansing, Michigan, voted September 28 to end their five-day strike over local issues against the General Motors (GM) assembly plant. The 4,200 strikers voted by a 3-2 margin to approve the agreement.

Workers will now vote December 1 on whether to change from a tag relief system, where line workers get breaks in rotation, to a mass relief system, where the entire line is shut down. Until the vote, the mass relief system will stay in place in departments where it has already been implemented.

GM has made it clear that even if the workers vote down the mass relief system, the company intends to find other ways to cut the 300 jobs this change would have eliminated.

"Jobs were the issue, and we should have stayed out until GM backed off," stated one worker. Another explained, "GM is still forcing us to work overloaded jobs. With this settlement it won't get any better."

GM is facing another local strike at the Inland Fisher Guide Division plant in Anderson, Indiana, where the leadership of the United Auto Workers has granted strike authorization. If negotiations fail, the 3,400 hourly workers at GM's two

Detroit received pink slips October 5 following the overwhelming rejection of a 10 percent pay cut by the largest of the city's many public employee unions. The layoffs are to be effective October 16.

Less than a week earlier, the 6,000-member American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) voted 2-1 to reject the deep concessions that the city has demanded of all its 16,500 workers.

Citing a projected budget deficit of \$50 million, Mayor Coleman Young has demanded that city workers agree to reducing hours and pay by 10 percent across the board.

The mayor claims that those refusing the pay cuts will have their work farmed out to private companies. Twenty smaller unions in the city have submitted to this blackmail and voted for the cuts. Another 20 or more unions have yet to agree to the scheme.

Voting for the cuts, however, has not saved any of the city workers from the threat of job elimination. In fact, the same day the 500 AFSCME layoffs were announced, the city revealed it had taken a further step toward the privatization of Emergency Medical Services (EMS). This was despite the EMS workers' union approving the 10 percent cut just weeks earlier.

The *Detroit Free Press* reported October 1 that the city's contract with a private ambulance service had been expanded from four to seven vehicles.

The drive toward privatization



Members of the United Auto Workers union picketing outside the GM plant in Lansing, Michigan. The strike lasted five days.

is aimed not just at lowering immediate costs, but at dividing workers and undermining the potential strength of public employee unions.

Michigan governor John Engler has discussed turning over operations such as state parks, mental health facilities, and prisons to private companies. On September 30, state workers rallied in Lansing to protest these plans.

Hormel meat-packers accept new contract

Members of the United Food and Commercial Workers union employed by the George Hormel Co. voted 1,078-643 to accept the company's three-year contract offer September 13. Voting took place at six plants in the United States that comprise the Hormel "chain": Algona, Iowa; Austin, Minnesota; Fremont, Nebraska; Atlanta; Houston; and Beloit, Wisconsin. Majorities voted down the pact at two plants, Atlanta and Beloit. All workers systemwide must abide by the majority vote in favor of the

contract.

After reconstituting the chain last fall, Hormel asked the union to enter into contract negotiations one year early. However, after rejecting Hormel's "final offer" last year the union refused to proceed with negotiations since nothing of substance was being offered.

This year Hormel demanded deeper cuts in health benefits than what their 1991 "final offer" contained. The company insisted that workers pay more for the health benefits package, doubling the weekly contribution for individual coverage by raising deductibles and copayment levels. Hormel also offered improvements in pension payments and a small pay increase. Newly hired workers must now work two years before earning the full pay scale of around \$11 per hour.

London airport workers accept new concessions

The basic wages of more than 150 workers employed by Air Canada at London's Heathrow Airport are being cut by 10 percent and will

then be frozen for two years. This announcement was made September 23 to workers employed in the commissary department, involving those in food preparation, washup, and stores, as well as drivers who deliver food and equipment to the aircraft.

This proposal was accepted by a 3-1 vote. This is the first time that a cut in basic pay has been made at Heathrow Airport, at a time when wage cuts are generally rare among major employers in Britain. Management has pressed for cuts in overtime pay at a number of airlines in recent months.

The wage cut comes a year after Air Canada workers accepted a major attack in which a two-year pay offer was tied to a deal whereby workers simply gave back to management 17 days each year. "That deal was bad enough," stated one worker. "But when they go for our basic pay, it affects everything — our bonuses, our overtime rate, our pensions, and even redundancy [unemployment] payments. With devaluation, everyone says that inflation will rise now, so we could be looking at over a third of our wages gone next year."

Many ramp workers feel the union should never have let management divide one department from the rest. "They'll be coming for us next, and we'll be that much weaker, because we let them pick off a more weakly organized section first. The union should have immediately called a meeting of the entire work force," one ramp worker said. "They shouldn't stop there," said another. "Management is regularly crossing the Atlantic to consult. You'd think the union could pick up the phone to see what's happening and how we can help each other."

The following people contributed to this week's column: John Sarge, member of United Auto Workers Local 900 in Wayne, Michigan; Steve Craine in Detroit; Salm Kolis and Jeff Rogers, members of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 442, in Atlanta; and Doreen Wepler, member of the Transport and General Workers Union at Air Canada in London.

