

THE MILITANT

INSIDE
Detroit news strikers win
broad support

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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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500,000 in Havana rally in support of revolution

BY LAURA GARZA
AND ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

HAVANA, Cuba — Half a million people filled the length of the Malecón August 5 in a massive show of support for the Cuban revolution. The march along this seaside boulevard was called by the Union of Young Communists (UJC) for the anniversary of the huge pro-revolution mobilizations that were sparked last year by antigovernment disturbances on Havana's waterfront. The demonstration also called for an end to the U.S. economic embargo against Cuba.

The march was part of the week-long Cuba Lives International Youth Festival, which brought together 1,320 people from 67 countries. Young people came to the festival to find out the truth about Cuba and to make plans for worldwide coordinated activities against the imperialist attempts to bring the Cuban people to their knees. Almost all the delegates to the festival joined the march.

Havana was bustling as people on buses, trucks, bicycles, and on foot jammed the streets leading to the waterfront for hours prior to the demonstration. Workers from factories, hospitals, agricultural and construction contingents, students from Havana and other provinces, families with young and old streamed toward the Malecón. Thousands of Cuban flags, colorful banners, and homemade signs dotted the crowd, reading: "Down with the blockade," "I am a revolutionary," and "Long live socialism."

"Down with Helms and Burton," was another popular sign, referring to a bill introduced in the U.S. congress by Senator

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Croatia gov't offensive widens war

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

Further widening the Balkan war, the Croatian government headed by Franjo Tudjman recently threw its military might into the fray, routing Serb forces in the Krajina region. A three-day military offensive launched August 4 included 100,000 Croatian troops, accompanied by tanks, armored personnel carriers, fighter jets, and helicopters. It was the largest army fighting in Europe since World War II.

According to the *Financial Times*, the imperialist governments of Germany and the United States gave the "green light" to Zagreb to launch its offensive. The okay for the military assault was conditional upon a "quick and clean" battle.

On the other hand, Britain and France, who have thousands of troops on the ground as part of the UN forces in the former Yugoslavia, condemned the Croatian offensive. Russia continues to openly back the Serbian government and its allied forces carrying out the war against the Bosnian people.

Far from being a "clean battle," the town of Knin was bombed "indiscriminately" for more than 24 hours at the start of the siege. Shells landed on the rail yard,

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Abu-Jamal wins victory with stay of execution

Supporters demand new trial, fight death penalty

BY GLOVA SCOTT
AND HENRY HILLENBRAND

PHILADELPHIA — Supporters of Black activist Mumia Abu-Jamal cheered as Judge Albert Sabo issued a stay of execution August 7. The judge's ruling means that the death warrant signed by Pennsylvania governor Tom Ridge for August 17 will not be carried out. Abu-Jamal, however, will remain on death row.

It is "a victory for the many thousands of people who have come out around the world in support of Mumia Abu-Jamal," said chief defense counsel Leonard Weinglass.

The much smaller number of armed and uniformed cops in the courtroom sat grim-faced. Abu-Jamal was framed up, convicted, and sentenced to death in 1982 for the murder of police officer Daniel Faulkner. Upset at Judge Sabo's action, one cop told reporters, "Maybe we should have executed him at 13th and Locust where he executed Danny Faulkner."

Weinglass said he had always been confident Abu-Jamal's supporters would win a stay, but he had expected it to come from a higher court. "I didn't think Sabo would grant it," he said. "I don't think he ever has before." Sabo, known as a "prosecutor in robes," has sent 31 people to death row, more than any other judge in the country.

Abu-Jamal sent a statement to his supporters through Rev. Jesse Jackson, who had come to the courtroom to show his solidarity. Sabo granted Jackson's request that he be allowed to meet with Abu-Jamal during a lunch break. "He is grateful," Jackson reported. "He's glad about that. Secondly...he is anxious for his followers, his supporters to be disciplined and focused. He expressed sadness for the



Militant/Glova Scott

July 12 rally in Philadelphia. Pressure forced government to grant stay of execution for Abu-Jamal, whose case has become focus of fight against death penalty.

widow's loss. I thought he was very strong spiritually and very focused."

"Today's victory should convince all supporters of justice for Mumia Abu-Jamal to redouble their efforts at building the August 12 march on Philadelphia," said Socialist Workers Party mayoral candidate Deborah Liatos. "As Mumia Abu-Jamal said, it's been the disciplined and focused actions of thousands of people around the world that have forced the

rulers of this country to pull back. The August 12 action can help build the ongoing struggle that is needed to win the new trial that Abu-Jamal is demanding."

Hearings on Abu-Jamal's appeal for a new trial will continue in Sabo's courtroom.

International attention has focused on the judge's biased conduct against Abu-Jamal. Sabo also presided over the

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Thousands in Japan say, 'No nukes'

BY DOUG JENNESS

HIROSHIMA, Japan — An international spotlight was focused here August 6 to mark the day 50 years ago when the U.S. government dropped the first atomic bomb virtually obliterating this city. Some 60,000 people, including hundreds from overseas, turned out for the official ceremonies sponsored by the Hiroshima municipal government.

Thousands of others gathered at later rallies called by antinuclear organizations. Similar commemorations will be held in Nagasaki where a second nuclear weapon was dropped on Aug. 9, 1945.

The unprecedented death and destruction to the civilian populations of Hiroshima and Nagasaki was one of the most monstrous crimes ever committed against humanity.

During the days preceding the August 6 activities several conferences heard survivors (hibakusha) of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki blasts describe the infernos that ravaged their cities 50 years ago. Some 70,000 to 100,000 people were killed outright in Hiroshima as a result of the firestorms that incinerated everything within a radius of 1.25 miles or from the effects of the high-pressure blast that knocked down nearly all standing structures. In the weeks that followed, many died from heavy doses of radiation, burns,

and other injuries. By the end of 1945, 140,000 were dead in Hiroshima and 70,000 in Nagasaki. The casualties continued for some years afterwards.

Participants at a number of conferences taking place here discussed why Washington dropped the atomic bombs, considered proposals for banning nuclear weapons, and condemned the recent decision by the French government to begin a series of nuclear tests in the South Pacific.

Survivors testify

A three-day international symposium, cosponsored by the Special Non-Governmental Organizations Committee for Disarmament and the Japanese Preparatory Committee involved a broad range of organizations, including particularly strong participation from the



Militant/Mark Friedman

City workers turned out for march in Hiroshima August 6

Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers' Organizations.

The conference, which drew 300 participants from 24 countries, heard Takeshi

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General strike in Panama

Workers in Panama began a general strike August 4 to protest legislation aimed at weakening the union movement. Cops fired tear gas grenades at the strikers, who barricaded major streets in Panama City. Three workers were killed in the clashes with police and dozens were injured. The cops arrested 300 protesters.

The strike action was called by 49 unions, including the construction and banana workers unions, which have 70,000 members between them. Panama's president, Ernesto Balladares, a wealthy businessman, claims the changes he is proposing would attract international investors and help lower the country's 13 percent unemployment rate.

U.S. congressman proposes end to aid for Managua

U.S. legislator Jesse Helms, head of the Senate foreign relations committee, said aid to Nicaragua should be terminated because the government there was not doing enough to resolve hundreds of millions of dollars in claims by U.S. citizens who say their property was "stolen" by the Sandinista government during the Nicaraguan revolution. "Their [the Clinton administration's] priority," complained Helms, "is filling the coffers of the Nicaraguan government."

White House officials, however, told the *New York Times* July 31 that cutting off aid to Managua would destabilize the country and make it harder for the wealthy to get their property back or receive compensation. In the early 1980s many landless peasants were given land titles as part of an extensive agrarian reform. "If we destabilize the country the first thing that will go down the tubes is any Nicaraguan interest" in returning property, warned one U.S. diplomat.

Shaky truce signed in Chechnya

Russian and Chechen officials signed a tenuous military truce July 30. The fighting over the last eight months has left an estimated 40,000 people dead. The accord calls for the release of all prisoners as the first step toward laying down weapons.



Union members protesting at the port of Balboa in the Panama Canal at end of July. The workers are demanding back pay for promotions they received one year ago. Union officials say the government of Panama owes the workers \$197,000 in back wages.

Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev approved the accord August 2, but also sacked his chief negotiator for making too many concessions. Chechen and Russian military commanders in Grozny exchanged a small number of prisoners August 3.

Russian president Boris Yeltsin sent thousands of troops into Chechnya last December to crush the Chechens' fight for independence. Heavy military casualties — officially 1,800 Russian soldiers — the huge costs of the war, and opposition among many Russians have put pressure on Moscow to end its slaughter of the Chechen people.

Israeli soldiers evict settlers

Israeli soldiers evicted 500 Jewish settlers who were squatting on West Bank hills August 3. The evictions marked the fourth day of battles between the settlers and Israeli troops and police. The settlers were protesting a proposal that would expand Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank. Under the plan Israeli troops are to pull out of areas in the West Bank, where 140,000 Israelis live among 1 million

Palestinians.

The settlers are demanding that the accord, which is being negotiated by the Israeli government and Palestinian officials, be put to a national referendum. Tel Aviv seized the Gaza Strip and the West Bank during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

Japan banking crisis deepens

The Bank of Japan bailed out Cosmo Credit Corp., the fifth largest credit union in Japan, August 1, with some \$450 million to cover withdrawals. Cosmo's depositors withdrew more than \$900 million in cash in two days — almost 20 percent of total deposits. Officials at the credit union displayed cartloads of money to assure depositors of ample cash reserves. Cosmo lent heavily to real estate speculators and is saddled with nearly \$2 billion in bad debt.

Japan's banks are burdened with at least \$570 billion in bad loans and the country is facing its worst economic crisis in decades.

Fishing pact approved at UN

Delegates from 100 countries approved a treaty August 4 that would supposedly curtail the global decline in fish stocks. The agreement still needs approval by the 185-member General Assembly of the United Nations and at least 30 nations before taking effect.

Mike Sutton, of the World Wildlife Fund, said most fisheries were not covered by the pact. "Our main concern about the treaty is that it covers only about 20 percent of world fisheries," he said. Catches of wild fish are dropping by several millions tons a year. The agreement would give governments that sign the treaty the right to set fishing quotas and to board boats suspected of overfishing.

Antarctic ozone hole widens

The depletion of the ozone layer over Antarctica has worsened over the past ten years, according to Jonathan Shanklin, a meteorologist with the British Antarctic Survey. "If anything, there's an acceleration of the depletion," said Shanklin, one of the three scientists who announced the discovery of the ozone hole in 1985.

Ozone is a form of oxygen that protects against harmful ultraviolet rays from the sun. Its destruction is caused by pollution from compounds containing chlorine or bromine.

Sexual harassment victory

Del Laboratories Inc. agreed August 3 to pay 15 secretaries nearly \$1.2 million in punitive damages for sexual abuse imposed on them by the company's chief executive, Dan Wassong. The amount was the largest settlement the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has ever obtained in a sexual harassment case.

"He made you feel dirty," said one of women, who only lasted two months as an assistant to Wassong. In all some 30 other women came forward to corroborate the complaints of sexual harassment in the government suit. Women "don't need to suffer these kinds of indignities just to collect a paycheck," said Gilbert Casellas, chairman of the commission.

Judge blocks scab ban

U.S. district judge Gladys Kessler blocked the Clinton administration's executive order barring the government from awarding contracts to companies that permanently replace striking workers. The executive order is delayed until a federal appeals court can hear a lawsuit filed by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers, and Bridgestone/Firestone Inc.

According to the *Wall Street Journal*, Bridgestone/Firestone is being "investigated" for hiring scabs earlier this year at its plants during a strike. The company said hiring of replacement workers was a necessary part of doing business.

U.S. jobless rate edges up

The U.S. labor department reported August 4 that the unemployment rate rose to 5.7 percent as factory jobs were shed at an accelerated pace. About 85,000 factory jobs were lost in July; 188,000 factory workers have been added to the unemployment roles since March.

The labor department's survey of payrolls also revealed a six-minute lengthening of the workweek. In addition, the report showed that 7.8 million workers, or 6.1 percent, held two or more jobs in July. This is an increase from the 7.2 million workers, or 5.8 percent of the workforce, who held two jobs a year earlier.

— MAURICE WILLIAMS

THE MILITANT

Oppose nuclear weapons

The French government's plans to move ahead with nuclear tests has generated widespread public opposition from Tahiti to Japan. The 'Militant' provides coverage of the protests against the dangers of nuclear radiation and war. Don't miss a single issue!



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Stockholm tribunal exposes harassment of immigrants

BY DAG TIRSEN

After being deported from Sweden and turned over to Peruvian security forces, Napoleón Daponte was subjected to a mock execution in a Peruvian prison. Only after an international campaign and much publicity in Sweden was Daponte allowed to return. But the Swedish immigration board still does not recognize him as a political prisoner and he can be deported again at any time.

This story was recently presented at a public tribunal in Stockholm, organized by immigrant and political organizations to expose the increasingly anti-immigrant policies of the Swedish government.

Okote Sewe, a journalist, fled from Kenya in 1992. He was forcibly circumcised and his wrist was broken under torture in prison there. He had written a book about the assassination of a Kenyan foreign minister, accusing the government of being responsible. The Swedish Immigration Authority argues that the fact he was released after the torture shows that he can return to Kenya without danger.

Anita Dorazio, a prominent fighter for the rights of asylum seekers and member of the National Council of Refugee Groups and Asylum Committees, presented facts about how difficult it is to gain asylum in Sweden. She explained that while a majority of people who sought asylum in Sweden a couple of years ago received it, now less than 10 percent of applicants are granted that status. Dorazio estimates that 7-8000 refugees are hiding in Sweden to escape deportation.

Government officials use all kinds of pretexts to question the credibility of an applicant. If they have a passport they can be turned away on the basis that they couldn't possibly be persecuted if they have such an official document. If they don't have a passport they are suspected of having destroyed it to "hide the truth" and make the investigation more difficult.

The deportation policy is harsher now,

Dorazio said. Previously, an attempted suicide could be a reason for the Immigration Authority to stop a deportation on "humanitarian grounds." Now it takes two suicide attempts.

Attorney Robert Camerini testified at the public tribunal that the Immigration Authority is violating international law by jailing children of refugees awaiting deportation. The United Nations convention on children, which Sweden ratified, outlaws imprisoning children.

Ken Lewis, another lawyer, compared the social democratic government's brutal immigration policy of today with actions of the Swedish government during World War II. At that time the Swedish government collaborated with the Swiss and German governments by stamping "J" on the passports of all Jews so they could be identified and turned away at the border.

Another witness at the tribunal was the representative of a group of 5,000 refugees from Bosnia, Yusuf Yakusevic. He spoke about a successful fight that had forced the Swedish government to stop their deportation. Considered Bosnian Croats, the 5,000 had obtained passports from the government of Croatia to enter Sweden and escape the war. Although their home was in Bosnia, the Swedish



A May 1994 antiracist demonstration in Sweden. Immigrants have been the most frequent target of racist attacks.

government refused to recognize them as refugees because they could "return to Croatia." The new minister of immigration, Leif Blomberg, drew a lot of attention to the group's deportation, taking great pains to ensure that the Croatian government would "receive" them.

But the group of Bosnians took on the fight, starting with a hunger strike last September that involved several hundred people. Later they occupied a church in the southern Swedish town of Karlskrona for several months.

When the fighting broke out in Croatia again, the Swedish government came under increasing fire for its attempt to send people back into a war. The Bosnians won the support of Amnesty International, church leaders, and politicians. A group of prominent actors and religious figures published a common statement denouncing the deportations.

The Swedish government finally backed off the deportations. It granted the refugees temporary asylum and said they could make new applications for asylum.

Bus drivers in Sweden protest attacks

BY JONAS ANDERSON
AND BIRGITTA ISACSSON

STOCKHOLM — Some 3,000 bus drivers stopped public transportation in the greater metropolitan area here for two hours on the morning of June 29. The drivers were protesting the attacks on conditions and wages that will accompany the projected sale of the government-run municipal public transportation system.

In the last three years the big-business privatization effort has sparked strikes and

overtime bans by bus drivers. Drivers who work for already privatized lines have suffered wage cuts and worsened working conditions.

The June 29 strike was called by the Municipal Workers Union in response to protests by the bus drivers.

At the Rasta bus depot, where 550 bus drivers are stationed, Dan Olsson, a striking driver with seven years experience, said, "I don't think the ownership is the most important thing. It is the working conditions that matter. I would lose \$330-500 a month and seven vacation days, and my pension age would be raised from 65 to 67 years."

Another driver described how the work pressure has increased over the seven

years she has worked there. "They don't care about us," she exclaimed. "This proposal is like selling the barn with the animals still inside."

Another driver, Patrik Larsson, said, "It's important that we not stop here. We are prepared to fight until the company withdraws its proposal."

The strike was solid throughout the city. No buses moved between 7:00 and 9:00 a.m. All the drivers interviewed expressed support for the strike. Many added that they are prepared to carry the fight further.

Jonas Anderson is a member of the Municipal Workers Union and Birgitta Isacson is a member of the Metal Workers Union, both in Stockholm.

YOUNG SOCIALISTS AROUND THE WORLD

Reports on Cuba festival set

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.

BY VANESSA KNAPTON

LOS ANGELES — As a 14-member delegation of young people from the Los Angeles area was in Cuba attending the International Youth Festival, plans were being made for activities upon their return.

The local chapter of the Young Socialists has been helping to organize report-backs from the Festival with other delegation members. They plan to send delegates to high schools, college campuses, union halls, churches, and organizations to talk about what they learned at the week-long gathering.

In these meetings, they will share their discussions with youth from around the world who oppose the U.S. embargo on Cuba and support Cuba's sovereignty.

The all-out campaign to tell the truth about Cuba will be timed with the return of students to school, many of whom are fighting to defend affirmative action and against attacks on social services. The meetings will be used to build for the October demonstrations against the embargo.

All members of the delegation went as reporters for area newspapers like *L.A. Watts Times*, a small Black community newspaper; and *La Gente*, a student newspaper at UCLA; and radio stations. When they return, they will be writing articles and talking on the radio about their experi-

ences.

BY JENNY BENTON

FORT MADISON, Iowa — Mark Curtis, a political activist framed-up on rape and burglary charges seven years ago, is currently imprisoned in the Iowa State Penitentiary here. I first became aware of his case only nine months ago, but have since had the opportunity to visit Mark in the maximum security facility.

