

# THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Agricultural markets ease food shortages in Cuba

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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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## Ongoing protests needed to defend right to choose

January 22 actions help pressure gov't to protect clinics

BY CECILIA MORIARITY

BOSTON — "Stop Clinic Violence: Defend Abortion Rights!" That is what people will be demanding when they join the march and rally here January 22. The action was called by the Massachusetts National Organization for Women (NOW) in response to the December 30 shootings at two women's health clinics that provide abortions in nearby Brookline, Massachusetts. Two receptionists, Lee Ann Nichols and Shannon Lowney, were killed and five others seriously wounded.

In the wake of ongoing protests against the clinic attacks, Massachusetts governor William Weld organized a meeting with repre-

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## Rightist attacks on abortion rights can be pushed back

On January 22, the anniversary of the Supreme Court ruling legalizing abortion, thousands will mobilize to defend abortion rights — at a march and rally in Boston and in front of clinics and at other events across the United States.

The Boston demonstration will answer those who use murder to try to terrorize the majority who support keeping abortion safe and legal.

The killings in Massachusetts and Florida since 1993 come amid a retreat by the right-wing forces who want to push back abortion rights. "I think that extremists opposed to abortion got frustrated, felt they were losing the battle and felt it was incumbent

upon themselves to resort to violence," said one prominent rightist, Rev. Patrick Mahoney. He's right: opponents of women's rights have been losing the battle.

Ever since the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision, attacks on abortion rights have been led by capitalist politicians who adopted laws like the Hyde Amendment, which cut off funds for abortions for women who are poor. Many states passed parental consent restrictions and waiting periods. Access to an abortion has been limited for many women. The fact remains, however, that major inroads toward reversing Roe v. Wade have failed.

Operation Rescue and other right-wing outfits began blockading clinics in hopes of achieving by force what they had been unable to win in open debate. In the early 1990s something began happening in front of clinics that has not been seen in this country for decades — mobilizations of right-wing cadres preparing for street

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AP Wide World Photos/Scott Maguire  
Supporters of women's rights protest the murders of clinic workers in Boston. More actions are needed to defend abortion rights and pressure the government to protect right to choose.

## Currency chaos bred by bosses' downsizing

BY GREG ROSENBERG

The spasms seizing world financial and currency markets since the devaluation of the Mexican peso are described in the business press as a "flight to quality." The London *Economist* wags its finger that "the markets can be useful punishers of the profligate and rewarders of the virtuous."

In the past month the Mexican peso was devalued by 40 percent and the stock market there lost half of its value in dollar terms. Foreign capital investment in the so-called emerging markets of Latin America — and now Asia too — has temporarily nose-dived, as mutual fund managers and other investors seek hoped-for safer havens. Banks in Latin America are threatened with insolvency. Currency crises have wracked Italy, Spain, Sweden, and Canada.

These convulsions are rooted in the economic uncertainty and explosive political instability of world capitalism, which has been mired in depression conditions since the opening of the decade.

In the United States and other imperialist countries of North America, Europe, and Asia, the bosses are seeking to boost sagging profit rates by slashing costs, cutting jobs, and forcing a harder and faster pace of work. They are laying off workers and other employees, privatizing state-run industries, and targeting social benefits labor has fought for in order to guarantee lifetime security for working people.

Since 1990 the lurch of imperialist capital toward the so-called emerging markets has

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## Murder trial of framed-up miner closes

BY NED DMYTRYSHYN

YELLOWKNIFE, Northwest Territories — "The evidence does not prove his guilt, but his innocence. If you convict Roger Warren, the people who did this terrible crime would have gotten away with murder," said defense attorney Glenn Orris in his January 13 summation to the jury.

Roger Warren, a 51-year-old gold miner and member of Canadian Auto Workers Local 2304, faces frame-up charges of setting an explosion at Royal Oak's Giant Gold Mine in 1992. Nine replacement workers died in the explosion, which took place during an 18-month strike.

For 13 months after the blast hundreds of strikers, family members, and supporters were interrogated and harassed by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). Their phones were wiretapped. Some had their houses searched. Warren himself was interrogated 12 times.

The company used this cop "investigation" to wear down strikers and undercut community support for their fight. One year after the blast, Royal Oak owner Peggy Witte announced that until an arrest was made she would refuse to negotiate with the union.

Under the pressures of this cop operation, and the prospect of no end to the strike, Warren falsely confessed.

"It's difficult to defend this case because

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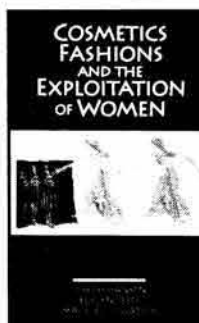
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BY JOSEPH HANSEN AND EVELYN REED, INTRODUCTION BY MARY-ALICE WATERS  
Jumping off from big business's profiteering on cosmetics and fashions, this book looks at the origins of women's oppression and how women's growing numbers in the workforce has irreversibly changed U.S. society and spurred struggles for full equality. Published by Pathfinder.

Growing impoverishment fuels Algeria's civil war — page 3





## Bonn to deport Vietnamese

The German government announced January 11 it would deport 40,000 undocumented Vietnamese workers in a deal with Hanoi for economic aid and trade. "Only a small percentage want to go back voluntarily," according to Phan Huy Oanh, a Vietnamese refugee who has lived in Europe for 20 years.

German capitalists hope the agreement will help them penetrate Vietnamese markets. Daimler-Benz A.G., the automotive giant, said it was planning to build a \$70 million bus factory in Ho Chi Minh City. The agreement includes a \$130 million aid package from the German government, some of which is supposedly to be directed towards getting the refugees settled.

## Oslo, Reykjavik in fishing war

The government of Canada angered Icelandic officials recently by signing a far-reaching fishing agreement with Oslo, recognizing Norway's exclusive rights over the arctic archipelago of Svalbard. The governments of Norway and Iceland have been involved in a bitter conflict over cod fishing in this disputed area. The cod war took a sharpened turn in June 1994 when Norwegian authorities fired warning shots and cut the wires holding the nets of Icelandic fishing trawlers sitting in the contested area.

## Death squad links rock Madrid

A judicial investigation has linked the government of Spanish prime minister Felipe González with secret death squads who murdered Basque separatists in the mid-1980s. The scandal has generated pressure on González, who denies the charges, to resign or call early elections. The crisis has badly shaken Spain's financial markets.

Two cops who were convicted in 1991 of ordering or carrying out the murders have implicated the government. Since they began to talk, two other police officers and two former government officials have been arrested on charges connecting them to the death squads.

## Zagreb ends UN troop accords

Croatian president Franjo Tudjman announced January 12 that the 12,000 United Nations troops stationed in Croatia would



British troops will halt daytime patrols in Belfast January 16, the first withdrawal to barracks in 25 years. London deployed its occupation army in Northern Ireland in 1969 to break the resistance of Irish Catholics to the discrimination they face. Some 18,000 British troops remain posted there.

have to leave when their mandate ends March 31. Zagreb, the Croatian capital, is the headquarters for all UN operations in the former Yugoslavia.

Tudjman's government wants to put an end to the protection afforded an enclave of Serbs within Croatia's borders by a buffer of UN troops. Tudjman warned that the war fought in 1991 between Croat and Serb forces, at a cost of more than 10,000 lives, would be renewed if Serbs living in the Krajina region do not accept Zagreb's dictates.

## U.S. capitalists eye India market

Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown will visit India soon with top executives from 25 major U.S. corporations to work out deals involving several billion dollars in investments. A recent survey of 230 multinational corporations saw India as prime for future investment, ranking second only to China.

Brown, who went on a similar mission five months earlier to China, will nail down deals involving telecommunications, agri-

cultural industries, and infrastructure projects. International investments swelled to more than \$30 billion in China last year, compared to less than \$2 billion in India.

## Beijing orders Boeing jets

Beijing recently placed a \$300 million order for three Boeing 767-300 jetliners. China had suspended its purchases of airplanes from U.S. manufacturers last year following several flight mishaps and fatal crashes.

According to the *Wall Street Journal*, the Chinese government may use airplane orders as leverage in its trade disputes with Washington. China is the world's fastest growing aviation market and U.S. companies are hoping to tap into it.

## Attacks launched in Rwanda

About 50 former soldiers of Rwanda's ousted government launched an attack from Zaire on a small fishing village in Rwanda January 11. Six fishermen are presumed dead. A UN military official in the capital Kigali asserted that the assault was the start of armed actions to recapture power.

Rwanda Patriotic Front troops confronted the attackers in a two-hour fire fight, driving them back into Zaire. The Patriotic Front formed a new government after routing the old army, which murdered 500,000 Rwandans last year.

## Cops attack Cubans in Bahamas

Bahamian guards assaulted Cuban refugees at a detention camp in Nassau after 22 escaped January 3. One woman described how she was beaten by the cops and required stitches in her left ear and the side of her head.

More than 50 guards brandishing batons

and automatic weapons descended on the camp January 5, in order to transfer 152 Cuban men to prison. Nassau's director of immigration, who tried to deny the violence inflicted by the cops, stated that the government was trying to find another country willing to accept the refugees.

## Cubans to be jailed indefinitely

The U.S. Ninth Court of Appeals in San Francisco ruled January 12 that some Cuban inmates can be kept in jail indefinitely, even after serving out their convictions. This measure applies to 3,000-5,000 Cubans convicted of crimes since coming to the United States as part of the exodus of 125,000 people through the port of Mariel in 1980. The U.S. government contends that most of those who left Cuba then were criminals or mentally-disturbed.

## Orange County files lawsuit

Officials in Orange County, California, filed suit against Merrill Lynch and Co. for \$3 billion in damages January 12. The suit contends that the brokerage firm misrepresented and sold risky securities for the county's investment pool in violations of state and federal law. The county filed for bankruptcy December 6 after its \$7.4 billion-investment fund defaulted on a loan from another Wall Street firm.

In 1987 another brokerage firm, Morgan Stanley, was ordered to pay the state of West Virginia more than \$30 million after the state's investment pool lost \$279 million. That case is currently under appeal.

## U.S. mine deaths hit 43 last year

Nationwide, 43 coal miners died on the job in 1994, down slightly from the 47 who were killed in 1993. Dec. 30, 1994, marked the 25th anniversary of the federal Mine Health and Safety Act. Since the law establishing federal government oversight of mine safety was put into effect, mine fatalities have dropped dramatically.

In the 24 years before the act was approved, 901 workers died in coal mine explosions, while 133 miners have died in such blasts in the 24 years since. Roof cave-ins killed 777 miners from 1971 to 1994, a drop from the time period spanning the years 1947 to 1970 when more than 5,000 miners died from roof collapses.

## Maternal deaths high for Blacks

Black women are three times more likely to die of pregnancy complications than white women, stated a January 12 report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In 1990, the maternal death ratio for Black women was 18.6 per 100,000 pregnancies while for white women the rate was 5.7 per 100,000 pregnancies.

The CDC reports that Blacks are twice as likely not to receive prenatal care as whites in their first trimester of pregnancy. CDC officials cited being unable to afford adequate health care as among the reasons for the disparity.

— BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

## THE MILITANT

## Defend abortion rights

*In cities across the country defenders of a woman's right to choose are mobilizing to defend abortion rights. These actions are an effective response to the rightist thugs and antiabortion forces who seek to send women back to the days of the back-alley abortionists. The 'Militant' covers the fight to defend women's rights. Don't miss a single issue!*



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# Impoverishment fuels Algeria's civil war

BY PAT SMITH

Representatives of Algerian opposition parties announced proposals January 13 calling on the discredited military government to restore free political activity, recognize the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), and release hundreds of jailed political opponents. Since the FIS was banned in 1992 following a military coup, more than 30,000 people have been killed in an ongoing civil war. The conflict claims 800 lives a week.

The FIS is the main rival bourgeois party to the National Liberation Front (FLN), which had governed Algeria for

nearly three decades prior to the military takeover. The FIS has gained growing support by castigating the FLN government, and now the current regime, for the mounting corruption, deteriorating economy, and impoverishment of growing layers of working people.

The FIS, which won the first round of elections overwhelmingly in December 1991, advocates establishing what it calls an Islamic state. To block an FIS government, President Chadli Benjedid of the FLN resigned "in the interest of the stability of the nation" and handed the reins over to a military council.

The new government annulled the election, imposed a state of emergency, banned the FIS, and launched a campaign of brutal repression against its political opponents, some of whom have taken up arms. Since then the regime has been anything but stable, however. The council in January 1994 appointed Gen. Lamane Zeroual as Algeria's fourth head of state in just over two years.

"The security forces carry out killings and extrajudicial executions daily and in total impunity," said an Amnesty International report released last March. "Armed Islamist opposition groups continue to kill

civilians targeting a growing sector of the civilian population," the report continued.

The recent agreement by the FIS, FLN, Front of Socialist Forces, and smaller parties at a meeting in Rome marks the first time they have formed a common front against the military regime. The proposal calls for the right to free assembly, including for those waging armed struggle; an end to press censorship and torture; and a halt by all sides to violent attacks against civilians and non-Algerians. The agreement proposes an investigation into killings over the last year of journalists, women not wearing veils, children, immigrants, and tourists.

The former FLN regime came to power following the overthrow of the Algerian workers and farmers government, which emerged in 1963 from a powerful social revolution that ended 130 years of French colonial rule. The anticapitalist government, headed by Ahmed Ben Bella of the National Liberation Front, launched a land reform, expropriated much imperialist-owned industry, expanded workers control in many factories, solidarized with the young socialist revolution in Cuba, and actively aided the African National Congress of South Africa. In 1965 bourgeois forces within the FLN took advantage of political retreats by the revolutionary forces to carry out a military coup.

The new FLN regime consolidated capitalist rule and brutally demobilized struggles by peasants and urban workers to better their conditions. It is the failure of a quarter century of capitalism in Algeria — compounded by the economic depression besetting that social system worldwide — that is at the root of the current strife in the oil-rich nation of 27 million, the most populous in North Africa.

Working people's hatred of the regime has grown since it imposed an austerity program in April 1994 to satisfy the International Monetary Fund in exchange for rescheduling Algeria's \$26 billion foreign debt. Last year interest payments to imperialist banks absorbed the country's entire export earnings.

Twenty-five percent of the country's workforce is unemployed, and among youth the jobless rate reaches 75 percent. Inflation is high and working people wait in long lines for such staples as semolina, bread, and oil.

The big-business press in the imperialist countries attributes the crisis in Algeria to rising "Islamic fundamentalism." But the

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## Palestinians protest Israel land grab

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

Marching and planting tree saplings on lands confiscated from them, Palestinians have organized daily protests against the expansion of Israeli settlements in the West Bank since late December. "The Jews want to take our land," Diab Abdel-Moti Nasser told the *New York Times*. "I've been working this land since I was a child. I inherited it from my father and he inherited it from his father."

In Al Khader, some 300 Palestinians locked arms in front of an Israeli bulldozer to stop the building of 500 housing units December 27. At least 35 Palestinians were arrested, as Israeli troops fired tear gas at demonstrators. About 30 Israelis from the Peace Now Movement joined the protest.

Tensions escalated when a settler's house in Hebron was hit by an antitank rocket January 15. The previous week, settlers at Elkana bulldozed 22 acres on a hill and fenced in an area they claim was illegally occupied by Palestinians.

Skirmishes such as these have stoked pressures within the Palestinian leadership, including the Jericho-based Palestinian Authority headed by Yasir Arafat. A January 9 meeting attended by 4 of the 19 members of the authority's governing council, as well as representatives of West Bank regions and political groups, called on the authority to confront the settlements and "suspend negotiations" in order to halt Tel Aviv's "policy of settlement expansion."

Hanan Ashrawi, a former spokeswoman for the Palestinian negotiating team, said the settlements were "emptying the negotiating process of meaning."



Israeli troops aim weapons at Palestinians to block march toward Israeli settlement. Tel Aviv has confiscated more than 27 square miles in West Bank in past 16 months.

"What we see is not a roll-back, but an expansion of settlement and reinforcement of settlement activity," said an official in the Palestinian Authority.

The 1993 agreement on limited self-rule for Palestinians in the West Bank town of Jericho and the Gaza Strip postponed negotiations on settlements in these regions. According to the Palestinian Authority, the Israeli government has confiscated more than 27 square miles of West Bank land in the 16 months since the accord was signed.

The number of Israelis living in the West Bank has increased by about 17 percent — to 141,000 — since Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin took office in

1992. Tel Aviv reportedly is also planning to build 10,000 or more new apartments in eastern Jerusalem — areas of the city Palestinians demand be returned.

"We've always said to the Israelis, the moment of truth will come. Settlements or peace, you can't have both," a Palestine Liberation Organization leader told the *Washington Post*.

Summing up the situation, an editorial in the January 9 issue of the *Christian Science Monitor* stated, "The Nobel Prize has not changed a central truth: Israel is an occupying power and Arabs in Israel and the territories do not share the rights that Jews have."

## 'Militant' announces new editor, staff writers

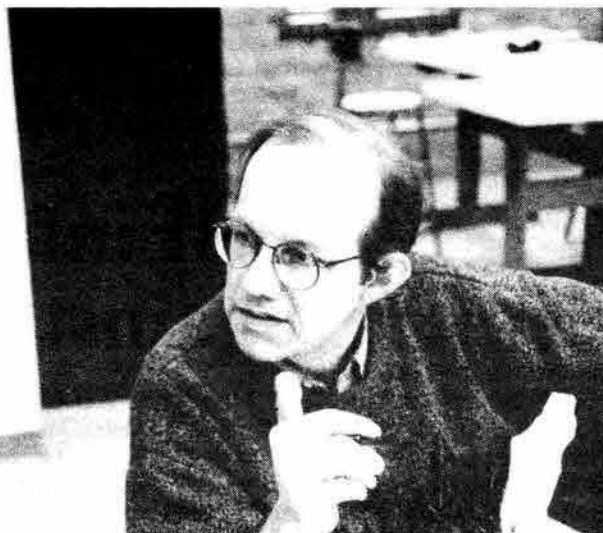
BY NAOMI CRAINE

With this issue, the *Militant* announces several staff changes that will enable the socialist weekly to continue providing timely and perceptive news and analysis of world politics from the standpoint of the working class.

Steve Clark is the *Militant's* new editor. In December Clark headed up a team to South Africa that reported on the challenges and struggles facing working people in advancing the democratic revolution there. The team, which included Vana Knap, Greg McCartan, and Greg Rosenberg, also covered the African National Congress's 49th national conference.

Clark, 46, who remains managing editor of the Marxist magazine *New Internationalist*, was for several years editorial director for Pathfinder Press. He edited *Nelson Mandela Speaks*, a selection of the ANC leader's speeches since his release from apartheid's prisons in 1990, as well as *February 1965: The Final Speeches* by Malcolm X and other titles by the U.S. revolutionary leader. Clark is co-author with Jack Barnes of "The politics of economics: Che Guevara and Marxist continuity" in *New Internationalist* no. 8.

