

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Workers in South Africa
rally to defend jobs

— PAGE 8

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 60 NO. 24 JUNE 17, 1996

Socialists say, 'Equal rights for immigrants!'

Candidates call for end to deportations

The statement below was released June 5 by James Harris, Socialist Workers Party candidate for president of the United States, and SWP vice-presidential candidate Laura Garza.

Our campaign calls on the labor movement and every democratic-minded human being to organize protests demanding an immediate end to the raids by *la migra* in New York garment shops, Midwest packinghouses, and other factories across the

Continued on Page 14

Immigration cops step up raids

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS
AND BILL KALMAN

The U.S. government has escalated its crackdown on the rights of immigrant workers with raids in production plants throughout the country. As of the beginning of June, more than 1,200 people have been seized in 86 factories in New York City's garment industry over an eight-month period. A *New York Times* article described these raids as "the Immigration and Naturalization Service's (INS) newly declared war." It said they were a "test case of a new strategy the agency hopes to use nationally."

In Florida 30 undocumented inmates were deported May 30. Earlier that day, immigration cops arrested six Argentine and Uruguayan airport workers at the Miami International Airport.

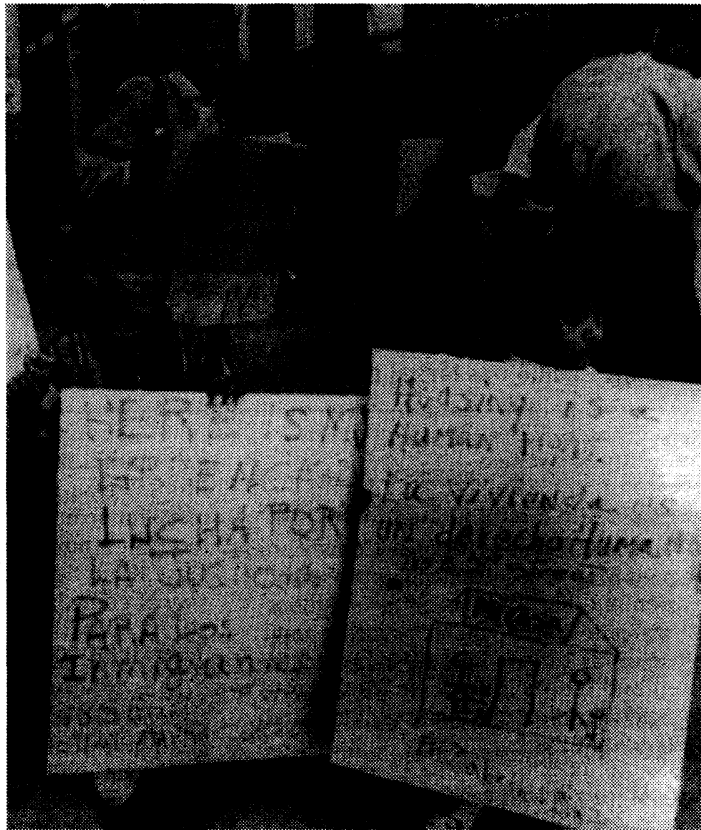
Meanwhile in April, federal agents ar-

rested 47 poultry workers in Charles City, Iowa, and in May 63 more immigrants were seized from a meatpacking plant in Storm Lake, Iowa.

The stepped-up assault stems from the Clinton administration's national expansion of a "pilot program" initiated in California that requires employers to verify the legal status of job applicants. White House officials announced at a May 23 news conference that the INS will expand the program, which uses a computerized data system. Immigration officials declared they planned to have about 1,000 companies signed up for the "employee verification" plan.

"This is another step in the administration's efforts to reduce the illegal immigration magnet by making it harder for illegal aliens to obtain a job here," stated INS commissioner Doris Meissner at the news conference. "American jobs belong to American workers."

The program in California involves two cities and 234 companies, including Knott's Berry Farm and Disneyland. The companies



Protest in New York against landlord who is trying to evict two Latino families because they do not have residence documents.

employ 80,000 workers.

The country's four largest packinghouse companies, which employ 56,000 employees or 80 percent of the industry's workforce, signed on in late April. The companies are IBP Inc. of Dakota City, Nebraska; BeefAmerica of Omaha, Nebraska; Monfort Inc. of Greeley, Colorado; and the

Continued on Page 12

Garza blasts tightening of U.S. embargo against Cuba

BY ERNIE MAILHOT

MIAMI — "My campaign denounces the U.S. rulers' use of the Helms-Burton law to pressure foreign corporations and governments to withdraw investments and trade with Cuba," declared Socialist Workers vice-presidential candidate Laura Garza speaking here May 30.

During the socialist's campaign stop here the *Miami Herald* reported that the Spanish government had canceled as much as \$5 million in aid for Cuban government programs. U.S. and Mexican officials reported that Cemex, the Mexican cement company with major investments in the United States,

Build U.S.-Cuba Youth Exchange! — see page 14

had pulled back from its operations in Cuba.

At a June 1 socialist campaign rally at the Miami Pathfinder bookstore, Garza spoke of the shift in the ongoing U.S. attacks on the Cuban revolution. "Clinton, Dole and their capitalist handlers are angry because the Cuban revolution survived the last five years. Despite economic difficulties the Cuban people stood up to the pressures from the U.S. imperialists and today we see that their economy is making modest but important gains," she said.

"Unlike the U.S. and other capitalist

Continued on Page 4

Oil workers plan to sell more socialist books on job

BY GREG McCARTAN

NEWARK, New Jersey — Socialists who are members of the Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers (OCAW) met here June 1-2. They decided to put two campaigns at the center of their work over the coming weeks: Organizing to defend the Cuban revolution by building the U.S.-Cuba Youth Exchange, and selling at least 48 Pathfinder books a month on the job along with meeting their goal of selling 35 subscriptions to the *Militant* to co-workers.

"This will take a concentrated effort that is carefully organized," said Jerry Freiwirth, an OCAW member from Houston who presented a report on these campaigns to the meeting. "We have found over the last several months the space is there to sell revolutionary literature on the job, discuss the Cuban revolution, and increase the readership of the *Militant* among members of our union."

Communist workers will also lead their branches in carrying out a battle plan to meet the international goal of selling 1,100 subscriptions to the *Militant* by June 16. This effort, by getting out with literature tables, selling door-to-door in working class communities, participating in political events, and keeping Pathfinder Bookstores open more hours will also increase sales of books and pamphlets distributed by Pathfinder.

With Pathfinder sales figures in for May, socialists in Stockholm led the way by selling 123 percent of their goal of books sold

Continued on Page 5

6,700 walk out at McDonnell Douglas

BY DAVID MARSHALL
AND MEG NOVAK

ST. LOUIS — At 12:01 a.m. on June 5, 6,700 members of International Association of Machinists Lodge 837 walked off the job at the McDonnell Douglas Corporation's giant aircraft manufacturing plant here. The strike comes three days after 86 percent of union members voted to reject what McDonnell spokesman Tom Williams called "our best, last and final offer."

The company's offer included the right to outsource work to nonunion outfits, its demand to merge job classifications, and a number of other provisions concerning wages, retirement, and health insurance that were unacceptable to the workers.

Of all the issues in the strike, workers on the picket line said the question of job security was the one that angered them the most. The union has lost 1,500 jobs over the last three years due to outsourcing.

"Their final offer guarantees only 5,000 jobs by the end of the contract," explained Darrell Cobel, a tool storage worker who has worked at McDonnell for 17 years. "We have 6,700 members. What are they going to do with the rest of us?" Other strikers fear that the company might be able to avoid even the "guarantee" of 5000 jobs because of proposed contract language allowing layoffs in the event of "acts of God," the company's loss of contracts, and other business conditions.

"This company made record profits last year," one striker added. "Now they want to give us a 2.5 percent raise over four years after we haven't had a raise in three years. That's like rubbing our face in the grit."

Company spokesman Williams said that the plant will not shut down during the strike. "We will continue to build a product no matter what happens," he vowed. Some 1,500 engineers and white-collar workers were reassigned to assemble aircraft.

Meanwhile, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1 which represent 260 workers at the plant, has threatened strike action, and Teamsters Local 610 says it will honor the picket line.

The picket lines initially swelled to several hundred unionists as workers walking out of the plant at midnight joined busloads of others who had arrived earlier. Within hours, McDonnell went to court and obtained an injunction limiting pickets to four per gate. Local police departments have assigned some 75 additional cops to protect the plant and the company's world corporate headquarters, which is located in the same sprawling complex of buildings.

"Everybody I talk to understands why we're doing this," said Darrell May, a flight mechanic with 33 years in the plant, walking the picket line. "We're leading a fight not just for ourselves but for every wage earner in St. Louis and throughout the country. This is a fight that had to be fought."

David Marshall and Meg Novak are members of United Paperworkers International Union Local 960 in Peoria, Illinois.

The Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialists invite you to an

ACTIVE WORKERS & INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST CONFERENCE

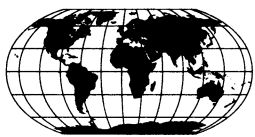
- Joining the Resistance to Imperialism's War Drive and Growing Capitalist World Disorder
- Defending and Emulating the Cuban Revolution
- Selling the Revolutionary Books Workers of the World Need
- Communist Work in the Trade Unions — Recruiting Workers to the Revolutionary Party
- Reaching a New Generation with Communist Politics — Building the Young Socialists

PRESENTATIONS ♦ CLASSES ♦ WORKSHOPS ♦ SOCIAL EVENTS

JULY 6-9 OBERLIN, OHIO

For more information see listings on Page 12

Israeli election shows instability of Zionist regime — page 3



Chechnya cease-fire threatened

More fighting was reported between Russian troops and independence fighters in Chechnya hours after a cease-fire was supposed to take effect June 1 at 12:01 a.m. One clash occurred in the town of Suani, 40 miles southeast of the Chechen capital Grozny, where eight Russians were wounded. Another incident happened when Russian troops sealed off the town of Shali, near Grozny, demanding that the Chechens disarm.

Russian general Vladimir Shamanov was shown on Russian television the day before pounding his fists and shouting at town elders in Shali, demanding the rebel disarmament. "Right here, not anywhere else. If not, I will begin an operation," Shamanov declared.

GM to build plant in Thailand

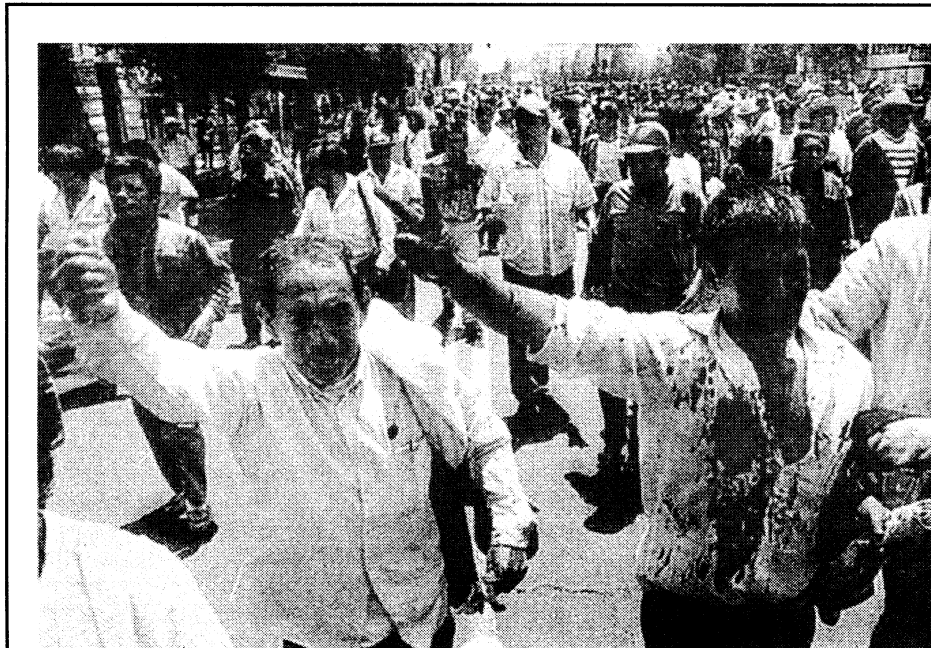
General Motors has announced plans to build a \$750 million auto plant in Thailand. Company officials say they hope to win 10 percent of the new car market in the region by 2005. Japan-based Toyota dominates the southeast Asian car sales market.

The facility will be a main center of GM's production in Asia. GM's chairman and chief executive officer John Smith, said the potential for Asia's markets are, "tremendous, and China is the key."

Taiwan gov't calls for UN status

On May 31, Taiwan officials reaffirmed their intention to drive for United Nations membership. Foreign Minister Frederick Chien said that the campaign for recognition would not be modified in the wake of tensions with Beijing. The Taiwanese government was established by counterrevolutionaries who fled there after the Chinese Revolution in 1949. Taiwan lost its UN status in 1971. Until 1979 Washington recognized the government in Taipei as the legitimate authority of China. Beijing considers Taiwan a province of China.

At the same time Formosa Plastics, Taiwan's largest industrial group, is finalizing a \$3.8 billion deal to build a thermal power plant in China. Taiwanese companies are the second largest investors in China. On May 31 U.S. president William Clinton officially renewed Beijing's "most favored



Some 500 cops in riot gear attacked a protest of 7,000 teachers in Mexico City May 23, injuring 41 people. Teachers were demanding a pay raise. Organizers of the demonstration say provocateurs initiated the violence. Mexico president Ernest Zedillo was forced to fire police chief on May 28 for the brutal assault.

nation" trading status.

UN extends Liberia intervention

The United Nations Security Council announced May 31 it will extend its "observer" mission in Liberia and urged the neighboring states to bolster their "peacekeeping" forces inside Liberia in order to protect the observers. The Security Council also called for greater enforcement of the arms embargo imposed on Liberia in 1992.

Czech gov't loses majority

The coalition government headed by Czech prime minister Vaclav Klaus lost its parliamentary majority in a June 1 election. The coalition, made up of Klaus's Civic Democratic Party, the Christian Democrats, and the Civil Democratic Alliance, were reduced to 99 seats in the 200-person parliament, down from 112. The Social Democrats gained the most seats, going from 24 to 61.

The Czech regime was highly praised in the big-business press for the fast pace of

its "market reforms" and privatizations. Milos Zeman, head of the Social Democratic party, immediately moved to reassure investors that a new government would not reverse Klaus's policies, saying, "There is no way of going back."

Terrorist to be executed in Cuba

In early May, Humberto Real Suárez was sentenced to death by the People's Provincial Tribunal of Villa Clara for murdering a fisherman while attempting to enter Cuba from Florida. On October 15, 1994, Suárez stopped a vehicle with an R-15 rifle, forcing the passengers from the car and shooting Arcilio Rodríguez García in the head, killing him.

According to the accused parties, they all received military training in Florida from the ultra-rightist Cuban National Democratic Unity Party, with the purpose of organizing counterrevolutionary gangs in the Escambray mountains. Suárez's six companions were given sentences ranged from 30-years to 15 years. If the Cuban Supreme Tribunal confirms the sentence, the case will go to the Council of State, which will make the final ruling.

Cuban sugar planting emergency

The Central Organization of Cuban Workers and the Ministry of Sugar Industry agreed to declare an emergency in the sugarcane sowing operations for the month of May. Sugar is still the main export of Cuba, and the spring planting is essential to a successful harvest. As of May 22 only half of the necessary planting was completed.

Cuba, Dominica restore relations

On May 18, Edison James, prime minister of the Commonwealth of Dominica, and

Cuban foreign minister Roberto Robaina signed an agreement restoring diplomatic relations between the two countries. The agreement, James said, is a step that contributes to strengthening the Association of Caribbean States. Robaina stressed the importance and high priority the Cubans to have ties in the Caribbean.

Jury convicts Clinton's partners

An Arkansas jury convicted two of U.S. president William Clinton's former business partners of fraud and other charges on May 28 for a series of transactions during the president's tenure as governor of Arkansas. James McDougal was convicted of 18 felony counts and his former wife, Susan McDougal, of four. Jim Guy Tucker, the current Arkansas governor, was convicted on charges of conspiracy and mail fraud in the case, and announced he would resign by July 15. The trial was the first in the "Whitewater" investigation that has plagued the Clinton administration. The president testified as a witness for the defense.

Clinton endorses Wisconsin plan to abolish welfare program

Both Clinton and Republican party presidential nominee, Robert Dole have recently announced support for a plan that would eliminate Aid to Families with Dependent Children, the main welfare program, in Wisconsin. Governor Thomas Thompson has instituted a plan that would require aid recipients to find employment or work at "community service" or "transitional" jobs. The state will offer "job access loans" to purchase uniforms or tools a worker needs, to be repaid in cash or volunteer work.

Clinton and Dole have agreed on key aspects of proposals to cut welfare, including drug testing for recipients, work requirement after two years, caps on benefits to children born to parents on welfare, and a five-year limit on benefits.

Scores of Black churches burned

According to U.S. Justice Department figures, there were 28 arson attacks on African American churches throughout the South in the last 17 months. The National Council of Churches (NCC) found that 57 churches have been burned since 1990, 25 of them this year. Federal officials said May 21 that they have found no evidence linking the arsons of Black churches, although several cases have been tied to the Ku Klux Klan, the Aryan Faction, and racist skinheads.

Assistant attorney general for civil rights Deval Patrick said 200 agents from the FBI and the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) are investigating the cases, but making slow progress on solving them. On May 22, the NCC announced that agents from the FBI and the ATF were intimidating and questioning the pastors of these churches as well as their congregation. Some of the pastors have been asked to take lie detector tests.

— MEGAN ARNEY

THE MILITANT

Fight police brutality

Working people are fighting back against the brutal assaults and frame-ups carried out by cops from New York to Los Angeles. The 'Militant' provides coverage of struggles against police violence and explains why these attacks are an intrinsic part of capitalism. Don't miss a single issue!



SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

NEW READERS

☐ \$10 for 12 issues

☐ \$15 for 12 weeks

RENEWAL

☐ \$27 for 6 months

☐ \$45 for 1 year

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

UNION/SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION _____

PHONE _____

CLIP AND MAIL TO THE MILITANT, 410 WEST ST., NEW YORK, NY 10014.

12 weeks of the Militant outside the U.S.: Australia and the Pacific, \$A15 • Britain, £7 • Canada, Can\$12 • Caribbean and Latin America, \$15 • Europe, Africa, and the Middle East, £8 • Belgium, 375 BF • France, FF80 • Iceland, Kr1,300 • New Zealand, NZ\$15 • Sweden, Kr75 (Send payment to addresses listed in business information box)

The Militant

Vol. 60/No. 24

Closing news date: June 6, 1996

Editor: NAOMI CRAINE

Business Manager: NAOMI CRAINE

Editorial Staff: Megan Arney, Hilda Cuzco, Laura Garza, Martin Koppel, Argiris Malapanis, Brian Taylor, and Maurice Williams.

Published weekly except for one week in December and three weeks in July by the Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Telephone: (212) 243-6392; Fax (212) 924-6040.

The Militant can be reached via CompuServe at: 73311,2720 or via Peacenet at: themilitant Internet: 73311.2720@compuserve.com or: themilitant@igc.apc.org

The Militant can be accessed on the internet at:

gopher://gopher.igc.apc.org:70/11/pubs/militant

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to The Militant Business Office, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.

Second-class postage paid at New York, NY, and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.

Subscriptions: U.S.: for one-year subscription send \$45 to above address. **Latin America,**

Caribbean: for one-year subscription send \$65, drawn on a U.S. bank, to above address. By first-class (airmail), send \$80. **Asia:** send \$80 drawn on a U.S. bank to 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. **Canada:** Send Canadian \$75 for one-year subscription to Militant, 4581 St. Denis, Montreal, Quebec H2J 2L4. **Britain, Ireland:** £36 for one year by check or international money order made out to Militant Distribution, 47 The Cut, London, SE1 8LL, England. **Continental Europe, Africa, Middle East:** £40 for one year by check or international money order made out to Militant Distribution at above address. **France:** Send FF300 for one-year subscription to Militant, 8 allée Berlioz, 94800 Villejuif cheque postale: 25-465-01-S, Paris. **Belgium:** BF 1,900 for one year on account no. 000-1543112-36 of 1Mei Fonds/Fonds du 1 mai, 2140 Antwerp. **Iceland:** Send 5,000 Icelandic kronur for one-year subscription to Militant, P.O. Box 233, 121 Reykjavík. **Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark:** 500 Swedish kronor for one year. Pay to Militant Swedish giro no. 451-32-09-9. **New Zealand:** Send New Zealand \$90 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand. **Australia:** Send Australian \$75 to P.O. Box K879, Haymarket, NSW 2000, Australia. **Pacific Islands:** Send New Zealand \$90 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand.

Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the Militant's views. These are expressed in editorials.

Elections show instability of Zionist regime

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

Big-business pundits predicted the May 29 Israeli elections would mark a sharp shift in government policy. The new prime minister, Likud Party leader Benjamin Netanyahu, a "hawk," would supposedly swing away from the so-called peace process led by Labor's Shimon Peres, a "dove."

The elections, however, reflected a weakened Zionist state that is constrained by the same relationship of class forces, at home and internationally, that dictated the poli-

NEWS ANALYSIS

cies of the Peres regime. Just a week after the elections, a *New York Times* report noted that "Netanyahu's tough campaign language began to yield today to a more gingerly approach to Israel's problems."

Probably the most decisive event in recent months was Tel Aviv's failure to crush popular resistance in southern Lebanon despite a large-scale Israeli bombing campaign in April and May. Israel's divided capitalist class lost confidence in Peres's ability to contain the Palestinian struggle for self-determination, symbolized in a series of suicide bombings by young Palestinian fighters.

Meanwhile, economic and social instability grows inside Israel. The assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin by a Jewish rightist shook up many Israelis and underlined the polarization there. Peres replaced Rabin.

Netanyahu's campaign had criticized the Labor Party government's 1993 agreements with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), which began a process of limited Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and the West Bank. He vowed to freeze the Israeli troop withdrawal from the West Bank for several years.

The Likud chief said he would allow troops to invade Palestinian-ruled areas to pursue "terrorists." He stated he would not honor the government's freeze on Jewish settlements on the West Bank.

Netanyahu had also publicly rejected a commitment to discuss the Israeli occupation of east Jerusalem. He said Tel Aviv would not return the occupied Golan Heights to Syria.

The 1993 agreement was the result of the Zionist rulers' inability to suppress the decades-long Palestinian fight for a homeland. It also reflected the increasingly bourgeois character of the top PLO leadership, which over time abandoned its revolutionary perspective and now seeks an accommodation

with Tel Aviv. Given their own weakness, decisive sections of Israel's ruling capitalists decided to try to coopt the PLO leadership and get it to police the Palestinian workers and farmers in Gaza and the West Bank.

To help Peres win the elections, PLO chairman Yasir Arafat accepted the government's delay in the scheduled Israeli pullout from Hebron and did not protest the tightened election-time closing of the occupied territories.

For months Tel Aviv's troops have blocked Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza from their jobs in Israel, devastating the Palestinian economy. "We hope after the elections everything will be removed and that everything will go smoothly," Arafat told reporters June 2.

On the other hand, some Israeli capitalists, especially those who backed Netanyahu, are not confident the PLO can keep Palestinian working people in check. They prefer to rely on more direct use of military force. "Arafat has shown that he cannot deliver peace because he cannot control the armed Islamic factions that regard themselves at war with Israel," wrote Conor Cruise O'Brien in a June 5 *New York Times* column praising Netanyahu. O'Brien is a pro-British politician in Ireland.

Netanyahu bumps into reality

The prime minister-elect quickly bumped up against political realities, including Washington's none-too-subtle support for Peres and his policies. "Pressure grows on Netanyahu to pursue Mideast peace talks," read a June 4 *Financial Times* headline.

Netanyahu immediately sought meetings with government leaders from Jordan and Egypt. He declared his regime would not reverse the main policies of his predecessor. "The Arab states, not to speak of the Western states, understand that the public in Israel determined that there will be a con-



A Palestinian student confronts Israeli soldiers in April protest action. Tel Aviv has not been able to crush popular resistance in southern Lebanon or the West Bank and Gaza against the Zionist occupation force.

tinuation of the peace process based on our policy," he told Likud members in parliament June 3.

Hebron will be one litmus test of the new government's policy. Softening the virulent edge of his campaign speeches, Netanyahu now says he will "study the issue" of Hebron. Under the Israel-PLO accords, most Israeli troops are to withdraw from that city, as they already have from several other West Bank towns.

Netanyahu's wafer-thin victory over Peres — less than one percent — reflected discontent among Israeli workers and the middle class with both Labor and Likud.

Despite Zionism's promise of peace and

prosperity under a Jewish state, Israel has been in a perpetual state of war and growing economic crisis. The Palestinians' refusal to give up their fight has made growing numbers of Jewish workers open to acknowledging the Palestinians' national rights. Others have been drawn toward the Zionist settlers and other rightist groups.

While Israel's Labor Party is often portrayed as liberal and the Likud Party as right-wing, both are founded on reactionary policies — the violent dispossession of the Palestinian people.

"Israel was created to be not only democratic but a Jewish state whose fate and security were to be in Jewish hands," *New York Times* columnist A.M. Rosenthal stated in a pro-Netanyahu piece, without a trace of irony in his reference to a "democracy" based on one ruling nationality and religion.

Two sides of one coin

Labor and Likud have alternated in the government for decades, and in 1984-92 ruled as a coalition government. In his memoirs, "Shepherd of Peace" Rabin acknowledged his role in driving 50,000 Palestinians out of their homes during the 1948 Zionist war of conquest. As defense minister in 1987, he bragged about his "iron fist" policy against the Palestinian *intifada*, or uprising. Both Labor and Likud governments have legally sanctioned "moderate" torture of detainees.

While many Palestinians favored Peres over Netanyahu as a lesser evil, there was little enthusiasm for either in the impoverished towns of Gaza and the West Bank, which have been sealed off by Israeli troops for months, causing mass unemployment.

"Labor and Likud may differ in style, but their goal is the same," said Muhammad Ismail, a student in East Jerusalem. "They want to insure Israeli control over the Arabs. I felt neutral when I heard the election results."

"They are two sides of the same coin," commented Mohammed Abed, a grocery store owner in Gaza, right before the vote. "The Likud says up front that it is your enemy. Labor tells you that it wants peace, but stabs you in the back."

"There were plenty of land confiscations under Peres, so Netanyahu doesn't scare us," said Tareq Jabber, 25, a gas station attendant in Hebron.

On June 3, youths in Hebron threw stones at Israeli troops, angered after the soldiers lined Palestinian police against a wall and searched their vehicle.

Meanwhile, clashes erupted again in southern Lebanon in late May, as Hezbollah guerrillas fought back against Israeli occupation troops near the town of Soujud.

India rulers scramble together a new government

BY BRIAN TAYLOR

Following parliamentary elections in which no party could win a clear majority, India's rulers scrambled for three weeks to put together a government. The situation highlighted the growing economic crisis and social tensions in the world's second most populous country.

Of all the parties that ran, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), a right-wing Hindu nationalist group, won the most votes. The Congress Party, which has ruled for all but four of the last 49 years, lost nearly half of its seats in the legislature.

The liberal and social democratic parties attempted to form a coalition to block the BJP from setting up a government. When that failed, the BJP moved into interim power. Atal Behari Vajpayee, the new prime minister and head of the BJP, resigned two weeks later, just before a confidence vote he was sure to lose. Meanwhile, the social democratic and liberal forces cobbled together a coalition called the United Front, with H.D. Deve Gowda of the Janata Dal party as prime minister.

The previous Congress Party government of P.V. Narasimha Rao had carried out an austerity drive that squeezed the living standards of workers and peasants in India. This included the privatization of many state enterprises and other "market reforms," aimed at making Indian capitalists more competitive on the world market.

On the land, Rao's policy included steps such as abolishing price supports for fertil-

izer. As a result, many farmers have been driven off the land and into the crowded cities to work in factories for low pay.

Congress Party's decline

The Congress government faced growing troubles in the months before the elections. The ruling party suffered a string of defeats in state elections last year, and seven of Rao's cabinet ministers resigned in corruption scandals in the first two months of 1996 alone.

India has a population of more than 900 million. Three-fourths of the population live in rural areas. Forty percent of the people live below the official poverty line, and the average life expectancy is 58. The infant mortality rate is 78 per thousand live births. About half the people living in India are illiterate.

India still has a caste system that places people in permanent categories of social status. Brahmin are the top caste, with "untouchables" at the bottom and other categories in between. Muslims, who make up 11 percent of the population, are denied equal status in society. They face discrimination and attacks on religious freedoms.

There is an ongoing national struggle in Kashmir, a region divided between northern India and northeastern Pakistan. Some 400,000 Indian troops occupy the two-thirds of Kashmir inside India's border. Kashmir was the only state in the subcontinent that was prevented from carrying out a vote in 1947 on self-determination.

There have been numerous confrontations over the past five years between Indian forces and Kashmir independence fighters, which have resulted in nearly 50,000 casualties and thousands more being jailed or killed as "suspected" fighters.

In the latest elections, Indian troops were sent into Kashmir to rouse people out of their homes and make them vote. Angry Kashmiris chanted "Freedom!" and "India get out!" as they were herded to balloting stations.

In New Delhi, the Jammu and the Kashmir Islamic Front set off a car bomb May 21 to protest the elections, while others organized an election boycott.

The rightist forces of the BJP and allied groups appeal to the insecurities and prejudices of middle-class and other layers, purporting to offer solutions to India's crisis. They scapegoat Muslims for the country's problems" and call for *Hindutva*, which means Hindu civilization. Murli Manmohar Joshi, former BJP president, said, "They should refer to themselves as 'Hindu-Muslims' and 'Hindu-Christians,'" referring to India's religious minorities.

Chauvinist attacks

Jaswant Singh, another member of the BJP, asserted, "Hindutva is merely an attempt to generate a sense of being. India is not identified with one church." The BJP's track record doesn't match these statements, however. The group spearheaded the political campaign that led to the destruction of a

16th-century mosque in Ayodhya by a mob in 1992. More than 3,000 were killed in anti-Muslim riots that followed, many of them by the police. Vajpayee has called for constructing a Hindu temple on the site where the Muslim mosque was leveled.

A feature of the BJP's foreign policy is support for India becoming a declared nuclear state. The Indian regime exploded its first nuclear device in 1974, but denies having a nuclear arsenal, as does its rival and neighbor, Pakistan.

The BJP has taken an aggressive stance against the Pakistani government, demanding the return of portions of Kashmir that are currently part of Pakistan. The conflicts between the two regimes over the years have posed the possibility of nuclear war. Just last March, Indian and Pakistani troops clashed again along the border in Kashmir.

During his brief tenure as prime minister, Vajpayee said the BJP government would accelerate privatizations and continue social cuts begun under his predecessor.

The new United Front government has likewise vowed not to stray too far from the program previously implemented by the Congress Party.

Washington Post reporter Kenneth Cooper wrote in a June 2 article that prime minister Gowda "sought to reassure other governments and international markets of the front's support for a free-market economy, saying that the foreign trade and investment policies that Rao [of the Congress Party] initiated in 1991 would generally continue."

'No to Cuba embargo'

Continued from front page

countries who are closing hospitals and schools, the Cuban people have defended the acquisitions of their revolution and have not closed one hospital, school, day care center, or home for the elderly," continued Garza.

"This is the reason for the Helms-Burton law and the tightening of the U.S. economic blockade of Cuba that it represents," she said. "Washington is saying you can do business in the U.S. or you can do business in Cuba — you choose."

"We should have no illusions," the socialist candidate added. "Many capitalist governments, including those representing competing forces with U.S. big business, are loudly objecting to Helms-Burton. But they won't risk losing their access to the U.S. market if they can't force Washington to back off."

"Our campaign defends the Cuban revolution," she stated. "We oppose all attacks on the sovereignty of the Cuban people and we point to the example of Cuba for workers and the oppressed worldwide."

Discussions with many workers

Garza and supporters were able to bring the socialist campaign to many working people in southern Florida during her visit.

"It's good to meet you. Good luck with your campaign," said one CSX worker changing shifts at the Hialeah railyard May 28. He knew about the Garza's candidacy from Seth Galinsky, his co-worker who is the Socialist Workers Congressional candidate in the 21st District. Others of Galinsky's coworkers stopped to meet the candidate and three bought the campaign newspaper, the *Militant*.

The next day the *Nuevo Herald*, Miami's largest Spanish-language daily, printed a photo of Garza, Galinsky, and the Socialist candidate for Dade County mayor, Rachele Fruit, along with an accompanying article on the first page of the local section.

The article explained that Garza called for the unity of working people throughout the world in order to win gains such as a higher minimum wage, and included the phone number of the local campaign office. A dozen people called — some hostile to the candidate's views in support of the Cuban revolution and others interested in getting more information on the campaign.

On May 31 Garza addressed the weekly meeting of Veye Yo, the Haitian rights organization here. A Democratic Party candidate for County Commission addressed the meeting before the socialist. Unlike his talk, which focused on the mechanics of vot-



Tony Savino

SWP vice presidential candidate Laura Garza (left) joins picket line supporting mushroom farmworkers in Miami Beach, Florida.

ing for him, Garza spoke of the need for more demonstrations in defense of immigrants' rights like the ones she often participated in at the Krome Detention Center when she previously lived in Miami. She called for the end to all deportations, equal rights for immigrants and equal protection under the law including the right

to vote.

"Today Washington is demanding the privatization of the airport, the cement factory and more in Haiti. This is not in the interests of the workers of Haiti or the workers here," she told the more than 50 Haitian activists who gave her enthusiastic applause.

The socialist candidate also addressed a meeting of 30 members of the Alliance of Workers of the Cuban Community (ATC), a Cuban-American group that opposes the U.S. economic blockade of Cuba.

More than 30 people attended the Miami campaign rally June 1 including several who were attending their first campaign event. Two women had seen an announcement of the rally in the Fort Lauderdale magazine XS. One explained that she considered herself a young socialist and bought a subscription to the *Militant*. The campaign rally featured Garza and was part of launching the Florida socialist campaigns of Fruit, Galinsky, and Janet Post for Congress in the 17th C.D.

Garza also joined a picket line by supporters of farm workers fired by Quincy Farms, the growers of Prime label mushrooms.

Young Socialists form new chapter in Vancouver

BY JACOB GAVIN
AND JASON PHELPS

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — In just weeks, the arrival of a few high school students to Militant Labor Forums here has led to the formation of a new Young Socialists chapter of four.

The Vancouver YS jumped into activity by initiating a class series, beginning with the Cuban revolution, the *Communist Manifesto*, and why the working class is a "revolutionary" force. After the class, a high

school student involved in the Vancouver Cuba Friendship Committee, Andrea Pinochet, joined the YS.

The next day four YS members visited a picket line of Canadian Auto Workers members striking against CLS Catering, which services major airlines at Vancouver International Airport. This was the first time at a strike for three of us, and it was an eye-opening experience.

Some of the 30 picketers were young and from all over the world. A young woman

from India said no one had crossed the line, and workers were prepared to stay out "as long as it takes." The strikers had already won their first victory, she explained, against "huge goons in black" hired by the company to intimidate workers.

The arrival of the YS contingent was welcomed by the strikers. We passed on a couple buttons from the Ontario Public Service Employees Union strike of 55,000, this spring, reading "No Justice, No Peace." Some strikers hadn't heard of the Ontario strike, which provided us with an opportunity to present the *Militant* as a working-class alternative to the mainstream press.

Vuk Gravic, a YS member and high-school student originally from Yugoslavia, met a striker named Vladimir from his homeland. They agreed on the hypocrisy of troops being there under the guise of peacekeeping. What they're really after, said Vladimir, is "a piece of the cake." He and two other strikers bought copies of the *Militant*, and one bought an introductory subscription.

Gravic spoke with some Fijian workers about the Cuban revolution, explaining that the workers in Cuba took power, kicked out the bosses and are now running the country. To this, one worker responded, "We should do that here, we'd probably run things better than [management] does." And when Phelps explained to some young workers about the formation of our YS branch, a Filipino worker named Felix concluded to his friends, "We should join them!"

Jacob Gavin and Jason Phelps are members of the Young Socialists in Vancouver.

Increase effort to build fund

BY ELLEN WHITT

NEWARK, New Jersey — With the deadline extended to July 1 to raise \$90,000 for the 1996 Socialist Workers campaign, supporters of James Harris for president and Laura Garza for vice president are reviewing their pledges and considering raising their goals.

Supporters of the campaign in Newark expect to go beyond their initial goal of \$5,000 in pledges this week through building public campaign events in the area featuring Harris this weekend. Luis Madrid explained, "We recognize that with little effort we already have pledges of nearly

\$5000. We know that by reaching out broadly to co-workers, youth, and other supporters in New Jersey we should be able to go well beyond our original expectations."

Harris will be speaking on Sunday in Newark. The platform will include a long-time anti-police brutality activist as well as an activist involved in the Irish freedom struggle. The Young Socialists along with other campaign supporters are making a special effort to invite recent youth endorsers of the campaign to this event.

On the heels of collecting 1,600 signatures to place Harris and Garza on the ballot in New Jersey — double the state requirement — Newark supporters raised \$200 last week at a Militant Labor Forum that discussed the opportunities of campaigning for socialism in 1996.

Through campaign tours around the country, both Harris and Garza continue to meet youth who welcome the opportunity to support a campaign which offers an alternative to the capitalist parties of war, racism, and economic depression. One youth, Andrew, learned of the campaign when Harris joined protests at Yale University in support of union workers fighting for a contract. A few days later, he and a member of the Young Socialists in New York, Joshua Carroll, joined a petitioning team in Alabama to introduce other youth and workers to the socialist campaign. More volunteers of all ages are needed to help get the socialists on the ballot in Alabama this month and in New York and Washington, D.C., in July. Efforts will be carried out in 12 states to put the socialist ticket on the ballot.

The campaign fund lags behind in its overall goal of \$90,000 pledged and in its collection. With just 4 weeks remaining, the campaign needs to collect over \$65,000.

Stepped up efforts need to be made this week in order to put the fund over the top. Campaign events should be planned with special attention in advance to organizing the collection of current pledges and expanding the number of new pledges. These funds make it possible to continue to keep Harris, Garza, and Young Socialist supporters on the road campaigning.

Contribute to the Socialist Workers \$90,000 1996 Campaign Fund

Area	Goal	Paid	Percent
Philadelphia	4,500	3,252	72%
Detroit	3,500	1,830	52%
Twin Cities	5,000	2,431	49%
Greensboro	1,500	690	46%
Pittsburgh	5,000	1,800	36%
Des Moines	600	211	35%
Miami	2,000	560	28%
Brooklyn	7,000	1,860	27%
San Francisco	10,000	1,983	20%
Peoria	1,200	210	18%
Washington, D.C.	2,000	340	17%
Newark	5,000	830	17%
Houston	2,000	320	16%
Birmingham	3,200	495	15%
Seattle	5,000	760	15%
Morgantown	500	75	15%
Los Angeles	8,000	1,027	13%
New York	7,000	741	11%
Boston	3,500	370	11%
Atlanta	2,000	150	8%
Cleveland	1,200	25	2%
Chicago	5,000	0	0%
Salt Lake	2,000	0	0%
TOTAL	86,700	19,960	23%
SHOULD BE	90,000	39,600	44%

HELP GET THE
SOCIALIST CANDIDATES
ON THE BALLOT
IN ALABAMA

Volunteers are needed now to
collect 8,500 signatures

To help, contact the
Alabama Socialist
Workers Campaign
at (205) 323-3079

To volunteer for other petitioning efforts in July, call the national campaign office at (212) 328-1504

Campaign for the socialist alternative!

- ☐ Sign me up as a Young Socialist for Harris and Garza. I want to campaign for the socialist alternative and against the parties of exploitation, racism, and war.
- ☐ Sign me up as a campaign supporter and keep me informed of protests, picket lines, and other political activities.
- ☐ Enclosed is a \$ _____ contribution
- ☐ I want to invite a candidate to speak at my union, school, or organization
- ☐ Enclosed is \$10 for a 12-week subscription to the *Militant*, a socialist newsweekly, or \$6 for 4 months of *Perspectiva Mundial* in Spanish.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

PHONE _____

UNION/SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION _____

Mail to: Socialist Workers 1996 Campaign, P.O. Box 2652, New York, NY 10009

SELL THE BOOKS WORKERS OF THE WORLD NEED

Join the campaign to sell Pathfinder books and pamphlets

Continued from front page through the Pathfinder Bookshops. Socialists in New Zealand organized to meet 109 percent of their goal of selling 93 books.

Socialists in the OCAW discussed the impact among coworkers of three members of their union from Houston participating in a delegation of workers from the United States to the 17th congress of the Cuban workers federation.

This work has widened possibilities for distributing books on Cuba and other revolutionary struggles to OCAW members, Freiwirth explained. By building the July youth brigade and responding to new assaults by Washington, such as stepping up enforcement of the economic embargo of Cuba, socialists can find workers interested in reading books such as *To Speak the Truth*, which contain speeches by Fidel Castro and

Ernesto Che Guevara.