As a member of the Young Socialists, the opportunity to meet this courageous fighter has solidified my resolve to continue the fight to win Mark's freedom and change a system that uses imprisonment as a form of intimidation against those who struggle for the rights and dignity of humanity.

Under capitalism, the justice system serves not to provide equitable justice, but is an integral component of a society that exploits working people. Thousands of workers are unjustly convicted and face the harsh conditions of prison. Yet despite the often demoralizing conditions he faces in prison, Mark continues to actively participate in politics.

During the course of our visit, Mark led a discussion on the importance of creating a workers and farmers government. Before he was sentenced to one year in lockup, Mark organized study groups with other inmates.

After witnessing firsthand the conditions Mark and the other inmates face each day, I am better able to appreciate the discipline and level of political consciousness of Mark. His example is one of a revolutionary who has not been beaten by the prison system.

Rob Cahalane, 25-year fighter in communist movement, dies

BY PAUL MAILHOT

Rob Cahalane, a leader of the Young Socialist Alliance in the 1970s and member of the Socialist Workers Party for more than 25 years, died in New York City in July at 42 years of age.

Cahalane joined the Young Socialist Alliance as a high school student in Boston in 1969, and later the Socialist Workers Party. Like many youth of his generation, he was angered by the U.S. government's war on Vietnam and was deeply affected by the Black struggle.

As a young member of the communist movement, Rob fought in the major battles in Boston in the mid-1970s to desegregate the public school system. His experiences in Boston, building the communist movement through the fight against the war, the rise of the women's rights struggle, and the battle against racism, helped to forge Cahalane's lifelong commitment to the cause of the working class and the fight for socialism.

A meeting initially set for New York City to celebrate Cahalane's life has been rescheduled for Boston. Members and supporters of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialists there, many of whom knew and worked with Cahalane, are organizing the event for Sunday, August 27, at 2:00 p.m. Further announcements about the meeting will be carried in next week's issue of the *Militant*.

Meeting to celebrate the life and political contributions of Rob Cahalane

Speakers:

Jack Barnes, SWP National Secretary

Jason Coughlin, member of Young Socialists

Maceo Dixon, participant in fight to desegregate Boston schools

Joan Paltrineri, worked with Cahalane during antiwar and women's liberation movements in Boston

Paul Mailhot, *Militant* staff writer and YSA leader during Boston busing battle

Sunday, August 27
2:00 p.m.

location to be announced

Sponsored by Boston branch of the SWP For more information call: (617) 247-6772. To send messages fax: (617) 247-6834

Affirmative action stirs up some controversy

"From behind prison walls" is a regular column written by framed-up political and trade union activist Mark Curtis. To write to Curtis, send letters to him at #805338, Iowa State Penitentiary, Box 315, Fort Madison, IA 52627.



Mark Curtis

Is affirmative action about to be killed and buried? Should it be?

I think the answer to both questions is "no," but I've heard different opinions from my fellow prisoners on the matter. One young guy I spoke with was against affirmative action. "It discriminates against whites and that's wrong," he said. His view was that companies shouldn't be forced to hire anyone because of race and the jobs should go to the most qualified. "The government should stay out of it," is how he put it.

Another prisoner gave an excellent example from his own experience as an owner-operator truck driver of why that is not right.

As a Black driver he was familiar with companies that regularly sent him on the less profitable routes and only gave the

money jobs to whites. He believes affirmative action is worth defending.

When I worked at Hayes Aircraft, a repair plant with a lot of military contracts, the boss's discriminatory practices were obvious. The easier, cleaner, safer, and higher paying jobs like inspectors, machinists, and mechanics were overwhelmingly white and male. A higher percentage of Blacks were found in tank sealing and sheet metal jobs, on the lower end of the pay scale.

But what was really striking was that in the hangar where old paint was stripped off the planes, everyone was Black. The noxious odor of the chemicals and the high heat and humidity made it the worst job in the plant.

Although Birmingham, Alabama, (the plant's location) is a mostly Black city, the big majority of Hayes workers were white.

Some progress had been made at Hayes, however, due to the effects of the civil rights movement and affirmative action. There used to be out and out segregation, and what used to be separate Black and white bathrooms are now men's and women's.

It might seem like the bosses have a special love for male white workers. In fact, they want us to think that. But it isn't true. Capitalists everywhere share a hatred and fear of workers of all colors, and of both sexes.

Capitalism nurtures racist beliefs for two reasons. Firstly, it keeps the working class divided and easier to rule. It blames certain groups of workers for unemploy-



Militant/Osborne Hart

Hundreds demonstrated July 20 in support of affirmative action outside University of California regents meeting in San Francisco that voted to end these programs.

ment and crime, which keeps the heat off their profit-making system. Secondly, it drives down the value of labor power of Black and brown-skinned workers, making them "cheaper to hire."

Scapegoating women for "stealing men's jobs" and making jobs like sewing into "women's work" divides our class and also lowers the value of labor power.

This enhanced exploitation of workers equals more profits for the ruling class. Discrimination pays.

Because it strengthens the working class overall and lessens its exploitation, anything that equalizes hiring, firing, wages, and schooling is most definitely in the best interests of white workers and male ones, too.

Affirmative action enjoys wide support and the political moves to weaken it are being made with one eye on what we will do about it. We should send them a clear message to keep their hands off what we've gained.

1,000 protest cop killing of Black youth in Miami

BY JIM KENDRICK
AND SETH GALINSKY

MIAMI—One thousand people marched here July 25 to protest the killing by a Miami policeman of a 17-year-old Black youth. Carrying candles the protesters marched from the youth's home to the church parking lot in Coconut Grove a few blocks away where Torrey Jacobs was fatally shot July 18.

Marchers were addressed by Bishop Victor Curry of the New Birth Baptist Church, who called for further investigation into the shooting death.

A group of ministers and community leaders met with Miami police over the killing of the youth. The group questioned why the cops stopped a young man who was not breaking the law.

Rev. Willie Sims told the *Miami Herald* that police are too suspicious of Black

youth. "Every African-American male teenager is not a criminal, regardless of how they dress. They might have the baggy pants, they might have the hats turned sideways, but that does not put them in the category of a criminal," said Sims. Cops claim that Jacobs had a ski mask tucked under his hat and was "suspiciously" eyeing cars in the church parking lot.

The Coconut Grove Ministerial Alliance sponsored a community meeting July 21 to hear several police spokesmen. According to the *Miami Times*, a Black weekly, "They faced a barrage of criticism" from Coconut Grove residents.

Jacobs was killed by bike patrol officer Chris Griffin, who is white, on the night of July 18. There were apparently no witnesses to the shooting except for Griffin. The *Herald* reported that "preliminary au-

topsy reports appear to confirm that Jacobs was in a crouch when he was shot...because the bullet in his chest had a downward trajectory."

The cops claim Jacobs was crouching to pick up a cigarette lighter designed to look like a gun and had started to raise it when Griffin shot. The cop fired five times, striking Jacobs once in the chest.

Many residents in what is known as the Black Grove doubt the police version. "What fool is going to point a toy gun at a cop?" said one young woman in an interview. "I don't believe it." Referring to previous cases of police brutality in the Grove, she added, "The cops are always harassing young people here."

In late February, cops attacked Black high school students in nearby Coral Gables after a Black History Month event. Police Chief Donald Warshaw defended

stopping Jacobs. "Good police work entails a police officer using his or her other sixth sense," Warshaw said. Griffin "did what any good officer would do, which is to go make an inquiry as to why [Jacobs] was there."

In reply, an editorial in the *Miami Times* pointed out that Warshaw is "completely wrong when he suggests...that it is good police work to stop people without sufficient cause, simply because an officer is suspicious."

Socialists defend Cuba, busing in Seattle

BY CHRIS RAYSON

SEATTLE—At a July 24 news conference, the Socialist Workers campaign submitted more than 1,200 signatures for Meg Novak for Seattle city council and Rich Stuart for Seattle Port Commission, qualifying them for the ballot. Marc Kinzel will also be on the ballot as the Socialist Workers candidate for Seattle school board.

In a statement released at the news conference, the socialist candidates highlighted the fight for "jobs for everyone." In the Seattle area tens of thousands of Boeing workers at several huge aerospace plants have been laid off, increasing the unemployment level.

The socialist campaign statement stressed, "Every worker has the right to a

decent, safe, union wage-scale job," the statement said. "The central demand in our campaign is for a 30 hour workweek at 40 hours' pay."

Novak, 21, an assembly line worker at Kenworth Truck and a member of the International Association of Machinists, participated in the August 1-7 Cuba Lives International Youth Festival. The company initially denied her a leave of absence to make the trip, but reversed its position after Cuba solidarity activists, campaign supporters, and others called to protest. In all, four union members at Kenworth Truck traveled to Cuba for the festival.

After winning the leave of absence, Novak and campaign supporters distributed literature outside the plant where she works. This led to friendly discussions the next day on the job about solidarity with Cuba, jobs for all, and other campaign proposals.

Kinzel, the socialist school board candidate, declared his opposition "to any attempts to gut school desegregation."

Several members of the current school board have made various proposals to end busing for school desegregation.

"Busing is needed to counter ongoing discrimination in the city's schools," Kinzel stated. "Segregation in housing and schools is increasing as the capitalist crisis unfolds, making affirmative action measures, like busing, necessary to counter inequality and divisions among working people."

Curtis case wins new support in Crete

BY BABEL MUNAWAR
AND NATASHA TERLEXIS

ATHENS, Greece—Supporters of jailed political activist Mark Curtis traveled to the island of Crete July 14-16 to win new backing for his fight for freedom. Two dozen people viewed the video *The Frame-up of Mark Curtis* at meetings at the Labor Center in Chania and at a youth hostel in Rethymno.

In Crete, a largely agricultural region and major tourist area, many construction workers are immigrants from the Middle East and Eastern Europe. The discrimination and abuse these workers face helped prompt their interest in Curtis, a U.S.-born worker who fought for the rights of immigrants in the United States.

A flyer circulated at the meetings by the Refugee Solidarity Movement, the antiracist group that organized the video showing, denounced the arrest and deportation orders against two Libyans and a Syrian working in Crete, two of whom expect to face victimization from the regimes in their countries if expelled.

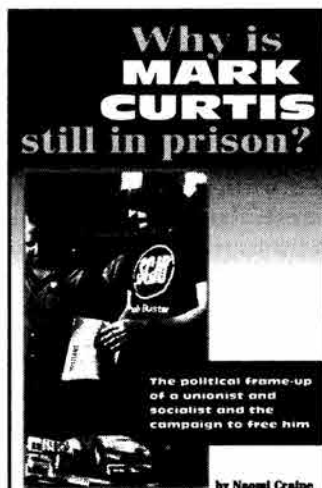
"For a year now the social security administration has been denying people without papers the right to a 'health book' through which they can receive medical attention," said Suleiman, a construction worker from Syria. Workers are forced to pay into the system, but cannot get health care without showing a residence permit.

Using the Latin, Arabic, and Greek alphabets, 15 people signed letters to the Iowa State Parole Board demanding Curtis's release.

Why Is Mark Curtis Still in Prison?

The Political Frame-Up of a Unionist and Socialist and the Campaign to Free Him

by Naomi Craine



Mark Curtis is a union activist and socialist who was framed up by police on false charges of rape and burglary in March 1988. At the time he was involved in a struggle to defend 17 Mexican and Salvadoran co-workers arrested in an immigration raid at the packinghouse where he worked in Des Moines, Iowa. This new pamphlet explains what happened to Curtis, and the stakes for workers, farmers, youth, and other democratic-minded people in demanding his release.

Pamphlet, \$6

Available at bookstores, including those listed on page 12, or write Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Tel: (212) 741-0690. Fax (212) 727-0150. Or contact the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, P.O. Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa, 50311. Tel: (515) 246-1695.

Hundreds turn out to defend abortion clinics in St. Louis

BY MARTIN DUNNE
AND CHARLENE ADAMSON

ST. LOUIS — At 6:00 a.m. on August 3, 300 pro-choice activists showed up to defend the Reproductive Health Services (RHS) clinic here. Police kept the clinic defenders separated from 15-20 anti-choice protesters. Over the next two days, hundreds of supporters of women's right to abortion continued to defend the clinics in this area.

When the American Coalition of Life Activists (ACLA) announced it was planning actions to disrupt abortion clinics in the St. Louis area August 3-5, an ad hoc coalition involving several reproductive rights groups formed to counter the rightists.

The ACLA's appearance in St. Louis is part of the group's national "Nowhere to Hide" campaign, which aims to close clinics and force targeted physicians to stop performing abortions. The anti-abortion rights group was formed last year by members of Operation Rescue who left that organization when it rejected the argument of "justifiable homicide" put forward by Paul Hill, who was convicted of murdering a doctor who performed abortions in Pensacola, Florida. Regional director David Crane claims the ACLA has no position on "justifiable homicide," but he and several leaders of the group signed a petition by Hill supporting the use of deadly force to protect "unborn children."

The call to defend the clinics got a great response. Four hundred people showed up for a clinic defense training session July 31; organizers had expected a turnout of 150.

On August 4, the second day of the mobilization, 200 people came to defend the RHS clinic. Upon hearing that the ACLA had concentrated most of their forces at the Hope Clinic in nearby Granite City, Illinois, leaders of the defense effort quickly sent 80 volunteers across the Mississippi River. They joined other abortion

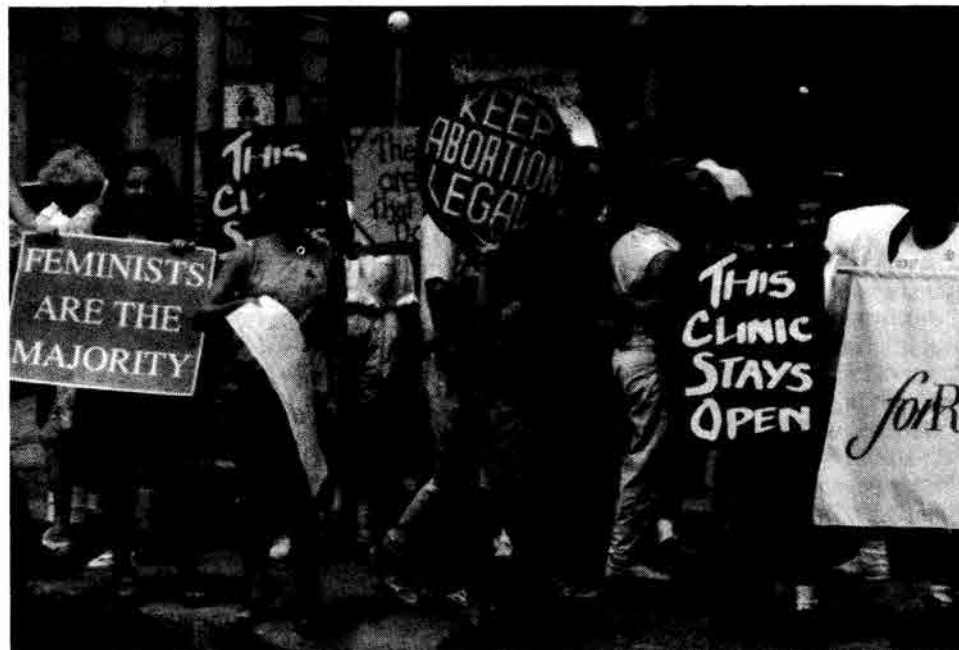
rights supporters there and once again outnumbered the ACLA forces.

Among the participants over the three days was Earl Meyer, a retired member of Teamsters Local 2964. Meyer was working in Kansas when Operation Rescue assaulted the Wichita clinics in 1991. "I joined the pro-choice side and helped to defend clinics because I believe in democracy," he said. "I've been on a lot of picket lines, so when Planned Parenthood called me, I felt I had to come."

Jena McClintock, a student at Webster University who participated in defense at both clinics, described the antiabortion movement as an "effort to prevent women from maintaining control of their bodies. This is not an issue of religion or life, it's an issue of personal freedom."

As the abortion rights supporters grew in numbers at the Reproductive Health Services throughout the morning Saturday, August 5, hundreds of motorists responded to signs asking them to "Honk for Choice."

Meanwhile at the Hope Clinic a crowd of about 80 rightists was confronted by



Militant/Sukul Baul

Abortion rights supporters greatly outnumbered rightists who tried to disrupt clinics

100 clinic escorts and supporters who ensured that services at the clinic were not disrupted.

Participants in defense of both clinics joined others at a rally at noon on Saturday at the St. John's United Methodist Church in St. Louis. The church, which accommodates 600, was packed.

Linda Taggart received a standing ovation when she addressed the crowd. Taggart is the director of one of the two abortion clinics in Pensacola. Two doctors and a clinic escort have been murdered at clinics

in that city in the last two years.

Hope Clinic director Sally Burgess-Griffith described attacks from anti-abortion forces there since 1982, including a firebombing and kidnapping of one of their doctors.

St. Louis mayor Freeman Bosley also spoke, explaining that he was there "to reaffirm my commitment to women and a woman's right to choose." Missouri governor Mel Carnahan sent a message to the event stating, "The ACLA has no business here and is not welcome."

Women fight Dow over deadly breast implants

BY ESTELLE DeBATES

COLUMBUS, Ohio — "We are encompassed in a nightmare for which there is no awakening.... There are women who are becoming gravely ill, dying, or committing suicide because we cannot get the medical help we need," said an open letter to the attendees of the annual conference of the National Organization for Women (NOW) held here in late July. The letter was signed by Susan Boone, a founder of Recovery with PALS (Positive Action, Love, and Support), a support group in Ohio for women suffering from serious health problems due to breast implants. Boone is also a member of the National

Breast Implant Task Force.

Boone and other fighters from these organizations staffed an information table at the convention. These women all suffer from silicone poisoning in their bodies. Behind the table was a black banner that took aim at Dow Chemical Co. "Deceitful, despicable, Oppressive, offensive, Weaselly, Watergate Tactic," it read. Dow Chemical is the parent company of Dow Corning, the nation's largest manufacturer of breast implants.

The dangers of implants, in use since the early 1960s, drew national recognition in 1992 when the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced a moratorium on the silicone devices. An ongoing investigation forced Dow Corning to release internal documents that revealed the company knowingly put women's lives at risk for the sake of profits. According to the activists, 44,000 women have filed lawsuits against the manufacturers.