The *Militant* also has two new staff writers. Laura Garza, 36, was a factory worker and member of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) in Miami before joining the staff in New York. From Florida she has written for the *Militant* on protests against Washington's treatment of Haitian refugees, abortion rights demonstrations, developments in Puerto Rico, and actions in defense of the Cuban revolution. The *Militant* recently asked Garza to cover the



Militant/Greg Rosenberg



Militant/Marea Himelgrin

New members of the *Militant* staff. Left, editor Steve Clark and Laura Garza. Above, Damon Tinnon.

tour of two Young Socialists leaders who spoke to workers and youth in Cuba in December. As Washington stepped up threats and tightened economic and travel restrictions against Cuba last year, Garza joined *Perspectiva Mundial* editor Martin Koppel in covering demonstrations by young people in Cuba to defend the socialist revolution. Last June she attended a University of Havana conference and reported on political developments in Cuba.

Damon Tinnon, 21, is a leader of the Young Socialists. He comes to the staff after working in a steel mill near Minneapolis, where he was a USWA member. Before joining the socialist movement, Tinnon was active in fights against racism and budget cuts at the University of Minnesota. He was part of the faculty-student commit-

tee based on that campus that organized a U.S. speaking tour for Cuban youth leader Pavel Díaz last year.

Tinnon is currently in Cuba, along with some 70 other young people, as part of an international brigade. They are learning more about Cuba's socialist revolution, offering solidarity, and reporting for campus and community press. Tinnon and several others will remain in Havana to cover the 100th anniversary commemoration of the death of Cuban independence fighter José Martí.

Sara Lobman, who had been on the *Militant* staff since August 1992, has now joined Pathfinder Press as an editor. She is currently preparing copy for the publisher's new 1995 catalog. After that Lobman will begin work on Pathfinder's pro-

gram of reprints and new books and pamphlets. Besides these staff changes, Naomi Craine is again working for the *Militant* full time after a five-month leave of absence.

Craine was released from the paper in August to campaign as the Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate in New York.

In December she was part of the Young Socialist speaking tour in Cuba, together with Brian Taylor, a rail worker from Chicago. Craine is the *Militant's* business manager as well as a staff writer.

Argiris Malapanis, the *Militant's* managing editor since April 1993, is taking on increasing national responsibility for the work of the Socialist Workers Party. He will continue contributing to the paper as a staff writer.



# International campaign to sell and study New International ♦ The Militant ♦ Perspectiva Mundial

## 700 of new issue already sold

BY NAOMI CRAINE

Demonstrations in Boston and other cities in defense of abortion rights January 22 and student protests against education cuts across Canada January 25 are some of the places supporters of *New International* will be campaigning with issue no. 10 of the Marxist magazine this week. Participants in these actions will be able to take advantage of a special offer to buy the new issue plus an introductory *Militant* subscription for just \$20.

### In the unions

*New International* no. 10  
goals

ACTWU/	
ILGWU	10
IAM	40
OCAW	30
UAW	50
UFCW	5
UMWA	10
USWA	20
UTU	55
<b>Total</b>	<b>220</b>

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

Nearly 700 copies of *New International* no. 10 had been sold four weeks into a 10-week sales campaign. Supporters of the socialist press around the world are aiming to get 1,500 copies into the hands of workers, students, and others by the end of February. They are also working to increase the number of long-term readers of the socialist press by selling 320 subscription renewals to the *Militant* and 80 to the Spanish-language magazine *Perspectiva Mundial*.

This renewal drive is behind schedule, but there are plenty of opportunities to catch up. One reader just called the *Militant* to ask how to order *New International* no. 10 when he sends in his renewal. Many other subscribers will want to do the same.

Supporters of *New International* have begun to hold classes on the articles in issue no. 10. In Morgantown, West Virginia, a young woman who works at a fast food restaurant came to the first class. She had attended a forum on the fight to defend abortion rights a week before and bought a copy of the magazine. Several other people who were invited to the class also bought copies.

Distributors in many cities report discussions with union members and other workers who are trying to understand what is happening in the world today. The articles in *New International* no. 10—"Defending Cuba, defending Cuba's socialist revolution"; "What the 1987 stock market crash foretold"; and "Imperialism's

march toward fascism and war"—provide clear political answers to this question.

A *New International* supporter in Greensboro, North Carolina, reported that three of her coworkers, members of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, have bought issue no. 10 so far. "There's an awful lot in there," one worker commented after borrowing a copy to look at overnight. They plan to discuss the articles together at work as he reads through the issue.

Kip Hedges, a member of the International Association of Machinists who works at Northwest Airlines in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota, said "trying to figure out what is happening in Mexico" was part of why one baggage handler at work decided to buy the *New International*. Hedges said the coworker is also grappling with how to use the union as a tool "to fight Northwest's attacks, instead of following the company's dictates."

Members of nine industrial unions in the United States have taken goals to sell 220 copies of *New International* no. 10 to their coworkers during the sales campaign. Beginning next week, the *Militant* will be reporting the results of this effort as well.

A reminder to our readers, subscription renewals and reports on sales of *New International* must arrive at the *Militant*'s business office by Tuesday, January 24, at noon E.S.T. to be included in next week's chart.

## Prison authorities say no to shorter lockup for Mark Curtis

BY JOHN STUDER

DES MOINES, Iowa — On December 19 authorities at the Iowa State Penitentiary overturned the recommendation of the prison's classification committee assigned to meet with political activist Mark Curtis and make proposals on his status.

Curtis is being held in the lockup unit of the maximum security prison. In September he was sentenced to 30 days "in the hole" (in total isolation) and a year in lockup after being convicted on a trumped-up charge of assaulting another inmate.

Curtis's classification committee—composed of his counselor, a psychologist, and the manager of the lockup unit—proposed that 30 days be taken off his full-year sentence to lockup based on good behavior. Curtis "has continued to maintain above average attitude and behavior, interacts appropriately with both staff and other inmates and does maintain his cell and personal hygiene in an above average manner," the committee said. But the acting warden accepted the security director's recommendation to reject the committee proposal.

In 1988, Curtis was arrested, beaten by the Des Moines police, and framed up on charges of rape and burglary. He was seized while participating in a campaign to win freedom for 17 coworkers at the Monfort meatpacking plant.

The 17, from Mexico and El Salvador, had been jailed after an immigration raid on the plant and threatened with deportation. Curtis joined with dozens of other coworkers and activists to speak out against the raid and arrests. Hours before he was thrown in jail

he spoke out in Spanish at a protest meeting, calling for their union, the United Food and Commercial Workers, to help lead the fight to defend the 17 packinghouse workers.

After six years behind bars, Curtis and his supporters around the world were pressing for his release on parole last year when prison officials charged him with assaulting another inmate. He was convicted before a kangaroo court on the basis of the charge by a prison guard and testimony of a "confidential informant" that Curtis was not allowed to hear.

The union and political activist was denied representation by a lawyer, shackled hand and foot during his hearing, and denied the right to cross examine. The hearing officer admitted the evidence was "not the best" but found Curtis guilty and rendered the maximum sentence under prison regulations. Since then authorities have unilaterally altered prison rules and begun denying time off for good behavior to many prisoners in lockup.

In mid-January Curtis's classification committee once again recommended a 30-day cut—the third time in two months it has proposed time off.

The committee informed Curtis it assumes the proposal will be rejected as the last two have. The arbitrary new policy is the object of a legal challenge by another inmate that is scheduled to be heard in court in March.

Curtis also has an appeal of his conviction pending before the U.S. Eighth Circuit Federal Court of Appeals, based in St. Louis. The Court had set oral arguments on Curtis's motion for January 11.

William Kutmus, Curtis's lead counsel, was scheduled to argue against the violations of his constitutional rights in the 1988 trial. On January 6, however, the clerk of the court informed Kutmus that the appeals court had decided to consider the case solely on the basis of written legal submissions. A ruling is pending.

To join the fight to win freedom for Curtis, contact the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311; or call (515) 246-1695.

## FBI informer central to charges against daughter of Malcolm X

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

Qubilah Shabazz, daughter of revolutionary leader Malcolm X, was arrested in Minneapolis January 12 on federal charges of conspiring to kill Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan. Shabazz's court-appointed attorney Scott Tilsen said she had been set up by a former high school classmate who is an FBI informer.

"We believe the evidence will show that the other person, at all times, was working for the government and that she was seduced into this whole alleged scheme to kill Farrakhan," Tilsen told the *New York Times*.

Michael Fitzpatrick, the stool-pigeon who will testify against Shabazz, was used by the FBI to infiltrate political groups, including the right-wing Jewish Defense League (JDL). He was convicted at age 17 in the bombing of a Manhattan bookstore that sold Russian

books from the Soviet Union and later was an informer in a 1978 bomb plot against an Egyptian tourism office in Manhattan.

Court documents show that he agreed to supply dynamite for the bombing, which failed, and taped a conversation between two JDL members that led to their arrest. Fitzpatrick "was arrested and he made a deal. The deal was that he would inform on me," said Victor Vancier, a former JDL member who served 21 months in prison as a result of Fitzpatrick's testimony. "He hated Black people," Chaim Ben Pessach, the other jailed former JDL member, said of Fitzpatrick. "But he never called them Black people. He used the n-word. He despised Black people, loathed Black people."

Fitzpatrick was placed in the federal witness protection program under a new name after the trial and moved to a Minneapolis sub-

urb. There he joined an anarchist group called the Back Room in 1986.

Christopher Gunderson, a member of the group, said in a written statement that Fitzpatrick "thought we should carry out some sort of attack on a polling place with guns or Molotov cocktails." The group expelled Fitzpatrick over the provocations.

Fitzpatrick is currently facing five years imprisonment for a 1993 drug charge.

Qubilah Shabazz's mother, Betty Shabazz, told the Associated Press that her daughter was framed. "It is unfortunate that anyone would do that to a young woman. It says how quick people are and how they will do anything to get their political ends."

Farrakhan and other spokespersons for the Nation of Islam have said Qubilah Shabazz was set up by forces seeking to divide Blacks.

Sold to date: 46%  
Should be: 40%

*New International* no. 10  
*Militant* renewals  
*Perspectiva Mundial* renewals

	goal	sold	percent	goal	sold	goal	sold
Philadelphia	50	34	68%	10	0	—	0
Miami	35	23	66%	13	1	6	0
Des Moines, IA	30	18	60%	9	1	4	0
Morgantown, WV	25	15	60%	4	0	0	0
Los Angeles	100	55	55%	20	0	10	0
Peoria, IL	20	11	55%	6	3	0	0
Twin Cities, MN	50	27	54%	14	0	2	0
Boston	45	24	53%	12	1	4	0
Pittsburgh	40	21	53%	11	0	2	0
Seattle	40	20	50%	9	1	2	0
New York	100	48	48%	13	0	4	0
San Francisco	90	43	48%	16	1	5	0
Houston	25	11	44%	8	0	2	0
Atlanta	30	13	43%	9	5	2	1
Brooklyn	100	43	43%	12	0	4	0
Detroit	40	17	43%	11	0	2	0
Salt Lake City	45	17	38%	13	1	3	0
Washington, DC	45	17	38%	10	3	3	0
Birmingham, AL	40	14	35%	8	0	2	0
Newark, NJ	100	33	33%	12	0	3	0
Greensboro, NC	35	11	31%	7	1	2	0
Chicago	50	—	0%	15	1	3	0
Cleveland	—	17	0%	—	0	—	0
St. Louis	—	6	0%	—	0	—	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,135</b>	<b>538</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>1</b>

Australia 16 6 38% 9 0 2 0

Britain  
Manchester 40 19 48% — 0 — 0  
London 55 23 42% — 0 — 0  
**Total 95 42 44% — 0 — 0**

Canada  
Vancouver 35 18 51% — 0 — 0  
Toronto 55 25 45% — 3 — 0  
Montreal 45 20 44% — 0 — 0  
**Total 135 63 47% — 3 — 0**

France 20 — 0% — — — —

Iceland 4 1 25% 5 0 0 0

New Zealand  
Christchurch 15 8 53% 5 0 0 0  
Auckland 30 14 47% 10 1 1 1  
Wellington 3 1 33% 5 1 0 0  
**Total 48 23 48% 20 2 1 1**

Sweden 15 8 53% 7 3 3 0

**Total 1,468 681 46% 283 27 71 2**  
**SHOULD BE 1,500 600 40% 320 128 80 32**



# New Jersey 'sex offense' law curtails rights

BY CLIVE TURNBULL

NEWARK, New Jersey — Police in Pine Beach, New Jersey, recently visited stores, went door-to-door, and distributed packets to elementary school pupils with the photograph and address of a prisoner convicted of a sex offense who planned to move to the town upon release.

The police were implementing a part of Megan's Law that went into effect in this state January 1.

Megan's Law is a package of reactionary measures rushed through the New Jersey state legislature following the rape and murder of seven-year-old Megan Kanka. The man charged of the crime lived near her family's home and had been found guilty and sentenced for two prior offenses

against children.

The new law requires police to notify neighbors, schools, and other institutions when a convicted sex offender moves into the locality. Convicted offenders are required to notify police of their address every 90 days.

Other measures include refusing parole to prisoners in the Adult Diagnostic and Treatment Center prison at Avenel if they do not participate in psychotherapy or other treatment; lifetime supervision of convicted offenders after parole terms expire; a register recording DNA samples of all current and past offenders, to be linked with a federal registry established under the Clinton administration's crime bill; and expanded state powers to confine convicts

to psychiatric hospitals upon release.

The notification provision has already resulted in vigilantism and scapegoating of released prisoners.

On January 5 the Guardian Angels handed out flyers to pupils at a Passaic elementary school containing the photo and address of a man just released after serving 12 years for kidnapping and rape.

On January 10 Kenneth Kerekes and his son were arrested after breaking into a house in Phillipsburg and assaulting an occupant whom they mistakenly believed to be a man recently released after a sex offense conviction.

On January 12 two individuals in Woodbridge and Springfield protested that police had incorrectly notified neighbors

that convicted offenders would be living at their houses, resulting in threats against the homeowners.

Jack Furlong of the Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, and others are seeking to have Megan's Law overturned. A federal court in Newark in early January issued a preliminary injunction barring community notification in the case of a recently released prisoner who moved to Passaic. Courts in California, Illinois, Arizona, New Hampshire, and Alaska have previously struck down community notification statutes as unconstitutional.

Clive Turnbull is a member of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 8-406 in Newark, New Jersey.

## Governor seeks to still abortion rights protests

Continued from front page

sentatives of the clinics and some pro-choice groups to urge a moratorium on demonstrations by both opponents and defenders of a woman's right to control her body. Following this call for "dialogue," representatives of the two facilities where the murders occurred advocated an end to public clinic defense. Boston's Bernard Cardinal Law, who also met with Weld, had earlier called for a moratorium on clinic protests by antiabortion forces.

Big-business press tries to quell actions

The big-business press in the Boston area is also pressing women's rights supporters to stop further protests. "This is the time to defuse zeal with quiet reason," said an editorial in the *Boston Globe*, "and to remind both sides of the debate that has split the country for more than 20 years that common purpose can be shared in a general agreement to cease demonstrations, pro and con, that might erupt in violence."

"Although advocates of the right to abortion were outraged by the savage attacks, they would do more harm than good by appearing at the sites today to show their support," opined Leonard Greene in his column in the *Boston Herald* January 9. Meanwhile, some antiabortion protests

are still being organized outside clinics, with up to 30 people at one site on Saturday, January 14. Massachusetts Citizens for Life, while saying it will refrain from clinic protests, has called a rally against abortion, also to be held January 22; Cardinal Law will be the featured speaker. The same day ultrarightist politician Patrick Buchanan will speak at a New Hampshire antiabortion event that includes a march past the Concord Feminist Health Center.

Despite efforts by capitalist politicians and media to demobilize defenders of abortion rights, however, volunteers have been turning out to publicize the January 22 rally at subway stops, campuses, and elsewhere. Some 12,000 leaflets were distributed in just three days the week before the rally.

The killings and response to them have been a big topic of discussion at workplaces here as well. Coworkers of Margo Storsteen, a rail worker and activist building the January 22 demonstration, saw her on television in front of one of the clinics where the shooting occurred. The next day one of them came down to participate in a rally of 2,000 at the State House that she had learned about from Storsteen. "She said she had never done anything like this before," Storsteen said, "and that she thought there was a need for working people



Impact Visuals/Marilyn Humphries

Vigil at State House in Boston December 31, one day after anti-abortion rightist John Salvi shot two clinic workers to death and injured five in Brookline, Massachusetts.

to participate in these protests to show their anger at the murders and to support abortion rights."

Getting more people involved

After seeing leaflets for the rally posted by a worker at Northwest Airlines at Logan Airport, other workers helped hang them on the union bulletin boards in the break rooms. One worker took some over to the ticket agents' break room saying, "I think getting more people involved in this can do more to stop what happened at the clinics and make it better for people who want to use them."

"In one discussion I had with a coworker from the Dominican Republic, he told me he was opposed to abortion but he also op-

posed the murders at the clinics," said Karen Ray, a member of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union who works at a textile mill in Lawrence, Massachusetts, about 35 miles north of Boston.

"I explained my view that the right to abortion is a question of women fighting for independence and control over their own lives," Ray said. "I asked, isn't it true that thousands of women die from abortions where it is illegal?" Her coworker agreed that abortion should be safe and legal, whether or not any particular individual agrees with the decision to have one.

Cecelia Moriarity is a member of International Association of Machinists Local 1726 in Boston.

## Women's clinic workers expose police spying in Vancouver

BY BONITA MURDOCK

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — Workers at the Everywoman's Health Centre, an independent abortion clinic here, uncovered an operation by a local cop to feed antiabortion forces personal information on clinic workers. The information was gathered by accessing computer files of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP).

During the September 1994 trial of anti-abortion thug Gordon Watson, it was disclosed that he acquired personal information using license plate numbers he had gathered. Clinic workers had complained to the police in September that antiabortionists were seen taking down their license plate numbers.

Given the lack of action by the cops, three employees at the facility filed a freedom of information request with the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC).

The ICBC discovered that several unexplained requests for files with information on clinic workers had been made through RCMP computers. The agency informed

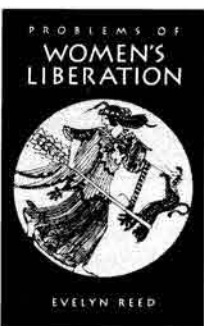
the RCMP of this in December but it was not until January 4 that the RCMP finally visited the police in the Vancouver suburb of Delta with information that one of their officers, Steve Parker, had used the RCMP computer to obtain unauthorized information about pro-choice activists and clinic workers.

Parker, treasurer of Campaign Life Coalition of British Columbia, told a *Vancouver Sun* reporter that he would not deny calling up the unauthorized information. Both parents of the Delta cop are also active in Campaign Life.

Although he has admitted committing this criminal breach of trust, Parker has not been suspended from the police force. Instead, he has been reassigned to a desk job for the duration of the investigation, which is ongoing.

Kim Zander, a clinic representative, said that "given what was said [by Gordon Watson] on the stand in the courtroom in September," clinic workers are fearful that antiabortionists in other jobs with access to private information about people may also be abusing their power.