Freiwirth noted that after getting off to a strong start earlier in the year, sales of Pathfinder titles by socialists in the OCAW to their co-workers had lagged, and the subscription drive for the *Militant* got off to a slow start. This is true of the overall book and *Militant* sales drive. "We need to organize to campaign like we did with *Episodes of the Cuban Revolutionary War: 1956-58*," said Freiwirth, noting that some 50 copies of the book had been purchased by co-workers earlier in the year."

Socialists discussed that events in the Mideast, with the continued struggle of the Palestinian people, the Israeli bombardment of Lebanon, and the recent elections in Israel can translate into sales of books and pamphlets by Pathfinder along with the *Militant*.

Unionists are also discussing what road the labor movement should take in the 1996 elections. One manifestation is the June 6-9 founding convention of the "U.S. Labor Party," a formation backed by a wing of the AFL-CIO officialdom. The new formation does not represent a break from the framework of capitalist politics, but aims primarily to reverse the declining influence of the labor tops in the Democratic Party.

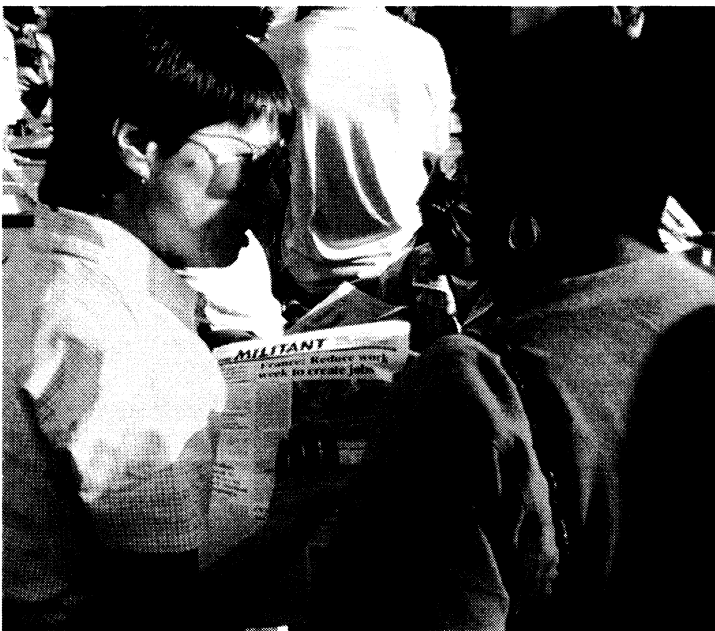
Socialists can utilize a range of literature to point to how relying on organized strength and mobilizations of the vast majority, the labor movement can break from political subordination to the parties of the wealthy minority and chart an independent working-class political course to fight for power. The lessons of earlier attempts to take such a road can be found in *Teamster Rebellion and Revolutionary Continuity* by Farrell Dobbs; *Trade Unions in the Epoch of Imperialist Decay* with writings by Leon Trotsky and Karl Marx; *The Transitional Program for Socialist Revolution* by Trotsky; and two Education for Socialist Bulletins, *Independent Black Political Action* and *The National Black Independent Political Party*.

Protests by workers in Europe

and Nelson Mandela in light of continued turmoil in Africa.

In addition, the "cultural war," as ultrarightist Patrick Buchanan has dubbed it, continues to be at the center

of political debate in bourgeois politics. Pathfinder titles that take up these issues, such as those on women's liberation and defending abortion rights, *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics: Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions*, and the



Militant/John Naubert

Selling *Militant*, Pathfinder books at West Hampton, New York, demonstration against police brutality, June 1.

for a shorter workweek in face of growing unemployment make *The Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis* and *New International* no. 10 especially good weapons in socialists' political arsenal. This is also true for books and pamphlets by revolutionary leaders Thomas Sankara

eration, which discuss the central place of the fight for affirmative action in uniting the working class.

Bob Bruce from Houston described a good response from people attending a June 1 AFL-CIO sponsored event, "America Needs a Raise." Some 300 people attended the program. After the meeting, workers purchased *Teamster Rebellion*, *Mother Jones*

Speaks, *The Eastern Airlines Strike*; and *Eugene V. Debs Speaks*. One person bought a subscription to the *Militant*.

In Atlanta, unionists bought seven subscriptions and 11 single copies of the *Militant* at a regional conference of the Union of Needletrades, Industrial, and Textile Workers Employees (UNITE). Seven books and pamphlets were sold as well, reports UNITE member Arlene Rubinstein, with the most popular title being the *Action Program*.

May 31: 56% Should be: 100%										
Through Pathfinder Bookstores			To Commercial Distributors			Total			Readers Club Members	
Country/City	Goal	Sold	% Sold	Goal	Sold	% Sold	Goal	Sold	% Sold	PRC
AUSTRALIA										
	36	21	58%		35		36	56	156%	3
CANADA										
Toronto	90	115	128%	70	103	147%	160	218	136%	63
Vancouver	36	34	94%	28	20	71%	64	54	84%	50
Montreal *	72	40	56%	64	6	9%	136	46	34%	34
Total	198	189	86%	162	129	140%	360	318	102%	84
Goal/Should be	220	220	100%	92	92	100%	312	312	100%	
NEW ZEALAND										
Auckland	65	68	105%				65	68	105%	39
Christchurch	28	33	118%				28	33	118%	14
Total	93	101	109%				93	101	109%	53
SWEDEN										
Stockholm	40	49	123%	60	0	0%	100	49	49%	
UNITED KINGDOM										
London	95	164	173%	98	106	108%	193	270	140%	86
Sheffield	14	3	21%	20	34	170%	34	37	109%	0
Manchester	46	30	65%	65	30	46%	111	60	54%	0
Total	155	197	65%	183	170	93%	338	367	109%	86
UNITED STATES										
Boston	65	112	172%	50	38	76%	115	150	130%	42
Greensboro	41	50	122%	36	20	56%	77	70	91%	34
Washington, D.C.	54	43	80%	42	33	79%	96	76	79%	34
Miami	55	50	91%	42	25	60%	97	75	77%	32
Cleveland	50	40	80%	40	29	73%	90	69	77%	18
San Francisco	95	70	74%	74	56	76%	169	126	75%	72
Los Angeles*	120	96	80%	95	66	69%	215	162	75%	69
Philadelphia	63	36	57%	49	39	80%	112	75	67%	41
Pittsburgh*	63	34	54%	49	35	71%	112	69	62%	32
Peoria, IL	27	26	96%	21	1	5%	48	27	56%	18
Seattle*	80	46	58%	60	49	82%	140	95	68%	61
Atlanta	48	38	79%	32	5	16%	80	43	54%	39
Brooklyn	165	113	68%	130	43	33%	295	156	53%	73
Salt Lake City*	50	40	80%	40	5	13%	90	45	50%	40
Twin Cities	86	68	79%	67	1	1%	153	69	45%	55
New York	175	73	42%	175	80	46%	350	153	44%	74
Newark, NJ	171	83	49%	133	44	33%	304	127	42%	97
Detroit	77	49	64%	60	2	3%	137	51	37%	46
Houston	45	28	62%	32	0	0%	77	28	36%	35
Chicago	77	47	61%	60	1	2%	137	48	35%	8
Des Moines	45	20	44%	35	0	0%	80	20	25%	26
Birmingham, AL	65	16	25%	50	0	0%	115	16	14%	54
Morgantown, WV*	32	6	19%	25	0	0%	57	6	11%	19
Total	1749	1184	66%	1397	572	41%	3146	1756	56%	1019
Goal/Should be	1800	1800	100%	1400	1,400	100%	3200	3200	100%	
* no new report										

Militant Subscription Drive MAY 11 — JUNE 16, 1996										
Countries/Cities	Goal	Sold	% Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold
Australia										
	100	5	50%	3	1	5	3			
Canada										
Montreal	25	13	52%	8	0	35	10			
Vancouver	20	7	35%	3	4	10	8			
Toronto	45	10	22%	10	5	20	7			
Total	90	13	14%	21	9	65	25			
France										
	5	0	0%	5	0	10	0			
Greece										
	3	0	0%			3	1			
Iceland										
	10	2	20%	0	1	10	2			
New Zealand										
Christchurch	12	6	50%	1	0	2	3			
Auckland	30	13	43%	2	1	5	2			
Total	42	19	45%	3	1	7	5			
Sweden										
	10	7	70%	8	3	6	5			
United Kingdom										
London	20	13	65%	20	2	3	3			
Manchester	26	3	12%	2	0	15	3			
Sheffield		2			1		0			
Total	46	18	39%	22	3	18	6			
United States										
Seattle	50	32	64%	10	5	15	0			
Greensboro, NC	30	18	60%	5	7	5	4			
Atlanta	27	14	52%	10	8	8	0			
Miami	35	18	51%	15	8	15	2			
San Francisco	65	31	48%	20	14	40	10			
Twin Cities, MN	55	26	47%	20	15	15	13			
Detroit	50	22	44%	8	4	15	8			
Philadelphia	40	17	43%	10	5	12	0			
Birmingham, AL	35	14	40%	7	3	20	0			
Los Angeles	60	24	40%	30	24	30	19			
Salt Lake City	42	16	38%	12	8	21	4			
Des Moines	30	11	37%	20	8	15	0			
New York	70	23	33%	40	12	35	7			
Brooklyn	75	23	31%	35	7	35	10			
Cleveland	20	6	30%	6	2	5	0			
Chicago	40	11	28%	20	5	12	0			
Houston	30	7	23%	10	0	8	0			
Washington, DC	30	7	23%	10	6	10	0			
Pittsburgh	40	8	20%	5	2	10	0			
Newark, NJ	80	15	19%	30	11	30	0			
Boston	40	3	8%	10	0	20	0			
Peoria, IL	15	1	7%	2	0	5	0			
Morgantown, WV	21	0	0%	1	0	6	0			
Cincinnati		1								
Total U.S.	980	348	36%	336	185	387	160			
International Totals	119	412	37%	398	203	511	207			
Goal/Should be at	110	660	60%	350	210	400	240			
IN THE UNIONS										
Canada										
IAM	10	3	30%	3	0	6	1			
New Zealand										
Meat Workers	4	2	50%							
Engineers Union	7	0	0%							
United Food & Bev.	4	0	0%							
NZ Total	15	2	13%							
United States										
UMWA	5	2	40%	0	0	5	0			
UNITE	25	9	36%	10	2	10	4			
UAW	75	19	25%	15	0	35	5			
OCAW	35	7	20%	0	1	0	1			
USWA	45	2	4%	5	2	35	2			
IAM	56	2	4%	16	1	26	2			
UTU	60	2	3%	5	0	30	2			
UFCW	5	0	0%	7	0	7	0			
U.S. Total	306	43	14%	58	6	148	16			
International Totals	331	48	15%	61	6	154	17			

Pathfinder books sold to Co-workers				
Unions	Goal	Sold	% sold	Readers Club
Canada				
IAM	13	5	38%	3
United Kingdom				
AEEU	10	6	60%	1
TGWU	7	3	43%	0
RMT	0	4	0%	1
UK Total	17	13	76%	2
United States				
UMWA	5	3	60%	7
UFCW *	6	3	50%	0
UNITE*	42	19	45%	7
UAW *	100	43	43%	49
OCAW	48	18	38%	25
UTU	85	5	6%	40
IAM	71	0	0%	19
USWA*	58	0	0%	13
Total	410	91	23%	153
Goal/Should be	400	400	100%	
* No new report				
As of 5/31				
IAM— International Association of Machinists; OCAW— Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; UAW— United Auto Workers; UFCW— United Food and Consumer Workers; UMWA— United Mine Workers of America; UNITE— Union of Needletrades,Industrial and Textile Employees; USWA— United Steelworkers of America; UTU—United Transportation Union.				

U.S. gov't tightens economic squeeze on Cuban people

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

The Clinton administration is taking steps to ratchet up Washington's economic squeeze on the Cuban people. On May 29 the White House sent letters to three companies in Canada, Mexico, and Italy warning them they may face sanctions under the new U.S. law tightening the embargo on Cuba, which president William Clinton signed March 12.

The companies are Sherritt International Corp., a Canadian mining and oil concern with investments in Cuba's nickel and cobalt mines, oil production, tourism, and agriculture; Stet, the Italian telecommunications concern; and Grupo Doms, a Mexican conglomerate. Stet and Doms are partners with Havana in the Cuban Telecommunications Enterprise ETESCA.

The May 24 *Wall Street Journal* had reported that another possible target was Lorenzo Zambrano, the billionaire chairman of the Mexican cement company Cemex SA. On May 28, Cemex, the world's fourth-largest cement maker, announced it halted operations in Cuba and withdrew its staff of six to eight people from the island.

In the letters, crafted with the aim of stifling foreign investment in Cuba, the U.S. State Department is invoking the so-called Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (Libertad) Act of 1996 — also referred to as the Helms-Burton law.

The legislation permits, for the first time, Cuban American and other U.S. businessmen whose property was confiscated by Cuban workers and peasants after the 1959 revolution, to sue companies abroad that invest in those properties. It also authorizes U.S. officials to deny entry into the country by any non-U.S. residents who "traffic" in confiscated properties — including officers, directors, and controlling shareholders of these companies, and their spouses and children.

U.S. measures take bite

The steps by Washington indicating it will implement the law's provisions are beginning to have an impact on several companies with investments or trade links to Cuba.

Redpath, a Canadian Tate & Lyle subsidiary that usually bought between a third and half of the raw sugar for its Toronto refinery from Cuba, announced it is turning to other suppliers, despite higher costs. The new legislation prohibits any products that contain any quantity of Cuban sugar from being imported into the United States.

In March, Alfa-Eko, a Russian company that has a barter contract with Cuba, under which it is supposed to exchange oil for sugar, stopped its oil shipments to the Caribbean island. "I cannot attest that pressure has been exerted, but it coincides with the Helms-Burton law's approval," a Moscow diplomat told the Mexican news agency Notimex.

Alfa-Eko demanded lower prices for the Cuban sugar than what it had agreed to in the contract. Menatep-Impex — the second Russian company responsible for implementing half of the government-to-government deal for the exchange of 3 million tons of oil for 1 million tons of raw sugar — is continuing the trade with Cuba.

On May 25, José María Aznar, the newly elected conservative president of Spain, announced his government will suspend low-interest credits to Cuba, cancel \$2 million in governmental aid, and limit any assistance to humanitarian shipments destined for non-governmental organizations in Cuba. Aznar was speaking at a joint press conference with U.S. vice-president Albert Gore, who was in Spain for a two-day visit.

Cuban foreign ministry spokesperson Miguel Alfonso told Reuters at the end of May that despite U.S. pressure most companies with joint ventures in Cuba are staying. He reiterated the Cuban government's position that the U.S. legislation will fail in its intention to "strangle the Cuban economy and destroy the revolution."

Executives of the Spanish hotel chain Sol-Melia, for example, announced they are willing to abandon holdings in the United

States if forced to do so by Washington, and will expand business in Cuba. Sol-Melia operates six hotels in Cuba and plans to add two more facilities this year. In contrast, the company has requested permission to operate two hotels in Florida, which it says it is willing to give up.

Alfonso acknowledged, however, that the decision of Cemex to abandon operations in Cuba showed a U.S. policy of "black-mail and intimidation." Unlike Sol-Melia, the Mexican cement giant has four production plants and eight distribution centers in the United States, making it particularly vulnerable to lawsuits under the new U.S. legislation. In Cuba, Cemex was providing marketing and technical assistance at a cement plant in Mariel — a property still claimed by the Connecticut-based Lone Star Industries.

Washington's trade offensive

Several U.S. allies, who also compete with Washington for markets, have protested against the embargo-tightening legislation because it registers an intensifying trade offensive by Wall Street against their interests.

Germany's foreign minister Klaus Kinkel warned May 9 that Washington could face retaliatory measures if third countries suffered under the U.S. threatened trade sanctions. "For reasons of principle, the European Union would have to consider countermeasures that would in turn have a negative impact on American trade and investment interests in Europe," Kinkel said. Bonn has been the only government to sign a trade treaty with Havana since Clinton signed the Helms-Burton bill into law.

Several governments in Europe and Canadian officials have reiterated their opposition to the U.S. legislation. But so far none of these regimes have taken any countermeasures.

The same day the Clinton administration sent out its warning letters, British foreign secretary Malcolm Rifkind gave a speech in Washington criticizing the law. "We do not quarrel with Congress's aims," he said, "but we disagree very strongly with the means they envisage."

In a May 29 interview with the Toronto *Globe and Mail*, Canadian international trade minister Arthur Eggleton reiterated Ottawa's opposition to the anti-Cuba legislation but shied away from threatening any specific retaliation. "We're looking at our options," he said. "It's still not clear how [the law is] going to be implemented."

Ottawa has said it may pass a law prohibiting Canadian companies from complying with the "Libertad" act.

In mid-May Canadian prime minister Jean Chrétien won limited diplomatic support for his opposition to the U.S. legislation from government officials from six Central American countries who went to Toronto for a summit. The final summit communiqué — signed by Chrétien, and government representatives of Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica, and Belize — made no specific reference to Cuba or the U.S. law. It instead asserted the general right of sovereign states to trade and maintain economic relations with whomever they choose. Chrétien also used the occasion to assail Havana for alleged human rights violations.

Condemned by Latin America gov'ts

The law has been condemned by most governments in Latin America on the ground that it infringes on their sovereignty.

The Mexican embassy in Washington sent a diplomatic note to the White House protesting the U.S. letter threatening sanctions against the Doms Group. The note described the Clinton administration action as "an illegal attempt to make the U.S. extraterritorial jurisdiction prevail in Mexico."

U.S. state department spokesman Nicholas Burns said despite these complaints, implementing the regulations was not a problem for Washington. "It's a fact of life," he said. "It's the law of the United States. And this administration has a constitutional



Bohemia

Chiseling off name of Cuban Telephone Company, owned by U.S. monopoly ITT, August 1960, as Cuban workers and peasants nationalized foreign capitalist holdings. Washington now threatens with sanctions investors in such confiscated properties.

obligation to implement U.S. law."

Similar rifts between Washington and Mexico, as well as other regimes in Latin America, surfaced in March during a meeting of trade ministers from the Americas, which took place in Cartagena, Colombia.

"During the close of Wednesday night's [March 20] forum on technology issues," reported the March 22 *Journal of Commerce*, "an Argentine businessman discussing intellectual property rights became incensed and yelled that the United States was imperialistic." At the request of U.S. representatives, heavily armed police forces came in to calm things down.

"Later," the article continued, "U.S. trade representative Mickey Kantor and Mexican commerce secretary Herminio Blanco were seen in heated and clearly unpleasant discussion over 'innocuous language.'"

But most of the capitalist regimes in Latin America have few investments in Cuba and, when faced with the choice, are unlikely to sacrifice their relations with Washington over trade deals with Cuba.

After a recent visit by Russian foreign minister Yevgeny Primakov to Venezuela for talks on renewal of an agreement to supply oil to Cuba, for example, the planned deal remains doubtful.

The proposed accord, under which Venezuela would ship 30,000 barrels of oil a day to Cuba in exchange for Russia sending the same volume to Venezuela's refineries in Germany, is at the stage of a "feasibility study," according to Venezuelan government officials. A similar deal, which saved both governments transportation costs, collapsed in 1991.

At the end of May, the Venezuelan government commissioned a New York law firm to look into whether the deal may violate the "Cuban Liberty" act. "Right now, the climate within the [Venezuelan state-run] oil company is against the deal," a Venezuelan negotiator told the June 3 *Miami Herald*.

U.S. enforces travel ban

At the same time, the U.S. government has become more aggressive in enforcing its travel restrictions to Cuba.

On April 24 the U.S. Treasury Department informed Benjamin Treuhaft, a piano

tuner from Berkeley, California, that it intends to fine him \$10,000 for violating Washington's embargo against Cuba. Treuhaft had a license to ship piano parts to the Caribbean country but had no permission to travel to the island.

"In violation of Cuban Assets Control Regulations," said the Treasury Department note to Treuhaft, "you traveled to Cuba, where you worked as a piano tuner. You donated music supplies, valued in the thousands of dollars, and services to Cuba's Museo Nacional de la Musica. Additionally, you earned income derived from Cuban nationals by providing piano-rebuilding services." Treuhaft had 30 days to explain why he should not pay the fine.

Cuban-American organizations report that an increased number of Cubans traveling to the Caribbean island to visit relatives are being slapped with fines if they go unlicensed. Cuban-Americans can only travel to Cuba without a special license to visit a close family member who is gravely ill, and even then only once a year. The "Cuban Liberty" act allows the Secretary of the Treasury to impose civil fines of up to \$50,000 on individuals violating any provisions of the law through administrative hearings, without a trial.