The women said that since the moratorium Dow has dropped the silicone time bombs on the Third World. This is nothing new. A 1979 internal company memo discussed what to do with a bad batch of implants. "These units can be packaged ready to go for shipment to any country other than USA, Western Europe, Australia, and New Zealand. They are excellent for South America, Near East, Eastern Europe, Africa, and the Far East," wrote one executive.

The activists explained how the "scientific" studies pointed to as proof of no connection between implants and the disorders thousands have suffered were bought and paid for by Dow Chemical. Hundreds of participants in the NOW conference signed petitions and took information supporting a newly launched boycott against Dow products.

One of the women staffing the table, Jean, told her own story, typical of growing numbers of women who have been poisoned by implants and suffer from Silicone Associated Disease (SAD).

Despite her pain, Jean was actually in a celebratory mood, having finally succeeded in getting her implants removed the week before the conference. She got the implants 13 years ago after surgery for fibrocystic breast disease. "One out of eight women gets breast cancer. Most chose implants, but were never informed of the risks," she said. "I believe there should be criminal charges against Dow for falsifying documents, covering up, and for murder. And all implants — including saline, which are in a silicone sack — should be banned."

Over the years Jean has had hair loss, inflammation in her right hip, severe pain in her left breast, fainting spells, a series of systemic infections, and many other

symptoms. Her doctor reassured her that it couldn't be from the implants. She finally learned through her own research what the problem was. "I thought, 'Now I see why those women filing lawsuits are so pissed off — I'm one of them too!'" she stated.

Manufacturers of the implants continue to insist that their products are safe. At recent congressional hearings reviewing the FDA ban on the implants, one legislator, David McIntosh, argued that keeping breast implants off the market is dangerous. Women who would otherwise get screened for breast cancer might put off the procedure out of fear that they could not get implants if a mastectomy were needed, he contended.

Susan Cunningham is an activist in the National Breast Implant Task Force. Her story is strikingly similar to Jean's — a litany of illnesses with no apparent explanation. She too could no longer hold her job. "Women with breast implants cannot donate their organs, we cannot give blood. If our illnesses are psychosomatic or we're just after money, why is this true?" Cunningham asked. "I've accepted that my life will be shorter because of my implants," she said, "but it will be a worthwhile life, because I'm going to fight until my last breath."

Help sell the socialist press!



Militant/Holly Harkness

Selling the *Militant* at rally to support striking newspaper workers in Detroit

BY NAOMI CRAINE

Socialist workers and youth from the United States got a great response to literature tables at antinuclear conferences in Japan commemorating the 50th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima. "There are now eight new *Militant* subscribers in Japan, as well as one *Perspectiva Mundial* subscriber," writes Mark Friedman from Los Angeles. Thirty-five people bought single copies of the *Militant*. The socialist workers also sold \$1,000 worth of Pathfinder books and pamphlets and 40 Pathfinder catalogues. Scores of conference participants picked up information on the defense campaign for framed-up unionist Mark Curtis, and a couple bought copies of the pamphlet *Why is Mark Curtis Still in Prison?*

Supporters of the socialist press have other important opportunities to sell the

Militant, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and Pathfinder literature to workers, farmers, and others engaged in political struggle in the next few weeks.

Militant supporters from Britain and the United States will be traveling to Ireland twice in August. The first sales and reporting team, August 10-13, will be in Belfast during the annual *Fleadh* (festival). They will participate in an August 13 march and rally at Belfast City Hall calling for all-party talks on the future of Ireland. A second team to Dublin August 26-27 will join in a demonstration against the British occupation of Northern Ireland that will mark the first anniversary of the Irish Republican Army cease-fire.

Militant supporters are also planning to participate in the 28th Annual Meeting of the Federation of Southern Cooperatives August 18-19 in Alabama.

Celebrate the Life of Robert DesVerney 1927 - 1995

Robert DesVerney, a long-time member and leader of the Socialist Workers Party, died July 28 in San Francisco. Comrades and friends are holding a special meeting to celebrate his contributions to building the communist movement for 45 years.

Speakers:

Jack Barnes, Socialist Workers Party National Secretary;
Kathryn Crowder, member of SWP branch in San Francisco;
Others to be announced.

Sunday, August 20
Reception at 3:00 p.m.
Program at 4:00 p.m.

The Court Room Summit
Health & Education Center
30 Hawthorne Ave. Oakland (Pill Hill)

Sponsored by San Francisco SWP. For more information call: (415) 282 - 6255. Fax messages to: (415) 282 - 6354.

500,000 rally in Cuba to back revolution

Continued from front page

Jesse Helms and Representative James Burton. The legislation would further tighten Washington's embargo and impose sanctions on companies in other countries for trading with Cuba.

Just when the march was set to begin, a torrential downpour began. But the sudden storm did not deter the thousands of youth and working people.

Soaked within minutes, most in the 300-strong contingent from the United States, began jumping up and down and chanting "Cuba Sí, Bloqueo No," (Cuba yes, blockade no). They were gathered behind a bilingual banner reading, "U.S. youth say end the economic blockade against Cuba."

The crowd marched on. The international contingents were at the head of the mobilization. President Fidel Castro, UJC first secretary Victoria Velázquez, and other Cuban leaders joined the marchers.

"We're not afraid of the rain or of the Americans" who impose the economic blockade, said Manuel Solís Touza, 52. He marched with the Níco López contingent, which is made up of 7,000 workers involved in construction projects. Solís is working on the Hotel Comodoro. The workers in brightly colored T-shirts carried signs reading, "To resist is to win," and "Our dignity is higher than Turquino," referring to the island's tallest mountain peak.

Anniversary of last summer's events

Last year's August 5 riot was initiated by groups of people who had gathered on the waterfront in the hopes that a boat would be hijacked, which they could use to get to the United States. Tensions had been building last summer with a series of boat hijackings by Cubans who wanted to reach the shores of Florida, having been denied legal entry by Washington. Playing on frustrations borne of severe scarcities of food, fuel, and other basic necessities in Cuba, the White House welcomed with open arms those responsible for these incidents, while continuing to deny virtually anyone a legal route into the United States.

Thwarted in their hijacking attempt, a crowd of a few hundred swarmed along the Malecón throwing rocks and breaking hotel and store windows. They were met by thousands of Cuban workers, who turned out in a show of support for the revolution. Castro soon arrived and succeeded in calming the situation.

Speaking at a rally at the end of this year's march, Castro recalled last year's events. "What did our enemies abroad and their allies inside our country want? They aimed to provoke a bloody confrontation, to force us to use weapons," Castro said. "And we do have weapons, indeed millions of people in this country are armed, and they are the ones who defend the rev-



Isle of Youth residents at a send-off rally for international delegates to Cuba Lives Festival. Rallies were held in other provinces the day before the march in Havana.

olution. But we have weapons only to fight the enemies from abroad and to defend ourselves against anyone who tries to shoot at revolutionaries inside Cuba."

Castro explained that he went to the Malecón last year to personally make sure that not a single shot would be fired against those throwing rocks. "And really, what happened was unprecedented," he said. "In a matter of minutes an entire people poured into the streets to reestablish order. Only your massive presence and spirit brought back order, absolutely without using any weapons. 'The people crushed the counterrevolution without firing one shot. In what other country of the world does this occur?'"

The Cuban president announced on August 5, 1994, that, given Washington's role in encouraging hijackings, Cuba would not be pushed into cracking down against those trying to leave, instead it would allow the departure of all those wanting to get to the United States whether they had permission from Washington or not.

During the next month some 30,000 Cubans left by raft, causing a crisis for the U.S. government, which quickly reversed its policy of openly fomenting the illegal entries. Instead, U.S. president Bill Clinton sent a naval flotilla to intercept the rafts and jam thousands of Cubans into miserable prison camps at the U.S. naval base in Guantánamo — Cuban territory illegally occupied by Washington.

Last September, the White House was forced to agree for the first time to allow a large number of Cubans to emigrate legally — a minimum of 20,000 in the first year — and to refuse entry to those without visas. The U.S. government was also forced by repeated protests of the Cubans at Guantánamo to accept the thousands being held there.

Two days after the August 5, 1994, events a march of half a million was held in response to the provocations and to honor a young police officer who had been slain in a hijacking attempt. A funeral march for a naval officer killed on August 9 also drew tens of thousands in the town of Mariel. For many in Cuba this outpouring of support for the revolution in the midst of hard economic times was a watershed.

At the march one year later, Dania Morgado, 22, explained, "I am here to show I support the revolution." Marta González, from the Cerro neighborhood of Havana, called the demonstration a "defining act."

"I am defending Cuba," added Darelys Alonso Guerra, 16. "What we have the people of the Third World don't have."

At one point, a feeder march into the seaside avenue was nearly stopped by foot-deep water. But the crowd was urged on by Andrés Gómez, head of the Antonio Maceo Brigade, an organization of Cuban-Americans based in Miami who support the revolution. Gómez, like other Cuban-Americans from the Alliance of Workers in the Cuban Community in Miami, the New-Jersey based Cuban American Coalition, and Casa de las Américas in New York, came to take part in the mass mobilization. Gómez addressed the crowd from the balcony of the UJC office for Havana

province. The marchers soon plowed into the water to join the bulk of the crowd.

'U.S. out of Guantánamo!'

Just a few blocks down the road, the U.S. contingent passed the U.S. Interests Section. The youth from the United States began chanting, "Hey-hey, ho-ho, U.S. out of Guantánamo!" Cubans standing on the sidewalks or watching from nearby balconies began smiling and clapping.

"The most impressive thing for me here was that 1,300 delegates from the festival marched with us," said Aishel Amer, 19. "They were mixed in the crowd. With their own banners in English, Spanish, French, and some languages I did not understand. We danced and shouted slogans together, including the 'hey-hey, ho-ho' one," she said laughing. "But it became the most popular slogan on the sidewalks as the U.S. group passed by. We're definitely not alone."

"Lift the U.S. Blockade. End UK complicity," read a banner carried by delegates from the United Kingdom. Other sizable contingents came from France, Spain, Brazil, and El Salvador.

'The revolutionaries are winning'

"We're winning. The revolutionaries are winning, that is what the outpouring for this march shows," said Rubén Zardoya a professor at the university of Havana who marched last August and joined this year's march with his wife, Rosa María, and their four children. "August 5, 1994, drew a dividing line, a clear mark for the revolution. Since that time the counterrevolutionaries are on the defensive. Those who want Fidel out of power, those who want to impose 'market socialism,' those who want the restoration of capitalism, are on the defensive."

"Since then, words like 'class struggle' have become part of the daily vocabulary," Zardoya continued. "During the worst days of the special period, from 1992 to early 1994, if you used terms like 'class struggle' or the 'dictatorship of the proletariat' you would be openly called a dogmatic dinosaur by many professors at the university. That is not the case now."

Cubans are five years into what they refer to as the special period, a term that describes the conditions that have marked life in Cuba — including frequent blackouts, factory shutdowns, and a sharp drop in agricultural production — since the country lost trade at preferential prices with the former Soviet Union and was abruptly thrust into the world capitalist market.

Obviously moved by the turnout this year, Castro said at the concluding rally, "August 5, 1995, will also be historic, and each year we will have to remember this day, because it says a lot, it shows a lot, and it provides a lot of encouragement." He said he could imagine how a march of a few hundred or even a few thousand would have been portrayed around the world as a blow against the revolution, and not a single news report would have mentioned the pouring rain.

"But what an extraordinary response," he said, giving special thanks to the people of Havana who came out in large num-

bers. "Because it's precisely in the capital where the problems are the most acute, where we have the biggest shortages in housing, water, transportation, electricity, and many other things. But look how the people of this city respond."

Economic stabilization

Many workers and students interviewed during the demonstration said that economic stabilization is becoming a reality this year, providing working people some breathing space and more self-confidence.

"There is less despair today and more revolutionary optimism," said Joel Acosta, 25, a machine operator at the Antillana de Acero steel mill on the outskirts of Havana. "I feel the noose of the economic catastrophe has been loosened from our neck. And a new generation of Cubans are taking responsibility for our revolution. When half a million people took to the streets last year to protest the murder of the police officer, we said, 'This revolution is ours, it belongs to the working class, and we'll defend it in the streets if necessary.'"

"Everything we've done in the last two years in the factories has made a difference," said René Alfonso, 28, from the Nazareno food processing plant, explaining how the economic crisis has eased. "Now we're off the bottom of the pit."

Alfonso pointed to a series of measures the government has adopted to reverse the decline in industrial and agriculture production and reduce inflation. These steps include increased foreign investment in tourism and mining, legalization of the use of hard currency, higher prices for rum and cigarettes, entry fees for sporting and cultural events, and the opening of agricultural markets at unregulated prices. More than 3 million workers debated many of these measures at assemblies in workplaces across the country before they were adopted by the National Assembly, Cuba's parliament.

Cuba Lives festival

The Union of Young Communists, which called last year's August 7 mobilization, was one of the sponsors of the "Cuba Lives" festival and the march this year.

UJC first secretary Velázquez, addressing the crowd at the concluding rally, referred to the theme of the international youth festival. "Cuba lives: in the open doors of its schools, its hospitals, its retirement homes, and day care centers."

"Cuba lives: in spite of those who want to sweep all of this away, in spite of the criminal U.S. blockade," she added.

"Cuba lives: without counting on Helms and Burton, because the Cuban revolution was not approved in the U.S. congress."

Velázquez emphasized Cuba's proletarian internationalism and the importance of solidarity by youth from around the world.

Castro came back to this theme during his talk, addressing the international delegates. "I truly cannot find words to express our gratitude for the support you have given us, for this beautiful Cuba Lives youth festival," he said.

"It's worth highlighting the fact that among you are 262 representatives of the people of the United States, because this also speaks to the qualities and virtues of the people in the United States who oppose the unjust and criminal blockade."

Castro concluded his speech by offering Cuba as a site for another worldwide youth festival. If youth from around the world "want to continue with these meetings and no other country volunteers, Cuba is ready to be the site," he stated.

"What's needed isn't money. What's needed is dignity, generosity, and good will, like that demonstrated by those families who hosted you, by those neighborhoods that greeted you everywhere." Castro was referring to the fact that delegates at the festival were housed by Cuban families while they spent three days in one of seven provinces.

"Cuba lives and will live as long as there are men and women like yourselves in the world and a people as heroic as ours, capable of defending our right to live," the Cuban president concluded.

Further coverage on the Cuba Lives festival, which concluded August 7, will appear in next week's issue.

New editor at 'Granma'

Granma, the newspaper of the Communist Party of Cuba, has announced a change in its editor. Frank Agüero, the new editor, has since 1992 been the director of the weekly *Trabajadores*, organ of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers (CTC), the country's labor federation.

Announcing the appointment, *Granma* said Agüero had achieved "outstanding results" at *Trabajadores*.

The trade union newspaper has earned a reputation as the paper that most directly and frankly tackles major social and economic issues that have been debated in Cuba in recent months. These include issues like the agricultural markets that the government opened last year and the current debate over layoffs.

Before editing *Trabajadores*, Agüero was the editor of two armed forces publications, *Verde Olivo* and *Bastión*, which were forced to stop publishing because of shortages of newsprint.

Granma said Jacinto Granda, who had directed the paper for more than five years, will take on another assignment.

Cuban unionists discuss economy, prepare congress

BY LUIS MADRID
AND MARY-ALICE WATERS

AGUACATE, Havana Province, Cuba — "We cannot talk about reviving the production of sugarcane unless we keep in mind the people who would have to carry it out," said Pedro Ross at a meeting here of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers (CTC).

"As long as there is not a sufficient workforce settled in the sugarcane regions, we are not going to plant sugarcane.... We cannot count on the high level of mechanization we used to have. Nor can we count on it in years ahead. So we have to rely on what we have, which is human beings." Ross, the CTC general secretary, was speaking to trade union leaders from the Madruga municipality gathered here June 25.

The Madruga event was one of the first conferences in preparation for the 17th national congress of the CTC to be held next April. Out of the experiences and challenges discussed at these meetings, which will take place in all 169 municipalities in Cuba between June and September, the CTC national leadership will prepare a draft resolution. That document will be discussed by workers in every factory before the end of the year and delegates will be elected to prepare the national congress.

Assemblies like the one in Madruga, however, are themselves the product of weeks of work. The 134 delegates of this predominantly agricultural area had organized several commissions to discuss the most pressing challenges facing them — productivity and efficiency in agriculture, housing, health care, and more — and prepare reports. The findings and proposals were presented at the municipal gathering.

The concerns Ross raised at the meeting here regarding sugarcane production parallel those laid out in the congress call, and address one of the biggest challenges facing Cuba today.

Throughout the period of congress preparations, the call states, "our permanent priority remains increasing food and other production, and reviving sugarcane."

This is underscored by the fact that the 1994-95 *zafra*, or sugar harvest, unofficially reported to be 3.3 million tons, is the lowest since 1943. At the end of the last decade and into the early 1990s, Cuba's main industry was producing 8 million tons a year.

Trabajadores, the weekly publication of the CTC, pointed to the vicious circle Cuba finds itself in due to the severe decline in sugar production and the resulting loss of hard currency from sales on the world market. "To produce 8 million tons of sugar," a June 5 editorial noted, Cuba would have needed to invest \$900 million in agricultural implements, fertilizers, pesticides, fuel, and spare parts. But only \$150 million was available. "How can our country" afford the needed raw materials

and supplies, *Trabajadores* asked, "if we cannot produce more sugar?" While Cuba has secured \$200 million in foreign investment for the next harvest, the loans have been granted under harsh terms.

Despite the continued drop in sugar production, last year the gross domestic product grew 0.5 percent, and initial reports for 1995 indicate a growth of 2 percent in the first half of this year. These are signs that the measures adopted by the government, along with the efforts by workers to increase productivity in industry, have put a stop to the economic free-fall that began in 1989 when aid and trade at preferential prices with the former Soviet Union and Eastern European countries came to an abrupt halt.

Although the crisis is far from over, there is a slight sense of relief among working people as electrical blackouts decrease, food becomes more accessible, and the purchasing power of the Cuban peso begins to recover. A little over a year ago the dollar traded on the black market for 120 pesos or even higher; the exchange rate on the street has been holding around 35 pesos to a dollar since April. This has a particularly salutary effect on the purchasing power of workers with the lowest incomes, and of the big majority of Cubans who have no access to hard currency.