### FROM PATHFINDER... THE FIGHT FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS



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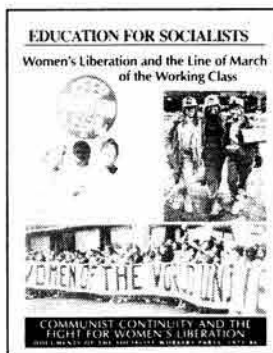
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# Socialists conclude Delaware ballot fight

BY BOB STANTON

PHILADELPHIA — Having earlier set back the government of Delaware's unconstitutional efforts to require individuals to list their Social Security numbers in order to sign up to put candidates on the ballot, the Socialist Workers Party has recently dropped its lawsuit challenging other restrictive aspects of the state's election laws. In an agreement signed by lawyers for the state of Delaware and those representing the SWP in early December 1994 the suit was dismissed without prejudice.

The case, originally filed in October 1992, stemmed from the exclusion of Socialist Workers 1992 presidential slate of James Warren for president and Estelle DeBates for vice president from the ballot and harassment of their campaign supporters.

After socialist campaigners collected 3,000 signatures, well over the required number for independent candidates, the state election board disqualified hundreds of names for not including Social Security numbers. Even the mayor of Wilmington, Delaware, had his signature invalidated.

The American Civil Liberties Union in Delaware, on behalf of the Socialist Workers campaign, filed suit demanding that the Social Security requirement be lifted as it conflicted with the right to privacy.

Faced with a campaign waged by defenders of democratic rights, Delaware officials offered the socialists a settlement in April 1993 removing the obligation from all future petitioning efforts. The state also granted the socialist's lawyers legal fees.

The suit also challenged the provision requiring political parties to register ".05

percent of the total number of voters registered in the state" in the name of the party in order for a candidate to appear on the ballot under a party designation. According to the law 145 people in Delaware would have had to register as Socialist Workers Party members for the party to appear on the ballot. In 1992, rather than attempt to comply with that provision, Socialist Workers candidates ran as independents with no party designation.

## Undemocratic election laws

Some of Delaware's undemocratic election laws were written in 1976 as a way to exclude candidates other than the Democrats and Republicans from the ballot. That year a number of parties, including the SWP, were on the Delaware ballot.

In 1992, authorities in Delaware made a concerted effort to keep the socialist alternative off the ballot. In addition to invalidating signatures, lawyers for the state intimidated they had opened a criminal investigation against campaign supporters who gathered signatures. Letters were sent to 26 signers of Socialist Workers petitions asking whether they had put their names on the document. Police visited the home of at least one socialist campaign petitioner.

The threat of criminal prosecutions, designed to have a chilling effect, prompted supporters of democratic rights to rally behind the fight for democratic ballot laws and against the harassment of Socialist Workers campaigners. A broad campaign was launched, including the lawsuit filed by the ACLU, which won significant support from civil liberties forces in the state. Many saw the requirement that signers of



James Warren and Estelle DeBates, Socialist Workers 1992 presidential slate, campaign at women's rights march. Delaware officials led effort to block ballot access.

petitions had to include a Social Security number as an invasion of privacy. During the petitioning campaign scores of people who supported the socialists right to be on the ballot signed their name but left off their Social Security number.

The April 1993 agreement was a significant victory for the Socialist Workers campaign and all supporters of democratic rights. One of the most serious challenges to the party's right to run in elections during the 1992 campaign had been turned back. As well, on the insistence of the Socialist Workers campaign, the Social Security requirement was struck down for all parties. The state had tried to limit the agreement to the socialists. The criminal investigation was also quietly dropped.

## Suit filed in federal court

The portion of the suit challenging Delaware's lack of an alternative for parties to get on the ballot was refiled by the ACLU in federal court at the beginning of 1994. The suit argued that Delaware's laws violated federal statutes, but state attorneys fought against moving the case to federal court. As a result the case stalled between state and federal courts. After more than two years, with no resolution in sight, supporters of the socialist campaign decided

to move for dismissal of the case under the most favorable conditions.

"Getting the case dismissed without prejudice allows the Socialist Workers campaign to join with other forces who will want to challenge this unconstitutional and undemocratic law in the future," explained Kathy Mickells, a leader of the SWP in Philadelphia, to a recent meeting of campaign supporters in Newark, Delaware. The gathering included a number of students and others who had helped turn back the state's challenge to the SWP campaign in Delaware in 1992.

"Delaware's election laws, like those in other states, are not written to guarantee access to the ballot," Mickells said. "They help maintain the monopoly of the ballot for the parties that represent the capitalists, the Democrats and Republicans."

"Although our campaign is not in a position to continue the fight in Delaware at this time, what was won by aggressively responding to the challenge to our ballot rights will aid future fights for ballot access and democratic rights."

A lively discussion occurred at the meeting on responding to government harassment, past battles to win ballot rights, and the importance of socialists running in elections.

# Revolutionary books get a good response at Beirut fair

BY PAUL DAVIES AND  
GEORGE MELHEM MASHRIKI

BEIRUT — Tens of thousands attended the International Arab Book Fair here December 2-13. Seen as a major event, government officials, members of the foreign diplomatic corps, and trade people visited the fair. Thousand of working people and youth also passed through. Some 156 publishers had stands, displaying more than 23,000 titles. Pathfinder Press, the only non-Arab publisher with a booth, displayed 102 titles in English, French, and Persian.

The Dar Al Mousawar publishing house invited Pathfinder to participate in the fair and made space available. The publishing house is affiliated to the Association For the Fulfillment of Land and Humanity, a youth group made up of activists from various religious, national, and political backgrounds. Two Pathfinder representatives from London and Athens staffed the joint booth along with eight members of the association. Pathfinder supporters in Athens raised funds from supporters to send someone to the fair.

Dozens of high school students crowded around the booth each morning. Discussions lasted all morning with group after group. Several young women from one of the high schools pooled their money to purchase a copy of *How Far We Slaves Have Come* by Fidel Castro and Nelson Mandela. Another group, wearing Muslim headscarves, gathered around the titles on women's liberation. "That's what we need!" exclaimed one.

## Workers and students visit booth

A 14-year-old electrician apprentice came by the booth every day. "I am Palestinian and my father was like Che [Guevara]," he said. "He fought like Che and was killed like him. I will be a militant like them." Later he brought two friends to the booth.

Ali, a laborer from Beirut, also stopped by the Pathfinder booth. He participated in a general strike last November by 400,000 workers demanding wage increases. "Workers will act together," he said, looking over some of the titles.

"This book seems extremely valuable, it must be studied carefully. All the peoples

of the East united in joint struggle," expressed one young Palestinian woman as she purchased a copy of *To See The Dawn*, which contains the complete proceedings of the First Congress of the Peoples of the East held in Baku in 1920. Five copies of the title were sold.

Five copies of *The Bolivian Diary of Che Guevara* were purchased, as well as 28 other books by and about the Cuban revolutionary leader. A total of 12 books by Nelson Mandela were sold, 10 books of Malcolm X's speeches, and 13 titles by Evelyn Reed on women's liberation and the origins of women's oppression.

Several copies of *The Jewish Question* by Abram Leon were picked up. Six copies of *New International* in English and French featuring the "Opening Guns of World War III" by Jack Barnes sold out. "You mean people in the United States fought against the war against Iraq?" asked one person as he bought the book.

## Interest in communist ideas

"Nine Pathfinder editions of the Communist Manifesto were sold even though the manifesto is available in Arabic," commented one of the Lebanese youth staffing the booth. "This shows the interest among youth in Lebanon for communist ideas."

Pathfinder representatives were interviewed by *Al Safir*, one of the city's main dailies, and NTV, a local television station. Katia Srour, a journalist from a Christian East Beirut paper, also gave favorable mention to the Pathfinder booth on an evening television program.

Pathfinder representatives were also invited to set up a book table at the Palestine Festival held at American University of Beirut, where nine books were sold.

The response to revolutionary and communist titles at the fair reflects the openings for working people and youth to engage in wide-ranging political discussion since the end of the civil war in 1990. In all, 197 books and pamphlets from Pathfinder were sold for a total of more than \$1,400.

A number of the young people who helped staff the booth are planning to promote Pathfinder titles at book fairs on various university campuses and in a number of towns throughout the country.



## PATHFINDER AROUND THE WORLD

By Mike Taber

**Pathfinder, located in New York with distributors in Australia, Britain, and Canada, publishes books and pamphlets by revolutionary fighters whose struggles against capitalism, racism, and all forms of exploitation and oppression point the way forward for humanity. Pathfinder bookstores are listed in the directory on page 12.**

Pathfinder has special opportunities around Black History Month in February. College campuses and high schools will host a range of activities, radio and television stations will broadcast special programs, and bookstores will organize displays.

For Pathfinder Black History Month is an opportunity to win a broader audience for books recounting the history of struggle by working people worldwide, as well as Pathfinder's full range of titles. Books by Malcolm X and Nelson Mandela, Joseph Hansen and Evelyn Reed, Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, Che Guevara and Fidel Castro — these are some of the titles Pathfinder is promoting for Black History Month.

In early January several hundred college bookstores received mailings listing an assortment of Pathfinder titles for Black History Month. Already 27 have responded by faxing or phoning in special orders, for a total of 740 books.

The leading sellers are *How Far We Slaves Have Come!* by Nelson Mandela and Fidel Castro (65); *By Any Means Necessary* by Malcolm X (64 copies); *February 1965: The Final Speeches* by

Malcolm X (59); *Malcolm X Talks to Young People* and "The Coming Revolution in South Africa" in *New International* no. 5 (58 each); *To Speak the Truth* by Fidel Castro and Ernesto Che Guevara (56); *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics* by Jack Barnes (54); *Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women* by Joseph Hansen, Evelyn Reed, and Mary-Alice Waters (53); and *Nelson Mandela Speaks* (51).

Encouraged by the initial response, Pathfinder representatives have begun phoning bookstores. Seven direct orders resulted in the first two days.

A Pathfinder Readers Club special offer flyer for Black History Month will be available shortly.



Two pamphlets have just been reissued by Pathfinder with attractive new covers and new, readable type.

The *Second Declaration of Havana* by Fidel Castro, first published by Pathfinder in 1962, is Cuba's historic call for continent-wide revolutionary struggle throughout the Americas. This document highlights why Washington will never reconcile itself to the existence of workers and peasants power in Cuba.

*Genocide against the Indians* by George Novack, consistently one of Pathfinder's top-selling titles over the years, explains how the campaign of extermination against Native American peoples was linked to the expansion of capitalism in the United States.



# Miners fight to abolish apartheid legacy

BY GREG ROSENBERG

CARLETONVILLE, South Africa — Miners organized in the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) of South Africa are pressing the fight to transform their apartheid-era living and working conditions and win more control over their lives above and below ground.

The miners are targeting the use of contract labor, which undercuts the union. They are demanding abolition of the hostel system, under which the big majority of Black miners are forced to live in crowded accommodations on the mine owner's property, separated from their families for most of the year. And they are calling for an end to "tribal" divisions foisted on them by the mining bosses.

Benedict Thaba, branch chairman of the NUM at Gold Fields of South Africa's (GFS) West Driefontein mine here, reported that mine security hijacked a bus carrying miners December 14. Using the pretext that some NUM members had allegedly assaulted contract workers, security agents called the police, who hauled 22 miners off to jail.

As word of the arrests spread, miners took quick action. "Information was taken to the shafts. We had two minutes preparation. Four-thousand people walked out of the no. 4, 5, and 2 shafts," Thaba reported.

Soon, some 10,000 miners marched to the police station demanding release of their fellow workers.

The following morning, the entire mine ground to a halt as 15,000 miners — including some from other mines — marched to the police station. After 15 minutes, said Thaba, police released the arrested workers.

Fifteen thousand workers are employed at West Driefontein, one of the most profitable gold mines in the country. Of these, 14,040 belong to the NUM, said Thaba. Between 2,000 and 3,000 of these miners are white. "Some white miners marched to the station with us," Thaba reported. "Others provided us water. We got a number of telephone calls from the white miners supporting us. None came to work" the day of the walkout.

The workers charged with assaulting contractors face a hearing on January 20.

## Bosses exploit contract workers

The NUM opposes the mine owners' use of contract workers, who are paid half the wages of NUM members. "The bosses are making workers redundant by exploiting the contractors, training them in NUM members jobs, and not paying taxes for their employment." There are 2,987 contract workers currently in the mine.

Most of the workers hired by contractors are from Mozambique. Thaba said the union rejects making their places of birth an issue in the fight to do away with contract labor on the mine. A large percentage of NUM members hail from Lesotho, Mozambique, Botswana, and Swaziland.

"The contract workers should be made permanent employees," said Thaba, "so they can join the union." This will help provide safety in the mine, since "NUM members refuse to go to dangerous places underground. The contractors have no choice."

"The contract workers are our brothers," said Godfrey Manamela, regional organizer for the NUM in the Carletonville area. "It's the contractors we're fighting." He said union workers suspect that the mine owners actually set up and run the contracting companies.

## No to 'indunas'

On January 3, miners held a protest over the contractors issue. That same day, 4,000 demonstrated at Hostel no. 2 demanding they be allowed to elect their own hostel managers.

For decades, the mining bosses have employed "indunas" to run the hostels. After dividing the miners up in the hostels according to their tribal background, the employers hire an "induna," supposedly a person of authority in tribal hierarchies, to keep an eye on the workers. The indunas are generally despised by miners.

Mine security attacked the demonstrators, firing bullets and tear gas into the crowd and injuring four workers.

In a separate event here January 5, 500 miners at GFS's Deelkraal mine marched to an administrative office in protest against the induna system there. A com-



Gold miners at mass union meeting January 11 discussed ongoing battle with bosses at West Driefontein mine. Miners are fighting contract work, racist hostel system.

pany administrative official was killed in a clash that ensued. GFS management alleges the official was stabbed by a miner.

NUM general-secretary Kgalema Motlanthe said the union "doesn't countenance acts of violence nor does it countenance a system that creates and perpetuates repression and violence as does the induna

system."

At a January 9 news briefing in Johannesburg, Alan Munro, head of the gold division of GFS, reported that industrial action at the conglomerate's mines contributed to a drop in its fourth quarter profits.

The same day, GFS bosses took the

NUM at the West Driefontein mine to court after continued clashes between the union and contractors. The company is using an injunction to charge that the NUM as a whole refuses to do anything to stop attacks on contract workers in the mines. In addition, GFS has suspended 300 workers, who face dismissal for the alleged attacks.

## Meeting addresses violence

"There are many ways to fight West Driefontein. They don't include physical fighting," Mapalo Tsatsimpe told nearly 6,000 NUM members gathered at a mass meeting in the mine stadium here January 11. Tsatsimpe is the regional coordinator of the miners' union in the Carletonville area.

NUM leaders called the meeting to explain that union policy opposes physical violence to resolve disputes, and that union officials had secured a meeting with representatives of the Northwest provincial government to seek support in their fight against GFS management.

"As I've said before, I appreciate your energy," Tsatsimpe told the miners. "But we must consider how we're using it. Our policy is we fight problems, but nowhere does it state we must fight physically," she added.

"We as a branch committee, as a region, and at the head office don't want you to fight so that we are outside the law. Let us sit down and think about the best way to fight them."

Tsatsimpe's speech met with a mixed reaction, as hundreds of miners stood up in disapproval. Many shouted that what required urgent attention was the pending dismissal of their 300 suspended com-

Continued on Page 12

# NUM proposes aiding reconstruction

BY GREG ROSENBERG

KHUTSONG, South Africa — "The Reconstruction and Development Program [RDP] is to pave the way for transforming society," said James Motlatsi, president of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), at a meeting in this township outside Carletonville January 8. Motlatsi held a discussion with some 200 NUM shop stewards from eight area gold mines to discuss the union's contribution to reconstructing South Africa.

The RDP was adopted by the African National Congress as its program in the 1994 elections. It was subsequently approved in part by the Government of National Unity as the main framework for the opening years of a post-apartheid South Africa. The ANC describes the RDP as a "people-driven process," rather than "delivery of goods to a passive citizenry."

The program seeks to provide jobs, land, housing, water, electricity, telecommunication, transportation, nutrition, health care, education, and social welfare to South Africa's disenfranchised Black majority.

Motlatsi is currently on a nationwide tour, meeting with miners across South Africa to discuss how the union can advance the RDP.

One of the proposals miners are debating is to voluntarily work on one or more of the 12 national holidays established by the Government of National Unity and contribute all or a portion of that day's wages to the government's RDP fund, which falls far short of the budget needed to benefit the Black majority. Until last year, miners received only five holiday days. The NUM seeks to win agreement from the employers that profits from production on those days also be turned over to the RDP.

"The mine bosses can sing the RDP like the national anthem," said NUM regional organizer Godfrey Manamela. "But we are demanding they put money toward its implementation," which he indicates will be a substantial fight.

In his presentation to the shop stewards' council, Motlatsi said the union "fought the apartheid government and put them out. Now, regardless of who you voted for, the present-day government was voted in by all of us." He cited as the biggest challenge that "a majority of our people are unemployed in the cities and rural areas. We need to intervene to help those who are not

working," in addition to providing housing and a host of other burning social needs left in apartheid's wake.

"Mineworkers — and all workers — need to think about these problems, and what we need to do" to help reconstruct the country in the interests of the majority, said the NUM president. He presented the union's proposal that miners voluntarily work some holidays.

"If we've gained these holidays after a long struggle," asked one miner, "what's the meaning if we sacrifice them? Aren't we undermining what we've received from the government?"

Another worker, from Western Deep Levels East mine, inquired "how can we ensure that the money goes to the RDP?" and not to the mine owners. A steward from the Elandsrand mine responded that "the majority who are suffering are Black. If workers can use some of the holidays

— if they are properly used — it can reduce these problems, help build schools, renovate roads, and build hospitals."

Motlatsi explained that "some say, 'I'm from Lesotho, or the Transkei. How will the RDP reach me?' But South Africa is not an island. We must view southern Africa as a region. We hope the RDP will have an impact in neighboring states. Wherever you are, that's your home. Human beings can't say 'because this is not my home I can't fight here.' We must look at the interests of the nation."

The proposal on working voluntarily on some holidays was first adopted at the union's 1994 congress, and is now being discussed by the membership at meetings such as these.

The resolution also calls for "RDP volunteer labour brigades [to be] formed and trained in all communities and be involved in local projects of the RDP."

## Help the 'Militant' provide eyewitness coverage from Cuba and South Africa



Militant correspondent Jonathan Silberman (left) talking to cooperative members at farm in Cienfuegos province.

The Militant's eyewitness reports on political developments in Cuba and South Africa continue in this issue.

Militant correspondents have organized three reporting trips to Cuba over the past two months, including coverage of the youth brigade currently visiting the countryside and cities there. Feature articles on the new agricultural markets, farm cooperatives, factory assemblies, and December meeting of Cuba's National Assembly begin with coverage in this issue.