And on April 30, the ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld Treasury Department regulations that in effect ban travel to Cuba. The Freedom to Travel Campaign, a San Francisco-based group that has organized numerous trips to Cuba in defiance of the travel ban, challenged the constitutionality of the restrictions after the Treasury Department froze some \$40,000 in the group's assets. The government eventually returned the funds after the group organized a successful protest campaign.

Medea Benjamin, who heads Global Exchange, where the Freedom to Travel Campaign is based, said the group will appeal the decision.

Attorney Michael Krinsky, with the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee in New York, represented the Freedom to Travel Campaign. "The Clinton administration," he said, "has made it increasingly clear that it views the regulation of travel as an instrument of foreign policy rather than the right of citizens."

Pastors for Peace wins release of seized computers

BY TONY LANE

ST. PAUL, Minnesota — Pastors for Peace won the release of 400 computers from the Treasury Department on May 24. The computers and computer components — modems, monitors and printers — are destined for a medical network in Cuba. They had been seized in January and February while the group attempted to take them across the U.S. borders in humanitarian aid caravans to Cuba.

The agreement with the government brought to a successful conclusion a 94-day fast by four members of Pastors for Peace, including Rev. Lucius Walker.

As part of the agreement, the computers were turned over to the United Methodist Church, which will be responsible for getting the computers to Cuba.

Tom Hansen from the Pastors for Peace office in Minneapolis was in San Diego when the agreement was reached. He re-

ported that literally moments after the accord was reached "the computers were turned over to a church warehouse in San Diego." Once arrangements for their shipment is made, he said, they will go to Mexico and join a number of other computers of Canadian origin that had been earlier released by the government.

At the same time, Pastors for Peace are continuing their efforts to resist a government grand jury probe. Hansen said that the subpoena being sought is "overly broad." It asks the group to turn over to a grand jury records from several previous humanitarian aid shipments to Cuba.

He reported that the group's lawyers were seeking to get its scope narrowed. Hansen also reported that the group filed a motion in mid-May for quashing the subpoena "on the basis that the information was gained with illegal wiretaps." The government has month to reply to this motion.

U.S. socialist talks with Cubans

BY BRIAN TAYLOR

HAVANA, Cuba — "We're here to find out the facts so that when we return to the United States we can explain the truth about the Cuban revolution." That's what James Harris, the Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. president, told workers at the Fernando García cooperative in the outskirts of the city.

This Basic Unit of Cooperative Production (UBPC), like other UBPCs was formed by subdividing a local state farm. Cooperative members own and sell what they produce but the land remains nationalized.

Harris, who is a meatpacker and member of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union in Atlanta, spent two weeks in Cuba April 20-May 4 participating with other U.S. trade unionists in the 17th Congress of the Central Organization of Trade Unions (CTC) and activities surrounding it.

He was one of 50 trade unionists who traveled here with the U.S.-Cuba Labor Exchange. In addition to attending the CTC congress, the union activists visited a thermoelectric plant, petroleum loading docks, and construction sites in Matanzas and several other workplaces in Havana. "This was a real congress of the working class in power," Harris said, noting the confidence and enthusiasm of delegates as well as the detail and seriousness of their deliberations.

On May 3, the last day of the trip, the Union of Young Communists (UJC) organized meetings for Harris at the farm cooperative, the Antillana de Acero steel mill, and the University of Havana. During these visits Harris spoke about the reality of the class struggle in the United States and his election campaign.

The Fernando García UBPC has 167 workers who include cane cutters, machine operators, and maintenance workers, 12 administrators, and workers who grow food on a piece of land for the consumption of cooperative members. Harris noted that previously in Cuba up to 40 percent of the workforce on some state farms might be nonproduction personnel. He asked what changes had occurred at that farm.

"Before, when we were a state farm there were 44 administrators, now there are only 12, five of whom are actually production workers," said Juan Sarmiento, a director on the farm. "In the past the government would organize our farm and make goals for us. Now we make the proposals and organize the workforce. It makes more sense this way because we know the land the best."

Harris asked several people why they chose to work in agriculture. "I was a housewife before," said Irida Rodríguez. "I earn 160 pesos a month now. I came to work to provide better conditions for my children and I don't mind the work."

Many workers were interested in Harris's campaign. "How do you fund your campaign?" one worker asked. "Supporters of the Socialist Workers campaign do," Harris

replied. "We reach out to working people willing to listen and join in fighting the devastation caused by capitalism and we ask them for donations."

Everyone wanted to know if it was hard to campaign as a socialist candidate in the United States, and who you can appeal to. "There are many opportunities in the United States right now to do open political work under the banner of socialism," Harris said.

He described recent demonstrations in Los Angeles and elsewhere to protest the cop beatings of immigrant workers and a march for women's rights in San Francisco that he participated in. "Among these fighters we seek and find many who are open to becoming part of an organization that can lead workers and farmers in the U.S. to emulate the Cuban revolution."

Harris's next visit was to the Antillana de Acero steel mill. The plant has 3,800 workers organized into 35 union locals. Due to lack of raw materials and spare parts, production in the factory has fallen. Since 1990 some 3,000 workers have been reallocated to other jobs.

Lázaro Altagocitia Rivero, the elected delegate to the CTC congress, said that no one has been thrown into the streets as what happens in capitalist countries. "If there is one thing the revolution has it's solidarity," he said.

Harris asked how the people are chosen to be moved to different jobs. "The decisions are made by a commission composed of the CTC, the administration and two of the plant's best workers. This is done in each

department," he said. "This is a very clean process and we've gotten no complaints on how it's done, although we can't say that all has gone smoothly with those workers who loved their jobs and were moved."

"It's too bad more workers in the United States couldn't see this. I will use my campaign to tell them about it," Harris said.

"You've got a mammoth task in the United States having a relatively small group of communists to work with," one of the workers in the mill commented.

Harris smiled and said, "In Cuba, there weren't many communists either before 1959. It started small, but the conditions people faced drove them to struggle and a mass movement that eventually overthrew Batista was built."

Harris went on to visit the University of Havana where he was shown around the campus by leaders of the Federation of University Students. Several law students accompanied him on the tour. They had with them a petition demanding the immediate release of Pennsylvania death-row inmate Mumia Abu Jamal. They had already collected 1,000 signatures and were looking to get more. A number of students got very interested in the story of Mark Curtis, a U.S. unionist who framed-up by the police while he was involved in a fight to defend immigrant coworkers at a meatpacking plant in Des Moines, Iowa.

Later that evening Juan Duflars Amel, a reporter for *Trabajadores*, the weekly newspaper of the CTC, interviewed Harris about his election campaign.

'Trabajadores' interviews socialist candidate

The article below appeared in the May 13, 1996, issue of *Trabajadores*, the weekly newspaper of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers (CTC), under the headline: "Elections in the U.S.A.: The SWP is a working-class alternative to capitalism." Translation from Spanish is by the *Militant*.

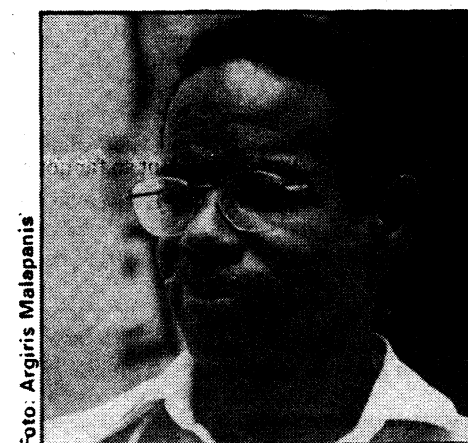
BY JUAN DUFLARS AMEL

For James Harris, a worker and unionist in Atlanta, running for U.S. president as the Socialist Workers Party candidate means "challenging the political power of the U.S. ruling classes."

Member of the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party, a party with a long record of union and civil rights struggles, he thinks the traditional political parties, the Democrats and Republicans, don't offer any solutions to the serious problems workers face under capitalism because they are parties of reaction, war, racism, and economic depression.

"As a revolutionary party," he told *Trabajadores*, "the SWP presents a working-class alternative. It doesn't aim simply to win the presidential office, but rather to

Trabajadores



James Harris

make fundamental changes in U.S. society, where the class struggle is sharpening. We argue that the real road for such radical changes is the establishment of a workers and farmers government.

"Our election campaign advocates these

گفتی در دمای حرمها

نامزد حزب کمونیست آمریکا برای انتخابات ریاست جمهوری

واحدنگ - پیروز در شمال و بزرگ باهنگام ملی مطبوعات در شهر واشنگتن، جسیل هریس، امیر را از جانب کمونیستهای ایالات متحده (سویس کارگران سوسیالیست) با نوازه انتخابات ریاست جمهوری این کشور کرد که در این ماه سال جاری برگزار می شود.

وی در این مراسم ضمن تظلم گفت: گریبانش سیاست آمریکا - با قدرت گرفتن مسئولان کارکنان این کشور - به دوستانه تنگنای کارگران و کشاورزان آمریکا را که در تالابهای منجمد پیروز می ریزند و در آتش تپش و بی امنیتش از آلوده شدن دست و پا می زنند به سوی جیبش های سوسیالیستی می کشد و با نمایان دارد که روزگاری آمریکا یک حکومت دیکتاتور - کشاورزان، هراند داشت.

هریس گفت که گریبانش هر چه بیشتر به راست دولت آمریکا، آفرین تلاش و تلاقی کای تقسیم این کشور برای وند، ملتان است و دیری نماند، پایسد که در سرانسی مستط فرار خواهد گرفت، زیرا این سیاست در جهت و دوستانه تأمین منابع و حقوق طبقه زمینداران که اکثریت مردم را تشکیل می دهند نیست و گریبانش آن که سرمایه دوزان پیروز هستند تنها در تشریت و سر و دمای می پناه و خود چو آن می دهند و قلابه درک والیات نیستند.

هریس گفت و تدارک دارد دستگاه حکومتی آمریکا، در سرانسی جهان به تنها به نیروهای ملی و حاکم بر خود اثری بیشتر می بیند بلکه تر دمایا بر ضد سرمایه داری منجمد، پیروز می کند و در کشور را قرار می دهد.

هریس که گفتگوش را با جنگ طلبترین حاکم آمریکا در دههای اخیر عنوانده با هر گونه سیاست آمریکا منجمد بر نسیم سایر کشورها معلقیت کرد و این اقدام را که در طول تاریخ سابقه نداشته است یک دزورگشی عنوانده و می گفت که نسیم پارهای از کشورها توسط آمریکا از جمله کرپا و عراق باید بر طرف شود. هریس گفت: دتا پیروز نسیم کشوری را نظیر آنچه آمریکا اصنام می کند به خاطر ندارد. نسیم انگلیس توسط تالان تنها در جریان جنگ نظامی در کشور صورت گرفت که طبیی بنظر می رسد.

در زمینه مسائل داخلی آمریکا، هریس گفت: تشریت و دزورگشی جنایات شهری در این کشور منشاء دافعه ای - اجتماعی و فقدان امنیت قضایی دارد. تپش و فقر و یکاری و نبرد بهداشت مسکنی و یگان از یگارف و وجود مزارع وکیل قضایی از طرف دیگر که دادگهیها را مایه دست و خورد قرار داده اند. باعث گسری جنایات و قتل کشکی شده است. وجود یک وکیل برای هر ۸۰۰ نفر آمریکایی سبب شده است. بهر حال نتواند احاطان حق کنند و بر فادارها و قتل کشکان با کمک این وکیلان به همه چیز

Article above was printed in the *Hamshari Daily Newsletter*, one of the most widely circulated newspapers in Iran. Headlined "U.S. Communist Party Candidate for Presidential Election," the article covered the May 22 national press conference of Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate James Harris.

'We are for a workers and farmers gov't'

The following article appeared in the *Tehran Times* of May 29, 1996 under the headline "Socialists in America: Yes, They Do Exist."

WASHINGTON (AFP) — And now, our featured speaker (drum roll please) ... presidential candidate John Harris of the American Socialist Workers Party!

Socialist Workers Party? In the United States?

Admittedly, the socialist cause hasn't taken America by storm just yet, but Har-

ris — who held a news conference with running mate Laura Garza at the prestigious national press club in Washington this week — insists it only a matter of time.

Indeed, no candidate from the Socialist Workers Party has ever won any high office anywhere. Asked to recall their greatest electoral triumph, Garza said there once was a SWP member of a city council in California.

Actually, there is one self-described socialist in the U.S. Congress — independent Bernie Sanders of Vermont, a liberal state in the U.S. northeast.

But the American far left has largely been in tatters, since the breakup of that socialist bastion, the Soviet Union.

The way Harris and Garza see it, with conservative policies hastening the fall of capitalism, real gains for socialists are just around the corner.

They claim the so-called Republican revolution, which saw the more left-leaning Democrats lose control of Congress for the first time in 40 years, has spawned a counterrevolution of sorts.

And they say socialists have been energized by the "ultrarightist demagoguery" of Republican presidential candidate Pat Buchanan, who has run on an arch-conservative "America first" platform.

"This is the beginning of U.S. mobilizing our side," said Harris, who has drawn practically no media attention in his quixotic bid for the White House.

Describing Cuba as "an example for the world" and the administration of President Bill Clinton "the most warlike in decades," Harris calls for an immediate U.S. pullout from Bosnia and a complete lifting of the sanctions on Iraq.

On the domestic front, the SWP calls for a massive public works program, "jobs for all," dismantling the U.S. border guard and giving immigrants essentially the same rights as citizens.

In an era when government in cutting back, tough immigration reform is sweeping through Congress and Iraq is considered an evil empire, their quest is — for now — hopeless at best.

In the 1992 election, which put Democrat Clinton in the White House, the SWP got less than 25,000 votes nation wide.

So far, the SWP's drive to raise \$90,000 in contributions for a slate of candidates has pulled in only \$11,000 this year.

But Harris is undaunted.

"We think the capitalist government in this country should be overturned," Harris said. "And we're about building a movement that is capable of doing that."



ris — who held a news conference with running mate Laura Garza at the prestigious national press club in Washington this week — insists it only a matter of time.

"Winning," the meat-packer and union leader said, "is not synonymous with winning elections... we want to win. We want a workers' and farmers' government."

That is a tall order in a country where

S. African workers rally to defend jobs

BY GREG ROSENBERG

CAPE TOWN, South Africa — "Phuma, Marais, Phuma!" (Xhosa for "Out, Marais, out") shouted more than 5,000 municipal workers who took to the streets here May 27. The members of the South African Municipal Workers Union (SAMWU) employed by the metropolitan government here marched to demand the ouster of National Party (NP) provincial official Peter Marais, who had drafted a proclamation that would result in large-scale job losses by union members.

The march took place two days prior to the metropolitan elections in this area of South Africa's Western Cape province. The hotly contested race has become a forum for debating many issues central to this country's post-apartheid transformation. Among these questions are what place workers rights should occupy, the role of trade unions, and the need to create jobs for the 50 percent of blacks in this country who are unemployed. Other issues in dispute are the government's intention to privatize certain state-run industries, and whether decent education will remain the domain of those who drew privilege under the rule of the white regime.

"We are marching to protect jobs, to stand for the union, and to say that the ANC will stand for the people," said Cape Town laborer Archie Williams. ANC member Richard Hange came to support the march "because my parents are working here, and these are my brothers and sisters. I live at Nyanga in the shacks. The workers here demand proper working conditions and a living wage. As a member of the ANC it is my right to support these workers in their struggle, which will make a better life for all of us."

Electrical department laborer Abdur Angus — like most marchers someone classified as Colored under the old regime — said he was angry over administration threats to lay off workers. But Angus wasn't sure for whom he would vote in the local elections. "The ANC government is doing all right but they are a bit slow," he said, adding his concern that "under [apartheid official] Verwoerd it was the white man getting all of the benefits; under the ANC the black man is on top. But we'll give them time."

In a repeat performance of its course during the 1994 national elections, the National Party (NP) of F.W. de Klerk, which holds a 54 percent majority in the provincial government here, has sought to capitalize on the divisions among working people in this province fostered under apartheid — trying to divide especially whites and Coloreds from Africans. In mid-May, for example, a small gang of Colored National Party supporters sought to drown out ANC president

Nelson Mandela's speech in a local township with shouts of "kaffir," a racist epithet.

After conducting their militant, peaceful march to the provincial building, SAMWU members proceeded to the gates of City Hall, where they were to be addressed by Mandela in a meeting hall later in the day.

Provocation opens door to attack

As unionists sang, danced, and discussed, a separate group of about 150 members of the former Cape Corps — a division of the old apartheid army — marched to the gates of City Hall and staged a provocation.

The ex-soldiers, demanding to see Mandela, charged the gates guarded by police. The cops, mostly veterans of the apartheid police, used this as an excuse to call in reinforcements and armored cars, and open a sortie with riot shields. In no time, the ex-soldiers began hurling rocks and bottles at the cops — some of which also struck union members. This reporter witnessed police then open fire indiscriminately into the crowds. More than 45 people were injured in the melee that ensued. At least six union members were injured by buckshot blasts from police shotguns.

As thousands of people scurried for cover, union members took immediate steps to get their injured comrades to the hospital. Their anger was directed against the ex-soldiers — who most believed had staged the provocation at the behest of the NP — and the cops.

When Mandela's speech began two hours later, he condemned the provocation, and promised the thousands of assembled unionists a swift investigation of the day's events.

The ANC president also blasted the insistence by NP officials that the ANC take its distance from the 1.6 million member Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU). NP officials continually complain that the ANC is a "pawn" of the union federation.

"Many of you may have noticed the leader of a Mickey Mouse political party that is disappearing from the political scene trying to give us advice on COSATU," Mandela told the cheering throng. "They tried to be hard on COSATU when they were in power and had to give it up. Together with the democratic movement COSATU overthrew their unpopular and stinking regime."

No to death penalty

The two chief capitalist parties contesting the elections are the NP and Democratic Party. The Democratic Party emphasizes the need for "more cops on the beat," with a clear preference for the interests of capital. The NP stresses that it wants the death penalty reinstated, and the status quo maintained in education, which is to the benefit of whites in South Africa. Both parties criticize the



Krugersdorp municipal workers take to the streets, early 1996, to demand a living wage. 5,000 SAMWU members marched in Cape Town, South Africa, May 27, demanding the ouster of National Party provincial official who pushed for job cuts.

ANC for the slow pace at which government is providing housing, water, and other basic needs to the black majority.

ANC candidates in the race range from urban and rural workers to wealthy architects and academics.

In his speech to municipal workers, Mandela asked if they knew why the NP was emphasizing the reintroduction of capital punishment, outlawed last year by the Constitutional Court.

"Under their government it was only blacks who were executed — Africans, Indians, and Coloreds. Although they've lost power, they still think they will intimidate blacks by sending them to the gallows."

"Prophets of doom who've never done anything for our people are now saying, 'why are there no houses? This comes from people who live in big houses,'" Mandela said.

The South African president pointed out that the ANC-led government had "made a start" by providing school feeding programs for children, and free healthcare, access to electricity, and clean water to millions of people. "Access to land has been opened to the previously excluded, and a system of united education is being phased in," he said. Mandela warned, however, against "false promises," saying that the transformation would take years to accomplish.

Students on the march

Student protests erupted at several universities and technical colleges in the latter half of May. At the University of Zululand, students marched to protest the exclusion of 270 students who had failed to pay tuition in the allotted time. At Technikon South Africa, hundreds sat in to protest management's failure to establish a previously agreed to study center.

Student and worker protests rocked the University of Durban-Westville campus. Marches involving thousands took place, their principal demand being that management act to eradicate the legacy of apartheid education, including increasing financing for students, lowering of rents, and increased student and staff influence over decision-making.

Black students at Technikon Pretoria demanded a scrapping of the 18 percent interest rates on owed tuition fees, a lowering of marks needed to qualify for exams, a review of language policy at the school, and a reduction in food prices on campus. Clashes took place between black and white students on campus.

Television news showed whites armed with cricket bats preparing to swing at black students. The Pretoria protests were led by the AZAPO-aligned Azanian Front, whose president publicly threatened to petrol bomb the campus if student demands were not met. The South African Students Congress, aligned with the ANC, opposed the violence and called meetings open to all students to work out their problems.

Inequality in education must cease

The battle over the transformation of public education has also intensified. During the week beginning May 20, 10,000 teachers and their supporters — with the active backing of the National Party — marched here to oppose proposals advanced by the gov-

ernment and South African Democratic Teachers Union to restructure education.

These proposals include radically redirecting education funding to poorer provinces, black townships, and rural areas from better-funded areas. In many cases, teachers would face a choice of either being reassigned to other parts of the country or accepting a voluntary retirement package. According to officials of the education ministry, teachers have been inquiring about taking early retirement in droves.

Speaking here at a campaign rally for Revel Fox, the ANC candidate in the wealthy white suburb of Claremont, Mandela told a questioner that while further consultation was necessary, the restructuring of education must proceed.