'No sloganeering'

At the Madruga meeting, attempting to address the challenge to increase sugarcane production, Isora Rodríguez, first secretary of the municipal union, proposed the meeting adopt as a goal a yield per acre that presumably would insure every farm's profitability. CTC general secretary Ross took the microphone to argue against the motion made by Rodríguez. "We cannot fall into the type of sloganeering we've fallen into before," Ross insisted. Instead of adopting goals that have little foundation, workers should "press hard and conquer a working method. And we shouldn't propose anything different until we have achieved this method, until we have systematized it," he added.

Referring to the campaign initiated a year ago by the trade union leadership aimed at increasing production and efficiency levels in all sectors of industry but especially in agriculture, he remarked, "We must seriously fight to achieve the five points of the star."

"We must produce the housing people need; we have to produce the food that workers and their families must have; we need to maximize the use of draft animals; there must be a link between every worker and the product of his labor; and we must have the labor force adequate to the work to be done," stressed the Cuban leader. "These are the five points of the star."

Discussion by delegates at the Madruga meeting helped to illustrate how serious a challenge the question of the workforce in the countryside remains.



Militant/Luis Madrid

Health care workers' delegate Marisol Arias speaks at CTC meeting in Madruga on efforts to defend the social conquests of revolution in spite of economic crisis.

"Since most of the labor now has to be done manually, it is vital that massive numbers of people get integrated into agriculture," argued Nicolás Chavarría. "This is a serious problem. We must see it from the standpoint that what's at stake is the country's subsistence," he continued. "The five points of the star seek to stabilize the workforce. But what we have done so far isn't enough. People don't come to the countryside simply because they like it."

To encourage workers from the urban areas to move to the countryside, construction of housing using materials locally available is being promoted. The housing crisis in Cuba is acute. Shortage of construction materials in general means an almost complete absence of building maintenance, not to mention new construction. During recent heavy rains, for example, thousands of houses and other buildings either collapsed or were seriously damaged across the island, affecting thousands of families.

Mindful of the problem, an outraged Chavarría underscored, "No one can afford to receive a bag of cement in the agricultural sector — or, for that matter, in any other area involving social distribution — and let it go to waste. Nor can we allow the violation of the principles for which houses are being built." His criticism that some people go to the countryside simply to try to resolve their housing problem but refuse to work in agriculture met the enthusiastic applause of the other delegates.

Whenever the shortage of workers in the countryside comes up, it leads to discussion of the restructuring of industry in Cuba today and the relocation of workers currently employed in overstuffed enterprises. This involves not only workers in factories closed or running at reduced capacity for lack of raw materials, but especially the inflated payrolls in administrative and management layers everywhere. The call to the CTC congress points to the need to "create a more efficient and competitive economy," a task which will require among other measures "the unavoidable rationalization of the workforce." Nevertheless, it also underlines that meeting agricultural production needs must be done on the basis of a "voluntary relocation."

Challenges similar to those raised in Madruga came up as well during the CTC municipal conference in Bauta, also in Havana Province, *Trabajadores* reported. The "Antonio Maceo" Basic Unit of Agricultural Production (UBPC), for example, still faces a workforce shortage. Of a plan to build 28 houses, only one has been built. Even though the UBPC's sugarcane production remains low, it happens to be profitable because it charges high prices for the use of its machinery to cooperatives and private farmers in the area. "When are we finally going to understand that the objective of the UBPCs is to produce and cut cane with their own resources?" the CTC's weekly publication pointedly asked.

On the other hand, the article noted that such practices are one way in which the profits from produce sold at high prices on the unregulated agricultural markets are spread more broadly. These markets began operating in October 1994, and have

helped ease some of the worst food shortages prevalent a year ago. Prices, nevertheless, remain high. A pound of pork, for instance, costs 35 pesos, or about 15 percent of a high-paid worker's monthly earnings.

At the Madruga assembly, Fermín Valdés explained that in the Cayajabos, one of three UBPCs that grow sugarcane for the Boris Luis Santa Coloma Sugar Refinery, they had not been able to attract more members either. In fact, they have lost workers. In addition, he indicated, "we have lost the seed bank, and we are using seed of real bad quality," pointing to another of the key problems of the agricultural unit where he works.

In contrast, Oscar Martínez from the Rubén Martínez Villena, the other sugar refinery in the area, reported on their success in increasing the workforce in his UBPC from 65 workers to 120. He also talked about their initial efforts to produce a cement substitute made with alternative — locally available — raw materials. The Sugar Ministry (MINAZ) promotes home construction by the UBPCs by pledging one ton of regular cement for every ton of locally-produced, or "low-cost" cement as it and other such materials are known in Cuba today. Some areas, though, have not received any real cement in months.

"When it comes to the Province of Havana, the MINAZ is the country's champion in sluggishness," protested Ross upon learning that not only was the "Martínez Villena" the first refinery capable of producing its own low-cost cement, but the ministry had practically ignored this effort. "They could care less that yours is the first refinery in the province that has a grinder for providing a cement substitute. There are provinces where almost all their refineries have grinders — Matanzas, Las Tunas, Holguín, Santiago de Cuba, or even Villa Clara that has 28 sugar refineries." In this and other areas, Ross congratulated and further encouraged the initiatives taken at the local level.

"If you want workers in the cattle industry," said Rodrigo Infante joining the discussion, "you have to build houses for them." Addressing one concern shared by many at the Madruga meeting, Infante suggested that houses not be given to individuals. "The house must always belong to the farm itself."

Drop in meat and dairy products

Fernando Santiesteban, from the "José Armando Castellanos" dairy farm, explained that a six-month drought coupled with a severe shortage of animal feed had prevented them from meeting their production goals during the first four months of the year. The same factors also contributed to a high mortality rate in cattle, Santiesteban reported, with 524 calves and 599 cows dying in the opening months of the year.

The shortage of meat is one of the most acute indicators of the economic crisis in Cuba, and is aggravated by high levels of cattle rustling and black marketeering. Tele Rebelde reported early in June that 21 people had been arrested at the Chichi Padrón Slaughter House, in the Province of Villa Clara, for stealing meat. In a pe-

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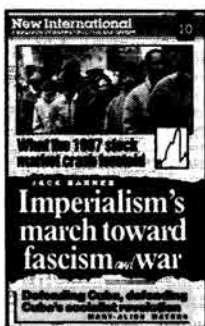
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Howard Mayhew: decades of work in fight for socialism

BY ELIZABETH STONE

NEWARK, New Jersey — Howard Mayhew, a veteran leader of the Socialist Workers Party, died earlier this year. He was 87 years old.

A celebration of his life of revolutionary working-class activity, spanning the decades from the 1930s depression to opposition to the Gulf war in the early 1990s will be held here August 20. (See ad this page.)

Among the speakers will be SWP Political Committee member Joel Britton, who will review Mayhew's contributions to maintaining communist continuity in the late 1950s and early 1960s and helping to train a new generation coming to communist politics to take leadership responsibilities in the party.

Mayhew joined the workers' movement in the mid-1930s when the upsurge of industrial workers that created the CIO was nearing its peak. In 1938 he became part of that fight as a leader of the CIO organizing drive by the American Newspaper Guild at the Hearst newspapers in Chicago where he worked as a draftsman. After several years of struggle, including 17 months on the picket line, the workers were finally defeated in 1940.

Despite the loss, it was a hard-fought battle in which the power of the workers was felt. Mayhew wrote later: "What then should be said about this episode that agitated the lives of so many people? The strike demonstrated to the news moguls, nationally, that it is a threat to their profits to move too casually against their workers. The struggle was a valuable school to those participating..."

Mayhew's first contact with socialists was in 1936 in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, when a neighbor convinced him to join the Wheaton-Glen chapter of the Socialist Party. He was 28 years old, a white collar worker with a family trying to survive the depression.

The Socialist Party was headed by Norman Thomas and others who were socialist in name only. They were basically supporters of the policies of President Franklin Roosevelt and thought in terms of reforming the capitalist government, not of replacing it with a government of workers and farmers.

But Mayhew soon came into contact with revolutionaries from nearby Chicago, members of a left-wing in the Socialist Party, which included communists who had been expelled from the Communist Party in 1928 because of their opposition to the rise of the Stalinist bureaucracy in the Soviet Union.

Socialist Party split

A debate was raging in the Socialist Party over how to fight fascism, war, and the depression conditions facing the working class. It came to a head over how to defeat the Franco fascists in Spain. The Socialist Party leadership refused to condemn the Roosevelt administration for

denying the antifascist fighters in Spain the right to buy American armaments. The revolutionaries called for all-out support to the antifascist fighters and condemned Roosevelt's policy.

When the left wing began to grow and get more of a hearing, the SP leadership undemocratically expelled them from the party. Those who were expelled soon formed the Socialist Workers Party.

In the Glen Ellyn-Wheaton branch Howard Mayhew proposed the branch separate from the Socialist Party and join the Socialist Workers Party. The branch split down the middle, with seven members including the younger and newer recruits to socialism joining the SWP.

After the Newspaper Guild strike was over Mayhew joined the Socialist Workers Party campaign to get its members into industrial jobs where they could participate in union struggles. Mayhew trained as a welder and began working at plants in the Chicago area. In 1942 he hired in at the big General Motors (Electro-Motive) locomotive plant in McCook, Illinois.

Electro-Motive was organized by Local 719 of the United Auto Workers, which had more participation by the rank-and-file than other major new CIO unions. The 1937 sit-down strikes organized by the UAW workers at General Motors auto plants played a decisive role in the strike victories of the CIO.

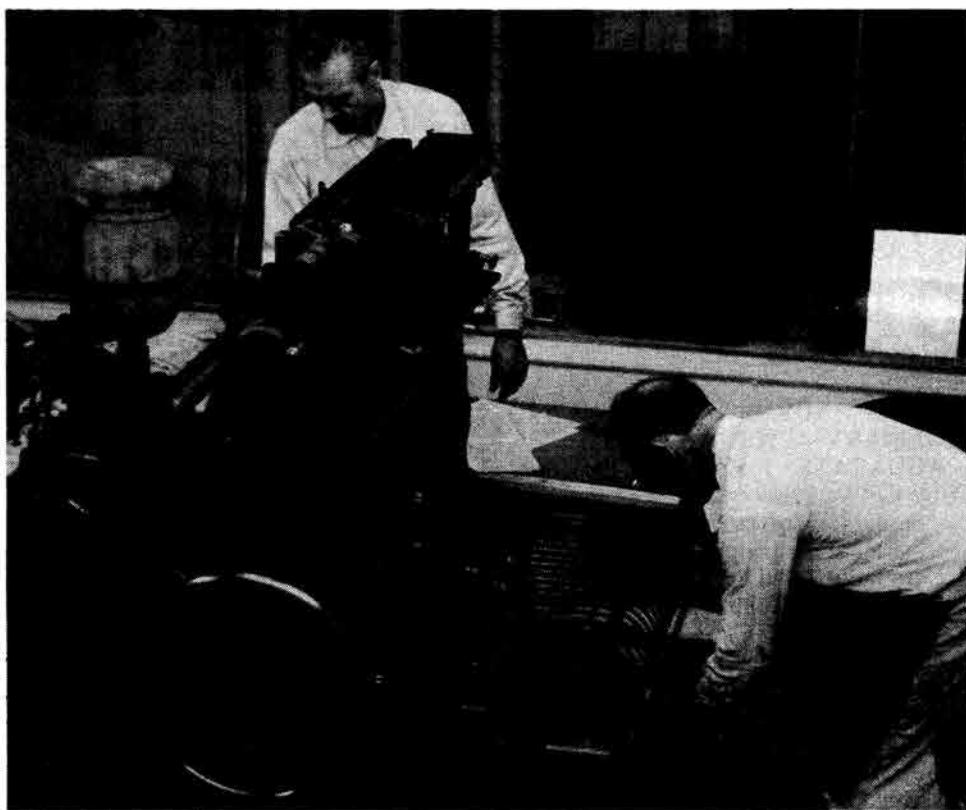
During World War II, as a result of a no-strike pledge and wage freezes agreed to by union leaders who supported Washington in the war, workers at GM Electro-Motive and other industrial plants lost ground. Once the war ended anger at being asked to sacrifice while capitalists reaped giant profits exploded in the largest strike wave in U.S. history.

Once again GM workers helped lead the way. On Nov. 21, 1945, 225,000 strikers shut down GM in a fight for a 30 percent pay raise, when most other union officials were pressuring workers to demand less.

When some Local 719 leaders at Electro-Motive decided not to participate in the national UAW strike, but instead go it alone, Mayhew, who was on the Local 719 Executive Committee, organized a caucus that fought successfully to bring Electro-Motive into the national struggle. "Once the realization of the unprecedented power of shutting down the entire GM corporation caught the imagination of the workers," Mayhew later explained, "even of those from relatively conservative suburban McCook, Illinois, all previous ideas of 'going it alone' were washed out."

Mayhew stayed at Electro-Motive for almost a decade where he served as Local 719 committeeman, line steward, executive board member, and coeditor of Local 719 News.

From the mid-1950s to the early 1960s, Mayhew emerged as the central political leader of the Socialist Workers Party



Militant

Mayhew (left) and Bob Chester at work in party printshop in mid-1960s

branch in Chicago. In the mid-1950s he was elected to the party's national committee.

The long years of ebb in workers' militancy, which accompanied the post World War II economic expansion, posed tremendous challenges for the SWP. The party went from more than 1,700 members in the years following the war to a few hundred before significant youth recruitment developed in the early 1960s. During the opening of what would become a long wave of prosperity for U.S. capital in the early 1950s, the pressure to give up on the perspective of revolutionary working-class politics was especially intense.

But the late 1940s and '50s was also a time of revolutionary upsurge internationally, when the peoples of Asia, Africa, and Latin America rose up against the imperialist powers culminating in the Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese and Cuban, revolutions. Washington was handed its first military defeat by the Korean people. These events gave impetus to and became connected with the struggle of Black people in the United States, which began to pick up steam.

Participant in Black struggle

In Chicago's large Black community protests began to develop against segregation and racist attacks. As an activist in the NAACP, a tenant's group, and a discussion group in the Black community known as the Washington Park Forum, Mayhew helped lead the Socialist Workers Party branch to participate in these struggles.

In 1954 and 1956, years when many radicals were afraid to proclaim their beliefs openly, Mayhew was the Socialist Workers Party candidate in the 2nd congressional district in Illinois. He campaigned against the McCarthyite witch-hunters and fascist and racist groups who were attacking Black families who had moved into a white housing project in Chicago.

The 1954 campaign distributed a pamphlet by Mayhew titled, "Racial Terror at Trumbull Park," which put forward a program to fight back. Mayhew wrote regularly for the *Militant* newspaper on these struggles.

In 1958, Mayhew helped organize a united effort of the Washington Park Forum, the SWP, and others to launch the United Socialist campaign of Washington Park Forum president Rev. Joseph P. King.

The campaign tapped into Black activists' growing disillusionment in Democratic party politicians who refused to take action against racist violence. This included Communist Party (CP) supporters who were beginning to question the CP's support of Democrats.

Clifton DeBerry, SWP candidate for president in the 1964 elections, was active in the King campaign and the Washington Park Forum. He remembers that many of the Forum activists were Communist Party supporters, "not members but supporters who traditionally followed their politics." Many, including King, had been active in union struggles as well as fights for Black rights.

Activists who were around the CP were now more open to working with the SWP

because of the Communist Party crisis that followed the Krushchev revelations in 1956 exposing the crimes of Stalin.

In press statements and at meetings and rallies the King campaigners championed independent labor and Black political action, supported antiracist protests, called for the government to enforce the Supreme Court decision on school desegregation, and demanded that the U.S. troops sent to Lebanon be withdrawn.

Despite an attempt by the Democrats to rule him off, Rev. King won a place on the ballot. Howard Mayhew was campaign publicity director and testified at the ballot hearing.

Participation in the fight for independent political action and against racism helped set the stage for building a broad and active Fair Play for Cuba Committee in Chicago at a later date.

New generation comes on scene

In the early 1960s a new generation of youth, inspired by the Cuban revolution, began to join the Chicago branch. As the central branch leader and member of the party's National Committee, Mayhew educated these new members, including this reporter, on the party's politics and norms.

Many of those Mayhew influenced became national leaders of the party. Jack Barnes, national secretary of the SWP, moved to Chicago in 1961 after having recently joined the party in Minneapolis. He comments that the linking of the generations, led by Mayhew, and made possible by the activity that kept the party together in the 1950s, was Mayhew's most important contribution.

Barnes noted that the party came close to losing the Chicago branch several times in the late 1940s and 1950s, to Maoists and other groups opposed to the party's program. "In all these challenges Howard Mayhew fought to maintain the integrity of the party's working-class program," he

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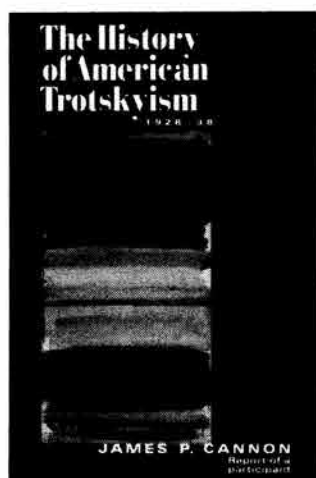
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Thousands in Japan say, 'Never again'

Meetings condemn atom bombings, demand government support for victims

Continued from front page

Ito, cochairperson of the Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers' Organization, report that the Health and Welfare Ministry of Japan "confirmed the death toll totaled 295,956 hibakusha by 1985." Today, he said, 328,629 survivors "are still struggling against physical, living, and mental difficulties, which are becoming harder as they get older."

Suh Seok Woo, vice president of the Korea Atomic Bomb Casualty Association, was a young truck driver in Hiroshima in 1945, and one of tens of thousands of Korean workers forcibly brought to work in Japan during World War II. Two of his three children perished in the attack. They "might have been burned or they may have jumped in the Ota River to escape the heat and drowned," he said. He reported that a disproportionately large number of Koreans were victims of the Hiroshima blast, but have not received "the same level of assistance from the Japanese government as our Japanese counterparts."