LETTERS

World War II battles

While reading *Lenin's Struggle for a Revolutionary International: The Preparatory Years* I was struck by how little I know of the actual course of the two World Wars. I am sure that I am not alone.

1991 to 1995 are the 50th anniversary years of World War II. These anniversaries have been and will be used by the U.S. capitalist press to justify their imperialist aims; not only in that war but to prepare us for the future. We already witnessed a rise in Japan-bashing during the 50th anniversary of Pearl Harbor. I think that we can expect more as we come upon the anniversaries of important battles and turning points in the war.

The *Militant* should run an irregular series (i.e., not a weekly series) in which articles would appear near the dates of such anniversaries. The articles could explain the political significance of such battles. For instance, there will probably be articles in the capitalist media about the defeat of the German army in North Africa. What were the political and economic reasons that Germany was there? An article could explain how the inter-imperialist war was not just a war between those countries, but also a war to re-divide the colonized peoples amongst themselves.

Such articles could explain how communists worked, in and out of uniform, in different countries

under widely differing conditions to explain to workers how this war was not in our interests. While there is a "Vietnam syndrome," there is unfortunately not a World War II counterpart. Many workers still believe it was a necessary war and the imperialists will use that in coming confrontations between the ruling families of the capitalist countries.

One other suggestion of an immediate nature. Now that Perot is back in the race there is yet higher attention on the national deficit. It would be good to run an article on what role this debt actually plays in economics.

Tom Tomasko
Oakland, California

Nation of Islam

Recently I had the opportunity to attend a public meeting sponsored by the Nation of Islam and to hear Louis Farrakhan. This meeting was attended by close to 1,500 people, and while many were from outside the area, this event did generate a good deal of interest and discussion among working people and youth, especially within the Black community.

At the meeting Farrakhan downplayed his racist and anti-Semitic views, and instead presented himself as a populist. He spoke at length on the economic crisis facing the Black community in this country and outlined what he called a "three-year economic program,"

which he claimed would reverse this crisis.

At this meeting I also noticed that the Nation of Islam was selling a number of books by followers of Lyndon LaRouche.

I recall Malcolm X speaking about the connections between the Nation of Islam and various ultra-right-wing and racist organizations when he broke from it in 1964. Given the fact that the Nation of Islam seems to be getting somewhat of a hearing within the Black community and among some youth, I thought it might be helpful if the *Militant* could do some articles on the history of the Nation, the facts concerning the political break between Malcolm X and them, and where the Nation of Islam fits into politics today.

Mike Galati
Des Moines, Iowa

Soft on Catholicism?

While you make an excellent point by noting that the slogan "Take your rosaries off my ovaries" might offend some pro-choice Catholics, you tend to handle Catholicism with kid gloves. As the great 19th century freethinker Robert G. Ingersoll said of the Catholic Church: "In one hand she carried the alms dish. In the other, the dagger." And not much has changed since its inception. It is just too bad that so few socialists today have the courage to oppose oppressive reli-

gious teachings in an uncompromising manner.

Norm Allen Jr.
Buffalo, New York

Background on Somalia

I think it would be helpful for the *Militant* to do a background article on the civil war in Somalia. This article could take up the characterization of this war in the big-business press as being based on "clans and sub-clans." The implication of such a characterization is that Somalia has in some ways reverted back to a pre-class society. An article could address the role of the imperialist powers in the war, and explain the advantages and disadvantages of an extremely backward society to modern capitalism, perhaps in contrast to their relations with the semi-developed neocolonial countries of the Third World.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading the September *International Socialist Review* article on the life and contributions of George Novack. It was one of the more inspirational articles I can remember reading in some time. Keep up the good work.

Gary Boyers
Detroit, Michigan

'Evil Empire'

How does one come to socialist thought with no one as an example in the growing years of youth, especially when one comes from a long line of conservative Republi-

cans? I can answer this in only one way: if you believe in the capitalist system, you are either very rich or very ill-informed.

We have all heard here in America over the past decade the term "Evil Empire" used to describe the Soviet Union. Well, I believe that the true Evil Empire is alive and well and centered in Washington, D.C.! There is, in my mind, no more evil system than Capitalism — Conservative, Republican Capitalism especially!

Racist foreign policy, exemplified by the so-called contra war against Nicaragua where the "moral equivalent of our forefathers" targeted civilians as a matter of course, and the free-for-all, fire zone with strong anti-Arab overtones of the Gulf War, is goose-stepped all over the world in the name of "Freedom and Democracy."

The simple message etched in stone in a London cemetery says it with profound clarity: "Workers of the World Unite."

David Hawker
Ripley, New York

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.

Social crisis grows in Germany

BY CARL-ERIK ISACSSON

SCHWERIN, Germany — This town in northeastern Germany was the scene of an official celebration of Germany's two-year-old "reunification" October 3. Both Chancellor Helmut Kohl and President Richard von Weizsäcker participated.