"As long as I am the president not a single teacher will be thrown into the streets because of a lack of money," Mandela declared. But he said that using 100 percent as an average, the Western Cape was funded at a rate of 140 percent, while the Eastern Cape was funded at a rate of 70 percent.

Privatization debate

A renewed debate on the privatization of state-run industries is also taking place. The parties of the employers argue that a tamed labor movement, and privatized industry, are necessary for foreign investment.

Typical of articles appearing in the press was an interview with German capitalist Claas Daun, published in the May 21 *Durban Mercury*. Daun, who says businesses he owns employ more than 10,000 people in this country, is "a little bit concerned" over recent developments here, including the rights granted to workers in the new constitution. "I have a lot of interests in South Africa but I won't commit myself to any more until the government can show clearly that they are neutral and not working for COSATU."

The business press applauded when Mandela, after a state visit to Germany, told reporters that "privatization is the fundamental policy of the ANC and it is going to be implemented. The responsibility for creating an investor and trade-friendly environment is for us to take."

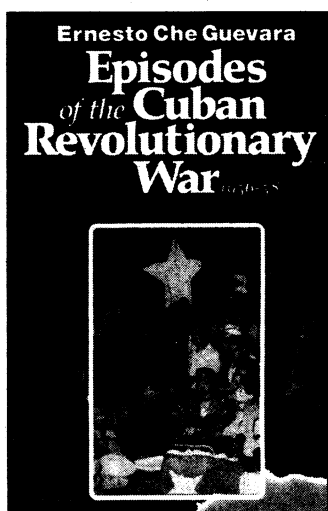
Other ANC officials have taken further steps in this direction. Deputy Finance Minister Gill Marcus of the ANC told the National Assembly May 23 that both business and labor were pushing the country to the edge with their antagonistic relationship. "Their unseemly, aggressive and confrontational approach denies the critical economic imperatives of the moment, including the creation of an investor-friendly environment," she said. She called for a social partnership "with meaning."

COSATU general secretary Sam Shilowa reiterated the labor movement's opposition to privatization of state assets such as the telephone, transport, and electrical utilities in a May 24 speech. "We think privatization will not assist significantly ... by delivering more phones, better health care and public transport. If the state's welfare and service functions are privatized the government's programs for water, telephone, electricity and health delivery will inevitably fail. Only the wealthy will be able to afford basic services and this will undoubtedly spell disaster for our future."



Students at University of Orange Free State campus protest in March to demand higher financing for education. Student protests erupted at several universities and technical colleges in the later half of May in South Africa.

AVAILABLE FROM PATHFINDER REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLES IN SOUTH AFRICA AND CUBA

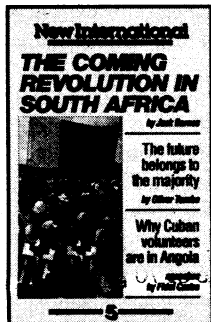


Episodes of the Cuban Revolutionary War, 1956-58

ERNESTO CHE GUEVARA

This book is a firsthand account of the military campaigns and political events that culminated in the January 1959 popular insurrection that overthrew the U.S.-backed dictatorship in Cuba. Guevara describes how the struggle transformed the men and women of the Rebel Army and July 26 Movement led by Fidel Castro. And how these combatants forged a political leadership capable of guiding millions of workers and peasants to open the socialist revolution in the Americas. \$23.95

The Coming Revolution in South Africa



JACK BARNES

The one-person, one-vote elections in 1994, and the sweeping victory of the African National Congress, were historic steps in the democratic revolution in South Africa. This article explores the social character and roots

of apartheid in South African capitalism and the tasks of the toilers in city and countryside in dismantling the legacy of social and economic inequality. Only among the most committed cadres of this ANC-led struggle, Barnes writes, can the working class begin forging a communist leadership. In *New Internationalist* no. 5. Also includes "Why Cuban Volunteers Are in Angola": 2 speeches by Fidel Castro. \$9.00

The Struggle Is My Life

NELSON MANDELA

Nelson Mandela's speeches and political writings from his days as a leader of the African National Congress Youth League in 1944 until his release from prison in 1990. \$15.95

Apartheid's Great Land Theft

The Struggle for the Right to Farm in South Africa

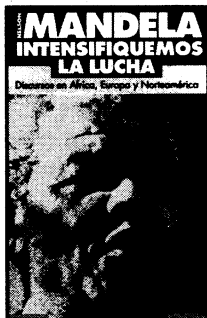
ERNEST HARSCH
\$3.50

In Spanish

Nelson Mandela: Intensifiquemos la lucha

Nelson Mandela: Intensify the Struggle.

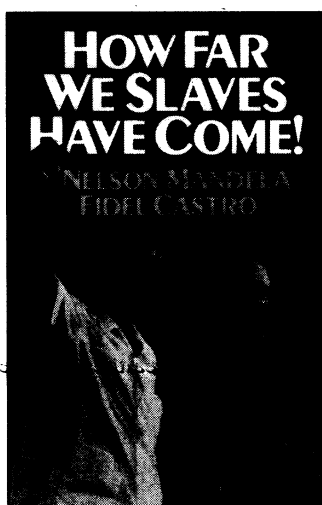
Ten speeches in which the South African leader, following his release from prison, recounts the course of struggle that put an end to apartheid and opened the fight for a deep-going political, economic, and social transformation. \$13.95



Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism

CARLOS TABLADA

Also available in Spanish and French. \$17.95



How Far We Slaves Have Come!

South Africa and Cuba in Today's World

NELSON MANDELA, FIDEL CASTRO

Speaking together in Cuba in 1991, Mandela and Castro discuss the unique relationship and example of the struggles of the South African and Cuban peoples. Also available in Spanish. \$8.95

Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12, or write Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Tel: (212) 741-0890. Fax: (212) 727-0150. When ordering by mail, please include \$3 for the first book and \$0.50 for each additional title to cover shipping and handling.



Defending Cuba, Defending Cuba's Socialist Revolution

MARY-ALICE WATERS

In face of the greatest economic difficulties in the history of the revolution, Cuba's workers and farmers are defending their political power, their independence and sovereignty, and the historic course they set out on more than 35 years ago. In *New Internationalist* no. 10. \$14.00

Dynamics of the Cuban Revolution

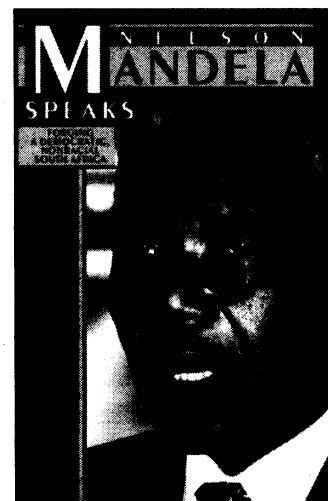
A Marxist Appreciation

JOSEPH HANSEN

How did the Cuban revolution come about? Why does it represent, as Joseph Hansen put it, an "unbearable challenge" to U.S. imperialism? What political challenges has it confronted? Written with polemical clarity as the revolution advanced. \$20.95

The Bolivian Diary of Ernesto Che Guevara

Guevara's account of the 1966-67 guerrilla struggle in Bolivia. A day-by-day chronicle of the campaign to forge a continent-wide revolutionary movement of workers and peasants capable of seizing state power. Includes excerpts from the diaries and accounts of other combatants, including—for the first time in English—*My Campaign with Che* by Bolivian leader Inti Peredo. Introduction by Mary-Alice Waters. \$21.95

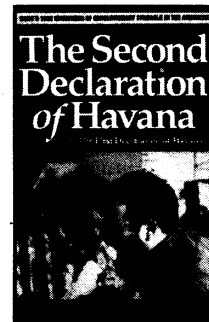


Nelson Mandela Speaks

Forging a Democratic, Nonracial South Africa

The Second Declaration of Havana

In 1962, as the example of Cuba's socialist revolution spread throughout the Americas, the workers and farmers of Cuba issued their uncompromising call for a continent-wide revolutionary struggle. Also available in Spanish and French. \$4.50



Cubans rally in support of revolution, early 1960s

Join the Pathfinder Readers Club and get 15% off

FOR A \$10 ANNUAL FEE, YOU CAN GET A 15% DISCOUNT ON PATHFINDER TITLES FROM ALL PATHFINDER BOOKSTORES AND DIRECT FROM THE PUBLISHER, AS WELL AS OTHER SPECIAL OFFERS. DOES NOT APPLY TO NEW INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE.



MILITANT/GREG ROSENBERG

South Africans celebrate inauguration of first nonracial, democratic National Assembly, May 1994

Mural won support amidst controversy

For nearly ten years the Pathfinder mural has been seen around the world as a visual monument to the working class. The six-story mural, painted by over 80 artists from 20 countries, features portraits of revolutionary and working-class leaders whose works Pathfinder publishes. At the center is a large printing press that reads, "The truth must not only be the truth, it must also be told." An attraction to visitors from around the world, it is painted on the south side of the Pathfinder building, where the publisher's offices and printing plant are located.

Pathfinder has recently announced plans to repair the stress cracks in the wall on which the mural is painted and launched a \$100,000 financial appeal. The brick wall has suffered water and structural damage that threaten the long-term usability of the building if not repaired in a timely way. This will require removal of the mural. Pathfinder is asking for capital contributions of \$1,000 or more to repair the building. More than \$15,000 has come in so far.

Local supporters are planning a celebration of the mural and Pathfinder, and will be raising money to mount a billboard of the mural on the wall after it is repaired. As part of covering the project, which will help ensure Pathfinder's ability to publish books at the facility well into the 21st century, the *Militant* will be carrying articles about the mural and its history.



BY MEGAN ARNEY

From its planning stages the Pathfinder mural has been a pole of attention and controversy. It was unveiled in November 1989

Contemporary Arts Center in Cincinnati, Ohio, and indicted the center and its director on "obscenity" charges. The arts center won broad support, and a jury eventually rejected the charges.

Before the Pathfinder mural was unveiled, the New York City government threatened to fine the project \$3,500 for posting leaflets publicizing an open house for artists and cite organizers for alleged scaffolding license violations. These probes were pushed back by a public campaign of protests by artists, trade unionists, and many other supporters of democratic rights.

As early as May 1989, right-wing commentator Patrick Buchanan, now a candidate for Republican party presidential nomination, began his literary rampage against the Pathfinder Mural in addition to other artists and grant recipients of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). He included the mural in syndicated articles as part of his "culture war" attacks on the freedom of artistic expression, barking for the revoking of funds for artists based on their work's content. The Pathfinder Mural received a \$500 grant from the New York State Council on the Arts.

Another attack came from the two big-business newspapers, the *New York Post* and the *Daily News*. On Nov. 19, 1989 the *Post* carried an editorial about the mural headlined, "Off the wall — and that's where it belongs." It concluded, "The mural should be removed," a veiled encouragement for vigilante attacks. A few days later the *Daily News* editors wrote that Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X were libeled by appearing with the likes of Fidel Castro.

Soon after these editorials appeared, the Pathfinder Mural was vandalized. On December 20, five soda bottles filled with white paint were smashed against the lower portion of the mural. Shards from the bottles were marked with swastikas and "SS" insignia.

Several portraits were damaged and had to be restored. These included civil rights leader King, anti-slavery activists Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth, a scene from the



Above, Militant/Scott Breen
Portraits of anti-slavery activist Harriet Tubman, above, and Cuban president Fidel Castro, top right, were targets of paint attacks. Volunteer, Keith Jones helps restore mural.

riod of history when Martin Luther King and Malcolm X were alive and active in the fight for human rights and Black empowerment personally. I cannot recall the *Daily News* or other major New York papers understanding or supporting either of these men."

At that meeting, a Friends of the Pathfinder Mural committee was set up to organize fund-raising and mobilize support for the mural.

The *Post* ran an editorial December 29 that denied any responsibility for the defacing of the mural and suggested Pathfinder supporters might have staged the vandalism.

A second paint attack took place in March 1991, again damaging the portrait of the Cuban president.

Supporters organize defense watch

After the first incident, supporters of the mural began a 24-hour-a-day watch to ward off further attempts to deface it. Rich Ariza, a member of Mail Handlers Local 300, estimates he has helped guard the mural between 80 and 90 times since then. "The fact that we could organize this defense watch tells you how much it means to working people. And we have the honor of protecting something that belongs to the working class as a whole."

In 1991-92 more than 100 volunteers from around the world carried out a major renovation of the building. At that point the flagship Pathfinder Mural bookstore was constructed right next to the mural. The bookstore, which is similar to others like it around the world that sell the revolutionary books of Pathfinder, is staffed by volunteers in the area. It allows people who come to look at the mural the opportunity to buy the full range of Pathfinder titles.

Today, supporters of the mural continue a nightly watch from inside the bookstore. Priscilla Schenk, who organizes the mural defense on Monday nights, described the watch as "a test of your ability to carry out a task in a disciplined and proletarian way." Volunteers stay up all night once every month or two, resting in shifts of 1-2 hours. They do this because the mural is "a tribute to men and women who made sacrifices and fought for the rights of women, Blacks, immigrants — those who fought for revolution," Schenk said. She pointed to a banner on the mural that reads, "For a world without borders," in French, Spanish and English. "That flies right in the face of someone like Patrick Buchanan, who would pit working people against each other."

Unionists are among those who volunteer for the mural defense. Jane Harris, a rail worker and member of the United Transportation Union, has not only defended the mural but introduced it to others. "I've probably shown nearly a dozen co-workers the mural over the years."

It is not just long time supporters who defend the mural each night. Sarah Katz was first introduced to the Pathfinder mural about a year ago. She began volunteering for mural duty "for the reason of defending free speech and freedom of expression. I saw the mural and saw how dedicated these people were who defended it and what is behind it — Pathfinder Press, the books, the ideas. I thought 'I'd like to do that.'"

After nearly seven years, the Pathfinder mural is quite faded and chipped due to weather, time, and the condition of the surface on which it is painted. But people still



Militant/Yvonne Hayes

stop every day to admire it. In a typical case, two young men from France were stunned by the mural when they passed by walking through the neighborhood June 4. They took out their camera to snap a picture. After some discussion of who was on the mural and what is in the building, one commented, "It's the best way to say that you're against racism, xenophobia, and sexism." Then they asked for a copy of the *Militant*.

Workers fund \$100,000 repairs for Pathfinder

BY CRAIG HONTS

LOS ANGELES — About \$100,000 is needed to carry out structural repairs to the Pathfinder building. Supporters of Pathfinder who are members of unions are some of the main sellers of revolutionary books, getting them into their co-workers' hands. So it's only natural that industrial workers should contribute financially in the biggest way possible.

Members of industrial unions have made important contributions toward Pathfinder's long-term capital needs over the years. These donations come from signing bonuses during passage of union contracts, lump-sum wage increases, profit-sharing plans, and settlements from accidents on the job.

An example of how some of these lump sum payments have come about is seen in the recent railroad contract voted down by members of the United Transportation Union (UTU). After the unionists rejected the contract, it was sent to binding arbitration. A government-appointed arbitration board imposed the same contract that had been turned down by the workers. Along with some serious concessions, the contract provides for several lump-sum payments amounting the 3 percent of all earnings from 1995 and 1 percent of 1994 earnings. Supporters of Pathfinder are now discussing how to add this money to the fund toward the repair of the building's wall.

In 1996, contributions from such sources so far have totaled \$16,127. Twenty-three workers have contributed to the effort from the United Steelworkers of America; United Auto Workers (UAW); Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; International Association of Machinists; and UTU. Of these, 13 are members of the UAW, who collectively kicked in \$7,717.

Craig Honts is a member of UTU Local 1674.



Militant/Val Libby

Above, anti-censorship protest in Cincinnati in 1990. Right, people check out poster from Pathfinder Mural at international Havana Book Fair, 1992.



Militant/Michael Baumann

after a two-year painting project. Among the 400 people present for the event were many unionists, artists, and other supporters from around the world. Several newspapers oriented to New York's Black community featured coverage on the unveiling, including the *Daily Challenge*, *Big Red News*, and the *New York Amsterdam News*.

The project also drew attacks, both physical and in the big-business press. The mural was unveiled during an intense debate around the funding and censorship of the arts that had big stakes for the freedom of expression and free speech for the working class as a whole. A few months later, for example, police shut down an exhibit of photographs by Robert Mapplethorpe at the

Chinese revolution, and one of the Haymarket martyrs, leaders of the fight for the eight-hour day in the United States. The portrait of Cuban president Fidel Castro was also hit.

Hundreds of letters to the editors flooded the two newspapers and the city administration, protesting the attack and defending the right of the mural to exist, free from censorship, threats, and vandalism.

Carole Byard, who painted Malcolm X, Tubman, and Truth on the mural, pointed out at a December 21 gathering at Westbeth Gallery that "having lived through that pe-

Celebrate the Pathfinder Mural and the Publication of Revolutionary Literature by Pathfinder Press

Sunday, June 23

Starts 2 p.m., Program at 4 p.m.

Charles Street at West Street New York

Speakers * Music * Displays * Food * Huge Book Sale * Tours of Pathfinder Building

Hosted by the Pathfinder Mural Bookstore, 167 Charles St., New York
For more information, call one of these Pathfinder Bookstores:
Mural Bookstore (212) 366-1973, East Side (212) 328-1501,
Brooklyn (718) 399-7257, Newark (201) 643-3341

Cops assault dozens of Blacks in New York

BY TAMAR ROSENFELD

STATEN ISLAND, New York — On May 19 the police attacked dozens of people here as residents of the Stapleton housing project came to the aid of Ethel Jones, a 59-year-old Black woman. At least ten people were injured and eight arrested.

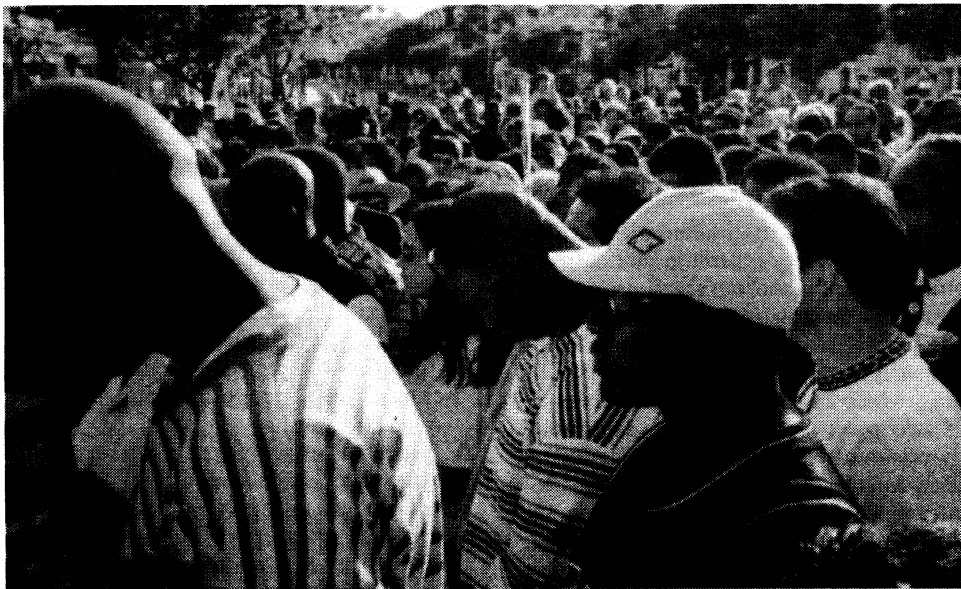
Jones, whose son Arthur died in police custody eight days earlier, was trying to defend a young man who was being hauled off by the police. The cops slapped her to the ground as she yelled, "They're going to kill you, like they killed my son."

Neighbors surrounded the police officers and prevented them from further assaulting Jones. The *Staten Island Sunday Advance* reported that "the incident between police and Ms. Jones grew into a 15-minute riot that pitted about 100 cops against an equal number of residents."

After the cop assault, 100 people marched from the housing project to Borough Hall and to the 120th precinct police station.

Brock Satter, a member of the International Association of Machinists and the Socialist Workers Party candidate for the 15th Congressional District in Manhattan, came here to offer his support to the fight against police brutality. He met many residents who had their own stories to tell of police harassment.

Arlene Vasquez, Ethel Jones's neighbor, described the events leading up to Arthur's death. Loud noises were heard coming from his mother's apartment. Neighbors called



Militant/John Naubert

June 1 protest against racist beating by cop in West Hampton, New York.

the police, fearing that someone was being attacked. As it turned out, Arthur was alone in the apartment, upset over something, and had been making the noise himself. "Instead of leaving when they found him alone, the cops arrested him. They put him in a strait-jacket," she said. "They tied him up real tight and put him in their car." That was the last time he was seen alive. Police claim Arthur Jones died of a heart attack.