One of the central issues raised during all the gatherings is the fight to get the Japanese government to provide more adequate compensation to all victims of the A-bomb attacks.

Lethal effects of nuclear testing

Another theme of the symposium was the damaging effects of nuclear weapons production and testing for the past 50 years. Between July 16, 1945, and July 31 of this year, 1,452 nuclear tests — 65 of them in the atmosphere — have been conducted by six countries. Participants from the United States, Russia, Australia, and the Marshall Islands testified to the harmful human and environmental consequences of radiation from nuclear testing. Some denounced the recent underground test in China.

Vladimir Iakimets from the Russian Academy of Sciences reported on the human and environmental costs of nuclear weapons in the southern Ural and Altai regions. He cited the example of an accident in 1957 where an explosion at a nuclear production complex in the Urals exposed 28,000 inhabitants of nearby towns to high doses of radiation. He referred to the region as "one of the planet's most radioactively contaminated areas." He said no information was available to the public in the former Soviet Union on this and other accidents until 1990.

Small islands in the South Pacific have been favorite nuclear testing sites for the French, British, and U.S. governments without regard for the welfare of the people who live in the region, Nelson Anjain from Rangelap Atoll in the Marshall Islands explained. An eyewitness to Washington's hydrogen bomb test on nearby Bikini Atoll in 1954, he described the radiation sickness that afflicted the inhabitants of his island.

Two U.S. residents from Utah, who live downwind of nuclear testing sites in Nevada used in the 1950s, described the increase in cancer in their area. They also described the hazards of uranium mining.

Why Truman dropped A-Bomb

Several speakers from the United States addressed the debate that opened up earlier this year when the Smithsonian Institution pared down, under pressure from the American Legion, conservative politicians, and others, its original plan for an exhibit of the A-bombing attack of Hiroshima. This debate has been widely covered in the Japanese press.

Martin Sherwin, a professor at Dartmouth College, and author of *A World Destroyed: Hiroshima and the Origins of the Atom Race*, challenged the museum's contention that it was presenting the "facts" in the Enola Gay exhibit. He disputed the text of a plaque at the exhibit that states "the use of the bombs led to the immediate surrender of Japan and made unnecessary the planned invasion of the Japanese home islands."

Sherwin countered that the Japanese government was already suing for surrender. "It is spurious to assert as fact that obliterating Hiroshima in August obviated



Youth petitioning in August at Peace Park in Hiroshima against Japanese government plans to develop plutonium, and lack of aid for survivors of atomic blasts.

the need for an invasion in November," Sherwin wrote in a letter to the Smithsonian that he shared with the conference. The U.S. professor told the participants at the symposium that Washington dropped the A-bombs "to demonstrate to the Soviet Union that the United States had a monopoly of the most powerful weapons ever invented."

Following Sherwin's presentation, Takeshi Ito also condemned Washington's nuclear attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. But, he added, Japan's war-time military regime shared responsibility for the bombings. They could not have occurred he said without "Japan's war of aggression," which not only attacked "Asian people but oppressed Japanese people as well."

Growing debate

Ito's comments reflect a debate that has sharpened recently in Japan over the Japanese government's harsh colonial policy toward Korea and China in the 1930s and '40s and whether or not the government today should apologize for the atrocities committed. One sign of this controversy is the recent additions to the Peace Museum that show the development of Japan's militarist and colonial policies and condemn such actions as the massacre of civilians in Nanking in 1937.

Later in the conference, Joseph Gerson, New England Program Coordinator of the American Friends Service Committee and author of the recently published *With Hiroshima Eyes*, agreed that President Harry Truman's decision to drop the A-bombs "was timed to end the Asia/Pacific blood-letting before the Soviet Union could share in the war's booty: Manchuria, northern China, Korea, and even Japan."

At one point Gerson charged that during the missile crisis in 1962, Cuban president Fidel Castro asked the Soviet government to strike the United States with atomic bombs if U.S. armed forces invaded Cuba. He referred to former Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev's memoirs and to a speech Castro allegedly made in 1992. Gerson's book, published this year, has an entire chapter on the missile crisis where he makes the same charge.

The Cuban representative participating in the commemorative activities here, Orlando Fundora López, vigorously refuted Gerson. Fundora López, who is president of the Cuban Movement for Peace and Sovereignty, said the charge "was not true. Neither Fidel nor anyone in the name of Cuba ever asked for such a thing. If Cuba were attacked — as indeed it was attacked — we would know how to defend ourselves. Nobody need have any doubts about this."

Following the symposium, annual gatherings of two long-time prominent antinuclear organizations, Gensuikyo and Gen-

suikin, were held in Hiroshima. The Gensuikin gathering began in Tokyo and was continued on August 4 in Hiroshima. It concluded on August 6 with a rally cosponsored by the national trade union federation, Rengo, of some 4,000 people.

The 41st World Conference Against A & H Bombs (Gensuikyo) met for three days in Hiroshima and drew sizable overseas delegations, including most of the people who had attended the earlier international symposium. The largest delegations outside of Japan came from France, Russia, and the United States. Some of the 22 other countries represented were New Zealand, Australia, United Kingdom, Sweden, Norway, Vietnam, India, and the Philippines. Many of the same discussions from the earlier symposium were continued. Among the delegations from the United States were participants from the Fellowship of Reconciliation, War Resisters' League, Veterans for Peace, the Socialist Workers Party, and the Young Socialists.

The high point of this meeting and of a rally of some 10,000 on August 6 was the presentation by Vito Maamaatua from Tahiti who denounced the French government's announcement that it will resume nuclear testing in the Pacific. Maamaatua, representing the Polynesian Liberation Front, received a prolonged ovation after describing the mobilization of 15,000 people in the streets of Tahiti immediately following French president Jacques Chirac's June 13 announcement to resume testing.

The Polynesian leader said that French scientists in the military had issued a report claiming the projected tests were innocuous.

One of the running debates throughout both the symposium and the other conferences was how to assess the extension of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) agreed to by 174 governments on May 11. Sheila Oakes from the National Peace Council in the United Kingdom argued that if it wasn't for the Non-Proliferation Treaty "there would be 35 to 40 nuclear weapons states in existence in the world today instead of the present 5 to 9. We cannot afford to dismantle the NPT before we have a better treaty."

A good many participants opposed this outlook. The Japan Association for A Nonnuclear Government, for example, issued a statement arguing that the treaty "has nothing to do with the elimination of nuclear weapons." The statement denounced the Japanese government for backing "U.S. nuclear strategy by taking the lead for the indefinite extension of the NPT."

Bob Miller, a member of the Socialist Workers Party and an auto assembly worker from New Jersey, told the meeting that the debate that has opened up in the United States on the Hiroshima bombing has made it easier to get a hearing from coworkers for the truth about why Washington dropped the bomb.

The delegation from the SWP participated in the conferences and issued greetings stating, "The real reason Washington bombed Hiroshima and Nagasaki was to issue an arrogant warning to hundreds of millions of toilers throughout the world that the rest of the 20th Century would be an 'American Century' dominated by U.S. imperialism. The people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki," the statement said, "were guinea pigs for testing this new and terrible weapon, and they were fodder for Washington to signal its post-war objectives."

'Predatory war aims'

The SWP message said that the atrocities committed by both the U.S. and Japanese governments during the war flowed from the "predatory war aims" of the "capitalist rulers in both the United States and Japan."

The deepening economic crisis of capitalism, the SWP statement explained, is driving the capitalist rulers toward fascism and "a new predatory world war. In a third world war, the profiteers, as history has shown, will ruthlessly use the weapons in their arsenal and will not exclude the possibility of deploying nuclear weapons."

"Nuclear weapons," the SWP participants stated, "need to be banned, but the only way this can be accomplished once and for all is for working people to join forces internationally. This international solidarity is necessary for workers and farmers in each country to develop the broad social and political understanding and confidence to organize a revolutionary movement that can get rid of the political rule of the tiny capitalist minorities and disarm them, including of their nuclear weapons."

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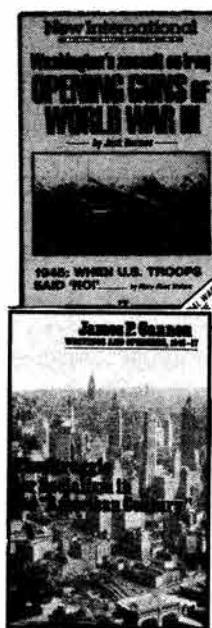
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Support for Detroit news strikers grows

BY STEVE MARSHALL

DETROIT — The three-week-old strike at this city's two daily newspapers is widely supported by working people here, many of whom recognize the union-busting campaign as a signal challenge to the labor movement in this union town.

From the surprise police attack on the strikers' first picket line, to the gangs of toughs prowling the city's neighborhoods to "deliver" newspapers, to the scab caravans that assemble around the clock at a printing plant surrounded by auto plants — the evidence is mounting for many that two media giants have decided to rid themselves of unions in Detroit.

The Detroit *Free Press* is owned by Knight-Ridder. The Detroit *News*, the biggest afternoon paper in the United States, is owned by Gannett, which also runs 93 other daily papers. On July 13 some 2,500 members of six unions struck the papers over unfair labor practices.

Copies of the papers are not to be found at factories, automobile plants, rail yards, and other worksites in the area. Signs in many shop windows announce participation in the boycott. Some 30,000 people have canceled their subscriptions to show their support to the unions.

Weighing this solidarity, many of the merchants whose advertising finances the newspapers are pulling out — more than 230 of them, at the unions' last count. The scab editions are virtually free of significant advertising.

Strike pickets have been joined by United Auto Workers (UAW) members from Ford's Utica Trim plant, by teachers and Communication Workers of America members, and by Rev. Jesse Jackson and other members of his Rainbow Coalition.

Supporters supply the pickets with a steady flow of food and cold drinks. One day a white-uniformed chef made a drop-off; later a bus driver provided air-conditioned rides to and from a restaurant.

When the news companies offered local churches a chance to raise funds by selling newspapers, to be provided free of charge,

church officials rejected the scheme and alerted the unions to it.

Three hundred people turned out August 3 for a fund-raising dinner hosted by UAW Local 600. At the event Barbara Easterling, interim secretary-treasurer of the AFL-CIO, announced a special strike fund for the 1,400 Teamsters who aren't now receiving strike pay. The UAW has allocated \$100,000, and other unions are contributing. Easterling said the AFL-CIO will underwrite the fund up to \$1 million.

Meanwhile, a "back-to-work" movement led by business columnists fell short of the newspapers' expectations. Lou Mleczo, president of the Newspaper Guild, notes that only 40 of some 500 journalists are working.

"You learn a lot when you're on strike," said Greg Bowans, a reporter for the Detroit *News*, during his turn on the picket line August 2.

"Middle-class, educated reporters and editors find that there's not a lot separating them from poverty," he explained. "The



Militant/Holly Harkness

Workers rally in front of Detroit *News* headquarters July 17. Strikers are taking on two media giants and winning support among many working people.

Teamsters who run the presses and drive the trucks are the same as us. It's an eye-opener that issues in the workplace are the same as for blue-collar workers."

At its August 4 meeting the Guild voted, by a margin of 90 percent, for con-

tinued unity with the other striking unions.

Steve Marshall is a member of the United Transportation Union in Detroit. UAW members Doug Douhat and Carolyn Allen contributed to this article.

Meatpackers ratify contract at IBP

BY NORTON SANDLER

DES MOINES, Iowa — Packinghouse workers at IBP's largest plant in Dakota City, Nebraska, ratified a new contract August 6. The ratification vote took place after an intense propaganda barrage by the big-business press in Iowa and Nebraska designed to prevent a strike by pitting cattle farmers against the more than 2,700 members of United Food and Commercial Workers Union (UFCW) Local 222.

A few days earlier union members voted unanimously to strike if IBP, the world's largest packing company, held firm on refusing to grant wage increases to workers with more than a few years in at the plant. IBP is raking in record profits this year.

Some 4,000 head of cattle are slaughtered and processed each workday at the

Dakota City facility. In addition, carcasses from other IBP cattle plants are sent to Dakota City for processing. Cattle raisers have been facing depressed prices for their livestock for more than a year and many of these producers had cattle die that were near market weight as a result of the July heat wave.

IBP pits farmers against union

The threat of a strike posed much longer and more expensive hauls for farmers to get their livestock to market. "It's going to matter big-time if they go out on strike," Bernie Punt, manager of Co-op Confinement Feedlot in Sioux County, Iowa, told the *Des Moines Register*. A strike, said Punt, could add \$2 to \$3 per head for transportation to other markets.

"If it spread beyond the Dakota City

plant, with IBP controlling more than 40 percent of the market, it would be an absolute disaster," said Chuck Kolbe, president of the Iowa Cattlemen's Association. For several days report after report in this vein dominated media coverage. Little coverage was given to the what the unionists were demanding. On August 4, IBP upped the ante by halting the purchase of cattle.

Contract provisions

The new four-year contract ratified on August 6 by a vote of 1,064 to 64 contains pay raises of 50 cents an hour for new hires, bringing their base pay to \$7.00 an hour. Wages for workers hired since December 1986 will increase 75 cents over the next four years. These workers will receive a \$650 bonus in December. For production workers already at the top of the pay scale, wages will increase from 15 cents to 27 cents an hour over the four years with workers in this category receiving a total of \$3,100 in three bonus payments. Maintenance workers pay will rise 90 cents an hour over the life of the contract.

"A strike is never easy," UFCW Local 222 president Frank Cassidy told the media, "but we were in a position where we would have had to take that avenue. It was important for us to show the company that we have solidarity," he said.

In a related development, responding to an outcry from cattle and hog farmers over depressed livestock prices, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued a complaint on August 1 against IBP. The USDA complaint accuses the company of playing favorites with big feedlots in Kansas, giving them higher prices over others who bring cattle to market. The company denied any wrongdoing. The complaint will take six to eight months to resolve.

Rail workers union holds convention

BY DENNIS RICHTER

CHICAGO — The United Transportation Union (UTU) held its seventh Quadrennial Convention July 17-21 here. Six hundred and seventy-seven delegates from the United States and Canada met.

The UTU has between 75,000 and 80,000 members, mostly conductors, brakemen, and switchmen and a smaller number of locomotive engineers. The UTU also organizes a small section of bus drivers.

On the first day of the convention, Charles Little, the outgoing general secretary and treasurer, defeated the incumbent, International President Thomas Dubose, by a vote of 353 to 293. Little ran on the slogan: Our new beginning starts today!

The remaining days of the convention were spent primarily in electing some 40 other international union officers. One UTU delegate summed up what the delegates viewed as the purpose of the convention: "to elect officers and change the

constitution."

There was little discussion on the current contract negotiations between the railroad carriers and the 14 separate unions that represent railroad workers. Contract talks began January 1. Railroad workers must negotiate a new contract, bridled by the laws of the Railway Labor Act, which are designed to make it more difficult to go out on strike.

In 1991 rail workers struck for 19 hours before Congress passed legislation to outlaw the strike. This strike-breaking order was passed 400-5 in the House of Representatives and unanimously in the Senate. Since 1963 Congress has intervened to stop a dozen rail strikes.

In the current contract negotiations the carriers aim to get deeper concessions from rail workers. Their goal is to further reduce the size of crews, while adding to their workload. They want to increase the mileage necessary for road crews to make a basic days' pay and continue to shift the

cost of medical coverage on to rail workers. Little is being reported by UTU officials on any current progress in the negotiations.

Dennis Richter is a brakeman at Conrail and a member of United Transportation Union Local 1006 in Waynesburg, Pennsylvania.

BY DAN FEIN

Many delegates and guests at the national United Transportation Union (UTU) convention were interested in learning about the case of Mark Curtis, an imprisoned union and political activist.

J.P. Jones, the UTU California State Legislative Director, and a supporter of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee for the past few years, wrote a letter addressed to delegates urging them to join the effort to win Curtis's parole this fall.

UTU members who support Curtis and who were guests at the convention introduced the Curtis case with the letter. More than 70 people signed up to be contacted in the fall about sending a letter to the parole board.

A delegate from Illinois related how an officer in his local had been framed up by the cops under the "Highway Act." Some delegates remembered hearing about Mark Curtis at the last convention four years ago. One remarked in surprise, "They still haven't released him?" Thirty six copies of the new pamphlet, *Why Is Mark Curtis Still in Prison?* were sold and four people donated a total of \$32.50 to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee.

Supporters of the *Militant* sold 4 subscriptions to the paper, 11 single issues, and 2 copies of *New International* no. 10 at the convention.

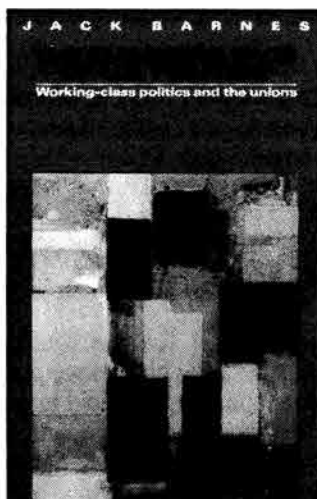
Dan Fein is a member of the United Transportation Union in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The Changing Face of U.S. Politics

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by Jack Barnes

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Reporter's Note

A number of contracts are coming due in packinghouses across the country.

• On July 30, union members at Excel's Ottumwa, Iowa, plant rejected a contract that had no provisions for pay raises over the next four years. The local has authorized its officials to call a strike if progress is not made in negotiations.

• Contracts expire at Hormel meatpacking plants in Austin, Minnesota; Fremont, Nebraska; Atlanta; and other cities in September.

• On July 27, FDL announced that it will close its Dubuque, Iowa, plant eliminating more than 900 jobs. This announcement comes in the midst of negotiations for a new contract, which are continuing.

—N.S.

Socialists call for support to farm struggle

The following statement was released by John Cox and Sirley Peña, the Socialist Workers candidates for mayor and school board in Des Moines, Iowa.

As the worldwide capitalist economic depression deepens, the ruling rich in this country aggressively push to gain a competitive edge on their rivals internationally. To get a leg up in this profit drive, they are restructuring hunks of industry and agriculture at the expense of workers and farmers.

Industry is being streamlined. Tens of thousands are being thrown out of work through this downsizing. At the same time the bosses are increasing overtime, speeding up production, trying to slash wages and gut union contracts, and intensifying hazards on the job and destruction of the environment. Packinghouse workers particularly are bearing harsh blows as part of this offensive.