Coverage of struggles by rural

workers and gold miners, as well as post-apartheid reconstruction and development efforts led by the African National Congress, was gathered by a four-person reporting team during the last two weeks of December.

Since mid-December, readers of the Militant have contributed more than \$2,000 towards helping to meet the expenses of these reporting teams. This includes \$600 raised by socialist workers who are members of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) at a meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah, last month. The Militant depends on generous contributions by our readers to make possible this first-hand coverage. Please send your contribution today!

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# Agricultural markets raise expectations that food scarcities may ease in Cuba

(First of three articles)

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS  
AND MARY-ALICE WATERS

HAVANA, Cuba — "Today, the political, military, and ideological problem of the country is to find food. This is the principal task from all those points of view. To alleviate this situation we hope to initiate the agricultural markets very soon," said Raúl Castro, second secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, in a widely published interview here Sept. 11, 1994. "These markets will basically operate with the law of supply and demand," he said. "But if there is food for the people, the risks don't matter."

A week later the executive committee of the Council of Ministers issued decree 191, a new law authorizing the markets, which began operation in all provinces and cities on October 1.

Unlike the free farmers' markets that were in operation from 1980 through 1986, the current agricultural markets are supplied not only by small family farmers but by co-operatives and state farms as well, including farms run by the armed forces. After fulfilling deliveries of quotas to state distribution agencies at fixed prices, farms may sell surplus produce and livestock at unregulated market prices through the new outlets. Those who sell on the markets are licensed by the municipalities and have to pay rent for the stands they use. The revenues from their sales are taxed.

"Prices are extremely high, but lower than those we were paying on the black market," said Lázaro Figueroa, a construction worker, as he was buying potatoes and yucca. "This market is better than nothing." Figueroa was shopping last November at the agricultural market in Cuatro Caminos (Four Roads), in the Cerro neighborhood of Havana. "Now, once and a while, I can buy rice, beans, vegetables, and on a few occasions some meat to supplement what my family gets with the ration book, so we can survive."

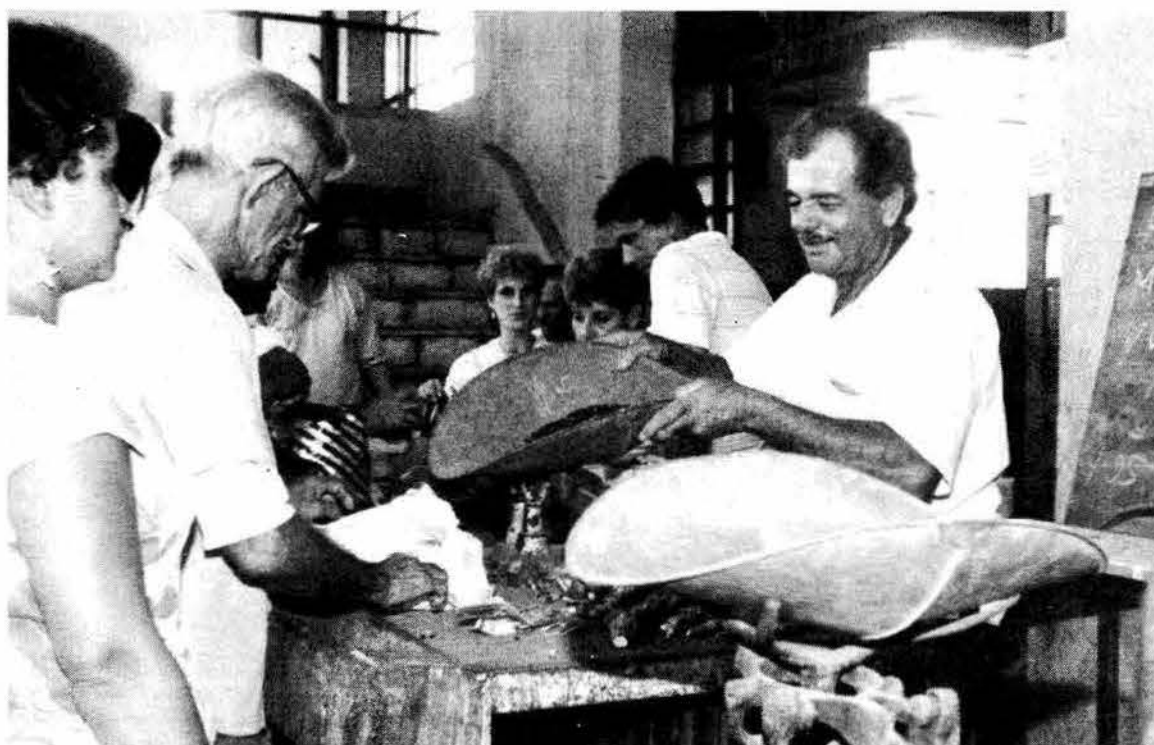
## Crisis of rationing system

Beginning in 1989 the collapse of aid and trade at preferential prices with the former Soviet bloc countries — which used to account for 85 percent of Cuba's trade — triggered increasingly acute shortages of food and other basic necessities. Cubans refer to these straitened conditions, and the measures they have been compelled to take in face of them, as "the special period."

Cuba today is importing only 25 percent of what it was able to purchase abroad in 1989. Food production has plummeted, in large part due to dire shortages of imports like fuel, fertilizer, pesticides, and spare parts for machinery, which now have to be paid for in hard currency at world market prices. Cuba must also contend with the added obstacles created by the brutal 35-year-old trade embargo imposed by the U.S. government. In an interview in September, agricultural minister Alfredo Jordán said the country would produce 920,000 tons of food in 1994, down from 1.5 million in 1991.

The most serious crisis, however, has been the disintegration of the rationing system, the state system for equitably distributing basic necessities in short supply, making them available at subsidized prices. From the early days of the revolution, the ration system guaranteed that no one went without food and other necessities. For that reason, rationing has been popular in Cuba. Under the impact of the current economic crisis, however — with falling production, growing scarcities, mounting theft, and a burgeoning black market — this system has been unable to continue assuring adequate quantities.

Most people interviewed by a team of *Militant* reporters in Havana told us the ration book provides no more than one to two weeks' supply of rice and beans every



Selling black beans at new agricultural market in Cuatro Caminos (Four Roads) in Cerro neighborhood of Havana. Prices are high, but shortages are easing.

month, one bread roll per person per day, and milk for children under seven and some of the elderly. Others, including some students, told us they still rely on their ration cards for 90 percent of their food.

Necessities previously available on the ration book, such as soap, toothpaste, or shampoo, are now only available on the black market or at government stores, called *shoppings*, that sell exclusively in U.S. dollars. The government has expanded the number of these stores since decriminalizing possession and use of foreign currency in July 1993.

Most products available on the black market are stolen from factories, farms, and warehouses, often with the complicity of administrators and other management personnel.

Black market prices of consumer goods have risen at least 30-fold since 1991. Rice, for example, is available at 20 *centavos* (cents) per pound on the ration card, but sold for between 25 Cuban pesos to 50 pesos per pound on the black market. Pork, which was only available through illegal trade, costs as much as 100 pesos per pound.

These prices are out of reach for most Cubans, whose wages range from a little more than 100 pesos per month for some unskilled factory and agricultural jobs to 450 pesos for some doctors and engineers. In addition, Cubans have a high social wage — free medical care and education, low rents and utility rates, and subsidized food prices on the ration card. In the past, these economic policies, conquered by the working class through a successful socialist revolution, guaranteed affordable prices for workers and a living income for working farmers.

## Black market corrodes solidarity

Prior to the opening of the agricultural markets, however, the majority of people, some 80 percent according to *Juventud Rebelde* reporter Osvaldo Rodríguez, had been reduced to getting most of their food and other necessities on the black market. This has had a corrosive impact on the fabric of social relations and the strong social solidarity that exists in Cuba. The underground market is illegal, and everyone knows that the reason less is available on the ration card is that more and more is being illegally "diverted" to the black market at handsome profits for the thieves involved. "It hurts to do something that only encourages more theft, but I have to buy on the black market to get some food on the table," has been a common comment.

So many Cubans, like Figueroa, welcomed the opening of the agricultural markets.

Most vendors we interviewed at Cuatro Caminos came from Basic Units of Coop-

erative Production (UBPCs), which are new agricultural cooperatives that have increasingly replaced state farms since the end of 1993. A smaller number of vendors came from more long-standing agricultural and livestock production cooperatives (CPAs), made up of small farmers who have voluntarily pooled their land and work it jointly. A few came from state farms. We only found two private producers among dozens of sellers.

"It took us a few weeks after October 1 before starting to come to this market," said a 20-year-old private farmer from Güines, in Havana province, who was selling live chickens with his brothers. Previously, the prices they could get on the black market were higher; what's more, they often didn't have to travel to Havana to sell.

Many farmers made a bundle through illegal trade. But there was little these farmers could buy with their pesos, since industrial production took a nosedive beginning in 1989. As a result, underground barter of agricultural products for stolen, and scarce, industrial goods flourished, further fueling black market activities in the countryside. Many farmers were also afraid the government might confiscate their earnings, we were told, or might impose higher taxes on sales at the agricultural markets than those officially announced.

The numbers of small farmers selling on the new markets are slowly increasing, however. A November 29 report by *Prensa Latina* said that 30 percent of the vendors in the 183 agricultural markets opened throughout the country now come from family farms.

In addition to the 1,200 CPAs, there are some 100,000 small family farmers in Cuba today who produce individually but participate in a more limited way in credit and service cooperatives. Between them, the members of the CPAs and the small farmers till about 20 percent of the arable land in Cuba and account for more than a third of agricultural output. They produce a majority of such basic crops as onions, garlic, tomatoes, sweet potatoes, and carrots, as well as a large quantity of a few export crops such as coffee, tobacco, and cacao.

## Farmers withhold produce

By mid-1994, it had become evident that many farmers were cutting back production of certain crops or were withholding produce from the state distribution system.

Orlando Lugo Fonte, president of the National Association of Small Farmers (ANAP), which organizes members of the CPAs and individual farmers, discussed this problem in detail in a July 11 interview with *Trabajadores*, newspaper of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers (CTC), the country's trade union federa-

tion.

The ANAP leader said that thousands of peasants had been trading on the black market without fulfilling their *acopio* (quota to the state). Others were simply withholding products or were using them to fatten hogs that sold at a much higher price on the underground market than the farmer could have gotten for the produce itself. In Havana province alone, Lugo said, "the individual peasants own at least 200,000 hogs, and [the animals] are consuming what would feed at least half a million people."

Lugo said many peasants resorted to the black market because "there is a large number of items farmers need but cannot obtain from [government supply networks] at present because we have none. But there are people who steal, who manage to obtain things in some way, and then they go into the countryside and trade a machete, a file, a pair of boots, or a pair of trousers. This is the reality of the special period."

Lugo noted that some of the prior standards used to pay farmers for products delivered to state distribution agencies are outdated given the current difficulties and must be changed. "One cannot expect the same quality from a banana that has had all the water and potassium it needs as from the kind we have now, which lack many of these things," Lugo said. "But under the existing system, when a product doesn't meet quality requirements, the purchase price is reduced by 50 percent. So there are times when it makes better business sense for a farmer to feed his produce to the hogs than to sell them at these prices."

In the July article, Lugo had urged the opening of agricultural markets, which, he said, could play "a role in distribution, regulation, and above all, encouraging peasants to produce more."

Excluded from participating in the markets are farms dedicated to large-scale production of essential foods like potatoes, rice, meat, and milk. A separate system of incentives — with higher prices for amounts surpassing the goals set in state contracts — is being discussed to stimulate output by these producers as well.

Fees for the rental of stalls and taxes on earnings are set at 5 percent of sales in cities like Havana and Santiago de Cuba and at 10 percent to 15 percent in smaller towns. This differential is intended to lure farmers to the big cities where food shortages are most acute.

## Range of prices

Prices on the agricultural markets range from the highest end of the scale in Havana and Matanzas to the lowest in Santiago de Cuba and some of the provinces, according to a November 29 report by *Tele Rebelde* television. The market price for rice in Cienfuegos, for example, was 6 pesos per pound, compared to 8 pesos in Havana. Prices usually come down at the end of the day, as vendors try to clear their stalls rather than transport produce back to the countryside.

Since the opening of the markets in October, retail prices for vegetables dropped on average 15 percent and for meats 35 percent, Domestic Trade Minister Manuel Vila Sosa announced in late November. At Cuatro Caminos, pork was selling at between 40 pesos and 45 pesos per pound at that time — nearly double the price in Cienfuegos, where it was available for 25 pesos. Most people we interviewed said these prices are half or less of what they used to pay on the black market.

While more of these outlets are opening, their numbers are not yet sufficient to satisfy demand in the big cities. In Havana there are 21 such markets now, but most are very small with little produce available. Tens of thousands in the capital city must travel substantial distances to reach the



nearest market, and this takes a long time given today's inadequate public transportation.

While the agricultural markets have made food more readily available, many Cubans cannot afford the prices.

#### Social differentiation

"We should not idealize the importance of the agricultural markets nor their repercussions as a means to solving our problems," Carlos Lage, vice president of the Council of Ministers, told *Granma Internacional* in December. "We are not pleased that the market cannot be for everyone, with the produce at such high prices.... Our objective is to increase production."

So far, most Cubans have been using their accumulated savings to be able to purchase food at the new markets.

Over the last four years, an estimated 65 percent of industrial capacity has been idled by shortages of electricity, fuel, raw materials, and spare parts. But layoffs have been kept to a minimum so far. According to finance minister José Luis Rodríguez, government subsidies to state enterprises jumped 73 percent between 1989 and 1993. The government has been financing the growing budget deficit by printing more pesos, a policy that feeds inflation.

At the beginning of 1994 there were some 12 billion excess pesos in circulation, according to the finance minister. While most Cubans continued to receive their wages — even workers employed by enterprises where production has plummeted — there was little in the market these workers could buy.

The opening of the agricultural markets, like a series of other measures by the government, was intended in part to soak up the excess currency and reduce inflation, even before an upturn in industrial and agricultural production.

On December 1 a similar network of markets selling handicrafts and industrial goods was opened. These retail stands sell industrial goods made by self-employed individuals, as well as excess inventory of state enterprises and items made by them using by-products from their primary productive activity.

These steps have begun to have the desired monetary effect. The finance minister

announced in December that excess currency had been reduced by nearly 2 billion pesos and that the budget deficit had shrunk from 5.05 billion pesos in 1993 to 1.4 billion last year. The peso has begun to regain its purchasing power for domestic products. One indication is that at the end of November U.S. currency traded between 40 pesos and 60 pesos to the dollar, down from the high of 120 pesos last summer. The official exchange rate remains one Cuban peso for one dollar.

As a result of the various measures already taken, many Cubans remarked to us, "There used to be plenty of pesos around, but no food. Now there is food to buy, but the pesos are gone."

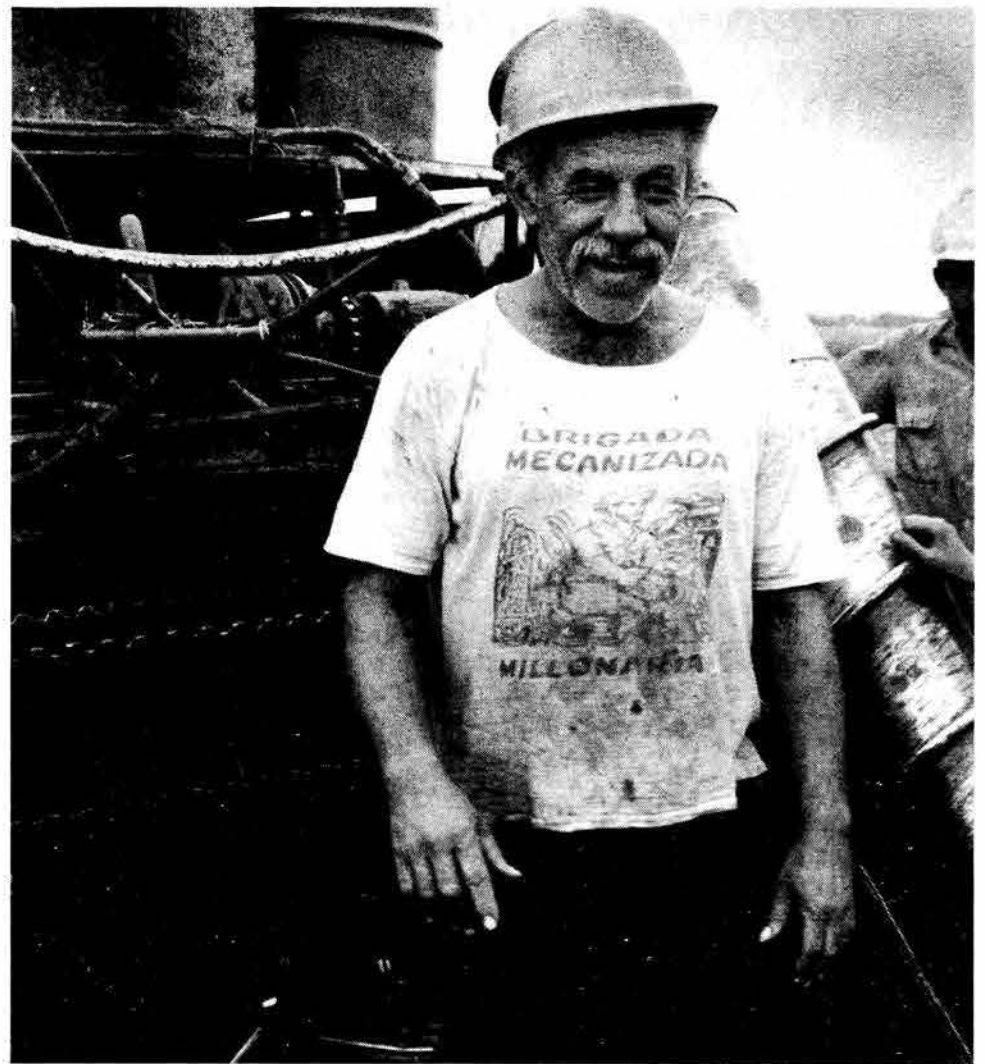
Today you frequently hear stories of people taking a second job, or making snacks or other foods at home in order to sell them at street corners and get more pesos to supplement what they receive through wages.

But as Cuban workers use up their savings, the still relatively high prices on the new markets will begin taking more of a bite. "There will be protests with regard to the prices at a certain point when the money supply decreases," said Raúl Castro in a speech at a national seminar on the agricultural markets in September. The speech acknowledged that the opening of the markets, like other measures the government has adopted the last few years, registers a retreat from previous policies of the revolution and will increase social inequalities.

At the moment, there is no tangible evidence that the opening of the agricultural markets has had any significant impact on reversing the decline in the production of food and other agricultural goods, which Cuban leaders insist "is the only solution." There has not been enough time for such a result to be registered. But the fact that people now have the option to go to the new outlets and buy some food, even at very high prices, has eased the sense of crisis and raised expectations that food scarcities will diminish.