Several residents interviewed expressed skepticism about the police account. They

said Jones was well-known and liked in the neighborhood, and was in good health.

"The job of the cops is to 'serve and protect' the ruling rich by brutalizing and otherwise keeping working people in line," Satter said. After listening to what the socialist had to say, one woman asked, "I can understand what you are saying about the fat cats running the government in their interests, but what is your alternative?" Her interest was piqued when Satter pointed to the example of Cuba where workers and

farmers are in power and where society is no longer run for the benefit of the ruling rich.

Martín Koppel, Socialist Workers candidate for the 10th Congressional District in Brooklyn, also received a warm response from workers in the area. Many stopped by to pick up campaign literature at a table he staffing along with other socialist campaigners.

Koppel and Ellie Garcia, SWP congressional candidate in the 12th C.D., issued a statement supporting the protests in Staten Island. "The marches against these abuses are exactly the response that is needed... [it's] the only kind of language the authorities will understand," the statement said. "We encourage unionists, youth, and every fighter for social justice to join these actions and demand: No to police brutality! Jail the guilty cops!"

One week after the Staten Island incident, an off-duty cop clobbered a young Black man in Westhampton Beach, Long Island, into a coma. Constantine Chronis, a New York City police detective, was arrested and charged with beating Shane Daniels, 21, with an automobile antitheft bar.

Witnesses said Chronis and others with him began shouting racist epithets at Daniels and a group of friends outside a nightclub. Then the cop attacked Daniels, while one of his companions held off bystanders with a gun. A June 1 rally in Westhampton Beach protested the beating.

Witness admits perjury in Abu-Jamal case

BY PETE SEIDMAN

PHILADELPHIA — A key witness in the 1982 murder trial of Pennsylvania death-row inmate Mumia Abu-Jamal came forward May 21 to swear that she lied against him on the stand, under intense pressure from the cops. Leonard Weinglass, Abu-Jamal's lead attorney, appealed the next day to the state supreme court seeking an order that Common Pleas Court Judge Alfred Sabo hear this new testimony and reconsider his refusal to grant the inmate's appeal for a new trial.

Abu-Jamal has been on death row for 14 years after having been framed up for the killing of Philadelphia police officer Daniel Faulkner in 1981. An international campaign on his behalf forced Sabo to postpone indefinitely the day of execution last summer.

Veronica Jones, the witness, was a prostitute near the corner where Faulkner was shot. She gave investigating detectives an initial statement saying she saw two unidentified men running from the murder scene immediately after hearing shots being fired. But when called to the stand by the defense, Jones repudiated her story.

In her new sworn statement, Jones insists on the truth of her original assertion. She says she changed this story after she was arrested on major felony charges by the police two weeks prior to when she was scheduled to testify at Abu-Jamal's trial. Unable to make bail, she was being held in the county jail facing 10-15 years in prison when she testified.

"Approximately one week before I testified," Jones recounts, "I was visited in jail by two white plainclothes detectives. I was initially shocked at seeing them since the jailers had told me my lawyer was visiting. The detectives began by speaking, not of the facts of my case, but of the Jamal case. They told me that if I would testify against Jamal and identify Jamal as the shooter I wouldn't have to worry about my pending felony charges."

"I repeatedly told the detectives I didn't see the shooting, but only heard the shots and then saw two men run away. But this didn't satisfy them. The detectives threatened me by reminding me that I faced a long prison sentence...all the while persisting that I testify to their version of events. Frightened, I told them I wanted my lawyer present. When they finally left I knew if I did anything to help the Jamal defense I would face years in prison."

"It was only a matter of a few days that I was brought to court. I thought I was going to appear in my case. To my surprise, when

I was brought into court I found myself in the midst of the Jamal case. Both detectives who had threatened me earlier were in plain view, standing in the rear of the courtroom. When asked by Jamal's attorney to confirm what I had first told the police...I steadfastly denied it for fear that I would be punished for helping the defense."

"At that time I was twenty-one years old and the mother of three young children."

Jones added that following her perjured testimony, she was released from jail and eventually sentenced to probation on all the outstanding felony charges against her. Cynthia White, another prostitute in the area who claimed to identify Jamal as Faulkner's killer, received "the same deal" from the cops, Jones said. During Abu-Jamal's appeal hearing last August, other witnesses came forward to insist that White was on a side street at the time and could not have



Militant/Brian Williams

May 20 protest in Washington, D.C., demanding new trial for Mumia Abu-Jamal.

seen the shooting.

Speaking at a May 22 news conference here, Weinglass said, "This is the first irrefutable evidence that the conviction of Mumia Abu-Jamal was obtained through false testimony." He demanded a new trial

and the conviction overturned.

Pete Seidman is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress and a member of the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees in Philadelphia.

Pickets protest firing of refinery operators

BY JIM GOTESKY

RODEO, California — More than 80 angry oil workers and supporters picketed in front of Unocal's San Francisco refinery on May 31 at the afternoon shift change protesting the firing of two refinery operators blamed for a coke drum fire. The May 17 fire destroyed portions of two coking drums, 100-foot-high structures that produce a powder similar to coal dust. Repairs will cost Unocal tens of millions of dollars.

The pickets slowed management traffic leaving the refinery. Protesters held signs demanding that Unocal reinstate Brian Brown and Perry Barnes, both members of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW) Local 1-326.

OCAW Local 1-5 members from the nearby giant Chevron refinery, along with activists from the West County Toxics Coalition, the Shoreline Environmental Alliance, and the Communities for a Better Environment, joined the Unocal workers. A sign carried by one community activist read, "Liar, Liar Coker's on Fire. Barnes and Brown you must rehire!"

Brown told the *Militant* that he and Barnes forthrightly admitted opening the valve that caused the fire. He explained the coker fire was an accident waiting to happen. Unocal fired them to scapegoat unit operators rather than own up to the unsafe conditions in the unit, he said.

The coking drums stand next to the Unit 210/212 grease-wax complex, where extremely flammable propane is used in large

quantities. Company spokespersons admit that a major catastrophe could have occurred if one of the drums had collapsed. Despite the potential for a more serious accident, Unocal bosses did not shut down the wax processing units. Unit 210 operators were not evacuated during the fire.

"This isn't about a job," Brown said. "We want them to admit their responsibility." Immediately after the firings Brown and his wife invited the media to their home. He said Unocal managers "think the people they hired just fell off the hay truck. We had reporters come to the house. If we are going to be held accountable, what about them?"

Refinery spokesperson Kevin Elliott tried to justify the firings, telling the media it was too early to tell if refinery procedures were faulty. Brown disagreed. Something as simple as bolting a metal plate or "blank" across the end of the unused coking drum feed line would have prevented the accident.

In addition, Unocal bosses have eliminated the "bottom cokeman" job from the crew that switches the coke drum feed. Many plant workers believe the accident would not have occurred if a bottom cokeman was on the job. A picket sign carried by one Chevron worker inquired, "Who eliminated the bottom cokeman?"

Refineries around the country are running units beyond safe levels to rake in profits from inflated gasoline prices. A Unocal newsletter boasted just prior to the fire about record production levels at the coker. As California State Energy Commission Chair-

man, Charles Imbrecht, told the San Francisco *Chronicle*, "You can only hold the pedal to the metal for so long and not expect some additional problems in any mechanical device."

Unocal claims no health risks were caused by the clouds of black smoke billowing from the fire. Nevertheless, residents of towns downwind of the plant complained of nausea and vertigo. Public schools were closed. Independent tests revealed toxic chemicals in sufficient amounts to injure health.

The coker fire is the fourth major refinery accident at Unocal in the last two years. In 1994, a toxic chemical additive, Catacarb, spewed from a leaking distillation tower in the Unicracker, a gasoline refining unit, from late August into early September. The leak covered area residents and plant workers for 16 days, destroying property and injuring hundreds. Protests from residents and local businesses finally forced Unocal to shut down the leaking vessel.

Gary Murray, a Unocal instrument repairman, pointed to the different treatment received by Unocal managers responsible for the Catacarb accident. He said the Unocal bosses who ordered the continued operation of the leaking refining tower were not fired. "What is the difference between the coker operators and the supervisors? A red badge, that's all," he said, referring to the colored ID badge worn by all bosses at Unocal.

Jim Gotesky is a member of OCAW Local 1-326 at the Unocal refinery in Rodeo.

Attacks on immigrants

Continued from front page

Excel Corporation in Wichita, Kansas. Five smaller meatpacking companies have also enrolled. The packing plants are spread out in 48 sites in 12 western and midwestern states: Washington, Idaho, Texas, Colorado, Nebraska, Iowa, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, California, and Minnesota.

Raids aim to terrorize workers

Some union officials and many workers say the verification program and factory raids are aimed at terrorizing immigrants into accepting below-minimum wages and dangerous working conditions.

"It's a gift to the employer," said Muzaffar Chishti, director of the immigration project of the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees in New York, which organizes 40,000 garment workers in the city.

Maria Aguirre, an immigrant who worked at a raided sweatshop in Manhattan, which produced blouses for a clothing line named after talk show host Kathie Lee Gifford, explained that garment bosses are demanding lower wage rates for job seekers who lack proper documentation.

"All week, I've been looking for work," she said at a protest in late May outside the factory. "Everywhere they ask for papers, papers, papers. Without papers, they pay \$3, \$2.75 an hour."

Immigrant workers in Storm Lake, Iowa, organized a community meeting of nearly 50 people May 17 to discuss the impact of two INS raids at IBP's pork packing plant there.

"It is almost as if it is a criminal act to be working," said a Latino worker at the meeting. The mid-May raids came a month after the INS raided at All-States Quality Foods, a chicken deboning plant in Charles City, Iowa, and detained more than 40 workers on allegations of forging immigration papers.

In 1995, more than 300 undocumented workers were deported from factories in Nebraska and Iowa.

In a recent victory for immigrant rights in Iowa, a jury in the city of Clarion convicted two bosses at a poultry plant of assault and false imprisonment of a Latino worker. Lucas Ortega, who speaks little English, was pulled from his bed in the early morning of June 11, 1995, by John Glessner and Myron Lawler, his bosses at the Boomsa egg plant.

They accused him of stealing a computer, then wrapped him in duct tape, slapped and punched him, dragged him to the plant, and locked him in a bathroom. They threatened him repeatedly, yelling, "What do you want to do, work or die?" Still wearing the clothes he slept in, Ortega was put to work. After three hours, the plant managers turned Ortega over to the police. The two bosses each face up to 13 months in jail and \$1,600 in fines.

Bill Kalman is a member of United Transportation Union Local 867 in Des Moines, Iowa. Richard McBride, member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1149 in Des Moines, contributed to this article.

—CALENDAR—

MISSOURI

St. Louis

A Working-Class Alternative to the Parties of War, Racism and Economic Depression. Speaker: James Harris, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. president. Mon., June 17, 7:30 p.m. Reception 6:30 p.m. Salad Bowl Restaurant, 3949 Lindell Blvd. Donation: \$4. For more information, call (314) 772-7191.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Leonard Peltier Freedom Forum. June 26, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Speakers, video, and music. An update on the Canadian investigation will be given by a member of the Canadian Parliament Warren Allmand. *American University, Ward Circle Building #1.*

June 27, from 8 a.m. U.S. Capitol Building. Morning ceremony/rally and drum at West Front Lower Terrace, followed by meeting with legislators, press conference, and lobby session. Sponsored by Leonard Peltier Freedom Campaign, Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, American University Washington Internship for Native Students. For more information, call LPFC (202) 783-2512 or LPDC (913) 842-5774. Look for updates at www.unicom.net/peltier/index/html

Curtis fights for parole in Illinois

BY FRANK FORRESTAL

SPRINGFIELD, Illinois — On May 28 a panel of three representatives of the Illinois Department of Corrections met here to rule on the application of political and union activist Mark Curtis to be granted parole in Chicago and took his case under advisement.

Curtis, who is imprisoned in the Iowa State Penitentiary on frame-up charges of attempted rape and burglary, was granted parole by the Iowa Parole Board last December. He remains in jail while his application is being processed to come to Illinois, where his wife, Kate Kaku, lives.

Two weeks earlier, Curtis was informed by prison officials that his application had been rejected by Illinois. Curtis was told later that Iowa corrections officials had requested Illinois state authorities reconsider and they had agreed to do so.

Kaku then called Vivian Sneed, the Illinois corrections official responsible for handling out-of-state parole applications. Sneed said Curtis's application had been rejected because he did not appear to have a "support network" in Illinois. In addition, she said, there are few sexual offender treatment programs in Cook County, and the ones that exist have long waiting lists, so it did not appear that Curtis would be able to get enrolled in one as part of his parole plan.

Over the next week more than 40 people in the Chicago area wrote letters to Sneed stating their willingness and determination to provide Curtis whatever support he needs if he wins release here. Two of the letters, from Dr. Bruce Scheff, a dentist, and William Taylor, president of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union Local 7-507, offered Curtis jobs.

Among the letters were support from Jennifer Bubala, a co-worker of Kaku's at LTV Steel; Rev. Charles Dahm, Pastor of St. Pius V Parish; Stacy Gordon, a senior physician at Children's Memorial Hospital and Steve Eckhardt, a Chicago Transit Authority worker.

Héctor Marroquín, a steelworker and the victim of a decade-long effort by government officials to deport him for his political views, also sent a letter of support along with Frankie Travis, a veteran of a lock-out by A.E. Staley in Decatur; Luis Galarza, an activist in the Chicago Cuba Solidarity Committee; and Stephen Frum, a nurse at Children's Memorial Medical Center.

An aide to Congressman Luis Gutiérrez, the congressman in Kaku's district, called the office of the director of the Department of Corrections to indicate their support for Curtis' release.

When Sneed's office in Springfield, the state capitol, opened May 28, Kaku deliv-

ered the letters and job offers, as well as a letter from herself explaining her ability to provide a home for Curtis while he got a job and began functioning again outside prison walls.

'No psychological issues'

Kaku also explained that Curtis' situation does not call for sex offender therapy. She noted that Curtis served out the sex offense charge over two years ago, was interviewed by a prison psychologist at the request of the parole board who found that there were "no psychological issues" in his case, and that his parole papers from Iowa stated "Sex Abuse Terms and Conditions: No special terms and conditions imposed."

She indicated that if Curtis did experience any difficulties with his adjustment, they had arranged the services of a psychiatrist to counsel him, whose letter was enclosed.

When Kaku delivered this packet of materials to Sneed, the state official told her that in April the state corrections department had adopted new guidelines, "Special Illinois Conditions for Sex Offenders," for dealing with applications for out-of-state parole. At the end of the day, Sneed informed Kaku on the phone that their decision would be sent to Iowa authorities for delivery to Curtis.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Trinidad & Tobago, A First-Hand Report. Speaker: Sam Maharj, General Secretary All Trinidad Sugar and General Workers Union. Fri., June 14, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W. Pico. Blvd., Donation: \$4. Tel: (213) 661-5239.

ILLINOIS

Peoria

A Working-Class Alternative to the Parties of War, Racism and Economic Depression. Speakers: James Harris, Socialist Workers candidate for president. Sat., June 15, 7:30 p.m. Reception 6:30 p.m. 915 N. Western Ave. Donation: \$4. Tel: (309) 676-2472.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

South Africa's New Constitution: An Historic

Gain. Fri., June 14, 7:30 p.m. 780 Tremont St. Donation: \$4. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

For a World Without Borders: The Fight for Immigrant Rights. Panel discussion with: Lai Har Cheung, Asian Americans United; Juanita Kirschke, Refugee Coordinator, Amnesty International, USA, Mid Atlantic Region; Frank Lindner, National Immigration Association; Pete Seidman, garment worker and Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress. Fri., June 14, 7:30 p.m.

Transportation In The U.S. — Why Isn't It Safe? Panel discussion including unionists in the transportation industry. Fri., June 21, 7:30 p.m. Both events held at 1906 South St. Donation: \$4. Tel: (215) 546-8218.

Pittsburgh

Defend Gay Rights! Panel discussion. Fri., June 14, 7:30 p.m. 1103 E. Carson St. Donation: \$4. Tel: (412) 381-9785.

UTAH

Salt Lake City

The Presidential Elections in Russia. Speaker: Steve Iverson, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., June 14, 7:30 p.m. 209 East 300 South. Donation: \$4. Tel: (801) 355-2133.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

What's Behind the War in Liberia. Speakers: Earl Burrowes, director of the Liberian Human Rights Network; Brian Williams Socialist Workers candidate for D.C. City Council. Fri., June 7, 7:30 p.m. 1930 18th Street NW (corner of 18th Street and Florida Ave., Suite #3, entrance on Florida Ave.). Donation: \$4. Tel: 202-387-2185.

—IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP—

Where to find Pathfinder books and distributors of the Militant, Perspectiva Mundial, New International, Nouvelle Internationale, Nueva Internacional and Ny International.

UNITED STATES

ALABAMA: Birmingham: 111 21st St. South. Mailing address: Suite 252, 267 West Valley Avenue Zip 35209. Tel: (205) 323-3079. Compuserve: 103402,1231

CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles: 2546 W. Pico Blvd. Zip: 90006. Tel: (213) 380-9460, 380-9640. Compuserve: 74642,326 **San Francisco:** 3284 23rd St. Zip: 94110. Tel: (415) 285-5323. Compuserve: 75604,556

CONNECTICUT: New Haven: Mailing address: P.O. Box 16751, Baybrook Station, West Haven. Zip: 06516.

FLORIDA: Miami: 137 N.E. 54th St. Zip: 33137. Tel: (305) 756-1020. Compuserve: 103171,1674

GEORGIA: Atlanta: 803 Peachtree NE. Zip: 30308. Tel: (404) 724-9759. Compuserve: 104226,1245

ILLINOIS: Chicago: 1223 N. Milwaukee Ave. Zip: 60622. Tel: (312) 342-1780. Compuserve: 104077,511 **Peoria:** 915 N. Western. Zip: 61650-0302. Mailing address: P.O. Box 302. Tel: (309) 676-2472. Compuserve: 104612,147

INDIANA: Bloomington: P.O. Box 1304. Zip: 47402. E-mail: ysoc@hamlet.ucs.indiana.edu

IOWA: Des Moines: 2724 Douglas Ave. Zip: 50310. Tel: (515) 277-4600. Compuserve: 104107,1412

MASSACHUSETTS: Boston: 780 Tremont St. Zip: 02118. Tel: (617) 247-6772. Compuserve: 103426,3430

MICHIGAN: Detroit: 7414 Woodward Ave. Zip: 48202. Compuserve: 104127,3505

Tel: (313) 875-0100.

MINNESOTA: Twin Cities: 2490 University Ave. W., St. Paul. Zip: 55114. Tel: (612) 644-6325. Compuserve: 103014,3261

NEW JERSEY: Newark: 141 Halsey. Mailing address: 1188 Raymond Blvd., Suite 222. Zip: 07102. Tel: (201) 643-3341. Compuserve: 102330,106

NEW YORK: Albany: P. O. Box 2357, E.S.P. Zip: 12220. Tel: (518) 465-0585. **Brooklyn:** 59 4th Avenue (corner of Bergen) Zip: 11217. Tel: (718) 399-7257. Compuserve: 102064,2642. **New York:** 214-16 Avenue A. Mailing address: P.O. Box 2652. Zip: 10009. Tel: (212) 328-1501; 167 Charles St. Zip: 10014. Tel: (212) 366-1973. Compuserve: 104113,2150

NORTH CAROLINA: Greensboro: 2000-C S. Elm-Eugene St. Zip 27406. Tel: (910) 272-5996. Compuserve: 103475,672.

OHIO: Cincinnati: P.O. Box 19484. Zip: 45219. Tel: (513) 662-1931. **Cleveland:** 1832 Euclid. Zip: 44115. Tel: (216) 861-6150. Compuserve: 103253,1111

PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia: 1906 South St. Zip: 19146. Tel: (215) 546-8218. Compuserve: 104502,1757 **Pittsburgh:** 1103 E. Carson St. Zip 15203. Tel: (412) 381-9785. Compuserve: 103122,720

TEXAS: Houston: 3260 South Loop West. Zip: 77025. Tel: (713) 349-0090. Compuserve: 102527,2271

UTAH: Salt Lake City: 209 E. 300 S. Zip: 84111. Tel: (801) 355-1124. Compuserve: 76714,1545

WASHINGTON, D.C.: 1930 18th St. N.W. Suite #3 (Entrance on Florida Av.). Zip: 20009. Tel: (202) 387-2185. Compuserve: 75407,3345.

WASHINGTON: Seattle: 1405 E. Madison. Zip: 98122. Tel: (206) 323-1755. Compuserve: 74461,2544.