The drive to restructure pork production by sharply driving down hog prices to make U.S. pork more competitive on the world market is being spearheaded by the meatpacking bosses, large agribusiness enterprises, and capitalist farmers. Within the framework of the overall crisis bearing down on working farmers, which every year drives tens of thousands off the land, this stepped-up profit drive in the pork industry is putting an additional squeeze on farmers who raise and sell hogs directly to the packers and on those who sign contracts with big capitalist contractors.

Increasingly the packers won't buy hogs from working farm families at a price that will enable these producers to meet their costs and make a living. Contracting then is often the only way some farmers believe they can stay on the farm. Many young farmers especially are getting a start in raising hogs under contracts, which means going deeply in debt to the banks to build confinement facilities and surrendering the right to decisions and marketing while taking all the risks.

An onerous result of the development of



Militant/Ruth Nebbia

April 1995 protest in Ames, Iowa, against huge hog confinement operations.

large-scale hog farms is a new assault on the environment. The capitalist owners of these facilities callously pour raw sewage into lagoons that can leak into the streams and rivers and water table. The ravaging effects of these lagoons can release a horrific stench for miles around.

The collapse of a lagoon in North Carolina in June that spilled hog waste for miles and polluted the New River, killing thousands of fish, and three substantial spills in Iowa in as many months are ex-

amples of the environmental destruction posed by the rapid spread of confinement facilities.

The only defense against the bosses' profit drive is for farmers and workers to link our struggles together. Small farmers, whether working independently or under contract, and packinghouse workers in capitalist "hog factories in the field" need a program that protects us from the ravages of capitalism and unites us in action against our common oppressors.

The 1995 Iowa Socialist Workers candidates demand:

- A moratorium on all farm foreclosures;
- A guaranteed price for crops and livestock above the costs of production and adequate to provide a livelihood for working farmers and their families;
- Low interest loans and other cheap forms of credit to working farmers who need them;
- Free federal government provided crop and livestock insurance with 100 percent protection against natural disasters;
- The establishment of price committees made up of workers and farmers to review the books of the meatpacking and agribusiness enterprises to expose their business "secrets" that result in rigged crop and livestock prices paid to farmers, high supermarket prices, low wages for agricultural and packinghouse workers, and the willful destruction of the environment;
- Government-funded medical insurance and social security for working farmers;
- Full union protection and union wages for workers in packinghouses and hog confinement operations. Union control over safety in these plants;
- Complete enforcement of all environmental laws by the federal and state governments. Make big business and the government responsible for any damage to the environment and for cleanup of hog facilities when needed.

Iowa farmers oppose factory hog facilities

BY BILL KALMAN

DES MOINES, Iowa — The volatile issue of hog waste lagoons hit the front pages here as spills polluted rivers and streams across Iowa recently.

In mid-July some 1.5 million gallons of hog manure leaked out of a storage lagoon near Blairsburg, killing thousands of fish

along a 30-mile stretch of the Iowa River. Five days later, the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) had not yet notified people in the area of the spill.

Two spills in northeast Iowa killed nearly 40,000 fish a week earlier. Responding to criticism, DNR deputy director Don Paulin said, "We're not supposed to be a watchdog."

Large-scale factory hog production has been steadily expanding throughout the Midwest. Major U.S. pork producers are developing these confinement facilities, which use assembly-line techniques to breed hogs, to drive down the costs of pork raising, slaughtering, and processing and be more competitive on the world market. These operations often have adverse effects on the air, water, and land, as well as on human health.

"It's high time we demand environmental, economic, and social justice," said hog farmer Larry Ginter, who is active in Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement (ICCI), at a well-attended press conference here June 29.

Iowa farmers and other rural residents are waging a fight against the rapid expansion of confinement operations, which threaten many small farmers with financial ruin.

A Rural Protection Committee was formed in Cass Township to protest plans for a 3,300-head hog confinement facility there. In Spirit Lake, close to the Min-

nesota border, a petition to build a large-scale hog feed lot was withdrawn after opposition on both sides of the state line.

In Merrill, Iowa, a town meeting was called to protest plans for a 5,000-head facility to be built by Supersweet Feeds.

Austin DeCoster, a capitalist farmer from Maine, has proposed a waste storage lagoon measuring 650 foot by 500 foot by 25 feet deep that could hold 1.5 years' worth of hog manure. DeCoster was fined \$8,500 by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources in 1994 for four environmental violations.

In April, another DeCoster facility near Dows, Iowa, spilled untreated waste products into the Iowa River.

As a result of the negative publicity generated by manure spills, the National Pork Producers Council (NPPC) organized a special two-day seminar in Washington, D.C., for more than two dozen of the country's largest hog producers.

"We are very concerned that many key legislators believe living next to a hog farm is bad," NPPC executive vice president Larry Graham said, explaining the purpose of the meeting. "We've retained a heavyweight media consulting firm to work with us in trying to change this perception."

Bill Kalman is a member of United Transportation Union Local 867 in Des Moines, Iowa.

Hog waste spill spews across North Carolina countryside

BY JIM ROGERS

GREENSBORO, North Carolina — Some 25 million gallons of hog waste burst through a weakened earthen dike at a Purina Corporation-backed farm in Onslow county in the eastern part of the state June 21. The waste surged across the countryside and into the headwaters of the New River. That same day, in Sampson county, another hog waste lagoon sprang a leak and 1 million gallons of sewage seeped out. On July 3, a chicken sewage lagoon burst in Duplin county, spilling 8.6 million gallons of waste.

According to Don Webb, a former hog farmer and leader of the Alliance for a Responsible Swine Industry (ARSI), many other spills haven't been reported. The group has local chapters in 28 counties and since the big spill, attendance has been growing at ARSI meetings. "They don't put hog factories next to rich people's homes," Webb noted. "Our organization is poor people and working people...if we don't fight this, who will?"

Retired farmer Sidney Whaley, who two years earlier had tried to prevent the big hog operation in Onslow, said that blackish, foul-smelling water stood in pools in the fields surrounding his house, and the whole neighborhood had a dank, swamp-like odor.

There are more than 3,500 hog waste lagoons plus another 1,000 poultry and dairy cow waste lagoons in North Carolina. The state requires no periodic inspections of these facilities although some are checked if a complaint is made.

Last year inspectors investigated 75 farms. Following the publicity over the recent spills, Gov. Jim Hunt, with great fanfare, dispatched the state's 20 water quality inspectors for eastern North Carolina to inspect all 4,500 waste lagoons in 100 working days.

Of the first 1,100 lagoons inspected, about 400 exceeded their normal storage capacity after the heavy June rains. The state inspectors also found seepage around

many, indicating the earthen walls are weakening.

The cesspool at the Onslow county facility was only one and a half years old and considered state-of-the-art by the pork industry. "It's troubling that this so-called up-to-date lagoon experienced this catastrophic failure," stated Bill Holman of the North Carolina Conservation Council. "Environmentalists had been concerned, frankly, about the older facilities."

The Onslow county spill, which was the largest in the state's history, highlights the problems some farmers and environmental activists have been pointing to in trying to get tighter regulation of the huge contract hog farms.

The typical contract farm in North Carolina has from 3,000 to 10,000 sows kept in confinement buildings with each in a small metal cage. They stand on steel slats that allow urine and feces to drop into a flushing system below. Several times a day, the barns are flushed out and the waste goes to above ground open cesspools. From there, bacteria minimally treats the waste. It is then sprayed onto fields.

"Fifteen thousand sows produce the waste of a city of 45,000 people and their sewage should be treated in a modern wastewater treatment facility just like we have in cities," said Tom Mattison of the environmental group, the New River Foundation.

North Carolina is the second largest producer of hogs in the United States following Iowa. In 1987 there were 4.1 million head on North Carolina farms. As of March 1995 there were 7.2 million. In Duplin county, there are more than 175 operations with at least 3,000 hogs, and at least 10 more that have at least 10,000 hogs.

Large corporate and contract farms now account for 86 percent of all hog production in North Carolina. In the course of this concentration, more than 17,000 family farmers who raised hogs were put out of business.

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War in Balkans

Continued from front page
hospital, and residential areas. There were "quite significant numbers of bodies in the streets," said Alun Roberts, a UN official in Knin. As many as 150,000 Croatian Serbs were forced to flee.

U.S. officials said the military offensive was a "window of opportunity" that could lead to a so-called peace agreement. Washington signed a military cooperation agreement with Croatia in November 1994 that provided for increased contacts between U.S. and Croatian armed forces. Croatian military officers have traveled to the United States for training and the armed forces has received eight months of direct military advice.

"One cannot forget that Croatia's patience was severely tested by years of Serbian aggression," said Klaus Kinkel, Germany's foreign minister, citing Bonn's approval of Zagreb's military action.

As the imperialist rivalries sharpen over the war "something may be quietly dying," wrote Bruce Clark for the *Financial Times*. That is "any pretense that the US, Russia, Britain, France, and Germany — partners in the so-called contact group — are prepared to work together."

Battle for territory and resources

Krajina itself sits atop vital oil and rail routes. The nearby Adriatic beaches are a source of millions of dollars in foreign exchange and are most accessible through Krajina. Before the war, tourism brought in about \$10 billion a year; last year revenues were down to \$2 billion, while this year the specter of war has reduced it to less than \$500 million.

The success of the Croatian drive to retake territory has sparked fissures among the Bosnian Serb leadership and the Bosnian government. Radovan Karadzic, the most well-known leader of the Bosnian Serbs, stated August 5 that he was assuming command of the military forces from Gen. Ratko Mladic, a close ally of the regime in Belgrade. Mladic called Karadzic's decision "illegal" and declared, "I will remain the commander in chief as long as the Bosnian Serb people and combatants want me to."

In Banja Luka, a Bosnian Serb center in western Serbia, 18 generals signed a declaration of loyalty to Mladic August 6. At the same time the Bosnian Serb parliament approved Karadzic's decision at a meeting in Pale.

"[Serbian president Slobodan] Milosevic will use the Yugoslav army to dismantle Karadzic," Milan Bosic, a member of the Serbian parliament, told the *Times*. He spoke of "a coup in a couple weeks against Karadzic."

The Croatian regime's assault on Krajina is viewed by many as a step in advancing the partition of Bosnia. "Tudjman has never given up the idea of partitioning Bosnia," asserted a *Financial Times* analysis of the fighting under the title "Slicing up the Bosnian cake." Among many Bosnians, which includes Muslims, Serbs, and Croats, experiences of the war have reinforced suspicions that the Croatian and Serbian governments will eventually cooperate to carve up Bosnia.

Croatian president Tudjman and Milosevic held a series of secret talks in late 1990 and early 1991 to come up with a plan that would satisfy each of these rival's desires for greater territory and resources. The talks broke down and a civil war erupted, after Croatia declared independence in 1991. Some 10,000 civilians were killed in the fighting, and the so-called "ethnic cleansing," that followed, as rightist forces, heavily armed by the Serb-dominated Yugoslav military, seized a third of the territory of the former republic of Croatia, proclaiming it the "Serb republic of Krajina."

Russian president Boris Yeltsin invited Tudjman and Milosevic to Moscow for negotiations on the current fighting, while ignoring Bosnian president Alija Izetbegovic. Tudjman backed out of the meeting at the last moment only after strong pressure from Washington.

Bosnian president Alija Izetbegovic, and foreign minister Muhamed Sacirbey rushed to Zagreb August 8 to raise their concerns directly about possible Croatian plans for partitioning Bosnia. "The Bosnian government doesn't want to believe the worst about Croatia, but they are very worried about the developments," a diplomat in Sarajevo remarked.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

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Why Washington and Tokyo Went to War. Speaker: Jeanne Tuomey, Young Socialists, recently returned from 50th anniversary commemoration of Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombing in Japan; David Matsuda, adjunct professor of anthropology, California State University at Hayward. Fri., Aug. 18, 7 p.m. 3284 23rd St. (near Mission BART). Donation: \$4. Tel: (415) 285-5323.

ILLINOIS

Chicago

War in Bosnia: Should Working People Support U.S. Intervention? Speaker: Rick Young, supporter Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Aug. 18, 7:30 p.m. 545 W. Roosevelt Rd. Donation: \$4. Tel: (312) 829-6815.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

What's the Cause of Widening War in Former Yugoslavia? Speaker: Doug Hord, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Aug. 18, 7:30 p.m. 780 Tremont St. Donation: \$4. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

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Protest INS Raid in Northfield. Free Jimmy Smyth and other Irish Activists Fighting Extradition in U.S. Fri., Aug. 18, 7:30 p.m. 2490 University Ave. (east side of Hwy. 280, on 16A bus line). Donation: \$4. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

TEXAS

Houston

Abu-Jamal wins stay of execution

Continued from front page

original trial and such misconduct forms part of the basis for Abu-Jamal's current appeal.

On August 2, for example, Sabo ordered that defense attorney Rachel Wolkenstein be handcuffed and thrown into a holding cell after she protested his refusal to accept subpoenas for two witnesses. Sabo has so far refused to issue such subpoenas for 11 witnesses requested by the defense. Wolkenstein was released after apologizing.

Later that day, Judge Sabo threatened to arrest protesters outside City Hall whose chanting could be heard in the courtroom.

"Since the beginning of the hearing, Sabo has done daily battle with Abu-Jamal's defense lawyers over subpoenas, witnesses, and prosecution objections," wrote Philadelphia *Daily News* staff writer Jim Nolan describing the judge's courtroom conduct. The judge's bias has drawn similar comments from the *New York Times* and the Philadelphia *Inquirer*.

Demonstrations have taken place in more than 50 cities in the United States since governor Ridge signed the death sentence for Abu-Jamal on June 2. On August 1, some 200 prisoners at the Maximum Security Federal Prison in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, ran a combined total of 500 miles around the prison yard in solidarity with Abu-Jamal.

That same day, international writers organizations in New York and Paris organized news conferences demanding justice for Abu-Jamal. The New York event fea-

tured Pulitzer prize winning novelist William Styron and other members of PEN, an international writers organization.

The Journalists' Union of Cuba and the Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba issued statements condemning the planned execution of Abu-Jamal. "A shameful page is about to be turned," wrote the journalists' group in demanding that Abu-Jamal's execution be stopped and that he be granted a new trial.

Protests have also taken place in the United Kingdom, Ireland, Brazil, Germany, Denmark, and many other countries. On July 31, the government of Belgium asked Washington to lift the death penalty. The next week, government officials in France and Germany joined the call to halt Abu-Jamal's execution. The lower house of the Italian Parliament has also made this demand.

Five representatives from the Anti-Deportation and Justice Group in the United Kingdom brought petitions with 10,000 signatures to the Pennsylvania state capitol. Publicity surrounding a massive campaign of frame-ups by the Philadelphia police department is also undermining the credibility of Jamal's accusers. "The city is sorting through the wreckage left by rogue cops who went on a rampage of illegal arrests for five years in the 39th Police District," the Philadelphia *Inquirer* reported August 6. "More than 1,100 of their arrests are being reviewed, and hundreds of cases may be overturned." Forty-two convictions have

Hiroshima: 50 Years After the Atom Bomb. An eyewitness reportback from commemorative events in Japan. Speaker: Patti Iiyama, Socialist Workers Party, member of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 4-227. Iiyama participated in the August 6, 1995, memorial demonstration in Hiroshima and several international antinuclear conferences. Fri., Aug. 18, 7:30 p.m. 3200 S. Loop West (corner South Main St. and the Loop). Donation: \$4. Tel: (713) 349-0090.

BRITAIN

Manchester

Hands Off Iran. End the Trade Sanctions. Fri., Aug. 18, 7 p.m. First Floor, 60 Shudehill. Donation: £2. Tel: (0161) 839-1766.

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland

From Burma to Latin America: Democratic Rights, the Economic Crisis and the Third World Debt. Speakers: Fiona Thompson, New Zealand Burma Support Group; representative, Communist League. Fri., Aug. 18, 7 p.m. La Gonda Arcade, 203 Karangahape Road. Donation: \$3. Tel: (09) 379-3075.

already been dismissed. Only five cops have been indicted so far.

The Philadelphia cops are organizing to intimidate Jamal's supporters and block fund-raising activities on his behalf.

Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) president Rich Costello told WTFX-TV July 19, "Let these out-of-town lawyers, these out-of-town terrorists, get the hell out of here and leave Philadelphia to us. This is our city."

An August 7 Philadelphia *Daily News* article, headlined "Fraternal Order of Protest," reported how supporters of Abu-Jamal "are having problems finding local entertainment spots willing to give them space for their fund-raisers, no matter how popular the headliners, largely because of pressure from the Fraternal Order of Police."

Zanzibar Blue, a popular Black-owned jazz club, canceled a scheduled July 19 benefit after "we started getting calls from the FOP, warning they were going to picket it." Cops did throw up a picket line that night at the hall of Hospital Workers Union Local 1199C when they heard the benefit would be shifted there.

FOP president Costello warned the union, which has rented its hall for a benefit to take place August 9, "We want to make it clear that they understand that they're openly advocating the murder of police officers."

Local 1199C president Henry Nicholas told the *Militant*, "We have a right to rent our hall to anyone we want so we're not going to be intimidated by the FOP."

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Who says economics is complicated? — "Lack of cash is one reason for Amtrak's financial difficulties — Cash flow: The money coming in must be more than the



Harry Ring

money going out in order to maintain a healthy business" — Headline in Amtrak's in-house newsletter.

ter.

The civilized society — "We want a prisoner to look like a prisoner, to smell like a prisoner, and taste like a prisoner. When you see one of these boogers a loose, you'll say, 'I didn't know we had zebras in Mississippi.' Some of them prisoners, you couldn't humiliate them with a humiliatin' machine." — State Rep Mack Innis on move to have Mississippi prisoners wear striped uniforms.

Think you've heard everything? — In Bolingbrook, Illinois, a county judge sentenced a girl, 12, to jail and put her sister, 8,

under house arrest with no TV privileges. The children were ruled in contempt of court for refusing to visit their father as stipulated in their parents' divorce. After a night in a juvenile detention center, the older girl was ordered released by a state appeals court, which put the judge's ruling on hold for 10 days.

Class struggle begins at home? — Beth Peres, 10, of Oak Park, Illinois, checked the allowances of her classmates. She found the boys averaged \$3.18 a week and the girls, \$2.63. Plus, the girls were expected to do more

chores. Beth's mom declares: "I don't want to create a welfare state."