#### Visit to Cienfuegos province

In the countryside, especially in sugarcane-producing areas, attitudes about prospects for increasing agricultural pro-



Militant/Argiris Malapanis  
Heladio Díaz Martínez, combine operator at La Esperanza cooperative, Cienfuegos province, Cuba. "Our motto here is 'sí se puede' [yes, it can be done]," he said.

duction in the short run are sober.

"We don't expect this year's harvest to yield more sugar for the country than the last one," said Julio Mesa, a combine operator at La Esperanza (The Hope) cooperative during an interview there December 1.

La Esperanza, located near the town of Abreus in Cienfuegos province, is one of some 1,600 Basic Units of Cooperative Production that have replaced virtually all state farms producing sugarcane. Another 1,100 such units have been formed in state farms producing tobacco, citrus, vegetables and other food crops, and livestock. It is estimated that by the end of 1994, some 60 percent to 70 percent of Cuba's arable land was tilled by UBPC members. Before this reorganization of the agricultural workforce, which is the most far-reaching change since Cuba's second agrarian reform in 1963, state farms accounted for 80 percent of the island's arable land.

(A team of *Militant* reporters visited the same area in Cienfuegos nearly a year ago and reported extensively on the establishment of the UBPCs. An article on that visit appeared in the April 18 issue last year.)

The process of subdividing the state farms into these smaller cooperative units began in September 1993 with a decree issued by the government. The decision was ratified by the country's National Assembly in December of that year.

The UBPCs on average have a workforce of about 100 and arable land of 850 to 1,000 acres. Unlike state farms, the cooperatives own their harvest and sell it to the state at prices established by the government. The co-op owns the machinery (bought from the former state farm with low interest loans), and purchases needed supplies — including seed, fuel, and fertilizers — out of its revenues, which depend on its overall output. The income of individual members, the workers who belong to the co-op, depends on their individual jobs and their individual and collective productivity.

Besides producing crops for domestic consumption and for exports, the new cooperative units aim to be self-sufficient in food and build housing for members.

The land remains nationalized and cannot be sold, rented, inherited, mortgaged, or used as collateral for loans.

The leadership in Cuba took this step in the hopes of boosting agricultural production. While it is still too early to draw a balance sheet on the UBPCs, any illusions there may have been that they would quickly reverse the drop in agricultural production are now disappearing. At the same time, however, it is clear that the cooperatives have made substantial progress in meeting one of their central goals — providing food for their members and families, who constitute a majority of the rural population.

At La Esperanza cooperative, members have expanded the land they use to grow vegetables, potatoes, and root crops from 123 acres a year ago to nearly 150. "We're now totally self-sufficient in vegetables," said Heladio Díaz Martínez, another combine operator.

#### More food for self-consumption

In addition, workers on the co-op now have nearly 100 lambs, two dozen hogs, and 6 dairy cows. Their chicken farm produces more than enough poultry and eggs for the 45 members. "We're not allowed to sell on the agricultural market in town, but we can trade surplus food in kind with other UBPCs, so we get a few more items we don't produce yet," said Mesa. Sugarcane cooperatives are not permitted to sell food products they grow on the new agricultural markets, because "if that were the case, many would abandon sugarcane production altogether," said Díaz.

Eight of the co-op members devote their labor full-time to raising food for their own consumption. Others participate on a voluntary basis after their workday in the cane fields ends.

In Siguatay, a nearby UBPC with 48 members, workers had made similar progress in producing food for their own consumption. The banana trees they planted when *Militant* reporters first visited last year had grown. "We have even begun to grow rice," said Orestes Gonzales Belis, a combine operator there. "We now produce enough not just for members of our cooperative but to feed our families as well."

Workers at both co-ops, however, were not as satisfied with the pace of progress on building housing for members. At La Esperanza they had only been able to build four units, which they call *bajo consumo* (low-consumption) houses constructed with substitutes for cement and other hard-to-get supplies. At Siguatay they had completed one and repaired a second, compared to earlier projections of constructing 10 new houses per year on every cooperative in the area. Workers cited lack of construction materials as the main reason for the slower than anticipated pace. "We hope to do better on this front next year," said Díaz, "by increasing the use of bajo consumo cement that we just started getting."

#### Sugar harvest lower

La Esperanza and Siguatay are part of 16 UBPCs established by subdividing the previous Guillermo Moncada state farm. The state-owned complex now includes only the sugar mill, located on the outskirts of Abreus, and a seed bank. Of the 16 UBPCs, only two will make a small profit this year, we were told, one of which is La Esperanza. The rest will have to borrow

Continued on Page 10



Militant/Argiris Malapanis  
Land tilled to grow food for self-consumption at UBPC in Cienfuegos

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# —YOUNG SOCIALISTS AROUND THE WORLD—

## Capitalists are the 'privileged elite'

This column is written and edited by the Young Socialists, an international organization of young workers, students, and other youth fighting for socialism. For more information about the YS or to join write: Young Socialists, P.O. Box 2396, New York, NY 10009, or call (212) 475-6482.

Young Socialists in Toronto and Montreal have put out a statement in response to proposed cuts in federal funding of education. They plan to distribute it at protests taking place across Canada January 25.

"These cuts, and broader cuts to social programs, won't just affect students," the Young Socialists note. "They are an attack on working people as a whole. All students, other youth, and working people should build and participate in the January 25 protests and future actions."

The statement blasts Liberal minister of human resources Lloyd Axworthy for claiming that university students are a "privileged elite" selfishly living off taxpayers. Axworthy "says the same thing about unemployed workers who he calls 'repeat users.'"

"The real source of the economic crisis

is the capitalist system itself," the statement explains. "The real 'privileged elite' are the owners of the banks, factories, and mines, who destroy our lives to pad their pockets with profits."

"Capitalist politicians try to scapegoat the most oppressed for the crisis: welfare recipients, single mothers, immigrant workers, and Natives and Quebecois fighting for their rights. This encourages ultra-right attacks like the shootings at the abortion clinics."

The Young Socialists point to revolutionary Cuba as the one place in the world where the working class holds power and is using it to defend its interests in the face of severe economic problems. "In 1959, workers, peasants, and youth in Cuba got rid of capitalism and began building a society based on human solidarity, making health care and education, including university, free and available to all."

"If you want to follow the Cuban example and fight for a socialist future, then join the Young Socialists."



The Young Socialists have been carrying out an international travel fund cam-

paign to build a worldwide socialist youth organization and link up with revolutionaries from South Africa to Cuba. Of the \$16,000 goal, \$9,803 has been collected. The deadline has been extended to February 15.

The fund has enabled Young Socialists to speak to hundreds of youth in Australia, Britain, Canada, Iceland, Puerto Rico, New Zealand, and Sweden over the last few months.

Over New Year's weekend the YS raised \$4,670 in collections and pledges at socialist educational conferences in Los Angeles, Philadelphia, and St. Paul, Minnesota.

To help meet the fund drive goal, Young Socialists in Seattle are organizing a regional educational weekend January 28-29. YS member Vana Knap will share her experiences as part of a *Militant* reporting team to South Africa and discuss the next steps in advancing the democratic revolution in that country. The conference will also feature a report from participants in an international youth brigade to Cuba.

To contribute to the fund, or to pay on your pledge, send a check to the Young Socialists at the address above.

### Young Socialists \$16,000 Travel Fund

AREA	GOALS	COLLECTED
<b>UNITED STATES</b>		
Atlanta	\$100	\$90
Bloomington, IL	\$100	\$140
Birmingham, AL	\$500	\$65
Boston	\$400	\$210
Chicago	\$550	\$145
Cleveland	\$400	\$30
Des Moines	\$150	\$100
Detroit	\$200	\$60
Evansville, IN	\$50	
Edinboro, PA	\$50	
Greensboro, NC	\$75	\$15
Los Angeles	\$200	\$1,258
Maryland	\$50	
Miami	\$200	\$110
Morgantown, WV	\$150	\$175
Newark, NJ	\$400	\$498
New York	\$1,200	\$75
Philadelphia	\$800	\$70
Pittsburgh	\$500	\$110
Salt Lake City, UT	\$600	\$40
San Francisco	\$1,000	\$3,087
Seattle	\$700	\$135
St. Louis	\$25	\$50
Tampa Bay, FL	\$50	\$25
Twin Cities, MN	\$1,000	\$213
Washington, D.C.	\$500	\$25
Yellow Springs, OH	\$100	
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>		
Sydney	\$505	\$505
<b>CANADA</b>		
Montreal	\$250	
Toronto	\$300	
<b>ICELAND</b>		
Reykjavik	\$250	\$180
<b>SWEDEN</b>		
Stockholm	\$250	\$120
<b>OTHER</b>	\$1,306	\$1,256
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$14,661</b>	<b>\$9,803</b>

## Agricultural markets in Cuba raise expectations

Continued from Page 9

from the state bank to cover expenses, eliminating profit-sharing for most UBPC members in the area this year.

The main reason, Díaz said, was a bad sugarcane harvest. The 1994 crop fell to 4 million tons from 4.2 million the previous year, less than half the 8.4 million tons produced in 1990. This shortfall further cuts Cuba's capacity to import needed goods, since sugar remains the country's main export crop and a primary source of hard currency earnings.

Last year's low crop yield was partly due to heavy rains that prevented fields from being harvested and crippling shortages of everything from fuel to work boots.

"One of the things that's devastating is the lack of pesticides," said Díaz. While most of the crop is still harvested by combines, workers now have to weed the fields entirely by manual labor. "If the cane is full of weeds the sugar content goes way down," Díaz explained. On a few occasions UBPC members have to work in the fields barefoot, we were told, since their boots are totally worn out and the country faces an acute shortage of footwear.

The UBPC members at La Esperanza and Sigüate are, in their overwhelming majority, workers from the former state farm who joined the co-ops voluntarily. They said they need to nearly double the workforce in order to keep the fields in top shape. Since last January, when we first visited the area, only two new members had joined La Esperanza. María Valadares, who had been there for two months, quit her job at a bakery in Abreus and joined the co-op. "The pay and the food is better," she said. The other new member, Maralí Roche, relocated there after the cigar factory where she had worked in Cienfuegos shut down. Roche said she would prefer to go back to the city if the plant reopened.

### Agricultural contingents

In a new effort to solve the labor shortages in the countryside and help boost food and other farm production, voluntary work contingents have been launched once again in rural areas in several provinces. These contingents are being built as political campaigns, drawing on the energies and enthusiasm of young factory workers and other youth especially.

In Guantánamo province, for example, land previously used for sugarcane production was turned over to the Frank Pais contingent to grow food for the province. The contingent, which has grown to more than 2,300 people, is given credit by many residents of the city of Guantánamo for helping to raise the availability of root vegetables and other food; in fact, the farm was able to supply food crops for the city of

Santiago de Cuba as well.

A similar contingent was launched in the province of Holguín in September, with 2,100 volunteers including many young factory workers, signing up for two-year stints. *Militant* reporters who visited the area at that time were told by several volunteers that joining *División Mambisa*, as their group is called, is considered a badge of honor—hundreds more had volunteered than the contingent could absorb.

While contingents have contributed to increased food production, however, they have not eased the labor shortage on farms producing sugarcane or other export crops.

Sergio Lamote, secretary of the Communist Party at the Guillermo Moncada complex, who accompanied us during the visit to La Esperanza, said that shortages of fuel, pesticides, and other inputs were not the only reason for the low sugarcane harvest last year and the large deficit run by the state enterprise. He said progress had been slow in convincing a majority of administrative personnel at the former state farm to take production jobs on the UBPCs. On the former state farms it was not uncommon for nonproductive personnel to exceed 50 percent of the total workforce.

Lamote also said that two of the 16 UBPCs in the area were recently combined into one. "It was a process of consolidating leadership," he noted.

Lamote and several co-op members said it would take at least another year before they could see an upturn in the sugar harvest. Sugarcane, they reminded us, is a two-year crop. The 1995 harvest is organized to be shorter than last year's, so workers will have a chance to plant on time for the next season. For this reason, said a November 21 report by *Prensa Latina*, this year's harvest could be as low as 3.5 million tons—which would be the lowest yield since 1963, when sugar mills produced 3.8 million tons.

At La Esperanza, workers proudly showed us newly planted fields for the 1996 season, where they have used better quality seeds and have managed to keep the cane clean from weeds. Pointing to these fields, and smiling, Díaz said, "There you see the future recovery."

The combine operator said co-op members have recently discussed in weekly meetings how to pay more attention to machine maintenance before the harvest begins, as well as the need to organize skilled operators to work with younger workers to teach them how to run the combines properly. During the last harvest, 10 percent of what was milled was "dirt, hay, and scrap," he said. "We can do a lot better this year."

Díaz said that hundreds of skilled combine operators, many with decades of experience, left the UBPCs in 1993 and 1994



Militant/Laura Garza

Members of Ernesto Che Guevara agricultural contingent in Holguín province packing bananas to be delivered to city markets. In a new effort to boost food production, voluntary work contingents have been relaunched in several provinces to draw on energies and commitment of young workers.

for other occupations with higher incomes. Beginning last summer, the leadership of many cooperatives embarked on a campaign to convince these workers to come back, offering greater incentives linked to productivity. This effort has started to pay off. In a November 23 article, *Granma* reported that 563 operators had returned for the 1995 harvest.

A similar problem has developed in the tobacco fields, power plants, and the ports, we were told. To reverse the flight of skilled personnel to tourism, self-employment, or other jobs, the government is now paying part of the wages of workers in these industries in foreign currency certificates, which workers can use to buy hard-to-find goods in dollar stores.

### Clashing perspectives

There is more than one viewpoint put forward in Cuba today to explain the initial problems the UBPCs have encountered in attempting to boost production. The differing opinions reflect to some degree the class polarization that exists.

"One of the problems at the moment is that the cooperative members themselves have still to become aware that they are the owners, and that it is they themselves who will succeed or fail, not the state," Osvaldo Martínez, chairman of the Commission on Economic Reform of Cuba's National Assembly, told *Cuba Business* last May. This is a commonly held view among administrative layers in Cuba.

But that is not how many UBPC members look at it. The majority of those we talked to—who were previously, and re-

main, members of the sugar workers union affiliated to the CTC—continue to view themselves as workers, not owners. "We need to do more of what's been accomplished at factory assemblies," Díaz said. He was referring to the tens of thousands of *parlamentos obreros* (workers assemblies) initiated a year ago by the CTC. These assemblies were organized so that workers could express their opinions on measures under consideration by the National Assembly and make decisions on steps affecting economic efficiency and productivity in their plant.

In an October 10 editorial, *Trabajadores* discussed the need to organize more effective workers assemblies in the countryside as a challenge the CTC must tackle. "It is necessary to set aside bureaucratic rules in the efficiency assemblies in order to promote workers' discussion—timely, inspirational, and fertile—to determine what each machine should cut to meet the daily quota promised the mill," the editorial said.

"We have a lot of difficulties to overcome," Díaz said. "But we've survived a hell of a special period in the last four years. Time is probably on our side." Referring to a speech by Raúl Castro, Díaz added, "Our motto here, like Raúl said, is *si se puede* (yes, it can be done)."

Next: 'Factory assemblies boost self-confidence of Cuban workers.' A third article will cover the debate in Cuba's National Assembly and in the workers parliaments on income tax and social security contributions.



# Striking rubber workers hold Iowa rally

BY BARBARA BOWMAN  
AND JOHN COX

DES MOINES, Iowa — Three hundred and fifty striking members of United Rubber Workers (URW) Local 310 and their supporters marched on the Iowa State Capitol here January 11. The action — organized on three-days' notice — echoed the overwhelming membership vote two days earlier to hold firm in response to the company announcement that it will begin hiring permanent replacement workers.

The rubber workers went on strike last July in response to Bridgestone/Firestone's efforts to impose severe concessions and gut the union.

The bone-chilling cold seemed to underline the determination of the strikers, who marched or drove the six-mile route silently. People came out of their homes or waved from shopping center parking lots as the demonstration passed through working-class neighborhoods. Workers, including at state office buildings, waved from windows and doorways when the demonstration approached the Capitol building. Vance security teams were spotted video taping the demonstration.

The marchers entered the Capitol building, many taking advantage of the time to grab a cup of coffee and discuss the latest developments in their fight. "This mass firing is the biggest thing," said Nick Campero, a URW member who has worked at Firestone for 21 years. "Right now, all the unions should be knocking at our door to see how they can help us win this strike."

The rubber workers discussed various tactics, such as a possible boycott, lobbying, and upcoming elections. "We've got to fight them," Bob Peters explained.

Most demonstrators remained for a rally on the Capitol steps. Speakers included a number of state legislators as well as URW representatives. Ed Fallon, a Democrat in the Iowa House of Representatives, urged passage of a bill putting the state legislature on record supporting action by the U.S. Congress to end the hiring of permanent replacement workers.

Many state representatives adopted an anti-Japanese tone in their speeches; Bridgestone is owned by Japanese capital. "We're not going to let the Japanese come over and tear our economy down," one politician said to applause. At one point during the rally a Japanese flag was burned.

Paul Gnade, a rank-and-file member of Local 310 who helped organize the march, closed the rally explaining the fight would continue. "We're here to stay. If they're not going to have jobs for us, no one is go-

ing to have jobs," he said.

The day before the march and rally, the executive board of URW Local 7 at Bridgestone/Firestone's research center in Akron, Ohio, voted to return to work. A few days later, the company announced that only 100 of the 150 workers would be offered their jobs back and that the union could decide who gets the jobs.

Here in Des Moines the company is sending letters to striking workers telling them they will lose their jobs if they don't return to work. Supervisors are also calling union members and urging them to cross the picket lines.

The hard line taken by Bridgestone/Firestone owners is providing fuel for anti-Japanese rhetoric by Democratic Party politicians in Iowa, Illinois, and Ohio, as well as President Bill Clinton and Labor Secretary Robert Reich. They have spied a way to burnish their "friend of labor" image on the cheap by calling for Bridgestone to return to the bargaining table.

"By bringing in permanent replacements for their workers who are on strike, while refusing to come to the bargaining table, the management of Bridgestone/Firestone is flagrantly turning its back on our tradition of peaceful collective bargaining to solve labor disputes," Clinton said — offering a rosy view of capital/labor relations in the United States many workers would find out of whack with both recent and past experience.



Militant/Barbara Bowman

Rubber workers and their supporters march on the Iowa State Capitol January 11. Strikers are fighting to turn back Bridgestone/Firestone concession demands.

The URW and Firestone are scheduled to meet with a federal mediator January 18.

In a related development, members of URW Local 164 at Titan Wheel, formerly Pirelli/Armstrong, rejected a proposed contract January 14 by a vote of 428 to 10.

Last July, rubber workers here walked out at Pirelli over a concession contract and a series of attacks on retiree benefits. Titan purchased the company and the unionists returned to work. Other Pirelli plants remain on strike.