WEST VIRGINIA: Morgantown: 242 Walnut. Mailing address: P.O. Box 203. Zip:

26507. Tel: (304) 296-0055. Compuserve: 70543,1637

AUSTRALIA

Sydney: 19 Terry St., Surry Hills 2010. Mailing address: P.O. Box K879, Haymarket, NSW 2000. Tel: 02-281-3297. Compuserve: 102174,1243

BRITAIN

London: 47 The Cut. Postal code: SE1 8LL. Tel: 0171-928-7993. Compuserve: 101515,2702

Manchester: Unit 4, 60 Shudehill. Postal code: M4 4AA. Tel: 0161-839-1766.

CANADA

Montreal: 4581 Saint-Denis. Postal code: H2J 2L4. Tel: (514) 284-7369. Compuserve: 75253,265

Toronto: 827 Bloor St. West. Postal code: M6G 1M1. Tel: (416) 533-4324. Compuserve: 103474,13

Vancouver: 3967 Main St. Postal code: V5V 3P3. Tel: (604) 872-8343. Compuserve: 103430,1552

FRANCE

Paris: MBE 201, 208 rue de la Convention. Postal code: 75015. Tel: (1) 47-26-58-21. Compuserve: 73504,442

ICELAND

Reykjavik: Klapparstíg 26. Mailing address: P. Box 233, 121 Reykjavik. Tel: 552 5502. INTERNET: gphssg@treknet.is

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland: La Gonda Arcade, 203 Karangahape Road. Postal address: P.O. Box 3025. Tel: (9) 379-3075. Compuserve: 100035,3205

Christchurch: 199 High St. Postal address: P.O. Box 22-530. Tel: (3) 365-6055. Compuserve: 100250,1511

SWEDEN

Stockholm: Vikingagatan 10 (T-bana St Eriksplan). Postal code: S-113 42. Tel: (08) 31 69 33. Compuserve: 100416,2362

Ballot box democracy — According to Richard Winger, a ballot access specialist, it's 15 times harder today than it was in 1924 for a party other than the Republicans



Harry Ring

and Democrats to get a presidential candidate on the ballot. And 30 times harder to get on the ballot for Congress.

The American Way — Charging economic abuse and sexual harassment, Hungarian workers have

organized a union at kitchens operated by a subsidiary of Brown and Root, the U.S. construction firm. The kitchens feed GIs sent there to back up the U.S. troops in Bosnia. One woman charged her U.S. boss subjected her to daily "body searches." Another said that without warning, their wages had been slashed by two thirds.

Learning experience — One Hungarian worker declared that their U.S. employers "regard us as dirty, stupid and backward." She added, "I had all sorts of ideas about Americans and America. But what we got was totally different."

Isn't that wonderful? — The Times Square in New York, formerly a welfare hotel, now provides

shelter for the homeless and people with AIDS. And every month it offers a Sunday brunch. An appeal for volunteer servers in the paper, *New York City Cares*, was captioned, "One square meal a month."

Gang busters — "CARSON, Calif. — A vice squad raided a dollar-a-game pinocle party at a mobile home park and cited eight elderly people for gambling." — News item

Nothing but guns, clubs and boots — Philadelphia cops, whose brutality, frame-ups and corruption have been top news are being relieved of the flashlights, nearly four pounds, that they like to clobber people with. The new ones weigh but 7 oz. Police commissioner Ri-

chard Neal triumphantly declared: "These allegations of officers beating somebody with a flashlight are going to go right out the window."

Sprayed his palm — One justification for the use of pepper spray by police agencies is that the FBI made a major study of the stuff before using it. The study, and training of FBI agents and other cops in its use, was done by Special agent Thomas Ward.

It's now disclosed that he received \$57,000 from a pepper spray manufacturer, laundered through a company owned by his wife.

P.S. — Agent Ward pleaded guilty to a federal charge of accepting an illegal gift. His sentence?

Two months in jail.

Pedagogy, Inc. — "Teens represent an incredible buying power and school is a huge part of their life. It's a great place to reach them." — Peter Zollo, prez, Teenage Research Unlimited, on the mounting huckster focus on school advertising.

'Let's do lunch' — New York health inspectors found massive violations at public school cafeterias, including mice droppings, roach infested peanut butter, undercooked beef, and food stored near toxic chemicals. In one cafeteria, food was prepared in a sewage-contaminated area. At an elementary school, 60 children became seriously ill after drinking pineapple juice.

Los Angeles truckers fight for union recognition

BY VANESSA KNAPTON

LOS ANGELES — Four weeks into the strike by thousands of mostly Mexican, Chicano and Central American drivers against trucking companies at the Los Angeles and Long Beach harbors, the fight continues to force the bosses to recognize their union, the Communication Workers of America (CWA).

The strike began April 28 with a rally of 6,500. It follows an 18-month organizing drive of independent truckers, who work 16-18 hours a day, but get paid by the load and after expenses receive close to minimum wage. They do not receive Social Security, unemployment insurance, or workers compensation because of their "independent contractor" status. Strikers are forced to carry overweight containers or hazardous materials without knowing it, waiting in long lines to pick up loads, and having to pay traffic fines, insurance, and maintenance on their trucks.

The walkout slowed shipping through the ports to a trickle in its first week. Although the majority of independent contractors who stopped work April 28 have now gone back to work, picket lines swelled during the last week of May. In some places hundreds of strikers have turned out, as the companies return to paying the pre-strike wages and conditions for drivers worsen.

The strikers' confidence was bolstered May 22 by a three-hour work stoppage by 35 longshoremen who walked off their jobs to join the pickets. It was the first time the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU) had dem-



Hundreds of truck drivers, mostly Mexican, Chicano and Central American continue to picket in the fourth week of the strike. Banner reads: "Yes, we can do it."

onstrated public support for the union. Two days later, the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, officially sanctioned the strike. The ILWU and other unions are supporting the pickets with food donations, rental assistance, and medical aid. According to Laura Reynolds, representing CWA Local 9400, negotiations continue with the trucking companies.

Striking truckers held a march of a couple

hundred people early in the morning on Memorial Day, May 27. The march and rally kicked off a caravan of strikers to Los Angeles City Hall where eight strikers began a hunger strike in order to force the local media, especially the Spanish-language stations, to report on the strike. One

shift a day of pickets come up from the harbor to join the hunger strikers each day.

Rudy Ruiz, a striker picketing the Maersk terminal, commented, "There are people saying the strike is over. But while rumors float out there, the facts are here. And here, at just one terminal, there were two hundred strikers down here today. This is being repeated at the other terminals all through harbor. You can see for yourself that the morale here is high. People are happy because we are carrying out a fight. Conditions are unbearable and we can't go back to that."

He explained how at first the trucking bosses doubled the pay for those who crossed the picket line, but now the pay is right back to where it was before.

"People who crossed are returning to join us. No money is being made now. The companies are taking their revenge. They make the truckers haul illegal and unsafe overweight loads and then make the truckers pay the fines themselves when they get caught, whereas before at least the company would pay the fines," Ruiz said.

"Many of those people you see driving through are really with us," he added. "They're brothers. But they're discouraged about being able to pay rent and buy food. And they're misinformed and mistrustful about the union. But we're winning them back."

Craig Honts and Dan Dickeson contributed to this article.

Striking truckers discuss fight at Los Angeles forum

BY CRAIG HONTs

LOS ANGELES — Some 110 people, including 80 striking truckers, attended a Militant Labor Forum here May 17 entitled "Support the Truckers Strike."

The forum was conducted in Spanish, with translation in English, since most in the audience were from Mexico and Central America.

Before the meeting began, about 20 strikers gathered in front of the Pathfinder bookstore, where the event was being held, to discuss what the forum was about. Some were under the impression it was a union-sponsored event. Others were clear it was a free-speech political meeting. After talking about it for a while they decided as a group to come in and participate in the discussion.

The truckers sharply curtailed the operation of the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles when they went on strike April 28. Since then a discussion has ensued about how to continue the fight as carriers offering double the ordinary rate moved to entice truckers back to work while using the courts and the media to try to isolate the strikers.

Speaking at the forum was Vanessa Knapton, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress, 33rd C.D., and José Ventura, a striking trucker and member of Communication Workers of America Local 9400.

"The fight points to the increased weight

and role of immigrant workers in strengthening the labor movement," Knapton said. A large percentage of striking truckers are immigrants, primarily from Central America and Mexico.

Ventura spoke about some of the obstacles the strikers are running into, like court injunctions limiting picketers to five per gate and arrests by the police. "But we refuse to be intimidated," he said. "The companies are strong and it's a hard fight but we must seek wider support. They won't serve us victory on a silver platter. We have to struggle to win."

In the discussion period one striker explained how the employers try to pit workers of different nationalities and colors against each other. "They try to divide us to exploit us," he said. "They say we're asking too much... It's not a question of \$25 per hour. The most important thing is to recover our lost dignity. We came across the border — they made so many promises. They even promised credit cards. They gave the credit cards and now we're deeper in debt than ever."

"We want \$25 an hour and expenses," another trucker said. "We want workers to be treated like human beings and we're going to win this struggle. A lot of us are from Central America. We know how to fight."

Craig Honts is a railroad worker and member of United Transportation Union Local 1674.

—25 AND 50 YEARS AGO—

THE MILITANT

Published in the Interest of the Working People

June 18, 1971

Price 10¢

LOS ANGELES — The brutality of the war in Vietnam, the quality of life in the armed forces, and the conditions in Veterans Administration hospitals were brought home to civilians at the West Coast Winter Soldier Investigation held here May 29-30.

The inquiry was sponsored by the California Veterans Movement.

For some 18 hours more than 60 vets — enlisted personnel and officers — testified.

One told of seeing four Vietnamese prisoners being loaded into a U.S. helicopter. The chopper rose 400 feet above the ground, he said, and four bodies tumbled out. The pilot radioed down that the four were "trying to escape."

A Mylai-type massacre was described by combat veteran James Henry. He testified on Feb. 8, 1968, his unit received orders from battalion headquarters to "kill everything that moved" in a suspected guerrilla area. As a result of this order, 19 women and children were rounded up and shot.

Henry said there was no point in reporting this atrocity to military authorities in Vietnam since the colonel in charge already knew of it and was taking no action. He did take the matter up with military officials on his return to the states and was threatened that he would be in trouble if he spread such stories.

THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

NEW YORK, N.Y. FIVE (5) CENTS

June 15, 1946

BUFFALO, N.Y., June 5 — In two meetings here, organized labor in Buffalo this week gave a fighting answer to the anti-union attacks of Truman and Congress. Last night the Buffalo CIO Council unanimously endorsed the CIO United Auto Workers call for a national united conference of all labor unions to combat the anti-labor barrage.

Tonight an emergency meeting of almost 600 CIO, AFL, IAM, and Railway Brotherhood members denounced Truman and Congress.

The CIO Council last night also adopted a resolution introduced by CIO United Steelworkers Local 2601 calling upon the unions to take joint "steps to set up a national labor party that shall be completely independent of the Democratic and Republican Parties and all other ties with Big Business."

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., June 1 — The Santa Cruz AFL Central Labor Council initiated a campaign for the adoption by the forthcoming California State AFL convention of a resolution endorsing the formation of an independent national labor party and urging similar action by all AFL state bodies.

In his letter to the other AFL local bodies in the state, CLC Secretary [Thomas] Deane states: "Unless we have our own Labor Party we are simply continuing to up Labor's rights to the enemies of Labor — without a fight. Continuing to support capitalist candidates is really treason to Labor."

Jail the racist cops!

Working people and youth should condemn the May 19 beating of Ethel Jones and other workers in Staten Island by the police. All the cops involved in this assault must be prosecuted and convicted to the full extent of the law.

Jones, a 59-year-old Black woman, was beaten after she came to the aid of a man being arrested. She spoke out against the death of her son Arthur, who died while in police custody nine days earlier. After the cops beat and arrested Jones, police in riot gear assaulted a crowd of residents who came to her aid, arresting several more. This incident of police brutality and racism happened in the same area where two years ago cops killed Ernest Sayon, 22, also a Black man, while he was in police custody.

The harshest conviction is also required against Constantine Cronis, the off-duty cop who went on a racist rampage and clobbered a young Black man in Westhampton Beach, Long Island, into a coma one week later. Others accompanying the New York City police detective, who held friends of the victim at bay with a gun while the brutal assault was taking place, should be arrested and prosecuted as well.

At about the same time, the police in Kansas City shot and injured a young Black man who was a bystander during a "drug raid" in the Black community, setting off a mini-rebellion by residents. The police eventually had to withdraw without making any arrests.

These actions by the police are not aberrations, they are not assaults by rogue cops. After nearly killing Shane Daniels in Westhampton, witnesses said, Cronis and his buddies calmly drove off, as if they had done nothing out of the ordinary.

This is a crude reminder that the function of the police — who are themselves up to their eyeballs in the drug trade, corruption, theft, brutality, racism, and murder — is not to deter crime and protect the citizenry, as they pro-

claim. Their role is to serve and protect the handful of owners of capitalist property. Their job is the mete out punishment on the spot to working people who get out of line — whether strikers on the picket line or young Blacks and Mexican workers harassed day in and day out in order to set an example of "who's the boss."

Five days before his murder in 1965, Malcolm X explained in a speech in Rochester, New York, how the media is used to portray working people — especially those who are Black — as "thieves" and "hoodlums," while in fact it is the businessmen and capitalist politicians who grow wealthy off the exploitation of working people, as do their cops who actually "are nothing but thieves."

"The press is used to make the victim look like the criminal and the criminal look like the victim," Malcolm said.

Today, amid the depression conditions spreading throughout the capitalist world, the U.S. rulers are preparing the cops and courts for the struggles they know will be fought by working people to defend our living and working conditions, our unions, and our political rights. That's why the bosses' parties want more cops, more jails, more executions, and fewer protections of the constitutional rights of the accused and convicted. That's why they unleash their police forces to terrorize with racist venom the working class.

The marches by workers in Staten Island and Long Island against these abuses are exactly the response that's needed. We urge our readers to join these protests to demand: No to police brutality and racism! Jail the guilty cops!

It is through such struggles that the oppressed and exploited can awaken "to their humanity, to their own worth," as Malcolm X put it, and to the need to build a fighting movement to replace the biggest crooks in human history sitting on Wall Street, in the White House, and on Capitol Hill and abolish their police in the process.

Socialists call for end of deportations

Continued from front page

country. We must demand a halt to the arrests and deportations of immigrant workers.

The Clinton administration — with the backing of the employers — is trying to drive a wedge into the working class and justify greater use of anti-democratic measures and the wholesale denial of rights to a growing number of those who toil on the land or sweat in the factories.

The goal of the raids by the INS cops is not to stop "illegal" immigration but to create a pariah layer of workers who are forced to accept poverty wages and inhuman working conditions. The bosses seek to use these attacks as a way to drive down the value of labor power of the working class as a whole.

The chauvinist, "America First" ideological campaign that goes along with the cop assaults also seeks to convince immigrants who have papers to identify with "Americans" and pit themselves against the undocumented.

Clinton's expanding computerized identification checks set a dangerous precedent for the entire labor movement. They open the door widely to legal spying on union militants and other working-class fighters.

As always when the bosses attempt to deepen divisions among our class they go after those they think will get the least support and solidarity.

The attacks on affirmative action, on the gains women have made in access to jobs and education, and on social entitlements will be accelerated if the employers and their government can make it acceptable to hunt workers down,

kick them out of their jobs, deny them and their children medical care, and deport them because they are immigrants.

Workers from Mexico and elsewhere in Latin America, as well as other semicolonial countries, are flowing into the United States because U.S. capital has penetrated deeper into their countries forcing miserable conditions of superexploitation. And often, when working people in those countries rebel, the imperialist masters respond with a rain of bullets, as was the case recently with the assault by the French army on toilers in the Central African Republic.

The labor movement should celebrate the fact that the U.S. border with Mexico has become more porous. The new workers coming to the north bring with them valuable experiences from the class struggle in their countries of origin. They make the U.S. working class more international and for that reason stronger.

Many of these immigrant workers, as well as Chicanos and other U.S. citizens targeted by the steel fences at the border and by the INS raids, are not willing to roll over and play dead. The meetings to discuss the impact on the raids taking place in Iowa, the conviction of two bosses in that state for brutalizing a worker, and activities around the country to build the October 12 national march on Washington for immigrant rights are reflections of this resistance.

Working people should join these activities and organize others to demand:

Equal rights for immigrants!

Stop the raids and deportations now!

Get your application in now for the
U.S.-Cuba Youth Exchange
July 24 - August 6



The National Network on Cuba is organizing a delegation of young workers and students from around the United States for a two-week trip to Cuba this summer. The group will spend most of its time in the provinces of Santiago and Guantánamo, with a few days in Havana at the end of the trip. In addition to time spent working with Cubans, participants will visit factories, farms, historic sites, and other places of interest.

The Youth Exchange is open to people between the ages of 15 and 35. The cost is \$855 from Montreal, \$600 from Nassau, Bahamas.

Money, applications for the trip are due by July 1.

For more information contact:

National Network on Cuba
c/o Cuba Information Project, 198 Broadway, Suite 800
New York, NY 10038 Phone: 212-227-3422 Fax: 212-227-4859

Students, workers build trip to Cuba

BY BRIAN TAYLOR

With just a few weeks before the July 1 deadline to turn in applications and payments, activists around the country are stepping up efforts to promote the U.S.-Cuba Youth Exchange. The trip, sponsored by the National Network on Cuba (NNOC), will allow young people from the United States to meet fellow students and workers in Cuba and find out the facts about the Cuban revolution for themselves.

"There are about 11 people so far who have all their money paid," said Brock Satter, one of the organizers of the New York U.S.-Cuba Youth Exchange Committee, at one of the weekly meetings of the group at the Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC). "I know of at least two more people who want to go and have the funds," said Noah Smith of the Venceremos Brigade at that meeting. A dozen students and other activists attended.

"The key question now is to help young people who want to go but can't afford it raise the funds for the trip," Satter said.

A variety of fundraising activities

The group put together a list of 50 youth who have expressed interest in going, of whom 14 have turned in applications. They include students from BMCC, Hunter College, and City College of New York, as well as a couple of young workers from the General Motors assembly plant in Tarrytown, New York.

Activists agreed to organize two fund-raisers in the next three weeks. They include a \$7 all-you-can-eat picnic on June 22 and a June 29 dinner-dance and raffle-drawing party at Casa de las Américas. The group also drew up a checklist of organizational tasks so that activists could make sure everyone gets passports ready, organize time off work, and follow through on other details.

"It's important to redouble our efforts over the next month," said Satter. "Many of these youth will come back to report on their trip, write articles, speak on radio, and get more involved in activities to oppose the U.S. economic war on Cuba."

In Miami, Sandra Collado, a leader of the local Youth Exchange subcommittee of the Miami Coalition to End the U.S. Embargo of Cuba, reports: "We organized a picnic on May 26 and raised \$300 even though it rained. The event concluded with a raffle drawing, with prizes like posters of Che Guevara," a leader of the Cuban revolution.

"Eleven people have turned in applications here," said Janine Dukes in Salt Lake City. "The group includes seven high school students from four schools, including leaders of the East High Gay-Straight Alliance and of the Young Democrats at West High."

The youth meet with activists in the Utah Cuba Solidarity Coalition every week. Fund-raising activities include a benefit concert with local bands, tabling at fairs and political events, and speaking at churches. A local Barnes and Nobles bookstore has agreed to sponsor a "book fair." One evening the store will donate a percentage of its sales toward the Exchange.

Laura Anderson of the Los Angeles Coalition in Solidarity with Cuba reports that 15 youth from that city turned in applications by the beginning of June and "more are on the way." The coalition just sent out a 300-piece mailing that included a fund-raising letter for the Youth Exchange.

"Our approach is that there will fund-raising or educational events every Saturday in June," Anderson said.

Study groups on Cuba help prepare participants

The Twin Cities Network on Cuba is organizing a study group to discuss collectively recent speeches by Fidel Castro and other leaders of the Cuban revolution to prepare for the trip. More than 30 people from the Minneapolis/St. Paul area have applied for the Exchange, says organizer Adriana Sánchez, a leader of the Twin Cities Cuba Network in Minnesota. Participants include 16 students from that campus, including six members each from the Black and Latino student organizations.

So far they have raised \$700 from donations. Activists from the group will be featured at a June 16 meeting at Uhuru Books, the main Black community bookstore in the area. "We'll also be speaking at the All African Peoples Summit," said organizer Damon Tinnon. The June 8 engagement, he said, will focus on "Cuba's defense of Angola and the historic battle at Cuito Cuanavale at the end of the '80s where Cuban volunteers helped defeat the invading racist South African army once and for all."