'We lose more toes that way' — Rolando Sanchez, the Florida surgeon who mistakenly removed the wrong leg of a patient, has had his license suspended for removing a woman's toe without her consent. According to state officials, the doc insisted the toe had fallen off.

What would they do without capitalism? — Brazil's income gap is exceeded only by that of Botswana. The richest 10 percent

of Brazil's population pockets 50 percent of the nation's income. The poorest 10 percent get less than 1 percent. Thirty two million people suffer malnutrition.

Not enough to go around? — Brazil leads the world in coffee and orange juice exports. And it ranks among the top four in soya, cocoa, and poultry.

Double rape — In Alabama, rape victims are to pay the cost of compiling medical evidence. They can be billed from \$350 to \$1,200 for the collection of semen, hair, and fiber samples.

Book on 1983 copper strike draws wrong lessons

Copper Crucible, How the Arizona Miners' Strike of 1983 Recast Labor-Management Relations in America by Jonathan Rosenblum. 256 pp. New York: ILR Press, 1995.

BY DAN FEIN

Copper Crucible does a good job of chronicling the events of the hard-fought strike by copper miners in Clifton and Morenci, Arizona, against the Phelps Dodge mining company, especially the illegal activities of the cops directed against the strikers. The story of the strike, which began in July 1983, however, proves the opposite of some of Rosenblum's conclusions.

IN REVIEW

Rosenblum longs for a return to the 1960s and early 1970s, before the 1974-75 worldwide recession and the deepening crisis of capitalism. The bosses are now demanding major concessions from the unions and Rosenblum can't understand why.

His reformist outlook prevents him from seeing that the company's conduct during the strike was necessitated by the copper barons' need to drive down wages and break the unions in order to remain competitive.

Were we to believe Rosenblum, the lesson of the Arizona copper workers' fight in 1983 is that strikes cannot be won today because of the Republican Party's influence in Washington and the inability of workers to extend solidarity.

Copper miners in Arizona have a long history of militancy going back to the turn of the century. The large number of Mexican-American miners, the influence of the Mexican revolution, the dangerous working conditions, all these and many other factors contributed to the class struggle history of Arizona copper miners.

Fight to maintain rights

In 1983, Phelps Dodge miners, primarily members of the Steelworkers union but also a number of other unions, went on strike to maintain Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) and to prevent job combinations. During the inflation-racked 1970s, COLA, under which wages increase to match price hikes, helped to protect miners' standard of living.

Phelps Dodge wanted major concessions and the elimination of pattern bar-

gaining. Rosenblum sees Richard Moolick, president of the company, and Ronald Reagan as the "bad apples."

Copper Crucible concentrates on the events in Clifton and Morenci, small towns where mass pickets characterized the beginning weeks of the strike. Rallies of 1,500 and more strikers rocked the Clifton football stadium on more than one occasion.

Six weeks into the strike, the company took out large ads in the Phoenix and Tucson newspapers looking for scabs. This infuriated the rank-and-file strikers, who were determined to prevent them from crossing the line. On Monday, August 8, 1,000 strikers, family members, and supporters mobilized at the gate to the mine in response to these provocations.

Within hours the company canceled production for 24 hours. Those already inside the mine decided to stay there rather than face the mass pickets.

Democratic Party governor Bruce Babbitt immediately flew in. Union officials met with Babbitt who then met with the company. Phelps Dodge then agreed to a 10-day moratorium on hiring "replacement workers." But the strikers were not satisfied. They mobilized the next morning to demand a complete shutdown of the mine by noon.

Rosenblum quotes company spokes man, Patrick Scanlon, as saying, "You could see them moving up to the gate with softball bats, lengths of pipe, chains." Rosenblum himself uses the word "mob" to describe the determined actions of the strikers who wanted to preserve their jobs, their unions, and get a decent contract. At 10 minutes to noon the company cried "uncle" and agreed to shut down the facility for 10 days.

The next 10 days were decisive in the strike. The company, the cops, the National Guard, and the governor prepared to guarantee the gates would be wide open. But the union leadership traveled throughout the state asking people to stay away from Morenci, August 19. This strategy was designed, they said, to embarrass the company and the cops who would be mobilizing a big force against no one.

Phelps Dodge gets help from Babbitt

Rosenblum describes this period as one where Phelps Dodge management and the Republicans in the state legislature ganged up on Babbitt and forced him to call out the National Guard. In fact, Babbitt, the Democratic Party, and the Republican Party all fully cooperated with Phelps Dodge to maintain "law and order" and to



Militant

1984 rally in Clifton, Arizona, on first anniversary of copper miners' strike.

open the mine by military force.

On the morning of August 19 military vehicles, tanks, Huey helicopters, and 750 armed state troopers and National Guardsmen arrived in Clifton and Morenci to break the strike. Only a handful of strikers were at the gate and busloads of scabs rolled in. This outcome and the events leading up to it were a devastating blow to the strike, which lost momentum from that point on.

Near the end of *Copper Crucible* Rosenblum writes, "The Phelps Dodge strike is emblematic of the decline of two vital achievements of the American labor movement, solidarity and the right to strike." But to the contrary the union fighters at Phelps Dodge showed that solidarity and the strike weapon were very much

alive and the only way to win a fight against the employers and their government servants.

Rosenblum advises the capitalist class to do some "soul-searching, particularly with respect to their duties to their workers and the general community." He looks to Bill Clinton, the Democratic Party, labor management committees, and a return to enlightened management to make advances for working people. This is a dead end.

Out of the worsening conditions the capitalists are imposing today, larger and larger class battles will emerge. A revitalized labor movement, which fights around broad social questions confronting the entire working class and builds unity to stand up to the bosses, will then be possible.

— 25 AND 50 YEARS AGO —

THE MILITANT

Published in the Interest of the Working People

September 4, 1970

Price 10¢

The press seems to be making a concerted effort to keep news about the war in Indochina to a minimum — and off the front pages.

But the fact nevertheless remains that this long and bloody war continues day after day. The genocide bombardment that already devastated large areas of South Vietnam has been escalated to Cambodia and Laos.

In the seven weeks preceding Aug. 21, 508 Americans were killed in combat, bringing the total figure for the war to 43,366.

Despite continual promises by Nixon and his cabinet to the contrary, the administration has given the go-ahead to U.S. bombing of all parts of Cambodia. Besides increasing the U.S. bombing of Cambodia, the administration is shoring up the Phnompenh military clique of Gen. Lon Nol with new weapons and increased economic aid. On Aug. 20, Washington announced that it would provide "about \$40-million worth of small arms, ammunition, jeeps, trucks, communication equipment and armored personnel carriers" to the five-month-old regime.

THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

NEW YORK, N.Y.

FIVE (5) CENTS

August 18, 1945

Government operation of government-owned plants which private corporations refuse to operate was demanded last week in Washington by representatives of leading CIO international unions, who called on federal agencies for drastic action to stem the disastrous tide of mass unemployment accompanying the imminent surrender of Japan.

The Associated Press reported that war material cutbacks amounting to \$12-billion were under way. The War and Navy Departments officially announced immediate contract terminations of \$4-billion, "the first of the expected flood," as the Times admitted.

"The ending of the war will deliver a staggering jolt to the industrial economy of the nation," the N.Y. Herald-Tribune confessed.

Government officials could no longer conceal the terrible fate now immediately in store for the American workers. "A high-ranking Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion official estimated that 8,000,000 persons inevitably would be jobless within the next six months," the United Press reported the day after the surrender offer.

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Use victory of Abu-Jamal case

An important victory was won in the fight to stop the legal murder of Mumia Abu-Jamal when Judge Albert Sabo flip-flopped and granted the well-known Black activist an indefinite stay of execution on August 7. Abu-Jamal was just 10 days shy of being put to death. Working people the world over should celebrate what we fought for and won.

The ruling is a testament to the international campaign waged on Abu-Jamal's behalf, which forced Sabo — known as a "hanging judge" — and the government of Pennsylvania to back down from their rush to send Abu-Jamal to the death chamber. The planned demonstration in Philadelphia on August 12 should be a celebration of the successful fight and an opportunity to build on the momentum to press forward with the demand for a new trial.

Mumia Abu-Jamal has become an international symbol in the fight against the death penalty. His case shows how hundreds of thousands of working people, particularly Blacks, end up in prison; and how hundreds also end up on death row. More than 40 percent of inmates on death row are Black, more than three times the percentage of Blacks in the U.S. population. In the last six decades, more than 50 percent of executed inmates were Black.

The campaign to stop the execution exposed the utter contempt by Judge Sabo, the government prosecutors, and the cops, for Abu-Jamal's basic legal rights. Sabo has sent more people to death row than any other judge in the United States. In a travesty of justice he is both the judge that sent Abu-Jamal to death row 13 years ago and the judge reviewing the proceedings to see if Abu-Jamal should be granted a new trial.

As the countdown drew towards the August 17 execution date, support swelled for Abu-Jamal, placing tremendous pressure on the capitalist rulers and their plans to maintain state-sanctioned murder as a weapon in their arsenal against working people. The outrageous conduct of Judge Sabo started to become a political liability for them.

The thousands who protested around the world — in France, the United Kingdom, Germany, Brazil, Ireland, Cuba, and many other countries — forced the government to back off from Abu-Jamal's execution, at least for now, and struck a powerful blow against the death penalty. The fight to stop the hangman's noose from wrapping around Abu-Jamal's neck helped to bring to light the injustices of the capitalist courts, government,

and cops.

Supporters of Abu-Jamal should not let up. The momentum is now on our side. The government blinked first and they will be hard pressed to deny Abu-Jamal a new trial if his supporters keep up the pressure. Working people and all defenders of democratic rights should redouble their efforts to take advantage of the mass sentiment that exists for a new trial. This fight is now the best avenue to expose the frame-up character of the case, as well as get the death sentence removed. Abu-Jamal wrote, "I am not now under an active death warrant, although I remain under an active death sentence."

The stay of execution was also a blow to cop brutality, which Abu-Jamal was a victim of. The police often consider themselves judge, jury, and executioner and this case challenged that prerogative. Revealing the typical thinking of the boys in blue, one Philadelphia cop told the *New York Times* after Judge Sabo's decision, "Maybe we should have executed him at 13th and Locust where he executed Danny Faulkner."

Supporters of Abu-Jamal should also take notice that the cops continue to mount their campaign to deny the political activist his basic rights. They are doing all they can to prevent a new trial for him and to intimidate his supporters. In addition to packing their guns while attending courtroom proceedings in Philadelphia, they have organized to block fund-raising activities and other events by Abu-Jamal supporters. Their actions should be roundly condemned by all supporters of democratic rights.

The groundswell of support that grew for Abu-Jamal can also be viewed as a step forward in the fight to defend affirmative action and other struggles that Blacks and others are fighting around today. The fight to stay the execution for Abu-Jamal demonstrated that it is possible to go up against the power of the capitalist rulers, their courts, and their cops, and win. Working people have the power to stop the attacks against our democratic rights and the gains won from past struggles.

If we keep up the fight now it is possible to make the rulers pay a very high price for their attempts to move forward with the death penalty against Mumia Abu-Jamal. Supporters of Abu-Jamal should continue to reach out around the world. We should build on this victory and demand:

A new trial for Mumia Abu-Jamal!

Lift the death sentence!

Abolish the death penalty!

Support Bosnia sovereignty

The Croatian military offensive against Serb forces in Krajina has nothing to do with resolving the crisis in the Balkans. It foreshadows more gang warfare in the region, between the competing Stalinist leaders in Croatia and Serbia, and a wider war that will victimize working people.

Sensing disarray among Bosnian Serb forces and with the open backing of Washington and Bonn, the regime in Zagreb is flexing its military muscle with an eye toward the oil-rich region of eastern Slavonia captured by Serb forces in 1991 as the former Yugoslavia disintegrated.

Both regimes in Zagreb and Belgrade aim to grab as much territory as they are militarily strong enough to take at the expense of the majority of workers and farmers throughout what was once Yugoslavia. As their war intensifies, both mafia-like gangs trample on the rights of the Bosnian people.

None of the actions by these warring factions, nor imperialist intervention will bring peace. It will only bring more deaths, massive waves of refugees, and deeper divisions among those who until recently lived together without major conflict. Working people have no stake in the bloody strife between Tudjman's forces and those backed by Belgrade.

The imperialists in Washington and Bonn back the Tudjman regime in Croatia against its Serb rivals in an attempt to carve out influence with the forces they hope will come out on top in the conflict. They are seeking to advance their interests in the region at the expense of their capitalist rivals in France and Britain.

Washington has no concern for the welfare of the Bosnians. The U.S. government claims that Zagreb's assault on the Serbs in Krajina was "helping Bosnia, a neighbor and ally, defend itself," while they look favorably on plans to partition the republic. A Clinton administration official told the *Financial Times* that "partition" may be the answer, since "it is the only thing all the parties can agree on."

Working people in Bosnia have faced the most prolonged and bloodiest battles. Under relentless bombardment, they have been driven from the towns and villages they had lived in for generations. Workers and farmers in Bosnia, whether they are Muslims, or of Croatian or Serbian origin, all have been victims of "ethnic cleansing." Working people around the world should support the fight of the Bosnian people for self-determination and their right to live in peace.

The Yugoslav revolution, forged during World War II, was a social upheaval by millions. Workers and peasants of every nationality united to make the revolution, which brought an end to a period in which capitalist regimes carried out massacres of various ethnic groups. The workers and farmers of Yugoslavia succeeded in narrowing some of the regional disparities in industrial development, agricultural productivity, and living standards that existed in the country.

This is the direction working people in the Balkans need to take up again, by supporting the fight of the Bosnian people for self-determination and organizing to sweep away the parasitic gangs that led them to the horrendous situation they are in today.

Howard Mayhew

Continued from Page 8

said.

Barnes explained that Mayhew helped lead the process nationally of turning over the leadership responsibilities to younger members as this became possible. "He was conscious of teaching us how to function as leaders," he said.

Joel Britton, SWP national trade union director who joined in Chicago in 1962, described the Chicago branch as "a branch of workers — in steel, agricultural implements, and other industries, and including some members like Howard Mayhew who had been driven out of industry during the witch-hunt and blacklisted."

"This branch was engaged in political activity ranging from the Fair Play for Cuba Committee to the Ban the Bomb peace movement of the time."

"We got an education, above all from Howard who had the kind of confidence in the power, capacities, and revolutionary potential of the working class that comes from participating in struggles involving millions of workers," said Britton.

Helps expand party's printing capacity

At the request of the party leadership Mayhew moved to New York in 1964, taking along with him the printing press he ran in his basement, to help expand the party's publishing capacity. Pioneer, a predecessor to Pathfinder Press, was in a position to expand its publishing program due to increased sales of Marxist literature and the party printshop was to play a big part in strengthening this effort.

This move followed the efforts of members of the Chicago branch, led by Mayhew, to reprint, collate, and bind 1,000 copies of both *In Defense of Marxism* and *The Revolution Betrayed* by Leon Trotsky.

In the 1970s, after several years as an at-large member in upstate New York, Mayhew teamed up with younger party members to build the Albany SWP branch.

Peter Thierjung, now a member of the SWP in Greensboro, North Carolina, remembers how "after a day of sales or petitioning Howard would modestly announce the number of [*Militant*] papers he sold or signatures he got. Without fail, he was always the top sales person or top petitioner."

Mayhew resigned from the party in 1983. "Only wanting physical powers in general and frustrating loss of hearing brings me to this decision," he wrote. "This formal resignation from Socialist Workers Party membership in no way indicates the slightest rejection to my lifelong subscription to the tenets of the SWP's class struggle politics."

For Mayhew, being a party member with the right to vote and decide party policy necessitated being active. He wrote, "Party decisions, to be informed, democratically arrived at and executed, must have and include the active participation both in those decisions and in the events and circumstances involved. Personal reasons, therefore, make it fitting and proper that I bring my formal membership to an end."

Until a few years ago when hit by a further decline in health, Mayhew remained an active supporter of the party, participating in sales, forums, and other activities.

Into the 1990s, he continued to spread revolutionary ideas. Mike Taber, a member of the Brooklyn branch who worked with Mayhew in Albany, reports that Mayhew responded to the Gulf War by ordering copies of *U.S. Hands off the Middle East! — Cuba Speaks at the UN* to sell in the retirement community in New Jersey where he was living.

Cuban unionists

Continued from Page 7

riod of four months they stole more than 13,000 pounds of meat, which sells for 35 pesos, or about a dollar a pound at the agricultural market. Radio Progreso reported that losses in the livestock industry in Granma Province had quadrupled in recent years.

The defense of the social conquests of the revolution has occupied an important place in the discussions of the CTC municipal assemblies. The call to the congress explicitly rejects "the neoliberal recipes and the so-called shock therapies, alien to our revolutionary concept," as a way of solving the crisis, noting that this is what is being done by governments in capitalist countries the world over.

In her intervention in Madruga, Marisol Arias, representing health-care workers, reported on the efforts to safeguard social conquests in spite of the current hardships. It is difficult to get medicines from the nearby city of Güines, Arias explained, because of gasoline shortages. Nevertheless, the infant mortality rate, she went on to say, "a quantifiable achievement," remains below the national average of 9.9-per-one thousand live births.

"We must see to it that people are not simply there to milk cows or to weed the fields," said CTC secretary Ross. "We must strive to provide them with the best conditions possible. A worker is not a piece of machinery," Ross concluded.

At the end of the conference the delegates elected a nine-member municipal secretariat, five of them women, which will lead the work of the Madruga CTC until the congress.

Ontario workers resist social service cuts

BY ROBERT SIMMS
AND JOHN STEELE

TORONTO — Two months after the June 8 election of a Conservative Party government in Ontario, led by Premier Mike Harris, resistance by working people is growing to cuts in social services, and to plans to repeal affirmative action pay equity and "anti-scab" laws. These laws were adopted by the recently defeated union-backed New Democratic Party (NDP) government.

A coalition of community activists, unionists, and young people called the Embarrass Harris Campaign is gearing up for a demonstration at the opening of the fall session of the Ontario legislature, most likely on September 25.

The coalition organized a demonstration of 2,000 at the swearing in ceremony of the new government on June 26. A "March Against Poverty" organized by the Ontario Coalition Against Poverty brought more than 1,000 to the legislature on July 29.