## Union tour in Atlanta builds support for Staley and Caterpillar struggles

BY SALM KOLIS

ATLANTA — "Labor Rights = Civil Rights: I have a dream where humans will not take necessities from the many to give luxuries to the few," read the banner carried by locked-out A.E. Staley workers and Caterpillar strikers at the Martin Luther King Day parade here. The unionists, who came from Decatur, Illinois, participated in the march during a ten-day tour of Atlanta to get out the message and win solidarity for their struggles. Joining the four touring unionists for the King Day event were Jim and Sharon Fisher, Caterpillar strike activists who came down from Peoria, Illinois.

A contingent of 60 Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU) members from East Georgia attended the King Day march. The workers recently

concluded a nine-week strike against the Lichtenberg Corp., and livened up the event with fighting chants and songs. They were eager to exchange strike experiences with the members of the United Paperworkers International Union (UPIU) from Staley and the United Auto Workers (UAW) from Caterpillar.

Other unionists from the area who had met the workers from Decatur during their tour stopped by to offer solidarity. "I just wanted to let you know what you said at the meeting touched me so much," said Donna Pearson a member of Communications Workers of America (CWA) Local 3263. "I have 29 and a half years with AT&T and they're messing with us. I wonder if I'll be next?"

David Hayes, from UPIU Local 7837 at Staley, and Brian McDuffy, a member of

UAW Local 751 at Caterpillar, addressed a UAW Local 882 meeting January 8. Local 882 represents some 3,000 workers at Ford's assembly plant, parts depot, and warehouse in Atlanta. They showed "Struggle in the Heartland," a video that explains some of the issues in the Staley struggle and shows the police attacking a peaceful union demonstration.

"When workers are involved in fights like these, it's your responsibility to really do everything you can," said Samuel Stephens, an electrician at the Ford plant. "Our struggle here is the same as theirs."

The local voted to contribute \$1,000 to each union struggle and more than \$500 was raised in T-shirt sales and donations. A plant-gate collection raised \$1,800.

Frankie Travis and Walter Maus, both members of UPIU Local 7837, spoke to meetings of CWA Local 3263, January 10. "What can happen in Illinois can happen to anyone," commented one CWA member. "It's already happening here."

Several workers at the Kuppenheimer's sewing plant in Loganville, Georgia, made a special leaflet to announce an ACTWU Local 2490 meeting where Travis was going to make a presentation. Twenty people attended the meeting. Workers were especially interested in discussing what lessons could be drawn from the Decatur workers' fights, as the garment unionists expect an upcoming contract fight. The local's agreement expires this spring.

McDuffy and Hayes traveled to Winnsboro, South Carolina, to address a union meeting of UAW Local 5841, which represents workers at the Mack Truck plant. The local there has already participated in solidarity activities for the Caterpillar strike and agreed to take up a collection for the CAT Legal Aid and Defense Fund. They also decided to make regular financial contributions to the Staley workers.

Maus and Travis also joined 30 unionists in a support activity for stagehand workers fighting the Shepard Co., which refuses to bargain seriously for a contract with the newly formed union. "This was one of the most important parts of our tour," Travis said. "These workers are trying to figure out how to fight and it was important to show our support."

"Business is better organized than unions are today," Travis said at the conclusion of the tour. "We have to get organized and stick together."

Salm Kolis is a member of UAW Local 882 at Ford. Floyd Fowler, a member of ACTWU Local 882 at Kuppenheimer, also contributed to this article.

## Labor frame-up trial closes in Canada

Continued from front page

aligned against us are the police, the Crown [prosecution], and its resources," explained Orris to the jury. "In the Crown's summation he implied that the defense must prove reasonable doubt. We don't have to prove anything. It's the Crown that has to prove its case beyond a reasonable doubt. We wanted to get to the truth."

The government has not produced a shred of evidence connecting Warren to the blast.

### Government evidence challenged

According to the prosecutor's theory, it would have taken a minimum of four and a half hours to set up the blast. Warren was seen by fellow strikers while on picket duty at 2:00 a.m. and at 6:00 a.m. the morning of the explosion. Warren also testified he saw certain cars traveling on mine property at 3:00 a.m. and 4:00 a.m., which was corroborated by other witnesses.

The trek into the mine is arduous. Warren has a heart condition and is not physically capable of following the route the cops claim he took. Officials had to stop a police reenactment when Warren wasn't able to complete it.

The RCMP claims tracks show a person with size 11 boots set the blast. Warren wears size 10 boots.

Psychiatrist Shabehram Lorasbe testified for the defense. Lorasbe said Warren was clinically depressed at the time of the false confession and because of the pressures on him made him vulnerable to the

police interrogator's prompting to "be a man" and confess.

In prosecutor Peter Martin's summation, he stated that Warren's intimate knowledge of the mine, and his description of the route he supposedly took, were too close to the RCMP's findings to be a lie. Martin failed to point out that the RCMP's working theory of how the blast was set had been printed in detail in an *Edmonton Journal* article a month before Warren confessed. This article was discussed and studied by miners.

Martin challenged the credibility of all defense witnesses. "He's saying the only ones that can be believed are himself and the police" remarked Yellowknife miner Jack MacPhee, who attended the trial.

Martin also focused on lies Warren told the police during the 13-month investigation. Warren explained on the witness stand he had lied for fear he would be fired from Royal Oak.

Presiding chief justice Mark DeWerd will instruct the jury January 16. It will then be sequestered.

Warren's trial has been headline news on television and in newspapers across Canada. The coverage has been one-sided, seeking to shape public opinion against Warren.

Opinion is polarized in Yellowknife. "Warren is guilty. I also think that others were involved," an airport worker here told this reporter. "I just don't understand why he would confess if he was innocent." A retired miner who owns a business here said he thought the majority of business-

men believe Warren is guilty.

A different opinion was expressed by a group of St. Patrick's high school students. "He's too old to have done it," one of them said. "He is also very intelligent."

### Many miners support Warren

Support for Warren among miners runs deep. Many showed up to exhibit their support during the final days of the trial.

Crown attorney Peter Martin emphasized to the jury that Warren had maintained his confession to lawyers even after his arrest. The defense responded that once Warren decided to confess, he wasn't about to change his story until the strike ended. In December 1993, after the strike was settled, Warren admitted the confession was false.

"I think we would still be on strike if I hadn't confessed," Warren explained in a letter to fellow strikers Tim Bettger and Al Shearing. "Most if not all the 'evidence' I gave them is bullshit and based on stuff I'd learned over the past 13 months including the *Journal* story. I just hope I haven't buried myself by being too convincing."

Recently the Supreme Court of Canada has given Royal Oak the right to appeal the federal labor board ruling that ended the 18-month strike. Royal Oak has decided to do so. CAW Local 2304 president Rick Cassidy said "it's possible we'll be out on the picket line again."

Ned Dmytryshyn is a member of International Association of Machinists Lodge 692 in Vancouver, British Columbia.



# S. Africa miners

Continued from Page 7

rades, and wanted to know what actions were being taken to win their jobs back.

Tsatsimpe pointed out that working people throughout the area were potential allies of the miners in this struggle. "The majority of people in Carletonville are black," she said, adding that a consumer boycott could be mobilized in the townships to put pressure on the employers.

Taking the podium, Manamela urged miners to suspend current actions on the contractors issue. "Let the negotiations happen," he said. "If they fail, we can then consider renewed action."

## Affirmative action

A long-standing demand of the Mine-workers union is for companies to implement affirmative-action programs to provide equal pay, training, and the opportunity for job advancement to Black miners, who do the hardest jobs for the lowest pay underground. Virtually all skilled jobs below ground are held by whites. The NUM continues to wage a mine-by-mine struggle to abolish racist practices on the job.

Thaba reported that West Driefontein miners last year forced an end to the practice of white miners lining up for shaft elevators first at the end of shifts.

The biggest challenge, he said, "is that our people are not educated. Difficulties arise when a miner needs to read underground mapping or write a report," Manamela said. Nonetheless, he said, Black miners are able to do most jobs they are currently barred from.

He reported that mines owned by Anglo-American Corp. have reached an initial agreement with the NUM on affirmative action measures. The owners of Gold Fields have yet to agree to any such moves.

## Training and literacy classes

The NUM successfully negotiated an agreement with the Chamber of Mines to provide a program known as Adult Basic Education to workers at mines across South Africa. At the West Driefontein mine, classes are to begin in February.

Thaba explained that the employers will pick up the tab. Four days a month, "miners will go to class for two to three hours after work. We are also demanding paid education and training leave" on company time. There are four levels to the program, which begins with literacy training in a miners' mother tongue and continues on.

# —CALENDAR—

## NEW YORK

### Manhattan

**Special benefit screening of "Strawberry and Chocolate"** (*Fresa y Chocolate*). Directed by Cuba's Tomás Gutiérrez Alea. Tue., Jan. 24, 7:30 p.m. Tribeca Film Center, 375 Greenwich Street, 2nd floor (corner of Franklin). Donation: \$10 or more. Center for Cuban Studies and Caribbean-identified Lesbian and Gay Alliance. For reservations, call (212) 242-0559.

**Celebration of Casa de Las Americas 40th Anniversary.** Speakers. Sat., Feb. 4, 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Local 1199, 310 West 43rd St. (between 8th and 9th avenues). For more information, call Casa de Las Americas (212) 675-2584.

## ILLINOIS

### Chicago

**Solidarity & Fight Back Rally!** Join locked-out Staley and striking Caterpillar and Bridgestone/Firestone workers. Sat., Jan. 28, 1 p.m. Teamster City, 300 S. Ashland. For more information, call (312) 738-6060.

## WASHINGTON

### Seattle

**Young Socialists Weekend in Seattle, January 28-29.** Discuss world issues with young people from throughout the Northwest. Reports from youth participants in recent trips to South Africa and youth brigade to Cuba; video show of youth protests against Proposition 187 in California; discussion of January 25 national day of action in Canada against doubling of tuition rates. Weekend donation: \$10. Pathfinder bookstore, 1405 E. Madison. Tel: (206) 323-1755.

## NEW ZEALAND

### Auckland

**Communist League Convention and Socialist Educational Weekend.** Sat., Feb. 4 to Mon., Feb. 6. For further information, call (9) 379-3075 or (3) 365-6055.

# —MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

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

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

## CALIFORNIA

### Los Angeles

**Death in the Workplace: Labor's Role in Defending Health, Safety, and the Environment.** Speakers: Thabo Ntweng, Socialist Workers Party, member, International Association of Machinists Local 2785. Sat., Jan. 28, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W. Pico Blvd. Donation: \$4. Translation into Spanish. Tel: (213) 380-9460.

**Eyewitness Report Back from South Africa.** Speaker: Vana Knap, *Militant* correspondent at December national conference of the African National Congress. Sat., Feb. 4, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W. Pico Blvd. Donation: \$4. Translation into Spanish. Tel: (213) 380-9460.

## ILLINOIS

### Decatur

**Defend Abortion Rights. Stop Antiabortion Terrorism.** Speakers: Angel Lariscy, Socialist Workers Party; Lorell Patterson, UPIU member; Linda Ketchum, Voice for Choice. Sun., Jan. 29, 2 p.m. Richland Community College, Room SC23, 1 College Park (on Brush College Road). For information, call (217) 428-4524.

## IOWA

### Des Moines

**Report Back and Slide Show from Participants of International Youth Brigade to Cuba.** Speaker: Dannen Vance, member, UAW

Local 270, recently returned from a two-week tour of Cuba with the youth brigade. Sat., Jan. 28, 7 p.m. 2105 Forest Avenue. Donation: \$3. Tel: (515) 246-8249.

## MASSACHUSETTS

### Boston

**Women's Rights Under Attack: How Best to Defend Them.** Speaker: Karen Ray, former Socialist Workers Party candidate for Boston City Council. Sat., Jan. 28, 7:30 p.m. 780 Tremont St. Donation: \$4. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

## MICHIGAN

### Detroit

**Why Working Should Oppose Attacks on Welfare Recipients.** Speaker: Steve Marshall, Socialist Workers Party, and member, United Transportation Union. Sat., Jan. 28, 7:30 p.m. 7414 Woodward Avenue (1 block north of Grand). Donation \$4. Tel: (313) 875-0100.

**Rebellion in Chechnya.** Speaker: John Sarge, Socialist Workers Party, and member, United Auto Workers. Sat., Feb. 4, 7:30 p.m. 7414 Woodward Avenue (1 block north of Grand). Donation: \$4. Tel: (313) 875-0100.

## MISSOURI

### St. Louis

**'We Will Tell The Truth About Revolutionary Cuba.'** Speakers: Brian Taylor, railworker and leader of the Young Socialists in the United States, who recently visited Cuba on a speaking tour; participants in January Cuba Youth Brigade. Sat., Jan. 28, 7:30 p.m. 1622 S. Broadway (7th St. exit off I-55). Donation: \$3. Tel: (314) 421-3808.

## PENNSYLVANIA

### Pittsburgh

**Chechnya's Fight for Independence and the Deepening Crisis in Russia.** Speaker: Barbara Greenway, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Jan. 28, 7 p.m. University of Pittsburgh Student Union, Dining Room B. For information, call

(412) 381-9785.

## TEXAS

### Houston

**Death in the Workplace: Labor's Role in Defending Health, Safety, and the Environment.** Sat., Jan. 28, 7:30 p.m. 6969 Gulf Freeway # 250 (In the Woodridge Plaza, Woodridge exit off I-45). Donation \$4. Tel: (713) 644-9066.

## WASHINGTON

### Seattle

**Youth Speak Out on Cuba** Speakers: Participants in January Cuba youth brigade. Sat., Jan. 28, 7:30 p.m. 1405 E. Madison Avenue. Donation: \$3. Tel: (206) 323-1755.

## AUSTRALIA

### Sydney

**Crisis Facing Working Farmers.** Speakers from the New South Wales Farmers' Association and the Communist League. Sat., Jan. 28, 6 p.m. NCOSS, 66 Albion St., Surry Hills. Donation: \$4. Tel: (02) 281 3297.

## CANADA

### Montreal

**Which Way Forward in the Struggle Against Social Service Cuts?** Speakers: Marie-Claude Ricard, one of the Montreal coordinators of the student coalition against education cuts; Guy Tremblay, Young Socialists. Sat., Jan. 28, 7:30 p.m. 4581 Saint-Denis (Mont-Royal metro). Donation: \$4. Tel: (514) 284-7369.

## NEW ZEALAND

### Christchurch

**Mexico: The Crisis Deepens.** Speaker: Dean Hazlewood, Communist League. Sat., Jan. 28, 7 p.m. 199 High St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (3) 365-6055.

# Impoverishment fuels Algeria war

Continued from Page 3

bloody civil war is the product of mounting class tensions in a situation where workers and peasants have no leadership that speaks and acts in their interests.

The December hijacking of an Air France jetliner by members of Algeria's Armed Islamic Group (GIA) coincided with the third anniversary of the annulled 1991 election. The French government, which committed 2.3 million soldiers to combat Algerian independence between 1953 and 1962, supported cancellation of the elections and recently supplied the Algerian government with new helicopters and night vision equipment to use against its opponents.

Algeria's former colonial rulers are also using the pretext of "Islamic terrorism" to justify attacks on immigrants in France. "I

will not let people of foreign nationality living here to lead prayers, to become anti-French propagandists, to preach against the institutions of the republic, and to advocate confrontation here or elsewhere," French interior minister Charles Pasqua told Parliament November 7.

In pre-dawn raids by 300 commandos the following day, French police arrested 95 people allegedly tied to the GIA. Months earlier the government deported 20 accused FIS sympathizers.

Since the hijacking, Paris stepped up identity checks, already a daily concern for those of Algerian origin, and suspended air and maritime links to Algeria. And at least 88 girls have been expelled from school for wearing *hidjabs*, Islamic headscarves, since Education Minister Francois Bayrou banned "ostentatious signs" of religion in

secondary-school classrooms.

"It's tragic what is happening; Algeria is being torn apart," Hamid, a mechanic and one of 3 million Algerians living in France, told John Ridding of the *Financial Times*. "We are worried that the trouble will come to France and build a feeling of hostility towards ordinary Muslims," said one of Hamid's friends.

Confronted with what the French media are describing as "France's second Algerian war," Paris is debating its next step in guaranteeing capitalist stability in the region.

"The options may not seem very attractive now," an unnamed diplomat in Paris told the *Financial Times*. "But they are getting less attractive by the day.... [I]t is by no means clear that pressures within Algeria can be contained that long."

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**Like the new jailhouse?** — In addition to chopping public services and firing county employees, officials of bankrupt Orange County are considering other measures, including hustling "endow-



Harry Ring

ments" from people in exchange for naming public buildings after them.

**Ain't capitalism wunnerful?** — In Oxnard, California, women assembly line workers at an RJR

Nabisco food processing plant have filed a federal complaint to end the company practice of denying them the right to go to the toilet except during break time. Some suffered infection and some have been forced to wear sanitary napkins or diapers. Their Teamster local says it can't do anything because it's "company policy."

**Or very much** — "Mexico will prosper, but not very soon" — *Los Angeles Times* business section headline.

**Labor 'leaders'** — Organized employees of the American Federation of Teachers in Washington were slated to strike against a proposed giveback contract. The pres-

ident of the staff union said the AFT has gained 100,000 members since the last contract and is in good financial shape.

**'Trust us on this'** — Airline execs and the feds held a parley aimed at restoring public confidence in air safety. Debates among experts on how much to spend on safety measures were held behind closed doors. An official was reported as explaining that "the issues were highly technical and could be misunderstood by people outside the industry."

**The superior few** — It does bring to mind *The Bell Curve*. Los Angeles members of the Mensa Society, the organization of high

IQ folks, protested when their local newsletter published several articles advocating killing off the old, infirm, and homeless. The editor said she didn't understand what the fuss was about and, besides, no one reads the newsletter anyway. The local Mensa board at first concurred on free-speech grounds. Later, she was asked to resign following completion of the next issue.

**With whose deck?** — Harold Ezell, coauthor of California's Proposition 187, says a group of Latino parking lot attendants recognized him and one kept saying, "La Raza! La Raza!" Responded Ezell: "Hey man, it ain't La Raza, it's America, man. That's the

deal."

**Lighting the way** — When George Bush was prez, he beat the drum for leaving the poverty thing to private charities and dubbed it "1,000 Points of Light." The program lives in a foundation bearing that name. Thus far, more than half its budget — \$36.6 million — has come from federal subsidies. Of the money spent, 11 percent has gone to various charitable efforts. The balance? "Overhead."

**The waste-not society** — Frito-Lay is sending out more than 13 million samples of its newly developed Doritos tortilla chip, which is reportedly larger, thinner, and spicier.

## North Carolina judge brushes aside new evidence, denies third trial to Darryl Hunt

BY ROBERT DEES

WINSTON-SALEM, North Carolina — Darryl Hunt was convicted of rape and murder in 1985 and again in a retrial in 1990. He has spent nearly 10 years in prison.

A sophisticated new DNA test recently proved that the sperm found in the victim's body could not have come from Hunt. Nevertheless, last November the presiding judge refused Hunt's petition for a retrial.