The gathering was an illustration of the problems facing working people in eastern Germany and the difficulties the government is having in its attempt to cement the unification of the country. This area has been hard hit by unemployment and social unrest. Many industries and hospitals have closed. Agricultural production is decreasing. Violent attacks against immigrants as well as antiracist demonstrations have occurred just north of here in Wismar and Rostock.

Kohl admitted in his address, "A big part of the road is still before us. We underestimated the problems in eastern Germany. To get the economy going in the east will take longer and cost more money than we originally counted on."

Politicians of all parties are demanding sacrifices of working people and more resources for police to deal with the social unrest.

Supporters of abortion rights were on hand to press the fight for a woman's right to choose. A small demonstration of men, women, and children carried a coffin and banners that read, "Women have to have the right to decide for themselves." They had come here to protest attempts by the Kohl government to make abortion illegal in the east.

The demonstrators explained that women in the east had not yet realized that the right to abortion was threatened. Right-wing groups in the western part of Germany now try to mobilize against abortion rights, holding up graphic pictures of fetuses. The pro-choice activists felt more street mobilizations had to be organized across Germany to counter them.

Trade unions, tenant rights groups, and organizations of the unemployed put up information stalls, handing out leaflets protesting the closing of factories, hospitals, and cuts in social benefits. Several of the unions raised demands to shorten the work-



Ten thousand demonstrators in Berlin protesting racist attacks October 3 on the second anniversary of German reunification. Antiracist rallies also occurred in Frankfurt, Düsseldorf, and Nuremberg. Marchers carried signs saying "Hands off the right of asylum" and "No fourth Reich." Thousands of people also rallied at the former Nazi concentration camp in Sachsenhausen to demand an end to anti-Semitic and anti-foreigner attacks across Germany.

week to 35 hours without a cut in pay to fight unemployment. The unions also advanced the demand that wages be equalized for workers in the eastern and western parts of Germany.

A woman who handed out leaflets for the national union federation DGB explained that the unionized wages in the east today vary from 55 to 80 percent of the wages in the west and that the unions, especially in the east, want steps taken to reduce this gap.

The DGB also circulated petitions to protest government moves to restrict the right to asylum for refugees. The tenant unions protested the enormous rent hikes following privatization of housing in the east.

A couple of thousand people, many of whom had traveled from Berlin, gathered on the other side of town to protest the

official celebration. This rally was sponsored by the remains of the former ruling party in East Germany, and several other groups.

Local politicians and activists spoke against the rise in unemployment and the lack of resources provided by the Kohl government.

A political refugee spoke against the government's attempts to restrict the right to asylum and in favor of the right of all immigrants to stay in Germany.

One young demonstrator explained that in this part of Germany big landowners had owned the land before the defeat of the Nazi government in World War II. As the former Soviet army took over this area, most of the landowners fled to the West and the land was distributed to those who had worked for the landlords. Twenty years ago coopera-

tives and state-owned collective farms were formed and took over most of the land.

The agricultural sector produced enough food for the local market and substantial quantities for export to the Soviet Union and other countries in Eastern Europe. "Today," he said, "the land has been privatized by the Treuhand [the government agency in charge of privatization] and sold cheap or given back to the old landowners. They also lease the land to farmers in the west who have the resources to till it."

Many of those who worked on the land before are now unemployed or have moved to the west to take whatever job they can get. Most of the food consumed in this area now comes from the west.

Maria Hamberg and Dag Tirsén also contributed to this article.

'Small gain on the road to victory' for drywallers



BY JOEL BRITTON

IRVINE, California — The pictures above show striking drywall workers at a new housing tract under construction here. They tell a story being repeated daily in a four-county area in southern California, as a struggle initiated one year ago by a meeting of 40 drywallers and tapers has grown to embrace several thousands.

Strike activist Sixto España (with hand on fence) appeals to the three drywallers at this site. This day they happen to be Anglos,

earning the top pay scale being offered at present, since so many of the workers who normally cut and nail up plasterboard for contractors are now on strike. Most of the drywall strikers are Latinos.

España answers the workers' questions, telling them that the strikers have forced half-a-dozen contractors to comply with their demands and are now negotiating with a larger group of 30 contractors.

"If we all join together in the strike," España explains, "we can all get back to the

much higher wages and benefits and union protection that prevailed in housing construction a decade ago."

"Join us for lunch at the carpenters' union hall in Orange, so you can talk more with our organizing committee," España urges. He explains that all workers who actively join the strike will get help paying their rent and utility bills.

The drywallers inside the gate talk it over briefly, decide to join the strike, and tell the company guard to unlock the gate.



Militant photos by Joel Britton

In the photo on the right, the drywallers stop their truck so all the strikers can join in a celebration of another small gain on the road to victory over the contractors and the wealthy real estate developers who stand behind them.

Joel Britton is an oil refinery worker and a member of the Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers union. He is the Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate in California (full term).