The defense of health care, child care, education, social assistance, pay equity, jobs, and union rights will be the theme of the annual Labour Council of Metropolitan Toronto Labour Day parade on September 4.

On July 20 more than 1,000 day care workers and their supporters rallied in the rain in front of the provincial legislature. "My wife and I are average working par-



1994 demonstration on Prince Edward Island against pay cut for public workers

ents...who don't get subsidies. We supported Mike Harris but we didn't vote for this," said Doug Prentice at the protest rally.

In the new government's July 21 budget statement, Finance Minister Ernie Eves plans to slash welfare assistance rates by 21.6 percent with the goal of cutting \$1 billion per year out of social assistance. More than 1 million working people will be affected by the cuts. The Conservatives have promised \$5 billion in cuts to bal-

ance the budget by the year 2001.

Speaking for Canada's billionaire capitalist families, the Toronto *Globe and Mail*, which endorsed the Conservatives, was not impressed with their first effort, calling it "fussing on the fringes." Noting that the biggest target in the statement was welfare recipients, the July 22 editorial exhorted the Conservatives to make much deeper cuts that would affect working people more broadly, especially in education and health spending.

Harris campaigned during the election for a "common sense revolution." He blamed workers on welfare for the deficit and called for a workfare program in which all able-bodied adults would be forced to work for free on government-organized projects.

The Conservatives, who won 45 percent of the popular vote out of the 65 percent of eligible voters who cast ballots, defeated Ontario's first New Democratic Party government, which had been elected in June 1990. The NDP came in third after the Liberals, who are now the official opposition.

Thousands of workers in 1990 campaigned for the NDP through their unions. They had hoped for improvements in their living conditions as a result of that NDP victory.

However, like the Saskatchewan and British Columbia NDP governments, which closed hospitals; the New Brunswick Liberals, who slashed welfare benefits; Alberta's Conservative government, which took the axe to health and welfare spending; and the Parti Quebecois government in Quebec, which faces mounting protests over its effort to cut thousands of hospital beds; the Ontario NDP government carried out its own "deficit-cutting" program aimed at working people.

The austerity programs of the provincial governments have followed the lead of the federal Liberal government, which has slashed billions in transfer payments to the provinces for health care, education, and social assistance. More than 40,000 federal government jobs are on the chopping block.

Union officials were initially divided on whether to support the NDP's reelection campaign. Most of them supported the NDP while the Canadian Auto Workers and public sector union tops stood aside. But as Conservative support in the polls increased, nearly all union officials swung in behind the NDP to save Bill 40, its "anti-scab" legislation.

The demonstrations that have taken place in the first eight weeks of the Conservative government are a factor in the unease that is now being expressed by some big-business editorialists about the possible reaction of working people to the speed and scope of the Conservative government's cuts.

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

Canada miner wins fight over legal fees

BY NED DMYTRYSHYN

VANCOUVER, Canada — The Northwest Territories Court of Appeal ruled June 22 that the federal government of Canada should pay the legal costs of Roger Warren's attorneys, Glenn Orris and Gillian Boothroyd. Warren, a member of the Canadian Auto Workers Local 2304, is currently serving a life sentence at the Stony Mountain Institution in Manitoba on trumped-up charges of second degree murder. Orris said they would soon apply for bail for Warren.

Orris has already submitted an appeal stating that Warren's rights under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms were violated with police searches of his apartment; that the defense was refused the right to refer to certain statements elicited from Warren by the cops; that the refusal of the judge to allow testimony on the psychology of false confessions was

an error, and that the judge erred in challenging Warren's credibility and in instructing the jury that his false confession was a true statement of incrimination.

Warren was convicted of the second degree murder of nine replacement workers killed in an explosion at Royal Oak's Giant Mine in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, in September of 1992. The blast occurred during a bitter 18-month strike against company union busting.

For 13 months after the explosion, hundreds of strikers, family members, and supporters were interrogated and harassed by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP).

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

arrest was made.

The centerpiece of the government's case was a false confession given by Warren one year after the blast. Despite the gaping irregularities in the false confession, and without any concrete evidence linking Warren to the blast, the judge basically instructed the jury to convict the miner.

Widows of the nine replacement workers who died in the explosion at Royal Oak Mines during the strike have named 14 new people, all unionists or union supporters, in a lawsuit claiming \$34 million in damages.

"This is an attempt to smear the union as a whole," said Blaine Lisoway, coordinator of the Warren Defense Fund.

Ned Dmytryshyn is a member of International Association of Machinists Local 692 in Vancouver.

LETTERS

Irish freedom struggle

On the evening of July 27, Barry McElduff spoke to a meeting of 32 supporters of the Irish freedom struggle at Green Tavern in North East Philadelphia. McElduff is a member of Sinn Fein's Six County Executive Committee, the Sinn Fein Mid Ulster Constituency Representative, and the Party's official spokesperson on legal affairs and justice. This meeting was part of the peace process in Northern Ireland.

In a short speech, McElduff outlined the current situation in Northern Ireland and Sinn Fein's strategy in the peace process. The Sinn Fein leader's main points were: 1) that it was the Republicans who initiated the peace process and are the ones pressing for an agreement. "We are the people who are talking of an agreement. We are the people talking of a new Ireland that will have room for everyone....The cease-fire came about because the IRA decided to create political space for mass struggles." 2) The British government has invented a series of excuses to avoid all-party peace talks, while continuing to hold hundreds of political prisoners and occupying Northern Ireland with 3,000 soldiers. "Britain seems to have no agenda for peace." 3) Sinn Fein's demands are: the release of all political prisoners, creation of a nonsectarian

police, and the withdrawal of all British troops."

"Until the British leave resistance will be permanent," he said.

The speech was followed by a lively discussion lasting over an hour. Responding to a question about the Protestants, McElduff replied, "After British withdrawal an agreement with the one and a half million Protestants is absolutely necessary. The Unionists are not the enemy. There are all sorts of class differences and religious differences in the Unionist community and many are beginning to think. We learned a few things from the ANC on our trip to South Africa."

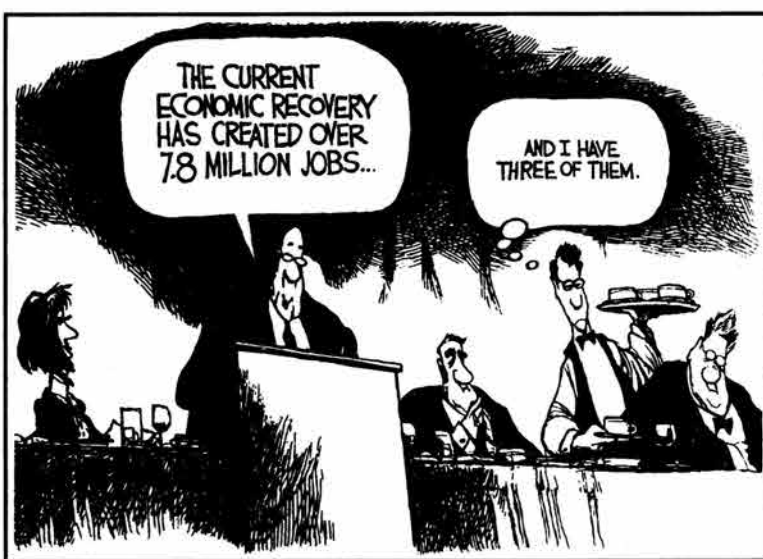
The majority of the people at the meeting were young Irish immigrants, with a sprinkling of older Irish-American Noraid activists.

Roy Inglee
Wilmington, Delaware

Activist fights deportation

"Are the British really serious about this peace process that's going on when they're chasing after four men 6,000 miles from the north of Ireland to get them back into a prison in the north of Ireland?" This was Jimmy Smyth's response to the ruling of a three-judge panel of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals that he be deported.

Smyth was interviewed by



phone from San Francisco by Twin Cities radio station WCCO on July 29, two days after the panel's ruling. Smyth, who escaped from Long Kesh prison in 1983 and has lived in the U.S. for eight years, visited the Twin Cities July 9-10 to present his case to supporters here and to introduce a new video, "Uncensored Voices," which contains nearly an hour of interviews with leaders of the freedom struggle in the north of Ireland.

On July 9, he was the guest speaker at the Irish Community Picnic in St. Paul, addressing 120 people. "You don't have to be an Irish Republican or support the IRA [to oppose the extradition],"

Smyth said. "You just have to believe in civil and human rights." That evening, he spoke to 40 people at Arise Bookstore.

The next day he spoke to 30 people at a showing of "Uncensored Voices" at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. He also met with the director of the Center for Victims of Torture in Minneapolis.

Tom O'Brien
St. Paul, Minnesota

Haitian refugees

On July 19 the *Miami Herald* reported the U.S. Coast Guard intercepted a Haitian freighter with over 150 people. The *Herald* de-

scribed this group as "the largest number of Haitian refugees intercepted in South Florida since...Aristide returned to power in October." The refugees were taken to the infamous Krome Detention Center to be "processed for exclusion."

This event punctuates the findings of the *Militant* reporting team to Haiti — that little improvement in the economic conditions faced by Haitian working people has resulted from the U.S. military invasion. The "special period," a term Cubans use to describe the impact of the world capitalist depression on their country, goes on in Haiti.

Now it is easier for many to see the real problem in Haiti, which is continued domination of the island by U.S. capitalism and the International Monetary Fund. There are no plans to improve Haiti for working people any more than there are plans to help Mexico. This is what will continue to drive both Haitian and Mexican workers into the United States.

Jim Kendrick
Miami, Florida

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.

Thousands mark Hiroshima Day

Protesters in Australia oppose Paris nuclear weapons tests in Pacific

BY DOUG COOPER

SYDNEY, Australia — A sign reading "Little Boy and Fat Man were 'tested' too" summed up the attitude of thousands who took to the streets in major cities around Australia on Hiroshima Day, August 6, to call for an end to nuclear weapons and tests. The nicknames, symbolizing Roosevelt and Churchill, were given to the atomic bombs dropped by the U.S. government on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The big-business media, which widely publicized the actions beforehand, estimated 30,000 people took part around the country.

Under the slogan "Hiroshima never again!" between 7,000 and 10,000 marched in Sydney. Thousands more protested in Melbourne, Perth, Adelaide, Brisbane, Canberra, and Hobart.

Chantal Spitz, a primary school teacher and veteran antinuclear and proindependence activist from the village of Maeve on the island of Huahine in French Polynesia, briefly addressed the Sydney action. Spitz condemned the U.S. bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and solidarized with the victims of nuclear power plant disasters at Three Mile Island in 1979 and Chernobyl in 1985. She also asked for continued support for stopping underground weapons tests on Moruroa Atoll by the French government, which are scheduled to begin in September.

'Ban the bomb'

A contingent of Japanese children led off the march here and a Japanese youth choir performed at the final rally. Many protesters carried signs saying "Ban the bomb" and "No nukes." Others, however, carried signs with anti-French slogans, echoing the chauvinist propaganda of the Australian government.

Banners identified the presence of teachers, building workers, and other unionists, along with pacifist groups, Korean youth, Bougainville solidarity activists, and left-wing organizations. Supporters of the Australian Greens and Australian Democrats mobilized. Some Australian Labor Party branches also had contingents.

Hannah Middleton of the Hiroshima Day Committee and Paddy Crumlin of the Maritime Union of Australia were the main speakers at the rally.

Middleton made a nationalist appeal to the Australian government to "act against



Rally in Australia against the French government's nuclear tests in the Pacific. Capitalist politicians in both Australia and New Zealand are trying to divert these protests toward their own chauvinist, anti-French campaign.

colonialism" in the Pacific by sending an "Australian vessel" to Moruroa, and cancel uranium sales to, and military contracts with, the French government. Middleton noted that Paris was threatening retaliation for the Australian government's recent decision to prevent Dassault, the French military aviation company, from

bidding for a \$A740 million contract to supply warplanes to Canberra. "Are we going to let France bully us?" she asked.

The most extreme act of anti-French chauvinism occurred in Byron Bay, a resort town north of Sydney, where a small group with sledgehammers destroyed a car painted in the colors of the French flag.

In an interview, Spitz explained that the governments of Australia and New Zealand "just want France out of the South Pacific so they can be the leaders. It's not good. Each country must be free and someday we will be free, so we won't go under Australia."

"I think it's just an opportunity for the two big countries of the South Pacific to tell the other small islands: 'You stupid people — Aborigines, Maoris — we know what's best.' I don't think the governments are altruistic," she added.

Australian army atrocities in WWII

In an exception to the general chauvinism promoted by the big-business media, Sydney *Sun-Herald* writer Alex Mitchell's August 6 column took a look at a long-hidden and once-vilified book, *Time of Fallen Blossoms*, by Allan Clifton, published in London in 1950.

In his book, Clifton, a World War II Australian intelligence officer, describes atrocities he witnessed by Australian troops against Japanese prisoners of war and civilians, especially during the post-war occupation of Japan.

Mitchell notes, "His description of Hiroshima victims and a girl lying in a hospital after being raped by 20 Australian soldiers make sobering reading."

Doug Cooper is a member of the Australian Workers' Union at Alcan in Sydney.

General strike shakes New Caledonia

BY LINDA HARRIS

SYDNEY, Australia — A week-long general strike shook Noumea, the capital of New Caledonia, in mid-July. Union activists paralyzed industry, costing the government and employers billions of Pacific francs. The international airport was closed for several days. Workers blocked traffic with barricades.

The July 17-24 strike was led by the Kanak and Exploited Workers Union (USTKE), which is a pro-independence union whose members are predominantly Kanak, the indigenous people of New Caledonia.

The action began as a one-day national strike in protest of the sacking of five workers by Jama Medical, a local medical center. Unionists broadened the fight to demand legislation to protect workers' rights. They demanded measures that exist

in France but not in New Caledonia, which is a French colony.

Kotra Uregei, the president of the USTKE, said at a rally on July 18 that it was "time to mobilize our militants." The strike was supported by Kanak working people from around the country.

More than 1,000 unionists defended barricades and held off police for five days in Ducos, the industrial center of Noumea. Riot police, backed by armored cars used tear gas to try to disperse strikers. The police attack left 15 people injured. Gendarmes were flown back from Tahiti where they had been mobilized two weeks prior to the strike against antinuclear protesters who had blockaded Papeete, the capital of French Polynesia, another colony.

On July 24 the strike ended when union leaders and the French High Commission

reached an accord, forcing the company to agree to make severance payments to the sacked workers and setting up a working group to examine labor rights legislation.

The general strike, the biggest mass protest action in almost 10 years in New Caledonia, also highlighted the issues of independence and opposition to nuclear testing. The action took place in the context of the reelection in recent provincial voting of the Rally for New Caledonia in the Republic (RPCR) a right-wing, pro-colonialist party led by Jacques Lafleur. A referendum on independence is to take place in 1998. A protest rally against the French government's decision to resume nuclear tests at Moruroa had been held on July 1 in Noumea.

Linda Harris is a member of the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union.

Hundreds in New Zealand protest French nukes

BY JANET ROTH

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — Several hundred people gathered at the waterfront here on August 6 to mark the 50th anniversary of the U.S. bombing of Hiroshima. They farewelled a flotilla of boats due to set sail for Moruroa Atoll in French Polynesia to protest the French government's decision to resume nuclear tests.

Another 300 people took to the streets here in a candlelight parade. Protesters chanted, "Hiroshima — never again!" and opposed Paris's nuclear testing.

The New Zealand government is providing a naval vessel, the *Tui*, to accompany the protest flotilla. In addition, members of parliament from a number of countries plan to gather on September 2 in Tahiti, the main island in French Polynesia, for further protests.

Leaders of three of the main parties in the New Zealand Parliament spoke at the boats' send-off — Prime Minister Jim Bolger, and members of Parliament Helen Clark of the Labour Party and Jim Anderson of the Alliance. All sounded a nationalist theme, claiming that "New Zealand-

ers" having common interests in standing together against the French government. Anderson called the protest "a proud moment for New Zealanders to see we are prepared to take up the challenge against one of the great nuclear powers."

Many demonstrators read with interest a statement by Ruth Gray, the Communist League candidate for mayor of Christchurch. Gray stressed the need to oppose the sending of a naval ship to Moruroa and to oppose New Zealand chauvinism.

The plan to send the naval research vessel *Tui* to Moruroa, Gray explained, "aims to use an antinuclear guise to convince us that New Zealand's military forces can play a progressive role in the world. In fact, these forces are the enemy of working people at home and abroad."

"The imperialist rulers in Australia and New Zealand have seized on opposition to nuclear testing as an opportunity to mount a nationalist campaign against their rivals in Paris," she said. "Canberra and Wellington are whipping up anti-French sentiments to advance their own interests against workers, peasants, and youth

across the Pacific. Their actions have nothing to do with the campaign against the dangers of nuclear radiation, threat of imperialist wars, or colonial domination.

The Communist League candidate added, "New Zealand's rulers wrap themselves in the virtuous robes of their antinuclear policy to draw working people in this country behind their own rearming. In late July the first Anzac frigate was launched with much fanfare." Anzac refers to the combined armed forces of Australia and New Zealand. The Anzac frigates are being built as a joint project of the governments in these two countries to reequip their navies.

Gray's statement concluded, "Workers, farmers, and youth should join together in protesting against the resumption of French nuclear testing; at the same time we must vigorously oppose every attempt by New Zealand's capitalist rulers to whip up national chauvinism."

Janet Roth is a member of the United Food, Beverage, and General Workers Union in Auckland.

BY PATRICK BROWN

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand — Five hundred people marched here to oppose French nuclear tests in the Pacific as part of the commemoration here of the 50th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima. The largely young crowd, which included a number of Japanese, energetically chanted, "What do we want? Stop the tests! When should they stop? Now!"

The call for a trade boycott of French-made goods was featured more strongly than in the large anti-tests demonstration held here July 14. A number of placards called for a boycott of all French goods. The march stopped outside Mt. Cook, a company that has ordered seven French-made aircraft. A speaker from Greenpeace called on the company to cancel the order.

A number of demonstrators bought copies of the *Militant*, and about 100 people took copies of a statement by Ruth Gray, the Communist League candidate for mayor of Christchurch.

Patrick Brown is a member of the Engineers Union in Christchurch.