The act Hunt was convicted of "was a heinous crime," said Larry Little, a former Winston-Salem alderman who has led the Darryl Hunt Defense Committee for 10 years. "And I thought, 'If he did it, he should pay.' But the more I checked on it, the more I realized that they didn't have a case. They just charged him as a thing of convenience, because the public was clamoring for an arrest."

In 1984 Deborah Sykes, a 26-year-old copy editor at a local newspaper, was abducted on her way to work. Her body was found later that day in a grassy field near her workplace. She had been raped, stabbed 16 times, and robbed. Darryl Hunt was arrested for the crime and convicted in two trials marked by police perjury, bribery, and intimidation of witnesses.

Hunt was a convenient target. When he was first arrested, he was a 19-year-old high school dropout with a petty criminal record. Hunt is Black — Sykes was white.

### The prosecutor's case

A key prosecution witness in the first trial was Johnny McConnell, who telephoned the police the morning of the attack to report having witnessed a man assault a woman. At the trial, he claimed he had "no doubt whatsoever" he saw Darryl Hunt on top of Sykes, beating her with his fists. McConnell said he had a full view of Hunt's face from about 40 to 50 feet away.

It was later learned that McConnell had first fingered another man. Only after discovering this person had been in jail the morning of the assault did McConnell change his story, claiming the assailant was Hunt. At the first trial, police detective J.I. Daulton, who led the investigation, concealed this misidentification and lied to the jury about it. McConnell was unable to identify Hunt in a lineup, which the prosecution also concealed.

Hunt's attorney established that just prior to the first trial, police had arrested McConnell for armed robbery and held him on \$50,000 bond. Two weeks after Hunt's conviction, McConnell's bond was dropped to \$5,000. He was then released from jail and the charge was later dismissed. McConnell also admitted that the Winston-Salem cops had paid him more than \$200 as a potential witness. Other friends of McConnell's testified that McConnell is a habitual liar.

In a 1993 hearing, Hunt's attorneys contended that the police had effectively intimidated two witnesses and prevented the lawyers from locating a third witness at the time of the second trial.

Blood and saliva samples taken from Hunt in 1984 did not tie him to physical evidence taken from Sykes.

The outcry over Hunt's first conviction forced the city manager to investigate the

police department's handling of the case. His report revealed an unwillingness to pursue suspects other than Hunt and evidence covered up, "lost," and destroyed. The main police investigator had also lied to the jury.

As a result of the publicity and controversy surrounding the conviction, police detective Daulton was demoted, the police chief was reprimanded, and the district attorney was voted out of office. The state supreme court overturned the conviction in 1989, technically for improperly admitted evidence.

At the first trial, Hunt's supporters had packed the courtroom in downtown Winston-Salem to show their solidarity. The second trial was moved to a small rural town where a jury of 12 whites again convicted Hunt.

### Second trial

At the second trial in 1990 Don Haige, a new witness, testified he had talked to Hunt about the case in prison. "I asked why did they kill the girl, and he said, 'We didn't mean to, but the bitch wouldn't hold still.' But another inmate, who was incarcerated with Haige, said he heard Haige say he was going to "set Hunt up" in an effort to get his own sentence reduced. Haige's brother testified that "I wouldn't believe anything he said."

In his summary at the second trial, the prosecutor urged the jury to ignore the legal requirement that guilt be proven beyond a reasonable doubt, saying "Don't let this man escape the penalty of law. Don't let him hide behind reasonable doubt."

When the DNA test last October showed that the semen collected in Sykes's body could not have come from Hunt, the prosecutors conducted their own test and got the same result. "These results are inconceivable," claimed assistant district attorney Eric Saunders. "The only explanation is that there was some contamination [of the sample] along the way. I would submit to you that the evidence...doesn't affect [the verdict]." But Saunders presented no evidence of contamination. The judge nevertheless refused Hunt's motion for a retrial. This ruling was appealed.

In December, the North Carolina Supreme Court denied Hunt's request for a retrial. The court's 4-3 majority opinion simply ignored the results of the DNA tests — there was not one word on it in the ruling.

"It's a classic case, but it's a clumsy frame-up — that's why it does not go away," Little said. "Ten years later, it's right back, staring the city in the face because the verdict has not spoken the truth." He added that the *Winston-Salem Journal* and television station WXII have served as "the mouthpiece of the prosecution."

The Darryl Hunt Defense Committee has gotten broad support in Winston's Black community and beyond. "There were over 100 people" at a recent rally organized by the committee, Little said.

"The real perpetrators of this crime are this court and the police department in Winston-Salem," pointed out Rev. John Mendez, a long-time leader of the defense committee, after the second conviction in 1990. "If a Black man or woman had been



Darryl Hunt at hearing where judge denied him a new trial. First two trials saw police intimidation of witnesses. Prosecutor urged jury to reject "reasonable doubt."

raped, sodomized, and murdered and there was a rich white male or female suspect who had virtually no physical evidence against him or her...that would have been laughed out of court," Rev. Carlton Eversly said. "People who are poor and Black

and young and male are often abused."

The committee is now looking to win national coverage of this case. The Darryl Hunt Defense Committee can be contacted at 115 Dellabrook Rd., Winston-Salem, NC 27105.

## — 25 AND 50 YEARS AGO —

### THE MILITANT

Published in the Interest of the Working People  
January 30, 1970 Price 10¢

JERSEY CITY, N.J., Jan. 20 — Last night, at around 11:30 p.m., a gasoline fire was started in front of the headquarters door of the Jersey City Black Panther Party. The lone Panther occupying the office quickly called other members, and through quick action, the fire was put out before the arrival of the fire department.

Immediately after this incident, Panthers and community residents occupied the office. Then, at around 1:30 a.m., a car rode past the office, firing into the place with an automatic or semiautomatic weapon. Luckily, no one was hit. However, the jacket of a Puerto Rican Panther was singed. The bullets also set fire to a poster of Malcolm X on the wall.

According to Panther spokesmen, this is the first time the office has experienced an assault like the one last night. They think it might have occurred due to the Panthers' support of the community's effort to bring to trial a policeman's wife who shot to death a Black man on New Year's Day. The incident arose when the policeman, off duty, made some inflammatory remarks to a group of Brothers, who then went to inquire about the statements. His wife saw this, she came out of the house firing a pistol, killing one Brother. The policeman's wife, although charged with murder, is free on bail.

### THE MILITANT

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

January 27, 1945

Roosevelt's hand-picked Supreme Court on January 8 did another chore for the sweatshop interests and child labor exploiters. By a 5 to 4 decision, the august court sustained an appeal of the Western Union Telegraph monopoly permitting it to employ children under 16 as messengers.

Under the Wage-Hour law, firms producing goods for interstate shipment are prohibited from employing child labor. The juridical jugglers of the Supreme Court tossed the words of the law around with practiced dexterity. While the court agreed that telegrams are "goods," they were not "shipped." Because, you see, the messages themselves were not sent — only "electrical impulses."

Justice Murphy pointed out that "by reading into the Fair Labor Standards Act an exception that Congress never intended or specified, this court has today granted the Western Union Telegraph Co. a special dispensation to utilize the channels of interstate commerce, while employing admittedly oppressive child labor."

The Supreme Court's Western Union decision has supplied additional fuel to the machinery of child labor exploitation which has been operating at high speed during the war. It has further undermined the structure of social legislation established by decades of labor struggle to protect children, the most defenseless section of the population, from the worst evils of capitalism.



## Sedition trial threatens rights...

The sedition trial that began January 9 in New York City poses a serious danger to all. Twelve men stand accused of plotting to blow up bridges, tunnels, the United Nations, and other area landmarks. Some face lengthy prison terms, even though the government has produced no evidence of concrete illegal acts. The most prominent defendant, Sheik Omar Abdel Rahman, is accused simply on the basis of views he has advocated as an Islamic cleric. Another defendant was in prison when the conspiracy was allegedly hatched. The main evidence against all 12 is the word of a highly paid FBI stool pigeon.

To get around its lack of evidence, the U.S. government has dusted off a Civil War-era sedition act. Laws against sedition, defined as inciting resistance or insurrection against a lawful authority, aim straight at the heart of freedom of speech and association.

The fight against sedition laws is not new to working people. In the 1790s Congress passed the Sedition Act, imposing fines of up to \$2,000 and jail terms as long as

two years for anyone who should "write, print, utter or publish...any false, scandalous and malicious writing" with intent to bring the government "into contempt or disrepute." The law was used against people like David Brown, a mechanic in Massachusetts sentenced to 18 months for posting a leaflet complaining that a wealthy few "receive all the benefit of public property."

Workers, farmers, and democratic-minded people rose up against this measure, and it was scrapped a few years later along with the equally reactionary Alien Act, which allowed the deportation of immigrants deemed dangerous to the "peace and safety of the United States."

The labor movement and all fighters for democratic rights should oppose the application of sedition laws once again in the New York case. We can be sure the measures used today against Abdel Rahman and his followers, if allowed to stand, will be used tomorrow by the government and bosses against strikers and others involved in social protests.

## ...as does N.J. 'sex offender' law

"Megan's Law" has just taken effect in New Jersey, but its dangers to democratic rights are already being exposed. The statute, named for a seven-year-old victim of a rape and murder, requires notification of neighbors, schools, and other institutions when anybody once convicted of a sex offense moves into the area.

Far from protecting the rights of women and children against sexual abuse and violence, such laws encourage reactionary vigilantism and threaten Constitutional protections working people have fought for and defended for two centuries. Since New Year's Day, when "community notification" became law, one person has already (mistakenly in this case) been targeted for a beating by intruders in a home, and two other New Jersey residents were harassed after having their addresses incorrectly

listed as the home of released convicts.

Megan's Law and others like it brand those who serve out their time as pariahs and social outcasts for the rest of their lives. Such laws impose a mandatory life sentence for all such crimes and those convicted of them.

Acknowledging the potential dangers inherent in the new statute, an editorial in the January 15 *New York Times* entitled "Megan's Law Needs Fixing" declares that "New Jersey should narrow its focus and notify only the local police and other law enforcement officials."

But there are no "flaws" in Megan's Law. We should demand that the law and any version of it be wiped from the books. It is an obstacle to the fight for women's rights, the protection of children, and the interests of working people and the labor movement.

## Clinic attacks can be stopped

Continued from front page

battles to roll back basic democratic rights.

But the rightists were defeated. They were met by organized countermobilizations — clinic-by-clinic — in cities from Buffalo, New York, to Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Under the pressure of the public defense of abortion rights, the cops and courts began arresting and sentencing those responsible for the assaults. The numbers willing to join the blockades dwindled. Groups that once drew hundreds or thousands to events were dealt a blow they have not recovered from.

In a recent column, Operation Rescue's Randall Terry, who led many clinic assaults, whines from his jail cell about "the crushing weight of the federal government." The courts, he says, should only give his ilk "small fines, two days in jail, charges dismissed, etc."

The November elections were another registration of the balance of class forces. Right-wing politicians largely left opposition to abortion rights in their briefcases. And in the wake of the recent murders, some opponents of a woman's right to choose, such as Boston's Bernard Cardinal Law, have called for a moratorium on clinic protests.

But a small rightist vanguard is testing the waters by calling for further actions and raising the specter of a rising tide of violence; a handful even applaud the killings. Such forces count on government inaction for the leeway to spread their terror.

Mobilizations to defend the clinics and actions such as the January 22 marches and rallies can defeat this desperate campaign too. We must show that *our* side will not be intimidated, that we will stand and fight. We must demand of the government that women's rights be protected under the law.

Some spokespersons for pro-choice groups call for restrictions on free speech and the right to assembly as a way to stem violent assaults. "Words Kill" was the headline of a recent full-page ad taken out by Planned Parenthood of New York City in the *New York Times*. "Leaders of the extreme religious right" use words "to inspire killing," the ad says. The head of the Brookline Planned Parenthood clinic where one of the December murders occurred has urged the government to consider prosecution of those who call the killings "justifiable homicide." Others have called for the use of "racketeering" and "criminal conspiracy" laws against anti-abortion forces.

But restrictions on what rightists can say when they gather in front of the clinics will not guarantee

government action to stop murderous assaults. Such restrictions can and will, however, give the government a dangerous new weapon to use against the democratic rights of unionists, protesters against police brutality, and others.

Nor is the "religious right" the source of the danger to a woman's right to abortion, as some argue. The aims of those leading assaults on abortion clinics are political, not religious. While many cloak their right-wing political goals in religious garb, the fact is that the majority of those in the United States who consider themselves religious, whether Catholic, Protestant, or otherwise, support keeping abortion safe and legal. The labor movement and supporters of women's equality must forcefully reject the idea that Catholics, or others who hold religious beliefs, are responsible for the assaults on abortion rights.

The federal government above all must be held accountable to halt clinic violence by enforcing the laws—plenty of which already exist—against assault, murder, vandalism, and other crimes. This is particularly true since the social program advanced by the broad spectrum of Democratic and Republican politicians is opening the door wide to the growth of rightist demagoguery. Attacks on immigrant rights, blaming women on welfare for poverty, carrying out more executions, stepping up cuts in social services—that is what working people are offered in one or another form by everyone from Bill Clinton to Newt Gingrich.

Supporters of democratic rights cannot rely on the good will of the very government that is leading the charge against working people's rights and living standards. Janet Reno, a liberal often touted as a friend of women's rights, provides a stark example. With five people killed in less than two years, and more shot and wounded, Reno has moved at a snail's pace to take action to defend the clinics. The same person who ordered the horrifying and unconscionable immolation of more than 80 people in Waco, Texas, in 1993 argues that the federal government doesn't have the forces to adequately protect abortion clinics.

"Intensify the struggle" is how Nelson Mandela put it in urging ongoing protests against South Africa's apartheid regime in its dying days. That's what thousands will be doing in Boston and elsewhere on January 22 by organizing public protests in defense of abortion rights. And that's how to keep the pressure on Washington to take the action necessary to stop the murderous assaults on clinics and clinic personnel.

## Currency chaos bred by bosses' downsizing

Continued from front page

aimed not only for higher immediate returns, but ultimately at intensified exploitation of labor in these countries and pillage of their natural wealth. U.S. capitalists alone sank \$127 billion into stock markets in Asia and Latin America between 1990 and 1993.

But the growing squeeze on the rights and living standards of workers and farmers has met resistance from Mexico City to Milan.

Capital looks elsewhere

Large amounts of capital have been yanked out of Mexico over the past weeks as alarmed investors fled one of Latin America's most industrialized countries. Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Peru met a similar fate.

Even in Asia, the capitalist "miracle" of the decade, some nervous businessmen have started to bolt. In the January 16 *Wall Street Journal* columnist George Mel-loan wrote that in China, "Warning signs are beginning to flash," adding that "political uncertainties are only a part of China's problem."

"Our situation is very different from that in Mexico," insisted the Indonesian finance minister on January 13, when the *rupiah* fell to a record low of 2,230 against the dollar. On that day, every major stock exchange in Asia fell except those of India and Pakistan.

The political crisis in Russia sparked by Moscow's bloody war against Chechnya has staunchly the short-lived surge into its infant stock market since the middle of last year.

In Europe, three capitalist governments were punished by the world's wealthiest currency dealers and bondholders for failure to sharply enough curtail the social wage and ensure political stability. The Spanish *peseta* and Italian *lira* hit record lows against the German *mark*, and the Swedish *krona* fell steeply.

The recent collapse of Silvio Berlusconi's government in Italy, and its inability to carry out an austerity program, including failed attempts that sparked mass union-led demonstrations, contributed to the *lira*'s fall.

"Nobody, save the politicians, believes in Spain's economic program," said the chief economist at a leading Madrid bank. Socialist Party prime minister Felipe Gonzalez hasn't produced satisfactory results from years of belt-tightening, and his regime is now being shaken by revelations of government hit squads that sought to murder Basque nationalists.

The new Social Democratic government in Sweden introduced an even grimmer austerity budget after Moody's Investors Service cut the credit rating on government bonds, citing social programs it said were crippling the economy. But Stockholm's measures were too little, too late.

"Mexico symbolizes the trend that in 1995 there is going to be a clear differentiation between those countries which will put in place the right macro- and micro-economic policies and those that don't," warned one London financial consultant.

Meanwhile, in the United States, many on Wall Street are already expressing skepticism over the political will of the Republican congressional majority to cut labor's social gains to the quick. "We have to go after Social Security sometime in the next five years," said Peter Lynch of Fidelity Management & Research, in an interview with *Barron's*. "I doubt the Republicans will do it."

Mexico bailout, at a price

Millions of workers and peasants in Mexico have seen their living standards plummet in the past weeks, and layers of the middle class face ruin.

In an attempt to head off political turmoil and stabilize Mexico for continued plunder, the Clinton administration has proposed a \$40 billion package of loan guarantees. Washington will charge hefty fees, which may amount to a \$4 billion transfer to its coffers. Some U.S. politicians are demanding that Mexico offer up greater control of its state-owned oil reserves as collateral.

Meanwhile, reflecting the pressures the crisis has brought on the regime of President Ernesto Zedillo, talks with opposition parties yielded a pact pledging reform of Mexico's election laws. It includes setting new elections for governor in the state of Chiapas, heart of peasant uprisings over the past year.

Some U.S. capitalist politicians are insisting on more onerous conditions for the bailout deal. Democratic senator Barbara Boxer demands the Mexican government crack down on illegal border crossings and take back jailed immigrants. Jesse Helms, chairman of the Senate foreign relations committee, insists "that Mexico make it a criminal act to try to leave the country without the necessary papers."

Patrick Buchanan, undeclared rightist candidate for U.S. president, has led the charge, decrying the deal with chauvinist demagoguery. In his syndicated column, Buchanan argues that the package will only benefit Wall Street at the expense of "American" workers and other taxpayers. "Let's stop the Mexican Bailout before it begins," he wrote, "and start building that barrier fence on our Southern border. Because this time, we are really going to need it."



# Safety cuts mean more derailments on Western railroad

BY DAN FEIN

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah — The fifth Southern Pacific (SP) train derailment in the past six weeks in this region occurred January 8. Four locomotives went off the track along with 14 cars, two of which rolled into the Colorado River in Glenwood Canyon, Colorado. No one was injured.

Bob Barney, an SP locomotive engineer for 25 years and a member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, said he had never seen so many derailments in such a short period of time. He blamed the company's "no rail maintenance" policy. Southern Pacific has cut the number of workers in all crafts, especially track maintenance crews, called section gangs. Bad track caused the most recent derailment.