Forty people attended a May 30 meeting at The Evergreen State College (TESC) in Olympia, Washington, titled "Cuba answers Helms-Burton! Report on May Day in Havana and Cuba's trade union convention." The event was sponsored by TESC's Marxist theory program and the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador. It featured trade unionists who participated in the April 27-30 congress of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers in Havana.

The Seattle-Cuba Friendship committee has organized a series of such reportback events on campuses and elsewhere with a key aim of recruiting people for the Youth Exchange. So far, 10 youth from Washington state have applied.

On June 1 the committee is showing the acclaimed Cuban film *Strawberry and Chocolate* at a community center on Bainbridge Island, where a number of high school students are interested in the trip.

Public workers protest cutbacks in New Zealand

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

We invite you to contribute short items to this column as a way for other fighting workers around the world to read about and learn from these important

spite a 3 percent decline in jobs, while a six-year pay freeze has left workers with a 11.5 percent pay cut in real terms. Services to the public are being placed at risk, it said, citing hospital waiting lists for surgery that have risen 50 percent in three years. These protests follow a month-long campaign of go-slows, strikes and walkouts by thousands

leafleted shoppers at the Eaton's and Bay department stores, which are major customers of Peerless.

In addition to the fired workers, several workers have been suspended. The workers, who are trying to bring the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees into the factory, have filed more than 30 complaints for discrimination and sexual harassment. Over 70 percent of the workers are women and the vast majority are recent immigrants.

"I have been informed that on Friday, May 10, you distributed pamphlets to employees and members of the public outside the Peerless factory on Pie IX in Montreal," said a letter management sent to one of the workers. "Your attitude could be construed as a serious breach of your duty and loyalty to your employer and, under the circumstance, an inquiry will have to be made as to your actions on said date. We will inform you of its conclusions shortly. Until then you are suspended without pay until a final decision is made."

The unionization drive has received support of over fifty organizations including the Quebec Women's Federation, the Montreal Labor Council, the Federation of Bangladeshi Associations of North America, the Association of Haitian Taxi drivers, the Latin-American Association of Côtés-des-Neiges and others. These groups have formed the Committee for Justice at Peerless. The workers plan more activity on June 4 to broaden their support.

Contributions can be sent to the Peerless Workers Solidarity Fund, c/o Montreal Joint board, UNITE, 20 Ave. Maissoneuve ouest,



Militant/Monica Jones

Garment workers at Peerless hold May Day rally in Montreal. The workers are trying to organize a union at the largest suit manufacturer in Canada.

ON THE PICKET LINE

struggles. Jot down a few lines about what is happening in your union, at your workplace, or other workplaces in your area, including interesting political discussions.

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand — Five hundred public sector workers and their supporters rallied here May 21, demanding better pay and adequate government funding for social services. The rally was part of a national day of action called by the Public Service Association (PSA). Another 300 rallied in Hamilton, while a demonstration outside Parliament in Wellington drew 2,000.

The largest contingents on all the rallies were workers from the Inland Revenue Department (IRD) and from the Courts section of the Justice Department, both of which have organized repeated protest actions in recent weeks. Many high school teachers and other educational staff joined in too.

IRD workers made up the largest of several organized contingents that marched into the Wellington rally. Most IRD workers have not had a cost-of-living increase since 1990, and have been outraged by the government's offer of a 2.5 percent raise.

Leaflets produced by the Public Service Association point out that productivity has jumped 15 percent in the state sector since 1990, de-

of workers across several government departments against reduced funding of the public service, one of the areas hardest hit by government restructuring.

Speaking to the Hamilton rally, a local delegate for the PSA explained the impact of years of government cutbacks. "RSI [repetition strain injury] has gone through the roof," he said citing a six-fold increase in such cases in the past nine months.

The previous day, May 20, more than 4,000 tax workers held a 24-hour nationwide strike. They were joined by 900 court workers who had struck for 24 hours after several workers were suspended for imposing bans on answering telephones.

Some 60 Auckland high school teachers staged a walkout and picketed Ministry of Education offices on May 20. This follows a nationwide one-day strike March 6 by high school teachers in support of a pay rise, as well as strikes by technical institute teachers over recent weeks.

Garment workers fight firings for organizing

MONTREAL — Nineteen workers fired for trying to organize a union at Peerless, the largest suit manufacturer in Canada, held a press conference May 28. Peerless employs 2,000 workers in the garment factory. The workers also

Montreal H2X 1Z3. For more information call the Center for Peerless Workers at 514-728-8757.

300 commemorate those killed in Australia mines

CESSNOCK, Australia — More than 300 people — representatives of Northern District lodges of the United Mineworkers Division of the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU), other working coal miners, retired miners, relatives and other unionists — gathered here May 26 to commemorate 1,532 workers killed since 1847 in mine accidents in this district.

The recently erected brass panels of the Memorial Wall list the name, age, and pit of each miner in chronological order. Just a few days before the commemoration, two miners were seriously injured in a gas explosion at the Chain Valley mine. Eleven miners have been killed in the district since 1990.

"The employers say they can't afford safety because of the price of coal," said Northern District secretary Ron Land. "The real price of coal is behind me on this wall."

Two representatives of 30 UMW members on strike since August 1995 at CRA's Vickery open-cut

mine attended.

Bill James, whose father's name is on the wall, described how the lodge's members are actively reaching out for solidarity. James recently spent a week in the Wollongong area as a guest of the Southern District, meeting with rank-and-file miners during work hours to explain the issues behind the strike. The workers are fighting CRA's demands for forced 12 1/2-hour shifts and an end to partial union control over hiring.

Derek Lucas, secretary of the Vickery lodge, described their May 22 bus trip to Melbourne with a couple of dozen miners working at other CRA mines. They picketed the annual CRA shareholders' meeting with construction workers and others.

Messages of solidarity can be sent c/o Derek Lucas, Vickery Lodge Secretary, United Mineworkers, CFMEU, 6 McAndrew St., Gunnedah, NSW, Australia 2380; tel./fax: (067) 420 821.

Nathan Simms in Christchurch and Annalucia Vermont in Auckland; Joe Young in Montreal; and Doug Cooper in Sydney contributed to this column.

LETTERS

Chain gangs

No one can say that Governor Fob James has not kept his promise that chain gangs will decrease the prison population and curb overcrowding. It is simple and guaranteed to work. Just arm prisoners with deadly weapons and chain them together, and if they don't kill each other fast enough, not to worry, the guards will simply shoot them down where they stand.

On Wednesday, May 15, 1996, one of the chain gang prisoners here in Alabama was shot and killed by one of the guards. This shooting took place at Staton Correctional facility near Montgomery, Alabama. The DOC has already "determined" that the murder of this prisoner was "justified."

No one will ever know what actually happened but the official story is pretty straight forward. Two prisoners began fighting. One of the prisoners had a bush ax and went after another prisoner who was unarmed at the time. The guard fired a warning shot but the prisoner with the ax kept going at the unarmed prisoner. The guard then shot the prisoner with the bush ax supposedly to protect the other prisoner.

A bush ax is a tool with a handle similar to a shovel handle and is about the same length as a shovel handle. There is a curved knife like steel blade on the end of the handle. However, the steel blade is about 18 inches long and 5 inches wide. You could easily slice a person's head off with one swing of it. Each

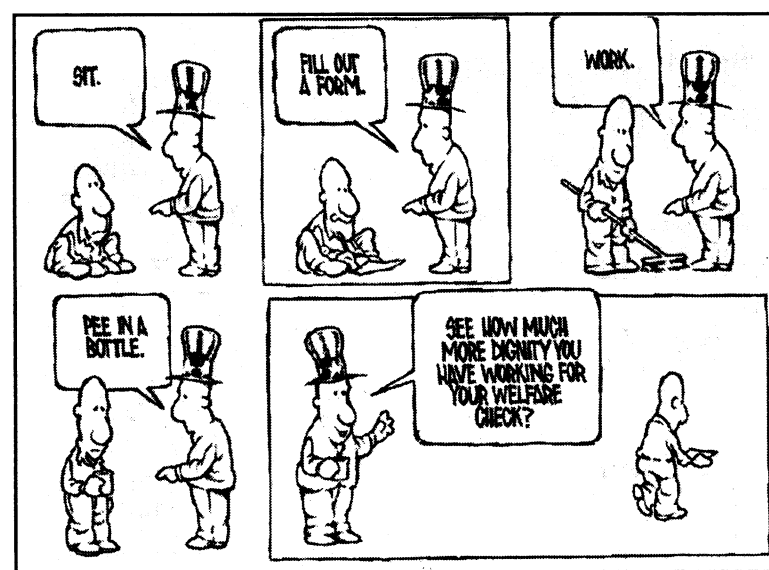
prisoner on the chain gang is usually given a bush ax or some other weapon just as deadly.

Common sense leads to the conclusion that it was unnecessary to shoot to kill this prisoner. The guard was armed with a pistol and a shotgun, and was at close range, within 10 or 15 feet from the prisoners. The guard could have just as easily shot the prisoner in the lower body to wound him instead of just murdering him. They have "justified" this murder but the real reason was a sadistic desire to kill.

This will not be the last murder to take place on the chain gang. Fights are routine on the chain gang between prisoners here. Whoever heard of giving prisoners deadly weapons and chaining them together, and then thinking everything is all right? Will the guard simply gun down both prisoners the next time there is a fight and both prisoners are armed? It sounds like something from the days of the Romans and the reign of Caesar. This practice is mediaeval in the worst way.

The DOC had previously been considering extending the time that a prisoner spends on the chain gang to one year from its present six months. However, a couple of weeks before this recent murder they were already considering reducing the time spent on the chain gang to three months.

Ironically, the name of the mascot for Limestone Correctional Facility's sport's teams is the Gladi-



ators. The DOC is making this pretty realistic. They are gladiators in every sense of the word and they will continue to be murdered in one way or another until the chain gangs are stopped.

By condoning the murder of prisoners on the chain gangs in Alabama, Gov. Fob James tells us that it is time to kill, that this summer in Alabama is the season for killing young Black men on the chain gangs. We are left to wonder: When will it be time to heal?

*A prisoner
Capshaw, Alabama*

Incarcerated

I am incarcerated in an underground maximum security prison

here in Minnesota. I've recently got my hands on one of your papers and I totally support it and all the views in it. If there is some type of discount for prisoners, could you send me information on it? I have no job here and my income is very little.

*A prisoner
Stillwater, Minnesota*

East Timor

Seventy people attended a meeting May 21 at the Park Slope Methodist Church in Brooklyn to discuss the Indonesian occupation of East Timor and recent demonstrations by Timorese people to oppose continuing human rights violations. The event was sponsored by the East Timor Action Network, a solidar-

ity organization based in White Plains, New York.

The main speaker at the event was José Ramods Horta, the special representative of the Council of Maubere Resistance, the umbrella group for East Timorese organizations supporting self-determination for the former Portuguese colony, which was invaded by Indonesia in 1975.

"We cannot talk about resistance in East Timor as being only guerrillas in the mountains," Horta said. "Resistance today, like in the past 30 years, is an all encompassing movement that includes school children, workers, cab drivers, and other sectors of the population. That is why they have not defeated the resistance."

*Lisa Rotach, Róger Calero
Brooklyn, New York*

Relieved to find 'Militant'

I've read your magazine *The Militant* and was relieved to find such a newspaper around. I would like to get a subscription. I work with the university here in Athens. *Karolina Björnheden
Athens, Georgia*

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.

Sinn Fein gains in N. Ireland vote

BY PETE CLIFFORD

LONDON — "They've got to talk to us now," remarked a young man in the mainly Irish area of Kilburn, London, after hearing of Sinn Fein's success in elections held in Northern Ireland on May 30. Sinn Fein won 15.5 percent of the vote, increasing its share by more than 50 percent since the 1992 general election. The vote for most of the other main parties declined.

Within hours after the results were announced, a motorcade of cars and taxis decked with Irish tricolors made its way through the mainly Catholic West Belfast. Many lined the streets, enthusiastic that Sinn Fein had won four out of five seats in that area, winning 54 percent of the vote there.

"Northern Ireland's political landscape was shaken last night as Sinn Fein emerged as the main beneficiary from elections," opened the lead article in the London daily *Financial Times* the next day. The paper reported the republican party had "its best showing since the start of the so-called Troubles 30 years ago." The election had been called by Prime Minister John Major to select delegates to all-party talks scheduled to begin on June 10 and also to a 110 member forum which would meet parallel to the talks. London stated that Sinn Fein will not be admitted to the talks without a new cease-fire being declared by the Irish Republican Army (IRA).

The Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) received the biggest vote, 24 percent. This was a sharp drop, however, from the 34 percent the party polled in 1992. At the same time the Democratic Unionist Party, led by ultrarightist Ian Paisley, increased its share from 13 percent to 19 percent. The lower vote for the UUP also reflected the division of the unionist (pro-British) vote between 17 different parties with an explicitly pro-union platform. Two unionist parties that are linked to the rightist death squads did not win any seats directly, but as they were among the top 10 parties, they will have two seats at the forum and talks.

One of the newer unionist parties, the United Kingdom Unionist Party, fared badly with 3 percent, despite the support of a lead editorial in the *London Times*. One of its candidates, Conor Cruise O'Brien, a former Irish



May protest in Lurgan, Northern Ireland, against police allowing pro-British, rightist Orangemen to parade through nationalist areas

Government minister and newspaper editor turned pro-unionist politician, did not receive enough votes to be elected directly. He will however, take a seat at the talks through representing one of the top 10 parties.

Sinn Fein won strong support in some areas where the Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP) has dominated in the past. Leading up to the vote, Joe Hendron, an SDLP member of Parliament from West Belfast, attacked Sinn Fein as a "fascist sectarian organization." Hendron's party secured less than half the votes of Sinn Fein in this area. The *Observer* quoted one woman as saying, "I'm an SDLP voter, but I thought if anyone can get the peace back it's [Sinn Fein president] Gerry Adams, so it's important to support him

this time."

British prime minister John Major reacted to the vote by calling on the IRA to declare "an unequivocal cease-fire, thus opening the way for Sinn Fein representatives to take part in negotiations." Irish premier John Bruton took the same stance, saying the "qualification for participation in talks have not changed and will not change."

Reiterating the call for an IRA cease-fire, Northern Ireland minister Patrick Mayhew conceded following the elections that the IRA need not hand in its weapons prior to the talks begin-

ning. Responding to Mayhew's comments, Sinn Fein leader Martin McGuinness called for a "change of attitude by the British government" to recognize "there is a fundamental need for constitutional and political change in this country."

The Sinn Fein newspaper *An Phoblacht* reported that in the days before the election British Army and police harassment increased. Police issued charges against 55 nationalists who protested a rightist march through their area of Lower Ormeau Road in Belfast, and there has been an increase in British Army street patrols in the occupied portion of Ireland.

Reacting to London and Dublin, Sinn Fein leader Adams protested, "You can't

have a situation of imposing an election and then not respecting its outcome.... My focus between now and June 10 is to try to get John Major to accept the outcome of an election which he called."

The Sinn Fein president has announced that irrespective of London's decision, he will turn up at the talks on June 10. One article in the *Financial Times* stated, "The prospect of Mr. Adams and Mr. McGuinness demanding in front of the world's press to be let into the negotiating room in Belfast on June 10 fills British and Irish ministers with dread."

In an interview with the *Financial Times*, Adams said, "We intend to put the issue of sovereignty on the agenda" in the talks. He said the immediate goal of the talks is bringing "an end to the conflict — not an end to the republican struggle which can go onto a new plane." He stated that Sinn Fein's goal of a united Ireland could be pursued in "peaceful circumstances and on a level playing field" if "there was 'equality of treatment' and broad democratic rights."

Simultaneous to turning up at the venue of the talks, Sinn Fein will hold a press conference June 10 in the House of Commons in London to announce a six-day speaking tour of the London area by Sinn Fein leaders to press the call for all-party talks with no exclusions.

Hear Sinn Fein leaders speak in London

JOAN O'CONNOR AND DODIE MCGUINNESS WILL ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS:

- Monday June 10, Halkevi Centre, Stoke Newington Rd. 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday June 12, London Irish Centre, Murray St. 7:30 p.m.
- Friday June 14, Battersea Arts Centre, Lavender Hill. 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday June 16, London Irish Centre, Murray Street. 1 p.m.

Big business worries over instability in Albania

BY BOBBIS MISAILIDES

ATHENS, Greece — Thousands of working people took to the streets May 28 in Tirana, Albania's capital. They were participating in a demonstration called by a bloc of opposition parties that claimed the general elections two days earlier were rigged.

The ruling Democratic Party of President Sali Berisha had banned the rally. Riot police attacked protesters and beat them with truncheons, arresting 200, while election monitors from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) looked on.

The political instability registered by the events has worried international investors. "Foreign investment is slowly beginning to come. But you need tranquillity for that," said Carlos Elbert, local representative of the World Bank. Capitalist governments

have been pressing Albania's regime to push "market reforms," which include cuts in social spending, limiting state control of the economy, imposing taxes on workers' wages, and offering favorable terms to imperialist investors.

The U.S. government has backed Berisha's pro-capitalist party in the four years he has been in power with economic and military aid. In exchange, the Albanian government has provided a base for U.S. reconnaissance activities over Yugoslavia and has discouraged Albanians in the neighboring Kosovo region from demanding autonomy from Yugoslavia.

Now "the west... needs to consider how to continue aid to a regime whose behavior and methods it finds increasingly distasteful," said an article in the May 31 *Financial Times* of London.

Distaste notwithstanding, Washington and OSCE refused to criticize the election fraud or violent assaults on the opposition. Some election observers reacted with disgust. "I have never seen the totalitarian face like this, people being beaten, cameras taken," said Yuraj Atabaki, an observer from the Netherlands. He added that monitors like himself were being used as "rubber stamps" in elections that were not fair.

OSCE observers reported police intimidation of voters at many polling stations. More than a dozen monitors signed a statement saying that in many cases the number of ballots cast exceeded the number of signatures on voters lists and that many ballots were altered and invalidated to favor Berisha.

The government declared the Democratic

Party victor, with 68 percent of the vote and 95 of the 115 directly elected seats in parliament. The Socialist Party, the former Communist Party, was reduced from 38 to 5 seats. The Human Rights Union, mainly backed by the ethnic Greek minority in southern Albania, won 2 seats. But toward the end of the May 26 voting, at least six opposition parties — including virtually all the main participants — pulled out of the election hours before the polling began, alleging massive fraud and vowing to boycott the next parliament.

"We are not going to accept the results," stated Ilir Mota, deputy leader of the Socialist Party (SP). Skeder Gjinushi, leader of the Social Democratic Party, said "the elections were completely prefabricated, held under threats by the police."

The Democratic Party vowed to press its market reform policies, which have meant an assault on the standard of living of Albania's workers and farmers. Party leader Shaban Memia said the DP election victory "is a guarantee for the successful realization of our program."

Although the SP and other opposition groups support most of Berisha's "reforms," they propose a slower pace in the attempt to integrate the Albanian workers state into the world capitalist market. All parties tried to take advantage of growing discontent among the Albanian toilers.

The average wage in this country, the poorest in Europe, is \$65 per month. Some 300,000 people are unemployed in a population of 3.2 million. Ninety percent of industry has been shut down and 500,000 retirees are struggling on an average \$30 per

month. Most in the country's majority rural population eke out a living barely above poverty level.

Hundreds of thousands of Albanians have crossed the borders to Greece and Italy seeking better living conditions. In Greece there are an estimated 350,000 Albanian undocumented immigrant workers. Remittances from Albanian immigrants abroad are as much as half of the country's Gross Domestic Product. Capitalists from Greece and Italy are the biggest investors in the country.

Before World War II, Albania was a semicolony of Italy. During the war, Greek and then Italian and German troops occupied the country. By 1944, workers and farmers united across religious and ethnic lines and carried out a revolution against military occupation, overthrowing the rule of local capitalists and landlords in the process. The resulting workers state rapidly degenerated under the Stalinist rule of the Communist Party led by Enver Hoxha.

Hoxha's regime shattered in the early 1990s after massive mobilizations by working people. The Democratic Party and the main opposition groups are fragments of the former Communist Party. Since it came to power in 1992, the Democratic Party has been trying to purge its SP rivals from the state bureaucracy. Fatos Nano, a central SP leader, has been serving a 12-year sentence on charges of embezzling Italian aid funds.

As of June 3, most of the 196 candidates of the five opposition parties that withdrew from the second round of the elections June 2 were on a hunger strike. They called for new elections and further protests.

FROM PATHFINDER

THE TRUTH ABOUT YUGOSLAVIA

Why Working People Should Oppose Intervention

George Fyson, Argiris Malapanis, and Jonathan Silberman

\$8.95

Available from 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. Please add \$3 for shipping and handling.