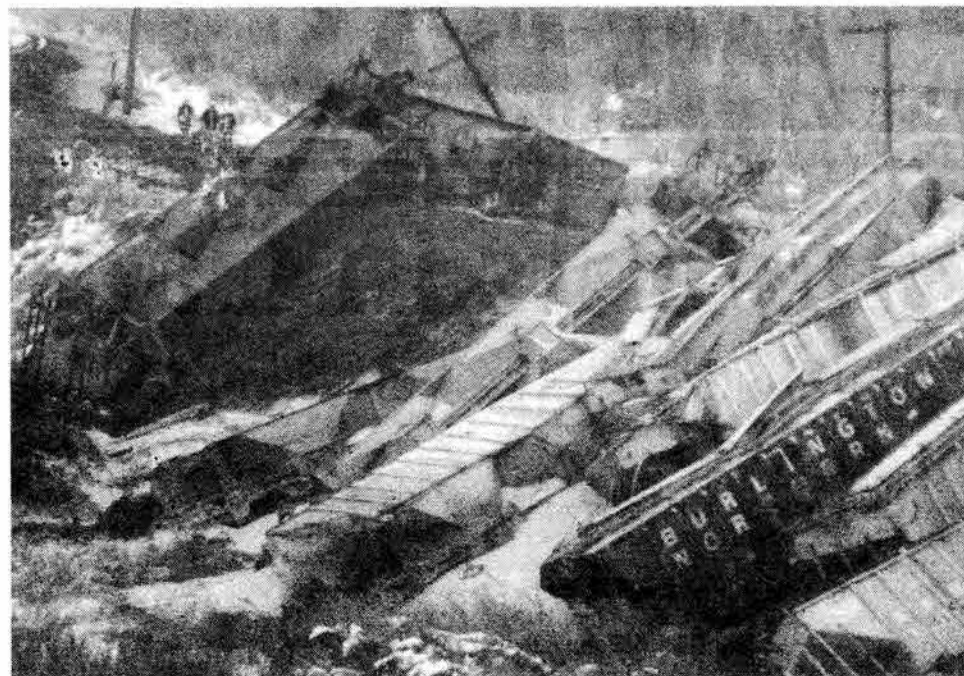
"Years ago you could see section gang members inspecting the tracks. I haven't seen an inspector in years," Barney said.

Ron Hyatt, a long-time conductor on the SP and member of the United Transportation Union, told this reporter the company

never acknowledges responsibility for accidents. "They just drug and alcohol test all the crew members and try to pin the blame on the workers."

Hyatt was the conductor of a train that derailed in Mac, Colorado, in mid-December. A heavy slab of steel had shifted, causing the 14-car derailment. He said the load had not been blocked to keep it from moving and that the railroad has no one inspecting for that kind of safety hazard.

Other recent derailments include a mid-November "run-away" where 54 cars loaded with taconite iron ore tipped over coming down a steep mountain at Tennessee Pass in Colorado. The run-away was caused by a brake failure. The conductor, who was trying to fix the brakes, suffered a number of broken bones in the crash. One worker who saw the scene the day after the accident said the cars were stacked up like an accordion. Twenty-four cars derailed in Riverton, Utah, about 20 miles south of



Southern Pacific train after derailment in Riverton, Utah. Rail bosses have cut back on track maintenance crews, contributing to sharp rise in accidents.

Salt Lake City, in December because the rail tracks were too far apart. Some diesel fuel from the locomotive's fuel tanks seeped into the nearby Jordan River.

Also in December, 20 cars went off the tracks in Pidgeon, Nevada.

Six SP rail workers died in on-the-job

accidents in 1994. The latest was conductor J.M. Simmons killed in a November 3 accident at Fordyce, Arkansas.

Dan Fein is a member of United Transportation Union Local 1416 in Salt Lake City.

## Puerto Rico gov't tries to restrict bail rights

BY RON RICHARDS

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — The two main capitalist parties here are joining in an assault on democratic rights with a new bill proposing a dramatic increase in the amount of bail those accused of crimes are required to post. This comes on the heels of a campaign to pass a constitutional amendment allowing judges to eliminate the right to bail under certain circumstances. The amendment, proposed by Gov. Pedro Rosselló of the New Progressive Party (PNP), was defeated in the November 6 elections.

Under the 1952 constitution the right to bail is absolute. The defeated amendment would have allowed a judge to deny bail if someone previously convicted of a felony were facing new charges and the judge deemed the accused to be a "menace to society."

While the Popular Democratic Party (PPD), the other main capitalist party, called for a vote against the PNP-backed amendment, the PPD itself has previously proposed limits on the right to bail. Within a week of the referendum vote, Kenneth McClintock of the PNP and Eudaldo Báez Galib of the PPD joined forces to propose the new bill. The two had been on opposite sides of the proposed constitutional amendment.

The bill requires cash payment of 50

percent to 100 percent of the bail for those with prior convictions. Some provisions would affect first-time offenders as well.

The proposed legislation would put people charged with crimes under virtual house arrest, increasing the use of electronic bracelets to monitor the person's location. It would also increase the time for a bail hearing from 24 hours after arrest to 72 hours. Hearings have been held on the bill but it has not yet come to a vote.

The defeat of the November referendum was a blow to the government's assault on democratic rights. The PNP was so confident of victory it had already passed a law detailing how the new amendment would be implemented.

The overwhelming majority of unions campaigned for defeat of the referendum. A number ran radio ads calling for people to vote "no." Joining in the campaign to defeat the amendment were leaders and members of independence, student, socialist, and gay rights organizations, as well as prisoners rights and professional groups and both the Catholic Church and the Evangelical Council.

One crime that could have resulted in denial of bail had the amendment been adopted was any previous conviction for "sabotage of public services." This was clearly aimed at the labor movement. The largest and most active unions in Puerto

Rico are those that organize workers at government-owned telephone, water, and electrical utilities. Accusing union members of sabotage is a favorite tactic of the government in trying to defeat public workers in a strike or job action.

The government's use of agents provocateurs to frame up political and union activists is well documented. The best-known case is that of Alejandro González Malavé, who in 1978 entrapped two young independence activists in a plan to attack some communications towers. The two youths were ambushed and murdered at Cerro Maravilla. The facts about U.S. government involvement in their deaths led to widely publicized revelations of spying against independence, labor, and political activists here.

González Malavé had also conducted sabotage against the electrical company during a 1978 strike in a bid to justify a government violence-baiting campaign against the union.

Sodomy was another of the crimes to have been covered by the defeated bail amendment. The current sodomy law here applies to both homosexual and heterosexual acts.

Ron Richards is a member of the American Federation of Government Employees in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

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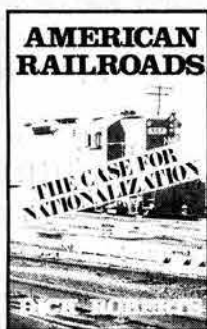
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## LETTERS

### 'The CIA against Che'

Readers of the *Militant* who read Spanish should take advantage of Pathfinder Press's distribution of *La CIA Contra el Che* (The CIA Against Che) (1992 Editora Política, Havana) by Adys Cupull and Froilán González, the editors of the Cuban edition of the *Bolivian Diary*. It is a great historical and political companion to the *Diary*, recently republished by Pathfinder in English.

Because of the campaign character of Che's diary, many other events in Bolivia and throughout the world, and their breadth, are only suggested in it, or were unknown to him.

This volume provides innumerable details about the identification with and response to the guerrilla fight by the Bolivian working class and student movement, and the deep fear of it by the U.S. and Bolivian ruling classes.

The CIA quickly took over the Bolivian government's prosecution of the war, and later was effectively running the country.

This was deep enough to even provoke divisions within the Bolivian government and military.

Sympathizers and relatives of the guerrillas were fired from their jobs, arrested, and frequently tortured; media coverage of political events in Bolivia was controlled; foreign relations of the government were conducted by the CIA; and most importantly, the Bolivian labor movement, in particular the militant miners, were repressed and eventually massacred.

The fact that the decision to murder the wounded Che was made in Washington underlines the fear of the U.S. imperialists of the Cuban revolution and its extension, and the leadership role of Che and Cuba.

Workers and youth never tire of the inspiration of uncompromising struggles for freedom. This book adds to the record of the lessons of the working class to end forever the base exploitation of our class by the privileged. It's a wonderful read.

Marty Anderson  
Brooklyn, New York

### Worker safety

The North Carolina Occupational Safety and Health Administration is conducting an on-site in-



vestigation of the explosion of the Broyhill Furniture Industries particle board plant in Lenoir, North Carolina.

The explosion, which occurred in the afternoon of November 21, killed two workers and injured four others.

Jennibeth Kennedy, OSHA's public information officer, said that the complex's last inspection came almost two decades ago, in No-

vember of 1975. That inspection also followed a fiery explosion at the same site that killed one Broyhill employee.

According to Kennedy, Broyhill was fined \$600 after the 1975 explosion initially. But when OSHA and Broyhill officials met five months later, the fine was dropped.

The Broyhill plant is one of many Caldwell County furniture businesses, and all are nonunion.

CEO Bruce Kinkaid has repeatedly refused to speak to me or anyone else from the press, but in a letter issued shortly after the explosion he described the company as "one big family" and said everyone regrets the "tragedy." If this were so, one would ask why the company skirted a (whopping) \$600 fine 19 years ago for "endangering the lives of workers."

Brad Hodges  
Hickory, North Carolina

### Cuba, S. Africa coverage

We greatly appreciate the coverage from South Africa and Cuba. Enclosed is \$100 towards the cost of the reporting teams to these countries.

Could the *Militant* report on what is happening in Namibia?

M.L. and L.H.  
Marrickville, Australia

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.



## Students in Canada fight cutbacks

Capitalists press government to slash deeply into social benefit programs

BY KATY LE ROUGETEL

MONTREAL — As momentum builds for the January 25 national day of strike and action, students across Canada are debating how to respond to the government's proposals to drastically cut federal funding for post-secondary education, unemployment insurance, and welfare.

Canadian officials intend to chop some CAN\$10 billion from social programs. Ottawa plans to abolish the CAN\$2.6 billion

### Young Socialists speak out against the cuts

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it presently grants to students for education and make the money available as loans instead.

"There are too many problems in the system," said Human Resources Minister Lloyd Axworthy, as he tried to make the case before the House of Commons that the government's plan would actually improve the social safety net.

The Canadian Federation of Students declared January 25 a national day of strike and action to protest the government's attack. Thousands of students in universities, junior colleges, and some high schools from coast to coast are expected to participate in marches, rallies, panel discussions, and other activities to protest government efforts to limit the right to education and cuts in social programs.

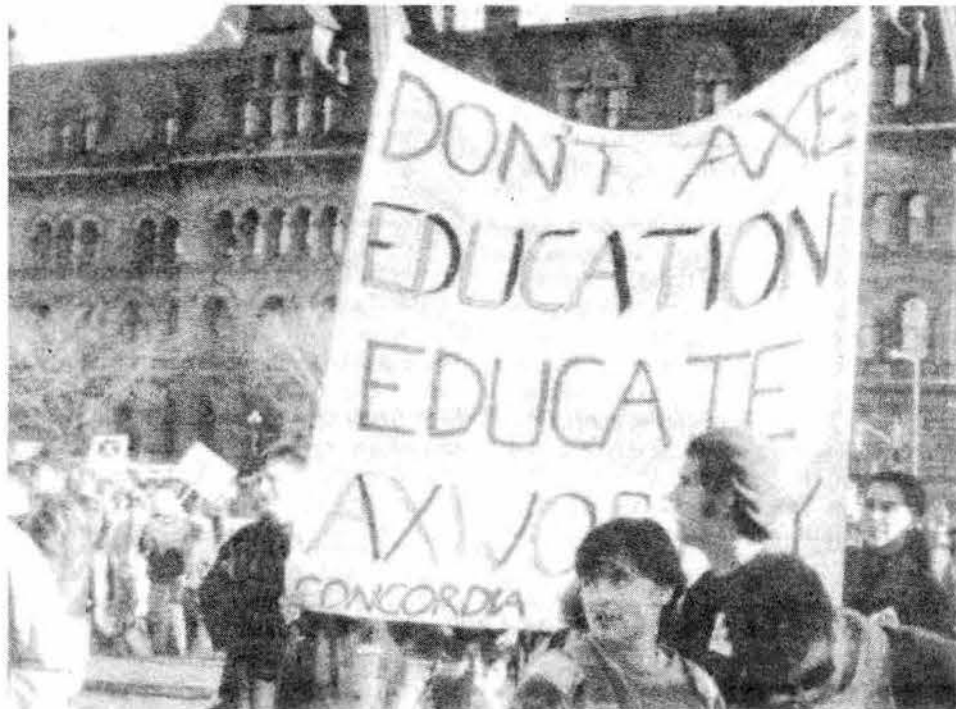
#### How far to push?

As the federal government prepares the terrain for the massive cuts it hopes to introduce with its February budget, ruling circles are trying to gauge how far to push their austerity program.

Montreal's *La Presse* posed the dilemma in a headline January 15 that read, "The battle of the titans is joined: federal cabinet divided on choices concerning social programs."

From across the border, the *Wall Street Journal* has publicly joined the debate by serving notice on the Canadian rulers in an editorial January 12. "Mexico isn't the only U.S. neighbor flirting with the financial abyss," wrote the big-business daily. "Turn around and check out Canada...If dramatic action isn't taken in next month's federal budget, it's not inconceivable that Canada could hit the debt wall."

The *Journal* editors don't think the situation is hopeless, however. They speak glowingly of provincial governments that are pointing the way forward by closing rural hospitals, abolishing school "bureaucracy," and imposing tough requirements on those receiving welfare. Special mention goes to Alberta premier Ralph Klein, who has thrown 40,000 of the province's 90,000 welfare recipients off the rolls.



Students across Canada will demonstrate against government cutbacks in education and social spending January 25. The actions have the support of many unions.

Axworthy has been in the forefront of the public campaign pushing for the type of social policies the *Wall Street Journal* proposes. He has taken student demonstrators head on, using a parliamentary commission examining the cuts to try to convince a layer of student leaders to work with the government in implementing its social program "reforms." The Quebec sovereignist parties, the Bloc Québécois, and Parti Québécois, have adopted a parallel strategy of attempting to tie student associations into the cutback frenzy.

The pressure from the government on the federal level and in Quebec is polarizing campuses across the country with regard to the January 25 actions.

This was reflected at the Student Society

of McGill University council meeting January 12, where vice president for external affairs Nick Benedict and the president of the council, Sevag Yeghoyan, put forward a motion against support for the action. They proposed that the council become a member of the soon-to-be-formed Canadian Alliance of Student Associations, separate from the Canadian Federation of Students that has been centrally involved in the cutback protests.

"We are not adversaries of the government," Benedict stated. "We are opposed to the Green Paper [proposing the cuts]. But we must have a two-track policy." Condemning what he and Yeghoyan called "violent" protests, Benedict said, "We must lobby the government and the media

and hold peaceful demonstrations."

The McGill Daily newspaper came out in support of the January 25 action, encouraging students to attend the council meeting. "The government is currently proposing changes which would impact upon all students, regardless of political affiliation," read a commentary in the January 9 issue. "Our common interests as students are best served by working together with others to block these changes."

"There is a student strike coming up on the 25th," said Chris Carter in proposing a motion supporting the action. "Instead of sucking up to ministers who raise our fees and saying we're terribly sorry, we should show unity. We know who our allies are and they're not the government of Canada. They're other students."

#### Antagonists to the government

A lengthy debate ensued. "Students are angry. It's important not...to be seeking some kind of consensus-building when there is clearly no consensus being offered," said Joe Wong. "Whether we want to believe it or not, we are antagonists in respect to the government" on this issue.

"Students are privileged," Adam Atlas argued to the contrary. "Our fellow Canadians are working to pay 90 percent of our education so we owe them some respect and should not accost their representative, Mr. Axworthy."

Carter read out the names of "some of the underprivileged groups" endorsing the action: Canadian Auto Workers, Canadian Labour Congress, National Action Committee on the Status of Women, National Anti-Poverty Organization, United Steelworkers of America (District 6), and dozens more.

After much discussion the council voted to support the action on January 25, joining with other student groups across the country taking an important step toward an effective response against the government's anti-working-class policies.

## Natives end occupation of Toronto tax office

BY JOHN STEELE

TORONTO — A 29-day occupation of the fifth floor offices of the Revenue Canada building here by Native peoples protesting changes in Canada's tax laws ended January 13. Nearly 1,000 people marched through downtown Toronto to celebrate the end of the protest, which brought public attention to the struggle of Native peoples. Solidarity demonstrations took place in Vancouver, Montreal, and other cities. The following day, 400 people marched on the Liberal Party headquarters in Toronto to support Native demands.

Twenty seven protesters from a number of Native groups in Ontario took part in the occupation. The new tax laws compel 3,000 so-called status Indians who work

off the reservations to pay income taxes.

Under the federal Indian Act, Canada's 565,000 registered or status Indians are exempt from this levy. The exemption stems from agreements made with government representatives in the 17th and 18th centuries when Native lands were taken by settlers from Britain and France. Up to January 1 status Indians employed on reserves, but working off of them, paid no income tax. Those both living and working off reserves do pay income tax.

The protesters stated that secret Canada Revenue documents show that the new regulations are a step towards taxation of all Native people.

Natives and other supporters of the occupation set up a camp in the courtyard of the Revenue Canada building consisting of tents, eating facilities, cooking fires, a press table, and other facilities. A 40-foot banner on the front of the building proclaimed, "This building is under aboriginal occupation." One placard read: "You have our land, we have tax immunity, do you want to exchange?"

"The government is trying to make it look like we are getting special treatment by not paying taxes," said Priscilla, a 30-year-old Native woman participating in her first protest action. "You have to look at the billions of dollars in land they took from us in exchange for not paying taxes."

"There will come a day when we all have to stand together," said Jimmy Groat from the Six Nations reserve near Brantford, who felt the labor movement could help strengthen the struggle. "The unions were made to save the working person. They have to come back into focus."

The protesters published a full-page advertisement in the *Globe and Mail* Decem-

ber 30 accusing Prime Minister Jean Chrétien of breaking an election campaign promise not to implement the tax changes. The ad reprinted a letter from Chrétien dated June 30, 1993, accusing the previous Conservative government of "irresponsible" action in changing the regulations. "You can be sure that a Liberal government would act in a far different manner," the letter stated.

On the day the ad was published, Chrétien released a letter dated December 28 calling the tax laws "fair and reasonable."

The *Globe and Mail* accused the protesters of being "wrong-headed." The new tax laws "should be tested in the courts, not behind the barricades," said the editorial.

The government and big-business media campaign against the protesters polarized the debate on Native rights. Ovide Mercredi, grand chief of the Assembly of First Nations, declared his opposition to the occupation, while suggesting the assembly might challenge the tax laws in court. Only in the final week of the occupation did the Chiefs of Ontario — the organization of all chiefs of the province — declare its support for the protest.

The occupation and the government's response generated debate among working people here. One worker at Ford Electronics echoed the government's claim that Native people are engaged in a tax scam. "They want a free ride and should pay taxes like everyone else," he said.

Another worker, who explained the history of Native oppression, said "we could have stopped the GST (sales tax) if we did what they are doing."

John Steele is a member of International Association of Machinists Local 2113.

New edition available from Pathfinder

### Genocide against the Indians

Its Role in the Rise of U.S. Capitalism

BY GEORGE NOVACK

"The conflict between the red man and the white is usually represented as essentially racial in character. But their war to the death was at bottom a social struggle," Novack explains in this recently reissued pamphlet. "The scramble for wealth was at its root. In this case, the chief prize was individual ownership of the land." 46 pp. Booklet. US\$4.00



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